**2013**

Dafina Bala

Raba voca women’s shelter

1/1/2013

Raba Voca Women’s Shelter Funding Proposal



|  |
| --- |
| SummaryThis proposal requests funding in the amount of €35,400.00 for the Raba Voca Women’s shelter in Mitrovica, Kosovo. The shelter has a long and successful history in providing shelter and program services to women and children who are escaping domestic abuse, trafficking, forced prostitution or other forms violence and abuse. Funding is needed to maintain the current level of service and increase the number of clients served to help meet the unmet need in the area. |

April 30, 2013

***Sample letter to granting agencies***

**RE: Funding proposal for Raba Voca**

Please find attached a proposal to provide annual funding to Raba Voca Shelter for Women and Children in Mitrovica, Kosovo. The Centre began its operations in 1999. The vision of Raba Voca is: The vision of Raba Voca is to create a place where women and children who have been violated by abuse, neglect or human trafficking can feel safe and where they can re-build a constructive life for themselves. Our mission is:

*The* mission *of Raba Voca* is to promote the *basic* human rights of wo*men and children and* to protect *and heal those who have been violated through sexual, physical or emotional abuse, human trafiicking or other forms of neglect and abuse* in the region of Mitrovica, Skenderaj, Vushtrri, Zubin Potok, Leposavic and Zvecan.

The centre currently operates at a 50% capacity with a budget of €35,400 per year over and above what is received for by the Ministry of Social Welfare for food (€24,000) and the Municipality of Skenderaj for utilities (€1,920.00). We have a staff of 6 full time equivalents and operate in a two storey home in Mitrovica that is 36m2.

Given the estimated unmet need the shelter requires €50,000 year to operate at approximately 75% capacity. This would allow the center to meet the needs of 15 people on any given day. The swing space between this and 100% occupancy is required to accommodate heavier load times. This ensures that there is a maximum capacity to operate with 20 people per day when the need arises for shorter periods of time, but not over longer periods of time than 2 months (the average length of stay is two months).

We respectfully request annual funding for €35,400 to cover a projected budget deficit over x years. We look forward to hearing from you further. Please do not hesitate to contact me at XXXXX for further information.

Sincerely,

XXXX

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## **Introduction**

Violence against women and children in Kosovo is high. Based on a 2010 UNDP report:

* Kosovo and Albania share the lowest gender development index in the region according to the UNDP gender development index;
* Rural women, who carry the greatest burden of Kosovo’s poor record on gender equity, where less than a quarter of women participate in the labour market and account for only six percent of business owners, a fraction are elected to public office compared to men despite a good-quality anti-discrimination law passed by the Assembly, an unacceptably high proportion are functionally illiterate. UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund, Kosovo) also reiterates this; pointing out that that while women of all ages, ethnicities, marital statuses, and geographic areas suffer from domestic violence in Kosovo; some groups of women appear to be at greater risk i.e. rural, married, middle-aged, and those with low levels of education.
* Rural women and children are also identified at high risk groups for trafficking.
* A quarter (23 percent) are anaemic and many are victims of violence in the home;
* Unemployment for women is at 81%;
* Discrimination also severely limits the contribution of Kosovan women. Prolonged unemployment and inactivity early in life are predictors of lower employability and wages in later adulthood, as well as risky behaviour and exposure to violence.

Fear of disapproval, ostracization and even violence are factors preventing women from challenging traditional roles and assuming a greater profile in Kosovo’s political and economic life. Socio-cultural discrimination is particularly damaging when it comes to economic participation (with women and Kosovo-RAE having the least access to factor markets), and education. In education, gender parity is reducing rather than increasing over time and girls more often than boys are denied their right to learn because of poverty, distance or lack of prioritization.

The constitution incorporates The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); it addresses the rights of minorities by incorporating the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe and includes the Convention on the Rights

of the Child.

According to OSCE, out of 1,046 domestic violence cases reported to the police in 2011 (an increase of just over 10% from the previous year) in Kosovo, 804 involved women as victims.” The UN Women Organization’s also reports that of the more than 1,000 officially-reported cases of domestic violence every year in Kosovo, 90 per cent are from women.

