



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**KOSOVO**

# COUNTRY PROFILE

MAY 2009



*Expanding markets for Kosovo products by helping producers find buyers within the region is one of the goals of USAID/Kosovo's business development program. These potato growers in Kosovo were linked to buyers in Macedonia and Albania, selling over 200 metric tons of potatoes with a value of over 20,000 euro.*

## KOSOVO SNAPSHOT

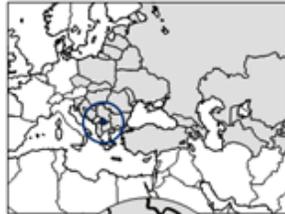
Recognized by the U.S. and most European Union countries since declaration of independence in February 2008.

Capital: Pristina  
Population: 2 million  
GDP per person: \$1,409  
(2006 estimate)

**For more information, see [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)  
Keyword: Kosovo**

## OVERVIEW

USAID's assistance to Kosovo started in mid-1999 at the conclusion of the conflict that expelled Milosevic's regime from Kosovo and established an internationally administered region, administered by the United



**Pristina**

Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). It has continued through Kosovo's declaration of independence on February 17, 2008. During and immediately after the 1999 conflict, large amounts of humanitarian assistance were provided to house, feed, and tend to the basic needs of an enormous number of displaced people. The humanitarian assistance was followed by programs to restore civil and economic life in Kosovo and assist in creating the institutions of self-government. Since 1999, over \$1.2

billion in U.S. assistance has been committed to the reconstruction of Kosovo and to building self-governing institutions and a viable economy. USAID has supported UNMIK and Kosovo government institutions and has also helped the private sector develop. USAID remains engaged with Kosovo in the areas of democratic governance, community development, and economic growth.

## PROGRAMS

### BUILDING DEMOCRACY AND IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

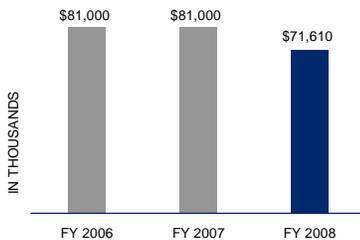
USAID assistance is strengthening democratic institutions and their Kosovar leadership to engender greater respect for democratic principles and adherence to rule of law. The focus of support includes the creation of a representative electoral system, responsive political parties, a legislature that exercises effective oversight, an independent judiciary staffed by competent legal professionals, more efficient court administration, and increased access to justice for all Kosovars.

USAID support is developing and strengthening the relationships between civil society and local governments so that they act as partners in furthering democratic processes. At the citizen level, civic organizations are fortified through programs that improve their ability to advocate for policy changes. Assistance to local governments helps ensure that they are fulfilling their key functions effectively, and are transparent and accountable to their citizens. USAID also continues to

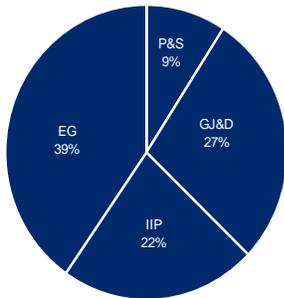


## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID ASSISTANCE TO KOSOVO



FY 2008 Budget Allocation by Objective



Peace & Security: \$6,100,000  
 Governing Justly & Democratically: \$19,380,000  
 Investing In People: \$15,800,000  
 Economic Growth: \$27,601,000

Based on FY 2008 Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States funding.

support an independent broadcast media, focusing current efforts on Serbian language media in Kosovo.

### REVIVING KOSOVO'S ECONOMY

USAID provides assistance to improve the institutional, policy, and legal environment for productive investment, with a focus on building the capacity of government institutions. Support is provided in the areas of fiscal and financial institution building, completing a comprehensive body of commercial legislation, completing privatization of socially-owned enterprises, and improving management of the energy sector.

USAID programs support the development and expansion of competitive private sector enterprises and promote small and medium enterprise participation in local and regional markets. Work is directed at improving the competitiveness of Kosovo business, especially agriculture. Support also assists the private sector in becoming an effective advocate for the creation of a positive regulatory environment for business. USAID is also working to improve the reliability of the electric supply.

### FOSTERING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

USAID helps mobilize communities to identify problems and propose solutions, with special emphasis on Kosovo's non-Albanian communities. These community groups bring together residents, community organizations, and government officials to implement community-driven action plans, addressing issues that affect the quality of life. Such actions could include infrastructure improvements, projects to support entrepreneurship and small business, and activities to improve freedom of movement. Through these projects, USAID is strengthening lines of communication and cooperation among public institutions and community leaders. USAID also supports locally-driven youth, education, and ethnic reconciliation projects.

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