



Making
Cities
Work

KOSOVO

Capital: Pristina

Largest City: Pristina

information source:
Qualitative Poverty Assessment - Kosovo; Review of Secondary Materials
November 2000
Oxford Policy Management, CARE International, Save the Children

Urban Profile

Urban Population

Before the war, over one-third of the total population lived in urban areas. The exact figures on urban population numbers in post-conflict Kosovo are not known. Many people are still moving in and out of urban areas and there are many internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are still living in cities either because they cannot go back to their villages due to house reconstruction problems and/or a lack of employment opportunity. The general assumption is that the urban population is larger than that recorded prior the conflict. Furthermore, as of 1999, Pristina had become over-crowded because of better access to accommodation, relief assistance and the expectation of better employment and income earning opportunities.

Urban Migration Trends

Urban Poverty

Limited livelihood information is available on the urban population. For example, occupational patterns of the upper, middle and poor population groups are not known. Wealth and income distribution patterns would be equally useful in moving toward more targeted interventions as policy transition accelerates.

Income Inequality

(wealthiest 20% divided by poorest 20%)

Nation	*
Pristina	*

Economy & Employment

UNEMPLOYMENT	
Nation (est. 2000)	50.0%
Urban	43.0%
Rural	57.0%

UNEMPLOYMENT. During the conflict economic activities in urban areas were severely disrupted. Albanian property and businesses were looted and damaged. Economic activities in the urban areas recovered very quickly after the war especially in the larger cities. The fast expanding enterprises in the cities are mainly in the trade and service sectors. There has been an enormous increase in the number cafes, restaurants and gas stations.

Urban economy recovery was fuelled by remittances from abroad. For many households though, remittances served their immediate consumption and reconstruction needs rather than their investment opportunities.

Decentralization

Sample Urban Area:

(USAID E&E Bureau)

Able to set some of local tax levels	Able to choose some contractors for projects
Able to set some of user charges	Funds transfer is known in advance
Able to borrow none of funds	Central government cannot remove local govt. officials

Infrastructure & Basic Services

Data on water supply and sanitation coverage are not available.

Review of both electricity and solid waste and garbage services showed serious problems and uneven progress in repairing the destruction caused by the conflict. Both these services, and clean water provision, have poverty implications, for evidence elsewhere shows that, where supply is scarce, the poor often end up paying more than others for "brokered" access to public utilities.

Health

First and Second Quintile of Income Distribution

	Urban Poorest	Rural Poorest	Urban Poor	Rural Poor	National Average
Under 5 yrs.-old. mortality rate (per 1,000 births, 1998)	*	*	*	*	*
Children severely underweight (under 3 yrs.-old)	*	*	*	*	*

Crime

According to the UN police force in Kosovo, Pristina reported the highest number of major offenses in 2000 with 533 incidents. Gnjilane was second with 489, and then Prizren was a distant third with 309 reported incidents. The major offense in Pristina with the highest incidence was arson (160 reports), followed by aggravated assault (98) and attempted murder (81).