



# MUNICIPAL PROFILE

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## Obiliq/Obilić

June 2006

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## 1. Introduction: Area and Population

Obiliq/Obilić municipality is located immediately north-west of Prishtinë/Priština on the main road to Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. The municipality was created in 1989, prior to which it formed part of Prishtinë/Priština municipality. It now comprises a total of 20 villages including the town itself and the Plemetina camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), which has recently closed. Although the majority of the population is Kosovo Albanian, villages such as Babin Most/Babimoc, Miloševo/Milloshëvë, Plemetin/Plemetina and Caravodicë/Crkvena Vodica are mostly inhabited by Kosovo-Serbs and other non-Albanian ethnic minorities. Obiliq/Obilić town was also a multi-ethnic area before the mid-march troubles, but unfortunately, due to the violence, all remaining Kosovo Serbs and some Roma have fled the town and sought refuge in Plemetin/Plemetina and other villages inhabited mostly by Kosovo Serbs.

Table 1.1: Ethnic Composition, Including IDPs

Population	Kosovo Albanian		Kosovo Serb		Ashkali		Roma		Other TOTAL (Gorani, Bosniak)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Number	%	Number %	Approx.
1991	18,944	64.2	5,777	19.6	R/A combined 3,767 12.8%				1,035 3.4	29,523
1998	23,000	69	5,500	16	All other minorities combined 5000 15					33,500
June 2000	25,100	84	3,600	12	R/A combined 1,250 4 %				50	30,000
April 2002	24,000	84	3,425	12	491	1.71	650	2	82 < 0.3	28,653

Source: Government Ministry of Economy and Finance, Rapid Strategic Development Assessment of the Municipalities of Kosovo 2002

## 2. Civil Administration

The process of establishing a new Municipal Assembly (MA) structure began after the last Municipal Elections of October 2002. Mr Ismet Hashani (LDK) was elected President and Hajriz Bektashi (LDK) the Deputy President. An additional Deputy President, Mr. Ljubomir Jakovljevic (PKM) was elected to represent the Kosovo Serb community.

The Obiliq/Obilić MA is made up of 21 directly elected members.

Table 2.1: Composition of the Municipal Assembly

Name of Municipal Assembly Member / Professional Background	Political Affiliation
Mr. Ismet Hashani	LDK / President
Mr Hajriz Bektashi	LDK / Vice-President
Mr. Ljubomir Jakovljevic	PKM / Additional Vice-President
Mr. Rexhep Kelani	LDK / Member
Mr. Mehmet Krasniqi	LDK / Member
Ms. Myrvete Krasniqi	LDK / Member
Ms. Mevlyde Restelica Hashani	LDK / Member
Mr. Jahja Prestreshi	LDK / Member
Mr. Eshref Pllana	LDK / Member
Mr. Adem Preniqi	LDK / Member
Ms. Ardianë Gërvalla	LDK / Member
Mr. Genc Jerliu	LDK / Member
Mr. Arben Berisha	LDK / Member
Mr. Hysni Mjekiqi	PDK / Member
Mr. Agim Preniqi	PDK / Member
Ms. Fatime Sadiku	PDK / Member
Mr. Mexhid Krasniqi	PDK / Member
Ms. Kada Mjekiqi	PDK / Member
Mr. Ramiz Selmani	PD / Member
Mr. Nikola Tripkovic	OSPS / Member
Mr. Stojan Kovacevic	KP / Member

The Policy and Finance Committee has been established with the following composition: LDK 3, PDK 2, PD 1, OSPS 1.

The OSPS member has resigned from PFC as a result of his dissatisfaction with the work of the director of the Municipal Community Office. His resignation has not been yet discussed nor approved by the Municipal assembly. Communities and Mediation Committees have been also established, but unlike Policy and Finance Committee they are not functioning. Kosovo Serb MA members disagree with the number of seats allocated to their community, and are refusing to participate until further seats are provided.

