



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



« Improving Cultural Understanding in Bosnia and Herzegovina »

MDG-F Culture and Development Joint Programme implemented in BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

DURATION : January 2009 – June 2012	CONTRIBUTION TO MDGS :
UN PARTNERS : UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF	
BUDGET : 8 million USD	

OVERVIEW :

The Joint Programme aims to improve cross-cultural understanding and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina while also promoting the country’s multicultural identity, through a bottom-up approach focusing on the educational sphere, on culture-related partnerships between local authorities and the private sector, and on the development of the creative industries.

Specific objectives :

- Capacity-building, development and implementation of cultural policies and legal frameworks
- Improvement of cross-cultural understanding at the community level
- Fostering local economic development through cultural production, cultural tourism and cultural heritage

DIMENSIONS ADDRESSED BY THE JOINT PROGRAMME:

- Economics
- Education
- Heritage
- Governance
- Social

CULTURAL DOMAINS COVERED :

- Cultural and natural heritage
- Intangible cultural heritage
- Performance and celebration
- Visual arts and crafts
- Books and press
- Audio-visual and interactive media
- Design and creative services
- Tourism

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CONVENTIONS COVERED :

- 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 2001 Convention on the protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
- 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- 1970 Convention on the Means of prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
- 1954 Convention for the protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE :

National, with special attention given to the municipalities of Novo Sarajevo, Sokolac, Tesanj, Gradiska, Bijeljina, Bihac, Jajce, Srebrenik, Prijedor, Rudo

SNAPSHOT OF MAIN ACTIONS TO DATE:

- **Development and implementation of cultural policies and legal frameworks:** “BiH Joint action plan for implementation of culture strategy” developed through a participatory process and agreed by institutional partners; publications on UNESCO 2003 and 2005 conventions; cultural statistics elaborated
- **Cross-cultural understanding improved at the community level:**
 - Publication of handbooks, guidelines, books, surveys, related to cultural diversity such as “Intercultural guides for teachers and parents and children in education” and “Toolkit for culture sensitivity in media”
 - Debates on interculturalism in local communities
 - Introduction of interculturalism as an approach to teaching: Report on existing curricula from the perspective of intercultural understanding prepared; mapping of teachers’ competencies for intercultural education; trainings organised for school teachers and school principles
 - Implementation of locally-driven projects such as the rehabilitation and valorisation of 17 religious sites
- **Strengthening of cultural industries and tourism:** 50 new cultural goods produced in the areas of visual arts and crafts, design and creative services; 60 festivals and performances organised; support provided to 20 cultural SMEs

BENEFICIARIES :

Direct: 337 000 – 50% women

Indirect: 1.6 million – 35% women

- Inhabitants of the targeted municipalities, including primary, secondary school and university students, ethnic minorities, displaced persons and refugees
- Entrepreneurs working in small and medium sized cultural businesses, artists and artisans
- Experts and academics, centers of public education
- Ministries: Culture and Sports, Tourism, Security, Education and Culture (Republika Srpska)
- Regional and local authorities
- Cooperation agencies (European Commission, US AID, Oxfam Italia, Goethe Institute, British Council, Centre Andree Malraux, European Cultural Network for Development Cooperation, European Training Foundation, Institute of Education London, Scierter Italy, CEP Serbia, HUN-IDA)
- Organized civil society

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS :

- Ministries: Civil Affairs, Culture and Sports, Human Rights and Refugees, Urban Planning, Education and Science
- Republika Srpska Ministry of Education and Culture and Institute for the Preservation of Monuments
- Council of Ministers
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Return Fund and Institute for the Preservation of Monuments
- National Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for UNESCO

ALIGNMENT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES :

Programme activities are directly linked to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Outcomes for 2010 – 2014:

1. Strengthened accountability and responsiveness of government to pro-active citizens
2. Improved access to and quality of basic education, health and social protection services

SUCCESS STORIES :

❖ Revitalization of the old medieval fortress and 'Eminagica family' house in the municipality of Tesanj

Cultural tourism in the municipality of Tesanj has been enhanced through the restoration of a medieval fortress and the house of a prominent family from the Ottoman Empire, where visitors can now engage in cultural activities including cooking, traditional arts and designs, lectures and classes on traditional activities of the Ottoman Empire, and cultural performances.

❖ Intercultural camp in Municipality of Rudo: a tool for reconciliation through promotion of cultural diversity

A powerful tool for reconciliation and social cohesion has been created through the transformation of an abandoned local school in the Municipality of Rudo into an intercultural camp for over 5,000 BiH children of all ethnical backgrounds.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION :

- Joint Programme website :
<http://www.un.ba/stranica/mdgf-culture-for-development>
- MDG-F website :
<http://www.mdgfund.org/program/improvingculturalunderstandingbosniaandherzegovina>