



SOCIAL AUDIT TEAM REPORT IN OBILIQ/OBILIĆ

MONITORED PROJECTS

"Construction of a Parking Lot for the Social Housing Complex in Hade"

"Construction of a Park and Sports Field in Bakshi Village"





This report was prepared by the DEMOS Project, implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Kosovo.

Disclaimer: The findings and conclusions expressed in this Report do not necessarily represent the positions of the European Union, Switzerland or Sweden.

SOCIAL AUDIT TEAM REPORT IN OBILIQ/OBILIČ^V

MONITORED PROJECTS

**“Construction of a Parking Lot for the Social Housing Complex in Hade”
Construction of a Park and Sports Field in Bakshi Village”**

December 2024



DEMOS

Decentralisation
and Municipal
Support

The Decentralisation and Municipal Support (DEMOS) Project supports the 38 municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo in achieving more democratic local governance and better municipal management. The DEMOS also supports the Government of Kosovo in the development of policies, which are more conducive to rule-based financing of municipalities.

The project is co-funded by the European Union in Kosovo, the Swiss Government, and the Swedish Government. DEMOS is implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Kosovo.

DEMOS's support for the municipalities of Kosovo is within the framework of the Municipal Performance Grant as one of the tools that guarantees support for municipalities with good performance.

A special focus of the project is also support for the central Government where DEMOS is focused on providing assistance in building policies for a more favorable framework for decentralized governance.

Under the first component of the project, DEMOS III aims to open the data for wider public review of municipal performance and initiate Social Audits to monitor the impact of Municipal Performance Grant (MPG) projects on citizens.

The DEMOS project has supported the establishment and development of activities that engage citizens in decision-making processes, including Social Audit Teams, which have overseen the implementation of projects funded by the Municipal Performance Grant.



BIRN Kosovo is an independent, non-governmental organisation, whose goals are providing information to the citizens and contributing to the democratic transition process in the country, promoting accountability, rule of law and policy reform. BIRN Kosovo in particular aims to serve as a watchdog of public institutions, monitoring the work of governing and public institutions. In addition, through the production of quality and impartial TV debates and training of youth on argumentation and debating skills, BIRN

aims to promote and encourage a culture of debate in Kosovo. BIRN's vision is to secure its position as the premier Kosovo's investigative journalism organisation, addressing the need for objective, quality, sustainable reporting on the country's many challenges. BIRN Kosovo, in partnership with Democracy Plus, has been engaged by DEMOS to facilitate the Social Audit in 11 selected projects across six municipalities: Gjakovë/Đakovica, Pejë/Peć, Klinë/Klina, Malishevë/Mališevo, Lipjan/Lipljane, and Obiliq/Obilić.



Democracy Plus (D+) is an independent and non-profit organization founded in March 2016. D+ is committed to building a democratic society by increasing citizen participation in political processes, increasing accountability and influencing decision-making processes. D+ strives to integrate information technology in all their efforts, this to promote the use of the Internet, which has an important role in the democratization of a society. D+ aims to

contribute to the creation of good practices for good governance by public institutions at central and local level, strengthening the rule of law, advancing political parties, and supporting free and fair electoral processes. D+ undertakes initiatives aimed at bringing decision-makers closer to the citizens through policy research, facilitation of dialogue or communication and public education.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	DEMOS and the purpose of the project
7	Executive Summary
8	General Findings for Both Projects
9	Specific Findings in the Project for the Construction of Parking at Social Housing Units ‘Hade’
9	Specific Findings in the Project for the Construction of a Park and Sports Field in Bakshi Village
10	Social Audit Environment
11	Chapter 1 - Common Findings in Both Projects
11	Findings in the Citizen Consultation Process
11	Low Citizen Participation in Public Consultations in 2022
11	Increased Citizen Participation in Public Consultations in 2023-2024
12	Projects as a Community Need
12	Lack of Project Discussion with the Community
12	Lack of Transparency in Publishing Investment Projects and Accompanying Documents
13	Chapter 2 - Specific Findings in the Project for the Construction of Parking at Social Housing Units ‘Hade’
13	Reduction of the Legal Deadline for Tendering
13	Lack of Traffic Signs
13	Ramps for Pedestrians and Wheelchairs
14	Lack of Dedicated Parking for People with Disabilities
14	Lack of Waste Bins and Limited Capacity of Containers
14	Problem of Uncovered Manholes
15	Chapter 3 - Specific Findings in the Project for the Construction of a Park and Sports Field in Bakshi Village
16	Drying of Trees
16	Open Ditch at the Park Entrance
16	Unsuitable Benches
16	Lack of Natural Grass Football Field
16	Damage to Lights
17	Conclusion / Recommendations
19	Methodology
20	Who Established the Social Audit Group?
20	How Were the Data Collected?
20	Data Validation
20	Team composition
21	Social Audit Group Activities
22	Social Audit Team in Obiliq/Obilič
23	Letter from the Mayor of the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilič
24	Letter from the Social Audit Team in the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilič

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A team of civil society activists, supported by the training program of the DEMOS Project, initiated a pilot initiative for citizen engagement in overseeing the implementation of public projects. These citizen groups were named “Social Audit Teams.”

As a new concept in Kosovo, Social Auditing began to be implemented by DEMOS and civil society organizations in 2022, continuing into 2023 and 2024. With the support of DEMOS, 20 Social Audit Groups were established, involving around 300 active citizens in these processes. Trained members of the Social Audit Teams became activists and provided over 100 specific recommendations to local governments aimed at improving municipal operations.

