

Type of Project:	Health	Country (Province):	Kosovo
Approach:	New Construction	Realisation Year:	2002
Project name:	Semi-protected apartments for Mental Health Centre in Gjilan	Version:	1
		Date:	June 2003



Initial Situation, Context

Two surveys carried out by the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta (CDC) in August/September 1999 and May/June 2000, highlighted the aggravation of the situation concerning the mental health of the Kosovo population. In particular, the prevalence of symptoms of PTSD in the representative samples of the interviewed population has increased from 17% in November 1999 to 25% in June 2000. The average prevalence is higher in the rural areas than in the urban ones (29.4 versus 22.9) and among women versus men (28.5 versus 18.6). SDC decided to participate in the physical rehabilitation of mental health infrastructure.

Goals, Beneficiaries

Main goals were: supporting the Community based Mental Health Centre (CMHC) in providing services for the people in the Gjilan area. These services are: Improving the mental health services in quality and efficiency; enhance mental health and quality of life for the population in the Gjilan district and favour social integration.

The working group "Mental Health Task Force" for Kosovo was initiated by WHO with the task of developing a draft for setting up modern and contemporary psychiatric care. The programme's objective is to establish a community-based health system supported by family doctors, nursing staff, advisers, social workers and volunteers under the guidance of psychiatrists.

Approach

A specialised team sets up, manages and supervises two Protected Apartments, each with 10 beds for long-term patients. Protected Apartments will serve social and rehabilitative aims. The objectives in each Protected Apartments will be based on learning the basics: self-care, care of the house, independence in daily life, social contacts etc. Nurses or case managers will work in the Protected Apartments under the supervision of the mental health team.

Partner(s)

The following partners participated in this programme:

- FOR (Federal Office for Refugees) in Switzerland for financing the programme.
- WHO (World Health Organisation) responsible: Liliana Urbina and Devora Kestel as advisors.
- The regional director of the Mental Health in Gjilan.
- The Municipal department of reconstruction and planning, and the cadastre department.
- The architect Bekim Kryeziu from "Artimg Office" in Gjakova for project and supervision.
- The contractor Tafa for the execution of the project.
- SDC/HA for project-leading, monitoring/controlling

Implementations/Results

The semi-protected apartment will host patients with long care mentally illness. It is designed to receive 10 patients and one nurse in a community residential accommodation to maintain or learn social skills and relationship skills to strengthen social rights. The need for such a structure was seen immediately after completion of the work when the building was put into function without any delay.

Construction: Traditional brick and concrete construction with external thermo insulation. Two storey building with a partial basement, ground and first floor. Solar thermo panels on the tiled roof. Fuel central heating with a 5'000 litre tank. A similar building in Kosovo was completed in Gjakova in October 2002 and a third building will be finalized in Prizren by end of the year 2003.

Cost, Financing

Financed by FOR, (Federal Office for Refugees), Total cost: EUR 216'000 (CHF 324'000.).
[Studies EUR 5'500, Building EUR 171'000, External works _ 25'500, Equipment _ 14'000]

Problems/Constraints:

Difficulties to get the land certificate attributing the plot for this project. Delay of about two months. The plot visited was verbally confirmed and allocated for the semi-protected apartment, but the official confirmation took more time than planned. This type of project always looks suspicious to the neighbours, meanwhile it has been, however, well accepted.

Lessons learned What was useful in the approach?

The preparation of the program with WHO was a good starting point. The project is based on the Strategic Plan for Mental Health Reforms in Kosovo.

Lessons learned What should be done different next time?

Better to include the external works in the normal tender process. Prepare the tender in two phases, one open tender for all interested contractors and a second phase with 5 or 6 pre-selected contractors for the tender itself.

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach:

- The first precondition was the general program of development of mental health in Kosovo by the Ministry of Health and WHO that includes the implementation of this type of structure in each Kosovo region.
- Close Cooperation with local Authorities. (Mental Health, Cadastre, Urbanism, water and power departments etc.)
- Construction Office with administrative and technical capacity to implement this type of project.
- Transfer to other contexts depends on health policy in the concerned country.

Evaluations

None, the practical evaluation will be obtained from the users (CMHC Gjilan) and from partners like the Birmingham counterpart supporting the CMHC Gjilan in training the staff.

For further information

Recommended Contacts:	François Poffet, Project leader SDC/HA, CoOf Pristina
Recommended Institutions:	SDC(HA, desk Europe + CIS
Recommended books/reports:	SDC/HA Fact Sheet June 2002 "The Swiss Contribution"
Relevant other projects (links):	similar Project in Prizren, Kosovo

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