

NEWSLETTER

NATO/PfP Trust Fund Programme

for Assistance to Redundant Personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Newsletter Issue No. 15 - April 2009

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The NATO/PfP Trust Fund is set up by NATO Member States and other donors to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina with the reintegration of personnel made redundant through the Defence Reform process. The NATO Trust Fund for BiH will contribute to the overall objectives of BiH to maintain peace and stability, foster economic recovery, reduce unemployment and generate income by facilitating the resettlement into civilian and economic life of persons discharged in the course of the BiH defence reform process of 2006-2007, and those previously downsized in 2004.

IOM has worldwide experience (including the implementation of a BiH's Transitional Assistance to Demobilised Soldiers (TADS) project between 2002 and 2006) in assisting personnel affected by military downsizing to reintegrate into civilian life through job placement, Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) startup and expansion, agricultural revitalization and vocational and business training. This expertise has led IOM to becoming the executing agent also in BiH.

NTF BENEFICIARIES & PROJECTS

As at March 31, 2009 a total of 2,894 redundant MoD personnel have registered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). 2,594 beneficiaries are redundant personnel from 2004 and 300 from 2007. Figure 1 illustrates the types of assistance requested by the redundant personnel after counseling with NTF staff for all approved projects. Of the 2,456 beneficiaries with approved projects, concrete assistance had been delivered to 1,954 RPs by the end of the reporting period. Sixty-two percent of approved projects are agricultural; over one-quarter involves non-agricultural business (split almost evenly between start-ups and expansions of existing businesses); 7% is in the category of employment; and 3% in education.

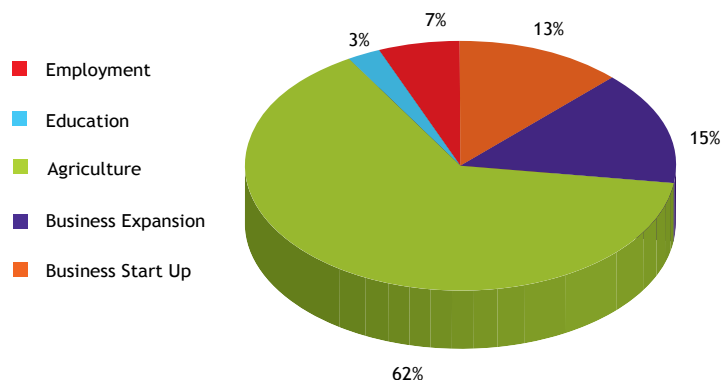


Figure 1

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

2,664 redundant MoD personnel have been contacted by IOM and requested to provide supporting documentation related to their reintegration expectations. Since the beginning of the project, 2,510 project proposals have been prepared by NTF field staff, 2,456 projects have been approved for delivery of concrete assistance, and 1,954 beneficiaries have received assistance.

Applications Submitted	2,894
Project Proposals Submitted	2,510
Project Proposals Approved	2,456



Stories from the Field

Mostar AoR



Agriculture

Esad was displaced during the war but has now returned to his family home in Mokronoge near Tomislavgrad. He lives with his mother, his wife and two young children. Since his discharge in 2004, Esad has been dedicated full-time to his dairy farm with ten milking cows on a three-hectare farm. Esad produces all animal feed himself on his own land, but before the offer of assistance from the NTF Programme he lacked mowing equipment to collect grass and grain. Under the Programme, Esad received this equipment and has increased his production 30% and decreased costs as he no longer pays for mowing services. He is also using the equipment to provide services to other farmers in his village for additional income. In the next season, Esad plans to raise his milk production by an additional 40% by increasing his cow herd.

Banja Luka AoR



Business Expansion

Mujo was made redundant as a result of downsizing in 2004. During the war, he left his home and lived as a displaced person in Zepce, but he has now returned and lives with his wife and young daughter in Teslic. He received aid to rebuild his home in 2000. Mujo is a professional carpenter. From his own workshop, he has for many years made window frames, doors and other household pieces; however, he was lacking sophisticated equipment needed for other jobs. With funds from the NTF Programme and his own cash contribution, Mujo was able to purchase the combine machine photographed here. With the machine, Mujo can craft tables and chairs and other furniture that he was unable to produce before, and has increased production and income by about 20%. Mujo is still unable to meet all the requests he gets from customers and plans to invest in additional equipment to increase his production capacity and income.

