

WAQF

2004

Income Generation

Income Generation Waqf Profits this year went towards providing loans for Kosovan families

Islamic Relief's Microcredit project builds the capacity of local communities to sustain themselves. By giving practical support through loans and training, IR has restored hope to thousands of people who would otherwise be dependent on external aid. With improved resources and diversified skills, many of those now employed are in a position to not only sustain themselves and their families, but to provide support to others.

Islamic Relief's Microcredit programme is implemented in the Skenderaj and Drenas Municipalities in north-central Kosova. This area was the centre of much of the Serb aggression that took place at the end of the last decade. Approximately 3,528 houses out of 8,518 were completely destroyed or burned, the remainder suffered partial damage and only 687 escaped unscathed. In addition, the region suffered extensive destruction to its infrastructure and disruption to agriculture, the main economic activity in the region. The bulk of the population works in agriculture on small family owned farms. The aim of the project is to alleviate poverty through the provision of Microcredit to assist in the creation of income and employment generation opportunities. It is hoped that this will contribute to improving the economic, social, and political welfare of borrowers, their families and the local community.

Islamic Relief's Microcredit projects give individuals the opportunity to develop their skills and realise their potential. Families are also given support, mainly through small, interest-free business loans which have the dual benefit of generating an income for the family as well as giving a much-needed boost to the local economy. The loans provide families with a wide range of business opportunities in areas such as agriculture, engineering and retail.

Our business loans have contributed to income and employment generation opportunities for borrowers in Skenderaj and Drenas Municipalities. The businesses focus on agriculture and animal husbandry, and small-scale commerce.

Project Name	Microcredit Programme
Venue of Implementation	Skenderaj and Drenas Municipalities, Kosova
Project Start Date	Apr-02
Project Finish Date	Ongoing
Beneficiaries	1,071 loans provided so far
Project Cost	In the period April to June 2004 IR made 269 loans to the value of €269,800
Waqf Profits Contribution	1,369 Euros (918.71 GBP)



Case Studies

Skenderaj and Drenas Municipalities are amongst the poorest municipalities in Kosova. Many people here have need for every kind of support. Micro finance project is one of best support for them. In this area are too big villages: Llapushnik and Arllat from where the following case studies come:

Elez Thaqi – Llapushnik

Elez Thaqi is from Llapushnik and he is 42 years old. By profession he is a carpenter. He lives with his 24 members of his family; therefore they need a decent income to survive. They opened one store in order to sell wooden designs, but they were short of a machine which would help them do the job more quickly and cleaner. IR helped him by giving a loan of €1000. He bought a machine, and now he is working faster and he has employed his brother to work with him. With this machine he can construct doors, windows, desks and other kitchen equipment. He is very grateful for this loan that we gave him and he hopes that in the future he will be able to take another loan to buy other machines.



Arjanit Bujupi – Arllat

Arjanit Bujupi is from Arllat. He is 27 years old and he lives with six members of his family. A year after the war he opened an agricultural shop in one part of his house. He sold seeds, pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers. He received a loan of €1000 from Islamic Relief and he expanded his business in order to sell equipment for working on the land, as spades, hoes, wheelbarrows etc.

He is quite happy and both he and his father are very thankful for Islamic Relief's support to him and to his family. After the war their house was burned and because of his business he has started to improve his life conditions and he helps his neighbours and other villagers to have better equipment for working in their land.

Goals & Objectives

- To give families a fixed source of income by increasing their opportunities in business or employment.
- To support the most vulnerable members of society to become independent.
- To restore and promote the local economy, particularly after a conflict or disaster.
- To utilise local skills and empower individuals to earn a dignified living.
- To encourage the return of refugees by offering them a chance to restore their livelihoods or find alternative sources of income.

The Microcredit programme began in April 2002 and is implemented in Skenderaj and Drenas Municipalities in north-central Kosova.

The Municipality is home to approximately 65,000 people, almost exclusively Kosova Albanians and a place with a long history of Albanian defiance of Serbian authority. As such it was the centre of much of the Serb aggression that took place at the end of the last decade.

The principal difficulty facing inhabitants in the Drenica region is the lack of employment or sources of income. Providing small loans allows them to initiate or expand business ventures and create their own employment and sources of income.

Achievement / Output

Providing business loans based on Islamic principles, to the rural poor of the Skenderaj and Drenas Municipalities in north central Kosova in order that they can establish new or increase the size of their existing micro enterprise activities.

