



KOSOVO

United States assistance coordinated by the Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (ACE) advances U.S. national security priorities in Kosovo, including by facilitating implementation of normalization agreements between Kosovo and Serbia and boosting efforts to counter the malign influence of other strategic competitors in Kosovo and the wider Western Balkan region. USAID is helping Kosovo to expand the fight against corruption, strengthen civil society and an independent judiciary, and promote good governance and private-sector-led economic growth. The U.S. Embassy's Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) uses assistance funds to encourage a sense of civic responsibility among Kosovo civil society actors, youth, and independent media. U.S. assistance has also spurred efforts to bolster cyber defenses against attacks and expand the Kosovo Security Forces' capability to operate with U.S. forces. These efforts promote stability within the Western Balkans, which is a prerequisite for the region's continued integration into the international community. U.S. funding has also strengthened Kosovo's fight against COVID-19 and helped to suppress the spread of disinformation.

over \$2.0 billion

USG assistance since 1998

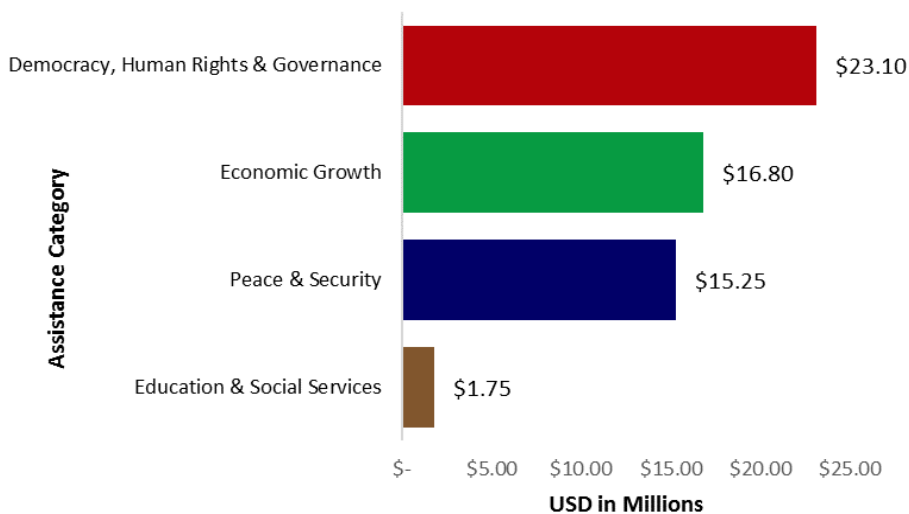
\$56.9 million

State/USAID assistance for FY 2020*

\$2.7 million

COVID-19 assistance**

FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Kosovo by Category* (\$56.9m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include centrally managed funds or \$1.55 million in FY 2020 COVID supplemental funds.

**COVID assistance includes reprogrammed, supplemental, and other USG funds.

NOTE: The assistance highlights below are examples of results achieved by funding in each category in the chart.

ANTI-CORRUPTION, RULE OF LAW & GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

