

NEWSLETTER

NATO/PfP Trust Fund Programme

for Assistance to Redundant Personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Newsletter Issue No. 16 - May 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 April 30, 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 2,565 beneficiaries with approved projects, concrete assistance had been delivered to 2,105 RPs by the end of the reporting period. Sixty-one percent of approved projects are agricultural; over one-quarter involves non-agricultural business start-ups and expansions; 7% is in the category of employment; and 3% in education.

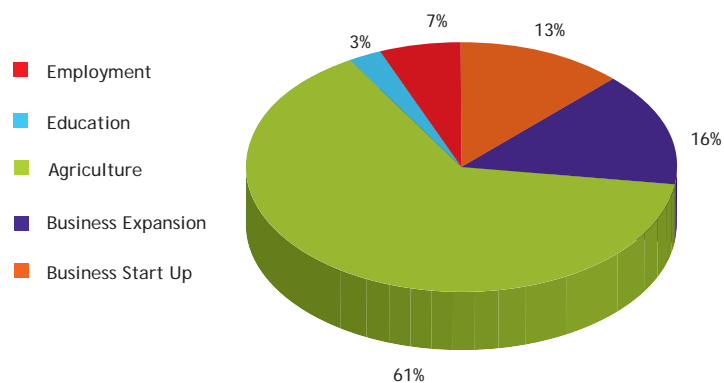


Figure 1

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

2,781 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, 2,635 project proposals have been prepared by NTF field staff, 2,565 projects have been approved for delivery of concrete assistance, and 2,105 beneficiaries have received assistance.

Applications Submitted	2,894
Project Proposals Submitted	2,635
Project Proposals Approved	2,565



Stories from the Field

Mostar AoR



Agriculture

Milan is a displaced person from Sarajevo, now living in rented apartment in Gacko with his mother; Vladimir lives in his family house in Gacko with his parents, unemployed wife and two children; and Vesna, who also lives in Gacko, is divorced and resides with her 22 year old son. Milan, Vladimir and Vesna produce milk for a dairy collection point in Plana, Bileca Municipality. They rent a barn for their livestock at 360KM per month. In addition, they produce vegetables for sale to green markets, mini markets and kindergartens. However, since they did not own any agricultural mechanization, they requested and received a 10HP cultivator with attachments in January 2008. They have pooled their efforts and resources and worked as a team ever since. They have increased vegetable, fruit and cattle feed production by 30%. The cattle feed production has had a direct and positive effect on the production of milk, which has increased by 20%. In order to continue to improve their production, all three RPs have actively participated in several trainings organized by NTF including training in cattle breeding, open field vegetable production and fruit production.

Banja Luka AoR



Business Start-up

Aleksandra was discharged from the army in 2004. She lives with her husband and two children in Prijedor municipality. Because she was unemployed, Aleksandra decided to go into business: she started up a mobile cleaning service. In July 2008, with NTF support, she received the cleaning equipment necessary to begin work. She provides cleaning services to two cafés, cleans carpets, and deep cleans car seats, making some 500 KM per month. Aleksandra attended two trainings organized by NTF called "Thinking and Acting like an Entrepreneur" and "Making a Business Plan." She performed so well at both trainings that she was awarded for developing the best business plan concept. With her award, she received supplemental assistance for purchase of an additional vacuum for deep cleaning. With the new equipment she expects to increase the number of her clients and boost her monthly income to 650KM.

Sarajevo AoR



Business Start-up

Sretko, who lives in Bijeljina, is a licensed football referee, who also works with his two sons to paint the lines on, mow and generally maintain football fields for five local clubs in the regional North-East division. In addition, he provides laundry services for local teams, cleaning their gear and uniforms. The lawnmower, court marker, and washing machine were provided by NTF. Sretko has some new plans for business expansion and differentiating his services. During a training held in Bijeljina, he developed an idea: having learned about the expected construction of new stadiums in Banja Luka and possibly Doboj and Brcko, Sretko will begin producing turf for playing fields. This will enable him and his sons to provide the full chain of services and products to his clients - from turf production, to installation, to maintenance. Sretko has already found land for turf production, researched necessary machinery and tools, and is in touch with the trainers who will assist him to develop his business plan for a loan application to commercial banks.

