

Along the Paths of Honey and Milk

Applying the Human
Security Concept in
Canton 10



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**



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Canton 10 is one of the least developed regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In order to improve living conditions and attain sustainable development, in September 2013, the United Nations (UN) agencies and their partners launched a project “Applying the Human Security Concept to Stabilise Communities in Canton 10”. The project is implemented by UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM, and financed by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UN TFHS).

In addition to concrete assistance to the target groups in this canton, the project also aims to solve social and economic problems of the population. By addressing social disparities and other factors of economic stagnation, the project aims to strengthen a sense of community, solidarity and equality, thus minimising the tensions and uncertainty felt by the population affected by poverty and lack of prospects.

The project tackles inequality in several areas: education, security, supporting economic development, and local authorities’ capacity building.

With the estimated budget of around \$2.5 million, the project will run for three years, and counts on the support of partners and participants.



Andrew Mayne, UNHCR Regional Representative for South Eastern Europe and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Return

as a dream of a better life

UNHCR has decided to take three specific steps and join the efforts to support and assist socially disadvantaged communities, families and individuals in Canton 10.

“UNHCR is working with the local authorities and the project partners on three main tasks: first, we go to the field together and conduct an Assessment to see which communities and families are most in need for support and should be the priority for the project. Second, we hope to work together with the local authorities and the project partners on plans to determine how best to assist these communities in short, medium and longer term preferably as part of the development plans of the Canton. And third, we go to the field together again to target the available assistance to the vulnerable families and communities identified”, said Andrew Mayne, UNHCR Regional Representative for South Eastern Europe and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Two returnees from the villages of Kute and Donje Ravno are direct beneficiaries of UNHCR’s local development support. With their two-wheel tractors they will be able to increase the production and earn their own keep. They were both refugees in the 2000s, eventually returning to find “bare walls,” in their own words, and they’ve been struggling to sustain themselves ever since.

“It was about in 2000 that I returned to these 4 bare walls, four construction elements. When I came back, I started all over again from the foundations, and you can see how far I have come. I receive no regular income, I get engaged in seasonal jobs, during such a season when there is hey related work for example, or holes to dig for the neighbours, or woods to cut. This cultivator that I have received can help me produce food, such as potatoes or onions. It can even help me get some extra potato which I can further sell in

order to provide for utilities costs. My hope for the future is that this machine will prove to be of great assistance and ease my life so that I can simply live better”, says Emir Ugarak from village Kute near Kupres.

“We came back somewhere around 1993. Everything was destroyed, and we received something from other people, there were some donations”, says Milan Mrčajac, returnee from village Donje Ravno. “The UNHCR gave me these machines. Prior to this, we were doing everything manually, cutting hay by hand. This machine will be very good for what I need, to cut hay, do some work for others, get some extra money. I live fine now, with my two sons here, and they sometimes earn something. I have two, three cows, and sometimes sell some milk. Occasionally we sell hay. This aid will do us well”, Milan says.



Emir Ugarak, village Kute, Kupres



Milan Mrčajac, village Donje Ravno

In this way, UNHCR supports local community development through concrete assistance to disadvantaged households, attempting to give them necessary tools and assistance to ease their everyday lives.

By gradually increasing employment, poverty is reduced and conditions created for sustainable economic development. Families and communities are enabled to continue to provide for themselves, with this assistance as an incentive. The return as a dream of a better, easier life thus comes closer to becoming reality, and the members of the community increasingly want to make their own living.

Self-employment

ensures income to returnees in
Canton 10

"I really made use of the chainsaw this fall. Apart from preparing firewood for myself and my family, I also managed to earn something", says Miroslav Trninić.



The winter of 2014 was warm and more joyful than the previous years in the home of five of the Trninić family. The father of three, Miroslav Trninić, managed to earn for firewood and food for his family thanks to self-employment. He does all sorts of works, and thanks to the new chainsaw and tools donated by UNHCR, Miroslav can now make a living and provide what is most needed for his family.

