



Fast Facts

Area: Kosovo

Duration: November 2000 to December 2002

Implementing UN Agencies: UNMIK; UNOPS

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Budget: \$1,009,919.20

Key Words: Peacebuilding; education; minority communities; children

BACKGROUND

Following the 1999 violence in Kosovo, the area's minority populations, primarily Serbs, but also Bosnians, Egyptians, Turks, Hashkali, Gorani and Roma, lived in enclaves protected by the Kosovo Force (KFOR), the NATO-led international peacekeeping force. As a result, freedom of movement for minority communities was severely restricted and their access to essential public services including education for their children was unreliable. At the time, there was no school-bus system in Kosovo and

while the ethnic-majority Albanian children were able to walk to school or to use public transit, the children of minority groups were unable to exercise either option safely. As part of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo's (UNMIK) Agenda for Coexistence, which aimed to enhance these minority groups' protection and freedoms, and lay the foundation for a multiethnic civil society, the provision of school buses connecting minority enclaves to educational facilities was essential.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project was to provide safe transport for minority school children in selected Kosovo municipalities in order for them to access

educational facilities. In doing so, the project aimed to foster a culture of integration among children from different ethnic groups.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's direct beneficiaries were the children of minority groups, primarily Serbs, but also Bosnians,

Egyptians, Turks, Hashkali, Gorani and Roma, living in enclaves guarded by the Kosovo Force (KFOR).