

to be known as



July 1996

Wednesday 31st July 1996

USAID/CDIE/D
Washington DC 20523-1802
USA

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Federal Grant No: AOT-3045-G-03-6020-00

PIO/T Number: 968-3045-95-35-6684053
Project Number: 968-3045
Project Name: Feed the Children, Emergency Winter Shoes/Clothing Programme in
Former Yugoslavia
Project Office: OFDA/DRD

I enclose the Final Narrative Report for the above grant.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank USAID/OFDA for its continuing support for our programmes in Bosnia

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

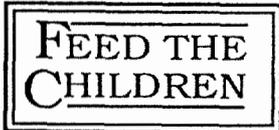
Yours faithfully

Libby Hare

Libby Hare
Assistant Director, Programme Operations

Mission Statement

To relieve those who are suffering need, hardship or distress anywhere in the world as a result of famine, drought, flood, war or any other calamity.



PD-ABN-104

to be known as



July 1996

EMERGENCY WINTER SHOES/CLOTHING PROGRAMME

A FINAL REPORT FOR OFDA/USAID GRANT

AOT-3045-G-00-6020-00

Submitted to:

USAID/OFDA

July 1996

Submitted by:

Feed the Children (Europe)

Mission Statement

To relieve those who are suffering need, hardship or distress anywhere in the world as a result of famine, drought, flood, war or any other calamity.

Contract data

Grant Number: AOT-3045-G-00-6020-00

Period: 15 December 1995 - 30 April 1996

Amount: US \$ 746,180

Initial Contract 15/12/95-30/4/96 US \$746,180

Amendment 1 No time extension **Budgetary modification**

Programme Objectives

To reduce suffering amongst children aged 3-14 years living in Bihac, Tuzla, Banja Luka and any other areas where a high percentage of IDP's are living in Bosnia. This was to be accomplished by the provision of warm boots and other essential winter clothing to 120,000 children.

Background

By late 1995, Bosnia had been at war for over three years. In mid-1995 some of the most significant events and displacement of people occurred since April 1992. In July, the enclaves of Srebrenica and Zepa fell, which caused an influx of displaced Bosnian Muslims into northern and central Bosnia. Within a matter of weeks, the combined armies of Croatia and the Bosnian Federation made massive land gains which culminated in the displacement of 250,000 Serbs from the Krajina area of Croatia. Thousands of Serbs were displaced from within Bosnia, all of whom headed initially for the town of Banja Luka.

The expulsion of the Krajinian Serbs also left the people of Velika Kladusa as refugees forced to flee their homes for the second time in a year. Approximately 25,000 people ended up in an area called Kupljiensko near the Croatian town of Vojnic.

As the winter of 1995 approached, most of these recently displaced people were still reliant on humanitarian aid for their very survival. Also reliant were the large number of people displaced or adversely affected by earlier military offensives and ethnic cleansing throughout Bosnian territory. Only a small percentage were in paid employment and the majority of those working were receiving extremely poor wages. Good footwear and warm clothing were items that every child needed but very few could afford, especially at the prices being asked in Bosnia for such goods.

To meet this need Feed the Children (Europe) (FTC(E)) proposed a winter clothing and footwear distribution programme for children in and around existing project areas where on-going supplementary feeding and hygiene programmes were operating, notably in and around Vitez, Bugojno, Banja Luka, Velika Kladusa, Bihac south and Tuzla.

This project was seen as a natural extension of the FTC(E) overall programme as the provision of winter footwear and clothing to children, would enable them to attend school.

In addition to the areas noted above, Gorazde had long been a target of FTC(E) , but access had been denied despite attempts to deliver aid there. In October 1995, FTC(E) was able to access the area and established a distribution programme for EVIs and those in collective centres. Gorazde had been 'cut off' from other Federation territory for some time and had a major shortage of basic supplies.

