



ymca

ANNUAL REPORT
2019



since 1844



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Our Team



WELCOME TO OUR YMCA

George Williams Youth Association in Kosovo is a value-based organization made up of volunteers that aim to inspire and encourage youth leadership and assist in the healthy development of communities. The red triangle of the YMCA also embodies our values and approach to work, the team tries to ensure that all projects help people develop in mind, body, and spirit. Inspired by the worldwide, the YMCA a National Office in Kosovo was established in August 2003, a re-brand and restructure in 2013 allowed us to have our own identity within Kosovo while retaining links with the rest of the YMCA movement, we became full members of the European Alliance of YMCA's in 2016.

Mission

To be an inclusive movement where people grow in mind, body, and spirit.

Vision

A strong, credible organization working locally, nationally and internationally.

Building future and present leaders and investing in youth.

Promoting peace and unity and celebrating each other's differences and diversity.



Prishtina
Peja
Gjakova
Rahovec
Junik
Decan





Dear Friends,

This year, we all celebrated the 175th anniversary of the YMCA around the world! Times have changed much since it started, the YMCA has been and continues to walk its course following a decisive role in all parts of life. The focus on our development and the community that surrounds us remain the same but with people like you backing us, the challenges are easier to overcome, we have a bigger impact, and we celebrate our achievements even more!

In this report you will read in detail about the work of our wonderful staff, volunteers and members throughout the year. I am proud to share with you, all the achievements in 2019, which have made it possible for the YMCA in Kosovo to climb beyond, fulfill and exceed our 2016-2020 strategic plan. We are happy to commit to our new strategy and welcome you to join our movement!

Petrit Bejdoni
President



Dear friends,

2019 marks a year of success and we begin a new chapter of asset building that will remain for many years in the service of our country's youth. Camp Pjetershan started to take shape as a home for young people this past year and our dreams started to come true. This last year we have reached more young people than ever before! This would not have been possible without our staff and volunteers who are the heartbeat of our movement.

Our international YMCA partners, Ys Men Clubs and local partners such as Ministries, Municipalities and other NGOs have proved a strong pillar in supporting our mission and youth work.

The last few years has seen our YMCA transform from a bus into a fast train driven by young men and women, caring volunteers, an Assembly of Members who lead with love and dedication and a young dynamic Board who with great care and professionalism make decisions that have often not been easy but visionary in the service of our youth.

The past strategy has ensured foundations for a democratic institution, who are full members of YMCA Europe representing Kosovo. As we close the last strategy and open a new chapter we will continue to work with and young people every day.

Dorina LLuka Davies
National CEO



2019 Highlights

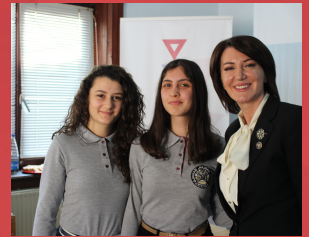


JANUARY

We started the year with a visit from Lorik Cana the former Albania football captain. We signed an MoU with his foundation and presented our work to him- along with getting a signed shirt!

FEBRUARY

In February the past President of Kosovo Ms. Atifete Jahjaga visited the Gjakova YMCA to meet with volunteers and Youth Ambassadors who shared their stories with her. Later in the year we signed an MoU with her foundation.



MARCH

The National Assembly meeting was held which featured the National Awards and new elections of board members. The assembly took place in Gjakova.

APRIL

Our CEO Dorina attended the ECOSOC Youth Forum at the United Nations in New York. The YMCA has a permanent seat at the United Nations and Dorina ensured young people's views and voices were represented as part of the World YMCA delegation.



MAY

Representatives of the Kosovo Government and the YMCA visited Y USA along with our partners Frost Valley YMCA. The trip saw us visit the main office in Chicago where the Ministry thanked the Y-USA for all their support and partnership.

JUNE

As part of the celebration of the YMCA birthday, YMCAs all over the world took part in the World Challenge. This year in honour of the 175 anniversary, participants had to do 175 minutes of volunteer work. In our YMCA we accomplished 19000 minutes.

