

Country Fact Sheet

The MDG-F in Croatia	
Joint Programmes: 1	Total Budget: USD 2,981,155
National Steering Committee Members: originally Deputy Prime Minister's office, UN Resident Coordinator, Representative of the Government of Spain.	
Joint Programmes Information	
Joint Programme	<i>"Croatia: Closing the Chapter: Social Inclusion and Conflict Transformation in War-Affected Areas of Croatia"</i>
Thematic Window	Conflict Prevention and Peace Building
Budget	USD 2,981,155
Participating Agencies	UNDP, UNICEF, IOM, UNHRC.
Participating Government Agencies	Office of the Vice Prime Minister, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Tourism, Office for Gender Equality & Gender Task Force, Police Service, National Centre for External Valuation of Education, Social Welfare services.
Dates	15 May 2009 – 13 May 2011
Regions of Intervention	National level, and Vukovarko-Srijemska, Sisacko-Moslavacka, Karlovacka, Licko-Senjska, Zadarska, Sibensko-Kninska.
Programme in Brief: More than 20 years after Croatia's war of independence, many communities there still suffer the social exclusion and economic deprivation characteristic of war-affected areas. The UN in Croatia came together to design a model that other Middle Income Countries with post-conflict dynamics in the region can replicate. The Programme employed a root cause methodology that pioneered the integration of a community decision-making methodology into socio-economic recovery of war-affected areas through shared needs/interests projects. This introduced peace building into existing local structures that provide social services, education, community policing, justice, and job creation to address a conflict prevention agenda. Nationally owned at all levels,	

coordination was institutionalized by the Deputy Prime Minister's offices responsible for return, security and regional development.

Main Achievements

- Enhanced community integration, safety and social cohesion through Safe-Community Plans. These plans, designed by Crime Prevention Councils, are sustainable mechanisms for communities to jointly discuss, analyze and agree courses of action to improve safety and security. A total of 10 safe-community plans were developed by local crime prevention councils. The safe-community plans focused on common problems affecting communities and included traffic safety, education on alcohol abuse, creating recreational opportunities and safe environments for youth as well as refurbishing community centers. The JP focused on groups most in need, including: returnees facing institutional and human obstacles to reintegration; women facing the risk of violence, exclusion and structural unemployment; war veterans facing social exclusion and at risk of committing violence; and children and youth facing exposure to prejudice and intolerance, and at risk of violence.
- The programme had a strong gender equality component, supporting relevant legal frameworks, national strategies and substantive projects that target women at high risk of poverty and violence, particularly those in rural areas with lower levels of education and those living in areas of former conflict.
- Establishment of a coordination mechanism for regional development of war affected areas and violence prevention under the office of the Vice Prime Minister. This includes 'Witness and Victims Support' (WVS) offices working in 4 county courts (Zagreb, Zadar, Osijek and Vukovar) with new offices opened in 2 additional courts (Sisak and Karlovac). A total of beneficiaries 4,209 were reached by Jan 2010 (thanks to an information campaign, a big increase since the 2,269 beneficiaries in October 2009).
- The support to the implementation of fundamental rights for returnees has also brought positive results, with 71% of requests for free legal aid approved (6,248 out of 8,755 requests).
- Enhanced ability of the local population to plan and realize 'Safe Community Plans' with Community Policing: the plans were developed by local crime prevention councils and focused on traffic safety, education on alcohol abuse; creating recreational opportunities and safe environments for youth.
- The JP also reached many returnees, women, youth, and war veterans through job creation and business development projects. For example, 50 Cooperatives, associations and family farms improved business processes and access to market through implementation of following activities: assessment of training needs of family farms; vocational trainings; 8 training workshops on EU Leader approach to Rural Development; and radio programs in Vrhovine, a returnee area, to share information on trainings and job opportunities. The total estimated number of direct beneficiaries of the MDG-F Programme in Croatia comes to 19,729 men, 20,963 women; as well as 29 national institutions and 406 local institutions.

More information

<http://www.mdgfund.org/program/closingchaptersocialinclusionandconflicttransformationwaraffectedareascroatia>

