



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

MISSION IN KOSOVO

Democratisation

Municipal Profile:

Srbica/Skenderaj

15 March 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.

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Appendix: Map of the Municipality

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1. Introduction

Srbica/Skenderaj Municipality is located in north-central Kosovo, south of Kosovska Mitrovica/Mitrovicë municipality. The territory of the municipality is mostly a high, rolling plateau running westward from the foothills of the Qyqavica Mountains (highest peak 1080 m), with an average altitude of 600 m above sea level. Srbica/Skenderaj town is located on the road leading south to Glogovac/Gllgovc and south of the main road from Mitrovica to Pec/Peja.

The Municipality includes a small capital city and 52 villages that constitute the core of the famous *Drenica Region*, a place with a long history of Kosovo Albanian defiance of Serbian authority. The UCK movement was founded in this countryside and most UCK leaders are originally from this district. As a consequence, this is one of the most devastated areas in Kosovo. The Serb offensives started in February 1998 and increased considerably during the NATO bombing campaign. According to UNHCR, in the Municipality 3,528 houses out of 8,518 have been completely destroyed or burned and only 687 did not suffer any damage.

The district has always been predominantly ethnic Albanian and almost all Kosovo Serbs, Ashkaelia and Muslim Slavs, of which there were already very few prior to the war, have left the district. K/Serbs are currently present only in the villages of Suvo Grlo/Suhogerlle and Banja/Baje, and in Device Monastery, where eight nuns and one priest live totally isolated and without any orthodox congregation around. Due to the persistent climate of threats and intimidation the three sites have been protected by KFOR since August 1999. Only one K/Muslim Slav family and 2 K/Ashkaelia families are still living in the Municipality.

Six buildings in Srbica/Skenderaj town are currently utilized as Collective Centers for IDPs, giving temporarily refuge for 334 K/Albanians, assisted by UNHCR.

Table 1.1: Ethnic Composition, Including IDPs

Population	K-Albanians		K-Serbs		Others		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1989	63,668	98.5	812	1.3	166	0.2	64,646	100
January 1999								
January 2000	App. 65,000		291		21			

Source: UNHCR "Kosovo Village List", 9 March 1999;

"Kosovo/Kosova: As Seen, As Told", OSCE Human Rights Report, 1999, Volume 1, p. 343.

2. Civil Administration

The civil administration structure in Srbica/Skenderaj is currently in a state of transition. After the war, a self-styled administration of local politicians, supported by Hashim Thaci's Provisional Government of Kosovo, filled the power vacuum left by the Serb administration. In September 1999 the UN Municipal Administrator, who had arrived in Srbica/Skenderaj the previous month, officially appointed the administrative structure in place as the official Administrative Board. The President, the Vice-president and the Secretary of the 'new' Board were PPDK members, while eight Department Directors out of ten were PPDK affiliates. The pre-existing "Defence and Mobilization" and "Public Order" Departments, despite not being foreseen by the UN Administration, were also integrated into the new Administrative Board.

The overwhelming participation of PPDK affiliates within the administration and the anomalous presence of the above-mentioned Departments have raised protests from the other political parties present in the municipality and from the International Community, which requested a body more representative of the political landscape. At the end of February 2000, the UN Municipal Administrator announced his intention to modify the Administrative Board composition and to reduce the Municipal staff. A second vice-president has been appointed from the LDK and the two illegal Departments will be abolished and substituted with a new "Community Service

Department”. Furthermore, all the posts of Department Directors will be re-appointed by a special commission on the basis of skills and qualifications.

