

# Caritas Kosova



Annual Report 2013

# CONTENT:

INTRODUCTORY WORD	3
HOME CARE PROGRAMME	4
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	5
ANTI - TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS PROGRAMME	6
EDUCATION PROGRAMME	7
DISABLED PEOPLE PROGRAMME	8
NACIONEL PEACE & REONCILITATION PROGRAMME	9
RAE INTEGRATION	12
RE-INTEGRATION OF RETURNEES PROJECT	14
AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME	15
EMERGENCY INTERVENTION	16
RE-INTEGRATION OF PRISONERS AFTER RELEASE PROJECT	17



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food for all** ✱

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## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2013 OUR WORK IN KOSOVO

**Dear readers, friends and supporters of Caritas Kosova**

In line with our vision, we promote universal values, improve social and economic life conditions of the Kosovar society through focused actions and care towards justice, human rights defense, social inclusion and with a prevailing attention and devotion towards people in need and the most marginalized ones. We have mobilized all our efforts and resources in order to fulfill this mission and assist our people in need who are continuously accompanied by our professional Caritas staff. In this context, through our work, action and partnerships we aim to promote solidarity, fraternal love and heart-felt warmth by protecting the dignity of every human being, regardless of the people's social background.



In the following pages of our Annual Report 2013, we have uncovered concrete examples of our work in the field of social and health assistance, sustainable development, lobby and advocacy and emergency relief. A major milestone has been the launching of our new Strategic Framework 2013-2017 that will guide us in our work throughout the upcoming years. In terms of programmes and projects, providing care for vulnerable people at home remains one of the Caritas Kosova priorities, not only by healing the physical wounds of abandoned elderly people; but, also attempting to socialize with them so that they break away from seclusion. Furthermore, we remain committed to our extensive social work with socially excluded and disabled people, empowering their families and cooperating with other non-governmental organizations. Notably this year, we have laid new synergies of cooperation with the European Union Office in Kosovo that is complementarily financing our efforts in the field of disabilities. Moreover, one of the most significant constituents of our sacred mission is the promotion of peace and reconciliation among all the ethnic communities in Kosovo, which remains a priority in our post-war society. In addition to this, guided by the principle of human rights, Caritas Kosova continues to be a strong supporter of combating trafficking of human beings, aiming the protection of human dignity. RAE (Roma, Ashkali & Egyptians) integration and education of youth and children, including animations, continue to shape our daily Caritas work on the field during 2013. This year's highlight in education has been the opening of the Caritas kindergarten which further contributes to the education of children. The development of the rural economies is considered as a crucial pre-condition to secure sustainability of rural family businesses and Caritas will continue supporting them. Finally, we piloted with a new approach in re-integrating prisoners after release targeting one of the most marginalized groups in Kosovar society.

But all this has been made possible thanks to the great commitment of our Caritas staff members who are permanently in service of people in need. Special thanks are addressed to the great support and contribution of our friends, partners, donors, volunteers and people of good will. As a result of all this, Caritas Kosova today is a significant social actor successfully operating in the entire territory of Kosovo.

**Thanks for putting your faith in us!**

**God Bless You!**

**Don Viktor Sopi  
General Director**





## FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE



Caritas Kosova has been working since 2009 in the Home Care Program with the support of Caritas Germany. The programme is a result of the huge needs for the home care services as this sort of services do not exist within the social and health system in Kosovo. Caritas is the only social service provider of home care in Kosovo, and through our work we focusing on crucial aspects of the health challenges faced by the Republic of Kosovo. Our programme is designed to address directly the needs of the diseased and disabled elderly people, where the most common illnesses suffered by them are visual and hearing impairment, disorders of the central nervous system, heart disease, and high blood pressure and sugar levels. Besides these services, Caritas Kosova, also assists them in their daily tasks, such as: personal hygiene, getting out of bed, getting dressed, cleaning the house and shopping, which often cannot be managed by the elderly people, where most of them are abandoned.



Our vision within the programme is to establish a home care system on a national scale, which the support of Caritas Germany and local authorities is gradually becoming attainable. Caritas managed to strengthen the cooperation with state institutions such as Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare which enabled to set up a home care team in Gračanica supporting the elderly Serbian community. In addition to this, we have signed agreements with municipalities mayors; thus, nowadays the Home Care programme is implemented in 14 centers in Kosovo, that are namely Ferizaj, Suhareka, Mitrovica, Gjilan, Rahovec, Klina, Vitia, Shtime, Drenas and Malisheva.