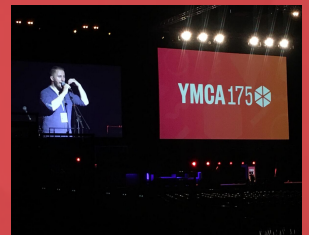


JULY

This month included an outdoor Tensing Showcase in Junik. Young people from all our YMCAs joined together for mini taster sessions and performances. Lunch and certificates were also given on a great day!

AUGUST

This month saw a group of 15 participants from the Republic of Kosovo attend the Birthday celebration in London, England. Our Ambassador Florent performed alongside some of our young leaders from Gjakova who led a workshop.



SEPTEMBER

The new Aid & Storage centre was officially opened during the Y's Men visit to Kosovo. Many local Danish clubs had contributed alongside a successful grant from YMCA England & Wales to open the facility on the edge of Gjakova.

OCTOBER

We hosted YMCA Europe's Executive Committee who held their meeting in Kosovo. They also visited local YMCAs and visited the camp. The European executive is made up of members from across Europe and meet twice a year.



NOVEMBER

The new Innovations Hub is opened in Gjakova by the head of UNICEF and the Mayor of Gjakova alongside young people from the city. The YMCA then goes straight into the first UPSHIFT programme ran by our organisation.

DECEMBER

The new Charity Shop opens in the capital after securing support from the International Time of Fast grant from the Y's Men. The shop instantly provides job opportunities as well as helping to establish the YMCA in the capital.



Adea Zhaveli





YOUTH WORK



Y Woman

The Y WoMan project is a project aimed at educating young people and women in mixed groups using informal and thought-provoking activities that challenge traditional thinking about gender equality. The project started in July and had around 30 young people from the municipalities of Gjakova and Peja. The training had young people meet weekly to go through a curriculum that was designed to challenge stereotypes and common misconceptions while at the same time providing a safe space for young people to share their thoughts and concerns. At the end we also ran day camps in the Municipality of Gjakova with all the youth of the project and some members of the Deçan YMCA. This project was funded by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Kosovo.

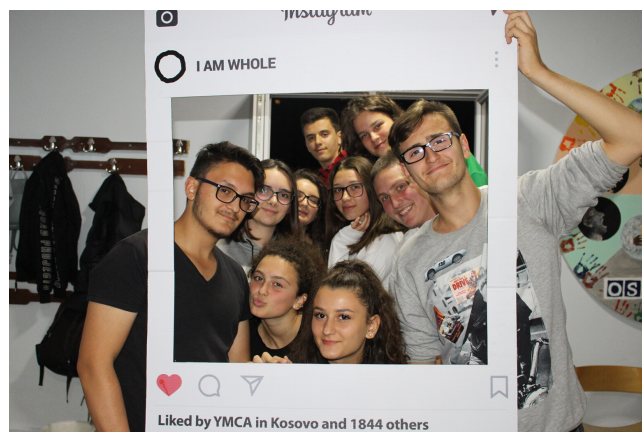
Y Woman Summer Camps

As part of a grant to the department of youth in Gjakova we ran summer Camps. As part of this training we did day camps where we switched the typical gender roles, so the girls had to build the camp and tents, while the boys had to clean and prepare the food for everyone. During this camp the young people had the opportunity to discuss the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and also get involved in interactive and fun activities to help them remember them..



mY community

Our "mYcommunity" projects aim was to promote youth participation in democratic and decision-making processes through non-formal education activities. The training followed an 8 week curriculum and the topics included democracy, active citizenship, leadership, and participation in decision-making processes at a local level. The project took place in Peja, Gjakova, and Decan and had around 45 participants, young people were part of their local Municipal Assembly meeting in the community where they lived.



Mental Health

The Mental Health Program ran for 8 weeks in the Gjakova Municipality and is based on starting conversations and discussions about mental health care and all the knowledge and challenges that come with it. The program featured techniques educating young people on the importance of self care. The program explores various themes that open up discussion and provides a safe space to share their experiences. There are also more fun elements like joga, painting, reading, and breathing techniques.



Youth Building Bridges

The project Youth Building Bridges funded by the U.S Embassy began its implementation from September 2019 and reached around 80 young people from different communities in the Dukagjini region; Peja, Gjakova, Decan, Junik and Gorazdevac. The first part of the project was structured in 8 sessions that contained the subjects: team building, volunteering, stereotypes and prejudice, tolerance, youth activism and community engagement, democracy, culture and conflict resolution. These activities were built to promote collaboration to create an environment where the youth got the opportunity to engage together in non formal education. The project reaches all youth especially those from the Kosovo-Serb community and those from rural areas.

