



**IOM - OIM
LEADSTORIES**

- **Beautification and Improvement of Environmental Conditions in Roma Mahalla in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica**
- **IOM/USAID Community Enhancement and Development Programme completes the renovation of the “Gëzimi Ynë” Kindergarten in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica**
- **SSC Fair a unique opportunity for a new market linkages and business partnerships**

NEWS IN BRIEF

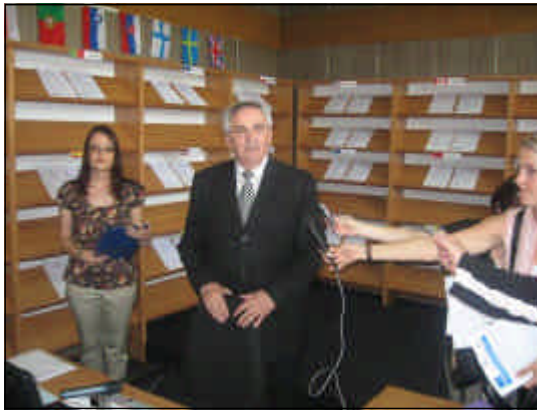
IOM in cooperation with National Coordinator for Counter Trafficking organized the workshop for the finalization of the Strategy and Kosovo Action Plan (KAP) for Counter Trafficking.

The IOM Project, “Poverty the Alleviation in Marginalized Municipalities (PAMM), funded by the European Union (EU) through the European Commission Liaison Office (ECLLO), recently has concluded the third call for proposals. Out of 434 applications, 90 projects were awarded with grants totaling €765,000. The supported businesses will create around 360 fulltime and seasonal jobs.

KOSOVO NEWSLETTER

International Organization for Migration

IOM and Kosovo Government Promotes Legal Migration through Information and Referral Services of Newly Opened Migration Service Centre in Prishtinë/Priština



Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Mr. Gjergj Dedaj inaugurating the Migrant Service Centre

Promoting orderly migration within and from the Western Balkans is challenge that governments and migration agencies of the region and of Western Europe have faced for the last two decades. The wars and turmoil's in the Balkan during the 1990's created a huge refugee crisis in parts of former Yugoslavia that resulted in intensification of irregular migration towards Western Europe mostly consisting of refugees and asylum-seekers from a variety of backgrounds.

It is difficult to establish how many Kosovars currently live outside Kosovo but it is estimated that 550,000 people make up the Kosovo Diaspora.

Even these days due to the poor national economies and social difficulties irregular migration is still present. In this line, many individuals seeking a better future for themselves and their families, decide to migrate illegally, mainly to western European countries.

In order to reduce irregular migration and optimize the possibilities for legal migration, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in close partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kosovo Government, in July have opened a Migrant Service Center (MSC) in Prishtinë/Priština as a part of regional network of MSCs (Tirana, Podgorica, Skopje, Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb) in the region. The MSC aims to foster local capacity to develop migration policy and provide potential migrants with efficient information, advice and referral to appropriate services.

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IOM—KPC Trust Fund Builds four Medical Clinics throughout Kosovo

The public health sector in Kosovo is in urgent need of improvement on all levels, and this sector was chosen for intervention during phase four of the IOM Trust Fund for Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) Programme. Financially supported by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands Embassies in Kosovo, four medical clinics are currently being built in villages Varosh and Llojzë/a in Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality, in village Skromë/a, Vushtrri/Vucitrn Municipality and in village Dobrushtë/a in Prizren Municipality. The specific sites selected for the new medical facilities were identified in coordination with Kosovo Ministry of Health.

The village of Varosh/s is located in the southern end of the Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac and has a population of approximately 3,400 inhabitants. The closest medical facility for the people of this region is over ten kilometres away. Therefore, this project will dramatically reduce the travel time required to reach medical care, and also will raise the living standards and quality of life for the area's inhabitants.



Inauguration of the work for the medical clinic in the village of Varosh/Varos Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality

In nearly continuous implementation since July 2000, the IOM Trust Fund productively engages members of the Kosovo Protection Corps in civic and humanitarian work projects, which contribute to the reconstruction of Kosovo's infrastructure for all communities.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading international organisation working with migrants and governments to provide a humane response to migration challenges. Established in 1951 as an intergovernmental organisation to resettle European displaced persons, refugees and migrants, IOM maintains close working relations with UN bodies and operational agencies as well as international and non-governmental organisations.