Table 2.2: Municipal Assembly Committees

Committee	Chairperson / Affiliation	Vice-chairperson / Affiliation
Policy and Finance Committee	Ismet Hashani / LDK	TBD
Communities Committee	TBD	TBD
Mediation Committee		TBD

Source: UN Civil Administration

The administration of the municipality is comprised of seven departments and the Local Community Office all of whom fall under the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Departmental and interdepartmental activities are overseen by the Board of Directors which is comprised of the CEO, the Departmental Directors and the President of the Municipal Assembly. After a prolonged recruitment campaign of one year, a new CEO Mr. Ejup Hashani (ex Director of Department of Economy and Finance) was selected for the position and assumed responsibilities in 2004.

Table 2.3: Chief Executive Officer, Board of Directors and Municipal Departments

Director / Professional Background / Affiliation (if any)	Municipal Department (Incl. Community Office, if any)
Mr. Ejup Hashani	Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Ismet Hashani	Department of General Administration
Mr. Kemajl Hashani	Department for Planning, Development and Reconstruction
Mr. Nazmi Restelica	Department for Education, Culture and Sport
Mr. Afërdita Strellci	Department for Economy and Finance
Mr. Sami Berbatovci	Department for Health and Social Welfare
Mr. Haki Mjekiqi	Department for Geodesy and Cadastre
Mr. Xhabir Qunaku	Department for Civil Security and Emergencies
Mr. Slaviša Adančić	Municipal Community Office

Source: UN Civil Administration

### 3. Political Parties

The 26 October 2002 Municipal Elections resulted in changes to the political composition of the Assembly with the LDK retaining its majority. The party continues to have a simple majority in the Municipal Assembly with 11 seats, although it lost one seat from the previous elections held in 2000. The PDK consolidated its opposition party status with one additional representative and now has a total of six seats. The AAK did not participate in the last election due to pre-electoral violations and consequently lost its four seats. The PD gained one seat. The major change in the composition of the Municipal Assembly is the improved representation of the Kosovo Serbian community due to its participation in the 2002 elections. The community is represented by three political parties (KP, OSPS and PKM) whom each hold one seat each.

Table 3.1: Political Parties

Party	Municipal branch leader	Kosovo-wide Leader	2000 Vote	Seats in MA	2002 Vote	Seats in MA
Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK)	Ismet Hashani	vacant	54%	12	52.8%	11
Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK)	Florim Krasniqi	Hashim Thaçi	21%	5	28.2%	6
Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK)	Hetem Kutllovci	Ramush Haradinaj	16%	4	-	-
National Movement for Liberation of Kosovo (LKCK)	Sali Grejgevc	Sabit Gashi	-	-	1%	-
Coalition Return (KP)		Dragisa Krstovic	-	-	3.5%	1
Liberal Party of Kosovo (PLK)	Ragip Sallova	Gjergj Dedaj	1.5%	-	2%	-
Albanian Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo (PShDK)		Mark Krasniqi	1%	-	-	-
Justice Party (PD)	Ramiz Selmani	Sylejman Cerkez			2.8%	1
Survival – United Return of Serbs (OSPS)	Nikola Tripkovic				3.3%	1
Movement for Kosovo and Metohija (PKM)	Ljubomir Jakovljevic				3.8%	1
Coalition Vatan (VATAN)					0.6%	-
Democratic Ashkali Party of Kosovo (PDAK)					1.4%	-
Serb Socialist Party (SPS)	Goran Stankovic		-	-	-	-

\* NB. Part of AAK alliance during the 2000 elections. Source: OSCE Regional Center Prishtinë/Priština

### 4. Local and International NGOs

The most prominent local non-governmental organisation in the municipality is the Mother Theresa Society (MTS). International NGOs are based in Prishtinë/Priština and perform a variety of tasks, including food distribution, rehabilitation of schools, and supporting IDPs in the municipality's camp. Plemetina Camp, now managed by Mother Theresa association and supervised by UNHCR, currently services 155 families, totalling 671 persons from Ashkali, Roma and Kosovo Serb communities. More than 50 percent of those in the camp are under 18 years of age and the majority are in need of education and schooling. Literacy among the adult population is also low, with little opportunity for

them to improve. However, the conditions of the camp are such that basic food, health, and sanitary needs take precedence over education and learning. Since the March events, Kosovo Serb NGOs are not as active as previously. Some Kosovo Serb NGOs have lost their offices, equipment and files.

