



UNITED NATIONS
KOSOVO TEAM



Annual Results Report 2023
United Nations Sustainable Development
Cooperation Framework 2021–2025

FUTURE



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Foreword



Arnhild Spence
United Nations Development Coordinator

Dear reader,

I am pleased to present the United Nations Kosovo Team (UNKT) Annual Results Report for the year 2023. This report outlines the concerted efforts and strategic interventions undertaken by the UN development system across five key objectives, embodying our holistic approach to the development of Kosovo.¹

The year 2023 marked the third year of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021–2025, which is aligned with the development pathway of Kosovo. The Cooperation Framework helps to foster inclusive and sustainable growth, with a specific focus on those furthest behind.

In 2023, the UN improved accountable governance, ensuring more transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive institutions, social policies and services. As a result, vulnerable groups in Kosovo had more equitable access to health, education and social services, and economic development was more sustainable. This progress was anchored in the principle of providing decent work opportunities for all and economic development that is more resilient to the impacts of climate change, disasters and emergencies. The UN also helped to build social cohesion, inter-communal relations and gender equality.

When severe flooding hit Kosovo in January 2023, the UN supported central and local level emergency representatives to respond to people’s needs and helped to strengthen emergency response and disaster risk reduction capacities.

The Government of Kosovo reiterated its commitment to the sustainable development agenda. In March 2023, the Government approved the National Development Strategy 2030 and a three-year National Development Plan, outlining the vision for sustainable development and delivery on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the UN. In October, the Government announced key Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) commitments focusing on four policy priorities: (i) poverty reduction, (ii) accelerating the transition to energy renewables, (iii) digital transformation, and (iv) transforming education. Steps are in motion to realize these ambitious goals with the UN as a key partner.

The UN laid the groundwork to establish an SDG accelerator fund and an SDG dashboard. The Government has demonstrated its dedication to sustainable development by approving numerous laws, strategies and policies that ensure the commitment to leaving no one behind, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in Kosovo.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, I wish to acknowledge the invaluable partnership with our resource partners, implementing partners and the Government of Kosovo.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders, particularly the Government of Kosovo, the European Union and the Governments of the United States of America, Sweden, Luxembourg and all other contributing Member States.

¹ All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).



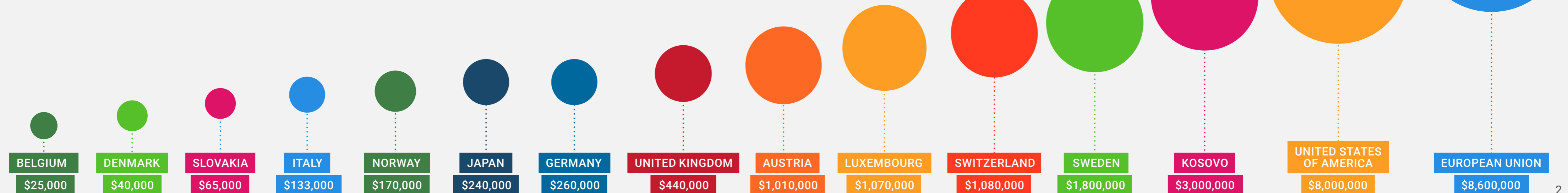
Resident UN Agencies



Non-resident UN Agencies



International Financial Institutions



United Nations Kosovo Team

UNKT consists of 14 resident and 3 non-resident UN agencies, funds and programmes, and is closely affiliated with The World Bank. The team is led by the United Nations Development Coordinator, designated by the Secretary General for development operations in Kosovo.

In 2023, UNKT welcomed the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) as a new member with the aim of supporting the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) and establishing an SDG dashboard. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) re-joined UNKT in its non-resident agency capacity, while the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) enhanced its presence and support to the Kosovo authorities through its regional office. The Development Coordinator also successfully ensured support from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in response to the January flood emergency in Kosovo.

By drawing on the distinct mandates, expertise and comparative advantages of each UN agency, UNKT strives to reach individuals and communities at risk of being left behind through a collaborative and tailored approach. This collaborative effort is outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021–2025, which defines four priority areas and one cross-cutting theme. These are all aligned with the development objectives of Kosovo, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the SDGs, the National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS 2030) and European Union (EU) membership criteria.

The team closely collaborates with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), sharing a mutual focus on joint priorities, particularly in the areas of social cohesion and trust-building.





Key development partners

The results presented in this report would not have been possible without the support of key UN international development partners and the Government of Kosovo.

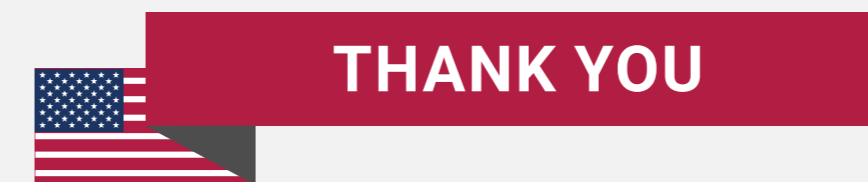
This collaboration extended to civil society organizations, the private sector and other entities involved in implementing the Cooperation Framework in Kosovo.

In 2023, the primary contributors to the work of the UN in Kosovo were the EU, the Government of the United States of America (USA), the Government of Kosovo, the Government of Sweden, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Luxembourg; followed by the Governments of Austria, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Norway, Italy, Slovakia, Denmark, Belgium and Romania. Non-traditional donors also played a crucial role, including the Peacebuilding Fund of the Secretary General, the Western Balkans Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Roadmap

Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and The Global Fund, as well as UN core, vertical and horizontal funds.

We would like to express our profound gratitude to all donors and partners who supported initiatives in 2023, and special thanks to the Government of Kosovo and Kosovo institutions for the significant contribution and support that enabled the UN to effectively address emerging needs and targeted objectives in Kosovo.

Finally, we would like to thank the Government of Switzerland for the generous financial contribution to the UNKT Flood Response and Early Recovery Plan as well as the Governments of the Netherlands and Belgium for technical assistance and in-kind contributions.





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February
Pristina-Belgrade dialogue.

Against a backdrop of tensions in northern Kosovo and geopolitical uncertainties confronting the region, the economy of Kosovo demonstrated resilience in 2023. Estimates indicate that gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3.2 per cent, driven by dynamism in service exports, particularly information and communications technology (ICT), and diaspora contributions.

The end of the year saw progress with implementation of the 2022 Energy Roadmap in December and the Freedom of Movement Agreement in January 2024. The EU-facilitated dialogue continues to remain gender-blind, with women underrepresented in the official negotiations process.

accelerator fund and develop an SDG dashboard.

The year saw a renewed focus on environmental protection and climate change, which assessments suggest are substantial risks to the development progress of Kosovo. Floods in 11 Kosovo municipalities in January following heavy rain caused damage equivalent to 0.9 per cent of GDP, according to The World Bank. In December, the Kosovo Assembly adopted the Law on Climate Change, which initiated the drafting of the first inclusive and voluntary nationally determined contribution and the formalization of the roles and responsibilities of the National Council for Climate Change. At the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28), Kosovo endorsed the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge of the EU and joined the Powering Past Coal Alliance, committing to phasing out coal by 2050.

April
Kosovo bids for CoE membership.

According to The World Bank, economic activity is expected to continue its gradual recovery following the economic downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic, with growth rates projected at 3.9 per cent in 2024 and 4.0 per cent in 2025, the highest in the region. Inflation is expected to continue to decrease further in 2024 following a steady decline from its 2022 peak, although price pressures persist.

In April, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe accepted the membership application of Kosovo and initiated the accession process by requesting the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council to prepare an opinion assessing the ability and readiness of Kosovo to meet the membership criteria.

The dedication of the Government to addressing sustainable development challenges was underscored by its approval of the Energy Strategy 2022–2031 in March and Kosovo Digital Agenda 2030 in June. It also carried out meaningful engagement of young people, including marginalized youth, as it developed the new cross-sectoral Strategy for Youth 2024–2032.

May
Endorsement of Declaration on missing persons.

A milestone was marked in Kosovo–EU relations with the much-anticipated visa liberalization, granting visa-free access to the Schengen area for Kosovo travellers from 1 January 2024. In November, the European Commission adopted a new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, foreseeing a €6 billion Reform and Growth Facility to boost the region's economic growth and accelerate socio-economic convergence. The plan represents fresh momentum in the enlargement process, which aims to bring the Western Balkans closer to the EU single market, deepen regional economic integration, accelerate fundamental reforms and increase pre-accession funds.

In August, the Kosovo Constitutional Court issued a ruling on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, paving the way for the Kosovo Assembly to complete the incorporation of the Convention into the Kosovo Constitution.

After being postponed twice in 2023, the Government announced plans to conduct its next population and housing census in April 2024, actively seeking the participation of all communities.

July
Kosovo bids for EU candidate status.

The year was simultaneously marked by escalating tensions between Pristina and Belgrade. The EU-facilitated dialogue led to the Agreement on the Path to Normalization between Pristina and Belgrade in February, followed by mutual endorsement of the Declaration on Missing Persons in May.

Development efforts were impacted by the political context, which strained institutional capacities. Government reforms faced obstacles due to a lack of cross-party collaboration in the Kosovo Assembly, particularly in ratifying international financing agreements. This deadlock blocked over €400 million in development project financing. In response to prolonged tensions in northern Kosovo, in June the EU imposed several “temporary and reversible” measures, blocking the provision of new development assistance. This affected new UN partnership initiatives across sectors, including the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs), youth employment, climate change, education, pollution and multiculturalism.

Efforts to combat corruption showed improvement, according to the 2023 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, with Kosovo advancing 18 places since 2019. Despite ongoing education sector reforms, learning outcomes remained low, as confirmed by the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results.

September
Deadly attack at Banjska/Banjskë Monastery.

However, the fragility of the progress achieved was underscored by an increase in security incidents in northern Kosovo, particularly the protest on 29 May that injured 93 Kosovo Force (KFOR) personnel and civilians and the violent attack near Banjska/Banjskë village on 24 September that left one police officer dead. This situation exacerbated the security vacuum and human rights protection gap in northern Kosovo.

Amidst the various challenges, the Government strengthened its commitment to the sustainable development agenda.

At a regional level, Kosovo continued to participate in several regional initiatives. Within the Berlin Process, the Kosovo Assembly achieved cross-party consensus with the swift adoption of three regional agreements on freedom of movement.

October
Kosovo pledges commitments to advance the SDGs.

Early in the year, it approved the NDS 2030 and adopted a three-year National Development Plan (NDP), outlining the vision for sustainable development and delivery on the 2030 Agenda. In October, it announced key SDG commitments, focusing on four policy priorities: (i) poverty reduction, (ii) accelerating the transition to energy renewables, (iii) digital transformation, and (iv) transforming education. It also plans to establish an SDG

Chapter 02 UN Development System Support to Kosovo Development Priorities



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Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021–2025 outlines four priority areas and one cross-cutting theme, each with corresponding outcomes, reflecting the vision and development goals of Kosovo. It provides the strategic direction necessary to make progress towards and achieve the SDGs.

Amidst the challenges posed by political instability and the uncertainty of shrinking resources, the UN has continued to work in partnership with the Government of Kosovo to pursue ambitious reforms towards sustainable development. In 2023, the UN mobilized \$31.7 million for initiatives outlined in the Joint Workplan 2023. This represented a sharp decline from the \$43.4 million mobilized in 2022, mainly due to EU punitive measures.

Throughout these efforts, the UN supported the NDS 2030, approved in March 2023, and enhanced its alignment with the SDGs.

