



IOM KOSOVO NEWS

Newsletter of IOM Kosovo
April 2004

News in Brief

- During April, 130 Kosovars returned through “Assisted Voluntary Returns Programme” *page 2*
- The “Support for Enterprise Development in Minority Regions Programme” approved 11 new projects mostly concentrated on production activities *page 7*
- In the “Kosovo Protection Corps Training Programme”, 20 KPC members graduated from the Initial Entry Training Course *page 8*
- The “Counter Trafficking Unit” continues offering presentations on the phenomenon of trafficking for Kosovar judges and prosecutors *page 9*



IOM Chief of Mission Enrico Ponziani and Kosovar Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Ahmet Isufi at a meeting held last month confirmed their excellent cooperation to date. Mr. Ponziani offered further IOM assistance and expertise, which is very important for the Ministry's on-going reforms based on the best practices from the EU.

“Project on HIV/AIDS Capacity Building and Awareness Raising” concluded with the Results Of the Survey among Kosovars

Knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS but no interest in adopting the protection measures

The results of the survey on HIV/AIDS carried out with 684 Kosovars living in and outside of Kosovo indicate people are relatively knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS and the risk of transmission of the disease; but at the same time, they show a very low interest in adopting protection measures.

A public presentation of the project and of the outcomes of the survey, “Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Kosovars

Living/Working Abroad”, was organized in April in Pristina by IOM, the Public Health Institute of Kosovo in cooperation with a similar institute from Italy.



Kosovo Protection Corps Training Programmes Published a Book

Four years of activity in KPC's development



The Kosovo Protection Corp Training (KPCT) Book is a historical review and analysis of the program's evolution and accomplishments over the past four years. It offers a range of perspectives on KPCT's work and achievements and its impact on the development of the KPC into a professional, disciplined emergency services organization, trained to provide assistance to all people of Kosovo. In the past weeks, KPCT began printing a total of 300 copies of the book and

made personalized visits to key international and national figures to deliver it. The book will be featured on the KPC Show on RTK television.



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Assisted Voluntary Returns

Kosovo Humanitarian Returns Programme - Transport and Direct Assistance Components

Objectives

→ Assisting in the organized repatriation of Kosovar returnees including local transportation of beneficiaries from the airport, or other arrival points, to their place of origin with particular attention to vulnerable cases.

→ Directly assisting Kosovar returnees through reinstallation and reintegration support, either as a one-time cash payment or through a process of needs assessment in the areas of housing and basic survival with subsequent financial assistance.

In April 2004, the total number of Kosovars returned through IOM's Assisted Voluntary Returns Programme was 130, of which 117 returned by plane and 13 by land transportation. Most of the returnees were from Germany (64), Belgium (21), UK (13), or the Netherlands (10), and the rest came from other European countries.

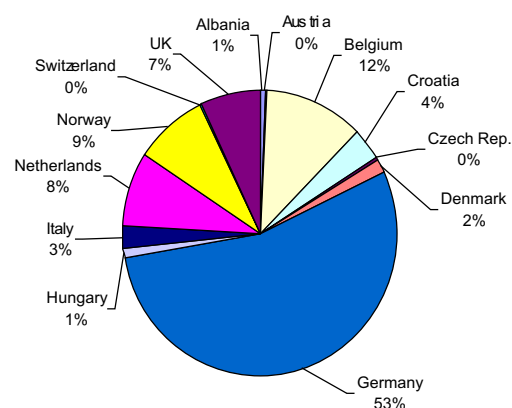
From 1999 to the present, a total number of 186,851 returnees were assisted by IOM Kosovo. The largest numbers of assisted Kosovars returned to Prishtina/Pristina (37.6%), Ferizaj/Urosevac (14.9%), Peja/Pec (13.1%), or Gjakova/Djakovica (8.9%) and the remainder returned to other municipalities in Kosovo.

During the month of April, IOM also provided over-land secondary transportation to 163 returnees from different European countries. From 1999 to date, 8,094 Kosovars were provided with this type of assistance.

In addition, in April, IOM provided transportation assistance from Kosovo to other countries for 8 people under the medical assistance for Complex Medical Cases Programme. To date, 2,889 Kosovars were transported from Kosovo to other countries through various IOM activities, such as programmes that assist: complex medical cases, resettlements, family reunions, victims of trafficking, etc.



Returnees from Germany - April 2004



Returnees to Kosovo, Divided by Country in 2004

Fostering Sustainable Reintegration of Irregular Migrants in Albania, the F.Y. Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo By Reinforcing Local NGO Capacity

Objectives

→ Promoting the return and reintegration of irregular migrants from Albania, Kosovo, and the FY Republic of Macedonia through fostering the service provision and counselling capacities of local NGOs in the areas of origin.

During the initial phase of the programme, the three IOM Missions involved in the project undertook several preparatory activities including: the revision of the research parameters, methods, and information collection tools to be used to develop the report on irregular migrants in Western Europe; the preparation of a specific database to compile the collected information on the target group; the development of a questionnaire to assess the target group's profile and needs; the establishment of contacts with local NGOs in each area with the aim of selecting those NGOs which could sufficiently provide services to returning

migrants; and the conduct of orientation meetings with potential partners in order to identify suitable employment and vocational training possibilities in the three return areas.

