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FLOOD RECOVERY HOUSING INTERVENTIONS PROGRAMME





**FLOOD RECOVERY
HOUSING INTERVENTIONS PROGRAMME**

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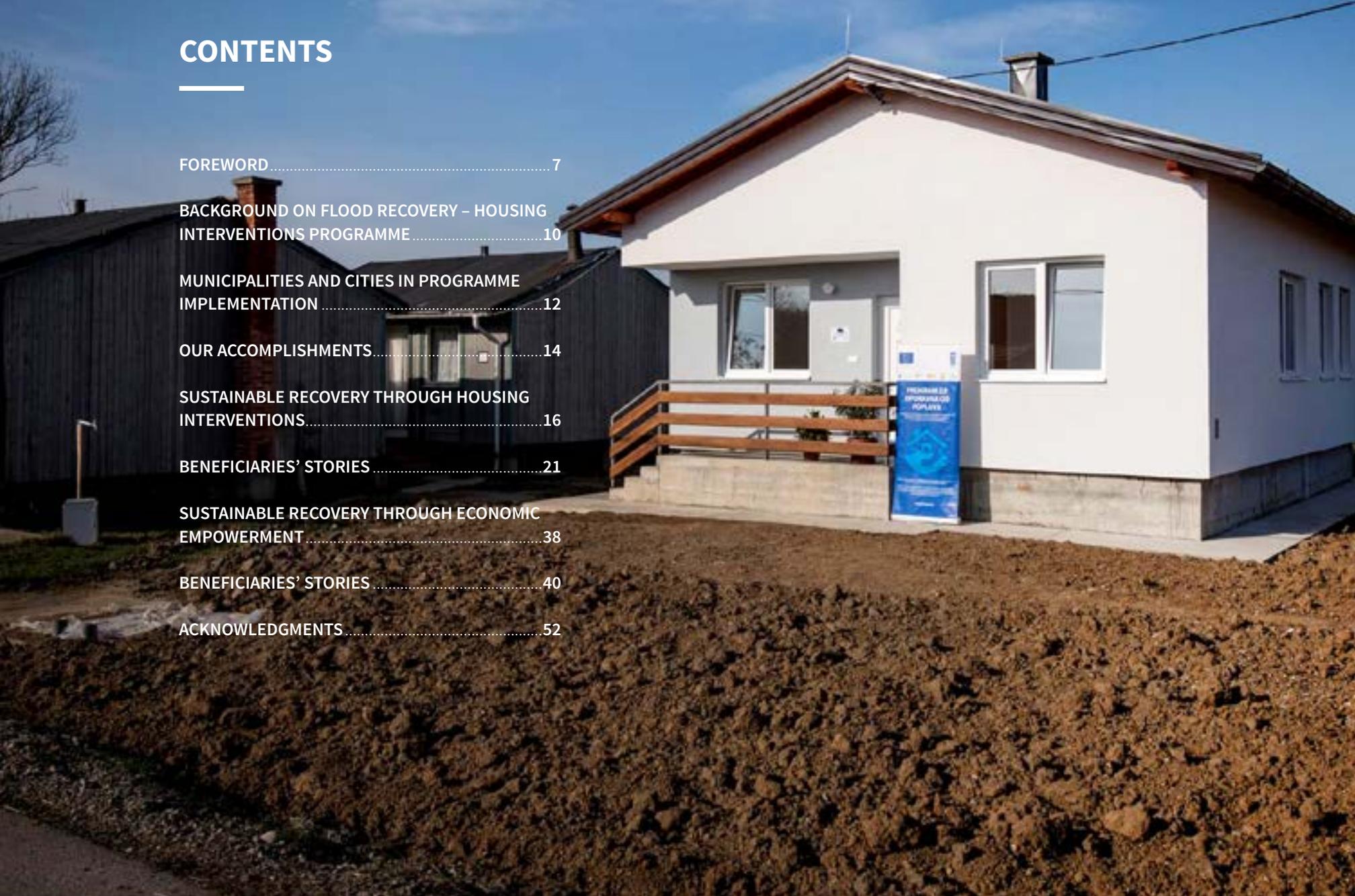
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FOREWORD



Ambassador Johann Sattler,
Head of the Delegation of the European
Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and EU
Special Representative in BiH

FOREWORD

The May 2014 floods were the worst natural disaster in the recent history of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A quarter of BiH's territory and altogether 46 cities and municipalities were affected and the lives of almost a million people severely disrupted. The scope of damage and destruction caused by the floods highlighted BiH's vulnerability to natural and other disasters.

In the immediate aftermath, there was no time to waste in mounting an immediate recovery programme. The European Union rose to the challenge and showed that solidarity requires action. By timely placing our resources, both human and material, at the disposal of affected communities, we were able to help communities to recover from the floods and build resilience to any future shocks and disasters. We demonstrated that BiH can count on our support.

The European Union is the largest donor of the Flood Recovery Programme with around €84 million allocated so far for flood risk recovery, prevention and management. The first phase of the Flood Recovery Programme helped 610,000 people. However, since the consequences of the floods continued to be strongly felt long after the water had receded, in 2017, we launched the Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme to reach the most vulnerable citizens that were still in need of assistance. In the last four years, the European Union provided housing for about 3,000 people in 45 municipalities and cities in BiH as part of this programme. In total, 423 new homes were built and 600 housing units were rehabilitated. 213 households received agricultural assistance and support for the establishment of small businesses.

We worked together with local communities and civil society organizations to find lasting solutions, both for the infrastructure and employment problems for the most vulnerable citizens. By investing in the reconstruction of the technical infrastructure, such as water supply systems, we also contributed to the improvement of public health for all citizens.

