



Balkan Sunflowers

Volunteers for Social Reconstruction

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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Appreciation Message

Balkan Sunflowers Kosova wants to take the opportunity to sincerely thank our donors for their contribution towards fulfilling the BSFK goals and objectives year after year. BSFK is incredibly grateful for the support of our donors which always helps us to get one step closer to our goals. With your faithful financial contributions over the years, you've demonstrated your deep commitment to our work and for that, we want to thank you deeply. Your generosity is an encouraging reminder of why we started this organization — to help those in need and to continuously encourage the further development of our society. Your support inspires our continued commitment to reaching our goal and provides financial and moral support needed to continue our mission.

“Your donations have had major impacts on helping many children and women in regards to education, human rights, social inclusion and health care in Kosovo.”

BSFK also wants to express gratitude to our dedicated staff, from project coordinators to the volunteers in our Learning Centers, who have worked tirelessly for all these years, sometimes even after work hours. We thank you for your contribution, hard work and excellent performance!

Sincerely,

Muhamet Arifi
Executive Director

Learning Centers Network

The Learning Centers Network (LCN) is comprised of 6 centers situated in 4 municipalities across Kosovo. Its main target is to provide school support programs for children of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, and as well other communities when possible. Centers are located in Fushë Kosova (FKLC), Shtime (SHLC), Gračanica (GLC), Plemetina Village (PLC), Plemetina Social Housing Building (PBLC), and Pandeli Sotiri Learning Center (PSLC), which was established in September 2018. The programs are offered in 2 languages, Serbian and Albanian. The center space is also used for wider community activities, including those of local NGOs. The centers target children from preschool through grade 8 with different academic and social activities aiming that children go in school, stay in school, and succeed in the school.

PACE Program

The Planned Activities for Cohesive Education (PACE) program is in its 4th year. It is revised yearly with participation of the LCN staff and an educational expert to develop objectives and was designed in line with the national curriculum. The PACE curriculum is available in three languages: Albanian, Serbian, and English. The curriculum uses an activity book created by the LCN staff and an educational expert, with the activities accumulated from different resource books and the internet.

At the core of this program are activities Learning Center (LC) staff use for planning, implementing, evaluating, and reporting the activities they perform with children. Evaluations and feedback of PACE was conducted twice a month by each LC coordinator

The Social-Emotional Learning curricula was implemented this year (2018). This component represents a new tool and will help children to both develop socially and emotionally, as well as measure said development in these areas.

During August 2018, BSFK developed evaluation forms to assess children's development and achievements during PACE program implementation.

"The main reason I take part in Learning Center activities is because it helps me to learn better in school. Being part of Learning Center activities made me more confident and friendlier. Also, I love that we read different stories and books because I learn a lot of new things. In the future, I want to be a painter. Education is the fundamental right of every child."

- Zerina Jakupi, Age 7 (Shitime)

Summer Program

Children attend the Summer Program (SP) in groups in different 3-hour shifts. The program is then implemented through different "Theme Weeks". In each week, children are introduced to new ideas and concepts, around which the week's activities will be organized. More than 825 different children participated in the SP during the months of July and August 2018.

The SP in 2018 took place in all 6 Learning Centers for 5 weeks (from July 9th until August 3rd), preceded by a week of staff training in each Learning Center which introduced the program and enhanced implementation skills of the team. After the program ended, LC coordinators lead an evaluation meeting with their own staff, parents, and school teachers to evaluate the overall outcomes and organization of the program.

After collecting information from all 5 Learning Centers, we saw that the final number of children attending the Summer Program at least once was 825, broken down in the figure to the right.

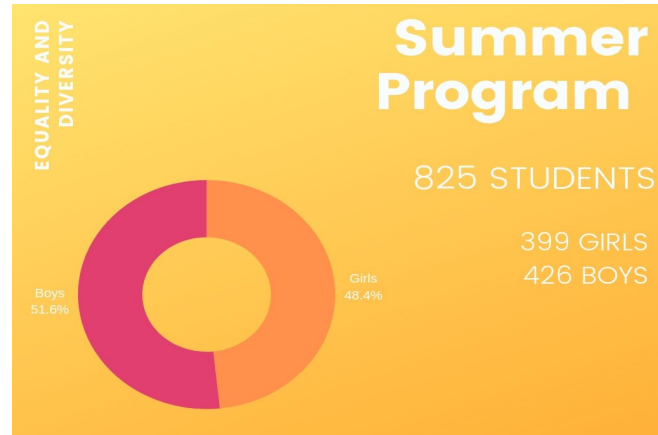


Figure 1: Summer Program

Women Literacy Program

The Women Literacy Program is organized based on the “Dritare Jete” curriculums of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST). At the end of the training cycle, these women have the chance to test their achieved skills and knowledge and go on to receive institutional acknowledgement of the results from the MEST. No testing took place during the life of the project. 22 women attended the Women Literacy Program in FKLC and 8 others in GLC.