During the month of April, separate meetings with some of the selected NGOs were held in Kosovo in order to define their cooperation and assess their current capacity to provide services to the target group. A large part of the activities conducted this month was related to the preparation of the coordination meeting held in Brussels on 7 April. Lastly, data was collected from the files in order to better profile the potential beneficiary upon his/her return to Kosovo.

Minority Returns for Kosovar IDPs - Sustainable Reintegration through Income Generation and Employment Assistance

The programme aims to provide assistance to some estimated 85 families of internally displaced Kosovo Serbs, Bosniaks, Roma, Ashkalija and Egyptians returning to selected locations in the Gjlilane/Gnjilane, Kammenica/Kamenice and Viti/Vitina municipalities.

To date, this programme has seen the successful implementation of 50 projects including reconstruction, business start-ups, on the job training, and referrals to employment. This comprises 100 direct beneficiaries and 439 indirect beneficiaries, resulting in a direct project cost of 54,250 euro.



Construction Project, Gjlilane/Gnjilane

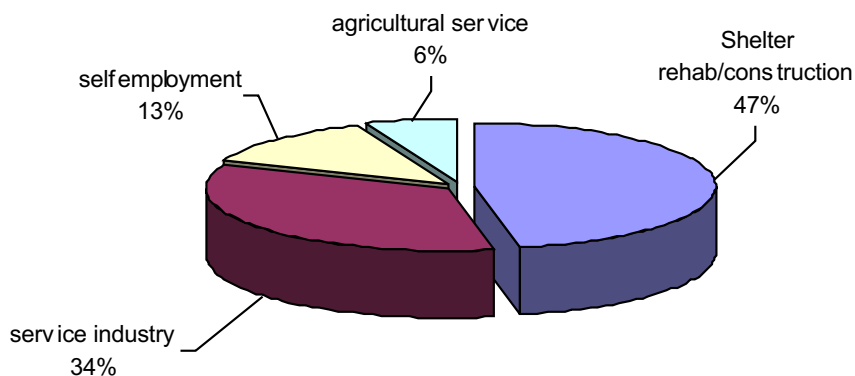


Equipment delivery for bakery, Gjlilane/Gnjilane

Employment Assistance Services for Members of Ethnic Minorities Returning from Switzerland and Liechtenstein (SMR)

This programme has successfully reintegrated 145 minority returnees (Roma, Ashkalija, Egyptian and Muslim Slavs) from Switzerland and Liechtenstein into the communities of Kosovo. Through the Employment Assistance Services (EAS) reintegration module, the programme has achieved the following results: out of the potential caseload of 150 persons, 134 were returned. Out of this group, 113 returnees

from Switzerland participated in EAS. 29 projects were completed benefiting 60 persons directly and 225 people indirectly and securing 73 long-term employment positions within which were 39 returnees and 34 residents. These projects required a direct expenditure of 72,245 Euros. In addition, 7 projects are currently ongoing. The economic sectors covered by the projects are broken down as indicated in the chart below.



The Government of Liechtenstein supported the return of 11 persons, comprised of 3 families, and assisted in their reintegration through 3 projects, benefiting 3 persons directly and another 8 indirectly with a direct project cost of 4,402 Euros.

Objectives

→ Assisting in the return and reintegration of IDP families of different ethnic origins residing in and outside of Kosovo through information and counselling, targeted vocational, on-the-job and business training, employment referral and salary subsidies, provision of micro-enterprise development assistance and trade-related toolkits.

Objectives

→ Promoting employment and self-employment for members of the Roma, Ashkalija, Egyptian and Muslim Slav communities who are voluntarily returning from Switzerland through targeted vocational, on-the-job, and business training and the provision of micro-credits/-grants and trade-related toolkits.

→ Promoting an increased readiness within the recipient communities to accept the returnees through the provision of training and financial assistance especially in combined projects where members of the returnee and resident community work together.

Assisted Voluntary Returns for Vulnerable Cases to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and to Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo - and the Return Information Fund Component (RIF)

Objectives

- Facilitating the voluntary return of approximately 40 vulnerable persons from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and Kosovo currently residing in Switzerland under the Swiss asylum regime.
- Contributing to the sustainable return and reintegration of the vulnerable persons on a case-by-case basis including financial and employment assistance, social care, housing, medical support and return transportation.
- Answering information requests through the Return Information Fund (RIF) component of the AVR Programme for vulnerable cases by providing IOM Bern with up-dated, accurate, reliable, objective, and non-sensitive returns-related information supporting the returnees with the planning of their voluntary return and their sustainable reintegration in the country of origin.

This project takes into account the various problems faced by vulnerable returnees and the special situation related to returns to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and Kosovo. Due to the diversified circumstances in the different countries, a standardized return package often appears unfeasible. Therefore, the project focuses on individual needs and the support required for return and reintegration. Assessments and preparations are done in coordination with the IOM missions in these countries, Swiss authorities and other partners, in order to

identify the appropriate services that returnees could be referred to. Out of a total of 32 persons who returned within this programme, 9 persons returned to Kosovo. In the framework of the AVR programme for vulnerable persons, the IOM-RIF component provides answers to the requests for information from Kosovo. The requests are mostly related to business opportunities, medical care, housing and transport issues, NGO contacts, and support for vulnerable returnees. To date, RIF has answered 57 information requests, 18 of them during 2004.