The solidarity and resilience showed by BiH citizens in the aftermath of the floods highlighted the vast human potential and strength this country has. You can count on our support in continued efforts towards a safer and brighter future for all BiH citizens.

BACKGROUND ON FLOOD RECOVERY – HOUSING INTERVENTIONS PROGRAMME

The Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme (2017-2021) is continuation of the European Union’s efforts, initiated through the EU Floods Recovery Programme (2014-2016), that aimed to alleviate the aftermath of the devastating 2014 floods and landslides.

With the support to the EU Floods Recovery Programme, the quality of life for more than 610,000 people in floods and landslides affected communities has been improved through reconstruction of housing units, public buildings and local infrastructure facilities. Homes for nearly 15,000 people were renovated, 50,000 pupils and students continued their education without longer disruptions, municipal services and health centres restored service provision to about 300,000 citizens. Thanks to the support of small and medium enterprises as well as the agricultural sector, as many as 6,000 jobs have been retained or newly created.

Despite these impressive deliverables, a sizable number of vulnerable households was still in need of additional assistance in the form of durable solutions for housing and economic empowerment.

Against this backdrop, in September 2017, the Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme was launched to support the sustainable recovery of the population in flood-affected local communities, through two interrelated components:

- Housing interventions, and
- Economic empowerment.

Programme beneficiaries were selected through a public call, and the assistance primarily targeted socially and economically vulnerable groups, including the elderly, low-income households, persons with disabilities, minorities, returnees and internally displaced persons.

The Programme, worth EUR 15 million, is financed by the European Union in cooperation with the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government of Republika Srpska and local authorities. It was implemented by UNDP in BiH in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), Hilfswerk International (HWI) and partner municipalities and cities.



In May 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina was hit by the most devastating natural disaster in the last 120 years. Heavy rainfall caused a sudden rise in the levels of rivers Bosna, Drina, Una, Sava and Vrbas, which led to unprecedented floods and landslides in the northern, eastern and central part of the country.

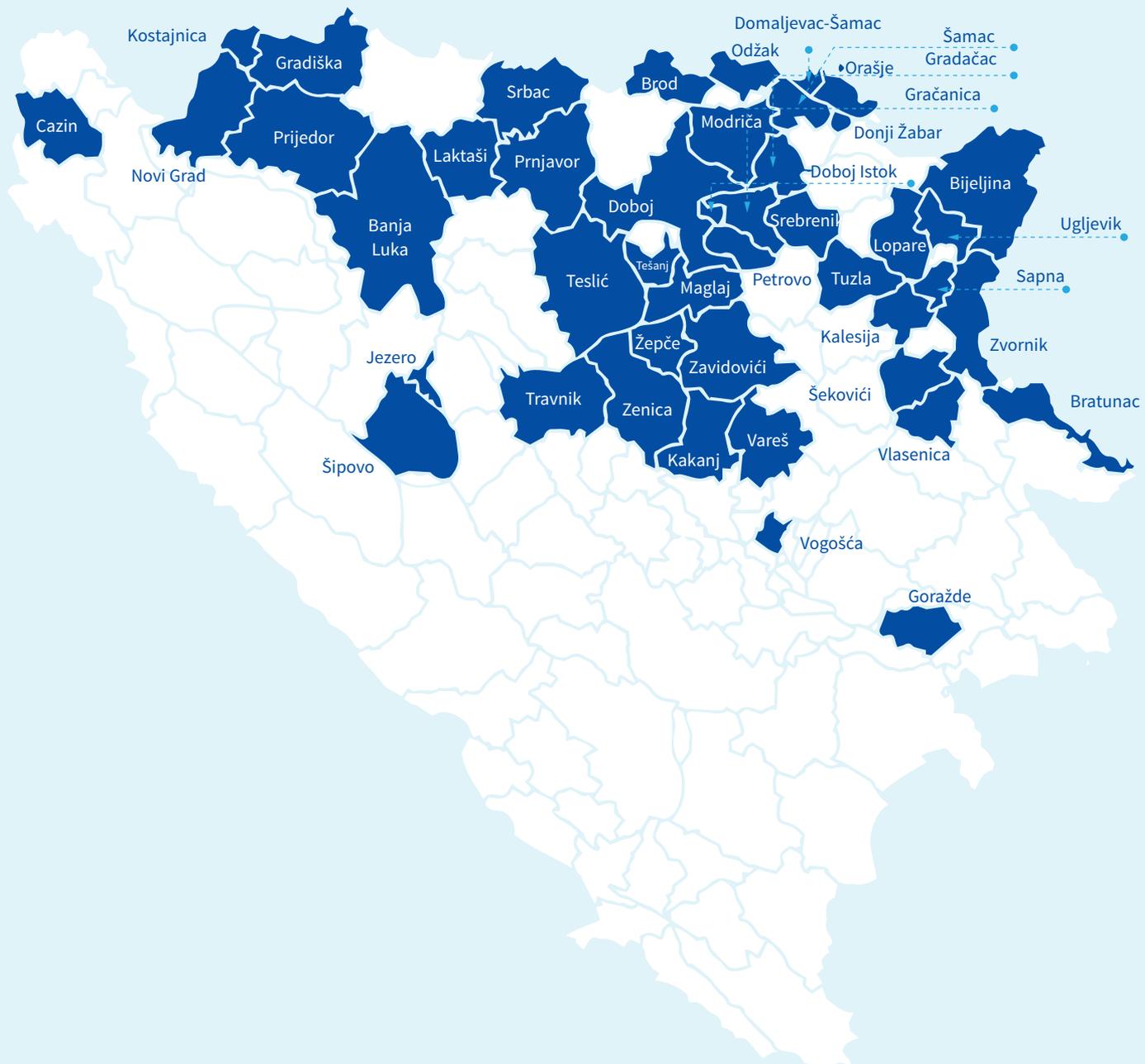
The disaster affected about one million or nearly 27% of the country's total population, while 90,000 were forced to flee their homes. The already difficult living conditions of the most vulnerable population, especially returnees and internally displaced persons, were further worsened by this disaster.