LEADSTORIES

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Newly opened Migrant Service Centre in Prishtinë/Prishtina

The MSC in Prishtinë/Prishtina was inaugurated by Kosovo government Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Mr. Gjergj Dedaj. In his address Mr. Dedaj presented the Government's policy on migration issues which is mainly focused on efforts to encourage the Kosovo Diaspora to return or to invest in Kosovo.

He also emphasized the necessity of visa liberalization for Kosovo citizens that will create an opportunity for Kosovars to work abroad and this way alleviate a very high rate of unemployment in the country.

Referring to the previous IOM Kosovo experience in this field, Mr. Sheremet Kukaj, MSC Project Coordinator for Kosovo, specifically mentioned the former Migration Service Center project implemented from 2004 until the 2006. "During this period IOM MSC visited almost 3 thousand persons which is about 45% percent of the total number of the people that visited all MSC in the region".

The MSCs its part of the Capacity Building, Information and Awareness Raising towards Orderly Migration in the Western Balkans project funded from European Community AENEAS 2006 Programme, Swiss Federal Office for Migration and German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. Besides information, advice and referral services to

migrants and potential migrants, this project will aim to build a capacities of local authorities. MSC is located within the structure of Prishtinë/Prishtina Regional Employment Centre who's staff will work together with IOM staff in the implementation of the project simultaneously receiving on the job training from IOM.



MSC Project Assistant Ms. Shqipe Pallaska informing the potential migrants

Beautification and Improvement of Environmental Conditions in Roma Mahalla in Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica



IOM Project Manager Panagiota Voidonikola presenting the Roma Mahalla beautification project to the Deputy Prime minister Mr. Hajredin Kuçi, and the Head of the EU Mr. Renzo Davidi

The Roma Mahalla is located in southern part of Mitrovica, but was destroyed during the conflict in 1999. Some of the families were displaced to camps in Northern Kosovo, while others were displaced to Serbia, Montenegro and Western Europe. In March 2007 RAE population began the return to Roma Mahalla. Despite the reconstruction of houses, buildings, a cultural centre, a health centre, a playground and other premises, the Roma Mahalla residential area was a "dead" zone with no green areas trees or grass, no demarked paths or benches and trash is spread in the streets. There was a playground for kids to play and youngsters to play sports, but no space for people to sit down and communicate.



Inhabitants of the Roma Mahalla quarter celebrating the completion of the project



Construction work at Roma Mahalla in Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica

On 9th of May 2008, IOM Support for Stabilization of Communities (SSC), a programme funded by European Union (EU) through the European Commission Liaison Office (ECLLO), facilitated the inauguration ceremony for "Improvement of environmental conditions in Roma Mahalla" project implemented in the returnee neighborhood of South Mitrovica-Roma Mahalla. On this occasion the Deputy Prime minister Mr. Hajredin Kuci, the Head of the European Union Mr. Renzo Davidi, EAR Task Manager for SSC Mr. Samir Selimi, the community and other relevant stakeholders were present.

Under SSC programme for supporting larger community initiatives the EU approved the project implemented by IOM to improve the environmental conditions in the Roma Mahalla residential area. Construction works were completed for pathways between the buildings, garbage bins and benches were placed and trees and flowers were planted. For this initiative, EAR provided over 13 000 € through the IOM programme Support to Stabilisation of Communities

LEADSTORIES

IOM/USAID Community Enhancement and Development Programme completes the renovation of the “Gëzimi Ynë” Kindergarten in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica



Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Mission Director Mr. Bajram Rexhepi Mayor of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, and Mr. Andrew Phelan from IOM received a symbolic gifts for their contribution to this project

On the 27th of August 2008 an inauguration ceremony was held in the Gëzimi Ynë Kindergarten in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, to mark the completion of the building renovation implemented by

the IOM through USAID funding.

The event drew a vast amount of public and media attention. Among the high-profile invitees were Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Mission Director, Mr. Bajram Rexhepi, Mayor of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Bislim Ymeri, Director of Environmental Department of the Municipality. Xhelal Shabani, Coordinator of the Department of Environment and Agriculture of Municipality and Ms. Shefkije Nimani, Director of the Kindergarten. The newly renovated kindergarten in downtown Mitrovica has 350 children from 9 months to 6 years old. The children attending this kindergarten come from Mitrovica and the surrounding villages. They are of Albanian, Bosniak and Turkish ethnicities.

