

Caritas Kosova

Annual
Report

2014



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*Dear friends and supporters
of Caritas Kosova!*



Caritas Kosova has continued its journey of charity, without ever stopping; however, through years the circumstances have changed. Currently, Kosovo is not in an emergency situation anymore, and the world's attention has shifted to countries facing extreme poverty or destructing conflicts, including countries affected by natural disasters.

Despite this fact, Caritas Kosova is strongly engaged in treating the wounds of our society, being guided by a serious and professional commitment while progressively developing into a credible institution in the country. Caritas Kosova today is seen as a successful model in Southeast Europe for the testified professionalism in managing and implementing projects. Many donors and partners of the Caritas Family have supported our commitment through mutual projects. In addition to this, the European Commission in Kosovo funded the implementation of major programs of Caritas Kosova responding to the entire European criteria and standards through its high level of professionalism.

Caritas Kosova's strategic priorities are the promotion of peace and universal values that give meaning to human life by serving to the poor and the unprotected. Protecting and fostering the human dignity is an integral part of our efforts. Currently over 45% of the population in Kosovo are considered as poor, while 15% of them live in extreme poverty. We as a national Caritas in the Republic of Kosovo always mobilize all of our resources to help the people in need because the grace and basic rights of human beings are inviolable and are granted by God. These principles are enshrined in Church documents and are reflected in meditations of many prominent humanists, and even comprise the foundation of democratic governments in terms of protecting human rights and freedoms. Some of these official Church documents dealing with human dignity and rights are: the Encyclical "Pacem in terris" (Peace on Earth) of John the XXIII, Constitution of the Conciliate Vatican "Gaudium et Spes" (Joy and Hope), the Declaration "Dignitates Humane" (Human Dignity) and the Catechism of the Catholic Church which devotes a lot of attention to human dignity. The letter of Benedict XVI (2009) "Caritas in Veritate" needs to be underlined, which strongly supports the caritative action, by clearly and extensively commissioning that Caritas policies should be in support of individuals, without any distinction. The former in the Encyclical "Deus Caritas Est" (God is Love) emphasized the responsibilities of the Church in respecting human dignity, especially inviting us to express our utmost human warmth towards people, thus fulfilling God's will. While the philosopher Romano Guardini wrote that the human being can neither be manipulated, mistreated or underestimated by anyone, nor be infringed on his basic rights. Indeed, people in contemporary times, especially in our region are permanently exposed to these pressures. Therefore, Caritas Kosova aims to be near the most vulnerable human and the marginalized ones by restoring their dignity.



Except promoting peace and interethnic reconciliation, the fight against human trafficking remains a priority for Caritas, aiming the protection and reintegration of (potential) trafficked victims. Moreover, through our 'Home Care' program we are close to people that have totally sunk into oblivion and are confined in their homes, by healing not only their physical wounds, but their spiritual ones as well, making Caritas a lighthouse that lightens up their dark loneliness. Furthermore, our educational work with children and youth especially from minority communities such as the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian, through our learning centers in Dubrava village in Ferizaj and Ali Ibra neighborhood in Gjakova were evaluated by the European Commission as the best example in the region. Moreover, the development of the agricultural sector and the assistance to farmers is a strong support that ensures the survival and development in rural areas. Another target group in the margins of our society are female detainees in the Correctional Center of Lipjan, whose professional capacities are build; so that, they can return to their normal life after release. Certainly, Caritas through different projects continues to be the voice of people with special needs.

The German writer Erich Kästner once said: *"You can build something beautiful from stones that are put in your way."* So, despite the challenges that come along our mission, I want to thank my close collaborators from the Headquarters, Regional and Project Offices in the unity shown while implementing Caritas Kosova's objective: to be close to people in need and sharing their pain, because it shrinks when shared with and supported by others. On the other hand, joy if shared with others grows and becomes graceful. Therefore, Caritas Kosova will continue to collect stones in order to build something beautiful for people in need. Finally, I want to specially thank all our partners and people of goodwill for their support, cooperation and trust!

God Bless You!

Don Viktor SOPI

General Director

Equally dear as my own children!

Caritas Kosova (CK) through the implementation of the Home Care Program since 2009 has supported chronically ill and elderly people in need, and disabled ones. Our health and social services are accessible to diseased, abandoned and bed-ridden persons; including mentally impaired persons and people with disabilities. Besides them, we also support the beneficiaries' families by properly training them to take care of their diseased member. Our achievement, the importance of offering these services directly at home and the

increased demand for such services have consequently raised the awareness of local institutions that affirmed the success of Home Care on the local and national level. Initially, this program was completely funded and supported by Caritas Germany (Deutscher Caritasverband - DCV), that supported this initiative as a result of Caritas Kosova's advocacy on behalf of the elder, diseased and bed-ridden people in Kosovo. From the start on, a professional team equipped with the up-to-date health care tools were mobilized, that had been trained by DCV according to German professional standards required for the implementation of Home Care., CK with its experience and as a pioneer Home





Care actor in continuation enhanced its professional capacities and intensified contacts and deepened the cooperation with strategic partners such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Concretely during the year 2014, through cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the Municipalities of Ferizaj, Suhareka, Mitrovica, Rahovec, Klina, Vitia, Shtime, Drenas and Malisheva, the Home Care Program was implemented in 12 locations in Kosovo, whereby 22 Home Care mobile teams, respectively over 44 nurses and medical staff were committed to serve diseased persons. Our mobile teams have conducted a total of 32.434 home visits to diseased and abandoned elderly people. Over 1228 persons in need were continuously accompanied. Our mission as Caritas is to ensure a dignified life and thus we accompanied our diseased and elder people up to their last moments in life. In concrete, 187 persons have peacefully passed away only during the last year. Especially absent migrant relatives of our beneficiaries are grateful that Caritas Kosova is at any time close to their parents. The implementation of the Home Care Programme stood as well for the promotion of inter-community peace and reconciliation since our services are offered to all citizens of Kosovo.