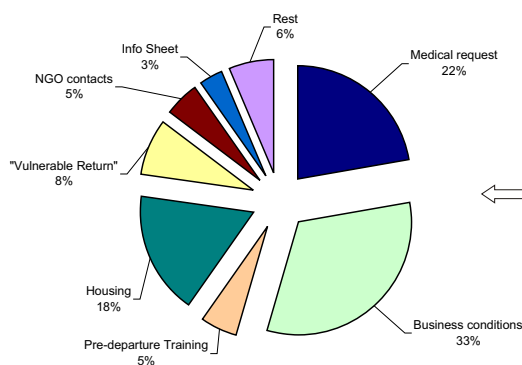
Financial/Reintegration Assistance



Housing & Livelihood



Financial & Medical Assistance



← Type of RIF Requests

Objectives

- Assisting in the return and reintegration of minority communities IDPs in the Peja/Pec Municipality through a combination of activities at the displacement and return location including: the assessment and prioritisation of the IDPs, reconstruction of housing and community infrastructure, balancing projects for reconciling the neighbouring Kosovo Albanian population and measures to support their longer-term socio-economic reintegration into the local community.

Returns of Internally Displaced Persons to the Villages of Sigë/Siga, Brestovik and Ljevosa/Ljevoša, in the Pejë/Peć Municipality, Kosovo

IOM identified and selected 90 IDP families displaced in Serbia and Montenegro. Currently, IOM and its partners are conducting activities related to ownership and property verification, while simultaneously carrying out confidence building and inter-ethnic dialogue activities in the return area. Technical evaluations related to the rehabilitation and reconstruction work needed at the three temporary accommodation centres has also been carried out. Due to the events that took place on March 17, currently IOM is adjusting its strategy according to the new security arrangements.



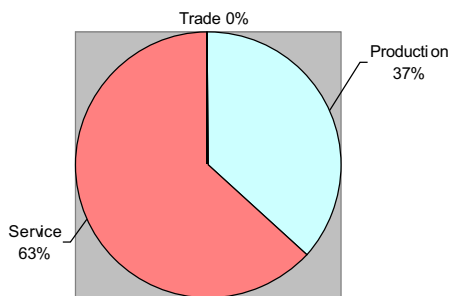
Return location
Peja/Pec Municipality

Returns Sustainability for Minority Communities

This IOM project, implemented in collaboration with two partner NGOs, GOAL and ASB, aims to support 53 grant projects in Magure village and Moravska District and 65 in Zhupa Valley for the reintegration of minority returnees. To date, 26 projects have been approved and are currently ongoing in Magure village and Moravska District. The same number of projects has been approved and is ongoing in

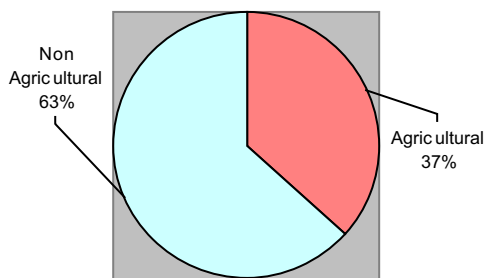
Zhupa Valley. In particular, during the month of April, 5 projects were approved and started in Magure village and Moravska District, while there were 4 in Zhupa Valley. To date the funds committed amount to 60,038 Euros for Magure village and Moravska District and 64,592 for Zhupa Valley. In both areas, the total number of direct beneficiaries is 134, with 411 indirect beneficiaries.

Approved Projects by Economic Sector



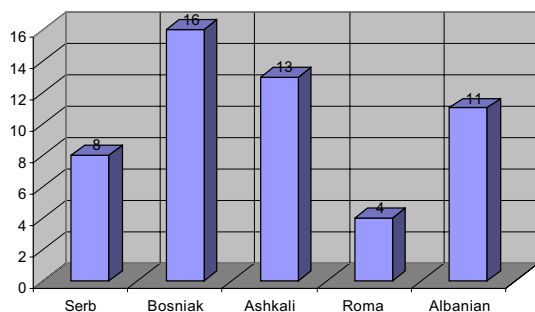
Number of projects	
Production based	19
Service based	33
Trade based	0

Agricultural/Non Agricultural



Number of projects	
Agricultural	19
Non Agricultural	33

Ethnicity of Grant Recipients



Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) in Kosovo for Ethnic Albanian Members Returning from the UK

To date, this programme, has implemented 30 projects, which support 30 direct and another 172 indirect beneficiaries, creating 20 long-term employment positions, resulting in a total direct project cost of 27,481 Euros. These

projects include referrals to employment with on-the-job training (10), activities related to construction (4), the service sector (14) and agriculture (2). In April, a total of 11 returnees participated in this programme.



On - the - Job Training



Retail Shop

Objectives

→ Facilitating the return and reintegration of returnees from Roma, Ashkali, Serbian and Bosniak communities and assisting the receiving communities in three areas in Kosovo (Moravska District in Prishtina/Pristina, Magure/a village in Lipjan/Lipljan and Zhupa Valley in Prizren) by providing income generating measures.

