INTRODUCTION

The EU Floods Recovery Programme is helping establish normal living conditions in local communities affected by the May 2104 floods. It was launched in August 2014 and has five components:

1. Housing;
2. Livelihoods;
3. Public institutions;
4. Communal infrastructure; and
5. Risk assessment.

The programme worth 43.52 million EUR is funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP, UNHCR and IOM.

LIVELIHOODS

Under the livelihoods component, the EU Floods Recovery Programme (EUFRP) works with agricultural producers and local businesses to enable sustainable livelihoods recovery. All the beneficiaries were selected through a public competitive process.

Recovery activities are particularly focused on improving conditions for employment and income earning opportunities.

The livelihoods component of the Programme has two subcomponents:

1. Support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs); and
2. Support to agricultural producers.

Activities under the two subcomponents have thus far helped to retain and create more than 5,500 jobs through investing 5,263,041 EUR.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Most of the SMEs in flood affected areas have suffered damages in both infrastructure as well as inventory. Due to the loss of production and, in some instances, the loss of market, a number of companies were at risk of closure and were in need of external assistance to maintain their levels of employment.

The Programme provided assistance for small-scale rehabilitation of business facilities and labour force employability. It also facilitated access to finance and improved access to markets.

A total of 117 SMEs are being supported through grants worth 3,334,644 EUR which have been awarded in two implementation phases.

This has helped to sustain and create 4,173 jobs with 160 more expected to be created over the next three months, thus bringing the total to 4,333 jobs in this subcomponent.
Programme activities under the agricultural production support subcomponent are delivered through four pillars:

1. Support to commercial agricultural producers;
2. Support to raspberry producers;
3. Support to grain and poultry farmers; and
4. Support to subsistence farmers.

In total, 1,271 agricultural holdings are benefiting from this Programme subcomponent.

Support to commercial agricultural producers

The Programme focuses on beneficiaries with available resources (e.g. arable land) that can be utilized for more robust and viable commercial agricultural production.

Overall, 415 households (commercial farmers) in flood-affected area have been supported to generate up to 1,000 BAM per month/household in sustainable income.

Each of the 415 beneficiary received assistance which included 200m2 greenhouse fitted with an irrigation system, planting material for open field production of vegetable crops (gherkins and/or peppers) and strawberries, and a plant protection and fertilizer package.

Support to raspberry producers

The programme activities further focus on strengthening the value chains in the berry-fruit sector by expanding the production of raspberries. 264 new raspberry plantations will be established at individual households, consequently generating from 750 BAM to 1,500 BAM per month/household in sustainable income.

Support to grain and poultry producers

In addition to helping commercial agriculture producers of fruits and vegetables, the Programme has distributed grain seeds and fertilizers for 126 grain producers in the affected regions suitable for grain production.

Technical assistance is being provided to integration of grain producers into the local value chains. As a result, the entire grain production (2,500 tonnes) has been sold to a local producer – bakery, which needs raw materials for products that to be exported to Turkey. Total income generated through this intervention will be around 800,000 BAM or 530 BAM per month/household.

The programme has further helped 9 poultry farmers through distribution of laying hens. This will help poultry farmers to retain the total sustainable income of some 550,000 BAM, or 5,090 BAM per month/producer.

Support to subsistence farmers

Under the subsistence agricultural holdings pillar, the Programme will provide inputs directly related to the needs of 457 individual farmers/agricultural households such as livestock, equipment and construction material, and support reconstruction of small-scale agriculture infrastructure (e.g. greenhouses) and provide technical assistance aimed at improving production.

Table 3: Support to agricultural producers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FBiH</th>
<th>RS</th>
<th>BD</th>
<th>BiH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of commercial producers</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of raspberry producers</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of grain producers</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of poultry farms</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of subsistence farmers</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of supported households</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1,271</td>
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1) Dependent on the growing area of each beneficiary, which ranges from 2000m² to 4000m².

EU Floods Recovery Programme is funded by the European Union, and implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and International Organization for Migrations (IOM).