

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



# Balkan Sunflowers

Volunteers for Social Reconstruction

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## Appreciation Message

COVID 19 brought many problems in challenges in the organization and specifically in the communities we work. Balkan Sunflowers Kosova is happy to work with great people all-around the world id reaching its own goals and objectives. There were difficulties in reaching desired quality of the education, communities struggled ensuring basic food and non-food items for their families, and as well lost their jobs and faced with the price of food and non-food items increase. We will like to sincerely thank our donors for their contributions in supporting children education and as well providing different food and non-food support to the families in order to easier manage through 2021.

Your generosity is an encouraging reminder of why we started this organization, and inspires our continued commitment to reaching our goal and provides financial and moral support needed to continue our mission.

BSFK wouldn't be able to reach all successes without staff and volunteers. We express our gratitude to all people 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**

## About Balkan Sunflowers Kosova

Balkan Sunflowers Kosova primary focus areas are *Community, Human Dignity, Children, and Youth*. The scope of work involves the protection of fundamental human rights; the social, emotional, and intellectual development of all people in Kosovo; and the promotion of community empowerment - through developing and implementing programs for education, research, advocacy, arts, culture, and other humanitarian activities.

Balkan Sunflowers (BSF) originally was an international grassroots organization, founded in 1999 to aid Kosovar refugees. Volunteers from around the world saw TV images of the war and refugee emergency. They wanted to help in ways that money could not. They believed that person-to-person contact with aid workers who came to work as friends and neighbors might help restore community life in ways that emergency aid and political support alone could not.

Balkan Sunflowers Kosova (BSFK) was registered in 2007 and gradually started a transformation from being an international organization to a local non-governmental organization, which is committed to improving the holistic well-being of people through practical, value-based, and community-supported activities in the cultural, educational, and research sector. BSFK is a multiplier, building activist lives and communities for social change and reconstruction. BSFK supports and develops volunteerism, activism, regional and international exchange, and local community action in support of human dignity and rights and also European integration.

BSFK has 35 employees and 45 tutors (volunteers) involved in a daily basis.

Balkan Sunflowers Kosova believes that volunteers, both international and local who participate in community life, are crucial in order to promote the ideals of a caring and open society.

BSFK is a nongovernmental and non-profit association with the following objectives that are specified within BSFK ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System:

- **Improve the educational, social, psychological, health, emotional, and intellectual development of children and young people, their families, and communities.**
- **Advocate and mediate for the human rights of marginalized groups.**
- **Propel positive social change and support community empowerment through research, advocacy, training, mentoring, volunteerism, and innovative program development.**

BSFK, through the provision of services and projects, aims to fulfill the aforementioned objectives of the organization. The organization shows an exceptional commitment to meeting the stakeholders' requirements, expectations, and legal requirements. Our perpetual intent and dedication have been and will always be to provide high quality of services and projects of the organization.

BSFK possesses a team of motivated staff who is determined to provide top-level services. Our strength stems from dedication to our customers, partners, and employees. Our goal is to provide high quality services that fully meet our clients' requirements and legal requirements, to provide a stable financial condition and to meet the interests of the organization's partners.

Through the implementation of the quality management system according to ISO 9001: 2015 (SMC) standard, we will meet the requirements of the society in general. Along with the implementation of the management system, we will achieve progress through innovations, standardization of processes and their improvement, organizational leadership, and monitoring.

In order to achieve our goal, the management and the employees of BSFK are obliged to:

- **Meet customer requirements, needs and expectations;**
- **Operate according to separate responsibilities and established procedures;**
- **Constantly fulfill the requirements arising from European Services Directives;**
- **Continuously work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of work processes and staff skills;**
- **Operate preventively in order to avoid non-conformities;**
- **Recognize, implement, and review the quality management policy.**

## **Mission Statement**

Balkan Sunflowers Kosova builds activist lives for social change. We inspire and engage in community action for human rights and dignity, working in education, health, culture, citizenship, employment, and respect for diversity.

## 2021 project activities and achievements

### 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), Gracanica (GLC), Plemetina Village (PLC), Plemetina Social Housing Building (PBLC), and 2<sup>nd</sup> center in Fushe Kosova (FKLC2), which was established in April 2021. 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 9 with different academic and social activities aiming that children go in school, stay in school, and succeed in the school.

