



*30 YEARS
ALONGSIDE NEIGHBORS,
WITH NEIGHBORS,
FOR NEIGHBORS*



Ecumenical
Humanitarian
Organisation



**Catalogue of projects
of the Ecumenical
Humanitarian Organisation
from 1993 to 2023**

Novi Sad, 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Anna Brtka Valent

Director of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation

Dear reader,

This is the Catalogue of projects of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation from 1993 to 2023. The first publication of this type came out in 2013 on our 20th anniversary, the second in 2018 after 25 years. This is the third edition, a supplemented version of the previous edition that has been expanded to include all the projects that we have conducted in the last five years.

This year marks another round number for us – the number 30. This number serves to remind us of where it all began, to remind us of the growth our organisation has experienced up until the present day, but also how circumstances around us have changed over this long period. This is an opportunity to review where our organisation came from and where it is today. Through hundreds of projects we have helped hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries, and the thousands of people have worked on these projects as volunteers, partners or employees have been our key resource, and we are immeasurably proud of them. The significant number of donors who have helped us over these 30 years, as well as the large number of organisations, institutions and people of good will have all played their part in making this significant anniversary possible this year.

This Catalogue is important for us at the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation because it ensures visibility for the projects which continue – or open new chapters in – our work with the vulnerable groups that we have been supporting all these years. At the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation we like to think modesty is one of our virtues. We are not overly prone to boasting about our achievements, and our work and our activities are often low-profile despite their importance, both for the individuals we assist and in terms of changing society so as to advance the status of vulnerable and marginalised groups. So instead I invite you to read the Catalogue and learn about our projects that way, and at the same time I wish all of us at the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation ongoing success in our labours.

I wish you all the best, until the next issue of our catalogue to mark our 35th anniversary, when we will once again look back on the projects we have implemented and the results we have achieved.

Novi Sad, July 2023





OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS



Ecumenical
Humanitarian
Organization

1993

—
2012



ECUMENICAL AND PEACE PROJECTS

//Prayers for peace / World Day of Prayer / Ecumenical Women's Forum 1993-

Between July 1993 and December 1995, at a time of military hostilities in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, Christians, Jews and Muslims gathered together to pray for peace every Wednesday in Novi Sad. These were the only interconfessional prayers held during the war in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Between 1996 and 2002, every second Wednesday of the month a different church in Novi Sad hosted ecumenical prayers for peace in the world.

Since 1994, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation has been the Vojvodina coordinator for all activities relating to World Day of Prayer, which is held annually on the first Friday in March. This women's initiative grew over time into an ecumenical one, which invites people the world over to gather together in their churches on that day and pray together for peace and love in the world.

Since 1997 the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation has also coordinated the work of the Ecumenical Women's Forum, which works to promote networking and partnership amongst women from different churches, strengthen women's initiatives and promote peace and tolerance amongst Christians.

//The Leuenberg Home in Feketić 1994-2008

Donors: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), the Gustav Adolf Foundation (Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW), Christian Aid, churches in Dortmund

The Leuenberg Home in Feketić is the centre of the Reformed Christian Church in Serbia and was managed by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation from 1994 to 2008. In 1994 and 1995 the facility was renovated, with investments made in equipping the kitchen and dormitories, installing central heating and a new electrical system, landscaping the garden and gazebo and building bathrooms, thus improving conditions for people working and staying in the Home and making it possible for activities to be conducted year-round and not just in summer as had previously been the case. Between 1999 and 2003 two rotundas were built, and instead of the old gazebo a new building was constructed with an open classroom on the ground floor, eight three-bed rooms on the first floor, and an attic space. Later another block was constructed with utility areas in the ground floor and five rooms on the first floor. The capacity of the Home was thus increased to 90 beds. Over 15 years the Home hosted more than 50,000 visitors from Serbia and abroad. Adaptation, improvement to facilities and construction of additional accommodation capacity made it possible for

numerous conferences, seminars and meetings to be held, and every summer almost 1,000 children from EHO founding churches took part in catechism classes.

//May Friendship Arts Colony 1996-1998 Donor: Christian Aid

The objective of the May Friendship Arts Colony was to foster the role of the artist in intercultural dialogue at the local, regional and international level and to use the funds raised through sales of the artwork for the activities of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation. During the three art colonies, academy, amateur and graphic artists, some of them refugees, of different artistic orientations, nations and confessions, spent time together in the Leuenberg Home and created art works in the spirit of ecumenism and tolerance.

//Action against war and destruction 1999

In partnership with the independent Vojvodina weekly, *Nezavisni*, EHO organised an antiwar campaign. More than 300,000 picture postcards with photos of destroyed bridges in Novi Sad and the text, "Greetings from Novi Sad, where the Danube flows over the bridges" were printed and sent to our partners abroad.

//Youth meetings 1998-2002

Donors: Christian Aid, Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS)

The Youth Meetings project was an effort to bring together children from the domicile and refugee populations. 40 children would come for a weekend programme at the Leuenberg Home aimed at helping them get to know each other better and make friends. The primary goal of this project, unique in the region, was to prepare the refugee children and youth for easier integration into their new surroundings and to facilitate their acceptance into domicile peer groups. 50 such meetings were organised for more than 2000 children and teenagers.

//Youth Meetings – Cross-Border 2003-2008

Donors: Christian Aid, Catholic Agency For Overseas Development – CAFOD

The cross-border youth meetings were a continuation of the Youth Meetings project. The target group was children living in Vojvodina aged

10-14, and their peers of the same age living in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Sandžak. Each year four 3-day children's meetings were organised with the aim of breaking down barriers of prejudice and mistrust amongst young people and building bridges of peace and tolerance. 20 such meetings were organised, with 1,000 children and teenagers taking part.

//Tolerance-building amongst youth in Vojvodina

2005

Donors: South-East Europe Partnership Fund – SEEP

The project was a follow-up to a joint research project by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, the aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland and Swisspeace named "Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity in a humanitarian organisation in Vojvodina". The project objectives were to improve interethnic understanding and tolerance in Vojvodina by strengthening conflict sensitivity and the capacity for tolerance-building among youth in Vojvodina, and visible results were achieved during the project. 15 young people from the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation founding churches completed a three-day training course on tolerance-building and conflict sensitivity. In addition to this, 15 young people of different confessional and ethnic backgrounds learned how to plan workshops, developing their workshop facilitation skills, and 120 children and young people took part in workshops on tolerance-building organised by the participants of the training courses. An 83-page handbook was prepared for all participants of the training courses.

//School of Ecumenism (from 2009 – Regional School of Ecumenism)

2007-2012

Donors: Church in Action (Kerk in Actie), Gustav-Adolf Foundation (Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW), Diakonisches Werk Württemberg – DWW, Finn Church Aid – FCA, Mennonite Central Committee – MCC, Hope for Eastern Europe (Hoffnung für Osteuropa – HfO), churches in Dortmund, Christoph Tapernoux

The School of Ecumenism was an educational project aimed at building tolerance and sustainable peace through the development of interreligious dialogue and interchurch relations. The School was attended by more than 200 participants (church and civil activists, students and lecturers from both secular and religious backgrounds) who became promoters of positive social and ethical change in their field of influence, and contributed to enhancing the role of churches and religious communities in Serbian civil society.

//Churches and public advocacy

2008-2009

Donor: Ecumenical Solidarity Fund

The objective of the project was to enhance the role of five traditional minority churches in society and strengthen them to become an important factor in societal change. The capacities of 15 young church leaders to advocate publicly for change in society were increased through a combination of training courses and "learning by doing".

HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

//Medicines for health centres in Serbia

1993-1995

Donors: Church World Service – CWS, United Methodist Committee on Relief – UMCOR, Swiss Red Cross, Hungarian Interchurch Aid – HIA

Responding to urgent needs in mental institutions, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, in partnership with Hungarian Interchurch Aid, procured Haloperidol for all psychiatric hospitals in Vojvodina, 8,500 kg of medicines, donated by the United Methodist Committee on Relief, were distributed to 12 hospitals and 22 pharmacies in Vojvodina. 19,500 kg of medicines and other medical supplies, donated by the Swiss Red Cross, were distributed to five general hospitals in Serbia and Montenegro. 3,500 kg of priority medicines, donated by the Church World Service following a list submitted by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, were distributed to pharmacies, emergency rooms, health centres and hospitals in Vojvodina.

//Various humanitarian aid

1993-2002

Donors: Diaconia Austria, Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland – HEKS, Lutheran World Relief – LWR, Norwegian Church Aid – NCA, Ecumenical Information Centre (Ökumenisches Informationszentrum e.V. – ÖIZ), Help Eastern Europe (Hulp Oost Europa – HOE)

150 tonnes of food, hygiene supplies, clothing and footwear, donated by the Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland, were distributed in more than 50 social and healthcare institutions, refugee camps and religious communities in Vojvodina. More than 120 tonnes of aid in the form of clothing, blankets, soap, sewing kits, baby kits, school supplies and school sets were distributed, donated by Lutheran World Relief from the United States and Canada, as well as 100 tonnes of food and hygiene supplies donated by Diaconia Austria and the Austrian Red Cross. The Ecumenical Information Centre provided 4,000 sets of school supplies for the poorest children in Vojvodina and the Dutch foundation

Help Eastern Europe sent multiple shipments of clothes, footwear and school furniture.

//Appeal for Vojvodina

1993

Donor: World Council of Churches – WCC

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation sent an appeal to the World Council of Churches to assist in providing food for refugees and the poor in Vojvodina, bedding for maternity wards and the most essential medications for seven neuropsychiatric clinics in Vojvodina. The appeal was implemented in partnership with Hungarian Interchurch Aid, who purchased the goods, supplies and medications in Hungary as they were not available in Serbia at that time. Packages were distributed via churches in Vojvodina, with bedclothes sewn by Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation volunteers. Some of the food parcels were sent via the ADRA humanitarian organisation to Sarajevo.

//Aptamil for babies in Vojvodina

1993-1994 and 1999-2002

Donors: Dortmund Diaconia (Diakonisches Werk Dortmund), Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance

Dortmund Diaconia donated several tonnes of infant formula, Aptamil, which could not be obtained in Serbia, and this was distributed by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation. Some of the milk was distributed via humanitarian pharmacies in Novi Sad and the remainder donated to the Betanija maternity hospital and the Vojvodina Children's and Youth Health Care Institute in Novi Sad, the General Hospital in Senta and to municipal health centres in Bačka Topola, Čajnica (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Novi Kneževac, Stara Pazova and Vukovar (Croatia). The project was repeated during and after the NATO bombing campaign. Distribution of more than 32,000 kilogrammes of infant formula and medical consultations were organised in the EHO humanitarian pharmacy.

//Winter appeal – soup kitchen

1993-2001

Donors: World Council of Churches – WCC, Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), Diaconal Ministry of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirchen in Deutschland), Christian Aid

The soup kitchen project was implemented over a period of 10 years with varying intensity and scope, depending on donations, as part of ACT appeals or as an independent project. Over these ten years, a total of 3.5 million meals were distributed. In 1996 alone, 400,000 school meals were distributed to schoolchildren. During the summer and whenever

the kitchen was on hold, food parcels were provided for kitchen users. The project was implemented in four towns in Vojvodina simultaneously: Novi Sad, Zrenjanin, Titel and Pačir. The number of beneficiaries reached as many as 4,200 per day and meals were distributed by EHO volunteers.

//Appeal for the Islamic community in Novi Sad

1994

Donor: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS)

EHO submitted an appeal to HEKS to assist the most vulnerable members of the Islamic community in Novi Sad – 850 refugee families who had fled or been expelled from different parts of the former Yugoslavia. The project was implemented in partnership with Hungarian Interchurch Aid, who supplied the food parcels as it was impossible to procure food in Serbia during the embargo. After customs clearance, the parcels were delivered to the Islamic community, which took charge of distribution. Beside food parcels, the families received small cash grants to help cover accommodation costs.

//Assistance for the emergency laboratory and for maternity hospitals

1994-95

Donor: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS)

The aim of this project was to provide the most important medicines, equipment, chemicals and medical supplies for the emergency laboratory of the Vojvodina Clinical Centre and gynaecological and maternity wards in Vojvodina during the period of sanctions and embargo and ensure their continued operation. A one-year's supply of chemicals was procured from Switzerland for the laboratory, as well as several new devices and spare parts, and a one-year's supply of the most important anaesthetics needed by five maternity clinics in Vojvodina.

//Spring appeals – family packages with vegetable seeds

1994-2002

Donors: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), the Martin Luther Federation (Martin-Luther-Bund – MLB), Gustav-Adolf Foundation (Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW), Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, Robert Lahr

In the course of nine years, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation distributed more than 300,000 packages of vegetable seeds. In logistical terms, this project was one of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation's largest. It was aimed at helping refugees living with host families or in

collective centres and impoverished local people (poor farmers, the socially vulnerable) to cultivate a garden or a piece of land and thus improve their nutrition. The beneficiaries of this assistance would grow vegetables in the period between March and October, and this was especially important for refugee families as it gave them a reason to be active, and they were able to sell any surplus at the market and thus generate some income. The vegetable seed parcels were procured from local seed companies and each parcel contained 20 sachets of different vegetables, to cover the needs of an average family. As well as in Vojvodina, the vegetable seed parcels were distributed in central Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eastern Slavonia and Baranja.

//Psychosocial counselling centre in Novi Sad

1995-1998

Donor: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS)

The counselling centre comprised a social service, a humanitarian pharmacy, mobile medical teams, legal assistance, psychosocial counselling and free laundry facilities. The social service distributed a total of 563 packages of material aid: food, hygiene supplies, underwear, clothes, footwear, baby food, dishes, incontinence pads etc.,. The humanitarian pharmacy was visited on average by 80 patients per day, each receiving an average of 4.5 packets of medicines. The mobile medical teams made 150 visits per year to remote villages and refugee centres. A total of 8000 families used the services of the counselling centre, 90% of them refugee and displaced families, primarily from Krajina. In 1998 the counselling centre was transformed into the Diaconal Centre.

//Help for refugees from Krajina

1995-1998

Donors: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, Danish Church Aid (DanChurchAid – DCA), Norwegian Church Aid – NCA, Christian Aid, Lutheran World Relief – LWR

Over a period of three years, several projects were conducted providing humanitarian aid to refugees from Krajina, with the aim of improving their quality of life and facilitating their integration, whilst at the same time training volunteers to help refugees. Assistance was provided to around 20,000 people, 90% of them refugees, who every two months over a four-year period received food and hygiene packages and other humanitarian aid. Distribution was organised through refugee camps and the psychosocial counselling centre and diaconal groups of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation. The aid included 50 sets of medicines distributed to health centres.

//Garden tools

1996-1997

Donors: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), Wild Geese Foundation (Wilde Ganzen Foundation)

3000 sets of gardening tools (each set consisting of five tools) were provided for refugee and displaced families that had received family parcels with vegetable seeds and had a piece of land to farm. The distribution also included all collective centres in Vojvodina. As part of this project, a seminar on growing vegetables in Vojvodina was held in 1997 in Feketić and 1,000 copies of a booklet on the same topic were printed and distributed.

//ACT Appeal 9641YU

1996-1997

Donors: Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, Danish Church Aid (DanChurchAid – DCA)

This appeal facilitated the procurement and distribution of 10,000 sets of kitchen dishes and cutlery and 60,000 pieces of Calida underwear to refugees and displaced persons all over Vojvodina, through the psychosocial counselling centre, the Red Cross and directly in refugee camps. A year's supply of medicines were procured from the company MediSwiss in bulk hospital packages for the operation of mobile medical teams and the humanitarian pharmacy.

