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ALBANIA

BEFORE & AFTER

Clinic Rehab Strengthens Cooperation

Religious communities unite to improve health services

Albania enjoys a high degree of tolerance among its four main religious communities — Sunni Muslim, Bektashi Muslim, Catholic and Orthodox Christian. Yet strengthening their ability to work together even further can go a long way toward maximizing community development efforts. USAID helped religious leaders learn to identify and implement small local projects that would benefit the entire community. Using their new participatory approach, Sunni and Bektashi communities identified the rehabilitation of a run-down health clinic in Krujë as a project that would cost relatively little but would significantly improve the lives of people in this disadvantaged neighborhood.



Photos: USAID/Bujar Topçiu

BEFORE The people of the disadvantaged Asim Zenale quarter in the central Albanian city of Krujë went to this dilapidated, unsanitary clinic for basic healthcare needs.



Photo: USAID/Bujar Topçiu

AFTER The clinic was refurbished, and its improved services will benefit 6,000 patients. Mr. Topçiu, a member of Krujë's Muslim community, said of his neighbors, "Now, for the first time, they have the possibility to receive all necessary primary health services all day long." Working together toward a common goal also strengthened friendship and understanding among members of the Sunni and Bektashi communities.