

# UNLOCKING COMMUNITY CAPITALS

FOR RESILIENT LOCAL  
DEVELOPMENT



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



United Nations Development Programme





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Resilient nations.*

Innovative Development Solutions for Serbia

# UNLOCKING COMMUNITY CAPITALS FOR RESILIENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Belgrade, June 2017



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## RESILIENCE INOCULATES DEVELOPMENT AGAINST SHOCKS AND DISASTER-RELATED LOSSES

Countries, including Serbia, increasingly pay a high price to shocks which disrupt the normal functioning of communities. For instance, the 2014 floods affected more than 20 percent of Serbia's population, causing EUR 1.7 billion in damage and pushed the entire country into economic recession. In 2015, Serbia was hit again by another type of crisis, when an estimated 1.1 million displaced persons from the Middle East crossed into Europe, sparking a crisis along the migration route, where local communities struggle to cope with this influx and its many economic and social consequences.

On our constant quest to make the Serbian communities more resilient we enjoy the support of our partners, above all in the Government of Serbia, in addressing the evolving demands of better preparations for shocks and crisis, strengthening social cohesion, blending scarce resources into impactful development projects, engaging volunteers, including women in planning for preparedness and executing responses, in strengthening partnerships between the state and non-state actors, in coordinating available assistance and mobilizing resources.

When recovery processes are partial and not oriented towards enhancing resilience, the impact of the disaster can be long-lasting and have ongoing effects on entire generations.

UNDP, Human Development Report 2014, New York

# CAPITALS FOR RESILIENCE

The Resilient Development Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Serbia works on supporting communities to build resilience to natural and human-induced disasters. To make the municipalities stronger, UNDP brings together partners from all levels of government, from all three sectors – public, private and civil society – and from related fields of expertise, to unlock the potential of own capitals for resilience.

Resilience has different meanings in different disciplines. Most of the definitions focus too narrowly on the capacity to respond to shocks and to maintain the existing state of affairs. UNDP looks at resilience as the ability of municipalities to resist, absorb, adapt and recover from external shocks – and to “build back better”, rather than return to previous situation of vulnerability. The Resilient Development perspective considers crises as opportunities for a community to become stronger than it was before the shock and better equipped to face future crises.<sup>1</sup>

Which resources or capitals exist to help a community absorb, adapt and recover from natural and human-induced shocks and return to a “normal” development pathway? Natural resources, such as the existence of agricultural land, forests, number of settlements, average size of plots, etc. are all part of the **Natural community capital**. The number of companies and number of employed residents, average

salaries, and municipal gross product, among others, are main economic resources that impact the vulnerability and resilience of municipalities, and make up their **Economic capital**. Closely linked to the available economic resources is the level of development of communal infrastructure: road network, educational and healthcare facilities, water and sewage system, etc. all the elements of the **Physical capital**. Natural, Economic and Physical capitals are often the first to be cited as critical factors for a community’s capacity for resilient development. However, **Human capital** (number and socio-demographic characteristics of people) or, indeed, the **Social capital** of local communities, comprised of number, type and strength of connections, interactions between people within various networks, solidarity and trust, practice of information sharing, cooperation, coordination, civic engagement, partnership-building and mutual support, are often overlooked by investors in resilience.

At UNDP Serbia, we deploy innovative solutions to unlocking and cross-fertilizing all the available capitals by targeted interventions, which allow local communities to own and progress on their original paths to achieving development which is resilient and, hence, sustainable.

<sup>1</sup> UNDP National Human Development Report Serbia 2016





## OUR APPROACH

In the past several years, a number of crises have adversely affected local communities in Serbia. The floods of 2014 have exposed local weaknesses and contributed to an increase in poverty, sweeping away many previous hard-won development gains. Similarly, the migration crisis in 2015-2016 revealed the lack of local capacities to handle the surge in demand for local services and maintain adequate quality of public utilities under the new circumstances.

