

## COUNTRY FACTSHEET

## KOSOVO

Children Benefited:

2,280

KOSOVO

Children live in poverty:

324,000

Children under 5:

160,000

Programme Areas:

91

Children in Country:

660,000

World Vision has been working in Kosovo since 1999. The organization initially met emergency survival needs during the war. When the fighting ended, World Vision focused on helping families and communities rebuild, through micro-finance initiatives. Today, we are focusing on building inter-ethnic relationships, beginning with children; laying the foundation for a more united future.

## ABOUT WORLD VISION KOSOVO

## PRIORITY ISSUES

Youth  
EmpowermentChild  
ProtectionLove of God  
& NeighboursEconomic  
Development

## PROMOTE PEACE

World Vision promotes peace and tolerance in Kosovo through its award-winning "Kids for Peace" clubs which have been established in nearly 20 schools, and reach more than 400 students each year as they are guided through a curriculum that helps build the social structures necessary to promote peace as well as empower children to raise awareness and build inter-ethnic collaboration in their communities.

## FAST FACTS



Only **12%** of children under 6 months old are exclusively **breastfed** (UNICEF, 2007-2010)



**53,000** children are living with **disabilities** (UNICEF, 2009)



**49%** of children live below the **poverty line** (UNICEF, 2010)

## EMPOWER YOUTH

Though the creation of 10 Local Youth Action Councils (LYAC) in 10 municipalities, World Vision is working to increase the participation of youth in policy development and decision making in local governments, especially as it relates to socio-economic conditions. Through the 10 LYACs, World Vision Kosovo is able to partner with 112 youth organizations in Kosovo.

## WHAT WE DO

Children present their ideas for peace and commitment towards the future at a Kids for Peace meeting in Kosovo. Kids for Peace is a World Vision project in Kosovo that aims to build peace between children of different nationalities who live in Kosovo. Photo by Florida Bonjo, World Vision.



## PREVENTING CHILD LABOUR

Child labour is a widespread phenomenon and a culturally accepted norm in Kosovo. Many children are asked to work long hours; sometimes they even miss school as a result. There is also an increasing trend of children working on the streets and in the markets. World Vision is combating child labour by making children and their parents aware of the rights of children, which include the right of all children to be educated.

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Violence against children is often disregarded in Kosovo. Corporal punishment is still an accepted practice in homes and schools across Kosovo. World Vision is promoting alternative forms of correction and advocates for all children to be cared for protected and participating.



## FAST FACTS



**27%** of children between 11 and 18 experience **physical violence**. (UNICEF, 2005)



**47%** are officially **unemployed** and another **26.4%** cent are **under employed**, making Kosovo the country with the **weakest employment** record in Europe. (World Bank, 2014);



**42%** of teachers worry about **child trafficking** (UNICEF, 2005)



**222,000** young people are **unemployed**. (MEST, 2008)



Only **2.8%** of children under 6 are enrolled in **pre-primary education**. (UNICEF, 2004)

## BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Kosovo has the youngest population in Europe and the poorest economy in the region. One in four people are between the ages of 15 and 24; 73 per cent of whom are unemployed. While many agree that the future of Kosovo lies in the hands of young people, Kosovo youth occupy very little place in the policies that determine their future. World Vision is helping equip youth to be involved in designing their future, by equipping them to advocate on the issues that matter to them and helping put them in contact with decision makers.

**LEARN MORE:** [www.wvi.org/kosovo](http://www.wvi.org/kosovo)

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