In 2024, BIRN and Democracy Plus (D+), with the support of DEMOS, helped establish 11 Social Audit Teams in six municipalities: Gjakovë/Đakovica, Pejë/Peć, Klinë/Klina, Malishevë/Mališevo, Lipjan/Lipljane, and Obiliq/Obilić.

The program received the support of local governments, with six mayors signing memorandums of understanding with the

organizations to facilitate the Social Audit process. The Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić is among the beneficiaries of funds from the Municipal Performance Grant.

In July, Democracy Plus (D+) began research to identify active citizens from this municipality to be involved in the Social Audit process.

After consultations with the community, interest groups, and civil society, D+ in consultation with the DEMOS Project recommended over 20 citizens to become part of the Social Audit Team.

After selecting and expressing their interest, interested citizens were invited to attend the training program by BIRN, during which they were trained to conduct the Social Audit process, document review, interviews, and implementation of the Social Audit methodology.

In accordance with the methodology developed by DEMOS and adapted by BIRN, the group of citizens from Gjakovë/Đakovica established the “Social Audit Team.” They were assigned the tasks of analyzing and overseeing two projects: *the construction of parking facilities at the Social Housing Units in “Hade” and the construction of a park and sports field in Bakshi village.* The total value of the two projects is €232,508.22.

The two teams worked separately to monitor the projects. However, after completion, they conducted joint consultations to identify

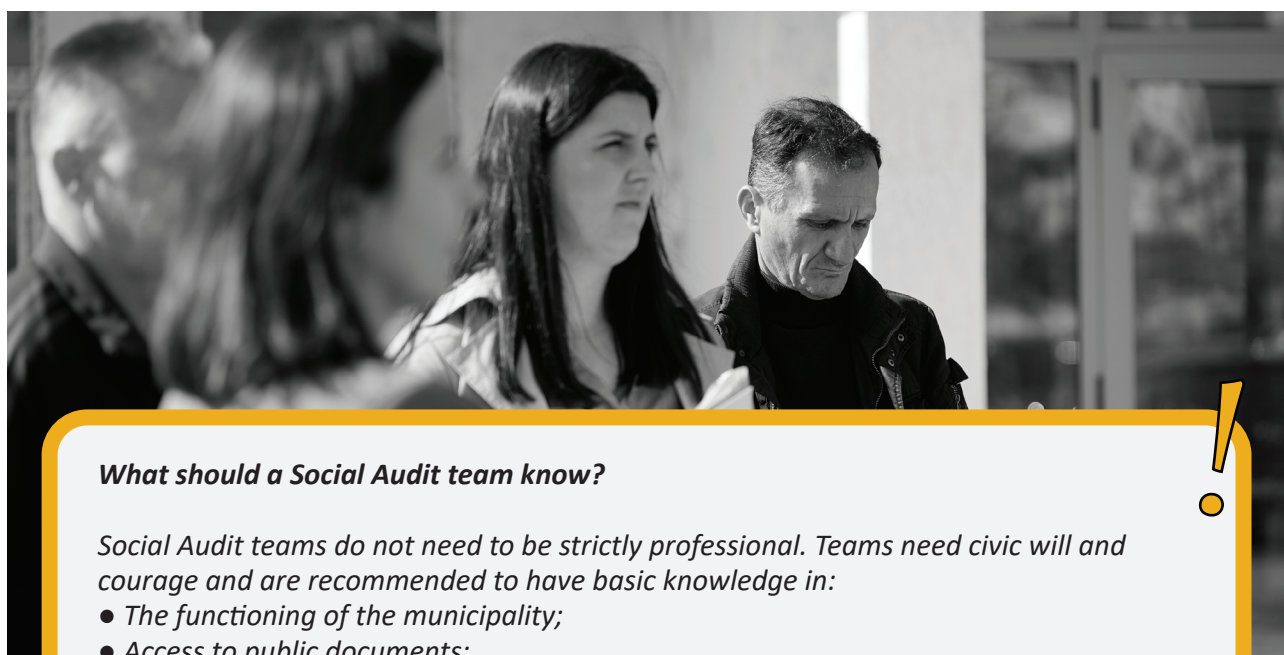
common and specific findings from the two audited projects.

Who establishes the Social Audit team?

Social Audit teams are established independently of institutions and can be formed by community representatives. Other groups too. They operate autonomously from the Government and do not require approval from public institutions for their formation.

GENERAL FINDINGS FOR BOTH PROJECTS

-  The Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić commits to holding public consultations with citizens to gather opinions, suggestions, hear requests, and address comments during the drafting of policies, strategic documents, and local sub-legal acts.
-  The municipality holds regular public meetings and consultations with citizens.
-  The participation of women in public consultation processes remains lower than that of men.
-  Both audited projects directly impact the lives of the citizens of Obiliq/Obilić Municipality. Both were community requests.
-  The municipality did not organize specific meetings to present the projects to the communities.
-  None of the bidding economic operators for both projects filed any complaints during the tendering process.
-  The municipality awarded contracts based on the criterion of the lowest responsive price.
-  The municipality published the contracts for both projects on its website.
-  However, the municipality did not proactively publish other documents, such as: Supervision Reports or Payment Invoices - which are not available on the municipality's website.
-  Executive projects for both projects are also not publicly available on the municipality's website.
-  Both projects were completed on time according to the special conditions of the contracts.



What should a Social Audit team know?

Social Audit teams do not need to be strictly professional. Teams need civic will and courage and are recommended to have basic knowledge in:

- *The functioning of the municipality;*
- *Access to public documents;*
- *The public consultation process, especially during budget and investment planning in the municipality;*
- *The Public Procurement process.*

SPECIFIC FINDINGS IN THE PROJECT

for the Construction of Parking at Social Housing Units ‘Hade’

The tender for this project failed the first time, leading to a re-tendering process.

