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Implemented by 
Community Building Mitrovica



Women in business
Gratë në biznes
Žene u biznisu

Stories of Empowerment: Women in Business

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Brochure for grant beneficiaries of the project ***“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in Mitrovica North/South”***.

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General Information: Introduction

Over 100 women from North and South Mitrovica, coming from different ethnic communities, rural and urban areas, have been part of the project *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovicë/a”*. The project aims to contribute towards sustainable economic and social improvement of North & South Mitrovica through inclusion of women in the private sector development and the establishment of supportive business environment for women start-up entrepreneurs.

This project is implemented by Community Building Mitrovica in partnership with D&G Solutions and is supported by the European Union Office in Kosovo, co-financed by Mitrovica South Municipality and MOTT Foundation.

Some of the main results achieved through *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovicë/a”* project implementation:

- Four (4) information meetings were organized for 100 women in North & South Mitrovica to inform them of the potential for business development and the opportunities to develop their own start-up businesses;
- Four (4) sets of trainings, consisting of 8 training sessions on business skills, were conducted for 100 women participants in the scope of 5 months. The trainings aimed to mobilize and empower the women participants with knowledge, skills, guidance and support on starting and developing a business;
- The women start-ups mentorship platform was established where 30 consultancy days were provided by experienced women mentors who shared their knowledge and expertise in the areas of business plan writing and time management with 50 women participants in the project. Of the fifty women participants in the project who requested mentoring, over 85% were successful in their grant applications and were awarded grants
- As part of the mentorship platform a multi-functional, bilingual and interactive web portal was launched, through which the mentorship relationships continued.
- 33 women participants of the project from Mitrovica South and North were granted a total amount of 112,500.00 Euro for their business ideas and plans. From the total of more than 100 women participants in the project, over 50% submitted business plans for sub-grants. From the total number of applications received, 33 were awarded with grant support. From the 33 awarded grantees, 75% are newly registered businesses, while the rest are businesses established no later than two years ago;
- After the grants were awarded, the 33 women entrepreneurs received 192 consultancy hours for marketing/branding by experienced consultants. These consultancy workshops provided continued support for the grantees in order to equip them with the necessary skills to run their newly established businesses and to realize their full potential;

Fatmire Musa



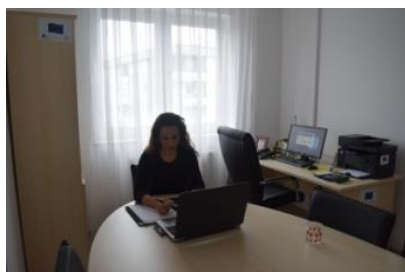
*Fatmire Musa I.B.
Seamstress/dressmaker "Blerta"
Grant Beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

I have practiced this profession for over 30 years; however, before I registered my business, I was working from my home. I have always been open to opportunities for training because I consider them very beneficial, so when I heard about this project I decided to join. Initially, the trainings were a great experience and quite encouraging. Among other things the experience from them has given me the courage to always have a positive approach to things. Later, I applied for a grant because I had a need for professional equipment and I also registered my business following all legal procedures. I obtained a grant of EUR 2,500.00 to purchase sewing machines, each with a specific function contributing to the final product, making my work much easier and faster. This grant has given me the courage to continue my ongoing engagement in this profession.

In addition, the consultancy sessions conducted after obtaining the grant have been quite useful in my continuous efforts to strengthen my business.

Contact -Address: St. "Martirët e Kombit", Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 377 44 530 162

Nora Hasani Tahiri



*Nora Hasani Tahiri I.B.
Accounting services
Grant beneficiary: € 3,000.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

I've always had a dream to have my own business. Through various researches, I came across Community Building Mitrovica and the project *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in Mitrovica North/South”*. The training modules were very helpful for me and I have learned more practical concepts than I had during my studies. We have also created bridges of cooperation with women participants from North Mitrovica, breaking all barriers and establishing friendly relationships with the hope to further progress together.

During the drafting of my business plan my mentor was very supportive. My business has emerged from this project. I had my education; however, the grant I received enabled me to purchase computers and advanced technology, which is a necessity for a software accounting business. Today with my business we offer accounting services, processing of tax obligation, managerial consultancy, bookkeeping, etc.

This grant enabled me to realize my business idea. It came at the right moment for me and it has affected my life in a very positive way, by providing me with the opportunity to become a woman entrepreneur, have a stable job, and achieve financial independence. I do believe that I have created a solid ground to further challenge myself in this area, to grow further in my career, to enhance my business and to be able to create employment opportunities for others.

With my accounting services I aim to also support other businesses that have emerged from this project.