This renovation project included a considerable amount of interior and exterior work. The windows of the school were replaced, the toilets redone, the cafeteria refurbished and the interior of the school repainted. Outside, the play-structure was repaired and the first 20 centimeters of top soil of the grounds was removed

and disposed of, as there are concerns that lead from the Trepca complex may have contaminated the soil. This, as well as the removal of the roofing materials, was coordinated with the municipal environment department who ensured that the waste materials were disposed according to Kosovo's environmental guidelines.



Children celebrating a completion of the renovation of their kindergarten

IOM/EU organized Fair a unique opportunity for a new market linkages and business partnerships

The IOM/EU programme “Support for the Stabilisation of Communities (SSC) in June in Gračanica/Graçanicë have organized a Fair with the sole participation of around 110 of the most successful SSC beneficiaries. The fair also included the training on advertising, branding and packaging for the participants. SSC is specifically design income generating intervention for the business people living in the disadvantaged minority areas in Kosovo.

The main purpose of the fair, was to promote economic and community revitalization for all communities in Kosovo through an adherence to the principles of economic opportunity, sustainable development, and community-based partnerships. The fair gave an unique opportunity for the beneficiaries to share their experiences, products, services, among them and the larger community. This event brought together beneficiaries from different sectors that have the willness and potential to improve their existing micro-business, encourage market linkages among them. The assumption is that this growth/development process leads to increased levels of general welfare that would reduce the out migration and increase the resettlement of actual displaced persons.



Training on advertising, branding and packaging for the FAIR participants

All Fair exhibitors were divided per sector of production/services. On this way, Food, Honey, Wine & Brandy, Cookies, Clothes, Shoes, Carpentry, PVC, Advertising & Engraving, Coffee and Herbs, Feed, Vegetables and Plants, Plastic & Metal, Construction and Handcrafts producers had opportunity to share a stand with the producer of the same kind of products/services. Each sector –depending on the number of exhibitors had between 5-10 producers in one space. “This is an extraordinary opportunity for us coming from enclave villages to exhibit our products and present to wider population what we can do. Other organisations

should follow this great example” said one of the SSC beneficiaries Mr. Predrag Jovic from Crkvena Vodica/Caravodice, Obiliq/Obilic Municipality from Honey production sector.

Since the SSC inception, the isolated and disadvantaged minority ethnic communities in Kosovo have been receiving financial and technical assistance to create income generation activities and provide employment opportunities. Many rural communities lack of freedom of movement, jobs, access to the market, public services and declines in young population.

The IOM-implemented, EU financed Support for the Stabilisation of Communities Programme is a spin over from the Community Stabilization Programme which started in November 2002 and was completed in December 2006. SSC started in April 2007 with the ultimate aim to provide minority communities already living in Kosovo with better living conditions so that they are more willing to remain in Kosovo and those who have left are more encouraged to return.

IOM Kosovo, through Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR), is dedicated to creating an environment conducive to successful and sustainable returns, implementing complementary reintegration support measures and a range of capacity building activities that have already benefited, directly and indirectly, more than a million people in Kosovo.



Humanitarian Return and Transport Assistance for the returnees



Airport assistance for the Kosovar citizen returning from the UK

IOM Kosovo, through Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR) programmes aims to promote sustainable voluntary return and reintegration of Kosovars, returning from different countries through measures to improve economic prospects for both the returnees and members of the receiving communities. Since 1999 IOM Kosovo in coordination with different governments has developed several AVR programmes for Kosovar returnees giving a special attention to the vulnerable individuals and groups. This is done by providing specific transport in accordance with the needs, employment opportunities through referrals, on-the-job trainings, business training, the provision of micro-credits/-grants and trade-related toolkits. Included in this category are: the elderly, the handicapped, unaccompanied minors, single women travelling with children, the sick persons and ethnic minorities.

At the same time through specific reintegration-designed projects IOM contributes to the sustainable return and reintegration of voluntary returnees. Reintegration services include but it is not limited to: vocational training courses, setting up small businesses, education support, social care, housing, medical support, school fees for children, costs related to training/education in the institutions where these are undertaken employment opportunities through referrals, on-the-job trainings, business training, the provision of micro-credits/-grants and trade-related toolkits.

