



Annual  
Report  
2015



**CARITAS  
KOSOVA**



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*Dear partners and supporters of  
Caritas Kosova!*



The mission of Caritas in Kosova is to accompany the human being in his life journey: the challenges, pain and needs that he is facing and that are still urgent, although our country is not in an emergency situation anymore. So, Caritas's action is focused on the centrality of human beings and their dignity to freely cultivate virtues of a dignified life. From the Encyclicals and official documents of the Catholic Social Teaching that deal with the significance of caritative action I would highlight the document which

treats the aspect of human dignity - The Declaration "Dignitatis Humanae" (Of the Origin of the Human Person). This Declaration pays great attention to the human person's dignity and supports caritative activities by outlining clearly that Caritas policies shall support all human persons without distinction. In this context, the responsibility and dedicated work of employees in the caritative field should be considered as a mission and not a profession. In our challenging journey, Caritas employees are especially invited to incarnate humanity in their professional actions because working for Caritas means to be a witness of care, love and warmth towards all human persons. Today, Caritas Kosovo is close to people in need, especially marginalized and vulnerable ones that go through life emotionally hurt with very little human attention. Caritas has a long tradition and experience in areas of humanitarian relief services and the framework of our action is found on the Catholic Social Teaching: "*Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's*" (Mt 22:21). Thus, As Caritas action derives from Catholic Social Teaching, we are individually and collectively responsible. It is clear that Caritas does not intend to create economic, political or social systems; however, Caritas' mission and responsibility in the social aspect focus on promoting the dignity of the human persons by being engaged in the creation of a social environment with the centrality of human persons who are able to cultivate their domestic values in accordance to universal ones.



*"According to the almost unanimous opinion of believers and unbelievers alike, all things on earth should be related to man as their center and crown" (Gadium Et Spes 12;76 ).* Therefore, Caritas enables a dignified life so that temporary goods that are created for man are in his service. On the other hand, human persons shall utilize these common goods with praise and gratitude. Since the material goods do not quench the thirst deriving from the man's inside and the experience of insatiability with temporary goods orients the human person beyond materialism. We call on those responsible to reflect and enhance their support for the social component, so that through programs and projects Caritas is able to accompany people in need, while carrying human values, and motivate vulnerable persons that are abandoned, abused and mistreated. Dear partners and friends of Caritas Kosova, in the upcoming pages of this report you will find information concerning the outcomes of our programs and projects which are always in support of human persons in need and draw on the experience of the global Caritas Network!

May the Lord bless you!

**Don Viktor SOPI**  
General Director



Since 2009 we operate according to the model of the **German Home Care "Hauskrankenpflege"** (of Caritas Germany);

We have accompanied more than **1,200 beneficiaries**: sick and abandoned elderly people; **people with disabilities & people** that are mentally ill;

**For 167 elderly**, who died in 2015, we have enabled a dignified life up to their final moments. **201,479 services** were delivered, such as: basic therapy, **primary health care & social services**, health equipments were distributed (beds, walking assistance, etc.)

A team of **30 professional nurses** operated in **12 locations** and were supported by **50 volunteers** who are trained by Caritas Kosova trainers;

**Partners** : Caritas Germany, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Caritas Switzerland, Municipalities of: Ferizaj, Mitrovica, Klina, Rahovec, Malisheva, Vitia, Shtime, Drenas, Istog and Fushë Kosova.



## Against Trafficking in Human Beings Programme

Caritas Kosovo has continuously contributed to the **prevention** of trafficking in human beings through national sensitization campaigns, research activities and professional trainings with teachers of 16 primary schools in the towns of Prizren and Ferizaj. The programme has in addition enhanced **the institutional capacities** of shelters, Centers for Social Work and Municipal Task Forces.

Outreaching trafficked victims (children and women), Caritas Kosova has distributed **humanitarian aid packages** to shelters and Centers for Social Work. The **social inclusion** of victims and potential victims of trafficking was achieved through their **economic empowerment**. The **human rights** of 4500 students were promoted and protected. At the **annual sensitization conference**, the premiere of anti-trafficking film named "Talking to the Trees" was launched. Caritas Kosovo is a **member** of the National Authority, the Euro-Mediterranean Group and the global network COATNET. Our **partners** are Caritas France, Catholic Relief Services and Caritas Switzerland.



**National Peace and Reconciliation Programme**

**Peace and inter-ethnic reconciliation in Mitrovica** is ensured through promotion of human rights, social inclusion, and economic empowerment of communities.

Aiming to **promote human rights**, the project "Together we can make it" was implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Students with disabilities from the "Mother Teresa" Resource Centre and students from regular schools in Mitrovica have jointly contributed to the increased social involvement of persons with disabilities and impacted directly the development of their capacities.

