



Malteser

NDIHMON NË SHQIPËRI



Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum

ACTIVITY REPORT 2013

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I. INTRODUCTION

“Malteser Albania” is the organization of the Order of Malta in Albania. It **works on projects and activities, standing by those who need a caring hand, under the motto “Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum”** - Defense of the Faith and Assistance to the Poor and the Suffering.

Malteser Albania is a non-governmental organization, established in 1995 by “*Malteser Hilfsdienst*” of Germany which is also its main donor. The organization's headquarter is in Shkodra.

The success of our activities is based on the trustful cooperation with the national and international partners, local communities as well as our donors. Volunteers are the valuable resource of Malteser, willingly working for the betterment of the community and themselves.

Malteser activities are focused on medical, social and civil protection fields, providing help and support to people in need throughout Albania.

II. PROJECTS

Medical Assistance

Providing basic medical service

One of the most important Medical Activities is the Mountain project that Malteser Albania started since it was founded, in 1993. This project responds to the urgent need for medical service in the mountain areas, where the state medical structures are not able to provide basic medical service.

In 2013 the medical assistance was focused in three mountain villages -Bogë, Bratosh and Sheldi- covering a population of about four thousand inhabitants, where there is still a lack of state health service, offering visits, consultations and health education. 2218 patients received medical check-ups and treatments for different diseases.

The ambulatory service set-up at the Malteser's premises, offers medical visits and consultations for a lot of patients coming from mountain zones and for Roma and Egyptian community.

On the World Diabetes Day, in accordance with the theme "Diabetes - Education and Prevention", in collaboration with the Regional Public Health Directorate, Malteser Albania organized the Health Fair in the city center of Shkodra.



Roma Project

One step forward for the Integration of Roma and Egyptian communities in our society



Despite the continuous efforts done, Roma and Egyptian communities still remain one of the most disadvantaged minority groups facing exclusion and high levels of poverty in our society.

“One step forward in integrating Roma and Egyptian population in the society”, is a project Malteser launched in 2000 with these communities. It involves several social and medical activities with the aim to improve different aspects of life regarding health, education and social status.

The social activities, held twice a week involved additional afternoon classes for school children, indoor and outdoor activities. Afternoon education and entertaining sessions for young people.

The medical assistance was offered through basic medical visits and consultations, transports to hospitals and health and education trainings.

On the World Toilet Day, Malteser Albania came to meet the needs of the Roma Community living in tents and cabins by the River Drin in Shkodra. This community of about 250 people is faced with very difficult living conditions. They live in extreme poverty, lacking even minimal sanitation conditions.

Malteser has provided and installed three toilets equipped with a toilet and a sink, and working of a groove with taps close to their quarter, being thus, another group of toilets set by Malteser.

Pairs Project

Effective Programs for the Active Integration/ Inclusion of the Roma in South-East Europe

The Roma/Gipsy minority is the largest ethnic minority in Europe. Around 10-12 million Roma are estimated to live in Europe and approximately 68% of them in South East Europe (SEE) countries.

The exclusion and social deprivation of the Roma is an untimely and unresolved problem in the whole area.

Despite various programs and initiatives targeting them, Roma communities (in SEE) are still exposed to discrimination and segregation, and their equal access to work, education, social benefits, health care, adequate housing, other public services and justice is still limited. The PAIRS partnership involves 18 (11 financing) partners from 8 SEE countries where the exclusion of Roma population represents a high policy priority: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

The consortium provides a horizontal and vertical combination of various expertise and competences in governance (national and local) and program implementation

(local/ regional/national level, on several thematic fields).

The PAIRS project will offer integrated, sustainable solutions, with the consent of all important stakeholders of Roma inclusion that will be convertible to programming.

More effective and widely used integration methods and evidence based programming and funding schemes targeted to Roma inclusion.



Summer camp Velipoja 2013

Integration of Roma, Egyptian and children coming from remote areas



For the 12th consecutive year Malteser Albania organized Summer School-Camp (28 June – 27 July 2013) in Velipoja beach. The Summer Camp welcomed 210 Roma and Egyptian children, children from the outskirts of Shkodra and from the remote areas of Malesi e Madhe, Tropoja and Puka. In addition to the opportunity to enjoy summer holidays that their families can't afford. This Summer Camp offered a wide variety of entertainment and educational activities, provided children with new things to do every day, fostered in them the independence, enriched them with social skills, and raised their awareness on the importance of relationship with others, a way to integrate them into the social life, since they come from poor and isolated backgrounds. As in the other Summer Camps,

volunteers prepared the terrain, set up the tents, organized and ran all the planned teaching and entertaining activities.

