

“Observatory of the poverty and resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina”

**Caritas of Bishop's conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Zlatko Malic, coordinator of the Observatory**

About Caritas in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Caritas is **pastoral body** of the Catholic Church established for promotion and testimony of the Christian love (charity).
- Caritas in B&H is composed by 3 diocesan Caritas offices and one national Caritas.
- Caritas has **good image** in country mostly because work done during the war and post conflict projects.
- Caritas has approximately 35 projects / institutions; 250 employees; more than **5.000 direct beneficiaries** (different ethnics and religion).

About Observatory project

- Established with aim to observe and to analyze dynamics of the poverty and resources that Catholic Church faces.
- It is a permanent instrument of the Church for understanding poverty.
- Requests from local Church authorities and needs from field motivated Caritas to start with project.
- Technical and financial support received from Caritas of EU countries (Italy, France, Belgium).

Basic methodology

- The project is oriented in **three directions**:
 - Pastoral (ecclesial) – promotion of the listening and charity; networking and capacity building in the parishes, promotion of the Christian voluntarism...;
 - Statistical – advance statistical software, valid statistical data;
 - Sociological – qualitative and quantitative researches; understanding and providing profile of the poor and social excluded people.
- **Collaboration and networking** with local University, State Statistical Agency, local experts, experts from EU countries and local Church at all levels.

Direct Benefits (1)

- For Caritas and local Church:
 - Methodology, instruments and process for poverty observation and listening of the people in need at all levels;
 - New knowledge and skills of the Observatory staff and other structures (parishes, dioceses);
 - Possibility to evaluate actual actions and to plan new projects based on real needs from the field;
 - Possibility for advocacy supported with data.

Direct Benefits (2)

■ Contribution for EY2010:

- First Poverty Report by Caritas BH;
- Media and public awareness activities;
- Zero Poverty petition signing;
- One Million Stars action (planned for 17th October 2010).
- ...

Direct Benefits (3)

- For Government and public institutions:
 - More quality data about poverty and social exclusion (Caritas can access the most vulnerable groups or individuals).

- For poor people (groups):
 - Their voice and ideas are published for the very first time in Poverty Report;
 - Small projects for community development financed.

Some poverty data

- 71,9 % of the poor families lives with less than **75 Euro** per member per month (poverty line in country 195 Euro).
- **Elderly people** are one of the most vulnerable groups (no support from public, abandoned, no interaction with community, lack of income).
- 64,3 % of Caritas beneficiaries have maximum **secondary level of education**.
- **Economical poverty** (very low pensions, underpaid workers, unemployment, insufficient social assistance for dignified life) is very diffused in all territory.
- **Disable persons** face strong cultural, architecting and legal barriers (access to job market or education system).

Thank you for your attention



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