//ACT Appeal EUYU62

1997-1998

Donors: Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, Danish Church Aid (DanChurchAid – DCA)

The appeal involved the purchase and distribution of 12,000 food parcels, and medicines procured from MediSwiss, distributed through the humanitarian pharmacy and mobile medical teams.

//ACT Appeal EUKC91 – Kosovo and Balkan Crisis

1999

Donor: Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance

In spring of 1999, during the NATO bombing campaign, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation was among the first humanitarian organisations to seek aid for displaced persons fleeing from Kosovo who had sought refuge in Vojvodina. This appeal provided humanitarian aid – food, hygiene and children's parcels – to displaced persons from Kosovo and victims of the war and the bombing.

//Assistance for people with disabilities in Novi Sad

1999

Donor: The Heidehof Foundation (Heidehof Stiftung)

In cooperation with organisations representing people with disabilities, emergency aid in the form of food parcels and cash grants was provided and distributed.

//Island of Hope

1999

Donors: Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, Ecumenical Women's Solidarity Fund – EWSF, Hungarian Interchurch Aid – HIA

During and after the NATO bombing campaign, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation organised a vacation and time of recuperation for 250 children and their mothers from Vojvodina (250 persons, five groups, each for two weeks) together with Hungarian Interchurch Aid at a camp in Erőspusztá.

//ACT Appeal EUBK01

2000

Donors: Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, Lutheran World Federation – LWF

Thanks to this appeal, about 300,000 people (15% of the population of Vojvodina) received a variety of material assistance: food and hygiene parcels, meals from the soup kitchen, packages of vegetable seeds and medicines via the humanitarian pharmacy and mobile medical teams. The project was implemented in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation.

//Humanitarian aid to Kosovo displaced persons

1999 – 2003

Donor: Christian Aid

This project assisted about 1,100 vulnerable families living in Novi Sad and the surrounding area (about 85% of them displaced persons from Kosovo, mostly Roma) on an ongoing basis over several project cycles. To begin with, cash grants were distributed together with food, hygiene and children's parcels, 60 tonnes of flour, and blankets and sleeping bags, and continued with bimonthly distributions of family food and hygiene packages and firewood (11,000m³ in total). As of 2001, vouchers for the purchase of food and hygiene products (total value of vouchers 250,000 EUR) were provided to families, as well as gifts of small domestic livestock (450 families received chicks, goats or piglets) with fodder.

//ACT Appeal EUSM11 – Appeal for Vojvodina

2001

Donors: Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, Christian Aid

This appeal enabled the continued operation of the soup kitchen, which distributed 526,224 meals in 2001. 4,200 meals per day were distributed in 25 different locations. 15,070 patients visited the humanitarian pharmacy and received 29,251 packages of medicines. 14,647 kg of baby formula was distributed to 1748 babies and 109,313 incontinence pads were given to 1,829 patients. The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation also secured funds from other donors to cover the costs of distributing material aid. In 2001, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation distributed 1,371 tonnes of material aid with a value of around 1.7 million EUR.

//Supporting the sustainable return of refugees from Vojvodina to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

2001-2004

Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – SIDA

In partnership with the Lutheran World Federation, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation helped refugees and displaced people from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to return to their homes and resume living there. This project facilitated go-and-see visits and the beneficiaries that were admitted into the program were provided with construction material to repair their houses and small grants to help them achieve economic independence. The results of the project were as follows: 2,351 visits were organised, and 1,133 refugee and expelled families received assistance in the form of building materials and financial aid.

//ACT EUYU-21 appeal

2002

Donor: Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance

This appeal provided funding for the operation of the soup kitchen, mobile medical teams (59 rural visits), the humanitarian pharmacy (23,856 patients) and for the purchase and distribution of food parcels, medicines, baby formula (for 5,646 recipients), incontinence pads and family parcels with vegetable seeds (distribution made with the help of diaconal groups).

//EHO Appeal – Flooding in Banat

2005

Donors: Diaconia Austria, Catholic Agency For Overseas Development – CAFOD, Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW, Hungarian Interchurch Aid – HIA, Lutheran World Relief – LWR, Robert Lahr

International church-based organisations and a large number of individuals responded to EHO's appeal to help flood-affected villages in

the Banat district. From the funds collected, food, water, hygiene items and medicines, day-old chicks with feed and family parcels of vegetable seeds were purchased and distributed, together with 6.2 tonnes of blankets and bed linen. Volunteers and diaconal groups of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation from 26 towns in Vojvodina collected and distributed more than 300 tonnes of fodder, food packages, clothing and footwear in villages affected by floods.

//ACT Appeal EUSB 61 – Floods in Vojvodina

2006

Donors: Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, SARA Association, Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW

The aim of the appeal was to assist the people and communities living by the Tisa and Danube who had been affected by the flooding in returning to normal life. Several forms of assistance were provided: psychosocial support, with two 5-day summer camps for pupils from flood-affected villages; purchase of cleaning agents and disinfectants for clean-up of houses in the Roma settlement and repairs to infrastructure in the Roma settlement in Beočin; purchase and distribution of day-old chicks with feed for agricultural income generation; a one-day emergency preparedness seminar.

DIACONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

//Diaconal Centre

1998-2012

Donors: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), Christian Aid (2002-2004), Churches Helping Churches (Kirche helfen Kirchen – KhK)

To begin with, the Diaconal Centre merely continued the activities of the psychosocial counselling centre (distribution of humanitarian aid, free laundry, humanitarian pharmacy, mobile medical teams), but with the increased involvement of churches and volunteers and by expanding activities all over Vojvodina, the following subprojects were gradually established: diaconal groups, the Roma Mission, the Martha Centre, the Volunteer Centre and home assistance and home care services. The diaconal groups are a network of 85 local groups comprised of volunteers, who organise the collection and distribution of humanitarian aid, home visits and small diaconal projects. The Roma Mission was involved in providing material aid, a medical service, a Roma kindergarten, and legal and family advice. In 2002 the Roma Mission was renamed to the Roma Resource Centre, and became an independent project in 2005. The Martha Centre offers a free laundry service, distributes second-hand clothing and footwear and, from 2004, has operated as a club for the elderly. The Volunteer Centre links potential volunteers with organisations and projects needing

volunteers. The home assistance and home care services are provided by medical nurses and volunteers to beneficiaries in their own homes. The service started in 2002 with blood sugar and blood pressure measuring devices being purchased and volunteers trained to use them. The work was continued with the translation and publication of the Sickness and Old Age handbook. Professional home care has been organised by the Diaconal Centre since 2008 in Novi Sad, and was later established in Pivnice, Kisač, Stara Pazova and Subotica. Since 2012, Home Care has operated as an independent project.

//Rainbow – Bridging Generations

2000–2008

Donors: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), Danish Church Aid (DanChurchAid – DCA), Christian Aid, Churches in Action (Kerk in Actie)

Rainbow was a project connecting two target groups: volunteers (young, unemployed persons) with partners (the elderly, sick, bed-ridden and persons with disabilities). The overall aim of the project was to strengthen and promote volunteer work, and the project operated in 10 locations in Vojvodina, with the participation of 190 volunteers who facilitated the use of the services and assistance of various projects of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation for 1,500 of their partners: laundry services, the soup kitchen, the humanitarian pharmacy, aid packages comprising incontinence pads, clothes, footwear, food and hygiene items. During home visits, volunteers also provided practical help to their partners in the form of home help, procuring medicines, minor house repairs, measuring blood sugar etc. In addition to basic and advanced training, courses and excursions were also organised for volunteers by way of a reward, and a symbolic amount of pocket money was provided.

//Small Projects Fund

2001-2008

Donors: Christian Aid, Norwegian Church Aid – NCA, Danish Church Aid (DanChurchAid – DCA), Ecumenical Information Centre (Ökumenisches Informationszentrum e.V. – ÖIZ), Church in Action (Kerk in Actie), Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy (Federazione delle Chiese evangeliche in Italia – FCEI)

The Small Projects Fund provided small grants for the implementation of small-scale initiatives in local communities. The target group were small local organisations, initiatives and groups from Vojvodina that otherwise had no access to big international donors but who wished to engage local people and resources in a constructive way towards the improvement of living standards in their local communities. During the eight project cycles the SPF achieved the following results: 313 small grants were approved for small projects, 64 training courses were held on project management (including writing project proposals), strategic planning, organisational management, and fund-raising; 869 members of 351 civil

society organisations participated in training courses and 12 new NGOs were established with the help of the SPF.

//Red Line / Red Line Centre for HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis and reproductive health

2002-2004, 2005-2008

Donors: Christian Aid, Norwegian Church Aid – NCA, Church in Action (Kerk in Actie), Global Fund via the Ministry of Health

The overall aims of the Red Line, the first helpline of this type in Vojvodina, were to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV in Vojvodina and to provide better public information about the spread of infection in Vojvodina. This was achieved through the following activities: recruitment and selection of activists/volunteers, design and maintenance of record-keeping systems, installation and maintenance of two phone lines, a website and a special email address, continuous gathering of data about infections in our province, the needs of people affected by HIV and the services available to them; organising basic and advanced training, providing ongoing support to volunteers and promoting the project.

As of 2005, two new target groups were included in the project – patients with hepatitis and other sexually transmitted infections), and the project changed its name to the Red Line Centre. The project objectives were expanded to include improving the quality of life of people living with HIV and other STIs and hepatitis and bolstering services for the prevention of these conditions. New services were introduced, aimed at improving the mental and physical health of the target group, decreasing their social isolation through comprehensive psychosocial support, improving their standard of living through material and practical assistance and promoting the use of existing services of healthcare and social welfare institutions.

//Knowledge Against AIDS / Prevention of HIV/AIDS through education of Vojvodina teenagers

2002-2005

Donors: Christian Aid, Norwegian Church Aid – NCA, Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS)

In the first school year the target group of this project, implemented in partnership with the Provincial Secretariat for Education and Culture, were all eighth-grade elementary school pupils and all first-year high-school students in Vojvodina. In the second and third school years the target group was all eighth-grade elementary school pupils and all pupils of special secondary schools in Vojvodina. In total, 87,400 teenagers in Vojvodina attended talks. The overall project goal was to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and to reduce risky behaviour among young people through a comprehensive campaign of education in Vojvodina. The goal was

pursued through the following activities: setting up an expert team which prepared the programme, creating and printing brochures, knowledge tests and information leaflets for pupils in five of the languages spoken in Vojvodina, selection and training of educators, distributing posters, reports, recommendation letters and notifications in all schools, delivering workshops in schools, ongoing cooperation with schools for purposes of monitoring.

//Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities

2002-2012

Donors: Diaconia Austria, ADA (Austrian Development Agency), Austrian Labour Ministry, Erste Foundation, City of Novi Sad, Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality, Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth, Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF)

The main aim of the Centre (the first of this type in Serbia) was the social inclusion of people with disabilities by advocating for better employment opportunities for them, changes to law, better visibility, exchange of information, networking and informal education. The primary services provided by the Centre were counselling on assistive technologies, use of computers, providing information to individuals and disabled persons organisations, psychosocial support, mediating with institutions and employers in regard to employment, legal counselling, publishing the Linker magazine, organising courses in computers, English language and digital printing, transport services and printing services. Within the Centre the Work Room Day Centre operated, where people with disabilities were provided the opportunity to socialise and take part in additional skills development courses to increase their competitiveness in the labour market.

//Roma Resource Centre

2004-2012

Donors: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), Norwegian Church Aid – NCA, Christian Aid

The Roma Resource Centre provided various resources and brought together a range of activities and services: the promotion of equal rights for all citizens, overcoming prejudice against marginalised groups, providing information, advice and consultations, advocacy and lobbying, empowerment through education, vocational training, employment and self-employment, assistance with improving living conditions and more. Ten years' experience in working with vulnerable groups enabled the RRC to establish one of the rare successful participative models for working with the Roma ethnic community.

//CancerInfo – support service for those affected by cancer

2004-2012

Donors: Ecumenical Women Solidarity Fund – EWSF, SARA Association, local and individual donors

This unique support service was established as a joint venture between the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and the Vojvodina Institute for Oncology in Sremska Kamenica with the aim of fighting cancer through treatment, prevention and early detection. The service is volunteer-based, operating from donations received and fundraising through humanitarian campaigns. The service provides information, emotional support and encouragement to people living with cancer, and to their families and friends, and aims to increase awareness about cancers.

//Green Ladies

2005-2011

Donors: Ecumenical Women Solidarity Fund – EWSF, Churches in St. Gallen

Through this project, trained women volunteers provided emotional support (conversation, active listening, encouragement) to patients at the Institute for Oncology in Sremska Kamenica. Patients were also provided other forms of help, ranging from doing shopping for them to accompanying them to examinations. In addition to improving the psychosocial environment for patients and the quality of their time spent in hospital, the aim of this project was also for the idea of voluntary services to be promoted and conditions to be established for volunteers to work in health institutions in Serbia.

//Resources for NGOs working with people with disabilities in Vojvodina

2005-2006

Donors: Development Cooperation Ireland – DCI, Irish Aid

The project achieved some significant results. 10 organisations representing people with disabilities improved their capacities through training courses attended by a total of 190 participants. Daily legal and psychosocial information and counselling, provided via a web site, direct contacts and phone calls, were used by an average of 300 people from 70 organisations working with people with disabilities with a total membership of 50,000. Eight issues (1000 copies per issue) of the Linker newsletter were published, covering topics relating to disability and distributed to organisations working with people with disabilities, local government and institutions and NGOs. A total of 252 individuals with disabilities completed training courses in computer literacy and foreign languages and took part in self-help group work.

//Development of a volunteer service in the Safe House

2005-2006

Donors: Social Innovation Fund

The overall aim of this project was to improve the quality of services for children without parental care in the Safe House of the Centre for Social Work in Novi Sad, by introducing a voluntary service, establishing an institution to work with NGOs and by leveraging human resources in the local community. In addition to a group of 30 volunteers being set up and trained to work in the Centre for Social Work Safe House, more than 200 children (most of them Roma children living and/or working on the streets) received a better quality of service through the volunteers during their stay in the institution.

//Capacity-building programme for Roma women activists

2006-2007

Donors: Canadian International Development Agency – CIDA

The aim of the project was to strengthen the capacities of Roma organisations and particularly Roma women's organisations in Serbia in pursuing the rule of law by creating a new, recognised, highly trained and networked group of Roma women activists through a one-year capacity-building programme. This project further sought to build strong partnerships between Roma and non-Roma organisations and activists and state institutions responsible for human rights and gender equality. Numerous results were achieved. With the help of the Office for Gender Equality, 20 women were chosen. Four training modules were held on the topics of gender equality and the rule of law. Workshops were held in the women's organisations in order to facilitate knowledge transfer through peer education. Strong links were formed between Roma NGOs and gender equality and rule of law institutions, and Roma women became more visible both in the Roma community and in Serbia as a whole.

//Human rights abuses against Roma people repatriated to Serbia under the readmission agreements

2006-2007

Donor: Open Society Institute

The aims of the project were to increase the visibility of Roma returnees to Serbia and of their human rights situation, to collect data on the human rights of Roma returnees that could serve as a basis for future campaigning and strategies, to build the capacity of Roma organisations in enforcing the rule of law and respect for the human rights of Roma by means of creating a group of trained, networked and experienced activists and to promote

national, regional and international human rights instruments relating to the situation of returned Roma. The following results were achieved. 10 Roma researchers were trained to monitor, document and report on human rights, who then made field visits and conducted interviews, based on which a handbook on human rights abuses (in Serbian and English) against Roma was prepared and published.