Contact -Address: St. "Agim Ramadani", Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 377 44 431 817

Jelena Spasojević



*Jelena Spasojević I.B.
Architecture design
Grant beneficiary: € 3,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

I participated in the project *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in Mitrovica North/South”* implemented by Community Building Mitrovica for a year. I was inspired by the idea of the project to encourage women to start their own businesses and was interested to share ideas with others and to continue to improve myself.

Project bureau "Jelena Spasojevic IB" is a company for architectural services, such as design of commercial, residential, industrial and other facilities, interior and exterior design, reconstruction and renovation of space, exterior design, and consultations regarding design and construction, 3D visualization and others.

The idea to start this business was formed much earlier, when I was at the university. Given that the company is still in development and this is just the beginning, I am thrilled and expect great results. Thanks to the grant I received from the EU and the help CBM staff provided along the way, I had the opportunity to grow and the possibility to cooperate with other businesswomen and finally start my own company.

What I would emphasize as an advice for all women is: "Never give up on your dreams and ideas, because the effort is worth it." With the right support, success is guaranteed. CBM staff and the EU want to support success and further the work for women entrepreneurs. I hope that we see more of these projects in the future.

Violeta Hajdari



*Violeta Hajdari I.B.
Agricultural business
Grant beneficiary: € 4,500.00
Location: village Zijaqë/a, Mitrovicë/a*

Agriculture has been a family tradition and we have worked in this field in the past, however, we officially registered the business once we received the grant, which means it was as a result of this project. I have received from this project a grant of 4,500.00 Euro, which was a sufficient amount to purchase all the necessary agricultural equipment in order to advance my business. We produce dairy products and we cultivate fruits and vegetables.

Our family consists of eight (8) family members and the main income of the family is ensured from this business. The official start of my business happened after I became participant in the project *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in Mitrovica North/South”*. I am very happy as in addition to the fact that I am empowered from trainings, sessions and mentoring, I also strengthened my ability to support my family, in an area where we face considerable difficulties, lack of attention and investments and also lack of infrastructure. I am very optimistic for the future as this grant has affected me positively and impacted directly the growth of my business.

Thank you for this opportunity, as your assistance is extremely important since it provided me with additional motivation for the future. I do hope that my business grows further with the potential to employ additional workers and, thus, contribute to the economic development of my village, Ziaq.

Contact- Address: “Ziaq” Village, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 386 49 515 007

Arjeta Beqiri



*Arjeta Beqiri I.B.
Seamstress/ dressmaker
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

Before I joined this project, I utilized my seamstress skills only for household needs. After taking part in the initial session where project *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovicë/a”* was presented with the opportunities for support to start-up businesses, I was inspired with the thought that I might be one of those women and make my dream of starting my own business come true. While being engaged in training modules, the path was wide open for me to apply for support. Another important benefit, which came from the training modules, was a network established with women beneficiaries from North and South Mitrovica.

As a result of this project, I was offered the chance to start a business, which has made me self-employed and now guarantees more economic independence for my family and me. With the grant I purchased four (4) sewing machines and an industrial iron. With these new tools my work now is much easier, efficient and effective - the demand has increased and the interest from customers as well. As a result, I have changed the location of my business and have moved to the center of the town. My confidence in my work has grown and I will not hesitate to further invest in my business, especially now that I have this equipment and would like to get the best out of it.

Contact - Address: ‘St. “Mbretëresha Teutë”, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 386 49 428 088

Olga Ilić



Olga Ilić I.B.

***Printing, copying, stamps, maintenance
of office equipment and translation***

Grant beneficiary: € 4,500.00

Location: Mitrovicë/a

PP Center provided services of printing, copying, stamps, maintenance of office equipment and translation into English. Due to obsolescence of equipment our quality of printing and copying services began to decline. In addition to standard translation services, printing, copying, stamps and maintenance of office equipment, it was necessary to modernize our services and introduce more innovative technologies. 3D printing has become an indispensable part of print services in the modern world. The purchase of a 3D printer and a scanner enables citizens and students of architecture, civil and mechanical engineering to design plans in a new, more attractive visual form. In addition, there is an increasing number of construction firms, which have the need to create 3D scale models.

There was an expected increase in our workload after the start of the academic year and with the help of marketing campaigns in the local media. Because of the additional work needed for the 3D printing, our business employed a new staff member - a graduate engineer of Informatics. The introduction of 3D printing to PP Centar Student helped us remain a leader in the field of services provided and to impose new standard for other companies in the same business field.

Hard work, quality services and expanding the number of services provided guarantees success at work, and, therefore, in life.