In order to enhance the bed-ridden beneficiaries' living conditions and improve medical treatment at provided home by family members, more than 143 hospital beds, 245 wheelchairs were distributed, including dozens of mattresses and several health care tools.

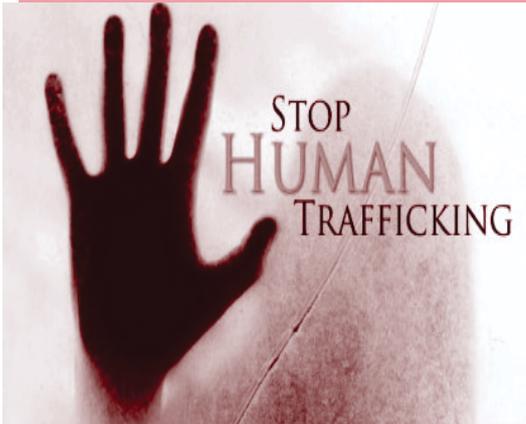
Besides offering professional health care services, we are committed also to the social inclusion of our beneficiaries by treating not only their physical wounds, but we care for their spiritual wounds too. An abandoned elderly person in Klinë told us once: “ [...] *Lonely as I am, whenever you visit me, it feels equal to my children's presence. Without you my life would have no meaning. Thank you for visiting me every day.*” It is precisely these emotions that further motivate us to sustain the Home Care implementation. Finally, besides the Home Care field visits, through our program we managed to functionalize nationally several health centers by offering for all citizens direct access to the nearest locations in the above-mentioned municipalities.

Children be aware!



The fight against Trafficking (AT) in Persons continues to be one of the most important priorities of Caritas Kosova's action for the year 2014. Our programme against this phenomenon is supported by Secours Catholique Caritas France and has been implemented through promoting the prevention of trafficking in persons via awareness raising campaigns, empowering (potential) victims through their socio-economic reintegration into society, and including the advancement of the shelters' capacities. During 2014, Caritas Kosova has been in regular coordination with the Kosovar shelters and respective agreements were signed with the Victims Shelters of Prishtina, Gjilan and Mitrovica for strengthening their capacities and supporting the re-integration of sheltered victims.

In the framework of these agreements, up to nine (9) victims have been successfully employed into the Kosovar labour market. Especially in the Ferizaj region, Caritas Kosova in cooperation with the Municipality of Ferizaj promoted and actively supported the opening of the victims shelter in Ferizaj. We are regularly supporting with humanitarian aids the victims of the Ferizaj shelter. In addition to this achievement, Caritas Kosova raised



awareness of Ashkali children on their rights by celebrating the International Day against child Labor on June 12th.

Furthermore, we organized on 9 October the National Conference Against Child Abuse and Trafficking in Kosovo, during the month of AT as declared by the Government of Kosovo. Eminent personalities and experts on AT addressed the audience, such as: Sasa Rasic – Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Coordinator against Trafficking in Persons; Ramadan Ahmeti – Captain of Kosovo Police; Don Viktor Sopi – General Director of Caritas Kosova and Mrs. Jacqueline de Bourgoing, Caritas France Director for the Asia/Europe Desk. More than 130 participants attended the conference, including representatives from the shelter coalition and crucial partners of Caritas Kosova. The conference had a wide outreach and caught the attention of local and national media.

In addition to our on-going intervention, within the year 2014 we launched a new pilot project in cooperation with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas Swiss. The project aims to prevent the forced labour, begging and abuse of minors in the regions of Ferizaj and Prizren. In this context, we are closely collaborating with the respective task forces for fighting against child trafficking in order to increase the level of identification and referral. Besides this, we are in partnership with primary schools in Ferizaj and Prizren, whereby an external expert training has been engaged to provide trainings for teachers and school psychologists on how to recognize and refer vulnerable and abused children. Additionally, several businesses are targeted and together we are preventing that children who are forced to labour sell products on these premises. Finally, several awareness-raising campaigns were organized throughout the year.

We are all Kosovars!

COMPONENT 1: MITROVICA

Caritas in Kosova is implementing the "*Peace and Reconciliation Program*" in the divided town of Mitrovica, being supported by Secourse Catholique Caritas France since 1999. We focus our work firstly on the social integration of the different ethnic communities through social animations, education, common artistic activities and events,



mediation and lobby activities. Secondly, we promote human rights by providing special trainings for women and children, animation activities for youth and children, combating trafficking of human beings and conducting sensitization activities on domestic violence. Finally, our economic development activities are considered to be a crucial instrument for generating income and promoting intra-community relationships, whereby we have mediated for employment and technical trainings