Table 2.1: UN-Appointed Municipal Administrative Board

Name	Function	Declared Party-affiliation
Ken Inoue	UN Municipal Administrator	
Ramadan Dobra	President	PPDK
Fadil Rustemi	Vice-President	PPDK
Fadil Geci	Vice-President	LDK
Hajrije Dajaku	Secretary	PPDK
Nasuf Shabani	Director, Department of General Administration	UNIKOMB
Halil Hamza	Director, Department of Public Service, Health, and Sanitation	Independent
Emin Halimi	Director, Department of Economy and Finance	Independent
Muhamet Geci	Director, Department of Education, Culture, and Sport	PPDK
Ylber Morina	Director, Department of Urbanism	Independent
Muhamed Hameti	Director, Department of Planning, Development and Reconstruction	Independent
Vacant	Director, Department of Community Service	
vacant	Director, Department of Geodesy and Cadastre	

With regard to the Municipal Council, only 9 out of 20 members were appointed in November 1999. Among them, there were three PPDK associates and the TMK Zone 1 Drenica Commander, while only one position has been reserved to other parties and assigned to the LDK. No K/Serb representative has been appointed yet, due to the firm and apparently immovable position of the whole Council, which rejected the two people chosen by the UN Administrator in November, without establishing criteria for the selection of new ones.

The TMK RTG 1 Commander is supposed to resign officially during a Municipal Council meeting in late March 2000, since his position within the Council is incompatible with UNMIK Regulation 1999/8, which forbids TMK members to participate in any political activity.

Table 2.2: UN-Appointed Municipal Council

Name	Declared Party-affiliation/Function
Ken Inoue	UN Municipal Administrator
Ramadan Dobra	PPDK / President of PPDK-branch
Ismet Salihu	PPDK / Vice-President of PPDK-branch
Nazmi Xani	PSDK / Businessman
Man Dajaku	Independent / Doctor
Seidj Koca	LDK
Rrahim Gashi	Independent / Former judge
Jetullah Xani	Independent / Muslim priest

3. Political Parties

The rise of the UCK in 1998 and its recent transformation into a political force (the PPDK) has modified the political scene in Srbica/Skenderaj following the end of the decade-long LDK leadership. Having been the most important and popular Albanian political party in Srbica/Skenderaj since January 1990, the LDK lost its predominant position during the war when many people moved to the UCK, apparently disappointed by the LDK policy of non-violent resistance. The other political parties, most of which had been acting underground for years, ceased their political activity when the tension turned into a conflict involving the entire population.

The death or disappearance of many political activists during the armed conflict, and now the lack of working space and equipment, complicate the post-war political re-organization. At the same

time, the political parties have some difficulties in opposing the local PPDK supremacy. Since the UCK had been the only political organization active during the conflict, at the end of the war a self-appointed administration run by its affiliates replaced the Serb administration in the municipality. The PPDK Srbica/Skenderaj, founded in October 1999, has immediately gained a dominant position within the municipality, hardly countered by any other party. Currently most of the latter have a very restricted role and no power. The LDK is still the second most popular party but threats and intimidation affect the process of reorganizing the branch and redefining its position among the political forces.

Table 3.1: Political Parties

Party	Municipal Party Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader
PPDK (Party of Democratic Progress of Kosovo)	Ramadan Dobra	Hashim Thaci
LDK (Democratic League of Kosovo)	Seidj Koca	Ibrahim Rugova
PSHDK (Alb. Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo)	Ermin Dajaku	Mark Krasniqi
UNIKOMB (Albanian Unification Party)	Nasuf Shabani	Ukshin Hoti
PSDK (Social Democratic Party of Kosovo)	Veli Deliu	Luljeta Pula
PF (Farmers' Party)	Muhamet Geci	
PNDSh (Albanian National Democratic Party)	Ferat Imeri	Rexhep Abdullahu
PNDShK (Alb. National Democratic Party of Kosovo)	Enver Gruda	Rexhep Bunjaku
PPK (Parliamentary Party of Kosovo)	Agim Zemillahu	Bajram Kosumi

