



IOM KOSOVO NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter of IOM Kosovo
February edition 2005

Income Generation Projects for Serbian Returnees in Siga/ë and Brestovik

30 new houses - 30 returned Serbian households

The Government of Italy and UNMIK entrusted IOM to be the implementing partner for a challenging project supporting the return of Serbian IDPs in the villages of Siga/ë, Brestovik and Levosa in Peja/Pec Municipality. In August of last year, housing and infrastructure reconstruction work started in Siga/ë and Brestovik and to date, the work on 30 houses has been completed, resulting in 30 families being able to return. At present, the reconstruction of 7 additional houses is underway.

The IOM income generation team for the returning IDPs of Brestovik and Siga/ë has carried out assessments to ascertain their needs. Majority of IDPs were interested for livestock because they



The returnee Marko Dasic and his wife with their new livestock

want to ensure that they will have a sustainable supply of dairy and meat products. IOM provides each family with one cow, one calf and a three-month supply of food. It is also envisioned that another IOM project, Community Stabilization Project (CSP) will also start working with the IDP's in this area to complement the ongoing activities.

The Netherlands Provide Funds for Reconstruction Projects in Minority Areas

In December 2004, the Head of the Netherlands Office in Pristina, Mr. Peter Bas Backer and Mr. Enrico Ponziani, Chief of IOM Mission in Pristina signed a one-year contract, which provides 400,000 Euros in funding to the IOM Trust Fund. These funds will be utilized in support of eight different humanitarian reconstruction projects in minority areas.

The proposed Trust Fund projects will be implemented in cooperation with the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), in particular the engineering unit, which will be responsible for the majority of the technical work, as well as regular KPC members, who will provide their labor. For the most part, the planned projects will take place in areas inhabited primarily by minority populations and in communities with a mixed ethnic composition promoting sustainable returns of ethnic minorities by improving the living conditions in their communities.



Enrico Ponziani, IOM Chief of Mission, and Peter Bas Backer, Head of Netherlands Office in Pristina, signing the Trust Fund Contract

IOM Information Campaign on Possibilities for Reintegration Services to the Migrants Returning from EU Countries

In December 2004, IOM Kosovo's project "Fostering sustainable reintegration in Albania, Kosovo province and FYROM through reinforcing local NGO capacities in offering services to returning migrants" launched an information campaign. The aim of this campaign was to provide information on the types of reintegration support available to illegal migrants from above mentioned areas currently residing in some EU countries once they voluntarily return to their countries of origin. This IOM project, which is being implemented in cooperation with various local NGOs, offers several reintegration services such as: job brokering, vocational training, financial support to start up a small business, etc. Information leaflets, brochures and posters were distributed in order to offer more detailed information to beneficiaries about the opportunities and services offered by local NGOs..



Launching the Information Campaign in a press conference organized by IOM Kosovo



IOM -KFOR
Cooperation

*IOM CoM Enrico Ponziani met COMKFOR
Lieutenant General Yves De Kermabon,*

IOM Chief of Mission Enrico Ponziani met with Kosovo Force (KFOR) Commander, Lieutenant General Yves De Kermabon, and his political advisor, Mr. Frederic Matheiu. During the meeting, IOM CoM briefed the COMKFOR on ongoing IOM activities in the province of Kosovo (Serbia Montenegro). The COMKFOR praised Mr. Ponziani for various IOM activities underlining the necessity of cooperation between KFOR and IOM. In particular, the COMKFOR emphasized IOM's expertise in the field of counter trafficking, adding that awareness raising activities on the phenomenon would be beneficial to the KFOR soldiers under his command. The importance of cooperation was also highlighted in regards to the ongoing IOM project for IDP returns in the Serbian minority villages of Siga, Brestovik and Levosa in Peja/Pec region. In this regard, the assistance of KFOR troops in paving and clearing the grounds in this area was stated as an immediate necessity to create the conditions enabling successful returns.



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News in Brief

- During the period from 01 November 2004 to 31 January 2005, the total number of Kosovars returned through IOM Assisted Voluntary Returns Programme was 263, of which 235 returned by plane and 28 by land transportation. *See page 2*

- In November, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) Commander, Lieutenant General Yves De Kermabon, visited the villages of Sigë/a and Brestovik giving his full support for this IOM programme for the assisted voluntary return of IDPs currently residing in Serbia and in Montenegro. *See page 3*

- Through IOM project "Employment Assistance Services for Members of Ethnic Minorities Returning from Switzerland" by the end of January 2004, a total of 57 projects have been completed benefiting 135 persons directly and 431 indirectly. These projects have created 135 long-term employment positions, 70 of which are held by returnees and 65 by residents of the receiving community. *See page 4*

- The new initiative for prevention of trafficking in the Balkans has been launched by the IOM Missions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro and the province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro). *See page 8*

- IOM finalized negotiations and signed an agreement with a local NGO, the Women Wellness Centre (WWC), to conduct counter trafficking educational sessions to parents, teachers and students in order to raise their awareness of the dangers of trafficking. *See page 9*

- In close coordination with the Kosovo Police School, in the last 3 months (November 2004 and January 2005), IOM has delivered 2 training sessions on human trafficking to approximately 50 experienced KPS officers becoming Anti-Organized Crime Officers and Border Police Officers making a total of 250 police officers trained. *See page 10*

Commencement of IOM/EAR Community Investment Projects

The IOM/EAR Support for Enterprise Development in Minority Regions - SEDMIN Programme completed its first component of micro-enterprise development and started its new initiative called Community Investment Projects (CIP). The aim is to foster local economic development in minority areas. The project will further support the creation of employment opportunities through the funding of economically oriented projects in service of the community. This will be achieved mainly through the provision of materials and equipment, capacity building and business promotion.