for small family businesses in the rural areas were offered. All our peace and reconciliation activities aim to sustainably strengthen the multicultural society in Mitrovica. Given that Kosovo is a country with a high percentage of young population who are unemployed, Caritas organized additional trainings for youth in order to develop their soft skills and prepare them for the job market. Our action here was supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, respectively the Youth Department. Twenty-two (22) youth from the Mitrovica region (aged 15 - 24) were participants of these trainings and acquired knowledge on compiling a CV, cover letter, prepare a job application and simulate job interviews. Finally, youth were trained also in regards to the topic of leadership. At the very end, all training participants were awarded a certificate for their successful participation. Due to their participation in this cycle of trainings, some of the attendees have effectively implemented the acquired knowledge and thus have become employed. Moreover, in order to promote recreational sport leisure activity, fun and exchange among youngsters residing in Mitrovica, Caritas Kosova organized a football tournament in partnership with "Terre des Homes." In concrete, this sports activity brought together ten (10) multiethnic football teams, each consisting of eleven (11) members. At the beginning, teams were created who then enrolled for their participation at the tournament and were regularly trained. Even very famous Mitrovica football players were invited to coach the football teams, suggest some football tactics by particularly encouraging and animating the participating team members. To sum up, the football matches were monthly organized in a period of one year and have certainly enabled attractive leisure activities for youth, contributing to inter-ethnic dialogue and co-existence by bridging new inter-ethnic friendships. Furthermore, under the umbrella of the Caritas Kosova Sustainable Development Sector, we supported the Mitrovica Union of Farmers Association in organizing the Regional Agriculture "Mitrovica 2014" held on 9-10 October 2014 in Mitrovica. The event was organized in partnership with Caritas International Belgium and the British Embassy; whereby H.E. Ambassador Ian Cliff was present and accompanied by our General Director Don Viktor Sopi. Under the umbrella of sustainable development sector of Caritas Kosovo, with the support of British Embassy and the International Caritas Belgium, for the second time Caritas Kosovo realized project aiming at empowering farmers from Leposavic and Mitrovica South. Around two hundred (200) farmers benefited from trainings and study visits that were offered during 2014. In addition to this, agricultural packages were disseminated to the beneficiaries from the region of Leposavic and Mitrovica South. This time, 28 farmers have gained business packages within the sector of beekeeping, fruit and vegetable cultivation, farming and rural and eco-tourism.





COMPONENT 2: PRISHTINA

Coordinated through our Regional Office in Prishtina, supported by Caritas France, Caritas Switzerland and Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung, Caritas Kosova has implemented the second component of the Peace Promotion Programme aiming to promote peace and reconciliation values (focus Albanian and Serbian community) in order to strengthen the multi-culturally of the Kosovar society. A series of roundtables were organized gathering youth and women from the municipality of Stërpce and Mitrovica, whereby the topic peace and reconciliation among diverse ethnic, religious and cultural communities was addressed identifying cultural similarities of people and ethnic groups living in Western Balkan countries. Particularly these similarities and their institutional involvement were underlined by participants that should serve as a factor for an improved coexistence. Especially in this context, Caritas offered Albanian and Serbian language courses to overcome communication barriers and foster inter-ethnic dialogue among Serbs and Albanians. For a period of three months more than 30 course participants were enrolled. A highlight of the traditional peace promotion event in the year 2014 was the roundtable on *“Evaluation of Peace and Reconciliation Process in Kosovo.”* The panel of the roundtable was composed by international and local authorities: H.E. Ian Cliff - Ambassador of the United Kingdom Embassy in Kosovo; H.E. Jan Braathu - Ambassador of R. Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo; Mr. Husnia Beckovic - Vice Minister at the Ministry for Community and Return; Ms. Besa Luzha - FES Office Pristina; Mr. Xhabir Hamiti - Professor of Theology; Ms. Jelena Krstic Humanitarian Law Center in Belgrade; and Mr. Shpend Kursani - Analyst. The panelists pointed out that a certain degree of progress in the peace and reconciliation process in Kosovo is traceable; however, there is still a long way to go in this challenging process, whereby international organization have played a pivotal role. Another milestone is the normalization process among Republic of Kosovo and Serbia and particularly in Dealing with the Past. Caritas Kosovo will continue to be a strong promoter in the process of peace and reconciliation mediating between different ethnic groups.

COMPONENT 3: NATIONAL ANIMATION PROGRAMME



Since 1999 Caritas Kosova in close collaboration with Secours Catholique Caritas France has organized educational and animation activities (drama, dancing, singing, summer camps, carnivals, sports) with children, youth and volunteers groups in the Dioceses of Kosovo, including various trainings for animation trainers, and specific knowledge transfer on organization and implementation of projects. Through our work during the year 2014, we have as well consolidated our Caritas volunteers structure all over Kosovo by including all volunteers in the action of Caritas regardless of their religion, ethnic background, gender and age.



More than 317 volunteers are registered in our national database, with whom contracts for voluntary services are signed. We intensified our cooperation with deaneries, respectively parishes, of the Kosovo Diocese through regular visits to all parishes and by conducting a survey that will summarize information on the pastoral life of each parish. Moreover, we supported the carnival celebration that was organized by volunteers of the Prizren region and gathered more than 180 children, youth and other youth groups. Furthermore, around 22 young volunteers from the Budisalc parish were trained by Caritas staff to organize animation activities with children. The knowledge gained during these trainings enormously served the volunteers to organize a summer camp that was financial supported by Caritas Kosovo and other donors, whereby 150 parish children were participating. We have also supported the Prizren parish volunteers in the implementation of 5-day summer camp with the participation of 200 children. During the year 2014, we provided technical and financial support for the organization of summer camps in other parishes as well.



