



CONFLICT MITIGATION

New Community Center Opens in Partesh/Partes

A new Community Center and Playground opened on October 15 in Partesh/Partes [Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality], the result of extensive cooperation between US Kosovo Forces, the Partesh/Partes community and USAID. The project is part of the U.S. Government's continuous efforts to address immediate community concerns throughout Kosovo.



Youngsters of Partesh/Partes performing traditional dance at the opening ceremony of the Community Center

Tina Kaidanow, Chief of Mission of the U.S. Office in Pristina, and Gen. B.G. Douglas Earhart congratulated Partesh/Partes' council for their cooperation and commitment to improve their community. The wider community of Partesh/Partes was closely involved in developing the project, both in concept design and construction. The project also provided part-time and full-time employment for almost 30 local people working for a local contractor. US KFOR provided \$164,000 for the construction of the premises and USAID provided \$50,000 worth of computers, language lab equipment and training.

Reconciliation Through the Arts

The BRIDGE," an English play performed by Albanian and Serbian young actors in both languages, opened on September 28 at the Dodona Theater in Pristina.

The play is the result of collaboration between the Centre for Development of Children's Theatre (CCTD) in Pristina and the Gheto Theatre in Laplje Selo/Llaplasell, which are using theatre as a model for bringing communities together. Troops from these theaters held several theater workshops in Prizren and Laplje Selo/Llaplasell, with the final piece being "The BRIDGE."

The workshops and play are part of a USAID-supported initiative implemented by Freedom House which encourages community reconciliation through cross cultural dialogue and creative conflict transformation.

Winners of Peace and Tolerance Essay Competition Awarded

Five out of 60 students who participated in a Peace and Tolerance Essay Competition were awarded at a ceremony held in Mitrovica on October 10.

Dr. Michael Farbman, Mission Director of USAID/Kosovo, greeted the students and recognized their work. "I want to greet and thank all of you for your commitment - and for your courage - to write about the issues, as this is the best way in which innovative people can create a space for change and peace," he said at the event.

The essay competition is part of Youth Securing the Future, a conflict mitigation and management activity that aims to reduce physical safety concerns among youth through tolerance trainings, community dialogue, political participation, leadership training and problem identification and solving. The project strives to develop the values of human dignity and tolerance for different ethnicities, cultures and genders, as well as respect for diverse personal, spiritual, religious, and political values among the youth participating in the project.

Supported by USAID, Youth Securing the Future is implemented by Catholic Relief Services in partnership with the Center for Development of Civil Society (CDCS) and Galaxy Star, both local NGO's operating on both sides of the Ibar River.

LEGAL EDUCATION

Student Courtroom Opens at the Faculty of Law

The first equipped moot courtroom opened at University of Prishtina's Faculty of Law. The courtroom is the culmination of ongoing efforts to develop curricula for simulation clinics at the Faculty of Law, which give students the opportunity to learn about real-life legal issues from practitioners and apply their legal knowledge in mock trials. The clinic has been held over four semesters and approximately 165 students have completed both criminal and civil courses.

Completion of the courtroom enables the law faculty and US Agencies working on legal curricula reform, including both USAID and the US Department of Justice, to further enhance students' critical skill development by providing a space where they can work on real cases under close supervision. In the courtroom, students can conduct simulations and discussions and learn legal analysis and interpretation, negotiation and mediation skills, case presentation and courtroom protocol.

USAID provided \$300,000 for the construction of the courtroom, which was completed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Assistance included a functional courtroom with attached translation booth, construction of specialized furniture, office furniture, wood paneling, IT, communications and translation equipment.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Saving the World, One Life at a Time

An Anti-trafficking conference was held in Pristina on October 1, which launched a Month of Anti-trafficking and the USAID-supported Anti-trafficking Campaign. The conference brought together relevant stakeholders and shared information regarding all current activities, including the Partnership Against Trafficking in Human Beings (PATH), a USAID-supported partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Kosovo Population Fund (KOPF).



"Saving the world is difficult: Saving a Life is easy" campaign products in Albanian and Serbian were distributed throughout Kosovo

The Anti-trafficking campaign targets vulnerable young girls and the general population and is the result of the first comprehensive study, of Kosovar knowledge, attitudes and perceptions regarding trafficking in persons. This study was conducted by PATH and published in early 2007. PATH partners with Pristina Film, which designed the "Saving the World is Difficult; Saving a Life is Easy" campaign including two television spots, two public service announcements, a brochure, poster, greetings cards, car aromas, stickers and several other products. In addition to the media campaign, CRS will continue its outreach to local high schools through its Peer Educator network and mobilize the Muslim and Catholic communities to spread anti-trafficking messages.

Other donors and stakeholders will conduct similar activities throughout the month. UNDP will launch an anti-trafficking and anti-violence against woman campaign, while IOM, OSCE, Save the Children and several NGOs will coordinate various educational activities to raise awareness about trafficking in humans.

Upcoming Events

November 5 - 8- Dr. Michael Farbrman, USAID Director will speak at the three day training on Energy Regulation and Tariff Development, organized by USAID and its partners working in the energy sector.

November 7 - USAID/Kosovo will honor University of Prishtina staff for their participations in the Performance Improvement methodology course held in Pristina early in the year.

U.S. Agency for International Development
Arbëria (Dragodan), Ismail Qemali st., nr. 1
Phone: ++ 381 38 243 673
Fax: ++ 381 38 249 493

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