



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Teach For Kosova Supporters,

2021 saw a year of growth for Teach For Kosova; we increased our number of Fellows, further developed our institutional as well as local partnerships, expanded our outreach in more municipalities, and began to see the impact that our first year – and now second year – Fellows are having in the classroom.

While we faced many of the same challenges as last year, namely the ongoing pandemic which continues to effect children and schools, we were also able to learn from 2020 in order to inform a better and more impactful year as an organization.

Last Summer, Teach For Kosova held its second annual Summer Institute with our second Cohort of Fellows, which included the first-ever public Summer School in Prishtina. Our Fellows again came from a variety of backgrounds, and this diversity led to a significant amount of learning and experience-sharing. 20 Fellows came out of Institute Training both aware of many of the systemic issues which plague our education system and equipped to start their journey as lifelong advocates for educational equity in Kosova. Summer School allowed them to work directly with students and prepare for the two-year Fellowship.

Beyond our Fellowship, Teach For Kosova also implemented other educational projects throughout Kosova. Namely, TFK partnered with VoRAE (Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians) to raise awareness regarding the discrimination minority students face, and to bring together children of diverse communities to learn from and with one another. Further, TFK developed 10 debate teams in high schools throughout Kosova through the “Let’s Debate Change” project which was designed and implemented by our Fellows. The debate teams gave young students access to municipal leaders to voice their concerns about their schools, and importantly taught them how to debate and advocate for themselves and one another.

On a national level, Teach For Kosova’s Summer Institute training was accredited by the Ministry of Education, and the organization formed its first grant partnership with the Ministry to develop a project in 2022.

As we complete our second year, TFK is eager to bring in a new and diverse third cohort of teachers, deepen and measure the impact of our current 33 Fellows, and begin to see the change that Kosova’s education system needs and deserves.

Thank you for being a support and friend of Teach For Kosova. We cannot wait to continue our work toward ensuring that all of Kosova’s children have access to quality education.

With gratitude,
Egzon Gashi



BORDI I TEACH FOR KOSOVA



Athena Palmer



Vedat Gashi

“Together we can make a difference”



Armend Berisha



Fatmir Krasniqi

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 saw Teach For Kosova expand its Fellowship program, strengthen partnerships with local and national actors, as well as deepen its impact in communities throughout Kosova through multiple projects.



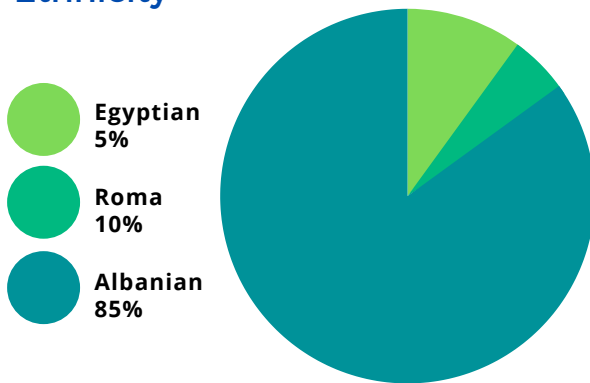
Highlights from 2021

- Teach For Kosova's Summer Institute Training was accredited by the Ministry of Education
- We recruited our second cohort of Fellows
 - 90% women, 15% from minority communities
- Formalized partnerships with 10 municipal education directorates
- Signed agreements with 5 Public Universities for the recruitment of future fellows
- Implemented our second Summer Institute (5 weeks/25 days of intensive training on leadership and teaching)
 - Implemented our first Summer School within our Institute training; 3 weeks of Summer School were held with 85 children
- Monthly post-institute thematic sessions with Fellows
- Implemented “Let’s Debate Change” project
- Implemented “Hear Us – VoRAE” project
- Conducted Focus Groups and Information sessions with University students
- Launched call for applications for the 2022 Teach For Kosova cohort of Fellows