Urban, industrial and rural areas remained completely flooded, cut-off, without electricity, water and communications for days. Economic damages are estimated at around BAM 4 billion.

MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES IN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Program covers 45 municipalities and cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- Banja Luka,
- Bijeljina,
- Bratunac,
- Brod,
- Cazin,
- Doboј,
- Doboј Istok,
- Domaljevac-Šamac,
- Donji Žabar,
- Goražde,
- Gračanica,
- Gradačac,
- Gradiška,
- Jezero,
- Kakanj,
- Kalesija,
- Kostajnica,
- Laktaši,
- Lopare,
- Maglaj,
- Modriča,
- Novi Grad,
- Odžak,
- Orašje,
- Petrovo,
- Prijedor,
- Prnjavor,
- Sapna,
- Srbac,
- Srebrenik,
- Šamac,
- Šekovići,
- Šipovo,
- Teslić,
- Tešanj,
- Travnik,
- Tuzla,
- Ugljevik,
- Vareš,
- Vlasenica,
- Vogošća,
- Zavidovići,
- Zenica,
- Zvornik,
- Žepče.



OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

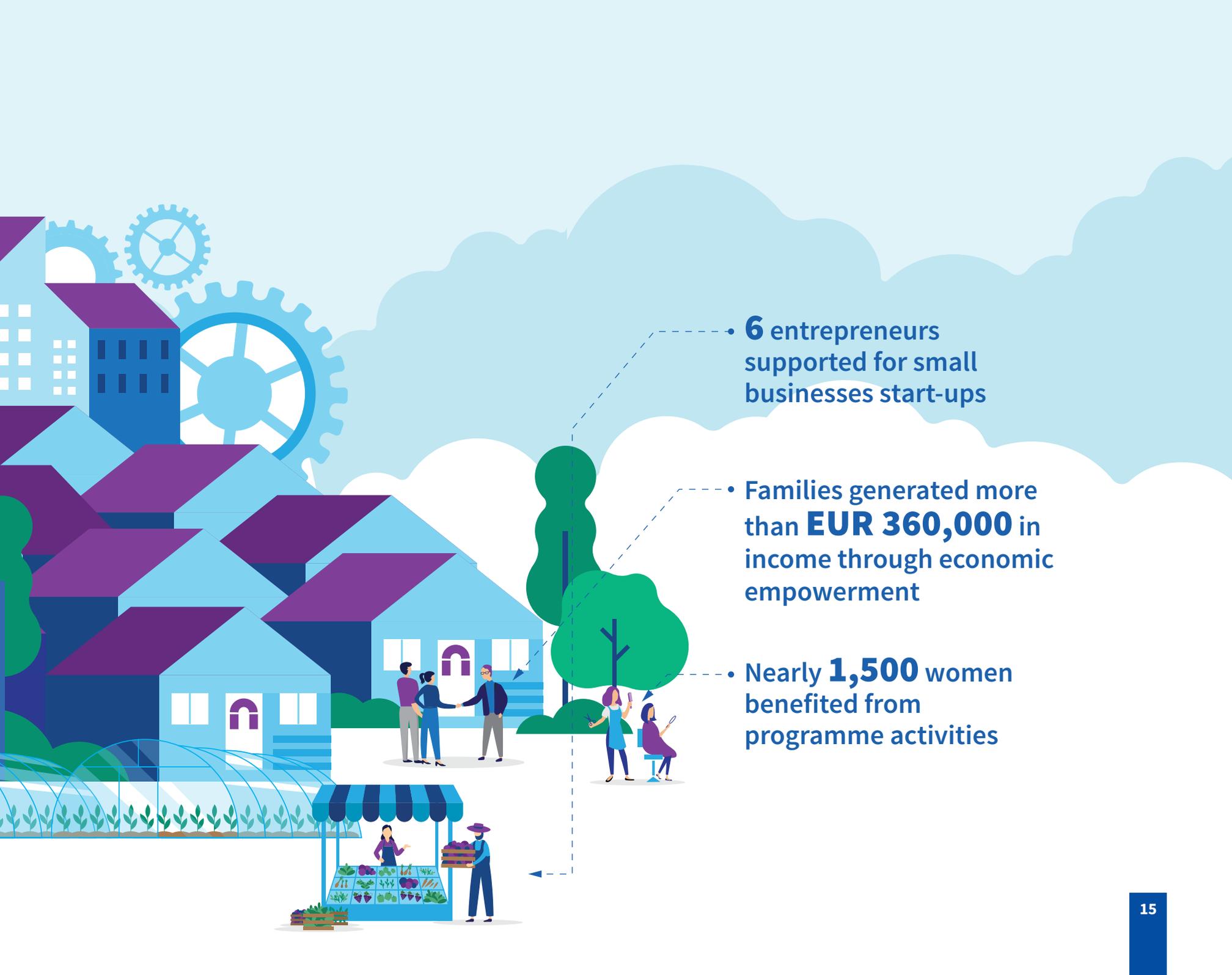
Close to **3,000** people provided with housing

423 new residential buildings constructed

600 housing units rehabilitated

Economic empowerment packages in the area of agriculture for **213** families





• **6** entrepreneurs supported for small businesses start-ups

• Families generated more than **EUR 360,000** in income through economic empowerment

• Nearly **1,500** women benefited from programme activities

SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY THROUGH HOUSING INTERVENTIONS

The 2014 floods and landslides in Bosnia and Herzegovina had far-reaching consequences for the affected local communities. The already difficult living conditions of socially and economically endangered families were further aggravated by this natural disaster, and the majority were unable to repair the damaged homes or build new ones on their own. As a result, many were forced to live in inadequate and unsafe accommodation for several years after the natural disaster. The programme's housing component provided support to such households through durable housing and significantly improved the quality of life.