Beneficiaries

In general terms, the programme was targeted at school age and kindergarten age children throughout Bosnia Herzegovina. The beneficiaries ranged in ages between 5 years old and 14 years old. 90% of the beneficiaries fell within the primary school age range. The rationale behind FTC(E) targeting school children was that school attendance is an integral part of the rehabilitation of a community and the provision of winter footwear would ensure that the physical and environmental constraints on their attendance were minimised. As detailed previously a total of 114,000 boots and socks were distributed along with 3,140 winter jackets. Beneficiaries receiving aid are detailed below by area of intervention.

Within FTC(E)'s areas of operations, Programme Managers liaised with UNHCR and other agencies to ensure that maximum benefit was derived from the distributions. Distributions were targeted at specific locations which Programme Managers assessed to be of comparative high need. This allowed staff to carry out blanket distributions through schools and collective centres.

North West Area

Given that other agencies were already distributing winter clothing at Kuplensko camp FTC(E) did not target this area. Instead, the areas of Velika Kladusa, Busim, Bosanska Krupa, Sanski Most, Kljuc and Petrovac were targeted. It was felt that these represented the areas of highest need in the North West region and where an intervention of this kind was most likely to facilitate school attendance. The distributions themselves were carried out through kindergartens and primary schools in the location selected. A total of 19,500 wellington boots and pairs of socks were distributed by this team.

North East Area

FTC(E)'s office in Tuzla concentrated its efforts on former front line communities within the Canton. Again this was a result of a prioritisation of needs and co-ordination with other agencies. The target group were local children who were considered to be extremely traumatised from the war.

The areas targeted were Gradacac, Dobojski, Istok, Brcko, Celci, Teocak, Olovo where distributions were carried out through all primary schools and Banovici and Zivinice where distributions were carried out through the children's pharmacies and the Centre for Social Welfare. A total of 20,500 boots and socks were distributed to these areas and 3,140 jackets were distributed in Banovici and Zivinice to the children from Srebrenica which had not been covered by other agencies.

Central Bosnia

Central Bosnia area has, over the past year, undergone a marked improvement in its conditions. It also has a large concentration of NGOs based in Zenica. For this reason targeting and co-ordination was especially important. Through its food and hygiene programme FTC(E) were active in areas in the north of the area and in the south area. These areas until quite recently were severely war affected but retained a large population who had no where else to go to. They also contained a large number of displaced people. There were few other agencies operating in these sub-regions and their economic and social recovery was taking longer than the areas in the middle of central Bosnia around Zenica, Vitez and Kakanj.

The field office in Vitez targeted the Maglaj finger area which had received little NGO attention despite its severe conditions due to its perceived inaccessibility. The office also carried out distributions in Zavidovici and Zopec (both HVO and BiH) as these were areas that other agencies were not covering. The FTC(E) team in Bugojno targeted the rural communities where schools existed in its area of operation and therefore targeted villages around Dornji Vakuf, Gornji Vakuf, Kojnic and Jajce (BiH and HVO). A total of 29,650 boots and shoes were distributed throughout Central Bosnia.

Gorazde

Targeting was not a problem in the Gorazde pocket where all children were considered to be of high need and agency co-ordination was, at the time, simple because of the small number of agencies operating there. FTC(E) delivered 6,000 boots and socks in the Gorazde pocket and distributed all items through the primary schools.

Western Republika Serbska

FTC(E) had over the winter, established programme offices in both Banja Luka and Doboj to deal with the enormous needs of approximately 200,000 people displaced during the summer of 1995. Whilst the area of operation covered the whole of the Western Republika Serbska, the teams in Doboj and Banja Luka concentrated their distribution activities on Banja Luka, Celimac, Dubica, Knezevo, Kostajnica, Kotor Varos, Laktasi, Novi Grad, Mrkonjic Grad, Ribnik, Sipovo, Gradiska and Modrica. The teams used local institutions, such as Centres for Social Welfare and local NGOs as well as primary schools to ensure that the distributions could be prioritised to those who were most needy. The teams in Banja Luka and Doboj distributed a total of 23,350 wellington boots and socks.