The parking area lacks traffic signs and mirrors.

The sidewalk lacks ramps for pedestrians and wheelchairs.

No designated spaces for people with disabilities are provided in the parking area, and there is no signage.

One of the manholes remains uncovered, posing a risk to vehicles and pedestrians.

SPECIFIC FINDINGS IN THE PROJECT

for the Construction of a Park and Sports Field in Bakshi Village

The large football field, which was requested by the residents, was not included in the project

Most of the trees planted in the park have dried up, and the company has not replaced them.

An open ditch remains at the entrance of the park.

The benches installed in the park are unsuitable as they lack backrests.

The park’s parking area lacks designated spaces for people with disabilities.



The Social Audit Team

Social Audit teams are citizen groups that come together with the aim to enhance transparency and accountability in public institutions. These volunteer groups analyze processes with the goal of providing Recommendations and fostering greater citizen involvement in decision-making.

SOCIAL AUDIT ENVIRONMENT

The Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić is among the smaller municipalities in Kosovo, with a population of 21,549 residents according to the 2011¹, Census and a budget of €14,248,389.00². The municipality's budget for capital investments is small, making the assistance from the Performance Grant Project significantly impactful on the community.

Obiliq/Obilić is among the municipalities benefiting from the Municipal Performance Grant funds. The funds were allocated for the construction of parking facilities at the social housing units in 'Hade' and the construction of a park and sports field in Bakshi village.

The construction of parking facilities near the social housing units in 'Hade' is of great significance to the community, improving infrastructure and quality of life for the residents in this area. This parking facility provides 52 new parking spaces, alleviating previous parking issues and providing an organized space for residents' vehicles. Additionally, the investment includes sewer system improvements, road paving with asphalt, sidewalk enhancements,

and the installation of public lighting, making the area safer for all citizens. This project represents a significant investment in improving living conditions for the community, supporting residents in their daily lives, and making the area a more suitable place to live and move around.

The construction of a park and sports field in Bakshi village has brought a notable improvement to the daily lives of residents who face air pollution caused by the nearby power plant. This green recreational space offers them a cleaner and healthier environment, helping to improve air quality and reduce the impact of pollution on community health. The sports field and park have created opportunities for physical and social activities, especially for youth and children, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. This project has been a valuable investment in the well-being of the residents, also helping to balance the environmental impact of the power plant.



1 Population in Regions and Cities: Kosovo Agency of Statistics <https://ask.rks-gov.net/PopulationStats/PopulationByRegion> (Accessed on 28.10.2024).

2 The Obiliq Municipal Assembly Approves the 2024 Budget <https://infokomuna.com/m/sq/lajme/obilic/kuvendi-i-komunes-se-obiliqit-aprovon-buxhetin-per-vitin-2024> (last accessed on 28.10.2024)

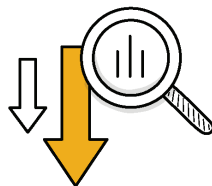
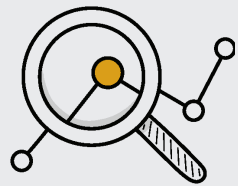
CHAPTER 1 - COMMON FINDINGS IN BOTH PROJECTS

During the Social Audit process in Obiliq/Obilić, the team addressed a range of issues discovered through document analysis and field visits. The team identified problems in the citizen consultation phase, the planning process, the tendering phase, and the implementation of contracts.

Findings in the Citizen Consultation Process

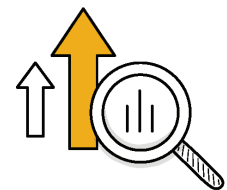
Citizens play an important role in the budget planning and development process of the municipality. This collaboration is realized through public meetings and consultations between the municipality and citizens. To analyze the level of citizen involvement in municipal decision-making, the Social Audit

Team reviewed the documentation created during meetings and consultations in Obiliq/Obilić over recent years.



Low Citizen Participation in Public Consultations in 2022

Based on the analysis of the annual report published on the website, the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić held 12 public consultations with citizens in 2022 to gather opinions, suggestions, hear requests, and address comments during the development of policy drafting procedures, strategic documents, and municipal sub-legal acts. The number of participants in public consultations in 2022 was 458, including 176 women or 38%, which is below the threshold of 3% representing sufficient citizen participation in public consultations³. The Social Audit Team identified 35 information requests submitted during these meetings, which received responses from the municipality. However, it was not specified what these requests pertained to. Additionally, these requests did not have written responses indicating whether they were accepted or rejected and the reasons for such decisions.



Increased Citizen Participation in Public Consultations in 2023-2024

Based on the analysis of the annual report published on the website, the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić held 16 public consultations in 2023, initiating for the first time a participatory budgeting project. The number of participants in public consultations in 2023 was 752, including 357 women or 47%. This citizen participation in public consultations, expressed as a percentage, represents 3% of the municipality's residents and is significantly higher than the previous year's participation. In 2024, the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić increased the number of consultations, organizing 18 public meetings with citizens. However, the minutes of these meetings are not yet publicly available on the municipality's official website.

³ As per the Municipal Performance Grant methodology, Performance Indicator 3.1.2.

Projects as a Community Need

The Parking Project near the Social Housing Units 'Hade' and the Construction of the Park with Sports Field in Bakshi village were community needs. Although the Social Audit Team did not find that these investments were presented in public consultations, they were submitted as requests in informal direct meetings with municipal officials. Regarding the construction of the park and sports field in Bakshi, the residents of this village independently developed a project and submitted it to the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić, which was later modified for budgetary reasons.

