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STUDY OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS IN KOSOVO



The Study of Children in Street Situations in Kosovo was undertaken to provide rigorous data and evidence about the circumstances of children in street situations nationally that was absent. The study took a child rights approach in accordance with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) General Comment No. 21 on Children in Street Situations (2017).

Study of **Children** **in Street Situations** in Kosovo

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Contents

Acknowledgements	7
Executive Summary	8
Abbreviations and Acronyms	11
Chapter 1. Introduction	12
Kosovo	13
Children's rights in Kosovo	14
Children in Street Situations	15
Children in street situations globally	15
Children in street situations regionally	16
Children in street situations in Kosovo	17
Chapter 2. Study objectives and research questions	19
Objectives and Research Questions	19
Chapter 3. Study Methodology	21
Theoretical Framework	21
Study Setting	21
Study design and phases	22
Overall study design	22
Pre-study meetings with policymakers and stakeholders	22
Technical reference group	22
Stakeholder questionnaire	23
Brief field-based and long survey with children in street situations	24
Focus group discussions with children in street situations	27
In-depth interviews with parents of children in street situations	27
Data collection tools	28
Ethical considerations	28
Informed Consent and Assent	28
Data analysis	29
Quantitative data analysis	29
Qualitative data analysis	29
Data Triangulation and Mixed Methods Analysis	29
Limitations	30
Chapter 4. Study Findings	31
Where are children in street situations in Kosovo and why are they there?	31
Select geographic locations in Kosovo with children in street situations	31
Who are children on the streets with?	32
Why are children on the streets in Kosovo?	33
Who are children in street situations in Kosovo?	36
Socio-demographics of children in street situations in Kosovo	36
What do children do on the streets of Kosovo?	38
Educational status of children in street situations in Kosovo	39
Family profile of children in street situations	41
Family composition	41
Family Origins & Migration	41
Family Economic Status	41
Family Problems	42
Housing and living circumstances of children in street situations	43
Life on the streets in Kosovo	44
Stigma and Discrimination	44
Boys versus girls on the streets	44
Income generation on the street	45
Family and Child Sources of income	46
Types of work	46
What do children do with their earnings?	47

Health and well-being of children in street situations in Kosovo	48
General Health	48
Nutrition	48
Substance Use	48
Violence	48
Future Outlook on Opportunities to Succeed and Prosper	49
Service utilization by children and families in street situations in Kosovo	50
Stakeholder perceptions of service availability	50
Assistance provided to children and families in street situations.	50
Children in street situations service utilization	50
Government Social Assistance	51
Stakeholder organization profile	51
Stakeholder perceived barriers to improving the lives and circumstances of children in street situations in Kosovo	51
What's needed for children and families in street situations in Kosovo	52
Stakeholder perceptions of service needs	52
Stakeholder priorities to improve child protection and support for children in street situations.	52
Stakeholder priorities to improve data collection and evidence-informed decision and policymaking about children in street situations in Kosovo	53
Stakeholder priorities for government policies	53
Chapter 5. Recommendations	55
Macrosystem Recommendations	56
Poverty reduction	56
Strengthen implementation of child protection laws, policies, and systems	57
Educational interventions and policies to support vulnerable children and families and reduce child labour	61
Systematic and regular data collection on children in street situations	63
Exosystem recommendations	65
Economic empowerment, employment, and vocational training for parents of children in street situations	65
Mesosystem recommendations	66
Parenting skills training	66
Microsystem recommendations	66
Ensure children in street situations are knowledgeable about their rights.	66
Ensure children in street situations are knowledgeable about child protection and other support services.	67
Life skills provision to children in street situations	68
Psychosocial and mental health services.	68
Conclusions	69
Citations	70
Tables	74
Annexes	85
List of Stakeholders	85
Technical Reference Group	86
Stakeholder questionnaire	86
Brief field-based survey	91
Full survey	94
Focus group discussion guide	105
Parental in-depth interview guide	108

List of Tables

Table 1	Estimated number of children in street situations across 18 municipalities as reported by CSWs to inform study sites and sampling strategy	26
Table 2	Composition of focus group discussions by age, gender, and geographic location	29
Table 3	Socio-demographics of parents of children in street situations interviewed.	30
Table 4	Stakeholder identified top 5 barriers to improving the lives and circumstances of children in street situations in Kosovo.	54
Table 5	Stakeholder top 5 priorities to improve child protection and support for children in street situations in Kosovo.	55
Table 6	Stakeholder top 5 priorities to improve data collection and evidence-informed decision and policymaking about children in street situations in Kosovo.	55
Table 7	Stakeholder top 5 priorities for government policies related to children in street situations in Kosovo.	56
Table 8	Recommended poverty reduction strategies	58
Table 9	Prioritized recommendations to strengthen implementation of child protection, laws, and systems.	60
Table 10	Recommendations to improve educational enrolment and attendance while reducing child labour.	64
Table 11	Recommendations for data collection with and for children in street situations	66
Table 12	Recommendations to economically empower parents of children in street situations.	67
Table 13	Recommendation to improve parenting skills.	68
Table 14	Recommendation to ensure children in street situations are knowledgeable about their rights.	69
Table 15	Recommendation to ensure children are knowledgeable about child protection and other services.	69
Table 16	Recommendation for life skills curriculum.	70
Table 17	Recommendations for psychosocial and mental health services.	70
Table 18	Basic socio-demographics of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by geographic location.	76
Table 19	Circumstances of street-involvement among children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by geographic location.	77
Table 20	Basic socio-demographics of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	78
Table 21	Circumstances of street-involvement among children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	79
Table 22	Family circumstances of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	80
Table 23	Educational circumstances of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	81
Table 24	Housing circumstances of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	82
Table 25	Income generation and sources of income among children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	82
Table 26	Health and well-being profile of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	83
Table 27	Nutritional status of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	83
Table 28	Experiences of violence among children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	84
Table 29	Service utilization by children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.	84
Table 30	Stakeholder ranking of priorities for improving children protection and support for children and families in street situations in Kosovo.	85
Table 31	Stakeholder ranking of barriers to the improvement of the lives of children in street situations in Kosovo.	85
Table 32	Stakeholder ranking of priorities to improve children's access to and use of services in Kosovo.	86
Table 33	Stakeholder ranking of priorities to improve data collection and evidence-informed decision- and policymaking for municipal and central policymakers regarding the issue of children in street situations and their families.	86

List of Figures

Figure 1	Bronfenbrenner's social-ecological model.	23
Figure 2	Overall study design and timeline.	24
Figure 3	Numbers of children in street situations identified by geographic location in Kosovo.	33
Figure 4	Situation of child at time of interview	34
Figure 5	Situation of child at time of interview by geographic location.	35
Figure 6	Primary reason for child's street-involvement by sex.	36
Figure 7	Stakeholder perceived reasons for children's street-involvement in Kosovo.	36
Figure 8	Length of time child in street situation	37
Figure 9	Number of children in street situations by age and geographic location	38
Figure 10	Age of children in street situations by sex	38
Figure 11	Number of street situation by gender and geographic location	39
Figure 12	Ethnicity of children in street situations in Kosovo by sex.	39
Figure 13	Activities undertaken by children in street situations by sex.	40
Figure 14	Ever been in school by sex.	41
Figure 15	Current school attendance by sex.	41
Figure 16	Orphan status of children in street situations by sex.	43
Figure 17	Percentage of parents of children in street situations employed.	44
Figure 18	Sleeping location of children in street situations by sex.	45
Figure 19	Income generation by children in street situations by sex.	47
Figure 20	Frequency of work among children in street situations by sex.	47
Figure 21	Sources of income among children in street situations by sex.	48
Figure 22	What children do with earnings by sex.	49
Figure 23	Meals eaten per day by sex.	50
Figure 24	Future outlook by sex.	51
Figure 25	Stakeholder perceptions of service availability for children in street situations in Kosovo	52
Figure 25	Services used by children in street situations by sex.	53
Figure 26	Services needed for children and families in street situations in Kosovo.	54



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Executive Summary

The Study of Children in Street Situations in Kosovo was undertaken to provide rigorous data and evidence about the circumstances of children in street situations nationally that was absent. The study took a child rights approach in accordance with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) General Comment No. 21 on Children in Street Situations (2017). The study was designed and implemented in collaboration with key stakeholders in Kosovo. An international consultant was hired to carry out the study, supported by two local consultants on the ground in Kosovo.

The mixed methods study was national in scope and had two primary objectives. First, was to provide a baseline profile of children in street situations in Kosovo in terms of what has driven them to the street, their sociodemographic characteristics, their family situations, their educational profile, and their lives and work on the street, as well as their physical and mental health. A second primary objective of this study was to document the availability and utilization of health, social, and other services, and to identify bottlenecks and opportunities to strengthen child protection and other support services for children in street situations. This findings from this work are critical to intervening to ensure children in street situations and their families are connected to adequate services, their rights are upheld, and they are provided with the support necessary for their full integration into society.

In total, 130 children in street situations aged 6 to 17 years were identified across 8 regions in Kosovo. The highest number of children in street situations were found in Pristina (n=39), followed by Ferizaj (n=20), Gjakova (n=20), Peja (n=18), Prizren (n=18), Dragash (n=5), Fushe Kosova (n=5), and Kline (n=5). At the time of being interviewed, 46% of children were with a parent/guardian on the street, under a quarter (23%) were with siblings, 17% were with peers, and 11% were found alone on the street. Over half (58%) of the children in street situations identified were boys and 42% were girls. A third (33%) of children interviewed were between the ages of 6 to 10 years, 49% were aged 10 to 14 years, and 18% were 15 to 17 years. Few children reported having siblings less than 5 years of age on the streets (5%), and 36% reported having siblings in street situations from 5 to 10 years of age.

Most commonly (88%) children in street situations identified as being from the Ashkali (42%), Roma (33%), and Egyptian (13%) ethnic groups. Fewer children reported belonging to the Kosovo Albanian ethnic group (13%), and less than 1% reported being from the Republic of Albania. These findings confirmed that children in street situations in Kosovo are disproportionately from ethnic minority groups, likely due to marginalization and structural discrimination experienced by these communities more broadly throughout the region.

Children in street situations most frequently reported that poverty was the primary reason (88%) they became street-involved, and this was confirmed by children and parents alike in qualitative interviews. Similarly, when asked what keeps them in street situations, resoundingly (92%) children reported that poverty kept them on the streets, with some children reporting that family problems keeps them on the streets (8%). The study found little to no evidence that children were forced into street situations or trafficked; however, it may be due to fear of disclosure of issues related to child trafficking. The study's findings are in alignment with the global literature where it is well-established that poverty, family conflict, and child abuse are the three most frequently reported reasons for children's street-involvement internationally. These findings have

important implications for preventing children from entering street situations and supporting children and families to discontinue their street-involvement through the implementation of evidence-based poverty reduction strategies and strengthening the implementation of child protection, laws, policies, and systems in Kosovo.

Ensuring the implementation and strengthening of child protection laws, policies, and systems in Kosovo is fundamental to reaching and providing a continuum of care for children at risk of or in street situations. Children's right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to life, survival, and development are at risk. Greater than 36% of children in street situations reported sleeping in a location other than an apartment, house, or trailer with family, and 14% reported sleeping in either an empty or abandoned building or public space in the past 4 weeks, indicative that their right to housing and an adequate standard of living is not being upheld. Moreover, 63% of children in street situations in the current study reported having less than 3 meals per day, which may signify that children in street situations in Kosovo are experiencing temporary or chronic food insecurity.

Children's right to accessible, free, safe, relevant, and quality education and their ability to meet educational milestones when in street situations in Kosovo is at risk. A substantial proportion (39%) of children interviewed had never been to school, and very few were currently attending schools (25%), while many children are involved in informal income generation (25%) and begging (60%), suggesting some degree of child labour. However, a significantly higher proportion of boys (40%) versus girls (6%) reported engaging in work (e.g., manual labour, providing services, and selling things), likely owing to social-cultural norms. Children involved in income generating activities, reporting doing so every day (74%), and almost all (83%) children reported giving their earnings to their parents, with just over a quarter (27%) reporting that it was their choice what to do with the money earned. There are strong links between child labour and poor educational outcomes for children, and interventions and policies to ensure children in street situations have access to education and attend school are critical to implement in association with poverty reduction to reduce child labour in this context.

In association with reducing poverty and child labour, the study found that almost all children come from families where their parents are unemployed, with 61% reporting their parents' main source of income was government assistance, followed by begging (44%), and recycling metals and plastics (20%). Notably, over a quarter (29%) of children interviewed reported that their parents had no source of income. Among the parents of children in street situations interviewed, all reported a willingness and desire to work, build skills, and not be reliant solely on government assistance. These findings are significant when considering interventions to support parents to help ensure that their children are able to live in a stable family home with an adequate standard of living that would prevent street-involvement. Parents require support to augment their skills to gain employment, and become economically empowered to support their families, and create a stable home, which provides the requirements to uphold children's rights.

Overall, the study identified that there is an urgent need to implement a unified national strategy on the issue of children in street situations, that addresses both preventing children and parents from becoming street-involved, as well as to intervene once children find themselves in street situations. As a result of the study's findings, there are several specific areas for intervention that have been identified, and key recommendations made and prioritized for immediate, mid-, and long-term action with a focus on child rights. These recommenda-

tions have been made across the social-ecological model, with specific recognition of the need to intervene at the policy/systems and infrastructure level (macrosystem), the environment in which child lives and spends time at home and on the street (exosystem), at the level of interpersonal relationships with family (mesosystem), and with the child themselves (microsystem). Clear recommendations have been made and prioritized within a child rights framework in this report, and the government of Kosovo and other stakeholders should take immediate action to respond to the issue of children in street situations in Kosovo.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASSIST	Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test
CMR	Case Management Roundtables
CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSW	Centers for Social Work
CYAS	Central Youth Action Council of Kosovo
EU	European Union
FGDs	Focus group discussions
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIS	Health Information System
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMCCR	Inter-Ministerial Committee for Child Rights
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ICAST-CH	ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool for Children at Home
ISPCAN	International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
KAS	Kosovo Agency of Statistics
KOMF	Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection
MESTI	Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
MH	Ministry of Health
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MFLT	Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
NGO	Non-Government Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPI	Ombudsperson Institution
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress disorder
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TdH	Terre Des Hommes
TRG	Technical Reference Group
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Affairs
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UPHV	Universal Progressive Home Visiting
WHO	World Health Organization



Chapter 1. Introduction

Children in street situations are amongst the most marginalized children globally. They experience severe violations of their rights before and during their time on the streets. These children are faced with multiple deprivations including lack of access to basic services, violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as well as vulnerabilities to alcohol and other substance use.¹⁻⁴ These vulnerabilities are exacerbated by gender inequities, disability, and when children migrate, either internally within countries or across borders. It is essential that all responses to address the needs of children in street situations are firmly placed within a child rights-based approach in accordance with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) General Comment No. 21 on Children in Street Situations (2017).⁵

The Study of Children in Street Situations in Kosovo was an initiative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Kosovo. The study was supported by the European Union (EU) Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) 2 Project Protecting Vulnerable Children in Kosovo. This study was national in scope and had two primary objectives. First, was to provide a baseline profile of children in street situations in Kosovo in terms of what has driven them to the street, their sociodemographic characteristics, their family situations, their educational profile, and their lives and work on the streets, as well as their physical and mental health. A second primary objective of this study was to document the availability and utilization of health, social, and other available services, and to identify bottlenecks and opportunities to strengthen protection of children in street situations.

The study design and implementation plan were informed by a comprehensive desk review at the outset, including both peer-reviewed scientific literature and grey literature, and extensive consultations with key stakeholders in Kosovo and a Technical Reference Group (TRG). In addition to children in street situations and their families, key stakeholders for this study included the Office of Good Governance, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and departments that were previously at the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers (MFLT), the Ministry of Agriculture, the Kosovo Police, the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo, the Centers for Social Work (CSW), the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and several non-governmental and community-based organizations including the Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo, KOMF (Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection), SOS Children's Villages, Terre des Hommes (TdH) and the Labyrinth Center. A complete list of key stakeholders can be found in Annex 1. The Technical Reference Group (TRG) was composed of members representing most of these institutions (Annex 2). An international consultant was hired to lead the design and implementation of the study, supported by two local consultants on the ground in Kosovo.

Kosovo

Located in south-east Europe, Kosovo has an estimated population of 1.8 million, with 31% of the population under the age of 18. The main ethnic groups are Kosovo Albanian (92%), Kosovo Serbs (4%), and minority populations of Bosnians, Gorani, Turks, Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians (in total 4%). The languages spoken include Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, and Turkish and the main religions are Sunni Islam, Orthodox Christianity, and Roman Catholicism. In 2017, an estimated 18% of the population was living below the national consumption poverty line (based on a poverty line of 1.85 euros per adult equivalent per day). Among children, 23% are living in poverty, with 7.2% living in extreme poverty. Children living in poverty are disproportionately members of ethnic minorities, including Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians.⁶

Administratively Kosovo is divided into 38 municipalities. In the last decade, a strong focus of the Kosovo Administration has been on the decentralization process to improve services at the local level, increase local representation, and defuse ethnic tension.⁷ However, decentralization highlighted shortcomings in full and equitable child rights and a lack of local capacity to implement various reforms. Currently, social services in Kosovo are decentralized at the municipality level. However, the funding, as well as several services (such as those for children without parental care and people with disabilities), remain concentrated in policy development at the central level, with limited delivery and financing.⁷ Operating in a decentralized context is important for engaging 'hard-to-reach' populations such as children in street situations. Factors contributing to the success of service and program delivery to-date include direct engagement with mayors, connecting with new partnerships at the central level (such as the Ministry of Local Governance or the Association of Municipalities), and intersectoral coordination among technical directorates and civil society actors at municipal levels.⁷

The most recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2020 MICS) in Kosovo shows that the decline in neonatal, infant, and child mortality of the past two decades has stalled.⁸ Children from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have almost double the under-five mortality rate compared to the general population. There is a high prevalence of gender-based violence, coupled with strong social norms that accept gender-based violence.^{6,8} Among children aged 1-14 years, 72% reported experiencing violent psychological or physical discipline in the past month.⁸

Children's education outcomes at all levels remain below the desired levels. Based on 2020 MICS data, attendance in early childhood education is at worryingly low levels, with only 15% of all children aged 3-4 years enrolled in early childhood education, and even lower (7.6%) for children from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.⁸ As a crucial foundation to later stage education outcomes, this low-level participation in early childhood education is troubling. Since primary school attendance is mandatory, the attendance levels for children in Kosovo are relatively high, however a significant difference is noticeable for children of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. Primary school attendance rate for all children in Kosovo is more than 95% (97% for girls), however it is 85% for children of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities (83% for girls).⁸ The decline in attendance rate increases further in higher levels of education, where the total attendance rate for upper secondary school is 84% (90% for girls), while it is less than half of that (only 31% for both girls and boys) for children of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.⁸

Data on children's health and well-being in Kosovo also show some notable disparities. By the age of 35 months, 73% of children in Kosovo have completed the childhood immunization schedule, dropping to only 38% among children from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. Among children aged 2-17 years, 8% were reported to have functional difficulty in at least one developmental domain, rising to 14% among children living in Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Children in the poorest quintile were more likely to report a functional difficulty than children in wealthier quintiles. Only 10% of boys and 9% of girls aged 15-19 years had comprehensive knowledge of HIV and less than 5% of girls aged 15-19 were using modern methods of contraception.⁸ Among its neighbors in southeastern Europe, and in spite of high tuberculosis (TB) vaccination rates, Kosovo has one of the highest TB infection rates in the region with a notification rate of 46 per 100 000 persons, trailing only Moldova and Romania.⁸⁻¹⁰ From 1999 to 2006, total TB cases in Kosovo were declining but this progress has since stopped. As of 2014 the infection rates have remained the same as in 2006, signifying that the efforts have stagnated. In more recent years, the total rate of infections has been declining, with 2020 marking the year with the least total infections with TB at only 441.⁵² For children and young adults specifically, the rate of cases with TB has been declining until 2022, when there has been a slight increase, from 103 in 2019 (the last pre-pandemic year) to 119 in 2022.⁵²¹⁰

Children's rights in Kosovo

Kosovo is not a member of the EU or the United Nations (UN), and as such is not a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). However, the constitution, adopted in 2008 and amended most recently in 2016, guarantees the rights articulated under the CRC.⁶ Specifically, the constitution declares that children have the right to protection from violence, maltreatment, and exploitation (Article 50). The rights of children in Kosovo are elaborated further in the Law on Child Protection, which prohibits the employment of children under the age of 15 (Article 50). Further, the Law on Labor, prohibits employers from signing an employment contract with a person below 15 years of age. The law stipulates that persons between 15 and 18 years of age are only allowed to be employed for easy labor that is not a risk to their health or development and is not prohibited in any other form by other legislation. However, there continue to be challenges to implementing and fully realizing these rights. Several laws have been introduced to regulate key issues in the protection and care of children, including the *Law on Social and Family Services*, the *Law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting Victims of Trafficking*, and the *Law on Child Protection*.¹¹

The *Law on Social and Family Services* charges the MFLT with the provision of Social and Family Services. The Ministry is responsible for strategic planning and policy development, while municipalities are responsible for implementation, leading to a highly decentralized approach to service provision through local Centers for Social Work (CSW).⁷ There are a total of 40 CSW in Kosovo, with approximately 230 social workers and another 140 support staff engaged in them.¹² The majority of Kosovo municipalities have at least one CSW established, with three CSW established in Pristina by the MFLT. Since 2009, CSW operate under the administration of municipalities. The financing for CSW is done through the general municipal grant from the MFLT.

The main role of CSW is to provide professional social services to families and individuals in need¹ and distribute social assistance for families living in poverty. As per the Law on Social and Family Services, each CSW is staffed by professionals trained in social services, social service officers, who are tasked with providing professional services to those in need. The director of the CSW is appointed by the Municipality. The director reports to the municipality about provision of social services and reports to the department of Social Welfare within the MFLT, in terms of exercising the responsibilities and powers set by the law. Each CSW is comprised of social service employees in the CSW, of which only 14% have a professional background in social work. The rest are social workers with other professional backgrounds, such as psychologist, economist, lawyers etc.¹³ The guardianship authority reviews cases, proposes changes to the director with regard to the internal needs and the situational analysis in the municipality.

A needs analysis for the CSW about child's rights, published by SOS-Children's Villages and Handikos, supported by the EU Office in Kosovo, shows that half of the CSW claim they need support in one or more areas in terms of their capacities in working with children. Some of the areas they have shown to have deficiencies in are child protection, child labor, child abandonment, identification of child abuse, interviewing with children.¹⁴ These findings show that while the CSW are staffed with professional social workers, there is still a clear need for further advancement of the internal capacities of the staff especially working with children in need.

Children in Street Situations

Children in street situations globally

Children in street situations encompass a wide range of children who depend on the streets to live and/or work, whether alone, with peers or with family, and a wider population of children who have formed strong connections with public spaces and for whom the street plays a vital role in their everyday lives and identities. As outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

1 As per the Law on Social and Family Services: Person in Need is any person found on the territory of Kosovo, regardless of status or place of origin, who is in need of social services because of: 1. children without parental care; 2. children with antisocial behavior; 3. juvenile delinquency; 4. disordered family relationships; 5. advanced age; 6. physical illness or disability; 7. mental disability; 8. mental illness; 9. vulnerability to exploitation or abuse; 10. domestic violence; 11. human trafficking; 12. addiction to alcohol or drugs; 13. natural or contrived disaster or emergency; 14. or other cause that renders them in need. On the other hand, a Family in Need is one where a parent or parents or other caregiver require help in caring for a child because of their own circumstance or those of the child or in circumstances where there is a child who is suffering serious harm as a result of the neglect or abuse of their parent or parents or other caregiver or their parent or parents' or other caregivers' inability to care for them adequately, or is exposed to the possibility of experiencing such.

The municipalities that participated in the survey on estimating the number of children in street situations: Fushe Kosova, Gillogoc, Hani i Elezit, Kamenica, Klina, Peja, Prishtina, Shtime, South Mitrovica, Novoberda, Skenderaj, Deçan, Viti, Dragash, Gjakova, Graçanica, Suhareka, Novo Brdo

Temporary housing (no rent) includes property owned by family member that is not a member of the household.

Goblet drum. Percussion instrument. Other names. chalice drum, tarabuka (tarambuka), tarabaki, darbuka, derbake, debuka, dombek, dumbec, dumbeg, dumbek, toumperleki (tumberleki), tumbak, zerbaghali.

<https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/facts/lang-en/index.htm>

General Comment 21 on Children in Street Situations, “*this wider population includes children who periodically, but not always, live and/or work on the streets and children who do not live or work on the streets but who regularly accompany their peers, siblings, or family in the streets. Concerning children in street situations, “being in public spaces” is understood to include spending a significant amount of time on streets or in street markets, public parks, public community spaces, squares and bus and train stations. It does not include public buildings such as schools, hospitals, or other comparable institutions.*” Central to understand, is that children in street situations circumstances are fluid and that the **streets play a central role in their lives.**

Globally, children in street situations are highly diverse and their circumstances differ from country to country. The most common drivers of children to the street globally are poverty, family conflict, and child abuse.¹⁵ In general, the peer-reviewed scientific literature on children in street situations globally, including in low- and middle-income settings, predominantly contains evidence on the causes of street-involvement among children and youth,¹⁵ their substance use,³ and their general health including HIV,¹⁶ with few studies focused on interventions or identifying approaches for reintegration and rehabilitation.

17-19

A 2012 systematic review and meta-analysis of children in street situations in resource-constrained settings (including studies from Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, and Russia) found the prevalence of lifetime substance use among this population to be 60%; in eastern European countries it was 79%. The most frequently used substances were inhalants (47%), tobacco (44%), and alcohol (41%).³ A 2013 systematic review of the health status of children in street situations found youth’s survival behaviors and the exposures associated with poor shelter have resulted in disproportionate morbidity in the areas of infectious illness, psychiatric disease, reproductive health, and perhaps to a lesser extent, growth.² Children in street situations face numerous barriers to accessing health services, including stigma and discrimination from providers, cost, lack of time, distrust, and a lack of patient-centered care, all of which impact their health and well-being.^{2,20,21} Finally, two systematic literature reviews have noted an absence of evidence-based interventions for street-connected children and youth.^{17,18}

CRC General Comment No. 21 details the numerous human rights violations faced by children in street situations.^{4,5} Initiatives such as street sweeps, the criminalization of begging, loitering, and vagrancy, and targeted violence and harassment from law enforcement constitute systemic discrimination against children in street situations and are human rights violations.^{4,5} Children in street situations also face violations of their right to life, survival, and development and their right to an adequate standard of living. Girls, children with disabilities, and children who are members of ethnic minorities may face additional human rights violations when living and/or working on the street.^{22,23} Government strategies and initiatives relating to children in street situations should take a child rights approach that fully respects their autonomy.⁵

Children in street situations regionally

Regionally in Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Georgia, and Turkey, studies on children in street situations have occurred to characterize the population of children in street situations in these countries and identify areas for intervention and rehabilitation.²⁴⁻²⁸ Commonly, across these studies, poverty, and economic factors are drivers of children’s street-involvement. Findings from these studies indicate that children come from low-income families, with

low levels of education and employment, with few resources available to sustain their children. Typically, a higher proportion of boys than girls are in street situations,^{25,26} and most studies report that children are between 5 to 17 years of age.^{25,26} Children in street situations in these contexts primarily engage in informal income generation (e.g., selling items, offering services, collecting recyclables, and other manual and often dangerous labour) and begging,^{25,26} to make an economic contribution to their families. Often children are on the streets unaccompanied by parents or responsible adults, and most children are primarily on the street during the day. Children may be forced to work on the streets by parents or guardians and are often required to give their parent(s) or guardian(s) their earnings.^{25,27} Across countries, children in street situations report low levels of school attendance.²⁴⁻²⁸ In Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia, children in street situations were often from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.^{24,25} Stigmatization and discrimination were commonly experienced by children in street situations across contexts.²⁴⁻²⁶

Children in street situations in Kosovo

Little is known about the true number and profile of children in street situations in Kosovo. A report from 2014 investigating migrant children in street situations in Albania and two municipalities in Kosovo (Prishtina and Peja) found that many children and families migrated to Pristina, Kosovo, due to poverty, particularly in the summer months, both from Albania and from other regions in Kosovo.²⁹ Children engaged in activities such as begging, scavenging garbage for metal scraps, washing car windows, or selling small items, at times under the supervision of an adult family member. The report indicates that children were explicit in saying that their parents made them work to help the family out of poverty. Working thus became a point of pride among the children. The report also postulates that much of the work that children in street situations undertake is the result of organized support ('adult patrons') and adult supervision. Daily earnings were reportedly €0.5 to €30 with an average of €6. Only a minority of children said that they keep the earnings for themselves, and those that could indicated that the money was supposed to cover their own needs (food, etc.). Children interviewed often reported having abandoned or having never gone to school. In some cases, this was due to poverty at home or not having money to pay for transportation to school. However, they also reported deciding to quit or not go because of the difficulties they faced in school, including racism and discrimination, violence from teachers and classmates, and language barriers (for Albanian children) who reportedly had troubles with the Kosovan dialect.²⁹

More recently, a report published in 2019 by the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo (OPI), based on data reported by the Kosovo Police indicates that in 2016 police identified and removed 215 children in street situations, with a decline to 200 children in 2017, and 50 children in the first four months of 2018.¹¹ These activities were undertaken in cooperation with CSW, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the Ministry for Internal Affairs. In many cases, children were accompanied by parents, relatives, or other adults. TdH reported that they had identified more than 175 children in street situations in Pristina and Prizren from June 2018 to December 2018. According to the OPI report, most children in street situations were engaged in begging.¹¹ Also according to information from the police, from January 2016-February 2018, the police addressed 51 cases to the prosecution and to the CSW for criminal offenses of human trafficking, children forced into begging, and in most cases, child mistreatment or abandonment (47 cases). The OPI report lacked age and gender disaggregated data on the numbers and profile of children in street situations in Kosovo.

The report indicates that at a country level in Kosovo, there are no official, inclusive sources of information on children in street situations. Identification of such cases by state bodies is not easy, many are on the move (internal or cross-border migration), and some are not registered in birth registers or have no form of personal identification. CSW representatives described how a recognition of children in street situations is also hindered by a lack of human, professional, and financial capacities on the part of relevant organizations. Thus, failure to be able to identify them and the lack of data about them make them 'invisible' before the law and deprives them of the enjoyment of the rights guaranteed by the applicable legislation, including health, education, and social services. While the Ombudsperson's report recommended that CSW start keeping records on children in street situations, including their age, ethnicity, economic situation, and other issues, it is not clear if that has started. There is a lack of systematically collected, accurate, reliable, and age and gender disaggregated data on children in street situations in Kosovo, that is urgently needed to strengthen the response to support the protection of children in street situations.

