

Jablanica - A Shining Example of What Is Required to End Displacement

A new housing complex in Jablanica has been built to the highest of standards and its living conditions are in stark contrast to those in the collective centre where families had to live in single rooms without running water, cooking or toilet facilities

At a ceremony in Jablanica, the official opening of a social housing complex was held that has been built to house the remaining residents of the town's collective centre. The ceremony is the culmination of a process that has shown how a municipality, through dedicating time and resources, can achieve real results in providing displaced people with the assistance they need, UNHCR said in a statement. The new housing complex has been built to the highest of standards and its living conditions are in stark contrast to those in the collective centre where families had to live in single rooms without running water, cooking or toilet facilities. Seven families who are unable to return to their pre-war homes and have been in desperate need of a durable solution to their situation have moved to the new housing complex. Among them are Devla and her sister, who

are getting used to life in the complex. For them, the most important aspect of their new home is the privacy that they will now have, unlike the collective centre



where they had no space for themselves. The opening of the new complex will allow for the collective centre in Jablanica to finally close, some 17 years after it opened. The Jablanica municipality provided the land for the new housing complex and will subsidize rent and bills for the families, while UNHCR and its implementing partner CRS provided the funds

and expertise for the building itself. Speaking at the ceremony, Mayor Salem Dedic noted that the project took a number of years and a great deal of work to complete, but that it was "a sign of Jablanica's determination and commitment to assist vulnerable members of the community and play its role in ending displacement in Bosnia and Herzegovina". Praising the project, Naveed Hussain stated that it represented "an excellent example to other municipalities of what can be achieved and what practical steps need to be taken to provide displaced people with the assistance they urgently require". In Bosnia and Herzegovina there remain some 113,000 internally displaced people, including 7,000 who live in collective centers, often in appalling conditions. Devla's home in the new housing complex in Jablanica shows how providing the necessary assistance to the remaining displaced people not only gives them a physical space to live in but also a place to finally call home.

BAD EDUCATION

Pupils Told to Drag Cat across Carpet for an Experiment

Bosnian textbooks for primary schools keep amusing unsuspecting readers. For example, the physics textbook for eight grade, written by Aziza Skoko and Kasim Imamovic, encourages pupils to conduct an experiment, which might be potentially hazardous. Not to mention it definitely encourages animal abuse. For your entertainment:



"Conduct an experiment with static electricity. Things you need: a cat or a piece of something furry (you don't have to use a cat, a winter coat would do fine). So, better to use a coat. Find a dark room with a carpet and

enough space to move the furry object around. Turn off the light and take the coat. Start to drag the coat across the carpet. What happens? Try different speed and observe what happens. What happens: cats and other furry objects will charge with electricity if you drag them across a carpet. Perhaps you'll even see sparks between the cat and the carpet. Static electricity is formed when different materials (like fur and carpet) get in contact, and one of them might "like" electrons more than the other. That material will attract electrons to its side. Moving a coat across a carpet increases the surface of the coat in contact with the carpet, which increases the charge being transferred until cracking starts. Perhaps it even produces sparks." Common sense tells us that dragging a cat across a carpet in a dark room would require a pair of protective gloves. Perhaps authors could amend the experiment description.

EU Supports Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Stolac

The European Commission adopted an amendment to a 1.5 million Euro Financing Decision to support the preservation of cultural heritage in Herzegovina's Stolac. The revised project aims at rehabilitating cultural heritage in the municipality of Stolac. The authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina have selected bridges and mills at the Bregava river, the "Old Town Vidoski", and the Branko Sotra Gallery to benefit from this project. In addition, it is envisaged that seminars, workshops and study visits will contribute to build the capacity for heritage restoration and promotion activities will enhance the intercultural dialogue and promote local economic development in particular as regards tourism.