The accompanying NDP consists of four main pillars: (i) Sustainable economic growth, (ii) Equal human development, (iii) Security and rule of law, and (iv) Good governance. It is 40 per cent aligned with the SDGs (87 indicators are directly linked with SDG indicators) and the ongoing NDP review will enable further SDG alignment.

The UN enabled Kosovo authorities to access specialist expertise and resources in jointly defined areas, both directly from the UN and through its international partners.

A particularly crucial initiative was the support for Kosovo around the latest population census (which was postponed to 5 April 2024).

This collaborative effort underscores the commitment to strengthening the institutions of Kosovo and leveraging multilateral support for vital initiatives.



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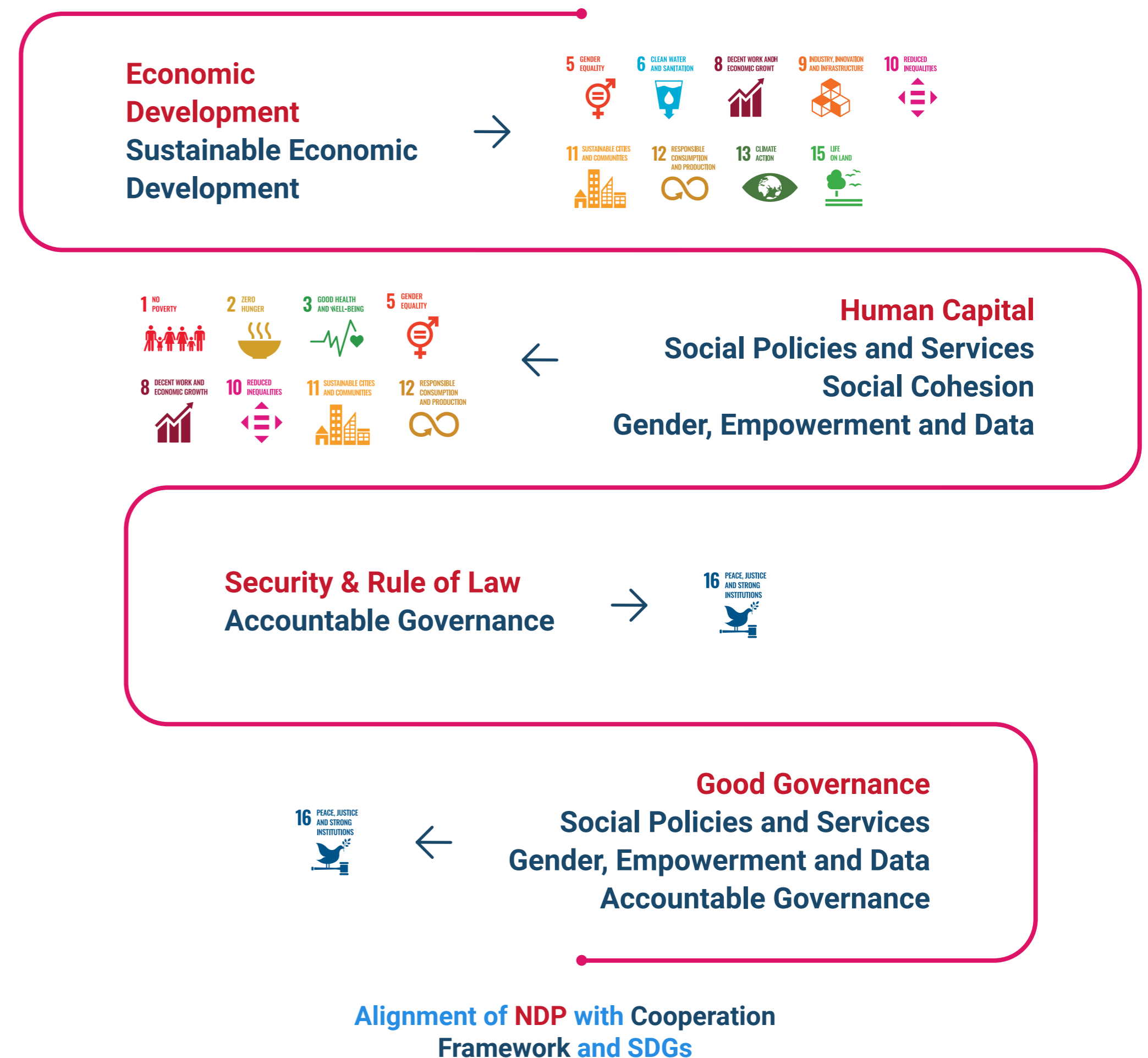
Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

The Cooperation Framework comprises of five corresponding context specific outcomes offering a strategic plan for addressing development needs in Kosovo within the five-year timeframe.

The results of each of these outcomes are outlined below.



Cooperation Framework Priority Areas



Alignment of NDP with Cooperation Framework and SDGs



Outcome 1

By 2025, all women and men in Kosovo enjoy more accountable, effective, transparent and gender-responsive institutions at all levels ensuring access to justice, equality and participation for all.

**Justice Being Served:
The Expanding Reach of Free Legal Aid**


Arrita Reznici, a dedicated young lawyer at the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI), and her team are committed to providing free legal aid to those in need. With a passion for supporting marginalized communities, and new online free legal aid tool a remarkable 30% increase in the number of individuals benefiting from free legal assistance compared to 2022 was achieved.

In Kosovo, the legal framework recognizes free legal aid as a fundamental human right, extending crucial support to marginalized communities. Arrita takes pride in the work of KLI, knowing that they are making a difference for those furthest left behind.

For individuals facing financial hardship, victims of gender-based violence (GBV) or domestic violence (DV), or anyone in need, accessing free legal aid can be a lifeline. Arrita emphasizes that advocating for those in need is not just a profession but a fulfilling calling.

KLI's impactful work is supported by the United Nations and funded by the European Union.

For more details, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code.



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Priority Area 1 Accountable Governance

Chaired by UNDP and UNHCR with participation of ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women



The UN helped to improve institutional accountability, inclusivity and gender responsiveness in Kosovo at all levels in 2023. At the beginning of the Cooperation Framework period, key good governance indicators showed low levels of satisfaction with the performance of institutions (SDG 16.6.2) and there was little belief that institutional decision-making was inclusive and responsive (SDG 16.7.2).

Similarly, public perceptions of efforts to combat corruption in the public sector (SDGs 16.5.1 and 16.5.2) was very low. The UN (through UNDP, IOM, UN-Women, UNHCR, UN-Habitat, UNODC and OHCHR) therefore prioritized SDG 16 under this outcome area, working to ensure access to justice, safety and equality for all.

In 2023, the UN agreed a groundbreaking partnership with the EU to promote implementation of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life in Kosovo. This will build the capacities of public institutions at all levels to better respond to the needs of women and girls. As a result of these efforts, 17 of the 38 municipalities in Kosovo have committed to applying gender mainstreaming to policies and plans and to implement gender-responsive actions in accordance with the European Charter. Three of the 17 municipalities successfully endorsed local action plans for gender equality in 2023 through the official approval of their respective municipal assemblies. At the central level, the UN supported the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers to incorporate gender-responsive budgeting provisions into the draft Law on Budget and draft Law on Procurement. A new €70 per month childcare subsidy for low-income families has been received by over 130 beneficiaries in the municipality of Pristina and this policy will likely be rolled out in other municipalities in the future.

The UN also helped to make the public institutions of Kosovo more inclusive and ensured the multilingualism of key public services, thereby promoting the language rights of people from all communities in Kosovo. For example, through language professionals supported by the UN, the Kosovo Judicial Council was able to translate 278 court case files to and from Albanian and Serbian, and it provided interpretation services for 216 court hearings. This contributed to improving the delivery of justice for all people. Public officials from all public institutions also improved their skills in official languages through language courses supported by the UN. At the policy level, guidelines for the implementation of the Law on Use of Languages were prepared with UN technical assistance to help ensure the law is effectively applied at the local level.

The UN (through UNODC and UNDP) further supported the Government of Kosovo as it continued to advance the policies, legal framework and institutional capacities to fight corruption, illicit financial flows and related threats, and to carry out preventive measures against corruption and asset recovery. All these efforts contributed to the better performance of public institutions. The number of new corruption charge cases increased from 1,247 in 2019 to more than 1,700 in 2023, while the value of criminal assets frozen, seized and confiscated increased from less than €5 million in 2019 to €15 million in 2023 (SDG 16.4.1).

UN capacity-building efforts also contributed to improving the safety and security of all the people of Kosovo in 2023. **Kosovo Police destroyed 1,500 illicit small arms and light weapons and confiscated more than 4,500 firearms and 250,000 rounds of ammunition (SDG 16.4.2).** This was a significant increase on the approximately 1,500 firearms and 30,000 rounds of ammunition confiscated in 2022. These tangible improvements have been felt by the people of Kosovo in their lived experiences. According to the Public Pulse Poll, the percentage of people who feel safe and secure (SDG 16.1.4) increased from 76 per cent in 2022

to 83 per cent for all groups in 2023 (from 71 to 84 per cent for men; from 73 to 82 per cent for women; from 71 to 86 per cent for Kosovo Albanians; from 22 to 34 per cent for Kosovo Serbs).

Notable progress has been made in improving access to justice for vulnerable people (SDG 16.3) and human rights. About **350 people benefited** from enhanced access to justice in areas such as concluding **birth registration** (SDG 16.9.1), being granted stateless status or accessing IDP rights and services through a UN-established case management system.

The introduction of 70 euros per month childcare subsidy for families making under 500 euros per month for the first 135 beneficiaries has been so far the most well-received GRB example in Kosovo” | UN Women – Europe and Central Asia.

Click here or scan QR code →






Perception towards corruption improved: Kosovo moved from **101 (2019) to 83 (2023)** in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index



Seventeen (17) municipalities (out of 38 in total) apply gender mainstreaming to policies and plans

the National Strategy on Employment, and draft Laws on Foreigners, Civil Status and Citizenship of Kosovo.

All of this work by the UN to ensure accountable governance in Kosovo, alongside its inter-related work throughout other areas of the Cooperation Framework, have contributed to notable improvements in key SDG 16 targets and indicators.

According to the Public Pulse Poll, the percentage of people who believed that decision-making in Kosovo institutions was inclusive and responsive (SDG 16.7.2) significantly increased from 7 per cent in 2019 (the Cooperation Framework baseline year) to 22 per cent in 2023 (from 8 to 24 per cent for women; from 6 to 21 per cent for men).

Similarly, the percentage of people satisfied with the performance of Kosovo institutions (SDG 16.6.2) increased considerably from 22 per cent in 2019 to 46 per cent in 2023 (from 21 to 49 per cent for women; from 19 to 42 per cent for men), exceeding the target set by the Cooperation Framework.

This significant improvement in perceptions of combating public sector corruption is also reflected in the 2023 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, which is linked to SDG 16.5.1 and SDG 16.5.2. Kosovo has advanced 18 places, to **eighty-third in the world**, compared to 2019, while the Corruption Perception Index value has increased from 36 to 41 in the same period.

Survivors of sexual violence during the conflict were better supported as the UN-assisted Government Commission on Recognition and Verification of the Status of Sexual Violence Victims **granted 211 people survivor status** and received **131 new applications**. At the institutional level, the UN helped improve the efficiency of **basic courts** by supporting the modernization of court filing systems and the **digitization of 2 million cases**.

To develop future human rights professionals, the UN supported the Faculty of Law at the University of Pristina to establish a master's degree programme on Human Rights, International Criminal Law, and Transitional Justice. The new course began in the 2023–2024 academic year and is open to students from Kosovo, the wider region and beyond.

