



Balkan Sunflowers

Volunteers for Social Reconstruction

ANNUAL
REPORT 2024



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APPRECIATION MESSAGE

Together we can. Volunteers for social reconstruction is our motto. We build activists for change and volunteers are the strength of our organization. We express our gratitude to our dedicated staff, from project coordinators to the volunteers in our Learning Centers, and as well staff and volunteers engaged in other BSFK projects who have worked tirelessly and with full motivation for all these years, sometimes even after work hours. We thank you for your contribution, hard work and excellent performance! We are looking forward for the continuation of our cooperation to the partner NGO-s and institutions from local and central level.

“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.”

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. Sincerely,

Balkan Sunflowers Kosova

Ferdane Asllani
Executive Director

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.

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ABOUT BSFK

Balkan Sunflowers Kosova focuses primarily on community, human dignity, children, and youth. Our work encompasses the protection of fundamental human rights and fostering the social, emotional, and intellectual growth of people across Kosovo. We are dedicated to empowering communities through the development and implementation of programs in education, research, advocacy, arts, culture, and other humanitarian initiatives.

**25 YEARS WORKING
FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

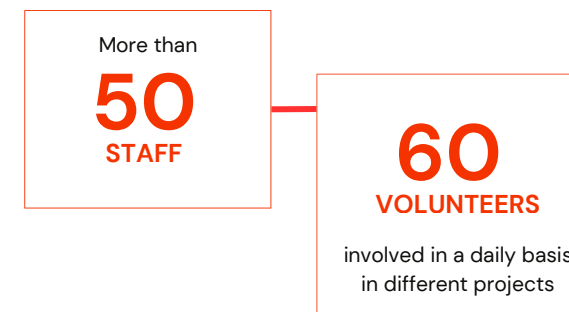


source : BSFK

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.

IN 2024:



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.



At Balkan Sunflowers Kosova, our core mission is to advance community development, uphold human dignity, and create opportunities for children and youth to thrive. We are deeply committed to promoting human rights, fostering social and intellectual growth, and empowering marginalized communities across Kosovo.

Our approach centers on designing and delivering impactful programs in education, advocacy, arts, culture, and humanitarian support, all aimed at creating lasting change. Our organization is driven by a dedicated team that is committed to excellence and a collaborative spirit, ensuring that the needs of our stakeholders and partners are always met.

By adhering to the highest standards of service delivery and quality management, including ISO 9001:2015, we continuously strive for improvement and innovation. This commitment guides our efforts to deliver top-tier services that reflect our values of responsibility, integrity, and care for those we serve.

Together, our management and staff are united in ensuring that we meet societal needs and enhance the well-being of the communities we support, driving progress and impact in every aspect of our work.

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

- Ensure that we consistently meet the needs, expectations, and requirements of those we serve.
- Adhere to defined roles and established procedures in all operations.
- Fully comply with relevant European Services Directives.
- Continuously enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our work processes and staff capabilities.
- Take proactive measures to prevent any potential issues or discrepancies.
- Implement, review, and uphold our commitment to quality management policies.

2024 project activities and achievements

Learning Centers Network

The project aims to provide educational and social-emotional support for at least 540 children and youth from disadvantaged groups of society to promote their inclusion into the educational system and improve their future education and employment chances.

Highlights of 2024

- Total registered children: 543
- Programs conducted in Albanian and Serbian.
- The PACE program continued to improve language and math skills with 447 children actively monitored and evaluated.
- Monthly average attendance: 326 children (across 5 centers)

The Learning Centers Network (LCN) is comprised of 5 centers situated in 4 Kosovo municipalities. Its main goal 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). 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 to school, stay in school, and succeed in school**. 543 children benefited in 5 learning centers during 2024.

		FKLC Preschool monthly average attendance	FKLC 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 (Oct 2023 – May 2024)		48	156	53	42	26	49	326	
Total registered children (beneficiaries)	Male	31	88	32	50	19	29	249	45.36%
	Female	36	106	49	33	30	40	294	54.64%
	Totals	67	194	81	83	49	69	543	

PACE Program

The Planned Activities for Cohesive Education (PACE) program was implemented daily across five learning centers. Monthly plans were developed using BSFK’s activity guide, and both headquarters staff and learning center teams regularly monitored and assessed the progress of the children.