➔ **The project aims to provide educational and social-emotional support for at least 500 children and youth from disadvantaged groups of society to promote their inclusion into the educational system and improve their future employment chances.**

603 children benefited in 6 learning centers during 2021.

Month	Year	FKLC monthly average attendance	FKLC 2 monthly average attendance	GLC monthly average attendance	PBLC monthly average attendance	PLC monthly average attendance	SHLC monthly average attendance	5 centers monthly average attendance	
Average monthly attendance		192	17	31	44	29	42	340	
								TOTALS	%
Total registered children (beneficiaries)	Male	154	10	23	43	36	28	294	48.76%
	Female	159	8	32	33	32	45	309	51.24%
	Totals	313	18	55	76	68	73	603	

### PACE Program

Planned Activities for Cohesive Education (PACE) was implemented daily in 6 learning centres. Monthly program plan was prepared by using BSFK book of the activities. BSFK staff from HQ and as well Learning Centers monitored and evaluated results of the children regularly.

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.

Due to the Pandemics, children didn't attend schools physically from March until September. BSFK staff was not able to implement PACE curriculum during this period. Majority of the activities were focused in assisting children in doing their homework.

From September, Learning Centers started the use PACE curriculum.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) component is integrated into the daily program of 6 learning centres. Staff implemented daily activities defined in SEL. Personal folder was created and maintained for each child attending learning Center for monitoring and evaluation.

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 center.

BSFK PACE curriculum has hundreds of specific indicators that children have to reach during the academic year. BSFK merged PACE indicators in few in order to be able to monitor and evaluate children's progress. PACE indicators are measured and reported 4 times per year. Below you can see summary of the indicators for all centers evaluated 4 times during the year.

Summary 6 centers - PACE evaluation Jan - December 2022					
Center	Total children registered in LC	Number of students evaluated	Average grade for language	Average grade for Mathematics	Average grade all subjects
FKLC & FKLC 2	331	194	2.36	2.60	2.70
GLC	55	61	2.72	2.88	3.06
PBLC	76	58	2.67	2.69	3.17
PLC	68	48	3.22	3.23	3.91
SHLC	73	70	3.13	3.28	3.51
Totals	603	431	2.82	2.94	3.27

Table presents results for Language and math which are seen as the most important subject in the school. BSFK also have indicators for all subjects in the PACE. Out of 603 children attending Learning Centers, BSFK managed to monitor and evaluate 431 children. The average grade for language for children for all centers is 2.82. The average grade for Math is 2.92. The average grade for all other indicators (all subjects including math and language) is 3.27.

BSFK monitor children's progress in the school by gathering school grades children get in the school. School grades of the children are gathered twice per year.

Average 1st semester academic year 2021-2022						Average 2nd semester grades - academic year 2021-2022				Difference between 1st and 2nd semesters - academic year 2021-2022			
Center	Total children registered in LC	Number of students evaluated	Average grade for language	Average grade for Mathematics	Average grade all subjects	Number of students evaluated	Average grade for language	Average grade for Mathematics	Average grade all subjects	Number of students evaluated	Average grade for language	Average grade for Mathematics	Average grade all subjects
FKLC	331	212	2.36	2.37	2.70	331	2.44	2.49	2.70	331	0.08	0.12	0.00
GLC	55	59	2.54	2.10	2.59	55	2.87	2.36	2.96	55	0.33	0.26	0.37
PBLC	76	88	2.94	2.08	2.38	76	2.84	2.39	2.51	76	-0.10	0.31	0.13
PLC	68	51	3.12	2.55	2.54	68	3.13	2.53	2.55	68	0.01	-0.02	0.01
SHLC	73	70	3.00	2.92	3.31	70	3.02	2.99	3.28	73	0.02	0.07	-0.03
Totals	603	480	2.79	2.40	2.70	600	2.86	2.55	2.80	603	0.07	0.15	0.10

Table presents results for Language and math which are seen as the most important subject in the school. Table presents indicators for all subjects as well. Out of 603 children attending Learning Centers, BSFK managed to monitor and evaluate 480 children. The average grade for language for children for all centers is 2.86. The average grade for Math is 2.55. The average grade for all other indicators (all subjects including math and language) is 2.80.

BSFK organized meetings with the teachers in order to receive feedback related to the needs of the children and as well synchronize the plan of the activities of the children in the school with the activities implemented in the Learning Centers.

