



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

MISSION IN KOSOVO

Democratisation

Municipal Profile:

Vucitrn/Vushtrri

5 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.

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Appendix: Map of the Municipality

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1. Introduction

Vucitrn/Vushtrri municipality is located in north central Kosovo on the main road that connects Pristina to Mitrovica. The surface of the municipality is app. 344 sq. km. The population was before the war by the UNHCR estimated at 89,248¹ (81,807 Kosovo Albanians, 5,466 Kosovo Serbs and 3,997 other minorities). The Serbs were mainly located in Vucitrn/Vushtrri town and in the villages of Gojbulja, Grace, Priluzje and Miroce.

Vucitrn/Vushtrri is composed of 69 villages (65 Kosovo Albanian and 4 Kosovo Serb). The Serbs of Vucitrn town have left for Serbia or north Mitrovica. The remaining Serbs are living in four enclaves (Gojbulja, Grace, Priluzje, Miroce) and in mixed villages which include Banjska and Slatina. Most Kosovo Serbs in the municipality live in the Priluzje enclave, which counts about 3000 Kosovo Serbs. The municipality also contains a minority of Roma/Ashkaelia, currently about 300 people, of which about half live in Vucitrn town while the rest mainly live in the Priluzje enclave.

Table 1.1: Ethnic Composition, Including IDPs

| Population | K-Albanians | | K-Serbs | | Roma/ Ashkaelia | | Other | | Total | |
|----------------|--------------------|---|---------|---|--------------------|---|--------|---|---------------------|-----|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| 1989 | | | | | | | | | 72,000 ² | 100 |
| March 1999 | 81,807 | | 5,466 | | N/A | | 3,997 | | 89,248 | 100 |
| Current figure | App. 82- 86,000 | | 3,700 | | 300 | | N/A | | App 86- 90,000 | 100 |

Source: 1999 figures: UNHCR report 9 March 1999, 2000 figures: OSCE Field Office.

2. Civil Administration

‘Advisory Board’ meetings, which commenced on 13 November 1999, were the first form of meetings that took place in this municipality between UNMIK and the local population. Following the 15th December 1999 Agreement on Kosovo-UNMIK Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS), the Advisory Board in effect became the UN-appointed ‘Municipal Council’. The membership of this council reflects the entire spectrum of Vucitrn society. Political parties, youth forums, women forums, students, private enterprises, and ‘distinguished citizens’ are represented. OSCE, UNHCR, KFOR and UNMIK Police are invited to the meetings as observers.

¹ UNHCR report 9 March 1999

² LDK office

Table 2.1 UN-appointed Municipal Council

| Function | Name |
|---------------------|--|
| Mr. Denny Lane | Municipal Administrator |
| Mr. Xhemajl Pllana | Mayor and President of PPDK ³ |
| Mr. Veli Karaqa | Representative of LDK |
| Mr. Habib Mustafa | President of LDB |
| Mr. Jakup Hasani | President of PRSH |
| Mr. Aziz Bici | Deputy president and President of LKCK |
| Mr. Xhevat Lahu | Representative of PPK |
| Mr. Fahri Buqinca | 'Distinguished citizen' (independent) |
| Ms. Naxhije Buqinca | Distinguished citizen |
| Ms. Bahrije Spanca | Representative of Women's Forum |
| Ms. Valbone Drejta | Teacher |
| Mr. Shefqet Popova | President of Mother Theresa branch |
| Mr. Xhavit Cizmolli | Ashkali representative |
| Ms. Lirie Hasani | Student Member |
| Ms. Arlind Gjaka | Head of the Cultural Center |
| Mr. Fadil Beqiri | Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms |
| Mr. Sabit Beqiri | President of the Court of Justice (observer) |

At the end of the war, Thaci's provisional government had set up the municipal 'authority'. The town hall had no income and officials were working without salary. Still it provided an informed and reasonably responsible structure for the life of the area, and it was ready to co-operate with the international presence. One major problem, however, was that the LDK boycotted this PPDK-dominated municipal structure and refused to attend meetings in the Municipal Building.