Table 4.1: Local NGOs based in the Municipality

Name	Main Focus	Contact Person (phone / fax / e-mail)
Mother Theresa Society	Humanitarian	Selatin Hashani
Aureola	Women issues	Sanije Graicevci 044 502 578
Red Cross	Humanitarian	Sadete Krasniqi 044 249 315
Protection and Human Rights Committee	Human Rights (Kosovo Serb)	Vladimir Todorovic 063 857 2775
Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms	Human Rights (Kosovo Albanian)	Haki Krasniqi 044 220 299
Handikos	Disabilities	Elisa Tribunja
Delvina		Rukije Krasniqi
Pupils for environment	Environment protection	Redita Gashi
Za bolju buducnost		Nedeljkovic Vesna
Friends of KPC (TMK)		Ramadan Gashi
Bozur		Mira Savic 038 87 621
Idemo Pravo		Rada Radosavljevic 038 562 302
Komitet Zena za Ljudska Prava	Human Rights and women issues	Stojana Danic 063 857 2775
Hunters association	Hunting	Behram Bajrami 044210435
Serbian Red Cross (YRC),	Humanitarian	
Novi Pocetak		Darko Jakovljevic

Source: OSCE Regional Center Prishtinë/Priština

Table 4.2: International NGOs working in the Municipality

Name	Main focus	Contact Person (phone / fax / e-mail)
Balkan Sunflowers	Humanitarian Assistance	Rand Engel 044 501 819
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Shelter kit distribution	Shkoza Banjska
Eriksjhalpen	Shelter	Ramadan Cunaku
Mercy Corps		Rolla Khaduru
GOAL		Peter Henderson
CDF	Development Projects Hade/Ade	Shemi Kelmendi 044 113 767

Source: OSCE Regional Center Prishtinë/Priština

## 5. Other Civilian International Presence

Apart from the UN Administration and work of International NGOs, there is very little permanent international presence in the municipality. OSCE continues to operate in the municipality, but out of the Prishtinë/Priština office. Following the 2000 Municipal Elections, the OSCE also conducted a two-day seminar for the newly elected Municipal Assembly members. Great efforts have been taken to build the capacity of local governance and develop civil institutions. In 2002, the OSCE designed and implemented a project of Responsible Governance and Citizen Participation (ReGoCiP), which ran for three months and involved Municipal Assembly members, Civil Administration members of the civil administration and local NGO representatives. During 2003, this continued with a series of training and capacity development seminars on the work of the Municipal Assembly and its mandatory committees for elected representatives.

In September 2004, the OSCE began implementation of an extensive training program for the Municipality's Policy and Finance Committee members on participatory budget and public financial management. The aim of the project being to develop the capacities of Policy and Finance Committee members to develop and execute the 2005 municipal budget in an effective, transparent, accountable and participatory manner. A brochure detailing the 2005 budget is printed and available through the municipality's information officer.

Table 5.1: The Pillars

Name	Number of Staff (nat.+int.)	Contact Person	Title	Phone / Fax / E-mail
UN Civil Administration	Not available	Tapan Mandal	/UN Representative	504 604 ext. 4776
OSCE	Not available	Elita Vokshi	National Democratisation Officer	038 500 162 ext. 537
OSCE	Not available	Philippe-Emmanuel Draut	Human Rights expert	038 500 162 ext. 641

Source: OSCE Regional Center Prishtinë/Priština

## 6. Religion, Places of Worship, and Cultural Institutions

There are eight mosques in the municipality; two are located in Obiliq/Obilić town, while six are in villages with an Imam as leader of the municipality's Islamic Union. The new mosque was recently built in the centre of Obiliq/Obilić town. There are also small Serb Orthodox churches in the villages of Babin Most/Babimoc and Plemetin/Plemetina, covered by

the same Orthodox priest. During the March events the Kosovo Serb Church in Obiliq/Obilić town was severely damaged.

There is also a House of Culture in the municipality owned by the Power Company, Korporata Energjetike e Kosovës (KEK), but it is not functioning and needs renovation.

Table 6.1: Primary Mosques, Churches, etc.