So, currently there are over 18 mobile teams operating, and more than 50 nurses and medical staff providing services to people in need. Our teams consisting of nurses are professionally trained by a German Home Care expert of the DCV and professionals from Austrian Volkshilfe. Moreover, study visits were organized in Montenegro, BiH, and Austria.



During the year, more than 31.734 visits for abandoned, sick, elderly people were conducted and more than 1432 beneficiaries were provided with services on a daily basis. Unfortunately, 347 of our beneficiaries have passed away; however, we have accompanied them in this stage of life ensuring that they lived with dignity until the last minute, for which their family members are very grateful.

In fact, our work has contributed to the promotion of peace and reconciliation among communities as well by bringing together staff and beneficiaries from different ethnic and religious backgrounds. One of our beneficiaries, who is more than 80 years old said : "Our life wouldn't mean nothing, without you , thank you for your continues support."





## “ YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN ”

The Caritas mission considers the human being in the image of God; therefore the help of Caritas Kosova is provided to all people in need without discrimination to ethnic background, religion, age and gender. Since 1999, Caritas Kosova has been distributing humanitarian aids all over Kosovo through the support of the German organization Junge Leute Helfen.

During the year 2013, more than 2451 families have been supported that had sought for help in the Receiving Center (Centro di Ascolta) of Caritas Kosova located in Ferizaj.

Additionally, Caritas Luxembourg has assisted us in supporting 30 families with basic food packages only in the region of Ferizaj. Thorough social assistance programme, we strongly support individuals or families living in extreme poverty; and beyond this, several municipalities, governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations are beneficiaries of our humanitarian aid scheme as well.

Through our Caritas offices all over Kosovo, including the North and other regions inhabited by minority communities like Dubrava or Graçanica, our Social-educational Center in Dubrava (Ferizaj), the Early Education and Detection Center for disabled children in Prizren, our Home Care teams humanitarian aids were delivered to beneficiaries. In addition to this, we supported several parishes of the Kosovo Diocese, including the soup-kitchen in Prishtina, educational institutions such as kindergartens which are managed by sisters of respective congregations. Moreover, Caritas has supported as well other community based NGOs such as Handikos, Associations of Labor Disabled, various associations of disabled people (e.g. blind), SOS Children's Village, Don Bosco Center, centers for the protection and rehabilitation of women and children (victims of violence), and the Integration Center in Ferizaj. Furthermore, state schools have benefited as well from our support with school inventory that was donated. We have even provided hospitals with medical equipment and materials, and especially the Mental Clinical Center in Shtime is regularly provided clothes and non-food items.

Traditionally, Junge Leute Helfen visit Caritas Kosovo annually in the summer time in order to meet beneficiaries that were supported through the donations collected in Bavaria and exchange experiences with Caritas volunteers. A group of more than 24 youth visited Caritas, various beneficiary families and institutions in Ferizaj, Prishtina and Mitrovica in August 2013! Whereas, in November 2013 a delegation of Caritas Kosova visited Junge Leute Helfen in Germany aiming to share with people of good will the situation and experience of poverty in Kosovo and transmit the messages of gratitude for the great contribution they are giving for more than a decade. The message is clear - "Our people need you!" We are certainly aware that the donations for the survival of the beneficiaries are symbolic; however, our beneficiaries are deeply grateful that they are not forgotten and all alone in their poverty. Through our joint action we aim to restore their human dignity of which poverty is depriving them. Caritas Kosovo still remains a significant "helping hand" and the focal point for the Kosovar people in need!



