

14 December 2021

## Football Players Speak Out Against Violence Against Women

Several well-known football players from the Western Balkans and Turkey, including Amir Rrahmani and Lorik Cana, spoke out against toxic masculinity and violence against women, advocating for men to lead the change.

A video of their advocacy was produced with funding from the EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)

## Highlights

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence  
Football players speak out against toxic masculinity

70th Anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention  
The Pristina Talks reflect on the Convention in the context of mixed migration, and a photo exhibition honours the first female UNHCR High Commissioner

Celebration of International Migrants Day  
An online poll is conducted to gauge community views on migration

Publications  
The Handbook on Gender—Responsive Police Services and the new National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women are published

Capital Investment Facility Launched to Support Climate Smart Infrastructure  
All Kosovo municipalities now have the chance to obtain innovative financing for climate smart infrastructure



10 December 2021

## 70th Anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention Commemorated

In commemoration of Human Rights Day and the 70th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention, the UNHCR Office of the Chief of Mission in Pristina and the University of Pristina Faculty of Law organized the Pristina Talks, a legal forum on the 1951 Refugee Convention. Local authorities, legal institutions, international universities, UN agencies and civil society discussed the opportunities, gaps and challenges that arise in mixed migratory movements involving refugees, asylum seekers and irregular migrants. A photo exhibition honoured the late Madame Sadako Ogata, the first female UNHCR High Commissioner (1991–2000).

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



16 December 2021

## Capital Investment Facility Launched to Support Climate Smart Infrastructure

UN-Habitat launched the Capital Investment Facility (CIF), giving all 38 Kosovo municipalities the chance to receive innovative financing for climate smart infrastructure that supports both a sustainable, inclusive environment and active inter-municipal and inter-community cooperation.

Created in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government Administration, the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure and the Sweden Embassy in Kosovo, the CIF will remain available through 2025. (Municipalities and civil society organizations are invited to apply by 28 February 2022.)

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



18 December 2021

## Celebration of International Migrants Day

In recognition of International Migrants Day, the crucial role that migrants play in building stronger, more sustainable communities was recognized. IOM, alongside other UN agencies, organized an online poll seeking to better understand community views on migration and participants' willingness to migrate in the next year if given the opportunity to do so.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)

A televised discussion on migration issues, emphasising labour migration, was held with the IOM Chief of Mission on Klan Kosova. The testimonies of two labour migrants were shared, providing insight into the firsthand experiences of those who have left Kosovo to work abroad.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



21 December 2021

## Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services Published

UN Women, jointly with the Kosovo Police, published a Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls subject to violence, providing guidance on police responses to violence against women and girls and ways to ensure more gender-responsive policing services.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



26 January 2021

## Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women Approved

The government approved the National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022–2026, in alignment with the Istanbul Convention. UN Women Kosovo remains available to assist Kosovo institutions with this strategy. Support is provided through the EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement, EU Kosovo.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)

<sup>1</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)



Despite the commitment and efforts of the UNKT and its partners to end violence against women, substantial needs remain. Soon after the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence concluded, a woman was killed by her husband in Skenderaj/Srbica. The Security and Gender Group strongly condemns this murder, calls for a thorough investigation, and urges institutions to implement the Istanbul Convention alongside concrete action to prevent gender-based violence, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



↘ 01 December 2021

## 16 Days of Activism against GBV: End Violence against Women Now!

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an open discussion – “Our Footprint in Ending Gender Based Violence (GBV)” – was organized by the Humanitarian Assistance Project (HAP), with funding from the EU Kosovo, and implemented by UNDP Kosovo. Forty UN Community Volunteers from Centers for Social Work discussed the gender-based violence issues they encounter in their work and the role of social workers in addressing them.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



↘ 08 December 2021

## Raising Awareness of Gender-based Violence Procedures in Shelters for Displaced Persons

The Forum for Development and Multi-ethnic Collaboration (FDMC), a UNHCR partner, organized an event, “The work of institutions in the fight against gender-based violence”, in Zubin Potok/Zubinpotok municipality, targeting displaced women in collective shelters. UNHCR, UNICEF, FDMC, the local ombudsperson, municipality representatives, safe house staff and the police participated, raising awareness of the mechanisms and reporting processes in place to help prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



↘ 31 January 2022

## Guidelines for the Prevention of, Risk Mitigation, and Response to Gender Based Violence

UNHCR, in cooperation with the Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT), facilitated a one-day workshop to finalise the Guidelines for the Prevention of, Risk Mitigation, and Response to Gender Based Violence in the mixed migration context in Kosovo. The guidelines will establish standard operating procedures (SOPs) to facilitate access to all available services by survivors of gender-based violence.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



Despite the commitment and efforts of the UNKT and its partners to end violence against women, substantial needs remain. Soon after the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence concluded, a woman was killed by her husband in Skenderaj/Srbica. The Security and Gender Group strongly condemns this murder, calls for a thorough investigation, and urges institutions to implement the Istanbul Convention alongside concrete action to prevent gender-based violence, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.