In 2023, the government of Kosovo enacted the decision which moved the management of the Department for Social Services from the Ministry of Finance, Labour, and Transfers (MFLT) where it previously sat, to the Ministry of Justice. This change has transferred the management of social services within the Department of Social Services and Child Protection at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).



Chapter 2. Study objectives and research questions

Despite the overall progress made in realizing children's rights in Kosovo, achievements have been uneven. A large proportion of children still face multiple deprivations with striking inequalities among different groups. Violations of children's fundamental rights remain a critical challenge and this is demonstrated through different forms of neglect, abuse, and exploitation which often pushes children to streets and engagement in different types of work. There are no available, recent, or accurate data on the numbers of street children in street situations, their ages, and gender in Kosovo, nor is there comprehensive evidence on their overall situation and the specific challenges they face. This data is critical to ensuring children in street situations and their families are connected to adequate services and provided with the support necessary for their full integration into society.

This descriptive mixed methods study aimed to provide a broad baseline assessment of children in street situations in Kosovo including a general situation profile, service availability, and barriers, gaps, and opportunities for strengthening child protection and service provision. The study was guided by four primary research questions:

Objectives and Research Questions

1) **Where are children in street situations in Kosovo and why are they there?**

- a) Identify the municipalities in Kosovo where children in street situations are living and/or working.
- b) Describe the primary factors that drive children to the street in Kosovo.

2) **What are the sociodemographic, socioeconomic, and family profiles of children in street situations in Kosovo?**

- a) Describe the sociodemographic profiles of children in street situations (e.g., gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, etc.)
- b) Describe the socioeconomic profiles of children in street situations (educational status and attainment, sources of income, priorities for spending income, housing).
- c) Describe the family situation of children in street situations (family structure, sources of income for the family).

3) **What are the major health issues affecting children in street situations in Kosovo?**

- a) Identify the number of children in street situations with self-reported physical and mental disabilities.
- b) Describe the self-reported health status of children in street situations.
- c) Describe the basic self-reported substance use among children in street situations.
- d) Describe self-reported optimism about the future among children in street situations.

- e) Describe self-reported experience of trauma and violence among children in street situations both on the street and prior to coming to the street.

4) What health, social, and education services are available to children in street situations in Kosovo, and what are the gaps and opportunities to improve them?

- a) Describe the health, social, and education services available to children in street situations and their families through state and non-state actors.
- b) Describe children in street situations self-reported utilization of these services including satisfaction with the services offered and use of the services by their families.
- c) Describe the gaps in services for children in street situations and their families as identified by service providers, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and children in street situations.
- d) Describe the key bottlenecks in health, education, and social service delivery from the perspective of service providers, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and children in street situations.
- e) Describe the opportunities to strengthen protection of children in street situations, including identifying opportunities to improve connection with existing services, and those that enhance their full integration in the society from the perspective of service providers, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and children in street situations.

Chapter 3.

Study Methodology

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is Bronfenbrenner's socio-ecological model (Figure 1). Ecological frameworks provide a structure by which to understand the dynamic and complex relationships between individuals and their environments. Bronfenbrenner's socio-ecological framework identifies four systems of influence on child health.³⁰ For this study, these systems act primarily as exposures and are: 1) the macrosystem, which includes the political context, social-cultural norms, geography, and civil and legal infrastructure; 2) the exosystem, which is the immediate environment in which the child lives – in this study, both home for those who have, and the street; 3) the meso-system - the child's interpersonal relationships with family, caregivers, peers, school, and community; and 4) the microsystem - the child themselves, including their age, sex, ethnicity, and orphan status. The study's research questions, interpretations, and recommendations are situated within the social-ecological framework.

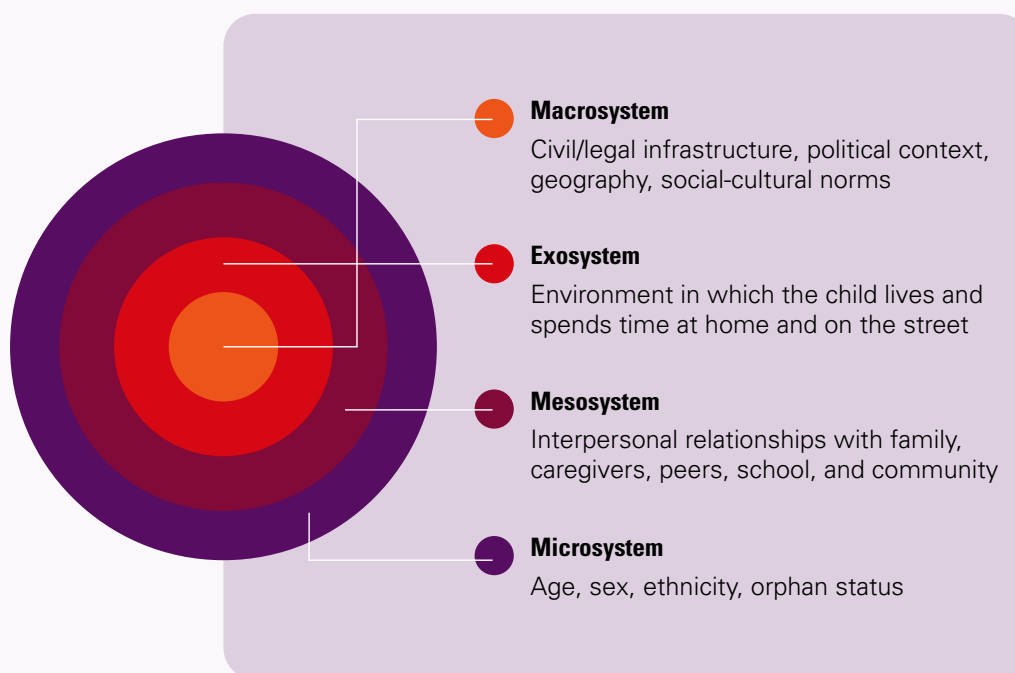


Figure 1. Bronfenbrenner's social-ecological model.

Study Setting

The data collection for the study took place in Pristina, Prizren, Fushe Kosova, Ferizaj, Gjakova, Dragash, Kline, and Peja. The selection of these regions was determined based on the police and ombudsperson reports, discussion with the TRG, and estimates provided by the local CSWs across 18 municipalities that responded to a questionnaire.²

² The municipalities that participated in the survey on estimating the number of children in street situations: Fushe Kosova, Glogoc, Hani i Elezit, Kamenica, Klina, Peja, Prishtina, Shtime, South Mitrovica, Novoberda, Skenderaj, Deçan, Viti, Dragash, Gjakova, Gracanica, Suhareka, Novo Brdo

Study design and phases

Overall study design

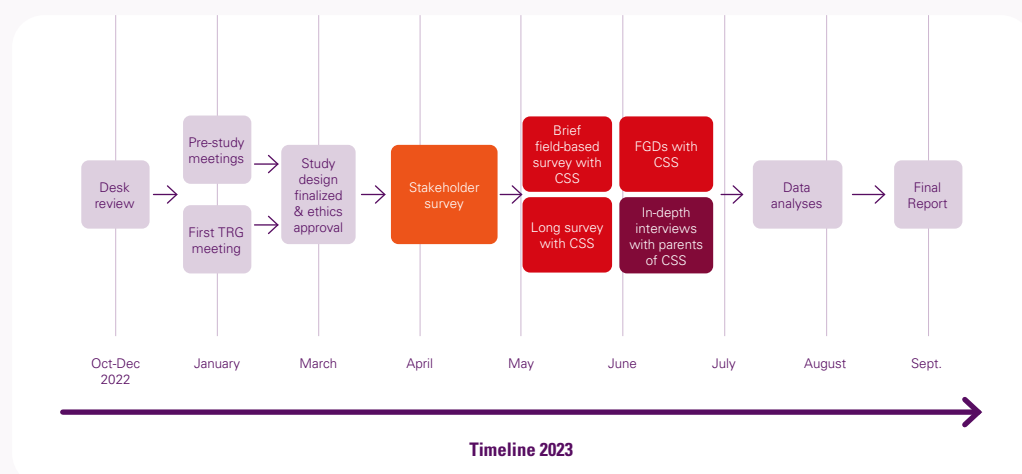


Figure 2
Overall study design
and timeline.

The study design was informed by a desk review that occurred from September 2022 to December 2022. This study used a mixed methods design and included: 1) a brief online questionnaire administered with key stakeholders; 2) a brief field-based survey with children aged six to seventeen years; 3) a longer cross-sectional structured survey for administration with children in street situations aged ten through seventeen years; 4) FGDs with children in street situations; and 5) in-depth interviews with parents of children in street situations who accompany their children to the street and/or frequent the TdH day centre in Pristina. Primary study activities occurred from January to June 2023 and data collection occurred from May to June 2023. Subsequently, data analyses, interpretation and initial report writing occurred from July to August 2023. A final report was prepared in September (Figure 2).

Pre-study meetings with policymakers and stakeholders

Prior to commencing formal data collection, the international and local consultant conducted 13 meetings in January 2023 with policymakers and stakeholders in and around Pristina to further inform the study design. Through these meetings, the international and local consultant gathered preliminary information about children in street situations in Kosovo, stakeholder, and policymaker perceptions about the issue of children in street situations, identified what policies are in place and services available to children and families in street situations. A translator was present to interpret for the international consultant, and both the international and local consultant took extensive notes during these meetings. To further contextualize the findings of the formal data collection process, given the limited previous research on children in street situations in Kosovo, the authors draw on these personal communications throughout this report to contextualize and expand upon our findings.

Technical reference group

At the outset of the project, a TRG (Annex 2) was formed of local experts to ensure local ownership, share knowledge, leadership, guide the study design, provide technical support, and to review and interpret the study findings. In January 2023, members of the TRG met and provided input on the study's design. The TRG also provided input to the interpretation of the study's findings and reviewed and contributed to the final report. The TRG was vital to ensuring the study was of high quality and useful as an indispensable foundation for decision making.

Stakeholder questionnaire

A brief online questionnaire was administered with education, social, and other government, and non-governmental stakeholders and policymakers to characterize the issue of children in street situations in Kosovo, identify services available, and begin to identify gaps and priority recommendations. The brief online questionnaire was self-administered by stakeholders using electronic data capture (e.g., laptop, tablet, or handheld device). The local consultant was available if requested to support the stakeholder to complete the questionnaire if they needed a device or access to the internet and to clarify any concepts and respond to any questions they had.

Sampling and recruitment of stakeholders

Stakeholders were purposively sampled from government, community, and healthcare organizations to participate in the brief online questionnaire. In total 19 responded and participated. Participants included individuals working in strategic positions nationally or locally, and was balanced in terms of gender, age, sector (e.g., health vs. social services, frontline vs. policy) and seniority. Informed consent was obtained using a written and online checkbox that prompted the participant to consent before the survey began. The brief questionnaire took approximately 15 minutes to complete, including the informed consent process.

Determination of study sample

To determine where data collection should occur, with the support of the Department for Social Policy and Families we reached out to the CSWs across the 38 municipalities in Kosovo to inquire about the numbers of children in street situations in each municipality to inform selection of study sites and sampling strategy. In total, we reached out to 38 CSWs and 18 (47%) of them responded. Of the 18 responding CSWs, 70% (n=12) felt that children in street situations were a problem in their municipality; however, only 6 reported that they had children in street situations access their services in the past week. Table 1 outlines the municipalities that responded and the estimated number of children in street situations from the local CSW. Moreover, to ensure that the study included children in street situations from non-majority municipalities, after not receiving feedback from municipalities in the north of Kosovo, we consulted the UNICEF Mitrovica Zonal Office on the number of children in the north of Kosovo. According to the officials from the UNICEF office in north Mitrovica, there is a very low number of children in the streets in the north part of Kosovo, since these children receive assistance from the Serbia social protection system in a timely manner. As a result, we did not include this region as one of the study's sites.

Table 1
Estimated number
of children in street
situations across
18 municipalities as
reported by CSWs to
inform study sites and
sampling strategy

CSW	Estimated # of children in street situations
Fushë Kosovë	25
Glogoc	0
Hani i Elezit	0
Kamenicë	0
Klinë	14
Pejë	0
Prishtinë	25
Shtime	0
South Mitrovica	0
Novobërdë	0
Skënderaj	0
Deçan	0
Viti	25
Dragash	14
Gjakovë	10
Gracanica	0
Suharekë	0
Novo Brdo	0

Within the regional selected sites (Pristina, Prizren, Fushe Kosove, Ferizaj, Gjakova, Dragash, and Kline/Peja), we drew on the concept and approach of snowball sampling methods to try to identify and reach all children in street situations in these regions that may be unknown to the police, local CSW, and stakeholders. Among the children in street situations known to the police and key stakeholders in these study sites, we asked them where we may reach, recruit, and enroll other eligible children to achieve a broader sample, and used the police and CSW numbers as a minimum expected number we should reach in the centers where the police/CSW have provided data.

Brief field-based and long survey with children in street situations

A brief field-based survey and a long survey was administered to children in street situations. The brief field-based survey for children in street situations aged 6-17 years was administered in field sites (e.g., on the street, where they congregate, at service delivery centres, etc.) in Pristina, Prizren, Ferizaj, Fushe Kosova, Gjakova, Dragash, Peja, and Kline. The longer survey instrument (for children aged 10-17) was administered only through service delivery points (e.g., TdH daycare centres, CSWs, and other service provision points) or a safe and neutral location identified by the investigator team in cities where children and street situations were not comfortable going to the CSW and TdH did not have an office.

For the purposes of this research, a child in street situations was defined as a child less than 18 years who self-identified as a child in street situations and as per their own self-report in the past month spent a significant portion of their time during the day, the night, or both living and/or working on the streets. Given the relationship TdH has with children in street situations, in many cases their mobile teams were familiar with the children on the streets and knew that a specific child is in a 'street situation'. For children that were unknown to the field research team, they asked the child about their street-involvement to ascertain if they met the UNHCR definition of 'children in street situations' (e.g.,

any child for whom the streets plays a central role in their everyday lives and social identities, who depend on the streets to live and/or work, whether alone, with peers or with family, and a wider population of children who have formed strong connections with public spaces).

Sampling and recruitment of children in street situations for the surveys

The study aimed to reach as many eligible children as possible to participate in the brief field-based survey, with a sample of 70-80 children as the goal. All children in street situations aged 6-17 years were eligible to participate in the brief field-based survey, which collected data on basic sociodemographic characteristics and drivers of them to the street (age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, whether they have a disability, a legal guardian, a birth certificate, how long they have been street-connected, and what initially and currently drives them to the streets). Parental/guardian or proxy informed consent and child informed assent was sought based on the age and accompaniment status of the child. The field-based short survey took approximately 10 minutes, including the informed consent/assent processes.

A convenience sample (N=60) of children in street situations aged ten years and above were eligible to participate in the longer survey which took a maximum of 25 minutes, including the informed consent/assent processes to complete. The longer survey captured more details about education, employment, housing, health, and service utilization. To ensure that the children participating in the longer interview were not only the children frequenting the daycare center of TdH in Pristina, but other children also aged ten and above that participated in the short survey across cities were given the opportunity to participate in the longer survey until the desired sample size of 60 was reached. They were invited to participate at the daycare center of TdH or at the local CSW, or at another safe and neutral location identified by the investigator team in cities where children and street situations were not comfortable going to the CSW and TdH did not have an office. Parental/guardian or proxy (e.g., local CSW) informed consent and child informed assent was sought based on the age and accompaniment status of the child.

Survey administration with children in street situations

The administration of the brief field-based and long survey was supervised by the local consultant with the data collection being conducted by personnel supplied by TdH and social work and psychology students from the University of Pristina. All personnel involved in data collection with children in street situations were trained by the research team. Enumerator planning for data collection included teams of two enumerators, at least one of which was a TdH team member, trained in social work/working with children in street situations. Pristina had the highest number of enumerators, which was suitable given the higher number of surveys administered in Pristina. Two teams of Pristina TdH staff, working together with students from the University of Pristina conducted short and long surveys in Pristina. Following the completion data collection in Pristina, the Pristina teams conducted the short and long surveys in Peja, the one city where TdH teams were not present. The Prizren TdH team in teams with University of Pristina students, conducted the short and long surveys in Prizren and Dragash. The Gjakova TdH team conducted the short surveys in Gjakova and Klina and the long surveys in Gjakova. The Ferizaj TdH team conducted the short and long surveys in Ferizaj. Finally, a team of social workers and psychologists working with SOS Children's Villages, a partner organization of UNICEF Kosovo Office, conducted the short surveys in Fushe Kosova.



Children in street situations and their parents/guardians (when accompanied) were approached on the street based on TdH knowledge of where children in street situations were likely to be found and more likely to agree to participate (i.e., not where or when they are busy working). The personnel that collected the data were issued a document showing the purpose of the study and listing the reasons for collecting the data and administered a check of understanding after every step. Once the information on the purpose of the study was provided, informed consent and assent was ascertained from children and their parent(s)/guardian(s)– depending on the age of the child and their accompaniment status at the time of the interview (with a parent/guardian or alone). Following the informed consent and assent process, the children who agreed to participate in the survey were registered in a study database and completed the survey with an enumerator. Data were collected using electronic data capture and handheld devices, with one of the enumerators asking the questions and the other entering the data in the survey. This made it possible for the local consultant to monitor data collection in real time and to be able to verify information and any issues with the data collection as it was happening.

The short field-based survey was designed to reach as many eligible children in street situations aged 6 to 17 years as possible. The enumerators were instructed to conduct as many short survey interviews as feasible, attempting to capture all possible children in street situations in the locations targeted for data collection. The enumerators collected data on the number of children approached as well as how many of the children/parents or guardians refused to participate in the survey. In total 1 parent and 4 children refused to participate in the short field-based survey.

Focus group discussions with children in street situations

FGDs were conducted with a purposive sample of children in street situations. The FGD guides were developed to elicit thoughtful information about why children find themselves in street situations, life on the streets, and the services available and needed in the health, social and education sector to complement the quantitative data collected in the brief field-based and long surveys. Children in street situations were purposively sampled to participate in FGDs from those that participated in the long survey.

Participants were purposively sampled to try to ensure FGDs were stratified by age and gender groups. FGDs occurred in age (10-13, 14-17) and gender (boys/girls) stratified groups when possible. Two focus groups by gender and mixed ages were conducted with girls and boys in Pristina. Focus groups in Prizren and Ferizaj were mixed, both in gender and age groups, given the lower number of children in the streets eligible to participate in the FGDs. The final composition of the four FGDs is shown in Table 1. Children recruited and purposively sampled to participate in the FGDs underwent the informed consent/assent processes at the interview location. The local consultant and a trained social worker conducted the FGDs with children in street situations. Using the FGD interview guide, the local consultant and social worker used a storytelling approach with children to facilitate participation and ensure children were at ease. All FGDs were audio-recorded and transcribed and translated for analysis. Children received refreshments and fruits during the FGDs.

Number of FGDs		Location	Age group composition		Sex composition	
			10-13 years n=19	14-17 years n=6	F n=12	M n=13
1	FGD with girls	Pristina	5	1	6	0
1	FGD with boys	Pristina	5	2	0	7
1	Focus group mixed	Ferizaj	7		5	2
1	Focus group mixed	Prizren	2	3	1	4

Table 2
Composition of focus group discussions by age, gender, and geographic location

In-depth interviews with parents of children in street situations

In-depth interviews were conducted with a sample of parents of children in street situations who accompany their children to the street and frequent the TdH Day Centre in Pristina. Six parents of children in street situations were purposively sampled through the TdH daycare, and although the aim was to ensure the sample was gender balanced, no fathers of children in street situations were willing to participate in interviews. As a result, all six interviews were conducted with mothers. The socio-demographics of the parental participants are shown in Table 2. Parents were asked similar questions as those asked to children in street situations during the FGDs. Parents of children in street situations provided informed written consent for their participation.

Table 3
Socio-demographics
of parents of children
in street situations
interviewed.

Socio-demographics	N=6
Age	
20 to 30 years	1
30 to 40 years	2
> 40 years	1
missing	2
Gender	
Woman	6
Man	0
Marital Status	
Married	5
Separated	1
Educational status	
No formal education	6
Employment status	
Unemployed	6
Employed	0
Median # of children	3.5
Receives social assistance	
Yes	4
No	2

Data collection tools

Both quantitative and qualitative data measurement tools were used. As much as possible the quantitative data captured were informed by a combination of the desk review, prior research undertaken by the international consultant or others (e.g., reasons for street involvement), and local contextual issues. The surveys were designed to minimize missing data by capturing both 'unknown' as a response and 'refuse to answer' for each question. The brief online questionnaire that was administered with key stakeholders is available in Annex xxiv. The brief field-based survey instrument and long survey tools that were administered with children in street situations are available in Annexes xxv and xxvi. The focus group guide for children in street situations and the in-depth interview guide for parents of children in street situations are available in (Annex xxvii and Annex xxviii).

Ethical considerations

This study drew on UNICEF's global policy and the Responsible Data for Children Principles, including the principles for respect, beneficence, justice, integrity, and accountability.³¹ This study received ethical approval (HML IRB Review #674KOSO23) from HML IRB.

Informed Consent and Assent

Children in street situations: An informed consent / assent process for children/adolescents in street situations was designed that upholds children and adolescents' rights to participate in research, while safeguarding them from potential harms. This process was designed to ascertain verbal informed consent/ assent from children/adolescents, informed consent from parents/guardians or

a proxy consent (e.g., the CSW) dependent on whether the child is accompanied by a parent/guardian or unaccompanied and their age. Parents (when accompanied) provided their informed written consent for children to participate in study activities. Informed assent was ascertained from all children for their participation in any of the study activities. For unaccompanied children aged 10-17 years the study requested a waiver of parental/guardian consent, given that participation in the study was minimal risk. Unaccompanied adolescents aged 10-17 years gave their verbal informed consent for participation in study activities. For unaccompanied children aged 6 to 10 years who were eligible to participate in the brief field-based survey, informed written consent for the child's participation was sought from the local CSW, who may act as the child's *de facto* guardian in the context of Kosovo. In-depth details regarding the informed consent and assent process are available in the study's inception report.

Key stakeholders: Informed consent was obtained with an online checkbox from all stakeholder participants for the brief online questionnaire.

Parents of children in street situations: Informed consent was obtained from all participants for the in-depth interview.

Data analysis

Quantitative data analysis

All quantitative data (brief questionnaire with stakeholders, short survey, and long survey with CSS) were entered manually into an Excel sheet and then imported into Stata or R Studio for analysis. The quantitative analysis used a descriptive in approach, calculating frequencies, means (standard deviations), medians (ranges and interquartile ranges), proportions, and cross-tabulations. All data was visualized and cleaned for obvious errors, outliers, and missingness prior to analysis. To determine statistically significant differences between girls and boys, a Chi-Square test was applied to cross-tabulation, and a fisher exact test in cases where cell counts were less than 5. Due to the limited sample size, a 90% significance level ($p < 0.10$) was used in any tests of statistical significance.

Qualitative data analysis

FGD and in-depth interview transcripts were coded manually line by line using a deductive thematic analysis approach based on the domains of the research questions (e.g., reasons for street involvement, family situation, educational status, income generation, health and well-being, and service utilization).³² Data were scrutinized for gender differences and similarities across themes.

Data Triangulation and Mixed Methods Analysis

Quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed separately and concurrently, and then merged for interpretation and triangulation to confirm, expand upon, or uncover discordant findings.^{33,34}

As part of our data triangulation and mixed methods interpretation, a gender-based analysis of findings from the qualitative and quantitative data was conducted. Quantitative data was stratified by gender (boy/girl) and qualitative data was analyzed with a gendered lens to provide insight into the different experiences, causes, and potentially different challenges faced by girls and boys in street situations in Kosovo. Additionally, the quantitative survey data was contextualized within the overall context of Kosovo and the region. Differences and similarities between children in street situations in Kosovo, the immediate region of southeastern Europe including Turkey and Georgia, will be described

drawing on data from the 2020 MICS,⁸ the studies in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia,^{24,25,29} the Study on Typology of Child Begging in the EU,³⁵ and the Overall Assessment of the Situation of Women and Children in Kosovo.⁶

Limitations

The present study is not without limitations which need to be stated explicitly and considered when interpreting findings. First, with respect to ethnic identity and Nationality of participants, children were asked as part of the brief field-based and full survey 'what is your ethnicity/nationality?' with a single choice answer with the following options: Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Albanian, Serb, Bosnian, Gorani, Turkish, Child from the Republic of Albania, Unknown, and Refuse to answer. This question was not designed to prompt children to think about their ethnic or national identities separately and is prone to identity salience, wherein the child chose the identity that was most immediate relevant or prominent in their lives at the time of the survey. For example, a child may be both Roma and from the Republic of Albania, however they responded with respect to their ethnic identity and not their Nationality. Therefore, the present study does not accurately capture ethnicity or nationality, and results as they relate to the ethnicity/Nationality of participants should be interpreted with caution, as they may underestimate the number of children from the Republic of Albania. However, in the full survey when asked about family origins, 85% responded that their family was from Kosovo, which may be indicative that most children interviewed in the field-based survey were indeed from Kosovo. Second, it is likely this study did not accurately capture data on child trafficking, drug and alcohol use, and physical and sexual violence. Children likely feared the repercussions of disclosing cases of child trafficking or experiences of physical or sexual violence in the presence of a parent or guardian or did not feel comfortable disclosing such sensitive information with the study team. However, given that the research team worked with TdH who are well known and trusted among children in street situations it is likely these fears were appeased to some extent. Nevertheless, these data should be interpreted with caution. Third, no children reported drug or alcohol use outside of the use of tobacco. This may be due to social desirability bias and the fear of repercussions from parents or guardians, and therefore these results should also be interpreted cautiously. Overall, the research team attempted to create a rapport with children in street situations working directly with TdH and other stakeholders across municipalities in Kosovo to ensure that children's right to participate in research and be heard was upheld, and that children felt comfortable participating in the research process knowing their identity and answers would remain private and confidential. This likely reduced social desirability bias and improved the accuracy of the data collected as part of this study. Fourth, the parent interviews were conducted at the TdH day center and mainly with parents who already collaborate with and benefit from TdH services. As a result, a significant number of parents already have received parenting training before doing the interview, which may have impacted the answers of parents, especially placing importance on education and keeping children in school, since this was part of the parenting training of TdH. Finally, this study collected cross-sectional data at one point in time in May and across select municipalities in Kosovo. Cross-sectional data cannot draw causal inferences, nor can data capture variances across time. The data may not be generalizable to all municipalities across Kosovo, however it provides a baseline assessment across 8 municipalities that responded to having children in street situations as part of the study preparation activities.

Chapter 4.

Study Findings

In total, 130 children in street situations aged 6 to 17 years were identified across 8 municipalities in Kosovo. The highest number of children in street situations were found in Pristina (n=39), followed by Ferizaj (n=20), Gjakova (n=20), Peja (n=18), Prizren (n=18), Dragash (n=5), Fushe Kosova (n=5), and Kline (n=5). At the time of being interviewed, 46% of children were with a parent/guardian on the street, under a quarter (23%) were with siblings, 17% were with peers, and 11% were found alone on the street. Over half (58%) of the children in street situations identified were boys and 42% were girls. A third (33%) of children interviewed were between the ages of 6 to 10 years, 49% were aged 10 to 14 years, and 18% were 15 to 17 years. Few children reported having siblings less than 5 years of age on the streets (5%), and 36% reported having siblings in street situations from 5 to 10 years of age.

In subsequent sub-sections, the findings provide in-depth details about children in street situations' sociodemographic characteristics, their family situations, their educational profile, and their lives and work on the streets, as well as their physical and mental health. Further, the findings explore service utilization by children and parents in street situations, and perspective from stakeholders regarding the phenomenon of children in street situations in Kosovo and perceived priorities for intervening.

Where are children in street situations in Kosovo and why are they there?

Select geographic locations in Kosovo with children in street situations

Across select regions in Kosovo, 130 children in street situations aged 6 to 17 years were identified, through participation in the study (Figures 3). The region with the largest proportion of children in street situations was Pristina (n=39, 30%), followed by Ferizaj (n=20, 15%), Gjakova (n=20, 15%), Peja (n=18, 14%), and Prizren (n=18, 14%). Within these regions, children in street situations were identified in Dragash (Prizren region) (n=5, 4%), Fushe Kosova (Pristina region) (n=5, 4%), and Kline (Peja region) (n=5, 4%) (Table 17).

Number of interviews
by geographic region

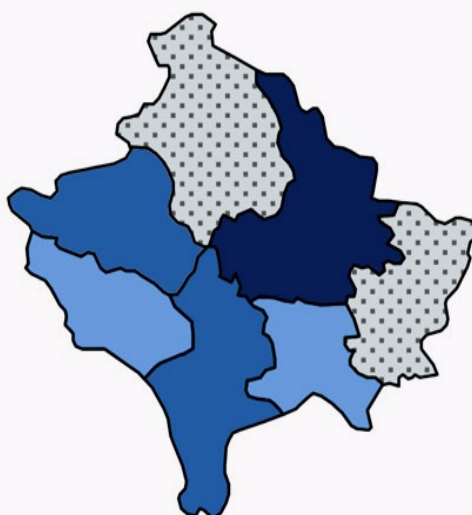
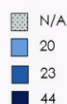


Figure 3
Numbers of children
in street situations
identified by
geographic location in
Kosovo.

Most stakeholders strongly agreed or agreed (95%) that the phenomenon of children in street situations are a problem in Kosovo. Approximately half (47%), reported that they thought children in street situations are a problem throughout Kosovo, while 53% perceived that children in street situations are a problem in select cities in Kosovo. Stakeholders who perceived children in street situations were an issue in select cities, reported that children in street situations could be found in the following cities: Pristina, Ferizaj, Prizren, Gjakova, Fushe Kosova, Peja, Gjilan, Obiliq, and Mitrovica. Generally, these perceptions align with the geographic locations where the study identified children in street situations across selected municipalities in Kosovo.

Who are children on the streets with?