Objectives

→ Facilitating sustainable returns of Kosovars from the UK to the country of origin in cooperation with the VARRP in London through the provision of reintegration support of up to 1,000 GBP. Reintegration options include: vocational training courses, setting up small businesses, education support, school fees for children, costs related to training/education in the institutions where these are undertaken, employment opportunities through referrals and/or on-the-job trainings.

Technical Cooperation on Migration

Employment Assistance Services (EAS)

Objectives

→ Contributing to the rehabilitation of the labour market and the revitalization of social and economic services through the establishment of employment support mechanisms.

→ Strengthening local institutions (the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Welfare) by enhancing already existing capacities to complement the employment offices' services through increased outreach to employers, capacity building trainings for the unemployed/job-seekers, employers/enterprises business consultancy, and employment matching including job referrals.

Through this programme, IOM staff has visited 1,573 enterprises in order to identify potential employment opportunities; 411 job vacancies were identified through this outreach. This programme has facilitated 278 direct contacts between potential employers and employees. Using the IOM registration database, 1,429 persons were registered as unemployed within the regional employment structures. As part of the EAS capacity building component, 233 official staff members of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Welfare have been trained/retrained. To date, IOM has identified 266 unemployed persons in need of a variety of kinds of training.



Vocational Training in Welding - High Technical School, Gjilane/Gnjilane

Kosovo Protection Corps Training Programme (KPCT)

Objectives

→ Building the emergency service and civil protection capacity of the Kosovo Protection Corp (KPC) and enhancing its ability to fulfill its mission. KPCT has developed a multifaceted programme that has evolved over the past four years and currently, it is focused on:

- ◆ Institutional training which consists of developing and expanding the capacity of the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) that is composed of the Protection Academy, Simulation Center, two Basic Training Centers, and a Collective Training Center.

- ◆ A Training Management System that is complemented by a Professional Development Programme that emphasizes the Training, Operations, Logistics, and Personnel Departments.

Under its original donor, the KPCT Programme succeeded in offering or facilitating a total of 5,718,986 training man-hours from January 2000 till March 2004, which were delivered under the pillars of the programme, including on-the-job, individual and collective training. This figure includes training conducted inside Kosovo, as well as individual and unit deployments to specialized institutions abroad for advanced skill level instruction. On 2 April, the KPCT Programme underwent a significant change as it shifted from receiving funds primarily from the United States Government to being funded from the Kosovo Consolidated Budget. This will impact the scope and focus of the Programme's work and discussions are underway to determine the specific milestones for the months ahead. On 21 April, IOM participated in a daylong intensive meeting, called the Operational Stock Take, with the KPC Coordinator and the Commander of the KPC for this purpose.

Institutional Training

Within the institutions that make up the TRADOC, daily and in-residence courses are offered; daily courses include instruction in: the English language, computer skills, and an Albanian language staff-writing course. In-residence training includes: the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) lasting 7 weeks, Initial Entry Training (IET) for 5 weeks, and an Officer Basic Course (OBC) for 12 weeks. Specifically in the month of April, an Initial Entry Training Course was conducted at the

Protection Academy, with 20 KPC members graduating on 16 April. Throughout April, every second week a group of about 200 reservists from Protection Zones 1, 2, and 3 were recalled and sent to the Collective Training Center in Ferizaj/Urosevac for Reserve training to verify readiness and review/refresh basic skills. Furthermore, extensive work was done throughout the month to refurbish and remodel the existing facilities at the KPC Basic Training Center in Gjakova/Djakovica in order for it to be ready for training courses to be conducted there in May.

Training Management

This component of the KPCT Programme focuses on refining and sustaining the Training Management System that has been successfully implemented at the top levels of the KPC. Senior Management Training Advisors (SMAT) at KPC HQ and a Mobile Management Advisor Team (MAT) at the HQ in each Protection Zone and the GRRC continue to coach and assist the KPC develop, refine, and implement sound training management processes and procedures at the middle and lower levels of the organization. KPCT staff made preparations and worked on lesson plans for the seminars, conferences and workshops that are part of the Professional Development Programme, which will commence in May. The purpose of this programme is to introduce, update, or facilitate policy, doctrine, programmes, and SOPs or special interest topics within the areas of personnel, operations, training, and logistics.



April graduation of the 20 KPC members in the Initial Entry Training Course organized by IOM-KPCT Programme at the Protection Academy

Kosovo Protection Corps Trust Fund Project (KPC - TF)

The KPC-TF Programme continues to engage KPC members in humanitarian aid/community assistance projects through the IOM Trust Fund. The KPC has been the key participant in a total of 136 specific reconstruction and humanitarian projects dedicated to community development, amounting to investments of more than 1.9 million U.S. dollars and 46,000 man-days of labour from current and former KPC members. In April, the IOM Trust Fund and the KPC began the ambitious project of securing a long-term solution to the potable water problems faced by 7 villages in the Prizren Municipality. The construction of this community water supply network will affect approximately 5,500

beneficiaries. These villages include ethnically mixed populations making this project part of the Trust Fund's current core focus of work.