//Partnership in Action – Strengthening the Balkan civil society development network **2006-2008**

Donors: Programme of Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS)

Activities on this project included providing information (development of a central website and a partner search database, sending of weekly e-mail alerts), training and exchange (organising regional seminars on networking and partnership-building, fund-raising, media, civil dialogue and organising on-the-job training in Brussels), publication of guides (on networking and partnership building, on EU funding sources, a media guide for CSOs and a guide on civil dialogue). The project went ahead in partnership with the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation in Skopje.

//Social inclusion and improvement of living conditions in Roma settlements in Serbia **2007-2012**

Donors: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), Swiss Development and Cooperation – SDC, Swiss Federal Office for Migration – FOM, Norwegian Church Aid – NCA, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

During the course of this project the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation developed a unique model for the sustainable development of Roma settlements which involved a comprehensive and participative approach to addressing the issues that exist there. During the period 2007-2012, the Roma Resource Centre of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, in cooperation with Roma from the settlements of Bangladesh and Adice in Novi Sad and the Roma settlements in Đurđevo, Čurug, Bečej, Bačko Gradište, Deronje, Donji Petrovci and Margita, built 270 septic tanks, 500 bathrooms, carried out 18 house reconstructions, built 4 new small houses from reclaimed building materials, and improved housing conditions in 540 dwellings. In 2013 the project was implemented in Bogojevo, Ratkovo, Odžaci (Municipality of Odžaci) and Plandište (Municipality of Plandište), Veliki Gaj, Jermenovci, Kupinik and Barice. This project was continued in 2013 in cooperation with relevant state partners and the OSCE mission in Serbia, when a publication was prepared, called "Assessment of Conditions in Substandard Roma Settlements in 21 Municipalities in Serbia", and published in 2014.

//Towards a comprehensive system to address violence against women in Vojvodina

2008-2012

Donor: UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The vision of the project was full respect for the human rights of women through the establishment of an effective system of prevention of domestic and gender-based violence and the protection and support of female survivors of violence. The main areas of work were outreach, research, capacity-building of professionals in all relevant institutions and organisations in Vojvodina and networking/coalition building. The project was implemented in partnership with the Vojvodina Provincial Secretariat for Labour, Employment and Gender Equality.

//Social dimensions of European integration **2008-2009**

Donor: Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The aim of the project was to increase public awareness in Vojvodina about the EU accession process by establishing a cooperation platform at local/regional levels among civil society stakeholders and local governments on issues related to European integration. Specific objectives were to stimulate debate at the local level on the social aspects of the EU integration process, to contribute to establishing dialogue between CSOs and local governments with regard to the implementation of EU social policy in Serbia, to promote best practices between CSOs in Hungary and their Vojvodina counterparts and to present the EU's impact on Hungarian social policy and the role of Hungarian CSOs in the process of adapting to European social models. The project was implemented in partnership with Hungarian Interchurch Aid.

//Personal assistance for Roma returnees

2009-2010

Donor: SKAN Foundation, Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF)

The aim of this project was the social inclusion of Roma returnees and their connection with the resources of the social security system through the formation of a network of personal assistants. During the course of the project, a network of personal assistants was formed, who made house calls to Roma settlements in Novi Sad, Beočin and Zrenjanin in order to identify the social problems of Roma returnees from Western European countries and to assist in their resolution by connecting users and representing them before the local social welfare institutions. The project also served to build the capacities of the personal assistants themselves, who are already involved as activists in Roma CSOs or as Roma coordinators. During the project, assistance was provided 547 times (information, advice, accompaniment to official institutions, translation, help in obtaining documents) to 162 beneficiaries.

//Support for expelled Roma in Vojvodina

2009-2012

Donors: Diakonisches Werk Württemberg – DW/W, Churches Helping Churches (Kirche helfen Kirchen - KhK), Hope for Eastern Europe (Hoffnung für Osteuropa - HfO), Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt), the Baden-Württemberg State Foundation (Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg)

The objective of the project was to support the process of integration and reintegration of Roma repatriated on the basis of the readmission agreements as well as Roma displaced from Kosovo, through legal, economic and educational assistance, as well as through assistance in improving living conditions. Around 2,000 Roma received some form of support. The legal assistance entailed providing beneficiaries with legal advice and information, filling in various legal forms, procuring documents and house calls made by legal advisers. The economic assistance included training for active job seeking and writing business plans, three-month vocational courses, donations of tools and grants for starting small businesses. Assistance was provided with school enrolment, supplementary lessons and obtaining school supplies and textbooks, with the aim of integrating children into the Serbian education system as successfully as possible. Help in improving living conditions was provided for the repair or extension of dwellings, and introducing electricity, water and sewerage.

//Drop-in Centre for and outreach work with children living and/or working on the street

2009-2012

Donors: Global Fund, JAZAS Youth Belgrade, the Stepić CEE Charity, the City of Novi Sad

The Drop-In Centre for children living and working on the streets was opened with the aim of empowering children and connecting them with the system. The Drop-In Centre provided: food, personal hygiene (baths, clean clothes etc.), peer education, basic medical services, counselling with a psychologist, education specialist and social worker, connecting street children with state institutions and educational activities (computer lessons, literacy, etc.). Besides the work in the Drop-In Centre an outreach program was also developed in order to reach those children who did not come very often or at all to the Centre.

//Strengthening social cohesion through the development of non-discriminatory policy for children living and/or working on the street

2011

Donor: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

The objective of this project was to promote social cohesion and overcome discrimination in society by increasing the visibility of children involved

in living or working on the street, as well as the development of non-discriminatory public policy in regard to this category of children.

//Assistive technologies as a way to enhance the employment rights of people with disabilities

2011

Donor: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

In the context of this project, the term assistive technologies refers to various IT solutions (hardware and software) that improve the quality of life of people with limited mobility or communication skills, as well as that of people with sensory impairments or limited mental capacities. The results of this project were training sessions held on the basics of assistive technologies and on public advocacy for labour rights, the establishment of an informal network of civil society organisations and the launch of an initiative to integrate assistive technologies into the labour market, as well as the preparation and publication of a handbook on assistive technologies.

//Diaconia – home care

2012

Donors: Aid organization of the Protestant Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz – HEKS), Diakonisches Werk Württemberg – DW/W

From 2008, as a subproject of the Diaconial Centre, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation organised professional home care services. As of January 2012, the existing Diaconal Centre was split into two projects: the Diaconal Centre and Diaconia – Home Care. The project objectives were: to improve the quality of life of sick and elderly people by providing them with a high quality of home care assistance, licensing of personnel and registration of the home care service as a social enterprise in order to secure institutional sustainability; provide for financial sustainability through improved access to state and municipal funds and through increased co-funding by beneficiaries. Diaconia – Home Care provides improved access to home care services to approximately 250 beneficiaries per year (16-20 patients per nurse with an average of 3 visits per week and 7 visits per nurse per day) in Novi Sad, Stara Pazova, Pivnice and Kisač.



OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS



Ecumenical
Humanitarian
Organization

2013

—
2017



DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

//Returnees under the readmission agreements and migration trends

2013

Donor: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

The objectives of the project were to inform returnees under the readmission agreements of their social and economic rights, as well as to inform local decision-makers of examples of good practice in the reintegration of returnees. These objectives were pursued by organising public debates at which representatives of the Serbian government's Office for Human and Minority Rights and of the civil sector informed returnees of their economic and social rights, by printing and distributing information leaflets in Serbian, Roma, Albanian and German on the topic of employment of returnees and by organising a debate on the best models for the reintegration of returnees, attended by representatives of institutions and organisations working in Novi Sad with the returnee population.

//Towards a comprehensive system to address violence against women in Vojvodina – an integrated response to violence against women in Serbia

2013-2014

Donors: UN Women – the United Nations agency for gender equality and empowerment of women

The objective of this project was to secure full respect for the human rights of women through the establishment of an effective and efficient system of prevention of domestic and gender-based violence and for the protection and support of women experiencing violence. 104 consultations were held with representatives from the relevant institutions from Vojvodina, aimed at contributing to a more effective and efficient common effort, as well as 32 training sessions for professionals. The implementing partners on this project were the Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the Autonomous Women's Centre and the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation.

//CancerInfo – Support service for those affected by cancer

2013-2014

Donors: Union for International Cancer Control, local and individual donors

The regular activities of the Service consisted of providing information and emotional support to those affected by cancer – via telephone and

in person. As part of the "Družilište" program, which brings together people affected by cancer, the "Wall of Hope" was extended, decorated with ceramic tiles inspired by hope. CancerInfo, as part of its public A Daffodil for Life campaign, sought to inform the public in Vojvodina about the prevention and early discovery of cancer through the distribution of printed material in three languages. The service continued to develop close international cooperation with similar organisations in Europe, and was also a member of the International Cancer Information Service Group (ICISG). Thanks to ongoing Norwegian donations of wigs for women who had lost their hair through chemotherapy, more than 500 wigs were distributed to women fighting cancer across Vojvodina.

//Programme for children living and/or working on the street

2013-2014

Donors: Stepic CEE Charity, JAZAS-Youth Belgrade, the City Novi Sad, the Evangelical Reformed Church of the Canton of St Gallen (Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche des Kantons St. Gallen, Tartan Army Childrens' Charity)

The Drop-In Centre for children living and/or working on the streets was opened in February 2010 as an Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation project. In February 2015 it became a City of Novi Sad budget-funded operation as part of the city's Centre for Social Work. The Drop-In Centre was opened with the aim of empowering children and connecting them with the education, social and healthcare systems. While a part of our organisation the Drop-In Centre provided food, personal hygiene facilities (bathing, clean clothes etc.), basic medical treatment and counselling with a psychologist and specialised teacher, connected children with official institutions and organised educational and creative workshops. During 2013-2014 the services of the Drop-In Centre were used by 413 children.

//Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities

2013-2015

Donors: Diaconia Austria, Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt), ERSTE Foundation (ERSTE Stiftung), Otto per Mille of the Waldensian and Methodist churches, City of Novi Sad

The Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities organised activities and different types of services with the objective of improving the quality of life of people with disabilities and promoting their involvement in the life of the local community. In this period a total of 325 people with disabilities used the services of the Centre, and training courses were organised for them in using computers, English and German language, weaving, sewing, glass-painting, sign language, flower-arranging, cooking, jewellery-making, decoration and finger-knitting. All the courses were aimed at increasing the employability of people with disabilities. Six issues of the electronic magazine Linker were also published. The day centre, as an integral part of

this project, was regularly attended by people with disabilities who used a variety of day services, such as psychological and legal counselling.

//Assistance for forcibly displaced Roma people

2013-2019

Donors: Diakonie Württemberg – DW, Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt), JUVE Foundation (2014-2015)

The project aimed to provide legal, economic and educational assistance and to improve living conditions, and in so doing contribute to improving the socio-economic situation of Roma people in Vojvodina and support them in the pursuit of their human rights.

In the six-year period, 624 returnee children in seven Vojvodina municipalities made use of mentorship services and received school supplies and footwear. Translation of school certificates was carried out for 259 children, 233 beneficiaries completed training in active job-seeking and how to write a business plan, 61 beneficiaries received one-time grants in the form of tools and equipment for self-employment, 8,343 beneficiaries, of whom 1,040 were returnees from western Europe, were supported in procuring various personal documents needed to help them access the health and social welfare system, and housing conditions were improved for 21 returnee families.

//Outreach work with children living and/or working on the street

2013-

Donors: H. Stepic CEE Charity, City of Novi Sad, Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Communities, Hungarian Interchurch Aid – HIA

In November 2009, field work was initiated with children living and/or working on the street, aiming to engage those children who are infrequent visitors to the Novi Sad Drop-In Centre for children and youth, or who do not come at all or use other social welfare services. The general objective of the work in the field with children living and/or working on the street is to provide them with access to social, healthcare, educational and other welfare services, in order that each institution would recognise each child along with his or her need to be just that – a child. Project activities include field visits by volunteers to "hot spots" (road junctions, town squares, public car parks and other places where this target group gathers), addressing basic needs for food, water, clothing and footwear, providing vital baby supplies, providing basic medical services, psychosocial and legal support, obtaining personal documents, providing advice and information on how to pursue basic rights, and organising educational, creative and preventative workshops in substandard settlements in Novi Sad, together with other partners. In 2016, partnership was established with the Jožef Atila primary school in Novi Sad, aimed at preventing children leaving the education system and becoming involved in living and/or working on the streets. During school extended day programmes, volunteers helped first-grade pupils on a daily basis to

master letters, reading and writing and to improve handwriting and other skills, following the guidelines of the pedagogue and teaching assistant at the school. Additional activities carried out with this category of children included a regional study of the extent of the street children phenomenon in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, a campaign of advocacy for the rights of children living or working on the streets, the My Life on the Streets of Novi Sad photography project and partnership with the Novi Sad City Administration for Social and Children's Welfare.

The approximate number of children with whom contact was established in this period was 366.

//Perspectives for equal opportunities for returnees under the Readmission Agreements

2014-2016

Donor: European Union

The objectives of the project were to monitor and evaluate regulations and mechanisms at the local level that concerned returnees under the readmission agreements, to ensure equal opportunities were enshrined in local policy, support local integration and to empower returnees themselves to take part in the planning and implementation of anti-discriminatory initiatives. During the first year of implementation, eight field workers provided support to returnees in four municipalities (Kikinda, Novi Sad, Zrenjanin and Žitište) by providing ongoing information on local services and monitoring their progress in pursuing their human rights, whilst at the same time working with institutions at the local level. At the same time, monitoring of local policies and practices was conducted in all 45 municipalities in Vojvodina, and a report published on the implementation of public policies with respect to returnees in Vojvodina. During the second year of implementation, six debates were held with representatives of local government and institutions in order to analyse existing regulations and mechanisms relating to returnees under readmission agreements and identify the problems and obstacles faced by this section of the population in the process of local integration. 41 returnees attended training where they were provided with basic information on the concepts of human rights and non-discrimination, the resources available to them were mapped, and they were introduced to the basic aspects of public advocacy and the basic principles and advantages of teamwork and networking. They also exchanged experiences regarding specific problems they experienced in their local communities. Four guides to combating discrimination at the local level were printed, intended for returnees under readmission agreements in Kikinda, Novi Sad, Zrenjanin and Žitište.

//Improving local services for Roma returnees

2014

Donor: Office for Human and Minority Rights

The project aimed to map the local resources and services that are available to returnees coming to Serbia under the readmission agreements, and to

present the authorities with a publication recommending measures to improve existing resources and services. In addition, the project aimed to improve the circumstances of returnees under the Readmission Agreement at the local level by informing and advising them, and procuring personal documents and other papers and documents for them. Based on the results of the mapping, four round tables were held with a total of 41 local stakeholders, at which measures were proposed for the improvement of local resources and services. A total of 58 returnees used the information and advisory service, and 168 got personal documents issued.

//Assessment of conditions in substandard Roma settlements in 20 pilot municipalities in Serbia

2014

Donor: OSCE Mission to Serbia (EU Delegation in the Republic of Serbia)

As part of a six-month project we collected relevant data on and made assessments of housing and infrastructure conditions in substandard Roma settlements within 20 local government authorities in Serbia.