*Lesak agriculture school
Delivery of corn picker*

Two new IOM Information and Counseling Projects Serving Kosovar Migrants Returning Home

In December 2004, IOM Kosovo launched two new related projects that reinforce the information and counseling services available to Kosovar migrants returning home as well as consular authorities in province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro). The first project titled: "Promoting the regular migration in the Western Balkans through the establishment of Regional Migrant Service Centres providing information and migration related services," is financed by the European Commission and will provide information and services to migrants from within and outside the target region on migration possibilities, regulations and procedures. The project expects to reduce the burden on consular authorities by providing information to migrants and to support governments and migration managers by collecting migration related statistics on the destinations, numbers and trends in migratory flows within and through the region.

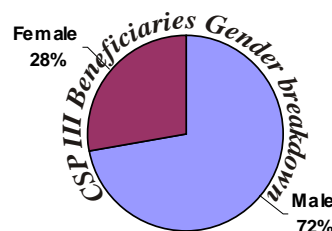
A second similar project titled: "Information Referral Services for the returnees from Switzerland (IRS)," financed by the Government of Switzerland, will facilitate the reintegration of an initial group of as many 150 returnees (mainly involuntary) coming back from Switzerland to their communities of origin in Kosovo and the establishment of an effective information system, where the target group can address their questions and receive information to support their reinsertion.



*IOM Kosovo
Migrant Service Center*

EAR-IOM grant approval meeting of the third phase of Community Stabilisation Project

In January IOM Community Stabilisation Programme had the first Grant Approval Meeting for its third phase. The representatives of the European Agency for Reconstruction, which is the donor, and IOM-CSP staff carried



out the selection of several hundreds received projects proposals. 116 were chose and they will be funded. At the meeting approximately 59% of CSP funds allocated for this third phase has been allocated for the approved projects.



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Assisted Voluntary Returns

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.

The project is funded by various donors

During the period from 01 November 2004 to 31 January 2005, the total number of Kosovars returned through IOM Assisted Voluntary Returns Programme was 263, of which 235 returned by plane and 28 by land transportation. Most of the returnees came from Germany (158), UK (34), Norway (21), Switzerland (21), Belgium (14) and a small number from other European countries.

From 1999 to date, a total number of 188,002 returnees were assisted by IOM. Most of the assisted Kosovars returned to

Kosovo Humanitarian Returns Programme - Transport and Direct Assistance Components

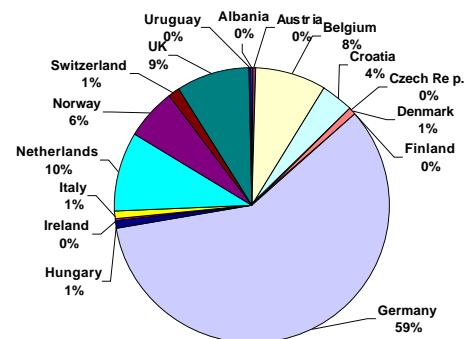
the Prishtina/Pristina region (37.6%), Ferizaj/Urosevac (14.9%), Peja/Pec (13.1%), Gjakova/Djakovica (8.9%) and the rest to other municipalities in Kosovo.

From November 2004 to January 2005, IOM also provided over-land secondary transportation to 457 returnees from different European countries. Since 1999, 10,073 Kosovars have been provided with this type of assistance.



Arrival Assistance at Pristina Airport for Returnees from Switzerland

In addition, at the end of January 2005, IOM provided transportation assistance from Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) to other countries to 13 people under the Medical Assistance for Complex Medical Cases Programme. To date, a total of 2,962 Kosovars have been assisted with transportation from Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) to other countries under various IOM activities such as medical assistance, trainings, resettlements, family reunion, victims of trafficking, etc.



Returnees to Kosovo in 2004 Divided by Country

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



In December, IOM Pristina's HLWG project, "Fostering Sustainable Reintegration of Irregular Migrants in

Albania, FYROM and Kosovo province," launched an Information Campaign through a press conference for local media. The aim of this campaign was to offer information on the types of reintegration support available to illegal migrants from the Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) who are currently residing in various EU countries after they return to their homes. Reintegration support includes: job brokering, vocational training, financial support to start up a small business, etc. Information leaflets, brochures and posters have been distributed to provide more detailed information for beneficiaries about the opportunities and services offered by local NGOs. This information campaign was started simultaneously in the other countries participating in the project, including: Belgium, England, Germany,

Objectives

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

The project is funded by EC and High Level Working Group

Italy, Albania and FYR of Macedonia. During December and January, leaflets, brochures and posters were distributed throughout the Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and the countries mentioned above.