Kosovo Humanitarian Returns Programme - Transport and Direct Assistance Components

This Programme was among the first initiated IOM Kosovo AVR intervention in 1999, providing return assistance including the transportation of beneficiaries to their final destinations within Kosovo. The programme continues today and during the period from 1 May 2008 through 31 August 2008, a total of 311 Kosovars came back through IOM Assisted Voluntary Returns programme, of which 304 returned by plane and seven by land transportation.

The majority of the returnees were from Austria (95) Germany (72), Norway (37), Belgium (27), United Kingdom (26), Switzerland (22), Netherlands (14), Luxemburg (5) Hungary (4), Finland (4) and a small number coming from other European countries. From 1999 to the present, a total number of 192,582 returnees have been assisted by IOM.

Additionally during this period, IOM provided transportation assistance – for travel from Kosovo to other countries for seven people as a part of the medical assistance within the Complex Medical Cases Programme, two persons for resettlement to Australia and one victim of trafficking was repatriated as well. To date, 3,148 Kosovars have been assisted with transportation from Kosovo to other countries under various IOM activities such as medical assistance trainings, resettlements, family reunion victims of trafficking, etc.

Return and Reintegration from various projects

Family Tracing Activities and Assisted Voluntary Return of Unaccompanied Foreign Minors, its a new project in support of the Italian Committee for Foreign Minors, within the Ministry of Social Solidarity - UAFM. This project aims to provide a technical cooperation to national and local administrations tasked with seeking sustainable and effective solutions to irregular migration of this group. The project through Assisted Voluntary Return will support the reunification of up to 300 minors with their families in the countries of origin or elsewhere based on the decision of the Italian Committee for Foreign Minors and relevant judicial authorities assignment of the

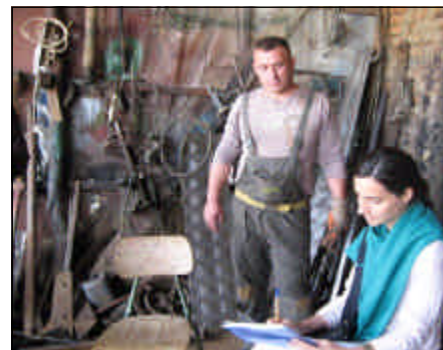
minors to the competent foster care authorities This project, both at national and international level, is implemented in compliance with the norms protecting minors' interest and right to family reunification.

During the period from May to August 2008, 77 family tracing interviews with family members have been conducted in different villages/municipalities within Kosovo in close cooperation with the social workers from respective municipal Centres for social work.



UAFM beneficiary with purchased equipments

Another IOM managed return programme is Assisted Voluntary Return Programme from Central Europe. This voluntary return initiative seeks to contribute to the enhancement, promotion and harmonization of assisted voluntary return practices in Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland. The programme offers the arrangement of the travel until the final destination, pre-departure counseling including comprehensive and up-to-date information on the country of origin and financial return grant. Moreover, returnees are offered the opportunity to apply for assistance in setting up a small business in their country of origin. At the beginning of June the programme monitoring and evaluation team composed by the representative of Hungarian government as well as from IOM Budapest and IOM Prague staff visited IOM Kosovo and witnessed a several successful cases that have been sup-



Evaluation visit to CE AVR beneficiary

IOM Kosovo, through Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR), is dedicated to creating an environment conducive to successful and sustainable returns, implementing complementary reintegration support measures and a range of capacity building activities that have already benefited, directly and indirectly, more than a million people in Kosovo.



Return and Reintegration Assistance

Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP)

IOM Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) funded by the government of United Kingdom (UK) provides return and reintegration support for the sustainable return of Kosovars from the UK, in cooperation with IOM Office in London. The programme facilitates sustainable return of Kosovars by providing the following reintegration options: vocational training courses, establishment of small businesses, education support, school fees for children, training/education support, employment opportunities through referrals and or on-the-job training as well as temporarily housing.

Through this programme, during the period from May to August 2008, 23 persons returned and were entitled to reintegration assistance. The majority of these returnees have taken advantage of the assistance available to them and almost all have been counselled. The main areas of returnees' income generating projects have continued to be: on the job training supported through salary subsidies, jobs in the service sector and agriculture as well as activities related to construction. During above mentioned period, 22 individuals have benefited directly and 26 indirectly from the 11 projects supported by the VARRP reintegration fund.