UNDP's team has worked on the recovery, reconstruction and strengthening of local communities in Serbia by supporting the affected communities in recognizing, accessing and activating dormant capitals for resilience whilst mobilizing missing resources from international development partners. Whether it was a natural or human-induced crisis, the UNDP's comprehensive approach incorporated activities focused on:

REPAIRING AND IMPROVING  
PHYSICAL CAPITAL



BUILDING  
HUMAN CAPITAL



STRENGTHENING  
SOCIAL CAPITAL



INCREASING  
ECONOMIC CAPITAL



STEWARDSHIP OF  
NATURAL CAPITAL





# REPAIRING AND IMPROVING PHYSICAL CAPITAL

Since the onset of the migration crisis in Serbia in September 2015, the Physical capital of border municipalities was severely affected, with local communities being on the transit route and at times hosting twice their regular population. The pressure on the municipal waste management and water supply was the most visible, while the local social and health services bore the brunt of the burden induced by the large flow of the displaced persons in the affected communities. Public assets depreciated and the quality of provided public services decreased.

The flash floods from May 2014 caused extensive damage in Serbia, resulting in destruction of houses, bridges and sections of roads (Krupanj and Šabac); extensive flooding of both urban areas (Obrenovac) and rural areas (Šabac); and widespread landslides (Krupanj and Bajina Bašta). While Serbia was still recovering from the May floods, in July and September heavy rain fell again, causing major floods, primarily due to the torrential streams coming down from nearby hills in Lucani, Kladovo, Majdanpek and Negotin municipalities located in Eastern Serbia, near the Romanian border. More than 150 liters of water per square meter and accompanying landslides damaged roads and bridges in many areas, cutting off access to settlements.

To repair and improve the Physical capital of communities impacted by migration and floods, UNDP Serbia implemented diverse activities, and achieved the following:

## Construction works improved key community infrastructure

- Reconstruction of the premises of the Center for Social Welfare in Subotica and construction of specialized premises for women victims of domestic violence, ensured improved conditions for 60 employees and 12,000 social service recipients (including the vulnerable displaced persons) who come to the Center annually;
- Reconstruction of the Red Cross Kanjiža warehouse improved efficiency of humanitarian aid distribution for the displaced persons located in this region;
- The local fairground and community meeting point “Vašarište”, used during the crisis as a temporary migrant shelter, renovated and ready to host new public events;
- New premises set up and furnished to improve efficiency and quality of water supply and waste management services of the local Public Utility Company “Moravica” in Preševo;





### Infrastructure repaired and built to prevent future flooding and landslides

- Dams constructed to stop the further clogging of waterways in more than 20 municipalities in Serbia;
- 18 torrential barrier dams built on 16 priority waterways in 8 municipalities to prevent mudslides, benefiting 190,000 people; additional three torrential barriers built in Ljubovija, Negotin, and Trstenik;
- Seven water supply improvement projects implemented in Osečina, Varvarin, Smederevska Palanka, and Svilajnac, directly benefiting 60,000 people;
- Three surface runoff sewage lines constructed in Valjevo, Paraćin, and Kladovo, benefiting directly over 40,000 people;
- Five landslides rehabilitated in Krupanj, Loznica, Obrenovac, Koceljevo and Ljubovija, to protect an elementary school, houses, water wells, roads and traffic, directly benefiting over 700 inhabitants of these municipalities;
- Three bridges built in Krupanj (the bridge over the Likodra river), Lazarevac (the bridge over the channel in Sopic), and Valjevo (the bridge over the Ub river), enabling improved access to over 6,000 people to their properties in remote locations;



UNDP is a trustworthy partner because it delivers on its promises.

**Vladimir Cucić**  
Commissioner for Refugees and Migration

Bridge over the Ub river in Valjevo



### Debris removed, damaged houses demolished, and new ones constructed

- 203 severely damaged houses demolished, in order to clear the ground for construction of new houses; while the post-floods debris was removed from 50 sites;
- 35 new houses built in Krupanj, Obrenovac and Valjevo after the floods in 2014, accommodating 150 family members;

### Equipment purchased to enable efficient operations of key Public Utility Companies (PUCs) and public institutions

- Procured waste management-related equipment (waste containers, garbage bins) and vehicles (septic cleaning truck, waste removal truck) for local PUCs in Subotica, Sid, Dimitrovgrad and Presevo, thus ensuring that these municipalities are better equipped to serve the needs of local population and migrants alike;
- One passenger vehicle procured for the Institute for Biocides and Medical Ecology, and one for the Centre for Social Welfare, both located in Belgrade, to assist in daily operations of these two institutions serving migrants and local population;
- IT equipment (including software for electronic sessions of the Emergency HQ team) procured for Belgrade City public administration, to

ensure that public utility service providers are better prepared for emergency situations;

