



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА
Комесаријат за
избеглице

THE STATE OF INFORMAL COLLECTIVE CENTRES IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

December 2009

INTRODUCTION

During the course of December 2009, the Commissariat for Refugees has, in cooperation with UNDP, realised the project of “Support to the Implementation of the National Strategy for Resolving the Problems of Refugees and IDPs through Assessment of Needs of IDPs in Collective Centres in the Republic of Serbia”, under the scope of which a study has been conducted on informal collective centres on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The result of this research is an overview on the state and conditions of these objects in which refugees and internally displaced persons have settled on their own initiative. The aim of the entire activity is to identify possibilities to improve the housing conditions of these persons and to find durable solutions in order to close down those objects, that is, to bring an end to their utilisation as an accommodation for refugees and displaced persons.

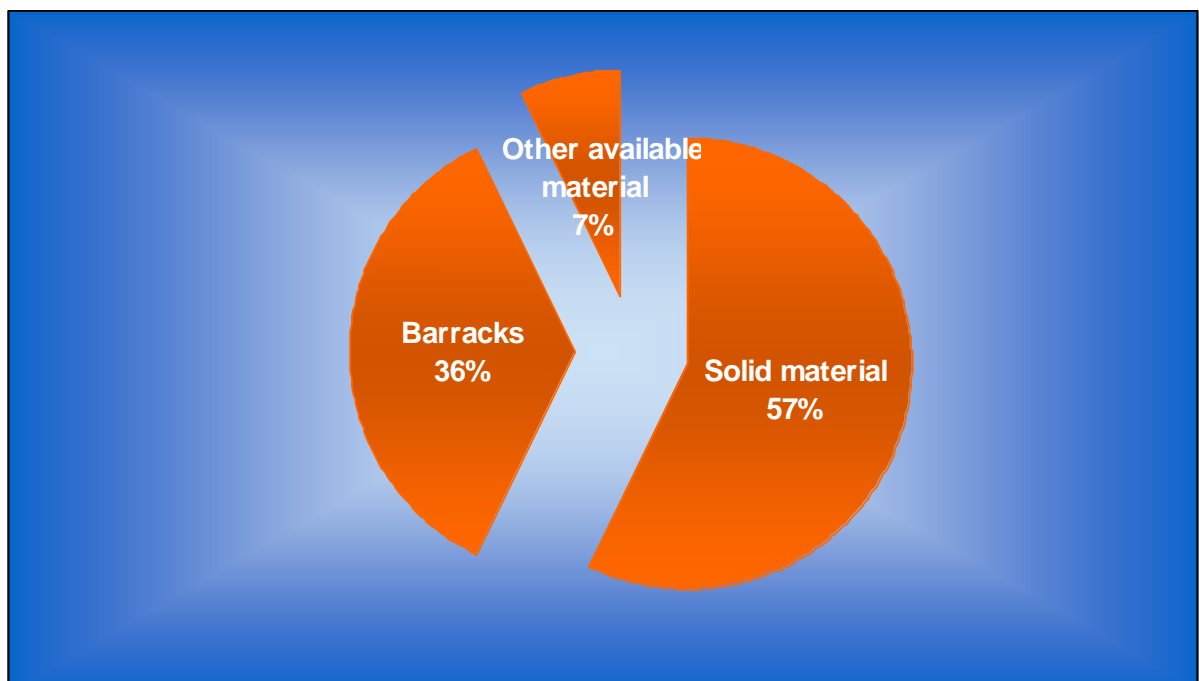
The study included informal collective centres identified by UNHCR, the trustees of the Commissariat for Refugees and Group 484, which at the same time carried out a study on persons accommodated in the informal collective centres. The initial index included 50 informal collective centres. Following the examination in the field some of those were removed from the list, whereas another three were added to the listing.

The final outcome refers to 42 informal centres. Given that persons moved to the informal collective centres on their own initiative and without the approval of the competent authorities, neither on the local nor on the central level, the possibility remains for the list to be extended additionally.