At the regular local coordination meeting on December 17th, partner NGOs were informed about the information materials they would receive for the campaign. The campaign commenced on December 18th, which is also International Migrants Day a reference to IOM's mandate on migration.

After launching the information campaign, later in December the HLWG team and PIO took part in several TV and radio broadcasts. As a result of the information campaign, 18 referrals from sending missions were received in December and January.

Objectives

→ Promoting employment and self-employment for members of the Roma, Ashkali, 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.

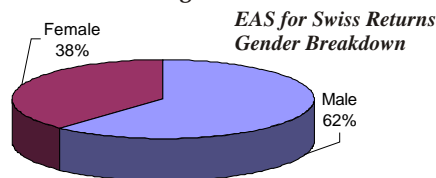
The project is funded by Switzerland

This programme has successfully reintegrated minority returnees (Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian and Muslim Slavs) from Switzerland into the communities of Kosovo. The scope of this programme has been broadened to include ethnic Albanians and returnees from the Swiss canton of Vaud.

Employment Assistance Services for Members of Ethnic Minorities Returning from Switzerland

By the end of January 2004, a total of 57 projects have been completed benefiting 135 persons directly and 431 people indirectly. These projects have created 135 long-term employment positions, 70 of which are held by returnees and 65 by residents of the receiving community. In addition, there are 15 projects currently ongoing.

Almost half of the beneficiaries of this programme are from the Bosniak community. This is consistent with the ethnic make-up of the Prizren and Zhupa regions. The other half of the returnees assisted represents the broad ethnic mix that makes up the larger Kosovar society. The involvement of resident community members greatly serves to reduce potential disparities between those returning and their communities of origin.



EAS Staff provides training on small enterprise management to members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) communities in the town of Peja/Pec.



Plastering and painting business established in Prizren through programme funds

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Programme to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) for rejected asylum seekers/irregular migrants currently residing in the Canton of Vaud (Switzerland)

The purpose of the project is to facilitate the assisted voluntary return and



Provision of housing assistance

reintegration of persons with a precarious status from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) who are currently residing in the Canton of Vaud and in particular: 1) to provide direct assistance to the returnees, such as referrals to social and other services after arrival, housing support, grants disbursement, advice on projects, possibilities for training, secondary transportation to Sarajevo and Prishtina/Pristina area, 2) to support the social and professional reintegration of the project participants through measures determined on case-by-case basis.

Before departure, IOM provides returnees with relevant information specifically suited to their needs, with requests processed by the Canton of Vaud. Using the established infrastructure of the RIF project, IOM

Objectives

→ Facilitating the voluntary return of rejected asylum seekers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), who have overstayed their time of departure and who are currently residing in the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland, as well as at supporting their sustainable reintegration in their countries of origin.

The project is funded by the Canton of Vaud (Switzerland)

Prishtina/Pristina - through IOM Bern - provides the information to both the Swiss FOR and its designated partners. This action improves the quality and relevance of returnee counselling and pre-departure training programmes and therewith increases the sustainability of voluntary returns of migrants from Switzerland.

During the first months since the programme started, 7 information requests from Canton of Vaud of Switzerland have been received and processed through the RIF component.

To date, through this programme three cases have been assisted, consisting of families returning to Gjilan/Gjnilane, Istog and Ferizaj/Urosevac. They have been provided with housing assistance and have also been supported financially with funds allocated by the Canton Vaud.

Objectives

- Facilitating the voluntary return of approximately 40 vulnerable persons from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and the Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) 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.

The project is funded by Swiss FOR (Federal Office for Refugees)

This programme is designed to assist vulnerable persons returning under special and delicate situations to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and the Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro). Through a return package, the assistance is tailored to individual needs and the support required for their smooth return and reintegration in the place of origin.



Financial Reintegration Assistance

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)

The return and reintegration needs of the beneficiaries are assessed in coordination with the IOM sending missions. The returnees are assisted with a financial resettlement grant before departure and as soon as they arrive in Kosovo, further reintegration assistance is initiated. In general, the most urgent needs are for supplying medicines, reconstructing houses and ensuring that the needed medical care is available or can be made available. Once these primary needs have been

met, programme beneficiaries can then begin to assess their employment or income generation possibilities, which are supported through the IOM EAS network of offices. To date there have been 30 individuals returned under this programme and the majority have received the available assistance. Two housing reconstruction projects have been finalized during the past three months.

Within the framework of this programme for vulnerable persons, the sub-component of the Return Information Fund (RIF) facilitates the exchange of information prior to the beneficiaries' departure, as well as during the return process.

Most often, the information requested pertains to housing and shelter, business opportunities, medical care, NGO contacts and local support for vulnerable persons.

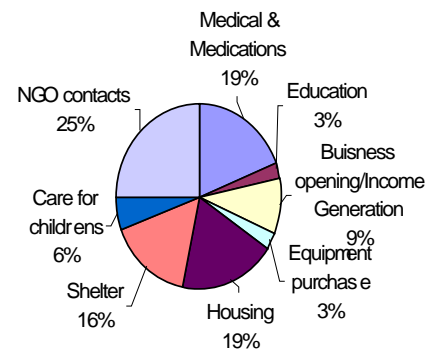
The RIF services are a part of the continuous support that the Swiss



House Reconstruction

government provides to Kosovar returnees under the auspices of the Returns Assistance Switzerland (RAS) service. These services are extended to those who return voluntarily from Switzerland to their communities of origin. To date, 11 individuals returned through this service. Assistance provided generally consists of support for education, purchasing of needed medications, housing equipment and toolkits.

