



Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Schools & Colleges in Bosnia & Herzegovina

After the devastating war in Bosnia & Herzegovina which resulted in the destruction of lives and properties. A war that caused high economic losses; and the post-conflict reconstruction effort requires significant contribution from development institutions like the IDB. The high cost of the war brought international institutions together in order to reconstruct the country and put the economy back on track.

The IsDB, whose mission focuses on human development and the prosperity of the people granted special assistance, valued at more than USD 25.00 million for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war-torn education sector across the whole country. The Bank swiftly established the necessary safeguards for the quick implementation of this special education program in the country and succeeded in bringing smile on the faces of the people, particularly the pupils and their parents.

The Bank also provided shelter to the students by building the places of learning and dormitories for study which enabled growth through reading and writing, and gave the needed hope to many young children to eradicate misery and poverty after the war. The assistance of IsDB was considered as the finest present or gift that any individual or institution could ever offer to any other human being in this world. It was the gift of knowledge and the IsDB was more than pleased and honored to have played a part in this vital and critical development process at a very difficult time and juncture in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

The IsDB, in coordination with its development partners, provided the Bosnians with the gift of knowledge who after it were able to see the "light at the end of the tunnel" and in a record time. IsDB also helped the young students by equipping them with the tools to compete in the modern world: sciences, English, math., and the arts in addition to the subjects in the national curriculum. Thousands of books were also specially designed and printed through the Bank's support, not to mention the scholarships granted by the IsDB to many young undergraduates that enabled them to enter the prestigious University of Sarajevo and other centers of excellence. The Bank assisted to transform the education sector in Bosnia after the war in a magnitude never achieved

before in terms of the size of the grant assistance from IDB. The IsDB also built and rehabilitated more than 40 schools/colleges all over the country and completed the job in a record time (only one and a half years) where more than US\$ 25.00 million was spent as a special grant financial assistance to Bosnia – which, is not a member country of the IsDB but has since been treated as such.

On the day of the inauguration of the new schools at the Great Gymnasium Hall in Sarajevo the Official Opening was organized and H.E. the President of IsDB, Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali, spoke to all the young children and encouraged them to continue learning so as to excel in all their duties. In the end, H.E. the President, IsDB wished the students and faculty members every success and as a result of this success story many Bosnians - it is well known- will always remember IsDB - the institution which changed the lives of many people so dramatically under this extraordinary task. The Bank even provided essential facilities like school furniture and pedagogical equipment as well as a heating system for running water in all the schools at the peak of Winter. As a result, the children were back at school, and the process of regaining the lost years of the war kick-started once again.