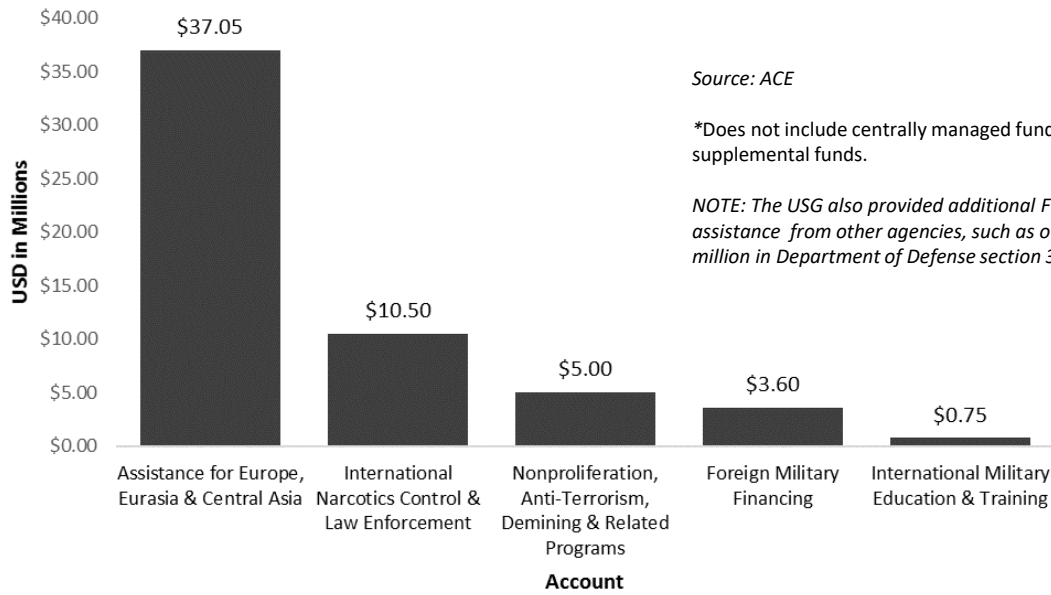
Rule of law remains a fundamental challenge to Kosovo's development as a well-functioning, democratic country based on internationally accepted values and principles. In FY 2020, the U.S. government (USG) worked toward building Kosovo's institutional capacity and helping citizens hold their justice system accountable and strengthen judicial independence. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) support has helped to fully integrate courts and boost case clearance rates, resulting in an overall reduction of the backlogged case inventory in lower courts by 67 percent since 2016. USAID support enhanced transparency, including online public access to many court materials and services, such as a case status lookup tool. With funding from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the Department of Justice's (DOJ) International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) assisted the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MOIA) in drafting national strategies and action plans to hold non-performing institutions accountable. ICITAP developed and advanced the capacity of Kosovo's law enforcement agencies to implement intelligence-led policing, conduct investigations, and collaborate with prosecutors, with the help of DOJ's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT), on serious and complex crimes. ICITAP supported Kosovo Police (KP) reforms to strengthen internal oversight mechanisms and the advancement of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK) mandate to audit processes and investigate crime and corruption in the KP. ICITAP trained 110 PIK personnel in investigations, public integrity, and anti-corruption practices. PIK officials subsequently opened 31 investigations resulting in the arrest of 66 police officers suspected of corruption. INL supports improved Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) performance with training, equipment donations and ICITAP advising. In partnership with and funding from the Bureau of Counterterrorism, ICITAP assists the KCS with the creation and development of the Corrections Intelligence Unit intelligence officers and analysts. With an INL grant, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) reviewed 3,425 cases on unequal treatment, delay in sentences, and judicial impropriety. KLI also promoted transparency and access to justice for citizens by publishing a total of 21 reports, reactions, and media statements in FY 2020 that were widely covered by local and national media. KLI's public-oversight TV show resulted in the Supreme Court issuing a decision compelling those falsely claiming to be veterans to return any benefits gained and criminal proceedings against police officers.

INDEPENDENT MEDIA & COUNTERING DISINFORMATION ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Countering disinformation is part of the larger Democracy and Governance program area. Adapting to a changing global landscape to counter disinformation, the USG supports independent media that provide Kosovo-relevant content and unbiased coverage to combat externally driven propaganda and disinformation. In particular, the USG supports independent media that focus reporting on political and social developments in Kosovo, including the dialogue with Serbia and the performance of local governments. One Serbian language outlet also provides Serbian translations of Kosovo Albanian news and re-publishes Kosovo Bosniak media. Since this outlet's inception, it has grown significantly in popularity and influence. Many Belgrade-based media and news agencies refer to the outlet as their primary news source when broadcasting news from Kosovo – it is cited on a daily basis by both Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb media.



FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Kosovo by Account* (\$56.9m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include centrally managed funds or COVID supplemental funds.

NOTE: The USG also provided additional FY 2020 assistance from other agencies, such as over \$6.4 million in Department of Defense section 333 funds.

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The U.S. Embassy’s education programs advance Kosovo’s integration with Western institutions through university support, exchange programs, student advising, a robust alumni community initiative, and support to Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) training. U.S. assistance in higher education, including tailored English language programs, prepares students for the global job market. The Fulbright Program supported five students’ master’s degrees in the United States, while the Fulbright Faculty Development Program supported four scholars and three fellows. The American Advising Center offered support to over 1,500 students studying in the United States and trained over 120 teachers preparing students for the college application process. Through support for educational opportunities, the United States promotes American values and builds capacity within Kosovo’s universities and among youth to contribute to reforms aimed at advancing Kosovo’s Euro-Atlantic integration. The Fulbright Support program, as an example, directly promotes partners’ self-reliance by providing engaged Kosovo citizens with the tools they need to take on substantive roles in government, civil society, and the private sector. Education programs also contribute to improved ethnic relations. For example, in the divided city of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë, U.S. assistance has established STEAM after-school programs, where integrated groups of Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians receive skills needed to succeed in a global economy. As a result, a team of students from a Kosovo Serb minority community successfully competed in both a regional and a global competition for the first time.

CIVIL SOCIETY & POLITICAL PROCESSES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Civil society and democracy assistance is part of a larger U.S. effort to invest in people, fight corruption, and support a transparent and accountable system that promotes the rule of law in Kosovo. Through the Responsive, Effective, Accountable Governance (READY) activity, USAID has promoted inter-ethnic cooperation among Kosovo youth. READY organized a youth democracy camp to equip 25 Albanian, Serbian, and Bosniak emerging young activists with the skills necessary to engage in Kosovo’s democracy. The multi-day camp emphasized building common ground and encouraged collaboration among participants with different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. The participation of youth activists from predominantly ethnic Serb northern Kosovo municipalities helped build respect for different perspectives. Malign external actors often aggravate ethnic division with the aim of undermining Kosovo’s sovereignty and independence. Programs such as READY effectively counter such malign influence by promoting improved ethnic relations. USAID’s READY also supports regular meetings of a multi-ethnic group of journalists to exchange best practices for countering false and harmful information.

BUSINESS & INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Kosovo is the poorest country in the Balkans, with the youngest population in Europe and a youth unemployment rate of over 50 percent. Kosovo’s leaders must focus on economic development and job creation to combat outward migration and potential radicalization. This involves instituting sound economic policies to establish a favorable business environment and create opportunities for private-sector growth. To improve the legislation that regulates foreign trade, USAID’s Economic Governance Activity reviewed the draft Law on Foreign Trade and provided recommendations to the Ministry of Trade and Industry to align the draft Law with World Trade Organization principles, Central European Free Trade Agreement requirements, and European Union law. These activities help Kosovo align with international, legal standards that promote foreign investment. USAID’s Agricultural Growth and Rural Opportunities activity helped the agricultural sector from 2016-2021, to improve export trade across 13 value chains, and with this support, Kosovo generated \$165 million in export sales, 93 percent of which went to Western Europe.

SECURITY & EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

To encourage stability, the United States supports Kosovo’s efforts to establish a territorial defense force, combat terrorism, and fight organized crime. Since 2018, the United States has supported the Kosovo Security Force’s (KSF) comprehensive 10-year transition plan to develop a transparent, multi-ethnic, professional, NATO-interoperable territorial defense force. U.S.-led multilateral exercises build confidence in the KSF, while also building regional trust and relationships. The United States also provided approximately \$6 million in Countering Russian Influence Funds and International Military Education and Training funds in FY 2020, enhancing security and professionalization of the KSF, and allowing the Ministry of Defense to develop doctrine and strategies that are consistent with the U.S. National Security Strategy.