

## U.S. Government Donates School Furniture to Kosovo's education system

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The U.S. Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) is implementing a humanitarian assistance project providing \$125,000 in furniture to Kosovo schools. Eleven schools in the municipalities of Pristina, Mitrovica, and Vushtrri are receiving furniture including desks, chairs, tables, lockers, bookshelves and even a piano. The furniture is in excellent condition, and provided by the U.S. Embassy through the Department of Defense and U.S. European Command's Humanitarian Assistance Excess Property Program. Furniture is being delivered through the end of September, and is the second of six scheduled deliveries that are part of this humanitarian assistance project.

"The United States is committed to supporting Kosovo's students and schools," said U.S. Ambassador Tracey Jacobson. "These donations of student desks, chairs, and other essential furniture from the U.S. Department of Defense reflect our commitment to ensuring that Kosovo's youth get the education they deserve, and gain the training and skills they need to grow into happy and productive adults."

Mr. Ali Bejta, Director of Education in Mitrovica said that "On behalf of all schools in the Municipality of Mitrovica, and our Education Directorate, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Government for their continuous assistance in all facets of education, and especially, for the support provided in equipping schools with modern furniture and in meeting other material needs. I thank the staff at the U.S. Embassy for their close cooperation and coordination to bring this project to reality. This has a tremendous impact on our children."

General Rama, Commander Land Forces, provided Kosovo Security Force members to assist with delivering and offloading the donations. This donation program is managed by the U.S. Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC). The ODC coordinates and manages several DoD Security Cooperation and Humanitarian programs including the Iowa-Kosovo State Partnership. The ODC focuses on support to training and professionalization of the Kosovo Security Force, but many programs allow for assistance to the broader government and society of Kosovo. Other upcoming Education System support efforts include recently approved projects worth over \$325,000 for school renovations in Kamenica and Mitrovica. These projects will help refresh the look and function of these schools, vastly improving the learning environment for over 1500 students.