The objectives of the project were to collect data on housing and infrastructure in substandard Roma settlements in 20 local authority catchment areas, to conduct a detailed assessment and analysis of substandard Roma settlements, to prepare a report on the assessment of conditions and a list of priority steps to be taken to improve housing conditions in substandard Roma settlements. The following local authorities took part in the project: Bela Palanka, Bojnik, Bujanovac, Knjaževac, Koceljeva, Kovin, Kragujevac, Kruševac, Leskovac, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Pančevo, Prokuplje, Sombor, Smederevo, Valjevo, Vranje, Žitorađa, and the Belgrade city municipalities of Palilula and Zvezdara.

During the project, our researchers visited 58 substandard Roma settlements and filled in 3,150 questionnaires in 21 municipalities and towns. The Belgrade city municipality of Obrenovac was added to the project later. A comprehensive and detailed report on the assessment of conditions in substandard settlements in 21 municipalities was prepared and printed.

//Social inclusion and improvement of living conditions for Roma in Blaževo, city of Novi Pazar

2014

Donor: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The project to improve living conditions for 22 Roma families in the Blaževo neighbourhood in Novi Pazar was implemented in the period between September and December 2014. Prior to this, intensive work was done in the field, including home visits and assessments of the condition of dwellings, with a plan of measures drawn up for each. Of the 42 families that applied to take part in the project, 22 fully met the project criteria and received assistance in the form of building materials, doors and windows and sanitary installations.

//Assistance in education for Roma and other socially vulnerable girls

2014-2015

Donor: Diaconia Austria, City of Vienna

The project conducted activities towards improving the education status of girls aged 10 to 15 who are at risk of leaving school (Roma girls, girls living in poverty, girls with disabilities) in the Vojvodina municipalities of Ruma, Titel, Opovo and Plandište.

The objective of the project was to develop the capacities of girls from marginalised groups in rural areas in Serbia by providing them with access to better education, mentorship and development of their abilities.

The pupils attended supplementary lessons, got help from a mentor and were given other forms of support in order to complete primary school successfully. Besides overcoming learning difficulties, their special talents and abilities were developed through creative activities and ongoing education, and their parents were motivated to support them in their efforts to continue and complete their schooling.

//Assistance for internally displaced persons

2014-2017

Donor: UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Danish Refugee Council – DRC

The objective of this multi-year project was the better integration of internally displaced persons and improvement to their living conditions through upgrading of sanitary, infrastructural and other basic living conditions applying the model of participative supervised self-building pioneered by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation in previous years. Expert assistance and building materials were provided to 139 internally displaced Roma families in Novi Sad, Zrenjanin, Subotica and Mali Idoš, in order for them to establish minimum sanitary standards and improve living conditions. 75 families were also provided with additional assistance in the form of new beds or wood-burning stoves. Prior to this, intensive work was done in the field, including home visits and assessments of the condition of dwellings, with a plan of measures drawn up for each.

//Active inclusion: E-accessible education in Serbia

2015

Donor: Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt)

The active inclusion project was launched with the aim of promoting the use of IT and assistive technologies as a means to the inclusion and participation of children with disabilities of primary school age in the education system. Professional staff from 11 primary schools in Novi Sad and the surrounding area attended a training event on the

use of assistive technologies in education. 13 pupils from both schools received computers and educational software (of those, eight pupils were given additional assistive technology), and the schools themselves, based on their own assessment, received electronic assistive devices and special software. Also a study visit was organised to Macedonia in order to learn about inclusive education processes in that country. As part of the project, software for learning reading and writing was produced, adapted to the Serbian language. Recommendations were compiled relating to the use of assistive technologies in inclusive education and to e-accessibility of textbooks. A conference was also held at which experiences in the use of information technologies in Serbia and Macedonia were exchanged, and the process of e-inclusion additionally promoted. The project was implemented in partnership with the organisation Otvorete gi Prozorcite from Skopje, and for this project both organisations were awarded an Innovative Practice 2016 certificate at the international Zero Project conference in Vienna.

//Mobilisation and development of the Roma community

2015-2017

Donors: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – ELCA

This project aimed to empower the Roma community and build capacities among Roma living in Roma settlements to independently and/or in partnership with institutions create an environment with equal opportunities for all. By facilitating equal access to the welfare system and other public services in the local community for members of the Roma community and catalysing implementation of the rule of law and respect for human rights, we contributed to better conditions not just for Roma people but other marginalised groups too.

The project was successfully implemented in the municipalities of Koceljeva, Kovačica, Opovo and Ruma, and the cities of Niš, Novi Sad, Pančevo, Sremska Mitrovica and Šabac. Training was organised for 76 participants, comprising four two-day training modules. The project resulted in the creation of 14 informal groups, of which nine were registered as associations in Roma settlements. The project provided technical equipping for these associations, as well as for the informal groups. The drafting of local action plans was also initiated for Roma in the city of Sremska Mitrovica and the municipality of Kovačica, and local Roma coordinators were appointed in several partner municipalities/towns. Also, the efforts of the project participants resulted in greater financing being earmarked at the local level to improve the lives of marginalised groups in the towns of Šabac, Pančevo and Sremska Mitrovica, and the municipalities of Kovačica, Opovo and Titel. The associations and groups that were formed succeeded in conducting 17 different public campaigns and projects, through which more than 1,500 people were supported.

//Support for the (re)integration of vulnerable families returning voluntarily or being deported from Germany to Serbia

2016-2019

Donor: Diakonie Württemberg – DW

The project was aimed at (re)integrating families repatriated to Serbia from the state of Baden-Württemberg through a comprehensive approach comprising a range of measures. During 2016 a network was formed of 23 local associates from all over Serbia to provide active support and monitor the process of reintegration of returnee families.

Support for the reintegration of vulnerable families consisted of various measures and services: establishing minimum sanitary standards and improving housing conditions, integrating children into the education system and ensuring ongoing schooling, providing information, counselling and support in the issue of personal documents and in contacts with state institutions and services, economic empowerment through self-employment, counselling and support in pursuing options for legal migration and improving health care.

In the period from 2016 to 2019, 242 vulnerable families were identified that had returned voluntarily or had been deported, who were provided with various services and support measures as envisaged by the project.

This comprehensive approach opened up new horizons for returnee families to live a dignified life in Serbia, and with the continuation of activities the expectation is that the network of local associates will additionally support families and contribute to their successful (re)integration.

//Projects supporting cancer patients

2017-

Donor: Office for Mission, Ecumenism and Church Responsibility for the World (Amt für Mission, Ökumene und kirchliche Weltverantwortung – MÖWe)

The objective of the project activities was to provide practical, functional, social and emotional support to patients, improve the quality of their hospital stay and promote voluntary work in healthcare institutions, as well as contribute to the well-being of patients and their families and improve their quality of life.

Support for patients includes talking, active listening, keeping them company at times when they are alone, and a whole range of services meeting the everyday needs of patients who are immobile or have limited mobility (procuring items for them, communicating by phone with relatives, feeding, walking with them, helping them communicate with staff in a multilingual environment, helping staff by accompanying patients to examinations etc.).

//The Green Ladies – project supporting cancer patients at the Institute for Oncology, Vojvodina

2017-2020

Donor: Office for Mission, Ecumenism and Church Responsibility for the World (Amt für Mission, Ökumene und kirchliche Weltverantwortung – MÖWE)

The project is a partnership between the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and the Vojvodina Institute for Oncology. The objective of the project was to provide practical, functional, social and emotional support to patients at the Vojvodina Institute for Oncology and improve the quality of their stay there, as well as to promote voluntary work in healthcare institutions. The project was designed with the goal of directly contributing to the welfare of patients whilst staying at the Institute and giving practical assistance to Institute staff.

Emotional support for patients included talking, listening, keeping them company when they were alone, and a whole range of services relating to the everyday needs of patients who are immobile or only partially mobile (procuring items for them, communicating by phone with relatives, feeding, walking with them in the hospital grounds, helping them in communicating with staff in a multilingual environment, helping staff by accompanying patients for examinations on other wards etc.). All this was intended to make patients' hospital stay more comfortable and bearable.

//Support for the education of socially deprived children and youth in Serbia

2017-2019

Donor: Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt)

The objective of the project was to improve opportunities and success rates in educating socially deprived children and youth (from poor families, and those belonging to especially vulnerable categories such as those from the Roma community, or children and youth with disabilities and/or developmental difficulties). The project was conducted in 10 local communities across Serbia: Alibunar (Ilandža), Bač (Selenča), Bor, Knjaževac, Kraljevo, Kruševac (Gornji Stepoš), Lebane (Bošnjace), Mionica, Opovo and Raška. Support was provided on an ongoing basis to primary school pupils in grades five to eight, as well as the first grade of secondary school, by organising supplemental lessons and workshops, buying them school supplies and covering food and travel costs, among other ways. During the course of the project 189 children and youth received ongoing project support. 2,810 supplemental lessons were organised to help improve children's results, as well as 200 workshops with additional psychological and pedagogical support for them and 120 workshops aimed at motivating and empowering the parents of children and young people. A total 58 teachers took part in 19 accredited training sessions relevant to working with children from families of lower socio-economic status.

Through this project, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation wanted to support the efforts of schools and local communities to invest in the

education of children from poor families and in so doing achieve positive personal, social and economic change.

SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

//Diaconia – home care

2013-

Donor: Aid organization of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelisch-reformierten Kirche Schweiz – HEKS/EPER), Diaconia Württemberg – DW), Evangelical Reformed Church of the Canton of St Gallen (Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche des Kantons St. Gallen), City of Novi Sad, municipality of Alibunar, municipality of Bački Petrovac, municipality of Gadžin Han, municipality of Odžaci, municipality of Opovo, municipality of Plandište, municipality of Raška, municipality of Sečanj

The overall objective of the programme is to improve the quality of life of elderly and sick people by offering high-quality home care and assistance services (the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation received a licence from the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs to provide home assistance services in September 2015 which was renewed in 2021). Home assistance and home care services are available to the elderly, adults and children with developmental disabilities who have physical or mental difficulties which prevent them living independently in their own homes without regular assistance, care and supervision in carrying out their daily activities, and where family support is either insufficient or unavailable.

//Day Centre for Persons with Disabilities

2017

Donor: Otto per Mille of the Waldensian and Methodist churches

The centre aims to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, developing activism and autonomy and economically empowering them. Various types of workshop are available as part of the occupational therapy programme, the most significant of these being the EHO tailoring workshop, a project envisaged as the forerunner of a social enterprise, aiming to employ people with disabilities and difficult-to-employ people. Four staff have been employed in this workshop, of varying profiles, who sew unique garments using second-hand clothing and textile offcuts. Users of the day centre contribute by helping with tailoring work.

//Therapy and counselling, and social and educational services

2018-

Donor: Municipality of Raška

The beneficiaries of the services are children, young people and adults with mental and physical developmental difficulties within the municipality

of Raška. Therapeutic/advisory and social/educational services include clinical psychological and special needs evaluation and diagnosis, speech therapy, mental and psychological treatment, individual treatment and rehabilitation of children aged up to 18 years of age, as well as counselling for parents. Semi-intensive psychological, special needs and speech therapy treatments are provided via group or individual work, depending on the needs of beneficiaries. For adults, these services include vocational training using machines for working with wood, metal, plastic, paper and textile, depending on their abilities and needs. All those using the services for more than four hours a day are provided with a meal in accordance with their developmental and healthcare needs. The service is provided on a continuous basis to each beneficiary every working day or one or more times during the week according to the scope envisaged in their individual support plan, the recommendation of the Centre for Social Work and the opinion of the interdisciplinary medical board.

//Child personal assistant

2019-

Donors: Municipality of Bački Petrovac, Municipality of Gadžin Han, Municipality of Opovo, Municipality of Raška

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation was issued a licence to provide personal assistance services to children by the Ministry for Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy in February 2019. A personal assistant is made available to a child with a disability or developmental difficulty who needs support in meeting basic needs in everyday life – getting around, maintaining personal hygiene, feeding, dressing and communicating with others. The support of a personal assistant is provided to children who are in the school system, from kindergarten until the end of regular schooling, including secondary school. The role of the personal assistant is to provide appropriate individual and practical support to the child in order to enable him/her to attend regular schooling and participate in community activities, as well as to maximise his/her independence.

DIACONIA

//Promoting social/diaconal services in Vojvodina

2013-

Donor: Aid organization of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelisch-reformierten Kirche Schweiz – HEKS/EPER)

As part of the effort to grow and support the work of diaconal groups in Vojvodina (2013-2015) a total of eight seminars were organised on different subjects, such as writing and running projects, fundraising, peace-building and conflict resolution and pastoral counselling. For diaconal groups with kindergartens, two seminars were organised addressing pedagogical work

with children and familiarisation with the requirements for kindergarten licensing. Social events were organised for senior citizens from diaconal groups together with the seniors from the Seniors' Club in the EHO Centre. A total of 22 diaconal groups were supported with small grants for diaconal activities in the average amount of 1,500 euros.

At the Bereš Karolj Social and Diaconal Centre the Seniors' Club operates with a total of 250 registered senior citizens over 65 years of age, who have made use of various social, health and cultural services, depending on their needs and interests. Beneficiaries have been able to make use of medical, pedicure and hairdressing services, as well as those of a priest and a psychologist. Senior citizens have also been able to get hot meals, transport and clothes repair services. More than 100 different occupational therapy workshops have been organised, as well as 27 outings, 17 talks on wide-ranging topics and at least 15 cultural events. Computer and English language courses have also been organised, as well as annual two-monthly physiotherapy exercises aimed at preventing osteoporosis and falls.

The Martha Centre humanitarian service provides assistance in the form of second-hand clothing, footwear and household items to the socially underprivileged in Novi Sad and Vojvodina, as well as free laundry services in Novi Sad. Assistance in the form of second-hand clothing, footwear and household items has regularly been made use of by 225 families, as well as a great many other (primarily Roma) charities. Free laundry services have been used by more than 100 marginalised families from Novi Sad for whom a total of more than 2,000 loads of laundry have been washed free of charge.

ECUMENICAL AND INTERETHNIC COOPERATION

//School of Ecumenism

2013-2016

Donors: ICCO and Kerk in Actie, Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW, Diaconia Württemberg – DW

The School of Ecumenism was an educational project which spanned several years, aiming to build peace through ecumenical education and the development of theological and practical dialogue between Christians of east and west. This project actively worked towards developing good relationships between activists of different churches and religious communities, the staff and students of universities and civil society organisations active in this area. The School's focus was on introducing churches and faith communities to interested members of the public who were students of the programme. In 2014 the School pursued an extensive approach to its teaching programme in order to reach the maximum number of students and facilitate inter-religious meetings.

In November 2015, the School of Ecumenism successfully organised an international conference concerned with the theological views on the current worldwide political crisis (political theology).

//Ecumenical women's work

2013-

**Donor: Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women –
Jacqueline Stuyt Legacy Fund, Fellowship of the Least Coin Fund**

An ecumenical group of women comprising 45 representatives from nine churches and religious communities from Vojvodina and Belgrade participates in the Ecumenical Forum and the World Day of Prayer. The objective is to empower women and increase their visibility in the church and local community. Seminars are organised to this end at the local, national and regional level, as well as conferences and study trips to countries in the region. 10 seminars have been organised relating to peace-building and reconciliation, two conferences, a variety of excursions and study visits to Croatia and England. Every year a World Day of Prayer is organised in Novi Sad, Belgrade and 40 communities all over Vojvodina. To mark half a millennium since the Reformation, a seminar was organised titled "Reformation and the Role of Women", in which 20 women from a variety of churches in Serbia and Croatia took part. The Ecumenical Forum also seeks to support women and contribute to their emancipation and economic independence by organising courses where they can gain new knowledge and skills in order to improve their employability, in particular for women with disabilities.