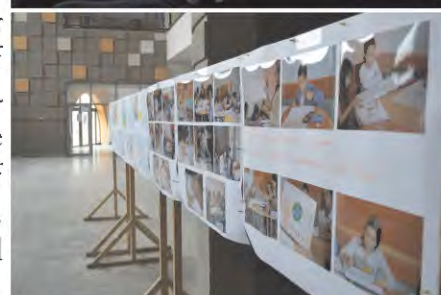




## WITH JOINT EFFORTS COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Fight against human trafficking in Kosovo remains one of the priorities of Caritas Kosova's work, in the new strategy 2013-2017. The project has continued its implementation for the 2013-2015 phase, as a project supported by Secours Catholique Caritas France, aiming to promote prevention of trafficking in human beings, strengthen the capacities of shelters for victims of human trafficking and facilitate the process of victims' social reintegration. During this year a crucial output of the programme has been the publication of the survey on citizens' awareness on trafficking in human beings, which outreached 700 respondents in six municipalities of Kosovo: Mitrovicë, Leposaviq, Shtërpçë, Klllokot, Prizren and Ferizaj. We mainly targeted the Serbian and RAE communities due to the fact that most of the organized campaigns were focused on the national level and not reaching minority communities. The launching of the survey was in close cooperation with the Deputy Minister of the Interior Affairs, who is the National Coordinator of Anti-trafficking in Kosovo. In this context, Caritas is official member of the Inter-ministerial Group on Anti-Trafficking and attends regular meeting to coordinate action and share best practices, challenges faced in this complex process. Moreover, within the prevention component, Caritas has organized info sessions in the municipality of Gjilan and Ferizaj training secondary school students who with the peer-to-peer approach aimed to disseminated information on the phenomena of trafficking, Kosovar institutional mechanisms and legislations in place. Besides the national programme, Caritas Kosova as a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Anti-Trafficking project, has hosted in Kosovo the final conference and study visit of the euro-Mediterranean group in September 20013 which was held at the Prime Minister's Conference Hall with the participation of the Euro Mediterranean project coordinators and respective state national coordinators from: Albania, Armenia, BiH, Bulgaria, France, Kosovo, Lebanon, Romania, and Ukraine. Our panelists were: Mr. Nenad Rasic- Minister of Social Welfare, Mr. Saša Rašić, National Coordinator of Anti-trafficking in Kosovo, Genevieve Colas- Head of Europe from Caritas France, Don Viktor Sopi- General Director of Caritas Kosova; Albert Nikolla- Director of Caritas Albania and Edis Agani, Representative of EU in Kosovo. The aim of the conference was to foster dialogue on a multi-form collaboration in the Euro-Mediterranean region in order to prevent and combat trafficking, and elaborate the fight against trafficking of minors, the obstacles to the implementation of the law, and the complementation between civil society and state institutions. During teh study visits, the shelters in municipality of Prishtina, Mitrovica and Gjilan were visited and the work of Caritas Kosova was present on the field.

Furthermore, Caritas Kosova has been actively engaged to reach out for minors as well in order to sensitize them for forced labour and begging as form of trafficking with human beings. Therefore, on the occasion of the International Children's Day and the International Day against Child Labour, Caritas organized theatrical plays in Ferizaj and Mitrovica, convey messages regarding right of children. Finally, several awareness-raising campaigns were organized through the year.







## CHILDREN DESERVE ONLY THE BEST!

Since 2013 Caritas Kosovo, in cooperation with the Municipality of Ferizaj, has opened the new kindergarten in Ferizaj - one of the largest kindergartens in Kosovo. The building of 1,172 m<sup>2</sup> is offering high quality educational services, being equipped and furnished according to European standards of infrastructure. Immediately in the beginning we started with 142 children. However rapidly the number increased so currently our kindergarten provides early childhood educational and accompaniment services to two hundred and thirty children. Our youngest children are at the age of 6 months, whereas we accompany them up to the age of 6 years when they are ready to attend the first class of school. We have more than forty professional employees who are responsible for the management and logistics, the proper education and health of our children; including the preparation of healthy child food. Depending on their group, age there are special centres for the children named the butterflies (6 months - 3 years), the bees (age 3 - 5) and the birds (pre-school age 5-6). Our kindergarten is characterized to be multi-ethnic since our children have different ethnic backgrounds; whereas we are as well all-inclusive as we do accompany children with special needs. We closely cooperate with local institutions of relevant sectors including private sector actors. In this context, we have offered opportunities to more than sixty seven education students to conduct their internship at our institution. Moreover, we have as well enabled to twenty secondary school food-processing students to do their internships in our kitchen facilities. All this great work is done in order to provide our children with what they deserve - and that is only the best!