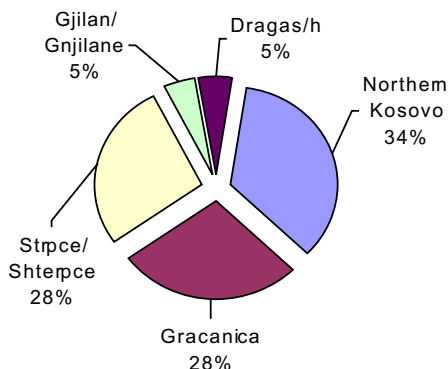
Construction of community water supply network for 7 ethnically mixed villages in Prizren Municipality

Support for Enterprise Development in Minority Regions (SEDMIN)

Since the programme's inception, 308 projects have been approved amounting to a total of 1,327,019 Euros. During the second phase of SEDMIN, 153 new projects have been approved, 11 of which during the month of April: 9 were grant/loan combinations (26,763 Euros) and 2 were loans (17,450 Euros).

The proportion of approved projects continues to be highly focused on production (56%), secondarily on services (40%), and only marginally on trade activities (4%). This is in line with the programme's mandate to encourage more production and service-based activities, which typically provide more employment opportunities for family and/or community members.

Project Distribution by Municipality



Most of the projects assisted are located in rural areas (57%); close to a third of total projects are focused on agriculture.

From the beginning, SEDMIN Business Service Centres (BSC) have organised 68 training sessions for a total of 698 participants.

In an effort to engage the youth of the region, the BSC delivered 3 training sessions on job preparation and the promotion of entrepreneurship, to 32 Economic and Technical high school students in Mitrovica North.

Objectives

→ Engaging Kosovo Protection Corps members in civic and humanitarian work projects to assist in rebuilding the infrastructure and communities of Kosovo. The Trust Fund's emphasis in its first two years was on implementing high impact/rapidly executable infrastructure projects (housing reconstruction, civil engineering tasks, school rehabilitation, and improving community and healthcare facilities). More recently, the Trust Fund began taking on additional projects around a core focus of activity including: providing assistance to the Kosovo Fire and Rescue Service and supporting various minority returns programmes by improving conditions in ethnically mixed communities through the implementation of infrastructure and other reconstruction projects (i.e. constructing a water supply network and repairing roads and bridges).

Objectives

→ Contributing to the alleviation of unemployment and the improvement of income levels among selected minority populations and enhancing the conditions for the retention and reintegration of minorities in Kosovo by:

- ◆ Supporting existing small enterprises and the establishment of new micro-enterprises through the extension of financial and technical assistance for minority populations in the northern Kosovo municipalities and in Gracanica, Stpce/Shterpece, Dragas/h as well as the Gjilan/Gnjilane region;

- ◆ Increasing the viability and sustainability of enterprises, through assistance offered by the Business Service Centres (BSCs), by improving business knowledge and access to networks and resources, by creating business opportunities and by providing guidance to entrepreneurs.

Community Stabilization Programme (CSP)

In the course of the first phase of the Community Stabilisation Programme, in the southwestern region of Kosovo, 71 projects were implemented in different sectors (43 production-based, 22 services-based and 6 trade-based). Out of the total number, 25 were community projects while the rest were individual. Most of them were concentrated in rural areas, while a limited number (9) was located in urban areas. During this first phase, in northern Kosovo, a total of 79 projects were approved and implemented mainly in the production (39) and services (11) sectors; 63 of them were individual projects and the rest were for communities.

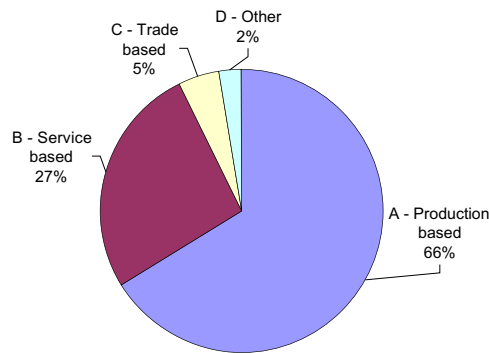
During the current, second phase of the programme, through the end of April 2004,

in southwestern Kosovo, 42 projects were approved and are currently ongoing (18 projects are production-based, 19 services-based and 5 are related to the trade sector). 9 of these are community projects. Direct beneficiaries belong to the Serbian, Bosniak, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. Concerning the northern region, thus far 79 projects have been approved and are being implemented, mainly they are production (35) and service (32) based, 16 of them are community projects. Most of the projects benefit the Serbian population since it is the largest minority group in the area. Since the beginning of this programme, more than 200 entrepreneurs from the different target areas have participated in training sessions on business planning and management.

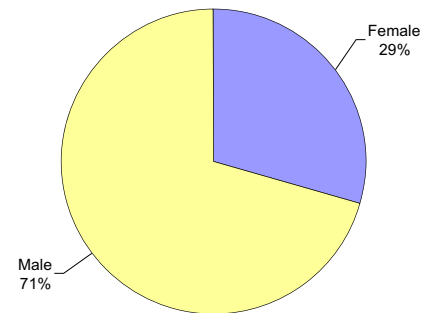
Objectives

→ Contributing to the stabilisation of the situation in ethnic minority communities and enabling vulnerable communities to build sustainable livelihoods. The Programme provides grant assistance for business start-ups and expansions and for agricultural associations and support to larger-scale community development projects. In addition, it provides short courses in basic business skills.

