



## **Operacioni i Mëkëmbjes:**

### **Vocations For The Future (Aftesitë për të Ardhmën) annual report**

#### **Academic Year 2018 – 2019**

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## **Introduction**

Operacioni i Mëkëmbjes is a Non-Government Organization based in Peja, Kosovo, staffed by international volunteers as well as local employees. The mandate is to contribute to the prevention of domestic violence and human trafficking in Kosovo, and provide rehabilitation and reintegration for women & children who have experienced violence.

We have two projects in order to achieve these aims. The first is a rehabilitation and reintegration center for families. (For more information regarding the center, please contact the organisation directly.)

The second is the Vocations for the Future project, which offers high quality practical training to students; a forum for discussion to equip young people to face and overcome challenges in their lives; and support for those who need it to thrive both in and out of school with psychological and schooling sessions.

## **Vocations For the Future Overview**

‘Vocations For the Future’ began in 2015 with a grant from the American Embassy in Prishtina, and has just completed a fourth successful year. We believe that investing in the skills of young people to equip them for work is an investment in the future growth of Kosovo and the creation of a brighter future. Our strategy for doing this focuses on excellence. In every area of work we strive for excellence to give teenagers better opportunities for the future.

This year we have had 59 students complete nine-month courses in barbering, welding, electrical installation, sewing, or (new for this academic year) cooking.



This year the addition of a cooking class has enabled us to offer a broader range of skills to help young people become ready for work, and to uncover their skills or interests in their chosen subject.

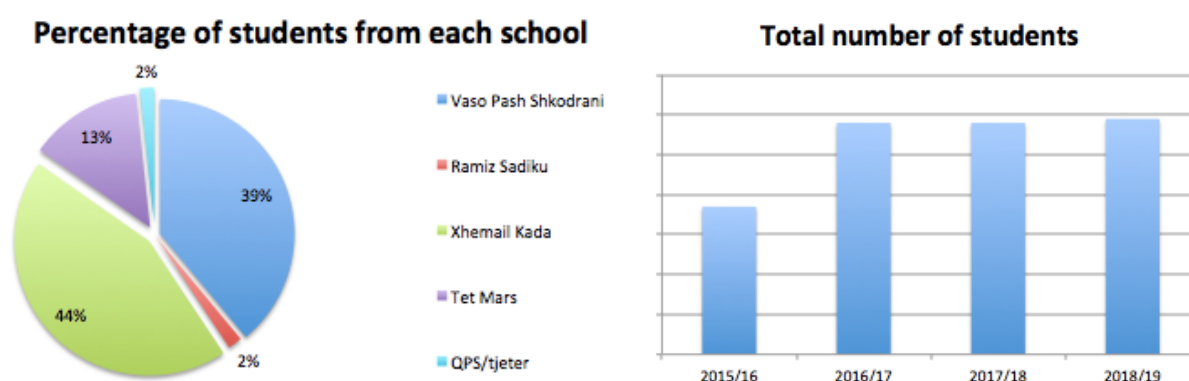
For some of our students, studying with us has led them to continue their education at middle school in the technical school for metalwork. From our 2018 graduates, four students continued to study metalwork in the local technical school.

We also have a number of previous students continuing on to design or sewing courses, with 6 others planning to do the same when they move to middle school. Our courses have enabled them to discover a desire to continue to study design and sewing.

For some of our students the training courses we offer have enabled them to find work immediately. There are currently five former students working as barbers around Peja. Recent contact with one graduate from 2017 revealed he is now working as a metalworker, and numerous accounts from parents have shown that the electrical students are helping with home maintenance, and have the desire to continue training at the technical school. Alongside this, our barbering trainer has reported that we have gained a reputation as training the best hair dressing apprentices in the region.

In a recent review of the discussion groups with the students, they reported enjoying all of the sessions, but in particular thought that the discussion around conflict management had been especially helpful and applicable.

## Statistics for 2019



- 212 Students have completed a vocational training course with us over the past 4 years.
- 109 families visited and children pre-registered in 2019
- 72% (79 students) of pre-registered students began one of our courses
- 11 Students returned for a second level
- 66% of students completed their course
- 92% of graduating students received a 3 or higher in their course (out of a potential 5), with 58% showing significant improvement in their skills and engagement over the year
- 32% of graduating students attained the highest possible grade

## **Goals for 2018/19**

	Description	COMPLETED/PARTIAL/UNFULFILLED
1	To introduce a new course for girls in cookery	COMPLETED: 5 students graduated from a cooking course this year.
2	To reduce the drop out rate of pre-registered students to less than 20% (especially within the first 3 months)	UNFULFILLED: 28% of preregistered students stopped attending our courses for a variety of reasons.
3	To have over 70% of students graduate	UNFULFILLED: 66% of students who began a course completed it.
4	To develop stronger relationships with other youth advocacy and training organisations, or violence prevention schemes in Kosovo	PARTIAL: This year we have attended some discussions on youth rights, but we have no formal new partnerships.
5	To start a new relationship with at least one more school in Peja to ensure that our courses have maximum attendance	COMPLETED: We developed a new working relationship with a school near our centre in Fidanishte to try and ensure maximum capacity in the classes.

### **Suggestions for unfulfilled goals**

The primary unfulfilled goal that needs addressing is regarding course completion. This year we had a number of level 1 students stop attending. In conversations with the trainers and parents we have discovered that these students left because of other commitments, which shows that they were not the ideal candidates to benefit from one of our training courses. We will continue to work closely with schools and their contact representative to ensure that the students suggested to us are the most eligible candidates.

## **Goals for 2019/2020**

	Description
1	To reduce the drop out rate of pre-registered students to less than 20% (especially within the first 3 months)
2	To have over 70% of students graduate
3	To develop stronger relationships with other youth advocacy and training organisations, or violence prevention schemes in Kosovo
4	To continue to grow our schooling support sessions, and to instigate them earlier in the year