



Development & Training Services, Inc.

*Empowering People. Creating Impact.*

December 30, 2008

Mr. Edward Lijewski  
Office of Women in Development  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Ronald Reagan Building  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20523

**Subject: Contract No. GEW-I-00-02-00018-00, Task Order No. 02  
Submission of Project Deliverable**

Dear Ed:

Pursuant to GATE's Annual Work Plan: Year Five, Section E. Schedule of Deliverables, please find enclosed the following for submission and approval.

<b>DELIVERABLE TYPE</b>	<b>DELIVERABLE TITLE</b>
2. Meetings, Conference, Site Visit Reports	GATE Albania Trip Report: December 8-12, 2008

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Peter Davis  
GATE Project Director



**USAID** | **ALBANIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# **GATE TRIP REPORT**

## **DECEMBER 8-12, 2008**

**GREATER ACCESS TO TRADE EXPANSION (GATE) PROJECT  
UNDER THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IQC**

**CONTRACT NO. GEW-I-00-02-00018-00, Task Order No. 02**

December 2008

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Development & Training Services, Inc. (dTS).

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## INTRODUCTION

The Greater Access to Trade Expansion (GATE) Research and Program Manager traveled to Albania from December 8-12, 2008 for a management trip as part of the GATE Country Action Plan (CAP). The scope of the trip included the following tasks:

- 1) Meet with the USAID funded Albania Agriculture Competitiveness (AAC) Program Chief of Party (COP) to plan for the gender value chain activity.
- 2) Follow-up with Opportunity Albania (OA) on the financial education training.

The list of persons consulted is provided in Annex A.

### TASK 1. MEET WITH AAC COP.

#### A. BACKGROUND

Based on a September 2007 assessment trip, GATE proposed three implementation support activities (ISAs) with the AAC Program. The activities included: gender training, development of case studies, and a study on gender and agribusiness. GATE has completed two out of the three tasks. The GATE/Albania Program Manager discussed the final task with the new AAC Chief of Party, Juan Estrada-Valle. Instead of conducting a formal study on gender and agribusiness in Albania, GATE will assist the AAC team in collecting and analyzing gender issues related to the value chains targeted by the program. This final task contributes to GATE's broader activity on developing a framework to integrate gender into value chain development.

The COP expressed interest in GATE assistance to integrate gender into the three value chain assessments to be conducted in early 2009. The COP recognized the need to gather information on gender roles and responsibilities, identify gender-based constraints and opportunities, and develop interventions that address the identified constraints and opportunities. Incorporating gender into the initial assessments of the three new value chains will help the program not only address gender-based constraints to women's participation in AAC activities but also seek opportunities to increase women's participation throughout the value chains. The COP and GATE/Albania Manager agreed that GATE will employ a similar training model as in Kenya. Selected staff will participate in a gender value chain training consisting of five discrete parts: introduction to value chains; introduction to gender analysis; application of gender analysis framework to program activities; field visits to collect data; and, merging of framework and data (identify-gender based constraints; design actions to reduce gender-based constraints; and, develop indicators to measure progress). In addition, AAC participants will be requested to collect additional gender data after the training. The data collected will feed into the program's three value chain assessments. GATE will provide technical assistance to analyze the data and integrate gender issues in the value chain reports.

## **B. Next Steps**

The following steps were agreed to between GATE, AAC, and the Mission.

- GATE will review and provide comments on the value chain survey in mid-January 2009.
- In late January 2009, GATE will conduct training with up to 10 AAC staff on integrating gender into value chain development. The data collected through the field visit component of the training will feed into the value chain analyses. The training participants will be required to conduct additional interviews during the month of February.
- The GATE/Albania Program Manager will return to Albania at the end of February to assist the AAC value chain team with analyzing gender related findings and integrating gender into the value chain assessment reports.

## **TASK 2. FOLLOW-UP WITH OA ON THE FINANCIAL EDUCATION TRAINING.**

The GATE/Albania Manger's discussion with the OA Corporate Responsibility Supervisor focused on the future of the financial literacy training program. OA has completed three cycles of financial literacy training. During the first cycle, the training team experienced difficulty recruiting both men and women to attend the training. Over the last year, steps have been taken to ensure gender parity in participation rates. The last cycle of training included all women's groups and mixed groups composed of husbands and wives that jointly manage the family enterprise.

In order to increase the breadth and depth of its reach, OA is undertaking two steps in early 2009. First, OA will conduct a thorough impact assessment to understand both the strengths and weaknesses of the training module. The findings will be used to refine the training tool. Second, OA will institutionalize financial literacy training. Currently, two trainers are hired on a part-time basis to offer the training to potential and existing clients. In 2009, OA will appoint and equip at least one financial literacy trainer within each branch.

GATE will meet with OA once more in 2009 to discuss findings from the impact assessment. It is not anticipated, though, that any further assistance will be provided to OA for this task.

Name	Title	Organization
<b>U.S. Government</b>		
Kristaq Jorgi	Agriculture Specialist	USAID
<b>USAID Contractors &amp; Grantees</b>		
Estrada-Valle, Juan	COP	AAC/DAI
<b>Non-Government and Private Sector Organizations</b>		
Sako, Dhurata	Corporate Responsibility Supervisor	Opportunity Albania (OA)