However, it should be pointed out that these numbers most likely under-represent the total incidence of domestic violence in Kosovo during 2010 and 2011. It is widely acknowledged that domestic violence is a crime that is both under-recorded and under-reported. In a survey conducted by the Kosova Women’s Network (KWN), results indicated that over 40 per cent of cases of domestic abuse are never reported to the police.

Most internationally trafficked persons have been adults, but most internally trafficked Kosovars are children. Persons from rural areas seem to be at higher risk of internal trafficking.

The Centre for Protection of Women and Children (RABA VOCA) in Mitrovica is a a shelter for victims of domestic violence, trafficking and potential victims of trafficking. It was established in October 1999 as one of three shelters in Kosovo with the main office in Pristina. On 1st April 2007, the shelter became an independent agency and has since provided service to 388 people in need.

## **Vision**

The vision of Raba Voca is to create a place where women and children who have been violated by abuse, neglect or human trafficking can feel safe and where they can re-build a constructive life for themselves.

## **Mission**

The mission of Raba Voca is to promote the basic human rights of women and children and to protect and heal those who have been violated through sexual, physical or emotional abuse, human trafiicking or other forms of neglect and abuse in the region of Mitrovica, Skenderaj, Vushtrri, Zubin Potok, Leposavic and Zvecan.

## **Organization**

On 14th December 2011, the center was registered as a non-governmental, non profit organization under Article 9 Law Nr.04/L-57. As such, it is guided by an Assembly of members which appoint an executive board of at least five members. The Assembly of Members consists of 4 staff and 9 members of the community. The Assembly of Members has overall responsibility for the organization. It meets at least twice a year.

The Assembly of Members elects an executive board that manage the business plan of the organization. The five members of the executive board are:

1. Naime Sherifi – Bachelor in languistics; Executive director of the Centre for Protection of Women and Children in Prishtina.
2. Mehdi Bala, Bachelor in Engineering and Architecture; Director of Urbanism and Spatial Planning in the Municipality of Mitrovica
3. Dr.Sc.Ali Topalli – PhD in Physics; Academic staff of FAMA College
4. Fatmire Topalli – Bachelor in Economics, Professor at economic vocational high school in Mitrovica
5. Drinor Musliu – Bachelor in Economics; Dispatcher at Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company Kosovo;

The board employs an Executive Director who is the Chief Executive Officer of the organization. There are five full-time staff and one intern that are under the supervision of the Executive Director.

## **Services**

The CPWC-Raba Voca is a member of the Kosovo Shelter Coalition (KSC). The CPWC-Raba Voca is an independent non-for-profit NGO, which was established by the agreement of the Ministry of Work and Social Welfare.

The shelter provides 24 hour housing to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. The shelter also gets referrals from other social services agencies such as the Center for Social Work of Mitrovica, Vushtrri, Skenderaj, Leposavic, Zubin Potok and Albanik. As well as from the Police of Kosovo (Domestic Violence Unit and Anti-Trafficking Unit)

### Programs and services

* Monitoring of women and children rights in the region of Mitrovica, including suburbs;
* General assistance for victims of all forms of violence in the form of;
	+ Counseling
	+ Psychosocial Support(self-esteem and awareness building exercises)
	+ Medical care including sex education
	+ Entertainment and recreational activities, physical exercises
	+ Sheltering (providing security, adequate food and clothing, and a hygienic environment)
	+ Legal and social protection; and
	+ Legal counseling for human & women rights of shelter beneficiaries
	+ Advocacy services.
* Promoting, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of laws that protect women and children who are at risk of abuse and/or neglect;
* Collaboration with the following agencies and organizations to ensure that the rights and privileges of those who are abused or neglected are maintained:
	+ Kosovo government, judiciary, police and other security agencies
	+ Local and international NGOs outside and inside Kosovo;
	+ Media to create awareness through different campaigns (trainings, seminars, round tables, tribunals, conferences, etc.)
* Vocational training (competency based training based on local labour market development needs),
* Reintegration into normal family life and society as a whole.