In October 2017, a public call was launched for the selection of beneficiaries of assistance for construction and rehabilitation of housing units, with special priority given to economically disadvantaged households, persons with special needs, returnees and internally displaced persons, the elderly, single parents and the unemployed. The selection process that followed the closing of the Public Call included field verification of all registered households that met the eligibility criteria and their ranking in accordance with pre-defined criteria, resulting in final lists of beneficiaries of the housing component of the Programme.

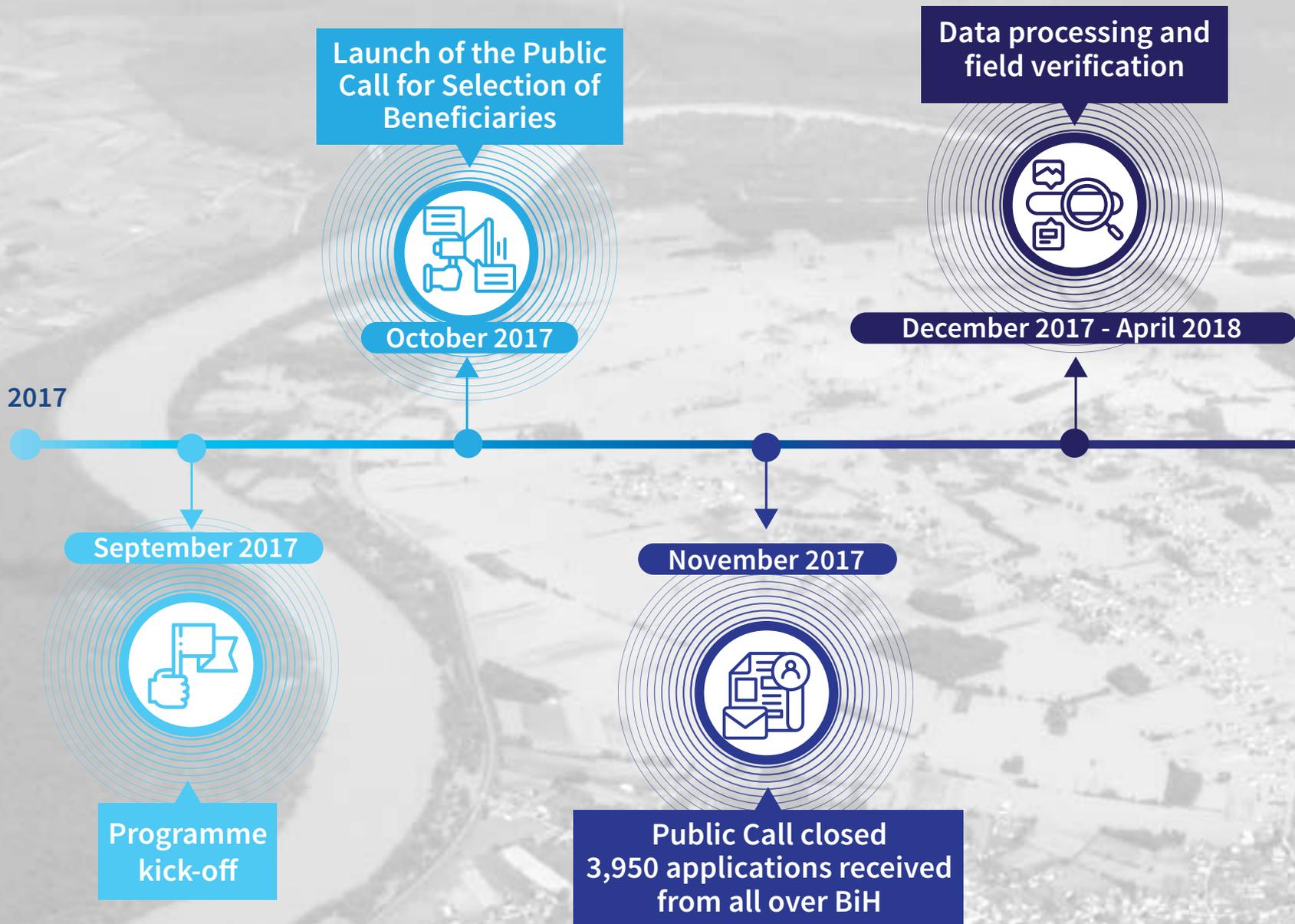
Construction work began in the first half of 2018 and was carried out in compliance with the highest construction standards, under the supervision of specialised companies and engineers assigned by UNDP, IOM, ASB and HWI, as well as partner local governments. Energy efficiency measures were applied to all newly built homes, thus allowing for the rational use of energy and significant reduction in utility costs for beneficiary households.

When designing housing units, special attention was paid to families whose members have difficulties in terms of their mobility, so that the new homes are tailored to their needs. Thus, equal opportunities are provided to all programme beneficiaries.

