

Joint UNMIK and IOM Projects to enhance capacities of local administration to respond to returns process



Transit Center in Vushtrri/Vucitrn for returnees and asylum seekers

Within the framework of IOM's programmatic response for returns management, agreement was reached with UNMIK/OCRM (Office of Communities, Returns, and Minority Affairs) for the implementation of the "Enhancing Administrative and Municipal Capacities" and the "Reception Activities for Returnees and Skills Transfer for Local Authorities" Projects for an initial three-month period. In January 2006, IOM started with this pilot project, which is part of the aforementioned response to the need for enhanced reception and reinsertion capacities in Kosovo in anticipation of larger numbers of returns from neighboring and non-neighboring regions, as requested by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG). The overall IOM programmatic framework includes complementary components addressing: return-related information management, the expansion of local reception capacity through the provision of transportation and temporary accommodation for returnees and strengthening municipal administrative capacities to ensure a balanced and rapid provision of reinsertion services to returnees.

The pilot project aims to establish fast track reinsertion mechanisms and to enhance the capacity of the central administration and local municipal authorities (through the Municipal Chief Executive Officers - CEOs, the Municipal Return Officers - MROs and Municipal Community Officers - MCOs) to ensure that returnees' basic reinsertion needs are efficiently and rapidly addressed. Concurrently the project also aims to provide humanitarian assistance to returnees, particularly vulnerable persons, upon arrival at Pristina airport by providing reception services, onward transportation to their final destinations, temporary accommodations, and information services.