Contact - Address: Mitrovica/ë; Mob: +381658489558

Zyla Ramadani



*Zyla Ramadani I.B.
Beauty salon – Hairdresser 'Zyla&Dafina'
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Zhabar, Mitrovicë/a*

I am a hairdresser who provides services, such as: haircut, hair color, manicure, pedicure, etc. I was interested to be a part of this project since it was recently launched and I knew that I would gain more knowledge, which would serve to manage my business in a more professional manner. Trainings have helped me with most of the things I have learned, which previously I was not aware of, and I found to be very important to apply in my business practice. In my life I never had the opportunity to meet women from the Serb community, while now I have created new friendships and expanded my network of friends.

Since I have applied with my business plan and won a grant, I managed to enhance my business with the following items: chairs, lavatest, waxing bed, chair for make-up. Thanks to this grant now I have comfortable conditions in my business. All of this has enabled me to serve my clients in the best possible way, while overall there has been a 60% positive change in my business. I have also been able to hire two new employees.

I call upon all women not to hesitate and to participate in such trainings as they are essential, necessary and excellent opportunity for success in their work and future plans.

Contact - Address: Zhabar, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 377 45 576 439

Xhevahire Selmani



*Xhevahire Selmani I.B.
Seamstress "Vlera"
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

Seamstress is the profession that I have practiced for almost 25 years and I have inherited from my grandmother. Before my participation in this project I worked only with basic tools. Since I benefited a grant in the amount of EUR 2,500.00 my workplace has been completed.

This support has enabled me to obtain the very best equipment for my work. This financial support made my work easier, faster and better. I have participated in this project, which has been a great help to my business, since the beginning. I have participated in all training modules and have strengthened further my knowledge regarding business management and budgeting. With the incomes generated from my business I assist my household and pay for the education of my children. Furthermore, the income from my business has contributed to my financial independence.

Finally, I want to thank the European Union Office in Kosovo, Municipality of Mitrovica South and MOTT Foundation. I invite you to continue with such support for women because the need is great, and to Community Building Mitrovica, I will be forever grateful.

Contact - Address: St. "Mbretëresha Teutë", Mitrovicë/a; Mob: +377 44 330 125

Ivana Radovanović



*Ivana Radovanović I.B.
Bee keeping
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

The first time I applied for this project was in December 2015. My business is based primarily on beekeeping, with the hope for expansion of the business in the future. With this business I decided to help myself and also provide jobs for others. The business is based on honey production, but with the tendency to expand the production to other honey based products. The business is now in its initial phase and due to the nature of the business the first results can be expected in the spring.

The grant provided enabled me to start a business with the investment of my own funds. Without this grant I would not have been able to implement my idea.

I hope all women succeed in their business. It is important to identify what you really love, because you will then make extra efforts to become more successful. The trainings and study visits organized were crucial for me because I'm new in the business field.

Contact - Address: Mitrovicë/a; Mob: +381642349444;

Melihat Beshiri



Melihat Beshiri I.B. - "DigiMeli Farm"

Aromatic / medicinal herbs

Grant beneficiary: €5,000.00

Location: Suhodoll, Mitrovicë/a

My participation in this project brought much-needed change in my life, starting with the trainings where I learned a lot about business and exchanged ideas and opinions with other women participants. My business idea, derived with inputs provided to us during the trainings and realized after I received the grant, has to do with the cultivation, collection and drying of herbs. The product is on the market and they can be used as different tea and other medicinal products that belong to alternative medicine. These plants are of great value and have very positive effect on consumers, which has given me extra motivation to focus in this field. If I was not part of this project I do not think that such a unique business can exist in Mitrovica region.

The grant I received has brought me economic independence and contributes to my family's income.

Thank you to the entire CBM staff that have enabled us to start these businesses, while I urge the European Union to continue such support with different projects, which aim at women empowerment.

Sadije Beqiri



Sadije Beqiri I.B. – “Forta”
Seamstress
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a

The project *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovicë/a”* has educated me on how to build and run a business. I am a seamstress and started with this profession in my house with only two sewing machines and the quality of my work was not that good. With the grant of 2,500.00 Euro I received, I managed to buy five (5) machines and one (1) professional industrial iron. Everything has changed for the better for my business - my work is more effective, efficient and very professional. With my business I am able to support my family of six (6).

I call upon other women to never lose faith and try their best for their future because you can make it in your life as I did along with thirty-two other grant beneficiaries of the project.

My message for European Union, MOTT Foundation, and Municipality of South Mitrovica is to continue their support for women, while I congratulate the implementing organizations for their work for the citizens of Mitrovica.

