



SUCCESS STORY

Kosovo Community Works Together to Save Kindergarten

Food safety issues spur improved kitchen hygiene and working conditions



Photo by: USAID/Kosovo—Advancing Kosovo Together

With the brand new kitchen equipment, parents of the 330 children who attend the Lane kindergarten in Zvečan/Zvečan no longer fear for their children's health and safety

“Everything is much better now” explains Vesna Vučković who works at the Lane kitchen.

September 2016 – At LANE in Kosovo’s municipality of Zvečan/Zvečan, 330 children learn, play together, and explore their world with energy and curiosity. Despite an excellent learning environment, Lane faced threats of closure last year following a kitchen health inspection. The kitchen simply did not meet minimum food safety standards.

Improving the kindergarten’s hygiene practices became a top priority. Parents, the kindergarten’s management, and community and municipal representatives approached USAID for assistance in refurbishing the kitchen, and pledged that the municipality itself would contribute up to 20 percent of the project’s costs.

To the delight of the children, their parents, and 60 kindergarten employees, USAID, through its Advancing Kosovo Together program, and the municipality worked together to install new kitchen equipment in spring 2016.

“Now, the problem has been solved,” explains Zorica Keljanović, Lane’s principal, and parents can feel safe that their children will eat properly prepared food.

The kindergarten’s cooks are also very pleased with these improvements: “Everything is much better now,” says Vesna Vučković, who works at the Lane kitchen. “We have a brand new aspirator, kitchen tables, upper parts of the kitchen, and a refrigerator which is an essential appliance during the summertime. Hygiene practices and working conditions improved greatly. My colleagues and I are very satisfied and I can only say thank you.”

USAID’s Advancing Kosovo Together program, which runs from 2014 to 2017, is designed to bring communities and local government together to work on priorities and increase the region’s security and stability. Under this program USAID has reached over 50,000 people on similar project that improve service delivery and meets citizen’s needs.