Through the programme's housing component, durable housing solutions were provided to nearly 3,000 in 45 municipalities and cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.







Start of construction of the first residential buildings



June 2018

2021

May 2018



Selection of assistance beneficiaries completed

by June 2021



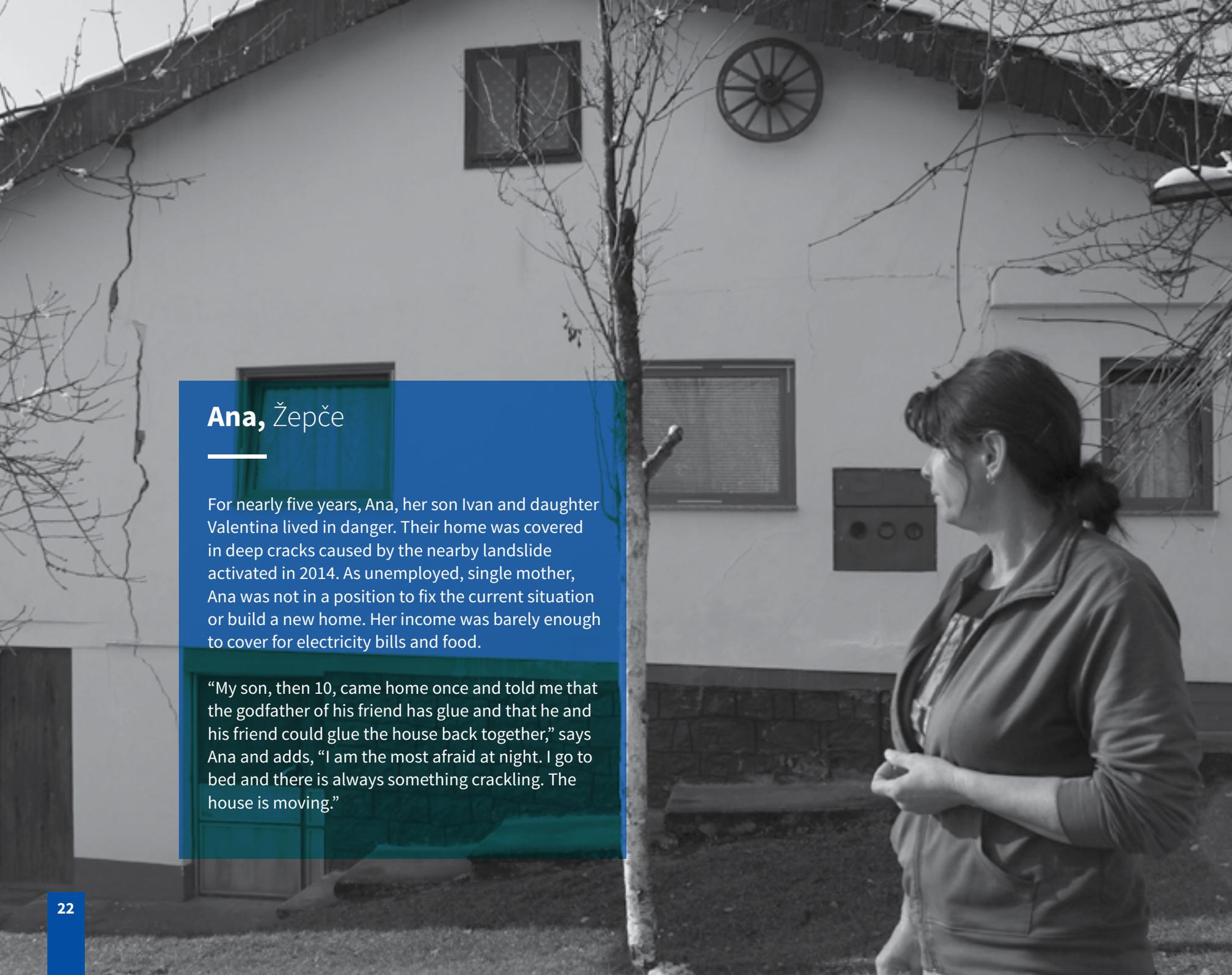
A total of 423 new residential buildings were built

A total of 600 housing units were rehabilitated



A photograph of a modern building's exterior. The building has a light-colored facade and a balcony with a wooden railing. A window is visible on the left side of the balcony. The railing is made of light-colored wood and black metal posts. The background shows some trees and a utility pole.

BENEFICIARIES' STORIES



Ana, Žepče

For nearly five years, Ana, her son Ivan and daughter Valentina lived in danger. Their home was covered in deep cracks caused by the nearby landslide activated in 2014. As unemployed, single mother, Ana was not in a position to fix the current situation or build a new home. Her income was barely enough to cover for electricity bills and food.

“My son, then 10, came home once and told me that the godfather of his friend has glue and that he and his friend could glue the house back together,” says Ana and adds, “I am the most afraid at night. I go to bed and there is always something crackling. The house is moving.”



When she received the keys to her new home built in the Programme in early 2020, Ana was overjoyed. “I am happy. I didn’t believe there would be a new home built for me until I actually saw it built,” says Ana. “What is important is that it’s built, and now we will slowly furnish it. It will be better. And safer. I was really afraid to be in the old house.”



A photograph of a man and a woman standing on the lawn in front of a modern, single-story white house with a dark brown roof. The man is wearing a blue t-shirt and light blue shorts, and the woman is wearing a grey t-shirt and light blue pants. To the left, a red tractor is parked. The house has a small porch with a wooden railing and a window with white curtains. The background shows a clear sky and some greenery.