Signs of Hope

Signs of Hope project aim to increase the capacity and provide more programs for young people. With this project we have 350 young people who attended our main programmes: Leadership, Y WoMan, Scouts, TenSing and Youth Ambassadors in five municipalities (Gjakova, Peja, Junik, Decan, Rahovec) in 2019. Which included 55 weekly groups over the four municipalities.

In 2019 we started working in Rahovec municipality, were we worked with 20 young people on our Leadership training. We have noticed that they are very interested and we want to give them more programs next year.

Tensing showcase was held in Junik Moronica Mountain an outdoor activity that gathered over 50 young people from Gjakova, Peja, Junik and Decan YMCAs who had the chance to meet, become friends and share their experiences with each other. In the Showcase we did some mini sessions of different arts and mixed the young people.

In honor of 175 years of YMCA, all YMCAs around the world had to do 175 minutes of volunteer work. In our YMCA's young people decided to do different activities. Young people from Gjakova decided to repaint the centre, young people from Peja decided to do pancakes and give them to people in the street and they also collected clothes and gave them to families in need. All hours were recorded on the Volunteer platform which is a platform created by UNICEF and Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports for young people aged 14 - 25 which includes official certification for the volunteer hours that everyone in the platform does. .

As part of the Youth Summit for Climate Action World YMCA asked different YMCA's to join and be part of it. At our YMCA we did the watch and do party and we also discussed with our young people about personal, community and YMCA perspectives. We were really happy that we achieved these numbers and we gave different activities and opportunities to young people of Kosovo in non-formal education.





CAMP PJETERSHAN

It has been a busy year of building at Camp Pjetershan this year with multiple builds taking place at the same time.

Earlier this year we started work on the ampitheatre which holds around 200 people. This has been made with local stones and required us to cut into the side of our hill. We have already hosted guests in the ampitheatre this year including the Y's men from Denmark, YMCA Finland youth and the European Executive committee.



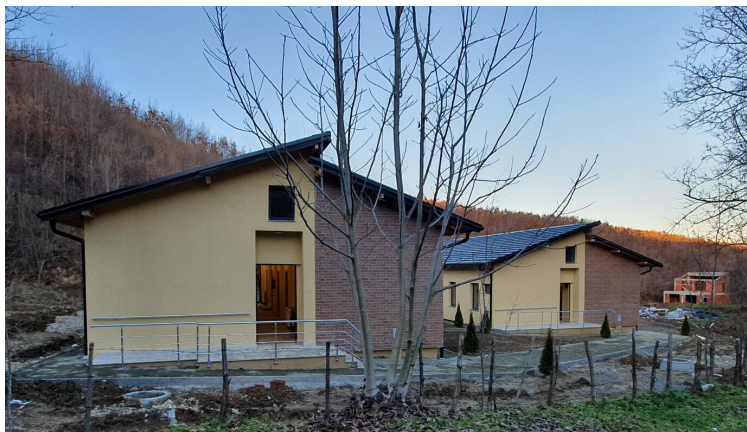
Towards the end of the year the accomodation blocks neared completion. Due to support from the Ministy of regional development the two blocks neared completion at teh end of the year with their windows, bathrooms, heating system and access ramps continuing the previous years work.

Two other noticable changes were defining the river bank along one side of the camp and teh Gjakova Municipality starting work on the main road to tha camp. Both these projects willbe completed next year.



We held two ceremonies this year, as the main building finally got started the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Kujtim Gashi and the Mayor of Gjakova Mr. Ardian Gjini laid the foundations together with staff and volunteers. The building quickly began on the three floor 170,000 with the foundations, outer walls and first two floors being finished before the end of the year.

The second ceremony was a dedication service by the Y'sMen from Denmark, a camp tour followed by drinks, speeches and presents from both sides took place on a hot summers day. The Y'sMen mebers also got the chance to lay foundations of the big building. The Y's Men from Denmark were the first partners to support this project and through them we have been able to match fund and bring others along for the journey.





