

Humanitarian – development Nexus – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Overview:

Slovenia recognizes the need for a more comprehensive response to the changing environment. This has been especially underlined within the new Resolution on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, adopted in September 2017, where the complementarity between humanitarian and development action has been foreseen through the work on reconstruction and rehabilitation as well as through resilience building, disaster risk reduction and crisis prevention.

We have been complementing our humanitarian efforts with development activities already before the adoption of the new Resolution in our partner countries such as Haiti and Ukraine, and especially in the Western Balkans.

In 2014, Slovenia responded to the appeals of Bosnia and Hercegovina (and Serbia) for the assistance in mitigating the consequences of severe flooding and for the strengthening of disaster resilience, also in the wider region. For this purpose, on an initiative of the Slovenian Prime Minister submitted to the European Council, Slovenia, France and the European Commission held a donor conference for the flooded areas in Bosnia and Hercegovina and Serbia in July 2014. Slovenia pledged a contribution of EUR 1 million, of which EUR 705.759 was earmarked for Bosnia and Hercegovina. Altogether EUR 809 million was pledged to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUR 995 million to assist Serbia, and EUR 41 million for cross-border activities.

On the basis of the commitments made, Slovenia implemented four projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina: a demining project through ITF Enhancing Human Security, two projects involving the renovation of public buildings through Slovenian NGOs Caritas Slovenia and Institute Circle (renovation of three damaged primary schools and adjacent playgrounds, two health-care centres and a fire station), and a project involving the regulation of torrents, which would prevent future floods or minimise the risks and damage in future similar occasions.

Lessons learned:

Slovenia recognized the need to organize structurally the efforts to complement humanitarian and development action which was not done only in the new Resolution but also with the individual commitment endorsed at the World Humanitarian Summit to promote resilience – 10% of our humanitarian aid to be disbursed for those purposes by 2020 (the goal was surpassed already in 2016) and to promote humanitarian-development nexus. Immediate humanitarian assistance needs to go hand in hand with consideration of and support to actions that will prevent similar crises in the future.