**Project „Back Home –reintegration of returnees and socially deprived families”**

## Introduction

KHCS Mother Teresa (MTS) is nongovernmental organization established since 1990. MTS works on cutting poverty off at its roots, by providing tools for sustainable change to the people most vulnerable. Families in need – men, women, children, elderly - are a vital part of MTS’s community-based efforts, to improve their basic living conditions, increase access to quality health care and expand economic opportunity for all. Currently MTS is implementing partner of Caritas Austria on Project *“Back Home – reintegration of returnees and socially deprived families”*. The project is generously co-financed by Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

**Context**

*Among the main reasons for a steady outflow of migrants from Kosovo since 2000 are the high unemployment, the lack of economic opportunities, dissatisfaction with the political system and insufficient education in Kosovo. Surveys indicate that about* ***half of the Kosovars between 18-36 years do plan emigration*** *from their country. The rate of asylum seekers from Kosovo is among the highest in Europe, however, their rejection rate is 93%. In the last months of* ***2014*** *and in the first two months of* ***2015****, many European countries experienced a* ***rise in the number of irregular immigrants and asylum seekers*** *fleeing from Kosovo.*

*The high rejection rate of Kosovar people in the EU constitutes a great challenge for the government in Kosovo that is confronted with a high number of returning migrants. The most recent official readmission statistics for January – December 2014 show, that 4,610 persons have been repatriated (3,352 of them readmitted by force and 1,258 voluntarily) from different EU countries.*

## Project impact and outcome

The project´s overall **goal** is to contribute to a reduced migration pressure in Kosovo and to foster the (re)integration of Kosovan population by establishing sustainable economic activities and increasing the well-being of 100 returnees and 20 socially deprived households. Targeted areas are those, which were highly affected by the wave of emigration in late 2014/early 2015 (areas around Mitrovica, Ferizaj and Pristhina).

## Expected Results:

(1) 120 families have developed individual development plans for the next two years regarding their socio-economic situation;

(2) The capacities (skills and resources) of the 120 beneficiary families for successful implementation of economic activities are strengthened.

*Project will be implemented throughout years 2016 and 2017*