IOM VARRP supported business in the service sector-Restaurant in Ferizaj/Urosevac

The greatest number of returnees from the UK has resettled in the Prishtinë/Pristina and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region, where strongest results with regards to returnee reintegration have been achieved. During this period, Head of IOM London Operations, has visited 26 Projects, including older returnees cases as well new returnees cases under the so called new VARRP approach, and discussed with IOM Kosovo colleagues further development of VARRP projects.

Return and Reintegration Assistance



REAB beneficiary supported with expansion of wood-processing business in in Glllogoc/Glogovac Municipality

Return and Emigration of Asylum Seekers EX Belgium

Return and Emigration of Asylum Seekers from Belgium (REAB) facilitates the sustainable return to the country of origin, providing additional reintegration support to returnees. This humanitarian programme funded by the government of Belgium, assists migrants in need who wish to voluntarily return to their country of origin or to emigrate to another country and do not have the necessary means. During the period from May to August 2008, six cases consisting of eight individuals returned from Belgium to Kosovo and benefited from assistance options such as: training, schooling, job referral and expansion of business (micro grant and tools), medical treatments, medicine provision as well as housing accommodation and housing equipments.

AVR for Western Balkans and the Return Information Fund (RIF)

Within the framework of the upcoming Migration Partnership for the Western Balkans 2007-2009, the project aims at facilitating the voluntary return of vulnerable persons originating from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia including Kosovo and Montenegro, including members of ethnic minorities from Kosovo currently residing under the Swiss asylum regime and at supporting their sustainable reintegration in the country / area of origin (CoO).

During the period from May to August 2008, three cases consisting of 11 individuals have returned under the auspices of the project. These persons were entitled to financial reintegration assistance, housing assistance and medical assistance, as well as possibility to benefit from EAS programme. One case (family) received housing assistance and education assistance another, minority case, received housing and vocational assistance. One case have returned to Prizren region and one in Pejë/Pec region. Up to date 44 vulnerable cases (98 individuals) have been assisted through this programme.

Returns Assistance Switzerland (RAS) service is a part of the continuous support that the Swiss Government extends to those who are voluntarily returning to their communities of origin in Kosovo. The assistance provided has generally included: support for education, the purchase of medications, housing equipment, financial resettlement assistance and toolkits for those initiating or expanding small businesses. These services are extended to those who return voluntarily from Switzerland to their communities of origin. In 2008, 15 individuals (14 cases) or during the returned under this programme and received various forms of reintegration assistance.



RAS Programme supported an agriculture business in Viti/Vitina municipality

In its Technical Cooperation in Migration (TCM) component, the IOM Mission closely cooperates with donor countries, local authorities, and international organizations to improve the conditions for the return and retention of ethnic minorities through targeted interventions in the field of transport, direct assistance, specific reintegration measures and income generation support as measures for community stabilisation.



TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Infrastructure Assistance-Community Stabilisation

Trust Fund Programme

In nearly continuous implementation since July 2000, the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Trust Fund (TF) Programme funded by the governments of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands and Denmark, productively engages members of the Kosovo Protection Corps in civic and humanitarian work projects, which contribute to the reconstruction of Kosovo's infrastructure for all communities. Furthermore, since many of the projects have benefited ethnically mixed and ethnic minority communities in identified return areas, the KPC's participation in the Trust Fund has contributed to increas-



Construction of bridge in Bajčinë/Bajcine in Podujevë/Podujevo Municipality

ing tolerance among the majority community towards members of ethnic minority groups, bolstering the growth of an environment conducive to minority returns.

In total, twenty-four proposed projects have been approved within the new TF Programme

for 2008; this includes initiatives to construct/reconstruct schools for various communities that currently lack safe and adequate educational facilities, construction of public health facilities/medical clinics, fire stations, bridges and community health/sewage system construction.

Phase IV of Trust Fund was officially launched in April 2008; since then until September, 16 projects have started their implementation, of which 12 ongoing projects, while four projects have been completed.

The completed projects are school reconstruction projects in different municipalities of Kosovo while the ongoing projects include: construction of two bridges, four medical clinics, two fire stations, construction of one footpath, and three school reconstruction projects.

Fund for Agro-Processing and Industrial Revitalization (FAIR)

This programme, funded by the European Union (EU) through the European Commission Liaison Office (ECLLO) and co-funded by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg aims to contribute to the economic development in the northern part of Kosovo, specifically in the municipalities of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Zvečan/Zveçan, Leposavić/Leposaviq, Zubin Potok and Vushtrri/Vucitrn by offering financial and technical support to entrepreneurs through the provision of grants ranging from 50,000 to 200,000 EURO in the sectors of manufacturing, agro-processing and service.