### Brief service description

#### **Medical services**

* Preventive services
* Health education and reproduction on family planning
* Primary care

#### **Counseling**

* short term solution-focused counseling
* safety planning
* information and education about violence against women
* referrals to other community and social service agencies
* public education about violence against women and human trafficking

#### **Legal Support**

* legal information and support
* safety planning
* legal referrals
* accompaniment to legal appointments and court support
* public education about violence against women and human trafficking

#### **Group Program**

* psycho-educational groups
* support groups
* individual counseling as needed
* public education about violence against women and human trafficking

## **Service utilization**

On an average annual basis, the centre provides service to 63.8 full time equivalent clients. While the average length of stay will vary depending on someone’s needs, the average length of stay is 63.5 days. The centre operates on average at 50% capacity – meaning that it can accommodate up to 20 people per day and actually accommodates 10 people. There is a current unmet need for 20 people per day based on reports from emergency services and services provided by shelters in other areas to citizens of this region.

What prevents the shelter from providing services to more than 10 people per day is a lack of funding. The only source of revenue is from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare which provide direct assistance to clients for food, clothing and shelter. There is no additional revenue stream to cover extra housing costs and staffing.

All clients receive counseling, medical and legal or advocacy services. In addition to that, over the last five years:

* 86% have utilized education and training;
* 54% have utilized social activities;
* 99% utilize other services (e.g. - personal hygiene, transportation)

## **Budget summary**

The centre currently operates at a 50% capacity with a budget of €35,400 per year over and above the €25,920.00 it receives for food and utilities. Given the estimated unmet need, the shelter requires an additional €50,000 year to operate at approximately 75% capacity. This would allow the center to meet the needs of 15 people on any given day. The swing space required to accommodate heavier load times is approximately 25%. This ensures that there is a maximum capacity to operate with 20 people per day when the need arises for shorter periods of time, but not over longer periods of time than 2 months (the average length of stay is two months).

Although the shelter receives a grant from the Ministry of Social Welfare (EUR 24,000.00) to cover food costs as well as a grant from the Municipality of Skenderaj (EUR 1,920.00) for utilities, this amount has not been sufficient for its operations. The move to operate independently in 2007 meant that the shelter had to operate on a limited budget and as of January 2013 the shelter does not have any other financial support apart from those indicated above. This has led to a situation where members of staff have to work without pay while other items needed for the maintenance of the shelter are either paid for by the director of the shelter herself through private means or not taken care of at all.

As the number of beneficiaries varies from month to month, expenses are not the same each month. Thus, the shelter office expenses and shelter activities expenses are in correlation with the number of victims accommodated in the shelter, as well as the number of days each victim will spent in the shelter. However, we predicted the above mentioned expenses according to our past experience, and always trying to spend moderately and using resources as effectively as possible.

### Explanation of budget requirements

Shelter office expenses:

* 1. Rent is fixed.
	2. Electricity varies from 65.00 – 89.00 EUR
	3. Communication (phone and internet): phone expenses vary from 20.00 – 40.00 EUR, whereas internet is fixed paid 15.00 EUR/per month.
	4. Water and garbage: water is variable from 12.00 – 16.00 EUR; garbage is fixed – 6.00 EUR/per month.
	5. Office supplies includes: paper A4, printer toners, pens, boxes, protection sheets, etc. It varies from 22.50 – 34.90 EUR
	6. Hygiene and maintenance includes: cleaning tools, washing powder for clothes, dishwashing liquid, different detergents, etc. it is variable, from 38.65 - 44.75 EUR
	7. Fuel: currently the liter of benzene is around 1.24 EUR, a car is used when food, clothing and other supplies are purchased for the shelter needs, and for transportation needs. Fuel costs vary from 41.50 – 55.70 EUR.
	8. Printed materials are fixed: 500 brochures = 50 EUR