Particularly in the parish of Klina,



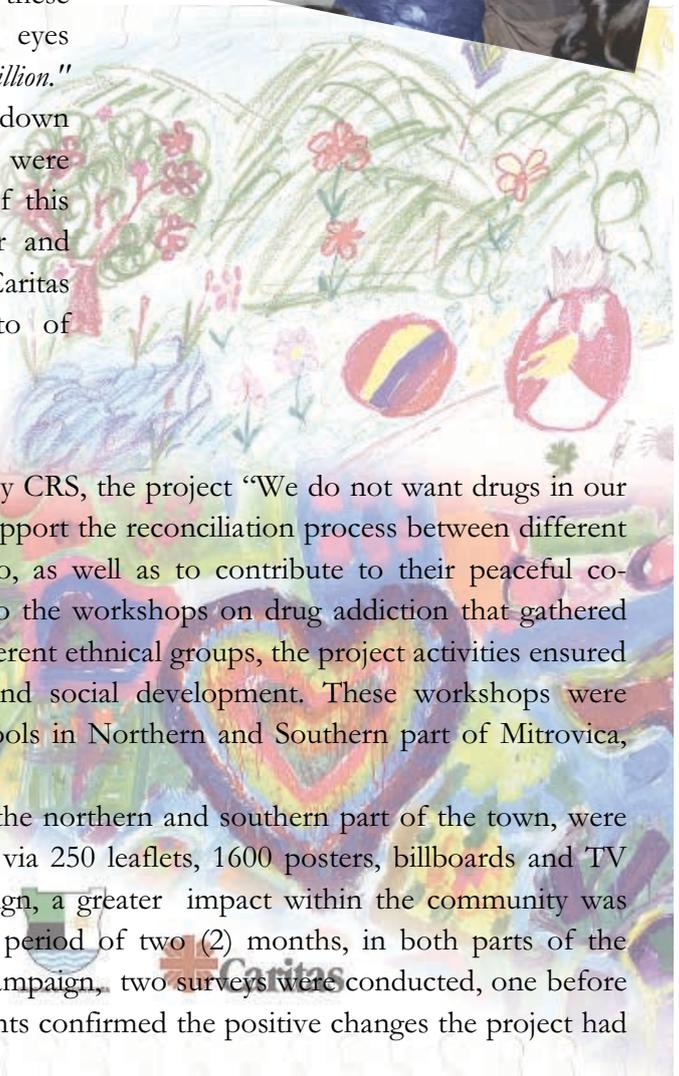
20 volunteers conducted a 10-day summer camp which was attended by 220 children. Also the Zllakuqan parish was supporting 25 volunteers that implemented a 10-day summer camp by involving in their activities more than 180 children of this parish and the surrounding villages. In addition to the abovementioned activities, the national animation program has encouraged volunteers to conduct other activities as well that specifically support people in need, who were provided with a package of humanitarian aid by Caritas Kosova and other organizations. At the end of the year, Caritas traditionally celebrated the International Day of Volunteers gathering young people from the entire territory of Kosovo and offering opportunities of joint action, a platform for exchanging ideas and thematic collaboration among volunteers. Moreover in Mitrovica, Caritas Kosovo and its volunteers, in partnership with the Down Syndrome Office, special school Kosovski Bozur, and elementary school Vlado Cetkovic, organized regular activities with volunteers, as well as celebrating special events such as the International Day of Voluntarism in line with our engagement for promoting voluntarism. This special day with the motto *"You are not forgotten"*, was dedicated to the support of marginalized social groups, as for example: abandoned, elderly and sick people, children with down syndrome and from the special schools and North elementary school. Packages containing food and hygienic items were distributed to people in need. One of these beneficiaries, sitting in a wheelchair, with tears in his eyes whispered: *"Your visit and the package is more worth than a million."* Furthermore, about eighty (80) youth and children of the down syndrome organization, the special and the primary school were donated materials for creative workshops and as a result of this they designed and produced decorations, hats, New Year and Christmas postcards. Finally, on the diocesan level Caritas organized the event of 10 million stars with the motto of expressing peace messages and fostering inter-ethnic dialogue.



COMPONENT 4: CROSS - BORDER COOPERATION

In cooperation with Caritas Serbia and financially supported by CRS, the project "We do not want drugs in our yards" was implemented in Mitrovica. The project aimed to support the reconciliation process between different ethnic and religious communities living in Northern Kosovo, as well as to contribute to their peaceful co-existence, by promoting tolerance and mutual respect. Due to the workshops on drug addiction that gathered more than two hundred and fifty (250) youth belonging to different ethnical groups, the project activities ensured active interaction among youth, promoting their cultural and social development. These workshops were implemented in four (4) primary and four (4) secondary schools in Northern and Southern part of Mitrovica, involving school and respective local authorities.

A core group of 13 students, from different communities of the northern and southern part of the town, were selected to design the visual outlook of the media campaign via 250 leaflets, 1600 posters, billboards and TV spots. Since the young students did identify with the campaign, a greater impact within the community was achieved. The campaign was presented on bill-boards for a period of two (2) months, in both parts of the Mitrovica town. In order to evaluate the effect of the media campaign, two surveys were conducted, one before and once after the campaign with the result that 245 respondents confirmed the positive changes the project had triggered on the target group.



*For a better life!***COMPONENT 1: GJILAN, PRISHTINA, MITROVICA, PEJA**

With the aim to strengthen the promotion of human rights, social inclusion and representation, Caritas Kosova remains committed to advance the position of people with special needs by implementing different national programs and local activities in the municipalities of Gjilan, Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja and Prizren.

Since 2014, Caritas Kosovo is implementing in partnership with Kosovar Centre for Self-Help and Handikos the project: *"People with disabilities together for a better life" (POWER)* that is financed by the European Commission Office in Kosovo and Caritas Italiana. Here, we aim to empower Disabled People Organizations (DPO-s) of people with disabilities by enabling mobilization to answer to their members' needs, building up a model of a new social partnership and engaging in advocacy for policy making and implementation at local and national level. In order to advance position of PWD in the society we provided trainings on self-help methodology, whereby fifteen (15) Self-Help (SH) Groups were established in five regions of Kosovo. The methodology of SH has provided a bigger participation of beneficiaries in their organizations' governance and action, as well as it ensured a higher level of entrepreneurship through provision of ideas for micro projects as a tool for generating income. Furthermore, trainings on the International Classification on Functioning (ICF) and workshops on capacity building were organized, which resulted in enhancing the capacities of local government representatives. Moreover, with the objective to encourage municipalities to design local action plans on disability, monitor and evaluate the national and local plan(s) and improve coordination with local DPO-s, three (3) Inter-Sectorial Working Groups (ISWG) were established in Lipjan, Novoberde and Vushtrri, whereas in Gjakova municipality our action is incorporated in the existing Commission for People with Disabilities. The ISWG-s will be established also in Peja, Istog, Mitrovica, Podujeve, Glllogoc, Malisheve and Skenderaj. Moreover, round tables on local level and anti-stigma events and campaigns such as community meetings, lectures on the PWD's rights, advocacy for law implementation were as well implemented during the year 2014. Finally, the action of Caritas has significantly contributed to the enhancement of PWD's life quality.