4. Local and International NGOs

The most important local NGO is the Mother Theresa Society, which has been working in the municipality for more than ten years and was active even during the war. Currently it provides humanitarian assistance to 6,359 families (46,648 people) through collaboration with the WFP and some international NGOs. Recently, three other local NGOs, Jeta, Anton Çetta, and Bereqeti, were created with the purpose of working in the field of humanitarian assistance, but they are very small and their role is still limited. Besides this, the Kosovo Red Cross operates in the Kosovo Albanian area while the Yugoslav Red Cross works within the Serb enclaves. The Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms is the only local NGO not focused on humanitarian assistance. The local branch was founded in 1991, and it was the first local branch to be established after the Head Office was established in Pristina. Finally, there is an active, politically independent, Youth Council in the municipality, counting about 70 members, although it has registered as an NGO.

Table 4.1: Local NGOs based in the municipality

Name	Main focus	Local Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader
Mother Theresa Society	Humanitarian	Dr. Bajram Gashi	Don Lush Gjergji
Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms	Human Rights	Murat Musliu	Pajazit Nushi
Kosovo Red Cross	Humanitarian	Dr. Osman Veliqi	

All the international NGOs working in Srbica/Skenderaj are based in Mitrovica, except for four that also have offices in the municipality. Until now, the role of coordinator has been carried out by UNHCR, but the task will be progressively transferred to UNMIK and UNDP as the emergency phase ceases and turns into development. However, UNHCR will remain responsible for Minorities, Collective Centers for IDPs, Return of Refugees, Community Service Programs, and Women's Initiatives.

Table 4.2: International NGOs based in the municipality

Name	Contact Person	Address
ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency)	Mayumi Watabe	Municipality Building, 2nd fl.
ADAB (Associazione Donne nell'Area dei Balcani)	Angioletta Lucè, Alessia Celani	Lagja nr.1

MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres)	Nicola Main	Lagja nr.1 / Street Suka nr.17
FRC (French Red Cross)		Lagja nr 2

Table 4.3: International NGOs conducting activities in Srbica/Skenderaj

Sector	Organizations
Food	ACTED, MTS, IETA, FRC, SKHA, Triangle, PU
Logistic/transport	ACTED
Non food items	ACTED, MTS, ADRA, Care, MSF, Triangle SCKA, MTS, ADRA, PU
Water and Sanitation	OXFAM, MSF, VIVENDI, SDR
Health	MSF, PSF, Quatar, ADRA
Shelter	SCKA, FRC, AAP, ACT, Triangle, Care, IRC, Malteser, OXFAM, ADRA
Community Services	ADRA, ADAB, OTI, USAID, SCKA, FRC, ECOM, Handicos, MSF, TGH, Triangle, DRC
Education	MTS, TGH, OXFAM, FRD, Caritas, PU
Agricultural Activities	SCKA, Norcross
Legal/Protection	CDHRE, TSF, DRC
Demining	Care

Source: UNHCR. For an explanation of all acronyms, including contact persons and phone numbers, please see the Contact List provided by the Humanitarian Community Information Centre, located next to the UNHCR in Pristina.

5. Other Civilian International Presence

The UN Municipal Administrator arrived in August 1999, and currently six other internationals are working within the Administration. The OSCE Field Office became operational in October 1999 and at present employs three internationals: the Head of FO, a Human Rights Officer and a Democratization Officer. A UNHCR Field Officer with an assistant covers the Municipalities of Srbica/Skenderaj and Vucitrm/Vushtri, but they are based in the main office in Kosovka Mitrovica/Mitrovicë. An IOM Sub-office was opened in January 2000 and currently employs 3 internationals.