Shelter activities expenses:

These costs are for personal client items not covered by the monies to clients from the Ministry of Social Welfare.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  Budget needs beyond current revenue stream |   |  |
|  | **Budget Line (in Euro)** | **Total Shelter Expenses (period of 12 months)** |
|  |
|  | **Item/Description** | **Unit cost**  | **Quantity** | **Units** | **TOTAL**  |
| **A** | **Personnel** | **Based on 40 Hrs/wk** |  |  |  |
| 1 | Project Manager | €       320.00 | 1 | 12 | €                   3,840.00 |
| 2 | Family Doctor | €       400.00 | 1 | 12 | €                   4,800.00 |
| 3 | Psychologist (part-time) | €       300.00 | 1 | 12 | €                   3,600.00 |
| 4 | Trainer for kitchen course | €       300.00 | 1 | 12 | €                   3,600.00 |
| 5 | Trainer for hairdressing course | €       300.00 | 1 | 12 | €                   3,600.00 |
| 6 | Trainer for computer course | €       300.00 | 1 | 12 | €                   3,600.00 |
|  | **A. Sub-total Personnel costs** | **€       1920.00** | **12** | 12 | **€                 23,040.00** |
| **B** | **Shelter office costs** |  |  |   |  |
| **1** | Rent for the shelter | **€       500.00** | **1** | 12 | €                   6,000.00 |
| **2** | Electricity |  €            73.50 | **1** | 12 | €                      600.00 |
| 3 | Communication: phone   and internet | €         45.00 | **1** | 12 | €                      600.00 |
| 4 | Water and garbage | €         22.00 | **1** | 12 | €                      360.00 |
| 5 | Office supplies | €         27.35 | **1** | 12 | €                      600.00 |
| 6 | Hygiene and maintenance supply | €         42.75 | **1** | 12 | €                      600.00 |
| 7 | Fuel | €         46.80 | **1** | 12 | €                      600.00 |
| 8 | Printed materials (brochures, flyers) | €        50.00 | **1** | 12 | €                      600.00 |
|  | **B. Sub-total office costs** | **€       830.00** | **1** | 12 | **€                    9,960.00** |
| **C** | **CPWC Shelter assistance activities**  |  |  |   |  |
| 1 | Clothing | €       120.00 | **1** | 12 | €                   1,440.00 |
| 2 | Personal hygiene items | €         23.45 | **1** | 12 | €                      720.00 |
| 3 | Health and medicaments | €         33.00 | **1** | 12 | €                      480.00 |
| 4 | Psychosocial activities, Occupational therapy, Vocational trainings expenses for 3 courses, Health education and reproductive planning expenses;  | €       200.00 | **1** | 12 | €                   2,400.00 |
|  | **C.Sub-total Shelter assistance actvities** | **€       420.00** | **1** | 12 | **€                   5,040.00** |
|  | **Total Costs (A+B+C)** | **€    2,950.00** |  | 12 | **€                 35,400.00** |
|  |  |  |  |   |   |

## **Appendix I: Data on services provided**

The shelter provides services to its beneficiaries regardless of age, religion, ethnicity and race. The OVERALL GOAL OR OBJECTIVE of our domestic violence victim service programs is to enhance safety and justice for battered women and their children. Tables #1, #2 and #3 provide an overview of who the shelter has served since 2007.

It is also important to consider what we expect to see happen as a result of our program, that is measurable, that would tell us we are meeting our objective(s). Our first and most important short term outcome is to provide for immediate safety which we have done with 100% of our clients. Once that has been assured we strive for longer term outcomes for the person once they leave the shelter. Tables #4 and #5 provide our living arrangement outcomes and employment outcomes since 2007. These are immediate and short term outcomes that result from immediate and within six months of discharge. Lyon and Sullivan (2007) caution that measuring long-term outcomes is very labor intensive, time consuming, and costly and argue that is it more realistic to measure the short-term outcomes that are expected to lead to longer-term outcomes.[[1]](#footnote-1)