COMPONENT 2: PRIZREN

'Early help is the best help', is the motto of our engagement concerning children with special needs (ages 0-6 years), which certainly remains a priority target group of our work in the Prizren region. Since 2008 Caritas Kosova is implementing the project "Early Detection and Education" which is funded by the German Caritas and diocesan Caritas of Innsbruck. The services our centre mainly focus on the care and assistance we provide towards the mental, physical, social and emotional development of 44 children from Prizren, offering them better opportunities for their social inclusion within the community they live. In addition to this, we support the children's parents in networking and cooperating with educational and health institutions in order to increase the level of their children's integration. Furthermore, we are strongly convinced that early intervention is fundamental for successful and life-long-learning of children with special needs, which then directly impacts their social integration, personal development and their subsequent employment. CK continues its efforts to improve early childhood education quality and deliberately involves all children, regardless of their ethnic groups. Therefore, our center is well-known as multi-cultural and multi-religious centre.

EDUKIMI I HERSHËM

Kosova

Caritas



We belong to the Kosovar society!

COMPONENT 1: SOCIAL CENTER IN DUBRAVA

Since 2009, we have implemented educational, cultural and social activities, including health services in the village of Dubrave in favour of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) community, with the financial support of the Ferizaj Municipality and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST). Through our Caritas Socio-educational Center, we aim to improve the community's socio-economic welfare by facilitating their access to and increasing their participation in education and health institutions.

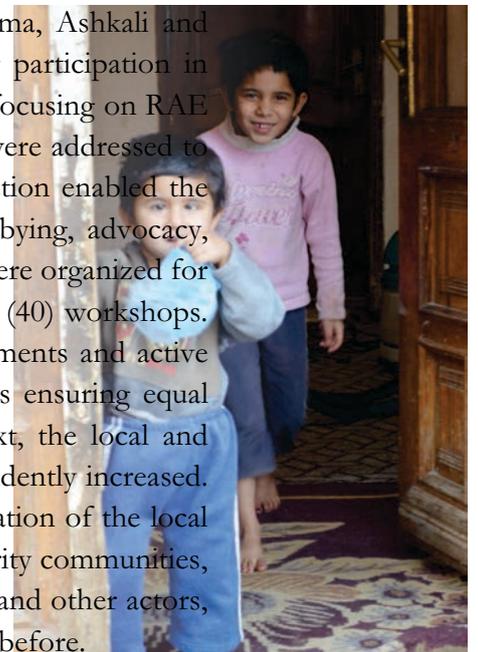
The Ashkali community does directly benefit from various educational activities that complement their school modules. We daily accompany about fifty (50) children of the age 3 to 6, who attend the pre-school and preparing them for regular school admission. Beyond working with children, we achieved to raise the awareness of parents that education is very crucial to the future of their children. In this context, the drop-out prevention team is in place that motivates students to enrol education and regularly attend school. Furthermore, more than two hundred and fifty (250) school students attend regularly the complementary teaching modules and receive homework assistance. Around eighty (80) students, respectively fifty (50) families or 310 Dubrava villagers have migrated illegally that has resulted in decrease of students attending our center. In addition, students actively contribute to leisure activities through which they expand their knowledge and increase their level of socialization. Moreover, we offer as well English, maths and computing courses. Besides this, we support students as well for the final school exam.



In close cooperation with school authorities, we monitor the level of students' development, their performance, behavioural and hygienic progress which is directly interrelated with their attendance at the Caritas Center. Finally, Caritas provides primary health and dental services to the Dubrava villagers; thus, 4967 medical cases have been treated during the year 2014. On the other hand, in the frame of the cultural component we have established the dancing group that regularly performs in the center. Due to the excellent participation of the community and close collaboration with all stakeholders, nowadays our center has become a successful example of the social inclusion of the RAE community in Kosovo.

COMPONENT 2: PRIZREN

Aiming to improve the lives of the minority communities, especially the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) in Prizren, and to build a sustainable environment for their participation in decision-making, Caritas Kosova during the year 2014 implemented its project focusing on RAE youth. The project provided specific trainings according to their needs, which were addressed to the local authorities, in line with the Municipal Action Plan. Moreover, our action enabled the mobilization of youth, especially girls and women, building their skills in lobbying, advocacy, reticulation, cooperation and leadership. In total, twelve (12) training modules were organized for the empowerment of RAE youth, a series of round tables and more than forty (40) workshops. Furthermore, their capacities monitoring, evaluating and drafting official documents and active participation in political life and decision-making were development by always ensuring equal opportunities to youth and women of the RAE communities. In this context, the local and national media coverage and attention towards this minority community was evidently increased. Thus, local institutions intensified their commitment to support the implementation of the local Municipal Action Plan and ensure budget allocation for the integration of minority communities, respectively RAE communities. Thanks to the extensive action Caritas Kosova and other actors, we can conclude that RAE communities in 2014 have been integrated than ever before.