Many legal and policy documents with human rights implications including enabling secure, organized and lawful migration in Kosovo have also benefited from reviews or drafting support from the UN (through UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR and UN-Women). These include the **Law on Prevention and Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence, the Justice for Children policy document and new 2024–2025 Action Plan, the Strategy on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Communities and Their Members 2023–2027, the National Strategy for the Prevention of Violent Extremism, the National Strategy on Diaspora,**

€15 million Value of criminal assets frozen, seized and confiscated

1,500 illicit small arms destroyed

4,500 firearms and 250,000 rounds of ammunition confiscated

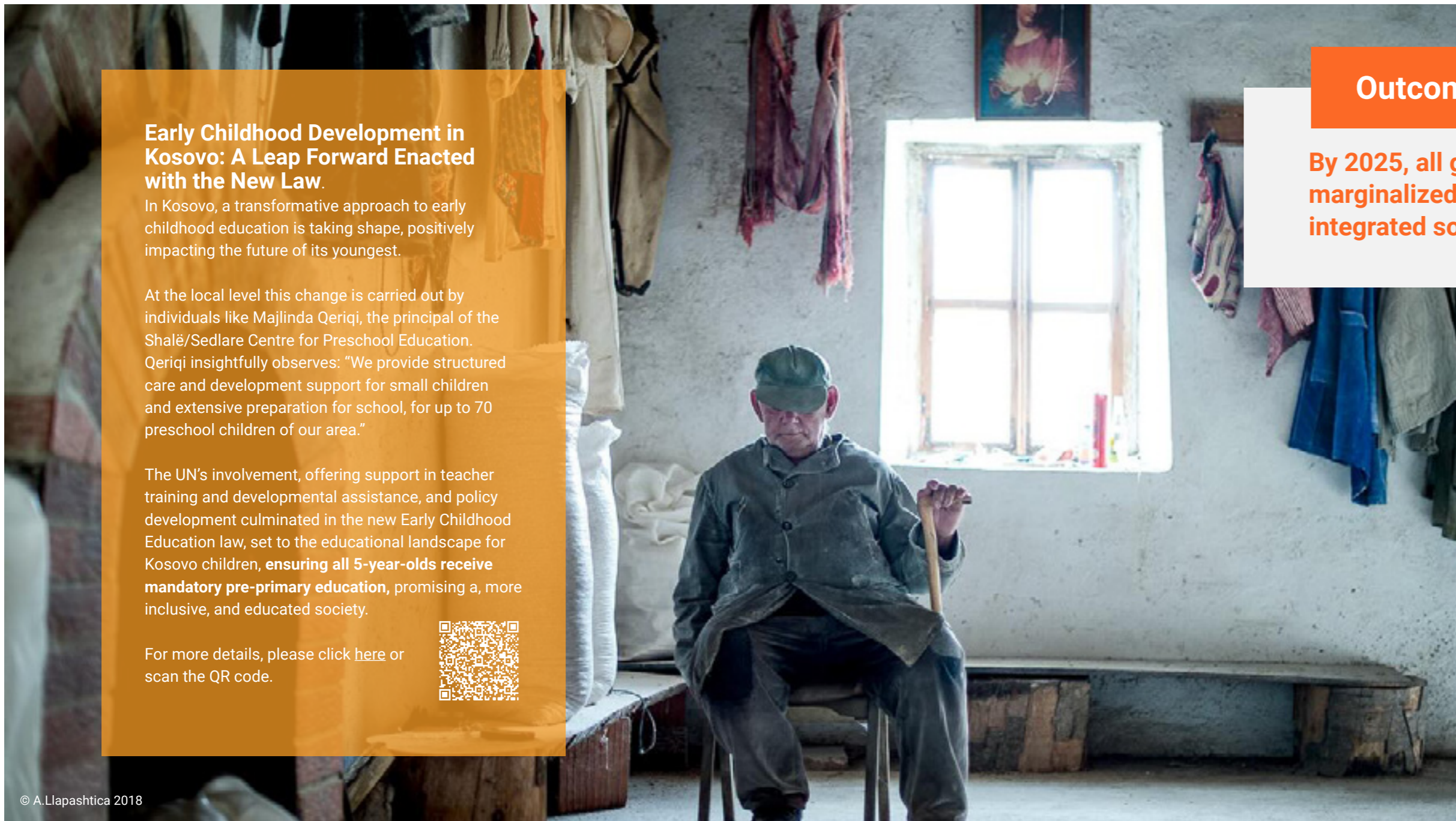
216 court hearings interpreted in official languages

211 people were granted Status of Sexual Violence Victims survivor



<81,000 people benefitted from UN-supported online and in-person language platforms





Outcome 2


By 2025, all girls and boys, women and men, particularly the most marginalized, have improved access to and utilize equitable, qualitative, integrated social protection, universal health services and quality education.

Early Childhood Development in Kosovo: A Leap Forward Enacted with the New Law.
 In Kosovo, a transformative approach to early childhood education is taking shape, positively impacting the future of its youngest.

At the local level this change is carried out by individuals like Majlinda Qeriqi, the principal of the Shalë/Sedlare Centre for Preschool Education. Qeriqi insightfully observes: "We provide structured care and development support for small children and extensive preparation for school, for up to 70 preschool children of our area."

The UN's involvement, offering support in teacher training and developmental assistance, and policy development culminated in the new Early Childhood Education law, set to the educational landscape for Kosovo children, **ensuring all 5-year-olds receive mandatory pre-primary education**, promising a, more inclusive, and educated society.

For more details, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



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In 2023, the UN supported the Ministry of Health to carry out an independent **multisectoral assessment of the health emergency preparedness and response capacities of Kosovo**. The assessment, which covered 53 indicators from various sectors, including health, veterinary, the environment and border control, included a list of recommendations to ministries on enhancing their preparedness and a costed action plan. The UN also supported health authorities to finalize preparations for **establishing the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre** and to develop relevant administrative instructions. At the municipal level, seven municipalities integrated the **Minimum Initial Service Package** into emergency plans. The UN also assisted the authorities of Kosovo to complete their first ever health accounts review. This will allow Kosovo to systematically track its public health spending and will guide future policies and public finance investment to make health services more accessible and available to the people.

Hard-to-reach populations also benefited from catch-up vaccination campaigns delivered with UN support. Following door-to-door visits, **more than 1,200 previously unvaccinated children from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are now better protected** from a range of diseases.

In 2023, the UN helped to ensure that comprehensive health services were extended to more people in Kosovo. More than **18,000 additional children (50 per cent girls)** under the age of 3 and more than **4,000 additional pregnant women received health and well-being support through the Home Visiting Programme**. Now operational in all 38 municipalities, the programme is fully funded by government resources. The Ministry of Health also provided **23 additional vehicles** to municipalities to ensure the wider reach of the programme, especially in rural areas. To help enhance sexual and reproductive health, the UN supported the Ministry of Health to draft an **action plan and revise the Law on Reproductive Health and Medically Assisted Conception**, which is currently undergoing approval in the Kosovo Assembly. Thanks to UN advocacy, modern contraceptives were successfully retained on the essential drugs list.

Three vaccines are being rolled out as standard in Kosovo for the first time as the Ministry of Health expanded the immunization programme with UN support (through WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA). This expansion will help to ensure fewer people in Kosovo become seriously ill or die due to rotavirus diarrhoea, pneumococcal diseases and cervical cancer. With cervical cancer a leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women in Kosovo, the introduction of human papillomavirus **HPV vaccines for girls aged 12** is particularly significant and is expected to have a profound impact in reducing the disease. To support the vaccine rollout, the UN also enabled around **300 health care professionals** to update their knowledge and improve their skills in providing safe immunization services, including managing adverse effects following immunization, vaccine monitoring and stock management.

Four municipalities continued to implement cervical **cancer screening**, with **2,600 women** screened during 2023, while the UN is supporting **three other municipalities** to establish similar services. Clinical guidelines were aligned with international standards in four areas: normal delivery, caesarean sections, management and treatment of sexual violence, and fetal echocardiography. The UN also supported the Kosovo Ombudsperson Institution to monitor the status of 528 recommendations generated from the 2021 **National Inquiry on sexual and reproductive health and rights**.

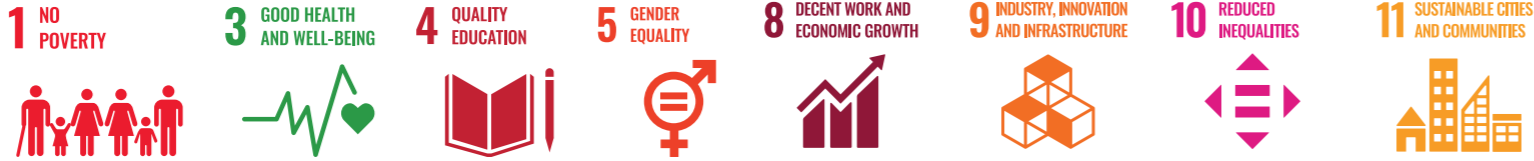
18,000 additional children (50% girls) under the age of three
3,400 pregnant women
7,900 older people

benefitted from Home Visiting Programme



Priority Area 2 Social policies and services

Chaired by UNICEF and WHO with participation of ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNODC, UNOPS



A significant minority of the population of Kosovo is unable to access universal health care (70 per cent in 2019), and not everybody is able to access vaccinations for preventable diseases. A key priority of the UN in 2023 (through WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNOPS) was to improve access to qualitative health services for all, especially the most marginalized.

The UN provided policy advice to expand universal health coverage (SDG 3.8.1), helped to expand immunization programmes (SDGs 3.b.1 and 3.b.3) and developed capacities for the provision of affordable, high quality and people-centred health services, especially for mother and child health (SDGs 3.1.1, 3.2.1 and 3.2.2), including in emergency settings.





2600 women Screened for cervical cancer

This monitoring revealed systematic violations of women and girls' rights and poor service quality. Progress was made, with 146 recommendations successfully implemented by the end of 2023, while 188 recommendations were awaiting implementation, 28 were partially executed and 176 had yet to be addressed.

In terms of the education sector, there is a need to raise enrolment rates in early childhood education, which stood at just 14 per cent in 2019, and to increase the quality of that education (SDG 4.4.2). Action is also required to raise the quality of pre-university education in Kosovo (SDG 4.1.1), as evidenced by low scores in the 2022 PISA results. The UN therefore directed its support towards these areas.

In 2023, the UN supported the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation to develop the **Law on Early Childhood Education**, which was formally **adopted in July**. The new law lays the foundations for expanding access to early childhood education through a wide range of service delivery models and quality enhancement measures. It also mandates compulsory pre-primary education and foresees support for families, as well as cross-sectoral coordination.



HPV vaccine doses for girls aged 12 rolled out

The UN also supported the Ministry of Education to develop the **first draft of a core curriculum for children aged 0–6 in a preschool setting**. The draft curriculum focuses on play-based learning and child-centred pedagogy. The Ministry of Education prioritized locations for early childhood education investment by using the technical tool developed by the UN.

In 2023, the Ministry contracted **seven new preschools** for construction and five existing schools were repurposed into preschools, while **the construction of 12 preschools continued from 2022**. As a result, an additional 2,200 children in Kosovo will have access to early childhood education.

Recognizing these positive developments, the World Bank Group allocated a financial package of €22 million to expand investments in early childhood education. Although substantial improvements will require more time, early indications are positive. **Between 2020 and 2023, the percentage of children aged 36–59 months attending an early childhood education programme (SDG 4.2.2) increased from 14 to 16 per cent**. The UN also helped to ensure that education in Kosovo is more inclusive.