"I really made use of the chainsaw this fall. Apart from preparing firewood for myself and my family, I also managed to earn something", says Miroslav, adding that he will try hard in the coming period to ensure work for himself. "The times of our parents with finding jobs in companies after school and getting an apartment are now long gone. We must fight for our survival differently", adds Trninić and wonders anxiously: "Who knows what awaits my children?"



Miroslav and his wife Alma, also unemployed, provide for three children, seven-year-old Eduardo, Lana who is three-and-a-half and Stefan who is sixteen months old. They live in an old house belonging to Miroslav's grandmother. Despite the difficult life, they are not giving up and remain persistent in fighting for a decent life for them and their children.

Miroslav, an unemployed waiter, faced a difficult economic situation after returning to Drvar. Pre-war industry was destroyed, with only few functional catering establishments and shops. These two young parents currently see self-employment as the only solution. In addition to the work done by Miroslav when asked by his neighbors, thanks to the chainsaw and tools, he has a busy season ahead of him, expecting more work to come with collecting and cutting of firewood.



Gianluca Rocco, IOM Sub Regional Coordinator for the Western Balkans

Interdependence

as the cornerstone of development

As part of this project, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is implementing a component aimed to empower both governmental and non-governmental sector and foster their close co-operation.

“IOM has implemented certain trainings for increasing the capacities of lobbying and advocating for solutions to the problems of this Canton. It is a very problematic region where the number of refugees and IDPs that are still returning is very high. In that sense, through our training we worked on building teams between the civil society and the local government to enable them a better approach to funding that will become available in the future, so they could be able to improve the situation in the Canton and help Bosnia and Herzegovina to further develop”, said Gianluca Rocco, IOM Sub Regional Coordinator for the Western Balkans.

Resource management is one of the cornerstones of investing in sustainable development and economy.

“One of the activities we are implementing are the communication and lobbying trainings for the governmental and non-governmental sector. When we came up with an idea for this project, we noticed that there had been a serious lack of communication between these two instances. To this end, we have organized a set of trainings”, says Radmila Urošević from IOM.

It is thought that non-governmental sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina lacks lobbying skills, and that these skills have so far not been recognised as crucial for the implementation of projects of any kind.

“It was a great satisfaction for me to cooperate with persons who took part in trainings, because they and representatives of local authorities and of non-governmental organizations displayed great knowledge of certain subjects, but also their readiness to acquire new skills for which they realized can be of assistance in their everyday life”, said Ermin Hajder, consultant in IOM.

Municipal representatives, including public relations staff, are also happy with the training, and see it as an asset for the future in which the development of the canton will be approached through governmental and non-governmental co-operation.

“There obviously existed a need to hold such trainings concerning communication skills, especially due to the reason that it can encourage a very good



Radmila Urošević, IOM resources management officer

co-operation between governmental and non-governmental sector”, says Ljiljana Dodik, PR Officer of Municipality of Drvar. “I believe this will contribute to the implementation of certain projects especially those concerning socially vulnerable population.”

In the upcoming project implementation period, IOM will monitor the co-operation between the governmental and non-governmental sector, their lobbying, realisation of plans, and projects that need to demonstrate joint efforts towards the benefit of the community and the project beneficiaries in Canton 10.

The participants in this training course realised the importance of the support they were getting from IOM and UN agencies in general, and they considered it a step in the right direction and a positive experience. They appreciate the importance of intersectoral co-operation and advocacy skills.

“This project helped us realize that this co-operation should be welcomed, that we should not be avoiding it, and that we should simply rely on each other - both governmental and non-governmental sector - with an aim to help the local community. We will ease our living in this area and the solving of our joint problems”, said Zdravko Mioč from the Red Cross in Livno.

Mobile teams

helping the underprivileged families
in Canton 10

During the first visit, the three-member mobile team has taken stock of the situation on the ground and the needs for over 2,500 of the most vulnerable beneficiaries of social assistance.



