

USAID/IOM Infrastructure projects improve the living conditions in Northern Mitrovicë/a



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The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Mission in Kosovo and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) strengthened their cooperation by launching a new, one million US dollar initiative in early September 2006. The Community Enhancement and Development Programme (CEDP) concentrates on improving the living conditions of the targeted residents of the northern part of Kosovo through the implementation of projects that are designed to respond rapidly, visibly and at the community level to critical public needs. CEDP projects, which are designed to be rapidly executable and make a high impact, will focus on enhancing the existing infrastructure, providing necessary materials and equipment to various public institutions and addressing the requirements of the targeted communities in the northern part of Mitrovicë/a town and Zubin Potok Municipality. IOM is working in conjunction with the communities to identify projects that meet their needs.

One of the initial projects recently supported through CEDP is the rehabilitation of primary school "Sveti Sava", with 800 students, in northern part of Mitrovicë/a. A ground breaking ceremony for this project took place on 4 October, presided over by John Boris, Deputy Director of the US Department of State's Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (EUR/ACE).

The extensive renovation of the school was completed in less than three months. An official opening was held on 12 December 2007. Ms. Tina Kaidanow, Chief of Mission of the US Office in Pristina (USOP), unveiled the plaque and symbolically marked the official opening of the renovated school. The 800 students of the school now have a warmer and safer place to study. The project's successful implementation resulted in extensive interior and exterior reconstruction of the school, consisting of a new roof, windows, flooring, toilets and an exterior façade, as well as a fresh coat of paint. The playground/basketball court was refurbished with new basketball hoops and goal posts for soccer.