



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
MISSION IN KOSOVO
Democratisation

Municipal Profile:

Stimlje/Shtime

17 April 2000



Map of Kosovo, produced by the HCIC GIS Unit March 2000.
Boundaries or place names do not imply official recognition by UNMIK or the OSCE.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
Table 2.1: Ethnic Composition, Including IDPs.....	3
2. Civil Administration	3
Table 3.1: UN-Appointed Municipal Council.....	4
Table 3.2: UN-Appointed Municipal Administrative Board	4
3. Political Parties.....	4
Table 4.1: Political Parties	5
4. Local and International NGOs	5
Table 5.1: Local NGOs Based in the Municipality.....	5
Table 5.2: International NGOs Based in the Municipality	5
5. Other Civilian International Presence.....	5
Table 5.1: The Four Pillars	6
6. Religion and Places of Worship	6
Table 6.1: Main Religious Leaders.....	6
Table 6.2: Major Mosques, Churches, etc.....	6
7. Media.....	6
Table 7.1: List of Major Newspapers, TV/Radio Stations, etc.....	6
8. Judicial System.....	7
9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence.....	7
Table 9.1: Police and Military Presence.....	7
10. Economics.....	7
11. Infrastructure	8
12. Social Services, Health, and Education	8

Appendix: Map of the Municipality

*This document may be multiplied and freely circulated
but should not be quoted without stating the source.*

1. Introduction

Stimlje/Shtime is a rural, rather poor municipality in the most southern part of the Kosovo Polje plain, by the foot of the Crnoljeva Mountains, 30-km Southwest of Pristina. The main road from Pristina to Suva Reka and Prizren is passing through the central parts of Stimlje/Shtime town.

There are close to 30,000 inhabitants in the municipality divided in five districts in the town and 22 villages. One of these is Racak where 42 people were massacred by Serb forces on 15 January 1999. The vast majority of the population is Kosovo Albanian. Today the minorities in the area include about 900 Romas, of which there are about 500 Ashkaelia. Before the war there were around 1,200 Serbs in Stimlje/Shtime, while there are now only 30 Serbs are left, including four children. The rest are between 65 and 96 years old. About 120 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are living in a former school building on top of a hill in Stimlje/Shtime, coming from the Presevo area (what some Kosovo Albanians call 'Eastern Kosovo') in Serbia proper. A total of 30 local persons without shelter live in the same building.

Table 2.1: Ethnic Composition, Including IDPs

Population	K-Albanians		K-Serbs		Romas/Ashkaelia		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1991 census	21,743	92	974	4	266	1	23,523	100
January 1998	25,300	93	970	4	660 (440 Ash.)	2	27,200	100
January 2000	29,000	97	30	-	900 (500 Ash.)	3	30,000	100

Source: 1991 Census, Kosovo Atlas of February 2000, and Municipality estimates.

2. Civil Administration

A self-appointed structure – with people from the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK), which later joined the Party for Democratic Progress in Kosovo (PPDK) – was running the municipal administration from late June 1999 until the middle of March 2000, when the process of appointing a new Municipal Council and a new Administrative Board had reached a decisive stage. By then nine members of the new Municipal Council were selected and had started to work. One more member will probably be included later from the Muslim community. The Kosovo Serbs and Romas still are too afraid to participate.

By mid-March 2000, five Heads of Department had been chosen after open advertisement for these positions. A panel interviewed the applicants and the Heads were selected on strictly professional grounds (no questions were asked by the international panel about party affiliation). One female doctor was recruited as Head of the Health Department at the end of March. After the appointment of the Heads it was alleged from the PPDK that the majority of the department heads belonged to the PPDK's main competitor, the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), something that the panel was not aware of. A Heads will be recruited for a newly created department for agriculture.

The former President of the self-appointed Municipal Council, Mr. Ruzhdi Jashari, was at the same time by the UN Administrator transferred to a position as an advisor to the UN Administrator. This resulted in a boycott of the Municipal Council meetings for some time by the LDK party and the Green Movement (not the same as the Green Party of Kosovo), which is close to the LDK.

Table 3.1: UN-Appointed Municipal Council

Name	Party-affiliation/ Representation
Mr Lalit Agalawatta	UN Municipal Administrator
Mr Naim Smajli	PPDK Representative
Mr Jetullah Rexhaj	LDK Representative
Mr Xhevdet Hysaj	Green Movement Representative
Mr Hasan Haxhiu	LBD Representative
Mr Mehmet Ali Begu	PPK Representative
Ms Bedria Sula	Women's Representative
Mr Qamil Krasniqi	Agricultural Sector Representative
Mr Sylejman Bujrami	Agricultural Sector Representative
Mr Shefki Osmani	Ashkaelia Representative