FAIR started in March 2007 and up to today has launched three calls for proposals. In the third round of call for proposals FAIR has received a total of 101 applications. After assessments were conducted by EAR funded consultancy, the FAIR Grant Committee agreed to accept three applications from this round into the programme for funding.

The allocated investment from FAIR for the third round beneficiaries is around 420,000 EUR. The three new companies plan to create a total of more than 50 new jobs.

Economic development and creating employment



Drying of curative plants and tea packaging project

Poverty Alleviation in Marginalized Municipalities (PAMM)

This project also funded by the European Union (EU) aims at creating the employment and other types of income-generating opportunities in the targeted ten marginalized municipalities in Kosovo by providing financial support ranging from €5,000 to €8,000 for the start-up or the expansion of micro-enterprises as well as by provision of grants ranging from €10,000 to €40,000 for the larger-scale community-development initiatives, with sound economic potential.

In addition, the project provides training and marketing services through the Regional Business Centres intending to support local existing and aspiring business people in developing jobs and creating revenues. This year the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) has transferred all the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (CARDS) programs and contracts to the European Commission Liaison Office (ECLLO). This includes the managing of the PAMM project.

The PAMM project implemented since May 2007, and has been launched three calls for proposals. Recently PAMM has concluded the third call for proposals. Out of 434 applications from PAMM municipalities, 102 projects were short-listed. Jointly with ECLLO the short-listed projects were evaluated and 90 projects from different sectors were awarded with grants totaling €765,000. From the supported 90 projects, 44 are existing and 46 are new businesses. The supported businesses will create around 360 full-time and seasonal jobs. The supported projects consist of the following sectors : 70% are production based, 21% services, agro-processing 3%, crafts 3% and horticulture 3%.

In the field of Counter-Trafficking (CT), IOM maintains its support for the return and reintegration of victims of trafficking, while simultaneously forging and enhancing ties with relevant local governmental and non-governmental agencies and regional assistance networks through capacity building measures. Awareness raising, as part of IOM's longer-term prevention based work, remains a top priority and is being enhanced by several of the Mission's current programmes that include information campaigns.



COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Capacity Building and Awareness Raising Activities

Counter-Trafficking Prevention and Capacity Building Programme in Kosovo and FY Republic of Macedonia

The main aim of this Counter Trafficking Programme that concluded its four-year activities was to establish a functional government and NGO infrastructure capable of raising awareness on the issue of trafficking at regional and local level. The programme created a well co-ordinated, efficient and functional referral network at the governmental and non-governmental level.

After the conclusion of the second phase of the project in April 2008, IOM proposed to the Finish Government a continuation of the project for eight months in order to maximize the lasting impact of the project and ensure continuity in the context of institutional changes in Kosovo and prevent any loss of institutional memory.

After the nomination of Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) as the National Coordinator for Counter Trafficking, IOM support was focused on technical and professional terms, as CT competencies moved from the Office for Good Governance to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In addition to constant support, briefings on the CT fundamentals and current trends/issues were organized for MoIA staff. The recommendations for the new Kosovo Action Plan (KAP) and its first draft, that were prepared by the Counter-Trafficking Institutional Mentor were translated and disseminated among CT actors.

In follow to the compilation of the Strategy and KAP for Counter Trafficking, the Ministry of Internal Affairs organized three workshops; the first one was focused on Prevention, the second one in Protection and the third one in Prosecution. The workshops took place from 5-15 July 2008, in Durrës/Albania, and IOM staff has actively participated and assisted the MoIA.

IOM in cooperation with National Coordinator for Counter Trafficking organized the workshop for the finalization of the Strategy and KAP for Counter Trafficking. The one day workshop took place on 29 July 2008, in Prishtinë/Priština, with participation of 43 CT actors. The Strategy and the KAP is finalized in three languages, Albanian, Serbian and English, and its printing is in the process.



Workshop for finalization of the Kosovo Plan of Action on CT

Direct Assistance to Victims of Trafficking

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in South East Europe and Balkan Region

This IOM programme funded by Swedish International Development Agency aims to contribute to the regional counter-trafficking efforts in the Balkans by providing immediate assistance and protection to foreign and domestic victims of trafficking (VoT) including: safe shelter, medical care, social assistance, psychological counseling, assistance to return to their home countries, including vocational, educational and employment assistance.