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It supported **15 municipalities to draft local action plans for preventing school dropout** and built the capacity of 249 prevention and response teams in compulsory and upper secondary education. Consequently, 147 students (63 per cent girls) received training on dropout prevention, and 340 young people (90 girls and 250 boys) who had dropped out of school were identified and successfully reintegrated into the education system. The UN also helped to improve access to education for children with disabilities in 10 target municipalities, where educators are now able to provide essential support in 15 fully resourced classrooms that are equipped with ICT and assistive technology.

A further focus of the UN in 2023 was assisting reform of the social protection system in Kosovo (through UNICEF, ILO, UNDP and IOM). This included supporting the efforts of the Government to address gaps in coverage, financing and service quality, particularly in safeguarding the most vulnerable groups. The **Law on Social and Family Services was approved** and numerous sub-legal acts and operational manuals governing the provision of social assistance, pension schemes and social services to vulnerable groups were finalized. Following UN advocacy efforts and work to strengthen technical capacities, the Ministry of Justice **increased monthly payments for children placed in foster care and kinship care families by an average of 40 per cent, benefiting 485 children**.

At the service delivery level, more than 300 staff working in **Centres for Social Work** have improved their skills to deliver a wide range of social services. Additionally, the capacity-building work of the UN resulted in **approximately 1,500**

children with disabilities (43 per cent girls) benefiting from direct or blended services from community-based rehabilitation and day-care centres. Similarly, **180 children in street situations (40 per cent girls) and 151 parents (96 mothers)** benefited from psychosocial and educational services. Additionally, the UN helped to boost the capacity of municipal Teams for the Rights of the Child to implement the Standard Operating Procedures for Children in Hazardous Child Labour in **27 municipalities** and to draft municipal action plans for the protection of children.

UN support also enabled social service workers engaged with asylum seekers, migrants and refugees to advance their skills on integration, counter-trafficking and mitigating related risks, ensuring that these vulnerable groups receive adequate support.

Responding to the immediate needs of returnees, migrants and IDPs, 351 people received help with essential needs like food, shelter, health care and education through **UN cash assistance** programmes. UN advocacy efforts improved access to rights and services for returnees and IDPs for approximately 700 individuals. Over 100 new non-majority returnees were registered, qualifying them for post-return monitoring services. Additionally, 137 IDPs in collective centers received support. Targeted programmes empowered 60 displaced women with skills for greater economic and social autonomy.

To help address the needs of the rising numbers of migrants transiting through Kosovo, the UN supported the Government to establish a **Temporary Reception Centre for Migrants** within the Vranidoll Compound, offering shelter and essential services, including psychosocial support. It also assisted 40 stranded migrants to return to their homes.



Early Childhood Education Law approved



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A Labour Market more Malleable and Less Rigid for Women

Xhevrije, a wife, mother and grandmother in pursuit of a better life had migrated to France in 2018. She encountered unexpected challenges when her husband suffered a life-altering accident. Her family was repatriated. Despite these hardships, Xhevrije refused to be defined by societal expectations. Instead, she took charge of her family's auto repair shop, breaking gender norms and stereotypes. She is determined to support her family and empower others. "I started with a bare minimum of work, to give a full meaning of what I do today for a decent living for me and my family," she says.

She is considering expanding the workshop and offer internship opportunities to young mechanics. "It will ease down our business activities, and will help them gain practical skills, as well as enter the labour market more easily," Xhevrije says.

Xhevrije is an inspiring woman, showcasing the power of resilience and the ability to create positive change, supported by the UNDP's Active Labour Market Programmes 2 (ALMP 2).

For more details, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



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Outcome 3

By 2025, women and men in Kosovo, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, have increased access to decent work and benefit from sustainable and inclusive economic development that is more resilient to impacts of climate change, disasters and emergencies.

Young people (aged 15–24), women and the most vulnerable people in Kosovo often struggle to find meaningful work. In 2019 – the Cooperation Framework baseline year – half of the young people in Kosovo were unemployed (SDG 8.5.2), the highest rate in Europe, and 33 per cent of young people were not in employment, education or training (NEET). By comparison, the NEET rate in the 27 EU countries was 13 per cent. Kosovo also had the highest rate of women's inactivity in the labour market in Europe at 79 per cent. The primary focus of the UN in this priority area is therefore to promote good jobs, especially for youth, women and the most vulnerable. It aims to do this by simultaneously supporting the green transition and the climate change mitigation and adaptation agenda, including the better management of natural resources.

UN (through UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and IOM) supported the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport to create the first cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial youth-oriented laws and policies in Kosovo.

The **new Strategy for Youth 2024–2032 and three-year action plan (2024–2026)** was approved by the Government, while the new Law on Youth was approved by the Government and sent to the

Parliament for approval. The UN continued to support businesses run by people from non-majority communities as well as inter-ethnic business chains for more inclusive development. A total of **114 businesses** owned by people from non-majority communities benefited from support to increase their competitiveness and market access, and around **3,050 livelihood opportunities were provided to women, youth and people from non-majority groups.**

A video on preventing work accidents in the construction sector was prepared and promoted as part of campaign "Decent Work for a Dignified Life" which was launched on 28 April 2023. The video was posted in the Labour Inspectorate's official website and social media channels, and it was broadcasted in Kosovo's Public Television. By the end of May 2023, the video reached 221,280 views.

Click here or Scan QR Code →



To help reduce the high **youth NEET** rate in 2023 (SDG 8.6.1), the UN (through ILO, UNDP and UNICEF) provided highly specialized technical support to the Government of Kosovo to produce a pilot plan for implementing the Youth Guarantee. This is a pledge made by EU countries and others that every young person under the age of 30 will receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of either leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. In addition, more than 650 young people (63 per cent women) accessed an internship after the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers got the UN-backed Kosovo Generation Unlimited scheme fully up and running.

Due to strong demand for labour following the COVID-19 crisis and supportive policies, the youth unemployment rate (SDG 8.5.2) dropped from 50 per cent in 2019 to 21 per cent in 2022 while the youth NEET rate and women's inactivity rate remained almost unchanged during this period.

A lot of employment in Kosovo is informal in nature – an estimated 35 per cent of total employment in 2019. Compliance with occupational health and safety standards is also often lacking. In order to improve working conditions (SDG 8.8.1), in 2023 the UN (through ILO, UN-Women, UNFPA and UNDP) helped the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers to **prepare the Labour Inspectorate Development Strategy 2023–2027 and its multi-year implementation plan.** It also helped to ensure that all new labour inspectors were equipped with the required knowledge and skills for occupational health and safety (OSH), including recognizing important gender considerations.

Approximately 18,000 people (or 25 per cent of people registered as unemployed in Kosovo) benefited from active labour measures delivered by the Kosovo Employment Agency with UN technical assistance. This support was particularly focused on those most disconnected from the labour market. In addition, the



Priority Area 3 Resilient, sustainable and inclusive economic development

Chaired by UNDP and UN-Habitat with participation of FAO, ILO, IOM, UNEP, UNICEF, UNWomen, UNV, WHO





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18% women led businesses



5 new signatories of Women Empowerment Principles



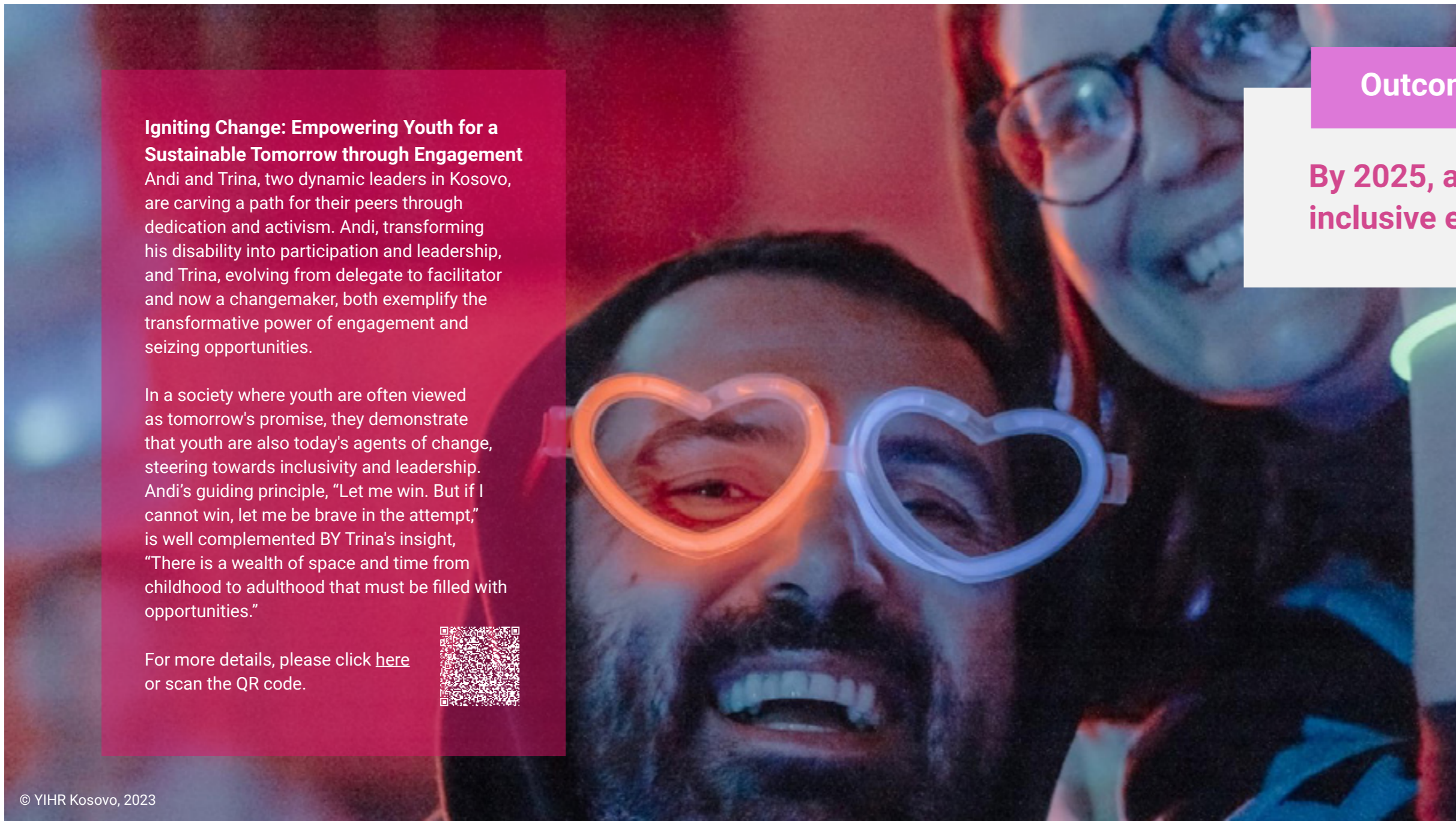
120 ha of land afforested

The UN facilitated a **study on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace in Kosovo for Public and Private Sector** and followed it up with various training activities and awareness-raising campaigns. As a result, staff from a wide range of professions, fields and sectors, including Labour Inspectorate staff, now have a better understanding of topics such as preventing sexual harassment in the workplace and how to implement family-friendly policies. Additionally, **13 private sector entities had joined the Women's Empowerment Principles** of the UN by the end of 2023. Initial indicators suggest that the UN wide scale awareness-raising campaigns on gender-responsive family policies have contributed to reducing the gender gap in Kosovo. According to preliminary data, between 2019 and 2023 the **average time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (SDG 5.4.1) decreased for women (from 7.2 to 6.2 hours per day)** and increased for men (from 2.5 to 3.5 hours). To help ensure greater inclusion of people with disabilities in the labour market, the UN also supported the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers to develop a **regulation that standardizes procedures and practices for employing people with disabilities in the public sector.**