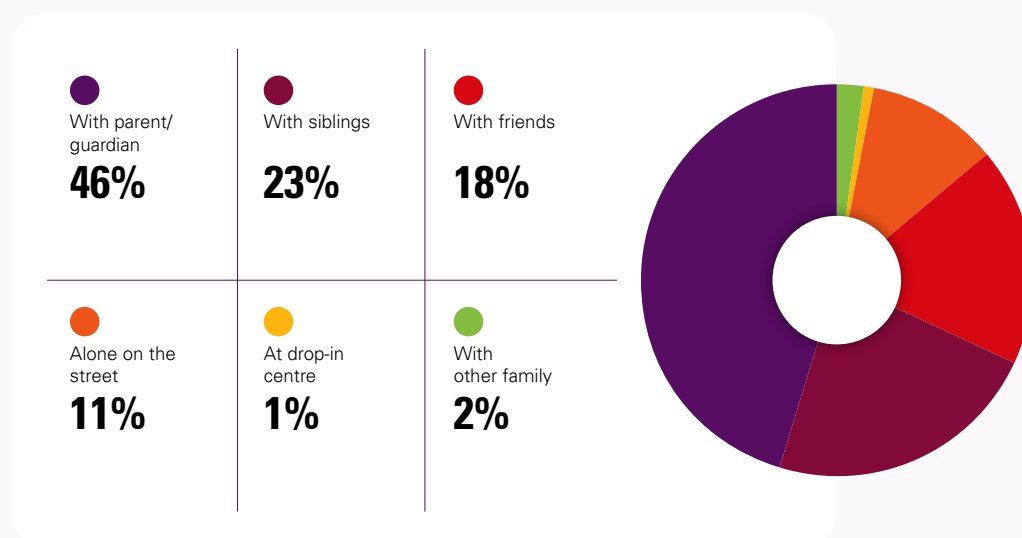


Figure 4
Situation of child
at time of interview

Most commonly, children in street situations were with a parent/guardian (46%) at the time they were interviewed, followed by siblings (23%), and friends (18%). Fewer children were identified on the street alone (11%) (Figure 4). When disaggregating data by geographic location (Figure 5), fewer children in Pristina were with a parent/guardian (8%) in comparison to other locations. All children identified in Dragash and Fushe Kosova were not with parent(s)/guardian(s) (Table 17). When disaggregating by sex, a slightly higher proportion of boys were identified on the street alone (12%) than girls (9%) (Table 19). Similar numbers of boys and girls were with friends/peers. More boys were with siblings (27%) than girls (18%).

It has been previously reported that children often come to the streets with their parents to engage in informal income generation (e.g., begging, manual and informal labour, etc.) in Pristina municipality, however in some cases are unaccompanied.³⁶ The findings from this study in Kosovo show that almost half of all children in street situations were accompanied to the street by their parents at the time of the short field-based survey, similar to the 2014 study in Albania.²⁵ These findings differ from other regional studies, where in general, it has been reported that children were found moving around the city mostly unaccompanied by parents or other responsible adults.^{24,26}

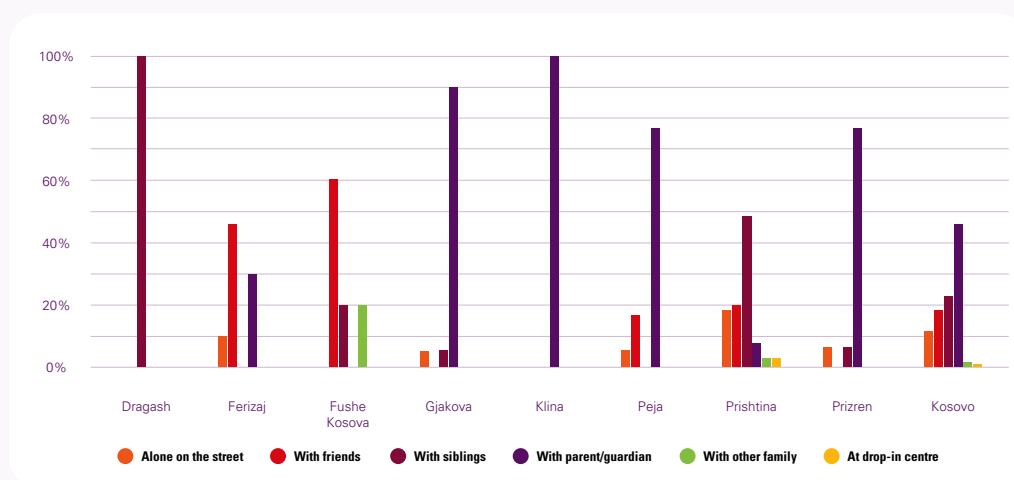


Figure 5
Situation of child at time of interview by geographic location.

Why are children on the streets in Kosovo?

Primary reasons for children's street-involvement

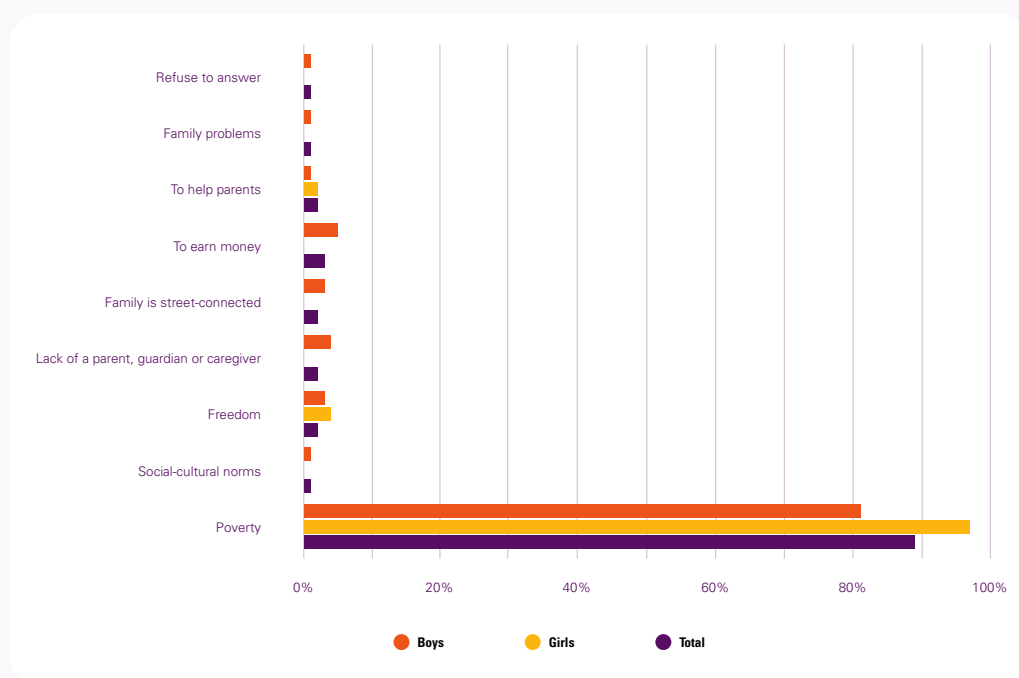
Children were asked 'what **first** drove you to live and/or work on the streets' and were directed to provide **one** primary reason. Most children (88%) reported that poverty was the primary reason that first drove them to be street-involved, and this was universal across geographic locations (Table 19). A higher proportion of girls (96%) than boys (81%) reported that poverty was the main factor driving their street-involvement (Figure 6 and Table 21).

Poverty as the primary reason for children and family's street-involvement was consistently confirmed by children in focus group discussions and parents in in-depth interviews - "**They go out if they are poor**" (FGD, Girls, Pristina). Children discussed a lack of resources and material items in relation to poverty, that drove their street-involvement: "**Those who don't have the material conditions (financial wellbeing) go out, those who don't have clothes for example**" (FGD, Prizren). Across geographic locations, in relation to poverty, several children discussed that they go to the streets due to a lack of food.

"Maybe because we don't have... because of poverty... My husband works and I go out on the street because we have 4 children. Even after a salary, you don't have enough for rent, water, or food. I am forced to go out and earn around 7 euros to be able to give food to the children"
(Parental Interview 1)

While most children surveyed responded that poverty was the primary driving factor for their street-involvement, during focus group discussions, some children discussed that parental alcoholism, particularly among fathers resulted in them being forced to go beg. Being forced to beg, was only discussed by a small minority of focus group discussion participants in Prizren and Ferizaj. In contrast, other children discussed that it was their choice to go to the streets, even if their parents didn't want them to: "**My mom scolds me, 'don't go out my daughter, you are grown', but I go out on my own**" (FGD, Prizren). This was confirmed in one parent interview, in which the parent stated: "**I let them do what they want, work what they want, I just don't want them to get in the wrong path**" (Parental interview 2). No children reported that they were involved in child trafficking, and almost no children reported that family problems were the primary reason for their street-involvement.

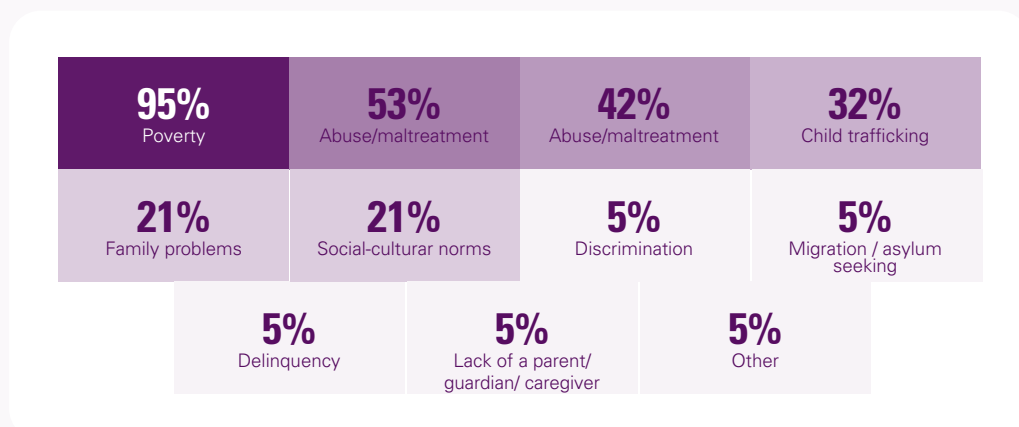
Figure 6
Primary reason
for child's street-
involvement by sex.



What keeps children in street situations?

When asked what keeps them in street situations, resoundingly (92%) children reported that poverty kept them on the streets, with some children reporting that family problems keeps them on the streets (8%). These findings were consistent across geographic locations in Kosovo (Table 19) and boys and girls (Table 21). Overall, these findings aligned with stakeholder perceptions about the reasons children become street-involved in Kosovo (Figure 7). Stakeholders were asked the top three reasons they thought children were in street situations in Kosovo. Most stakeholders thought that poverty (95%) drove children to the streets. However, in contrast to what children quantitatively reported, stakeholders perceived that abuse, neglect, maltreatment at home (53%), being forced by parents or family (42%), and child trafficking (32%) were other reasons for children's street-involvement in Kosovo. As well, 21% of stakeholders perceived that children are in street situations due to social-cultural norms. During informal interviews conducted by the international and local consultant prior to the study, this concept of 'social-cultural' reasons arose as alleged driving factor for children's street-involvement, and it was alluded to that there is a normalization of begging among specific ethnic groups. It is likely that the reference to social-cultural reasons for street-involvement is a misconception rooted in structural discrimination.²⁹

Figure 7
Stakeholder perceived
reasons for children's
street-involvement in
Kosovo.



Additionally, during pre-study meetings, economic circumstances and poverty were cited by stakeholders and policymakers alike as reasons for children's street-involvement. However, most stakeholders and policymakers also discussed that children were trafficked into the streets and forced to beg to support their families, and they stated that children would never admit that someone is forcing them. The Ombudsperson report also cited that CSWs report that children in street situations are *"at many times forced to do the work by their parents or are gathered and transported in on organized structure from suspicious criminal groups"*.¹¹ The present study found no evidence of child trafficking, similar to Vathi (2014), and it may be due to fear of disclosure of issues related to child trafficking,²⁹ therefore these results should be interpreted with caution. The findings did show that some children did in fact explain that they were forced to beg by parents, but others were adamant that it was their choice to make an economic contribution to the family.

The present study's findings are in alignment with those found in Kosovo through previous research, which reported that children and parents alike all reported that children and families were on the street due to their economic situation and poverty at home, that many children go out to the street of their own volition to contribute to the family.^{29,36} The present study's findings are similar to research conducted in regional countries that identified that poverty is the primary factor driving children and families street involvement.^{24-26,28} However in contrast to other regional countries, where it has been reported that most children are forced to beg on the streets,^{24,25} no children quantitatively reported being forced and few children in focus groups who discussed being forced to go to the streets by their parents. It is likely that both scenarios occur – children going to the streets out of their own volition, and some being forced into street situations. Overall, it is likely a confluence of interrelated reasons (e.g., poverty, family conflict, and abuse) that drive children's initial street-involvement in Kosovo and keep them street-involved, as has been well documented in the global literature.¹⁵

How long have children in Kosovo been living and/or working on the streets?

Children across Kosovo reported varying lengths of time for street-involvement (Table 19), with little difference between boys and girls in street situations (Table 21). Most commonly, children report being street-involved for 6 months to 2 years (28%), followed by 2 to 5 years (25%), and more than 5 years (21%). A substantial proportion (19%) reported being street-involved for less than 6 months (Figure 8).

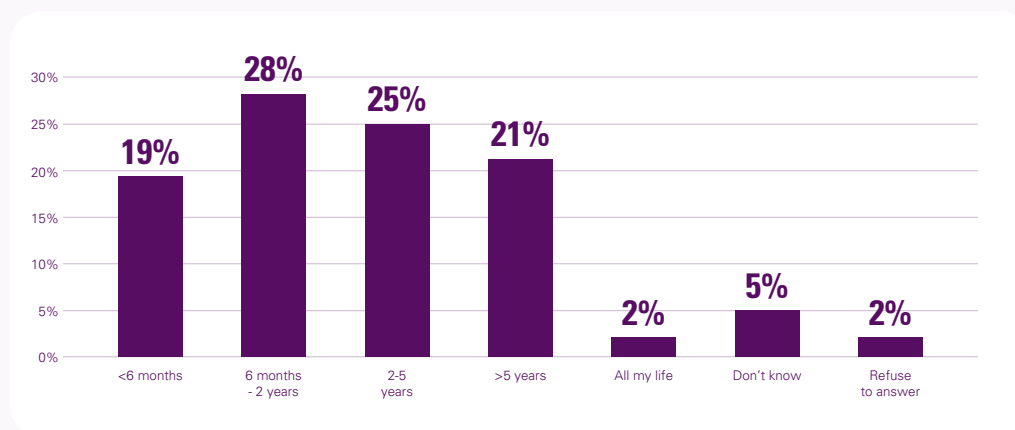


Figure 8
Length of time child in street situation

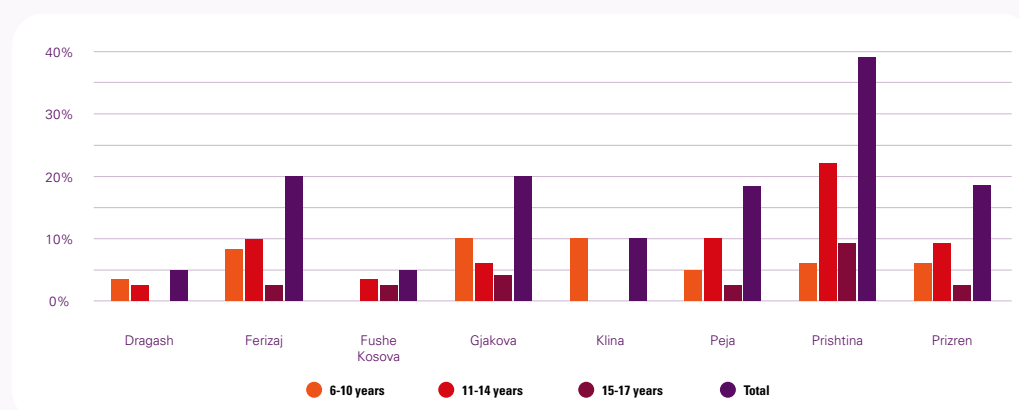
Who are children in street situations in Kosovo?

Socio-demographics of children in street situations in Kosovo

Age of children in street situations

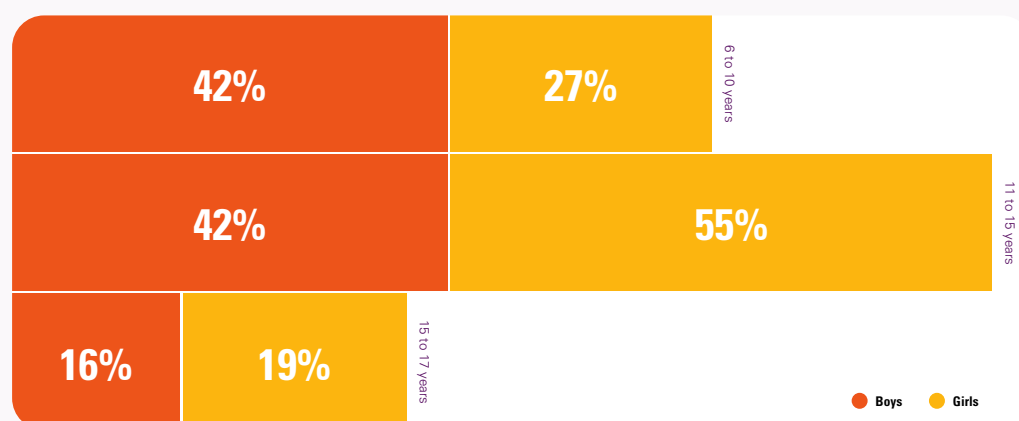
Approximately half (49%) of all children who were interviewed in street situations in Kosovo were between 11 to 14 years of age, and a third (33%) between the ages of 6 to 10 years (Figure 10). Fewer children aged 15 to 17 years were identified (18%) (Table 18). Few children reported having siblings less than 5 years of age on the streets (5%), with 36% having siblings in street situations from 5 to 10 years of age.

Figure 9
Number of children in street situations by age and geographic location



When disaggregating data by sex, there was a higher proportion of girls aged 6 to 10 years identified in street situations (42%) than boys (27%) (Figure 10 and Table 20). In contrast there was a higher proportion of boys aged 11 to 14 years (55%) than girls (42%). Similar numbers of boys and girls in street situations aged 15 to 17 years were found.

Figure 10
Age of children in street situations by sex



Gender of children in street situations

A higher proportion of boys were identified (58%) in street situations than girls (42%) (Table 20). The distribution of children in street situations significantly differed across locations by sex (male/female) (Figure 11), with more girls were identified in street situations in Gjakova and Peja than boys.

Notably, the mix of girls and boys in the streets in Kosovo, shows that while girls are still a minority, girls that were found in street situations in Kosovo were higher in proportion (not absolute numbers), than in other regional studies where boys make up the majority of children in street situations, which has been attributed to gender norms and roles.^{25,26}

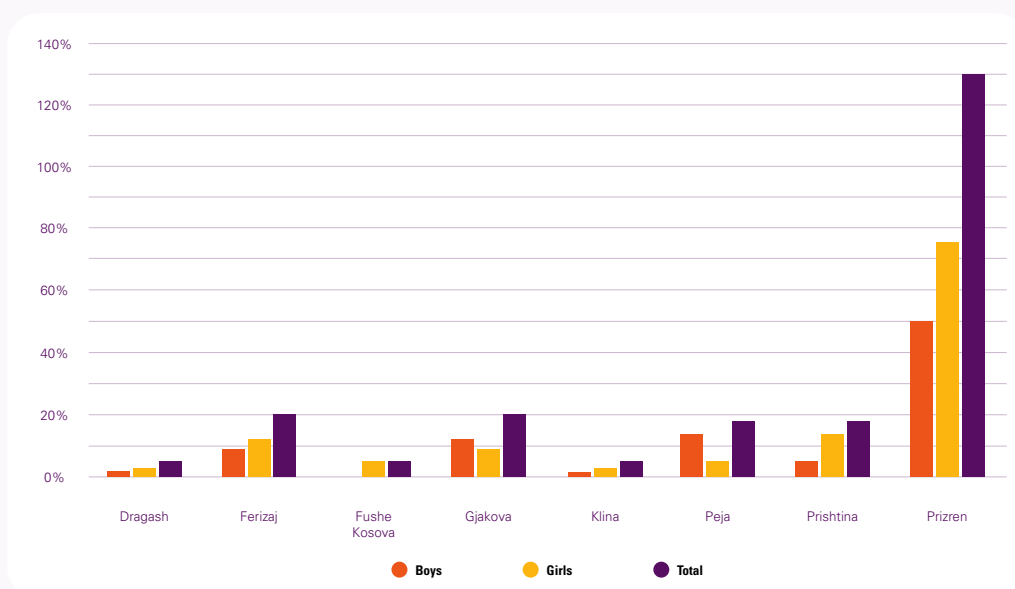


Figure 11
Number of street situation by gender and geographic location

It is likely similar social-cultural gender norms are contributing to an overall higher proportion of boys being in street situations than girls in Kosovo, but that gender differences are less pronounced than other regional settings, where it would be unacceptable for girls to spend long hours on the streets. Given a lack of historical data on the number of girls and boys in street situations in Kosovo, it is unclear if the proportion of girls in street situations has increased because of the global economic crisis, COVID-19, and a shift in gender equality, or if the relative proportions of girls and boys have remained constant over time.

Ethnicity of children in street situations

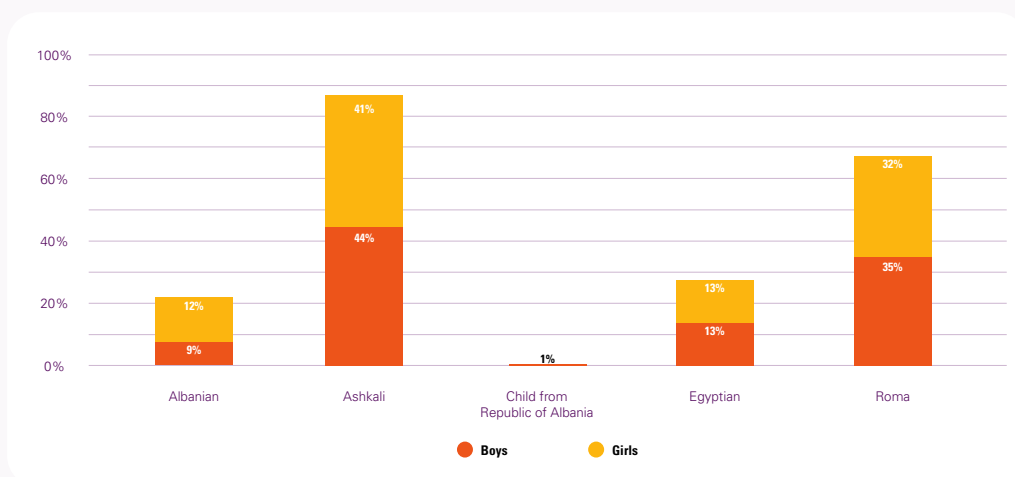


Figure 12
Ethnicity of children in street situations in Kosovo by sex.

Of the 130 children in street situations identified across selected municipalities in Kosovo, 42% reported they were Ashkali, 33% Roma, 13% Egyptian, 11% Albanian, and less than 1% reported they were from the Republic of Albania (Table 18). Similar proportions of girls and boys were found by ethnic group (Figure 12). These findings in relation to ethnicity/nationality of children in street situations are largely in alignment with stakeholder perceptions of the background of children in street situations in Kosovo. However, they differed in that few children reported being from the Republic of Albania.

During informal interviews conducted by the international and local consultant prior to the study, they consistently heard from stakeholders and policymakers that many of the children in street situations were from the Republic of Albania. Frequently they were told by police, policymakers, and stakeholders

that children were trafficked into the streets from the Republic of Albania into Kosovo. This has also been previously reported in the study on children in street situations in Pristina municipality.³⁶ These commonly held perceptions around ethnicity/nationality and child trafficking are contradictory to the findings of the current study as reported by children themselves, where this study only identified 1 child who reported they were from the Republic of Albania. However, children in street situations in Kosovo may have answered primarily with respect to their ethnic identity (e.g., Roma or Ashkali) and not considered their Nationality, as described in the study's limitations, and therefore the study's findings with respect to ethnicity/nationality should be interpreted with caution. Additionally, seasonal migration may be an important factor in children from the Republic of Albania being found in street situations in Kosovo. A report from 2014 investigating migrant children in street situations in Albania and Kosovo found that many children and families migrated to Pristina, Kosovo, due to poverty, particularly in the summer months, both from Albania and from other regions in Kosovo.²⁹ The present study collected data in May 2023, and therefore may not have captured children in street situations who are seasonal migrants in the summer months. Conversely, our findings demonstrate that outside of the summer months, migrants are not the majority of children in street situations in Kosovo, as very few children reported migrating seasonally with their families (Table 22). The families identified as migrants from Albania, face challenges in accessing social services based on their migrant status. This is due to the legislation that only offers social assistance to families who have proof showing they are current residents in Kosovo.

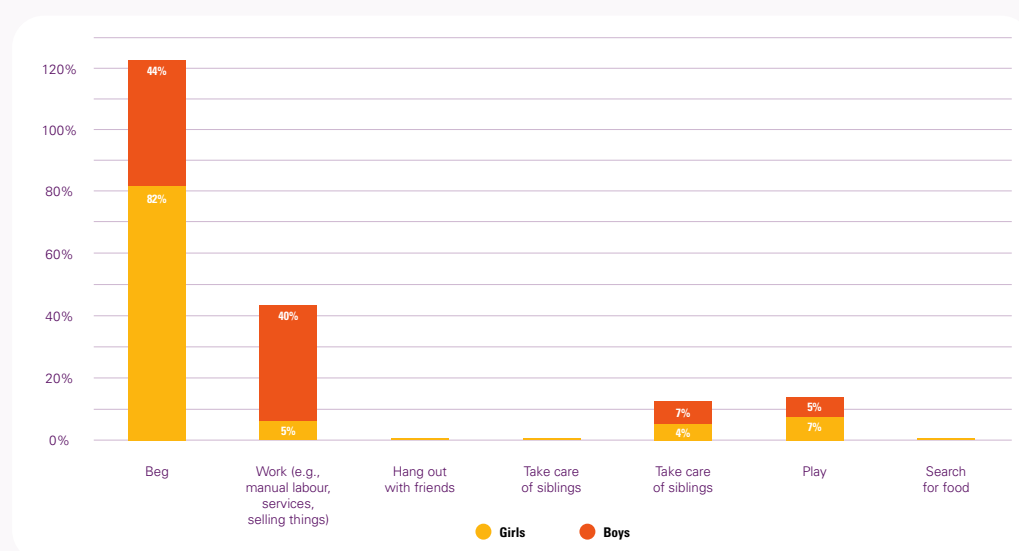
The present study's findings are largely in alignment with regional findings on the ethnic backgrounds of children in street situations being primarily from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities,^{24,25,29} likely owing to marginalization and discrimination experienced by these communities.^{24,29}

What do children do on the streets of Kosovo?

The majority (60%) of children in street situations report engaging in begging on the streets, and a quarter engage in 'work' (e.g., manual labour, services, selling items, etc.) (Table 21). Significantly more girls (82%) engage in begging than boys (44%), and a higher proportion of boys (40%) engage in work than girls (6%) (Figure 13). These findings likely relate to social-cultural gender norms related to work and girl's street-involvement as found by other regional studies which stated that 'girls beg and boys clean cars'.²⁹

Figure 13

Activities undertaken by children in street situations by sex.



Educational status of children
in street situations in Kosovo

Over half of all children (62%) interviewed reported having ever gone to school (Table 20). With a higher proportion of girls (67%) having ever attended school in comparison to boys (57%) (Figure 14). Fewer children reported currently attending school (25%), with similar proportions of girls (27%) and boys (24%) currently attending school (Figure 15).

Among children participating in the full survey (n=59), 78% had ever gone to school, and most (63%) reported that primary level grades were the highest grade completed (Table 23). Under a third (30%) reported completing lower secondary school grades. Only 1 child reported completing any upper secondary school. Overall, the median grade completed was 4 (IQR=3), with no difference between girls and boys. When children who had never gone to school (22%) were asked why, most (69%) reported that they were choosing to earn money for the family, while 31% reported that they didn't want to go to school. However, when asked if they wanted to go to school, 77% responded positively, and only three children said no. In focus group discussions, some children in Ferizaj and Prizren discussed that fathers didn't allow them to go to school.

I really wanted to go to school but I wasn't allowed. But when my father died, social services sent us to school. Maybe that's why I'm happy my classmates now respect me because I'm the oldest among them.
(FGD, Prizren)

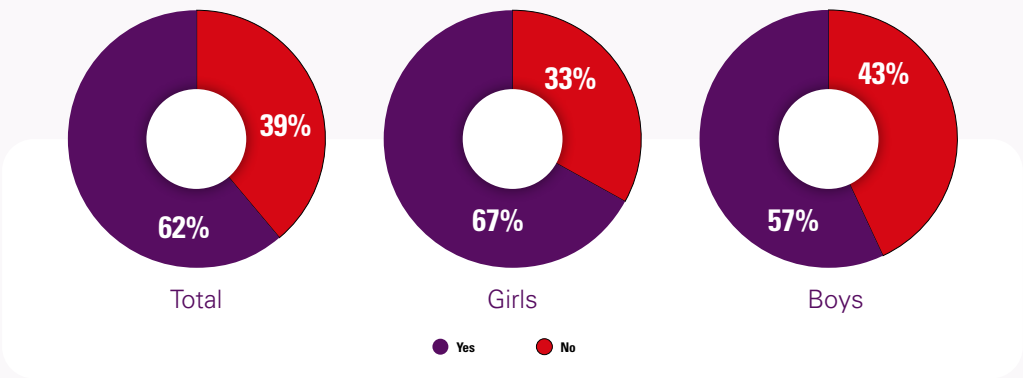


Figure 14
Ever been in school by sex.

