

IOM/EAR SUPPORT FOR THE STABILIZATION OF COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (SSC)

Social Impact Assessment

Terms of Reference

I. Introduction

The goal of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) **Support for the Stabilisation of Communities in Kosovo (SSC) Program** is to improve the social and economic conditions of ethnic minority communities living in isolated and disadvantaged areas throughout Kosovo, thereby stabilising the net outflow of Kosovo's ethnic minorities. The SSC Program pursues this aim by providing employment and business development as well as other types of assistance to members of ethnic minority communities who are currently residing in Kosovo, as well as those returning to Kosovo.

SSC Program took into account the positive results achieved of the previous EAR-funded and IOM-implemented Community Stabilisation Program (CSP), which carried out similar activities and targeted minority communities. The European Agency for Reconstruction provided funds in 2002 to establish CSP and to respond to repeated declarations of the international community that preserving the multi-ethnic character of Kosovo is one of its aims. A fourth phase was completed in December 2006 and many of the approved and implemented community projects targeted villages with recent returnees, as a response to their resettlement needs. The results of its intervention resulted with an 80 percent¹ success rate among the projects implemented. Four years of continuous intervention can be summarised as follows:

Summary of Projects Implemented from 2002 till 2006 During four CSP Phases										
Phases	EAR Grant Amount	No of Targeted Municipalities	Total No. of Projects Implemented	Individual projects				Community projects	Full time Employment	Part time Employment
				Production	Agriculture related	Service	Trade			
CSP I	700,000	9	124	42	40	33	6	3	396	125
CSP II	1,000,000	12	200	34	58	81	10	17	629	206
CSP III	1,300,000	16	208	7	115	52	6	28	630	166
CSP IV	1,600,000	19	281	81	74	87	7	32	727	514

SSC program contributes to efforts addressing the pressing needs of ethnic minorities to generate income and improve their living conditions - core conditions for the stabilization and development of these communities. The SSC Program will be running for 18 months, it started in April 2007 and will be completed in September 2008. The Program aims to stabilise minority communities in 23 municipalities in Kosovo who had little or no access to income/employment generating Programs, with consequent net outflow of population. This Program has been particularly relevant to areas where different

¹ Success is measured by the capacity of the project to be sustainable over time (at least a year after implementation), provide at least 75-250 euros a month to the beneficiary and to create lasting employment.



communities live, generally in isolated disadvantaged areas since the structure has outreach teams.

The Program is making available financial and technical assistance for building sustainable livelihoods. Through the provision of grant assistance and business management/development training, the Program is supporting the start-up of new and expansion of existing micro-enterprises for economic and rural development and advancing community development initiatives. SSC Program includes grant disbursement for business start-ups and expansions, grant disbursement for the agricultural sector, community development initiatives, business skills training and management advisory support.

Objectives of the **Support for the Stabilisation of Communities in Kosovo (SSC) Program.**

The *overall objectives* are to:

- a) Stabilize the socio-economic prospects of existing and returning minority communities where there is little or no freedom of movement and therefore residents cannot gain access to other development Programs;
- b) Reduce the net outflow of ethnic minorities by providing economic incentives;
- c) Assist present returnee communities and foster an environment favourable to the return of the most recently displaced communities (17 March 2004 caseload), as well as those displaced in 1999 in order to contribute to the preservation of a multi-ethnic Kosovo; and d) combat poverty and exclusion in certain disadvantaged areas.

The *specific objective* is to create income generating and employment opportunities among ethnic minority communities in the targeted municipalities, thereby creating sustainable livelihoods in communities with limited freedom of movement and little access to markets or goods and services which are taken for granted elsewhere.

Funds for grants are allocated in Grant Approval Committees. On the 3 April, the fourth and last round was held with 60 projects approved. SSC program has approved in 286 projects in total. To date, 65% of the funds have been disbursed and many projects are fully operational while other in the procurement and implementation phase. In addition, technical assistance and trainings are provided at the beginning of the projects and whenever deemed necessary.

II – Aim of the Assessment

Having finalized the allocation of funds and being almost finished with grant disbursement and project's implementation, both the donor and the implementing agency consider it necessary to assess the impact of the Program to date whether it fulfilled the community's expectations, it tackled the pressing needs and priorities and strengthened the existing links and synergies with other organisations operating in the field. With this in mind a social impact assessment will be carried out during the timeframe of May/June 2008.

The general aim of the impact assessment is to examine the performance of the SSC Program and the preparatory actions with reference to the Program objectives, focusing on the defined set of targeted areas of implementation, and assessing the impact of the





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various initiatives supported on stabilising communities. On the basis of this analysis, conclusions, best practices and lessons learnt will be prepared which will consolidate the findings of the SSC Program and serve as a basis for orientation on similar Program's in 2008 and beyond.