Type of RIF request



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

The volume of UK returnees to the Province of Kosovo (Serbia and

Montenegro) has been steadily increasing under the VARRP programme. Projections indicate that the number of returnees will continue to rise. What is equally encouraging is the striking increase in the proportion of returnees who have applied for reintegration assistance.

To date, 102 individuals have returned under this programme and as a result, 55 income-generating projects have been established. 13 of these projects have been implemented in the past three months, supporting 70 direct and 344 indirect beneficiaries and creating 70 long-term employment positions. The projects include referrals to employment with on-the-job training and activities



On the job training-private retail shop

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.

The project is funded by the United Kingdom

related to construction, the service sector and agriculture.

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

This project aims to facilitate the sustainable return to the province of Kosovo (Serbia Montenegro) of (at least) 90 IDPs families currently displaced in Serbia and Montenegro through a combination of activities at both the displacement and the return locations. These will include the assessment and prioritization of the IDPs for their return, site preparation at the return locations, reconstruction of housing and



Kosovo Force (KFOR) Commander, Lieutenant General Yves De Kermabon visiting reconstructed houses in village of Siga

community infrastructure, balancing projects for reconciling the neighboring K-Albanian population and measures to

support the longer-term socio-economic reintegration of the IDPs into the local community.

Further supporting the return process, temporary accommodation facilities will shelter the IDPs returning to the villages to make possible their first-hand participation in the reconstruction of their houses and to get used to the new environment and conditions related to current Kosovar society.

The government of Italy and UNMIK entrusted IOM to be the implementing partner for this challenging project due to the extensive experience and expertise IOM gathered from its role in the return process in Kosovo and its related program aiming at the sustainable reintegration of the returnees. This project is conducted in coordination with IOM's subcontracted partners "Bergamo per il Kosovo" and THLW

Income generation projects for the Siga Brestovik project returnees are underway. The IOM income generation team for the IDPs of Brestovik and Siga has carried out assessments to ascertain the needs of the returning IDPs. Twenty-seven IDPs were interviewed, during which they expressed interest in support for livestock, plumbing equipment shops and agricultural equipment. The majority was interested in livestock because they want to ensure that

Objectives

→ Assisting in the return and reintegration of non-Albanian 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.

The project is funded by Italy/UNMIK

they will have a sustainable supply of dairy and meat products.

The livestock that IOM is providing consists of cows, calves, and a three-month supply of food. As a prerequisite to receive livestock, the beneficiary must build a stable for the animals. In conjunction with THW, IOM is supplying the materials needed to build the stables. It is also envisioned that another IOM project, CSP (Community Stabilization Project), will also start working with the IDPs in this area to complement the ongoing project.

In November, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) Commander, Lieutenant General Yves De Kermabon, visited the villages of Sigë/a and Brestovik giving his full support for this IOM programme for the assisted voluntary return of IDPs currently residing in Serbia and in Montenegro.

Technical Cooperation on Migration

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.

The project is funded by various donors

The IOM Employment Assistance Services/EAS Programme is a flexible assistance mechanism designed to generate and increase employment opportunities, meet the specific reintegration needs of selected target groups among both the

Kosovar domestic population and returnees. EAS aims to actively promote employment and self-employment of targeted communities through the provision of following reintegration services: counseling services, on-the-job training, job matching and referral to the existing job opportunities, basic business skills training, referral to professional training services, temporary salary subsidies, micro-

grants; trade-related toolkits, as well as registration with the Department of Labour and Employment. IOM EAS staff members are working alongside the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare's Regional Employment Offices'

Employment Assistance Services (EAS)

(REO) staffs and most of the market research activities are done together with them.

The joint activities of EAS & REO are based on labour market research for potential referrals to employment (job matching) and possibilities for referral to the Vocational Training Centers.

As a result of the market research, the following results were shown for the three-months period from November 2004 to end of January 2005: 85 job seekers were counseled; 38 vacancies were identified from outreach visits out of a total of 103 companies visited during this period; 29 vacancies were identified from the media; 45 referrals were made to existing job opportunities.

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: 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).

The project is funded by Netherlands

In early December 2004, the IOM-TF program signed a contract with the government of the Netherlands to fund eight community infrastructure improvement projects at a cost of 400,000 Euros. The projects will engage Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) members in humanitarian work to assist

in rebuilding the infrastructure and communities of Kosovo. The majority of the projects will be completed in minority and ethnically mixed areas throughout Kosovo in 2005.

In mid-December, work commenced in the Siga/Brestovik area for bridge renovations. The work that is being completed in this region is multi-faceted and is in direct support of the IDP return program that IOM currently is implementing in this region.