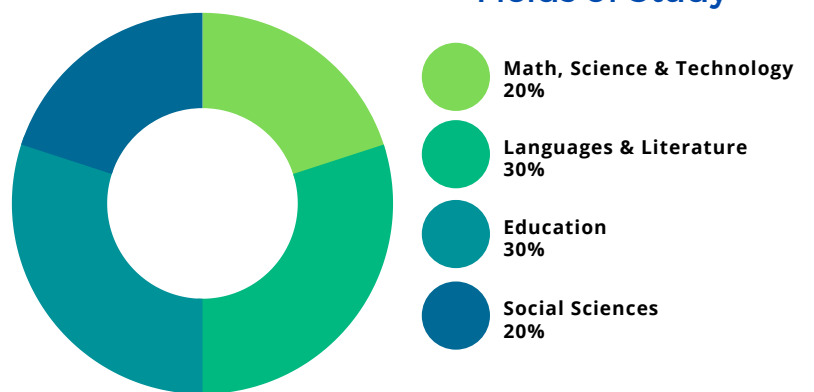
SECOND COHORT

In 2021, Teach For Kosova recruited, trained, and deployed the Second Cohort of 20 extraordinary young leaders. We continue to recruit and expand our collective leadership force, which will work to create systematic change.

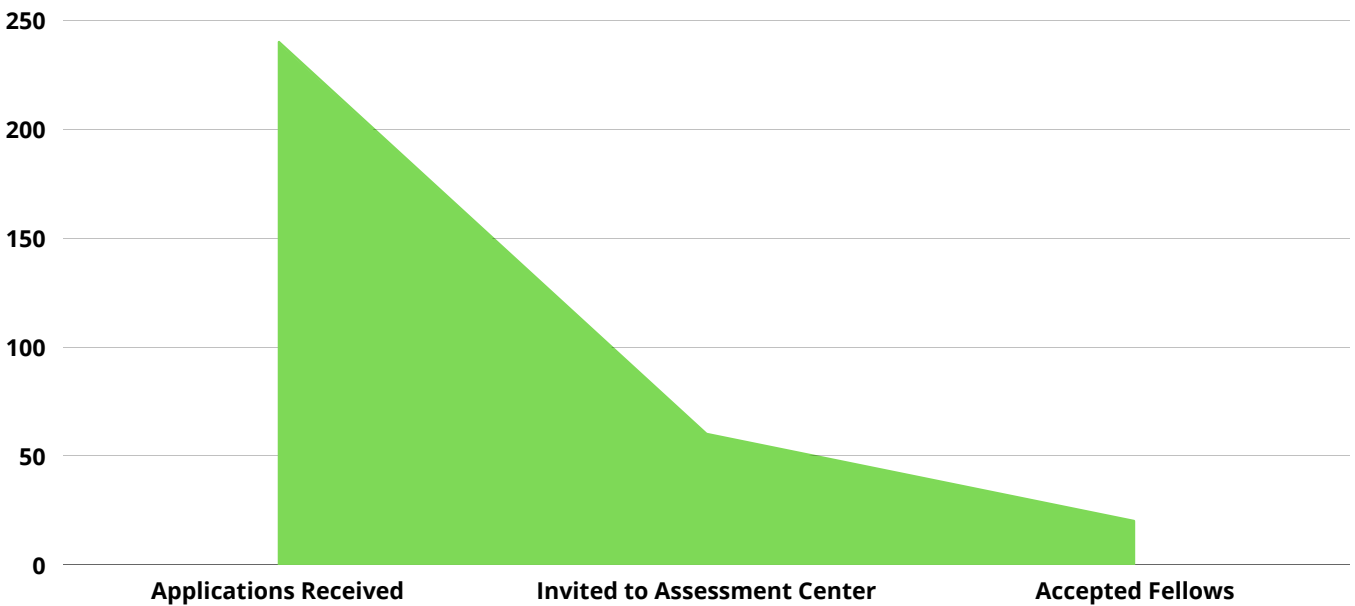
Ethnicity



Fields of Study



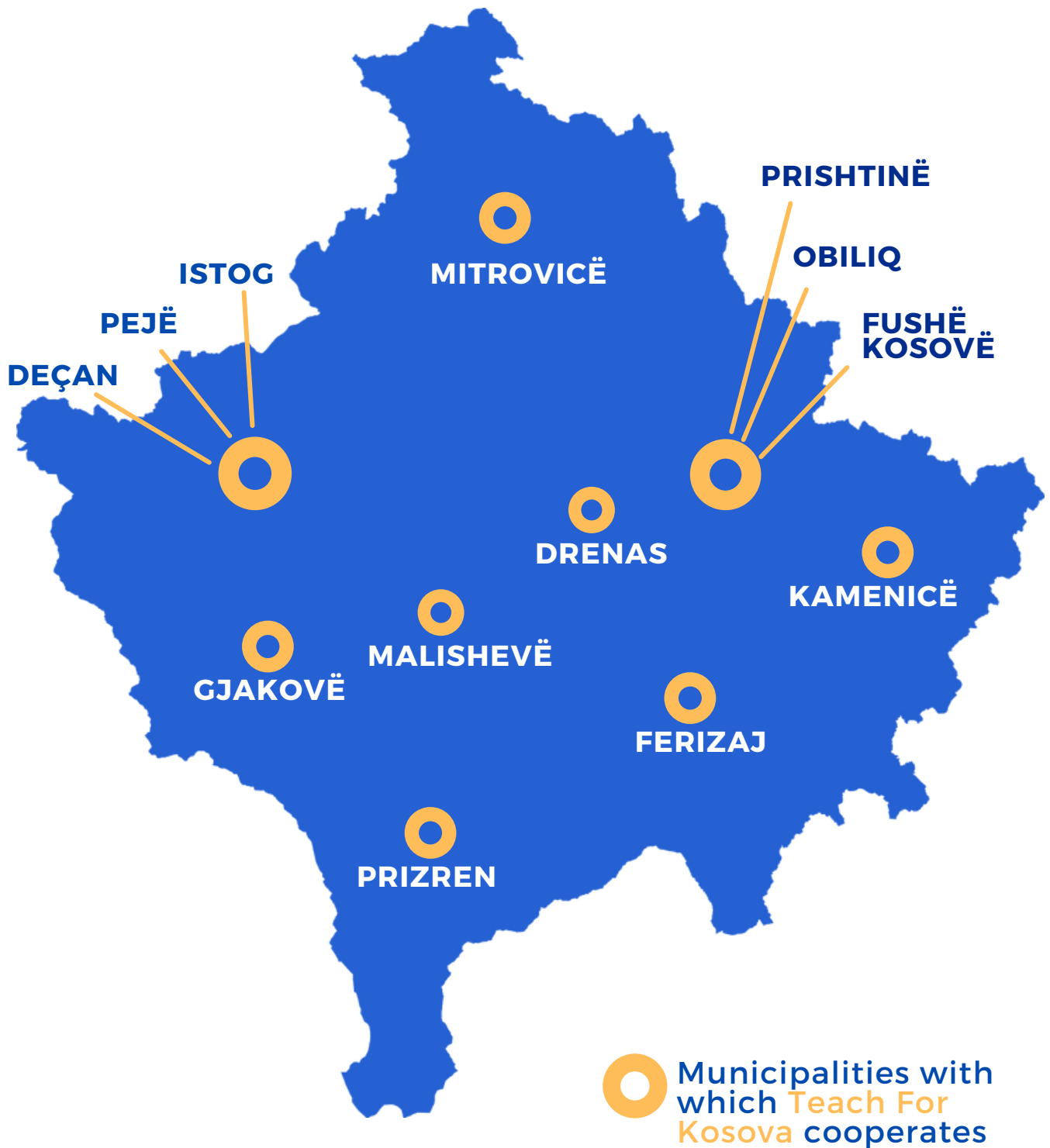
Recruitment 2020-2021



- 240 Applications Received
- 60 invited to Assessment Center
- 20 Accepted Fellows

8.3% of applicants were **accepted**

COVERAGE MAP:



SECOND COHORT



GËZIM QEHAJA

Hometown: Gjakovë, Kosovë
Bachelor: Computer Science
Master: Computer Science

My name is Gëzim and I finished my Bachelor's studies in Computer Science at "Ukshin Hoti" University in Prizren. I then continued my Master's in the same University where I am now finishing my studies.

Since 2011, I have been actively involved in civil society, mostly with projects involving minority rights or other social issues. Through this involvement, I have worked with many different organizations and participated in different trainings with a focus on local community issues as well as personal professional development.

I completed a series of entrepreneurial internships with different organizations and institutions that were related to energy projects and energy efficiency. For example, my internship at BONEVET allowed me to showcase my technical expertise and to work with students between the ages of 14 and 16 to build equipment together.

Recently, I applied to Teach For Kosova and was accepted to be a Fellow of the program. I am extremely enthusiastic to be a part of this program and together with other Fellows, in both the short and long-term, to begin reforming and contributing to our education system.