RESULTS

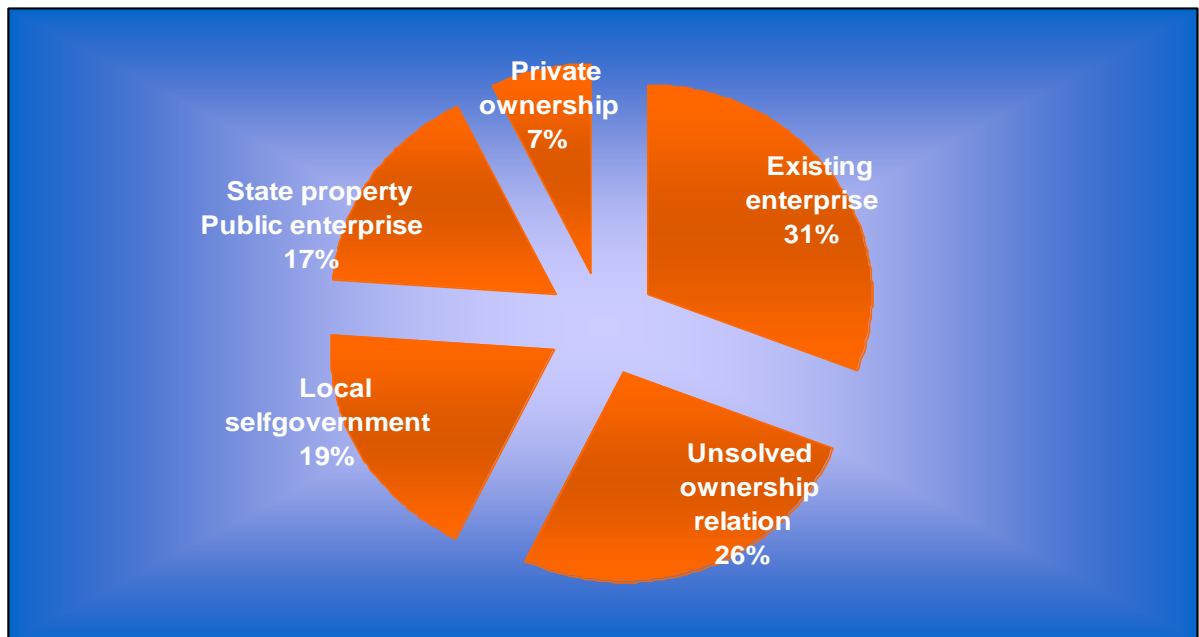
Type of Object

Most of the objects that are used as informal collective centres are made of solid material, totalling 24 objects, followed by 15 objects that are some type of prefabricated barracks, and 3 objects that are built of other available materials (brick stones, wooden and/or waste material).



Ownership

Most of the objects are owned by existing enterprises (13 objects), followed by 11 objects owned by companies that are bankrupt or there is an ongoing dispute over the ownership, 8 objects under the ownership of the local self-government, 7 are state property, whereas 3 facilities are self-initiated objects constructed inadequately, whose “owners” are the persons who built them. These objects are located in Obrenovac, Sjenica, and Pozarevac, which actually represent self-initiated constructed buildings that are primarily inhabited by Roma.