Encouraging inter-ethnic dialogue and enabling exchange between youth groups, a joint **multi-ethnic camp** was organized in the mountains of Brezovica with the participation of young Albanians and Serbs, including youth from other communities. A significant aspect of the camp activities was the promotion of **voluntarism** in our society as an expression of solidarity.



The **International Day of Peace** (21 September) gathered in Mitrovica different actors while promoting inter-ethnic dialogue on the field of education. The roundtable served as a platform to debate on the importance of improving the quality of formal education in the Mitrovica region, the need to increase support for non-formal education, enhance inter-ethnic cooperation, and build mutual trust and to encourage reconciliation and cooperation among citizens of Mitrovica. At the national level, Caritas Kosovo is implementing a special project dedicated to **animations** with children and youth. The latter are part of the **Caritas Network of Volunteers**. Currently this network consists of **400 members** from the diocese and different regions in Kosovo, who everyday witness humanity and love in action. The celebration of "**10 Million Stars**" was organized in all Deaneries of the Kosovo Diocese, where more than 1000 children participated at various activities such as: drawing, recital, theatre and dance. The final event gathered more than 300 children, youth and volunteers from all regions of Kosovo, who with the slogan "**Peace begins with a smile. Smile!**" conveyed messages of peace. Our strategic partner is Caritas France.



## People with Disabilities Programme

During the year 2015 Caritas Kosova, in partnership with Handikos and Kosovar Centre for Self-Help, has implemented the project "POWER" being funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo and Caritas Italiana with the aim: to strengthen the organizations of people with disability, increase the participation of persons with disabilities in the life and governance of their organisations, as well as to improve cooperation and coordination efforts with local institutions. Through our action we achieved: to employ persons with disabilities; train **30 Kosovo municipalities** and **60 municipal officials** on the International Classification of Functioning; the capacities of people with disability organisation members were developed; **9 inter-sectorial groups** were established for the assessment and monitoring of (national/local) action plans on disability; discussions and exchanges of experience on various topics were enabled on the regional and municipal level; stigmatization is reduced and during the international day(s) of disability sensitization campaigns outreached the wide population of Kosovo.



Caritas has facilitated the **employment opportunities** for people with disabilities and their **social inclusion** in Peja by creating job opportunities, establishing small social enterprises, and conducting advocacy and lobby activities. The project is funded by European Union Office in Kosovo and Caritas Italiana.

**Caritas Center for Education & Early Detection** in Prizren accompanies more than 40 children with special needs and supports their parents as well. In particular, we provide professional care for children diagnosed with **autism**. Furthermore, we have organized vocational and professional trainings in the private sector for hearing impaired children of the resource center. Our **partners** are Caritas Innsbruck, Caritas Czech Republic, the Embassy of Czech Republic and the Austrian Development Agency.



### RAE Integration Programme

The Programme for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) communities is carried out through **two Caritas educational centres** in Ferizaj and Gjakova, and **two components** of the programme that are implemented in Prizren and Mitrovica. The **Socio-educational Centre** in village Dubrava (Ferizaj) supports 215 primary school students with additional learning activities and animations, including courses on mathematics, English language and computer literacy. **Sport and cultural activities** were organized with youth groups and Caritas volunteers during the year 2015, marking as well the International Children's Day, "10 Million Stars" and conducting educational sight visits to cultural and religious monuments. The **kindergarten** in Dubrava implements an attractive curricular for 55 children. In the premises of the centre during the year 2015, Caritas provided **4085 primary health services** and **867 dental care services** to the entire RAE community in Dubrava. Our centre has been recently equipped with an **interactive library** containing various books thanks to the support of the Council of Europe.



The Municipality of Ferizaj is our **strategic partner**. In the **Caritas Community Center** of "Ali Ibra" in Gjakova, more than 120 children are part of our (pre- and primary school) educational activities, sport and culture, assistance for re-integration of students into regular teaching, health services and education, psycho-social activities, different trainings and receive administrative support concerning public service institutions. **40 children** (aged 4-6) attend **pre-primary school education** at the community centre. Through the **homework assistance**, where more than **80 primary school students** participate, and the undertaken intensive work, learning and socialisation development goals of children were achieved. A group consisting of **15 children, that have dropped out of primary school**, are supported by educators through socio-psychological activities in order to resume access to regular school education and ensure their social integration. More than **50 patients** are regularly treated by the Home Care nurses of Caritas, who in addition organize meetings on health awareness and distribute respective information materials. In collaboration with Family Health Centres (FMC) in Gjakova, **150 children** of the Ali Ibra neighbourhood **were vaccinated**. **Sport activities** are continuously organised on the municipal and regional level, where Ali Ibra football teams participated in different multi-ethnic tournaments. The youth teams of Ali Ibra have scored great results in most of the matches. Caritas Kosova has enabled also the enrolment of RAE youth at programmes of the **Professional Training Centre** in Gjakova. Our **partners** are Caritas Switzerland and the Municipality of Gjakova.