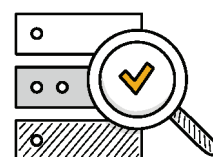


Both of these projects directly impact the lives of Obiliq/Obilić municipality citizens. The new parking spaces help alleviate daily parking issues, while improvements such as sewer system repairs, road asphalt paving, and public lighting installation ensure a safer and more organized environment in the urban area of the city. Recreational spaces and the sports field in Bakshi add value to the community, providing a clean space for physical and social activities and contributing to improved air quality.



Lack of Project Discussion with the Community

In addition to budget hearings, where the strategic direction of the budget is decided, municipalities can also conduct discussions during the drafting phase of investment projects. This practice helps ensure that projects are designed to meet the needs of citizens and avoid design errors. The team found that during the project planning phase, the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić did not organize meetings with citizens to present detailed investment projects. In such meetings, citizens could provide comments and recommendations, which could then be included in the bills of quantity. Discussing projects with benefiting citizens helps improve the quality of the projects and allows citizens to offer their input during the early stages of investment planning. Based on the findings, it appears that the municipality did not hold specific discussions or present the projects to the residents of the area, who are the beneficiaries of these projects.



Lack of Transparency in Publishing Investment Projects and Accompanying Documents

The team found that the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić published the project contracts on the municipality's official website. Additionally, preliminary estimates and cost breakdowns, including bills of quantities, were attached to the contracts. The municipality also attached documentation from the winning companies, such as the registration certificate, tender submission form, and project manager details provided by the companies. However, citizens were unable to see the designated individuals, such as contract managers from the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić.

The municipality did not publish the conceptual projects, which were obtained by the team through a request for access to public documents. The team also found that the contract managers from the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić had completed the contract monitoring report on the e-Procurement platform, uploading the invoice numbers. They also filled out the columns indicating the contract signing date, the work start date, and the contract completion date.

CHAPTER 2 - SPECIFIC FINDINGS IN THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PARKING AT SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS 'HADE'

The construction of the parking facilities at the social housing units 'Hade' represents a project of particular importance for the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić. Prior to the start of this project, a portion of the area was unsystematically arranged and faced several serious infrastructure challenges. In the absence of asphalt, the

inadequate sewage network caused water to accumulate on the surface, creating mud and difficulties for residents in their movements. Additionally, the lack of public lighting made the area unsafe at night, limiting freedom of movement and affecting the quality of life.

Reduction of the Legal Deadline for Tendering

The Social Audit Team also analyzed the project contracting process. During this phase, the team found that this process went through a re-tendering, with the Contract Notice published on July 27, 2023. The estimated contract value was €77,703, with a submission deadline of only 12 days, which is a reduction from the normal legal deadline of 20 days. The Social Audit Team reviewed the special conditions of the contract, noting that the time for completing all works was set at 90 days. The construction works for the parking area were completed on December 4, 2023. Additionally, the municipality specified

a one-year or 365-day defect liability period in the contract.

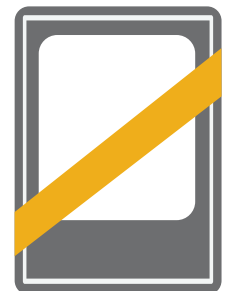
Despite the noticeable improvements in the quality of life and basic infrastructure provided by the project, the Social Audit Team identified several issues that still concern residents and can be easily addressed to enhance the safety and functionality of the space.



Lack of Traffic Signs

The absence of traffic signs, particularly those for determining right-of-way and speed limits, creates confusion and can increase the risk of accidents for drivers. Furthermore, the lack of a traffic mirror at a crucial point complicates

the safe circulation of vehicles, making movement difficult for citizens.



Ramps for Pedestrians and Wheelchairs

Another important finding of the Social Audit Team is the lack of ramps for pedestrians and wheelchairs. Although the adjusted sidewalk is not much higher than the road and parking level, the absence of ramps at every point of this sidewalk presents a significant challenge for people with disabilities and parents with children in strollers. In the parking area, there are five collective entrances for the surrounding buildings and two additional

entry points for accessing the parking area and the main road. None of these have adequate ramps to facilitate the movement of these categories of citizens. This lack creates an unnecessary barrier and reduces the possibility of equal access to public space for all users. Additionally, the sidewalk does not have special markings dedicated to visually impaired individuals.

Lack of Dedicated Parking for People with Disabilities

The Social Audit Team identified another deficiency in the project for constructing the parking area near the social housing units 'Hade.' The team noted that no dedicated parking spaces for people with disabilities were planned. This issue is particularly problematic given that individuals with disabilities live in these social housing units and need easy access and a secure, nearby space for parking their

vehicles. In addition to the lack of dedicated parking, there is also an absence of signage for people with disabilities in this area.



Lack of Waste Bins and Limited Capacity of Containers

The Social Audit Team observed a lack of infrastructure for waste management around the social housing units 'Hade', which creates difficulties for residents in maintaining the area. Public areas around the housing units lack small waste bins, contributing to littering and preventing residents from properly disposing of waste. Moreover, the parking area does not include a designated zone for placing waste containers to serve the residents of the social housing units. Currently, the waste containers are placed at a distance from the housing

units, near the church, and their capacity is insufficient, especially after the addition of two new collective buildings. The number of waste containers has remained the same, making waste management more challenging and potentially impacting hygiene and quality of life for the residents.



