



CONFLICT MITIGATION

Dual Events Dedicate School Projects in Kosovo Serb Communities

Ribbons were cut and foundation concrete poured in two events in Kosovo Serb communities on August 21, as USAID/Kosovo joined with the community and officials to celebrate school renovations and expansions.

The ribbon cutting ceremony in Preoce, Gracanice/Gracanica area, marked the opening of the rehabilitated kindergarten in the village. The improved premises, first built as a veterinary station but never used, will host 60 children from the ages of nine-months to six-years-old of Preoce and surrounding villages.

"The American people, through USAID, invested \$60,800 to turn this building into a kindergarten, and Finnish KFOR leveled the yard, demonstrating our shared belief that children deserve a clean, safe environment in which to learn," said Dr. Michael Farbman, Director of USAID Mission in Kosovo at the ceremony. Farbman was joined by Nenad Rasic, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, the local village leader, Miodrag Krstic, Dobrila Jankovic, the director of the kindergarten, and Major J.P. Kolehmainen, commander of the Finnish KFOR Logistics Company.



Kindergarten students and their older sisters host Mission Director Michael Farbman at their table following the dedication ceremony

In nearby Dobrotin, Lipljan/Lipjan municipality, the foundation for a primary school annex was laid by Farbman and Rasic. The annex almost doubles the size of the school, an investment of \$155,000 by USAID. These two school projects are part of USAID's effort to improve living conditions in Kosovo Serb areas. USAID/Kosovo, through its

Community Enhancement and Development Project implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM), has worked closely with communities to identifying their priorities and develop projects to address these needs.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Leposavic Businesses Benefit from USAID Assistance

Since 2006, the collection and export of wild blueberries and mushrooms has become a significant source of income for collectors in Leposavic municipality. Ensuring quality through adequate cold storage is the first step to ensure that Kosovo is competitive in this lucrative niche market.

In cooperation with P.P. Brnjak, a group of collectors, As-Promet Corporation is managing four collection centers in north Kosovo. With the help of USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support Project, As-Promet has established a cold storage facility and purchased cleaning/winning equipment which will add value to these products, which are aimed exclusively at an export market.

Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director, visited As-Promet on August 1 and learned more about As-Promet and P.P. Brnjak's operations and the benefits they are reaping from implementing the cold chain into their business. As a result of this project, As-Promet's export sales have increased and the company has engaged directly in exporting frozen blueberries to an Italian food processor.

On the same day, Dr. Farbman also visited Lesak-Com, a slaughterhouse facility, also in Leposavic municipality, which has received support from KCBS project. Lesak-Com was awarded a grant to complete their slaughtering lines in compliance with HACCP standards (international quality standards). Once the facility is completed, Lesak-Com anticipates purchasing approximately 200 head of cattle and 1,000 pigs each year from farmers in the immediate community.

Both As-Promet and Lesak-Com are partners of USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support Project, a four-year activity implemented by Chemonics International that works to stimulate growth in key economic sectors.

Two Firms Aim for Pleasing Packaging

Two Kosovo firms, participants in a "Packaging Design Competition" organized by USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support (KCBS) Project, are now updating their packaging with the winning design firms.

Following the Packaging Design Competition in June 2008, Pajtimi juice production company entered in negotiations with Init, the designing firm that won the Gold Prize at the competition. The negotiations will finalize the design work for complete range of Nora Juice with different flavors.

Initially, Init will print 10 to 20 new designs and test the juice packages in the market, followed by another contract, if the market reactions are positive, totaling 70,000 euro with Pajtimi juice producer. USAID's KCBS Project facilitated the contract negotiations meeting between Init Productions design agency and Pajtimi company for its Nora juice. The newly signed contract includes not only design of the packaging, but also design of the promotion materials (posters, brochures, and billboards) for new line. The promotion campaign will be launched in the spring of next year.

The silver prize winner at the design competition, Trembalat design agency, and Turkish delight producer company DTS Kondi, have signed contract for finalization of the design for the complete line of DTS products. The value of the contract is 3,600 euro, and the European Agency for Reconstruction project partially supported the DTS Kondi's deal. Kondi's new design will be launched in September.

The incentive-based design competition, organized by KCBS Project, local consulting company MDA and media partner RTV21, hoped that improved labels and in-store promotion will boost sales of competitors, and other, Kosovo products.

The competition assisted businesses in introducing new packaging designs, helped improve the quality and competitiveness of local design companies, and increased the linkages between professional designers and manufactures/producers as well as encouraging all Kosovo businesses to improve sales through eye-catching packaging that catches consumers' attention. KCBS Project is implemented by Chemonics International.

First Kosovo Dairy Processor Receives International Quality Manufacturing Certificate

On August 19, Bylmeti became the first Kosovo dairy processor to receive a license for meeting Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point, or HACCP, standards. HACCP is an internationally recognized standard for ensuring quality food processing practices, which ultimately results in consistent, high quality products for consumers.

Bylmeti has invested over 200,000 euro in achieving this critical standard, and USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support (KCBS) project has worked closely with the company on its way to achieving HACCP certification. KCBS project has worked with Bylmeti, one of Kosovo's top processors, to help increase raw milk quality, develop contract agreements with farmers, improve its manufacturing operation processes, expand its product line, and find new markets for their products.

Through its network of 240 farmers, the company collects several thousand liters of milk per day, processing it into different dairy products, including pasteurized milk, yogurt, set yogurt, cream, cream with peppers, white cheese, yellow cheese, and whey and other products.

The success of the company is based on their commitment to continuously improve manufacturing operation processes, and increase quality of their products to the internationally accepted standards. Founded in 1997, Bylmeti has been USAID's partner since 2002. The Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project is implemented by Chemonics International.

U.S. Agency for International Development
Arbëria (Dragodan), Ismail Qemali st., nr. 1
Phone: ++ 381 38 243 673
Fax: ++ 381 38 249 493

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