



**HELPING SHANTY
DWELLERS TO HOUSING
AFTER DANUBE FLOODS**

About the project



- **Project Beneficiaries:** *people who have lived for a longer time in flood zones in Budapest in self-built shacks, whose dwellings have been destroyed or damaged by the floods in the summer of 2013.*
- *From July 2013 there have been several negotiations between **HFH Hungary and Oliver Twist Foundation** in order to help the victims of the flood of the River Danube.*



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Preparatory phase

clarification of the goal:

- *providing housing for the clients*
- *active assistance in household management*

defining the possible solutions:

- *getting access to social rentals managed by the local government*

defining the target group:

- *people who have lived for a longer time in flood zones in self-built shacks in the summer of 2013*



Finding the cooperation partners

STREET SERVICES

- Léthatáron Foundation
- Hungarian Maltese Charity Service
- Twist Oliver Foundation

MUNICIPALITIES

- District IV.
- District XXII.

Fortunately the cooperating districts and the cooperating street services can be paired easily: Twist Oliver F. and Léthatáron F. are located in the 4th district, Maltese street service works in the 22nd district.

Implementation phase



- We set up tenders in „Újpest” and „Budafok”: the social workers and their clients could apply together.
- In the next step 5 properties were chosen to hold on for the project in the IVth district, and 2 properties in the XXIInd district.



- After the selection, we had further negotiations with the municipality's Asset Management.

- Next we started the assessment of the flats. This meant all the **5 flats in Újpest** and the **2 flats in Budafok**.



- Members of the street services have met with the Family-Care Center employees to arrange the step by step handover of the project's clients' and to arrange the details of the handover period. This cooperation is not usual in Hungary.
- After the social workers got to know each other, visited the clients (who still lived on the street) together. During the visit they have talked about the tasks ahead, scheduling and have shaken hands on an agreement to cooperate with each other.
- *Participating social workers got monthly payment from the project (approx. 10% of their regular salary)*



The first flats have been completed in Újpest...

...in the others the construction has been continued, so we could start the preparations for the moving in.

We held the first housewarming on July 4th of 2014 in Tomori street, Újpest in the presence of the media.



An absolutely new challenge

- In the first complete month when all the tenants/families have been living in the flat is been an absolutely new challenge for the tenants and also for their social workers.
- This was the first period when they had to pay their own bills and the rental costs (the clients successfully got over the challenges so far). In all subjects they can count on the social workers of the family support service.



We are facing also some problems...

- In one case keeping contact was quite difficult, in another the sustainability of the flat was a bit problematic.
- One of the clients has completely disappeared, didn't have any salary, but had quite significant back payments. He wasn't open to any solutions, so he had to move out in March.
- The other clients have been managing their lives, and are able to maintain the flats, including paying the rents, but they are also facing some personal problems.
- **We hope that the time of the project will be enough to see the long term perspectives of the clients.**

Summary

Strengths of the project

- Good experiences with the municipalities in Budapest (IV. and XXII.)
- First example for the cooperation between the street service and the family care center
- In one year only 1 person dropped out from the project
- Useful experiences for the street workers

Weaknesses of the projec

- Big gap between living in the street and living in a flat (totally different lifestyle, problems, challenges)
- Maintaining a flat can be a “bit” problematic
- Living in a flat, running a household is still fairly difficult for some participants
- Huge gap between the methodology of street social work and family-care social work

Opportunities of the projec

- Finding different ways to get access providing housing for the clients
- Finding different ways to keep their flats, and to take households
- Learning from each other (street workers/family care center)
- Utilizing experiences into future work methods

Threats of the project

- It is hard to prepare the clients for all the risks that may be ahead of them (there is no point of reference)
- If the plan doesn't work out well, the client may get frustrated
- The retentiveness of the old media
- The new media is not receptive enough

Thank you for your attention!

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