- The equipment for mapping the landslides was procured and distributed to the 25 targeted municipalities; Additionally, the Landslide Susceptibility Map was produced based on data from the May 2014 floods, using satellite imagery: 1175 landslides were mapped and 1885 landslides tracked;
- Basic rescue kits were procured for 12 fire departments and 4 civil protection units operating in the 27 municipalities that successfully finished the emergency rescue trainings, in cooperation with the Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior;





The handover of technical documentation for the strategic development of the water supply system in Sid



### Strategic technical documentation prepared to assist municipalities to access the EU, multilateral and bilateral funding for larger scale infrastructure investments

- The Study on Flood Management Improvement in the Kolubara River Basin assessed the construction work system, institutional and operational measures and other actions, in order to provide maximum effects with lowest expenses, in terms of reducing flood damage, improved utilization of flood endangered areas and protection of human lives;
- Technical documentation prepared for roof reconstruction of the Center for Mother and Child in Subotica, ensuring smooth operations and provision of services to the local population and migrants;
- General Design and Preliminary Feasibility Study prepared, ensuring strategic development of the municipal water supply system in Sid; Through regeneration of two wells at the water source Batrovci, the output of the drinking water increased by 17%;
- The Design for a roundabout at the main square in the Sid municipality prepared, to improve public transport, decrease traffic jams and enable driving tests;
- The Design for the reconstruction of a local road between the Gradina Border Crossing and Dimitrovgrad One-Stop-Center prepared, to improve public transportation and enable access for migrants, service providers and locals;

EUR 204 million over 20 years  
(EUR 10 million annually) would  
dramatically increase safety from  
floods in the Kolubara river basin.

The Study on Flood Management Improvement in the Kolubara River Basin





- Primary and Secondary Designs for building a water supply network developed, to improve the quality and continuity of water supply in the village of Lukavica with 370 inhabitants (Dimitrovgrad municipality);
- Hydrogeological study of Grapa Water Source prepared, to secure a long-term availability of water in Dimitrovgrad;
- In Bosilegrad, the architectural designs verified and updated, enabling adaptation of the old municipal hospital to host the new Social Welfare Center premises;
- Technical documentation prepared for the construction of the waste water treatment plant in Bosilegrad, to mitigate health and environmental risk, safeguarding the local river Dragovištica;
- In Presevo, the General Water Supply Design prepared, ensuring strategic, long-term improvement and development of the Preševo water supply system;
- The technical documentation for construction of a new 1000 cubic meter water reservoir is being prepared in Presevo, to improve the municipal water supply;
- Five technical designs prepared for torrential barriers in Koceljovo, Kladovo, and Ub;

Torrential barrier in Ljubovija / Renovated sports fields in the Adasevci Primary School



The handover of the General Water Supply Design, prepared to ensure long-term improvements in the supply of water in Preševo





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SPASILAC NA VODI

# BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL



**From  
the People of Japan**

I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the UNDP for steady and transparent implementation of the projects by utilizing Japanese funds.

**Masayoshi Yamato**

First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Serbia

In every crisis and disaster, the poor and vulnerable people are the most exposed to the negative impact, due to the lack of resources and capacity to ensure proper living conditions, and safe and sheltered residence for themselves, thus being at the mercy of natural elements and human induced crises.

Special attention should be given to building women's resilience, as they are often the ones under most pressure during the emergency situations, being the primary care givers for the children and elderly family members. For example, the flash floods of 2014 resulted in a dramatic increase in women's unpaid workload, as they had to clean up their homes and take care of the kids and the elderly. Health and social workers also highlighted the fact that the floods had a negative impact on women through increased family violence, and on women's health overall.

For a community to be resilient, it needs to have well trained, knowledgeable and skilled people, prepared to face any adversity that may come their way. Throughout the implementation of various activities and projects, UNDP Serbia always paid due attention and invested efforts in building the communities' Human capital. Particular emphasis was given to the inclusion of women in disaster preparedness and response activities.