Problems Encountered

There was some delay in the funding for the programme being processed and it was found that by the time FTC(E) was able to proceed, some of the previously intended beneficiaries had already received boots and underwear from other organisations.

Part of this was due to the comparative ease of access to all parts of Federation Bosnia and there was literally a flood of aid being 'dumped' in many locations across Bosnia by well meaning organisations, with a complete lack of co-ordination. Emotive named cities and towns like Sarajevo, Bihac and Gorazde were high on these people's target lists.

Nevertheless there was still a great level of need in many areas and the FTC(E) Bosnia team maintained contact with the in-country OFDA staff and discussed modifications to the original proposal, in line with the needs at the time.

Aid Delivered

In summary, the distributions by area were as shown in the following table:

Areas	Wellington Boots (no. of pairs)	Socks (no. of pairs)	Jackets
North West	19,500	19,500	
North East	20,500	20,500	3,140
Central Bosnia	29,650	29,650	
Gorazde	6,000	6,000	
W. Rep. Srpska	38,350	38,350	
Total	114,000	114,000	3,140

Changes in Procurement

Because of the points noted in the previous section (Problems Encountered) the following changes were made in line with needs. The number of boots was adjusted in line with the number of beneficiaries in January, 1996, and therefore 114,000 were purchased instead of 120,000. It was felt that a pair of socks should accompany each pair of boots and a further 34,000 pairs were purchased. Long underwear was deleted as other agencies had delivered that commodity and 3,140 extra winter jackets were purchased as they had been identified by the FTC(E) field teams as a particularly high priority.

Logistics

The supplies were procured in the UK and Western Europe. These were transported in large lorries carrying up to 20 tonnes each from the point of supply to FTC(E) 's warehouses at Split and Vitez. From these points, the aid was loaded onto smaller FTC(E) lorries for the journey to FTC(E) 's sub-warehouses at Bugojno, Cazin, Tuzla, Gorazde and Banja Luka. The aid was then directly distributed to the beneficiaries included in this project as described in the Beneficiary section above.

Monitoring

Monitoring is a critical part of FTC(E) 's programmes in Former Yugoslavia. There was comprehensive monitoring of all new distribution points and of all new distribution items. FTC(E) staff members were present at initial distributions of particular items or at a particular distribution points where records had to be verified for accuracy, and an inventory control system was established.

Beneficiaries were visited at random in their homes to ensure that the aid was received and in order to make assessments determining the affect the aid had. An example of one of the monitoring forms is attached in Annex 1.

Staffing

The organisation structure in Bosnia is shown in Annex 2. A list of expatriate staff that were funded under this grant are listed in Annex 3.

Budgetary Changes

Due to the changes in procurement detailed in the Aid Delivered section above, the following budget changes were made (as communicated to, and agreed by, OFDA):

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Modification</u>
Boots	513,600	497,045
Socks	57,600	68,555
Underwear	42,400	nil
Winter jackets	<u>nil</u>	<u>34,250</u>
Total	\$ 613,600	\$ 599,850

The under-spend of \$ 13,750 on commodities was reallocated to transport, as four extra trucks (ten as opposed to six) were needed to transport the goods to the FTC(E) base in Split, for onward transportation to Bosnia.

Project Accomplishments

There is no doubt that the programme was extremely successful and its aims were fully accomplished. Its late start, due to funding hold-ups, did cause problems but the teams worked very hard to ensure that once the goods were in-country, they were delivered to the beneficiaries as speedily as possible. The late start also meant that the distribution of winter clothing and footwear was not possible before the onset of the coldest weather, and in fact took place during the cold winter period.

The delivery pattern used ensured that monitoring could be carried out and the results in all areas showed that there had not been any misappropriation of the aid. FTC(E) is most grateful to the USAID for funding this programme and being allowed to purchase high quality boots, socks and jackets. The distribution, made to the most vulnerable children, has significantly contributed to them being able to withstand a very long and hard winter. Without this intervention many of them would have been unable to attend school, which could have meant that their already badly disrupted education would have suffered yet another setback.