Problem of Uncovered Manholes

The Social Audit Team identified that one of the manholes in the parking area remains uncovered, posing a significant risk to pedestrians and vehicles. The team also found that two other manholes, planned according to the initial project, are missing from the parking area. Regarding the lack of manhole covers,

the municipality, through Deputy Mayor Ibush Mjekiqi, confirmed to the Social Audit Team that this problem has arisen in other parts of the city and is not limited to this area. This issue is due to maintenance capacity shortages. According to him, this problem will be addressed, and all open manholes will be covered.

What happens with the Recommendations?

The recommendations of the Social Audit groups serve to improve governance. The recommendations will be used to improve future Projects and to improve the current Project.



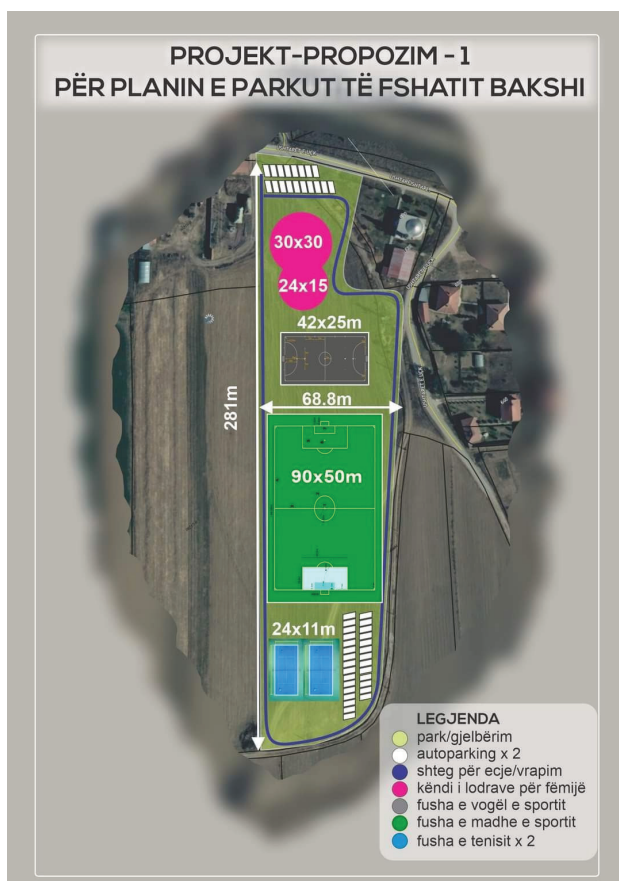
CHAPTER 3 - SPECIFIC FINDINGS IN THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARK AND SPORTS FIELD IN BAKSHI VILLAGE

The Social Audit Team found that the project for constructing the park and sports field in Bakshi village was a long-standing request and need of the residents of this village and surrounding areas. Residents, who face air pollution, needed green spaces and a dedicated area for recreation and sports activities. The team analyzed the project to determine whether it was designed to meet the needs of the local residents. The project was not designed by the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić but by the design office 'Alping

Design and Construction' based in Prishtinë/Priština, which was engaged to create the architectural project.

The Social Audit Team reviewed the project proposed by the village residents, which was submitted to the municipality. This proposal included some elements that were not reflected in the 'Alping Design and Construction' project. The residents' project proposal included the construction of a large sports field, specifically for football, and two tennis courts.

Resident's Project Proposal vs. Contracted Private Company's Project:



Although the project requested by the residents was not fully realized, the team found that this park transformed the previously neglected area, addressing community needs and improving the quality of life for all ages. However, the Social Audit Team identified several issues that were not addressed or could be improved in the future.

Drying of Trees

The Social Audit Team discovered that the contracting company did not fulfill the conditions of the bills of quantity and the contract for planting and maintaining decorative trees in the park. According to the contract, it was planned to plant 80 deciduous trees of the 'Acer Variegatum' species and 25 'Robinia pseudoacacia' (black locust) trees. Additionally, continuous maintenance of greenery through watering or replanting was required in case of drying or failure of the trees. However, from field inspections and discussions with local residents, some of whom were part of the Social Audit Team, it was found that the trees were planted. But around 70% of the trees dried up and were not replaced by the contracted company.

Open Ditch at the Park Entrance

The Social Audit Team found that there is an open ditch at the entrance of the park, which was initially planned to be covered with 800 pipes. However, during the evaluation process, this solution was considered unsuitable, and for unspecified reasons, the ditch was left open. According to the residents, this area near the ditch at the park's entrance would have been more suitable for parking. They believe that having the parking area at the entrance would have made access to the park easier. Additionally, the team noted the absence of a designated parking space for people with disabilities and signage for visually impaired individuals in the park.

Unsuitable Benches

The Social Audit Team observed that the benches installed in the park, although installed as per the contract, are unsuitable for the needs of the residents as they lack backrests. This type of design directly affects user comfort. Especially for older residents, who need better support to ensure comfortable seating during park visits. These benches are also not suitable for individuals with disabilities.

Lack of Natural Grass Football Field

The Social Audit Team identified that the sports field in the park, intended for football and basketball, was built entirely on an asphalt surface, not fulfilling the residents' request for a large football field with natural grass. The local residents had expressed a desire for a spacious and suitable area for football in meetings with municipal officials, where they also submitted their self-financed project proposal. This proposal included a space where players, especially youth, could play in safer and more comfortable conditions. The asphalt surface increases the risk of injuries, particularly during falls or collisions, and does not provide the safety that natural grass could offer.