With the support of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Red Cross, three mobile teams had been set up, comprising a nurse, a caregiver and a driver - handyman, to visit and help the underprivileged families in municipalities of Glamoč, Drvar and Bosansko Grahovo. During the first visit, the three-member mobile team has taken stock of the situation on the ground and the needs for over 2,500 of the most vulnerable beneficiaries of social assistance.

“Unfortunately, the need for mobile teams is too large. Health centres are unable to ensure visits and transport for all potential patients, while at the same time, in absence of public transportation in these municipalities, these people have huge problems in coming to doctor’s appointments”, says Bogdan Runic, IOM Project Assistant and notes that the basic tasks of field teams are to provide primary medical care to elderly and ill. “In addition to the three existing mobile teams, provided with



a vehicle and equipment for field work, a team for the Kupres Municipality will also be set up”.

Josipa Radošević Vidović, a nurse on the team, told that there are many elderly and bed-ridden patients without children and relatives, and they are barely surviving. “In most cases, they require everyday medical care, but they often have neither electricity nor water.” He notes that the soup kitchen has been operational in Glamoč for several years now, which is of great assistance to underprivileged multi-member households and the elderly.

Forty-three-year-old Alma Sultanović and her three children are one of the many families from Glamoč that are on the list of the mobile team of the Red Cross. During the visit, the mobile team did a basic check-up and delivered humanitarian aid in the form of food and a hygiene set. Although they live in poor conditions, they take care of health in the family. They are among few without health issues. The single biggest problem for mother Alma is whether she can put food on the table for her children with every new day.

Fifteen-year-old Mirsad, seven-year-old Junuz and a year younger Lejla live with their mother in the newly renovated home, on 100 KM of monthly assistance from the Social Welfare Centre. New Year’s wishes of their peers mostly include mobile phones, computers, laptops, while these three children have only one wish - not to be hungry.

The plan for the first year of the project is to focus on medical care and delivery of humanitarian aid or food packages for underprivileged families. “Where there is a real need, grants will be awarded to families to earn their livelihood independently. Whether it is livestock or agricultural machinery, our aim is to improve the quality of life of current beneficiaries of welfare”, concludes Runić.



Slobodan Tadić, UNDP Regional Programme Manager

Wealth lies in knowledge and unity

The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) research has shown that Canton 10 is one of the most underdeveloped regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project, in which UNDP participates along with other UN agencies, will focus on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons living in Canton 10 who are facing numerous challenges and obstacles in the reintegration process.

“Based on the 2010 Regional Disparity Assessment, which showed Canton 10 was one of the least developed regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UN agencies in BiH, together with UN Trust Fund for Human Security, have launched an initiative to address the problems faced by the local population. Our joint efforts with local and regional authorities, civil society organisations and other stakeholders resulted in the project “Applying the Human Security Concept to Stabilise Communities in Canton 10””, said Slobodan Tadić, UNDP Regional Programme Manager. “The project aims to establish efficient coordination among all levels of government and other stakeholders in Canton 10, improve service delivery in areas of education, social welfare and health, as well as to identify opportunities of assistance to people to achieve economic sustainability in the region. We see great potential in the Canton, particularly in forestry, agriculture, as well as tourism, and we are trying to draw on them in co-operation with local population to foster local and regional development.”

Over the last 12 months, the project has made it possible for the municipalities to set up their own municipal development teams which will design municipal development programmes for the next five to seven years.

In Drvar, Bosansko Grahovo, Kupres and Glamoč, UNDP worked with teams

to assess the needs of the existing milk producers, as well as those who are only about to start the milk production.

“The goal of the project, through education, is to organize and deliver practical and theoretical trainings, to assist the population in improving their knowledge in milk production, hygiene, and livestock farming. This is done to enable better production, and more income for the farms and households, fostering self-employment of the population who deal with agricultural, that is milk production”, said Dalibor Pantić, project consultant.

Project beneficiaries – people to whom these activities are the only source of income - see these efforts as a long-term assistance which will gradually elevate the population from poverty and lack of business opportunities.