I believe that a successful teacher is a lifelong learner, and I hope to be an example of that.



LEURITA SELMANI

Hometown: Ferizaj, Kosovë
Bachelor: Albanian Language, Philology
Master: Albanian Language, Philology

I completed my Bachelor's Studies at the University of Prishtina at the School of Philology – with a focus on Albanian studies. Currently, I am completing my Master's studies in the same field.

Besides my studies, I have always felt a strong desire to give back to my community. I am currently volunteering with the organization "The Library Project – Kosova," which aims to motivate children and youth in Kosova to be lifelong readers.

I have always been interested in working in the field of education, mostly because of the low-performing education system that Kosova unfortunately has. For this reason, I am very happy to be a part of the Teach For Kosova program, with which I believe I can begin to create reform and change by being a model teacher and community leader.

The impact of a teacher in the classroom and in society is incredibly important because of the lasting impact he or she could have on many generations. For this reason, I believe we must be very careful with the teachers we recruit.



When I see the enthusiasm in each of the fellows, I see that light at the end of tunnel, I see that everything is possible and I believe that we can make a change. It may not be something big that makes so much noise in the country, it may be something little that I change in my future classroom

- Donjeta SHATRI, Fellow

SUMMER INSTITUTE 2021

A CLOSER LOOK



- Trained 20 exceptional Fellows
- 200 hours of training over 5 weeks
- In our post-institute survey, for the second year in a row, 100% of Fellows said they would recommend the Fellowship to a friend or family member



- A diverse group of 15 guest speakers were invited to discuss their view on education and leadership
- Two of our distinguished guests include both the Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Kosovo: Albin Kurti and Vjosa Osmani



TRAINING SESSIONS

A CLOSER LOOK



Summer Institute

Between July 12th and August 13th, Teach For Kosova held its second annual Summer Training Institute with 20 Fellows from our second cohort. Each day of institute had different activities, facilitated sessions, and group discussions. Our Fellows were introduced to new concepts related to teaching, leadership, having a growth mindset, developing relationships, and much more.

An important addition to our Summer Institute this year was organizing our first-ever Summer School for children.

Additional Trainings

Throughout 2021, Teach For Kosova held in-service training sessions for both our first and second cohorts of Fellows.

During these monthly trainings, our Fellows work together with Teach For Kosova staff to tackle issues that are most relevant in Kosova's education system. Beyond that, we aim to discuss issues which Fellows are having in their own classrooms and to create trainings that are responsive to their needs in real time. To facilitate this, we often allow Fellows to propose their own themes for our monthly training sessions.

At the end of the year, we were able to host a two-day training session with both our first and second cohorts. The workshop had the goals of our two cohorts of Fellows getting to know one another better as well as of developing a rubric for Fellow classroom observations.

SUMMER SCHOOL A CLOSER LOOK

As a part of our 2021 Summer Institute, Teach For Kosovo hosted the first-ever public summer school in Kosovo - in partnership with the Municipality of Prishtina.

The Summer School simultaneously allowed TFK to have practical teaching experience for our teachers while providing some of Prishtina's children with supplemental learning during the long summer months.



- Summer School Dates: July 19th to August 6th
- 85 children from 5 different Elementary Schools attended
- Students had 15 days of instruction (3 weeks) each morning
- Some of the courses we held during our Summer School include: Albanian Mythology, Biology, Culture & Diversity, Emotional and Mental Health, as well as Information Technology



“LET’S DEBATE CHANGE”

For the “Let’s Debate Change” project, Teach For Kosovo joined forces with Solidar Suisse, a non-profit whose mission is to improve the lives of youth across Kosovo.

The two groups jointly developed a debate program that gave young people the key skills needed to identify critical issues in their respective communities, and craft compelling arguments to solve these issues.

From conducting research to delivering presentations, high schoolers from five municipalities had the opportunity to showcase what they had learned through inter-municipality competitions.

Those who participated in these workshops shared that the training has helped them speak up for themselves at school and in their communities.

Students also had the chance to express their thoughts to leaders in government. Debate teams from Obiliq, Peja, and Istog met with representatives from municipalities to discuss how leaders could address the obstacles facing youth. In addition to sharing their concerns, participants engaged in discussions with officials on topics that ranged from bullying to entrepreneurship.

