

BOSNIA

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BOSNIA NEWS

Children from Flood Affected Towns Special Guests of Kid's Festival

The eleventh edition of biggest event for children in Bosnia, Kid's Festival, opens this Friday in Sarajevo's Zetra

The Festival's organizers decided to go with the event as planned after the floods that deluged many towns and villages. Children from the places that suffered the consequences of the natural disaster will be the special guests of eleventh Kid's Festival. Organizers hope that they will benefit from spending a day with other children at the Festival and that they will forget about the disaster at least for a while.

The slogan of this year's Kid's Festival is "Kid's for Kids". The Festival's staff have organized a humanitarian aid drive two weeks ago, and they have visited the flood-stricken areas to deliver the aid. It was an opportunity to meet with local mayors and discuss the visit of local children to the Festival.

The Festival director, Susanne Prah, said that the Festival visitors will have a chance to buy stickers designed especially for the occasion. The proceeds will go to the families whose homes were destroyed by floods and mudslides.

Raiffeisen bank director Michael Muller praised the move to bring children from flooded towns to the Festival.

"I am glad that children will forget about the misfortune that happened to them at least for



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a while," he said.

The bank continues its sponsorship of the festival, same as the Swiss Embassy in Sarajevo. The Embassy has been supporting the Festival since its first edition eleven years ago.

"Our motto is 'Together we can do better', and its importance is bigger in moments such as these. The citizens showed solidarity, regardless differences. At the stand of Swiss Embassy, children will have an opportunity to send messages of encouragement to children who need it. Another theme will be 'Caution

mines'. Floods have moved land mines, and education is important to prevent accidents," said Swiss Ambassador Andre Schaller.

Kid's Festival will open on Friday with the traditional Kid's Parade, which will start in front of the Sarajevo Cathedral. Special ambassador Doris Pack will open the Festival. Organizers said that a special guest of the festival will be Mairead Maguire, a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

On Friday, June 13, a team of volunteers in Banja Luka will organize the first Kid's Fest Banja Luka.