“I work in the public communal company, but we have not received salary for the last 6 years. I live with my father, and we are compelled to engage in agricultural production. We have few sheep, and sell milk. From the psychological point of view, it is significant to see that someone is interested in helping you, especially having in mind certain material help. Such assistance might encourage others to join and thus increase their livestock to start the milk production”, says Jelena Malinović, one of the project beneficiaries.



Jelena Malinović, project beneficiary

“Organizing individual businessmen into the cooperative business is of crucial importance not only for the development of agriculture and agricultural workers, but the entire community. We should all strive towards this in order to improve our living environment”, said Stevica Lukač, Mayor of Drvar.

Miloš Bauk, member of the Beekeepers Association, is also of the opinion that independent agricultural cooperatives would make life and work easier.

“Establishment of the agricultural cooperative in Drvar should enable all agricultural workers to more easily obtain raw materials and better charge the products they make. We, from the Beekeepers Association, came up with an idea to launch this cooperative and further extend it by involving all other agricultural fields, primarily to help the population in Drvar to work better”, he says.

Incentives

to dairy producers and processors
in Canton 10

“In previous years when we did not have the milk cooling tank, we were forced to manage the best way possible to preserve milk, especially in summertime”, says Vesna Kubat.



Bosansko Grahovo is one of six municipalities in Canton 10, with the population of about 4,000. The village of Marinkovac is located about ten kilometres from the Grahovo proper. Even before the outbreak of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the families in villages and hamlets surrounding Grahovo had no easy life in these rural areas. Very few returned, to farm land and raise cattle, as their only source of income.

Seventy-year-old Jela Kubat attends to three cows. According to Jela, she could not live more than few days off of her pension. But in this way, she gets to farm a bit, then also sells milk to the Livno Dairy, and gets to help out her children. “We got a milk cooling tank, few houses here, and now it is much easier for us. Previously, we had to collect milk in plastic bottles, and had put it in freezers in summertime so it does not go sour”, says Jela and adds that she would attend to even more cows, should her health permit.

Cooling tanks, milk churns, milk meters and other equipment for dairy production have been provided to returnee



communities and small farmers in the municipalities of Drvar, Bosansko Grahovo and Kupres, where milk production is the only source of livelihood.

Vesna Kubat lives with her husband Ljubomir and 250 sheep and six cows. Every day, Ljubomir walks dozens of kilometres with their cattle for pasture, and in the evening, Vesna milks cows manually. The only upgrade in their production of milk is a device for milk storage. “We make a living from livestock and that is all we have. We sell some milk, and a lamb here and there, and make the ends meet. In previous years when we did not have the milk cooling tank, so we were forced to manage the best way possible to preserve milk, especially in summertime”, says Vesna.

Members of 36 families who got the equipment now have secured conditions for milk production and an additional source of livelihood in communities with very high unemployment.

Vitomir Kubat is expanding production and runs the farm with thirteen dairy cows, together with his wife. This family manages to send three children to school thanks to milk production. School is the priority for children, but when they are done with homework, they all help their parents in the household. “I have expanded my production, so we had to change our milk cooling tank for a bigger one”, says Vitomir.

Thanks to good neighbourly relations and solidarity, another Vitomir’s neighbour, Duško Bursać, can make a decent living from milk production. “After I got a larger milk cooling tank thanks to UNDP, I immediately took my previous one to a neighbour who has just started producing. I hope that in the near future, he too will increase the number of dairy cows”, says Vitomir.

In addition to equipment, UNDP has ensured buy-off for milk producers. In February 2015, buy-off station of the Livno Dairy for milk became operational in downtown Grahovo.



Ayman Abulaban, UNICEF Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina

All children deserve equal chances

In the belief that a good start is crucial for a developing child, and that it is often decisive for his or her future, UNICEF has established a support network as part of this project which will give every child equal chances for a happy childhood. With that in mind, UNICEF's contribution to the project was to reach the most vulnerable categories of children, enable them to maintain, develop and realise their potentials. Children of different profiles, ethnic and social backgrounds participated in this part of the project, and the project enabled them to better understand each other, work together and contribute to a peaceful and happy community in which to grow and develop.