BSFK held meeting with the Center Coordinators and as well Learning Facilitators to analyze the implementation of the PACE, and as well structure the changes that should happened in the book of the activities in the future in order to enhance activities.



## Summer Program

BSFK in cooperation with the Learning Centers staff designed 2021 Summer Program Curriculum. One day training to plan and as well to implement summer program was implemented for coordinators and facilitators from each learning center. Staff from 5 learning centers organized 4 days of the trainings for tutors to plan and as well implement to summer program. 4 weeks of the Summer Program was implemented in 5 learning Centers from 12<sup>th</sup> of July until 6<sup>th</sup> of August. BSFK created evaluation criteria for the summer program. 387 children were evaluated every week (for 4 weeks) and the average grade that children reached is 3.78.

In order to work with all children grades 1-5 BSFK created two curriculums for the summer program. One curriculum was designed to work with the children attend grade 1 and 2.

2<sup>nd</sup> curriculum was designed for the children attending grades 3, 4 and 5.

## School Mediation

BSFK implemented school mediation activities in 4 municipalities. 1 full time mediator was engaged in Fushe Kosova, and 3 part time were engaged in Plemetina, Gračanica and Shtime. 7 schools were covered (5 within Kosovo education system, and 2 within Serbian education system). 1178 children (656 male and 618 female) from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities attend 7 target schools.

Out of 159 eligible children to be registered in 1st grade, 150 (94%) were enrolled in the first grade. The remaining 9 is expected to be registered in the academic year 2022-2023.

BSFK had 164 cases of the intervention in 4 municipalities where 5 Learning Centers are located. Out of 1178 children attending 7 schools in 4 municipalities, BSFK dealt with 164 children dropped out. 3 children left Kosovo (migrated to Europe). 156 children (99.08%) were reintegrated into the schools. 3 children dropped out totally from the school.

One task taken on by mediators and Learning Centers Coordinators was ensuring better and higher registration for those children going into the 1st grade. 97.91 % of eligible children are registered in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade of the primary school.

Total eligible children to be registered in 1st grade			
Location	Number of the eligible children to be registered in 1st grade	Registered	To be registered
Fushe Kosove	137	135	2
Gracanica	13	12	1
Plemetina (Alb. ed. system)	12	12	0
Plemetina (Ser. ed. system)	20	19	1
Shtime	9	9	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>4</b>
		97.91%	2.14%

### Learning Centers staff capacity building activities

BSFK implemented trainings for Learning Centers staff in order increase their capacities and quality in their daily work with the children. BSFK had trainings related to the implementation and as well update of the PACE curriculum and book of the activities. BSFK trained its staff related to the Child protection policy and as well PSEA policy. BSFK implemented 2-day training to inform staff about documents that have to be used within the administrative instruction 19/2018 for the establishment and function of the learning centers.

BSFK organized trainings for staff on child protection, PSEA policy implementation of the Administrative Instruction 19/2018, and as well implementation of the BSFK policies and procedures. Training was held 18th of May.

### Learning Centers sustainability

BSFK finalized and submitted the application for the registration of the learning centers and decision from the Ministry of Education Science and Innovation (MESTI) for the registration of the centers was granted 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2021. Five BSFK learning centers were registered.

AI 19/2018 foresees financial allocations by the Kosovo institutions at central and local level. Registration of the Learning Centers should bring financial support from the institutions, increase quality of the program, increase cooperation with the institutions and schools.

## Supporting the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the situation created by COVID-19

Support with food and hygiene, education and internet packages.

Different donors through Balkan Sunflowers Kosova supported Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in order to help them manage the COVID 19.

BSFK project aiming provision of the food and hygiene packages was approved by the Office for Community Affairs within the Office of the Prime Minister. BSFK purchased and delivered more than 1500 packages to the Ashkali, Roma and Egyptian communities in Fushe Kosova, Obiliq and Shtime municipalities. The delivery of the packages was coordinated with the municipal stakeholders and the delivery was implemented from BSFK volunteers.

### Health

The BSFK is working mainly in areas with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, they shifted all of their effort on humanitarian actions for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. In this time of the Pandemic COVID-19 the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community is facing with different obstacles and needs in different aspects of the life, especially in health issues. The members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians communities are mostly unemployed and have very difficult life conditions. Also, during the Pandemics they have to keep social distance and isolated from their families, which is very difficulties for them taking in consideration that they keep very close family relations.