Damage to Lights

The Social Audit Team observed that the lights on the sports field are damaged, making it impossible to hold sports activities in the evening or during periods without sunlight. This issue significantly limits the use of the field, especially for adults who can engage in sports in the afternoons or late hours. Rebuilding and maintaining the lighting is essential to ensure the full functionality of the field, enhance safety, and create a suitable environment for sports activities at any time of day.

CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS

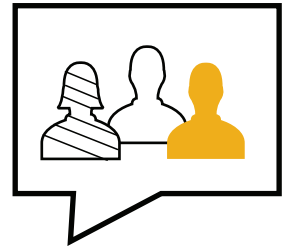
Following the Social Audit team's analysis at the project's completion, several conclusions have been drawn.

Recommendations for citizen involvement:

The municipality should organize public consultations at the initial stages of the project to discuss ideas and help identify the community's specific needs and concerns, thereby avoiding potential problems from the outset.

The municipality should take steps to involve more women in budget hearings. Meeting minutes with citizens should be more detailed and comprehensive.

The municipality is recommended to bring major projects that affect citizens' interests to special public discussions.



Recommendations for the Construction Project of Parking at Social Housing 'Hade':

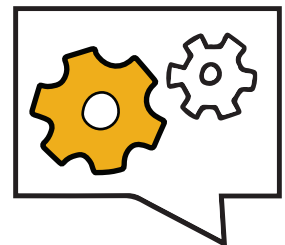
Installation of Clear Traffic Signs: Place visible and clear signs at key points to determine right-of-way and improve traffic safety. Install a mirror at points with limited visibility to increase visibility and prevent accidents.

Modification of Sidewalks for Easy Access: Adjust sidewalks near main entrances to include necessary ramps for pedestrians with strollers, mothers with children, and small children, ensuring safe and easy movement for everyone.

Dedicated Parking for People with disabilities: Designate and mark specific spaces for parking for people with disabilities, considering the number of residents with special needs to ensure equal and appropriate access.

Securing Manhole Covers and Installing Planned Manholes: Equip open manholes with secure covers to eliminate risks for citizens.

Increasing Containers to Meet New Needs: Add more waste containers to match the increase in two new collective buildings, thus increasing overall waste management capacity and reducing current overload.



Recommendations for the Construction of a Park and Sports Field in Bakshi Village:

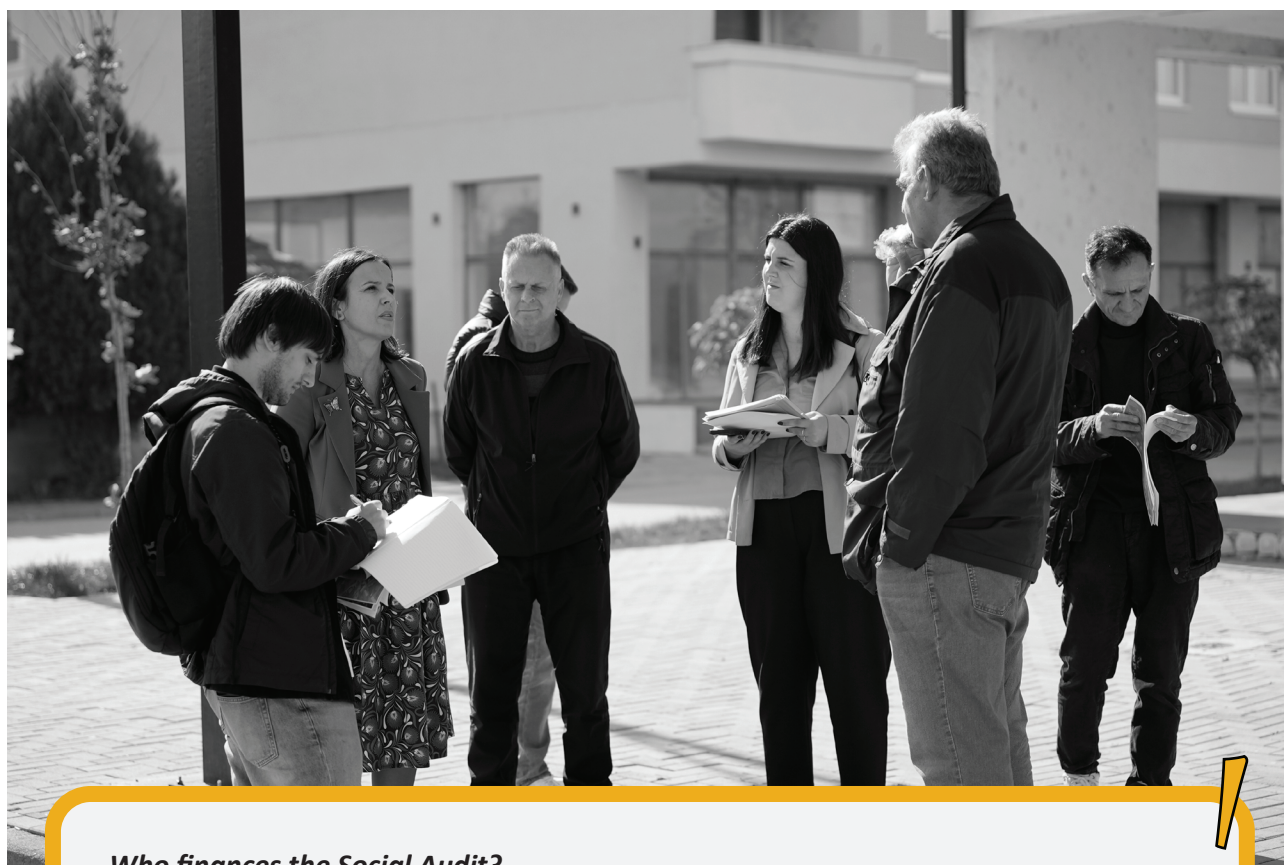
Covering the Open Ditch: Cover the open ditch with a thin layer of concrete to ensure soil stability and prevent collapses during rainfall, offering greater safety for citizens.

