

# Sowing reconciliation



AFSC SARAJEVO

## Community Gardens in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Davorin Brdanovic is director of the Community Gardens Association in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There he plants the **seeds of cooperation** that help people come together to heal the wounds of the Bosnian War which devastated and divided the region in the early 1990s.

During the siege of Sarajevo from 1992 to 1996, the city ran out of virtually everything. Davorin learned how to scrounge

food from the earth and began to appreciate gardening. The NGO American Friends Service Committee provided support to start the first community gardens.

“In 1999, we decided to establish a garden in the regions where there was the biggest confrontation between ethnicities. Here, in this neighborhood, was the front line of the confrontation between Serbs and Muslims in Sarajevo.

“If you give people something concrete to do—like produce food—they will come. If you say, come and be reconciled, they won’t come. Here, they harvest vegetables, and **they also harvest friendship.**”



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Davorin Brdanovic

“When these people come to the garden for the first time, they say proudly, ‘I’m a Serb’ or ‘I am a Croat’ or ‘I am a Muslim,’ and they stay in their separate groups. **But after 8-10 days, they become gardeners.**”



ATSUKO OTSUKA

A Muslim man shares his cucumbers with Serbian fellow gardeners

Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace.  
Earth Charter Principle 16

### ENDANGERED ANIMALS



### OLM

The olm is a blind amphibian endemic to the subterranean waters of caves in southern Europe. Its senses of smell and hearing are acutely developed. It lacks any pigmentation in its skin. It eats, sleeps, and breeds underwater.

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