#### Table 1: nature of referral

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NUMBER OF SHELTERED VICTIMS IN CPWC SHELTER -MITROVICA, BASED ON TYPE OF VIOLENCE** | **YEARS** | **TOTAL** |
| **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** |
| Victims of domestic violence | 44 | 77 | 66 | 69 | 63 | 69 | **388** |
| Victims of trafficking and forced prostitution | - | 6 | - | - | 3 | 9 | **18** |
| Victims sexual rape | - | - | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | **16** |
| Victims of incest | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | **3** |
| External violence | - | - | 9 |  | 4 | - | **13** |
| Victims of bad social situation(social cases)  | - | 25 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | **37** |
| **TOTAL:** | **44** | **109** | **81** | **82** | **79** | **80** | **475** |

**Figure 1: Number of sheltered victims in CPWC shelter -Mitrovica, based on type of violence**

#### Table 2: client ethnicity

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NUMBER OF SHELTERED VICTIMS IN CPWC SHELTER IN MIROVICA, BASED ON ETHNICITY** | **YEARS** | **TOTAL** |
| **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** |
| Albanian | 37 | 102 | 76 | 75 | 66 | 75 | **431** |
| Albanian from Albania | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | **4** |
| Serbian | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | - | **9** |
| Roma | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 2 | **20** |
| Ashkali | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | **5** |
| Bosnian | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | **3** |
| Romanian  | - | - | - | - | - | - | **-** |
| Moldavian | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | **3** |
| Croatian | - | - | - | - | - | - | **-** |
| German | - | - | - | - | - | - | **-** |
| Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | - | - | - | - | - | - | **-** |
| **TOTAL:** | **44** | **109** | **81** | **82** |  **79** | **80** | **475** |

**Figure 2: Number of sheltered victims in CPWC shelter - Mitrovica, based on ethnicity**

#### Table 3: location of client served

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of victims sheltered based on Urban/Rural areas** | **Years** | **Total** |
| **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** |
| **Rural** | **11** | **57** | **32** | **30** | **35** | **48** | **213** |
| **Urban** | **33** | **52** | **49** | **52** | **44** | **32** | **262** |
| **Total** | **44** | **109** | **81** | **82** | **79** | **80** | **475** |

**Figure 3: Number of sheltered victims based on urban/rural area**

#### Table 4: living arrangement outcomes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Known discharge outcomes** | **Years** | **Total** |
| **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** |
| **Return to previous living arrangement** | **38** | **82** | **68** | **76** | **71** | **70** | **405** |
| **Return to extended family** | **5** | **26** | **13** | **6** | **5** | **8** | **63** |
| **New living arrangement (e.g. divorce; separation)** | **1** | **1** | **0** | **0** | **3** | **2** | **7** |
| **Total** | **44** | **109** | **81** | **82** | **79** | **80** | **475** |

**Figure 4: Discharge outcome based on living arrangement by year.**

#### Table 5: employment outcomes

After leaving the shelter, with the mediation of the shelter from year 2007 up to 2012 a total of 25 clients attained employment:

|  |
| --- |
| 5 cases were employed in a hairdressing salon8 cases were employed as cooks1 case employed in a large store food1 case employed in a detergents factory8 cases did business creation (cow, sell the milk at the nearest milk collection point)2 cases did business creation (sheep, sell the milk at the nearest milk collection point). |

The other 450 people returned either to their previous living arrangement or to their extended family, not working but living a better life than they did before coming to the shelter. As the cases are very sensitive and private, the chances to contact the beneficiaries after leaving the shelter are minimal due to the family culture in Kosovo, especially husbands who are very conservative. Therefore the employment information given above were taken as beneficiaries were still in the shelter, and by their request to find a job, we did our utmost to find a solution for them. However this does not mean that other beneficiaries did not find a job yet.

1. Lyon, E. & Sullivan, C.M (2007). Outcome Evaluation Strategies for Domestic Violence Service Programs Receiving FVPSA Funding: A Practical Guide, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence [↑](#footnote-ref-1)