Training of women rescuers



### Trainings organized to improve the knowledge and skills of men and women key for ensuring local community resilience

- In cooperation with the National Training Center of the Ministry of Interior (Sector for Emergency Management), ten trainings were organized, in line with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, for local emergency units from 30 municipalities, strengthening their capacity to respond to emergency situations; Participants, 300 men and 63 women, learned about key procedures and principles related to emergency preparedness, rescue, and communication in evacuation situations;
- Teams of 14 municipalities (155 men and 37 women) were trained on community preparedness and response, including the basics of rescue operations, evacuation, first aid assistance, and communication during emergencies;
- UNDP prepared the Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment, which served to develop the National Plan of Action for Capacity Development in Disaster Risk Reduction; Following the preparation of this strategic document, UNDP organized a workshop on how to implement and monitor this plan;
- Four trainings were organized for the City of Belgrade, to improve the management of emergency situations;
- Publications for training of Emergency HQ in Belgrade and Civil Protection Units were published and distributed;
- Training was organized for PUC "Moravica" employees, to improve efficiency and quality of services provided to the local population and migrants in Presevo;



Training of local Emergency HQs from Kraljevo, Vrnjačka Banja, Čačak and Kragujevac, in cooperation with the National Training Center



### Experts engaged to help local communities and the Government of Serbia to improve disaster preparedness and response

- Senior Advisor for early warning systems was engaged in Belgrade to assist in creating a design for the construction of the early warning system in the City;
- In Presevo, a legal expert was engaged to help the PUC "Moravica" to prepare the Statute and other strategic company documents, such as job descriptions and a new organizational structure;
- UNDP also engaged and made available legal and policy experts who assisted the drafting of relevant national laws: The Law on Reconstruction Following Natural and Other Hazards, the Law on Natural and other Hazard Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, and the Law on the State Aid in Emergency Situation Caused by Natural Disasters;
- The Government Office for Reconstruction and Relief was assisted through engagement of Debris and Waste Management Experts, who monitored the implementation of the recovery programme and provided advice to local municipalities and PUCs on how to strengthen their waste management and waste reuse and disposal capacities; Senior Legal Advisor produced a Report for the Office on legal and institutional framework to ensure coordination of government sectors in reducing the risk of future disasters;

### Rapid onboarding of new staff to relieve surges in demand for local public services

During 2016, UNDP engaged additional staff in public services in Šid, Kanjiža and Bosilegrad, facing a surge in the amount of work due to the migration crisis. Municipalities were unable to hire much needed workforce, due to austerity measures. UNDP stepped in to engage additional workers to assist the Kanjiža Public Utility Company (PUC) in cleaning the Horgoš border crossing, and additional workers were engaged to assist the Red Cross in distribution of humanitarian assistance at this border crossing. UNDP also hired an additional driver for the Emergency Health Care Center in Šid, and medical personnel for the municipal Health Care Center in Bosilegrad.





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USAID  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# STRENGTHENING SOCIAL CAPITAL



UNDP is a good partner because it is devoted to the work it does, it is professional, with excellent communication with its partners, and willingness to improve our community.

#### **Robert Lacko**

President of the Council for migration and durable solutions,  
Municipality of Kanjiža

Every community strives for social cohesion, to have numerous and strong connections among its inhabitants, information-sharing and support networks, solidarity and trust, that are indispensable for sustainable and resilient development. Communities with higher levels of social capital are better prepared, more aware and able to adequately respond to upcoming risks.

Community cohesion is easily impacted by crisis and disasters. It constantly needs to be nurtured, improved and adapted. Following the floods and particularly after the migration crisis, due to the protracted stay, the social cohesion in the affected municipalities was endangered. UNDP recognized that it needs to make efforts to address this issue, above all in smaller, economically deprived communities with high unemployment, as well as in municipalities predominantly populated by ethnic minority groups. Social cohesion was strengthened, and social capital built through **targeted infrastructure works**, such as reconstruction and upgrades of community and sports facilities, used by both local residents and migrants; **joint volunteering actions** including cleaning, protecting and improving the shared community; through **engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** specialized in working with the youth, vulnerable and the displaced, as well as through instigating partnerships and cooperation through **joint working groups**.





### **Adaševci Story: A common gathering place restored for all the young people in the local community**

Adaševci is a small village in the Srem County, North-West Serbia, bordering Croatia. Prior to 2015, this village, a part of the Šid municipality, was like many others – a small, farming community, where everybody knew one another, went to the same Cultural Center, received medical care in the same local health center. The 335 children from Adaševci got their primary education in the Elementary School “Vuk Karadžić” and played on the schoolyard’s run-down sports courts.

Then, in late 2015, came the wave of migrants and refugees, looking to cross the border with Croatia and enter the European Union. More than 700,000 people transited through Šid on their way to final destinations. With the closure of the Balkan migration route, over 2,000 of them remained stranded in the municipality, where three Reception Centers were set up for prolonged accommodation, one of which - in Adaševci.

