

**A Race to remember on the recently asphalted road in Oraovica**



*Americans, Serbs and Albanians were running on the rehabilitated road in Oraovica*



*The big number of inhabitants of Oraovica has been cheering the runners of the race*

ORAOVICA, SERBIA – Big race through Oraovica was organized by citizens of Oraovica, CHF representatives and people from Presevo Municipality at May 26, 2002. It was organized as an event for all participants who took part in the road rehabilitation in Oraovica. Asphalted road in Oraovica is a part of the USAID-funded Community Initiative Development Program CIDP.

Oraovica is the biggest village in Presevo municipality. Approximately 6000 people live in the village. The cooperation between the community of Oraovica and CHF started in May 2001, with the construction of the 2.7 km long road Oraovica – Donja Susaja.

The road was paved by community self-contribution three years ago with 7 cm of asphalt. At that time, the quality of work and asphalt was not good. All the manholes for the previously installed sewage system were covered, not allowing the community access to the system in order to maintain it. Many bumps and potholes were also created on the road.

To protect and improve asphalt coating it was necessary to re-pave the road with a four cm coat of new asphalt. With the paving of this road in Oraovica, people improved communication in their village

and conditions for traffic and made life easier for residents of Oraovica and surrounding villages.

During the preparations and implementation of this project people from Oraovica planed to organize a race on the road.

The race was organized a year after completion of the project. There were different categories of competitions for different ages. The lines were 3000m, 1500m and 800m long, for both men and women, while participations were from the municipalities of Presevo and Trgoviste. Mayor Riza Halimi, the President of the Executive board and other leading staff of Presevo Municipality, the Mayor of Trgoviste, CHF staff, people from Trgoviste, Presevo and Vranje were participating and cheering the race...

The race in Oraovica was an event which gathered people of different ages, gender, nationalities... Serbs, Albanians and Americans were running, cheered by the crowd of children, old and young men and women, people working in the fields along the road... People in Oraovica gathered all people on the race, who contributed to their success. They showed that the joy is the only thing in the world that becomes bigger when you share it with other people.