



Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

United Nations Development Programme

Emergency response to flood affected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Due to the heavy rains between 6 and 11 April 2004 several areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina were extensively flooded. There are severe damages on both infrastructure and agriculture. While the local authorities were able to cover the immediate needs of the affected people, there is an urgent need for seeds and fertilizers to the most affected farmers. It is estimated that more than 120,000 hectares of fertile soil have been flooded. More than a third of it was already sowed with wheat, maize and vegetables.

Urgent assistance to the affected small farmers is needed due to a combination of the Government's inability to cover the urgent requirements (e.g., seeds and fertilizers) in the flooded areas, bad economic situation and widespread poverty. The UNDP/BCPR TRAC 3 Line 2 funds (immediate response to crisis) will target these families with provision of seeds and fertilizers and help them to recover and replant their land. As many of the affected farmers are returnees and DPs, this assistance is also aimed at supporting the sustainability of returns within the country.

The selection of the beneficiaries will be done by the Ministries of Agriculture of Republika Srpska, Federation of BiH and Brcko District.

Date: __ April 2004

Situation Analysis

Due to the heavy rains in the first half of April 2004, the water level of the rivers Pliva, Vrbas, Bosna, Sana, Vrbanja, Josavka, Una, Lasva, Zdena, Neretva, Drina and Sava rose rapidly and the water spilled over the river banks. The Central Bosnia and the Una-Sana Cantons in the Federation of BiH, the regions of Banja Luka, Srbac, Slavonski Brod and Bijeljina in Republika Srpska and the agricultural areas of Brcko District are particularly severely affected. The underground waters have risen as well. The state of the elementary disaster has been proclaimed in most of these municipalities. Even after 10 days since the floods started they are persisting in the northern parts of the country.

The situation is especially difficult in Bosanski/Srpski Brod where some 850 houses are partially under water. A water pump (capacity 2,600 l/min) has been provided by the Maglaj Fire Brigade. This was an example of a successful inter-entity cooperation.

Immediate assistance has been provided by the municipal and entity Civil Protection Units, Military and Army Units and the local Red Cross Emergency Response Teams. According to the Civil Protection Units, more than 120,000 families were evacuated and accommodated with relatives and friends. There was no need for alternative accommodation.

The current estimate is that the floods have directly affected 250,000-300,000 people. The immediate needs of the affected population (drinkable water, water purifying pills, food, hygiene items, blankets, clothes and shoes) are provided from local sources (municipalities, Red Cross, Civil Protection, Army).

The damages on the houses still cannot be calculated as many of them are still flooded or surrounded by water. However, it is likely that the impact on the housing will not be catastrophic as only the basements of the flooded houses were under the water (10-20 cm).

However, the impact on agriculture will be significant. According to the currently available information some 60,000 hectares of agricultural land has been flooded in Republika Srpska (Banja Luka region, Doboje region, Bijeljina region and Srbac municipality), more than 5,000 hectares in Brcko District and some 30,000 hectares in the Federation of BiH. These figures could be higher upon receiving additional data from the municipalities. For easier reference, there are some 200,000 hectares in BiH suitable for year-round grazing (these areas were affected by the floods) and additional 500,000 hectares in the higher elevations available for seasonal grazing in the summer months. This means that, in the best case, one half of the total agricultural land will need replanting and recovery.

Strategy

The Office of the Resident Coordinator and UNDP have worked closely with the State Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, responsible for coordination of activities of Entities' Ministries for Agriculture, in defining the emergency needs of for the agriculture sector. It was agreed that the UNDP funding support would be used for provision of seeds and fertilizers and would target the most vulnerable groups of the affected population. They are small farmers who have only one plot of land and may indeed have lost everything. As many of these farmers are returnees and DPs this project will also support the sustainability of already achieved returns within BiH. Detailed criteria for the disbursement of the assistance will be set-up by the Entity Governments.

As proposed by the Ministry, and according to the prices at the local market, US\$ 50,000 will be used for provision of 177,6 t of mineral fertilizers and another US\$ 50,000 for provision of 114,3 t of seeds.

For the reference, costs for the wheat seeds and fertilizers for planting of 3,000 hectares are around US\$ 380,000 (as calculated in the FAO's report on floods in BiH in 2001). According to this methodology, only 790 hectares could be fully replanted with US\$ 100,000.

Management Arrangements

Distribution of funds to entities and Brcko District will be done by the State Government upon receiving the needs assessment reports from the Entity Ministries of Agriculture and Brcko District. The responsible ministry at state level will be Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, according to the Law on Ministries. Selection of beneficiaries will be done by the Entity Ministries of Agriculture and the Brcko District authorities.

The Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations will report on the project implementation to UNDP and the Office of the Resident Coordinator upon the project's finalization. The Ministry will follow the procurement procedures defined by the law on public procurement. The project supporting documents, including the financial report, will also be shared with UNDP and the Office of the Resident Coordinator.

Monitoring of the project implementation will be done by the Entity and Brcko District Ministries of Agriculture and the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, according to their rules and procedures.

Project Title: Emergency response to the floods affected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Project Code:

Project Duration: 1 month

Total budget: US\$ 100,000 - UNDP TRAC (3)

| | Signature | Date | Name/Title |
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| On behalf of Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations | ----- | ----- | Mr. Dragan Doko Minister |
| UNDP | ----- | ----- | Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen Resident Representative |