In June 2016, recognizing how sports have the power to bring people of different origins together, to enjoy the same game and celebrate what they have in common, rather than focus on their differences, UNDP and the Embassy of Japan helped reconstruct the football and basketball courts of the Elementary School in Adaševci. To mark the completion of the construction works, the municipality organized a futsal tournament on the new courts, ceremonially opened by Serbia’s National Football Team Captain and London Chelsea Football Club player Branislav Ivanovic, who was born in the Srem County. One of the matches in the tournament was played between the recreational futsal club from Adaševci and a team made-up of Syrian refugees, ending in 5-5 tie. The Serbian national media extensively covered the event, highlighting it as a best-practice example for promotion of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and creating opportunities for intercultural exchange. These courts today continue to be a central gathering point for local youth, migrants accommodated in the reception centers in Šid, as well as local basketball and futsal clubs.





### **Jamena Story: Joint volunteering action brings locals and migrants together to prevent flooding of their shared community**

On December 5, 2016, to mark the International Volunteering Day, with the Embassy of Japan funding, UNDP organized a joint volunteering action with migrants residing in one of the municipal Reception centers in Šid. The volunteers planted the initial 500 of the scheduled 2,000 tree seedlings on the banks of the Sava river in the Jamena local community (part of the Šid municipality and one of the villages most severely affected by floods in 2014). Two years after the natural disaster, the human-induced crisis occurred when waves of migrants and refugees flooded the Šid municipality, currently still hosting around 2,000 displaced individuals in the three Reception Centers. On the International Volunteering Day, the migrants, local citizens from Jamena and Šid, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Public Investment Management Office, Šid Red Cross and UNDP Serbia employees joined forces to lower the risk of future floods, bring closer the migrants and the local population, and build mutual trust to help the Šid municipality maintain social cohesion, overcome the effects of the migration crisis and become more resilient to future natural and human-induced disasters.





### Civil Society Engagement Story: CSOs help to overcome prejudices and bridge the social distance

To strengthen social cohesion in the most affected municipalities on the migration route, UNDP engaged six Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): Center for Youth Work, Asylum Protection Center, Initiative for Development and Cooperation, Center E8, Gender Knowledge Hub, and the Children and Youth Support Organization, which implemented various local community-level activities in Subotica, Kanjiža, Šid, Preševo and Dimitrovgrad. Young people and children in these towns learned about inter-culturalism and tolerance in workshops and through video documentaries. To bring closer host communities and migrants, CSOs also put up billboards, organized interactive mobile exhibitions with personal stories of migrants, distributed leaflets translated into Arabic, Farsi and English, with a guide to Serbian customs and culture, as well as the ones explaining to the domicile population the reasons and root causes of migration and displacement. A UNDP grantee Center for Youth Work also organized a widely reported and talked about event in Subotica, titled “At the same table”. On February 9, 2017, youth from Subotica, Šid and Novi Sad sat down with young migrants from the Reception Center in Subotica to talk and learn about the life, different

customs and cultures from one another. What was specific and most interesting to the participants (young people and local citizens) as well as the media, was the fact that the meals prepared for the event were typical for the region where the migrants originate from – Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and other Greater Middle East countries. The students of the local high school “Bosa Miličević” prepared the food (under the guidance and with the supervision of their cooking class professor), based on the recipes of women and men from the Reception Centre. The main idea behind this event was to bring closer the host and the displaced communities, through sharing of food, all seated at the same table.





“You Will Never Walk Alone”  
Exhibition of individual migrant stories in Subotica

Left: Flash mob exhibition of personal stories of migrants



Locals and migrants share Serbian and Middle-East specific food at the same table in Subotica, thanks to the Center for Youth Work CSO



UNDP is an active donor and a partner whose staff relentlessly and continuously builds a relationship full of respect, understanding and communication. UNDP stimulates exchange of opinions, ideas and initiatives in identifying and dealing with the challenges in local communities, which is a precondition for successful cooperation and achievement of tangible results.

**Radoš Đurović**  
Executive Director, Asylum Protection Center







### **Aiming for synergy and ensuring coordination: Local Community Support Working Group**

The Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self Government, in cooperation with UNDP, allocated \$180,000 to help local administrations cope with the crisis. Together, we identified over EUR 36 million of developmental needs for municipalities, to be able to host refugees and migrants, to maintain local services, and ensure social cohesion.