Table 5.1: The Four Pillars

Name	Number of staff (nat.+int.)	Contact Person	Title	Contact Number
UN Civil Adm.	7 internationals, 7 locals	Ken Inoue	UN Administrator	028 82136
OSCE	3 internationals, 18 locals	William Hayden	Head of Field Office	00870 762 009 836
UNHCR	1 international, 1 local (not based in Srbica)	Joseph Herreros	Field Officer	028 34508-09-10

Table 5.2: Other International Organisations and Agencies

Name	Number of staff (nat.+int.)	Contact Person	Title	Contact Number
IOM	3 internationals, 6 locals	Rex Alamban	Head of Sub-office	028 82120/4

6. Religion, Places of Worship, and Cultural Institutions

Although the main religion in Srbica/Skenderaj is Islam, no mosque is located in the town, where a provisional temple serves this function. In the surrounding villages only one mosque out of nine was not damaged during the war, while four have been totally destroyed and four others were partially damaged but are still functioning.

Orthodox churches still exist in the two Serb enclaves of Banja/Baje and Suvo Grlo/Suhogerlle, but the main Orthodox religious place in the municipality is the Device Monastery, located south of Srbica/Skenderaj town in the AoR of the Russian KFOR Contingent, which provides the it with protection. The small community, 8 nuns and 1 priest, live totally isolated and far from any orthodox congregation and have been repeatedly threatened and intimidated.

Table 6.1: Major Mosques, Churches, etc.

Location	Type of building	Condition
Srbica/Skenderaj	Muslim Temple	Functioning.
Poljance/Polac	Mosque	Partially damaged but functioning.
Lausa/Llaushe	Mosque	Partially damaged but functioning.
Pluzina/Plluzhine	Mosque	Destroyed. Temporary small annex functioning.
Donje Obrinje/Obri E Ulet	Mosque	Partially damaged but functioning.
Brocna/Buroje	Mosque	Destroyed.
Kladernica/Klodernice	Mosque	Functioning.
Cirez/Quirez	Mosque	Destroyed.
Gornje Prekaze/Prekazi I Eperm	Mosque	Destroyed.
Suvo Grlo/Suhogerlle	Mosque	Partially damaged but functioning.
Suvo Srlo/Suhogerlle	Orthodox Church	Functioning.
Banja/Baje	Orthodox Church	Functioning.
Device Monastery	Orthodox Monastery	Functioning.

Table 6.2: Main Religious Leaders

Name	Religious Organisation
Nexhmi Maksuti	President of the Islamic Union
Jetullah Xani	Islamic Union

The President of the Islamic Union is also the Imam both at the Srbica/Skenderaj Temple and at the Lausa/Llaushe mosque. Jetullah Xani is the Imam at Poljance/Polac mosque and a member of the Municipal Council.

There are no theatres or other cultural institutions in the municipality, but a Cultural Centre exists, although it does not organise activities on its own.

7. Media

There are no local newspapers published in Srbica/Skenderaj despite some attempts made by local journalists, who did not succeed mainly because of scarcity of funds and equipment. However, six journalists are working as local correspondents for national newspapers based in Pristina and one of them is also temporarily covering the position of correspondent for the RTK, the Radio/Television of Kosovo. Starting from mid-March a new newspaper, Dita E Re, will be published Kosovo-wide, with a correspondent from Srbica/Skenderaj.

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

Name of media	Type of Media (newspaper, radio, etc.)	Editor/Correspondent	Ethnic Affiliation
Rilindja	Newspaper	Sabit Jstogu	K/Albanian
RTK (temporarily)	Radio/Television		
Bota Sot	Newspaper	Gani Hamiti	K/Albanian
Kosova Sot	Newspaper	Diana Gecaj	K/Albanian
Kosova Press	Newspaper	Murat Musliu	K/Albanian
Koha Ditore	Newspaper	Adem Meta	K/Albanian
Zeri Daily	Newspaper	Kajtas Gecaj	K/Albanian
Dita E Re	Newspaper (new)	Halil Xani	K/Albanian

8. Judicial System

Two judges were appointed to Srbica/Skenderaj on 29th December 1999. They were sworn in on 29th February 2000 and judicial activity was supposed to start the following day. However, the Courthouse was utilized as UNMIK Police Station until March 12, when UNMIK Police moved into the former Municipality Building.