As Kosovo continues its green transition and develops its climate change resilience, the UN supported the Government to prepare the Circular Economy Roadmap and finalize the first Law on Climate Change, which introduces a voluntary nationally determined contribution. It also supported about 60 businesses to embrace the green transition through various partnership arrangements. UN support extended to the municipal level, where it assisted local governments to develop municipal climate actions, explore areas for creating **emissions data systems**, plan investments and pilot interventions that support their transition towards zero emission development pathways. Five municipalities were supported to develop Air Quality Management Plans and two municipalities began implementation of cross-sector Climate Change Intervention Plans. Following the flood emergency in January, the UN (through IOM, FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF and WHO) launched a Flood Response Plan that focused on three crucial areas of support: (i) food security and agriculture, (ii) shelter, non-food items and services, and (iii) early recovery and livelihoods. Due to the coordinated response by the UN, the Government and civil society organizations, rapid needs assessments were conducted in 11 municipalities, identifying over 21,500 people in need. Through the Flood Response Plan, the UN assisted 910 flood-affected farming households in nine municipalities with cash vouchers, another 792 households (4,000 individuals) with cash vouchers for food and non-food items, and a further 300 households (1,500 individuals) with family hygiene kits and multi-purpose cash vouchers. The UN also provided shelter to those displaced by the floods, particularly those from the most vulnerable households. Beyond delivering immediate humanitarian aid, the UN supported the capacities of municipalities to deal with **emergency livelihood assistance to flood-affected households and farmers.**

To improve the management of natural resources (SDGs 15.1.1 and 15.2.1), the UN worked with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development to advance the legal framework on forestry, including both primary and secondary legislation. The new **Law on Forests** was adopted along with a communication plan on the sustainable use of forest resources, and people were better informed about the protection and sustainable use of forests following awareness-raising campaigns. More than **100 participants** from Kosovo and Albania learned about multipurpose forest management and protecting forest health at the first Forest Camp in Kosovo. Illegal forestry activities will also be harder to carry out in Kosovo after the UN equipped the forestry sector with a Forest Information System and state of the art surveillance tools and monitoring equipment. It also trained Kosovo Forestry Agency staff to use GPS, binoculars and drones to carry out more effective forest management and inspection. About 120 ha of fresh forest will be created in Kosovo after the UN assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development with seedlings for afforestation (SDG 15.1.1). The Ministry developed expertise and resources related to maintaining the health of forests and utilizing the forest laboratory, including the design and piloting of multipurpose forest management plans (at four pilot units), improving forest fire management capacities within the Kosovo Forest Agency and overseeing wildlife and hunting activities in Kosovo.





Outcome 4

By 2025, all communities in Kosovo benefit equitably from inclusive engagement and greater social cohesion.

Igniting Change: Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Tomorrow through Engagement

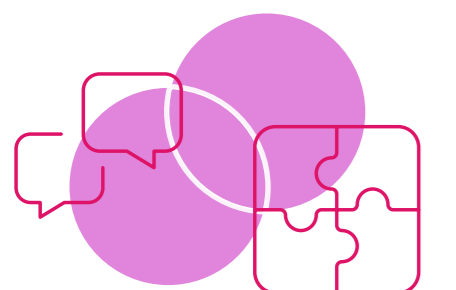
Andi and Trina, two dynamic leaders in Kosovo, are carving a path for their peers through dedication and activism. Andi, transforming his disability into participation and leadership, and Trina, evolving from delegate to facilitator and now a changemaker, both exemplify the transformative power of engagement and seizing opportunities.

In a society where youth are often viewed as tomorrow's promise, they demonstrate that youth are also today's agents of change, steering towards inclusivity and leadership. Andi's guiding principle, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," is well complemented by Trina's insight, "There is a wealth of space and time from childhood to adulthood that must be filled with opportunities."

For more details, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



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Priority Area 4
Social Cohesion

Chaired by IOM and UNICEF with participation of OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women



In 2023, escalating political tensions between Pristina and Belgrade, and an increase in security incidents in northern Kosovo placed ever greater emphasis on the need to bolster social cohesion in Kosovo. The UN focused its efforts on promoting inter-community dialogue and interactions to help build mutual trust.

Contributing towards sustainable peace, the UN (through IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN-Women) facilitated numerous inter-ethnic community initiatives. These particularly brought together young people, helping to foster positive inter-ethnic relations and strengthen confidence in institutions.

During 2023, the youth gatherings and a wide range of other interactive activities promoted peacebuilding, human rights, critical thinking and tackling hate speech. **Around 3,200 young women and men** of different ethnic backgrounds learned to challenge common assumptions and were empowered to construct their own beliefs in an open-minded way, beyond ethnically influenced stereotypes. For example, the **fifth Youth Assembly**, which was funded by the Peacebuilding Fund of the Secretary General, **brought together about 150 young women and men** to discuss important topics such as youth participation, the role of young people in community work, volunteerism and peacebuilding, and how to combat hate speech and discrimination as part of a more inclusive society.

With communication such an important tool for building social cohesion, the UN also helped people from different ethnic backgrounds in Kosovo to learn each other's languages. During 2023, 10,000 new users registered on the UN-supported language learning platform VocUp, bringing the total number of registered

users in Kosovo to more than **81,000**. Similarly, students from all communities are able to learn more in depth about the region at the University of Pristina through the UN-supported Language Centre and Balkan Studies programme, which ran for the third year.

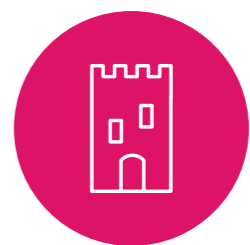
The UN continued to strengthen inter-community trust through the restoration and preservation of cultural and religious sites. **Ten sites** were rehabilitated for community use in Kosovo, contributing to the preservation of its multi-ethnic and cultural heritage.

As a step towards reconciliation and the prevention of new violations, the UN (through OHCHR, UNDP and UN-Women) continued to engage in **transitional justice** activities.

The hundreds of families of people still missing from the Kosovo conflict are better represented after the UN helped the **Coordinating Council of Family Associations of Missing Persons in Kosovo to digitize its archive**. As a result, the Coordinating Council and public institutions dealing with conflict-related crimes and missing persons are able to better coordinate their work and exchange relevant information. For the first time in 2023, Kosovo was included in the regional UN project that addresses legacies of the conflicts in former Yugoslavia. Through this project, social cohesion and inter-ethnic dialogue were bolstered as institutional actors, members of civil society and media professionals were all supported to upgrade their skills while cooperating with regional counterparts. Improving social cohesion means ensuring the inclusion of people from all community groups in Kosovo.



3,000 young men and women engaged in interactive UN peacebuilding and human rights programmes



10 sites of cultural significance were rehabilitated



1,000 children and young people empowered to combat discrimination

Eight community and school-based learning centres renovated benefitting 1,165 children

Office for Community Affairs Platform operational

In 2023, the UN (through UNICEF, IOM and UNFPA) continued to support interactions between Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian people and those from other communities in Kosovo. More than **1,000 children and young people** were given the opportunity to share common experiences and activities with those from other communities in a bid to reduce prejudices and eliminate all forms of discrimination. Young people from marginalized communities in five Kosovo municipalities now have better learning environments and support after the UN supported the renovation of eight community and school-based learning centres. This included equipping them to provide daily educational services and promote timely registration and regular school attendance, with 1,165 children (540 girls and 625 boys) – including 131 preschoolers (58 girls and 73 boys) – benefiting directly. Additionally, more than 200 young people were empowered to advocate for their communities and pursue sustainable livelihoods as a result of skills-based development activities at the learning centres, and 450 teachers and other staff were trained in inclusive education, mediation techniques, tackling educational dropout

and social protection policies. More targeted and effective solutions can be found to the challenges faced by non-majority communities as a result of a new online platform. Supported by the UN, the platform – operated by the Office for Community Affairs within the Office of the Prime Minister – focuses on non-majority issues, rights, projects and the related legislative framework.

Work to improve social cohesion in Kosovo is having an impact, with key indicators showing notable improvements. According to the Public Pulse Poll, the **perception of people who felt discriminated against** in a situation in the previous six months (SDGs 10.2.1 and 16.b.1) **decreased significantly** from 11 per cent in 2019 (10 per cent of women; 13 per cent of men) to 6 per cent in 2023 (6 per cent of women; 7 per cent of men). At the same time, the **perception among those who believe that relations between Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs “are not so tense” or “are not tense at all”** (SDG 16.b.1) **decreased** overall, from 20 to 12 per cent, due to recent tensions in northern Kosovo.



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Outcome 5

By 2025, all women and men in Kosovo, particularly young people, vulnerable groups and displaced persons, increasingly achieve gender equality, claim their rights and fulfil civic responsibilities


Data-Driven Change: Improving Domestic Violence Response in Kosovo

In 2023, Kosovo's Unified Database for Monitoring and Prosecuting Domestic Violence Cases saw a significant enhancement. 200 government employees are now fully capable of utilising this database and automation procedure, exemplifying a systemic approach to combatting domestic violence. The database, enriched by modules from Kosovo Probation and Correctional Services and the Agency for Free Legal Aid, aligns with the Istanbul Convention.

Spearheading the technical expansion, IT engineer Ms. Albina Stavileci shares, "We've successfully integrated new modules, elevating service quality for survivors and case processing efficiency."

Additionally, Sergeant Xhemile Behluli from the Police underlines the importance of data in triggering effective institutional responses. This innovative approach demonstrates Kosovo's dedication to reducing gender-based violence, highlighting the role of technology in fostering impactful social change through increased service quality.

For more details, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



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To help increase gender equality and the implementation of people's rights in Kosovo, the UN (through UNFPA, IOM, UNDP, UN-Women, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNHCR and UN-Habitat) continued to take a two-pronged approach in 2023. The first involved empowering rights holders themselves, especially the most vulnerable, to know their rights and to exercise them through civic participation. Simultaneously, the UN continued to put pressure on Kosovo institutions to become more accountable and to deliver better quality services.

Violence, uniting institutions, the private sector, media, civil society and academia. Awareness-raising materials on violence against women were disseminated by the internet services company Gjirafa, a major player in the digital economy in Kosovo through their popular website. UN activities throughout the campaign reached about **127,000 impressions** – equivalent to approximately one in seven people in Kosovo.

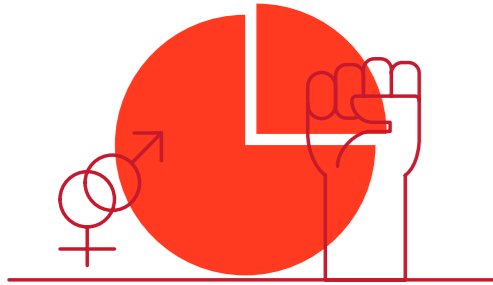
Women and girls in Kosovo who have experienced discrimination or violence, including those from disadvantaged groups, were empowered through a wide range of civil society initiatives. These were made possible through UN support for projects that support implementation of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** concluding observations and other human rights instruments. Young people also continued to benefit from UN-backed empowerment opportunities in schools and in non-formal and informal settings. Overall, approximately **12,000 young people** were equipped with knowledge and advocacy skills to **address their needs and rights**, as well as those of their communities, in areas such as skills for life, gender equality, tackling gender-based violence, and human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

There have been tangible positive behavioural changes and improvements in youth empowerment and gender equality during the period of the Cooperation Framework to date. According to the most recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey data, the proportion of women aged 15–49 who state that domestic violence is justified fell from 33 to 25 per cent between 2019 and 2023. For men, the drop was from 15 to 12 per cent. Similarly, the number of domestic violence complaints filed (related to SDGs 5.2.1 and 16.3.1) increased by 38 per cent (2,638 cases in 2023 from 1,915 in 2019). This may reflect increased reporting, which would indicate greater empowerment and positive behavioural changes among domestic violence survivors.

