



Fast Facts

Country: Kosovo

Duration: October 2001 to September 2002

Implementing UN Agencies: UNMIK

Budget: \$269,388.55

Key Words: Post-conflict reconstruction; access to information

BACKGROUND

Following the 1999 peace agreement, Kosovo began transitioning toward democracy and in 2000 municipal elections were held under the supervision of the UN Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK). The elections were a major achievement to Kosovo's post-conflict recovery; however they were widely boycotted by Kosovo

Serbs and other minority groups. In 2001, UNMIK began to gradually hand over governing power to local institutions, and as Kosovo announced its intention to hold elections in 2002 it was widely recognized that the participation of minorities was crucial for the democratization process in the area.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project was to increase participation of Kosovo Serbs and other minority groups in the upcoming municipal elections in Kosovo. UNMIK recognized that there had been a common lack of information prior to the elections in 2000, which may have contributed to the low participation of minorities. In view of this, the project initiated efforts to diffuse information about the upcoming election through several channels. These included: (i) a massive public

information campaign consisting of weekly newsletters, information packages and radio programmes in local radio stations; (ii) informing minorities of the rights and guarantees of all groups in the newly adopted legislative framework; (iii) the set-up of community information centres to effectively diffuse public information; and (iv) encouraging everyone to participate in the on-going transitional process regardless of ethnic background.

BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted minority groups in all of post-war Kosovo who obtained greater access to information prior to the 2002 municipal elections.