



Bundesamt für Flüchtlinge
 Office fédéral des réfugiés
 Ufficio federale dei rifugiati
 Uffizi federal da fugitivs

Pri/Spa/Rdz

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Bosnia Reintegration Program

Background

Further extension of the temporary protection status granted to approximately 18,000 Bosnian citizens in Switzerland was no longer justified once the Dayton Peace Accords were signed in December 1995. Consequently, their orderly and phased return to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) had to be planned and prepared.

Programme milestones

<p>Phased Return:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOM survey among Bosnians early 1996 • Target group information-campaign since April 1996 • Voluntary departure assistance since July 1996 • Orderly return between April 1997 and August 1998 • Last possible return date: Dec. 1998 	<p>Bosnia Reintegration Assistance Programme (RAP) as of July 1996:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assistance for returnees • Financial assistance for the rehabilitation of local structures in areas/communities of return • Housing projects 	<p>Individual Return Assistance Programme (as of January 1997):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited return assistance • Travel costs and costs of documents • Medical return assistance in case of need • Purchase and transport of needed material • Financial support for resettlement cases (interview travel, documents, travel costs) 	<p>Facilitation of return supported by means of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateral Transit Agreement • Establishment of counselling network • Exploratory trip to Bosnia • Fixation and prolongation of the date of departure • Comprehensive information measures
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Beneficiariesⁱ

<i>Programme beneficiaries</i>	<i>Limitations</i>
<p>Regardless of the ethnicity and place of origin and/or return:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asylum-seekers with pending applications or appeals • Rejected asylum-seekers • Persons granted temporary protection status • Persons granted refugees status • Persons with special temporary permits issued within “action Bosnia” (ex-seasonal workers and their families) 	<p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary return according to fixed departure dates • Entry to Switzerland before June 26, 1996 (exclusion of pull factor) • No criminal record • Insufficient individual financial means • Return to one of the countries emerged upon dissolution of the former Yugoslavia

Programme Implementation

<i>Goals</i>	<i>Elements of Implementation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the reintegration process (reconstruction of homes, rehabilitation of property, etc.) through direct financial assistance; bridging of basic costs of living; • Keeping track of return and reintegration process through phased payment of assistance combined with regular interviewing of returnees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returnees are entitled to the first instalment amounting to 60% of the financial assistance immediately upon return to Bosnia • The remaining 40% are due after 6 months from their arrival to Bosnia • All the beneficiaries of the RAP have to fill out/answer a detailed questionnaire twice within 6 months from the return date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the reconstruction and rehabilitation process in BH of local communities and regions mostly affected by returns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Re)Construction of the local infrastructure in the regions where returnees decide to reside upon their return: schools, hospitals, cultural facilities, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rehabilitation of apartments meant as provisional solution for those returnees who presently cannot return to their places of origin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing project(s): limited duration of the rental agreements, returnees have to pay the rent themselves

Summarised Reintegration / Return Assistance

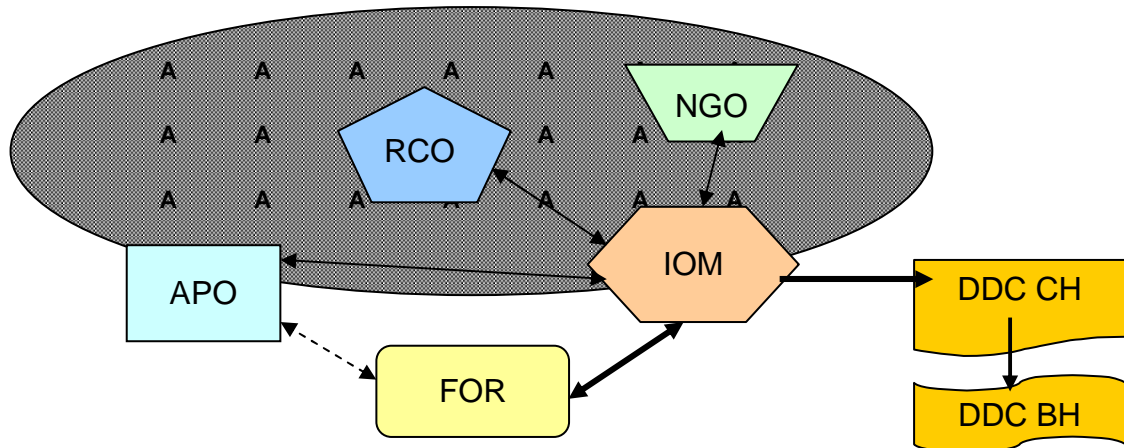
<i>RA Programme</i>	<i>Other types of assistance</i>	<i>Departure costs</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,800 DEM per adult • 2,400 DEM per child • 1,200 DEM as family subsistence allowance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual return assistance scheme • medical return assistance (financement of medical supplies for max. 6 months or of treatment costs) • contribution to purchase of material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issuance of the travel documents • purchase of bus or air transport • transport of purchased material (as freight)

Counterparts

<i>Single counterpart</i>	<i>Org. unit / Ministry</i>	<i>Responsibility / Duties</i>
FOR (Federal Office for Refugees)	Federal Ministry of Justice and Police (FMJP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Overall programme responsibility ❖ Budget responsibility ❖ Collaboration on concept development and programme implementation ❖ Operational responsibility in Switzerland
RCO (cantonal Returnees' Counselling Office)	Network of Counselling Offices in all the cantons; developed and established by the FOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dissemination and communication of the return-specific information of the FOR to the potential returnees ❖ Individual counselling and supportive pre-departure guidance of the returnees ❖ Filling out of the RAP applications and its sending to IOM
DDC (Federal Department for Development and Co-operation)	Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs (FMFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Collaboration on concept development and programme implementation ❖ Operational responsibility in Bosnia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of payment offices • Management of structural projects
IOM Coordinating Bureau Berne	The IO acting on behalf of the FOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Collaboration on concept development ❖ Co-ordination responsibility in Switzerland between the FOR and cantonal RCOs as well as between the DDC in BH and the

		<p>FOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of programme participants • Maintenance of database of programme participants • Advising DDC and cantonal authorities of eligible programme participants as well as rejected cases. ❖ Information dissemination in Switzerland on all issues relevant for return (programme conditions and benefits, transport options, visa issues etc.)
<p>Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina (GoBH)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project implementation in Bosnia based on the agreement with the GoBH

RAP Organisational Chart



Abbreviations' meaning:

A: Applicant

NGO: non-governmental organisation (humanitarian workers)

APO: cantonal Aliens Police authority

Budgetⁱⁱ

Approximately 97 million Swiss Francs (some 114 million DEM) for 3 years (from summer 1996 till summer 1999)

- One half spent in form of payments of the reintegration assistance to the returnees;
- The other half invested in the (infra)structural projects in the areas of return.

Statisticsⁱⁱⁱ

Registered applications during the RAP duration (end of registration: at the end of December 1997)	Persons returned within the scope of the RAP (last payment of the 1 st instalment due at the end of January 1999)
For 12'800 persons	Approx. 10'044 persons

ATTACHMENTS:

ⁱ IOM: Info-bulletin „RAP BH“ from August 1997 + application form

ⁱⁱ DDC: budget status as at the end of January 1999

ⁱⁱⁱ DDC: overall statistics as at the end of January 1999