Kosovo institutions, with UN support (through UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and IOM), are increasingly generating information, evidence and data to inform priorities and policy development in line with the SDGs. The UN supported the Office for Strategic Planning within the Office of the Prime Minister to align NDS 2030 performance indicators with SDG targets and indicators. Progress towards key outcomes can also be better monitored and more efficiently reported after the UN supported the Office for Strategic Planning to develop an exploratory dashboard that visualizes the NDS 2030 and accompanying NDP.

To address gender-based violence – and enhance gender equality more generally – it is essential to increase awareness and knowledge among both women and men. To help reach people from all parts of Kosovo no matter what their background, the UN therefore orchestrated a diverse range of activities for the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based**

 **Significant decrease in domestic violence acceptance & 21% increase in reporting of incidents**



Priority Area 5 Gender, empowerment and data

Chaired by UN Women and UNFPA with participation of IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF



Child rights monitoring system operational

NDS 2030 performance indicators aligned with SDGs at 40%

Extended Migration Profile developed

Human Rights Network fourth report published

120 events organized during 16 Days of Activism agender GBV

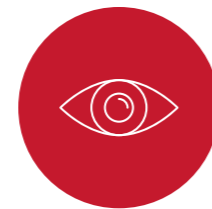
With the latest population and housing census taking place in Kosovo between April 5 and May 17 2024, the UN supported KAS in its preparations to conduct a successful Population and Housing Census (PHC) (SDG 17.19.2). This included assisting with a range of pre-census and census-related activities, from finalizing the census questionnaire to producing the communications strategy. The UN also helped to ensure that communications materials were accessible to all, including people from those from non-majority communities, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. Beyond the census, KAS migration data tools and methodologies are now better aligned with Eurostat and international standards following a UN review and assistance in standardizing migration movement statistics and tracking. At the same time, the UN strengthened the child rights monitoring system through technical and financial support to KAS, the Office for Good Governance and line ministries, with a focus on improving child data reporting processes and data availability. Additionally, the capacity of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was enhanced to report on the situation of children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Through the UN-supported domestic violence database, Kosovo institutions have a valuable resource for evidence-based policymaking. Three new modules – tailored for the Kosovo Probation Service, Kosovo Correctional Service, and the Agency for Free Legal Aid – were introduced in 2023, forming a unified database and consolidating information from the three institutions. The system not only facilitates data collection but also allows for the generation of statistical reports through visually informative charts and diagrams.

To better understand population flows, the UN supported the Government Authority on Migration to develop the Extended Migration Profile 2018–2022, offering detailed insights into mobility trends and tailored recommendations for informed decision-making. In addition, the geographical coverage of the Displacement Tracking Matrix was expanded by 50 per cent with the help of the UN. Six municipalities are now able to monitor population displacement and mobility, including inward migration, providing critical information to decision-makers at the local and central levels. The extent of labour migration can also now be measured through the matrix following adaptations to the system. In parallel, the UN empowered the Department of Citizenship, Asylum and Migration within the Ministry of Internal Affairs to expand and modify reporting requirements, aligning them with Eurostat standards. Valuable baseline data and a greater understanding of various development challenges in Kosovo are now available thanks to a range of UN studies on issues ranging from children in street situations and early childhood interventions to household digitization.

With regards to human rights, the Human Rights Network, a coalition of 37 human rights focused civil society organizations in Kosovo, published their fourth annual report on the human rights situation in Kosovo, with a new chapter on non-discrimination, equality and human rights. This joint report, supported by the UN, continued to fill a critical human rights monitoring and reporting gap and provided 160 concrete recommendations to relevant institutions. To bolster the impact of their work, the Human Rights Network presented the report to the Prime Minister of Kosovo and held an advocacy meeting with Kosovo institutions.

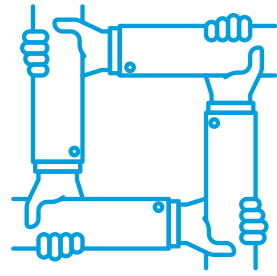


12,000 young people equipped to advocate for their needs and engage in community decision-making processes



127,000 views of awareness-raising campaigns on gender-responsive family policies





Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

To advance the 2030 Agenda and its associated SDGs, the UN forged new partnerships and sustained existing ones in 2023. Resources were mobilized through a variety of channels, including UN core funding, international financial institutions, and bilateral and multilateral donors. Despite continuing challenges stemming from the measures imposed by the EU and the ineligibility of Kosovo for UN multilateral funds, Kosovo persevered in its development efforts.

Institutional Partnerships

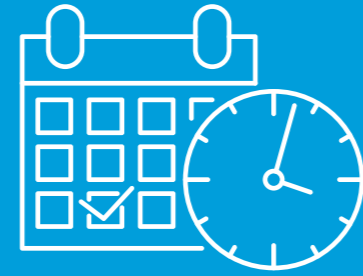
Strategic collaborations with the Office for Strategic Planning of the Prime Minister deepened the integration of SDGs into the **NDS 2030**. The partnership of the UN with the **Sustainable Development Council of the Kosovo Assembly** resulted in the creation of a strategic framework and action plan, enhancing the capacities of Council members to integrate SDG targets into legislation. The reinvigorated Sustainable Development Council, spearheaded by the UN, is poised to provide oversight of the NDS 2030. It will further mainstream SDGs into a reduced number of sectoral strategies, advocating for parliamentary integration of SDGs into legislation, while building institutional capacities, such as development and maintenance of the new **KAS SDG dashboard**.

Non-traditional partnerships

In 2023, the UN continued to push partnership frontiers. Its continued collaboration with the “KfV Prishtina” girls’ football club went from strength to strength, with their programme now reaching a wider demographic and promoting not just fair play but also social cohesion and gender equality. Many more girls’ football clubs have been established based on the KfV model, including from minority communities in Štrpce/Shtërpçë and Gračanica/Graçanicë.

Even now, as we speak, bodies are washing ashore from the same Mediterranean Sea where billionaires sunbathe on their super yachts. Derna is a sad snapshot of the state of our world – the flood of inequity, of injustice, of inability to confront the challenges.

António Guterres,
Secretary-General of the UN



Promotion and observance of ‘International Days’ and campaigns

The UN-led Global Open Day 2023, whose theme was “Women at the forefront of peace and innovation”, provided a significant platform for women leaders in Kosovo. The **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign** also saw **over 120 events** across Kosovo, with more than 60,000 in-person participants and many more online and over social media, spreading awareness and fostering dialogue on this critical issue. Full calendar available [here](#).

The **#BodyRight campaign** helped to uphold human rights principles in the age of artificial intelligence, when people’s bodies and faces can be misused in doctored features, videos, audio and still photos, and there are limited legal protections for a person’s image online.

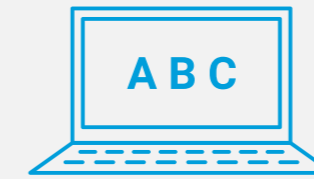
The **2023 #UntieTheKnot** campaign raised awareness and advocated for the rights of children with disabilities in Kosovo. A 400 kg knot made of 2,000 metres of rope symbolized the challenges these children face as the campaign called for legal changes, greater accessibility in public spaces, inclusive education, improved health and child protection services, and enhanced efforts to tackle stigmatization and discrimination. The knot was **presented in three municipalities**, reaching **more than 50,000 people**, while 500 people signed the public call, which reached more than 200,000 people online.

With workplace safety a big challenge in Kosovo, especially in the booming construction sector, the UN backed a three-month video campaign in both Albanian and Serbian on the public service broadcaster, Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK).

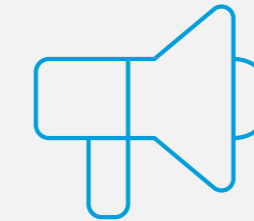
Private Sector Partnerships

In 2023, collaboration with the private sector was instrumental in promoting sustainable development in Kosovo. Notably, **5 more companies adopted the Women’s Empowerment Principles**, demonstrating a commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment in the workplace. Partnership with leading financial institutions and tech companies also enabled numerous initiatives aimed at youth skills development and the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) among women and girls.

Collaboration with the private sector was equally important for the youth agenda in other ways. The UN-backed Kosovo Generation Unlimited programme significantly expanded to 744 participating entities, establishing itself as the main port of call for young people seeking employability opportunities. More than 650 young people secured three-month internships, traineeships, or mentoring opportunities through the platform in 2023.



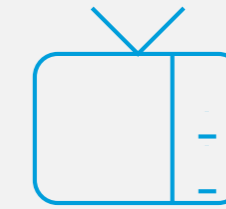
An additional
€5.8 million allocated
for preschool education



+ 175,000 people
of all backgrounds made aware of the needs
of children with disabilities through the
#UntieTheKnot campaign

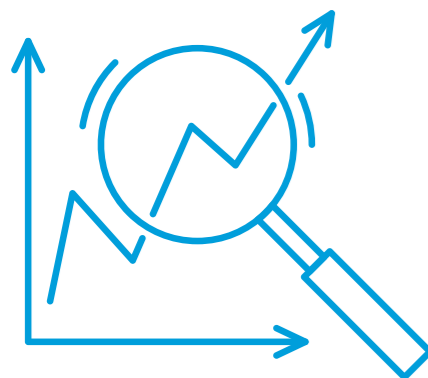


SDG acceleration commitments
published by the Government



2024 census communication campaign available in
Albanian, Serbian, Turkish and Romani,
and in accessible formats through
Radio Television Kosovo (RTK)





The results of working better together

In 2023, the 17 UN agencies that make up UNKT worked together as one to deliver positive outcomes for the people of Kosovo.

For example, under the Census Value Proposition, UN agencies came together to support KAS with expertise, capacity-building and technical support not only in relation to the census but also other data-collection initiatives that helped inform evidence-based policy decision-making. The Social Protection Value Proposition represents a similar success story of closer collaboration as various UN agencies feed in new information and data to support ongoing social protection reforms in Kosovo. Meanwhile, the Digital Transformation Strategy, encapsulated in a concept paper, delineates areas where the UN can use its vast array of expertise to assist the Government in fostering inclusive digital development in Kosovo.

To prepare for future comprehensive UN programmes on digital transition areas, the Development Coordinator also spearheaded a collaborative programme with three UN agencies in 2023. The programme is helping to further extend UN expertise in key sectors, particularly food systems and education.

Following the floods that ripped through 11 municipalities in January 2023, the Development Coordinator initiated a costed UNKT Flood Response and Early Recovery Plan with the help of OCHA. Acting as an appeal for essential funds, it set out a strategic and coordinated response plan for flood relief efforts that can collectively meet the ongoing humanitarian and early recovery needs of affected populations. To date, the appeal has secured \$6.1 million – 22 per cent of the total funding required. Contributions include \$533,000 from Switzerland, in-kind support from the Dutch Risk Reduction Team and Belgium in the amount of \$24,000 as well as \$811,000 mobilized by UN agencies. Additionally, the Government allocated approximately \$10 million to affected municipalities based on its own assessment. Beyond providing humanitarian aid, in the wake of the floods the UN promoted sustainable development through early recovery initiatives, local capacity-building and disaster risk reduction measures.