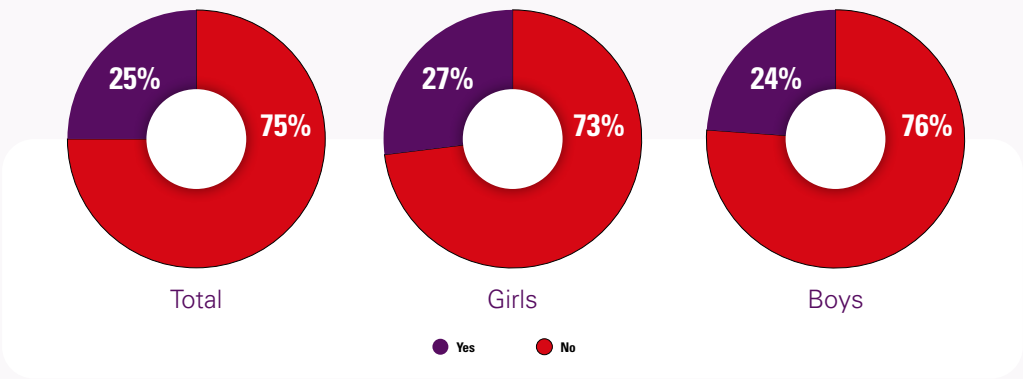


Figure 15
Current school attendance by sex.

Among children who reported ever attending school in the full survey (n=46), 44% report currently attending school, with no difference between girls and boys (Table 23). Of those currently attending school, 45% reported being in primary grades, 45% in lower secondary grades, 5% in upper secondary, and

5% in intensive schooling/accelerated learning to support children who have missed out on classes or started later. Among those not currently attending school (n=26), children reported choosing to earn money for the family (19%), forced to earn money for the family (15%), don't know (12%), and not wanting to go to school (8%) as their reasons for not attending. The study revealed that 46% of the non-attending children provided a range of reasons for not attending school. These reasons included issues such as poor teacher relationships, family illness, discrimination, insufficient schooling, being from Albania, inability to afford uniforms, lack of required documents for registration, and changes in residence affecting enrollment status. Almost all children (92%) not currently in school reported that they wanted to attend. Parents confirmed that in some instances their children were not in school and discussed that issues such as a lack of intensive classes and transportation and bus fare were key challenges to school attendance. The importance of school attendance was not lost on children. However, many children discussed that they have unmet resource needs in relation to schooling to support their education. Many explained that they required books and supplies for school, apart from all the necessities they explain to lack in everyday life.

Education is critical for children to gain essential basic skills that will facilitate their future economic well-being and stability. Completion of primary and secondary education is a target for the 2030 SDGs (SDG 4.1). The current study found a high proportion (39%) of children in street situations who had never gone to school in Kosovo, and few were currently attending school (25%). Similar to our current findings, previous research in Pristina municipality also documented that 25% of children in street situations had never registered or enrolled in school.³⁶ Likewise sporadic attendance and substantial drop out has been documented among children in street situations in other regional countries.^{24,25}

The majority (88%) of children in street situations in Kosovo the study identified were from Roma (33%), Ashkali (42%), and Egyptian (13%) communities. Data from 2020 MICS revealed that children from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have a lower attendance and completion rate of all levels of education, including mandatory primary and lower secondary, compared to the general population in Kosovo. The 2020 MICS data show that only 84% of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian children attend primary education, compared to 96% of the general population. These numbers drop further to 64% for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in lower secondary school.⁸ Similarly, primary, lower, and upper secondary school attendance differs across wealth quintiles, with fewer children attending school from the poorest quintile (90% primary, 86% lower secondary, 70% upper secondary) in comparison to those in the richest quintile (99% primary, 97% lower secondary, 96% upper secondary). Children in street situations and parents alike reported that poverty was the driving factor for their street-involvement and kept them in street situations. Therefore, it is likely these children are from families in the poorest wealth index quintile. However, among children in street situations the findings from the present study demonstrate that these schooling indicators are even lower, signaling a critical need to intervene to ensure children in street situations complete primary and secondary education.

Family profile of children in street situations

Family composition

The majority of children reported that their parents were alive (80%) (Figure 16). The 2020 MICS data found that 91% of children are living with both parents, 1.9% are not living with a biological mother, 0.7% are living with neither biological parent, and 2.1% are orphaned with one or both parents being deceased.⁸ The present study's findings show that a higher proportion of children in street situations are orphaned and/or separated than those among the general population of children aged 0 to 17 years as reported in the 2020 MICS.

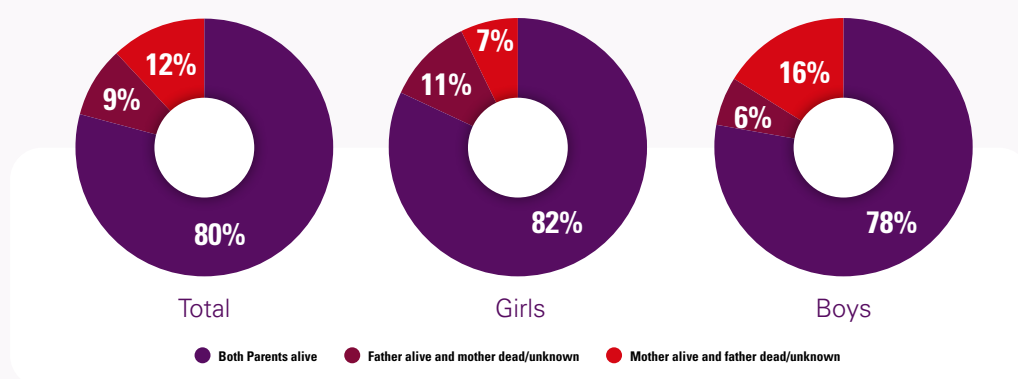


Figure 16
Orphan status of children in street situations by sex.

Siblings and street-involvement

Almost all children reported that they had siblings (98%), with a median of 4 siblings (IQR=2.75), which did not differ between girls and boys (Table 22). Many children reported that their siblings also come to the streets, with 60% reporting that some of their siblings come to the streets, and a quarter (24%) indicating that all their siblings come to the street. Few children reported having siblings less than 5 years of age on the streets (5%), and 36% reported having siblings in street situations from 5 to 10 years of age.

Parents in street situations

Many children reported that their parents come to the streets with them, but the frequency varied (Table 22). Only 20% reported that their parents always come with them, 14% responded that most of the time their parents come, and 25% indicated that sometimes their parents come. Children and parents confirmed that they go to the streets together in the qualitative interviews.

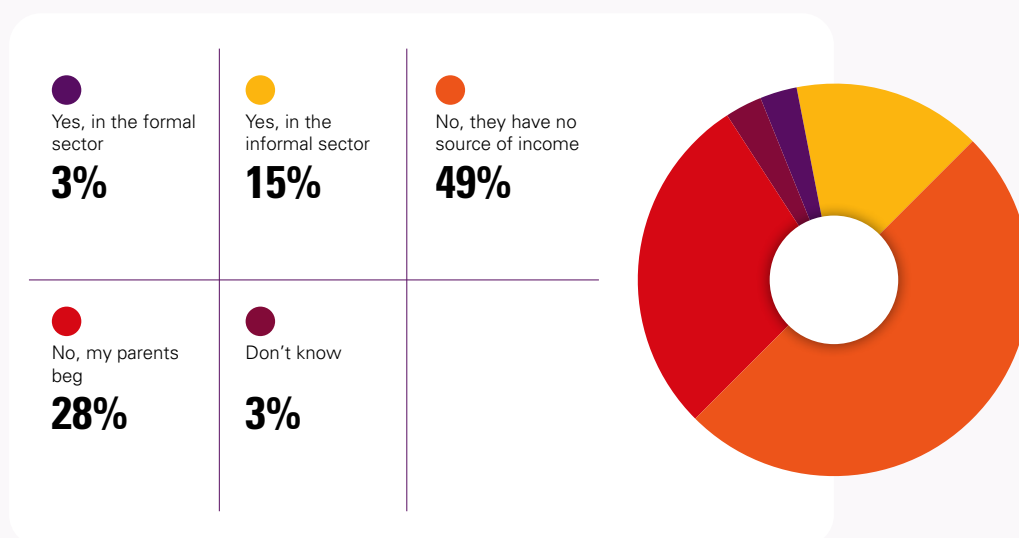
Family Origins & Migration

Most children (85%) reported that their families are from Kosovo (Table 22), with 66% reporting that they originated from other cities in Kosovo, and 18% responding that they have never moved. A minority of children reported that their family originates from the Republic of Albania (7%). A small proportion of children reported that their family migrates seasonally (14%), this did not differ substantially between girls and boys.

Family Economic Status

Almost half of all children in street situations reported that their parents have no source of income (49%) (Figure 17), and 29% reported that their parental source of income was begging. Only two children responded that their parents were employed in the formal sector (Table 22). When inquiring what their parents' sources of income were, over half responded that their parents receive governmental assistance (61%), followed by begging (44%), recycling metals and plastics (20%), and casual labour (10%).

Figure 17
Percentage of parents
of children in street
situations employed.



Parents confirmed children's reports related to their sources of income. Many parents discussed begging for alms and receiving government social assistance. As well, parents explained how they generate income recycling metals and plastics.

No, he doesn't work. He rummages through trash to find scrap metal and sell. He gathers scrap, metals, cans, to sell them, with a tricycle. He also collects clothes from the market (bazaar), to make ends meet. He sometimes even finds food and brings food from trash cans, we eat. There's nothing we can do. When you don't have how to make ends meet, how can you ask for more than this.
(Parental Interview 5)

These findings are in alignment with those previously reported in Pristina municipality among children in street situations where almost all children reported that their parents were unemployed and involved in informal income generation such as collecting recyclables.³⁶ Parental unemployment was also documented among children in street situations studies from other regional countries.^{24,25}

Data from the 2020 MICS show that around 44% of households in Kosovo experience three or more material deprivations, however, this share increases to 86% for households in the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. Moreover, 8% of total households reported to have received social assistance in the past three months; this was 11% for female-headed households; however, the number increases significantly for the households of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities, with 42% of the households receiving social assistance in the past three months. This shows the economic differences between the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities and other ethnicities living in Kosovo.⁸ Given that most children in street situations in this study belong to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities, this differentiation is relevant for the analysis of the economic status of the families.

Family Problems

While few children in street situations reported that family first problems drove (0.8%) and kept them coming to the streets (8%), children in focus group discussions and parents in in-depth interviews recounted family problems, such as

alcoholism, disability, illness, and incarceration. The impact of parental illnesses of the household, their economic circumstances, and ability of parents to work, and children's street involvement was discussed by children and parents alike.

Even for my husband, his blood pressure is high, he has heart problems, and he can only survive by taking medicine. He has removed a kidney, he doesn't work. He can only stay seated. If it wasn't for me and my eldest son bringing in money, we would starve.
(Parental interview 3)

Housing and living circumstances of children in street situations

Most children reported that they stay with immediate family at night (86%) and the rest (14%) reported staying with extended family (Table 24). When inquiring about the places that children have slept in the past four weeks, 44% reported sleeping in an apartment, house, or trailer with family (Figure 18). Some children reported sleeping in an empty or abandoned building (7%) or on the street or in a public space (7%). A larger number of boys (16%) than girls (4%) reported sleeping at someone else's house. A small number of children reported that they slept someplace they didn't want in the past four weeks (9%).

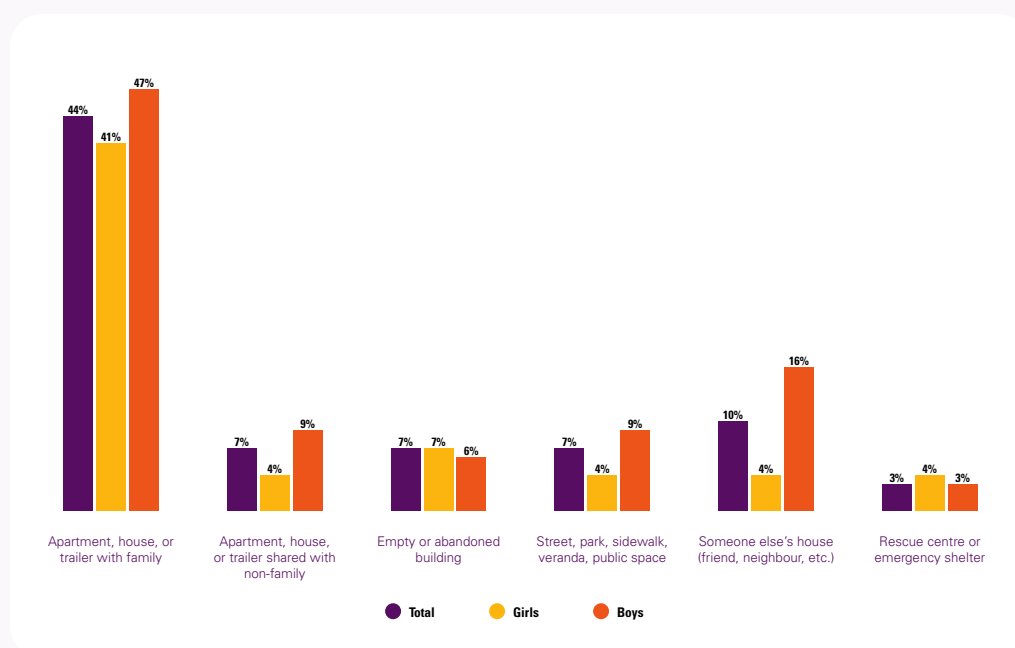


Figure 18
Sleeping location of children in street situations by sex.

While this study did not assess the adequacy of children's housing in this study, significant proportions (36%) of children in street situations in Kosovo reporting they live someplace other than an apartment, house, or trailer with family, it is likely children in this context are living in inadequate housing with poor conditions. Alarming, 14% of children reported sleeping in either an empty or abandoned building or public space in the past 4 weeks. Other regional studies have documented that children in street situations live are unstably housed and living in inadequate housing of poor conditions.^{24,25} In Kosovo, 2020 MICS data show that around 85% of respondents stated that their dwelling was owned by a family member in comparison to only 69% among the Roma, Ashkali,

and Egyptian communities.⁸ Among respondents from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, 4.4% reported that they rented, while 26% responded that they were in temporary housing (not rent).³ The present study found that even fewer (44%) children in street situations in Kosovo, the majority of whom are from these communities, stayed in an apartment, house, or trailer with family. These findings highlight a critical area for intervention, given that 56% of children in street situations reporting they slept in a place other than an apartment, house, or trailer with family in the past 4 weeks.

Life on the streets in Kosovo

Children in focus group discussions recounted how life on the streets is challenging, as expressed by a participant from Prizren: *"It's hard to make money, very hard to get people to give you money."* Children explained that it is especially difficult in cold weather. Children conveyed that they frequented the streets at different times of the day or night depending on their circumstances. Some children in Prizren reported that they only go to the streets on the weekends *"only on Saturdays and Sundays since we go to school"*. Others in Prizren indicated that some days they are even on the streets at night *"no no, he and my mom stay until 1am and leave, I stay alone (until 2)"*. While girls in Pristina, generally said that they only go to the streets during the day, *"I don't go out at night, only during the day"*.

Stigma and Discrimination

Children discussed experiencing stigma as told by a child from Prizren: *"we like to socialize with everyone, but they run away from us."* Children in this location also stated that at times, they are blamed for issues: *"Because it can happen that someone makes a mistake and then blames us."* Parents also recounted experiences of stigma and discrimination and being subject to receiving "racist remarks" due to their ethnic identity.

I haven't gone to school even for a year. But thank God, I have a brain, I know how to do math when needed, I can work as a cleaner, anything, I would work in anything, but I don't want to be offended anymore. How many times have you gone begging me for a job, "Go away, you're a gypsy, you're not worth it, we don't need you" they say, they insult us.
(Parental Interview 3)

Stigma and discrimination are a global issue among children in street situations and persons experiencing homelessness.^{20,37-39} It is likely children in street situations in Kosovo experience intersectional discrimination due to their street-involvement and ethnic identities, and other characteristics.⁴⁰ It is well established that individuals from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities experience stigma and discrimination,^{24,29} and this is likely amplified for children in street situations from these communities.

Boys versus girls on the streets

In focus group discussions, boys and girls in street situations explained gender differences in relation to their life on the streets in Kosovo. Children in focus group discussions stated that girls have more challenges on the street due to bullying, as stated by a participant in Ferizaj: *"For girls because girls are bul-*

³ Temporary housing (not rent) includes property owned by family member that is not a member of the household.

lied more. Boys don't get bullied; girls are bullied more." Girls in Pristina expanded upon this, where they explained that girls get picked on and have shame, while boys have fun on the streets. The concept of shame related to a girl's street-involvement may be associated with social-cultural expectations about girls and women and marriage.

In the focus group discussion with boys in Pristina, the interviewers discussed different scenarios in which girls and boys on the street might find themselves. When asked about what a hypothetical boy would do on the street, once he is tired from cleaning car windows and wants to take a break, boys responded that he would usually go to the shop, buy something to drink – like a soft drink or an energy drink, and buy cigarettes. When posed with a similar scenario for a hypothetical girl, they said she would be taking a break somewhere in the shade, drink water or a soft drink, maybe smoke.

Income generation on the street

Under half of the children interviewed reported engaging in income generation activities (Table 25). A larger proportion of girls (63%) report not engaging in income generation versus boys (47%) (Figure 19).

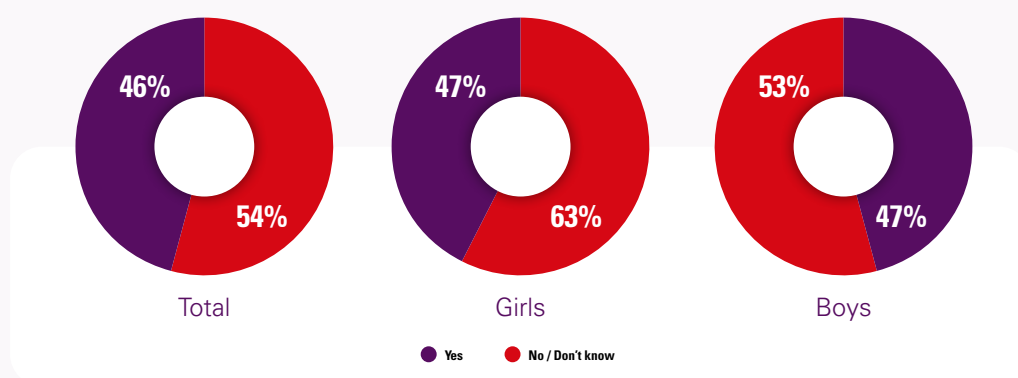


Figure 19
Income generation by children in street situations by sex.

Among those who responded affirmatively to engaging in income generation (n=27), most children reported working every day during the day (74%) (Figure 20). Few children reported working both days and night (7%), and one reported working nights only.

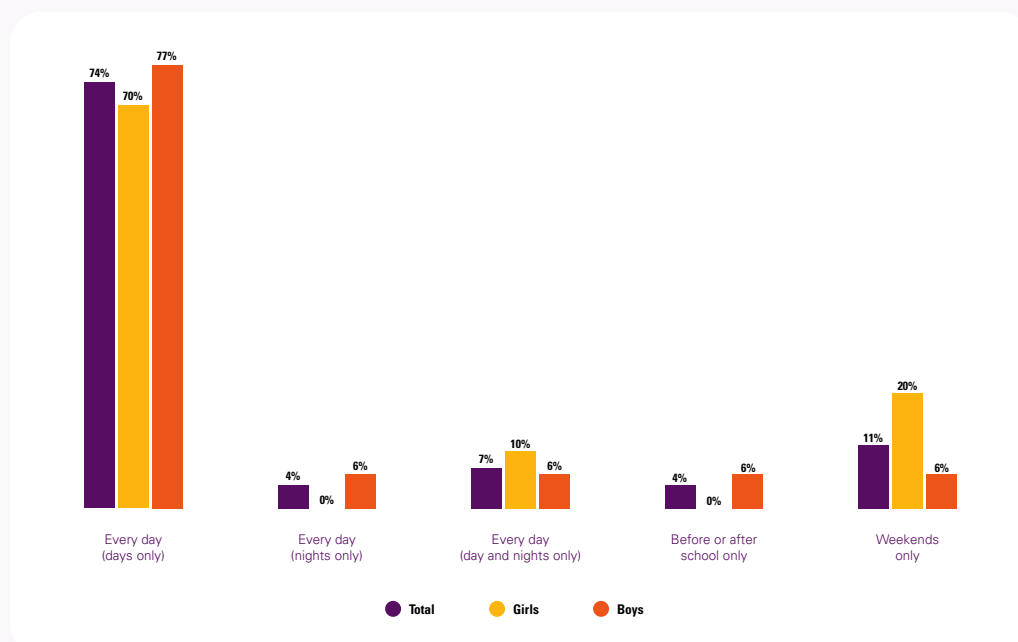


Figure 20
Frequency of work among children in street situations by sex.

Family and Child Sources of income

Most commonly children reported that government assistance was their family source of income (Figure 21), followed by begging, providing services (e.g., washing windscreens, parking, etc.), and recycling metals and plastics. Boys were significantly more likely to report providing services (47%) than girls (15%).

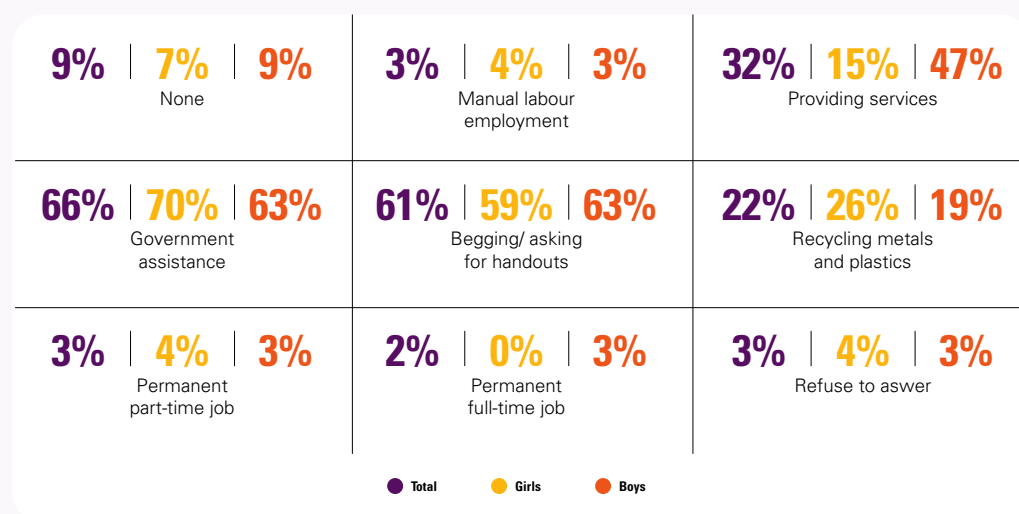


Figure 21
Sources of income
among children
in street situations
by sex.

Types of work

Children reported engaging in various types of work as explained by a participant in Prizren: *“there are some who go out with tarabuka,⁴ and many others who sit at the market, take a child and beg.”* Children reported selling items such as tissues, matches, juice boxes, and cigarettes. One parent explained how both her and her son worked providing cleaning services: *“My son was going to the traffic lights to clean windshields, I was working as a cleaner.”* As well some children told us they do manual labour and odd jobs, such as a boy in Prizren, *“I was called to carry up wood for heating, around 5-6 cubic meters. I went alone with another boy, we had to carry them to the third floor.”* Other children in Ferizaj discussed that many children are involved in collecting scrap metal with their families; however, they explained that in some cases children were subject to economic exploitation.

⁴ Goblet drum. Percussion instrument. Other names. chalice drum, tarabuka (tarambuka), tarabaki, darbuka, derbake, debuka, doumbek, dumbec, dumbeg, dumbelek, toumperleki (tumberleki), tumbak, zerbaghali.

What do children do with their earnings?

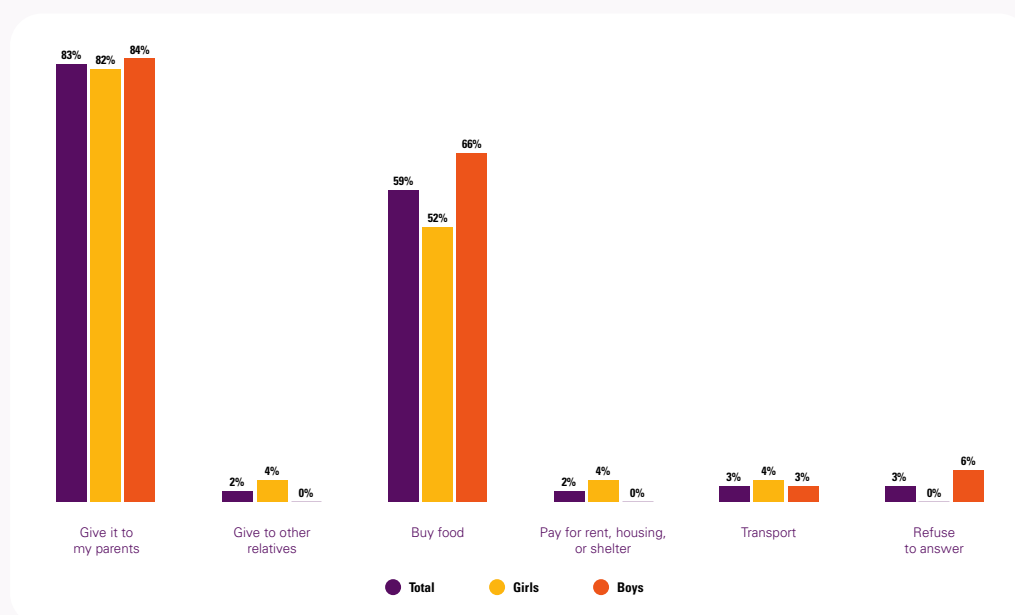


Figure 22
What children do with earnings by sex.

Almost all children (83%) reported giving their earnings to their parents, and a large proportion report buying food (59%) (Figure 22). Almost three quarters of children reported that it wasn't their choice what to do with their earnings (73%) (Table 25). Children confirmed these findings in focus group discussions and explained that typically, when they have earnings that they can keep for themselves, they buy food. Most children also discussed their parents, often mothers, involvement in deciding what to do with their earnings, as explained by a participant in Prizren: *"my mom saves half, and uses the other half to buy dinner, you know? So, if there is no money tomorrow, to have the saved-up half for dinner next day."* However, children in Ferizaj suggested that fathers take the money away from children and keep it for themselves.

Many children in street situations in Kosovo reported engaging in income generating activities, and most reported working every day. Child labour, defined by the ILO as, *"work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development"*,⁵ is prevalent in Kosovo. The present study identified significant gender differences among children in street situations in Kosovo in relation to work and income generation, with a significantly larger proportion of boys (40%) versus girls (6%) reporting engaging in work (Table 21). Data from the 2020 MICS survey, which looked at the hours worked and working conditions found that 5.3% of children in Kosovo are in child labour (5.6% hazardous work), this rises to 7.9% among children from the poorest quintiles in comparison to 4.6% among those from the richest quintiles.⁸ Further, a larger proportion of boys (6.4%) in comparison to girls (4.1%) are engaged in child labour. Among the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, 6.9% of children are in child labour (6.8% hazardous work), 7.5% in the poorest quintile to 6.8% in the richest.⁸ While the present study didn't measure child labour according to the ILO definition and SDG indicators, it is likely that children in street situations in Kosovo are in child labour based on their report of engaging in income generation and work every day.

Health and well-being of children in street situations in Kosovo

General Health

Few children (6%) identified in street situations reported having a health condition, with no difference between girls and boys. Among those who responded they have a condition, six children indicated it was physical condition, and two a mental health condition (Table 26).

Nutrition

Half (51%) the children surveyed reported that they eat two meals per day, and over a third (37%) responded that they have three meals per day (Figure 23). A small number of children (9%) reported that they only have one or no meals per day. When asked if they had gone to bed hungry in the past week, a quarter (25%) responded affirmatively (Table 27). Among those who responded they go to bed hungry, 73% indicated that it was some nights, and 27% rarely. Most commonly children reported that they went to bed hungry due to not having food at home (67%) or having no money to buy food (13%).

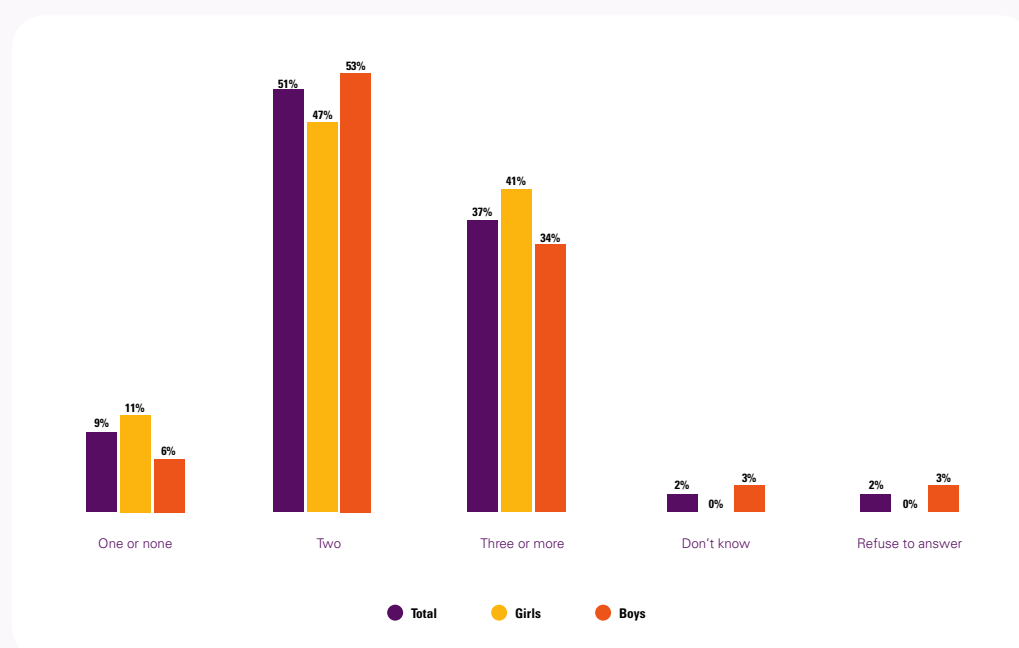


Figure 23
Meals eaten per day by sex.