[For more details, click here ↗](#) or [here ↗](#)

# Gender Equality: Women at Work

December 2021—January 2022



↘ 08 December 2021

## Never More Urgent Conference: Investing in Women's Leadership in Politics and Peacebuilding

In celebration of the 21st Anniversary of UN Resolution 1325, UN Women and the Regional Women's Lobby in Southeast Europe (RWLSEE), supported by the Government of Sweden, organized a conference in Thessaloniki focused on ensuring women's protection and advocacy in politics and peacebuilding.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)

↘ 09 December 2021

## Task Force on Gender Sensitive Standards for Occupational Safety, Health and Decent Work



UN Women and UNOPS, in partnership with the Ombudsperson Institution, met with representatives of the Labor Inspectorate, trade unions, civil society organizations, the regional ombudsperson, and women activists in Gjiilan/Gnjilane municipality to discuss occupational safety and health and advocate for gender-sensitive standards and practices. The Association of Journalists of Kosovo presented guidelines for journalists to report on gender-responsive implementation of standards for decent work and occupational safety and health.

A task force under the project, “Promoting Decent Work through Strengthening of OSH Management and Social Dialogue in Kosovo,” funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the Embassy of Sweden in Pristina, is implemented by UNOPS Kosovo.

[For more details, click here ↗](#) or [here ↗](#)



10 December 2021

**UNOPS and ILO Present a Training Strategy to the Labour Inspectorate**

ILO presented the “Multiannual Training Strategy” during a workshop with the Labour Inspectorate, proposing training modules that reflect updates in occupational safety and health for labour inspectors as well as gender-specific modules to enhance knowledge of gender equality laws and policies, women’s participation in the labour market, and gender differences in exposure to occupational risks and hazards. The project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the Embassy of Sweden in Pristina, is implemented by UNOPS Kosovo.

For more details, [click here](#)



10 December 2021

**Meridian Corporation: Signing of the UN Women Empowerment Principles**

Facilitated by Kosovo’s Manufacturing Club, the Meridian Corporation committed to promote gender equality. In discussion with the Deputy Regional Director of UN Women Europe and Central Asia and the Head of Office of UN Women Kosovo, the CEO of Meridian Corporation, committed to empower women within the company.

Meridian Corporation joins over 5,000 businesses globally in the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) community committed to promote practices, such as equal pay for work of equal value, gender-responsive supply chain practices, and zero-tolerance for sexual harassment in the workplace.

For more details, [click here](#)



14 December 2021

**Vulnerable Women Benefit from Entrepreneurial Training and Support**

Twenty-five women from vulnerable groups took part in five days of entrepreneurial training in Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality, and became certified in entrepreneurship, innovation, business planning and digital marketing and received equipment to start their own businesses. The Women’s Business Association SHE-ERA organized the training under the “Response to COVID-19 Emergency and Early Recovery Support” project, implemented by UNDP Kosovo and UN Women with funding from the EU Kosovo. The mayor of Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality expressed a commitment to continue supporting project beneficiaries.

For more details, [click here](#) or [here](#)



02 December 2021

### NGOs and Residential Centres Upgraded

Eleven NGOs and residential centres, including emergency shelters and homes, were upgraded to support those most at risk, including vulnerable children and the elderly. UNDP Kosovo held an event showcasing the upgrades through the Humanitarian Assistance Project (HAP), with funding from the EU Kosovo, as part of the 16 Days of Activism.

For more details, [click here](#) and [here](#)



23 December 2021

### Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

Under the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme, the EU and IOM have provided support to migration authorities to enhance transportation services for migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this programme, the Border Department of the Kosovo Police received a vehicle to support migration management through improved transportation services.

For more details, [click here](#)



23 December 2021

### Improving Cooperation and Decision-Making Processes around Asylum Claims

The Civil Rights Program Kosovo (CRP/K), in cooperation with the UNHCR Office of the Chief of Mission, conducted a one-day session with the National Commission for Refugees and Department of Citizenship, Asylum and Migration (DCAM) to strengthen cooperation and address challenges faced with decision-making instances when assessing asylum claims. The legal framework gaps were analysed and specific legal cases were reviewed to strengthen the efficiency of the legal protection institutions during refugee status determination procedures.