Language Program

More than 700 children attended the Language program during 2017. Support provided in this program revolved around activities like singing, reading, simple writing exercises, games, etc. Language programs were offered on a daily basis to children attending grades 1 and 2, as well as additional language programs given to children returning from migration. Hot meals and education materials were provided to the children on a daily basis.

This program functioned in coordination with the revised addition of PACE and the main areas of achievement in this program, in working with the language program, are: Language and Communication, Mathematics, Health & Welfare or Natural Sciences, Life & Work or Society & Environment, Arts, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

School Mediation

One of the mediator's main tasks is returning children to school. Regular meetings with parents were held to encourage families to motivate their children to stay in school and continue their education, with a total of 2950 family visits in 2018,

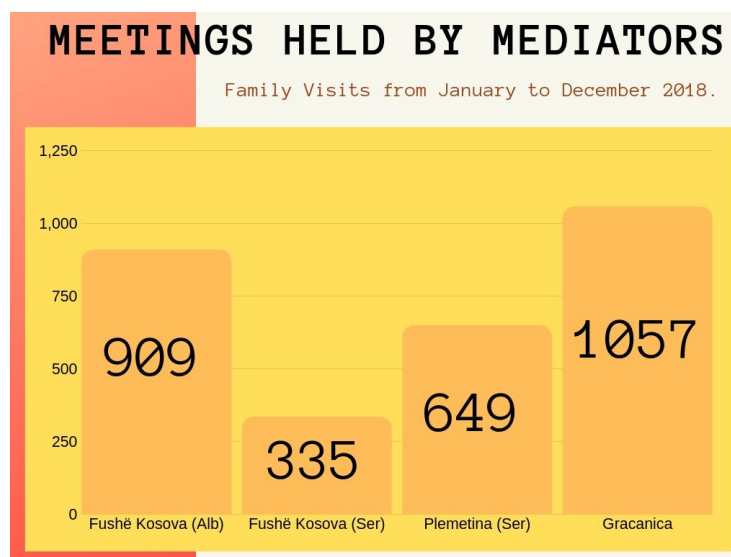


Figure 2: Family Visits

broken down in the figure to the right. Another aim was to more holistically involve the parents in improving the education of their children.

One task taken on by mediators and Learning Centers Coordinators was ensuring better and higher registration for those children going into the 1st grade. Mediators had constant meetings with different stakeholders (school management, teachers, etc.) to improve attendance and involvement of the children from the target communities. Another goal of these meetings was the successful re-integration of children into the school systems who have returned from migration.

All 2018 data regarding the points above can be found in the charts below:

Location	Meetings with school management	Meetings with teachers	Meeting with municipal officials	Meetings with NGOs and other partners	Totals
Fushë Kosova (Alb)	159	37	7	6	1118
Fushë Kosova (Ser)	43	115	12	7	512
Plemetina (Ser)	86	15	2	0	752
Gracanica	36	52	4	24	1173
Totals	324	219	25	37	3555

Location	Total eligible children to be registered in 1 st grade	Registered	Not Registered
Fushë Kosova (Alb)	157	140	17
Fushë Kosova (Ser)	16	7	9
Plemetina (Ser)	27	27	0
Gracanica	29	29	0
Totals	229	203	26

Health

Immunizations

BSFK was able assist Health Institutions to vaccinate a total of 275 children in Fushë Kosova and Plemetina in 2018. 94% of children eligible for vaccinations in Fushë Kosova were vaccinated and 100% in Plemetina. Lectures on the importance of vaccines were held in 2 different municipalities.



Using BSFK's 6 learning centers, 5 youth clubs have been established through with the goal of the activation of young people to become creative change in their communities and ensure the provision of health services by institutions. Members of these youth clubs helped volunteer to visit families to educate them about health issues and raise awareness, with a total of 500 families being visited in Fushë Kosova and Plemetina. Health awareness activities were also provided at 2 learning centers for approximately 300 children grades 1-5.