Bearing in mind that Kosovo is on the path towards European integrations and that minority rights are under the magnifying glass, a social impact assessment of this Program that is dealing solely with ethnic minority population and aims towards its stabilisation is paramount. In addition, the results can serve further as a benchmark for actions that need to be taken in order to deal with other priorities and remaining gaps, especially in regard to the socio-economic prospect of the existing and returning ethnic minority communities in Kosovo.

Specific areas for consideration in the Social Impact Assessment:

Program effectiveness

Taking into account the different layers of the SSC Program it should be assessed how effectively the different actions contribute to achieving the Program objectives. In this context the question of the right balance of activities in view of the greatest possible impact should be addressed. The impact of the various activities, on the stabilisation of out migration should be assessed, in particular the impact of the outreach mobile activities.

Special attention should be given to the effectiveness of the Program in appraising the impact on employment levels obtained in the Program and its contribution to the development of communities and improvement of the living conditions within the communities. Elaboration and validation of impact assessment criteria will contribute significantly to this and future assessments.

Program efficiency

Taking into account the budget for the Program, it should be assessed on the basis of cost/benefit analyses whether the limited resources have been converted economically into results contributing to the Program objectives. (resources vs. results)

Program economy

Taking into account the expenditure for the Program, it should be assessed on the basis of resources/costs whether the overall funds have been used on the best possible way.

Program conformity

Taking into account the results of the grants implemented, it should be assessed whether the Program through its outputs worked in line with international norms.

Program Complementarity

This assessment should take into account possible initiatives in the private and in the public sector targeting minorities, and also there should be a review of the local administrations/municipalities and their inclusion of ethnic minorities as well as the Programs of humanitarian agencies which stimulate the development of ethnic



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minority communities. The evaluation will seek to point out any possible synergies/complementarity with other initiatives that minorities can access.

Program Targeting

The assessment should consider the specific characteristics relevant to particular minority communities in different geographical locations and assess the demand for the assistance available under this Program and any possible shortfall in funding. This should provide data on where the need and level of demand for stabilisation and basic socio-economic assistance outstrips the funding available. Among others the assessment should consider the situation of rural minority communities and take a sample of all existing ethnicities in Kosovo, where the program is present.

Program Organization quality

The assessment should also take into account the operational structure, management and quality of the organisation, therefore analysing the procedures and organizational capacity taken and the use of recourses for the overall implementation.

III – Organisation of the Assessment

An external assessment will be carried out by an independent consultancy company or independent consultants/researcher, with previous Balkan experience.

The selected company or consultants will interview all Program stakeholders, international and local NGOs working in the targeted areas of responsibility, local administration/municipal representatives, and village leaders among others.

The selected company or consultants will as far as possible throughout the report reflect the needs and interests of the beneficiaries in the targeted communities, and will seek to reflect the social and cultural deprivation experienced by the targeted communities and the psychosocial needs of these populations.

The selected company or consultants will have full cooperation and logistical assistance from the SSC management and team that will include the required access to relevant documents and reports used to implement the Program.

Methodology

Desk research will examine all relevant documentation as provided by the Program management such as budget overviews, work plans, public and internal documents, statistics indicators, (matrices, applications, proposals, monitoring reports, project fact sheets etc).

Interviews with Program management, team leader, project field assistants and all those who have responsibility for the implementation of the Program, to complement the information available from desk research.

Interviews with beneficiaries of the SSC Program and other stakeholders involved in the activities and projects related to SSC.

Interviews with local Municipal and regional leaders such as members of Municipal Assembly representing minority ethnic populations, UNMIK representatives, local government as well as public and private sector actors in the specific targeted areas.



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Meetings will take place at regular intervals to review the progress of the work, and to plan and co-ordinate the work of the company or consultants.

All interviews will be conducted by the company or consultants, with a project assistant as translator where necessary.

Time schedule and deliverables

The assessment shall be carried out in May/June 2008.

The company or consultants will provide the Program management with the following:

An outline within a week of the commencement of the work describing the structure of the final report, table of contents and the main elements of the report;

A draft report within three weeks of commencement of the work providing the assessment for discussion and feedback from the Program management and donor.

A final report within four weeks of the commencement of the work taking into account the comments made by the Program management and the donor agency on the draft final report for submission.

In the case of additional comments from the donor agency, after the final report is submitted by the company or consultants to IOM, IOM has the prerogative to request one final revision.

The commission interim assessment report

After the submission of the final assessment report to the Program management and Donor Agency a consultative meeting will be called up to draw final conclusions, best practices and lessons learnt.

The report will consolidate the findings of SSC Program's performance and serve as a basis for orientation on similar Program's in 2008 and beyond. The final report will be submitted to the European Agency for Reconstruction.

The report will be disseminated to other stakeholders and interest groups only after the approval from the Donor Agency.

PLEASE SEND YOUR PROPOSALS BY 23 APRIL 2008 TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS:

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