On 20th January 2000 the UN Administrator appointed a new Administrative Board to take over from the self-appointed civil administration. The UN-appointed Administrative Board is composed as follows:

Table 2.2: UN-appointed Administrative Board

| Function | Name | Party-affiliation | Contact phone* |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Municipal Administrator | Denny Lane | None | |
| President | Xhemajl Pllana | PPDK | 71612 |
| Deputy president | Sabit Kadriu | PPK | 71393 |
| Deputy president | Aziz Bici | LKCK | 71481 |
| Deputy president | Ibush Jonuzi | LDK | 71615 |
| Secretary | Ekrem Salihu | PPDK (ex-PPK) | 71601 |
| General Administration | Idriz Muzaqi | PPDK (ex-LDK) | |
| Health and Social work | Bhari Bivolaku | PPDK (ex-PPK) | 71785 |
| Economy & Finance | Hamit Xhaferi | LDK | 71217 |
| Education, Culture & Sport | Behxhet Jashari | LKCK (ex-LDK) | 038 47899 |
| Cataster & property | Osman Percuku | LDK | 71214 |
| Urbanism | Veton Maloku | LDK | 71341 |
| Planification | Nazmi Pllana | LDK | |

*028 prefix for Vucitrn/Vushtrri

³ For political party acronyms, please see section 3.

3. Political Parties

The political landscape presents five major parties: Hashim Thaci's Party for Democratic Progress in Kosovo (PPDK), Ibrahim Rugova's Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), the Parliamentary Party of Kosovo (PPK), the Albanian Republican Party (PRSH), and the National Movement for the Liberation of Kosovo (LKCK). In addition, the United Democratic Movement (LDB) recently established its presence, although it still does not have an office within the municipality.

In the villages LDK claims to have a very strong and widespread presence. All the other parties are in a restructuring phase and are consolidating their presence in the villages.

Table 3.1: Political Parties

| Party | Regional Party Leader | Kosovo-wide Leader | Ethnic affiliation |
|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| PPDK | Xhemail Pllana | Hashim Thaci | Kosovo Albanian |
| LDK | Hajzar Krasniqui | Ibrahim Rugova | Kosovo Albanian |
| PRSH | Jakup Hasani | Skender Hoti | Kosovo Albanian |
| LKCK | Aziz Bici | Raif Cela & Avni Klinaku | Kosovo Albanian |
| PPK | Lahu Xhevat | Bajram Kosumi | Kosovo Albanian |
| LDB | Habib Mustafa | Rexhep Qosia | Kosovo Albanian |

4. Local and International NGOs

The most active international NGOs based in the municipality are the Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA) and Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF). In general, international NGOs perform a wide range of functions in the municipality, ranging from humanitarian aid and roofing, to school reconstruction, health care, and psychological programmes.

In addition to the seven international NGOs listed below, which are based in the municipality, the following international NGOs are active in Vucitrn although they are not based there: CARE, IRC (International Rescue Committee), Worldvision, Danish Red Cross (DRC), and NRC (Norwegian Red Cross). All of these latter NGOs work on roofing projects, while some of them also engage in other projects, such as food distribution, mine clearance, etc. Most of these NGOs are based in Mitrovica.

Table 4.1: International NGOs based in the municipality

| Name | Main focus | Contact Person | Telephone* |
|--|--|--|---------------|
| ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) | Distribution of non-food items. Firewood for collective centres. Temporary Shelter Management. | Brenda Belton Steve Hutcheson | 31124 |
| ACT (Action by Churches Together) | Rehabilitation of schools and kindergarten. | Martti Penttinen Shpend Dobra Ishet Nazifi | 33692 |
| MSF (Medicins Sans Frontieres) | Primary health care, mental health | Ann Wouters Francois Fille Eliane | |
| Secours Populaire Francais | Isolated cases, blanket, mattress, food toys distribution | Patrick Dasnias Nathalie Saillard | +871762105822 |
| Saudi Joint Relief C. Kinderberg | Humanitarian aid Children/youth centres & psychological programmes. Recreational activity. | Atif Farah Marisa Herran Dadengdika Dabishevc | 993897025983 |
| ACTED (French) | Distribution of bread | N/A | N/A |

*028 prefix for Vucitrm\Vushtrri

Of the three local NGOs based in Vucitrm, Handikos and the Mother Theresa Society are particularly active. Handikos, which works on disability issues, claims to have 600 registered members in the municipality, and the Mother Theresa Society, which distributes humanitarian aid, counts about 100 active volunteer members. All local and international NGOs meet every Tuesday in a weekly NGO co-ordination meeting.