Spotlight on Training Activities

Each of the beneficiaries featured in the success stories in this issue has participated in training activities sponsored by NTF. Beginning in September 2008, the NTF Programme began organizing various workshops for RPs in municipalities throughout BiH in order to build on the assistance provided and to increase the sustainability of each RP's business or agriculture activities. IOM staff and, when possible, MOD representatives attend the trainings to monitor training delivery as well as RP attendance and participation.

The trainings cover a range of topics in business and agriculture including business plan development, marketing, cooperative and farm management, as well as numerous and varied technical trainings in agriculture. To date, 649 RPs have participated in trainings and NTF is in the process of planning additional activities for this Summer. RPs have been very positive about the trainings and see them as innovative and useful. Participants particularly appreciate the information that the trainers provide regarding possible credit lines and government subsidies for their business or agriculture activities. Participants have also said that "these kinds of seminars are much needed" and that the workshops were "excellent, encouraging, gave new ideas, and extended horizons."

Agriculture Trainings

NTF also works with training organizations to organize instruction in agriculture including theoretical and on-the-farm training in cooperative formation and management, livestock, fruit production, greenhouse vegetables, and optimising the use of agricultural machinery. So far, a total of 319 RPs have participated in agriculture trainings.



Fruit production training in Mostar

Business Trainings

The business trainings are each two or three days long. RPs listen to lectures and participate in group exercises and discussion. The training providers explain the various aspects of business financing, marketing and operations and each training participant develops a basic business or marketing plan for a new business idea or for their ongoing business activities. The trainers also provide information about essential laws and regulations for small enterprises and possibilities for local financing.

RPs who attend the trainings are involved in many different businesses. To name a few, these include construction, tailoring, car washing or repair, and agriculture business. Some individuals are just starting up their business activities with IOM assistance, while others are experienced entrepreneurs with developed businesses including cake shops or printing facilities. A total of 330 RPs have participated in business trainings.



Business plan training in Bijeljina.

News from the Personnel Transition Support Unit (PTSU)

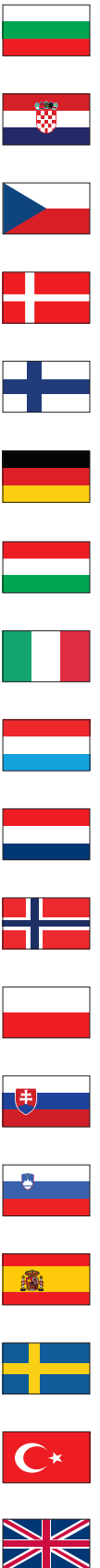
The PTSU has prepared the Programme of Transition and Resettlement of Released Personnel, "Perspektiva," which was approved by the Minister of Defence in April of this year. The objective of the Programme is to define measures and activities of the BiH defence institutions in cooperation with all levels of government relating to transition and resettlement of discharged personnel. That is, to make operational the Policy of Transition and Resettlement of Redundant Personnel of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH.

"Perspektiva" addresses personnel who will be discharged due to the expiration of their contracts because they do not meet criteria set by Article 101 of the Law on Service in the AF of BiH, or as result of reform of the defence system. It represents one part of

the social programme attempting to resolve issues facing members of the BiH defence institutions who will be discharged due to the age limit set out for professional military service or who will become redundant as a consequence of defence reform.

The BiH Ministry of Defence is in the process of undertaking measures and activities in preparation for the implementation of the "Perspektiva" Programme in 2010, including: establishment of three regional resettlement centers; launching of an information campaign; analysis of personnel to be discharged; development of a framework budget for the transition and resettlement of personnel from 2010-2012; identification of potential types of cooperation and assistance from governmental bodies and institutions; education of personnel; and so on.

Donors
Countries



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

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