

Kosovo



Context

In 2023, Kosovo experienced a complex interplay of political, security, and economic dynamics. Key issues included the escalation of political tensions with Serbia and the ongoing discussions to normalize relations. Additionally, high unemployment and inflation rates were significant concerns. The sharp rise in inflation rates exacerbated the situation for many families and children relying on social assistance schemes. While the state prioritized addressing these political and economic issues, efforts to improve the child protection system and social services were neglected.

Tdh, through its advocacy efforts and direct provision of services, continued to ensure that the rights of vulnerable children and their families remain a focus for the government and institutions. We also provided support on improving the legal and policy framework, critically addressing new contextual developments in the area of child rights and social service provision.

General overview

In Kosovo, Terre des hommes (Tdh) has been operating for more than two decades, working consistently on strengthening the national and local child protection system, to ensure qualitative delivery of services to all, including socially marginalised groups.

Areas of expertise range from direct psychosocial interventions with vulnerable children, their families, and communities, to education and empowerment of local, regional, and national level governmental institutions, as well as policy influencing, with a view of development and implementation of adequate child-sensitive structures, policies, standards, and procedures.

Our thematic priorities and intervention map



Child protection



Children and young people on the move & Anti-trafficking



Access to justice for children and young people

Mitrovica

Mitrovica

Peja

Pristina

Mit & STA

Gjakova

Ferizaj

Prizren

Tdh supports institutions in strengthening the child protection system in Kosovo through: a) engaging in policy interventions and/or dialogue with Ministers, Parliament Committees, Academia and other important stakeholders; b) supporting efforts to make the Law on Child Protection and Juvenile Justice Code operational, by developing all sublegal acts deriving from them; c) strengthening the capacities of the structures under the national child protection system; d) piloting new social service policies; and e) preventing, protecting and re-integrating children at risk or victims of abuse, exploitation/trafficking and children in conflict with the law, creating referral mechanisms within the education system.

Our impact in 2023

Child protection

- The development of nine sub-legal acts deriving from the Law on Child Protection, which were approved by the Government.
- The designation of eight child protection workers within CWS boosted the local child protection systems in terms of identification of children in need of protection and qualitative service provision.
- 180 children (103 boys, 77 girls) in street situations have benefited from integrated services at the Day Center in Pristina and Nashec.

Children and young people on the move

- Integrated services for children and adolescents in street situations are improved through the functionalization of two-Day Care Centers and four mobile teams.
- 23 adolescents and young people 16-20 years old benefitted from vocational and extra curricula life skills trainings.
- 108 parents of vulnerable children and children in street situations received emotional health support, vocational and soft skills training, and empowerment programmes to enhance their employability. Additionally, they benefited from livelihood or income generation activity schemes, as well as financial aid and material support.

Access to justice for children and young people

- Training curriculum and training materials on eight diversion measures were developed.
- The capacities and knowledge of 97 justice professionals are strengthened to implement diversion measures for juveniles in contact and conflict with the law, deriving from the Juvenile Justice Code.

Day Care Centers in Prishtina and Prizren

Tdh has strengthened the functionality of an existing Day Center in Prishtina and supported the establishment of a Day Center in Nashec, aiming to prevent and reduce the time children spend on the streets by offering them a safe space, food, educational activities, psycho-social services, psychological counseling, medical support and socio-cultural services and others. Throughout the year 2023, a total of 180 children (103 boys, 77 girls) in street situations have benefited from these integrated services at the Day Center in Pristina and Nashec.

"I am very satisfied with the lessons and activities at the day care center. The teacher's advice is very helpful and makes me feel good." – E.L.

Outlook

In Kosovo, Tdh will continue its efforts towards ensuring that child rights are put into practice and towards influencing agendas and strategies that affect children and young people at all levels.

Advocacy

We advocate for and support policy and service improvement and implementation of the Law on Child Protection and provision of specialized child protection services, with a focus on mainstreaming the case management approach in all areas of the child protection legal framework and service provision.

Main partners and donors

UNICEF, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Medicor Foundation, Caritas Foundation from Liechtenstein, Kosovo's Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Justice and Municipality of Prishtina and Prizren.



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As the leading Swiss child rights organisation, created in 1960, Terre des hommes stands together with children to uphold their rights, protect their lives and improve their well-being. In 2023, we supported over 5.2 million children and members of their communities in more than 30 countries.