Projects by Sector



Beneficiaries by Gender



Kosovo Transition Initiative (KTI)

Through this programme, 104 Community Infrastructure Service Projects have been completed throughout Kosovo in the following fields: rehabilitation of the power supply (31 projects), of cultural centres (2), schools (28), health centres (5), market areas (1), the water supply system (13), sport facilities (1), improvement of the sewage system (2), repair of roads (18), refurbishment of municipal properties (1), agriculture (2). Currently, 48 projects are under evaluation. The total amount of funds spent for the projects is 14,446,698.95 USD. There have been 1,237,377 direct and indirect beneficiaries from KTI's community projects.

Through the Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project, several NGOs were contacted and participated in the advocacy programme and 9 training sessions have been held for this purpose to date.

KTI staff has also monitored 256 court cases equalling 561 court visits throughout Kosovo - in order to provide USAID with accurate reports on how these court cases were conducted and on any judicial and administrative problems that arose during the proceedings. The cases monitored were civil cases, mainly involving shootings, theft,

and murder.

Within the local governance component of KTI, IOM has developed municipal profiles for all the municipalities in Kosovo.

Objectives

→ Implementing the Community Infrastructure Service Project (CISP) in order to reactivate the economy through the rehabilitation of the infrastructure including the social infrastructure.

→ Implementing the Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project (KNAP) in order to strengthen the ability of the local NGO community to play a more active role.

→ Providing USAID with the reports on how monitored court cases are being conducted, on judicial and administrative problems that arise in the daily proceedings, and providing USAID with Municipal profiles.



Kamenica Street Light Upgrade

Counter Trafficking

Programme of Assistance for the Protection, Return and Reintegration of Trafficked Women and Children In the Western Balkans and Main Countries of Origin

From December 1999 till the end of March 2004, protection and assistance was provided to 387 foreign trafficked victims including: safe shelter, medical care, psychological assistance and counselling, travel arrangement, documentation, educational and vocational assistance.

The programme is also focused on capacity building through various prevention and awareness raising activities with the relevant third parties, mainly local government and UNMIK structures, civil society, NGOs, international organizations, other IOM missions, and researchers.

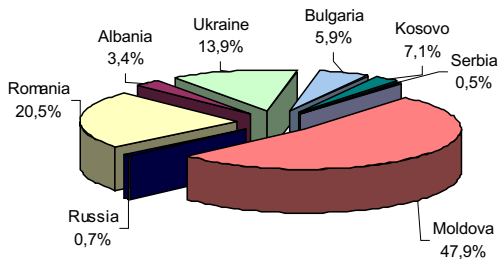
A variety of training modules have been organized specifically targeting law enforcement (including the UNMIK TPIU as well as other police units) international and local NGOs, social workers, OSCE and UN staff in order to increase understanding of the

trafficking phenomenon and to properly and respectfully treat and assist trafficking victims. In April 2004, in coordination with the Kosovo Judiciary Institute, IOM organized three modules on the phenomenon of trafficking, trafficked victims and their psychological trauma, and assistance for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) that targeted Kosovar judges and prosecutors.

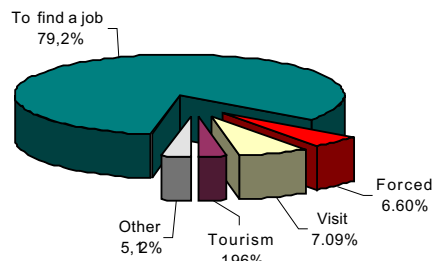
The IOM Counter Trafficking Unit conducted research using the Counter Trafficking Database System providing detailed profiles of the international victims of trafficking assisted by IOM, in addition to compiling regular statistics and situation reports.

A referral system, using standard operating procedures (SOP) for international victims of trafficking, was established to codify the roles and responsibilities of different organizations involved in counteracting trafficking.

Trafficking Victims Country of Origin



Reason for Going Abroad



Programme of Assistance and Re-integration for Kosovar Victims of Trafficking, Particularly Women and Children

Through this programme IOM has provided protection and assistance to approximately 33 Kosovar victims including medical, psychological, legal and social assistance, as well as long-term educational, vocational and income generating programmes.

IOM continues to support the establishment of a Kosovo Inter-Ministerial Commission responsible for developing a comprehensive Kosovo Plan of Action to counteract trafficking on the prevention, protection, and prosecution levels.

Support was also given to the establishment of a Coordinated Referral System responsible for a coordinating response mechanisms to protect and assist Kosovar trafficked victims.

Regular training and awareness raising activities

have been organized on the issue of trafficking of local victims targeting both governmental and non-governmental partners.

Approximately 15 local and international NGOs have been assessed in order to evaluate their potential involvement as IOM partners in counteracting trafficking.

IOM Kosovo's Counter Trafficking Unit initiated research using the Counter Trafficking Database System that will contribute to the development of a detailed profile of Kosovar victims of trafficking, as well as a better understanding of the main trends and patterns of the trafficking phenomenon in the area.