Substance Use

A small proportion (17%) of children responded that they use substances. A higher proportion of boys responded yes (22%) than girls (11%) (Table 26). Among those that reported any substance use, all reporting using tobacco, and none reported using any other drugs or alcohol. This differs substantially from children in street situations in other global settings, where substance use is prevalent.³

Violence

A small number of children reported experiencing violence (Table 28). Some boys (16%) reported that someone had hit, beat, slapped, or hurt them hard enough to cause injury, and three reported that this occurred on the street. In focus group discussions children reported experience physical and verbal violence on the streets, including being cursed at. One child in Prizren suggested children could be trafficked or kidnaped. One parent confirmed that her son

had experienced physical violence on the streets: “*yes, many times, my son was pushed several times, insulted with words, pushed to the traffic lights there.*” One girl child participant in Ferizaj suggested girls are subject to sexual and gender-based violence “*the girls get bullied more, but they can also receive a beating, or raped, even worse.*” A mother also described experience sexual and gender-based violence while on the street: “*I have had so many bad words said to me. They touched me inappropriately. Two- or three-times people stopped in the street told me I have no change to give to you, but if you want you can come with me for some extra cash (referring to sexual favors).*”

Children in street situations globally commonly report experiencing violence on the streets.^{2,25,41} Few children in street situations in Kosovo in the present study reported experiencing violence, and those that did were primarily boys. This differs from the global literature, that has found that girls and young women and street situations experience substantial sexual and gender-based violence on the streets.² As well, data on violence against children in Kosovo has found that Further, children in Kosovo report experience violent discipline and psychological aggression in MICS.⁸ For children in street situations in Kosovo, violence may be normalized and therefore children may have underreported as they may not perceive certain acts as violent. Additionally, it may be that given that most girls and boys in street situations in Kosovo are accompanied to the streets by a parent or sibling, and therefore are protected from experiencing violence. Nonetheless children did report that life on the streets is harder for girls, and they are more prone to being bullied or experiencing violence, despite no girls quantitatively reporting physical or sexual abuse.

Future Outlook on Opportunities to Succeed and Prosper

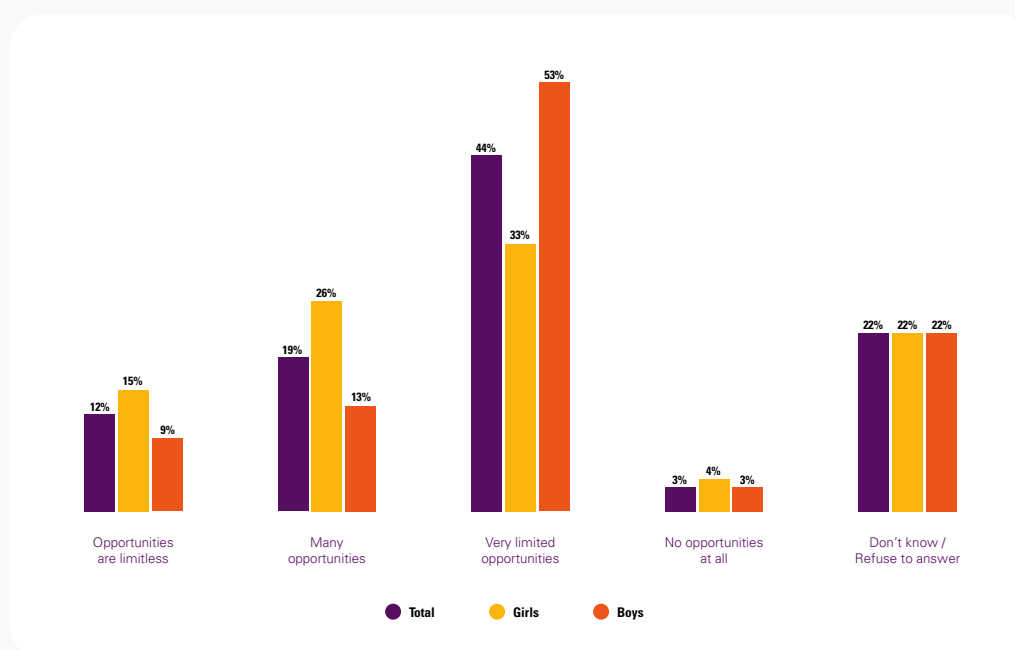


Figure 24
Future outlook by sex.

Over a quarter (31%) of children in street situations in Kosovo felt their opportunities to succeed and prosper in life are limitless / they have many opportunities. Just under a half (47%) of children in street situations in Kosovo felt that had very limited opportunities or no opportunities at all, with a larger proportion of boys (56%) than girls (37%) reporting feeling this way (Figure 24 and Table 26).

Service utilization by children and families in street situations in Kosovo

Stakeholder perceptions of service availability

Stakeholders were asked about the current services available to children in street situations in Kosovo. Most commonly, stakeholders reported that educational support was available (74%), followed by social assistance (68%), child protection services (68%), drop-in daycare centres (58%), and counseling and social work (58%) (Figure 29). When asked if they believe the services are adequate, 37% responded that they were not and 32% responded affirmatively, while 16% said they didn't know, and 16% refused to answer.

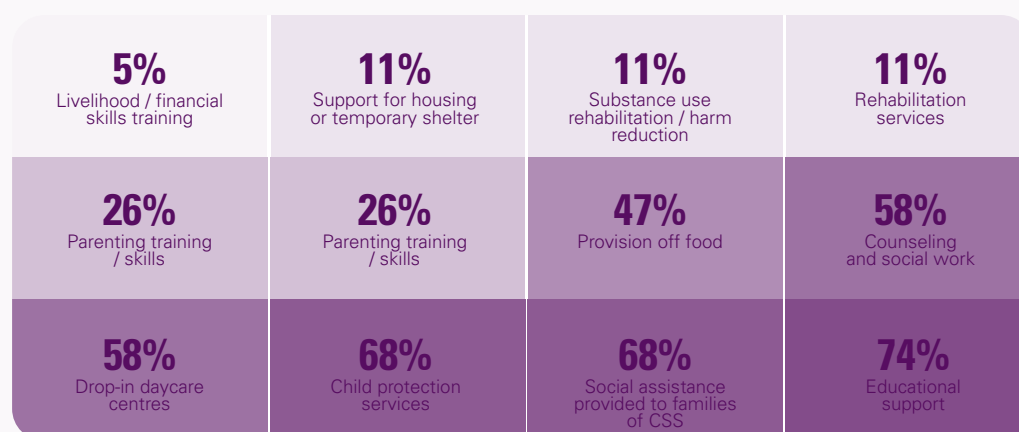


Figure 25
Stakeholder perceptions of service availability for children in street situations in Kosovo

Assistance provided to children and families in street situations.

A few children in focus group discussions reported receiving assistance from religious and foreign donors and non-governmental organizations. Parents in Pristina only reported receiving extensive support from TdH, however the study only interviewed parents of children in street situations who were frequenting the TdH centre and therefore we may not have captured to views of other parent receiving support elsewhere. Further, parents receiving support from TdH may have emphasized the support they receive from TdH as interviews were conducted at the daycare centre.

Children in street situations service utilization

Most commonly children reported ever using government social assistance (81%), followed by family care centres (76%), social work or other social services (70%), and community-based organizations (51%) (Table 29). A larger proportion of boys (88%) than girls (63%) reported ever using family care centres, government social assistance (84% vs. 78%), and community-based organization services (63% vs. 37%) (Figure 25). In focus group discussions, when prompted about their use of services, most children discussed that they had been to a doctor or hospital and they were treated well, however a few girls in Pristina stated that they had never been to a doctor.

Few children or parents discussed using the services at the Centre for Social Work beyond for social assistance.

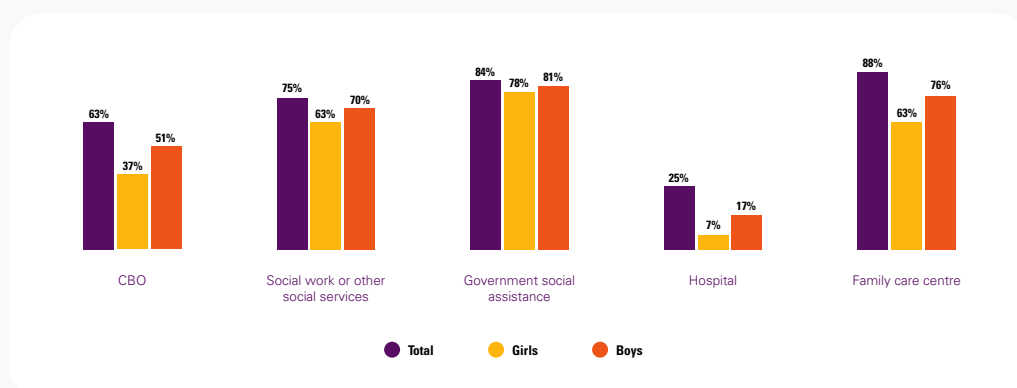


Figure 25
Services used by children in street situations by sex.

Government Social Assistance

Parents interviewed primarily reported they receive social assistance, except for parents not from Kosovo. As explained by a social worker at TdH, some families from the Republic of Albania do not qualify for social assistance, given that they do not have Kosovo citizenship or documents to certify they are permanent residents, as the law specifically precludes families and individuals that are not permanent residents in Kosovo from receiving social assistance. Consistently, parents that reported receiving social assistance, explained how they are unable to take on contractual employment as they would lose their social assistance, but want to take on a job to augment their income. Unanimously parents explained that social assistance is not enough to cover expenses, and one mother discussed the need for continual childbearing, as social assistance is only provided for children up to 5 years of age.

To find a job. I would like to have a job, since it is impossible to make ends meet with social assistance. Electricity, water, trash, plus food, school supplies, we even have to pay for the transport to school for the girls.
(Parental Interview 5)

Stakeholders working with children and families in street situations in Kosovo

Stakeholder organization profile

In total, 19 stakeholders were identified working with children and families in street situations in Kosovo. More specifically, 32% of respondents were national government representatives, 21% NGO stakeholders, 21% local governmental representatives, CSW representative (5%), UN Agency (5%), and other relevant stakeholders (16%). Most reported that they are involved in direct service provision to children in street situations (42%), followed by policymaking (16%), and services to Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian community (11%) and to prevent school drop-out (11%).

Stakeholder perceived barriers to improving the lives and circumstances of children in street situations in Kosovo

Stakeholders were asked to rank their top five perceived barriers to improving the lives and circumstances of children in street situations in Kosovo (Table 4 and Table 31). These findings suggest a mix of lack of implementation and economic issues are the primary barriers to improving the lives and circumstances of children in street situations in Kosovo as perceived by stakeholders and provide key areas to intervene.

Table 4
Stakeholder identified top 5 barriers to improving the lives and circumstances of children in street situations in Kosovo.

Ranking	Priority
1	Lack of implementation of laws, legislation, and penal code
2	Lack of funding and budget allocated for programs and services
3	Lack of coordination between social and state actors
3	Economic crisis
5	Lack of strong social services due to poor implementation

What’s needed for children and families in street situations in Kosovo

Stakeholder perceptions of service needs

Stakeholders were asked about the services that are needed that aren’t currently provided or that they perceived as inadequate. Most commonly, stakeholders indicated the need for child protection services (90%), followed by drop-in centres (79%), educational support (74%), parenting training and skills (68%) and livelihood and financial skills training (63%) (Figure 26).

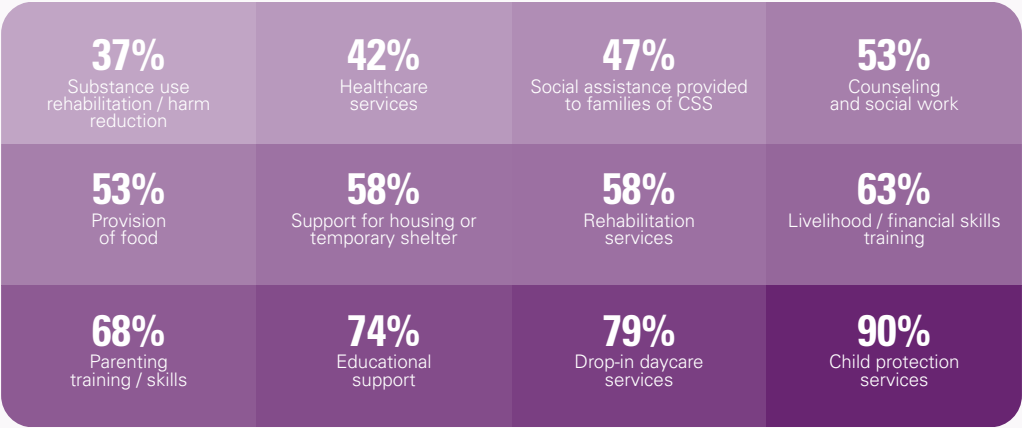


Figure 26
Services needed for children and families in street situations in Kosovo.

Stakeholder priorities to improve child protection and support for children in street situations.

Stakeholders were asked to rank their top five priorities to improve child protection and support for children in street situations (Table 5 and Table 30). Stakeholders identified strengthening and expanding CSW services as the number one priority, followed by increasing budget allocations to address the issue of children in street situations. Strengthening and expanding CSW services is decidedly important given the findings from a needs analysis conducted by SOS-Children’s Villages and Handikos that identified that CSWs require more support to strengthen their capacity to work with vulnerable children and families.¹⁴

Ranking	Priority
1	Strengthen and expand CSW services (e.g., human resources, training, budget, referrals, and systems strengthening)
2	Increased budget allocation to address issue of children in street situations
3	Law, legislation, and penal code reform
4	Awareness raising amongst citizens to not give alms or other items to children in street situations
5	Interventions to support families to gain employment and skills-building, and economic support initiatives to families (e.g., economic empowerment of families)

Table 5
Stakeholder top 5 priorities to improve child protection and support for children in street situations in Kosovo.

Stakeholder priorities to improve data collection and evidence-informed decision and policymaking about children in street situations in Kosovo

Stakeholders were asked to rank their top five priorities to improve data collection and evidence-informed decision and policymaking (Table 6 and Table 33). Establishing a database to track children and families in street situations was identified as the top priority, followed by the identification of the numbers of children in street situations, capacity building for data collection, and having a clear definition and terms for children in street situations. Establishing the ability to conduct annual point-in-time counts of the numbers of children in street situations would assist with their identification and tracking children and their families.

Ranking	Priority
1	Establishment of a unified database tracking children in street situations and their families
2	Identification of the numbers of children in street situations
3	Capacity building for data collection and analysis
4	Clear definitions and terms for children in street situations and families in the context of Kosovo
5	Meetings and intersectoral data analysis to reach consensus on issues and coordinate

Table 6
Stakeholder top 5 priorities to improve data collection and evidence-informed decision and policymaking about children in street situations in Kosovo.

Stakeholder priorities for government policies

In terms of government policies, stakeholders ranked strengthening and expanding CSW services and policies as their number one priority (Table 7 and Table 32). Stakeholders also identified the need to outline the responsibilities of municipal and central level governmental institutions in relation to the children in street situations. Notably, stakeholders recognized the need to improve social assistance coverage for families and marginalized communities, which corresponds to what this study heard from parents of children in street situations with respect to challenges with receiving social assistance.

Table 7
Stakeholder top
5 priorities for
government policies
related to children in
street situations in
Kosovo.

Ranking	Priority
1	Strengthen and expand CSW services and policies (e.g., human resources, training, budget, referrals, and systems strengthening)
2	Municipal and central government institutions responsibilities detailed and monitored and evaluated for implementation (e.g., What is their role, responsibilities, and holding actors accountable)
3	Improved social assistance coverage for families and for those in marginalized communities (e.g., increase eligibility, targeted programs, etc.)
4	Increased allocation of budget / resources to addressing issue of children in street situations
5	Multi-agency training and coordination amongst policymakers in different Ministries and municipalities



Chapter 5.

Recommendations

There is a need to both prevent children and parents from becoming street-involved (primary prevention) as well as to intervene once children find themselves in street situations (secondary prevention). As a result of the present study's findings, there are several specific areas for intervention that have been identified. These recommendations are presented across the social-ecological model (Figure 27). Within each of these categories, evidence-based interventions have been identified and prioritized (high, medium, and low) for immediate, mid-, and long-term action in the subsequent sub-sections with a focus on child rights. All interventions and approaches should take a child rights approach as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations.⁵ Strategies should recognize and involve State and non-State actors. As outlined in the General Comment No. 21, the State is the primary duty bearer, and ***"States have an obligation to help parents or caregivers to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities and with respect for the evolving capacities of the child, the living conditions necessary for the child's optimal development."***⁵ Moreover, as the Law on Child Protection states, that all Kosovo institutions ***"shall take all legislative, administrative, social, education and health measures for the prevention, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases described in paragraph 1. of this Article, and shall provide support to children and their guardians to ensure the protection and well-being of the child."***⁵³



Figure 27
Recommendations
across the
social-ecological model

Macrosystem Recommendations

Poverty reduction

Poverty was identified as the primary factor driving children's street-involvement by stakeholders, children in street situations, and parents of children in street situations in the present study. Absolute poverty impacts a child's right to life (Article 6 on the right to life, survival and development).⁵ Parents and legal guardians require support to prevent children ending up in street situations. As outlined in Article 18 on parental responsibility in General Comment No. 21 on children in street situations: *"States are obliged to render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and to ensure the development of institutions, facilities, and services for the care of children. States should take measures to eliminate structural forces that put pressure on families in precarious situations"*.⁵ The Kosovo Law on Child Protection and the Law on Social Assistance clearly state that families that are in dire economic situation and have children who are under the age of five, or children with disabilities are entitled to social assistance.⁵³ Intervening to support parents and legal guardians using evidence-based poverty reduction strategies is critical for both preventing children and family's street-involvement before it occurs and supporting children and families currently in street situations to discontinue their street-involvement. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 21 on Children in Street Situations outlines that *"states should take measures to address the structural causes of poverty and income inequalities to reduce pressure on and strengthen precarious families, as a means of offering better protection for children and reducing the likelihood of children ending up in street situations"*. The Kosovo Law on Child Protection stipulates that *"Central institutions are obliged to develop and implement policies and programs for supporting children and their guardians, with a view to providing child protection, preventing threats to their life, violence, neglect, abuse, mistreatment, abandonment and exploitation."*⁵³ These may include child-centered poverty alleviation programs, such as child benefit programmes, cash-transfers, and social security, and social protection.⁵ Kosovo spends just 8.5 per cent of its GDP on social protection, compared to an average of 28 per cent in the EU, and therefore addressing this gap is critical to reducing poverty, improving child protection and children's access to health, education and other social services.⁴² Social assistance reform has been identified as a high priority to alleviate poverty driving children and family's street-involvement in Kosovo (Table 8).

Table 8
Recommended
poverty reduction
strategies

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. High	Universal social assistance reform	Government of Kosovo

1. High priority: Given the small percent of GDP Kosovo spends on Social Protection in comparison to the EU and the limitations identified by parents in street situations in this study, the government of Kosovo should universally reform the Social Assistance program.⁴² Reforming the Social Assistance programme should focus on expanding its reach universally, which may reduce the number of children entering street situations from vulnerable and marginalized families and assist families with children already in street situations to discontinue their street-involvement. Kosovo's estimated poverty rate was 19.8% in 2018.⁴³ Based on the study's findings in relation to poverty, the government

of Kosovo should consider the following reforms to the Social Assistance programme:

- Alter the requirement for a family to have a child under the age of five (5) present and expand the age requirements for children to be under 18 years of age.
- In lieu of exclusions based on employment, determine exclusions for Social Assistance based on proof that a family's annual income falls below the National poverty rate (measured at US\$ 6.85/day, 2017 PPP).⁴³
- Consider implementing multiple and separate social security and social assistance schemes (e.g., child benefit, unemployment insurance, old age protection, housing subsidies, disability benefit, survivor benefits, sickness/injury benefits, health insurance, maternity/paternity benefits).

In the context of cash transfer programmes, to address non-income related barriers and constraints to realizing children's rights, UNICEF has outlined key factors that should be taken into consideration when designing a social protection programmes that can be used in the context of Kosovo for children and families in street situations.⁴⁴

UNICEF key factors for consideration in design of cash-transfer programmes

- Analysis of social and economic barriers to desired programme objectives including multidimensional child poverty, and their inter-relationship, in order to identify appropriate responses.
- Clear, accessible communication of programme objectives and operations, and programme participants' rights to participants, communities, and the general public.
- Strengthening linkages between cash transfers and social services, and the required supply response.
- Design and implementation of accompanying training and information, for example on nutritional information or early childhood development.
- Addressing structural and institutional discrimination and working with communities to shift social norms and particular groups to overcome discrimination and exclusion.
- The expansion of quality services for health, education, nutrition, water and sanitation, HIV and child protection to reach the most disadvantaged populations.
- Strengthening provision of social support services, including referrals to other social services and programmes.

Strengthen implementation of child protection laws, policies, and systems

Country-level holistic child protection systems are fundamental to reaching and providing a continuum of care for children in street situations, and enacting prevention and response strategies.⁵ Central institutions in Kosovo are responsible for designing and implementing standard policies and establishing mechanisms to protect children. At the municipal level, the CSWs are the frontline actors responsible for the direct implementation for the Law on Child Protection and other social protection laws, and are the mandated body to provide social care, social protection and counseling to children in need of social and family services.¹⁴ The Child Protection Law adapted by the Assembly of Kosovo on June

27th, 2019, defines responsibilities and roles of central institutions and municipalities.¹⁴ However, there is evidence that the implementation of child protection laws and policies has stagnated due to a lack of staff, professional profiles of service providers, adequate and consistent services, and poor and inappropriate funding, planning, and fragmented coordination.¹⁴ This is also due to the delays on development and approval of 16 by-laws that were supposed to be finalized by 2021 and that would make the Law on Child Protection more implementable. Several key areas for intervention have been identified to strengthen the implementation of child protection laws and policies (Table 9). Strengthening the implementation of child protection laws and policies at the central and municipal levels, with the coordination and collaboration with licensed NGOs, will ensure children in street situations' rights are upheld, and receive the appropriate child protection and support they and their families need to prevent street-involvement and rehabilitate those currently in street situations.

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. High	National strategy on children in street situations	Government of Kosovo
2. High	Adequate funding of social and family services by municipalities	Government of Kosovo / Municipalities
3. High	Establish and maintain networks, relationships, and protocols to support service coordination between government CSWs, civil society organizations, and non-governmental organizations	Municipalities, CSWs, CSOs, and NGOs
4. High	Expand and fund CSW service provisions (e.g., housing and emergency shelter, food, legal services, drop-in and daycare centres, and other emergency support)	Municipalities, CSWs, and NGOs
5. High	Intensive case management conducted by CSWs to monitor children's street involvement and conditions experienced by children in street situations at home and on the streets and intervene according to Law on Child Protection and available social services.	CSWs, CMRs
6. Medium	Enhanced academic training program for Social Workers and staff at CSWs to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities and improve services for children and families in the streets.	Municipalities, University of Pristina
7. Medium	Monitor and evaluate implementation of child protection laws and policies at the Central and Municipal levels	Governmental of Kosovo and Municipalities
8. Medium	Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of central and municipal governmental institutions in relation to children and families in street situations.	Government of Kosovo, Municipalities

Table 9
Prioritized recommendations to strengthen implementation of child protection, laws, and systems.

1. High priority: A national strategy and action plan that addresses the issues of children in street situations is required to unify a response across Kosovo from central institutions. The government of Kosovo, specifically the Ministry of Interior Affairs, in September 2023 has established a working group to draft a national plan to address the issue of children in street situations. The working group will be working on drafting the National Action Plan for the identification and treatment of children in street situations, begging and school dropouts. Members of the working group include Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innova-

tion, Ministry of Local Administration, Municipalities, CSWs, Kosovo Police, as well as local and international organizations. The National Coordinator Against Human Trafficking and the National Authority Against Human Trafficking should work in close coordination with partners and experts to draft a comprehensive plan which addresses systemic causes that result in children in street situations, while at the same time drafting action points to deal with the consequences of children in street situations. It is a high priority to finalize a national and coordinated strategy that can be universally implemented across municipalities, monitored, and evaluated.

2. High priority: As previously identified in a report by SOS and Handikos, there are resource constraints and funding limitations for CSWs to adequately function in the realm of social protection and provide robust services.¹⁴ Adequate budget allocation is fundamental to the implementation of the Child Protection Law and to strengthen and expand CSW services. Sufficient budget allocation will support ensuring there are adequate numbers of Social Service Officers, that office infrastructure is upgraded and renovated to ensure it is child friendly, and that services can be expanded to meet the diverse needs of vulnerable children (e.g., housing/shelter support, food, emergency situations, etc.). It is therefore recommended as a high priority for municipalities to allocate adequate funds to support CSWs at the frontline implementers of the Law on Child Protection.

3. High priority: As previously identified in a report by SOS and Handikos, there is a need to establish and maintain networks, relationships, and protocols to support service coordination between CSWs, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations.¹⁴ As CSWs, civil society organizations, and NGOs all have a role to play in child protection, and in some circumstances NGOs are able to provide enhanced services and support to vulnerable children, coordination between these institutions is paramount to ensuring children in street situations are protected and supported. Supported by the municipality, CSWs should take a lead to establish protocols and procedures related to service coordination, and to identify civil society and NGOs in their municipality who are providing services and support to children in street situations to coordinate with them effectively.¹⁴

4. High priority: Few children in street situations or their parents reported using CSW services in the current study. Currently CSWs service provision is inadequate, and SOS and Handikos identified that in 62% of local communities where CSWs operate, the specific services for children do not exist, and 21% of respondents in their needs analysis responded that there are some services, but not enough.¹⁴ It is likely the services are inadequate and are not meeting the specific complex needs of children in street situations and their families. Children in street situations require a continuum of care, including prevention, early intervention, street outreach, helplines, drop-in centres, day-care centres, temporary residential care, family reunification, foster care, independent living or other short- or long-term care options.⁵

With sufficient budget allocation and coordination with other civil society and non-governmental organizations within municipalities, CSWs should take a lead to expand their service provision to vulnerable children and families. This should include the provision of emergency shelter and housing support, as greater than 36% of children in street situations reported sleeping in a location other than an apartment, house, or trailer with family, and 14% reported sleeping in either an empty or abandoned building or public space in the past 4 weeks. These findings demonstrate the urgent need to provide housing and emergency shelter options to children in street situations and their families to ensure their right to adequate housing is being upheld (Article 27 on the right to an adequate standard of living).⁵ Further, CSWs should consider expanding services

to provide support for children in families experiencing chronic or temporary food insecurity as 63% of children in street situations in the current study reported having less than 3 meals per day. The provision of support to augment food security amongst vulnerable children and families in alignment with Article 27 on the right to an adequate standard of living and Article 6 on the right to life, survival, and development.⁵ Other support services, such as legal support services, including legal representation, to children and their families, individual and family-based therapy and counseling services, street outreach services, and referrals to local civil society and NGO organizations to ensure robust services are available to children in street situations and their families.⁴⁵ In municipalities with larger numbers of children in street situations (e.g., Pristina, Ferizaj, Gjakova, Peja, and Prizren), CSWs should work in collaboration with civil society and non-governmental organizations to establish drop-in and daycare centres, such as those provided by TdH in Pristina, specifically for children in street situations that are a safe and respect, and support children to attain their right to special protection and assistance (Article 20) outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, General Comment no. 21 on Children in Street Situations.^{5,45}

5. High priority: In conjunction with expanding CSW services as outlined above, it should be a high priority for CSWs to implement intensive case management strategies (arranging and coordinating care) for children vulnerable to entering street situations as well as those already on the street. CSWs should design a strategy to systematically assess the needs of children in street situations and their families, and when feasible and appropriate, arrange, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and advocate for an appropriate package of services (prevention, protection, and referral) to meet the needs of children in street situations and their families. An intensive case management system may include establishing National Social Work Case Management Standards to be implemented across CSWs. This encompasses the need for prevention and early intervention. An early warning system should be established to identify children and families at-risk of becoming street-involved or newly street-involved (e.g., a decrease in school attendance and new child on the street). Intensive case management tailored to children in street situations and their families is vital for response. Protocols and procedures should be established to immediately intervene and ensure children's rights are being upheld and the child protected according to the Law on Child Protection.⁵

6. Medium priority: As identified by SOS and Handikos, there is a need to enhance and augment training for Social Workers and staff in CSWs across Kosovo.¹⁴ Special attention should be paid to build capacity of Social Workers and other staff across CSWs in contact with children in street situations. This should include initial and in-service basic training on child rights, the Law on Child Protection, policymaking, law enforcement, justice, education, health, social work, and psychology, as outlined in General Comment No. 21.⁵ In locations with larger numbers of children in street situations, CSWs should consider having street-based social workers specialized in child protection to support early detection, and to provide support to families with children at risk and to children already in street situations.⁵

7. Medium priority: Monitoring and evaluation is critical to accountability and resolving on-going barriers to implementation of child protection laws, policies, and systems at the central and municipal levels in Kosovo. Accountability mechanisms for a lack of implementation need to be transparent and clearly enforced. Independent country human rights institutions, such as the ombudspersons, and other State and non-State actors, working groups, and committees should be established and involved in establishing accountability mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Law on Child Protection, and the child protection systems in Kosovo.

8. Medium priority: Notwithstanding that the roles and responsibilities of central institutions and municipalities are outlined in the Law on Child Protection, clearly defined roles and responsibilities of central and municipal governmental institutions should be outlined in relation to children and families in street situations.

Educational interventions and policies to support vulnerable children and families and reduce child labour

Children have a right to accessible, free, safe, relevant and quality education (Article 28 on education).⁵ Moreover, the Kosovo Law on Child Protection states that “Protection of life of the child should be the main obligation for every person, institution or other body; The child’s right to survival and development, which means the child’s right to physical, mental, emotional, educational, health, social development and well-being, must be protected to the maximum extent possible by any person, institution or any other body.”⁵³ This study identified that a high proportion of children in street situations in Kosovo had never been to school (38%) and very few were currently attending schools (25%), while many children are involved in informal income generation (25%) and begging (60%), suggesting some degree of child labour. Children in street situations and caregivers require support to ensure that children can enroll and stay in school, to ensure their right to quality education is fully protected (Article 28 on education) and to reduce child labour (Article 32 on child labour). There are several options to intervene to ensure children in street situations have access to education, including, catch-up classes, mobile schools, vocational training, and pathways to support formal education that can be implemented by States in collaboration with civil society and non-governmental organizations.⁵ A recent Rapid Evidence Assessment (2023) produced by UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight in relation to child work and child labour, assessed the impact of educational policies. Several interventions and educational policies identified in this report may be appropriate to implement and mitigate the effects of child labour and child work in the context of children in street situations in Kosovo.⁴⁶ These interventions may focus on children, households and families, schools and teachers, and communities and systems.⁴⁶

Table 10
Recommendations to
improve educational
enrolment and
attendance while
reducing child labour.