Đorđa and Dušanka, Modriča

Đorđa and his wife Dušanka have no fear of rain anymore. By moving into their new home, this couple from Modriča has gained much needed safety. “We are great” says Dušanka sitting on the couch in her new living room. Living room connects to the kitchen, while there is also a bedroom, bathroom and a hallway in the house. They are furnishing the house the best they can: modestly, slowly and with loads of attention.

“It was a bit odd, as if we came to a different world,” Đorđa describes the first days of living in a new location, some 20 kilometres away from their old house that was hit by landslide in 2014 and, in the years that came, remained under constant threat of collapse. Despite the danger, the couple lived in this house for five years as they could not afford to move. “Every time the rain came, I had to stay awake whole night because you never know when the landslide will start moving,” says Đorđa about those times. “You must not fall asleep”.



Saša, Šamac

Saša has difficulty moving and, in all aspects of his life, needs the help of people around him. This 38-year old has been fighting quadriplegia and multiple sclerosis for the past 15 years. Saša lives with his brother Siniša and mother Milica near Šamac. Much like many others in this area, this family suffered great damages during the floods in 2014.

Both Milica and Siniša are unemployed, while Saša is recipient of social welfare. The family could not afford to repair their home, so they applied to the public call for beneficiary selection of the Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme.



After meeting all requirements to take part in the programme, construction began. New home for this family is right next to the old one, making the ‘before’ and ‘after’ even more evident. Unlike their old home, the new one is adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities: the house is accessible through access ramp, while inside, a person in a wheelchair can move without any obstacles.

And what does the new home mean for Saša’s family? “Means a lot to us. Means life,” says Siniša.

“It’s like winning a lottery,” Saša interrupts him grinningly.



Nada, Orašje

Every December, Nada would lock the doors of her house badly damaged in 2014 floods and spend Christmas holidays at her sister's home. In 2019, the situation changed. "For the first time, she did not want to come to my place for Christmas. She said: Why would I go to your house when I have my own, brand new house?" laughs Kata, Nada's sister while Nada sits next to her, nodding.

Nada's new home is one of 18 housing units built as a part of Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme in the area of Orašje. Due to its poor condition, Nada's old house had to be knocked down, and the new one built on the same site.

The house consists of bedroom, living room with kitchen, bathroom and hallway. Since Nada is a person with special needs, special attention was given to adjusting the facility for her – the orientation of the old house was kept, windows are on the same side, as is the doors, because Nada would not be able to adjust to the change.

Nada is already welcoming guests in her new home. "Now she doesn't want to go anywhere outside of her house", laughs Kata.





Ivan and Dušanka, Ugljevik

“I lived in a house on a landslide, always threatening to collapse”, says 67-year old retiree Ivan Mičić from Donja Trnova near Ugljevik. After new house was built as a part of the Programme, Ivan and his wife Dušanka moved into their safe haven in 2020.

“It is nice in the new house. It is warm. It is great,” adds Ivan.



Jovan, Šamac

The door to Jovan's home in Šamac is wide open during the full rehabilitation of his home, severely damaged in 2014. As a part of the Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme, in Jovan's house, toilette, roof, floors and electrical installations were repaired, and new exterior and interior carpentry installed.

“This means a great deal to me,” says 50-year-old Jovan, whose main source of income is agriculture. “I couldn't do this alone. Made my life easier.”







Adnan, Travnik

Adnan Karalić from Travnik shares a home with his wife and six children of school and preschool age. After their house was damaged by the 2014 floods, the entire ground floor of this family was rehabilitated through the Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme.

“It all happened within half a day. Water inside the house reached some 80 centimetres. Everything was destroyed,” says Adnan. “It’s great now. No humidity. Much better than before”, adds his wife Adisa.

Adnan fulfilled conditions to participate in livelihood component of the Programme. After the training on entrepreneurship and presentation of business plan, Adnan registered mobile cleaning service. Programme supported the business idea with necessary equipment: machine for car wash, compressor and vacuum cleaner. In addition to the equipment, mentoring was provided to Adnan during the first year of business.

“Now we have big plans and we will all work together to achieve them” says Adnan.



Zdravko, Bijeljina

“It all happened in half an hour. The water broke through the canal and headed towards us,” recalls Zdravko from Bijeljina. Residential building was not the only one suffering great damages – the water killed all the poultry he kept, and destroyed his barley plantations. “I walked through water up to my waist. It was a horror, so much force that came,” says Zdravko. Bijeljina was one of the most affected cities in the 2014 floods, as witnessed in the Programme itself – as many as one third of the applications to the Public Call came from Bijeljina.

Zdravko’s family of six was delighted with the news that a new home would be built for them as a part of the Programme. “My family was very happy,” says Zdravko.



SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY THROUGH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

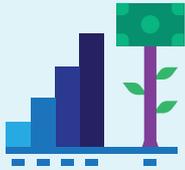
Apart from housing interventions, economic empowerment of selected households is another important pillar of the Programme, offering additional support packages for agricultural production and self-employment, as a way to provide beneficiaries with regular and sustainable income.

In order to select beneficiaries of the economic component, the Programme conducted a detailed analysis of living conditions and needs of the vulnerable population in the flooded areas. The analysis aimed to identify opportunities for engaging in agricultural production and independent non-agricultural activities of the programme beneficiaries who were previously part of the housing interventions. The analysis included household surveys, interviews with partner cities and municipalities, SMEs, as well as the identification of existing value chains.

