



Country Fact Sheet, August

The MDG-F in Serbia	
Joint Programmes: 3	Total Budget: USD 12,640,606
<p>National Steering Committee Members: UN Resident Coordinator, the Ambassador of the Spanish Government and the Serbian Assistant Minister of Finance in charge of Programming, Management of EU Funds and Development Assistance. The latter was represented by a representative of the Serbian European Integration Office.</p>	
Joint Programmes Information	
Joint Programme	<i>"Promoting Peace Building in Southern Serbia"</i>
Thematic Window	Conflict Prevention and Peace Building
Budget	USD 2,500,000
Participating Agencies	IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UH-HABITAT, UNHCHR.
Participating Government Agencies	Ministry of the Public Administration, Human and Minority Rights and Local Self Government.
Dates	29 October 2009 – 31 March 2013
Regions of Intervention	South Serbia.
<p>Programme in Brief: South Serbia has the country's only concentration of ethnic Albanians, and is also the poorest part of the country. Problems continue to exist over inequalities, actual and perceived, between ethnic communities in South Serbia (including Serb, Roma, and IDPs from Kosovo), and between the south and the rest of Serbia. Increased tensions in Kosovo threaten to spill over into South Serbia unless sources of resentment are addressed. This programme focused on the thirteen municipalities of South Serbia (with particular focus on the three with ethnic Albanian populations) with a multi-pronged approach to address many of the key obstacles to sustainable peace in this region, including to strengthen dialogue, partnership, and social cohesion, improve access and quality of public services, and to stimulate equitable economic development. The programme focused on</p>	

building sustainable capacities of local institutions for mitigating the causes of tension between the populations in the region.

Main Achievements¹

- Local Self-governments (LSG) capacities to reduce inter-ethnic tensions and conflict risk were enhanced through the improvement of cooperation between political representatives of ethnic minority and majority, increased percentage of women members in local assemblies, adoption of strategic documents recognizing existing gender and safety gaps, and strengthened infrastructure for local youth policy and program implementation in the targeted regions.
- Sustainable housing solution and full access to public services has been provided for almost 32% of IDPs in the region. Access to health care for vulnerable groups was improved. The share of immunized children was almost doubled, increasing from 49% to 90%. The quality of education, especially for children from minority groups, and those with disabilities, has been improved.
- Better access to public services to all citizens, improvement of the level of human rights and promotion of better governance in the region have been achieved, with special focus on the position of national minorities and gender equality.
- The ability of municipalities to formulate, implement and monitor public policies has been strengthened due to improved capacities and increased availability of data at municipal level by introduction of Devinfo system.

More information	http://www.mdgfund.org/program/promotingpeacebuildingsouthernserbia
Joint Programme	<i>“Sustainable Tourism for Rural Development”</i>
Thematic Window	Development and Private Sector
Budget	USD 4,000,000
Participating Agencies	UNEP, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, WTO.
Participating Government Agencies	Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Tourism Organization of Serbia.
Dates	04 December 2009 – 04 December 2012
Regions of Intervention	National Level.
Programme in Brief: Joint Programme will support national and local institutions to define and implement policy for rural tourism development which will increase economic activity and employment in rural areas in Serbia, with the aim of reducing rural poverty and emigration. Agencies will implement JP with support of Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Agriculture, and Tourism Organization of Serbia. Interventions will be implemented at national and local level. JP will primarily contribute to the achievement of MDGs 1, 7 and 8. It will be carried out in 3 clusters of municipalities (target locations) to be selected based on criteria in Section III.	

¹ TARA IC d.o.o, Novi Sad (2013) Independent Final Evaluation Report: *Promoting Peace Building in Southern Serbia*

