

Type of Project:	Health Ambulantas	Country:	Albania
Approach:	New Construction	Realisation Year:	2001
Project name:	Ambulances-Lesha District	Version:	1
		Date:	December 2003



Initial Situation, Context

Since several years SDC is supporting an integrated program of CARITAS Switzerland in the sector of primary and secondary health care in Albania. In this context several village “Ambulanta”s had to be replaced by new constructions. Out of a list of 12 communities selected by CARITAS, finally 8 communities were supported by this program.

Goals, Beneficiaries

Main goal was the support and the improvement of a broken medieval primary health care system in remote villages in the mountainous area of the Lesha District. As a side effect, this improvement helps to stop the migration from these villages to the more fertile communities in the lowlands of the District, by giving these villagers a functioning basic health care. The area of this primary health care system includes about 10'000 villagers.

Approach

Different to other countries in the Balkans, in Albania the most reasonable way to build or to rehabilitate public constructions is to build with a contractor who is willing to involve people from the villages as paid workers. To bring workers from the town to these remote area was by far too expensive. On the other hand the people in the villages did not only get a health post but also some income through labour work. SDC/SHA financed the whole planning and project management as well as the contractor and the necessary building materials.

Partner(s)

The project was implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health (MoH), the local Health Authorities, the relevant village Authorities and partially with CARITAS-CH. Planning and project management was done by SDC/SHA - Construction Office in the CoOf in Tirana.

Implementations/Results

The implementation procedures, prepared by SDC/SHA were as follows:

- Prior of the planning and implementation a second evaluation of the selected municipality was done by the SDC/SHA construction office. Then a detailed planning with detailed quantities and gathered prices took place.
- According to the broad experience of SHA in Albania, six contractors were pre-selected and invited to submit their biddings.
- Since in Albania clear rules and regulations for construction- and architectural work do often not exist, SHA-standard documentations had to be produced. Disadvantages never occurred in Albania by doing this.
- Unit prices were agreed and a standard contract was signed with the selected contractor
- The work of the contractor was supervised directly by the SHA project manager.

Cost, Financing

Financed by SDC/SHA: Total cost: CHF 562'450 for 8 Ambulantas

Problems/Constraints

The initial budget was based on a first evaluation which was not correct. As a result, out of 12 planned health posts, only 8 could be built with the allocated budget. Most of the planned Ambulantas are situated in remote areas in a mountain region where transports for material are difficult and expensive. An increase of the budget was not possible for several reasons. First it would have caused delays in the implementation because of a needed second evaluation, followed by the administrative procedures of a new project proposal approval etc. On the other hand constructions in the mountain areas have to respect the climate conditions.

Lessons learned What was useful in the approach?

Contracted construction is fast, efficient and of good quality in Albania, as long as the supervision is adequate. The "Albanian" standard contracting procedures was appropriate and the cooperation with MoH and the straight approach towards the local Authorities resulted in positive projects. Close and direct supervision and project management was essential to reach a good result and to keep the cost under control. Some families in the villages benefited for a while from an income during the building activities.

Lessons learned What should be done different next time?

Relative high cost for contracted works in Albania. More low-cost effective design is needed.

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach

- Availability of basic information about how the "construction business" in Albania is functioning.
- Knowledge about the legal system in Albania.
- Good cooperation with Ministry and Local Authorities.
- Field office with administrative and technical capacity to implement contracted constructions.

Evaluations

2001 by P. Rüegg and H. Gloor (SDC/SHA)

For further information

Recommended Contacts:	Martin Zirn, Project Manager SHA, CoOf Tirana
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/SHA, Desk Europe + CIS
Recommended books/reports:	--
Relevant other projects (links):	--

Annex: (technical drawings, schemata) see page: --