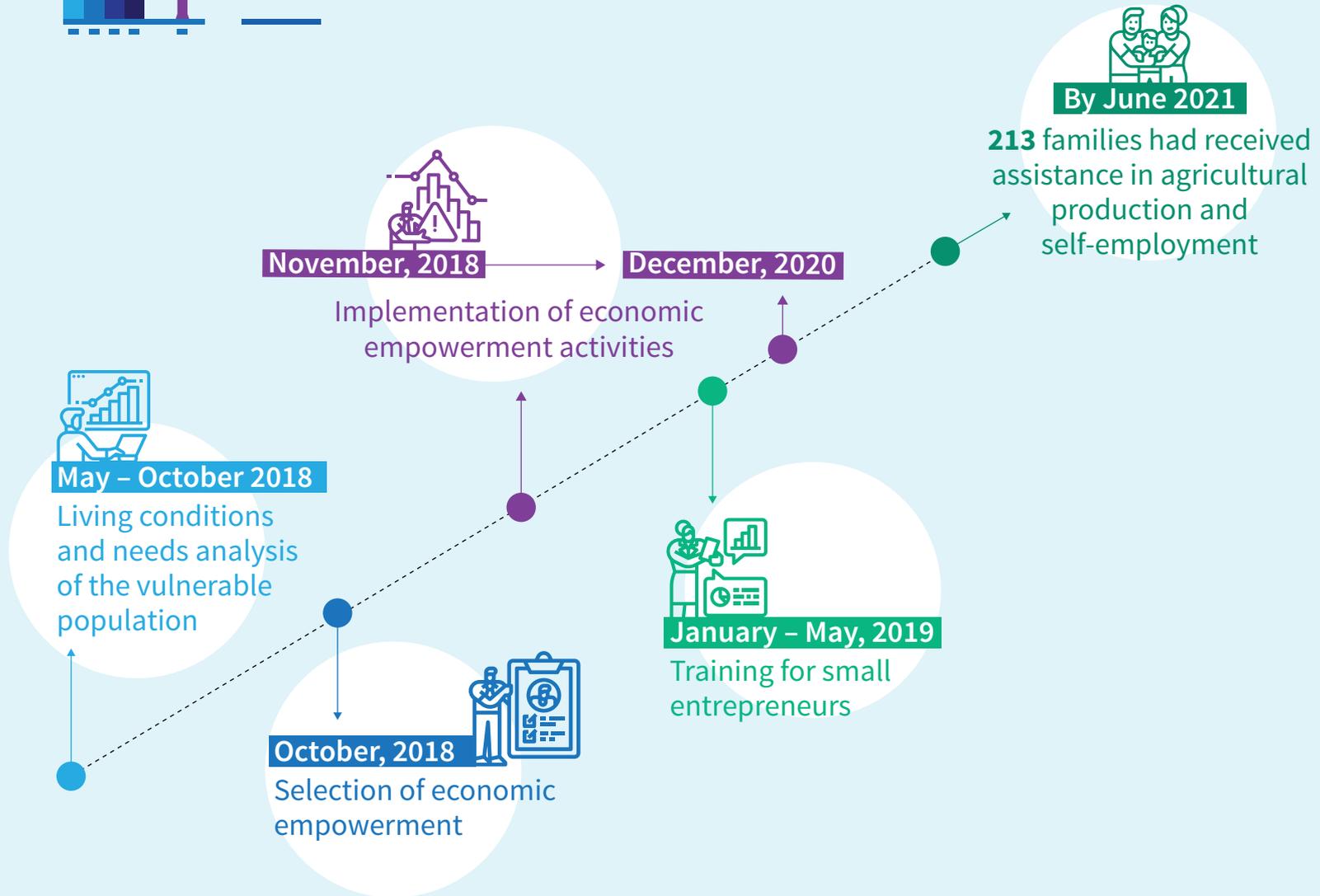
As a result of this extensive process, 20% of the total number of beneficiaries of the programme's housing component had met the requirements for participation in economic empowerment.

A total of 213 households received assistance packages in agricultural production, which included greenhouses and related equipment, small machinery, raw materials for sowing, beekeeping kits, as well as professional and technical support from agronomists.

Six households were supported in starting their own small businesses through training and professional assistance in preparing business plans, as well as the procurement of equipment and materials necessary for their work. For all newly established small businesses, the support of business development experts is provided during the first year of operation.



By the end of 2020, beneficiaries supported under the programme's economic component generated more than 367,000 euro in income for their households.



BENEFICIARIES' STORIES

After the floods: Entrepreneurship as an important step to recovery

Early Monday morning at 5 AM, 32-year old Edina left her home in Zavidovići to travel 68 kilometres to Vitez. Four hours and eight busses later, Edina made it on time to take part in the training on entrepreneurship implemented by the Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme.

“It was a bit tiring to travel”, admits Edina. “But, when I wake up in the morning and think about not going to the training that day, I remember that everyone else will learn new things and I will not know them.”

Entrepreneurship training is but one part of a range of activities implemented by the Programme, aimed at economic empowerment of socially vulnerable families from 2014 floods and landslides affected areas. With this training, selected programme beneficiaries attended trainings over the course of six months to acquire skills needed for developing and managing their own small business which will then help them provide for their families and support recovery of the entire community.

Senija from Doboje is also one of the training participants. Together with her close family she grows berry fruits. When asked about what she learnt during the training, Senija replied that she was afraid that the trainer would focus

more on the topics she would not understand. “After all, I am only a farmer”, she says and adds “However, trainings were very good and understandable also to us who did not graduate from universities. They made many things clearer to me, on business operations, starting a company, helped us look at all the aspects of work and the obstacles we can encounter.