For more details, [click here](#)

### UNICEF and MESTI Continue Advocacy for Schools to Remain Open

UNICEF, in partnership with Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), continued their advocacy to keep schools open for all children. Five videos were promoted on social media, reaching 131,000 online viewers.



13 January 2022

### UNICEF and the EU Develop a Programme to Protect Vulnerable Children

UNICEF and the EU have joined forces to protect vulnerable children through a three-year programme that will provide protection and access to education to 10,000 vulnerable children and youth, with a focus on those living in street situations or at high risk of protection violations. The programme will also strengthen the capacities of 1,300 frontline workers and other professionals in the social welfare, health and education sectors and civil society.

For more details, [click here](#) or [here](#)



26 January 2022

### Improving Access to Public Administration Services through Bilingual Staffing

IOM and the Office of Language Commissioner organized a roundtable with central and local institutions, with support from the British Embassy Pristina, to discuss ways to improve public administration services by requiring bilingualism in recruitment processes for public institutions. Recommendations will be developed in line with the Law on the Use of Languages.

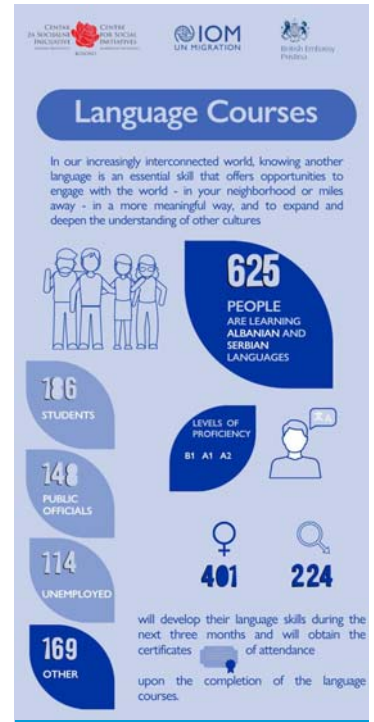
For more details, [click here](#)

06 December 2021

### Language Courses Foster Cultural Understanding

Language courses have commenced through the Social Inclusion Programme (SIP), contributing to enhanced cultural understanding. Currently, 625 people (401 women, 224 men) are learning Albanian and Serbian languages.

For more details, [click here](#)



27 January 2022

### Developing Social Housing with Kosovo Institutions

UN-Habitat Kosovo finalised the concept for a new social housing programme, which will promote access to housing for the poor, neighborhood-based interventions for inclusive green interventions, and energy efficient home improvements across Kosovo. The programme is being developed in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister, and with the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers, and the Parliamentary Committee Dealing with Environment and Spatial Planning, and with funding from the Council of Europe Development Bank. It is expected to commence later in 2022.

For more details, [click here](#)



09 December 2021

## Anti-Corruption Day

Through the project, “Support to Anti-Corruption Efforts in Kosovo (SAEK)”, UNDP marked International Anti-Corruption Day with a series of activities, including the launch of the “Report on Gender and Corruption Related Vulnerabilities in the Public and Private Sector” and three animated, awareness-raising videos. The report presents findings on corruption risks and vulnerabilities at both central and local levels, with a focus on gender-based differences. The data reveals the differing insights and experiences of women and men and the importance of understanding if the perceptions of, exposure to, and impact of corruption differ by gender.

For more details, [click here](#) and here [click here](#) on the work of the FIU and the prosecution, here [click here](#) on anti-corruption and the Supreme Court, and here [click here](#) on gender and corruption.



## Infrastructure, Climate Change and the Environment

December 2021—January 2022



09–10 December 2021

### High-level UNDP Visit to Kosovo

The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC), Mirjana Spoljaric visited Kosovo. During her visit, she engaged in a high-level dialogue with Kosovo institutions and development partners, focusing on green transition and digital transformation, and delivered a keynote speech at a high-level panel discussion which brought together partners and stakeholders to discuss jointly accelerating Kosovo’s digital economy through a whole-of-society #DigitalTransformation.

For more details, [click here](#) or here [click here](#)



09 December 2021

### Ecotourism

Participants of the Green Hub programme presented 11 innovative ecotourism start-up ideas, which they developed over 12 weeks, to support tourism’s green transition. The four winning teams earned funds to implement their ideas and will be linked to companies in the sector that are integrating ecotourism practices in their business models under the Green Hub programme.