HUMANITARIAN WORK

//EHO Appeal – Floods in Serbia

2014-2017

Donor: Swiss Solidarity, Aid organization of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelisch-reformierten Kirche Schweiz – HEKS/EPER), Neighbour in Need (Nachbar in Not), Diaconia Austria, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – ELCA, the humanitarian aid agency of the Protestant Regional and Free Churches in Germany (Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe), Hungarian Interchurch Aid – HIA, the Dortmund Evangelical Church District (Evangelischer Kirchenkreis Dortmund), Norwegian Embassy in Serbia

Through this appeal the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation raised 2.6 million euros. Around 480 families received building materials, doors and windows and sanitary ware for repair and rehabilitation of damaged portions of their houses and in order to establish minimum sanitary standards. 37 social apartments and 12 houses were built. 140 drying units were distributed. More than 1,200 families received aid in the form of food, hygiene supplies, household appliances and furniture. In addition, 40 farmers from the city municipality of Obrenovac received pregnant sows and animal feed.

The EHO Floods in Serbia appeal helped more than 1,800 socially

vulnerable families in Jamena, Obrenovac, Lazarevac, Šabac, Valjevo, Smederevska Palanka, Trstenik and Koceljva.

//EHO Appeal – Humanitarian Aid for Refugees

2015-

Donors: Aid organization of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelisch-reformierten Kirche Schweiz – HEKS/EPER), Norwegian Church Aid - NCA, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - ELCA, Diakonie Württemberg - DW, Office for Mission, Ecumenism and Church Responsibility for the World (Amt für Mission, Ökumene und kirchliche Weltverantwortung – MÖWe), Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt), Gustav-Adolf-Werk - GAW, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Swiss Development and Cooperation - SDC

Through the EHO appeal, and individual projects for assistance to refugees and migrants from Africa and Asia, more than 2.2 million euros have been raised since 2015 up until the present day.

These funds have been directed towards providing essential relief to more than 250,000 refugees and migrants in transit through Serbia, as well as to those remaining in Serbia for a year or more. This support has comprised humanitarian aid in the form of food, footwear and clothing, hygiene products, medical services and medications, maintaining premises where migrants and refugees are accommodated and running a children's safe centre. The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation is also the only organisation that has provided large-scale laundry services in all transit and reception centres in Vojvodina.

Since 2016, activities have also been focused on improving infrastructure: renovating, refurbishing and equipping reception and transit centres (the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation's contribution to accommodation capacities for refugees in Serbia has reached 20%). A facility has been constructed which serves as a day- and educational centre for children and women. A well has also been dug which has been of vital importance in increasing water capacities both for the reception centre and the local community.

Project activities have been conducted in all reception centres in Vojvodina (Adaševci, Principovac, Siva Kuća, Sombor and Subotica), but they have also included refugees accommodated in the asylum centre in Krnjača and the reception centre in Obrenovac, as well as those camping in the open on the Hungarian border and in the centre of Belgrade.



OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

2018 — 2023



Ecumenical
Humanitarian
Organization



DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

//Improving living conditions for Roma and other marginalised groups, prevention of irregular migration and promotion of the reintegration of returnees to Serbia

2016-2018

Donors: Aid organization of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelisch-reformierten Kirche Schweiz – HEKS/EPER), Swiss Development and Cooperation – SDC

Over a period of three years, this project made a significant contribution to improving the lives of Roma people and other marginalised groups, and comprised three components: housing, education and migration.

Housing support was implemented in partnership with the municipalities of Arandelovac, Babušnica, Bela Palanka, Gadžin Han, Merošina, Stara Pazova, Surdulica, Raška and Vladičin Han. Housing support in the form of sets of building materials and installation works were received by 344 families. Support in having dwellings legalised (writing up technical documentation, plot division plans and resolving property ownership issues) was received by 91 families.

35 pedagogical assistants received support in their direct work with 660 pupils in primary schools in 14 municipalities. 3,140 pupils from 36 schools received sets of school supplies. 33 training events were organised for 767 teachers from 96 schools. 19 schools conducted small school projects with 1,960 participants. Three conferences on the challenges of intercultural learning were attended by 297 participants. A document was issued with recommendations on how to improve the school environment following the principles of development of intercultural dialogue.

Activities relating to migration were held in Kikinda, Subotica, Zrenjanin and Žitište. As part of activities to support and strengthen the migration councils and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, four training events were organised, one seminar and eight round tables, and five packages of technical support were given to the representatives of the migration councils of the targeted local authorities. The services of the EHO Migration Centre were used by more than 2,600 people, of whom 780 were returnees from Western European countries.

//Outreach work with children living and/or working on the street

2018

Donor: H. Stepic CEE Charity

The general objective of the work in the field with children living and/or working on the street is to provide them with access to social, healthcare and other welfare services, in order that each institution would recognise

each child along with his or her need to be just that – a child. Project activities included field visits by project associates to hotspots (traffic junctions, city squares, public car parks and other places where these children gather) with the aim of pursuing the following objectives: facilitate meeting the children's basic needs for food, water, clothing and footwear; providing essential supplies for babies; providing basic medical attention and psychosocial and legal support; getting personal issued; providing information on ways children can exercise their basic rights, on the risks of being on the streets and on other dangers, and ways of protecting themselves and of obtaining support; organising educational, creative and preventive workshops in substandard settlements in Novi Sad, and other activities aimed at maximising the social inclusion of children.

During 2018, 988 contacts were established with 231 children living and/or working on the street (135 boys and 96 girls up to 18 years of age) and one or more forms of support and protection were provided to them.

Learning support for children was continued at Jožef Atila Primary School in Novi Sad with the aim of reducing the dropout rate of children from the educational system. Volunteers helped first-grade pupils during the extended day-programme in school to master letters, reading and writing, and other skills, following the guidelines of the school pedagogue and pedagogical assistant. 61 first-grade pupils received learning support from 16 volunteers during the second semester of the 2017/2018 school year and 32 during the first semester of the 2018/2019 school year.

//Initiative supporting development and learning for Roma children at an early age in Serbia

2018

Donor: The Romanipen Roma Educational and Cultural Community

Activities on this project were divided into three components: working with parents, working with children and joint activities. This project empowered parents from 32 families in the Veliki Rit Roma settlement, helping them create a motivating environment for children between birth and the age of seven. Through workshops under the umbrella program Dam Len Phaka ("Strong from the Beginning") parents covered topics of importance for encouraging the development of children of this age group. The program was completed by 86 children up to the age of seven. They actively worked on their skills and abilities, and thus were able to better integrate into the program conducted by their preschool facility. Thanks to the assistance provided in procuring documents, but also in changing attitudes among participating parents, this project helped to increase the number of children aged between three and seven taking part in preschool programmes. Children older than seven who were members of the 32 target families also took part in the workshops. During joint activities, the children and parents spent quality time together and learned about different methods for promoting development. They also visited a number of institutions for the first time – a library, a gallery and a museum – which further contributed to changing attitudes regarding the significance of education at an early age.

As one of the project initiatives, a team was set up comprised of representatives from relevant institutions (preschool institution, primary school, local health clinic, Centre for Social Work, the City Education Administration and the City Office for Social Security and Child Protection, and the Novi Sad Schools Administration). Information was shared within the team on an ongoing basis regarding specific challenges faced by children and parents from the programme, as well as other children living in Roma settlements who are not properly included in the education system. As part of its activities, this team developed specific policies, as well as agreeing on follow-up activities to ensure that children from sensitive groups become involved in regular educational programs to the greatest extent possible. Also, institutions were encouraged to adapt their programmes to the needs of children from sensitive groups, in order to ensure that their right to education was fully respected.

As well as in Novi Sad, the project was conducted in an additional 14 communities, partnering not only with local preschool institutions and associations, but also with the Romanipen Roma Education and Cultural Community from Kragujevac and the Centre for Interactive Pedagogy from Belgrade.

//Opportunities for a new start

2018-2019

Donor: Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of FR Germany – BMZ

The project was conducted with the aim of improving living conditions for and promoting the reintegration of returnees to Serbia. The project comprised three components: improving living conditions, economic empowerment and legal support. In addition to returnee (mostly Roma) families from Western Europe, this project also partially supported non-returnee families who are vulnerable and living nearby in similar conditions. Also, through cooperation with all major partners at the national and local level, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation worked actively on improving existing policies and practices relating to issues of improving housing, employment and (re) integration of vulnerable groups. The project was implemented in three towns and one municipality in Serbia – Kikinda, Subotica and Zrenjanin, and Žitište, which were specifically chosen for the large numbers of returnees living there.

During the project 102 families (576 individuals) received assistance in the form of building materials and expert support in renovating their houses, 94 individuals went through the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation's training in writing a business plan, and of those 53 received a grant in the form of tools and equipment and expert support in starting their own business; 438 individuals received legal support entailing 41 instances of information-providing and guidance and 454 instances where documents were procured, and 83 families received urgent assistance in the form of parcels of food, hygiene products or medicines. 50 families that had received assistance for improvement to living conditions also received basic household appliances and furnishings, further improving their living conditions.

//Mobilisation and development of the Roma community – a step forward

2018-2020

Donor: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – ELCA

This three-year project aimed to empower the Roma community and build capacities among Roma men and women in Roma settlements to independently and/or in partnership with institutions create an environment with equal opportunities for all members of sensitive groups. During 2018 the project identified the needs of Roma people in six partner municipalities (Ljubovija, Osečina, Mionica, Obrenovac, Lazarevac and Vrbas), forming seven local groups comprising representatives of state institutions, Roma settlements and local communities. Each group defined its priority areas and drew up individual plans of activities for the coming period. In order to provide these groups with the knowledge and skills they would need to transition into working with their communities, representatives of the groups (33 people in total) attended six modular training events on the topics of human and minority rights and gender equality, strategic/organisational planning and registering an association, teamwork, management, communication skills and public relations, public advocacy, networking and mobilising the local community, managing the project cycle and financial operations of civil society organisations and local budgets.

//Outreach work with children living and/or working on the street

2019

Donor: H. Stepic CEE Charity

The objective of the project is to provide support to children and youth whose life circumstances place them at risk of being in a situation in which their life or livelihood depend on the streets, whether they are alone, with peers or with their family, as well the population of young people who have formed close connections with public areas and for whom the street occupies a key role in their daily lives and identity. The support provided entails empowering them whilst facilitating their inclusion in the social and educational system. Project activities are being conducted within the city of Novi Sad. Three substandard settlements are included (part of the city's Adice neighbourhood, Banđaleš and Veliki Rit) – parts of town mapped as places where children and youth spend time exposed to the risks of the streets – as well as the Jožef Atila primary school extended day programme. The project team comprises outreach workers and volunteers in the school. After making contact, field workers offered information on available services within the system, informing children and young people of the risks of spending time on the streets and their obligation to attend school. Creative and educational workshops were also held involving the parents in order to achieve a greater impact, while first- and second-grade pupils were supported individually during the extended day programme to help them keep on top of their school assignments and coursework and in

doing so reducing the drop-out rate from the school system. During 2019, 14 field workers made 360 field visits achieving 1,202 contacts with 517 children and 117 parents, while 14 volunteers in the school made 335 visits to the extended day programme supporting 41 first-grade pupils and 42 second-grade pupils.

The above activities provided support to children, young people and their families in order to reduce the number of children and young people living and/or working on the street and ensure as many as possible remain in regular social activity and schooling.

//Network for integration in Serbia

2019-2020

Donor: EU Strategy for the Danube Region, State Ministry of the Province Baden-Württemberg (Baden-Württemberg Staatsministerium)

The project aimed to improve the support system for returnee families in Serbia by strengthening the capacities of networks of local integration associates and through the transfer of knowledge and exchange of experiences with German welfare institutions.

The project involved several groups of activities. The first group included a study visit to Stuttgart to see German welfare institutions, during which representatives of various institutions from the national, provincial and local level, as well as local integration associates, had an opportunity to learn about the German welfare model, with a special focus on asylum seekers, Roma families and the family liaison service. The second group of activities included training for local (re)integration with the aim of empowering local associates to work with families in the field, providing information on family strengthening measures, a holistic approach to working with returnee families and assessing the needs of families and devising individual family integration plans. The third group of activities involved 15 meetings with representatives of local government authorities and education and social welfare institutions in Serbia with the aim of improving services to beneficiary families. The fourth group concerned mapping resources in 17 cities and municipalities in Serbia in order to identify existing services and practices in the local community and service providers in the social welfare system, as well as to come up with recommendations for improving the support system for socially vulnerable groups.

The integration network consisted of 25 local associates all across Serbia who from October 2016 supported the reintegration process for families repatriated under the readmission agreements.

//Roma community development – Mišar, phase II

2019-2020

Donor: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – ELCA

The project was conducted as continuation of support for improving living conditions for the Roma community in the Mišar neighbourhood in Šabac.

Part of the Mišar neighbourhood is situated on the banks of the Sava river, where 17 Roma families live, all of them flooded out in 2014. This community was hit hard by the flooding and was effectively left without access to clean drinking water.

During 2020, in partnership with the Šabac city authority and the JKP Vodovod Šabac public water company, the public water supply network was extended by 1.8 kilometres and access to drinking water provided to residents of part of the Mišar neighbourhood – 17 Roma families and seven other nearby families.

In order for dwellings to be legally connected to the water supply, legalisation procedures were initiated for 17 residences. The project also involved drawing up technical reports and accompanying documentation and filing it with the relevant authority, after which the dwellings were entered into the land registry against their legal owners. Access to clean drinking water, a privilege enjoyed by other citizens of this part of Šabac, was thus facilitated for owners of legalised dwellings and their families.

//Social inclusion of Roma and other sensitive groups in Serbia

2019-2022

Donor: Aid organization of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelisch-reformierten Kirche Schweiz – HEKS/EPER)

Over the three years, project activities were aimed at improving living conditions for Roma and members of other sensitive groups in the three areas of housing, educating and legal support. Partnership on the project was established with 11 local authorities: Arandelovac, Kragujevac, Novi Sad, Obrenovac, Požega, Raška, Smederevska Palanka, Surdulica, Šabac, Zvezdara, Žabalj.

Documentation and legal support was provided for 277 families from substandard settlements in order for them to be able to legalise their dwellings. Housing support in the form of sets of building materials and installation works were received by 34 families.

The innovative supplementary education support model was conducted in four primary schools. A total of 107 children were supported, with 18 volunteer pupils mentored by 17 young students in providing them peer support. Intercultural and inclusive training was completed by 262 people from 22 schools.

30 school projects were conducted in partnership with 17 schools with the aim of strengthening intercultural, inclusive and antidiscriminatory values. Exchange of good practices was organised in partnership with 12 primary schools, with 59 participants.

Legal support was received by 2,408 people from 15 communities. Six professional training sessions were organised for 144 providers of free legal aid. A model Antidiscriminatory Code for local institutions was written and was officially adopted by institutions in Arandelovac and Kragujevac. Four annual Roma Forums were organised, sharing the experiences and challenges faced by members of the Roma community in the process of

social inclusion in Serbia. A social dialogue was organised in partnership with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue on the topic of peer support and the involvement of young people in support work with children from sensitive groups.

//Improving the socio-economic status of the marginalised in Vojvodina through education and economic empowerment

2019-2022

Donors: Diakonie Württemberg – DW, Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt)

In order to improve the socioeconomic situation of marginalised groups in Vojvodina (Roma, the internally displaced, returnees under the readmission agreements, recipients of social benefits, families living below the poverty line), a three-year project was conducted comprising two components: economic empowerment and education.

