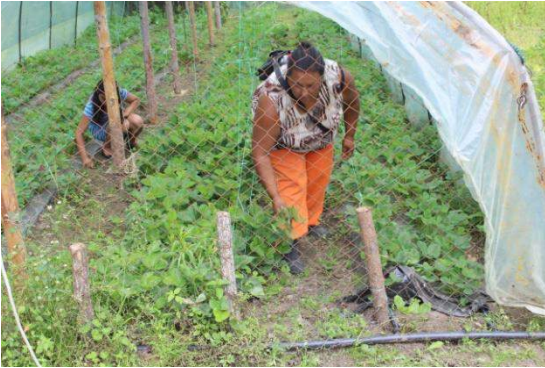


### PROBLEM WE SOUGHT TO ADDRESS



Bosilegrad ranks as the fifth underdeveloped municipality in Serbia, affected by a continuous outflow of the population due to their inability to earn a livable income. For this reason, the Optimist Association decided to support socially vulnerable families by helping them start up their own agricultural microbusiness – the production and sale of strawberries. The program was initiated in 2011 to include 35 families.

**During the December 2013 DobroČiniTi event, we raised a total of 417,680 RSD together enabling 5 more families to be included in the strawberry program.**

### WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THANKS TO OUR ASSISTANCE?



#### Outputs:

- Six socially vulnerable families from Bosilegrad were donated 15 x 5 m greenhouses with equipment and an irrigation system together with 500 strawberry plants
- All six greenhouses have been set and 3000 strawberry plants planted
- All six families went through two trainings on growing strawberries and microbusiness start ups
- The initial profit earned is shown in the table below by family. **The harvest is still on-going and the expectations are that the total profits will be significantly higher.**



Family's Name	# in Family	Initial Profit (RSD) harvest on-going
Vinka Stojneva	4	36,000
Miki Zarev	5	20,000
Olivera Vladimirova	5	40,000
Toni Borisov	9	32,000
Silvana Vasev	6	30,000
Violetka Mitev	5	35.000



**Toni Borisov, beneficiary:**

*“There are nine of us in the household and until now we have relied on one monthly pension of 17,000 RSD. Occasionally, I’d find work as a construction worker but since nothing is being built around here, that kind of work is scarce. This is why the assistance that we have been provided with is so important, people have taught us how to plant strawberries, donated to us a greenhouse and a nursery and then gave us wild strawberry plants with accompanying equipment...I have to say that this is the first time that we received something, and everybody knows how hard it is for us to make a living. I would like to thank everyone who took part in this project“.*



**Vinka Stojneva, beneficiary:**

*„We are refugees from Bosnia, and I was born in Bosilegrad. For all these years, I can say with clear conscience that no one has ever helped us; it was not the state, not the municipality or anyone... We didn’t know about this program, people came and offered us to work with strawberries and later on with wild strawberries and I wish to thank them for deciding to help us. They have explained to us how the funds were raised for this project and I wish to thank all those people from Belgrade who donated money for this to succeed and I can tell you that the aid came into the*

*right hands. These people haven’t asked anything from us, we paid nothing and got so much in return. We are hard-working people and will certainly make profit from strawberry trade....“*

**WHAT HAS DOBROČINI TI FUNDING MEANT FOR OPTIMIST ORGANIZATION?**



*The DobroČiniTi initiative is a terrific event, and probably the best way to raise funds in the community today. In addition to fundraising itself, the value of the initiative lies in the fact that the event includes very positive opportunities to make contacts, establish cooperation and enrich the initiative with fresh ideas due to the people who attend the event. The Optimist Association is motivated and wishes to continue participating in DobroČiniti in any way that is needed.*

Vladimir Stojanović, Optimist Program Manager

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Purpose	Planned	Spent	Documents
Purchase of greenhouses	391,680.00	391,680.00	Bank statement, invoices
Strawberry plants	26,000.00	24,500.10	Bank statement, invoices
Bank fees		1,495.24	Bank statement
<b>Total</b>	<b>417,680.00</b>	<b>417,675.34</b>	<b>Remaining: 4.66 RSD</b>

Catalyst staff verified the invoices and bank statements. The Optimist Association asked for a budget revision (to cover bank fees) since our funds were the only ones in the account and therefore this amendment was been approved. The number of strawberry plants purchased did not however decrease, since the vendor decided to donate a number of plants. The copies of invoices and bank statements are an integral part of the financial report and are available for review.