The Unit participates in several trafficking working groups implemented in Kosovo on the governmental and non-governmental levels.

Objectives

→ Contributing to the regional counter-trafficking efforts in the Balkans through coordinated assistance to victims of trafficking (VoTs) who are stranded, destitute and wish to return home and offering them secure and sustainable reintegration assistance.

→ Providing immediate assistance and protection to VoTs including: safe shelter, medical care, social assistance, psychological counselling, assistance to return to their home countries, including vocational, educational and employment assistance.

→ Building 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.

→ Contributing to the development of an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the trafficking phenomenon through collecting and analysing data on the global phenomenon, as well as on the experience suffered by the individual victims entrapped in trafficking.

Objectives

→ Contributing to the coordination, with local partners, of services to protect and assist trafficked human beings, in particular Kosovar women and children, by providing immediate assistance, protection, and long-term re-integration support.

→ Ensuring public, political, and community awareness of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and of its incidence in Kosovar society.

→ Facilitating the prevention of trafficking in the area by reducing the risk of local vulnerable groups of women and children becoming entrapped in the trafficking network.

→ Building the institutional capacity of Kosovar governmental and non-governmental institutions to combat trafficking by creating a referral system responsible for the assistance, protection, support, and reintegration of Victims of Trafficking and by assisting in the development of a Kosovo wide plan of action.

Measures to Counteract Trafficking in Human Beings, Particularly Women and Minors, from/via Southeastern Europe - Kosovo

This programme includes the provision of individual and collective psychological counselling to victims of trafficking (VoTs) in order to heal the trauma reported as a consequence of the trafficking experience.

A psychologist from IOM Kosovo's Counter Trafficking Unit participated as one of seven European experts at a regional initiative coordinated by IOM Hungary. The purpose was to contribute to the drafting of one module of a Training Manual aimed at developing regional minimum standards of mental health care for assisting trafficked victims. IOM Kosovo also participated in the annual regional training on psychosocial support for Counter Trafficking staff in IOM Missions in Southeastern Europe.

IOM Kosovo produced and is distributing a pioneering psychological study on the trauma suffered by VoT called, "A General Review of the Psychological Support and Services Provided to Victims of Trafficking".

IOM Counter Trafficking Unit is conducting research on trends and patterns of the trafficking phenomenon in the Balkans from both the sociological and criminal perspectives.

In addition, this programme provides support to building the capacity of a local network of mental and psychosocial professionals.

Objectives

→ Contributing to the enhancement of a trans-national approach in Southeastern Europe countries to counteract trafficking in human beings, in particular women and minors, while strengthening local capacities. The assistance provided ranges from immediate support, medical care and psychological counselling to legal support and long-term re-integration assistance.

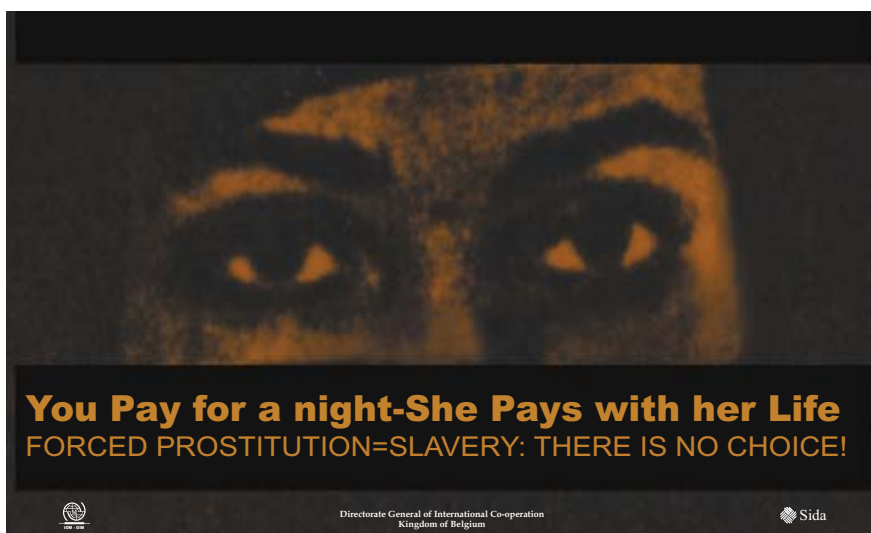
→ Increasing the awareness and understanding of local partners on the trafficking experience, specifically on the psychological trauma suffered by the victims and the importance of psychosocial assistance and counselling for trafficked persons.

→ Building local capacity by establishing a referral system of local mental and psychological professionals.

→ Establishing a referral system of Kosovar professionals responsible for providing legal assistance and counselling to trafficked victims.

→ Building the institutional capacity of the governmental authorities responsible for the criminalization and prosecution of trafficking in human beings through targeted awareness, technical cooperation, and training activities.

→ Developing an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the current scope and dimensions of the trafficking phenomenon in the Balkans and Italy.