Due to weather restraints the KPC-TF projects are currently on hold. During this period, the program has coordinated with several municipalities over the legal requirements needed for future construction projects and also the various contract preparations, including contracts for supplies such as for the large amount of building materials that will be utilized in the coming months.

Kosovo Protection Corps Trust Fund Project (KPC - TF)

As an integral partner in the project, the KPC is ensuring that the right allocation of their manpower and resources is directed where it will be needed once the weather required for construction returns.



IOM Trust Fond infrastructure project in the minority village of Siga-Peja/Pec Municipality

Community Stabilization Programme (CSP)

In January IOM Community Stabilisation Programme had the first Grant Approval Meeting for its third phase. The representatives of the European Agency for Reconstruction, which is the donor, and IOM-CSP staff carried out the selection of several hundreds received projects

proposals. 116 were chose and they will be funded. At the meeting approximately 59% of CSP funds allocated for this third phase has been allocated for the approved projects. Out of this number 34 project proposals will be implemented in Central Kosovo, new CSP targeted area covering Fushë Kosovo/Kosovo Polje, Prishtinë/Pristina and Lipjan / Lipljan Municipalities. 27 approved projects were proposed by residents of Eastern Kosovo (Gjilan/Gnjilane, Viti/Vitina, Kamenicë/a and Novo bërdë/Novo Brdo Municipalities).

On the 2nd December 2004 the village representatives of Babin Most/Babimoc in Obiliq/c Municipality together with village members organized the handover celebration for two community projects implemented in the village.



IOM-CSP project renovated the school playground In village of Babin Most/Babimoc Obiliq/c Municipality

Objectives

→ Contributing to the stabilisation of the situation of 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.

The project is funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)

The projects comprised the provision of local health care vehicle and the renovation of the school playground.

In the past the Community Stabilization Programme implemented 10 projects in this ethnically mixed village, among which projects for marble cutting and engraving workshop, roasting, grinding and coffee packaging, greenhouses, ice-cream production, beekeeping, carpentry production, etc. The local school was also reconstructed through another IOM programme -Community Infrastructure Service Programme (CISP).

Support for Enterprise Development in Minority Regions (SEDMIN)

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, Strpce/Shterpce, Dragas/h as well as the Gjilan/Gnjilane region;

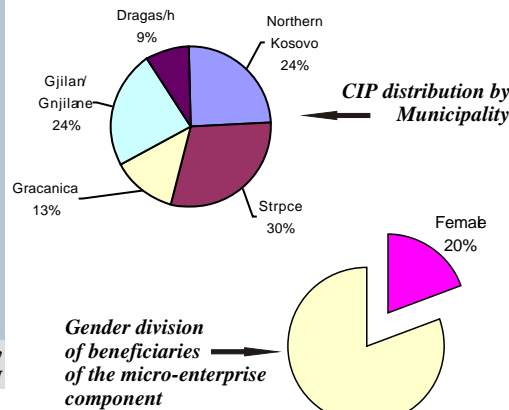
♦ Increasing the viability and sustainability of enterprises, through assistance offered by the Business Service Centres (BSCs), by improving business knowledge and access to networks and resources, by creating business opportunities and by providing guidance to entrepreneurs.

The project is funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) and IOM

In November 2004, the SEDMIN programme completed the micro-credit component (the third and final phase) and started with its Community Investment Projects (CIP). Since then, 10 community projects have been approved and 2 of them have already been implemented. The funding for the projects is provided through repayments from the micro-credit component of SEDMIN.

The approved projects are classified according to their primary goal as follows: Agriculture: projects related to agricultural

cooperatives, associations of milk, livestock and other agro-businesses; Education: improvement of the education sector by providing equipment for practical workshops; Medical: assistance to the health centers; NGO assistance: assistance to business-related NGOs and other projects that cannot be classified in any of the above categories.



From the project's inception, SEDMIN Business Service Centres (BSC) have organised 96 training sessions including a total of 911 participants. Over the past three months, 9 training sessions have been organised for a total of 91 participants. The Gracanica BSC has concluded its mentoring programme for business associations by completing a training course in English language. In addition, members of the participating business associations have been

provided funding in order to attend trade fairs in Belgrade. This activity allows them the opportunity to sell their products and expand their network of contacts with potential future business partners. Four training sessions on entrepreneurship have been held in secondary schools in northern Kosovo before the winter holidays. The Zvecan BSC organized a training session in IOM HQ for new staff members regarding BSC's activities within the SEDMIN programme. A "train the trainers" session was organised by the North Mitrovica team for the rest of the SEDMIN staff. The main topic was how to interact with young people (16-18 years old) when conducting training sessions. This prepared the whole team to start delivering entrepreneurial training sessions in secondary schools in SEDMIN areas. In addition, the Gjilan/Gnjilane Business Service Centre is now operating. Some potential CSP beneficiaries have already come to receive advice and training.



NGO Rom Erdelezi - Delivery of equipment

Counter Trafficking

Objectives

→ Increasing the overall involvement of each participating country/region's Ministry of Education in the mechanisms and strategies of their respective National Counter-Trafficking Plan of Action;

→ Establishing an information sharing mechanism between education officials of the participating countries through trans-national workshops;

→ Building the trafficking prevention capacity within educational systems through teacher training including the development of educational materials/tools;

→ Consolidating successful practises/models of prevention of trafficking to schools in the region;

→ Strengthening the counter-trafficking capacity of NGOs directly assisting school dropouts and other potential high-risk groups.

