



USAID | KOSOVO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COUNTRY PROFILE

SEPTEMBER 2008



With USAID assistance, Koni Soni egg producer has improved its business practices, enabling the company to recapture the domestic market. As a result, most eggs consumed in Kosovo today are now produced domestically.

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 and newly impoverished Kosovars. 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

KOSOVO SNAPSHOT

Recognized by US and most EU countries since declaration of independence in February 2008

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

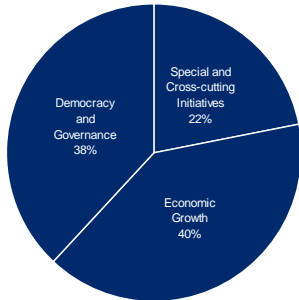
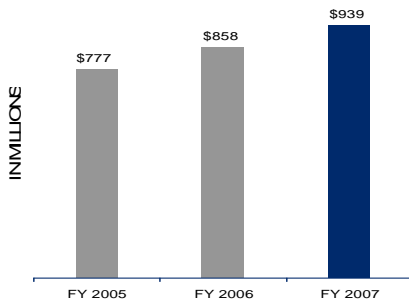
For more information, see www.usaid.gov
Keyword: Kosovo



PROFILE CONTINUED

U.S. ASSISTANCE TO KOSOVO

Cumulative Assistance to Kosovo under the Support for East European Democracy Act



transparent and accountable to their citizens. USAID also continues to support the creation of viable, independent broadcast media.

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.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

USAID works closely with communities and municipal leaders throughout Kosovo to prioritize and implement small-infrastructure projects that meet citizens' needs. Through these projects, USAID is strengthening lines of communication and cooperation among public institutions and community leaders. Special emphasis is placed on supporting Kosovo's non-Albanian communities to ensure their rights are respected. USAID also supports locally driven youth, education, and ethnic reconciliation projects.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Patricia Rader
Mission Director
USAID/Kosovo
Arberia (ex-Dragodan) II, No. 1
Pristina, Kosovo 10000
Tel: +011 381 38 243 673

Lauren Russell
Desk Officer for Kosovo
Tel: 202-712-4873
Email: lrussell@usaid.gov