To help beneficiaries maximise their income potential, 160 beneficiaries learned the basics of writing a business plan, working directly with a trainer, 60 users were supported with grants in the form of tools and equipment for self-employment, and nine beneficiaries were supported in the process of registering a small business. As part of this process, beneficiaries underwent training in starting and running a business and creating a business plan, they were supported with equipment and machines they needed to the value of 3,000 euros and provided with free accountancy services for the first six months as well as the supervision and support of a mentor.

In partnership with primary schools in Feketić, Kikinda, Novi Bečej, Novi Sad, Srpska Crnja, Subotica and Zrenjanin, 443 pupils between first and eighth grade were supported, with an emphasis on seventh- and eighth-grade children. Individual mentorship, workshops and support through the distribution of school supplies and obtaining documents were provided, in order to improve the integration of children into the education system and to help them achieve the best results they could in school.

//Support for the education of socially deprived children and youth in Serbia (continuation)

2019-2022

Donor: Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt)

The objective of the project was to improve opportunities and success rates in the education of socially deprived children and youth (from poor families, and those belonging to especially vulnerable categories such as those from the Roma minority or children and youth with disabilities and/or developmental difficulties). The project was conducted in 9 local communities across Serbia: Bač (Selenča), Bor, Knjaževac, Kraljevo, Kruševac (Gornji Stepoš), Lebane (Bošnjace), Mionica, Opovo and Raška. Support was provided on an ongoing basis to primary school pupils in

grades five to eight, as well as the first grade of secondary school, by organising supplemental lessons and workshops, buying them school supplies and covering food and travel costs. During the course of the project, 217 children and youth received ongoing project support. 4,164 supplemental lessons were organised to help improve children's results, as well as 265 workshops with additional psychological and pedagogical support and 162 workshops aimed at motivating and empowering their parents. A total 58 teachers underwent 28 accredited training sessions relevant to working with children from families of lower socio-economic status.

Through this project, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation wanted to support the efforts of schools and local communities in investing in the education of children from poor families and in so doing achieve positive personal, social and economic change.

//Building the capacities of humanitarian organisations to receive and manage EU volunteers (EU Aid Volunteers)

2019-2022

Donor: European Commission

In 2020, a three-year project was initiated with the financial support of the European Commission to its Italian partner ASPEm, with the mentorship of ADRA Slovakia, the only organisation in Slovakia certified under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.

In the first year, efforts under the project were directed towards securing certification for reception of volunteers from the European Union (host programmes) and building the capacities of organisations to conduct these programmes according to EU standards. This was continued in the second year. Additionally, during the second year of the project, an application was submitted for the seal of quality to conduct this programme, since certificate-holders are able to apply for funding and programmes of the EU Solidarity Corps. In March 2022, the European Commission gave a positive assessment of EHO's compliance with its standard. The certificate EHO received is valid until 2027, when certification will be reviewed.

In addition to these activities, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and its partners took part in and organised professional training events on a variety of subjects. In the first project year the team attended training on the topics of workplace health and safety, management of volunteers, the logistics of voluntary service, needs analysis and conflict management. As part of this training, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation empowered the team of volunteers who were part of various projects activities and involved them in a three-day training session on the topic of management of volunteers, with a focus on empowering voluntary structures with the aim of further advancing inclusive activities in directly working with sensitive groups.

In addition to the partners mentioned, the project also involved other organisations from Serbia: the Čovekoljublje Serbian Orthodox Church

charity, the Merhamet Sandžak Islamic humanitarian organisation – and abroad: Fundacion Alboan from Estonia, the Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission, the Cooperation Association for Development of the Rural West (De Cooperacion para el desarrollo rural de occidente – CDRO) and the Association for Educational and Cultural Services (Asociacion de servicios educativos y culturales) from Guatemala, Medicus Mundi Italia and the International Voluntary Service (Servizio volontario internazionale) from Italy, Girl Child Network from Kenya, the Jesuit Refugee Service from Colombia and the Jesus' Worker's Association (Asociacioj jesus obrero) from Peru.

Funding of project activities was secured from EU funds intended for the EU Aid Volunteers programme.

//Completion of six residential units and sustainable integration of the most vulnerable (Regional Housing Programme) SRB1, SRB2 and SRB4 in four municipalities (Sombor, Apatin, Sombor and Šid) in Vojvodina – intervention 3 2020

Donor: Centre for Regionalism

The project was implemented as part of the regional project "Improving access by refugees and internally displaced persons to employment rights and opportunities" of the CARE International humanitarian agency. The project was financed by the Center for Regionalism in Novi Sad with European Union funding, and co-financed by HEKS/EPER of Switzerland. The project team of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and families from Apatin, Bezdan, Bogojevo and Morović who were supported as part of Intervention 3 faced challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a range of other problems which arose during construction. Despite this, parts of the homes of these families, which previously they had not been able to complete themselves, were made fit for occupation. During 2020 these six families, with a total of 22 family members, who were end users of the Regional Housing Programme, succeeded with the support of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation in utilising the construction materials they had previously received to improve living conditions in their dwellings.

//Working in the field with children at risk of living and/or working on the street 2020

Donor: H. Stepic CEE Charity

Activities under this project are conducted in the territory of the city of Novi Sad in three substandard Roma settlements: part of the Adice neighbourhood, Bangladeš and Veliki Rit. The objective of the project is to reduce the number of children and youth who see the street as a

significant aspect of their identity, and to increase the number of those becoming involved in regular social and educational activities.

Activities are conducted directly in the field and in partnership with educational institutions. Participating in project activities directly in the field were four peer educators and 14 field workers, whilst learning support within educational institutions was provided by 14 volunteers. A total of 512 field visits were made, with 533 contacts with children and youth and 203 pupils supported from first to fourth grade. In addition to Jožef Atila Primary School, the Novi Sad Drop-In Centre for Children and Youth and the Dr Rudolf Arčibald Rajs Police Professional Association, partnership was also established with primary schools Vuk Karadžić in Novi Sad and Veljko Petrović in Begeč.

In 2020 a documentary film was made called Urban Wasteland, which depicts the importance to children, youth and their families of the direct and ongoing support which has been provided under the project for the last 11 years. An exhibition was also held, titled Life from our Perspective, prepared with the participation of 60 children and putting on show 120 pieces of children's artwork. Outreach workers and volunteers employed in supporting children in their learning underwent two training sessions during the previous project cycle at which they learned how to use assertive communication techniques and built their personal capacities.

//Local mechanisms for integrating marginalised families 2020

Donor: Diakonie Württemberg – DW and Hope for Eastern Europe (Hoffnung für Osteuropa – HfO)

The project supported and empowered citizens' associations and local initiatives responding to the social, educational, cultural and other needs of vulnerable groups in terms of improving their integration and improving the situation of marginalised groups at the local level. The project supported six local initiatives which were conducted in the territory of Serbia during 2020.

The Amaro Drom Centre for the Development of the Roma community in Smederevska Palanka was supported in providing and installing a smartboard with software in the Roma language in a classroom in the Olga Milošević Primary School.

The Roma Zora Association was supported in organising preventative health checkups in rural parts of the municipality of Babušnica in order to raise levels of healthcare awareness and the importance of preventative health checkups among Roma.

The Jefimija Women's Initiative from Sremska Mitrovica was supported in creating a programme which facilitates the production of teaching materials intended to improve the motor skills of children on the autism spectrum.

With the support of the project, the Romsko Srce Kruševac Association and the Roma Centar in Kragujevac worked on the empowerment of the Roma community in active job-seeking, and organised vocational training for returnees under the readmission agreements.

The project supported the Roma Herc Association from Lebane in conducting a project to raise awareness in the Roma community of their civil rights and obligations with respect to paying utility bills.

The Dina Humanitarian Association from Bačko Gradište provided support to socially vulnerable pupils in the final grades of school in integrating them into the education system and in pursuing their full social inclusion.

//Towards gender justice in Serbia – younger and older women together

2020-2021

Donor: Gender Justice Programme 2020 of Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance

In partnership with Čovekoljublje, the Serbian Orthodox Church charity foundation, a project was implemented that aimed to have the economic and social voice of women heard in local communities and secure their greater participation in society.

In the course of implementation of the project an assessment was carried out of gender-based differences in the social and economic domains in urban communities and a report published. Mentorship training was completed by 50 women from STEM professions (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and 40 completed training on topic of the position of women in the IT industry and the opportunities for them to increase their influence in it. Training on gender-based violence and the opportunities for churches to contribute in combating and reducing it was completed by 10 church representatives.

//Strengthening the capacities of the local and Roma community in the city of Šabac for inclusive processes – LET'S GET INVOLVED (The Key to Inclusion)

2020-2021

Donor: European Union and the Standing Conference of Cities and Municipalities

The project was aimed at contributing to the empowerment and advancement of the social status of the Roma community in the city of Šabac and strengthening mechanisms for raising awareness of ways to effectively overcome discrimination against the Roma community.

The project was conducted by the city of Šabac in cooperation with the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and the Belgrade College of Social Work as part of the EU Support to Roma Inclusion programme – Strengthening Local Communities Towards Roma Inclusion.

The results of the project were numerous: a Network for Roma Integration was created as a sustainable mechanism for eliminating discrimination, exclusion and inequality amongst members of the Roma population. The level of knowledge was raised amongst representatives of the local

media and members of the local community of the city of Šabac of the authentic cultural heritage of the Roma population, by organising training in awareness of the social mechanisms by which prejudices arise and are perpetuated. Roma culture and Roma cultural identity were promoted together with the cultural heritages of other ethnic communities living in the city of Šabac through the Plesom Kroz Bajku ("Dancing Through a Fairy-Tale") intercultural festival, a writing competition for primary school pupils on the topic of "Different Yet the Same", as well as campaigns conducted using videos produced for TV about inclusion and the importance of involving the Roma community in the life of the local community. Numerous education modules were conducted in order to build a volunteer structure that will actively provide support to the Roma community under the Mobile Kindergarten and Mobile School projects in Šabac. A closing conference for the project was held on 26th February 2021 at the Šabac Professional Training Centre.

//With and for the Roma in the Danube Region

2020-2022

Donor: State Ministry of the Province Baden-Württemberg (Baden-Württemberg Staatsministerium), EU Strategy for the Danube Region

The project was aimed at exchanging experiences, knowledge and examples of good practice in working with the Roma community and other marginalised groups in the countries of the Danube region.

The project took place in three phases. Phase A involved capacity-building in Roma villages for the prevention of domestic violence in the regions of Sibiu in Romania and Vojvodina in Serbia. Phase B entailed educational measures in the fight against poverty in Roma settlements in Slovakia and Serbia. Phase C consisted of providing advice and information on the mobility of Roma in Stuttgart and Novi Sad as part of social outreach work and support for legal migrations.

In addition to the three main phases, the project also involved regular contacts with partners, study visits to the countries of the Danube region, issuing publications with examples of good practices in working with the target group, an evaluation meeting in Serbia, a closing congress in Romania and creating a website which you can access at <http://4danube.org/>.

Partnering with the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation on this project were Diakonie Württemberg in Germany, the Transylvania Evangelical Academy from Sibiu, Romania and Diaconia Slovakia.

//Support for the integration of returnee families

2020-2023

Donor: Diakonie Württemberg – DW, Hope for Eastern Europe (Hoffnung für Osteuropa – HfO), Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW

This project addresses the integration of returnees under the readmission agreements from the state of Baden-Württemberg and other parts

of Germany to Serbia, seeking to support their dignified return and eliminating the causes of repeat illegal migration.

The project contributes towards solving the problems of returnee families through various support measures provided by the local integration officers who comprise the Network for Integration in Serbia. Support for the integration of returnee families comprises four measures. The first measure involves establishing minimum sanitary standards and improving housing conditions with interior work in dwellings and minor repairs to homes. The second measure consists of economic empowerment through self-employment, the selection of candidates with the best business initiatives and award of start-up grants to them, and informing and advising returnees about the opportunities for seeking work. The third measure involves urgent aid provided by supplying food, hygiene products, medications for people with no health insurance in order to continue their treatment, school supplies and essential documents, depending on the needs of the family. The fourth measure comprises connecting returnee families with institutions and NGOs.

The project aims, during the three-year project period, to support 130 vulnerable families returning voluntarily or being deported from Germany to Serbia.

//Assistance for a new start

2020-2023

Donor: Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of FR Germany - BMZ (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung), German Agency for International Cooperation – GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

The project is aimed at returnees under the readmission agreements, and seeks to provide them with better access to public services, employment and improvement to living conditions. Under the project, the plan is for assistance to be provided primarily to returnees in the towns of Sremska Mitrovica, Ruma and Pećinci, but also in other towns in Vojvodina. 20% of those supported by the project were non-returnees living in similar conditions. Over the two years, 519 people were provided legal support (advice and procuring personal documents), training in writing a business plan was completed by 69 people, support for self-employment in the form of tools and professional mentorship was received by 50 people (178 family members), housing support in the form of repairs to dwellings was provided to 50 people (274 family members), and additional housing support was provided in the form of wood-burning stoves and refrigerators to families whose houses had been renovated during the course of the project. The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation continued its involvement in current, relevant events in order to work towards improving existing policies and practices relating to the (re)integration of (Roma) returnees (especially members of the Roma minority).

//Outreach work with children at risk of living and/or working on the street

2021

Donor: H. Stepic CEE Charity

Activities under this project are being conducted in the territory of the city of Novi Sad in three substandard Novi Sad settlements: part of the Adice neighbourhood, Bangladeš and Veliki Rit. The objective of the project is to reduce the number of children and youth who see the street as a significant aspect of their identity, and to increase the number of children and youth becoming involved in regular social and educational activities. Activities are conducted directly in the field and in cooperation with educational institutions. Participating in project activities directly in the field were four peer educators and 12 field workers, whilst learning support within educational institutions was provided by 16 volunteers. A total of 596 field visits were made, with 1,160 contacts with children and youth and 226 pupils supported from first to fourth grade. In addition to Jožef Atila Primary School, the Novi Sad Drop-In Centre for Children and Youth and the Dr Rudolf Arčibald Rajs Police Professional Association, partnership was also continued during the eleventh project cycle with primary schools Vuk Karadžić in Novi Sad and Veljko Petrović in Begeč.

In the course of 2021, the third cycle of the Sports Activities workshop was completed. It involved a total of 87 children, who also received thank-you certificates for their participation. Additionally, the art workshops resulted in a photo book of the children's work, illustrated by the art facilitator on the project, in which all their memories from 2021 were recorded. Training was organised for volunteers and field officers on the topic of Professional Orientation in Digital Marketing, contributing to their personal and professional development.

//Dortmund youth exchange

2021

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, together with two partner organisations from Dortmund – Evangelical Youth of Dortmund and Lünen (Evangelische Jugend Dortmund und Lünen) and the Dortmund Evangelical church parish (Ev. Noahkirchengemeinde Dortmund), took part in the thirteenth youth exchange between Novi Sad and Dortmund.

This year's exchange was held in Novi Sad's twin town of Dortmund on the topic of European identity. The aim of the meeting was to promote the European identity, European citizenship and the exchange of opinions of young people on strengthening participation by the public in the life of the local community and in protecting the environment. The programme included workshops, visits to institutions and organisations, as well as a reception by the deputy mayor of Dortmund. During the ten-day trip there were visits to the cities of Cologne and Essen, and the participants had a chance to get to know the historical and cultural heritage of these cities. Participants in the programmes were young volunteers aged from 17 to

26 who were involved in the various programmes of partner organisations from Novi Sad and Dortmund. During the visit, it was agreed that the topic of the next exchange in 2022 in Novi Sad would be gender equality.