The UN supported the Office for Strategic Planning within the Office of the Prime Minister in aligning key NDS 2030 performance indicators with SDG targets and indicators, and in visualizing the NDS 2030 and NDP into an exploratory dashboard.

The NDP is now 40 per cent aligned with SDGs (with 87 indicators directly linked with SDG indicators), up from 22 per cent previously. The ongoing NDP review will provide space for further SDG alignment.

In October 2023, the UN also helped the Government prepare its voluntary submission of SDG commitments in line with the plan of the UN Secretary General for accelerating SDGs and the six transitions. The focus of Kosovo is on: (i) poverty reduction, (ii) accelerating the transition to energy renewables, (iii) digital transformation, and (iv) transforming education. The Government is dedicated to expediting SDG progress by improving institutional structures. In 2023, this included creating an SDG accelerator fund and an SDG dashboard that is currently in the making with UN support.

The impact of joined up working was also evident as the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport drafted a youth strategy based on an innovative methodology and approach. With cohesive UN support, the drafting process focused on developing a cross-sectoral strategy for the first time, engaging relevant ministries, municipalities, and development partners. Key UN recommendations included the need to develop and implement an effective monitoring and evaluation framework and to increase investment in data.

These initiatives all underscore the commitment of the UN to supporting the development journey of Kosovo towards inclusive sustainable development objectives. As such, the Development Coordinator played a key role in fostering collaboration across priority areas, aligning the mandates of resident and non-resident agencies to mount an effective response to various challenges.

The UN continued to strive for more efficient operations in 2023 to ensure ongoing value for money. A comprehensive review of the Business Operation Strategy was conducted to improve the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of UN programmes. Total cost-avoidance in 2023 was \$42,109.

At the sub-regional level, UNKT closely coordinated with the UN network in the Western Balkans, aiming to facilitate knowledge- and data-sharing, promote joint regional initiatives and bolster the collective capacity of the UN family in the region to anticipate and adapt to geopolitical and economic changes and risks.



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Similarly, the collaborative Norway–UN programme “Knowledge for Reform Action in the Western Balkans” at the sub-regional level offered tailored advisory support to the Government, addressing reform needs and priorities while aligning with EU recommendations. In Kosovo, the programme focused on providing technical assistance on guiding EU integration efforts and advancing the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

UNKT continues to actively engage in the regional Youth for Inclusion, Equality and Trust project, financed by the joint Peacebuilding Fund. A new Peacebuilding Fund project, focusing on education, youth inclusion, human rights awareness and providing the tools to address hate speech and discrimination is launching in 2024 after UNKT signed up to it in 2023.

The positive results of the UN working together as one in Kosovo are reflected in a series of indicators. For example, the UN effectively executed the System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, with 13 out of 15 indicators exceeding minimum standards. UNKT was also ranked among the top-performing UN Country Teams in the Youth 2030 Progress Report after meeting or exceeding all 26 Youth 2030 Scorecard indicators and in the UNCT Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion where it met or exceeded requirements in 12 out of the 14 indicators.

All of these initiatives were driven by the respective results groups, each chaired by a designated UN agency head, which ensured flexibility, alignment with government objectives and the ability to address emerging needs.

Additionally, the Joint Steering Committee, led by the Prime Minister and the UN Development Coordinator, guided progress towards comprehensive implementation of the Cooperation Framework.

During the third Joint Steering Committee meeting, held in July 2023, the Prime Minister sought support from the UN across various critical domains, including donor coordination, the development of an SDG dashboard, the establishment of an SDG accelerator fund, investment in human capital to tackle youth emigration, advancements in census-related projects, aid in supporting the transition from school to work, and the advancement of the digital agenda. In response, the UN convened donors to discuss the SDG fund, enlisted ECE help to support in establishing the SDG dashboard and developed value propositions in each respective area, as outlined above.

Thematic groups such as those on Human Rights, Migration Network and Youth supported objectives in various areas, including accountable governance, peacebuilding, and social cohesion. They focused on promoting inclusive policies, sustainable development, and gender equality, and collectively worked to uphold human rights, foster gender equality, and create inclusive environments. One notable example amongst many is the work of the Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse coordination group, which actively raised awareness of these societal scourges to promote a zero-tolerance culture while simultaneously strengthening the skills of UN staff to effectively address them.



Evaluations and lessons learned

The Cooperation Framework 2021–2025 represents the collective response of the UN development system to support Kosovo in addressing national priorities and challenges as it pursues the 2030 Agenda. With 2024 marking the penultimate year of the current Cooperation Framework, the implementation evaluation will take place in the second quarter of the year. The aim of the evaluation is to gauge how far anticipated Cooperation Framework outcomes have been met and the impact of the UN on the sustainable development of Kosovo. Carried out by two independent experts, it will investigate the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and sustainability of UN contributions. The evaluation will be conducted through a participatory approach, engaging diverse stakeholders such as UN staff, government officials, development partners, and civil society and private sector representatives. Key recommendations will be drawn into an Evaluation Management Response to inform the development of the next Cooperation Framework strategic priority areas and interventions.

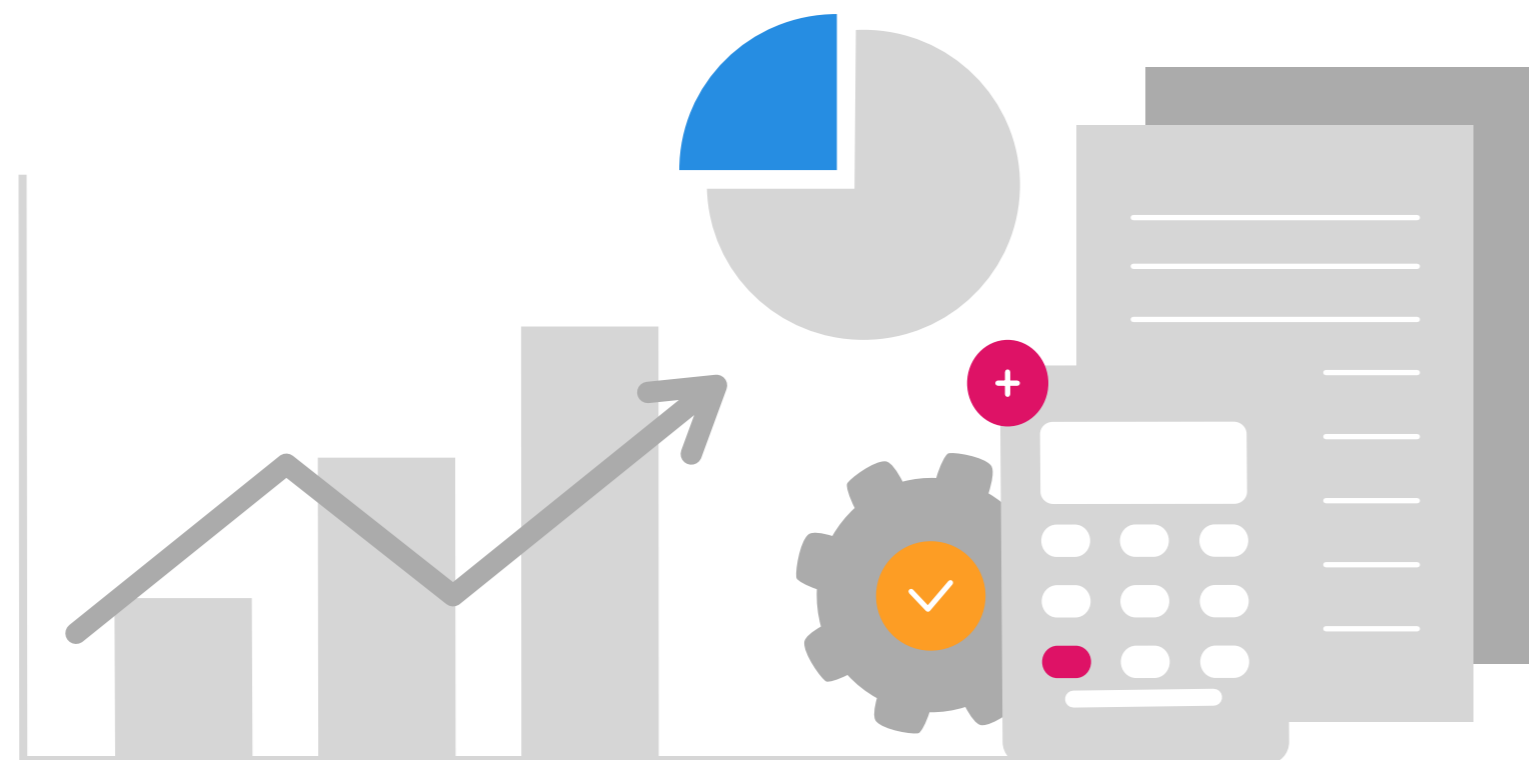
Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization



In 2023, the total financial resources received to accomplish the Cooperation Framework outcomes amounted to \$31.7 million, while total expenditure was \$30.7 million. This equates to a delivery rate of 97 per cent. The total funding gap was around 2 per cent of the entire portfolio.

By the end of 2023, project and programme funding constituted the primary source for UN activities in Kosovo. In total, 86 per cent of funding came from donors, while the remaining 14 per cent was from UN core funding.

Among the donors, the EU was the largest contributor, providing \$8,554,437, or 31 per cent of the total funding. Other notable contributors included the Government of the USA, which donated \$7,951,680 (29 per cent), and the Government of Kosovo, which contributed \$2,922,650 (11 per cent). Significant contributions were also made by the Government of Sweden (6 per cent), the Governments of Switzerland and Luxembourg (4 per cent each), the Government of the United Kingdom (2 per cent) and the Governments of Germany, Japan, and Norway (1 per cent each). Additionally, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund contributed \$350,318 (1 per cent) and the Peacebuilding Fund contributed \$475,505 (2 per cent). UNMIK and GAVI also each contributed 1 per cent.



Financial Overview

The following tables provide information on the overall funding allocated to each of the Cooperation Framework outcomes, the ratio between donor and own agency funds, and the overall available and expended budget per agency.

Outcome 1 saw a budget allocation of \$4,057,295, of which \$3,735,065 was expended, resulting in a delivery rate of 92 per cent. Outcome 2 received \$14,477,264, of which \$14,142,166 was spent, with a delivery rate of 98 per cent. For Outcome 3, the budget was \$6,832,990 and expenditure was \$6,792,891, meaning a delivery rate of 99 per cent. Outcome 4 had a budget allocation of \$5,149,389 and expenditure of \$4,875,398, giving a delivery rate of 95 per cent. Finally, Outcome 5 was allocated \$1,199,103 and all funds were spent, resulting in a delivery rate of 100 per cent. Overall, prudent financial management ensured that funds were effectively used to support the designated outcomes, with the majority of objectives being met within the allocated budget.