“Through our contribution to this project we wanted to reach all children and specially those who are marginalized and most vulnerable, and through reaching them, with the proper and adequate services that can help them realize their potential in development. We then make sure that the sustainability and the results of such project will leave fruits for the future”, says Ayman Abulaban, UNICEF Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

All children in primary schools in Canton 10 are involved in various activities implemented by the non-governmental organisation “Genesis Project”. Workshops about communication, peaceful solutions to conflict, tolerance and acceptance of differences take place with groups for peer support. Also, the children will address these topics in 1-minute videos called “One Minute Junior” which they will present and discuss in their communities.

An expert group at the cantonal level works on designing a publication about the practical implementation of the Protocol on dealing with cases of violence in primary schools which will be implemented in all schools. All

teachers will be trained on the application of the Protocol and the active work with pupils regarding prevention of violence and inclusive education. Puppet shows will be organized for younger pupils, to teach them about the danger of mines and unexploded ordnances, since there is still a problem of mine fields in Canton 10.

One of the key things in this project is the co-ordination and communication between all the services involved, and between the health and educational institutions, to help the children with no access to services crucial for their development, but also to connect all the children in the Canton, no matter what distances or apparent differences may separate them.



Dr Dominika Šiško, Livno

“Now, thanks to this project, we will automatically interlink Pediatric Department of our Health Center, Domiciliary Care, Social Welfare Center, kindergartens and schools. Early detection is of particular importance as it is known that certain developmental disorders, if observed in the phase of early growth up to 6 months, can be treated more successfully. It is very important that we formed domiciliary care for children, which we lacked in the past. I believe this is the most important project that has so far affected our institution”, says Dr. Dominika Šiško from Livno.

Petar Galić, Minister of Education of Canton 10, is pleased as well.

“Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport has been co-operating for many years with the UNICEF representatives. In the last two years we were that lucky to introduce inclusion in the pre-school education, as well as violence prevention in schools. We hope that such projects will continue in the years to come, at the satisfaction of us in the Ministry, the parents, but first of all our pupils”, said Petar Galić.

Finally, the sense that this is not about short-term assistance and making the little ones happy and safe, it is also about laying the foundation of their future and broadening their horizons, and therein lies the greatest value.

“Thanks to the UNICEF support, we have managed to reach the most vulnerable children that nobody has handled before”, says Tea Konta, nurse.

Pre-school

facility Mala škola opened
in Glamoč

Currently, there are 20 children enrolled in the Mala škola preschool facility and according to Milena Bijelić, a teacher, this is an excellent opportunity for children to socialise, but also acquire some work habits.

In early December 2014, twenty children aged four, five and six years started attending the *Mala škola* preschool facility. This is a project of the Government of the Canton 10, implemented with the support of UNICEF, and aimed to provide adequate preparation for first grade, especially to those from underprivileged families. Overall, 441 children attend *Mala škola* in all six municipalities in the Canton.

Glamoč Municipality with around 4000 inhabitants is one of the extremely underdeveloped municipalities, with a large number of children not enrolled in pre-school education. The experience of starting the first grade is a particular trauma for most children,





especially if they come to school unprepared.

Currently, there are 20 children enrolled in the *Mala škola* preschool facility and according to Milena Bijelić, a teacher, this is an excellent opportunity for children to socialise, but also acquire some work habits. For the purposes of this pre-school facility, a classroom with chairs and desks was provided, while toys and other supplies were donated by parents so as to make their children's stay as pleasant as possible. All necessary learning materials for pre-school education were ensured by the Cantonal Ministry of Education.

"We have assurances that we will get more material for our work early next year, so I can say with certainty that the conditions in our school will easily reach the standards in some larger cities", adds teacher Bijelić.

During their school time, every working day between 9:00 and 12:00 hours, the little ones read stories, draw, acquire new skills, and most importantly, play and make their first friendships.



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for Human Security**

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