Contact - Address: St. “Ahmet Selaci”, Mitrovicë ; Mob: + 386 49 553 904

Gordana Peci



*Gordana Peci I.B.
Grant beneficiary: € 3,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

My idea was to establish a private company because I did not have a job and I am a single mother. The idea was me and my son, who is currently a student, to work together as both of us are not employed. Before I have worked in a pizzeria and a fast food restaurant and I consider that I have the experience to begin with my business with the help of this grant. I'm new in this business but I had help with a grant.

The grant will help us with the startup costs, as I needed some machines without which I couldn't start the business. Now it will be much easier to make my dream come true.

My recommendation is for people to put in the effort to educate themselves and to write proposals. With our work we can succeed in getting grants and support for starting a business.

Contact - Address: *Mitrovica/ë*; **Mob:** +381669273185;

Remzije Misini



Remzije Misini I.B. - "Punëdore Remka"
Seamstress (tailoring of national costumes)
Grant beneficiary: EUR 2,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a

The main motivation for my participation in the project *"Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovicë/a"*, was my need for personal capacity building in entrepreneurship, as I was already in my first steps in business. The knowledge that I gained during the trainings was new for me, as I did not have all this information before but now I apply it in my daily work. During this time we also shared the content of the trainings, our business ideas, as well as various family topics with women from the South and from the North.

After applying for the grant, I was lucky enough to be among the selected beneficiaries. I was granted with three (3) sewing machines and one (1) iron. With the new tools from this grant compared to the old ones I had, which were the reason why I considered withdrawing from this business, my work is much easier and more improved. These machines have increased the productivity and capacity of my work. We hope to gain visa liberalization soon, which will give us the opportunity to sell our products to the diaspora/abroad, as there is a great demand there.

With this business I support my entire family and I also pay for the education of my two children. I am very thankful to the donors: European Union, Municipality of Mitrovica South and MOTT Foundation.

Contact - Address: St. "Mbretëresha Teutë", Mitrovicë/a;
Mob: + 386 49 253 003; **FB Page:** facebook.com/pune.dorem

Sebahate Mehmeti



Sebahate Mehmeti I.B. - "MJEDRA"
Farm: cultivation and sale of raspberries
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Bajgorë, Mitrovicë/a

I had a good time and I learned a lot during the trainings organized by CBM as part of the project *"Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovicë/a"*. The knowledge I gained was ultimately rewarded as I applied with my business plan and was awarded a grant.

My family members and I live in the village Bajgorë and we cultivate and sell raspberries. An industrial freezer and refrigerator are very important in order to preserve the freshness of the raspberries. With the EUR 2,500.00 grant we benefited several equipment items, such as: freezer, refrigerator, scythe and all other means necessary for our business activities. Before this project, our family worked only on a ten (10) acre plot. The new work equipment made it possible to start the cultivation of raspberries in another ten (10) acres. My family and I have had the land and the will to work but have lacked the financial means, and with this grant our business activities have increased with 100%. Now the work is easier and more comfortable. We sell our products in three Kosovo municipalities: Mitrovica, Vushtri and Podujeva. The incomes from this business ensure the survival of my family and the education of my kids.

I hope that this work will continue and I am very thankful to CBM and all donors.

Contact - Address: Bajgorë/a, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 386 49 225 906

Stana Jovanović



*Stana Jovanović I.B.
Production of paper
Grant beneficiary: € 3,000.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

I participated in the project implemented by NGO CBM for a year. I started this idea for a family business to bring income for our family.

My business is producing paper rolls for fiscal cash registers and printers for different companies. We were the first company in Mitrovica delivering such product.

Through this project we managed to receive a grant that will help us secure financial stability but also expand our business. With the grant we purchased the best quality equipment available, which ensures the quality of our products.

What I would emphasize to all women is: Never give up on your dreams and ideas. Do not be discouraged by your age, you just need to follow your dreams.

Contact - Address: *Mitrovicë/a* ; **Mob:** +381645016000;

Lendita Haxhiu



***Lendita Haxhiu I.B.
Agriculture (mowing, sheaves, tillage and soil
processing)
Grant beneficiary: € 5,000.00
Location: village Bajgorë/a, Mitrovicë/a***

My business idea was developed during the training modules I attended. My family and I live in the village Bajgorë/a where we offer a variety of agricultural services. I took part in the training courses, which were very helpful to gain knowledge regarding the business environment and gave us the courage and confidence to move further. With the assistance of the women mentors and based on the knowledge that I gained from the training modules I developed a business plan. Now I am among the thirty-three (33) women grant beneficiaries and as a result have been able to register my business and to grow. Via this grant I was able to purchase equipment in order to provide services such as: mowing, sheaves, plowing and cultivation of the land for other farmers and for other residents who work in agriculture and live in the region of Shala. The grant has additionally helped us increase our incomes and ensure employment of additional staff, despite the fact that we already had two employed workers.