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. High	Available and accessible alternative educational options (e.g., intensive schooling, learning centers, catch-up classes, mobile schools).	Government of Kosovo, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MEST), Municipalities, and other NGOs
2. High	Expand reach of Prevention and Response Teams Against Non-Enrollment and Dropout (PRTANs) to upper secondary and consider early intervention during early childhood education (pre-primary) with high-risk families.	Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MEST), Municipalities, and UNICEF
3. Medium	Scholarships and vouchers for uniforms, school supplies, and transportation.	Government of Kosovo, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MEST), and NGOs
4. Medium	School feeding/meal program.	Government of Kosovo, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MEST),
5. Medium	In school and policy interventions to reduce stigma and discrimination experienced by marginalized communities and children in street situations that impacts educational enrolment, attendance, and outcomes.	Government of Kosovo, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MEST),
6. Low	Extending time in school from half day to full day.	Government of Kosovo, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MEST),

1. High: The availability and accessibility of alternative educational options for children in street situations is vital. Given the large proportion of children in street situations who had never attended school this study identified (38%), it is likely children in street situations require alternatives to support them on the pathway to formal education. This may also include the provision of catch-up classes for children who are behind their educational milestones, vocational training for children who will not return to the formal school system, and mobile schooling options for children who are in street situations when intensive schooling is not an option.

2. High: The present study found that 38% of children in street situations had never attended school in Kosovo, and 75% were not currently attending; with only 1 participant reporting having completed any upper secondary. Kosovo has low levels of early childhood education, with 15% of children aged 36-59 months attending early childhood education, with only 2.7% of children in the poorest wealth quintile attending early childhood education in comparison to 42.5% in the richest quintile.⁸ Taken together, these findings show there is a need to intervene pre-primary during the early childhood education years to support initial school enrolment. As well there is a need to strengthen support to children during the transition from lower to upper secondary to prevent dropout. The existing municipal and school-based Prevention and response Teams Against Non-Enrolment and Dropout (PRTANs) should be strengthened to expand reach to pre-primary aged children and families to ensure children living in families at high-risk of non-enrolment, enroll their children in early childhood education programmes and primary school. Further, programmatic supports

should be expanded to upper secondary school to prevent drop-out among marginalized children and adolescents. Intervening in early childhood to support school enrolment in combination with other approaches to support families will prevent children from entering street situations and engaging in child labour from a young age. As well, intervening during adolescents to support upper secondary school completion will ensure at-risk adolescents don't leave school early to engage in work on the streets.

3. Medium: Scholarships and vouchers have shown to positively affect school participation and learning outcomes, while reducing child labour.⁴⁶ Scholarship amounts and vouchers must be adequate to cover costs so families forgo child labour earnings.⁴⁶ Vouchers could be provided to cover the costs of items such as uniforms, school supplies, and transportation to families with children in street situations to facilitate their enrolment in or return to school.

4. Medium: A school feeding/meal program may both reduce child participation in economic activities and work, while improving educational outcomes, such as enrolment and academic performance. At the same time, school feeding/meal programs may improve child nutrition, particularly for children in street situations who report fewer than 3 meals per day.⁴⁶

5. Medium: In school interventions are needed to reduce stigma and discrimination experience by marginalized communities (e.g., Roma, Ashklai, and Egyptian, and other undocumented children) and children in street situations, which impacts educational attendance and outcomes.

Some children in street situations in the present study reported that they do not have good relations with teachers, experience discrimination, and do not have the documents to be registered as a student, suggestive of indirect discrimination. This form of discrimination occurs when children are excluded from basic services, such as education due to the requirement for specific identity documents or payment (Article 2 on non-discrimination). Therefore, requirements for identity documents should be removed to ensure a child rights approach, which means all children are able to enroll in and access education (Article 28 on education).⁵ Further, additional training should be offered to all teachers to reduce stigmatization and discrimination against children from marginalized communities and those in street situations, to sensitize them to the issues faced by children in street situations and reduce any inequitable treatment.

6. Low: Children in Kosovo attend school for only half of the day, resulting in some children in street situations attending school, and then engaging in child labour and work on the streets after school and on the weekends. Evidence supports that extending time in school has an effect on schooling outcomes, and a reduction in children's work or child labour, however the impacts differed significantly by gender and age. The government of Kosovo should consider extending the daily time in school to mitigate children's street-involvement and time spent doing work and child labour.

Systematic and regular data collection on children in street situations

As outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 21 on Children in Street situations "*States should develop systematic, rights-respecting, participatory mechanisms to collect data and share disaggregated information about children in street situations.*"⁵ Moreover, the Law on Child Protection states that Centres for Social Work are responsible to "*generate data on the exact number of children by age and other necessary data on beneficiaries of social and family services.*"⁵³ As a result, key recommendations to ensure regular and systematic data collection are performed have been made (Table 11).

Table 11
Recommendations for
data collection with
and for children in
street situations

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. High	Integrate collecting data on children in street situations into systematic country-wide data collection on children both in and out of household settings	Government of Kosovo, UNICEF, Police, other NGO stakeholders
2. High	Participation of children in street situations in setting data collection agendas, future research, and interpretation of findings for policy and decision-making	Academics/researchers, Government of Kosovo, UNICEF, and other NGO stakeholders
3. Medium	Conduct country-wide systematic point-in-time counts of children in street situations and collect data disaggregated by sex.	Government of Kosovo, Police, UNICEF, and other NGO stakeholders
4. Low	Further research is needed on drug and alcohol use, child trafficking and violence experienced by children in street situations in Kosovo.	University of Pristina, Children in street situations, UNICEF, and other stakeholders.

1. High: Systematic data collection on children in street situations should be integrated into country-wide data collection for children in the context of Kosovo. Currently, data collection on children is fragmented and the data systems require further integration and strengthening to capture holistic data on all children. Without systematically collected and disaggregated data, policies and interventions are not developed that are responsive to the circumstances of children in street situations.⁵ The government of Kosovo and Kosovo Police, working in collaboration with UNICEF and other NGO stakeholders should plan to ensure that country data that are regularly collected, integrating methodological approaches, measures, and indicators to capture accurate and rigorous data on children in street situations.

2. High: Children in street situations have the right to be heard (Article 12) and participate in matters that impact them, including the conceptualization, design, implementation, monitoring, and dissemination of research and programmatic interventions aimed at improving their circumstances. Children's views should also be taken into consideration, in accordance with their evolving capacities (Article 5 on direction and guidance consistent with evolving capacities).⁵ Children in street situations in Kosovo should be invited to actively participate in research initiatives, and the development of policies, programmes, and interventions targeting them.

3. Medium: In the absence of accurate numbers to determine the magnitude of the problem of children in street situations in Kosovo, the importance of the problem of children in street situations remains unknown, and policies remain inadequate to address the situation. Conducting semi-annual or annual point-in-time counts is vital for governments, civil society, and non-governmental organizations to respond to the issue of children in street situations.⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹ An effort should be spearheaded by the government of Kosovo as part of the National strategy on children in street situations and led by the Kosovo Police, and CSWs in collaboration with other NGO stakeholders to conduct point-in-time counts.

4. Low: Additional research is needed to explain and explore drug and alcohol use, experiences of and exposure to violence among children in street situations, and the issue of child trafficking. Researchers from the University of Pristina should collaborate with local stakeholders and children in street situations to undertake this work to gain a more nuanced and deeper understanding of these issues across Kosovo.

Exosystem recommendations

Economic empowerment, employment, and vocational training for parents of children in street situations

Parents of children in street situations require support and States are obliged to provide assistance to parents and legal guardians to facilitate their child-rearing responsibilities (Article 18 on parental responsibility).⁵ The Law on Child Protection also guarantees *“the well-being and the improvement of quality of life of the child, by promoting and enabling their development in the society, the effective assistance and care to the child whose health and well-being is at risk.”*⁵³ Interventions and support to parents will help ensure that children to live in a stable family home where they are receiving an adequate standard of living (Article 27) as well as in the Law on Child Protection, which includes housing, material assistance, food, and free medical care and education.^{5, 53} Parents interviewed as part of this study, repeatedly stated they were willing and wanted to work, and were interested in building skills and becoming economically empowered to be able to support their children and families. Parents require support to augment their skills to gain employment, and become economically empowered to support their families, and create a stable home, which provides the requirements to uphold children’s rights. Labour work force participation in Kosovo is low at 38.7% of the working age population, and unemployment is high at 27% of the labour force,⁴³ indicative that both universal and targeted interventions to increase labour workforce participation and employment in Kosovo are likely required (Table 12).

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. High	Universal interventions to increase work-force participation	Government of Kosovo, Ministry of Finance, Labour, and Transfers, Employment Agency for the Republic of Kosovo.
2. High	Education, vocational training, skills-building, and re-training for parents of children in street situations	Ministry of Finance, Labour, and Transfers, Employment Agency for the Republic of Kosovo, CSWs/NGOs
3. Medium	Employment finding services tailored to parents of children in street situations	Ministry of Finance, Labour, and Transfers, Employment Agency for the Republic of Kosovo, CSWs / NGOs

Table 12
Recommendations to economically empower parents of children in street situations.

1. High: Universal interventions and policies, such as increasing the minimum wage (which is currently €264.00 per month), education and retraining schemes aimed at long-term unemployed individuals, and increased and subsidized day-care options for parents of young children, will enable more individuals, including parents of children in street situations to return to the workforce and upgrade their skills.

2. High: Targeted approaches for highly marginalized and vulnerable families and parents of children in street situations should be designed by the government in collaboration with civil society and non-governmental organizations to economically empower parents through vocational training, education, and re-training courses, particularly for parents with limited education.

3. Medium: CSWs and NGOs should have programs designed to support parents in finding employment and entering the workforce after the completion of training. These programs should build parental skills in relation to writing resumes, contacting employers, where to search for jobs, how to apply, and interview conduct.

Overall, by economically empowering parents of children in street situations, it is likely fewer children will become street-involved and those currently in street situations due to poverty and making an economic contribution to the household through child work and child labour will likely discontinue their street-involvement.

Mesosystem recommendations

Parenting skills training

Children require a safe and supportive environment in which they can develop. While the present study did not identify a high prevalence of child violence, violence against children is a critical issue in Kosovo, where 71.6% of children aged 1 to 14 years have experienced any violent discipline method, and 68.7% psychological aggression.⁸ These statistics suggest there is a universal need for CSWs in collaboration with civil society and non-governmental organizations to implementing parenting skills training, as well as a need for more commitment from the Kosovo Government to strengthen the legal basis to ensure this. (Table 13).

Table 13
Recommendation to
improve parenting
skills.

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. High	Parenting for Lifelong Health	Kosovo Government, UNICEF, CSWs, NGOs

1. High: As a practice, Parenting for Lifelong Health was established in 2012 with UNICEF and WHO. The program is comprised of a suite of free, low-cost, non-commercialized parenting programmes to reduce violence against children and improve child wellbeing.⁵⁰ UNICEF Montenegro has worked to assess the feasibility scale up Parenting for Lifelong Health in Montenegro.⁵¹ Given the strength of this global evidence-based parenting program and its effectiveness in reducing violence against children, immediate action should be taken to adapt the Parenting for Lifelong Health program for the context of Kosovo, and pilot test its implementation, and then further working towards scale across Kosovo.

Microsystem recommendations

Ensure children in street situations are knowledgeable about their rights.

Children in street situations have a right to access information about their rights, and to ensure those rights are understood and realized (Article 17 on access to information).⁵ As outlined in the General Comment No. 21 on Children in Street situations, children in street situations “*need to have access through accessible and appropriate channels to accurate, high-quality and child- friendly information relating to: (a) the role and accountability of the State, and complaints mechanisms for redress in relation to human rights violations; (b) protection from violence; (c) sexual and reproductive health, including family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted infections; (d) healthy lifestyles, including diet and physical activity; (e) safe and respectful social and sexual behaviours; (f) prevention of accidents; and (g) the*

negative impacts of abuse of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and other harmful substances."⁵ Further, while not specifically children in street situations, the Law on Child Protection takes *"measures to ensure that the child exercises their rights, in compliance with the gradual development of child's skills, based on the best interest of the child."*⁵³ Two avenues to ensure children in street situations in Kosovo are knowledgeable about their rights are outlined in Table 14, which also correspond to Article 29 on the aims of education.

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. High	Child rights education for children in street situations	Government of Kosovo, UNICEF, CSWs, NGOs
2. Medium	Strengthen the complaint mechanism for redress in relation to human rights violations so it is accessible to children in street situations	Ombudsperson, NGOs

Table 14
Recommendation to ensure children in street situations are knowledgeable about their rights.

1. High: There is an immediate need to ensure drop-in and daycare centres and CSWs provide children in street situations appropriate and accessible child-friendly information about their rights. This information should be communicated through multiple mediums (e.g., posters, comic books, social media, radio, etc.) that are child-friendly.

2. Medium: Existing mechanisms to file complaints in relation to human rights violations administered and regulated through the Kosovo Ombudsperson Office should be adapted and strengthened to ensure that children in street situations are able to access the system and make complaints.

Ensure children in street situations are knowledgeable about child protection and other support services.

Children in street situations have a right to access information about their rights, and to ensure those rights are understood and realized (Article 17 on access to information), this should include accessible, appropriate, and child-friendly information about the child protection and support services available in Kosovo (Table 15).⁵ The Law on Child Protection takes *"measures to ensure that the child exercises their rights, in compliance with the gradual development of child's skills, based on the best interest of the child."*⁵³

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. High	Child-friendly education about availability of child protection and other support services available to children in street situations	Government of Kosovo, UNICEF, CSWs, NGOs
1. High	Establish and fund mobile teams to work with children in street situations	Government of Kosovo, CSWs, NGOs

Table 15
Recommendation to ensure children are knowledgeable about child protection and other services.

1. High: Organizations working in child protection and those providing support services to children in street situations should collaborate to provide child-friendly educational materials in multiple formats and mediums about child protection and other support services available in Kosovo. These should be tailored to municipalities when appropriate, with leadership from the CSWs.

2. High: Mobile outreach teams should be coordinated, established and strengthened in partnership between the government and NGOs to work on the streets with children in street situations to ensure they have access to

and are knowledgeable about child protection and support services available in Kosovo. These mobile teams should be formed and coordinated with leadership from CSWs in collaboration with other stakeholders. Where existing mobile teams are in place, efforts should be made to coordinate and integrate mobile outreach with local CSWs to ensure sustainability and a coordinated effort.

Life skills provision to children in street situations

As part of a right to education in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (Article 28), the aims of education (Article 29) include ensuring that children in street situations have life skills, as well as literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, child rights education, tolerance for diversity, and citizenship education.⁵ Life skills provision, encompassing all of the above domains, should be designed and standardized for children in street situations by CSWs in collaboration with local civil society and non-governmental organizations (Table 16). An inventory of what current CSWs, civil society, and NGOs provide in relation to life skills for children in street situations should be conducted across municipalities. Collaboratively, a committee should be established to ensure that a standardized curriculum is designed that can be implemented in all CSWs and by NGOs to ensure there is consistency.

Table 16
Recommendation for
life skills curriculum.

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. Low	Life skills curriculum for children in street situations	CSWs, civil-society and NGOs

Psychosocial and mental health services.

Children in street situations have a right to health (Article 24) and Child Protection Law Child protection law article 1, article 4, article 5.^{5, 53} As part of this right, States should increase the availability of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services, including those for mental health and trauma therapy. As many children in street situations will have likely experienced trauma, have mental health sequelae, and are exposed to and experience violence, it is essential they have access to appropriate child psychosocial and mental health services. These services can be facilitated through public health facilities, CSWs, and NGOs who have the appropriately trained staff in Social Work and child psychology (Table 17).

Table 17
Recommendations
for psychosocial and
mental health services.

Priority	Evidence-based interventions / approaches	Who needs to act
1. High	Psychosocial and mental health services	Ministry of Health, CSWs, NGOs
2. Medium	Availability of trauma-informed care and therapy	Government of Kosovo Ministry of Health



Conclusions

Overall, the study identified that there is an urgent need to implement a unified national strategy on the issue of children in street situations, that addresses both preventing children and parents from becoming street-involved, as well as to intervene once children find themselves in street situations. Clear recommendations have been made and prioritized within a child rights framework, and the government of Kosovo and other stakeholders should take immediate action to respond to the issue of children in street situations in Kosovo.

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Tables

Table 18
Basic socio-demographics of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by geographic location.

	Total N= 130(%)	Dragash n=5 (%)	Ferizaj n=20 (%)	F. Kosova n=5 (%)	Gjakova n=20 (%)	Kline n=5 (%)	Peja n=18 (%)	Pristina n=39 (%)	Prizren n=18 (%)
Age (years)									
6-10	43 (33.1)	3 (60.0)	8 (40.0)	0 (0)	10 (50.0)	5 (100)	5 (27.8)	6 (15.4)	6 (33.3)
11-14	64 (49.2)	2 (40.0)	10 (50.0)	3 (60.0)	6 (30.0)	0 (0)	10 (55.5)	24 (61.5)	9 (50.0)
15-17	23 (17.7)	0 (0)	2 (10.0)	2 (40.0)	4 (20.0)	0 (0)	3 (16.7)	9 (23.1)	3 (16.7)
Sex									
Female/ Girl	55 (42.3)	1 (20.0)	9 (45.0)	0 (0)	11 (55.0)	1 (20.0)	13 (72.2)	15 (38.5)	5 (27.8)
Male/Boy	75 (57.7)	4 (80.0)	11 (55.0)	5 (100)	9 (45.0)	4 (80.0)	5 (27.8)	24 (61.5)	13 (72.2)
Ethnicity/Nationality									
Albanian	14 (10.8)	5 (100)	4 (20.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (12.8)	0 (0)
Ashkali	55 (42.3)	0 (0)	11 (55.0)	5 (100)	5 (25.0)	3 (60.0)	7 (38.9)	20 (51.3)	4 (22.2)
Republic of Albania	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Egyptian	17 (13.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (75.0)	1 (20.0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
Roma	43 (33.1)	0 (0)	4 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (20.0)	11 (61.1)	13 (33.3)	14 (77.8)
Situation of Child at time of interview									
Alone on the street	14 (10.8)	0 (0)	3 (15.0)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	1 (5.6)	7 (17.9)	2 (5.6)
With friends/ peers	23 (17.7)	0 (0)	9 (45.0)	3 (60.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (16.7)	8 (20.5)	0 (0)
With siblings	30 (23.1)	5 (100)	0 (0)	1 (20.0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	19 (48.7)	2 (5.6)
With parent/ guardian	60 (46.2)	0 (0)	6 (30.0)	0 (0)	18 (90.0)	5 (100)	14 (77.8)	3 (7.7)	14 (77.8)
With other family	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (20.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
At drop-in centre	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
Has legal guardian									
Yes	129 (99.2)	5 (100)	19 (95.0)	5 (100)	20 (100)	5 (100)	18 (100)	39 (100)	18 (100)
Don't know	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Has birth certificate									
Yes	121 (93.1)	5 (100)	18 (90.0)	5 (100)	19 (95.0)	5 (100)	18 (100)	36 (92.3)	15 (8.3)
No	4 (3.1)	0 (0)	2 (10.0)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
Don't know	3 (2.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5.1)	1 (1.1)
Refuse to answer	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5.6)
Ever gone to school									
Yes	80 (61.5)	1 (20.0)	15 (75.0)	4 (80.0)	8 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	10 (55.6)	29 (74.4)	11 (61.1)
No / Don't know	50 (38.5)	4 (80.0)	5 (25.0)	1	12	3	8 (44.4)	10 (25.6)	7 (38.9)
Currently in school									
Yes	33 (25.4)	0 (0)	12 (60.0)	0 (0)	4 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (11.1)	9 (23.1)	5 (27.8)
No	97 (74.6)	5 (100)	8 (40.0)	5 (100)	16 (80.0)	4 (80.0)	16 (88.9)	30 (76.9)	13 (72.2)

	Total N= 130(%)	Dragash n=5 (%)	Ferizaj n=20 (%)	F. Kosova n=5 (%)	Gjakova n=20 (%)	Kline n=5 (%)	Peja n=18 (%)	Pristina n=39 (%)	Prizren n=18 (%)
Length of time living and/or working on the streets									
<6 months	24 (18.5)	0 (0)	9 (45.0)	1 (20.0)	8 (40.)	0 (0)	3 (16.7)	3 (7.7)	0 (0)
6 month – 2 years	36 (27.7)	5 (100)	7 (35.0)	0 (0)	5 (5.0)	2 (40.0)	3 (16.8)	12 (30.8)	2 (11.1)
2-5 years	33 (25.4)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	3 (60.0)	5 (5.0)	1 (20.0)	4 (22.2)	14 (35.9)	5 (27.8)
>5 years	27 (20.8)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	1 (20.0)	0 (0)	1 (20.0)	8 (44.4)	8 (20.5)	8 (44.4)
All my life	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (11.1)
Don't know	6 (4.6)	0 (0)	2 (10.0)	0 (0)	2 (10.0)	1 (20.0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
Refuse to answer	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	1 (5.6)
Primary reason for starting to go to the streets									
Poverty	114 (87.7)	5 (100)	13 (65.0)	2 (40.0)	20 (100)	5 (100)	18 (100)	33 (84.6)	18 (100)
Social-cultural norms	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Freedom	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	2 (10.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lack of a parent, guardian, or caregiver	3 (2.3)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5.1)	0 (0)
Family is street-connected	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	2 (10.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
To earn money	4 (3.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (60.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
To help parents	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5.1)	0 (0)
Family problems	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
Refuse to answer	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
What keeps them in street situations									
Poverty	120 (92.3)	5 (100)	16 (80.0)	4 (80.0)	19 (95.0)	5 (100)	18 (100)	35 (89.7)	18 (100)
Social-cultural norms	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Family problems	10 (7.7)	5 (100)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5.1)	2 (11.1)
Freedom	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	2 (10.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lack of a parent, guardian, or caregiver	5 (3.8)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5.1)	2 (11.1)
Family is street-connected	4 (3.1)	0 (0)	3 (15.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
To earn money	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (20.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Delinquency	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Disability	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Discrimination	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	2 (10.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Child trafficking	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Refuse to answer	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
Activities they do on the street									
Beg	78 (60.0)	0 (0)	13 (65.0)	0 (0)	17 (85.0)	5	17	14 (35.9)	12 (66.7)
Work (e.g., manual labour, services, selling things)	33 (25.4)	1 (20.0)	0 (0)	5 (100)	0 (0)	0	1	22 (56.4)	4 (22.2)
Hang out with friends	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Take care of siblings	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
Nothing	7 (5.4)	4 (80.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (11.1)
Play	8 (6.2)	0 (0)	7 (35.0)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Search for food	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)

Table 19 Circumstances of street-involvement among children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by geographic location.

Table 20
Basic socio-
demographics of
children in street
situations in Kosovo
stratified by sex.

	Total N= 130 (%)	Girls n= 55 (%)	Boys n= 75 (%)	p-value
Geographic location				
Dragash	5 (3.8)	1 (1.8)	4 (5.3)	0.02993
Ferizaj	20 (15.4)	9 (16.4)	11 (14.7)	
Fushe Kosova	5 (3.8)	0 (0)	5 (6.7)	
Gjakova	20 (15.4)	11 (20.0)	9 (12.0)	
Kline	5 (3.8)	1 (1.8)	4 (5.3)	
Peja	18 (13.8)	13 (23.6)	5 (6.7)	
Pristina	39 (30.0)	15 (27.3)	24 (32.0)	
Prizren	18 (13.8)	5 (9.1)	13 (17.3)	
Age (years)				
6-10	43 (33.1)	23 (41.8)	20 (26.7)	0.1893
11-14	64 (49.2)	23 (41.8)	41 (54.7)	
15-17	23 (17.7)	9 (16.4)	14 (18.7)	
Ethnicity/Nationality				
Albanian	14 (10.8)	5 (9.1)	9 (12.0)	0.9874
Ashkali	55 (42.3)	24 (43.6)	31(41.3)	
Child from Republic of Albania	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	
Egyptian	17 (13.1)	7 (12.7)	10 (13.3)	
Roma	43 (33.1)	19 (34.5)	24 (32.0)	
Situation of Child at time of interview				
Alone on the street	14 (10.8)	5 (9.1)	9 (12.0)	0.379
With friends/peers	23 (17.7)	9 (16.4)	14 (18.7)	
With siblings	30 (23.1)	10 (18.2)	20 (26.7)	
With parent/guardian	60 (46.2)	30 (54.5)	30 (40.0)	
With other family (2 (1.5)	0 (0)	2 (2.7)	
At drop-in centre	1 (0.8)	1 (1.8)	0 (0)	
Has legal guardian/parent				
Yes	129 (99.2)	54 (98.2)	75 (100)	0.4231
Don't know	1 (0.8)	1 (1.8)	0 (0)	
Has birth certificate				
Yes	121 (93.1)	52 (94.5)	69 (92.0)	0.5784
No	4 (3.1)	2 (3.6)	2 (2.7)	
Don't know	3 (2 3)	0 (0)	3 (4.0)	
Refuse to answer	2 (1.5)	1 (1.8)	1 (1.3)	
Ever gone to school				
Yes	80 (61.5)	37 (67.3)	43 (57.3)	0.3329
No / Don't know	50 (38.5)	18 (32.7)	32 (42.7)	
Currently goes to school				
Yes	33 (25.4)	15 (27.3)	18 (24.0)	0.8262
No	97 (74.6)	40 (72.7)	57 (76.0)	

	Total N= 130 (%)	Girls n= 55 (%)	Boys n=75 (%)	p-value
Length of time living and/or working on the streets				
<6 months	24 (18.5)	14 (25.5)	10 (13.3)	0.3898
6 month – 2 years	36 (27.7)	16 (29.1)	20 (26.7)	
2-5 years	33 (25.4)	10 (18.2)	23 (30.7)	
>5 years	27 (20.8)	11 (20.0)	16 (21.3)	
All my life	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	2 (2.7)	
Don't know	6 (4.6)	3 (5.5)	3 (4.0)	
Refuse to answer	2 (1.5)	1 (1.8)	1 (1.3)	
Primary reason for starting to go to the streets				
Poverty	114 (87.7)	53 (96.4)	61 (81.3)	0.1096
Social-cultural norms	1 (0.8)	1 (1.8)	0 (0)	
Freedom	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	2 (2.7)	
Lack of a parent, guardian, or caregiver	3 (2.3)	0 (0)	3 (4.0)	
Family is street-connected	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	2 (2.7)	
To earn money	4 (3.1)	0 (0)	4 (5.3)	
To help parents	2 (1.5)	1 (1.8)	1 (1.3)	
Family problems	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	
Child trafficking	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Refuse to answer	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	
What keeps them in street situations				
Poverty	120 (92.3)	51 (92.7)	69 (92.0)	1
Social-cultural norms	1 (0.8)	1 (1.8)	0 (0)	0.4231
Family problems	10 (7.7)	2 (3.6)	8 (10.7)	0.1891
Freedom	2 (1.5)	0 (0)	2 (2.7)	0.5081
Lack of a parent, guardian, or caregiver	5 (3.8)	0 (0)	5 (6.7)	0.07245
Family is street-connected	4 (3.1)	1 (1.8)	3 (4.0)	0.6372
To earn money	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	1
Delinquency	1 (0.8)	1 (1.8)	0 (0)	0.4231
Disability	1 (0.8)	1 (1.8)	0 (0)	0.4231
Discrimination	2 (1.5)	2 (3.6)	0 (0)	0.1771
Child trafficking	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Refuse to answer	2 (1.5)	1 (1.8)	1 (1.3)	1
Activities they do on the street				
Beg	78 (60.0)	45 (81.8)	33 (44.0)	<0.0001
Work (e.g., manual labour, services, selling things)	33 (25.4)	3 (5.5)	30 (40.0)	
Hang out with friends	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	
Take care of siblings	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	
Nothing	7 (5.4)	2 (3.6)	5 (6.7)	
Play	8 (6.2)	4 (7.3)	4 (5.3)	
Search for food	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	1 (1.3)	

Table 21 Circumstances of street-involvement among children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.

Table 22
Family circumstances
of children in street
situations in Kosovo
stratified by sex.