CF Priority Areas

	Available Budget	Expenditure	Delivery Rate
Accountable Governance	\$4,057,295	\$3,735,065	92%
Inclusive and non-discriminatory social services and policies	\$14,446,513	\$14,142,166	98%
Resilient, sustainable and inclusive economic development	\$6,832,990	\$6,792,891	99%
Social Cohesion	\$5,149,389	\$4,875,398	95%
Gender, Empowerment and Data	\$1,199,103	\$1,199,103	100%
Total Budget	\$31,716,041	\$30,775,374	97%

Overall available budget and level of expenditures in 2023 per Outcome



Source of funds	Amounts	Percentage share
Agencies own sources	\$4,489,275	14%
Bilateral and other donors	\$27,226,766	86%

Bilateral and own sources of funds

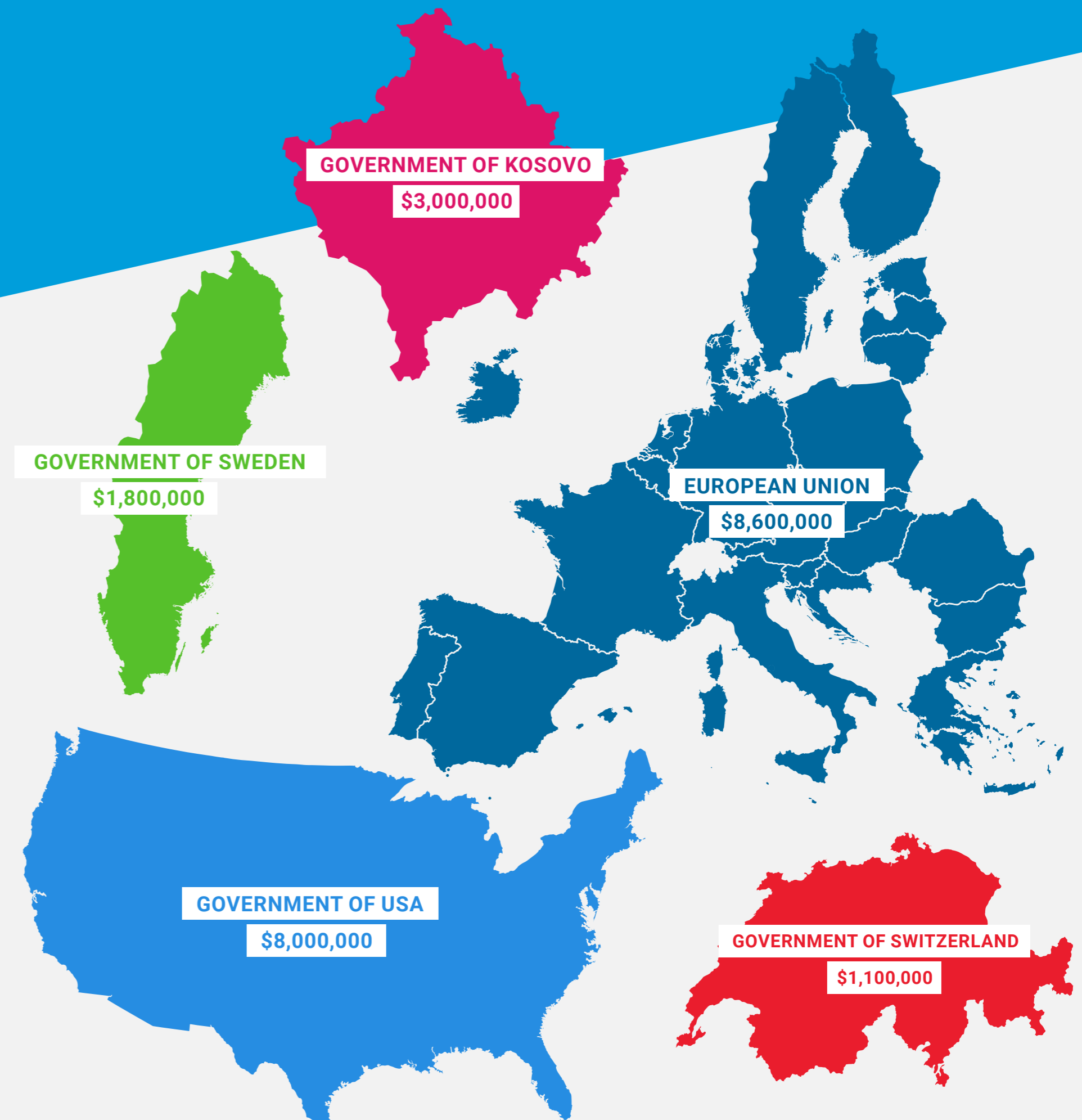
UN Agency	Available Budget	Expenditure	Delivery Rate
FAO	\$878,000	\$878,000	100%
ILO	\$248,500	\$210,166	85%
IOM	\$7,292,273	\$7,117,429	98%
OHCHR	\$387,145	\$156,900	41%
UN Women	\$643,382	\$600,842	93%
UNDP	\$8,641,983	\$8,335,334	96%
UNFPA	\$1,160,121	\$1,160,121	100%
UN-Habitat	\$604,542	\$604,542	100%
UNHCR	\$283,978	\$265,426	93%
UNICEF	\$6,865,366	\$6,865,366	100%
UNOPS	\$3,451,075	\$3,321,572	96%
WHO	\$1,228,925	\$1,228,925	97%
Total Budget	\$31,685,290	\$30,744,623	97%

Overall available budget and level of expenditures in 2023 per Outcome

Contributing partners and donors in 2023

As highlighted above, the UN mobilized approximately **\$31.7 million** for the implementation of initiatives in the Joint Workplan 2023 under the Cooperation Framework. Of this, **\$27.2 million** was mobilized from donors, while **\$4.5 million** was sourced from the core funding of UN agencies.

In 2023, the EU continued to be the largest contributor to the UN in Kosovo, with their programmes funded by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and other EU institutions. The other biggest contributors were the Governments of the USA, Sweden and Switzerland, while the Government of Kosovo made a significant contribution, albeit a reduced one compared to 2022.



Allocation of funding per Sustainable Development Goals

In alignment with our commitment to promoting sustainable development, the UN worked together with other partners to improve the rule of law, access to quality services, economic development and jobs, social cohesion, civic engagement and gender equality. The allocation of funding across the SDGs reflects a strategic and balanced approach to addressing global challenges. The highest funding share, at 25.6 per cent, went to Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions, emphasizing the significance of stability and governance in achieving sustainable development. Following closely behind, with 17.7 per cent, was Goal 10: Reduced inequalities, underlining the commitment to fostering inclusive societies. Goal 3: Good health and well-being secured a substantial 15 per cent share, reflecting the prioritization of universal health care access. Goal 4: Quality education and Goal 8: Decent jobs and economic growth received noteworthy allocations of 9.7 and 11 per cent respectively, highlighting investments in human capital and economic empowerment. These allocations, alongside support for other SDGs, collectively contributed to advancing Kosovo's development agenda towards a more prosperous and equitable future for all the global development agenda towards a more prosperous and equitable future for all.



Funding per Sustainable Development Goal in 2023

SDGs	Total funding per SDG	Percentage
01 No poverty	\$565,350	1.8%
02 Zero hunger	\$64,781	0.2%
03 Good Health and Well-being	\$4,759,807	15%
04 Quality Education	\$3,077,392	9.7%
05 Gender Equality	\$1,382,234	4.4%
06 Clean Water and Sanitation	-	-
07 Affordable and Clean Energy	-	-
08 Decent Jobs and Economic Growth	\$3,494,555	11%
09 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	\$1,508,000	4.8%
10 Reduced Inequalities	\$5,608,330	17.7%
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	\$856,487	2.7%
12 Responsible Consumption and Production	-	-
13 Climate Action	\$1,500,321	4.7%
14 Life Below Water	-	-
15 Life on Land	\$325,000	1%
16 Peace and Justice-Strong Insititutions	\$8,118,624	25,6%
17 Partnerships for the Goals	\$455,160	1.4%
Total	\$31,716,041	100%

<p>Employment and Social Protection</p>	<p>The Cooperation Framework, now in its penultimate year, remains the primary roadmap for achieving the development goals of Kosovo and the SDGs. It prioritizes inclusive and accountable institutions, social cohesion, trust-building, transitional justice and reconciliation, with a focus on empowering women and youth. Additionally, it ensures that the impacts of EU accession processes are considered across all UN engagements.</p>	<p>In 2024, significant milestones include developing a new Cooperation Framework, supporting the SDG commitments made by the Government, establishing the SDG accelerator fund and SDG dashboard, reforming social protection systems, and implementing the Youth Guarantee Fund of the EU, youth-centred initiatives, and the population census. These efforts aim to ensure assistance effectively targets those most vulnerable to being left behind.</p>
<p>Digital Transformation and Education</p>	<p>In 2024, the UN will leverage the unique mandates and expertise of resident and non-resident agencies to foster collaboration and synergy. This approach involves joint programming and advocacy, alongside a robust partnership with the Government of Kosovo. Guided by the six transitions and accompanying four engine room actions, we will advocate for multilateralism to achieve shared goals, supporting Kosovo in reaching its development objectives. Emphasis will continue to be placed on close collaboration with development partners, civil society and community members to identify areas of need and develop cooperative strategies to address them.</p>	<p>We will actively contribute to the progression of Kosovo towards the 2030 Agenda and its NDP by mobilizing donor resources, enhancing coordination, facilitating participation in multilateral fora and aligning programming with EU priorities. Additionally, the Development Coordinator will seek ways to engage and advocate for access for Kosovo to vertical funding mechanisms.</p>
<p>Climate Action and Circular Economy</p>	<p>In alignment with the Cooperation Framework and under the leadership of the UN Development Coordinator, the UN will prioritize initiatives related to employment, social protection, digital transformation, education, skills development and climate action. This underscores our dedication to assisting Kosovo in attaining its developmental objectives, while remaining flexible in response to evolving circumstances and upholding the position of the UN as a reliable partner and convener.</p>	<p>As the Western Balkans faces increasing climate challenges, the UN is committed to assisting the transition of Kosovo to sustainability by strengthening the circular economy, supporting climate initiatives and aiding in health care waste management.</p>
<p>SDG Implementation and Monitoring</p>	<p>Following the events of 2023 – including serious security incidents and political crises in northern Kosovo, a lack of cross-party consensus in the Assembly, challenges to reforms and a significant reduction in the development budget due to EU measures – the UN will leverage its strengths and added value, neutrality and normative mandate to remain relevant and agile to better respond to the development needs.</p>	<p>Following UN support for representatives of Kosovo to participate at COP27 and COP28, including organization of a side event to present the voluntary nationally determined contribution, we will support the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure to develop the Climate Change National Adaptation Strategy and enhance processes and capacities related to intervention environmental impact assessments. Understanding the critical need for disaggregated data, we will also assist in implementing the population census, planned for 5 April 2024. This data will inform decision-making, development planning and monitoring progress towards the SDGs.</p>
<p>Youth-Centered Initiatives</p>	<p>Following the events of 2023 – including serious security incidents and political crises in northern Kosovo, a lack of cross-party consensus in the Assembly, challenges to reforms and a significant reduction in the development budget due to EU measures – the UN will leverage its strengths and added value, neutrality and normative mandate to remain relevant and agile to better respond to the development needs.</p>	<p>We will emphasize gender equality and inclusivity in data collection and programming to ensure no one is left behind.</p>
<p>Inclusive Data Collection and Programming</p>	<p>Following the events of 2023 – including serious security incidents and political crises in northern Kosovo, a lack of cross-party consensus in the Assembly, challenges to reforms and a significant reduction in the development budget due to EU measures – the UN will leverage its strengths and added value, neutrality and normative mandate to remain relevant and agile to better respond to the development needs.</p>	<p>We will emphasize gender equality and inclusivity in data collection and programming to ensure no one is left behind.</p>