Type of Building	Towns/Places
Mosques	Obiliq/Obilić, Hade, Dardishtë, Mazgit, Breshnicë, Hamido, Milloshevë
Serb Orthodox Churches	Plemetin/Plemetina and Babin Most/Babimoc, Obiliq/Obilić

## 7. Media

There are no local print media outlets published in Obiliq/Obilić. Two low power Kosovo Serb radio stations operate in K-Serbian enclaves. 'Radio Elit' is stationed in Plemetin/Plemetina and 'Radio M' operates in Babin Most/Babimoc. On 12 October 2005, multiethnic radio station 'Radio Evropa' in Obiliq/Obilic town received its license from the TMC under the exception from the moratorium of issuing new licenses and has started operations meanwhile.

Table 7.1: Primary Newspapers, Radio/TV Stations, etc.

Name of media	Type of Media (newspaper, radio, etc.)	Editor/Correspondent	Language of Programmes/News
Radio Elit	Radio	Nebosa Tomic	Serbian
Radio M	Radio	Boban Petrovic	Serbian
Radio Evropa	Radio	Vladimir Todorović	Serbian

## 8. Judicial System

Although Obiliq/Obilić was separated from Prishtinë/Priština municipality more than ten years ago, it still remains under the jurisdiction of the Prishtinë/Priština courts.

## 9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

The Czech/Slovak Battle group, as part of Multinational Brigade Centre (MNBC), is responsible for maintaining a safe and secure environment in this municipality.

The police station in Obiliq/Obilić is a sub-station of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje police station. It was previously anticipated that the sub-station would be 'transitioned' from UNMIK Police to KPS command in March 2004. However due to the mid-March riots, this transition has been put on hold.

Table 9.1: Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

Establishment	Local Commander/Contact	PHONE/FAX/EMAIL	Number of Officers, Troops	Ethnic Composition**	Transition date	Gender Balance F/M
Kosovo Police Service	Sejdi Zeqiri	VSAT 4770 or 038 504604 ext. 4770	62	49 Kosovo Albanian, 13 Kosovo Serbs,	11.11.2004	9 - 53
UNMIK Police	Aron Curtis Gheorghe Viorel	VSAT 4770 or 038 504604 ext. 4770				
KFOR CZE/SVK Battle Group	Chief CIMIC	Kfor.cimic@post.cz	450*			

\* This figure covers the municipalities of Obiliq/Obilić and Podujevë/Podujevo

## 10. Economics

Although precise figures are not available, unemployment in the municipality is considered to be very high. Prior to the 1999 conflict, KEK was the main source of employment through its two main power stations, ensuring service provision, revenue accumulation, and facility building and maintenance. KEK is still the primary local employer and owns the Culture House, Sports Ground, Fire Station, and other properties. However, it is unable to sustain the level of support it once provided and the municipality suffers economically as a result, particularly Kosovo Serbs who have been unable to resume work since the conflict.

Obiliq/Obilić industrial base is sustained with large reserves of coal (lignite). These reserves are approximately 12 kilometres deep, run for approximately 32 kilometres in the valley between the Sitnica and Drenica rivers, and are estimated to include approximately 13 billion tones of coal. The coalmines and two power stations (one built in the 1940s; the other in the 1980s) have an overwhelming physical and environmental impact on the municipality. The huge volume of thick smoke produced by the power station significantly reduces the air quality, and during certain months thick, coal-dust-laden smog blankets the municipality. The environmental impact and long-term consequences on the health of the population has yet to be investigated, but has clearly constrained potential investors.

Despite environmental pollution, the land is relatively fertile and agriculture (primarily wheat, corn, and potatoes) is well developed with approximately 52 percent of land being cultivated. Wheat harvesting and milling for Kosovo Albanian farmers is arranged on a co-operative basis, while Kosovo Serb farmers make individual arrangements. There are no significant stock holdings, other than a small-to-medium scale sheep and pig farm in the village of Janina Voda.

(Source: Ministry of Finance and Economy)

#### 10.1 Prominent Employers in the Region

Employer	Service/Products	Production ongoing?	Size of Workforce
KEK	Electricity	YES	N/A
Local and UN Civil Administration	Local governance	YES	76

Source: UN Civil Administration

### 11. Infrastructure

Of some 150 kilometres of roads, only 30 are paved, though heavily pot-holed. Outside Obiliq/Obilić town, paved roads are only found near other population centres while the rest are connected by dirt and gravel roads that are in various conditions. At least three villages are effectively cut off during periods of extended rain and heavy snow.