The PACE curriculum is available in Albanian, Serbian, and English, and is based on an activity book created by Learning Center Network (LCN) staff and an educational expert, drawing from various resource books and online materials. A key component of the program is Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), which is integrated into the daily schedule at all five centers. Each child attending the learning center has a personal folder that tracks their progress, and this data is regularly reviewed.

At the heart of PACE are structured activities that staff use to plan, execute, assess, and report on their work with the children. Each center conducts evaluations and feedback sessions twice a month to measure progress. The PACE curriculum includes numerous specific indicators that children are expected to achieve throughout the academic year. BSFK has streamlined these indicators to effectively monitor and evaluate children's development. The progress is measured and reported four times annually, with the following summary reflecting the evaluation across all centers.

Summary 5 centers - PACE evaluation 2024					
Center	Total children registered in LC	Number of students evaluated	Average grade for language	Average grade for Mathematics	Average grade all subjects
FKLC	261	172	2.51	2.53	2.53
GLC	81	52	3.13	3.13	3.17
PBLC	83	63	3.28	2.90	3.22
PLC	49	40	2.94	2.79	4.57
SHLC	69	69	3.35	3.37	3.38
Totals	543	396	3.04	2.94	3.17

The table presents results for Language and Math, which are considered the most important subjects in school. BSFK also monitors indicators for all subjects through the PACE program. Out of 543 children attending Learning Centers, BSFK managed to evaluate 396 children. The average grade for Language across all centers was 3.04. The average grade for Mathematics was 2.94. The overall average grade for all indicators (including Language and Math) was 3.17.



2024 Project activities and achievements

Support for National Exams – Grade 9 & 12

- Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo organized 6 preparation sessions for final national exams:
- 34 Grade 9 students (32 passed)
 - 22 Grade 12 students (20 passed)

Workshops included:

- Interpersonal skills
- Critical thinking
- Study and orientation planning

- 📌 Tracking Academic Progress and Primary School Enrollment
 - 📝 Academic progress among children was closely monitored throughout the school year. In the first semester of 2023–2024:
 - 🗣️ Average language grade: 2.81 (+0.18)
 - ✚️ Average math grade: 2.51 (+0.14)
 - 📊 Overall grade average: 2.77
- These improvements reflect the positive impact of the PACE curriculum and the dedication of BSFK facilitators.
- 😊 In addition, 103 children enrolled in 1st grade thanks to the Learning Centers’ support. Staff helped families with paperwork and conducted parental awareness campaigns in May 2024 to ensure smooth enrollment for all.

BSFK monitors children’s academic progress by collecting school grades twice per year from local partner schools. The table below presents the average grades for Language and Mathematics, which are considered the most important school subjects, along with an overall average grade for all subjects. In 2024, a total of 503 students from all five Learning Centers were evaluated based on their school reports from the academic year 2023–2024.

Average grades all centers - 2024				
Location	Number of students	Average grade all subjects	Average grade for language	Average grade for Mathematics
FKLC	227	2.58	2.55	2.76
PBLC	84	2.82	2.38	2.46
PLC	58	3.25	2.76	2.64
SHLC	75	3.39	3.21	2.83
GLC	59	2.94	2.35	2.99
	503	3.00	2.65	2.74

The table presents results for Language and Math, which are considered the most important subjects in school. Indicators were also collected for all other school subjects. Out of 503 children attending Learning Centers, BSFK managed to monitor and evaluate their school performance. The average grade for Language across all centers was 3.00, while the average grade for Math was 2.65. The overall average grade for all subjects, including Language and Math, was 2.74.

Monitoring Learning Outcomes & School Transitions

- 📊 In 2024, BSFK monitored academic progress across the five Learning Centers:
 - Language average: 2.81 (+0.18)
 - Math average: 2.51 (+0.14)
 - Overall average: 2.77
- 😊 103 children were supported in enrolling in 1st grade. Parental meetings and administrative guidance ensured access to school for every eligible child.

