



### CONFLICT MITIGATION

#### Support to Minority Infrastructure

**U**SAID and its partners dedicated four new infrastructure projects on April 19th and 23rd, part of an ongoing effort to address the basic infrastructure needs in minority areas.

Tina Kaidanow, United States Office in Pristina Chief of Mission, visited all four projects. These included: the rehabilitation of the Technical Faculty and rehabilitation of the Technical Secondary School Workshop in northern Mitrovica; rehabilitation of a water system in Rudare [Zvecan/Zveqan Municipality]; and rehabilitation of a water system in Brestovik, Pejë/Pec municipality.



Students of Mitrovica Technical School in the north demonstrate their work at the rehabilitated workshop by USAID

"We are particularly pleased that in each of these projects, we were able to work closely with the local communities involved. In this water project, you, the people of Rudare, took charge. You identified your main needs and priorities, and then worked creatively to find the resources in cooperation with both your local government officials and the international community," said Kaidanow in her address to the residents of Rudare in Zvecan/Zveqan municipality.

The total cost of the projects dedicated was \$150,000. The projects were implemented in partnership with Mercy Corps and the International Organization for Migration.

### INSTITUTION BUILDING

#### Youth in Politics

**A** ceremony held on April 16th kicked-off the second phase of the Party Training Academy (PTA) for young politicians. Organized by the National Democratic Institute, with support from USAID, this intensive, four-week course is designed to provide political parties with trained individuals who can act as party staff and/or party organizers at all levels of the organization.

The second phase of the PTA gathers 45 graduates of the PTA's first phase. Participants include Albanian, Serbian and other minority party representatives. At the end of the training, the participants will be equipped with necessary skills to assist campaign managers of their respective political parties.

High ranking officials of each party, including the Heads of Parliamentary Committees, participated in the opening ceremony honoring their parties' young members.

#### One-Stop Shop Opens in Podujevë/Podujevo

**B**ringing municipal services closer to the people is the overarching goal of Citizen Service Centers, also known as "one-stop shops". One such facility opened in Podujevë/Podujevo municipality on April 24.

"The centers bring multiple government services together in a single location for the benefit of residents - the clients of municipal services" said Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director, in his remarks at the opening ceremony.

The center offers every service previously provided by the Intake Office and Municipal Directorates, including birth certificate issuance and many administrative, cadastral and business certification requests. Citizens will be able to have their requests dealt with immediately or, in more complicated cases, be given specific times to return for their documents.

The Center will serve as a modern municipal management tool to increase the quality of municipal services,

assist the municipal administration become more "customer oriented", and foster more cooperative relationships between citizens and local government.



Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director is honored by the residents of Podujevë/Podujevo at the opening of the Citizens Service Center

Furthermore, through fast and efficient service delivery, the Center will improve the municipality's understanding of citizen's expectations and priorities.

This is third such center to open in Kosovo. These unique centers are supported by USAID's Local Government Initiative.

## PROMOTING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### International Agricultural Fair

Fifty three companies from Kosovo and the region participated as exhibitors at the Annual Agricultural Fair, held in Pristina on March 27-28. Compared to previous fairs, the event marked a notable increase in the number, diversity, and sophistication of agricultural companies participating.

Organized by the Alliance of Kosovo Agribusinesses (AKA), in cooperation with Alliance of Kosovar Business-

-es (AKB), the fair served as a discussion forum as many exhibitors, particularly the ones from Albania presented problems they had had with Kosovo customs. Their concerns were later addressed by the General Customs Director of Kosovo at a follow up session.

The fair was supported by USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD).

## Promoting Investments

The Kosovo Bankers Association, in partnership with the Association of Microfinance Institutions in Kosovo, organized the second annual Finance Fair. The goal of the event was to further increase contacts between financial institutions, businesses, donor agencies and potential investors so as to establish a good spirit of cooperation and further the economic development of Kosovo. All Kosovo-based financial institutions presented their products at their booths, occupying two big halls of the Pristina Youth Center.

USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support Project provided assistance to the Association of Microfinance Institutions and Kosovo Banker's Association in organizing the event.

## Upcoming Events

April 27, -- Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director will speak at the Seconda Annual Career Fair , organized by American Chamber of Commerce with support from USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project, implemented by Chemionics Int.



U.S. Agency for International Development  
Arbëria (Dragodan), Ismail Qemali st., nr. 1

Phone: ++ 381 38 243 673

Fax: ++ 381 38 249 493

For more information visit [www.usaid.gov/missions/kosovo](http://www.usaid.gov/missions/kosovo) and [www.pristina.usmission.gov](http://www.pristina.usmission.gov) or contact us at [kosovousaidinfo@usaid.gov](mailto:kosovousaidinfo@usaid.gov)