HUMANITARIAN AID PROGRAMME OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT
General

After 8 years of successful work in Kosovo, the Construction Office of the Humanitarian Aid Unit of SDC is closing down. Its activities were financed by the Federal Office for Migration (FOM) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Through its Construction Office, the Humanitarian Aid programme has implemented numerous projects in Kosovo, in the following areas:

- Emergency assistance
- Housing
- Schools
- Roads and bridges
- Mental Health

This brochure is meant to present the activities and successes of the Humanitarian Aid program, throughout these years.

Swiss support to Kosovo started in 1998 with its Humanitarian Aid programme. As of then, the Swiss Cooperation Office was continuously carrying out successful and very important projects, concentrating in the following domains of cooperation: Governance, Infrastructure, Business Development and Social Issues.

The Swiss Cooperation Office will continue its projects in supporting Kosovo's economic development and prosperity.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC is Switzerland’s international cooperation agency. With its goal of alleviating poverty, development activities are focused on promoting economic and government autonomy, improving production conditions, managing environmental problems and providing better access to education, basic health care and culture.

Following most urgent needs, the Humanitarian Aid Unit of the SDC is present worldwide, saving lives and alleviating suffering. The assistance is provided on a neutral and impartial basis, independent and without political conditions.
Besides direct help through the immediate deployment of expert teams following natural disasters and in armed conflicts, the Humanitarian Aid Unit also supports humanitarian partner organizations and contributes to the prevention and solution of conflicts.

The most important areas of the Humanitarian aid are: prevention, meaning saving human lives and reducing risks, especially when it comes to natural disasters; immediate survival assistance through emergency aid; improving basic infrastructure through reconstruction and furthermore advocacy.
Emergency Assistance

- Warehouse
- Agriculture
Warehouse

The post-conflict Kosovo found many families in need, without roofs upon their heads. Hence, a project of delivering basic construction material to the most vulnerable people started right away.

A warehouse was established, delivering construction material such as: bricks, wood, roof tiles, doors, windows and some tools.

Agriculture

The population of rural areas faced many difficulties in providing living hood for their families, considering the facts that around 85% of the agricultural machinery and 65% of the cattle were destroyed and removed.

Aiming at alleviating poverty and providing self-sufficiency, the distribution of cows and tractors was conceived.

A very valuable assistance was the distribution of 1'750 cows in different villages of Dukagjini region. More than a hundred were sent to the Serbian population of Mitrovica municipality.

Moreover, 30 tractors and their implements were distributed in the region of Gjakova and Decan.
Roads and Bridges
Roads

The road infrastructure in Kosovo was very poor, especially in the rural areas, due also to damages occurred during the NATO intervention.

With the intention of promoting economic and agricultural prosperity of the regions, SDC started its roads and bridges programme.

Besides facilitating easier access to villages, the idea was to improve villagers’ access to local centers and markets as well as to encourage the local population to manage the development of their village infrastructure.

Bridges

In 2001, SDC has invested more than 650'000 € in building 23 bridges in ten different municipalities of Kosovo, with a focus on Dukagjini region, Mitrovica and Prizren.

For many bridges, the construction works were carried out with the valuable assistance of Swisscoy soldiers.

A combination of steel beams and wooden planks was used above the existing foundations.

Moreover, three roads, namely Dobrosh, Damjan and Cemjan roads of Gjakova Municipality were built.
Housing

- Individual Housing
- Social Housing
- Foster Homes
**Individual Housing**

Immediately after retaking its activities in the post-conflict Kosovo, SDC started housing reconstruction projects.

Through two approaches, namely the construction material delivery and cash delivery, by the end of 1999, SDC completed the reconstruction of around 600 houses, mainly in the region of Gjakova and Gllogovc.

At the same time, a Collective Center in Decan Municipality envisaged for the accommodation of 240 persons was renovated.

In 2000, in compliance with UNMIK Construction guidelines, SDC carried out the construction of various types of houses 45m², 65m² and 65+ m², depending on the size of the beneficiary family.

Thus, the reconstruction of 500 houses was implemented by SDC construction office in Pristina.

In 2001, women-headed families all over Kosovo were the beneficiaries of 150 newly built houses. Considering the fact that women could not organise the construction works themselves, construction companies were contracted to execute the work.

In 2002, 11 non-Serbian minority families, temporarily living in the Plementina camp benefited the construction of new houses.
In 2003, SDC started a new programme Durable Solutions for vulnerable families DUSO, whose aim was providing durable solutions to people living in the Temporary Community Shelters as well as closing down these centres. Such a programme was implemented in TCS Garibaldi, Decan Municipality, where 26 new houses were built.