## GROWING STRONGER!

### Component: Gjilan/Prishtina

Caritas Kosova is committed to advance the position of people with special needs, has continued its work, by implementing different programs and activities in the municipality of Gjilan and Prizren. In this context, Caritas has aimed to strengthen associations working on disability in Prishtina and Gjilan region and involving the community in the life and governance of Disabled People Organisations (DPO) in cooperation with the Kosovar Centre for Self-Help, financed by Caritas Italiana. Meanwhile, the project continued to a third phase of implementation; whereas, from April 2013 the programme has evolved to being funded by the European Commission. Our target group consists of various DPOs operating in the region of Gjilan, such as: Handikos, OPFAKKOS - Parents Association of Children with Disabilities, Inter - Municipal Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted people, Kosovar Association of Deaf People. The DPO networking team regularly agreed on common decisions, advocacy actions and planning. Especially, this approach helped different DPOs to better understand the importance of joint actions and work. Utilization of common resources, exchange of information, and joint participation in different events, enhanced also their image towards local authorities of respective municipalities. Moreover, we have contributed to capacity building of DPOs in order to provide services for the needs of their community, as well as their representing empowerment at local and national level. Furthermore, the creation of Self-Help Groups has also provided a strong link between the associations and beneficiaries, by enabling an exchange of experiences and good practices regarding sustainability, project designing, effective implementation of activities and income generation activities that would enable a qualitative life for disabled people. Generally speaking, Caritas has crucially impacted the increased involvement of DP in life and governance of their associations, as well as in their social integration by setting bases for self-sustainability. During 2013, the Self-Help Groups have generated different ideas for potential micro-project which will be designed and implemented during 2014.

### Component: Prizren

Our commitments to disabled people are a priority as well in the region of Prizren where Caritas Kosova is implementing since 2008 the "Early Detection and Education (EDE)" project, that is financed by Caritas Germany and Caritas Diocese Innsbruck. Through our EDE Center we provide special help for the development of children with disabilities and assist their parents. With the motto "Early help is the BEST Help" we offer better possibilities for the social inclusion of disabled children within their community, which still remains one of the problems due to the fact that parents themselves are ashamed to ask for help and many of them do not know how to look for support. Currently, we are accompanying forty children that are diagnosed as follows: Autism, Down Syndrome, Dandy Syndrome, Seeing impaired, Cerebral paralysis, Hyperactive, Hydrocephalus, RPM Epilepsy, RPM, Speech Problems, Syndrome West, Coma Paralysis, Slow Learner, Hyperactive, Hearing impaired, Infarctus cerebri neonati- Mioklonus, Hypoton. Peace promotion is our crosscutting theme, therefore like in all our projects of include children from different ethnicities, like: Albanian, Bosnian, Turks, Romas and Ashkali. In this line, we do use all different languages (Albanian, Bosnian and Turkish) depending on the parents' language choice to be used when addressing their children. So far within five years, we have worked with ninety children and their parents who have a higher level of awareness and a change in mindset; thus, accordingly an increased attendance was evidenced compared to the initial project phase where only four children had enrolled.







### Component 1: Mitrovica

Since 1999, Caritas in Kosova is implementing the Peace and Reconciliation program in the divided town of Mitrovica, being supported by Secourse Catholique Caritas France, focusing on the social integration of the different communities through education, social animations, common artistic activities and events, mediation and lobby activities. Moreover, we have permanently promoted human rights by providing special trainings for women and children, animation activities with a human resources component, combating trafficking of human beings, networking; conducting sensitization activities on domestic violence and familiar consultation. In addition to this, economic development has been a crucial instrument to generate income and promote intra-community relationships, whereby we have mediated for employment and offered trainings on small businesses. Under the supervision and ownership of Caritas Kosova, the Youth center, managed by the local NGO MDNZ, has implemented the “Improving youth participation in decision-making processes” project supported by SYD, aiming to raise youth capacities regarding socio-economic processes and enabling their membership in Local Youth Action Councils, approximately 166 youth were targeted from villages Koshtove and Kçiq (Municipality of Mitrovica), Pantina and Shtitarica (Municipality of Vushtrri; including Palac and Rezalla (Municipality of Skenderaj). They were offered trainings, especially for women, on employment skills and internships. Additionally, the Rural Youth Network has become a strategic partner of local authorities in the process of promoting and implementing environmental municipal plans.