Table 3.2: UN-Appointed Municipal Administrative Board

Name	Function	Party-affiliation
Mr Lalit Agalawatta	UN Municipal Administrator	none
Mr Ahmet Ahmeti	Head of Educational Dept	LDK
Mr Nazmi Iballi	Head of Economy&Finance Dept	PPDK
Mr Idriz Emini	Head of Cadastral/Property Dept	LDK
Mr Halil Halili	Head of Urban Dev/Planning Dept	Independent
Mr Hajdin Ramadani	Head of General Administration	LDK
Ms Lumturije Kurhasku Hysaj (Dr)	Head of Health Department	LDK

3. Political Parties

LDK and PPDK are the main rivals in this area as elsewhere in Kosovo. LDK is claiming to have 9,000 members in Stimlje/Shtime (out of a population of around 30,000). According to the local PPDK chairman his party had around 4,000 members in mid-March 2000 in this municipality. The Parliamentary Party of Kosovo (PPK) is claiming to have 200 members here. The Green Movement seems to be supportive of LDK, while the PPK is close to the PPDK.

The United Democratic Movement (LBD) is so far trying to balance somewhere in between. However, the LBD seems to be quite weak in Stimlje/Shtime. The party has a board of nine persons of which only four live in Stimlje/Shtime. There are no minority parties represented in Stimlje/Shtime.

The most prominent politician from Stimlje/Shtime is Ali Sadrija, co-head of the 'Central Fiscal Authority' in the Kosovo-wide Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS). He was earlier the chairman of the local branch of the LDK.

Table 4.1: Political Parties

Party	Regional Party Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader
LDK	Mr Jetullah Rexhaj	Mr Ibrahim Rugova
PPDK	Mr Naim Smajli	Mr Hashim Thaqi
LBD	Mr Hasan Haxhiu	Mr Rexhep Qosja
Green Movement	Mr Rexhep Dauti	N/A
PPK	Mr Mehmet Ali Begu	Mr Bajram Kosumi

4. Local and International NGOs

All four local NGO's are very active in the municipality. Their focus is on humanitarian aid, disabled people and women and children.

Table 5.1: Local NGOs Based in the Municipality

Name	Main focus	Regional Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader
Handikos	Disabled people	Mr Talat Hysiqi	Halit Ferizi
Women in Development	Women & Children	Ms Mone Musolli	--
Centre for Rehabilitation of Mothers & Children	Mothers & Children	Ms Lumturije Mulaj	Zahide Zeqiri
Mother Teresa	Humanitarian aid	Mr Fehmi Baftiu	Don Lush Gjergji

Two international NGOs, Norwegian Red Cross and Balkanactie, a Belgian NGO, are based in the municipality, while Malteser, a German NGO is active in the municipality, although it is based in Urosevac/Ferizaj. Malteser is involved in women's projects and is led at the municipal level by Ms. Heidrun Rawlings. Finally, the Saudi Joint Relief committee has been doing some relief work in the municipality, although it is also not based there.

Table 5.2: International NGOs Based in the Municipality

Name	Main focus	Regional Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader
Norwegian Red Cross	Mental Hospital	N/A	Terje Lysholm
Balkanactie (Belgian)	Humanitarian aid	Mr Shpresim Arifi	Mr Shpresim Arifi

5. Other Civilian International Presence

The UN Civil Administration (the Acting UN Administrator and the Deputy UN Administrator) arrived in Stimlje/Shtime in September 1999. In April 2000 the first UN Administrator left the mission and the Deputy was appointed the new UN Administrator. The OSCE has no field office in Stimlje/Shtime but is covering the area from the Lipljan Field Office, 13 km towards Pristina, with one Human Rights Officer and one Democratisation Officer. The UNHCR has been covering Stimlje/Shtime from its field office in Urosevac/Ferizaj. One UN Civil Administration staff member has been seconded by the EU pillar for reconstruction and development, but the EU pillar is not present in the municipality as such.

Table 5.1: The Four Pillars

Name	Number of staff	Contact Person	Title	Contact Number
UN Civil Adm.	Four international and two local	Mr Lalit Agalawatta	UNCA	No phone
OSCE	Two int., three local (based in Lipljan)	Bjorn Ahren	DO	Satphone: 00807 762 138 679
UNHCR	One int. – one local (based in Urosevac)	Kristine Ivan	CSO	Satphone: 00871 761 846 910
EU	Not present			

6. Religion and Places of Worship

There are three main local Islamic leaders, Mr Isa Tershani, Mr Musa Tershani, and Mr Skender Baftiv. They are highly respected in the local community, although very few people (mainly the elderly) regularly attend a mosque.

Table 6.1: Main Religious Leaders

Name	Title	Religious Organisation
Mr Isa Tershani	Imam	Islamic Community
Mr Musa Tershani	Imam	Islamic Community
Mr Skender Baftiv	Imam	Islamic Community

Source: UN Civil Adm. in Stimlje/Shtime

A medieval Orthodox church is located in Stimlje/Shtime, but given the small number of Kosovo Serbs remaining in the municipality, it is not currently in use, although the building is still intact. The building is protected by KFOR. There is one major mosque in Stimlje/Shtime town and another one in the village of Racak.

