



BEFORE & AFTER

Young Children Learn About Diversity

Ethnic Albanian and Egyptian children share a preschool

The town of Zallq/Zac has opened a renovated preschool, where Albanian and Egyptian Kosovar children are learning and playing together for the first time.

The village of 400 residents knew that day-care for young children was a critical need, not only for working parents, but also for the children — this is where their education begins. The community considered this a priority, and worked with USAID to connect with the local government in addressing village needs. With assistance from USAID, they established a Community Working Group that learned how to lobby municipal authorities and others for support in building the kindergarten. The community succeeded and, after renovating an appropriate building, opened its preschool to five neighboring villages, serving a total population of 2,000.

Through projects like these, USAID is working to help minorities return and reintegrate into Kosovar society.

Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>



Photo: Mercy Corps/Hetem Geci

BEFORE The community identified preschool education as its top priority — they considered it important to long-term ethnic harmony, especially in a community where interaction between children of different ethnic groups is rare. Despite its broken windows, cracked ceilings and walls, and a damaged roof, this building was the perfect place to renovate for a preschool.



Photo: USAID/Dina Cernobregu

AFTER The renovated building now houses a preschool and a day-care facility for both Albanian and Egyptian Kosovars, a service new to the village. “Today we are all being educated — without ethnic, gender or religious difference, because the project was educational for all — for government officials and the communities, we all learned how to contribute to projects,” said a local official at the preschool’s opening.