Being one Global Caritas Family, we have been complementarily supported by Caritas Luxembourg to undertake peace and reconciliation activities in order to strengthen sustainable, constructive, healthy and respect based multicultural society in Mitrovica (North and South). Under the frame of this component, we have firstly organized a summer camp gathering forty children coming from different communities: Albanian, Serbian, Bosniak and RAE community, aged nine to fourteen years and belonging to most vulnerable families. Through educational, sports and other activities, we intended to contribute to the socialization and communication skills of children, importance of mutual interethnic cooperation, tolerance and teamwork, make new friends and have fun, develop sports skills, empowering children to protect the environment, reduction of social differences between children and raising awareness of social justice as a concept of social life. Moreover, we have implemented activities to promote the concept of voluntarism and the utilization of volunteering as a tool for advancement, professional preparation, gaining work experience and cultivating active citizenship.







Finally, Caritas supported the Union of Farmer Association in Mitrovica on the organization of the Regional Agricultural Fair “Mitrovica 2013” in partnership with Caritas Belgium and British Embassy. Under the umbrella of the Caritas sustainable development sector, supported by the UK Embassy and Caritas International Belgium, Caritas implemented the “Strengthening economic stability through the agricultural & rural tourism sector in Municipality Leposavic and Mitrovica South” - a project which is implemented in the North region of Kosovo. Hereby, approximately three hundred farmers benefited from the trainings and study visits that were provided during the year 2013. Apart from the trainings and the study visits, the agriculture packages were disseminated to the beneficiaries. In total, seventy farmers gained packages on beekeeping, fruit and vegetable cultivation, farming, rural and eco tourism.



## Component 2: Prishtina

Coordinated through our Regional Office in Prishtina, supported by Caritas Luxembourg, 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-culturality of the Kosovar society. Social justice of groups was ensured with different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds by involving them in activities that were delivered in the region of Prishtina, Mitrovica, Ferizaj (including Shterpce) and Prizren (as well Dragash), focusing especially on their institutional involvement. Caritas attained to empower the communities, respectively the established regional reflection groups, by involving religious leaders, local authorities, community leaders, CSO' representatives and all relevant actors in the community in efforts of lobby and advocacy. A highlight was the traditional Annual Peace Conference 2013 with the aim to bring “*Insights from the field (grass-roots) on Peace and Reconciliation in Kosovo,*” whereby Caritas hosted His Excellency Msgr. Dodë Gjergji - Bishop of Kosova, His Excellency Theodore Cardinal Mc Carrick, His Excellency Vinko Cardinal Pulíć, Imam Naim Tërnavë - Head of the Islamic Community, Mr. Dalibor Jevtic - Minister for Community and Return, Mr. Habit Hajredini - Officer in the Prime Minister's Office, Ms. Valdete Idrizi - CiviKos Executive Director, Mr. Ramadan Ilazi - Director of Peace Institute who shared their perspectives and messages about peace and reconciliation in Kosovo. Caritas Kosovo continues to lobby and advocate for marginalized communities towards the local and central governmental institutions, especially in the upcoming year 2014 Caritas will target municipal community committees in order to ensure the civil society participation in decision-taking.





Since 1999 Caritas Kosovo 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 action we have as well consolidated our Caritas volunteers structure all over the country regardless of their religion, ethnic background, gender and age. During the year 2013, we have organized the celebration of carnivals in the Prizren Parish, gathering more than 180 children and youth and other NGOs. In addition to this, summer camps were organized by volunteers in the Prizren and Klina parishes which strengthened the networking of parish youth. In Prizren around two hundred children were gathered; whereas in Klina youth and children enjoyed animation activities for more than ten days. Besides animation activities, trainings and summer camps, Caritas annually celebrates the International Day of Volunteers gathering youth and children from the whole territory of Kosovo, offering opportunities of joint action, a platform for exchanging ideas and thematic collaboration among volunteers. Moreover, Caritas on the diocesan level is organizing 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, this year we have piloted with a new component in the region of Mitrovica with the aim to support the reconciliation process between different ethnic and religious communities living in Northern Kosovo and to contribute to their peaceful co-existence, by promoting tolerance and mutual respect. Concretely, we are attempting to increase the interaction among youth, promoting their cultural and social development. We started with workshops on drug addiction that gathered more than two hundred and fifty youth belonging to different ethnical groups. The workshops were implemented in primary and secondary schools in Northern and Southern part of Mitrovica, involving school and respective local authorities. In the upcoming phase, we will prepare a media campaign on drug addiction with the intention to sensitize the public opinion on the this phenomena.





