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New Social Housing Complex in Jablanica a Shining Example of What is Required to End Displacement in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo, 29 September – At a ceremony today in Jablanica, the official opening was held of a social housing complex that has been built to house the remaining residents of the town's collective centre. Today's 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.

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.

In attendance at today's ceremony were Salem Dedic, Mayor of Jablanica, Safet Halilovic, State Minister for Human Rights and Refugees, Edin Music, Federation Minister for Displaced Persons and Refugees, Naveed Hussain, UNHCR's Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jacob Hershman, the head of Catholic Relief Service (CRS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, representatives of US Embassy in BiH, OSCE, Hercegovina-Neretva Canton, and other local and international officials. The Jablanica municipality provided the land for the new housing complex and will subsidise 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, Mr. 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".



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In Bosnia and Herzegovina there remain some 113,000 internally displaced people, including 7,000 who live in collective centres, 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 and feel comfortable. (end)

Nova zgrada sa socijalnim stanovima u Jablanici predstavlja korak ka konačnom rješenju problema raseljenih osoba u Bosni i Hercegovini

Sarajevo, 29. septembra – Na današnjoj ceremoniji u Jablanici zvanično je otvorena zgrada za socijalno stanovanje izgrađena s ciljem zbrinjavanja preostalih korisnika tamošnjeg kolektivnog centra. Ceremonija otvorenja označila je vrhunac procesa koji je pokazao kako općina može posvetiti vrijeme i sredstva da bi uspješno postigla stvarne rezultate u obezbjeđenju potrebne pomoći za raseljene osobe.

Nova zgrada je izgrađena prema najvišim standardima, sa uvjetima posve suprotnima onima koji su vladali u kolektivnom centru u kojem su ove porodice morale živjeti – u sobičima bez vode, kuhinje i toaleta. Sedam porodica koje se nisu mogle vratiti u svoje prijeratne domove i kojima je očajnički trebalo trajno rješenje njihovih problema, uselile su se u ove nove stanove. Među njima su Devla i njena sestra, koje se već pomalo privikavaju na novi život. Za njih dvije je najvažnije što sad imaju privatnost koju nisu imale živeći u kolektivnom centru. Otvorenje nove zgrade omogućit će konačno zatvaranje kolektivnog centra u Jablanici, i to nakon sedamnaest godina otkako je otvoren.

Današnjoj ceremoniji prisustvovali su načelnik općine Jablanica Salem Dedić, ministar za ljudska prava i izbjeglice BiH Safet Halilović, federalni ministar raseljenih osoba i izbjeglica Edin Mušić, predstavnik UNHCR-a za BiH Naveed Hussain, predstavnik Catholic Relief Services (CRS) za BiH Jacob Hershman, predstavnici Ambasade SAD u BiH, OSCE-a, Hercegovačko-neretvanskog kantona, te drugi domaći i međunarodni zvaničnici. Općina Jablanica je osigurala zemljište za zgradu, te će subvencionirati troškove najamnine i režija za porodice, dok su UNHCR i njegova partnerska organizacija koja je provela projekat, CRS, osigurali sredstva i metodologiju za samu izgradnju. Govoreći na otvorenju, načelnik Dedić istaknuo da je za ovo dostignuće trebalo više godina, ali da je to bio "znak odlučnosti i opredjeljenja Jablanice da pomogne svojim ugroženim stanovnicima i da pruži svoj doprinos okončanju problema raseljenih u Bosni i Hercegovini". Govoreći o projektu, g. Hussain je rekao da on predstavlja "izvrstan primjer drugim općinama, koji pokazuje šta se može postići i koji konkretni koraci se trebaju načiniti kako bi se raseljenim osobama pružila prijeko potrebna pomoć".

U Bosni i Hercegovini još uvijek ima oko 113 000 interno raseljenih osoba, od kojih 7 000 živi u kolektivnim centrima, često u užasnim uvjetima. Devlin stan u novoj zgradi svjedoči o tome kako neophodna pomoć pružena preostalim raseljenim osobama osigurava ne samo fizički prostor za život, već i mjesto koje konačno mogu nazvati domom i u njemu se ugodno osjećati. (kraj)