UNDP also closely cooperates with the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, which is chairing the Governmental Working Group for Managing Mixed Migration Flows.

Strengthening social capital translates into local ownership and broader support for the provision of accommodation and services for the vulnerable displaced people.



Kaptaža  
"Valjevo"

Od izvorne vodenice

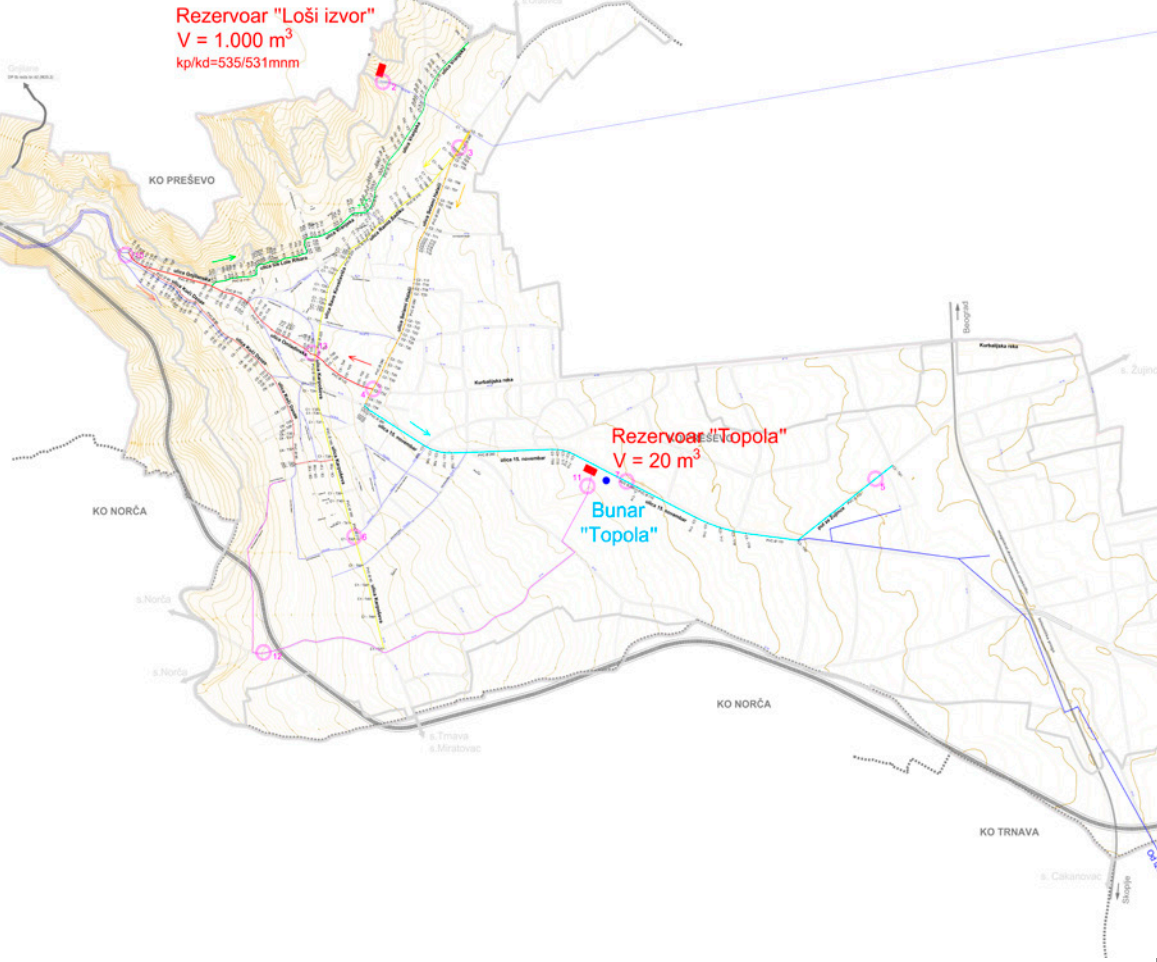
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Bunar  
"Toplik"

Kaptaža  
"Šuplji kamen"

Kaptaža  
"Sjajna vodenica"





# INCREASING ECONOMIC CAPITAL



The Ministry relies on UNDP as a partner in increasing the resilience of local communities in Serbia to all the challenges. Thanks to the cooperation with UNDP, we have succeeded in helping local governments to become resilient and find sustainable solutions for their long-term development.