COMPONENT 3: MITROVICA

In the context of the National Peace and Reconciliation Programme with the main focus in Mitrovica, Caritas Kosova, supported by UNICEF, has continued with implementation of the project: "Support to inclusion of RAE children (age 3-10) from Roma Mahala in regular school," aiming to improve the access to opportunities for supporting development of RAE children through the use of the "Portage Programme". In addition, community outreach assistance was provided to improve the access of most vulnerable families to public institutions (health and social centres, municipalities and education institutions). Moreover, Caritas Kosova aims through its focused action in Mitrovica to stimulate the intensive RAE education as continuation of our former activities in eradicating illiteracy. Sequentially, the project is supported by the Danish Refugee Council, in partnership with the Municipal Department of Education, and is in accordance with the law for education No. 04/L-143 and adults training of the Republic of Kosovo. Caritas Kosova is persistently attempting to support the RAE community development in the perspective of non-formal education and to increase their level of literacy, despite the massive migration trends to EU countries which is on-going.



COMPONENT 4: GJAKOVA

Under the umbrella of the Sector for Social and Health Assistance and in partnership with Caritas Switzerland, Caritas Kosova has implemented social activities in the Gjakovar "Ali Ibra" neighbourhood with the aim to promote the inclusion of RAE community and support their integration into the Kosovar society. In concrete, youth structures of the RAE community were strengthened through educational activities. In addition to this, the capacities of working groups were built; and various workshops and regular meetings were organized, as well as common activities with youth such as environmental cleaning; including sport activities such as tournaments or animation programs. The networking with other NGO-s and relevant institutions was facilitated and we have organized study visits to our Caritas activities, namely: "Ten million stars" and "International Volunteer's Day" celebrations.



The beauty of the rural zones!

COMPONENT 1: PRIZREN

During the year 2014, Caritas Kosovo continued the implementation of the project "*Sustainable Development of agri-business and rural tourism*," that is funded by the European Union office in Kosovo and implemented in partnership with Caritas International Belgium. The aim of the project is to develop the small and medium enterprises of the agro - sector, and the development rural tourism in South Kosovo by supporting the development and strengthening of farmers' initiatives and boosting economic development. Particularly in the first project year, we have supported more than 500 farmers in three main agro-sectors, such as: such as fruit and vegetables, beekeeping sector, and processing of milk and its products by supporting farmers' medium and small sized family businesses coming from the south region of Kosovo, namely: Prizren, Mamusha, Rahovec, Malisheva, Suhareka and Dragash. In addition to this, we offered trainings and study visits in Kosovo and beyond, such as the Balkan region and Europe, with the aim to enhance farmers' capacities on qualitative work while enhancing their competitiveness, including new methods of cultivation and processing. Moreover in the following project year, a greater focus was put on the promotion and development of rural tourism and fascinating beauties which only south of Kosovo does offer. Finally, our overarching aim has been that the natural beauties which are a treasury of Kosova are expanded and the commitment for their maintenance grows, in order to ensure sustainable development of the agro-sector, in general, and the rural areas.



COMPONENT 2: LEPOSAVIC

Based on the context analysis, Caritas Kosovo Regional Office in Leposaviq during the 2014 implemented the tailored made project "*Strengthening of Socio-Economic Inclusion of communities in Municipality Leposaviq and Mitrovica South through the professionalization of agriculture & rural tourism sector*" with the purpose to respond to the needs of local farmers and support a multiethnic society in Kosovo by creating better living conditions for the communities in rural areas. The project was funded by British Embassy in Prishtina and co-funded by the Caritas International Belgium. Despite political changes deriving from the national elections, the multi-ethnic project structures (implementing team & the management committee) have successfully cooperated and efficiently implemented the project. In concrete, a considerable number of family enterprises and farmers' associations benefited from the 40 agri-business grants that supported four agricultural sub sectors, such as: beekeeping, fruit and vegetable, meat and dairy; and eco and rural tourism. Furthermore, approximately 300 family enterprises' professional skills were enhanced by attending four technical and vocation trainings, participating at four multiethnic regional study visits, as well as upgrading their linkage to the market by organizing four agriculture local manifestations. In addition to this, 75 agricultural no-interest micro credits were distributed to Leposaviq local farmers in order to renew their agricultural equipments and increase their annual income. A special attention was given to the gender aspect, thus out of the 300 beneficiaries 25% were comprised of women. Finally, 11% of our beneficiaries were unemployed youth that were deliberately encouraged to work in the agro-sector.



COMPONENT 3: MITROVICA

Economic empowerment has proven to foster peace and reconciliation most effectively. In the frame of our Peace and Reconciliation programme supported by Caritas France, beneficiaries coming from different communities residing in Mitrovica were supported in the field of agro-culture. The project supported *“Strengthening of Socio-Economic inclusion of communities in Municipality Leposaviq and Mitrovica South through the professionalization of agriculture & rural tourism sector”* was sequentially supported by the British Embassy and Caritas International Belgium, which provided trainings on beekeeping and rural tourism, thus enhancing farmers' knowledge and expertise. For the second time, Caritas Kosova supported the organisation of agricultural events *“Beekeeping Day of Ibar Valley in Municipality Leposaviq 2014“* and *“The Regional Agricultural Fair - Mitrovica 2014.”* The events success was that it facilitated the very first or repetitive meetings of Serbian and Albanian farmers. This ethnically diverse group of beneficiaries participated also at the 40th jubilee of the International Beekeeping Fair - *“ Tašmajdan 2014,”* gathering more than forty (40) Kosovar farmers from the region of Mitrovica and Leposaviq. This event remarkably contributed to the inter-ethnic and regional cooperation as some of the Albanian farmers were visiting Serbia for the first time in the post-war period. Without any doubts, the project implementation has encouraged many business meetings and friendly gatherings among Mitrovica and Leposaviq farmers enabling thus networking, knowledge and expertise exchange by increasing inter-ethnic socialization.