2024 Summer Program

The BSFK Summer Program 2024 took place over four weeks, offering children a combination of educational, creative, and recreational activities. A total of 534 children participated (281 boys and 253 girls), with an average daily attendance of 377 children across the five Learning Centers.

The program was designed around four weekly themes:

- 1. Time
- 2. My Talent
- 3. My Homeland
- 4. My Body

Each week included language activities, social-emotional learning sessions, arts & crafts, and sports. The program also integrated discussions on self-esteem, identity, and group collaboration.

Key Achievements

- ✓ Strong attendance and engagement from children of diverse backgrounds, including children from the diaspora
- ✓ Implementation of weekly evaluations across all centers
- ✓ High performance with an overall average grade of 3.70
- ✓ Staff from each center collaborated to deliver a harmonized curriculum
- ✓ The summer program concluded with performances and open-door events for families

Summer School evaluation

Center	Students	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Average
FKLC	174	3.23	3.35	3.35	3.39	3.33
PBLC	62	3.58	3.43	3.60	3.95	3.64
PLC	61	3.57	3.59	3.78	3.95	3.72
GLC	65	3.51	3.46	3.50	3.40	3.47
SHLC	66	4.28	4.37	4.41	4.28	4.34
Total / Avg	428	3.63	3.64	3.73	3.79	3.70

This year’s Summer Program not only supported academic reinforcement, but also strengthened community ties, promoted creativity, and helped children develop key emotional and social skills in a safe and joyful environment.



Summer Camp 2024

The summer camp is a unique BSFK program that is held every summer after the end of the academic school year. Every week, children develop different activities in educational environments. From July 8 to July 19, 2024, children aged 6 to 12 joined us to develop their social and creative skills, create colorful works, learn new things and create new friendships with their peers. Preparations for the summer program began in early June and ended in the first week of July 2024.

A preliminary plan for two weeks of activities was developed after several meetings and the topics were divided into two weeks:

- **Week One: Art and Sports**
- **Week Two: My Talent and My Body**

- Drawing and Painting: Children had the opportunity to express their creativity through drawing and painting, using different techniques and materials such as watercolor, tempera and oil paints.

- Sculpture: Workshops were organized where children created sculptures from clay, paper and recyclable materials, developing their skills in shaping different materials.

Sports activities:

- Team sports: Children participated in team sports such as football, basketball and volleyball, learning teamwork, the rules of the game and the importance of fair play.
- Individual skills: Competitions, including running, dancing and gymnastics, were organized to develop individual sports skills.

Music and performance workshops:

- Children had the opportunity to develop their musical skills by playing instruments, singing and performing small plays, increasing their confidence to perform in front of others.

Educational activities:

- Lectures on healthy eating. Children learned about the importance of healthy eating and how to make good food choices for a healthy lifestyle.
- Knowledge about the human body. Sessions were organized where children learned about the different functions of the human body and the importance of taking care of it.

Creative workshops:

- Writing and poetry. Children created short stories and poems which they shared with the group, encouraging expression and the development of language skills.
- Crafts. Children learned the basics of crafts, such as sewing and jewelry making, developing their manual skills.

Five Learning Center SP 2024 evaluation

Class	Number of students	Average grade 1st week	Average grade 2nd week	Average grade in all weeks
FKLC	98	3.27	3.25	3.26
GLC	56	3.54	3.47	3.51
SHLLC	45	4.70	4.57	4.64
PLC	47	3.63	4.04	3.84
PBLC	50	4.69	4.72	4.71
Average grade of all children	296	3.97	4.01	4.39

A total of 296 children (137 boys and 159 girls) benefited from the various educational activities offered at the centers during the two-week summer program.

The BSFK summer program ended successfully, achieving its goal of promoting creativity, confidence and team spirit among children. The children acquired new skills, developed their talents and created valuable experiences that will accompany them into the future.



Roma and Ashkalia Documentation Centre - RADC

Objectives of this project :

- Objective 1: Raising awareness among Ashkali citizens about the importance of the population census.
- Objective 2: Involving the Ashkali community in the population census.

