



## Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Balkans

### Context

CRS is currently implementing the Promoting Fiscal Transparency in the Balkans project. This initiative aims at increasing the level of transparency surrounding public budgets both at the national and at the local levels in Albania, Serbia-Montenegro, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

### Implementation

During fiscal year 2004, CRS implemented the Budget Allocation Tracking System (BATS). This project enabled participating countries in the Balkans to understand the budgeting system and its relationships with policy decision-making process.

CRS at the time was implementing the Promoting Fiscal Transparency in the Balkans project. This initiative aims at increasing the level of transparency surrounding public budgets both at the national and at the local levels in Albania, Serbia-Montenegro, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. This project proposed to work with civil society at both the national and sub-national level. Best practices in fiscal transparency at the local level were identified and civil society monitored that mechanisms are put in place to ensure the timely publication of fiscal information.

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the local level will be identified and civil society will monitor that mechanisms are put in place to ensure the timely publication of fiscal information.

URI was contracted by CRS to build the capacity of project staff and partners. URI designed and facilitated trainings for ten participants. The purpose of the trainings was to provide CRS staff and partners with the latest theories and practices related to civil society budget work with a special emphasis on successful examples from the Balkans. Training material provided a perspective on budget work at both national and local levels.

### The main output

- Indicators' analytical paper defining complementary indicators and method for their presentation, together with global framework indicators,
- Albania data analysis including: data availability and quality assessment; collection of data for global framework and complementary indicators;

definition of baseline;

- MDG compliance path in Albania institutional and cost analysis of establishing a reliable statistical system for monitoring complementary indicators.

### MAIN FACTS

#### PARTNERS:

- ✓ Catholic Relief Services  
Albania

#### DURATION:

June 2006

#### BENEFICIARIES:

- ✓ CRS staff and partners

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### About URI

Since 1999 the Urban Research Institute (URI) has been delivering big results for development projects and programmers carried out throughout Albania. Our core business focuses on community development, local government strengthening, environmental protection, decentralization, and public services. We conduct studies, lobby the government, train local government units, increase public access to information, and connect development partners. URI has worked with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society/Soros Foundation, etc.