In **Prizren**, Caritas Kosova supported **50 RAE youth** with additional learning activities, implemented measures to prevent school-drop-out, conducted trainings on leadership, representation, lobby; as well as study visits in the region. Furthermore, 25 women were capacitated in the field of health care. The **Municipal Local Action Plan** has been continuously monitored and an **allocation of funds** for the RAE communities was achieved through our lobby activities. Our **partners** are Caritas Switzerland and Caritas Czech Republic. In the neighbourhoods "2 Korriku" and "Roma Mahalla" of **Mitrovica**, Caritas Kosova eradicated illiteracy among **20 RAE women**. **50 primary and secondary school students** have successfully completed our educational trainings and were accordingly certified by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Aiming the inclusion of RAE children to the regular school system, Caritas Kosova supported **70 children** (aged 3-10) through the "Portage" project. More than **300 adults**, mainly parents and community members, are beneficiaries of the "Better Parenting Initiative". Our **partners** are DRC, UNICEF and Caritas France.



### Food Security Programme (Agricultural Development)

In line with the Caritas Internationalis global campaign against hunger in the world, Caritas Kosova has supported the **development of the agricultural sector** and small/medium-sized **family enterprises** in the rural areas of Leposaviq and Mitrovica.

More than **300 farmers** are benefiting from this project implementation phase. Mainly women and youth have received agricultural packages and equipment for diverse sectors such as: fruit and vegetables, beekeeping, livestock and rural development.

Moreover, farmers will continue to benefit from vocational trainings, study visits in the region and organization of fairs **to promote their local products**. Our **partners** are Caritas Belgium and the UK Embassy in Kosovo.



## Socio-Economic Re-integration of Detainees

**Detained women** and **minors** of the Lipjan Correctional Centre are being supported by Caritas Kosova since 2013;

**2 generations of female detainees** have successfully completed the **certified trainings** in hairdressing and tailoring;

Periodically we have organized **recreational activities** for detained minors involving Caritas Kosova volunteers;

In 2015, Caritas Kosova organized a **conference** on: "The impact of social projects on the rehabilitation and reintegration of detainees;"

As a substantial part of the conference, paintings of a young detainee from the Lipjan Correctional Centre were **exhibited** under the title '**Experiences**' - conveying sensitization messages for youth and the general public.

Our strategic **partner** in this project is Caritas France.



Educational Project

Caritas Kosova remains committed to ensuring and enhancing the **qualitative education** in Kosovo.

The Caritas kindergarten in Ferizaj, one of the biggest in Kosovo, continued delivering daily child care services as well during the year 2015 by accompanying more than **250 children** aged **6 months up to 6 years**.

**Professional teams**, working in a space of 1.172 m<sup>2</sup>, ensure a charming environment for children in the kindergarten.

Our **partner** in this project is the Municipality of Ferizaj.



## Humanitarian Assistance

More than **500 families** living in extreme poverty are directly supported by aritas Kosova with food, clothes and diverse furniture items. **Thousands of beneficiaries** were assisted through the decentralized distribution structures, whereby the following institutions have intermediated: **Catholic Church** in Kosovo: parishes, congregations, soup-kitchens for the poor and kindergartens.

**Different organizations:** NGO-s for people with special needs, Association of Pensioners (Ferizaj, Shtime, Suhareka), the Association of Labour Invalids in Vitia, SOS village, Association of Deaf Persons in Gjakova, Centre for the Protection of Women and Children (Ferizaj, Reçak), Humanitarian organisation "Pashtriku" in Prizren, sport clubs, as well Caritas project beneficiaries - Socio-educational Centre in Dubrava.

**Institutions:** schools, collective shelter in Dubrava, the Special Institute in Shtime, regional hospitals, family health centres, centres for elderly, the Integrated Community House (Ferizaj), University Clinic Center in Prishtina; centres for social work (Ferizaj, Shtime, Fushë Kosova), municipal departments (Kaçanik Malishevë, Shtimlje), Kosovo Police and Correctional Centre in Lipjan. Since 1999, our **partners** are volunteers of the "Junge Leute Helfen" organization.



**Migration** remains a permanent phenomena characterizing Kosovo families, who for various reasons abandon their homeland, either to survive or ensure a better life. During the year 2015, Caritas Kosova has provided grants to Kosovo returnees from Belgium and the Netherlands for the set-up of a **family business**.