At the same time, a huge project started in Dubrava, Istog Municipality with the aim of facilitating the return of 14 Egyptians families from Montenegro.

Thus, was carried out the construction of 28 new houses, rehabilitation of the community center, support for electricity and water distribution, school extension, return assistance etc.

In 2004 and 2005 DUSO housing programme continued in Istog and Mitrovica municipalities.

52 new houses were built to families living in three temporary community shelters of these municipalities.

Throughout these years, the contributions of the SDC housing programme reached 6'000'000 €.
Social Housing

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning started projects of social housing in order to provide temporary housing for social cases having no shelter, by building apartment blocks. The construction of two such buildings in Decan and Skenderaj was jointly financed by MESP and the relevant municipalities, whereas SDC participation was € 200'000.00.

Foster Houses

SDC supported the municipality of Mitrovica in finding a housing solution for elderly people, living in temporary community shelters, without care and with no return possibilities to their places of origin.

The concept of a foster house was developed, which would host 5-10 elderly persons and one foster family that would look after the people.

Three such houses were constructed in northern part of Mitrovica, two in Zvecan and one in Socanica.

More than 300'000 € were spent in these projects.
School programme

- New Schools
- Rehabilitated Schools
- Maintenance Program
In order to improve the existing education system in Kosovo, SDC Construction office carried out the renovation and construction of schools all over Kosovo. Immediately after the war, the school programme started with the renovation of 17 schools.

As from 2000, ten new schools were built in: Abri e Epërme, Gllarevë, Shalë, Gurbardh, Maznik, Sharban, Plane, Lubovishtë, Studençan and Grace.

In 2002 and 2003, five school buildings were renovated in Pllanjani, Zaskok, Dujakë, Zahaq and northern Mitrovica.
The school program was implemented successfully, in close cooperation with UNICEF, UNMIK and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

In total, the donations of the Government of Switzerland in the school program exceeded 3'000'000 €.
School Maintenance program

Being aware of the importance of a proper maintenance of school buildings, the SDC Construction Office started a project with the intention of embedding a concept for the operation and maintenance of school building into the new education system of Kosovo.

The project managed to develop a sustainable system for the operation and maintenance of school facilities and providing adequate and updated training material, resources and facilities to 15 selected pilot municipalities.

Achievements and results of the pilot project were presented and distributed to the other Municipalities as well.
Mental Health

- The Community Mental Health Center CMHC
- The house of integration
- The Intensive Care Psychiatric Unit ICPU
Mental Health

The pre-war mental health system existing in Kosovo was responding to an old-fashioned, hospital-centred model that needed urgent changes.

In accordance with the WHO Mental Health Strategic Plan, approved by the Ministry of Health, the SDC Construction Office has carried out the construction of three different types of mental health treatment units:

The Community Mental Health Center CMHC

Centres are facilities used for the daily treatment of patients. On a daily basis, patients are involved in several activities, such as group work, music, painting, sport activities, etc. Patients under ambulatory treatment as well as their families are received in this facility.

SDC carried out the construction of two such Mental Health Centres, in Gjilan and Peja.
The House of Integration

The House of Integration is a community residential accommodation envisaged to host patients with long care mental illnesses. It is designed to host around 10 patients and help them learn social skills, maintain relationships and strengthen social rights.

SDC carried out the construction of six such Houses of Integration in: Gjakova, Gjilan, Prizren, Mitrovica, Fushë Kosovo and Glogovc.

Meanwhile, financed by the Swiss Federal Office for Migration, SDC Construction Office carried out the refection of the Psychiatric Ward of the Hospital in Gjilan.
Moreover, financed by SDC, the Swiss Red Cross will implement a professional training for the staff of the Houses of Integration and the Intensive Care Psychiatric Unit Pristina.
The Intensive Care Psychiatric Unit (ICPU)

There were no facilities in Kosovo for Intensive and Emergency psychiatric care for patients in need of forced hospitalization and/or forced treatment. Hence, SDC has built the Intensive Care Psychiatric Unit for the Department of Psychiatry in the University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK) in Pristina.

The ICPU has 18 beds for patients. Services will be provided by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of psychiatrists, nurses, and technical staff.

The contribution of the Government of Switzerland for the mental health sector in Kosovo is around 3'000'000 €.

With the completion of the programme, SDC will have supported more than 25% of the needs for Mental Health infrastructure in Kosovo.
Special thanks to everyone who contributed in these successful projects

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