Migration Health

Swedish Medical Team (SMT)



Swedish plastic surgeons working in Pristina Hospital

Since 2000, the Swedish Medical Programme, in cooperation with IOM, has evacuated 45 medical cases with different pathologies to Sweden; in April 2004 alone, 2 cases were sent there for treatment. This programme has also organized 36 Swedish Medical Teams, specialized in a variety of medical areas, to come to Kosovo in order to share their knowledge about performing advanced medical interventions with local medical staff.

Objectives

- Assisting patients from Kosovo, who cannot be treated locally, with specialised medical treatment abroad.
- Initiating cooperation between Swedish teams of experts and Kosovar health care professionals in order to provide immediate medical assistance for those who can be treated locally.
- Diminishing the longer-term need for outside referrals of patients by building local capacity and regional cooperation.

Medical Assistance for Complex Medical Cases

Since June 1999, IOM Kosovo has assisted in the medical evacuation of 398 Kosovars in need of treatment for congenital heart anomalies, reconstructive

surgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedic, etc. In April 2004, 1 medical case was evacuated to the US in cooperation with "Eastern European Outreach".

Objectives

- IOM is acting as intermediating agency in securing access for treatment abroad for complex medical and surgical cases, for which treatment is not available in Kosovo. Various NGOs are covering the related costs. IOM assists them with patient selection and/or movement support.

Joint Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Prevention through School Health Education (SHE)

72 educators from 8 Kosovar primary schools (6 Albanian-speaking and 2 Serbian-speaking) attended a five-day training course on pedagogical methods and practices most appropriate to delivering health education, with specific regard to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis prevention. The SHE programme was followed by the Mantoux test-

TB screening for three core age groups (first, fifth and eighth grades, totalling 5,800 pupils) in order to facilitate TB prevention by gathering reliable data about the spread of the disease among youngsters.

During the month of April 2004, IOM began the evaluation and finalization process of the SHE project.

Objectives

- Contributing to the re-establishment of public health information in the Kosovar school system by providing training to teachers on the delivery of health education (HE) and by re-introducing HE into the core of the general curriculum.
- Raising awareness and encouraging community and SHE-based initiatives on preventing the spread of TB and HIV/AIDS.
- Providing relevant data on school children's immunological resistance to tuberculosis and a good estimate of the prevalence of the disease in the youth, by carrying out tuberculosis screening.



SHE Teachers' Seminar

Objectives

→ Developing minimum standards for the mental health assistance offered to trafficked victims through the formation of an expert team representing government health institutions, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions.

→ Awareness raising, knowledge transfer, and capacity building in the skills needed to address the mental health needs of victims of trafficking through the implementation of a regional "training of trainers" workshop, covering ten countries in Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

Mental Health of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings: Development of a Minimum Standard of Care and a Regional "Training of Trainers" Workshop

Over the course of this project, a seven-member team of international experts has been formed. During three field workshops held in the region (in Skopje, Sarajevo, and Kiev), the team developed the curriculum for a ten-day intensive "Train the Trainers" seminar.

This expert team, through field visits to local shelters, has also compiled a draft of the "Training Manual on Mental Health Aspects of Trafficking". The manual was revised during meetings with local NGOs, public

administration officials, health practitioners and academics, as well as IOM management and staff members. On this occasion, a framework for the "Train the Trainers" workshop was developed, while revising the ongoing work and methodology. 26 trainees from 10 countries in the region have been identified and invited to the ten-day "Train the Trainers" seminar in Budapest. In April, all of the final preparations for the May training are in progress, as well as the final editing of the manual for printing.

Objectives

→ 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.

From 2000 till the end of 2003, health assessment assistance has been offered

to 2,466 Kosovars. In April 2004, health assessments were provided to 33 applicants.

Health Assessment of Migrants

Objectives

→ Contributing to reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS in South Eastern Europe particularly targeting Macedonia and Kosovo - by developing, jointly with the National HIV/AIDS Committees of both countries, ad hoc HIV/AIDS prevention strategies and activities targeting specific vulnerable groups among migrant and host populations, by implementing training activities in order to increase the capacity of media professionals and local NGOs representatives to respond more efficiently to the epidemic, by facilitating equitable access to prevention and care services for migrant and host populations, and by sharing and disseminating information promoting best practice materials in the region.

HIV/AIDS National Capacity Building and Awareness Raising Activities in FYROM and Kosovo

In April, during the last meeting with the participants in the training, the group decided to continue working together beyond the project's closure. On 27 April, a public presentation of the project and of the outcomes of the survey "Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Kosovars Living/Working Abroad" was organized in Pristina by the IOM Public Health Institute of Kosovo, in cooperation with similar institute from Italy. The event provided a forum for dialogue between local experts and international actors. As an outcome of the presentation it was concluded that Kosovo is currently a country with a low prevalence and incidence rate of

HIV/AIDS. However, taking into the consideration that it has a very large migratory population, it could encounter an increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS in the future. The results of the survey show a relatively high level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS and the risks of transmitting the disease; however, at the same time, the survey reveals a very low level of interest in practicing the necessary protection measures.

It was emphasized that this survey is very important for capacity building and awareness raising in Kosovo in order to keep the low prevalence/incidence rate of HIV/AIDS.



Presentation of the Survey "Knowledge Attitudes and Practices of the Kosovars Living/Working Abroad" - Pristina, April 2004