The camp facilities this year were improved due to the installation of new drinking water pipes which was a great relief for the camp especially for the stock room and the camp kitchen clad with clapboards.

On the last evening, the Holy Mass was celebrated by Malteser spiritual leader. A festive atmosphere was created afterwards, with the campers and the guests.

Before leaving the camp, the Malteser volunteers received certificates as a gratitude for their wonderful work done in the Summer School-Camp, Velipoja 2013.

A TV report on the Camp was broadcasted by the local TV.

Malteser Kindergarten

Kindergarten for children in need



For the fourth consecutive year, “Malteser Albania” continued to support the kindergarten for children coming from families in need, families not integrated in the society and families without sufficient means to afford public or private kindergartens.

There were 60 children who attended the kindergarten during the school year 2012-2013.

The Malteser Kindergarten continues to be unique, as this year as well it welcomed children from families in financial difficulties, Roma children, offering to families the opportunity to feel equal in society!



First AID in schools

First aid training courses for the youth



The year 2013 was the end of the first year of the project "First Aid trainings in Schools" with students of the 9-year and high schools in Shkodra and Lezha, according to the agreement with the Ministry of Education.

For this year in total, 280 students were trained to be skilled in providing First Aid Training and 40 students as trainers of the First Aid for their schoolmates.

The project "First Aid trainings in Schools" was finalized with the First Aid competition among the participating schools, where the winner school is given a trainers' kit.

At the end of the competition, the winners were the 9-year school "Zemra e Krishtit" from Shkodra in the second place and the 9-year school "Besëlidhja" from Lezha in the first place.



Cunsultation and service center for the community

Working with people with disabilities



The Malteser Consultation and Service Center for the Community was opened a year ago with the aim to support marginalized people, children with mental and physical problems, elderly people, people with limited opportunities, etc; and to promote equal opportunities and equal rights for

people with disabilities; encourage the inclusion of disabled people in society by supporting them; and advocate the rights of the disabled people within our society.

In addition to working on the various previous activities,

in 2013 the Center expanded its activities as follows:

22 people aged 3 to 16 years, almost all of autistic spectrum, were treated three times a week in the Center, according to a schedule set by the therapist; meetings with parents were held, where they were informed about their child's performance, methods and techniques necessary for the continuity of the work, importance of strong collaboration of parent-teacher-therapist, the difficulties encountered in the integration of children in kindergarten and school environment.

In the House of Charity in Laç Vau Dejës, where elderly and disabled people of all ages are treated, a physiotherapist treated two children with tetraplegia three times a week.

A training on "Children on the autistic spectrum" was held in cooperation with the Shkodra Municipality and the Regional Development Center of Disabled Children in Shkodra.

Every week, the volunteers assisted 85 people (60 disabled children and 25 adult girls) who live at the house "Missionaries of Charity Mother Teresa" with feeding, day trips, home cinemas, feast parties, etc;

During occasional activities, assistance was offered to 60 disabled resident children and 42 children in day care at the Regional Disabled Center of Children, where the volunteers tried to make them feel equal to their peers;

Assistance for the elderly and disabled people in different Church activities in Laç-Vau Dejës and Shkodra, specially during celebrations on the day of the sick;

Assistance to fifteen disabled elderly during the pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of "Saint Anthony" in Laç, Kurbin, now an annual tradition.



Fighting cancer

Public awareness and staff training



Following the agreement between Order of Malta and IAEA's (International Atomic Energy Agency) program of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), Malteser Albania, the Public Health Institute and the Ambassador of the Order of Malta in UN, Prof. Dr. Gunther A. Granser, are offering ample support in fight against cancer.

In this framework, in 2013, Malteser Albania, in cooperation with the Public Health Institute, prepared, financed and distributed leaflets on breast and uterus cancer.

In collaboration with the Public Health Directorate of Shkodra, Malteser organized a fair in the city center in order to raise awareness of women and girls of different age groups.

Another activity Malteser Albania had in cooperation with the Public Health Institute is the training: "Clinical examination of breast", accredited by the National Center of Continuing Education (QKEV) for professionals of health service, doctors and nurses of Shkodra. The purpose of this training was to provide the primary health care workers with accurate knowledge on breast examination, the importance of the earliest possible detection of various pathologies of the breast and at the end, be able to assess risk and provide recommendations for screening and care according to breast pathology protocols.

