

Type of Project:	Education Schools	Country: Kosovo		
Approach:	Repair/Rehabilitation	Realisation Year: 2002-2003		
Project name:	School in Zahaq	Version:	1	Date: January 2004



Initial Situation, Context

Zahaq is a village in the municipality of Peja, inhabited by Albanian and Askhali people. After an assessment carried out in about 10 schools in 4 different municipalities, the rehabilitation of the school in Zahaq was selected as a minority project by SDC in April 2002. The criteria for the selection of this school was the multi-ethnicity of the school, with priority to RAE components. The building condition at this time was bad and no more acceptable.

Goals, Beneficiaries

One of the main objective for SDC since 1999 was the promotion of voluntary return of refugees back to Kosovo. While most of the ethnic Albanian Kosovars have returned in the meantime, the majority of members of the other ethnic communities like Romas, Ashkalis, Egyptians, Goranis, Muslim, Slavs and Turks remained hesitant.

Considering these facts, SDC decided to support a program for facilitating the return of Non Serbian communities living in Switzerland and at the same time to improve the conditions of such communities living in Kosovo, mainly focused on the RAE as the most disadvantaged group. The objective of this present program consists in improving the existing school system in Kosovo, in particular for the Non-Serbian community.

Approach

A reconstruction of the school in Zahaq in a remote and rural area, where mainly people from Non-Serbian communities are living. The project consists in redesign and rehabilitation of a newer part of the existing school; a two floor building with a flat roof, including 4 classrooms an office for the director and a library. The rehabilitation work was done by a contractor; when ever possible the contractor employed beneficiaries and/or local people.

Partner(s)

The following partners participated in this program:

- Ministry of Education, Sciences and Technology (MEST)
- Municipal Directory of Education
- School Council
- The contractor "Konstruktori" for the execution of work
- SDC/HA for planning, monitoring and steering of the project

Implementations/Results

The result was the construction of a new roof structure covered with metal sheet and new gutters, complete internal renovation of the relevant “new” building part, internal painting in the old building and a new fence for the school compound.

Reconstructions

The construction works were executed by one local contractor from Peja. Beside the new roof construction on the “new” building, in both buildings all doors were replaced as well as the floor tiles.

Cost, Financing

Financed by FOR (Swiss Federal Office for Refugees)/SDC. Total cost: EUR 36'054 (CHF 55'883.70)

Problems/Constraints

No specific problems, SDC-CoOf is in general happy with this project.

Lessons learned What was useful in the approach?

Our flexibility in adapting the project according to our financial means.

Lessons learned What should be done different next time?

- We should have included the external works in the tender
- We should check the contractors also for their capacities in management.
- We should check more the subcontractors

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach

- The first precondition was the objective to improve the conditions of a minority community in Kosovo.
- Close cooperation with local authorities and representatives from the municipalities
- A construction office with administrative and technical capacity to implement the project.

Evaluations

None. The overview of the maintenance and care-taking could give us a good feedback.

For further information

Recommended Contacts:	François Poffet, Project Leader SDC/HA CoOf Pristina
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/SHA, desk Europe + CIS
Recommended books/reports:	SDC/SHA Fact Sheet June 2002: “The Swiss Contribution”
Relevant other projects (links):	Similar SDC/SHA Projects all over Kosovo

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