

Renovated Cultural Center building in Veliki Izvor



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*Teacher Petkovic with his students who gather
in front of Cultural Center in Veliki Izvor*

VELIKI IZVOR, SERBIA – CHF International and residents of Veliki Izvor village rebuilt Cultural center in the village through Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) program, supported by USAID.

Veliki Izvor is one of the biggest villages in Zajecar Municipality, with 3000 residents. The village is situated close to town of Zajecar, so young people mostly stay in the village. Veliki Izvor is agricultural village. Over 70% of truck farming product on Zajecar green market is from Veliki Izvor. People are also working in husbandry and cattle raising. There are 5 milk buying stations.

Petkovic Miomir is a member of Community Development Council (CDC) and teacher from Veliki Izvor School. He is very active in cooperation with CHF, although he didn't believe that this cooperation with CHF would be productive. "We were cheated many times during last 13 years, and I really didn't believe that CHF is going to work concrete things in the villages. I said that I would not believe until CHF begin to work in the village. I believe now!" Before renovation Cultural center was in very bad conditions. CHF supported repair of the facade, inside facilities and kitchen, while residents of Veliki Izvor rebuilt roof with their own finances.

Cultural center now looks completely different. Center has a club where residents of Veliki Izvor gather. It has also big hall for the family and village celebrations, and which can guest 500 people. More than 20 such big events have been organized in the village. The collected money is used for the expenses of the Center and also for employees of the Center. In front of the Center is the volleyball sport field, which is used in afternoon and evening hours, mostly by young people. "We initiated the cinema and Cultural Artistic Society in Cultural Center. We will also organize some tribunes and lectures on improvement of the agriculture production as well as finding new markets...", said Mr. Petkovic.

Since most people work in agriculture in Veliki Izvor, they are almost whole day in the fields. However, they have enough time to spend in Center and to work in CDC. This is how they contribute to development of their village. The big problems of the village are water supply system, electrification of the fields and new markets for their products.

"We could produce more if we would have better water supply system, electrificated fields and new markets for our products. Our people are hardworking. We hope that our needs would be solved with CHF."