In the Municipality there is already a Minor Offences Court, which can pass sentences up to 10 years, but there is no Municipal Court for civil cases, which have to be referred to the Court in Mitrovica.

Table 8.1: Main Judges

Name	Title	Ethnicity
Gani Veseli	President	K/Albanian
Halim Derguti	Judge	K/Albanian

Source: OSCE

9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

There are two KFOR contingents deployed in the Municipality. A French Squadron is based in Srbica/Skenderaj town and protects the Serb village of Banja/Baje. The other Serb enclave, Suvo Grlo/Suhogerlle, although belonging to the Municipality, is located in the AoR of the Spanish KFOR Contingent. The Russian Battalion is located in the southern part of Srbica/Skenderaj and protects the Device Monastery.

The attitude of the local population towards these international forces has always been cool, and several episodes have confirmed a widespread anti-Russian feeling, culminating on 29th February 2000 with the shooting of a Russian KFOR soldier in the main square by a 15-year-old K/Albanian.

UNMIK Police has been understaffed since its arrival, but more international and KPS officers are expected and the Police Station has, as mentioned, moved from the previous location, considered too small, to the former Municipality Building.

The TMK RTG 1 Command, located in Srbica/Skenderaj town, exceeds the municipality boundaries and partially covers five other municipalities and four KFOR Multinational Battalions. The former ammunition factory is currently utilized as a training camp by the TMK.

Table 9.1: Police and Military Presence

Name	Local Commander	Number of Police Officers, Soldiers, etc.	Ethnic Composition, Nationality
KPS	(None)	2	K/Albanian
KPC/TMK	Sami Lushtaku	613	K/Albanian
UN Civil Police	Randall Oastrander	39	International
KFOR	Capt. Eric Vincendet	140	French
KFOR	Lt. Col. Yuriy Lozovoy	450	Russian

Source: KFOR, UNMIK Police.

10. Economics

The most important companies and factories in Srbica/Skenderaj were closed or relocated in the early 90s by the Serb government, which also dismissed 1887 employees. The only exception was the Ammunition Factory, which continued production until 1998 when it became a Serb military base. With its 354 workers it was the second largest employer after the Brick Factory, which employed 385 people. Most female employees worked for the Textile Factory, which was totally destroyed during the conflict.

At present none of the factories or major companies are operative, and the unemployment rate is very high, especially among the young generation. There are many small shops in Srbica/Skenderaj town, but the UN Administration has not started their registration yet. The UN is in the process of issuing licenses and organising for the collection of fees. Outside of Srbica/Skenderaj town, farming is traditionally the main activity. No micro credit or income generation projects have been formulated so far.

Currently the main employer is the UN Municipal Administration, which however is going to reduce the number of municipal employees from 241 to 144. Other International Organizations and NGOs are also major employers. Recently the Japanese Government has announced the allocation of 7.5 million dollars to invest in economic activities within the Municipality, of which 1.5 will be spent to restore the Brick Factory. Members of the local population appear to be more interested in working for a large enterprise than in creating their own private initiatives.

10.1 Major Employers in the Region

Employer	Service/Products	Number of Workforce
UN	Municipality workers	241
UN	Cultural Center	15
UN	Village Chiefs	13
UN	Organization "18 Qershori"	44
UN	Teachers / School workers	804
UN	Health Center	185
OSCE	Field Office	18

Source: UN Civil Administration; OSCE

11. Infrastructure

The infrastructure in Srbica/Skenderaj is inadequate and in very bad condition. Scarcity of investments, lack of maintenance, and the use of materials of poor quality have contributed to the deterioration of the existing structures and facilities. During the war, the infrastructure was further damaged.

The power lines needs general reconstruction, but until now only temporary repairs have been carried out, and power cuts are frequent. Within the municipality only 54 km of roads are paved, and 172 km of roads are in such poor conditions that only 4x4 and military vehicles can reach some villages, especially during winter. The situation is even more difficult for the K/Serb enclave inhabitants, who for most of the year cannot drive to neighboring Zubin Potok municipality through the mountains, the only safe way without an escort.