Mammography for women was also organized in cooperation with Radiology, Health House and Directorate of Health and Social Welfare in Fushë Kosova, as many women have not been informed of the risk of breast cancer and the importance of breast cancer. The findings can be found below:

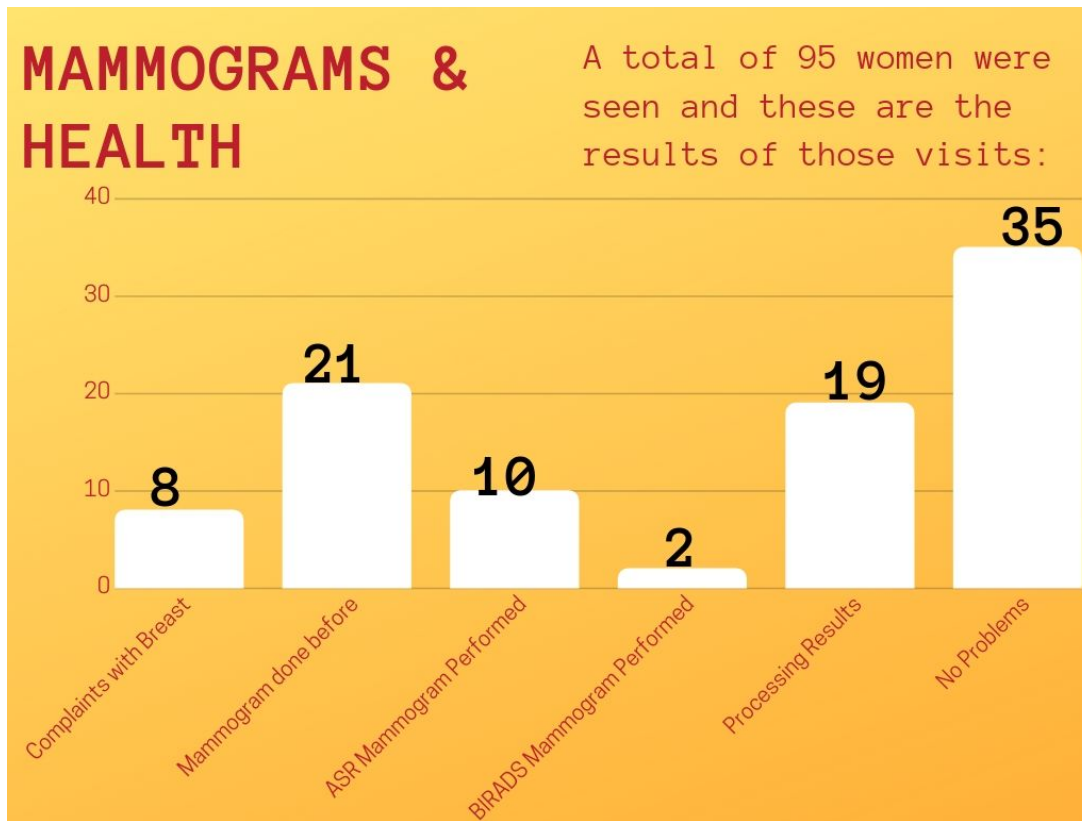


Figure 3: Health Initiative in Mammography

Finances

This organization has procurement regulations and is certified by ISO Standard 9001: 2015. The external audit of the organization is done every fiscal year. The organization is registered in the Tax Administration of Kosovo (TAK) and regularly declares VAT. Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo uses the Quickbooks financial system.

BSFK has the following donors, along with their respective income and expenses, for 2018:

Income and expenses for 2018		
Donor	Income	Expenses
Diakonie	23000	30000
ADA (EDI 2)	20736	85126
Czech Development Agency	4377	1573
GIZ	94589	101405
Solidar Suisse	9000	9000
Terre Des Home	3045	3000
Norwegian Embassy	Income occurred in 2017	13927
Movies that Matter	4979	Expenses occurred in 2016
EU (EU SIMRAES II project)	87477	48992
EU (KEEN project)	888	30558
KOSINT 2020	25634	21215
Municipality of Obiliq	200	199
Municipality of Shtime	200	120
Municipality of Fushe Kosova	Income occurred in 2016	207
Other Income (URF, Crowdfunding)	650	21514
TOTAL 2018	274775	366836