	Total N= 59 (%)	Girls n=27 (%)	Boys n=32 (%)	p-value
Orphan Status				
Both Parents alive	47 (79.7)	22 (81.5)	25 (78.1)	0.5707
Father alive and mother dead/unknown	5 (8.5)	3 (11.1)	2 (6.3)	
Mother alive and father dead/unknown	7 (11.9)	2 (7.41)	5 (15.6)	
Has siblings				
Yes	58 (98.3)	26 (96.3)	32 (100)	0.4576
No	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	
Median number of siblings (IQR)	4 (2.75)	4 (2.75)	4 (2.75)	0.1732
Siblings coming to the streets				
No	9 (15.5)	5 (19.2)	4 (12.5)	0.6093
Some yes	35 (60.3)	14 (53.9)	21 (65.6)	
All yes	14 (24.1)	7 (26.9)	7 (21.9)	
Ages of siblings on streets				
< 5 years	3 (5.2)	1 (3.7)	2 (6.3)	
5 - <10 years	21 (36.2)	11 (40.7)	10 (31.3)	
10 - < 15 years	36 (62.1)	14 (51.9)	22 (68.8)	
15 - < 19 years	11 (19.0)	5 (18.5)	6 (18.8)	
> 19 years	6 (10.3)	4 (14.8)	2 (3)	
Parents come to the streets				
No	23 (39.0)	9 (33.3)	14 (43.8)	0.7714
Sometimes	15 (25.4)	8 (29.6)	7 (21.9)	
Most of the time	8 (13.6)	3 (11.1)	5 (15.6)	
Always	12 (20.3)	6 (22.2)	6 (18.8)	
Refuse to answer	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	
Regular contact with at least one family member				
Yes	58 (98.3)	26 (96.3)	32 (100)	0.4576
No	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	
Family Origins				
Albania	4 (6.8)	2 (7.4)	2 (6.3)	
Other Kosovo cities	39 (66.1)	19 (70.4)	20 (62.5)	
Haven't moved	11 (18.6)	4 (14.8)	7 (21.9)	
Montenegro	3 (5.1)	2 (7.4)	1 (3.1)	
North Macedonia	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)	
EU	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)	
Family migrates seasonally				
Yes	8 (13.6)	3 (11.1)	5 (15.6)	0.5748
No	50 (84.8)	23 (85.2)	27 (84.4)	
Don't Know	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	
Parents/Guardians/Caregivers employed				
Yes, in the formal sector	2 (3.4)	1 (3.7)	1 (3.1)	1
Yes, in the informal sector	9 (15.3)	4 (14.8)	5 (15.6)	
No, they have no source of income	29 (49.2)	13 (48.2)	16 (5)	
No, my parents beg	17 (28.8)	8 (29.6)	9 (28.1)	
Don't know	2 (3.4)	1 (3.7)	1 (3.1)	
Parental/guardian/caregiver sources of income				
None	17 (28.8)	8 (29.6)	9 (28.1)	1
Permanent part-time employment	2 (3.4)	0 (0)	2 (6.3)	0.495
Permanent full-time employment	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	0.4576
Casual labour/employment	6 (10.2)	3 (11.1)	3 (9.4)	1
Government assistance	36 (61.0)	18 (66.7)	18 (56.3)	0.4371
Begging/asking for handouts	26 (44.1)	11 (40.7)	15 (46.9)	0.7931
Recycling metals and plastics	12 (20.3)	4 (14.8)	8 (25.0)	0.5177

	Total N= 59(%)	Girls n= 27(%)	Boys n=32 (%)	p-value
Ever gone to school				
Yes	46 (78.0)	23 (85.2)	23 (71.9)	0.3609
No	13 (22.0)	4 (14.8)	9 (28.1)	
Highest grade completed	N=46	n=23	n=23	
Preschool	1 (2.3)	1 (4.3)	0 (0)	1
Primary, Grades 1-5	29 (63.0)	14 (60.9)	15 (46.9)	
Lower Secondary, Grades 6-9	14 (30.4)	7 (30.4)	7 (21.9)	
Upper Secondary, Grades 10-12	1 (2.3)	1 (4.3)	0 (0)	
Informal Education	1 (2.3)	0 (0)	1 (4.3)	
Median Grade Completed (IQR)	4 (3)	4 (4)	4 (3)	0.2145
Reasons never gone to school	N=13	n=4	n=9	
Choosing to earn money for the family	9 (69.2)	4 (100)	5 (55.6)	0.228
Don't want to go to school	4 (30.8)	0 (0)	4 (44.4)	
Forced to earn money for family	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Forced to earn money for someone else	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Don't want to go to school				
Want to go to school (never attended)				
Yes	10 (76.9)	4 (100)	6 (66.7)	0.4965
No	3 (23.1)	0 (0)	3 (33.3)	
Currently attending	N=46	n=23	n=23	
Yes	20 (43.5)	10 (43.5)	10 (43.5)	1
No	26 (56.5)	13 (56.5)	13 (56.5)	
Current Grade	N=20	n=10	n=10	
Primary, Grades 1-5	9 (45.0)	4 (40.0)	5 (50.0)	1
Lower Secondary, Grades 6-9	9 (45.0)	5 (50.0)	4 (40.0)	
Upper Secondary, Grades 10-12	1 (5.0)	1 (10.0)	0 (0)	
Intensive Schooling	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	1 (10.0)	
Why not currently attending	N=26	n=13	n=13	
Choosing to earn money for the family	5 (19.2)	3 (23.1)	2 (15.4)	
Forced to earn money for family	4 (15.4)	2 (15.4)	2 (15.4)	
Forced to earn money for someone else	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Don't want to go to school	2 (7.7)	2 (15.4)	1 (7.7)	
Other	12 (46.2)	4 (30.8)	8 (61.5)	
Don't know	3 (11.5)	2 (15.4)		
Refuse to answer	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Want to go to school (not currently attending)				
Yes	24 (92.3)	11 (84.6)	13 (100)	0.48
No	2 (7.7)	2 (15.38)	0 (0)	
How many days of school have you missed in the past 4 weeks	N=20	n=10	n=10	
None	6 (30.0)	3 (30.0)	3 (30.0)	0.612
1-2 days	8 (40.0)	5 (50.0)	3 (30.0)	
3-5 days	4 (20.0)	2 (20.0)	2 (20.0)	
> 5 days	2 (10.0)	0 (0)	2 (20.0)	

Table 23
Educational
circumstances of
children in street
situations in Kosovo
stratified by sex.

Table 24
Housing
circumstances of
children in street
situations in Kosovo
stratified by sex.

	Total N=59 (%)	Girls n=27 (%)	Boys n=32 (%)	p-value
With whom they stay at night				
Immediate family	51 (86.4)	22 (81.5)	29 (90.6)	0.6138
Extended family	8 (13.6)	3 (18.5)	4 (9.4)	
In the past 4 weeks have you slept in any of the following places				
Apartment, house, or trailer with family	26 (44.1)	11 (40.7)	15 (46.9)	0.8339
Apartment, house, or trailer shared with non-family	4 (6.8)	1 (3.7)	3 (9.4)	0.6175
Empty or abandoned building	4 (6.8)	2 (7.4)	2 (6.3)	1
Street, park, sidewalk, veranda, public space	4 (6.8)	1 (3.7)	3 (9.4)	0.6175
Someone else's house (friend, neighbour, etc.)	6 (10.2)	1 (3.7)	5 (15.6)	0.2047
Rescue centre or emergency shelter	2 (3.4)	1 (3.7)	1 (3.1)	1
In the past 4 weeks, how many nights did you sleep somewhere you didn't want to sleep?				
None of the nights	54 (91.5)	25 (92.6)	29 (90.6)	0.5898
Several nights	2 (3.4)	0 (0)	2 (6.3)	
More than half the nights	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	
All or nearly all the nights	2 (3.4)	1 (3.7)	1 (3.1)	

Table 25
Income generation
and sources of income
among children in
street situations in
Kosovo stratified by
sex.

	Total N= 59 (%)	Girls n=27 (%)	Boys n=32 (%)	p-value
Engage in income generating activities				
Yes	27 (45.8)	10 (46.9)	17 (53.1)	0.1972
No	30 (50.9)	15 (55.6)	15 (46.9)	
Don't Know	2 (3.4)	2 (7.4)	0 (0)	
Frequency of work	N=27	n=10	n=17	
Every day (days only)	20 (74.1)	7 (70.0)	13 (76.5)	0.8507
Every day (nights only)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	1 (5.9)	
Every day (days and nights)	2 (7.4)	1 (10.0)	1 (5.9)	
Before or after school only	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	1 (5.9)	
Weekends only	3 (11.1)	2 (20.0)	1 (5.9)	
Sources of income				
None	5 (8.5)	2 (7.4)	3 (9.4)	1
Manual labour/employment	2 (3.4)	1 (3.70)	1 (3.13)	1
Services (parking, washing windscreens, etc.)	19 (32.2)	4 (14.81)	15 (46.9)	0.01897
Work in the local dump site	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-
Government assistance	39 (66.1)	19 (70.4)	20 (62.5)	0.7187
Begging/asking for handouts	36 (61.0)	16 (59.3)	20 (62.5)	1
Recycling metals and plastics	13 (22.0)	7 (25.9)	6 (18.8)	0.544
Something illegal	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-
Permanent part-time job	2 (3.4)	1 (3.7)	1 (3.1)	1
Permanent full-time job	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)	1
Refuse to answer	2 (3.4)	1 (3.7)	1 (3.1)	1
What they do with their income				
Give it to my parents	49 (83.1)	22 (81.5)	27 (84.4)	1
Give to other relatives	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	0.4576
Give it to someone else	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-
Buy food	35 (59.3)	14 (51.9)	21 (65.7)	0.3027
Pay for rent, housing, or shelter	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	0.4576
Buy alcohol or drugs	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-
Leisure	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-
Transport	2 (3.4)	1 (3.7)	1 (3.1)	1
Other	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-
Refuse to answer	2 (3.4)	0 (0)	2 (6.3)	0.495
Is it your choice what to do with the money				
Yes, my choice	16 (27.1)	8 (29.6)	8 (25.0)	0.9167
No, someone else's	43 (72.9)	19 (70.4)	24 (75.0)	

	Total N= 59 (%)	Girls n=27 (%)	Boys n=32 (%)
Has physical or mental health condition			
Yes	8 (6.2)	3 (5.5)	5 (6.7)
No	122 (93.8)	52 (94.5)	70 (93.3)
Type of condition			
Physical condition	6 (75.0)	3 (100)	3 (60.0)
Mental condition	2 (25.0)	0 (0)	2 (40.0)
Serious health problems			
Yes	1 (1.7)	1 (3.70)	0 (0)
No	58 (98.3)	26 (96.3)	32 (100.0)
Physical or mental conditions			
Eye condition	3 (5.1)	2 (7.4)	1 (3.1)
Learning or understanding	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)
Epilepsy	1 (1.7)	1 (3.7)	0 (0)
Don't know	2 (3.39)	0 (0)	2 (6.3)
Does your condition make it hard for you to do things			
No, not really	3 (60.0)	2 (50.0)	1 (100.0)
Yes, a bit hard to do what I want	2 (40.0)	2 (50.0)	0 (0)
Yes, quite hard to do what I want	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Yes, my condition makes it extremely hard to do what I want	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
I do not have any functional difficulty	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Substance use			
Yes	10 (16.95)	3 (11.11)	7 (21.88)
No	49 (83.05)	24 (88.89)	25 (78.13)
Types of substances used			
Tobacco	10 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	7 (100.0)
Future outlook			
Opportunities are limitless	7 (11.7)	4 (14.8)	3 (9.4)
Many opportunities	11 (18.6)	7 (25.9)	4 (12.5)
Very limited opportunities	26 (44.1)	9 (33.3)	17 (53.1)
No opportunities at all	2 (3.4)	1 (3.7)	1 (3.1)
Don't know	12 (20.3)	6 (22.2)	6 (18.8)
Refuse to answer	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)

Table 26
Health and well-being profile of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.

	Total N= 59 (%)	Girls n=27 (%)	Boys n=32 (%)
Meals per day			
1 or none	5 (8.5)	3 (11.1)	2 (6.3)
2	30 (50.6)	13 (47.4)	17 (53.1)
3 or more	22 (37.3)	11 (40.5)	11 (34.4)
Don't know	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)
Refuse to answer	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)
Go to bed hungry the past week			
Yes	15 (25.4)	10 (37.0)	5 (15.6)
No	41 (69.5)	16 (59.3)	25 (78.1)
Don't know	3 (5.1)	1 (3.70)	2 (6.3)
If going to bed hungry, how often			
Some nights	11 (73.3)	6 (60.0)	5 (100.0)
Rarely	4 (26.7)	4 (40.0)	0 (0)
If going to bed hungry, why			
During the time when the parents had problems	1 (6.7)	1 (10.0)	0 (0)
It has happened a long time ago	1 (6.7)	1 (10.0)	0 (0)
Poverty	1 (6.7)	0 (0)	1 (20.0)
We had no food at home	10 (66.7)	7 (70.0)	3 (60.0)
We had no money to buy food	2 (13.3)	1 (10.0)	1 (20.0)

Table 27
Nutritional status of children in street situations in Kosovo stratified by sex.

Table 28
Experiences of
violence among
children in street
situations in Kosovo
stratified by sex.

	Total N= 59 (%)	Girls n=27 (%)	Boys n=32 (%)
Experiences of violence, has anyone in your home ever:			
Used drugs or alcohol in a way that frightened you	6 (10.2)	2 (7.4)	4 (12.5)
Threatened to hurt or kill you	2 (3.4)	1 (3.7)	1 (3.1)
Has anyone in or out of your home ever:			
Hit, beat, slapped, or hurt you heard enough to cause injury	5 (8.7)	0 (0)	5 (15.6)
Where did it happen (physical abuse)			
At home	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)
On the street	3 (5.1)	0 (0)	3 (9.4)
Both	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)
Neither	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Has anyone in or out of your home ever:			
Force or coerce you to have sex	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Have you ever exchanged sex for money shelter, food, protection, or anything else			
Yes	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)
No	58 (98.3)	27 (100)	31 (96.9)
Where did it happen (transactional sex)			
At home	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
On the street	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Both	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Neither	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)
Was transactional sex:			
Voluntary	1 (1.7)	0 (0)	1 (3.1)
Forced or coerced	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Table 29
Service utilization
by children in street
situations in Kosovo
stratified by sex.

	Total N= 59(%)	Girls n=27 (%)	Boys n= 32(%)
Have you ever used any of the following services:			
Family care centre	45 (76.27)	17 (62.96)	28 (87.50)
Hospital	10 (16.95)	2 (7.41)	8 (25.00)
Government social assistance	48 (81.36)	21 (77.78)	27 (84.38)
Social work or other social services	41 (69.49)	17 (62.96)	24 (75.00)
Community-based organization or service	30 (50.85)	10 (37.04)	20 (62.50)

Priority	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Score	Rank
Law, legislation, and penal code reform	2	3	3	0	5	36	1.89473684	3
Strengthen and expand CSW services (e.g., human resources, training, budget, referrals, and systems strengthening)	5	4	2	4	0	55	2.89473684	1
Increased budget allocation to address issue of children in street situations	4	3	2	2	0	42	2.21052632	2
Awareness raising amongst citizens to not give alms or other items to children in street situations	0	2	3	2	3	24	1.26315789	4
Interventions to support families to gain employment and skills-building, and economic support initiatives to families (e.g., economic empowerment of families)	0	1	2	5	1	21	1.10526316	5
Educational supports to prevent drop-out and to support children to return to school (e.g., notebooks, clothes, backpacks, etc.)	1	0	2	2	2	17	0.89473684	6
Municipal and national/central government institutions responsibilities detailed and monitored and evaluated for implementation (e.g., What is their role, responsibilities, and holding actors accountable)	0	1	0	1	5	11	0.57894737	7
Laws applied and system in place to ensure parents are sanctioned for not sending their children to school and for using children to generate income.	0	0	0	1	1	3	0.15789474	11
Interventions with parents to raise awareness about children's rights and consequences of sending children to street and providing parenting skills training.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Increase and expand social assistance and subsidy programs and eligibility for marginalised communities (e.g., conditional and unconditional cash transfers and social protection etc.)	1	0	0	0	1	6	0.31578947	9
Improved counseling and case management for children in street situations and their families	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Increased daycare centers, playgrounds, and leisure activities available for children in street situations.	0	0	1	0	1	4	0.21052632	10
More direct service provision by NGOs in collaboration with government	0	1	0	1	1	7	0.36842105	8

Table 30
Stakeholder ranking of priorities for improving children protection and support for children and families in street situations in Kosovo.

Barriers to improvement	1	2	3	4	5	Count	Total	Score	Rank
Lack of implementation of laws, legislation, and penal code	6	2	0	1	0	9	40	2.10526316	1
Lack of strong social services due to poor implementation	1	2	2	1	1	7	22	1.15789474	5
Lack of funding and budget allocated for programs and services	4	1	3	1	0	9	35	1.84210526	2
Lack of coordination between social and state actors	0	2	3	1	4	10	23	1.21052632	3
Lack of power to dictate and enact change in policy and processes	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0.15789474	14
Lack of data on the problem to respond appropriately	1	0	1	1	0	3	10	0.52631579	8
Lack of monitoring and accountability in government	1	0	1	1	0	3	10	0.52631579	8
Lack of political will	0	0	1	1	0	2	5	0.26315789	12
Lack of coordination between municipalities and national government	0	1	0	3	1	5	11	0.57894737	7
Insufficient training and oversight of individuals offering services	0	1	0	1	1	3	7	0.36842105	11
Discrimination against children in street situations, families, and marginalized communities	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.05263158	15
Family situations (families cannot access services or do not encourage their children to do so, or actively impede access)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Lack of awareness amongst street-connected children of their rights and services available	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	0.21052632	13
Economic crisis	2	2	1	0	2	7	23	1.21052632	3
Lack of human resources (lack of social workers)	0	1	2	1	0	4	12	0.63157895	6
Lack of adequate social assistance schemes	1	1	0	0	1	3	10	0.52631579	8

Table 31
Stakeholder ranking of barriers to the improvement of the lives of children in street situations in Kosovo.

Table 32

Stakeholder ranking of priorities to improve children's access to and use of services in Kosovo.

Priority	1	2	3	4	5	Count	Total	Score	Rank
Improved social assistance coverage for families and for those in marginalized communities (e.g., increase eligibility, targeted programs, etc.)	5	2	3	1	2	13	46	2.42105263	3
Strengthen and expand CSW services and policies (e.g., human resources, training, budget, referrals, and systems strengthening)	5	5	1	2	1	14	53	2.78947368	1
Municipal and national/central government institutions responsibilities detailed and monitored and evaluated for implementation (e.g., What is their role, responsibilities, and holding actors accountable)	1	7	4	0	2	14	47	2.47368421	2
Multi-agency training and coordination amongst policymakers in different Ministries and municipalities	2	0	1	5	1	9	24	1.26315789	5
Increased allocation of budget / resources to addressing issue of children in street situations	2	1	4	3	3	13	35	1.84210526	4
Law, legislation, and penal code reform	1	0	0	2	3	6	12	0.63157895	6

Table 33

Stakeholder ranking of priorities to improve data collection and evidence-informed decision- and policymaking for municipal and central policymakers regarding the issue of children in street situations and their families.

Priority	1	2	3	4	5	Count	Total	Score	Rank
Clear definitions and terms for children in street situations and families in the context of Kosovo	4	2	0	0	1	7	29	1.52631579	4
Establishment of a unified database tracking children in street situations and their families	3	7	0	1	2	13	47	2.47368421	1
Identification of the numbers of children in street situations	5	1	3	2	1	12	43	2.26315789	2
Capacity building for data collection and analysis	1	2	5	4	0	12	36	1.89473684	3
Strategies and policies that build on the database	0	1	2	2	3	8	17	0.89473684	6
Meetings and intersectoral data analysis to reach consensus on issues and coordinate	1	1	2	2	4	10	23	1.21052632	5
Training on evidence-based policy- and decision-making	0	1	1	2	2	6	13	0.68421053	7

Annexes

List of Stakeholders

Institution	Representative	Title
Office of Good Governance / OPM	Qendresa Ibra Zariqi	Child Rights Monitoring Officer
Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers	Mentor Morina	Director of the Department of Social and Family Policies/ Ministry of Finances, Labour and Transfers
Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers	Ylfete Ramosaj	Statistical Officer at the Department of Social and Family Policies/
Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers	Blerina Thaci	Child Protection Officer in the Department of Social and Family Policies
Kosovo Police	Salih Dragidella	Community Police
Kosovo Police	Riza Murati	Directorate for Investigation of Trafficking with Human Beings
Kosovo Police	Nilgyn Kosova	Chief of Sector for prevention of juvenile delinquency
Ombudsperson	Igballe Rrahmani	Child Rights Officer
Ombudsperson	Basri Kastrati	Deputy Ombudsperson
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development	Sherife Sekiraqa	Agriculture Institute
Work Inspectorate	Agim Millaku	Work Inspectorate
Work Inspectorate	Valon Leci	Work Inspectorate
Ministry of Justice	Lulzim Beqiri	Director of the Department for European Integration and Policy Coordination
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Liridon Neziri	Head of the Citizenship Division at the Department for Citizenship, Asylum and Migration
Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovations	Merita Jonuzi	Child Rights Monitoring Officer
Center for Social Work -Prishtina	Vehbi Mujku	Director
Center for Social Work - Fushe Kosove	Abaz Xhigoli	Director
Center for Social Work -Ferizaj	Adelina Rexhepi	Chief of social services
Center for Social Work -Prizren	Kumrije Bytyqi	Director
Center for Social Work -Obiliq	Mexhid Krasniqi	Chief of social services
Center for Social Work -Lipjan	Lorik Berbatovci	Chief of social services
ILO	Blerim Murtezi	ILO project coordinator in Kosovo
ILO	Lendita Boshtrakaj	ILO project coordinator
UNHCR	Bujar Prebreza, Milanka	Protection Associate
Balkan Sunflowers	Muhamet Arifi	Director
KOMF	Donjeta Kelmendi	Director
Terre des hommes	Florina Sefaj	Director
Terre des hommes	Pajtim Zeqiri	Program Manager on Child Protection
ECMIK	Adrian Zeqiri	Director
SOS	Gonxhe Dobroshi	Project Manager
Prishtina University / Institute of Psychology	Aliriza Arenliu	Director of Institute of Psychology/Associate Professor at University of Prishtina
Qendra Labyrinth	Safet Blakaj	Director
Terre des hommes day center	Egzona Gashi	Child Protection Project Coordinator

Technical Reference Group

Name and Surname	Position	Intuition
Mentor Morina	Director (Chair)	Ministry of Finance Labour and Transfers
Qendresa.Ibra.Zariqi	CRM Officer	Office of Good Governance
Sherife Sekiraqa	Agriculture Institute	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
Nilgyn Kosova	Chief of Sector for prevention of juvenile delinquency	Kosovo Police
Salih Dragidella	Community Police	Kosovo Police
Igballe Rrahmani	Child Rights Officer	Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo
Baki Gimolli	Senior legal adviser in the department for the protection of children's rights	Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo
Kaltrina Kelmendi	Associate Professor	Institute of Psychology, "Hasan Prishtina" University
Linda Hoxha	Associate Professor	Institute of Psychology, "Hasan Prishtina" University
Donjeta Kelmendi	Director	Coalition of Organizations for Protection of Children (KOMF)
Vehbi Mujku	Director	Center for Social Work -Prishtina
Lendita Boshtrakaj	Project Coordinator	ILO
Florina Sefaj	Director	Terres des Hommes
Ferdane Asllani	Strategy Program Advocate	Balkan Sunflowers
Lumnije Azemi	Project Manager	EU Office

Stakeholder questionnaire

Brief Questionnaire – for government, community, and healthcare stakeholders

[Online Informed Consent and Checkbox placed here as first page of brief survey]

Date: __/__/____ (DD/MM/YYYY)

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this brief questionnaire to capture information on children who find themselves living and/or working on the streets in Kosovo, and to identify priorities for and barriers to service provision for children in street situations and their families. As individuals working with children in street situations, their families, and the communities they live and work in in Kosovo, your input matters. This brief questionnaire should take no more than 15 minutes of your time. We thank you for your participation.

Part 1: Stakeholder sociodemographic information / profile of organization

Question number	Question	Responses
	What best describes the organization you represent?	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization (local) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization (international) <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	What locations in Kosovo does the organization you work with operate? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pristina <input type="checkbox"/> Fushe Kosova <input type="checkbox"/> Obiliq <input type="checkbox"/> Ferizaj <input type="checkbox"/> Prizen <input type="checkbox"/> Peja <input type="checkbox"/> Gjakova <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	In what capacity does your organization work involve children in street situations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct service provision to children in street situations <input type="checkbox"/> Policy making <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights and advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> Providing services to Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities <input type="checkbox"/> Providing services to prevent school drop-out (e.g., preventing street-involvement) <input type="checkbox"/> Providing health services <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Our organization doesn't work directly or indirectly involve children in street situations <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Does your organization collect data on children in street situations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

Part 2: Professional opinions on children in street situations

Question number	Question	Responses
	In your professional opinion, do you think children in street situations are a problem in Kosovo?	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree
	In your professional opinion, where do you think children in street situations are a problem in Kosovo?	<input type="checkbox"/> They are a problem in the whole country <input type="checkbox"/> They are a problem in select cities in Kosovo Please specify which cities: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> They are not a problem anywhere in Kosovo <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	In your professional opinion, what is the ethnic/nationality background of children in street situations in Kosovo? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Roma <input type="checkbox"/> Ashkali <input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian <input type="checkbox"/> Albanian <input type="checkbox"/> Serbian <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnian <input type="checkbox"/> Gorani <input type="checkbox"/> Turkish <input type="checkbox"/> Children from the Republic of Albania <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

	<p>What do you think are the top three reasons that children become street-involved in Kosovo? (Tick top three reasons)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Child trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Social-cultural norms <input type="checkbox"/> Migration / asylum seeking <input type="checkbox"/> Family problems (e.g., alcoholism, domestic violence, divorce, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse, neglect, maltreatment at home <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquency <input type="checkbox"/> Forced by parents or family <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a parent, guardian, or caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> No opportunities or choices <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	<p>In your professional opinion, does the number of children in street situations fluctuate seasonally in Kosovo?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if yes, please specify seasons: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	<p>To your knowledge, what services are currently available to children in street situations and their families in Kosovo? (Tick all that apply)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Drop-in daycare centers <input type="checkbox"/> Social assistance provided to families of children in street situations or at-risk of street involvement <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding / provision of food <input type="checkbox"/> Educational support <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling and social work <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare services <input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation services <input type="checkbox"/> Child protection services <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting training / skills <input type="checkbox"/> Livelihood/financial skills training <input type="checkbox"/> Substance use rehabilitation / harm reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Support for housing or temporary shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	<p>In your opinion, are services for children in street situations and their families adequate?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	<p>In your opinion, what services do children in street situations and their families need that aren't currently provided or are inadequate? (Tick all that apply)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Drop-in daycare centers <input type="checkbox"/> Social assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding / provision of food <input type="checkbox"/> Educational support <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling and social work <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare services <input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation services <input type="checkbox"/> Child protection services <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting training / skills <input type="checkbox"/> Livelihood/financial skills training <input type="checkbox"/> Substance use rehabilitation / harm reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Housing support <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

Part 3: Ranking priorities for and barriers to service provision

1. Where do you think efforts should be urgently concentrated to improve protection and support of children in street situations and their families?

Please rank what you think are the top **five priorities** from first priority (1= First priority for improvement) to fifth priority (5=fifth priority for improvement). Read the priorities listed below and think about what the first priority should be, second, third, fourth, and fifth. Please indicate your ranking

Priority	Ranking (1 to 5)
Law, legislation, and penal code reform	
Strengthen and expand CSW services (e.g., human resources, training, budget, referrals, and systems strengthening)	
Increased budget allocation to address issue of children in street situations	
Awareness raising amongst citizens to not give alms or other items to children in street situations	
Interventions to support families to gain employment and skills-building, and economic support initiatives to families (e.g., economic empowerment of families)	
Educational supports to prevent drop-out and to support children to return to school (e.g., notebooks, clothes, backpacks, etc.)	
Municipal and national/central government institutions responsibilities detailed and monitored and evaluated for implementation (e.g., What is their role, responsibilities, and holding actors accountable)	
Laws applied and system in place to ensure parents are sanctioned for not sending their children to school and for using children to generate income.	
Interventions with parents to raise awareness about children's rights and consequences of sending children to street and providing parenting skills training.	
Increase and expand social assistance and subsidy programs and eligibility for marginalised communities (e.g., conditional and unconditional cash transfers and social protection etc.)	
Improved counseling and case management for children in street situations and their families	
Increased daycare centers, playgrounds, and leisure activities available for children in street situations.	
More direct service provision by NGOs in collaboration with government	
Other, Specify:	

2. Which of the following factors would you rate as the five biggest barriers to the improvement of children in street situations' lives in Kosovo?

Please rank **the five biggest barriers** from 1st biggest barrier (1= 1st Biggest barrier) to fifth most biggest barrier (5th biggest barrier). Read the barriers to improvement listed below and think about what the most important barrier is, and what the second, third, fourth, and fifth most important barriers are. Please indicate your ranking

Barriers to improvement	Ranking (1 to 5)
Lack of implementation of laws, legislation, and penal code	
Lack of strong social services due to poor implementation	
Lack of funding and budget allocated for programs and services	
Lack of coordination between social and state actors	
Lack of power to dictate and enact change in policy and processes	
Lack of data on the problem to respond appropriately	
Lack of monitoring and accountability in government	
Lack of political will	

Lack of coordination between municipalities and national government	
Insufficient training and oversight of individuals offering services	
Discrimination against children in street situations, families, and marginalized communities	
Family situations (families cannot access services or do not encourage their children to do so, or actively impede access)	
Lack of awareness amongst street-connected children of their rights and services available	
Economic crisis	
Lack of human resources (lack of social workers)	
Lack of adequate social assistance schemes	
Other, Specify	

3. Specifically, regarding government policy, what would you say are the top five priorities to improve children's access to and use of services?

Please rank top 5 priorities from first (1=first priority) to fifth (5=fifth priority). Read the priorities listed below and think about what the first priority should be, second, third, fourth, and fifth. Please indicate your ranking

Priority	Ranking (1 to 5)
Improved social assistance coverage for families and for those in marginalized communities (e.g., increase eligibility, targeted programs, etc.)	
Strengthen and expand CSW services and policies (e.g., human resources, training, budget, referrals, and systems strengthening)	
Municipal and national/central government institutions responsibilities detailed and monitored and evaluated for implementation (e.g., What is their role, responsibilities, and holding actors accountable)	
Multi-agency training and coordination amongst policymakers in different Ministries and municipalities	
Increased allocation of budget / resources to addressing issue of children in street situations	
Law, legislation, and penal code reform	
Other, Specify:	

4. In your opinion, what would you say are the top five priorities to improve data collection and evidence-informed decision- and policy-making for municipal and central policymakers regarding the issue of children in street situations and their families?

Please rank top 5 priorities from first (1=first priority) to fifth (5=fifth priority). Read the priorities listed below and think about what the first priority should be, second, third, fourth, and fifth. Please indicate your ranking

Priority	Ranking (1 to 5)
Clear definitions and terms for children in street situations and families in the context of Kosovo	
Establishment of a unified database tracking children in street situations and their families	
Identification of the numbers of children in street situations	
Capacity building for data collection and analysis	
Strategies and policies that build on the database	
Meetings and intersectoral data analysis to reach consensus on issues and coordinate	
Training on evidence-based policy- and decision-making	
Other, Specify:	

5. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us today about children in street situations in Kosovo, laws, policies, and service provision for children in street situations and their families?

[open ended long text box]

Thank-you very much for your help with this! This has been very informative and will help UNICEF and their partners support and protection children in street situations and their families in Kosovo!

Brief field-based survey

Short Survey with Children in Street Situations

This is the short survey form to document critical sociodemographic characteristics and reasons for going to the street. It is to be administered to as many children in street situations aged six years and above as possible across municipalities in Kosovo. Including the consent/assent processes, the short-form survey should take no more than 10 minutes per participant.

To be completed by interview team for each child to document informed consent and assent process.

Question number	Question	Responses
	Is the child accompanied by a parent / guardian?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	What age range is the child?	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 to < 10 years old <input type="checkbox"/> 10 to 17 years



Select the informed consent / assent process used based on the above screening.

Please tick the appropriate boxes below based on participants' age and the presence or absence of a parent/guardian.

Accompanied child ages 6 to 17 years.

- ☐ Informed consent sought from parent / guardian
- ☐ Informed assent sought from accompanied child aged 6 to 17 years

Unaccompanied child ages 6 to < 10 years.

- ☐ Informed consent sought from local CSW
- ☐ Informed assent sought from unaccompanied child aged 6 to < 10 years

Unaccompanied child ages 10 to 17 years.