The water supply is another matter of concern. The water system consists of only 5.5 km of pipe and people use wells or water provided by UNHCR. Canalization is also a problem, since there are only 4 km of canals and no drainage. Telephone lines exist only in Srbica/Skenderaj town, and no village can be reached by phone. Before the war there were telephones in the Post Offices of two villages, Rudnik/Runik and Turicevac/Turiceve. Once a week an international NGO provides the K/Serbs living in the enclaves with a satellite phone, but the communication is limited to two minutes per person.

12. Social Services, Health, and Education

There is an UNMIK assistance program for families with orphans, the elderly over 70, and disabled people called "Emergency Social Welfare Assistance", but most of the support comes from international NGOs. In the municipality there are about 2100 children who have lost one parent and 70 that are without both parents. There is no orphanage and some international NGOs provide 380 of those children that have lost one or more parents with 50 DM per month, but others are expected to be included in the program in the future. Cases of adoptions are very rare.

The elderly are usually assisted by families, and there are 40 people registered with mental illness. Some of them are very aggressive and need constant assistance, but the mental hospital near Pristina where some of them have been admitted was damaged during the war and is not functioning. Besides the 250 cases of handicapped people registered before the war there are around 6,000 people who were permanently injured during the conflict. Some of them benefit from the UNMIK Assistance Program.

The pensions that before the war were provided the Serb government from Belgrade have obviously not been paid to the 1,400 Kosovo Albanian elderly people since the end of the war. UNMIK provides pensions to people over 70, but the Program could be suspended in the near future.

There is a Health House in Srbica/Skenderaj town that provides first aid and general assistance, but for serious cases and specialized examination people are sent to Mitrovica or Pristina Hospital. The Health House also serves as a maternity hospital. The building needs to be repaired, and problems of the Health House include lack of transport for workers and patients, lack of equipment and scarcity of medicines. MSF takes care of the facilities and, together with PSF and the Arabic NGO Qatar, provides drugs. The 185 employees are paid by the UN Administration. There are also 10 other Health Stations functioning within the municipality, visited twice a week by a doctor. However, none of these are accessible for the people living in the two Kosovo Serb enclaves, who are usually assisted by MSF and in case of emergency transported to the hospital in Mitrovica by KFOR.

There are in total 21 schools in Srbica/Skenderaj municipality, located in 35 buildings, all damaged during the war. Four international NGOs repaired some buildings, but eight of them have been totally destroyed, and students and teachers spent the cold winter in tents. All the equipment has been lost, including the libraries, and there are no longer sport facilities.

The total number of workers employed in the educational sector is 802, of which 502 are teachers, most of them without a university degree. During the war 15 of them were killed, and currently 3 are missing and 3 detained in Serbia. Among the students, 55 were killed, 5 are still missing and many left the municipality with their families. The two high schools, the Gymnasium, and the Technical School are all located in Srbica/Skenderaj town. The Student Hostel that used to accommodate schoolgirls from the villages burned down during the war, and there are only two buses for the transport of students, both provided by USAID at the request of the local Youth Council.

12.1 Schools in the Municipality

School	Number	Buildings	Teachers	Workers	Students before / after the war
Primary	19	31	562	97	12,400 / 9,680
High School	2	4	131	14	2,700 / 2,584
Total	21	35	693	111	15,100 / 12,264

Source: UN Civil Administration

All the students are Kosovo Albanians, but there is a primary school in the Kosovo Serb village of Banja/Baje with 32 pupils. Some of them come from the other enclave and their transport is provided by KFOR with armored vehicles. School workers are paid by the UN Administration, but there is no other contact between the school in the enclave and the municipal Department of Education and Culture.

Source: UN Civil Administration

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