Developing youth work

Within the Order of Malta Relief Organizations in Central and Eastern Europe

Following the joint mission and vision the OMROs (Order of Malta Relief Organizations) seek to enable civic participation by offering space and opportunities for voluntary work and create environment for spiritual development.

The project "Developing Youth Work" contributes to organizational development and capacity building of the participating network member organizations by having access to know-how and developing methodologies, in order to vitalize and promote youth work and active citizenship, thus strengthening the foundation for volunteering and promoting the value of civil society.

During a period of two year time the project aims at (re)vitalizing and improving the quality of existing youth work operations and provide knowledge and expertise to those network members which operate on a local/central level.

The lead Partner of the project is Malteser in Romania and the Malteser Relief Organisation partners are Albania, Lithuania, Hungaria, Czech Republic and Ukraine. The program rationale is based on a three step approach, the total budget of the project is 201.362,20€



III. ACTIVITIES

Via crucis

Station of the Cross



February 23, 2013 marked the 15th anniversary of the Station of Cross which is prayed every year during the Lent season on the Mountain of Tarabosh, in Shkodra. This is a prayer which invites all the youth groups and the faithful of all ages prepare themselves for the Easter celebrations. The Malteser volunteers participated and prayed the 2nd Station "Jesus carries the cross".



FA assistance

DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES

The Malteser First Aid Team assisted in church activities in Shkodra Laç Vau-Dejës, Pristine, in sport activities. In the framework of First Aid Service, in 2013, during football matches, the First Aid Team of Malteser volunteers provided assistance to: *National Football Championship for men; National Football Championship for women; *Diocesan Football Tournament of Sapa.



Malteser volunteers trip in Cetinje

Our Lady of Philermos “welcomes” the Malteser Volunteers in Cetinje

It has become a tradition that the Malteser Albania volunteers, who participate in the Summer Camps in Velipoja, have a rewarding trip in different places.

This year, the volunteers who participated in the Summer Camp Velipoja 2013, accompanied by the staff, have had a cultural and an entertaining trip in October 26, in Cetinje. The first stop was in the Art Museum, where the ancient, miracle-working icon of Our Lady of Philermos is currently kept, together with many other works of art. After, they have climbed the Lovćen Mountain to visit the Lovćen Mausoleum and have a look at the amazing view of the whole town.



IV. MALTESER ALBANIA PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

The Order of Malta celebrates

THE 900TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BULL PIE POSTULATIO VOLUNTATIS



Pope Benedict XVI met with around 4,000 Knights and Dames, members and volunteers of the Order of Malta, in a special ceremony marking the 900th anniversary of the establishment of the Organization as a Sovereign Military Order under Papal protection. The ceremony was held at Vatican on Saturday, February 9, 2013, and its highest solemnity was the Eucharistic celebration at Saint Peter's Basilica. Malteser Albania attended this special event.

20. bis 22. September

Malteser Bundeswettbewerb 2013 – die Leistungsschau der Sanitäter
Bundesversammlung



German Malteser fest

Aachen 2013

In September, Malteser Hilfsdienste celebrated the 60th anniversary of its establishment. A three-day festival was held with several activities: Federal Assembly; national championship among 53 Malteser groups, youth and adults from the fields of education, paramedic etc. A Holy Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral of Aachen. Malteser Albania was part of these festivities.



The Regional Conference on Central and Eastern Europe in Hungary

In October, the Memorial Conference on: “The Past, Present and Future of the Sovereign Order of Malta in the Central-Eastern European Region”. was held in Budapest, Hungary.

Three very important anniversaries were commemorated during the Conference: i) the 900th anniversary of official recognition of the Order by Pope Paschal II's (1113-2013), ii) the 85th anniversary of the foundation of the Order's Hungarian Association (1928-2013) and iii) the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Order of Malta's Hungarian assistance service (1989-2014).

This event, with the participation of the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing and around 200 people from 12 countries, including Albania, was also an opportunity to review the initiatives the Order has promoted in this part of Europe, also thanks to the development of social services in Hungary, where the Order of Malta's assistance corps (MMSZ) helps the needy with the support of 20,000 volunteers.

A poster exhibition illustrated the activities the Order of Malta's institutions carry out in Albania, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and Hungary.



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