YMCA 175

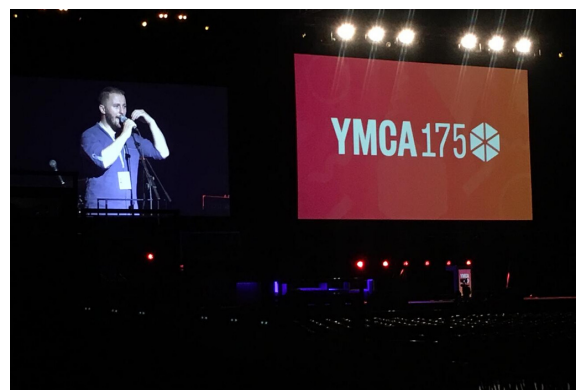
YMCA175 was a global youth event that had elements of a conference, summit and celebration. It brought together thousands of young leaders, YMCA senior leaders and networks from around the world, and took place at the ExCeL London.

The event aimed to connect YMCA's global movement to build relationships and strengthen cross-cultural understanding and celebrate 175 years of YMCA's impact in the world. The programme was fun, engaging, dynamic and challenging.

We sent a delegation of 15 from Kosovo who had the chance of being part of the event. Our delegation included our President, CEO, staff and amazing young leaders and volunteers from our Y Club and leadership project. Our Ambassador Florent Abrashi also got to perform at the opening and closing ceremonies while our President carried the countries flag during the parade.

Three of our peer trainers had the chance to lead a workshop at the event where they had the opportunity to share our how we do Tensing, lead activities and talk about Kosovo.

Diona Zhubi one of our young leaders “During this time I had the opportunity to participate in various workshops where I had the chance to get to know a large number of people from all over the world, with a diversity of cultures, with their work and how they wanted to influence for change! I had the opportunity to gain an experience that I can share with everyone else so that they can feel the positive impact this event has had on thousands of young people!”



Y-Club Members from Prishtina



Mjellma Hoxha





UNICEF PARTNERSHIP

In partnership with UNICEF in Kosovo, we opened Innovation HUB in the Municipality of Gjakova. The hub is a space where youngsters develop projects that promote and address social inclusion, youth development, inter-ethnic cooperation and participation in decision making.

On 19th of November 2019, the HUB was officially opened by young people alongside the Gjakova Mayor Mr. Ardian Gjini and the Head of UNICEF office in Kosovo Mr. Murat Sahin.



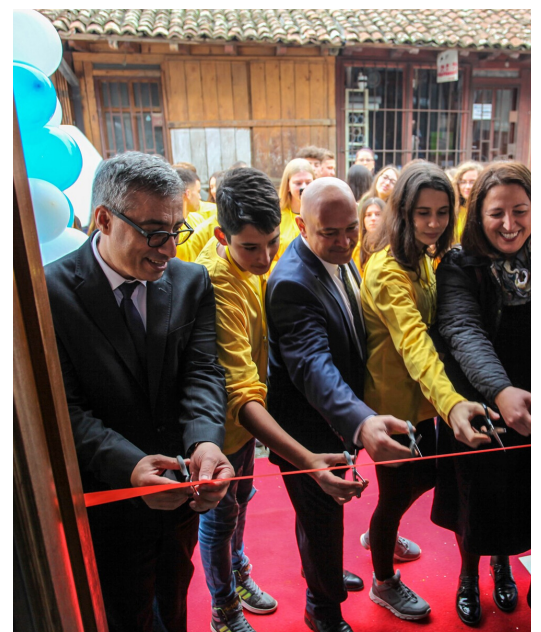
The project will have an initial run of 16 months, with the aim of reaching around 1400 high school students within the city with hundreds taking part in UNICEF & YMCA activities.

Also in November the team started outreach sessions in all the high schools of Gjakova where they promoted the organisation, Hub and upcoming initiatives to young people. Almost 500 students were reached during these meetings.

At the beginning of December we held the first UPSHIFT: Social Impact Workshop weekend. During the three-day workshop, 10 mixed gender teams went through a process of designing, developing and pitching their project ideas, culminating in an external panel selecting 5 groups who would advance and implement the community initiatives.

Some of the ideas that were successful include a tourism website with cultural heritage places, an informal geography space and an app for students to help with carrier orientation; all the projects will be completed before summer 2020.

To close the year our team developed 3 new curriculums based around mental health, work skills and the environment. These three new projects will start next year and will develop 21st century skills while also being underpinned by the sustainable development goals (SDGs).