## SOCIALLY INTEGRATED!

### Component 1: Social Center in Dubrava - Ferizaj

Since 2010, 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. 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 RAE community does directly benefit from various educational activities that complement their school modules. We daily accompany about seventy five children that attend the pre-school and pre-primary classes; being preparing them for school admission. Beyond working with children, we have achieved to raise the awareness of parents that education is very crucial to the future of their children. In this context, we establish a drop-out prevention team that motivates peers to enrol education and regularly attend school. Furthermore, more than two hundred and fifty secondary school students attend regularly complementary teaching modules and receive support on homework. 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 training on English, maths and computing. Besides this, we support students as well for the final secondary school exam. In close cooperation with school authority, we monitor the level of students' development, their performance, behavioural and hygienic progress which is interrelated with their attendance at the Caritas Center. As abovementioned, Caritas provides to primary health and dental services; thus, 5072 medical cases have been treated during the year 2013. On the other hand, in the frame of the cultural component we have established dance group that is regularly performing 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: RAE in Prizren

With the aim to ensure the integration of the RAE communities in local governmental social system in cooperation with Caritas Swiss, we have targeted children, youth (including disabled) and women in the Prizren municipality. In this context, we supported their cooperation with local municipal authorities and active participation in respective structures and social processes; so that, their inter-ethnic initiatives are supported and recognized. Additionally, we have supported the integration of RAE children in public school and encouraged their parents and students to regularly attend school and prevent drop-out. Students were trained on leadership, institutional functioning and advocacy activities; therefore, youth structures in the villages were established with the capacity to engage with other stakeholders. Moreover, with the intention to increase the capacities of RAE youth in small income generation activities in order to improve their economic security and sustainability, we have supported employment opportunities for RAE girls in hairdressing; whereas, boys acquired professional skills in metal processing and construction. English courses were as well offered to RAE youth. In addition to this, disabled RAE children/youth received monthly humanitarian packages and their registration in disabled people organisations and access to respective services was facilitated. Finally, additional classes in primary schools were offered by our partner I6 for RAE students.





### Component 3: RAE in Mitrovica

Under the the National Peace and Reconciliation Programme that has its main focus in Mitrovica, Caritas Kosova has implemented the project *"Support to inclusion of RAE children (age 3-10) from Roma Mahala in regular school"* that has been supported by UNICEF, aiming to improve access to opportunities for supporting development of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children through the use of "Portage Programme." Moreover, Caritas aimed through its focused action in Mitrovica to stimulate the "Eradication of Illiteracy (Phase 3)," a project that has been supported by the Danish Refugee Council. We are constantly trying to develop the RAE community in the perspective of non-formal education and attained to successfully increase the level of literacy among 60 RAE women and youth, strengthening the cooperation between two RAE NGO-s, and supporting the capacity building for two community workers.

### Component 4: RAE in Gjakova

Under the umbrella of the Sector for Social and Health Assistance, we are implementing social activities in the frame of the Caritas Swiss RAE HIP project in Gjakova, respectively "Ali Ibra" neighborhood with the aim to promote the inclusion of RAE community and support their integration into the Kosovar society. In concrete, we have strengthened youth structures of the RAE community; built the capacities of working groups (leadership, communication & management skills); provided workshops and regular meetings; organized common activities with youth (environmental cleaning); sportive activities (tournaments or animation programs); facilitated the networking with NGO-s and relevant institutions; educational activities; and organized study visits to activities of Caritas Kosova (ten million stars, International Volunteer's Day).





## NEW PROSPECTS IN KOSOVO

Caritas Kosova, since 2009 is implementing the project for reintegration of voluntarily returned migrants after their stay in Belgium. The project "Strengthening Tailor Made Assisted Voluntary Return" is implemented on the national level and supported by Caritas International Belgium aiming a successful reintegration of returned migrants, who are mostly vulnerable or micro-business oriented. The assistance is tailored to specifically respond to the nature of every individual or family returnees' needs, by improving the living conditions of the returnees and ensuring income generation for a sustainable welfare of the reintegrated returnee. The returnees are monitored up to one year by Caritas Kosova, starting from their arrival date in Kosovo.

In the accompaniment phase of the year 2013, Caritas Kosova has assisted three cases setting up their own small business by providing business consulting. Whereas, for the vulnerable cases Caritas has covered their health treatment and medication, education and other particular needs as addressed by the beneficiaries. In concrete, we have accompanied eight cases that needed housing and medical support; whereby, solely one case has used its funding for educational purposes.

