



Organizata Shqiptare  
e Urdhrit të Maltës

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

## 2016

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## Medical assistance



As the previous years, Malteser Albania runs the project in the mountain villages: Bogë, Bratosh and Sheldi. During the year 3100 patients approximately were visited and received treatments for different sickness. We covered the base medical services, which include medical visits, therapies, laboratory analyses, medical specialist consultations, emergency transports to hospitals and many other more services.

The ambulatory at the headquarters of Malteser Albania, offered more than 1000 medical visits and health services for patients who are part of Roma and Egyptian communities, as well as for the citizens of Shkodra, elderly and from the outskirts of the city that lack the health insurance.

Constantly increasing the efficiency of the health services to our patients, recently Malteser Albania set up a clinical laboratory that offers bio-chemical analysis.

## Roma and Egyptian Project

Our program “One step forward for integration of Roma and Gypsie communities” included following directions:

a) One of the priorities of our work was medical and health education services:

-During this ongoing period, “Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta” has covered medical and health education services for Roma and Gypsie communities. We realized 500 medical-checks up.

-We realized not only basic medical visits but also the needed therapy, admonition with specialist doctors, special transports with Malteser ambulance-car. The health education trainings reached to 300 people.

b) The education activities for the children have included to the following directions:

-Teaching and support classes for children who enrolled in 9- year public education system.

-Activities for esthetical education.

-Outdoor games and sports, field trips and Christmas activities.

-Recreational activities/ theatre and art therapy.

c) Legal assistance:

Many families were deported from abroad, where they emigrated. Their return home has brought many problems, both economical and social problems. We managed to registrate the children at schools, to made possible in having economic assistance benefits, employment opportunities, etc.

-The support of the Albanian Organization of Malta consisted in: referral and direct support for benefiting from public services, such as registration in Civil Registry Office, enrolment in the education system (preschool and compulsory), referral for the enrolment in vocational training courses.



-We made possible to register 16 children at school, have equipped them with school-books, we wrote letters to made for them possible in profiting social assistance, as well as addressing to employment or reemployment of 5 people.

d) Made possible in having social assistance for the families with social and economical difficulties, furnishing them with food packages during the winter time.

e) Entertainment activities, field trips, workshops with Roma youngsters in collaboration with Malteser volunteers.

During our activities we assisted more than 700 people, among them 200 children. The main collaborators involved in our activities were Regional Education Authority, Regional Directorate of State Social Services, Civil Registry Office, Regional Directorate of Public Health, Municipality and District.



## Roma community in Action Project

Malteser Albania in partnership with Save the Children Albania has implemented during 2016 the new project “Roma community in Action” in Shkodër. During this year our efforts for the implementation



of the Malteser project were focused on strengthening the community’s capacities and skills to claim their rights, increasing their collaboration with local institutions in solving their problems, and preparing the young people to be economically active, social and political members of society. In this frame, a training package it was designed to respond to Roma youth’s needs and was delivered to 30 young Roma people through trainings sessions. In the trainings on the legal and administrative procedures of citizenship and the benefits that derive from this turned out 98 Roma parents. It was conducted an action research by Roma youth themselves with

the support of Malteser Albania, aiming to evaluate the current socio-economic situation of Roma community near Buna River. Different visits in different local business we conducted together with Roma youth aiming to increase their confidence on finding a job and to increase their opportunities for employment. Three Advocacy events (round tables) initiated by Roma youth and organized during the year 2016 with representatives of local institutions; representatives of main social services and main NGOs of the city. Roma youth advocated with local institutions for their concerns to become part of local social programs aiming to improve their economic and social status and that their voice to be heard.

## Summer School Camp, Velipoja 2016

The summer school – camp was organized by the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta in Velipoja beach during July, 2016.



We welcomed Roma and Egyptian children and children from remote areas of Tropoja, Arripa e Gurit and Northern Albania, who were given the opportunity to enjoy summer vacation, impossible for their families to make that happen due to their economical and social reasons, giving the fact that these children come from poor and isolated backgrounds.

The participants were divided into three shifts, with 75 children for each shift, mainly Roma, Egyptian and other children. It's important to mention that in the last week of our camp, we have invited 45 more Roma children (in total 120 children/day), and these children were from another Roma camp near Drin River.

