



### CONFLICT MITIGATION

#### Quality Water - Better Living

A glass of water coming from the new water system marked the dedication ceremony of the new water system project in Korminjan/Korminjane on November 15. The water system project is part of USAID's Municipal Integration and Support Initiative implemented by Mercy Corps in cooperation with local government and communities.

"We hope people will take responsibility for addressing their own problems, work constructively with their local officials, and through such cooperation [as in Korminjan/e], help bring positive change for everyone" said Tina Kaidanow, the USOP Chief of Mission at the dedication ceremony. Shaip Surdulli, the mayor of Kamenicë/Kamenica also praised the residents of Korminjan/Korminjane on their organization and willingness to cooperate with local government regardless of ethnic differences.



Children of Korminjan/e in traditional clothes celebrating the Water Project

Some 1500 Serbian Kosovar residents of Korminjan/e faced health problems due to the lack of potable water. With assistance from USAID/MISI, the community was able to organize, plan and advocate for their need within the community, to the local government and finally to other donors to help address their needs.

The water system project is one of the largest implemented by USAID through Municipal Integration and Support Initiative (MISI) totaling 160,000 Euros, of which USAID's contribution was 53,000 euros.

#### Foundations of tolerance

Inclusive education, multiculturalism and bilingualism, conflict resolution, children's rights, and early child development are a few of the topics addressed by USAID's "Mozaik" program. The Mozaik project works with teachers and school directors to help make pre-schools a place where children can socialize, learn, and grow in an environment that teaches respect for culture diversity and bilingualism.

Supported by USAID and implemented in cooperation with Save the Children and Search for Common Ground, the "Mozaik" project is working with 22 kindergarten teachers of different ethnicities [Albanian, Serbian, Turkish and Bosnian Kosovar] to introduce new learning approaches into the kindergarten curricula. The teachers will attend 13 modules throughout the year, which will prepare them to apply the knowledge in the classrooms.

The project will facilitate confidence building and trust in everyday relationships. It offers a greater focus on the child's social and emotional development, and emphasizes the importance of developing positive and open relationships within their communities

### INSTITUTION BUILDING

#### New Challenges for Local Governance

As USAID's Local Government Initiative (LGI) enters its final months, the mayors of Podujevë/o, Shterpce/Sterpce, Suhareka/Suvareka, Peja/Pec, Gjilan/Gnjialane and Gjakova/Djakovica, the six LGI host municipalities, gathered for a meeting on November 17.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review USAID's assistance to date, as well as discuss ongoing opportunities and challenges to enhancing the role of local government in the lives of residents.

The mayors participating in the discussion highlighted prior USAID contributions to their municipalities, including power supply improvements and internet connection for Shterpce/Sterpce municipal building; the establishment, refurbishment and staff training for the Citizens Service Centers (CSC) in all six municipalities; the success of tax collection initiatives in Suhareka/Suvareka and

Gjakova/Djakovica; and cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government (MLGA) in developing the "Transparency Plan", which has been adopted as a regulation and will be implemented Kosovo-wide.

Participants also discussed challenges for local governments as Kosovo moves toward the decentralization process.

### 48 law students honored

**F**orty eight students of the of the University of Pristina Law Faculty were honored for graduating from the second USAID/ABA-CEELI Legal Clinic Program at a certificate ceremony on November 14.

The Legal Clinic Program utilizes a combination of in-class lectures, assignments and practical interaction with legal professionals to provide students with a more "hands-on" learning experience as they pursue a career in law. Students in the program cooperate with lawyers, judges, and prosecutors to complete assignments in legal research and analysis, problem solving, interviewing and counseling clients, and formulating relevant legal theories and pursuing strategies appropriate for the client.

The ceremony was chaired by Agim Paca, the newly elected Dean of the Law Faculty of the University of Prishtina and Rexhep Murati, the Legal Clinic Coordinator. In his opening remarks, Mr. Murati said, "the Legal Clinic Program fills a long-standing gap in the curriculum, thus providing students practical knowledge from the criminal and civil sections of law". The Legal Clinic was launched in 2005 by the American Bar Association/ Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), in cooperation with the University of Prishtina.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Supporting agricultural business in the north of Kosovo

**U**SAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support Project (KCBS) assisted AGRO HIT, the Association of Agriculture Producers, to prepare and organize the third Regional Agriculture Cattle Fair in Leposavic municipality. The fair is a unique opportunity for farmers in the north of Kosovo to present their products, including fruit, vegetables, cheese, sure milk, corn

bread, and honey to potential buyers.

Additionally, the fair gathered more than fifty farmers who presented their best calves, heifers and milking cows. Awards for the best herds highlighted the gains that can be made through proper nutrition, herd management, and other dairy practices.

Apart from farmers, the fair offered exhibition booths for producers of agriculture machinery and credit providers, including the two largest banks in Kosovo, Pro Credit and Raiffeisen. KCBS also took advantage of the event to distribute educational materials to farmers.

## CROSS CUTTING

### New Hope Fellowship launched

**T**he new Hope Fellowship program was officially launched on November 14th at a reception hosting participants of the two previous Hope Fellowship Programs.

Implemented by the National Albanian American Council (NAAC), with support from USAID, the new program will expand its reach to include a larger number of participants in the region, including participants from Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania. As Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director, stated in his speech, "focusing on leadership, management, and communication skills, this new fellowship program we are inaugurating today will complement existing skills development programs and will help Kosovars and others in the region access more comprehensive training opportunities."

The program will offer emerging government, civil society, and private sector leaders a combination of practical education and theory in the instruction of topics such as management and operations, leadership and communications, anticorruption, advocacy and youth issues.

### Upcoming Events

**November 22**, Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director will speak at the launch of the Business Center at the Chamber of Commerce of Koseva.

**November 29**, Finalization of the Sveti Sava school refurbishment project in the northern Mitrovica.



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