After speaking with individuals in positions of influence, students felt empowered to get involved in their communities, applying the skills they gained during the workshops to improve the lives of those around them.



"HEAR US!" – VoRAE

In the fall, Teach For Kosova launched a campaign to raise awareness on anti-Gypsyism in Kosovo alongside Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (VORAE), an organization dedicated to fighting for the rights of minorities.

Fellows from our second cohort also received training on how to deal with discrimination inside and out of the classroom. The goal of these efforts was to create agents of change that could promote inclusivity throughout the country.

Moreover, TFK and VORAE hosted a series of activities focused on how individuals could take action to address prejudice. The groups came together for “Living Library” events in four municipalities where over 300 people from diverse backgrounds engaged in open dialogue on how to advance social justice.

Additionally, TFK and VORAE sponsored a series of city marathons in which young people ran to raise public awareness on systemic inequalities.

Some highlights of the project include:

- Dedicated a whole week in the summer institute to raise awareness about anti-Gypsyism
- 4 murals in 4 different cities
- 4 mini marathons with youth from different communities
- Informing session for “Kujtim Veseli” grant



“COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND” - TEACH FOR ALL

Through the “Community Impact Fund” Teach For Kosova developed a classroom for supplementary lessons for students who have been most affected by lost learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The project was developed in “Mihal Grameno” Elementary School, one of the largest, and the most overpopulated school in Kosova.

- Conducted qualitative research with 50 students (50% from minority communities), 10 parents (50% from minority communities), 10 teachers as well as two non-governmental organizations
- Identified many of the challenges that students face – ranging from their gaps in learning to the long-term effects brought forth by the pandemic
- Learned about what teaching-methods were most effective when working with students who had fallen behind



Based on our initial research, we developed our supplementary learning classroom

- 95 students were chosen, in partnership with teachers
- Supplementary lessons were held 4 days a week
- Four Teach For Kosova Fellows from both cohorts led the project



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Teach For All

Teach For All has provided ongoing guidance and support to TFK as the organization continues to grow and develop. Our work with Teach for All was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in November 2020.

01



TFK with the support of the Danish Refugee Council, together with 20 extraordinary Fellows from the second cohort, held our 2021 Summer Institute. Each day of the institute contained a host of different activities, trainings with facilitated sessions and group discussions.



02

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



VOICE OF ROMA, ASHKALI
AND EGYPTIANS IN KOSOVO

In the fall, Teach For Kosova launched a campaign to raise awareness on anti-gypsyism in Kosovo alongside Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (VORAE), an organization dedicated to fighting for the rights of minorities.



03



For the “Let’s Debate Change” project, Teach For Kosova joined forces with Solidar Suisse, a non-profit whose mission is to improve the lives of youth across Kosovo.

The two groups jointly developed a debate program that gave young people the key skills needed to identify critical issues in their respective communities, and craft compelling arguments to solve these issues.



04

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



05



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

Municipality of Prishtina
Municipality of Fushë Kosovë
Municipality of Kamenica
Municipality of Ferizaj
Municipality of Prizren
Municipality of Gjakova

Municipality of Malisheva
Municipality of Drenas
Municipality of Deçan
Municipality of Peja
Municipality of Mitrovica

ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Germin
Roma Versitas Kosovo

Teachers' Union (SBASHK)
Voice of Roma, Ashkali & Egyptians

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

University of Mitrovica
Isa Boletini

University of Peja
Haxhi Zeka

University of Applied Sciences in
Ferizaj

University of Gjakova
Fehmi Agani

Prizren University
Ukshin Hoti

University of Prishtina
Hasan Prishtina

OUR STAFF



Egzon Gashi
Executive Director



Anita Plakolli
Director of Development



Visar Kurti
Finance Manager



Kastriot Muçolli
Office Manager



Valmira Morina
Project Manager



Erlinda Musliji
Tutor

FOLLOW US

@teachforkosova |    



Teach *for*
KOSOVA

LËVIZJE PËR ARSIM CILËSOR



In the future, all of Kosovo's children - regardless of background or ethnicity - will have access to an education system that prepares them for lifelong success.



+383 49 170 597
www.teachforkosova.org

Prishtina
Rr. Sylejman Vokshi 13/5
Prishtina, Kosova, 10000