In total, Caritas Kosova has supported the successful re-integration of twelve cases, respectively thirty-three persons who returned to Kosovo voluntarily. Thanks to our accompaniment, most of the returnees are successfully integrated into their communities and are enjoying their new prospects in Kosovo.





## THE RURAL BEAUTY

### Component 1: Prizren

During the year 2013 Caritas Kosovo has implemented in partnership with Caritas International Belgium the project of "Sustainable Development of agri-businesses and rural tourism " which is funded by the European Union office in Kosovo aiming to develop the agro – sector, small and medium businesses and the development of rural tourism in the South Kosovo by supporting the development and strengthening of farmers' initiatives in the region and boosting economic development. Specifically in the first year of the project we have been focused on supporting farmers in three primary sectors of agro such as fruit and vegetables, beekeeping sector, and processing of milk and its products by supporting farmers' medium and small sized family businesses. Our beneficiaries are farmers from the south region of Kosovo, namely: Prizren, Mamusha, Rahovec, Malisheva , Suhareka and Dragash. Caritas Kosovo within the project has organized also trainings and study tours in Kosovo and beyond, such as the Balkan region and Europe, with the aim to enhance farmers' capacities on qualitative work, including new methods of cultivation and processing. While in the second term, we are focused on the promotion and development of rural tourism and fascinating beauties which only south of Kosovo offers. These natural beauties are a treasury of Kosova National Park " Sharri," whereby in 2013 its territory was expanded especially around Dragash. Caritas Kosovo will continue under its sector of Sustainable Development to support the agricultural development and promote the rural beauty of the south of Kosovo.







### Component 2: Leposaviç

Taking into account the deplorable socio-economic conditions of the communities living in rural areas, especially the Northern part of Kosovo with Leposaviç among the poorest municipality, in partnership with Caritas Belgium and funded by the British Embassy in Kosovo, we have implemented the project “Strengthening economic stability through the agricultural & rural tourism sector in Municipality of Leposaviç and Mitrovica South.” We have supported four agriculture sectors (beekeeping, fruit & vegetable, dairy & meat and eco & rural sector) with a focus on processing offering agricultural packages and equipment, including as well study visits and technical trainings. In order to increase the impact of results, we have cooperated with farmers and touristic associations. Our approach has been non-discriminatory, offering equal opportunities for access to services that is provided to all communities and villages in the Municipality of Leposaviç (villages of Rvatska, Kaljin, Kosutica, Saljska Bistrica & Ceranj) and South Mitrovica (villages of Svinjare and Suvi Do). The project involved Albanians, Serbs, Bosnjaks and Turks. Our beneficiaries were supported to develop sustainable agro-processing which valorises natural resources and regional agriculture production. We have targeted especially agriculture women in order to strengthen their knowledge and enable them to earn an income from their work; thus, empowering their social position within their families but also the local community. Hence, our beneficiaries were 69% men, and 17% women; and 14% were youth. The project contributed as well to the reconciliation process of inter-ethnic communities. Approximately 300 farmers in total benefited from the trainings and study visits. Apart from the trainings and the study visits, the agriculture packages were provided to beneficiaries. In total, seventy farmers gained packages of beekeeping, fruit and vegetable cultivation, farming, rural and eco tourism. The packages were distributed to the beneficiaries by General director of Caritas Kosova - Don Viktor Sopi, His Majesty the Ambassador of British Embassy in Kosova - Mr. Ian Cliff, Head of International Cooperation Department - Mr. Marc Somers, Regional Coordinator for Balkans under Caritas Belgium - Mr. Gaetan Devisme, Executive director of Caritas Kosova - Ms. Violeta Ferati, Director of Sustainable Development Sector - Mr. Jakup Sabedini, and representatives of the Regional Caritas Kosova Offices in Leposaviç and Mitrovica.