For more details, [click here](#) or here [click here](#)



16 December 2021

### Integrated Cultural Heritage Conservation for Green, Inclusive Sustainable Development

UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, launched a project through the Inclusive Development Programme, funded by the Government of Sweden, for the integration of cultural heritage for green, inclusive, sustainable development in municipalities, notably Pristina, Prizren and South Mitrovica. Rapid development in urban and rural areas and uncontrolled construction are key challenges faced by historic zones and centres. The integration of cultural heritage into spatial planning processes and investments is necessary to address these challenges. The Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure will also be engaged.

For more details, [click here](#)



17–20 December 2021

### Training for Forestry Legislation Implementing Authorities Continues

FAO provided training to legal officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD), officials of the Kosovo Forest Agency, forestry inspectors, judges, prosecutors, police officers, and lawyers under the programme, “Support to strengthening sustainable and multipurpose forest management to improve rural livelihoods and address climate change in Kosovo”, funded by the Swedish Embassy. Trained by a renowned judge from Kosovo, participants gained insight into the procedures and learned how to prepare documentation to file cases, denounce illegal forestry activities, calculate damages in line with legislation, and control logging contracts, licenses, and transport, trade and processing permits. The accountability of forestry inspectors, guards and other officials in cases of abuse was highlighted.



14 January 2022

### #WasteWiseKosovo Challenge Champions Announced

As part of the #WasteWiseKosovo Challenge, US Embassy in Pristina and UN-Habitat, in partnership with BONE-VET, the Kosovo Innovation Center (ICK), Coca-Cola HBC, the American Corner and Kosovo United States Alumni (KUSA) invited creators, dreamers, designers and technology entrepreneurs

and others interested in contributing to a healthier future in Kosovo, to present innovative ideas and solutions for waste reduction in Kosovo’s cities and communities. Of the 56 business ideas presented, four were selected.

For more details, [click here](#)



↘ 02–03 December 2021

## Official Visit of WHO's Dr Siddhartha Datta

The WHO Project manager for the Europe Region, responsible for the Vaccine preventable diseases and Immunization Programme, Dr Siddhartha Datta, conducted an official visit to Kosovo to support the coordination of activities. Meetings were convened on COVID-19 and progress was made with vaccinations. Individual meetings were held with various partners (MoH, IPH, USAID, EU, UNICEF and UNDCO).



↘ 06 December 2021

## Health and Safety: The Foundation of Our Work

UNOPS prioritises sharing best practices and knowledge on health and safety with local contractors. During the construction of the Central Vaccine Storage foundations, UNOPS put in place quality controls to meet international standards. The commitment to reach Goal Zero will be achieved through efforts by all to learn, share and apply health and safety standards.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



↘ 24 January 2022

## Licensing of Health Laboratories and Establishment of Reference Laboratories

The WHO Pristina Office, in collaboration with WHO HUB and WHO Office for Europe, organized a workshop on the licensing of health laboratories and the establishment of reference laboratories. Bringing together participants from MoH, IPH, Accreditation Directorate, UCCK and Private laboratories, the workshop aimed to identify accreditation mechanisms and procedures for human laboratories as well as gaps and the means to address them.

## UNICEF Supports MoH in Promoting the COVID-19 Vaccine

UNICEF, in partnership with USAID, supported MoH in promoting COVID-19 vaccinations. Advocacy and visibility materials were produced and doctors were mobilised to educate the public on the importance of being vaccinated to help reduce risks related to the pandemic.

## Regional Cooperation

December 2021—January 2022



↘ 21 December 2021

## Inception Workshop of the "Knowledge for Reform Action in the Western Balkans" Project

UNOPS Austria Multi Country Office, in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy in Pristina and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Development and Dialogue, hosted the first workshop for the "Knowledge for Reform Action in the Western Balkans" project. Representatives of the Prime Minister's office, relevant ministries and the EU

Kosovo identified priority areas of intervention and established grounds for future cooperation. With funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNOPS will deploy experts in the next five years to support government institutions across the Western Balkans in their policy reform processes through capacity development and knowledge-sharing.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)



## Localising SDGs

UN-Habitat held the first webinar on the Voluntary Local Review as a step towards localising the SDGs in Kosovo.

The Voluntary Local Review opens avenues for local government to understand the current standing in achieving the 2030 Agenda, highlight areas where urgent actions are needed, and joins the global conversation on sustainable development.

Vushtrri/ Vuçitër plans to produce Kosovo's first Voluntary Local Review and join the cities, municipalities and regions committed to advance SDG implementation at the local level.

[For more details, click here ↗](#)