//Partnership in implementing the Access to Water intervention project

2021-2022

Donor: German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ), the General Secretariat of the government of the Republic of Serbia

The Access to Water intervention project was an activity of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, itself one of the sub-implementation partners on the "Reducing additional vulnerability of Roma men and women and other marginalised groups, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic" project, conducted by the General Secretariat of the government of the Republic of Serbia representing the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Team (SIPRU) as part of the German developmental partnership programme, "Inclusion of Roma and other marginalised groups in Serbia", of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in partnership with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue.

As a sub-implementation partner, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation has been coordinating implementation of the Access to Water intervention in seven local authority catchment areas: Alibunar, Kanjiža, Kovin, Smederevska Palanka, Stara Pazova, Valjevo and Zrenjanin. Thanks to the construction and/or reconstruction of water supply networks and individual connections to the network carried out under the project 552 families from 19 substandard settlements in the aforementioned seven local authority catchment areas have clean drinking water in their homes.

//Partnership in implementing the project "Working and building for an inclusive Raška" – EU Support to Social Housing and Active Inclusion programme

2021-2023

Donor: European Union, United Nations Office for Project Services – UNOPS

The project is being conducted by the municipality of Raška in partnership with the Centre for Social Work in Raška and the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation. The project is being conducted as part of the "EU Support to Social Housing and Active Inclusion" programme. The programme is being implemented in Serbia by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

The project supported 27 families (88 individuals) through measures to improve their living conditions and facilitating their inclusion in broader society. Members of the families supported received assistance on an ongoing basis in pursuing their social and economic rights, as well

as in strengthening their work competencies in order to improve their opportunities in the labour market.

In 2023 total of 18 families from the Roma community moved into newly-constructed social housing in the Kučevski Lug neighbourhood in Raška. Two families from the Roma community will be housed through the purchase of two social houses in Raška. Housing conditions for five families whose members are people with disabilities or women who are victims of domestic violence and two Roma families were improved by the reconstruction of their houses.

Members of families involved in the project receive support on an ongoing basis in the form of additional support measures in the education of their children, strengthening the employability of family members, employment, access to health and welfare services and procuring personal documents.

//Mobilisation and development of the Roma community – a step forward

2021-2024

Donor: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – ELCA

The objective of the project is to develop capacities in representatives of marginalised groups in municipalities in Serbia which are partnered with the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, as well as to acquaint them with basic human rights, mentor them and develop their skills.

During 2021 the focus was on additionally strengthening capacities by equipping the offices of organisations and informal groups from Kragujevac, Novi Sad, Smederevska Palanka and Surdulica and training mentors who provided direct learning support to children. Most of the children were from Roma neighbourhoods.

30 Roma children went through the programme and as part of the Roma Forum an antidiscriminatory workshop was organised with the aim of improving the knowledge of members of the organisations and informal groups about their rights.

In 2022 the focus was on additionally strengthening capacities by equipping the offices of organisations and informal groups from Arandelovac, Smederevska Palanka and Žabalj and holding online talks on topics such as human rights, gender-based violence, discrimination and human trafficking.

The Antidiscriminatory Code was adopted in Kragujevac and Arandelovac, aimed at protecting human rights, combating discrimination and improving the exchange of information, and work was done towards improving economic and social rights by organising a series of forums in partnership with NGOs.

//Outreach work with children at risk of living and/or working on the street

2022

Donor: H. Stepic CEE Charity

Activities under this project are being conducted in the territory of the city of Novi Sad in three substandard settlements: part of the Adice neighbourhood,

Bangladeš and Veliki Rit. The objective of the project is to reduce the number of children and youth who see the street as a significant aspect of their identity, and to increase the number of children and youth becoming involved in regular social and educational activities.

Activities are conducted directly in the field and in cooperation with educational institutions. Four peer educators took part in implementation of project activities directly in the field, as well as 10 outreach support volunteers, who made a total of 496 outreach visits. Learning support within educational institutions was provided by 16 volunteers who made 596 visits to schools. Learning support was provided to 205 pupils of primary schools Jožef Atila, Vuk Karadžić and Dušan Radović in Novi Sad and Veljko Petrović in Begeč and users of the Drop-In Centre for Children and Youth, Novi Sad, and 243 children were supported with school supplies.

In 2022 partnership was also continued with the Dr Rodolphe Archibald Reiss Professional Police Association, and the fourth cycle of the sports activity workshops went ahead, involving 91 children. Participants received thank you certificates. A New Year's show was also held for the children and 253 New Year's packages distributed in substandard settlements.

Training was organised for educational and outreach support volunteers on the topic of Conflict Management, to mark World Children's Day on 20th November, and a publication was issued titled "A step towards an inclusive society through support for children at risk of living and/or working on the street".

//International conference: "Poverty and educational deprivation of Roma children – challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic pre- and post-2022"

2022

Donor: Diakonie Württemberg – DW

This international conference was held from 22nd-23rd September 2022 in Novi Sad. The aim was to bring together participants from different countries and over the two days offer various examples of practice and experience in promoting education, social security and health protection in Roma children, with a particular focus on the challenges that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were more than 80 attendees from Serbia and many other countries: Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, the United States, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Great Britain. During the two-day conference, four panels were held, at which 17 local and foreign speakers had an opportunity to share their presentations on children's rights, education, inclusion and services in the social welfare system.

This conference arrived at a set of conclusions and recommendations for improving the education of Roma children. The general conclusion drawn at the conference was that despite the many challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in all social strata, efforts to include children in the education system have not lessened, and education and programmes

for Roma children and youth are a powerful means to achieving their social inclusion and integration, and by their very nature also a means to empowering Roma communities themselves.

//Youth exchange visit Dortmund – Novi Sad

2022

The fourteenth ecumenical youth exchange between the twin cities of Novi Sad and Dortmund was held from 9th to 16th April in Novi Sad. The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation hosted young people from the organisations Evangelical Youth of Dortmund and Lünen (Evangelische Jugend Dortmund und Lünen) and the Dortmund Evangelical church parish (Ev. Noahkirchengemeinde Dortmund). The topic of this year's youth exchange was diversity and gender equality. In addition to talks and interactive workshops on the topic of the meeting, the exchange programme involved visits to numerous institutions and civil society organisations that are involved in raising awareness and providing help and support to various vulnerable groups. Participants in the youth exchange visited the reception centre for refugees in Sid, the Drop-In Centre for Children and Youth in Novi Sad, the Izadi ("Come Out") group, the Living Upright Centre, the association of youth organisations European Youth Capital Novi Sad – OPENS and the CK13 Youth Centre. Participants also visited cultural events as part of Novi Sad's promotion as Europe's Capital of Culture in 2022. The exchange also included a visit to the Evangelical Church in Novi Sad.

Taking part in the programme were young volunteers involved in the various programmes of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and volunteers of the Evangelical Youth of Dortmund and Lünen and Dortmund Evangelical church parish, aged between 17 and 26 years of age. The next youth exchange is planned for June 2022, when young people from Novi Sad will visit Dortmund and Düsseldorf.

//Youth exchange visit Dortmund – Novi Sad

2022

From 25th June to 4th July 2023 the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, together with partner organisations from Dortmund – Evangelical Youth of Dortmund and Lünen (Evangelische Jugend Dortmund und Lünen) and the Dortmund Evangelical church parish (Ev. Noahkirchengemeinde Dortmund), organised the fifteenth youth exchange between the twin cities of Novi Sad and Dortmund, focusing on the topic of diversity and gender equality.

During a ten-day visit to Dortmund, young volunteers of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation aged between 17 and 26 had the opportunity to take part in numerous workshops and to visit some significant institutions such as the Support Centre for Victims of People Trafficking, the Centre for Equal Rights, the Support Centre for Girls and the Volunteer House.

Educational tours were also organised to learn about the historical and cultural heritage of the cities of Cologne, Bonn, Lünen and Münster. There

was also a visit to the Bonn Women's Museum, the first museum of its kind in the world.

At the final evaluation, participants had a discussion to select the topic of the next youth exchange to be held in Dortmund in 2023, which will be Peace.

//Service centre – Starting Point / Supplementary Education Support for Returnee Children

2022-2023

Donor: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Towards the end of 2022, two projects were initiated which are intended to benefit returnees under the readmission agreements who live in the Novi Sad catchment area. The first project, the Starting Point Service Centre, was launched in order to establish a single programme for returnees: their (re)integration, improving the availability of services, ensuring they are better informed, and improving social cohesion by strengthening social connections. The second was Supplementary Education Support for Returnee Children, intended to provide support to children of primary school age from returnee families in managing their schoolwork, through inclusive educational activities, support from mentors with experience working with children and support from peer mentors. Partnership is also planned with two primary schools in Novi Sad attended by children from Veliki Rit – Dušan Radović and Vuk Karadžić.

//Education and economic empowerment of marginalised groups

2022-2025

Donors: Diakonie Württemberg – DW, Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt)

The objective of this three-year project is to improve the socio-economic status of marginalised groups in Vojvodina. The plan is for 588 members of marginalised groups (Roma, internally displaced people, returnees, recipients of social benefits) to be supported during the project period through various activities.

Under the economic empowerment component, basic and advanced training is being organised in running a business and creating a business plan, after which beneficiaries are able to apply for a start-up grant or small business grant in the form of tools and equipment. Beneficiaries also have access to support in registering small businesses, paid accountancy services, and mentorship and support for the duration of the project.

In order to improve the educational integration of children and young people belonging to marginalised groups, project activities are conducted in partnership with primary schools in Novi Sad, Ruma, Subotica and Zrenjanin as well as two secondary schools in Novi Sad which are part of the dual education system. Project associates employed in the schools provide support to 360 pupils, with a special focus on children attending

the first, fifth and eighth grade of primary school and the final grades of secondary school, through individual mentorship, school supplies and organising workshops. Technical support has been provided to all schools involved in the project in the form of equipment meeting the needs of the particular school.

Through complementary activities in the areas of education and economic empowerment the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation is striving to provide equal opportunities to marginalised groups in order to help them to emerge from poverty and improve their position in society.

//Support for the education of socially deprived children and youth in Serbia (Phase I)

2022-

Donor: Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt)

The objective of the three-and-a-half-year project is to improve opportunities and success rates in the education of socially deprived children and youth (from poor families, and those belonging to especially vulnerable categories such as those from the Roma community, or children and youth with disabilities and/or developmental difficulties). The project is being conducted in 14 local communities across Serbia: Aleksinac (Aleksinački Rudnik), Bač (Selenča), Bor, Knjaževac, Kraljevo, Kruševac (Gornji Stepoš), Lajkovac (Jabučje), Lebane (Bošnjace), Leskovac, Mali Idoš, Mionica, Opovo (Baranda), Šid and Vranje. Support is being provided on an ongoing basis to a total of 210 school children and young people, by organising supplemental lessons and workshops, purchasing school supplies for them and covering food and travel costs, among other ways. Local education coordinators have been taken on, tasked with identifying and selecting children and young people to be beneficiaries of the project, providing the support envisaged by the project and monitoring the extent of integration of identified children and youth into the school system, and their performance. Two laptops have also been donated to each school as technical support for project activities. Through this project, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation wishes to support the efforts of schools and local communities in investing in the education of children from poor families and in so doing achieving positive personal, social and economic change.

//Empowering local Roma organisations

2023

Donor: Diakonie Württemberg – DW

The project objectives are to strengthen and build the capacities of Roma NGOs for launching local initiatives appropriate to the social, educational, cultural and other needs of the Roma community, as well as improving the status of the Roma community at the local level through the implementation of small local projects.

The project has two key components.

The first component involves organising open forums with the local

community and Roma people, aimed at mapping the needs of the Roma community at the local level and identifying the problems and challenges they face. Forums have so far been organised in Bačko Petrovo Selo, Lebane, Novi Sad, Smederevska Palanka and Surdulica.

The second component supports local Roma projects aimed at contributing to changes in the Roma community, actively involving target groups in community activities, promoting partnership at the local level and networking Roma stakeholders. So far six local Roma projects have been supported: in Tovariševo, the project Only Through Education can we Positively Change Ourselves and our Surroundings of the Čarai Humanitarian Association; in Bačko Gradište the project I Choose Education – Learning Support for a More Certain Future of the Dina Humanitarian Association; in Lebane, the project It's not Hard to be IN of the Herc Roma Association; in Surdulica the project Roma Integration Centre of the Association of Roma Intellectuals; in Smederevska Palanka the project Big and Small We Learn Together of the Amaro Drom Society for the Development of the Roma Community; and in Novi Sad, the project Promoting Dual Education of the Young Hopes Educational Centre.

SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

//Day Centre for Persons with Disabilities and EHO Tailoring Workshop

2018-

Donors: Otto per Mille of the Waldensian and Methodist churches, City Office for Social Security and Child Protection, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – ELCA, Evangelical Reformed Church of the Canton of St Gallen (Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche des Kantons St. Gallen)

The Centre aims to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, to cultivate activism and autonomy and to economically empower people with disabilities and difficult-to-employ women. The Centre has been used by around 50 adult and elderly beneficiaries with varying types and degrees of disability. Various workshops and training and social events have been provided for them over the duration of the project. A subactivity which has been ongoing since 2017 is the EHO Tailoring Workshop, a project which employs women from marginalised categories to do tailoring work: recycling and repurposing, as well as providing sewing services to the public. In addition to this, the women hold courses in sewing and tailoring for marginalised women and provide occupational therapy for people with disabilities to try their hand at the craft. Some 35 women have been trained to work independently through courses and practical experience in the workshop. The EHO Tailoring Workshop has so far displayed its unique products at 40 fairs and bazaars in Novi Sad and Serbia. For more information visit <https://www.instagram.com/ehokrojackiproizvodi>.

//Beginners' and advanced weaving course for women from vulnerable groups

2020-2021

Donor: Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW

From 2020 to 2021, beginners' and advanced courses in weaving were held for unemployed women from marginalised population groups in Novi Sad and the surrounding area. The beginners' course was completed by 10 women, of whom five also completed the advanced course the following year. The course was run by weaving instructor Marina Šovljanski, who held more than 150 hours of theoretical and practical training for women in creating complex woven products. The course ended with an event at which the women exhibited their work and were awarded diplomas.

This project contributed to the greater independence and economic empowerment of women from marginalised categories, who now have greater opportunities to earn a living.

DIACONIA

//Seniors' Club

Donor: Various

The Senior's Club is a service which the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation has been providing to the elderly on an ongoing basis since 2002. The Club has been a meeting-place for more than 250 seniors who have come there to socialise and make use of various health and social services. Different cultural, entertainment and educational activities have been organised for them, which they have keenly attended. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many activities of the Club were curtailed and meeting was prohibited.

The seniors make most use of the doctor's consultations and pedicure services and have also taken part in various workshops such as cooking, handicrafts and tailoring. Various cultural events are organised in the Club, as well as birthday celebrations, and important dates are marked, one of which is International Day of Older Persons.

Socially vulnerable seniors and other marginalised groups have also been able to use the Martha Centre, which collects and distributes second-hand clothing, footwear and household items, as well as providing free laundry facilities. The Centre has collected and distributed more than 5 tonnes of second-hand clothing which has been distributed all over Vojvodina. A significant proportion of the second-hand clothing is recycled and repurposed into unique fashion items in the EHO Tailoring Workshop.