Replacing Trees: Replace dried trees with other more suitable species for the park's climatic conditions to ensure sustainability and a more aesthetic appearance.

Improving Benches: Replace existing benches with those that have backrests to provide more comfort for users and suit long-term use needs.

Football Field: Consider the possibility of installing goalposts on natural grass by utilizing the park's large space to create a full-sized football field.

Maintenance of Lighting: Repair and maintain lighting on the field to ensure opportunities for sports activities during the evening.



Who finances the Social Audit?

Work in the Social Audit Teams is voluntary. All costs associated with the Social Audit are covered through a co-financing agreement between the Ministry of Local Government Administration and the DEMOS Project. The public investments monitored by citizens through the Social Audit this year were funded by the Municipal Performance Grant.

METHODOLOGY

This report presents data collected from interviews, requests for access to public documents, field visits, and discussion with community. In July, DEMOS and the Ministry of Local Government Administration, based on pre-established standards, selected 11

projects in 6 municipalities of Kosovo to be included in the Social Audit process. As part of the Social Audit process, 11 projects across six municipalities were included.

Name of the Project	Municipality	Value	Project Phase at the Start of the Audit
Construction of the Klina Riverbed	Municipality of Klinë/Klina	746,046.00	Implementation
Construction of the Settler for Drinking Water Filtration	Municipality of Klinë/Klina	849,921.63	Implementation
LOT 5 - Construction and Maintenance of Paths in 'Karagaç' Park	Municipality of Pejë/Peć	234,500.00	Tendering/Implementation
LOT 6 - Construction of the Clinic in Trestenik Village	Municipality of Pejë/Peć	85,631.00	Tendering/Implementation
Expansion of the 'Martyrs of the Nation' Road - Western Entrance of the City	Gjakova/Đjakovica Municipality	1,004,545.60	Implementation
Construction of Public Spaces in the City Center	Gjakova/Đjakovica Municipality	1,187,211.72	Implementation
Construction, Treatment, and Cleaning of the Riverbed with Accompanying Structures - from the Bridge in the Center to the Transit in Malishevë	Municipality of Malisheva/Mališevo	1,487,459.74	Pre-tendering
Construction of the Kindergarten in Ruc i Ri - Phase II	Lipjan/Lipljane Municipality	247,958.69	Implementation
LOT 1 - Construction of the Sports Hall at 'Ismail Luma' School in Lipjan	Lipjan/Lipljane Municipality	248,226.45	Implementation
Construction of the Park and Sports Field in Bakshi Village	Municipality Obiliq/Obilić	164,614.17	Implementation
Construction of Parking at the Social Housing Units 'Hade' in Obiliq	Municipality Obiliq/Obilić	67,894.05	Implementation

Technical Acceptance Commission

The Technical Acceptance Commission is a professional team of the municipality that inspects the work at the end of the project. Based on the report from this team, the work is accepted, and payments are processed.

Who Established the Social Audit Group?

The Social Audit Group is a team of citizens who voluntarily respond to the initiative to engage in overseeing projects.

To ensure broad community involvement, BIRN and D+ developed a list of professions and community representatives who would be invited to join the group.

The selection criteria aimed to prioritize the inclusion of marginalized social groups such as women, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, and minority communities. The goal was to have a diverse group in terms of professions and ages to ensure inclusivity.

BIRN and D+ teams contacted over 150 citizens from 6 municipalities to invite them to join the groups. A total of 120 citizens from the targeted municipalities became part of the groups.

In Obiliq/Obilić, two groups with 20 citizens each were established to work on project oversight.

How Were the Data Collected?

For compiling this report, the established Social Audit Team used several techniques to gather data.

The team engaged in online searches for the municipality's public data. They developed a list of questions for the projects and requested information from the municipality. They sent requests for access to public documents and analyzed the documents received from the municipality. To document findings, the team conducted field visits and held meetings with municipal officials in Obiliq/Obilić.

The data in the report were collected by the 20 members of the two Social Audit Teams, and the report was drafted with the assistance and support of the D+ team. The report was made public after addressing comments received from the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić.

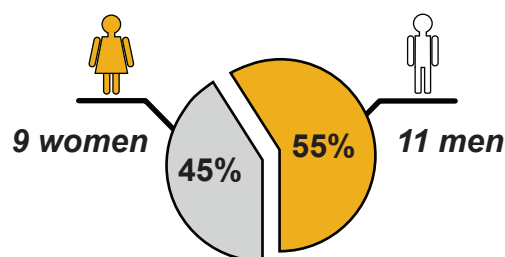
Data Validation

The two Social Audit Groups in Obiliq/Obilić worked separately to identify problems in their projects and draft the reports.

In their meetings, the groups agreed on systematic findings across both projects and specific findings for individual projects.

The teams also agreed on the recommendations presented in this report. After structuring the findings, the team met with the Deputy Mayor of the municipality and sought comments from the municipality on the report's findings. Before publication, the municipality reviewed the report, and their responses were incorporated into this report.

Team composition



Retirees; Artist; Teacher; Professors; Handikos; Activists; Residents.

Contract Supervisor

The Contract Supervisor is a person or company engaged by the Municipality. He is responsible for overseeing each phase of Contract implementation. The supervisor prepares reports for each phase.