Sarajevo AoR

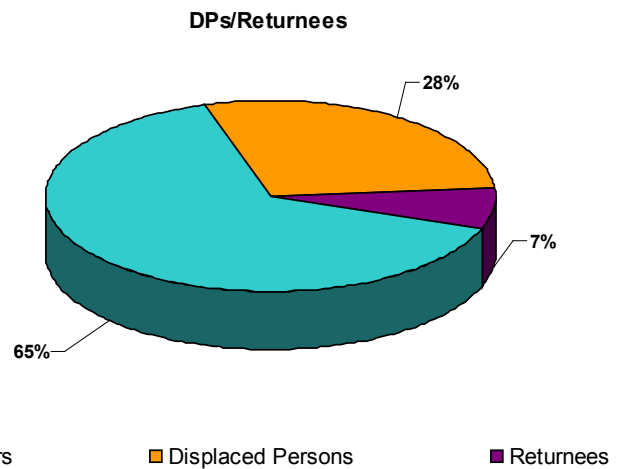


Agriculture

Almir moved to Gorazde during the war. After his discharge in 2004, he invested a portion of his severance pay to rebuild his war-damaged home in Borajno and returned to Borajno with his fiancée, parents and sister. Almir also invested a portion of his severance pay to improve his apples and plums orchards and to re-start honey production. In support of Almir's efforts to re-establish his farming activities, the NTF Programme purchased a high-power motocultivator. Almir made a cash contribution for the purchase and bought a second-hand trailer to use in tandem with his new machinery. Since receiving NTF assistance, Almir has been able to vary his agricultural production and has recently focused on organic production of vegetables he and his fiancée sell at the green market in Gorazde. By raising and varying production, Almir's income has increased and become more reliable. In the near future, he hopes to purchase additional attachments for the cultivator with his savings.

Spotlight on RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

Each of the success stories on the opposite page features an NTF beneficiary who has returned to his place of origin since the end of the war. Over 200 NTF beneficiaries (7%) are returnees to their places of origin while more than 800 NTF beneficiaries (28%) remain in places to which they were displaced during the war. These beneficiaries can face additional obstacles to their resettlement as they sometimes need to spend money - that could otherwise be invested in their livelihood projects - to repair their homes or re-start economic activity. Many displaced beneficiaries have opted for small businesses, education or employment projects rather than agricultural projects, possibly because many do not have access to farming land in their new homes.



NEWS FROM THE PERSONNEL TRANSITION SUPPORT UNIT

The BiH MoD held a workshop to explore modes of inter-institutional cooperation with state, entity, canton and municipal level institutions that work in the areas of education, labour and employment, as well as with NGOs and associations. The workshop, which took place on March 24 - 25, 2009 in the Army Hall in Sarajevo, was supported by the Embassy of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

The workshop was convened by the Minister of Defence, Mr. Selmo Cikotić and the British Ambassador to BiH, Mr. Michael Tatham; the event was opened by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms. Marina Pendeš and the British



Participants at MoD March Conference



Representative from Norway at MoD March Conference

Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Victoria Harrison. Participants included Ms. Lena Anderson, as moderator; Jakob Heradstveit, representative of MoD of Norway; Mr. Đorđi Mitrinosvki, director of the Programme “Lepeza” of the MoD FYR of Macedonia; representatives of IOM in BiH; together with representatives of the governmental and non-governmental organizations in BiH mentioned above.

The objective of the workshop was to promote consideration and dialogue among participants regarding potential cooperation and assistance from other institutions to support the transition and resettlement of military personnel. Potential modes of cooperation were identified such that the capacity of the MoD for implementation of transition activities can be improved in the future.

NTF IN THE MEDIA

In October 2008, NATO-Brussels sent a production team to BiH to film the story of two beneficiaries - a married couple - who had started a fitness gym in Nevesinje with support from the NTF Programme. The video includes interviews with the beneficiaries, as well as with representatives from the governments of Norway (as NATO focal point for BiH) and the United Kingdom, the MoD and IOM. The video was one of six stories included in NATO's 60th Anniversary video series titled "Six Colours," which you can see online at: http://www.nato.int/ebookshop/video/six_colours/SixColours.html.



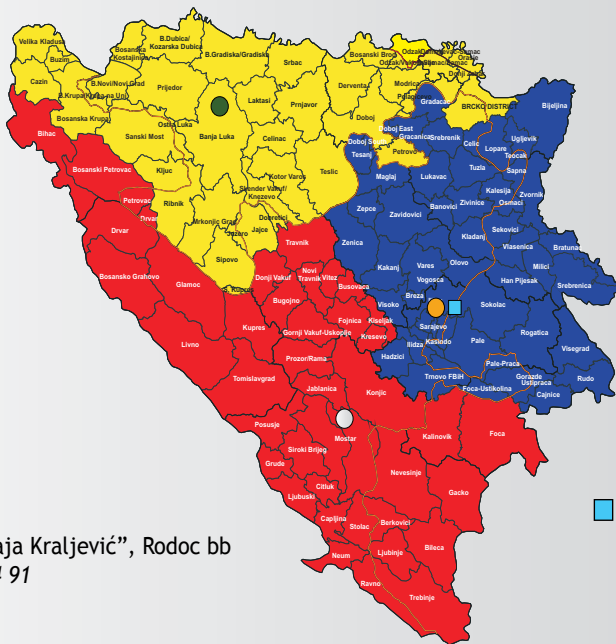
Donors Countries



April 2009 NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project for Assistance to Redundant Personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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For more information on the NATO/PfP Trust Fund Programme, visit us at one of our Regional Field Offices listed above.

Working hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-16:00



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