

## O2 - Best Practice Data Sheet

People and Water NGO, Slovakia

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**Name of the Project:** FLOOD PROTECTION ZONE – Flood prevention by check dams in Jarovnice village in 2011-12

**Carrier of the Project:** Jarovnice village

**Country:** Slovakia / Prešov region

**Contact:** Jarovnice village,  
<https://www.jarovnice.sk/>

**Duration:** study and construction from 2011-2012



**Reference:**

<https://www.tyzden.sk/casopis/13213/hadky-o-hradzky/>

<https://spravy.pravda.sk/domace/clanok/257694-hradzky-skoncili-povodne-ma-zastavit-beton/>

### Origin and Context of the Project

Jarovnice is a village in Eastern Slovakia, with more than 4,000 inhabitants. In 1998, the village was hit by catastrophic floods. 49 children drowned in the flood wave.

After the floods, the state removed the damage by investing in the regulation of the river in order to avoid similar disasters in the future. More than € 4 million was invested into regulation of watercourse. While these investments produced the desired effect on the main watercourse, there are still many potential risks of local flooding in the river basin that are best addressed by the participation of the local community.

In 2011, a project to build dams by the local community was implemented and it proved to be an effective way of creating jobs for the socially underprivileged parts of population and involving them in the implementation of flood protection measures. This group of

people from the local Roma community, who are reported to be unemployable according to the statistics from the Labour Office, worked here for a total of 6 months.



A group of 10 men, registered at the Labour Office, built over 200 stone-wood dams in the course of 6 months, these can hold more than 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> of rainwater that was contributing to flood risks. The total cost of the project was € 120,000 (project preparation, engineering,



implementation and evaluation of the project).

The dam workers learned the craft, took their job very seriously and gradually gained recognition in the community for contributing to the flood safety of the community. There was a sense of pride in the communication with the dam builders. This was a proof that even long-term unemployed people can return to work habits and start enjoying work again.

A very interesting benefit was that Roma women were showing their children how hard their fathers worked. Several positive aspects emerged from the project:

- Community benefit
- Environment benefits
- Increased involvement and participation in community projects
- Work for the unemployed
- Role models for family members

In Slovakia, more than 500 projects in 488 municipalities were implemented in 2011-2012. The total investment cost was € 42 mil.. More than 100,000 objects were realized, these can hold more than 10 mil. m<sup>3</sup> of rainwater. More than 10,000 people worked on the project. In every community, there were at least 10 long term unemployed people involved in the projects.

In total, some 100 people employed were from Roma communities and 8 work teams were made up of only the Roma. The main innovation lies in linking environmental and social solutions.



Photo: Michal Kravčík