



Kosovars' Recognition of Support of American People through USAID Is High

A survey completed November 6 shows that Kosovars recognition of USAID is high - 68% of Kosovars surveyed have heard of USAID. This was relatively the same among Albanian Kosovars (72%) and Serbian Kosovars (61.4%). The areas that respondents were most aware of USAID support (answering 'very familiar,' 'familiar,' and 'somewhat familiar') were in the areas of economic projects helping business (85.2%) and infrastructure (80.4%). These questions were tagged onto a poll fielded October 9-23 by UBO, a Pristina-based research firm, of 1251 people Kosovo-wide for a USAID survey on democracy and governance activities' performance indicators.

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Developing a New Generation of Party Leaders

The USAID supported National Democratic Institute (NDI) honored the first graduates of the Party Training Academy class comprised of Serbian Kosovar political parties. At the ceremony, NDI also announced the beginning of the second round of training for young Serbian Kosovar political activists.



Party Training Academy: Certificate Awards Ceremony

Over the last year, political parties in Kosovo have been working toward developing their ideas, platforms, and outreach to constituents.

Parties are placing a special emphasis on educating young political activists. As Heather Goldman, USAID/Kosovo Deputy Director, said in her address to the graduates "USAID is pleased to support the new generation of young political activists in Mitrovica and throughout Kosovo."

Goldman was joined by Tom Yazdgerdi, U.S. Office in Pristina Political Officer, Robert Benjamin, NDI Regional Director, distinguished guests from UNMIK and OSCE, and senior officials from the Independent Liberal Party, the Serbian People's Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Democratic Party.

The Political Training Academy (PTA) program, led by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), has trained more than 200 young party activists from Albanian, Serb and other minority parties on such topics as party organization and management. Through the PTA, NDI is cultivating a new class of activists who can use their new knowledge to spearhead innovative policy and communication initiatives at their parties' central and branch levels.

Proper Marketing helps the Journal become successful

After five years of donor reliance, KASNECI, the first bilingual community advocacy journal in Peja/Pec is making its first steps toward sustainability.

Kasneci started in 2001 with support from OSCE. The journal was unique as it published monthly editions in both Albanian and Serbian, and covered political news from the municipalities of Peje/Pec, Istog/Istok; Kline/Klina; and Decan/Decani. With a reduction in OSCE support, the staff of KASNECI looked for creative ways to continue publishing the journal.

KASNECI partnered with USAID's Local Government Initiative (LGI) to begin developing a sound marketing plan, based upon sustainable business practices. The plan involved taking KASNECI in new directions, including increasing outreach to minority communities and the general business community. The result was that KASNECI was able to fill a void for businesses trying to advertise to minorities.

KASNECI has expanded its readership and exceeded revenue targets. Advertisers are happy, too.

Nerxhivane and Safet Vukli, doctors and owner of the Nexhi Ob/Gyn Clinic comment, "The request for our service increased for 15% after we advertised in the journal. We've received requests new clients, including Bosniaks communities in Vitomirica."

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Support to Business Associations opens

The newly refurbished Business Association Development Center was officially opened on November 22, as the Association of Concrete Producers held its first Assembly Meeting in the premises.

USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project funded a grant to the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce (OEK) for the provision of equipment for the Business Association Development Center located in the Chamber. The Center will be used for meetings, training purposes and promotional activities of Business Associations. The Center will serve as a base for initial activities during the early weeks following establishment of a new business association, and will also provide initial secretarial support.

The Kosovo Chamber of Commerce demonstrated its commitment by funding renovations to the premises which will house the Center. Additional donations from members of the Chamber underscore the private-sector's support and buy-in to the initiative. The room has been furnished with equipment for simultaneous translation in three languages (Albanian, English and Serbian), one laptop computer, and a video projector for presentations. KCBS works with business associations to improve their organizational skills, upgrade the competitiveness of client companies, help access new markets, and better advocate for industry needs.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Offering Quality Care in the Hospital

Improving the quality of care offered to women and infants is the goal of USAID's Alliance for Healthy Newborns program, implemented by Dartmouth Medical School.

A five-day training in neonatal respiratory care for doctors and nurses at the Neonatology Unit of the Obstetric and Gynecological Clinic of the Regional Hospital in Pristina helped toward reaching that goal.

Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director, joined the trainees on the fourth day of the training and emphasized the importance of the work of medical staff. "We, as Americans, can offer increased knowledge and skills, provide resources, address systems issues and share experiences but it will be up to the Kosovar health professionals at all levels to make the decisions and take action from policy to practice on how to improve care for the population", said Farbman on November 30th over an informal lunch with trainees.



Learning by doing: US Doctors apply new methodologies at the unit

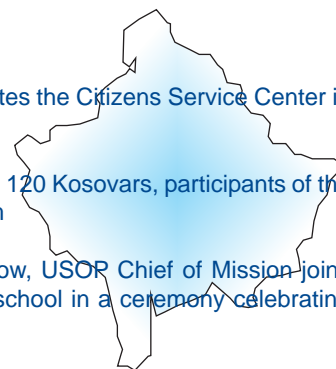
Assisted by four pediatric health professionals from Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Centre (DHMC), the participating doctors and nurses from the obstetric and pediatric university hospitals in Pristina are introducing new and improved treatments for premature babies, including the introduction of surfactant, a medication that treats a frequent cause of death in premature babies. 49 health professionals (including 15 doctors and 34 nurses) will complete the training.

Upcoming Events

December 6, USAID dedicates the Citizens Service Center in Shtërpce/Strpce

December 7, USAID honors 120 Kosovars, participants of the Participant Training Program

December 12, Tina Kaidanow, USOP Chief of Mission joins the students of Sveti Sava school in a ceremony celebrating school renovation project.



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 and www.pristina.usmission.gov or contact us at kosovousaidinfo@usaid.gov