### Project: Awareness raising and immunization of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children

BSFK implementated project Awareness raising and immunization of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children. Project was supported by UNICEF Kosovo Office. Project was implemented in 14 municipalities of Kosovo. The main goal of the project was Increase access to immunization programmes for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children.

40 researchers were trained in October to implement needs assessment survey in 14 municipalities to create a database of not immunized children. BSFK divided participants and organized four (one day) training.

Managed by BSFK staff, researchers in 14 municipalities implemented need assessment survey in order to create a database of the not immunized children, and afterwards assist them in the immunization. BSFK visited approximately 3500 families in 14 municipalities.

30 mentors and volunteers were trained in order to increase their capacities related to the legal framework and mechanisms, with specific focus on immunization, and as well inform them about the project activities and tools. Due to Pandemics, BSFK divided participants and organized two (one day) training. Training was implemented in BSFK premises. In the first day present were 18 participants (10 male and 8 female). In second day of the training were 12 participants (6 male and 6 females).

BSFK hired immunization expert in order to provide online training to health professionals and BSFK staff in 14 municipalities.

Approximately 1500 families were visited in 14 municipalities in order to raise awareness about the importance of the immunization, and as well to invite them to immunize their children in the immunization sessions.

BSFK volunteers in cooperation with the health institutions organized 25 immunization sessions for children. Majority of the immunization activities were held in the health clinics and learning centers.

Balkan Sunflowers Kosova staff and volunteers in 14 municipalities assisted health institutions to immunize more than 1500 children ages 0-7.

- 30 young people from the Ashkali, Egyptian and Roma communities have developed advocacy skills to advance the implementation of the legal framework related to the protection of the rights of non-majority communities.
- About 2000 families from the Ashkali, Egyptian and Roma communities are informed about the legal framework and mechanisms related to the protection of the rights of non-majority communities.

Since 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021 Balkan Sunflowers Kosova (BSFK) supported by UNICEF Office in Kosovo started the implementation of the project “Increasing access, coverage and demand for routine

immunization programme and COVID-19 vaccine among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities”

The door-to-door COVID-19 vaccination campaign was implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> September until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. BSFK employed 57 outreach workers and 5 community supervisors who implemented different project activities in 14 municipalities populated with higher number of the three communities.

2-days training was held as planned for supervisors and outreach workers from 12 municipalities. Half of the day of training was held by Sevdije Spahiu, the representative of the Institute of Public Health of Kosovo, on the importance of vaccination against COVID-19. The rest of the training was on how to communicate with the communities, project description, project monitoring & evaluation and reporting.

The invitation, agenda and participation list are in the annexes.

4 supervisor (4 male) and 23 outreach workers (12 male and 11 female) from 12 municipalities participated in the training.

Door-to-door vaccination campaign implemented through Balkan Sunflowers Kosova (BSFK) reached 22,021 individuals (10,768 women and 11,253 men) in 14 municipalities from September 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, and from April 1<sup>st</sup> until May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022, with critical information on COVID-19 vaccination. This is around 117% of the intended target (18,700 persons).

As a result of the campaign, 4,349 persons (2,110 women and 2,239 men) were reached with assistance for registering in the online system of the Ministry of Health (MoH) for scheduling appointments for COVID-19 vaccination. BSFK in coordination with municipal family health centers supported vaccination of 3,405 individuals (1,789 women and 1,616 men). This is estimated to be around 25% of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population above 18 living in the 14 municipalities and 52% of the intended target of the project.

## Finances

Our 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.

**Balkan Sunflowers Kosova**  
**Profit and Loss Statement**  
**31.12.2021**

	<b>Jan - Dec 21</b>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Grant Donations</b>	291,119.29
<b>Total Income</b>	291,119.29
<b>Gross Profit</b>	291,119.29
<b>Expense</b>	
Roma Inicitives Office	18,646.69
Perspectives for children in th	1,611.25
Jugend Eine Welt LC	91,357.06
Zyra per Ceshtje te Komunitete	19,844.14
IOM	1,511.34
Council of Europe	5,544.68
UNICEF	112,738.11
MASHTI	7,322.57
UNMIK	24,463.93
<b>Total Expense</b>	283,039.77
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>8,079.52</b>

For more information, please visit:

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