

Project Title: Youth Empowerment through Voluntarism (YEV)

Project Goal: Increased Youth engagement in civil society

During July 2009 – July 2010, Common Actions against Poverty (CAAP) worked closely with World Vision Albania, Arber's Çepani movement, UNV (UN Volunteers), and Peace Corps Volunteers to support the partners in the implementation of the YEV Project. The main role of CAAP was to provide budget management, organization of the Grant Event, support of youth groups locally with administrative matters, and financial training for the youth groups. Some of the activities in the framework of this project are listed below.

Promotion of YEV Project

Arber's Movement organization, in collaboration with UNV prepared a radio and TV spot to be launched for one month from Media channels in Shkodër and Lezha. The TV spot were prepared with the help of a consultant. CAAP supported the process with the preparation of the contracts for media spot design, and for media spot launching from the most popular TV and radio channels in Shkoder and Lezhë.

This TV spots were launched for a period of one month in August 2009.

Recruitment of Youth

In the same time with spot launching, the youth recruitment started. Staff of World Vision in Shkodër and Lezhë, Peace Corps Volunteers in Shkodër, Lezhë, Milot, and Fushë-Krujë, members of Arbër's Movement in Tirana, Theth, Shkodër, and other areas, school teachers and other local volunteers mobilized youth by discussing with them the values of youth voluntarism for personal growth and improvement of social life of the cities where they work. To prepare youth gain better knowledge on youth voluntarism and project implementation, trainings were conducted by UNV staff.



Training of Youth on Voluntarism and Project Management

Training was conducted by UNV during July, August and September 2009 in the cities of: Lezhë, Kurbin and Shkodër for 7 youth groups. Youth came from Shkodër, Theth, Milot, Laç, Fushë-Kruja, Lezhë and Rubik. The objectives of the training were:



1. Youth aware of the value and benefits of Volunteerism
2. Youth capable of undertaking Voluntary initiatives
3. Youth and Adults undertake together Voluntary initiatives
4. Youth learns how do implement projects.

Calendar of Trainings:

1) Understanding Volunteer Participation and Project Design trainings:

- Shkodra: 29-30 July 2009 (40 participants)
- Milot and Rubik: 30 – 31 July 2009 (20 participants)
- Lezha and Fush Kruja: 04 -05 August 2009 (25 participants)



2) Online Guidance and follow up with some of the trained youngsters that raised as leaders of their groups and with the Peace Corps volunteers CAAP facilitated the teams in preparing and designing the projects.

3) Follow up trainings in Project Implementation:

- Laci: 16 September 2009 (10 participants)
- Fushë Kruja: 17 September 2009 (25 participants)
- Lezha: 22 September 2009 (20 participants)
- Shkodra: 25 September 2009 (15 participants)

Grant Event & Selection of Youth Projects and Grant Awards

The purpose of the Grant Event was to give the youth groups an opportunity to present their youth projects, to bring youth from different cities together in one place and promote voluntarism and youth socialization. The Grant Event aimed also to provide for youth a pleasant place, near the beach, where youth could discuss ideas with each other, make friends from different cities and also have fun.

The Grant Event was organized on August 25, 2009 at the Lezha Palace of Culture and was followed by lunch and youth dancing, games and discussions in Shëngjin Beach. Individual Certificates and project ward of grants were distributed at the end of the ceremony.

Around 150 participants joined the Grant Event, majority were from the youth groups in charge of doing project presentations and their school friends. NGOs from Lezha and other cities joined the Event. We were very pleased to see in this Event the participation of World Vision Tirana and Lezha, Peace Corps Volunteers and the Country Director of Peace Corps, UNV and the director of the UNV Program, and Terre des homes' staff and its Mission Delegate.

Training of Youth Groups on project administration, bookkeeping and procurement

Project Implementation is about not only performing the actual work such as planting trees, or putting lights in a building, but also is about cash management, procurement and purchasing rules, and administrative documentation. These are very important skills that the youth groups would use to demonstrate financial accountability during project implementation and that would help them to grow professionally as they contribute to their community.



Through formal training CAAP provided finance and procurement sessions to 4 youth groups. Training was conducted in Tirana, Shkodra, and Lezha. Main topics delivered at the training were:

- ✓ how to find offers before doing procurement of items
- ✓ what are the offers limits
- ✓ how to fill out the financial report
- ✓ how to use the correct receipts.

CAAP provided constant on job support to all groups and individuals that had questions and needed assistance.

Follow up with implementation of the projects, administrative and finance support, and finalizing of the projects.

CAAP, in collaboration with Arber Movement and World Vision followed up with the youth groups on the project implementations, helping youth groups with cash advancement, procurement support, and monitoring. Arber Movement and World Vision have been focused on helping the youth groups get started with their project and maintain the implementation.



Balldre Project