The main water supplies in the municipality are derived partly from the local Water Company, the Batllava Company, and are generally good and clean. Small or remote villages do not have access to the main water supply system due to infrastructure neglect, damage, or lack of access to the network. This is a particular problem for villages in the west of the municipality where the quality of water is poor and much of the population has to carry their supplies. Many villages also suffer from a lack of an adequate sewage system, which poses a threat to basic health and hygiene.

(Source: Ministry of Finance and Economy)

### 12. Social Services, Health, and Education

#### Social Services:

The primary social services associations or organizations at the municipal level are the Centres for Social Work (CSW). The CSWs are mandated to provide professional social work services and exercise authority deriving from both the law on social protection and other relevant laws such as family law. The Centre for Social Work (CSW) in Obiliq/Obilić municipality has approximately 900 beneficiaries. A total of ten employees provide social protection, including a general catch-all phrase for persons in need defined by the law under specific classes of persons. Classes of adults and children are eligible for social protection when they fulfil certain legal or material conditions.

(Source: Centre for Social Work)

#### Health:

Three health centres cover the Kosovo Serb population from the villages of Babin Most/Babimoc, Plemetin/Plemetina, and Caravodicë/Crkvina Vodica. Three health centres cover the Kosovo Albanian population from the villages of Breznicë/Breznica, Siboc/Sibovac and Miloševo/Milloshëvë. The main primary family health centre in Obiliq/Obilić Municipality provides health care services for all patients from the whole population of the municipal geographical area. Public health is also a part of the policy from the municipal health department as a whole aiming at improvement of the health status of the population through health education, health promotion as well the prevention of diseases.

(Source: Municipal health and social welfare department)

## Education:

Due to the education system, the schools in the municipality are separated, with the exception of a Kosovo Albanian school, opened in Plemetin/Plemetina in 2000 and ruled under separated shift in various locations. In Obiliq/Obilić town, the Kosovo Albanian high school was established in a container building. In addition, there are seven Kosovo Albanian primary schools in the Plemetin/Plemetina area, Miloševo/Milloshëvë, Babin Most/Babimoc, Hade/Ade, and Breznicë/Breznica. There are approximately close to 5,240 pupils attending the school within the municipal area.

(Source: Municipal Education Department)

## 13. Returns

According to UNHCR information, there are currently 8,615 persons originally from this municipality displaced in Serbia and Montenegro and 170 persons in FYR Macedonia. Until December 2003, 635 IDPs returned to their place of origin. Many other Kosovo Serbs and Ashkali IDP families have shown a genuine interest to return. A Municipal Working Group on Returns (MWGR) has been established to improve the returns coordination process. Unfortunately, the March 2004 riots not only stopped the process of returns, but increased the number of IDPs. All remaining urban Kosovo Serbs, and some Roma, fled and their properties were burned or vandalized. The activity of the MWGR, which was suspended for more than two months, has resumed. The reconstruction process of the damaged and the burned houses, and also of the apartment buildings in this Municipality has been mostly finished, but with the exception of some 20 families which returned to the so called "School centre" and five families that returned to their newly reconstructed houses, there is no major return of the March IDPs. Another challenge, which this municipality is currently facing is the increase number of inter-ethnic property sales in Obiliq/Obilić town. Until November 2005 there have been 27 cases registered by UNMR in this municipality, and approximately a twice as many cases that still were not register. This number might well increase as the Kosovo status talks will begin. Many of the sales involve newly reconstructed property and Kosovo Serbs are worried that Obiliq/Obilić will soon become a mono-ethnic town.

In February 2005, Municipal authorities of Obiliq/Obilić and Kosovo's PISG, together with the municipalities of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Skenderaj/Srbica and Lipjan/Lipljan began implementing an agreement to remove IDPs from the Plemetin/Plemetina camp back into the municipality of their origin. Each municipality will be responsible for providing accommodation for their residents.