### Component 3: Mitrovica

The methodology to foster peace and reconciliation through economic empowerment has proved to be effective so far. In the frame of our Peace and Reconciliation project, income generation activities of beneficiaries coming from different communities residing in Mitrovica have been supported in partnership with Caritas Luxembourg. In this context we have assisted four small businesses such as two beekeepers, one Albanian from Mitrovica South and one Serbian from Mitrovica North. Apart of them, assistance was provided to a plumber from Mitrovica North, and an auto mechanic from the South. We have served as a mediator as well enabling collaboration among beneficiaries and enhancing their inter-ethnic socialization. Upon request we have ensured funding through non interest loans for two beneficiaries with the support of Caritas Belgium. In concrete, through our joint project in Leposaviç and Mitrovica, we have provided trainings for the stockbreeders and beekeepers of Mitrovica region, including Skenderaj and Vushtrri. In addition to this, we trained fruit and vegetable farmers. We have as well assisted in the organisation of agricultural events such as “Beekeeping Day of Ibar Valley in Municipality Leposaviç” and “The Regional Agricultural Fair “Mitrovica 2013.” Our beneficiaries have participated as well in “80th International Agriculture Fair in Novi Sad” gathering more than one hundred and thirty Kosovar farmers from the region of Mitrovica, Leposaviç, and Prizren. It has been a remarkable event in terms of inter-ethnic and regional cooperation as many of Albanian farmers have visited Serbia for the first time after the conflict in 1999. Subsequently, Serbian beekeepers and representatives from Leposaviç attended Beekeepers' Fair in Prishtina “Kosova 2013,” visiting the South of Kosovo for their first time. Finally, fifty beekeepers of Mitrovica South and Leposaviç participated in the Beekeeping Fair in who had an opportunity to network, enhance their knowledge, acquire expertise, by increasing inter-ethnic socialization.





## CARITAS IN ACTION!

Since 2008 Caritas Kosova is member of the South East Caritas Emergency Group, implementing the Disaster Risk Reduction approach and SHPERE standards.

Caritas Kosova, financially supported by Caritas Germany and Caritas Luxembourg, immediately responded to the flood emergency that in March 2013 that was caused due to the heavy rainfall had affected the municipality of Klina, respectively the village of Zajm. Other municipalities such as Peja were flooded as well; however, considered as manageable. On the contrary, Klina Municipality authorities had claimed emergency situation and therefore external intervention was rapidly needed. Upon an emergency analysis, Caritas Kosova send out its emergency appeal to the Caritas Network in Europe that ensured immediate assistance. In this line, our program supported the affected families in providing drinking water, hygienic material and temporary bedding items. In addition to this packages for two hundred families were distributed, assisting them to overcome the difficult emergency situation and improve their living conditions after floods. As a result of our intervention in cooperation with municipal authorities,

the situation of affected families quickly improved. Meanwhile, the water levels had decreased so that the affected families' houses had no water in their basement after one week, but damages and mud had remained. Moreover, Caritas supported more than sixteen households in cleaning their wells; whereas for drying the wet surfaces in disposal for the affected houses there were also forty condense driers made available by us. As a result of our rapid intervention in the emergency respond by the professionally trained Caritas team soon the affected families returned to their daily routine, restoring their living conditions.







## PRISONERS ARE OUR FUTURE NEIGHBOURS!



Starting from October 2013, Caritas Kosova has piloted the 'Re-integration of prisoners after release' project which aims to address one of the most marginalized groups in Kosovo society. Our donors and partner are Secours Catholique - Caritas France. The first project phase has a duration of three years and it will be implemented in the Correctional Center in Lipjan where women and minors are imprisoned. With this program we aim the reintegration of prisoners into society after their release, by providing professional trainings and public awareness about the importance of their re-integration. Our beneficiaries that are female detainees will be offered vocational trainings in hairdressing and tailoring, while minors will benefit from other sports and cultural activities.

Caritas Kosova has a close collaboration with Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, whereby Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed with both institutions. The MoU with the Ministry of Justice enables the coordination of actions in providing support and enabling a socio-economic reintegration of prisoners after their release. Whereas, the MoU with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare which enables the organisation of certified vocational training for prisoners who upon successful completion of the training are awarded with an officially recognized certificate in the field of hairdressing and sewing. The agreement has ensured that high quality trainings are provided which are in line with the curriculum and modules of the Centers for Vocational Trainings.

Foremost, significant factor is that there is a huge interest and great willingness to attend these training by the prisoners as they realize that this will be a good opportunity to prepare them for a better reintegration.





# CARITAS KOSOVA

**Përfshirja Sociale,**  
Social Inclusion,  
**Zhvillim të Qëndrueshëm,**  
Sustainable Development,

**Solidaritet,**  
Solidarity,

**Paqe...**  
Peace...

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*Love*  
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*Agape*  
*Dashuri*



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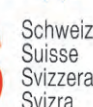
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Secourir et construire  
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DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



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