

Intercultural camp in the municipality of Rudo: a tool for reconciliation through the promotion of cultural diversity



Visit to Rudo camp © Danijel Hopić

- Intercultural Youth Camp in Rudo organized for over 5,000 children.

- Elementary school restored and opened for summer activities.

BACKGROUND

In the aftermath of the 1992-95 war and with the transition from a State to a market economy, the Municipality of Rudo lost its major sources of local income which had previously consisted mainly of revenue from State companies. It was the success of the neighbouring municipality (across the Dayton Peace Agreement-declared boundary line) that sought to revitalize itself by seeking funding from a number of external sources, which inspired the Municipality of Rudo to apply for project assistance under the MDG-F Programme.

PROCESS

The municipal authorities, aware of the limited capacities available, employed a Local Development Agency (LDA) to act on their behalf in preparing the project application. The LDA consulted with all stakeholders (teachers, school directors, the mayor, and neighbouring municipality organizers) in order to prepare a programme proposal that matched local needs. The municipal management gathered sufficient human capital, and utilized the municipality's natural beauty and resources in planning and implementing the programme. The municipality also managed to persuade the Ministry of Education and Culture to assist in obtaining the required co-financing since it could not meet the requirements from its own budget.

Outcomes

An abandoned local school at the edge of the lake in the rural area of the Municipality of Rudo was fully refurbished and turned into an intercultural camp for over 5,000 children of all ethnic groups from both BIH entities. The strong local network of schools ensured a sustainable and effective experience for students, particularly through the support of local teachers who worked in close collaboration with teachers from the neighbouring municipality. The project was further developed by the Mayor himself, who cooperated with the Ministry of Education and Culture in creating a major development-based programme to help the municipality expand its tourism sector. This success story provides evidence of exemplary cooperation between two United Nations agencies: UNDP for reconstruction, call for tenders, and governance issues; and UNICEF for beneficiary (children) motivation, distribution of information, and intercultural education aspects.