In addition, the programme builds the institutional capacity of targeted countries to combat trafficking, through the strengthening of government and other relevant authorities' ability to implement appropriate counter-trafficking measures at the policy and operational levels.

During the period from May to August 2008 IOM Assisted six new Kosovar VoT three of them minors (under 18 year old). The cases were assisted with counseling, family mediation, trainings and income generating activities as well.

During this period IOM also assisted one new foreign victims of trafficking and continued the assistance for 10 other cases identified before. The foreign victims were assisted through services offered by this programme, namely, pre-departure assistance (psychological counseling, medical assistance, awareness raising about safe ways to travel or work abroad etc) Beside these new cases, 15 cases identified before, continued to receive IOM assistance.

Revision of Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for foreign victims of trafficking it was concluded in February 2008. The activity was coordinated and hosted among IOM and OSCE and with participation of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice (Victim Advocate Unit and Interim Secure Facility representatives), two shelter NGOs, Police units of Trafficking in Human Beings and Border Police. As a follow up activity in August 2008 in cooperation with ICMPD and Ministry of Interior it was initiated the re-organization of SOPs format in one document and in compatibility with other countries in the region. This process is expected to be finalized in October 2008.

Counter-Trafficking Trainings and Meetings

During this period IOM continued cooperation with KFOR CIMIC Section and Kosovo Police Service (KPS) to deliver presentations for KFOR and Kosovo Police School in Vushtrri/Vucitrn for 'Advanced Investigation Trainings' and 'Trafficking in Human Beings' regular sessions.



Educational assistance for the VoTs crucial for the reintegration efforts

In the field of Counter-Trafficking (CT), IOM maintains its support for the return and reintegration of victims of trafficking, while simultaneously forging and enhancing ties with relevant local governmental and non-governmental agencies and regional assistance networks through capacity building measures. Awareness raising, as part of IOM's longer-term prevention based work, remains a top priority and is being enhanced by several of the Mission's current programmes that include information campaigns.



COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Awareness Raising, Psycho-social counselling and Socio Economic empowerment of Victims of Trafficking

Economic and Social Stabilization Project for Potential Victims of Trafficking in Kosovo

The objective of this project is to contribute to the reduction of poverty among women thereby pro-actively addressing some of the contributing factors of irregular migration, particularly human trafficking, given that it is among the severest forms of human rights violations.

During the first four months of the project implementation, three partner NGOs have been chosen in the targeted areas and communities (Mitrovicë/a, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Prishtinë/Pristina), and according to the original plan of action, IOM has developed and shared general guidelines about the characteristics of the population to be targeted by the project through the partner NGOs.



CT informative meeting with potential victims of trafficking

Support to Regional Policies for Combating Trafficking in Women – Athens, Prishtina, and Sarajevo

Through this project that ended in June 2008 and was funded by the Greek Government during the two years implementation IOM has disseminated awareness rising materials to schools and communities that were re-produced from earlier IOM CT activities.

Materials targeted mainly school based children and youth as well as teacher from different communities. The following materials were distributed Cartoon in Albanian, Serbian and Roma languages for young children, those non attending school, or drop outs, game in Albanian, Serbian and Roma languages, for the same target groups as above, teachers' manual book (in Albanian), produced in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and used for teachers' training, workbook for primary school children (in Albanian), also produced in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and workbook for secondary school children (in Albanian), produced in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. Printed materials reached over 35 000 children of different ethnicities. Also through eight CT presentations over 415 students were informed about this phenomenon. In addition a total of 60 VoT received a psycho-social counseling empowering their integration into the society and labour market.

Concerning the necessary improvements to public health, IOM Kosovo -- through its Migration Health (MH) component -- continues to pursue several activities augmenting local technical capacity, as well as providing assessments of public health concerns and offering responses that contribute to the stabilisation of the population's needs.



MIGRATION HEALTH



Health assessment for potential Kosovar migrant

Health Assessment of Migrants

Since 2000, IOM Kosovo, at the request of the Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, and US Embassies has been conducting a health assessment for Kosovar applicants for immigration visas.

During the last eight years, health assessment assistance has been offered to Kosovars immigrating to Australia, Canada, USA, And New Zealand. In the period from May through August 2008, health assessments were provided for 351 applicants.



Donation of Swedish Government of the Microsurgical ophthalmologic instruments for the University Clinical Centre in Kosovo



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