ECUMENICAL AND INTERETHNIC COOPERATION

//Education for young people in peace-building and reconciliation

2019-2020

Donor: Office for Mission, Ecumenism and Church Responsibility for the World (Amt für Mission, Ökumene und kirchliche Weltverantwortung – MÖWe)

A two-year project in this area comprised a series of training events for facilitators of peace work with young people in our founding churches. The objective of the project was to contribute to lasting peace and to improving interethnic and interfaith tolerance amongst young people in Vojvodina. The project trained 13 young church activists to deliver peace-building workshops to young people.

//Prevention of breast and cervical cancer in women in rural areas of Vojvodina

2021-2024

Donor: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – ELCA

A new three-year project of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation addressing women's preventative health began in 2021. The objective of the project is to raise the awareness of women in rural areas of Vojvodina about the importance of prevention and early detection of cancers and the need for timely treatment. During the two years the project has been under way, the doctor and psychologist retained under the project have visited some 20 rural communities in Vojvodina in which they have held health workshops, informing and motivating women to get regular checkups. More than 200 women have participated in these workshops and received clear guidelines on how to prevent malignant diseases. The project has also published a brochure and more than 300 copies have been distributed so far. A special email address has also been set up (zdravlje@ehons.org) for additional consultations with the doctor, where questions can be asked confidentially, providing another way for women to get answers to their questions.

//Ecumenical Forum and World Day of Prayer

2022

Donor: Jacqueline Stuyt Legacy Fund

The ecumenical women's work operates as part of the Ecumenical Women's Forum of Serbia and the committee of the World Day of Prayer. Women from six churches in Vojvodina, Zemun and Belgrade take part in the ecumenical ministry. The aim of the cooperation and activity is to develop and improve ecumenical collaboration and friendly relations

amongst different churches. To this end, various events, seminars and conferences are organised, bringing together women from Serbia and the region. Every year, on the first Friday in March, a worship service is held to mark World Day of Prayer. Over the years the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation has organised various seminars and courses, and in 2022 the regional ecumenical conference for women, which that year was titled Women and Migrations. Every year a New Year's humanitarian bazaar is also traditionally held, as well as the annual assembly of the Ecumenical Forum and World Day of Prayer.

HUMANITARIAN WORK

//Children's Safe Corner in the Subotica transit and reception centre

2017-2019

Donor: H. Stepic CEE Charity

During passage through the Republic of Serbia, many families with children have had to make a temporary stay in transit and reception centres all over the country. At the transit and reception centre in Subotica, the Children's Safe Corner project aims to have every child staying at the centre visit the Corner and receive psychosocial support, as well as to try to prevent secondary trauma among this sensitive group of children through a variety of creative and educational activities. In the Corner the children have enjoyed social games, creative and educational workshops, mathematics, English and music classes, carrying out different experiments and learning from one another and from our educators and volunteers. In addition to educational and creative activities in the Corner, excursions and visits have been organised to the Palić Zoo, and support has also been provided to the families in the form of parcels of baby supplies (baby food, infant formula, nappies, baby wipes, clothing, cosmetics), winter and summer clothing for all the children, underwear, school bags, sweets and ice-cream in summer.

//EHO Appeal – Refugees and Migrants in Serbia

2018-2019

Projects providing humanitarian assistance to refugees in Serbia followed on from projects in 2015 and 2016, focusing on the needs of refugees in transit through Serbia, especially those confined to refugee reception centres sometimes for more than 10 months. Project activities were primarily focused on reception centres in Vojvodina (Adaševci, Kikinda, Principovac, Sombor, Subotica, Šid). The objectives were wide-ranging. Firstly, to reduce the vulnerability of refugees by providing them with aid in the form of food, clothing and footwear, hygiene products, medical services and medications, and by renovating, equipping and maintaining the premises in which they are accommodated. Secondly, work was done on improving acceptance of refugees on the part of the communities receiving them by improving living conditions in the local

communities themselves, as well as improving access to education for the children of refugees accommodated in Serbia.

In 2019, regular distribution of aid was continued through three projects, aimed at meeting the most basic needs of more than 6,000 refugees in reception centres – clothing and footwear, hygiene items and cleaning supplies for six reception centres. Also, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation was the only organisation providing industrial-scale laundry facilities in transit and reception centres in Vojvodina.

A well-drilling project at the Principovac Reception and Transit Centre involved completing a test bore which provided a water supply that was limited in relation to the needs of this centre when at full capacity. The project involved reconstruction of the sanitary facilities in the reception centres in Šid – partial reconstruction of the water supply, sewerage and electrical installations, laying a base for a new access road to the Principovac Reception Centre and improving climate control and accommodation capacities in the Miksalište Reception Centre in Belgrade.

The humanitarian aid project for refugees in Serbia was continued, supplying reception and transit centres with hygiene/non-food items and services for refugees to maintain personal hygiene and the hygiene of the premises they are accommodated in. Activities were also undertaken to make improvements to conditions in schools in which regular programmes are ongoing for refugee children of school age – replacing wooden window frames with PVC in schools in Šid, Sot, Adaševci, Vašiči and Bikić Do. Particular emphasis during this project was placed on an educational programme for capacity and networking of educators and trainers involved in teaching refugee children from all of the reception and transit centres in the Republic of Serbia. Through a total of 12 training events, 70 primary school teachers grew their intercultural knowledge and were better equipped to respond to the specific needs of this vulnerable and marginalised group and to address diversity in schools and positively impact relationships between refugees and the local communities hosting them. After that, cultural exchange events (sharing food and customs) were organised in the schools that had sent teaching staff to the intercultural training events, with an estimated 200 migrants and a similar number of people from local communities attending.

In early 2019 construction was completed at the Šikara Reception Centre in Sombor of a 160 square meter prefabricated structure intended for women and children staying at the centre. The premises are intended for regular educational activities for children aged between seven and 14, pre-school activities for younger children and for daily educational, motivational and recreational activities for children and women. The facility has a special room set aside in which women can breast-feed and change babies. During the year, themed activities were successfully run in this unique and functional facility. Some 300 refugee children and women received support, contributing to the better integration of this important cross-section of the refugee population.

//Integration support for women and children

2019-2020

Donor: Evangelical Lutheran Church from Chicago

The purpose of the project was to provide support to women and children who are accommodated in reception centres in Sombor and Subotica as a result of the migration crisis. Educators retained by the project facilitated activities in the Safe Corner for Children and Women in the Day Centre. The foundation of the project was creating a safe environment in which opportunities were provided for play, learning, encouraging creativity and developing skills for work. The programme focused primarily on educational activities such as Serbian and English language lessons, mathematics, geography etc. Secondly, on creative workshops for children at which they could express their creativity through a range of themed activities and develop their potential, as well as creative practical activities for women intended to develop skills vital for their employability. In 2019, at the height of the wave of migrant arrivals, the reception centre in Sombor housed 245 people, of whom 26 were women and 56 children. At that time the Reception Centre in Subotica housed 87 people, of whom 18 were women and 36 children. Those figures varied according to the ebb and flow of arrivals and departures. Since women and children staying at the Reception Centre in Sombor are also housed in the Reception Centre in Subotica prior to their departure for their desired destination, there is continuity in the work done with them.

//EHO appeal – COVID-19 pandemic

2020-2021

Donors: Swiss Development and Cooperation – SDC, Action by Churches Together – ACT Alliance, Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – ELCA, Evangelical Reformed Church of the Canton of St Gallen

The project involved distributing humanitarian aid to vulnerable groups in order to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Serbia, and comprised part of the broader effort by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation to help relieve the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in Serbia. Humanitarian aid in the form of food parcels and personal and home hygiene products were distributed to those most vulnerable in the municipalities of Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Gadžin Han, Kula, Mali Idoš, Novi Sad, Opovo, Pančevo, Plandište, Raška, Sečanj, Stara Pazova, Subotica and Kikinda.

//Empowering refugee women and children

2020-2021

Donor: Evangelical Lutheran Church from Chicago

During 2020 the project was conducted in reception centres in Šid and Sombor. The focus of the project was on developing the skills of women

and children accommodated in these two reception centres so that they would be empowered to develop an awareness of a better tomorrow and of their own role in creating new opportunities. The work with women focused on providing psychological support so that the women would gain a sense of their own life goals and, through the occupational workshops, also develop their working capacities. Activities with children focused on organising creative and educational workshops, whilst also providing psychological support in order to mitigate the potential impact of migration. Educational activities were organised in the Šid reception centre in partnership with schools, for children of primary school age, aimed at easing their further integration into society when they reach their destination country.

Three field workers/educators were retained to carry out the creative and educational work with women, children and youth in the reception centre in Šid, and 298 creative and educational workshops were held with women as well as 186 educational workshops, 183 creative workshops, 176 sports and recreation workshops and 420 social/entertainment activities for children and youth. In the reception centre in Sombor, one on-site educator held 92 educational and 88 creative workshops with children. Through the project, distributions were also made of 210 pairs of footwear, 189 tracksuits and 200 New Year's parcels, and five children's entertainment shows were held.

//EHO Appeal – Providing additional support in the education of children from vulnerable groups as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic 2021

Donor: Aid organization of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelisch-reformierten Kirche Schweiz – HEKS/EPER)

The project supported an innovative model in working with children with developmental difficulties, children with difficulties in learning and keeping up with the school curriculum, and children growing up in socio-economically unstimulating environments, who are at risk of social exclusion for various reasons.

Partners on the project were the Vojvodina provincial government Office for the Inclusion of Roma, the municipality of Žabalj, the Žabalj Centre for Social Work and Miloš Crnjanski and Jovan Jovanović primary schools.

In two primary schools in Žabalj and Đurđevo, 66 pupils received direct support from 10 peer mentors and 10 student mentors. Peer tutoring was aimed at helping children growing up in poor families or families in which a language other than that of school lessons is spoken, to improve their school performance and promote an atmosphere of peer solidarity.

Each Saturday the children went to school and received support in their learning, socialising and use of digital communications devices. Student mentors also met with the parents of the children with the aim of motivating them to provide timely and adequate support to their children in their schooling.

Help and support will continue to be provided to 70 children in Žabalj and Đurđevo in their education in the next year, as well as to their parents, thanks to finances provided by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and the municipality of Žabalj, with the support of HEKS/ESPER from Switzerland.

//EHO 2021 appeal 2021

Donor: Hope for Eastern Europe (Hoffnung für Osteuropa – HfO) and Diakonie Württemberg – DW

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation provided packages of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Roma families in Serbia. In the period between January and May 2021, 130 packages of one-off aid were distributed as urgent assistance to families additionally impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. As the mapped families lived all over Serbia, distribution of the packages was done via the network of local integration workers, who made sure that the assistance reached the families that needed it most. Humanitarian aid in the form of food parcels and personal hygiene and household hygiene supplies was distributed to the most vulnerable Roma living in the following municipalities and cities in the Republic of Serbia: Babušnica, Bačka Palanka, Bujanovac, Crepaja, Kikinda, Kragujevac, Kruševac, Lebane, Mali Idoš, Novi Bečej, Novi Sad, Smederevska Palanka, Sremska Mitrovica, Stari Bečej, Surdulica, Vladičin Han. This distribution was part of the broader efforts of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation to help alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Serbia.

//Empowering refugee women and children 2021-2022

Donors: Evangelical Lutheran Church from Chicago, Gustav-Adolf-Werk – GAW

During 2021, the second project cycle was continued with activities aimed at providing support to women and child refugees staying in reception centres in Šid and Sombor. Project activities were organised with the involvement of two educators in Šid and one in Sombor. The educators organised educational/creative, social/-entertainment and sports/recreational activities with children and youth on a daily basis, as well as occupational workshops with women, based on needs they had identified. The purpose of these activities was to provide support to children, young people and women and in doing so alleviate the impact of the refugee crisis, as well as the additional impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Educational support also continued to be provided to children and youth under the Akelius programme, implemented by UNICEF together with its partners.

During the second project cycle, a total of 264 creative and educational workshops were held with women in the reception centre in Šid, while 435 educational, 247 creative and 645 sports and recreation workshops were held for children and young people, as well as 537 social/entertainment

activities. In the reception centre in Sombor a total of 248 educational, 214 creative and 306 sports and recreation workshops were organised for children and youth, as well as 562 social and entertainment activities. In addition to this, the project also distributed 80 pairs of footwear and 110 New Year's parcels and two New Year's shows were held.

//EHO Appeal 2022 – Support for vulnerable Roma families during COVID-19

2022

Donor: Hope for Eastern Europe (Hoffnung für Osteuropa – HfO) and Diakonie Württemberg – DW

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation provided packages of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Roma families in Serbia through the 2022 EHO Appeal. In the period between January and September 2022, 150 packages of food and hygiene products were distributed as urgent assistance to families additionally impacted by the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the mapped Roma families lived all over Serbia, distribution of the packages was done via the network of local integration workers, who made sure that the assistance reached the families that needed it most. Humanitarian aid in the form of food parcels and personal hygiene and household hygiene supplies was distributed to the most vulnerable Roma living in the following municipalities and cities in the Republic of Serbia: Babušnica, Bačka Palanka, Bačko Petrovo Selo, Bujanovac, Crepaja, Kikinda, Kragujevac, Kruševac, Lebane, Mali Idoš, Novi Bečej, Novi Sad, Pirot, Smederevska Palanka, Sremska Mitrovica, Stari Bečej, Surdulica, Vladičin Han. This support was part of the broader efforts of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation to help alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Serbia.

//Empowering refugee women and children

2022-2023

Donors: Evangelical Lutheran Church from Chicago

During 2022, the third cycle of the project was continued with activities aimed at providing support to women and child refugees staying in reception centres in Šid and Sombor. Project activities were organised with the involvement of two educators in Šid and one in Sombor. The educators organised educational/creative, social/entertainment and sports/recreational activities with children and youth on a daily basis, as well as occupational workshops with women, based on needs they had identified. The purpose of these activities was to provide support to children, young people and women and in doing so alleviate the impact of the refugee crisis, as well as the additional impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Educational support also continued to be provided to children and youth under the Akelius programme and the Winter School programme implemented by UNICEF together with its partners. In 2022 partnership was established with the Slovak Evangelical Church in Šid and the Educational Centre in Sombor.

During the third project cycle, a total of 158 creative and educational workshops were held with women in the reception centre in Šid, while 321 educational, 193 creative and 483 sports and recreation workshops were held for children and young people, as well as 625 social/entertainment activities. In the reception centre in Sombor a total of 287 educational, 243 creative and 445 sports and recreation workshops were organised for children and youth, as well as 674 social and entertainment activities. In addition to this, the project also distributed 65 pairs of footwear and 70 New Year's parcels and two New Year's shows were held.

//Support for protection and humanitarian aid to people on the move

2022-2023

Donor: Aid organization of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Switzerland (Hilfswerk der Evangelisch-reformierten Kirche Schweiz – HEKS/EPER)

The project aimed to reduce vulnerability among migrants in reception, asylum and transit centres in Serbia by providing direct humanitarian aid and access to psychosocial support by organising occupational workshops. The planned activities were conducted in 16 reception centres in Serbia and involved training 20 volunteers to work with people on the move, as well as 20 social workers, pedagogues, educators and other professionals who provide psychosocial and integrative help and support. In addition to this, as part of the project, 6,866 cash gift cards were distributed over 11 months to those most vulnerable, and hygiene packages to be used for communal sanitation were distributed to five reception centres. Documentary film workshops were also organised in three reception centres, as well as occupational art and sports workshops involving more than 2,000 people in three reception centres. The project served more than 9,000 direct and more than 19,000 indirect beneficiaries.