**Ivan Bošnjak**

State Secretary of the Ministry of Public  
Administration and Local Self-Government

Economically stronger municipalities, with higher number of businesses, employed residents, higher levels of municipal domestic product and average salaries - are better equipped to face the disasters and able to recover more quickly in the aftermath. Even the less developed local communities can make themselves less vulnerable to adverse incidences by pooling their resources and through timely contingency planning. To increase the Economic capital in partner municipalities, UNDP implemented various activities, for example:

- To improve the collection rate of the Presevo Public Utility Company "Moravica", a new billing software was procured, as well as a modern telephone switchboard and an entire computer network;
- Within the "Aid for Trade" Project, UNDP works with producers to improve the competitiveness of the agriculture sector in Serbia. With improved production capacities and better knowledge on markets and export, producers can increase their trade and stabilize income generation, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, UNDP strengthens agriculture cooperatives and associations.

# Pooling resources of municipalities in shared river basins

In November 2016, with the support of UNDP, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities and the Serbian Government's Public Investment Management Office, the City of Kraljevo and 14 municipalities of the West Morava river basin signed a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to work together in order to prevent risks and ensure quick and efficient response and recovery from floods and other disasters. One month later, the city of Valjevo and seven other municipalities along the Kolubara river basin, decided to follow suit and joined this initiative, recognizing that 1 dinar invested in prevention saves 4 to 7 dinars needed for reconstruction after the unmanaged disaster.

# Replacement of public utility assets to decrease risks and improve resilience

In 2016, after a comprehensive analysis of the needs and priorities of the local Public Utility Companies (PUCs) dealing with municipal waste collection in Subotica, Kanjiža, Šid and Preševo, UNDP engaged experts who prepared the Asset Replacement Plans (ARPs). Majority of these PUCs had outdated equipment and worn out transport vehicles, while the migration crisis revealed the weaknesses in municipal capacities to handle the augmented work. ARP identifies the most urgent replacement needs, to ensure safe and secure working conditions for employees, and envisages how to enable PUC capacity expansion. In this way, UNDP helps the municipalities to prepare for future emergency situations, while at the same time lowering health, economic and environmental risks.





# STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL CAPITAL



UNDP is an important partner of the Ministry of labour, employment, veteran and social affairs (MLEVSA). Our cooperation so far has been successful in many areas and I hope that we will continue in the future to discuss important topics and implement projects valuable for the Republic of Serbia.

**Nenad Ivanišević**

State Secretary of the Ministry of labor,  
employment, veteran and social affairs

The abundance of natural resources could make a municipality more or less vulnerable in case of a disaster, depending on the type of the crisis. Afforestation, for example, protects the land from erosion, while large areas covered by forests could make a community more vulnerable to forest fires. However, the value of the natural resources for human development and wellbeing is undeniable. Since the Earth's natural resources are limited and exhaustible they should be nurtured, preserved and renewed to safeguard the welfare of current and future generations. To ensure resilience of communities when it comes to their natural capital, UNDP Serbia carried out the following activities:

- In May 2014, a flood wave destroyed antimony tailing landfill next to the mine "Stolice". Tailings were polluting Serbian rivers. UNDP and the Public Investment Management Office, in cooperation with the "Jaroslav Cerni" Water Institute, with the Government of Japan funds, completed the Design for Rehabilitation of this Tailing Landfill to prevent further discharge of heavy metals. The EU funded the rehabilitation based on this Design, and now the site is safe.
- Together with the Ministry of Energy and Mining, UNDP blended funds provided by the Global Environment Fund, to use agricultural waste for the production of electricity. Six combined heat – power plants were completed, increasing the total Serbian power yield by 130%.

# RESILIENCE IS THE BEST DEVELOPMENT INSURANCE POLICY.

Governments are too often faced with the need to respond to crises after they emerge. They do so ever more regularly and are diverting attention and resources from timely planning of development. Resilience to crisis and shocks is key to sustainable development. As such, community resilience is also an assurance and risk-mitigation measure for all financial investment into development.



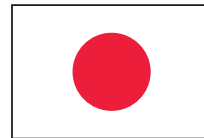


**Resilient development is a team effort.**

UNDP Serbia is privileged and thankful for the support and partnership of the following donors and partners:



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the People of Japan**

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THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

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