The project is funded by Netherlands

Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans through Educational Activities and Capacity Building of Schools

Given the growing incidence of minors victimized by trafficking, IOM has launched a new project focused on prevention activities targeting educators, students and school drop-outs in the western Balkan region; the IOM Missions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FY Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) are participating. After strengthening cooperation with the respective Ministry of Education, the project envisions the provision of training and support to educators from 10 pilot schools in each

participating country/region, as well as to NGOs or other institutions that assist minors who are not attending school.

The eighteen-month project also aims to test various developed methodologies and educational materials/tools in order to consolidate best practices/models of trafficking prevention in schools.

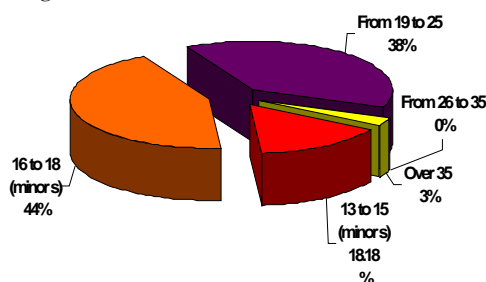
November marked the official start of the project, during which time, IOM Tirana - the management site - defined the staff and organizational structure for the regional initiative. An initial coordination meeting to define the parameters of the regional approach and possible country strategies has been planned for February.

Programme of Assistance and Reintegration for Kosovar Victims of Trafficking, Particularly Women and Children

In the period between November 2004 and January 2005, the Counter Trafficking (CT) Unit continued to support the work of the Kosovo Inter-Ministerial Commission and the Advisory Office on Good Governance, Human Rights, Gender, and Equal Opportunities, particularly in the further development and refinement of a comprehensive Kosovo Plan of Action to counteract trafficking.

As part of the ongoing effort to create a coordinated referral system for local victims of trafficking, IOM participated in meetings with local and international partners to commence the drafting of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the provision of assistance to local trafficking victims. The SOPs for foreign victims of trafficking, which have been in place since 2000, officially came into effect on 6 December 2004 and nearly all of the institutions that collaborated to realize this accomplishment including IOM - are participating in the drafting and refining of SOPs for local victims.

Age Breakdown of assisted kosovar victims



In addition, IOM finalized negotiations and signed an agreement with a local NGO, the Women Wellness Centre (WWC), for a school awareness-raising project to prevent trafficking of human beings, which will take place in the Peja/Pec region. The agreement also stipulated that IOM's CT Unit will provide WWC with training to further build their professional capacities and enrich the materials that will be utilized in the school intervention. After receiving this training, WWC will conduct counter trafficking educational sessions to parents, teachers and students in order to raise their awareness of the dangers of trafficking and change their attitudes about trafficked persons. The WWC has extensive experience in awareness raising activities on issues of gender-based violence targeting different sectors of Kosovar society, including local schools and was selected to be the implementing partner for the project following a Kosovo-wide assessment of local NGOs previously conducted by the CT Unit.

Moreover, IOM maintained its ongoing provision of reintegration support to Kosovo victims of trafficking by assisting 5 Kosovar women and minors during the period from October 2004 to January 2005, making a total of 46 beneficiaries since the CT Unit began its project to assist to local victims.

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 reintegration 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 VoT and by assisting in the development of a Kosovo wide plan of action.

The project is funded by USAID



Objectives

→ Establishing a functional Government and NGO infrastructure capable of raising awareness on the issue of trafficking at the regional level and local level.

→ Creating a well co-ordinated, efficient and functional referral network at Governmental and Non Governmental level building upon existing referral structures, both at a country/region levels as well as regionally.

→ Facilitating and building a regional NGO network and to strengthen the linkage between NGOs and other relevant national and regional institutions;

→ Effectively training the Law Enforcement personnel from all participating countries in knowledge, measures and procedures of effective preventive border management, including the prevention of document fraud, use of border management equipment and language training, based on the National Governments' strategies and International/EU Standards.

The project is funded by Finland

Counter Trafficking: Prevention & Capacity Building Activities in Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYR of Macedonia

In December, as a part of the project's preparatory phase, IOM Kosovo developed a matrix of the implemented activities carried out during the period from 1999 to 2004 by IOM Kosovo, IOM Skopje, relevant organizations and governments. This matrix was finalized and started to be used as a tool for the systematic storage of information. The matrix also serves as an assessment tool for counter trafficking activities and the roles of different organizations, with an emphasis on IOM's specific focus areas within the project, namely: prevention through awareness raising, info campaigns, capacity building and training.

Also during the preparatory phase, the preliminary draft of the Gap and Needs Analysis matrix was further refined and its the awareness-raising component was developed, which can serve as a valuable tool in assessing the strong and weak

aspects of counter trafficking activities over the past 4 years.

Additionally, contacts with the Office of Prime Minister (OPM) were established in order to discuss the OPM's presence in the project's Supervisory Board and Steering Committee. To this end, IOM received verbal acceptance from the Director of the Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Gender Issues (within the OPM) on its interest to participate in the Supervisory Board of the Management Structure of the Project.