**Socially vulnerable** cases and persons with **health** problems, depending on their needs, were provided as well with a respective support fund. Upon the receipt of financial aid, all beneficiaries are continuously supported by Caritas Kosovo up to **12 months**, based on their requests. Our **partners** are Caritas Belgium and Matverk bij Terugker.



In the year 2015, Caritas Kosova, in cooperation with partners and experts from Italy, contributed to the **drafting of the current law** on social enterprises. In the framework of this project, **3 workshops, a conference and 2 study visits in 6 countries in the region** were organized in order to learn from their best practices and to seek for opportunities of transferring this knowledge to the Kosovo context.

Caritas Kosova enabled a supportive environment and financed the establishment of **3 social enterprises** that are entirely managed by youth groups and organizations of the Diocese of Kosovo.

These social enterprises **aim directly at vulnerable groups** by employing them or offering different services with favourable conditions. **Partners** in this new initiative are the Italian Episcopal Conference and Caritas Italiana.



**Emergency Interventions**

According to our Strategic Framework 2013-2017, Caritas Kosova has established a special **sector for rapid intervention** in cases of emergency.

Since 2009 we are co-founder and member of the regional group **SEECEG**. In this context, Caritas has already developed the **National Action Plan for Emergencies** in Kosovo.

Caritas Kosova applies the methodology of "Disaster Risk Reduction" (**DRR**) and Caritas Standards (**SPHERE**).

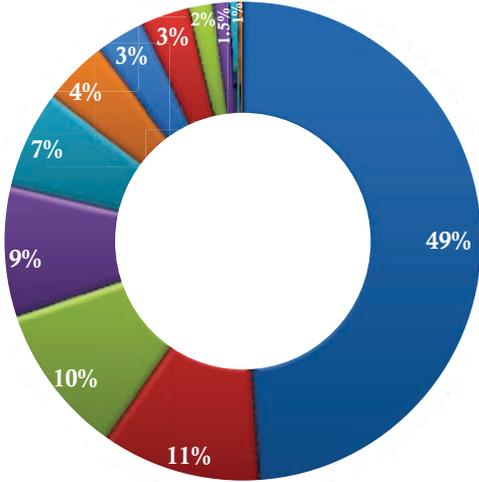
**10% of staff and 15% of Caritas Kosova volunteers** are professionally trained to intervene in cases of emergencies.

Our **partners** are Caritas Internationalis and Caritas Europa



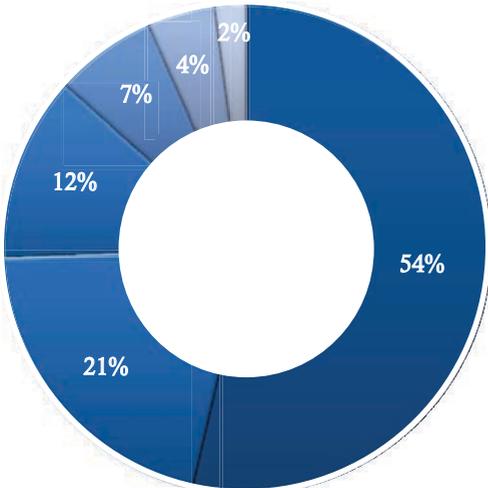
**ANNUAL BUDGET 2,415,977.19€**

PERCENTAGES UNDER PROGRAMS



- 49% Home Care Programme
- 3% Against Trafficking In Human Beings Programme
- 4% Nacional Peace and Reconciliation Programme
- 7% People With Disabilities Programme
- 11% RAE Integration Programme
- 9% Food Security Programme
- 1% Socio-Economic Re-Integration of Detainees
- 10% Education Project
- 1.5% Humanitarian Assistance
- 1% Re-Integration of Returnees
- 2% Social Enterprises
- 3% Structure of Caritas Kosova

PERCENTAGES UNDER DONORS



- 21% Caritas Network
- 54% Municipality
- 4% European Union
- 2% Ministries
- 7% Embassies
- 12% Other

MONETARY VALUE

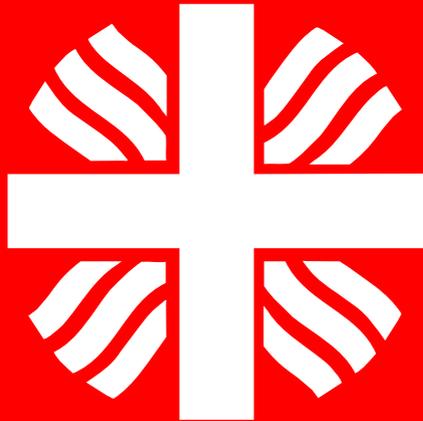
41,310.00 €

MATERIALS VALUE

196,20 TON

**Note:** HUMANITARIAN AID





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