Table 4.2: Local NGOs based in the municipality

| Name | Main focus | Contact Person | Telephone* |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|------------|
| Handikos | Disability | Isak Hyseni | N/A |
| Mother Theresa Society | Distribution of WFP food packages; distribution of winter clothes. | Shfqet Popova | 70019 |
| Local Red Cross | Humanitarian aid and location of missing persons | Mejreme Ibrahim | 71403 |

*028 prefix for Vucitrm\Vushtrri

5. Other Civilian International Presence

UN Civil Administration arrived in the municipality on 20 August 1999. A few months later, in October 1999, the OSCE opened a field office in the municipality. The OSCE in addition has opened a police school in the municipality, which covers all of Kosovo and today counts 150 international instructors and about 500 students. The UNHCR does not have a fixed presence in the municipality, but operates from Mitrovica. The last of the four UNMIK 'pillars', the EU pillar for reconstruction and development, is not yet active in the municipality.

Table 5.1: The Four Pillars

| Organisation | Number of staff | Contact Person | Function | Contact Number |
|-------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| UN Civil Administration | 7 int., 7 local | Denny Lane | Municipal Administrator | 028 71405 |
| OSCE Field Office | 5 int., 18 local | Tim Boucher | Head of Office | 028 70007 |
| UNHCR | N/A | Iliriana Hasani Bob and Betty Poynter | N/A | 028 22635 |

Other governmental international organisations include the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), also a US agency. In addition a Swiss Agency, SDC, works on water supply issues.

Table 5.2: Other international governmental organisations and agencies

| Organisation | Function | Contact Persons | Contact Number |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| USAID/OFDA | Roofing, humanitarian aid | Iliriana Kacaniku Paul Majarwitz | 28928 |
| SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation) | Water supply | N/A | N/A |

6. Religion, Places of Worship, and Cultural Institutions

Before the conflict Vucitrn/Vushtrri Municipality had nine Mosques. After the war, religious monuments had been targeted and as a result of the attacks three mosques were destroyed to the ground, five were partly burned while one is still intact. Two of the destroyed mosques have been rebuilt so far. In addition, there are a number of Orthodox Churches in the four enclaves and one in Vucitrn/Vushtrri, which is constantly guarded by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) KFOR.

Table 6.1: Major Mosques, Churches, etc.

| Name | Religion |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Mosque of Qarshia | Islam |
| Church of Vucitrn/Vushtrri | Orthodox |

Given the ethnic composition of Vucitrn, most people in the municipality are Muslim. The Islamic religious leaders are well respected in the community, although mainly members of the older generation regularly attend mosques. The main leaders of the Islamic religious community are listed below.

Table 6.2: Main religious leaders

| Name | Function | Religious Organisation |
|-----------------|------------|------------------------|
| Basri Zekolli | Main Imami | Islam |
| Sylejman Osmani | President | Islam |
| Ferat Gerguri | Secretary | Islam |

Finally, there is a Cultural Centre in Vucitrn, which hosts concerts and theatre plays about once every two weeks. A radio station is also based there.

7. Media

There are only two media representatives in Vucitrn/Vushtrri Municipality. There is one correspondent for the Rilindja newspapers and one correspondent for Radio 21.

Table 7.1: List of Major Newspaper, TV/radio stations, etc.

| Name of media | Type of Media | Ethnic Affiliation |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Rilindja | Newspaper | Kosovo Albanian |
| Radio 21 | Radio | Kosovo Albanian |

8. Judicial System,

Vucitrn/Vushtrri Municipal Court and Minor Offences Court were appointed on 29 December 1999, but did not convene until 28 February 2000. The President of the Municipal Court, Mr. Sabit Beqiri, was also the president before 1989. All judges in Vucitrn are Kosovo Albanian.