CARE PARTNERSHIP

This year our YMCA in partnership with SIT (centre for counselling, social services and research) took over the implementation of the project "Men and boys as partners in promoting gender equality and youth prevention" which is a Balkans initiative which promotes gender equality and aims to decrease interpersonal violence and extremism. The project is implemented by Care International.

We run "Program Y" with High-school students, holding 41 workshops in Prishtina in 2019. Through our weekly meetings, we provide a safe space for discussing topics such as gender, sex, sexuality definitions, labels, breaking stereotypes, drugs, alcohol, anger management and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Program Y also includes daily workshops with University students with whole day of informal education training about sex education and violence.



We also run the "Be a Man Club" and this year created synergy between the CARE project and our own Leadership program by starting the first Leadership Group in Prishtina. We have over 100 participants in the club with the majority being male. One of the main projects of the club this year was a Summer Camp in Junik for 30 members. YMCA & SIT staff led a 2 night camp at the YMCA in Junik where the participants had to build the camp, the fire and prepare their tents.

Community Campaigns:

Again with our implementing partner SIT we have marked "International Mental Health Day". We have joined this year the I AM WHOLE international campaign by inviting our ambassador Florent Abrashi to a workshop to encourage young people to speak up when they struggle with mental illnesses and why self care is important.

-With members from "Be a Man" club, to mark "International Girl Child Day" we discussed about how important it is to have equal rights in families starting from property rights, equal rights in education, and in decision making. The campaign purpose was to create social awareness by the pictures and hashtags #girlpower #genderequality #speakup that we posted during that day.

During the 16 days of activism to tackle gender based violence we have screened the documentary "Not your property" in our youth centers. The documentary was about cases of women who have experienced domestic violence and how that affected their life. Alongside this our "Be A Man" club members prepared and delivered workshops to members of local YMCAs.



Edon Sejdej, Dionis Kollcaku & Elion Brada



empowered by ymca



STATISTICS

600

Youth Project Participants

620

School Session Participants



36 International Participants going to Germany, USA, France, Hungary, Thailand, Albania, Switzerland, Slovakia, England & Portugal

Visitors from 6 Other Countries



Ethnicity of programme participants includes Albanians, Serbians, Bosnian, Roma & Egyptian



Over 600+ beneficiaries of aid items (teddy bears, clothes, food parcels, school supplies)

**Service Awards:****Kadrush Grezda****YMCA Fairthorne Group****Volunteer of the Year:****Liridon Bunjaku****Young Volunteer of the Year:****Ola Zuka****Young Leader of the Year:****Jora Pruthi****The project of the Year:****Retail Department****Attendee of the Year:****Sara Ramadani****External awards****Peja Municipality for "Creating opportunities for the youth and institutional cooperation".****Gjakova Municipality Award for the contribution made to the campaign "Race for Clean Gjakova".****YMCA Europe Peace Medel presented to our volunteer Adi Davies for his contributions to European Peace Work.****Peja Municipality recognised Erenisa Çeku volunteer contributions during their annual awards.**

For more detailed information of the past Awards, you can visit our website:
www.ymcacosovo.com





Financial Summary

ASSETS	2019	2018
	€	€
Liquid assets		
Cash in hand	1,028	224
Cash in the bank	34,840	17,079
Stock	6,267	976
Other receivables	-	-
Total Liquid assets	42,135	18,279
Long Term Assets		
Land	40,820	40,820
Buildings	34,293	-
Vehicles	16,883	17,006
Inventory	15,258	13,243
Investment of the camp	89,333	77,920
Total Long Term assets	196,587	148,990
Total Assets	238,722	167,269
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Short term liabilities	3,454	72
Accounts payable	-	-
Pension Contributions	672	200
Salary tax	306	50
Rent tax payable	112	22
Total short term liabilities	4,544	344
Long term liabilities		
Reserves (deferred revenue)	46,493	16,584
Total long term liabilities	46,493	16,584
EQUITY		
Fund	187,685	150,341
Retained earnings	-	-
Other reserves	-	-
Total equity	236,729	150,341
Total Liabilities and equity	238,722	167,269



Revenue	2019	2018
Revenues from donors abroad	44,492	41,961
Revenues from donors in country	44,675	44,106
Revenues from retail	11,653	10,275
Donations	10,217	7,562
Total revenues	111,037	103,904
Operational expenses		
Personal expenses		
Gross Salaries	49,080	50,974
Pension insurance contributions	2,432	2,483
Total personnel expenses	51,512	53,457
Total operational expenses	59,525	50,447
Total expenses	111,037	103,904

SUMMARY

This year we have again seen an increase from our income generating projects. While also focusing on the infrastructure of the retail department by adding the aid & storage centre, this will allow us to operate the stores more effectively and allows us to hold more stock.

