

## **Community-Based ECCD in Northeast Albania (Post-Conflict Grant)**

<b>Status</b>	Under Implementation
<b>Recipient</b>	UNICEF-Albania
<b>Project Cost</b>	US\$ 800,000
<b>Grant Amount</b>	US\$ 650,000
<b>Co-Financing</b>	US\$150,000 from UNICEF Albania

<b>Date of Signing</b>	August 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2002
<b>Effective</b>	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2002
<b>Closing Date</b>	September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2002

### **Project Objectives**

The main objectives of the project are I) to improve access of deprived children to Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) activities in Northern Albania and ii) to support social cohesion and conflict prevention through the community dynamics generated by the ECCD activities. Specific objectives are to enhance the role of women as mediators and agents of non-violent conflict resolution; promote trust and networks outside the family structure; improve household and community involvement in ECCD; improve the learning environment of deprived children; and create a more inclusive and effective response from government authorities with respect to ECCD.

The project will directly benefit children aged 0-6 living in rural communities selected by the project in the districts of Tropoja, Has, Kukes and Dibra. Other beneficiaries will include mothers, fathers, grandparents and other caregivers; communities; ECCD professionals; and (vi) central and municipal authorities.

### **Project Description**

The main components of the Grant project are as follows:

Nation-wide awareness-raising campaign on ECCD and non-violent conflict resolution mechanisms; Support to non-formal community-based initiatives for ECCD through refurbishment of the facility, toys and other pedagogical tools, and training of the community caregivers and ECCD professionals including: (i) participatory assessment of communities' needs and resources; (ii) refurbishment/improvement of home- or community-based ECCD centers so as to set a minimum amount of 30 ECCD centers; (iii) training of caregivers and centers' supervisors; and (iv) co-financing of the salaries of community-based activities in existing crèches and kindergartens ECCD.

Strengthening government's involvement in community-based ECCD and conflict prevention through provision of: (i) awareness and capacity-building activities for relevant public agents and decision-makers at central and local government level: (ii) technical assistance to central and municipal civil servants relating to the institutional, technical and financial sustainability of community-based ECCD services.

### **Project Achievements**

The setting-up of 30 community-based ECCD centers should start in the spring 2003 when weather conditions improve. Prior to effectiveness, the joint UNICEF-World Bank

project team and the main implementing partner, CCF Albania, carried out a stakeholder assessment (Spring 2001). CCF Albania already obtained the support of key government and civil society players in the North East. Finally, in July 2002, CCF Albania also organized a stakeholder workshop which allowed for key players from the selected Northern districts to learn from and interact with the project of Bathore (Kamza District, Tirana). Contacts were facilitated by the fact that many Bathore residents migrated from the North of the country.

### **Implementing Agencies**

UNICEF-Albania is the recipient agency. For the specific community-based North East Activities, UNICEF and the World Bank decided to choose Christian Children Fund – Albania as the main implementing partner. The Ministry Education and Ministry of Health will be closely associated. At local level, the prefectures of Kukes, of Tropoja and selected municipalities and communes will be involved in implementation. Civil society partner will include the National Albanian Alliance for Children, local community boards, mothers groups and local media.

**Disbursement** - US\$350,000

### **Contact Points**

<b>Team Leader</b>	Carine Clert, ECSSD Tel: 202-458-4913
<b>In UNICEF-Albania</b>	Lenin Guzman; Lindita Bushati, 003554250206/7/8
<b>CCF – Albania</b>	Linda Spahia, Tel. 00355 4 371 425