I wish that there are opportunities for more similar training modules in the future, as well as grants and other forms of support for women in order to enhance their capacities, to establish businesses and to initiate such activities, leading towards their economical independence.

Contact - Address: Bajgorë/a village, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 386 49 170 830

Valbone Sadiku



*Valbone Sadiku I.B. - Honey Center "ENSAR"
Beekeeping (production of honey and antibiotic
products)*

Grant beneficiary: € 3,200.00

Location: Shupkovc, Mitrovicë/a

The business that I lead - Honey Center 'Ensar' - has been operating since 2005 as a household business that started with four (4) bee hives. Now we produce several types of honey: acacia, mountain and chestnut; two antibiotic products with geese fat and honey with ginger, propolis and pollen against stomach issues. Although my business is developed, we were experiencing major delays with our equipment for collecting honey that were causing additional challenges in the work process. With this grant I have benefited with an entire new technology for collecting honey. This has made our work much easier, more hygienic and producing better quality honey – our productivity is much higher as well. In the past I was collecting the honey with an average loss of up to 20% of honey. With the new equipment I have no losses. Immediately after receiving the grant I employed a woman. This business provides the income for my entire family, consisting of six members (6). This project has also introduced us to so many women in the same field of beekeeping, who I have been able to meet and exchange ideas with.

If the project donors decide to further support women entrepreneurs in Mitrovica Region, I would suggest that they continue to engage Community Building Mitrovica which has successfully implemented this project.

Contact - Address: Shupkovc, Mitrovicë/a; **Mob:** + 386 49 400 066; **FB Page:** facebook.com/pages/Bletaria-Ensar

Habiba Buševac



Habiba Buševac I.B. – "BibaCom"
Production of leather purses
Grant beneficiary: € 3,300.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a

This project involved nearly a year of intensive trainings by CBM. My business idea was production of women handbags, kits, belts, gloves and more. For my products I use recycled cardboard and textiles.

My hope is that the business of manufacturing women handbags and accessories will expand in the rest of Kosovo and the international market.

Currently we manufacture women handbags from faux leather with the help of industrial machines for leather and vinyl. The grant I received through this project has facilitated the process of coloring and processing of the handbags and accessories.

My message is that you should not give up on your dreams and goals. My plans for the future are to create new jobs and expand my production.

Contact – Address: Mitrovicë/a; **Mob:** +381642871229, +37744791937

Edita Berani



*Edita Berani I.B.
Laser machine for engraving
Grant Beneficiary: € 3,000.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

My business idea was developed during my participation in the organized training modules, after which I won the grant and managed to obtain a laser machine for engraving.

During the development of my business plan idea I decided to pursue this equipment as such business activity is very rare in Mitrovica and I do believe that there is a market for such services.

These grants have also offered me a place to work and will contribute as well to my household income. This business works through order request from clients and I have already started my work, as we engrave souvenirs, glasses, and also produce stamps.

I'm very thankful to CBM as without their help neither I, nor the majority of these women out there, would be able to start or support their current businesses. We also would not have been able to create these job opportunities for us. A special gratitude goes to the EU, Municipality of South Mitrovica and MOTT Foundation – which have cofounded jointly this project for empowering the women of Mitrovica.

Contact – Address: Mitrovicë/a; Mob:+386 49 211 811

Lutfije Kurshumliu



*Lutfije Kurshumliu I.B. – “Sofra”
Gastronomy
Grant beneficiary: € 3,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

When I heard about the project *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovicë/a”* I saw it as a potential good opportunity for myself to enhance my capacity. At this stage I want to be more productive in my business for me personally and also for my family members. Since I am gifted in cooking and gastronomy in general, my business idea was to open a bakery, an idea that I have had before but I lacked the financial support to realize it. After participating in this project and with the grant support from Community Building Mitrovica I started implementing my idea with the registration of my business. Through this business, more specifically this bakery, I will be able to offer products such as: rolls, croissants, toasts and variety of sandwiches. This grant has been a good incentive and opportunity for advancement for me personally to start this business and with this support to make my dream come true. The income from this business will help cover my costs and household expenses.

This dream of mine will not be possible without the support of CBM, the European Union and other major donors, to whom I am very grateful.

Contact: Address: St. “Muhamet Gashi”, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: +386 49 320 501

Snežana Nestorović



*Snežana Nestorović I.B.
Ice cream / Fast food
Grant beneficiary: € 4,000.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

I heard first about this project started by CBM from the media and learned that it will help women engage in various businesses. I attended several workshops that helped me develop skills in writing business plans and, later, received support for the project I applied with. With the funds I received I started producing ice cream and frozen yogurt.