Table 6.2: Major Mosques, Churches, etc.

Name and place	Type of Building
Xhamia e Shtimes	Mosque
Church of Stimlje/Shtime	Orthodox church

Source: UN Civil Adm. in Stimlje/Shtime

7. Media

There are no newspapers or permanent correspondents for the media in Stimlje/Shtime. There is only one private local radio station, the main owner of which is a local entrepreneur. The radio station transmits roughly 12 hours a day, although the programming is often cut short due to power shortages (the radio station owns no generator). The programming includes music, news (partly translated from BBC and Deutsche Welle), and interviews with prominent local personalities. The main income derives from private individuals who for a few DM can transmit a greeting over the radio.

Table 7.1: List of Major Newspapers, TV/Radio Stations, etc.

Name of media	Type of Media	Editor/Correspondent	Ethnic Affiliation
Zeri I Shtime	Radio 'Voice of Shtime'	Mr Eljesa Ahmeti	Kosovo Albanian

8. Judicial System

There are no judges in Stimlje/Shtime. For the time being Stimlje/Shtime is covered from Urosevac/Ferizaj.

9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

In the beginning of April 2000, UN Civil Police opened a small office in the Town Hall building from which they are now patrolling every day. The police force is seconded from the local police station in Lipljan. There seems to be a need for more police surveillance in the area because of regular intimidation of Romas/Ashkaelia, and a permanent police presence in the municipality would be highly welcomed. There is no Kosovo Police Service (KPS) presence in the municipality. However, the Kosovo Protection Corps (TMK) is present in the municipality, although it is not clear to what extent.

Table 9.1: Police and Military Presence

Name	Local Commander	Number of Police Officers, Soldiers, etc.	Ethnic Composition, Nationality
UN Civil Police	Sergeant Alan Thompson	5-7 Policemen	British
KFOR	Major Reijo Savioja	A company, 120 men	Finnish

Source: Field Research

10. Economics

Stimlje/Shtime is a rural area mainly dependent on agriculture. Stimlje/Shtime has quite a number of small private shops and restaurants, probably due to the fact that the main road to Prizren and Albania is passing through the centre of Stimlje/Shtime town. The unemployment is very high, although figures are quite unreliable. The most important task right now is to secure that the farming season is starting well, with sufficient seeds and equipment. There is, however, a big lack of tractors and other modern agricultural machinery. Due to lack of equipment and other agricultural inputs, a large proportion of the fields are still idle.

The main employer is the municipality, which employs 386 teachers and 44 municipal staff. A mental hospital in addition employs about 100 people. Before the war there were some 40 small-scale manufacturing companies, most of them now destroyed, burnt or damaged. These companies were based on developing products from agriculture, forestry and stone cutting. Only a few remain today. The municipality is planning to restart one stone cutting enterprise, one co-operative farm, one tube factory, one agricultural storehouse, and one agricultural centre in the village of Davidovc.

The ongoing projects are basically humanitarian with distribution of food and non-food items by Mother Teresa and the Belgian NGO Balkanactie. In addition, the German NGO Malteser is planning to start some income generating projects with women.

11. Infrastructure

The roads in the area are in a very bad state. The main road through Stimlje/Shtime is, however, going to be repaired by KFOR, with a local contractor implementing the work. It is planned to start at the end of April.

The housing damage in the area has been classified as 73 % slight, 17 % moderate to severe and 10 % completely destroyed, according to the Kosovo Atlas made by the Humanitarian Community Information Centre (HCIC), UNHCR and OCHA (Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs) in February 2000. In addition, there are still landmines in several areas, for example around the villages of Racak and Zborce, but this has no major impact on agricultural production.

There is no public transport to Stimlje/Shtime, only the private type of buses and minibuses you can see everywhere. These are, however, working surprisingly well. The telephone system is not working in Stimlje/Shtime and neither does the postal service. The drinking water in Stimlje/Shtime has been a major problem for many years. The water has been contaminated and resulted in diseases like typhoid. A foreign donor (German Red Cross) has plans to fund a water project in Stimlje/Shtime.

12. Social Services, Health, and Education

Since the unemployment rate is high, probably more than 80 %, the general social situation is not good. No people receive pensions. Many people are relying on aid from humanitarian organisations.

There are only two medical clinics in operation right now, out of six. Six doctors are working, but only two full-time. The minorities have problems to get medical help. However, a female Serb doctor visits the 30 Serbs who are still living in Stimlje/Shtime, mostly old people, every second week from her clinic in Lipljan.

In Stimlje/Shtime there are nine primary schools and one secondary school with around 5700 students in total. There are 386 teachers in the municipality.

Source: UN Civil Administration