In an effort to reach a better understanding of the issues of counter trafficking and the criteria guiding the provision of protection and assistance to trafficked persons in compliance with international human rights standards, IOM supported the Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Gender Issues in obtaining the mandate from the OPM to carry out various capacity building activities.

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 until the end of January 2005, protection and assistance were provided to 412 foreign trafficked victims which included: safe shelter, medical care, psychological assistance and counselling, travel arrangements, as well as documentation, educational and vocational assistance. From November 2004 to January 2005, 9 foreign victims were assisted through IOM's Return and Reintegration programme, making a combined total of 32 beneficiaries since 1 January 2004.

This assistance - organized in cooperation with the UNMIK Administration, UN Police, OSCE, various UN and international agencies, and a network of local and international NGOs - is given following the voluntary consent of the beneficiary and is provided on the basis of standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed in 2000, updated in 2004 and officially effective as of 6 December 2004. These amended SOPs, established to regulate the assistance of cases of internationally trafficked victims, include the newly involved partners, specifically, the UNMIK Department of Justice (DoJ), Victim Advocacy and Assistance Unit (VAAU) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) of the PISG.

In December 2004, IOM participated as an observer at the MLSW's delivery and presentation of the SOPs for foreign victims to 21 Team Leaders from the Department of Social Welfare (DSW). As soon as the SOPs entered into force, the signatory parties - OSCE, IOM, MLSW, VAAU and UN Trafficking in Human Beings Section (or THBS formerly the TPIU) - started carrying out capacity building activities, emphasizing training on the amended SOPs, to different local and international actors involved in counter-trafficking. In these trainings, IOM focused its component on IOM's role and

specific responsibilities in dealing with trafficking cases as well as on the current trafficking trends. SOP trainings were delivered in the Prizren region in December 2004 and began in the Peja/Pec region in January 2005, continuing into February. The target groups of these trainings are the social workers from the Centres for Social Welfare, local and international police specialised in trafficking in human beings and victim advocates operating in these 2 regions. By the end of January 2004, about 70 persons received training. It is envisioned that these trained persons will further disseminate their knowledge and train other representatives of their organizations who did not have the chance to participate in these capacity building exercises. The SOP trainings are a mixture of highly interactive presentations, cases studies and role-play, developed by different organizations.

A priority of this programme is to prevent trafficking through various awareness raising and capacity building activities that target different actors, both at the governmental and non-governmental levels within the local and international communities. During the past 3 months, the IOM Counter Trafficking Unit was focused on continuing the training series on the issue of human trafficking started in December 2003. In close coordination with the Kosovo Police School, in the last 3 months, IOM has delivered 2 training sessions on human trafficking (November 2004 and January 2005) to experienced KPS officers joining special units, and becoming Anti-Organized Crime Officers and Border Police Officers. During the last 3 months, approximately 50 additional police officers benefited from these trainings, making a total of 250 police officers trained. The presentation includes an additional component focused on

Objectives

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

The project is funded by SIDA/Sweden

trafficking trends, which is based on IOM's research on this topic, officially launched in October 2004.

At the request of Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI), a training was conducted by IOM in November 2004 in cooperation with the OSCE Victim Assistance and Support Section (VASS), DoJ, VAAU, THBS, NGOs and KJI to approximately 15 Kosovo judges and prosecutors from various district and municipal courts. IOM's presentation focused on the profile of both local and international trafficked victims, and on the guidelines of assistance and protection for victims of trafficking.

Within this project, IOM is also supporting local NGOs in assisting foreign victims of trafficking through different sub-grants. In December 2004, IOM signed an agreement valid till April 31, 2005 to build the capacity of the Center to Protect Victims and Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings (PVPT) to conduct trainings in human rights and negotiation skills, with the first training to be carried in February 2005.

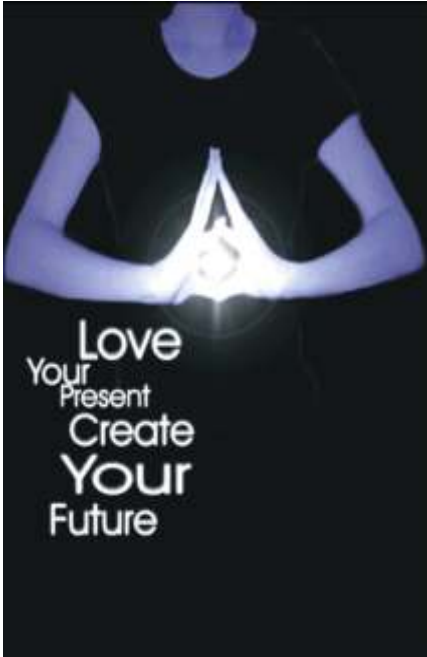
Within the framework of this project, IOM was also invited to participate in the Domestic Violence and Trafficking Human Beings debate that was held in November 2004. IOM representatives participated in the discussions and raised the issues of awareness raising and prevention in trafficking in human beings.