Our staff was supported by 15 volunteers per shift. There were two Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus from Tropoja and representatives and parents of Roma and Egyptian communities helping in the camp together with the volunteers.

Nonetheless of many education activities, the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta provides swimming lessons and horse riding lessons. Under the leadership of the instructors, the children had the chance in training to ride the horses and got different information about horses.

We expressed our gratitude to the Ambassador Franz Salm-Reifferscheidt, Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta for Roma Issues and the group of St. Cyriakus parish in Neuss- Grimlinghausen who were main sponsors for this activity.



## Malteser Kindergarten

Malteser Kindergarten during the 2016 has welcomed 60 children coming from families with social and economical difficulties whom could not afford a monthly expensive fee for private or state kindergartens. From the total group of 60 children who were welcomed:

- 4 disabled children (autistic children, children with mental and physical disabilities), who have been treated with educative services in order to integrate them in a normal environment;
- Four Roma and Gypsy children.

Volunteers of the Malteser Albania have supported the activities of the kindergarten in general and particularly, for the specific need of the disabled children. Malteser Albania will try with all its efforts to



offer opportunities to marginalized category of people by offering especially to their children the possibility to learn in appropriate manner that will positively affect to their development.

Malteser Albania, would like to thank Renovabis, for all the financial support given in the frame of the project “Support of an integrative kindergarten of the Malteser in Shkoder” during 2016.

## Civil Protection



Fortunately, during 2016 there was not any situation of emergency.

On 29&30 October 2016 Malteser Albania in cooperation with doctors and nurses volunteers, and not only them, improvised a situation of emergency in Razem, Shkoder. Fifty persons attended the training. After this training, every participant took a certificate.

## Volunteers activities

### *FA Assistance during football matches*



In the frame of First Aid Service, in 2016, during football matches, the First Aid Team of Malteser volunteers assisted in: \*National Football Championship for men (20 matches); National Football Championship for women (40 matches);

### *Via Crucis – Station of the Cross and Lent season*

Nonetheless of the other years activities, this year the volunteers of the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta have been committed in awareness activities to help people in need. Our volunteers have designed an awareness flyer/poster and have distributed them to all the churches of our region during the Sundays Holy Mass, as well as in all the schools where our volunteers study.



During Lent season, they divided themselves into groups and every Friday helped with food families in need, mostly the families who experience hardship in living conditions. The Lent season this year has been deeply felt by the volunteers of the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta, who participated not only in the activities specified in their calendar, but they also, were offered in other spiritual activities. One of the activities is the Way of the Cross in the Mount of Tarabosh. Naturally the Malteser volunteers have been part of the group of innumerable believers.

The prayer of the Station of the Cross was held on Saturday, March 12, led by Msgr. Angelo Massafra, Archbishop of Shkodër – Pult. Giving the fact that this is the Year of Mercy, testimonies of martyrs of the Albanian Catholic Church were read during the Station of the Cross. The Malteser volunteers prayed the 14th station “Jesus is laid in the tomb”. In this event participated the staff members and volunteers of the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta, together with the First Aid Team of the Organization taking part.



**Bashkojuni**  
nismës së vullnetarëve të Malteser Shqipëri  
**Dhuroni**  
për njerëzit në nevojë që nuk kanë  
mjafatueshëm për të ngrënë!

**Pilgrimage of the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta to Lourdes**



From 29 April to 4 May 2016, Lourdes welcomed some 7000 members and volunteers, including 1500 sick people, coming from 44 countries on five continents. In this Jubilee year, there was a great significance in passing through the Door of Mercy at the Saint Michel’s Gate entrance to the sanctuary. Volunteers carried out the rite of passage with the sick people, before gathering in the underground basilica for the Eucharist procession. The Pontifical Mass was celebrated on Sunday in the Basilica of St. Pius X by Raymond Leo Burke, Cardinalis Patronus, at his second pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Order of Malta. There were 6 people taking part from the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta in this pilgrimage, having a sick person in a wheelchair with them.

### *Two teams from Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta offered medical assistance in the Jubilee of Mercy activity*

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy is a period of prayer for Catholics held from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8), 2015 to the Feast of Christ the King (November 20), 2016.



The participants are from Europe and other countries, including Germany, Austria, Ireland, Switzerland, France, Malta, Albania, Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Cuba and America. They provide medical assistance to the thousands of pilgrims expected in Rome during the year.