They deserve a second chance!

Since 2013, Caritas Kosova is implementing the 'Re-integration of prisoners after release' project which addresses one of the most marginalized groups in Kosovo society, whereby our main partner is Secours Catholique - Caritas France. During the three years, imprisoned women and minors of the Correctional Center in Lipjan With are successfully re-integrated into society after their release through professional trainings and sensitization campaigns on the importance of integration. Our beneficiaries, respectively female detainees are offered certified vocational trainings in hairdressing and tailoring, while forty seven (47) minors benefit from other sports and cultural activities.

Caritas Kosova has a close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice (MJ) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW). The signed MoU-s with the respective ministries enable the coordination of actions in the project implementation and contribute to the organization of professionally certified training for detainees. Upon successful completion of the trainings, detainees are issued officially recognized certificates by the Vocational Training Centre in hairdressing and tailoring.

During the year 2014, ten (10) women prisoners were trained and certified. After the training, five (5) detainees have successfully passed the theoretical and practical test in hairdressing and five (5) in tailoring according to module of Vocational Training Centers. The successful training completion and certificates distribution ceremony has emotionally stirred our beneficiaries' heart, whereby many of them expressed their willingness to work in the abovementioned fields of profession after returning back to normal life. In addition to the ongoing trainings, two (2) beneficiary were selected as trainer assistants, who will gradually be trained to become future trainers in order to train other detainees in the future.

Above all, it needs to be underlined that detainees have displayed a high level of interest and willingness to participate in the training as they realize that it is a good chance for a facilitated reintegration after their release.



Let's change the world!

Committed in continuation, Caritas Kosova is implementing projects that ensure and enhance the quality of the education sector. During 2014, in cooperation with the Municipality of Ferizaj, the kindergarten, opened in 2013, is accompanying more than two hundred and fifty (250) children aged from six (6) months and to six (6) years. The staff of fifty (50) members and the space of 1.172 m² makes it one of the largest kindergartens in entire Kosova, not only because of its space, but due to the number of children accompanied and staff engaged. In addition to the exceptional infrastructural capacities, our kindergarten offers qualitative services in education, as it meets all standards set by state educational policies which regulate the field of pre-primary education. The year 2014 was dedicated to the further advancement of the service quality in order to create a warm environment for the children. Beside the enhancement of service quality and other programs that affect directly the psychological development of our children, we have also been engaged in their nutritional education which has a great impact on their physical development. In concrete, the intellectual and emotional aspect was interlinked with a particular attention to the children's health. The new kindergarten in Ferizaj, one of the largest investments in the pre-primary education in Kosovo, is particularly characterized by the diversity of children. The equal and non-discriminatory treatment of children is a significant guiding principle in the work and mission of Caritas. Currently, children were accompanied by children from minority communities who are also an active part of our kindergarten, such as: Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian (RAE). In this context, it needs to be underlined that children with special needs are also an equal integral part of our kindergarten and participate in different age groups and all our children are treated with high professionalism. In cases with special needs, we cooperate closely with relevant institutions, professional organizations and experts in order to respond to all these specific needs by gradually increasing the degree of socialization among our children. This commitment towards our children will continue in the future because we want a brighter future and a better world for them.



In service of the poor!

Despite the huge investments and gradual development in the post-war period, Kosovo continues to have alarming statistics of poverty and unemployment. Nowadays we are still the poorest country in Europe. Unemployment is especially present among women, youth and minority communities, while poverty is deepening more and more in rural areas. Thus, Caritas Kosova (CK) through the social assistance program continues to support individuals and families that live in extreme poverty. In 2014 we have directly supported over 1129 persons from Ferizaj. Also, through our decentralized structures we supported the poor in Prishtinë, Mitrovicë, Gjakovë, Klinë and Prizren.

Meanwhile we indirectly supported people in need and marginalized groups through governmental and local institutions such as: the Center for Social Work, the Center for Integration and Rehabilitation of Chronically and Mentally diseased Persons in Shtime. Among others, the Main Center of Family Medicine in Ferizaj was supported with hospital beds and inventory. During this year, we also supported the Directorate for Health and Social Welfare in Rahovec. Primary and secondary schools in Surqinë, Bec and Ferizaj were also supported with school inventory. Even the sports in Ferizaj was supported.



Moreover in 2014, we cooperated with non-governmental organizations and associations as well. Thanks to this cooperation, we achieved to support pensioners and incapacitated persons in Vitia and Ferizaj; the organisation Handikos in Ferizaj and Shtime, including persons with special needs. Additionally, we supported blind and visually impaired persons in Gjakova. Particular attention and care was directed towards women and children – victims of domestic violence. The ‘Don Bosco’ Educational Center in Prishtina was also continuously supported. Also, thanks to the cooperation with parishes and congregations, the kindergartens in the parishes and soup kitchens for the poor were outreached.