- ☐ Informed consent sought from unaccompanied adolescent aged 10 to 17 years with checks for comprehension

Did the unaccompanied child 10-17 pass the comprehension check?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No ☒ cannot consent to participate alone, may give informed assent and proxy consent ascertained from CSW.

Informed consent / assent process must be witnessed and overseen by Social Worker specializing in child protection.

Signed by

Field interviewer: _____

Social Worker: _____

Unique participant number:

Date: _____ (DD/MM/YYYY)

Name of interviewer: _____

Location of interview: ☐ CSW ☐ TdH ☐ On the street ☐ Other, Specify: _____

Interviewer script: Thank you for agreeing to participate in this short survey to capture basic information on children who find themselves living and/or working on the streets in Kosovo. By participating in this survey, you are taking part in an extremely important effort to help us understand how to assist children like yourself in Kosovo. Participating in the survey is voluntary and you may refuse to answer any questions and stop participating at any time. It should only take 5 minutes of your time today. All answers will remain confidential. If you need assistance, I can refer you to the local CSW or to a local non-governmental organization supporting children like yourself to get you the help you may need that is currently available.

**SHORT FORM SURVEY FOR PARTICIPANTS
AGED 6-17 YEARS (5 MINUTES)**

Question number	Question	Possible responses – tick the box (do not read to participant unless requested to)
	What geographic location is this short survey administered? (To be completed by interviewer)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pristina <input type="checkbox"/> Fushe Kosova <input type="checkbox"/> Obiliq <input type="checkbox"/> Ferizaj <input type="checkbox"/> Prizen <input type="checkbox"/> Peja <input type="checkbox"/> Gjakova <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____
	Situation of child at time of interview? (To be completed by interviewer)	<input type="checkbox"/> Alone on the street <input type="checkbox"/> With friends / peers <input type="checkbox"/> With siblings <input type="checkbox"/> With parent(s)/guardian(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____
	What is your age?	<input type="checkbox"/> Age: <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> 11-14 years <input type="checkbox"/> 15-17 years <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	What is your sex at birth?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male/boy <input type="checkbox"/> Female/girl <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

	What is your ethnicity/ nationality?	<input type="checkbox"/> Roma <input type="checkbox"/> Ashkali <input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian <input type="checkbox"/> Albanian <input type="checkbox"/> Serb <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnian <input type="checkbox"/> Gorani <input type="checkbox"/> Turkish <input type="checkbox"/> Child from the Republic of Albania <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Do you have a legal guardian (parent or another adult that is legally responsible for you)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Do you have a birth certificate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	How long have you been living and/or working on the streets?	<input type="checkbox"/> <6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months-2 years <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 years <input type="checkbox"/> >5 years <input type="checkbox"/> all their life <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	What first drove you to live and/or work on the streets? (Select the primary reason (one) for street-involvement)	<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Child trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Social-cultural norms <input type="checkbox"/> Migration / asylum seeking <input type="checkbox"/> Family problems (e.g., alcoholism, domestic violence, divorce, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse, neglect, maltreatment at home <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquency <input type="checkbox"/> Forced by parents or family <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a parent, guardian, or caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> No opportunities or choices / no place to go <input type="checkbox"/> Family is street-connected <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	What keeps you living and/or working on the streets? (tick all responses that child mentions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Child trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Social-cultural norms <input type="checkbox"/> Migration / asylum seeking <input type="checkbox"/> Family problems (e.g., alcoholism, domestic violence, divorce, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse, neglect, maltreatment at home <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquency <input type="checkbox"/> Forced by parents or family <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a parent, guardian, or caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> No opportunities or choices / no place to go <input type="checkbox"/> Family is street-connected <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

12.	Have you ever gone to school?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
13.	Do you go to school currently? (E.g., Enrolled in school and currently attending (even sporadically)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
14.	What activities do you do when you are on the street? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Work (manual labour, provide services, sell things) <input type="checkbox"/> Play <input type="checkbox"/> Beg <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing <input type="checkbox"/> Search for food <input type="checkbox"/> Hang out with friends <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify _____
15.	Do you have a physical or mental health condition that makes it hard for you to do the things you want to do?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, If yes: <input type="checkbox"/> physical <input type="checkbox"/> mental <input type="checkbox"/> both Specify _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

Thank you for participating in this short survey. If you have any questions for me, I am glad to answer them.

Does the participant require counseling, referrals, or follow-up?

☐ Yes or ☐ No

Referred to:

☐ Center for Social Work

☐ Healthcare center

☐ NGO

Other, Specify: _____

Full survey

Full Survey with Children in Street Situations Aged 10-17 years

This one, Annex 6, contains the longer survey (the full survey). It is designed for children in street situations aged 10 years through seventeen and goes into more depth to document their family situation, education, income and employment, and health. The full survey should take no more than twenty-five minutes, including the consent process. We aim to have 60 children in street situations complete the full survey. The full surveys are to be administered either in the daycare centers of TdH, the local Center for Social Work, or in a safe and neutral location if neither of these options are feasible in some municipalities.

To be completed by interview team for each child to document informed consent and assent process.

Question number	Question	Responses
	Is the child accompanied by a parent / guardian?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



Select the informed consent / assent process used based on the above screening.

Please tick the appropriate boxes below based on participants' age and the presence or absence of a parent/guardian.

Accompanied child ages 10 to 17 years.

- ☐ Informed consent sought from parent / guardian
- ☐ Informed assent sought from child aged 10 to 17 years

Unaccompanied child ages 10 to 17 years

- ☐ Informed consent sought from adolescent aged 10 to 17 years with checks for comprehension

Did the unaccompanied child 10-17 pass the comprehension check?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No ☒ cannot consent to participate alone, may give informed assent and proxy consent ascertained from CSW.

**Informed consent / assent process must be witnessed and overseen by
Social Worker specializing in child protection.**

Signed by

Interviewer: _____

Social Worker: _____

**DETAILED SURVEY FOR PARTICIPANTS
AGED 10-17 YEARS (20 MINUTES)**

Interviewer script: Thank you for agreeing to participate in this survey to capture information on children who find themselves living and/or working on the streets in Kosovo. You will be asked questions about yourself, your family, about schooling, the work you do, your health, and the services you utilize and need. By participating in this survey, you are taking part in an extremely important effort to help us understand how to assist children like yourself in Kosovo. Participating in the survey is voluntary and you may refuse to answer any questions and stop participating at any time. It should only take about 25 minutes of your time today. All answers will remain confidential. If you need assistance, I can refer you to the local CSW or to a local non-governmental organization supporting children like yourself to get you the help you need that is currently available.

Sociodemographic and basic information about street situation

Question number	Question	Possible responses – tick the box (do not read to participant unless requested to)
1	What geographic location is this short survey administered? (To be completed by interviewer)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pristina <input type="checkbox"/> Fushe Kosova <input type="checkbox"/> Obiliq <input type="checkbox"/> Ferizaj <input type="checkbox"/> Prizen <input type="checkbox"/> Peja <input type="checkbox"/> Gjakova <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____
2	Situation of child at time of interview? (To be completed by interviewer)	<input type="checkbox"/> Alone on the street <input type="checkbox"/> With friends / peers <input type="checkbox"/> With siblings <input type="checkbox"/> With parent(s)/guardian(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____
3	What is your age?	<input type="checkbox"/> Age: <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> 11-14 years <input type="checkbox"/> 15-17 years <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
4	What is your sex at birth?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male/boy <input type="checkbox"/> Female/girl <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
5	What is your ethnicity/ nationality?	<input type="checkbox"/> Roma <input type="checkbox"/> Ashkali <input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian <input type="checkbox"/> Albanian <input type="checkbox"/> Serb <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnian <input type="checkbox"/> Gorani <input type="checkbox"/> Turkish <input type="checkbox"/> Child from the Republic of Albania <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
6	Do you have a legal guardian (parent or another adult that is legally responsible for you)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
7	Do you have a birth certificate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
8	How long have you been living and/or working on the streets?	<input type="checkbox"/> <6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months-2 years <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 years <input type="checkbox"/> >5 years <input type="checkbox"/> all their life <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

9	What first drove you to live and/or work on the streets? (Select the primary reason (one) for street-involvement)	<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Child trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Social-cultural norms <input type="checkbox"/> Migration / asylum seeking <input type="checkbox"/> Family problems (e.g., alcoholism, domestic violence, divorce, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse, neglect, maltreatment at home <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquency <input type="checkbox"/> Forced by parents or family <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a parent, guardian, or caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> No opportunities or choices / no place to go <input type="checkbox"/> Family is street-connected <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
10	What keeps you living and/or working on the streets? (tick all responses that child mentions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Child trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Social-cultural norms <input type="checkbox"/> Migration / asylum seeking <input type="checkbox"/> Family problems (e.g., alcoholism, domestic violence, divorce, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse, neglect, maltreatment at home <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquency <input type="checkbox"/> Forced by parents or family <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a parent, guardian, or caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> No opportunities or choices / no place to go <input type="checkbox"/> Family is street-connected <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
11	Have you ever gone to school?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
12	Do you go to school currently? (E.g., Enrolled in school and currently attending (even sporadically))	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
13	What activities do you do when you are on the street? (Tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Work (manual labour, provide services, sell things) <input type="checkbox"/> Play <input type="checkbox"/> Beg <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing <input type="checkbox"/> Search for food <input type="checkbox"/> Hang out with friends <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify _____
14	Do you have a physical or mental health condition that makes it hard for you to do the things you want to do?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, If yes: <input type="checkbox"/> physical <input type="checkbox"/> mental <input type="checkbox"/> both Specify _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

Family Situation

Now, I am going to ask you some questions about yourself and your family. If you have any questions or need clarification, please let me know. All of your answers will remain confidential, and no one will know your answers as they will be compiled with other data. You may choose to refuse to answer any questions you do not want to answer and stop the survey at any time.

Question number	Question	Possible responses – tick the box (do not read to participant unless requested to)
1..	With whom do you stay at night?	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate family (e.g., mother, father, sibling, stepparents) <input type="checkbox"/> Extended family (e.g., aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents) <input type="checkbox"/> Foster parents <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbors <input type="checkbox"/> Friends <input type="checkbox"/> Partner / Boyfriend <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Residential care (name: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Nobody / Alone <input type="checkbox"/> Different people all the time <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2.	Are your parents alive?	<input type="checkbox"/> Both parents alive <input type="checkbox"/> Both parents dead or vital status unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Father alive and mother dead or vital status unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Mother alive and father dead or vital status unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2a.	Do you have siblings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2b.	<i>If you have siblings, how many?</i>	(free text)
2c.	<i>Are your siblings coming to the street with you?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Some yes <input type="checkbox"/> Most yes <input type="checkbox"/> All yes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2d	<i>If yes, what are the ages of your siblings on the street?</i>	[free text]
2e	<i>Do your parents come to the street with you?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> Always <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
3.	Are you in regular contact (more than once a month) with at least one family member?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
4.	Where is your original family home (where you lived with your family before coming to the streets / Kosovo)?	Town/City: _____ County/province: _____ Country: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
5.	Does your family migrate seasonally in and out of Kosovo?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

6.	Are your parents, guardians or caregivers employed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in the formal sector (e.g., employed in a job) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in the informal sector (e.g., collects recycling, sells goods, odd jobs etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> No, they have no source of income <input type="checkbox"/> No, my parents beg <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
7.	What are your parents/guardians or caregivers' sources of income? (tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent part-time employment <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent full-time employment <input type="checkbox"/> Casual labour/employment <input type="checkbox"/> Government assistance or social transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Begging/asking for handouts <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling metals and plastics <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

Educational status and attainment

Now, I am going to ask you about your education and desires around going to school.

Question number	Question	Possible responses – tick the box (do not read to participant unless requested to)
1a.	Have you ever gone to school?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, If yes: highest grade completed: _____. Skip to question 2a <input type="checkbox"/> No, If no, see next two questions. <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
1b.	<i>What are the reasons that you have you never gone to school?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Choosing to earn money for family <input type="checkbox"/> Forced to earn money for family <input type="checkbox"/> Forced to earn money for someone else <input type="checkbox"/> Don't want to go to school <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to access / enter the educational system in Kosovo due to ineligibility <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
1c.	<i>If you have never gone to school, do you want to go to school?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2a.	Are you currently attending school?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Grade: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2b.	<i>If you are not currently attending, why not?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Choosing to earn money for family <input type="checkbox"/> Forced to earn money for family <input type="checkbox"/> Forced to earn money for someone else <input type="checkbox"/> Don't want to go to school <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2c.	<i>If you are not currently attending school, do you want to go to school?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
3.	For those attending school, how many days of school have you missed in the past 4 weeks (1 month)?	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 days <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 days <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 days <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

Housing and shelter:

Now, I am going to ask you some questions about the home where you live and where you have stayed in the past 1 month.

Question number	Question	Possible responses – tick the box (do not read to participant unless requested to)
	Thinking about the past 4 weeks, can you tell me if you've slept in any of the following places:	
	In an apartment, house, or trailer with your family	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	In a house/ apartment that you rent or share with other people <u>not</u> your family	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	In an empty or abandoned building	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	In the street, park, sidewalk, veranda, or other public space	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	In someone else's house (e.g., a friend, neighbor, relative)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	In a rescue center or emergency shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	In juvenile detention center or police station	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	In a Residential Care facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Other, Specify	(free text)
2.	Over the past 4 weeks, how many nights did you have to sleep somewhere you did not want to sleep?	<input type="checkbox"/> None of the nights <input type="checkbox"/> Several nights <input type="checkbox"/> More than half the nights <input type="checkbox"/> All or nearly all the nights <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

Income and employment

Now, I am going to ask you about the types of ways you may make money on the streets.

Question number	Question	Possible responses – tick the box (do not read to participant unless requested to)
1a.	Do you engage in any activities to generate income?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
1b.	If yes, how often do you typically work?	<input type="checkbox"/> Everyday (days only) <input type="checkbox"/> Everyday (nights only) <input type="checkbox"/> Everyday (days and nights) <input type="checkbox"/> Before or after school only <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends only <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2.	What are your sources of income? (tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Manual labour/employment <input type="checkbox"/> Services (parking services, washing windscreens, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Work in the local dump site <input type="checkbox"/> Government assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Begging/asking for handouts <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling metals and plastics <input type="checkbox"/> Something illegal <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent part-time job <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent full-time job <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
3.	What do you do with your income? (tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Give it to my parents <input type="checkbox"/> Give it to other relatives <input type="checkbox"/> Give it to someone else <input type="checkbox"/> Buy food <input type="checkbox"/> Pay for housing <input type="checkbox"/> Buy alcohol or drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure <input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Pay rent for housing/shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
4.	What is your <u>first</u> priority for what you do with your income? (tick only one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Give it to my parents <input type="checkbox"/> Give it to other relatives <input type="checkbox"/> Give it to someone else <input type="checkbox"/> Buy food <input type="checkbox"/> Pay for housing <input type="checkbox"/> Buy alcohol or drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure <input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Pay rent for housing/shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
5.	Is it your choice what to do with the money, or someone else's?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, my choice <input type="checkbox"/> No, someone else's choice <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

Physical and mental health

Now, I will ask you some questions about your health, again, I'd like to remind you, your answers will remain confidential and you may refuse to answer any questions.

Question number	Question	Possible responses – tick the box (do not read to participant unless requested to)
	How many meals do you usually eat per day?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 or none <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 or more <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Do you go to bed hungry in the past week?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2a	If yes, how often?	<input type="checkbox"/> Every night <input type="checkbox"/> Most nights (three times this past week) <input type="checkbox"/> Some nights (once this past week) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely (no more than twice this past month) <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2b	If yes, why?	
	Do you have any serious health problems?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Do you have a physical or mental health condition in any of the following areas?	<input type="checkbox"/> Eye condition (blindness or partial site) <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing condition (deafness or partial hearing) <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility <input type="checkbox"/> Learning or understanding <input type="checkbox"/> Memory <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health condition, specify _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other physical condition, specify; _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	If yes to Q 4. Does your condition make it hard for you to do the sorts of things you want to do?	<input type="checkbox"/> No, not really <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, a bit hard to do what I want <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, quite hard to do what I want <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, my condition makes it extremely hard to do what I want <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have any functional difficulty
	Do you use any substances for non-medical reasons? (tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Specify: Prompt: <input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco (cigarettes, chewing tobacco, cigars, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol (beer, wine, spirits, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Cannabis (marijuana, pot, grass, hash, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Cocaine (coke, crack, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Amphetamine-type stimulants (speed, meth, ecstasy, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Inhalants (nitrous, glue, petrol, paint thinner, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Sedatives or sleeping pills (diazepam, alprazolam, flunitrazepam, midazolam, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Opioids (heroin, morphine, methadone, buprenorphine, codeine, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

	How do you feel about your future opportunities to be successful and prosper? Would you say:	<input type="checkbox"/> Your opportunities are limitless <input type="checkbox"/> You have many opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Your opportunities are very limited <input type="checkbox"/> You have no opportunities at all <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	<i>Now for a few very difficult questions about violence you may have experienced. Remember you can refuse to answer any of them.</i>	
	Has anyone in your home ever:	
	Used drugs and/or alcohol and then behaved in a way that frightened you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Threatened to hurt or kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Has anyone in <u>or out</u> of your home ever:	
	Hit, beat, slapped or hurt you hard enough to cause injury?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	<i>If it has ever happened, did it happen:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> At home <input type="checkbox"/> On the street <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Has anyone in or out of your home ever forced or coerced you to have sex?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	<i>If it has ever happened, did it happen:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> At home <input type="checkbox"/> On the street <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Have you ever exchanged sex for money, shelter, food, protection, or anything else?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	<i>If it has ever happened, did it happen:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> At home <input type="checkbox"/> On the street <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	<i>If it has ever happened, was it:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary <input type="checkbox"/> Forced or coerced <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

SERVICE UTILIZATION

Question number	Type of service	Ever used?	If yes, name service:	If yes, how often in past month?	If yes, would you use it again?
1.	Family Care Center (seen a doctor or nurse)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer		<input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> Three to five times <input type="checkbox"/> More than five times <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
2.	Hospital (e.g., emergency room)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer		<input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> Three to five times <input type="checkbox"/> More than five times <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
3.	Government social assistance/welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer		<input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> Three to five times <input type="checkbox"/> More than five times <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
4.	Social Work or other social services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer		<input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> Three to five times <input type="checkbox"/> More than five times <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
5.	Community-based organization or service	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer		<input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> Three to five times <input type="checkbox"/> More than five times <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me today about children in street situations in Kosovo that we didn't cover?

[open text]

Does the participant require counseling, referrals, or follow-up? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

Referred to:

☐ Center for Social Work

☐ Healthcare center

☐ NGO

Other, Specify: _____

Focus group discussion guide

Focus group discussion guide – children in street situations.

This focus group discussion guide cover page is for potential participants aged 10 to 17 years. Focus group discussions will occur in age (10-13 / 14-17 years) and gender-stratified groups (boy/girls).

To be completed by interview team for each child to document informed consent and assent process.

Question number	Question	Responses
	Is the child accompanied by a parent / guardian?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	What age range is the child?	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-13 <input type="checkbox"/> 14-17 years
	What sex is the child?	<input type="checkbox"/> Girl / female <input type="checkbox"/> Boy / male



Select the informed consent / assent process used based on the above screening.

Please tick the appropriate boxes below based on participants' age and the presence or absence of a parent/guardian.

Accompanied child ages 10 to 17 years.

- ☐ Informed consent sought from parent / guardian
- ☐ Informed assent sought from child aged 10 to 17 years

Unaccompanied child ages 10 to 17 years

- ☐ Informed consent sought from adolescent aged 10 to 17 years with checks for comprehension

Did the unaccompanied child 10-17 pass the comprehension check?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No ☒ cannot consent to participate alone, may give informed assent and proxy consent ascertained from CSW.

Informed consent / assent process must be witnessed and overseen by Social Worker specializing in child protection.

Signed by

Interviewer: _____

Social Worker: _____

Date: __/__/____ (DD/MM/YYYY)

Name of interviewer/facilitator: _____

Number of participants in FGD: _____

Facilitator read introduction script:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this focus group discussion to share information on children who find themselves living and/or working on the streets in Kosovo. You will be asked questions about children like yourselves, life on the street, and that types of services you use, need, and would like. By participating in this discussion, you are taking part in an extremely important effort to help us understand how to assist children like yourself in Kosovo. Participating in the discussion is voluntary and you may refuse to answer any questions and stop participating at any time. It should only take about 1 hour of your time today. All answers will remain confidential. We will audio-recording today's discussion. If you choose to stop participating after the focus group has started that is ok and there are no consequences, but we will not be able to delete what you have told us on the recording. If you need assistance, I can refer you to the local CSW or to a local non-governmental organization supporting children like yourself to get you the help you need that is currently available. You should not share any of the information you discuss or anything about the other children outside of the group today. Thank you!

General

- Thinking of children like yourselves, why do children come to the streets in Kosovo?
 - If you had to pick one reason, what would you say is the number 1 reason children come to the streets here?
 - Can you tell me about issues at home or in your family that make children come to the street?
 - Can you tell me about things in the city or on the street that make children come to the street?
- What kinds of challenges do children in street situations face?
 - What challenges do they face on the streets?
 - What challenges do they face at home?
 - What challenges do their families face?
 - Do girls and boys in street situations face different challenges? Can you tell me about them?

Life on the street

- Can you tell me the good things, positives, or benefits, for children about being in the street?
- What are the bad things that can happen to children in street situations in Kosovo?
 - Probe: physical (e.g., getting beaten up), material (e.g., being cold and wet), emotional (e.g., being bullied or discriminated against), sexual (e.g., forced sex)
 - What are the bad things that can happen to children in street situations on the street?
 - What are the bad things that can happen to children in street situations at home?
- What kinds of activities do children on the street do?
 - Probe: work for money, leisure (play, relax, hangout, etc.), use drugs and alcohol, get involved in sex
- What kinds of work do children like yourselves do?

- Thinking of children in street situations how much do they work?
- Probe: Do they work all day and night? Mornings? Afternoons? Evenings? Weekends?
- How many hours in a day do children work?
- How much money do children usually make in a day? Do different types/kinds of work make more money than others?
- Do girls do different work than boys on the street?
- What are some of the dangers that children in street situations face when they are working?
 - Are there jobs that are more dangerous than others?
 - Probe: Do they engage in hazardous work (give examples: working in the dump, mining, agriculture, sex work, with illegal drugs/substances)
 - Are some children forced to work because they are being trafficked (e.g., taken from your home and forced to work or relocate for work)?
 - Who forces children to work? (probe: families? Organization? Other?)
 - What kinds of work are they forced into?
 - How can they get out of it?
- How much choice do children in street situations have in terms of what kind of work they do?
- What happens with the money earned from working?
 - Does it go to families?
 - Does it go to others?
 - Do you get to keep any of it?
 - How much choice do children in street situations have in terms of what happens to the money?

Services

- Can you tell me about the services that exist in Kosovo to help children like yourselves and their families?
 - Are there educational support services?
 - What support do children receive on the streets?
 - What support do families of children in street situations get?
 - Probe: Names of services with locations
- As children in street situations, do you think these services reach children in street situations? What about their families?
 - Do you think these services help children in street situations? Their families?
 - Why or why not?
- What kinds of services and programs have you or other children in street situations and their families used or received?
 - Probe: from the government, from non-governmental organization, community-based organizations, Centre for Social Work, health facilities, health, education support or subsidies
 - Have you ever used these services?
 - Did they help you?
 - Why or why not?

- When you think about accessing these services we just discussed, what may stop or prevent children in street situations and their families from accessing these services?
 - What are the main reasons that children and their families don't access services? Do you hear from children that their background (e.g., ethnicity or nationality) stops them from accessing services?
 - What are other stories children have told you about not being able to access services?
- What would make the existing services better for children and their families?
- What services are missing that you would like to see for children in street situations and their families?
- If you were going to help children in street situations and their families, what would you do? What kinds of help and support do they need?
 - What do you think they need in relation to education?
 - What kinds of support do they need on the street?
 - What kind of support do families need?
- If you had to choose what to do first to help and protect children in street situations and their families, what would you do first? What would you do in the future?
- As children in street situations, what do you think **you** could do to help other children in street situations and their families?
- Is there anything else you'd like to tell me today about children like yourselves?

Thank-you very much for your help with this! This has been very informative and will help UNICEF and their partners support and protection children in street situations and their families in Kosovo!

Parental in-depth interview guide

In-depth interview guide – for parents of children in street situations

Date: __/__/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

Name of interviewer/facilitator:

Interviewer read introduction script:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this in-depth interview to share information about children and their parents who find themselves living and/or working on the streets in Kosovo. You will be asked questions about life on the street, what you and your children do on the street, and that types of services you use, need, and would like. By participating in this interview, you are taking part in an extremely important effort to help us understand how to assist children and families in street situations in Kosovo. Participating in the interview is voluntary and you may refuse to answer any questions and stop participating at any time. It should only take about 1 hour of your time today. All answers will remain confidential. We will audio-recording today's interview. If you choose to stop participating after the interview has started that is ok and there are no consequences. If you and your family need assistance, I can refer you to the local CSW or to a local non-governmental organization supporting children and families to get you the help you need that is currently available. Thank you!

Socio-demographic information about the participants.

Interview script: Before we begin the interview, I wanted to start by asking you a few questions about yourself.

Number	Question	Responses
	What is your age in years?	_____ Years
	What is your sex at birth?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	What is your ethnicity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Roma <input type="checkbox"/> Ashkali <input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian <input type="checkbox"/> Albanian <input type="checkbox"/> Serb <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnian <input type="checkbox"/> Gorani <input type="checkbox"/> Turkish <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	What is your marital status?	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married / in a union <input type="checkbox"/> In a relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	What is the highest level of education you have completed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational <input type="checkbox"/> College <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> No formal education <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	What is your current employment status?	<input type="checkbox"/> Employed, in the formal sector (e.g., employed in a job) <input type="checkbox"/> Working in the informal sector (e.g., collects recycling, sells goods, odd jobs etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> I have no source of income <input type="checkbox"/> I engage in begging on the streets <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	Do you receive any cash assistance from the government?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to answer
	How many children do you have?	_____ (write down number)

	For each of the children you mentioned above, what are their ages?	Child 1 age: _____ Child 2 age: _____ Child 3 age: _____ Child 4 age: _____ Child 5 age: _____ Child 6 age: _____ Child 7 age: _____ Child 8 age: _____
	For each of the children you mentioned above, which children come to the streets with you?	Child 1: <input type="checkbox"/> goes to the street. Child 2: <input type="checkbox"/> goes to the street. Child 3: <input type="checkbox"/> goes to the street. Child 4: <input type="checkbox"/> goes to the street. Child 5: <input type="checkbox"/> goes to the street. Child 6: <input type="checkbox"/> goes to the street. Child 7: <input type="checkbox"/> goes to the street. Child 8: <input type="checkbox"/> goes to the street.

Interviewer script: Thank you, now we will commence the interview, and start by discussing some issues in general about children and families in street situations.

General

- Thinking about people like yourself, why do parents and children come to the streets in Kosovo?
 - If you had to pick one reason, what would you say is the number 1 reason parents and children come to the streets in Kosovo?
 - Can you tell me about issues that may occur in your home and in your family that make you and your children come to the street?
 - Can you tell me about things in the city or on the street that make parents and children come to the street?
- When you come to the streets with your children, what kinds of challenges do you face?
- What challenges do you face at home as a family?

Life on the street

Interviewer script: Now, I am going to ask you a bit more about your life on the street as a parent with children.

- What are the benefits for parents about coming to the street with your children?
- What are the bad things that can happen to you and your children on the streets in Kosovo?
 - When you and your children are on the streets, do you ever experience physical violence? Sexual violence? Emotional violence? Road traffic accidents?
 - Can you tell me about other bad things that may happen to you and your children on the streets?
- What kinds of activities do you do as parents when you come with your children to the street?
 - Probe: work for money, leisure (play, relax, hangout, etc.), use drugs and alcohol
- You mentioned you come to the streets to make money, what kinds of

work do you do as a parent who comes to the street with their child?

- Thinking of parents and children in street situations how much do you work when you come to the streets?
- Probe: Do they work all day and night? Mornings? Afternoons? Evenings? Weekends?
- How many hours in a day do you and your children work?
- Do different types/kinds of work make more money than others?
- How much money do you and your child/children usually make in a day?
- Do girls do different work than boys on the street?
- What are some of the dangers that you and your child/children in street situations face when they are working?
 - Are there jobs that are more dangerous than others?
 - Probe: Do they engage in hazardous work (give examples: working in the dump, mining, agriculture, sex work, with illegal drugs/substances)
 - Are some parents and children forced to work because they are being trafficked (e.g., taken from your home and forced to work or relocate for work)?
 - Who forces children to work? (Probe: families? Organization? Other?)
 - What kinds of work are they forced into?
 - How can they get out of it?
 - When thinking about children on the streets in Kosovo, how much choice do children in street situations have in terms of what kind of work they do?
- What do you do with the money that you and your children make on the streets?

Services

- Can you tell me about the services that exist in Kosovo to help parents and children in street situations and their families?
 - What support do parents and families of children in street situations get?
 - Are there educational support services for the children?
 - What support do children receive on the streets?
 - Probe: Names of services with locations
- Do you think these services reach children in street situations and their families?
 - Do you think these services help children in street situations and their families?
 - Why or why not?
- What kinds of services and programs have you as a parent used or received?
 - Probe: from the government, from non-governmental organization, community-based organizations, Centre for Social Work, health facilities, health, education support or subsidies
 - Did they help you?
 - Why or why not

- When you think about accessing these services we just discussed, what may stop or prevent children in street situations and their families from accessing these services?
 - What are the main reasons that children and their families don't access services? Do you hear from other parents that their background (e.g., ethnicity or nationality) stops them from accessing services?
 - What are other stories parents have told you about not being able to access services?
- What would make the existing services better for children and their families?
- What services are missing that you would like to see for children in street situations and their families?
- If you were going to help children in street situations and their families, what would you do? What kinds of help and support do they need?
 - What do you think they need in relation to education?
 - What kinds of support do they need on the street?
 - What kind of support do families need?
- If you had to choose what to do first to help and protect children in street situations and their families, what would you do first? What would you do in the future?
- Is there anything else you'd like to tell me today about parents of children in street situations like yourselves?

Thank-you very much for your help with this! This has been very informative and will help UNICEF and their partners support and protection children in street situations and their families in Kosovo!

Study of **Children**
in Street Situations
in Kosovo



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