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**Rapid Needs Assessment
Šamac, Bosnia and Herzegovina
27 May 2014**

Background: Further to the floods affecting Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia, PCPM mission undertook a rapid needs assessment in the vicinity of Doboj, Modriča, Šamac, Orašje, Brčko and Gračanica, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Šamac, Republika Srpska

Šamac is a 8-thousand town located at a confluence of River Bosna and River Sava, the latter forming the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

The town was entirely flooded, with the level of water reaching 2 meters above ground. Almost an entire population of Šamac was displaced.

Flooding and displacement

Šamac remained under water until the Polish State Fire Service EUCPT High Capacity Pump Module provided assistance in the pumping operation. The water level is now gradually decreasing thanks to the continuous pumping, although it is hampered by a limited capacity of Šamac's rainwater drainage system. As of 27 May the level of River Sava stood at 540 cm, down from its peak of over 650cm, although still way above the level of 400cm that would enable removal of water from basements and other low-lying areas.

As of 27 May, water was pumped out of majority of streets in downtown Šamac. There is still a large pool of floodwater in the vicinity of the city stadium, which affects the nearby houses. The local population estimates it may take up to three months for the buildings to dry and the cleanup operation to be completed.

Some older buildings have cracked walls indicating a shift in the foundations and potential secondary threat to its inhabitants. An engineering assessment of those buildings is necessary.

With all population displaced out of the city, only a handful of families returned to start the cleanup operation. They are in acute need of drinking water, hygiene and cleaning supplies, insect repellants and other non-food items.

Villages neighboring Šamac from the east: Tišina and Grebnice were flooded up to 1,5-2 meters. Many houses and almost all of the fields still remain under water.

Road access

With the decreasing flood waters, Šamac is now accessible both from the south, from the direction of Doboj, as well as from the east, from the direction of Orašje. The main road from Orašje to Šamac was partially flooded and therefore a bypass was put in use. According to the local authorities of Šamac, the main road to Orašje through Domaljevac is now open. The border crossing to Croatia is reportedly open to pedestrian traffic and private vehicles but not to trucks due to destruction of the custom office IT infrastructure.

Local authorities

The local authorities (Opština) have been relocated to a building at the turnoff from Šamac – Doboj road towards Gradačac.

At the request of UNDP official from Sarajevo, the local authorities started collection of data on the number of IDPs and damage estimate in agriculture, private and public buildings, as well as infrastructure.

The Opština building, as well as other public buildings in the town, has had its ground flood flooded.

Electricity supply, water, sewage

Electricity supply is steadily improving in Šamac, with the city soon to be reconnected from a backup electricity supply from Doboj towards the primary power line leading from Bijeljina – Brčko.

Improving electricity supply allowed for reinstatement of water supply (only non-drinking water), as well as the city's sewage system. The Polish High Capacity Pump Module is now dumping water in the city's rainwater drainage as it is functional as long as electricity supply is available. Despite an improvement in electricity supply, still some 1,200 families are without electricity.

Health and education facilities

Šamac has one elementary and one high school, as well as a medical center housed in two buildings. All were flooded.

PCPM Team did not survey the local hospital but it is also believed to be flooded.

Humanitarian needs

According to the local authorities, there is an sufficient food supply for 7-10 days provided by Republika Srpska authorities and aid agencies. Due to destruction of fridges a priority is given only dry and canned food. According to local authorities gradual resumption of normal life in Šamac may make the food stock last longer.

Potable water is provided by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) through ASB (Arbeiter-Samariter Bund).

The main need is provision of hygienic kits, disinfectants and other cleaning supplies, as well as insect repellents. **PCPM will undertake first distribution of disinfectants, cleaning supplies, as well as insect repellents in Šamac on Wednesday, 28 May.**

Early recovery and recovery assistance needs:

- Engineering assessment of the buildings, particularly those with cracked walls
- Windows and doors to the flooded apartments and houses
- Basic construction supplies, including plaster and paints
- Sinks, toilets, bath tubes and other bathroom equipment
- Furniture, especially beds
- Kitchen appliances, especially fridges
- Rehabilitation of flood-damaged schools
- Rehabilitation of flood-damaged primary health care center
- Volunteer work to assist in flood cleanup operation.

The PCPM assessment mission has been generously funded by the Kulczyk Foundation.

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