Main Achievements²

- The Rural Tourism Master Plan was submitted to Government, has been approved and is being implemented. The Rural Tourism Master Plan includes: a diagnostic, a strategy, an action plan, and an implementation plan. Principles and a Framework for child-related tourism were developed and are contained in the Rural Tourism Master Plan. A national study on sustainable tourism was undertaken – the contents of the study were used in the formulation of the Rural Tourism Master Plan. A study on the potential contribution of rural tourism to the small farming sector was undertaken – the contents of the study were used in the formulation of the Rural Tourism Master Plan. An analysis was undertaken of local and national budgets in relation to rural tourism, contributing to an understanding of the allocation of resources and inputs to the Rural Tourism Master Plan.
- A Tourism Investment Conference was held which brought together a wide range of tourism stakeholders, including industry representatives with an investment interest in Serbia. There is a potential for significant international tourism investment as a result of the Conference, although this cannot at this stage be assessed.
- An IPARD (EU Instrument for Pre-accession Rural Development) Axis 2 and 3 sectoral analyses was undertaken. Measures fiches were prepared for IPARD Axes 2 and 3. The IPARD life conditions study was completed.
- The National Rural Development Council was constituted.
- Guidelines for Public-Private Partnerships in rural tourism in Serbia were prepared.
- Capacity has been enhanced in a number of precursor organizations for the establishment of Local Action Groups – capacity development includes planning, strategy development, group formation.
- Capacity has been enhanced with a group of rural development implementers, including individuals and groups – capacity development includes the ability to assist local stakeholders in preparation of local development strategies and in improving the skills of local groups in management of the project cycle.
- Local development strategies have been developed in all Municipalities in each of the 4 target regions.
- Networking of rural tourism oriented groups and individuals (providers, Local Tourism Offices, Municipalities, civil society) is occurring (and is mentioned by those involved as critical to their likely future success).
- Serbia's rural tourism product has been improved (without over-stating the extent of this improvement nor to make any reference to this improvement and the Rural Tourism Master Plan implementation, neither of which can be assessed through this study).
- The capacity and role of Local Tourism Offices in target regions has been enhanced. They are better prepared to assist local providers, and are performing an enabling role.
- The Joint Fund for Sustainable Rural Tourism provided assistance to a range of partners and beneficiaries, assistance which contributed to many of the results listed above. Tourism providers were direct beneficiaries of grants provided by the Joint Fund, as was the networking relationship inherent in the public private partnerships that were developed at the Municipal level.

More information

<http://www.mdgfund.org/program/sustainabletourismruraldevelopment>

² Newkirk, J. (2013) Independent Final Evaluation Report: *Sustainable Tourism for Rural Development*

Joint Programme	<i>“Support to National Efforts for the Promotion of Youth Employment and Management of Migration”</i>
Thematic Window	Youth, Employment and Migration
Budget	USD 6,140,606
Participating Agencies	IOM, UNDP, ILO, UNICEF.
Participating Government Agencies	Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, National Employment Service, Centre for Social Work, Republic Statistical Office.
Dates	15 May 2009 – 15 May 2012
Regions of Intervention	Districts of South Backa, Belgrade, Nisavski, Pomoravski, and Pcinjski.

Programme in Brief: The JP, implemented supported national and local institutions to implement policy and operational measures with the aim to increase youth employment in Serbia while concurrently reducing the negative impact of return and irregular migration. Interventions were implemented in South Backa, Belgrade, Nisavski, Pomoravski and Pcinjski Districts and focus on i) developing evidence-based policies on youth employment and migration; ii) strengthening the capacity of national institutions to design integrated labour market and social services that are aligned with policy objectives; and iii) supporting local institutions to pilot innovative employment programmes and social services. The JP targeted disadvantaged young women and men, especially young Roma returning to Serbia under readmission agreements, as well as those at risk of social exclusion who are prime candidates for emigration. It is expected to contribute to the achievement of MDG1 (indic.2) and MDG8 (indic.45).

Main Achievements

- The Youth Employment Fund (YEF) - established through a technical assistance package of the ILO – was further strengthened to co-finance integrated active labour market programmes targeting disadvantaged youth (15-29 years of age). The Fund provides the resources for:
 - Individualized assistance, off- and on-the-job training, self-employment programme, programme for young persons with disabilities.
 - The Management Committee of the YEF is responsible for approving eligibility criteria and the service lines to be offered. Eligibility criteria are designed on those factors that most determine poor labour market outcomes and social exclusion (based on employment and social indicators).
 - 2,837 disadvantaged young men and women (49% and 51%, respectively) treated and employed; 89% of beneficiaries had primary education or less; 64% were long-term unemployed; 69% had no prior work experience; 15% belonged to Roma population groups, 6% were youth with disabilities and 8% were young beneficiaries of social assistance.
 - The number of disadvantaged youth registered in the Districts targeted by the YEF dropped by 24.9%, while the proportion of registered youth (15-29) dropped by 5 percentage points, In neighbouring Districts, the respective shares increased by 25% and over 6 percentage points.

- The placement rate at follow up was 24.4% for on-the-job training, 74.3% for self-employment and 97.6% per cent for programmes targeting young persons with disabilities.
- Over 60% of beneficiaries employed after training worked in the same occupation and enterprise of the programme, Over 90% had earnings above the minimum wage.
- The programmes financed by the Fund succeeded in increasing labour market attachment of the target group (measured in terms of progression of the individual towards labour market activity).

More information

<http://www.mdgfund.org/program/supportnationaleffortspromotionyouthemploymentandmanagementmigration>