Activities held during the reporting period:

Since the beginning of the project, BSFK and the Roma an Ashkalia Documentation Centre (RADC) have been engaged in the selection of field staff who will visit families of the Ashkali community in seven municipalities, where they are in the largest number. After the selection of the staff, the date was set for the training of the staff for home visits in order to inform the families about the population census that will be carried out by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics.

Activity 1: Staff Training on 27 and 28 April 2024 on “The Importance of the Population Census, How to Approach the Families to be Visited and What Are the Benefits and Penalties for Not Registering”. Participants in the training were from the municipalities planned in the project: Mitrovica, Pristina, Ferizaj, Shtime, Lipjan, Obiliq and the municipality of Fushë Kosovë.

Activity 2: House-to-house visits. After the training was completed, the staff immediately went out into the field to raise awareness about the population census of the Ashkali community.

Activity 3: Meetings with representatives. Field workers have had meetings with Ashkali community leaders at the local level to inform them about the project and for cooperation so that the community was as well-informed as possible. The workers have also met with officials from the Municipal Office for Communities and Returns (MOCR). These officials can help to inform the community, and may also be part of the municipal commissions for population registration. In the municipalities of Shtime, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Ferizaj and Mitrovica, meetings have been organized with imams of several mosques where the importance of the population registration was discussed on the Friday/Juma lecture.

Activity 4: Monitoring the process. BSFK and RADC were continuously in the field with staff visiting families and at the same time monitoring the field workers, helping and advising them.

Table of visits in the 7 municipalities:

Location	Fushë Kosovë	Pristina	Obiliq	Lipjan	Shtime	Mitrovica	Ferizaj	Total
Number of families visited	823	94	157	320	155	336	885	2735

Details :

- Fushë Kosovë : 823 families were visited, including 4 neighborhoods, namely neighborhood 28, neighborhood 29, neighborhood 02 and neighborhood 07;
- Pristina, 94 families were visited;
- Obiliq : 157 families were visited, including the villages of Plemetin, Vodice and the city of Obiliq;
- Lipjan – 320 families were visited, including the villages of Hallaq i Vogël, Gadime, Medvec, Magure and the city of Lipjan;
- Shtime – 155 families were visited in Shtime, including the villages of Gjyrkoc, Vojnoc, Davidovc and Koshare;
- Mitrovica – 336 families were visited in the Roma neighborhood, including the Rom/Adem Voca neighborhood and the 2 July neighborhood;
- Ferizaj – 885 families were visited, including the city of Ferizaj and the village of Dubravë.

Problems encountered during the activities process:

During door-to-door visits, it was noted that part of the community has migrated. Lack of information regarding the population census included misinformation that affects the non-registration of the population. A challenge that was encountered during the census is the failure of some households to provide data. For example, when the enumerator goes to a family, the household may refuse to provide data because of fear, for example, of receiving less social assistance,or being accountable for more property tax.

Comments:

Some families have emphasized that enumerators should be from the community because they feel more comfortable providing information and there are some questions that do not understand the grammatical language.

Youth of our today, their future project

in Fushë Kosovë

The aim of this project is to help young people develop their skills and be better prepared for the labor market. Balkan Sunflowers Kosova successfully empowered youth through skill-building, awareness-raising, and inclusive activities, fostering employability and social cohesion. The project's sustainability ensures long-term benefits for the community.

Beneficiaries

- Total: 827 youth (453 female, 374 male)
- Target Groups:
 - Youth from families receiving social assistance
 - Single-parent households (female-headed families)
 - Out-of-school and unemployed youth
 - Youth not engaged in any formal training

Impact and Objectives Achieved

- ✓ 100% of project goals met
- ✓ Enhanced skills: Soft skills, digital literacy, and job readiness
- ✓ Social cohesion: Inclusion of Ashkali, Egyptian, and Roma youth
- ✓ Gender equality: Over 50% female participation in all activities
- ✓ Sustainability: Trainings and activities continuing post-project

Main achievements and results of this project ;

1. Soft Skills & Labor Market Training

- 94 participants (53 Female, 41 Male)
- Improved communication, teamwork, and confidence
- Better preparedness for job market entry

2. Skills Passport Counseling

- 10 youth supported (6 Female, 4 Male)
- Personalized skills assessments and CV/professional profile guidance