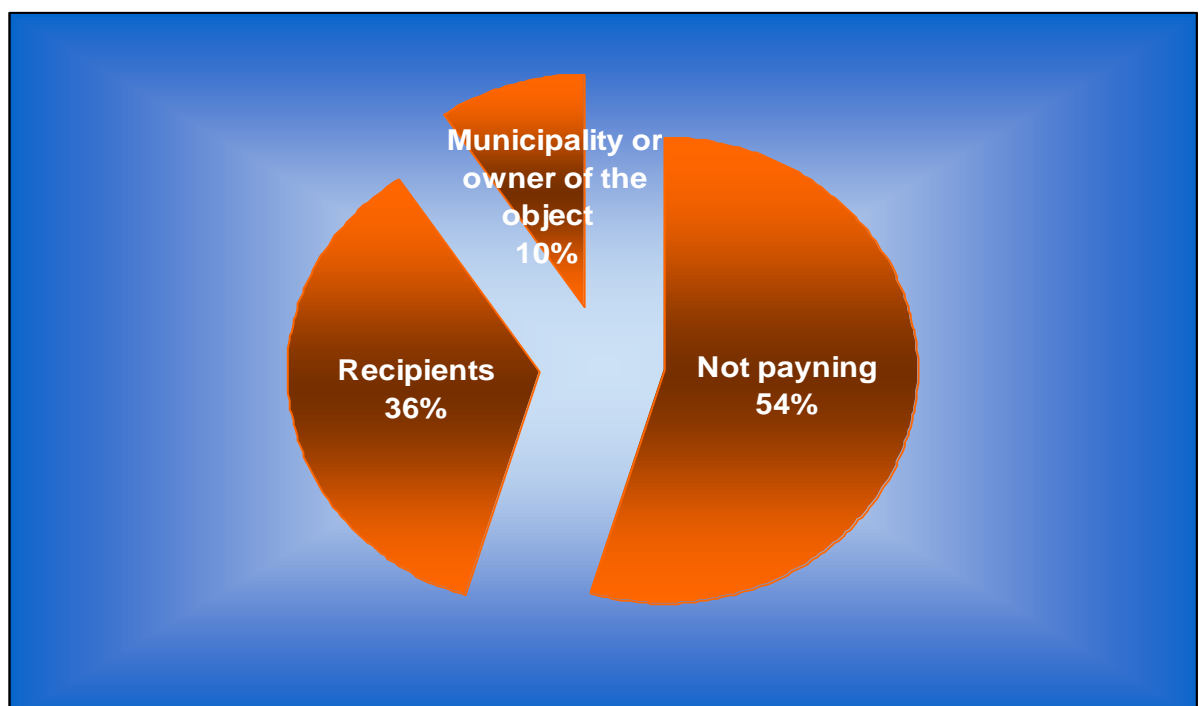


Maintenance

With the exception of three objects that were independently constructed by the respective owners, the only object that is being maintained is the one in Kalanic.

Payment of Electricity

The electricity consumption costs for most of the objects are not covered (23), for 15 objects the recipients pay for the consumed electricity, whereas for 4 objects the electricity is paid by the local self-government or the owner of the object.



Water Supply

In general, the informal collective centres do not have problems regarding the water supply. 37 objects are directly connected to the city waterworks, whereas only two objects have their individual local source. Unfortunately, there are 3 centres that have no appropriate water supply at all.

Water Supply:	
City waterworks	37
Individual local source	2
No adequate solution found	3

Removal of Waste Water

When considering the issue of waste water removal the situation is notably worse. Only 10 objects in total are actually connected to the sewage network. Out of the remaining objects 26 have their own septic tank/cesspit, whereby as many as 6 objects have no solution for the removal of their waste water.

Removal of Waste Water:	
Urban sewage	10
Individual cesspit	26
No adequate solution found	6

Removal of Solid Waste

Out of the total number of objects 22 dispose their waste through communal services to the city dump, 16 objects have their own landfill, whereas 4 objects do not even have a minimally satisfactory solution for the disposal of solid waste.

Removal of solid Waste:	
City dump/landfill	22
Individual dump/landfill	16
No adequate solution found	4

State of the Objects: Construction – Installations:

At the occasion of visiting the objects, assessments have been made on the functionality of the basic construction elements and installations. With the exception of the object located in Kalanic, and the object in Arilje, virtually all the other objects require some form of intervention.

From the data gained it can be concluded that the biggest problems are associated with the sewer installations and sanitary facilities, followed by the roofing. When considering the foundations, the water supply and the electrical installations, at least half of the objects require no major interventions concerning these elements.

State	Roofing	Walls and plinths	Foundation	Water supply installations	Sewage installations	Electrical installations
Out of order (or not existing)	13	13	12	12	25	10
Operational, but requires major interventions	16	12	9	9	7	11
Operational, but requires minor interventions	10	13	17	17	8	18
Operational, no intervention required	2	3	3	2	1	2
In an excellent condition	1	1	1	2	1	1

Proposal for Reconstruction

When considering the objects from all the examined aspects (ownership, the state of constructional elements, the state of installations, cost viability, the environment the object is located in, as well as the number of persons accommodated in it), a recommendation is also offered for the potential reconstruction of the respective objects. According to the evaluation only the object in Cukarica, which is under public ownership (a former school), has been recommended for reconstruction. Five objects do not require a reconstruction, while for all the other objects a reconstruction is not recommended.

Proposal for Reconstruction	
Recommended	1
Not recommended	36
Not required	5

The necessity to provide a water supply for the informal collective centre “Vitanovac” in Kraljevo has been particularly emphasised.

CONCLUSION

When considering the technical characteristics of the objects, the ownership relations and the number of persons accommodated in the objects, as well as the fact that only for one object a reconstruction is recommended, it can be concluded that a solution for the problems of the persons accommodated in informal collective centres can be found only in their inclusion into existing programmes for integration and improvement of housing conditions.

Given the extremely bad state of certain objects it is crucial to also include some of those centres as priorities for the realisation of the abovementioned projects. Likewise, it is vital to include the objects' owners, wherever this is possible, and the local self-government in resolving the problems of the informal collective centres and the definite closure thereof.

ANNEXES:

Annex 1 – List of identified informal collective centres

Annex 2 – Narrative report on the visitations of the informal collective centres

Annex 3 – Form of the questionnaire on the collective centres