From 23 April 2016 to 30 April 2016, the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta was present in this activity with two teams. Each team had 4 participants: a doctor, a nurse and two rescuers. They offered medical assistance in 4 points: at St Paul Outside the Walls, at St Peter's Square, St John Lateran and St Mary Major.

We expressed our gratitude to the Ambassador Stefano Palumbo, Ambassador of the Order of Malta in Albania who was the sponsor for this activity.

### **A strong Malteser Youth Network for a long term positive change in Europe**

The creation of the Youth Network began in 2013 with an international project to revitalize and improve the quality of existing youth work operations within the Order of Malta Relief Organizations in Central and Eastern Europe. Since, in 2016 the network members were in the nine countries: Albania, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

Our work resulted in a new structure, promising project ideas, fostering international cooperative projects and activities between network members, strengthening the work of youth workers and young volunteers on the national level, helping the journey of the network in the future.

Our final draft of the Network Statement was created, including the mission of the network, which is to develop the faith based on the youth and volunteer work of the OMROs through international partnerships.

### **“Multimedia multipliers for margins”**

The Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta was one of 12 partners of the project Erasmus+ “Multimedia multipliers for margins”. The project was the advanced form of citizen journalism, which aims to empower and represent the views of vulnerable groups, but at the same time, it represents an innovative model of training tools for young people.

The aim of the project was to contribute to the prevention of discrimination by encouraging equal representation in the public sphere, through the realization and distribution of videos, photos for inclusion and integration.



## ”Malteser Youth exchange”



The Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta was one of 5 partners of the Erasmus+ project ”Malteser Youth exchange”. The lead partner was Malteser Relief Organization of Poland, other partners were Malteser organizations from Albania, Rumania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The project aim was to participate in voluntary activities and assistance to disabled persons during the World Youth Day in Krakow. Seven young volunteers of the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta were part of the project activities for one week.

## Malteser Consultation and Service Center for the Community

In 2016 the Malteser Consultation and Service Center for the Community expanded its activities in: weekly



assistance to the 85 *disabled people* (60 children and 25 grown up girls) at the house of “Missionaries of Charity Mother Teresa” which consists in feeding, walking, excursions and home cinemas, these were the activities held; -treatment for 40 people aged 3 to 16 years, in these treatment includes almost all of autistic spectrum, five times a week in the Center, from psychologist, logoped and physiotherapist.

- in the House of Charity in Laç Vau Dejës, where elderly and disabled people of all ages are treated, a physiotherapist treats 3 tetraplegic children five times a week. Malteser

Consultation and Service Center has provided to the returnees psychological support services and speech therapy to the children with special needs.

Within the awareness activities during the autism month, the volunteers of the Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta, in collaboration with the Regional Education Directorate of Shkodra, organized on April 8, an awareness marching along the Kole Idromeno pedestrians street.

The volunteers of the Malteser Organization and the schools children accompanied by teachers and institutions’ staff, conducted a marching with awareness posters made by the students themselves. They distributed stickers and information leaflets to citizens in support of children with autism, Down syndrome and disabilities.

## Support to Reintegration of returnees in North Albania

The aim of the project is to provide the appropriate support and assurance for the reintegration of those repatriated people through integrated services. In this frame, Malteser has established good collaboration with state institutions and with civil society organizations with the aim to urge the cooperation in the

process of reintegration of returnees in North Albania. Malteser Albania has organized in regard of that matter a round table, which brought in focus the importance for inter-institutional cooperation". Malteser has provided to the returnees with detailed information through the delivery of 2000 leaflets and posters on reintegration opportunities; psychological support services and speech therapy has went on throughout the year 2016 providing to the returnees and children with special needs. Malteser offered a legal assistance



through a clear and comprehensive communication to 38 families. Making possible to re enter in the procedures for the economic aid scheme; 268 orientations were made to individuals for re-entering to the health services and provided as well with medical assistance. 50 families were been provided with food packages; 589 returned citizens were been provided from Malteser with counseling and orientation to be included in vocational trainings, as the way in increasing the possibilities to be part of the labor market and to increase their economic status. In this process, we gave a special attention to pregnant mothers, children and

members of Roma community. We expressed our gratitude to the Malteser Hilfsdienst, Mr. Martin Rösler, who was the sponsor for this project.

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