IOM Counter Trafficking trainings for the Kosovo Police Service

Measures to Counteract Trafficking in Human Beings, Particularly Women and Minors, from/via Southeastern Europe - Province of Kosovo (Serbia & Montenegro)

IOM Kosovo has continued distributing the psychological study it developed concerning the trauma suffered by trafficking victims - "A General Review of the Psychological Support and Services Provided to Victims of Trafficking" to the participants of IOM trainings, including: government officials, law-enforcement officers, and non-governmental



IOM Counter Trafficking poster from previous information campaign

representatives involved in counteracting human trafficking.

Three IOM Pristina staff members were the beneficiaries of a Stress Management Workshop for staff working on direct assistance with VoT, organised by IOM Geneva, held in Skopje. The workshop included power point presentations, group work, practical exercises and individual counselling sessions and is within the framework of the programme's activities providing counselling to IOM staff.

The overall goal of the workshop was to enable the identified staff member to recognize the multiple sources of stress and its impact on his/her individual functioning and colleagues' well being. It also aimed to develop skills needed to mediate the effects of stress and conserve adequate levels of mental hygiene, as well as to increase personal confidence in implementing stress management and stress reduction plans.

To better structure the Second Module of the "Skills Development for Care Givers", a questionnaire is being developed and will be distributed to the NGO participants of the First Module. Based on its results, a two-day agenda will be finalised for the training to be carried out in March 2005.

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.

The project is funded by Italy

Objectives

- Strengthening the capacities of the CARDS countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Kosovo and the FYROM) to develop and implement regional strategies against serious forms of crime based on the acquis of the European Union and other European standards and practices by:
- Providing with the necessary tools against economic and organised crime;
- Enabling to deliver comprehensive training against trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration.

The project is funded by the European Commission (EC)

As a part of the further refinement of the Training Manual/Handbook, IOM Kosovo disseminated CARDS questionnaires to various partners of the project in Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) in order to research the needs and gaps in existing trainings on illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Based on the information collected, IOM Brussels will identify possibilities for further

Development of Reliable & Functioning Policing Systems and Enhancement of Combating Main Criminal Activities & Police Cooperation

project activities. Drafts of the Manual/Handbook are disseminated to various local experts who provide feedback to the Research and Drafting Team that is developing the Manual.

In November 2004, IOM Kosovo organised the CARDS Project Coordinator and Assistant Project Coordinator's visit to Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro). The objective of their trip was to present the developments and achievements of the CARDS Project Module 2 and to discuss the best ways of future cooperation.

During this visit, meetings were held with 15 important stakeholders in Kosovo; they focused also on the specific political and strategic context of the project in Kosovo but also on the views and comments of the counterparts and participants in the project. The Council of Europe, Module 1 and Office of Prime Minister focused on the need for cooperation and the PACO and IMPACT projects, while the local experts emphasized the importance of internal

controls to combat illegal migration, training for law enforcement and the legal framework in Kosovo.

In January 2005, cooperation with the KPS School (KPSS) was strengthened, in particular their Educational Support and Training Materials Section of the Programme Support Divisions. They provided IOM with copies of their catalogue of courses and various documents such as: The Police Guide to the Provisional Criminal Procedure Code of Kosovo, The Police Guide to Juvenile Justice Code of Kosovo, and The Police Guide to the Provisional Criminal Offence Code of Kosovo. These materials were forwarded to CARDS Brussels. Further discussions were held with the KPSS on their courses relevant to the CARDS project, namely: Organized Crime Investigations course, International Police Co-operation - Interpol and Europe, International Co-operation / Planned Operations, Criminal Intelligence and Trafficking in Persons

Migration Health

Swedish Medical Team (SMT)

Objectives

→ Assisting patients from the Province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), 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.

The project is funded by Sweden

Since 2000, the Swedish Medical Programme, in cooperation with IOM, has evacuated 69 medical cases with different pathologies to Sweden and to BiH (51 to Sweden and 18 BiH). During the period from November 2004 to January 2005, 4 medical cases were evacuated to Sweden. During this year, 8 Swedish medical teams specialized in



Local doctor examining the child together with the Swedish doctor.

Plastic Surgery, Paediatric Surgery, Oncology and Histopathology came to Kosovo in order to share their knowledge about performing advanced medical interventions with local medical staff.

The Swedish Medical teams specialized in Histopathology and Oncology continued their cooperation with local institutes and had several meetings with the Director of the Kosovo Oncology Association, during which they expressed their readiness to support the future training of local oncologists.

Health Assessment of Migrants

From 2000 through the end of 2003, health assessment assistance was offered to 2,859 Kosovars. In the period November 2004 to January 2005, health assessments were provided for 97 applicants.

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.

The project is funded by USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia

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 the province of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro). This is performed by IOM in collaboration with various NGOs who are covering the related costs. IOM assists them with patient selection and/or movement support.

The project is funded by IOM

Medical Assistance for Complex Medical Cases

Since June 1999, IOM Pristina has assisted in the medical evacuation of 421 Kosovars in need of treatment for congenital heart anomalies, reconstructive surgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedic, and other serious conditions.

In the period from November 2004 until January 2005, 2 medical cases were evacuated to Canada and 2 to the US in cooperation with the NGO, "Samaritan's Purse Heart Project."