SOCIAL AUDIT GROUP ACTIVITIES

July 2024	• Field visit • Targeting and identifying profiles that will be part of the team • Preparation of the list with the profiles of the members of the Social Audit team • Selection of team members of the Social Audit team
August 2024	• Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić • Publishing promotional materials on social media • Training for Social Auditing • Creating a group on the communication platform 'Viber' • Field visit of the team • Social Audit Team's field visit to document findings • Check the accessible materials on open platforms • Appointment of persons within the team for sending requests to the Municipality • Sending requests for access to public documents • Receiving responses from the Municipality of Obiliq
September 2024	• Training on document reading • Meeting with the Project Manager • Team's communication with the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić • Receiving additional responses related to the projects from the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić • Discussing and analyzing documents received from the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić • Analyzing materials
October 2024	• Team meeting to analyze all documents received from the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić • Recording of findings by the Social Audit team
November 2024	• Division of duties for the team members in drafting the report • Setting the structure and determining the points of writing the report • Delineate the duties for writing the report • Drafting recommendations by the team • Drafting the report on findings and recommendations by the Social Audit Team • Meeting with the Mayor of Obiliq and municipal representatives • Editing the report • Addressing comments and suggestions • Send the report to the municipality for validation • Presentation of the report to municipal officials
December 2024	• Implementation of the media campaign to promote the report • Preparing implementation plans for the recommendations and Social Audit reports by municipalities

SOCIAL AUDIT TEAM IN OBILIQ/OBILIĆ

No.	Name and Surname	Profession
1	Zelushe Kelmendi	Youth Center - Obiliq/Obilić
2	Valentina Aliu	Local Youth Action Council
3	Shaip Kurshumliu	Teacher
4	Xhemile Krasniqi	Cultural Association 'Tradita'
5	Bukurije Totaj	Teacher
6	Salih Hajra	Citizen
7	Minire Hajra	Resident
8	Fitim Sadiku	Red Cross
9	Eljesah Terbunja	'Handikos'
10	Besmira Klinaku	Political Scientist
11	Adyl Mustafa	'Roma Press Service'
12	Remzije Mustafa	'Roma Press Service'
13	Bajram Mehana	Citizen
14	Nazif Klinaku	Architect
15	Skender Berisha	Committee for Communities
16	Afrim Krasniqi	Machine Technician
17	Dafina Aliu	Psychologist
18	Dashnim Berisha	Artist
19	Ahmet Mehana	Citizen
20	Ganimete Bislimi	Citizen

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF OBILIQ/OBILIĆ

Upon receiving the information from the DEMOS Project Team, the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić has been selected for the second consecutive time among the chosen municipalities to undergo Social Audit for the projects: the construction of parking facilities at the Social Housing Units in “Hade” and the construction of a park and sports field in Bakshi village.

Funded (co-funded) by the Performance Grant, I welcomed and approved them within optimal deadlines. As the Mayor, I have expressed my full readiness and the request of the Municipal Executive to provide any documentation and information requested by you.

For this purpose, I have also engaged the Cabinet, Internal Auditor, and Civil Staff to assist you. Although for us, Social Audit has now become mandatory, it is a special honor for us to have been beneficiaries of the Performance Grant for so many years. Naturally, the Social Audit of projects funded by DEMOS and other donors is highly valued. The two projects undergoing Social Audit are of different specifics.

The project for the construction of the park and sports field in Bakshi village has a longer history due to the initial lack of public property at the location. Legal procedures were followed for exchanging properties with private owners. All procedures have been carried out in accordance with legal acts through the decisions of the Municipal Assembly. All recommendations arising from the Social Audit reflect that together we can achieve better outcomes.

For this reason, as a municipality, we are implementing Early Budgeting and Participatory Budgeting with Citizens as the most advanced methods for planning, drafting, and monitoring the budget. With the motto: “Planning together, choosing together, and enjoying together.”

Sincerely,

Xhafer Gashi

Mayor of the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić



What is the impact of Social Auditing?

Social Auditing in the Municipality of Obiliq influenced the improvement of the project oversight.

LETTER FROM THE SOCIAL AUDIT TEAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF OBILIQ/OBILIC

For our team, the Social Audit process was a new experience that brought a deeper understanding of the importance of the role citizens can play in improving local governance and community life. At the beginning, many of us were unfamiliar with this concept. However, the two-day training organized by D+ provided us with a solid foundation and a clear vision of the importance and benefits of Social Audit.

Through this training, we learned about our rights as citizens in decision-making processes, as well as the importance of transparency and accountability of public institutions. We understood how public projects are designed, what the procurement phases are, and how to monitor a public tender to ensure it is effectively implemented.

In Obiliq/Obilić, this process served as a bridge between citizens and municipal institutions, creating a platform for dialogue and collaboration. During this engagement, we visited the sites, analyzed documents, and held discussions with municipal representatives, identifying problems and offering concrete recommendations for improving the projects.

We believe that Social Audit should continue in the future, not only as a tool for increasing accountability but also for empowering citizens to actively participate in decision-making processes. This experience has made us more aware of the power of our engagement and has shown that positive changes begin with small but steady steps.

We hope our experience will serve as an inspiration for other teams and continue to drive improvements in the quality of life in our community and beyond.



The Role of Moderators in Public Discussions

Moderators play a crucial role in public discussions. Moderators should be more proactive, encouraging citizen involvement in discussions about municipal projects and budgets. They should stimulate debate and draw out ideas and proposals from participating citizens.

Who are the members of the Social Audit team?

Members of the Social Audit teams are community members who are not in conflict of interest with the project. Officers of the institution directly related to the project and the official oversight process of the project cannot be on the teams.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Sweden
Sverige