The entire above-mentioned contribution has been possible only thanks to the generosity of our brothers in Germany. Concretely, the humanitarian and voluntary organization “Junge Leute Helfen” (engl. Youth Helps) since the end of the armed conflict did not spare their efforts to help individuals and families that live in extreme poverty. Except their committed voluntary work, every year they visit Kosovo and thus all supported families. During 2014 two visits were arranged. The German volunteers, accompanied by our staff visited Caritas centers and our partners; among others, they also visited the Main Center of Family Medicine in Ferizaj, Regional Hospital, the new Emergency Center in Ferizaj, the Social and Educational Center in the village of Dubrava in Ferizaj, the Municipality of Ferizaj, and all the poor families, recipients of the social assistance in Ferizaj. Afterwards, we visited the Municipality of Theranda and Caritas Home Care Center, including as well our center in Prizren for children with special needs. Consequentially, during their second visit in August 2014, the German volunteers visited poor families that receive our social assistance in the Municipality of Klina, where they participated at the summer camp of Caritas Kosova and helped abandoned elderly people in housekeeping. Finally, the youth promised to support Caritas and the Municipality of Ferizaj to open a new soup kitchen for the extremely poor people in Ferizaj, providing them a hot daily meal.



Since 2008, Caritas Kosovo (CK) is a member of the Caritas South-Eastern Europe Emergency Group and professionally implements the methodology of "Disaster Risk Reduction" (DRR), including the international standards set by SPHERE or the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response. During the year 2014, Caritas Kosovo remained committed towards the emergency group by regularly participating at trainings and meetings organized by Caritas Bulgaria. Hence, we have also finalized the compilation of the National Emergency Plan for the Republic of Kosovo. According to the Strategic Plan 2013-2017, the sector and the emergency program is on stand-by modus, but can be immediately activated in cases of emergency. Moreover, during the year 2014, we continued on establishing and building the emergency capacities of local groups that are active within their respective regions and the existing Caritas offices. Fortunately in 2014, Caritas did not conduct any emergency intervention in the Kosovo region, as no natural disaster occurred that would have required assistance. However, Caritas Kosovo in cooperation with Caritas Serbia and other partners such as Junge Leute Helfen provided an emergency support to the people affected by floods in Serbia, specifically in the city of Paracin, by sharing with them an entire contingent of humanitarian aids.

Caritas in action!

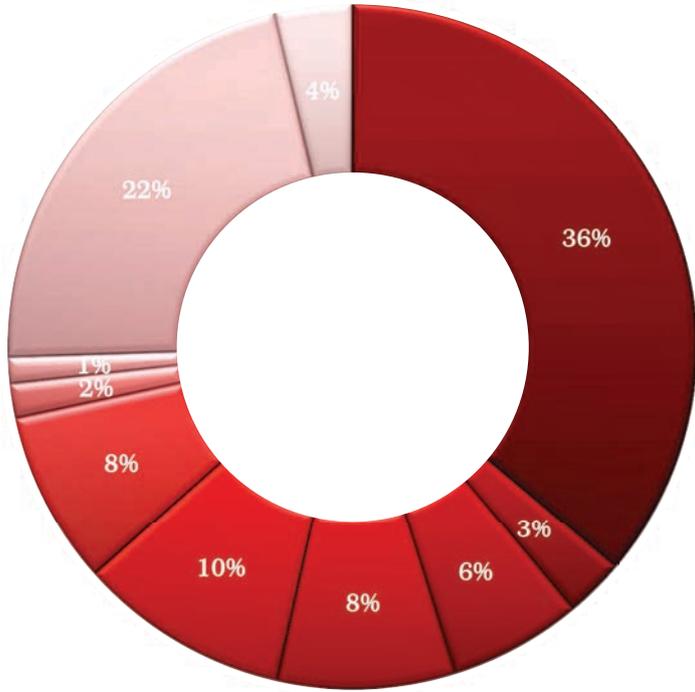




Financial Report 2014

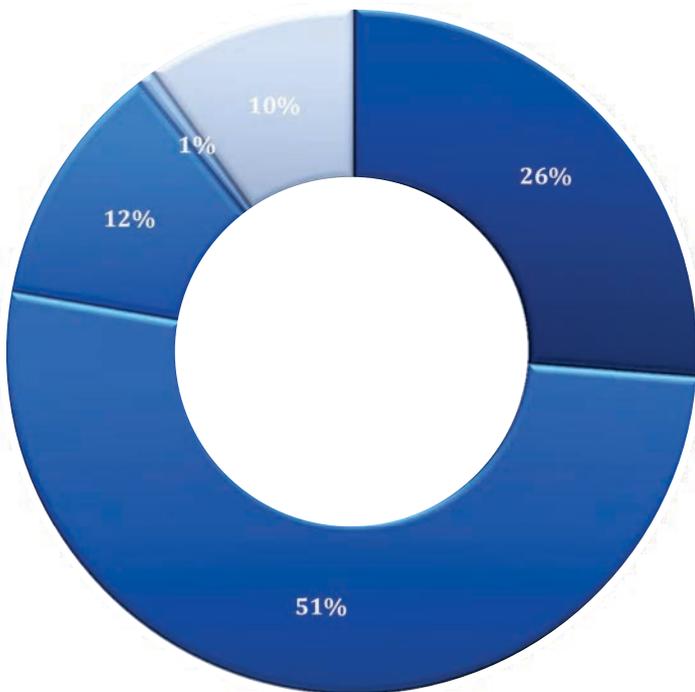
ANNUAL BUDGET 2,278,572.80€

PERCENTAGE BY PROGRAMMES



- 36% Home Care Programme
- 3% Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings Programme
- 6% National Peace and Reconciliation Programme
- 8% RAE Integration Programme
- 10% Educational Programme
- 8% National Disabled People Programme
- 2% Re-Integration of Prisoners After Release
- 1% Social Assistance Programme
- 22% Agricultural Programme
- 4% Structure of Caritas Kosova

PERCENTAGE BY DONORS



- 26% Caritas Network
- 51% Municipalities
- 12% European Union
- 10% Ministries
- 1% Others

MONETARY VALUE	MATERIALS VALUE
46,200.00 €	225,000 TON

Note: HUMANITARIAN AID

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