My idea was to buy a machine for ice cream and frozen yogurt and two showcases (cold and warm). I already had a machine for French pancakes and chimney cake.

My company is newly established and with the newly purchased equipment I started a family business, as my children are grown-up and unemployed. I also think that my idea is suitable for the place where we live. Mitrovica as a student city has many consumers of my products. However, even besides that, my products do not have limitations and are consumed by everybody.

With everything I mentioned I think that my business will be successful and there is a real opportunity for me to expand it across all of Mitrovica area. Also I plan to work for different events as well and, therefore, employ more people in the future. The partial grant I received helped; however, I did not get the full requested amount in order for me to fully implement my idea.

Contact: Address: Mitrovicë/a; Mob: +381655299697;

Sanije Xhaferi



***Sanije Xhaferi I.B. – “Sana”
Seamstress
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a***

I have worked as a tailor for a long time, as an employee in different businesses. I have practiced this profession for over 15 years, however, without equipment and financial support I was not able to open my own tailoring business and be able to work independently. With the current grant by Community Building Mitrovica within the project *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovicë/a”* it finally became possible for me to open my own shop and provide tailoring services.

Two (2) sewing machines, one (1) working table and one (1) iron along with a table and other additional equipment have completed my business and my work is much easier and more professional. In addition to the customers I have had before, the new space with functional machines has increased the number of customers who trust me for their tailoring needs.

With this business I support my family and I must admit that this project has been very suitable and helpful for us.

Teuta Kurti



*Teuta Kurti I.B.
Agriculture
Grant beneficiary: € 4,500.00
Location: village Vllahi, Mitrovicë/a*

I wanted to be a part of this project from the first time I heard about it, in order to enhance my capabilities and to progress further. And this is how my journey started. When we started with the training modules I was very excited because I knew that my horizons would expand. We were taught how to move further successfully, and especially those of us who have been involved in businesses were inspired with new ideas. With each training and activity I felt more empowered with knowledge and skills in the business area and I gained great confidence.

I come from a family where agriculture is part of our tradition. From an early age I started to support my family. We plant corn, prepare food for livestock and produce dairy products. As a result of this project, I was able to register the business and take a leading role. As an unregistered business, our family business was very unstable. After obtaining the grant we have made significant steps forward in all aspects with emphasis on our business sustainability. For this I am very grateful and thankful to EU and other donors including the implementing partners Community Building Mitrovica and D&G Solutions.

With the equipment purchased with the grant in the amount of 4,500.00 Euro the work is now much faster and easier – while the expenses are much lower. Before the grant we had to pay other people in the village for various agriculture services, while now we save this money and we use it for investment and growth of our business.

Contact - Address: Vllahi village, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 386 49 334 618

Margareta Spasojević



*Margareta Spasojević I.B.
Architecture
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

I applied for this project in 2015, when I saw advertisement in the media and I have been a part of the project since.

My business services include architectural design and technical acceptance of different infrastructure projects with certified experts. In addition, I also cooperate with a group of experts on various other projects. I received support from my family for my business idea and they provided me with a lot of help throughout.

Our company is comprised of different experts in the fields of infrastructure upgrades, architectural design, and also acceptance and monitoring of projects. We now have contracts with some institutions in Mitrovica North and we plan to expand in other municipalities as well.

The business is now in its initial phase but we already have results and signed contract with the municipality. This project has provided my business with equipment that is first of its kind in North Kosovo and also with mentoring and consulting to expand markets and areas of services provided.

Courage and will are needed to realize your idea. Sometimes it may take longer but you need to be persistent and not to give up easily on the first obstacle.

Contact - Address: St. "Knjaza Milosa", Mitrovica/ë; Mob: +381669083589

Hidajet Rexha



Hidajet Rexha I.B. – “Prodhime si n’shpi”

Manufacturing products

Grant beneficiary: €4,000.00

Location: Mitrovicë/a

I have been a part of this project and the training organized from the very beginning. I had a basic knowledge and skills, but I was able to expand greatly my knowledge. I think that many women participating in the trainings were able to refine their ideas on how to create a business and adapt to the specific circumstances and opportunities whether they live in a village or town.

I lead a business called ‘Prodhime si n’shpi’ where my entire family is involved and is currently the only source of income for us. The business offers products, such as ajvar, milk, yogurt, homemade lang, processing of fruits and vegetables, etc. Our business has been in operation for a while, however, the grant of 4,000.00 Euro has been of great help for us. With the equipment purchased from this grant, our work is now more efficient and we have increased our production capacities and it has enabled us to hire another worker.