The operational expenses are higher this year and that it due to paying rent on the second shop in advance thanks to the Y's Men Grant. There are also renovations costs of the new storage and the Gjakova YMCA which needed its windows replacing.

We have a similar number of projects to the previous year, however most are running longer and continuing into 2020. Key partnerships have also been made with Care and UNICEF.

The assets do not yet include the camp developments that were investments from the national ministries. When those two government contracts are completed in 2020, they will appear on the balance sheet, we are expecting a huge increase next year.

A full independent Auditor report was carried out by
 Nimon Zenili, Legal Auditor
 "Skenderbeu" Str.No.17
 50,000 Gjakova
 Republic of Kosovo

Full report available at www.ymcacosovo.com



OUR TEAM

BOARD MEMBERS

PETRIT BEJDONI (President)
AURON KADRIJA (Vice President)
DOMINIK DEMAJ (Treasurer)
RINOR HASI
ZANA JAHA
DEA BEJTULLAHU
ELDA BRADA
DRENUSHA ROGOVA

AMBASSADOR

FLORENT ABRASHI

STAFF

DORINA LLUKA-DAVIES (CEO)
DORINA GLOXHANI
ERINA ARLLATI
VISAR SHEHU
ADHURIM BEKAJ
NITA GJOSHI
ERRISA HASIMJA
LIRIKA BAKIJA
ZANA RAMOVIĆ
FËLLANZA TARAKU
VALENTINA MURATI
DORUNTINA GOLAJ
KRESHNIK YMERI
GLERA LUSHA
HYRIJETA HOTI
YLLI ALIJA
AVNORA MORINA
FLORIJE LLUKA
ALMA SPAHIJA BROVINA
ELMA NUSHI
VULLNET JAKUPI
VLERA RADONIQI
YLLKA GODENI (INTERN)

VOLUNTEERS

ERBLINA MAHAJ
GARDIS GAXHERRI
RON HADRI
ADRIAN DAVIES
SKENDER LLUKA
JORA PRUTHI
ANDI KEPUSKA
ART HOXHA
DARDAN KAQI
NDRIQIM DOLI
SINDIJA RAMA





YOUTH AMBASSADORS

ARIANA SAHATQIJA
 HANA VULA
 ERËLINDA AVDIMETAJ
 BATON LUZHA
 FIONA SHYTI
 SABRIJA NIKOQEVIIQ
 SHKELQIM LLOQANAJ
 LIRA SHABI
 ARIANA AHMETI
 DARDAN KAQI
 ARIANIT SYLAFETA
 DRILON ROGOVA
 LUM KURAJA
 LIRAK KERLESHI
 BUJAR ZATRIQI
 DEA KUMNOVA
 EGZONA HYSENAJ
 RINA DERMAKU
 INESA NIKOLIQI
 LUIZA KOSHI
 ANDI KEPUSKA
 RINA FERIZI
 DIONIS KOLLCAKU
 JORA PRUTHI
 LEKË MORINA
 DIONA ZHUBI
 LIRIDON BUNJAKU
 VESA VUTHI



CONSULTANTS

KADRUSH GREZDA (Camp Architect)
 ETNIK DAUTAGA (Camp Working Group)
 DARDAN KAQI (CampWorking Group)

PAST PRESIDENTS

BESNIK LEKA
 MILOT FERIZI



MOVED ON

MILOT FERIZI (Board Member)
 ERA FERIZI (Youth Worker)
 QLIRIM TOFAJ (Youth Worker)
 ERZA KADRIJA (Youth Worker)
 SHPRESA FERAJ (Administration)
 BENITA MULLATAHIRI (Retail Team)
 VESA VUTHI (Youth Worker)



empowering young people

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