

Fostering Religious Harmony in Albania

Project Goal

The Fostering Religious Harmony in Albania project, funded by USAID, seeks to strengthen the skills of religious leaders, citizens and communities in order to build on the foundation of interfaith harmony that exists in Albania.

Project Activities

The project accomplishes this through:

- Training on conflict resolution and community development skills;
- Technical assistance;
- Small grants.

The spiritual leaders of each faith are important partners in the project, as they are in the strongest position to encourage discussion and harmony within their own communities. The project works with faith communities in seven cities in central and northern Albania.

Interfaith project committees and advisory committees established by the project are key to involving a wide variety of community members, including women and youth. Community development activities, including mixed-faith projects such as summer camps and training centers, provide the opportunity for believers of different faiths to work together.

Project Impact

- Sixty-seven religious leaders became involved in local-level interfaith advisory committees. These groups continue to meet and pursue activities and respond to issues that are of mutual interest.
- The establishment of the National Inter-religious Committee is a result of particular significance. This committee will provide an ongoing mechanism for exchange among the top leaders of Albania's main religions and an advocacy group for the protection of religious rights in Albania.
- Approximately 1,000 people participated in one or more community development activities.

Duration 2004 – 2007

Cost: USD 1,344,473

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