This project has drawn attention to the will of women and their enthusiasm to engage in the labor market and be active. They just need a little push and support so they can develop their ideas and move forward, which usually does not happen because of the lack of resources and opportunities. The support from Community Building Mitrovica and the donors has been a good example and a good gesture for the women.

Contact - Address: St. “Hasan Prishtina”; **Mob:** + 386 49 660 424

Hanife Hamiti



*Hanife Hamiti I.B.
Beauty salon (waxing and other treatments)
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Tuneli i Parë, Mitrovicë/a*

In the training organized by Community Building Mitrovica as part of this project, I gained all the knowledge and lessons needed in order to start a business. All participants also gained a lot of ideas as what type of business to develop further. Also my business idea has involved from this project, which is provides waxing, body treatments and facial treatments, as well as raising awareness in women of the importance of regular and professional treatment for their face and body. I obtained a grant with which I purchased all necessary equipment for the business, which currently operates in the region of Shala and serves 37 villages.

I received this grant at the right time, having in mind some of the challenges that I have had in my personal life, and it was a very welcomed timing for me personally. It is true that I had ideas before as well, but I lacked the tools and financial support in order to implement them. My aim is to further develop my business, grow and expand it and create employment opportunities for young unemployed women in the community where I live.

I am grateful to Community Building Mitrovica, the European Union in Kosovo, Municipality of Mitrovica South, MOTT Foundation.

Contact - Address: Tuneli i Parë, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 377 44 330 542

Qefsere Kadriu



*Qefsere Kadriu I.B.
Agriculture: Quail farm
Grant beneficiary: € 4,000.00
Location: Lushtë, Mitrovicë/a*

I have worked in the quail business before my participation in the CBM project, but without this grant support I would not have been able to continue with this business, as I would not have been able to manage the high expenses that such business requires. With this grant we obtained one hundred and twenty two (123) cages for quail birds and an incubator with a capacity of up to 1200 quail eggs. The new cages have substituted the older cages and now our work is much easier and more hygienic. The support given to me provided us with stability for my business and also contributed to the expansion of my business.

I encourage donors to continue supporting such initiatives. I also thank Community Building Mitrovica and I call upon women to engage and benefit from these opportunities.

Contact - Address: Lushtë, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: +386 49 456 549 or + 377 44 196 693

Miljana Mitrović



*Miljana Mitrović I.B.
Gastronomy: Fast food
Beneficiaries of the grant: € 2,500.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

Our business idea, before we were engaged in this project, was to start a business, which will enable us to offer gluten-free food, vegetarian food, and fish and also to prepare fast food having in mind the needs of our clients. Thanks to this project and the grant I received, I have started this business. The training modules have helped me learn how to do business and how to develop interpersonal skills with workers, as well as with my clients. Having in mind that I just started this business I am already seeing the benefits and I am also satisfied with the interest from the clients in the products we are offer. Due to the equipment that we have received via this grant we have become effective and efficient, leading towards further development of our business.

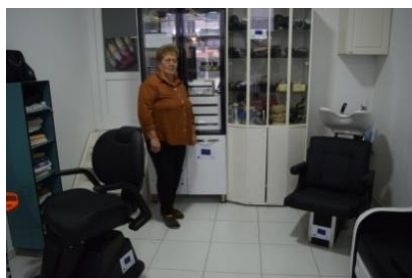
My message to all young people who are willing to run such business is to choose what they like the most and this way give their best efforts towards the success of the business, which will lead to the greatest satisfaction as the business grows.

I also recommend to everyone whenever you have the opportunity to attend educational training to do so as these trainings are very beneficial and there is so much to learn.

Our plans and hopes are to fully develop the business, win over more customers and expand further.

Contact - Address: Mitrovicë/a; Mob: +381645997625

Emine Haxhiu



*Emine Haxhiu I.B.
Hairdresser
Grant beneficiary: € 2,500.00
Location: Shipol, Mitrovicë/a*

I heard about this project for the first time from other women. I expressed interest in participating in the project and began to attend the trainings where we learned all about building and managing a successful business. Among other things we also created a good social network with other women helping and cooperating with one another in order to achieve our goals. Based on the knowledge that I have received during the trainings, I developed a business plan with which I applied for, and was awarded a grant of € 2,500.00 to purchase inventory and equipment necessary to start a hairdresser business. I have practiced this profession for a long time and I always wanted to advance in this business. As a result of this project, I now have a registered business that otherwise would not have happened since I had not been able to cover the expenses. The new improved conditions of work have helped me and created additional willingness to continue my work, which is now conducted in much faster and efficient way.