3. Microsoft Word, Excel & Internet Training

- 22 participants (10 Female, 12 Male)
- Learned document creation, spreadsheets, and data management
- Continued post-project due to high demand

4. Awareness Sessions (Drugs, Alcohol, STDs)

- 39 participants (22 Female, 17 Male)
- 4 sessions on risks, prevention, and protection

5. Anti-Bullying & Anti-Racism Workshops

- 168 participants (82 Female, 86 Male)
- 6 sessions on the harms of discrimination and bullying

6. Theater Techniques Training

- 15 participants (8 Female, 7 Male)
- Learned acting methods, scriptwriting, and play organization

7. Awareness Brochures

- Designed and printed for schools in Fushë Kosovë
- 10 volunteers engaged in distribution

8. Movie Nights & Debates

- 200+ participants (115 Female, 85 Male)
- 10 films screened on themes like racism, equality, and human rights
- Active discussions on social justice and advocacy

9. Study Visit (Kosovo Institutions)

- 35 youth (19 Female, 16 Male)
- Exposure to decision-making institutions and their functions

10. Recreational Activities for Children

- 100 children (58 Female, 42 Male)
- Games promoting socialization, critical thinking, and rights awareness

Empowerment, Health & Inclusion through Art and Community Action

Interethnic School Theater (UNMIK)

- Duration: Oct 2023 – Apr 2024
- Municipalities: Mitrovica, Podujevo, Shtime, Gracanica, Ferizaj
- 96 youth involved (52 girls, 44 boys)
- Promoting inclusion & interethnic dialogue through theater

Activities and Achievements

- 5 theater troupes created, 4 public performance
- Children co-created scripts on social themes
- Topics: bullying, rights, identity
- Strong participation from parents & schools

Health and Immunization Program (UNICEF)

- Duration: from April to Dec 2024 | Budget: €86,505
- 14 municipalities targeted
- Focus on routine vaccines (HPV, Rota, PCV)
- Support for pregnant women & children (0–3 years)

Key Results

- 9,042 door-to-door visits (target: 6,000)
- 2,530 children vaccinated (target: 1,500)
- 510 parents in HPV info sessions (target: 200)
- 307 families supported by home visits (target: 450)
- 26 volunteers trained (target met)



source : UNICEF x BSFK

Impact and What's Next

- Increased trust in community health systems
- Drama changed attitudes & created solidarity
- Plans to expand both projects
- Sustainability depends on partnerships & funding

Challenges and Lessons

During the implementation, several challenges emerged that highlighted areas for improvement. In Gracanica, some Serbian students dropped out due to parental hesitation, underscoring the need for stronger parent engagement and clearer communication. Limited space in a few schools also posed logistical difficulties, affecting the consistency of activities. Additionally, the winter break disrupted program continuity, especially for students requiring ongoing support. These experiences emphasized the importance of building trust with families, planning with greater flexibility, and exploring alternative venues when necessary. Lessons learned will inform future strategies to enhance participation and resilience in program delivery.

Partners and Donors of this project

- UNICEF
- UNMIK
- Jugend Eine Welt
- Local schools and municipalities
- Community health centers

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.

Profit and Loss Statement –

31.12.2024

4400 · Grant Donations

Jugend Eine Welt – LC Budget Plan € 70,720.00

UNICEF – Immunization Project € 12,435.00

Jugend Eine Welt – JEW 2024 € 54,810.00

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Municipalities & Local Support € 8,110.00

Total Income € 236,564.00

Total Expenses € 236,564.00

Balance € 0.00

In 2024, the work of Balkan Sunflowers Kosova continued to be guided by our commitment to inclusion, dignity, and community-driven change. Thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and the trust of our partners, we supported over 500 children and families throughout Kosovo.

Every child we reach, every parent we empower, and every educator we train is part of a growing movement for social equity.

We warmly thank our 2024 partners and supporters:

- UNICEF Kosovo
 - Jugend Eine Welt
 - MESTI
 - ASK
 - And our many local educators, mediators, families and volunteers
- “You don’t build hope. You multiply it, one child at a time.”

— BSFK Team, 2024

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