Upon the completion of the training, participants had an opportunity to present their business ideas and plans, followed by registration of their small businesses. Through the programme, participants were provided with necessary equipment and tools to translate their business ideas into reality, as well as mentoring and consulting for all newly established businesses during the first year of operations.

Training participants have but simple wishes for their future. “I would love to be able to earn a modest salary, to be able to pay my bills,” says Edina.

Senija dreams of having her own brand. “I would like to process fruits, sell juice and earn a pension”.

Thanks to the support from the Flood Recovery Programme, Edina and Senija’s road to entrepreneurship and better future will be made much easier.



Dragica, Bijeljina

I have a million plans. Hopefully some will come true” smiles Dragica while sitting behind one of the three brand new sewing machine in her workshop in Bijeljina. Three sewing machines and a knife for fabric cutting are part of the programme support to Dragica.

Thanks to this assistance, Dragica can now increase her production and earn enough to support her family. “Now I work three times faster than before. Something that used to take me ten minutes to do, I can now do in four” explains Dragica.

Dragica lives with her husband, mother and father-in-law, as well as two sons. Floods hit their settlement in 2014, damaging their home. Through Programme, damages on the house were repaired, while Dragica was offered an opportunity to take part in entrepreneurship training. In training, Dragica and other eligible beneficiaries have acquired skills needed for development and management of small businesses, which should help them and their families secure a better future and recover the entire community.



“I am slowly upgrading my knowledge; things are much clearer now” says Dragica about her experience with training. “I only knew how to sew and nothing else. Now I know much more”.

Dragica completed three training modules on entrepreneurship, after which she presented her business idea before an expert commission at a ceremony organised at UNDP’s office in Sarajevo. Based on the presented and approved business plan, the registration of a small business followed.

As person with sewing in her blood, Dragica registered company MV Kids specialised for children’s clothing. After the registration, the Programme provided beneficiaries with needed equipment and tools, as well as mentoring and advisory services in the first year of work for all newly established small businesses.

Dragica has big plans for her small business: “I want to make it on the market and become recognisable. When people see my creation, I want them to know that I made it”.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand gently touching a large, vibrant green leaf of a plant in a greenhouse. The background is filled with rows of similar plants, supported by blue vertical stakes. The lighting is bright and natural, highlighting the texture of the leaves.

Almira, Zavidovići

“This greenhouse means a lot to us,” says Almira Hadžić from Zavidovići while showing the neat lines of peppers and tomatoes that she planted in it. “Our lives will improve. It’s a different feeling to be able to earn money with own hands”.

Almira, her husband and their three sons aged 18, 10 and 7 make up the Hadžić family of five. Their home, flooded in 2014, was repaired, and the family also received agricultural support package: a greenhouse with all necessary equipment and seedlings. Despite many years working in agriculture, this is the first greenhouse for Hadžić family.

“I am a rookie in greenhouse production” admits Almira and quickly adds how eager she is to “learn everything”. With this in mind, Program provided experts for all beneficiaries of the agricultural support package who will assist and lead families through the process of greenhouse production. “Without the expert, I wouldn’t know how to do it myself. I write down in my notebook everything the agronomist tells me so that I would have it noted down for the years to come as well,” says Almira.

Once the vegetables ripen, the family plans to sell most of it and thus improve their livelihoods.





Zahid, Zenica

Zahid from Zenica is one of eight beekeepers who received assistance through the Programme. After suffering major damages in 2014, Zahid now has a positive outlook on the future. The Programme built a new home for Zahid, and through economic empowerment, he also received five hives and bee colonies, accessories, and protective equipment.

“It’s hard to start from scratch. This is a boost to my recovery. I could already have honey next year,” says Zahid.





Mirsad, Zenica

Homes of the people from village Kolići are still buried under debris and mud. In 2014, unprecedented amounts of rain and groundwater teamed up with the overflowing nearby stream, forcing the locals to leave their homes.

Mirsad had a special mission that night – in search of safety from a natural disaster, he formed a column and led the family and locals uphill to a neighboring village. We moved along a slope, not daring to go down for five meters, with the soil all drenched in water, so you sink right there. You are taking your children, carrying the bags”, Fejzić recalls. “I spent four years in the war, and never did I turn my back on anything. But those moments were the hardest for me. Not a thing you can do.”

Six years and five rentals later, the search for a new home ends for the Fejzić family. Through Flood Recovery Programme, they were built a new house. “Just when we started to lose hope, it happened.”

Although serving on the Armed Forces of BiH, Mirsad, with the great help of his wife Mersima, successfully maintains greenhouse production. He was also provided a 100-square-meter greenhouse, including the accompanying raw materials and small equipment, all thanks to the Flood Recovery Programme.

“It’s different, when you know it’s yours.



Vahidin, Zavidovići

“I’m thrilled, such a blessing that you’ve helped me!” says Vahidin from Zavidovići, one of the programme beneficiaries eligible for economic support.

In addition to having a new home built, Vahidin also received a motor-cultivator that will make life much easier for his family of five, and help them earn additional income.



Check out the stories of families who moved into their new homes!

Hanka, Maglaj



Miralem, Doboj



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme is grateful to the European Union, which funded the Programme in the amount of 12.5 million euro, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government of Republika Srpska, the Government of Zenica-Doboj Canton, and all partner local governments on their exceptional support provided during the programme implementation.

Thanks to the support, nearly 3,000 beneficiaries in 45 municipalities and cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina were provided durable housing solutions, and 213 households received additional economic support aimed to generate regular and sustainable income in the future.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to all implementation partners for their committed and generous work, all with the aim of improving the living conditions of our most vulnerable fellow citizens.