Table 8.1: Judges of the Municipal Court

| Name | Ethnicity |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Sabit Beqiri (President) | Kosovo Albanian |
| Mr. Makfirete Krasniqi | Kosovo Albanian |
| Mr. Beqir Halili | Kosovo Albanian |
| Ms. Kada Bunjaku | Kosovo Albanian |

Table 8.2: Judges of the Minor Offenses Court

| Name | Ethnicity |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Avni Maxhuni (President) | Kosovo Albanian |
| Mr. Kamer Cakaj | Kosovo Albanian |
| Mr. Emrush Potoka | Kosovo Albanian |
| Mr. Rifat Bllata | Kosovo Albanian |

9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

UN civil police has about 40 international staff in the municipality and is still regarded as understaffed, despite the aid of 14 local Kosovo Police Service (KPS) officers. Most violence today takes place within the Kosovo Albanian community and is thus not ethnically motivated. Nevertheless, the minorities in the municipality are still suffering from lack of security. Convoys are being stoned on a regular basis and often shots are being fired towards the minority members' houses, which are also at times burnt and looted. However, no major outflow of the minority population is currently taking place.

The Kosovo Protection Corps (TMK), which is a civil protection corps, has two battalions in the municipality. These two battalions form part of TMK zone 2, which also covers Mitrovica municipality. The TMK is being trained by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and helps out with different tasks in the municipality, including the reconstruction of houses.

Finally, the local KFOR presence consists of about 1200 soldiers from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which are very well respected in the community. Although reporting to French KFOR at the regional level, the UAE KFOR also has command over 120 French troops, which amongst others help repair the municipality's infrastructure.

Table 8.1: Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

| Name | Size of Presence | Local Commander | Ethnic Composition, Nationality |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| UN CivPol | App. 40 | Robert Lough | American |
| KPS | 14 | N/A | N/A |
| TMK | App. 25 active, 75 reserve | Gani Imeri | Albanian |
| KFOR | 1200 UAE, 120 French | Saeed Hlrumetha | UAE/French |

10. Economics

The economic situation in Vucitrn/Vushtri is not very encouraging. Many firms were destroyed and in order to restart a virtuous economical cycle large investments are required. Finally, there are many mines in the area, which have had a negative impact on agricultural production. There is consequently a very high level rate of unemployment in the municipality. The main enterprises in the municipality, which in total employ about 4000 people, are listed below.

10.1 Major Employers in the Region

| Employer | Service/Products | Production on going? |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Llamkos | Manufacturing \ tins | Yes |
| Vushtex | Textile | Yes |
| Extra | Paint, gloss | Yes |
| Kosova | Building service | Yes |
| Cicavica | Trading company | Yes |
| Kosovatrans | Transport services | Yes |
| Elan | Agricultural company | Yes |
| Perparimi | Communal services | Yes |
| Economia e Pyjeve | Forestry | Yes |
| PTT | Postal services | Yes |
| ElektroKosova | Power company | Yes |

11. Infrastructure

Vucitrn is according to the UN Municipal Administrator the most damaged municipality in the entire Kosovo. The roads are generally in a very bad shape and many of them are still unpaved. Another major problem is the lack of sewerage treatment. Much sewerage is dumped straight into the local river. The water supply is also very problematic and the situation ranks among the worst in Kosovo, despite recent efforts of French KFOR to solve the problem. Finally, electricity supply has also been a major problem, although the situation has improved recently and is now comparable to most other places in Kosovo.

12. Social Services, Health, and Education

The main health facility in Vucitrn is the Health Centre. The centre provides a wide range of services for its patients, including psychiatry, internal medicine, gynaecology, and dental care service. The centre employs 278 staff, including 41 doctors and 148 nurses.

This Centre also has clinics ('ambulantias'), which work two days a week in the villages of: Smrekovnica, Pantina, Dumnica, Nevolan, Priluzje, and Lumi I Madh. The Centre also has clinics in the villages of Maxhunaj, Samadrexha, Druar, Strovci, Dubovci, Grace, Gojbula, Banjska and Bukosh.

There are 37 schools in the entire AoR.⁴ The number of students amount to 11,720. There are 498 teachers. Most of the schools have been rebuilt by a number of NGOs. There are no ethnically mixed schools. Kosovo Serb school children attend primary schools in Gojbulja and Priluzje and secondary school in Priluzje, where the only Kosovo Serb secondary school is located. To encourage reconciliation among the ethnic groups in the municipality, however, the UN Administrator has been advocating for the creation of a mixed school in the mixed village of Banjska.

⁴ data supplied by UNESCO