The services that my business offers are: haircut, dyeing, waxing etc. Revenues from this business are covering all my expenses and also support my household. Another result of this grant is the fact that I was able to hire a worker.

Thank you for the support to CBM for the organization and implementation of the project and also to those who have funded this project.

Adile Istrefi



Adile Istrefi I.B. – Chicken Farm “Nardi Group”
Agriculture
Grant beneficiary:€ 5,000.00
Location: village Bajgorë/a, Mitrovicë/a

My business was born from the project *“Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovicë/a”*. It is "Nardi Group" and deals with the cultivation of birds, poultry and chicken egg production. With the grant in the amount of EUR 5,000.00 I received through this project, I purchased equipment - an incubator that serves the birds with capacity of up to 1000 birds and a water motor. I also conducted renovation of the space for placing the birds. The idea for this business came during the organized trainings I attended. Since I live in the village Bajgorë, I thought that such activity is very suitable for the life circumstances and conditions in the countryside.

This work has its own challenges, but I am very pleased and grateful for the support received, which is of great importance especially for women like me, who have been housewives. I think this project has been especially motivating for those of us who live in rural areas and do not have many opportunities to develop, so I hope it sets a good example for other women in the region where I live.

Thank you!

Contact - Address: Bajgorë/a, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 386 49661780

Nadire Hasani



Nadire Hasani I.B. - "Sofra"

Agriculture (cultivation of fruits and vegetables)

Grant beneficiary: € 5,000.00

Location: Frashër, Mitrovicë

The business that I lead "Sofra" offers household products, such as chutney/ajvar, different types of jam, pickled products and other variety. We cultivate the raw products, such as fruits and vegetables, and this is where we faced challenges due to the lack of funds for soil processing and other needs. With the current grant we are able to do work with our own equipment compared to previous times when we had to pay for such engagements. The new equipment covers our needs for plowing, watering and soil processing, hence, our production process is much more efficient, and also my children are assisting us in the business. Now the costs that we had to pay others for assistance can be saved and instead invested in the growth of our business, the further education of my three (3) children, and contribution to our household income.

My future plan is to open a mini-factory and employ up to ten (10) women. I want to thank Community Building Mitrovica and other donors for the support in growing my business.

Contact -Address: Frashër, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 386 49 104 412; Email: nadirehasani@outlook.com

Rejhane Doroci



Rejhane Doroci I.B. - 'Doroci'
Furnace dryer
Grant beneficiary: € 4,000.00
Location: Broboniq, Mitrovicë/a

I initially decided to participate in the project *"Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovica"* in order to learn new things, which I knew will serve me in the future. Once I had the support of my family, who work in the area of production and processing of fruits and vegetables, I applied for a grant and became one of the grant beneficiaries of the project. The equipment, which I obtained through the grant, serves for drying fruits and vegetables that we cultivate, a business, in which I have experience. This support has been a great help to shape the business that my family and I practice, as it has guaranteed personal income. During the season I think I will hire a worker, as my hopes and plans are to expand the business further. I am very appreciative of the wonderful support that I have received from Community Building Mirovica's staff, as support was given during each phase of our work. My message for the European Union and other donors regarding this project is that I must admit it has been very helpful for the women of Mitrovica and I do hope that such grant support will continue with similar projects in order to further empower women in business and include them in the labor market.

Contact - Address: Village Broboniq, Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 386 49294940

Ajten Sahatçiu



*Ajten Sahatçiu I.B.
Gastronomy: Fast food
Beneficiaries of the grant: €3,000.00
Location: Mitrovicë/a*

I was informed for this project from the beginning and participated in the information sessions where I immediately expressed my wish to participate in the training sessions. The trainings have been effective and what impressed me the most, unlike other trainings that I have attended earlier, was that at every step we were informed about everything in regards to the implementation of the project. Also the mentoring platform has been a great help to me in terms of preparing the application and the business plan.

My business idea was developed during this project and is an outcome of the fact that such business is feasible. My whole business was born under this project. I acquired the equipment for fast food preparation, such as muffins, sandwiches, toasts, pancakes for the amount of EUR 3,000.00, including oven, freezer, toaster and machines for preparing pancakes and lemonades. This grant has provided me with a job, and I am very satisfied.

After spending time home as a housewife, thanks to this project, the organization has changed my life. Now I have clear ideas and vision for the future of my business.

Contact - Address: "Isa Boletini", Mitrovicë/a; Mob: + 377 44 197 375



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Supportive business environment for women start-ups in North and South Mitrovica/ë

Co funded by:



Komuna e Mitrovicës



This project is implemented by:

