



2019 Annual Report



ADRA

ADRA ALBANIA



Designed by Anna Ford

In cooperation with:

Veronika Zimovav

Laura Naw

Cyriakus Bräutigam

Rebekka Schiller

ADRA Albania Office

A letter from the Director

Altin Rexhepi

As part of ADRA Albania we have the privilege of working on behalf of some of the most marginalized children in Albania:

Those coming from families with socio-economic difficulties, children with learning difficulties, children at risk of school dropout or excluded by school, family and society.

And yet the words we hear over and over are not words of despair. We hear about children's plans and dreams - to study, to play, to become doctors, teachers etc. Those are words of hope, even in the most hopeless situations.

OUR MOTTO:

Justice. Compassion. Love.

We are deeply proud of everything we have achieved together.

However, we remain conscious that we must continue to work tirelessly to catalyse socio-economic change in Albania through educating children, if we are to keep their hope alive. Our efforts are only possible due to the support of dedicated donors, project partners like you.

To all of you, thank you very much.

Best Regards, Altin Rexhepi

Executive Director ADRA Albania



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



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WHO ARE WE?

About ADRA

The **Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)** is a global humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church – part of the 20 million strong Adventist community, with hundreds of thousands of churches globally and the world’s largest integrated healthcare and education network.

ADRA delivers relief and development assistance to individuals in more than 130 countries regardless of their ethnicity, political affiliation, gender or religious association.

By partnering with local communities, and governments, we are able to deliver culturally relevant programs and build local capability for sustainable change.

ABOUT ADRA ALBANIA

ADRA Albania is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide children from low-income communities with a high-quality education, enabling them to maximize their potential and transform their lives. A strong public education system is the cornerstone of a successful society.

Schools	Community Centre's	Regions	Teachers	CPU (Child protection unit workers)	Volunteers
5	2	2	87	10	26



2019 - A year in review



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA

07.03.19

Protest for women's rights with the women from the Roma-Community in Fushë - Krujë



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Marcel

04.19

Renovation of the school Mazhë e Vogël

08.04.19

International Day of Roma -> Celebrating Educating Roma for over 10 years



Celebrating the International Roma Day!

Educating Roma for over 10 years!

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA

19-22.06.19

Summertime „Friendship“



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA



08.19

Saying goodbye to
Jannien and Marie,
Welcoming Rebekka
and Anna

16.09.19

First day at school

12.19

End of GFFO project

03.09.19

School Registration
campaign

26.11.19

Earthquake -> emergency
response starts





National Volunteers



National Volunteers

Volunteering makes you feel good and gives you the chance to learn about other people. That's why, ADRA Albania believes in volunteering and continues to promote it, within its projects, implemented in Tirana and Fushë-Krujë.

The significance of volunteering for the society, as it offers essential help to worthwhile causes, is very important and we are glad to hear that our volunteers are aware of it.

Being a volunteer with us helps the student from the university to bridge the gap between theory and practices and to achieve the criteria required to graduate.

In 2019, 21 volunteers were engaged in delivering psychosocial support and helping children to reach their potential and to improve their skills in learning.



21

Volunteers delivered psychosocial support



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford



“Since we were involved for the first time in supplementary classes, we could say that it was a very nice experience. Working with children helps them to understand how creative they can be and how to see the world in many different colours. Besides, it was a great way to practice the knowledge that we have learned, and it was a way of seeing and proving ourselves in such a role.”

Enxhi and Alesia - ADRA Volunteers

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



“Regardless of age and profession, volunteering approaches you with new situations and areas, expanding the horizon of opportunities and inclusion. Volunteering has led me to discover new passions or consolidating the passion I possess”.

Polina - ADRA Volunteer

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



International Volunteers



International Volunteers

In October 2018, a group of ten non-governmental organizations (including ADRA Albania) launched a new 2-year project called Humanitarian Volunteers in Action (HVA) in French town Roubaix. The HVA project aims to send volunteers to certified organizations in particular regions of the Global South. HVA has been implemented thanks to the financial support from the biggest European donor – the European Union – the initiator of the EU Aid Volunteers program.

This autumn 2019, we welcomed our two first volunteers, one from Italy and the other from Germany. They are assisting the office by developing its institutional goals, objectives and provide expertise in project management.

Besides that, ADRA Albania is benefitting from the skills of other volunteers coming from ADRA Slovakia and ADRA Germany. Veronika, from Slovakia, has been part of our staff for the past two years thanks to a program financially supported by Slovak Aid. She assisted competently with the projects and the office for the past two years. Anna and Rebekka, two dynamic girls from Germany, are part of our staff since this summer 2019 through ADRA live program which offers young people the opportunity to get involved socially abroad.

In 2018, ADRA Albania has inaugurated the first Seven-Days-Adventist kindergarten in Albania. In this respect an international volunteer is serving there.



2

Volunteers through ADRA Germany live program every year



2

Volunteers from EU Aid



1

Volunteer from Slovak Aid



1

Volunteer from AVS (Adventist Volunteer Service)

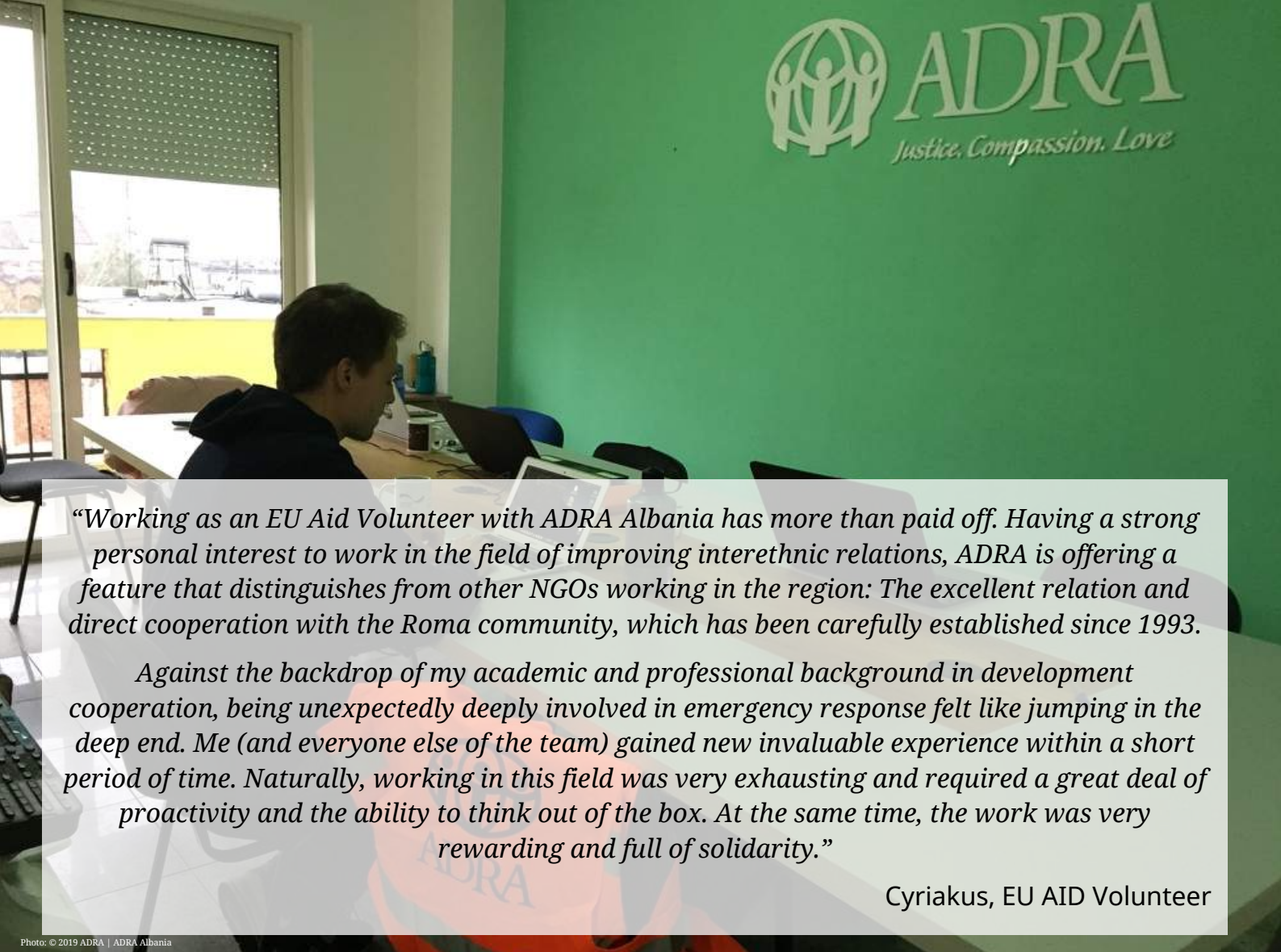


Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka



“Being part of the generation of ’90, in my childhood I remember, especially when I was attending the primary school that I used to have a lot of classmates from the current Balkans countries. Thinking back to that time, I never thought that I would work in the humanitarian field in one of these countries.”

Laura, EU AID volunteer

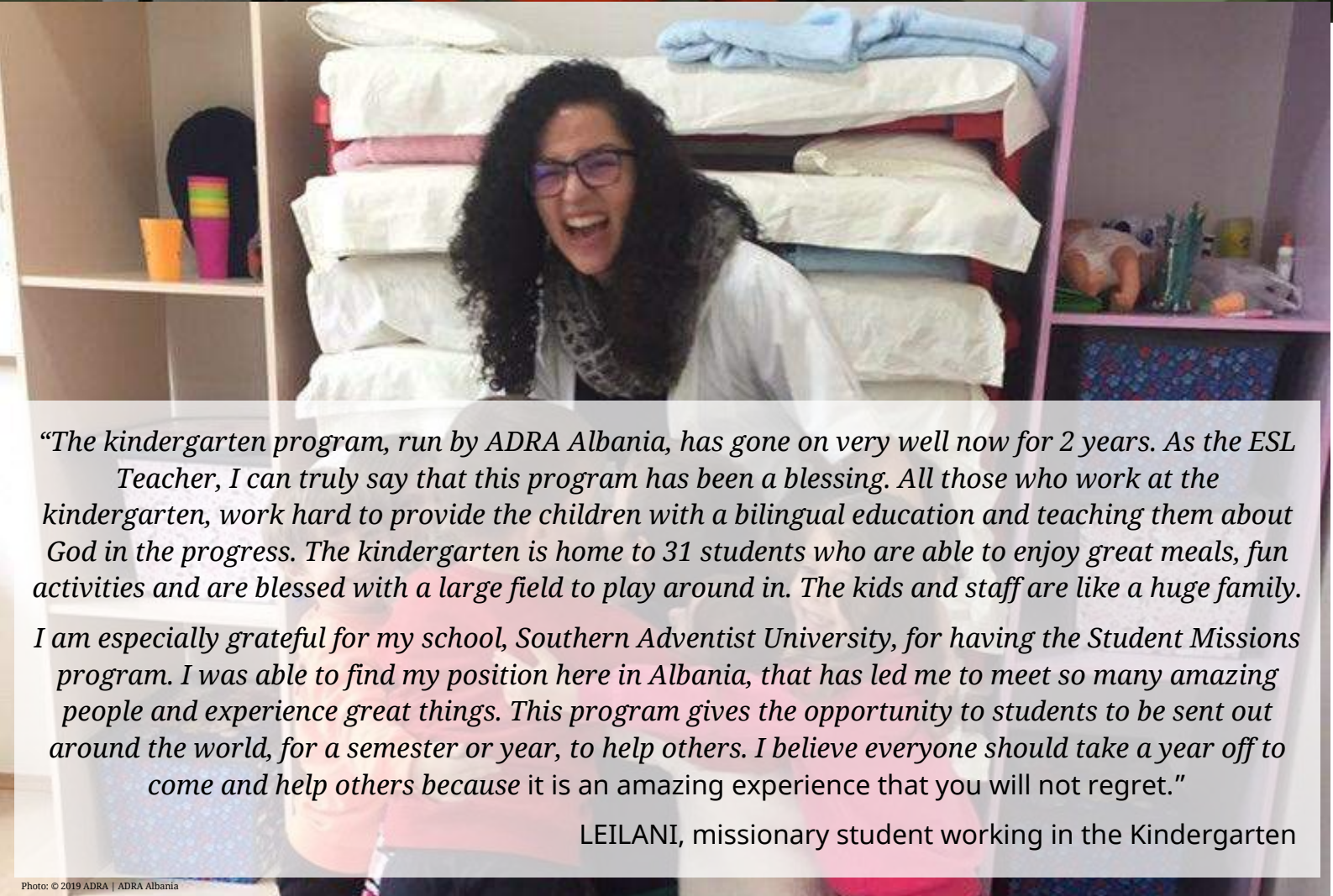


“Working as an EU Aid Volunteer with ADRA Albania has more than paid off. Having a strong personal interest to work in the field of improving interethnic relations, ADRA is offering a feature that distinguishes from other NGOs working in the region: The excellent relation and direct cooperation with the Roma community, which has been carefully established since 1993.

Against the backdrop of my academic and professional background in development cooperation, being unexpectedly deeply involved in emergency response felt like jumping in the deep end. Me (and everyone else of the team) gained new invaluable experience within a short period of time. Naturally, working in this field was very exhausting and required a great deal of proactivity and the ability to think out of the box. At the same time, the work was very rewarding and full of solidarity.”

Cyriakus, EU AID Volunteer

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



“The kindergarten program, run by ADRA Albania, has gone on very well now for 2 years. As the ESL Teacher, I can truly say that this program has been a blessing. All those who work at the kindergarten, work hard to provide the children with a bilingual education and teaching them about God in the progress. The kindergarten is home to 31 students who are able to enjoy great meals, fun activities and are blessed with a large field to play around in. The kids and staff are like a huge family. I am especially grateful for my school, Southern Adventist University, for having the Student Missions program. I was able to find my position here in Albania, that has led me to meet so many amazing people and experience great things. This program gives the opportunity to students to be sent out around the world, for a semester or year, to help others. I believe everyone should take a year off to come and help others because it is an amazing experience that you will not regret.”

LEILANI, missionary student working in the Kindergarten

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford

Return to Thrive



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford

Return to Thrive

Albania is a country with one of the highest rates of migration worldwide. In recent years the desire to emigrate rose up to 56% among its adult population.

A considerable number of emigrants are people from minority and vulnerable groups, who flee the country seeking for protection and better life in western European states. However, from 2015, Albania is categorized as a “safe country of origin” and the instrument of asylum is no longer widely applicable. The “Return to Thrive” project aims to enhance the engagement of public institutions in migration management on one hand, and to support returnees in accessing public services, education and/or labor market on the other. Following this objective career counselling for adults, literacy and numeracy classes are provided to returnee children and adults.



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford



250

adults were provided psychosocial support and career counselling

10

adults were provided with psychosocial support and career counselling

183

adults attended supplementary classes on numeracy and literacy

18

beneficiaries employed after being individually advised and supported



264

children improved their numeracy, literacy and social skills via supplementary classes

40

children enjoyed a summer camp



277

beneficiaries supported by facilitating their access to public services (health care, education, social services, etc.) classes



9

awareness raising campaigns



"I got married at the age of 14, as our life in Albania was not so easy because of the economic situation, me, my husband and our three children decided to seek asylum in Germany in 2014. After three years, we return to Albania, but only stayed for a few months before leaving again, this time for France in 2018. We definitely turned back in Albania in January 2019 after our asylum-seeking requests were denied."

Lubjana, returnee from France and Germany



"When I returned to Albania, I faced many difficulties, being a young single mother with a two-year-old son. Through ADRA and DIMAK I started a professional course in June 2019 at prestigious Culinary Institute. Soon, I will graduate and can't wait to earn my living. Thanks to the support given to me, I feel more motivated to build my life here, in my country."

A.D., returnee from Germany



"I have moved several times in Italy and Kosovo. In Italy, I stayed for almost one year. I used to work in the service sector, "black work" but at least I could gain some money to afford the living [...]. Then I also moved to Kosovo where I used to beg to ensure any income to my family. I returned back to my country in 2018. When I returned, I faced many difficulties, I was unemployed, with no support or possibility to afford the living. I have been seeking a job since I came here, but I could not find any good alternative. There are not too many options for me since I have no education and specific professional ability.

ADRA Albania contacted me some months ago and I am continuously in touch with them by being advised and consulted to fulfil my needs. Thanks to ADRA support first I got a job as a driver in a recycling factory but for health issues, I stayed a few weeks there and now I got a position as a driver in a private company. I am feeling good now. At least I ensure some income to my family! [...] Thanks to the support given to me, I think things are getting better now."

(Denis Neli - Returnee from Italy, Egyptian Community Member)



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford

Positive family environment



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania

Positive family environment for the education of Roma and Egyptian children

March 2019 – December 2019

The Roma and Egyptians are among the marginalized communities in Albania.

In Fushë-Krujë, Roma live in a ghetto just outside of the city in really severe conditions. Two to twelve family members live in a house of two rooms, with access to water and electricity from unsafe and unverified sources. Collection of plastic and scrap material is the major source of income. During the assessment of the education level of children in their communities, ADRA found out that a considerably high number of children do not attend school regularly or do not attend at all. The main reasons for the low school attendance are lack of parental support, supplies and discrimination by peers. Parents justify it with difficult economic situations, unemployment and the fact that they themselves do not like school. While schoolteachers' opinion on the difficulty of working with Roma and Egyptian children is divided, they all agree that the language barrier, the fact that they come to lessons unprepared and irregular attendance are the main cause of school-drop out. When questioned, parents expressed little interest in their child's school activities. The majority of the children get ready and walk to school alone. They are given money to buy lunch, which often ends up at a candy shop or local fast food.

The project was designed to build literacy, numeracy and social capacities not only of the children, but also of parents and other family members, thus, to create a positive family environment for the education and personal growth of children.



47

children improved their literacy and numeracy skills



3

excursions to the nature



8

excursions to the workshops on health & hygiene, nutrition, family planning etc.



34

adults improved their literacy and numeracy skills



"Children are more school-centered, speak more caring and ethically. They strive to be more regular in their relationships with other children in the classroom and teachers"

Teacher at Adem Gjeli public school



"I don't want any of my grandchildren to be uneducated like I am. The biggest obstacle I have is school. Despite the difficult economic conditions we live in, I always try to provide food and clothing for my grandchildren so that they have no excuse to miss school. When they get home, I motivated them to do their homework and also learn something myself."

Tefta, grandmother of 21 children

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford



"We do not just want the child to go to school but also to learn and engage in learning like his peers".

Mother from Roma community

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford

Children empowerment



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford

Children Empowerment*

The public education system in Albania, despite efforts, faces severe challenges. Due to inefficient infrastructure in overcrowded schools, the staff lacks the facilities and capacities to address children's needs in adequate manner.

The project directly supports children with learning differences or at risk of dropping-out, from the 1st to 5th grade in 2 public schools in Tirana and 1 school in Thumanë, Kruja region. ADRA's goal isn't only to give access to their right to education, but also to contribute to a more educated and inclusive society. With the implementation of the project, we aim to provide positive practices that foster creative child-centered teaching. We have provided educational services, with a particular interest in school effectiveness. Our task consists of improving the school through professional training of the teachers, by enhancing the quality of teaching and developing positive practices in dealing with cases of children with learning difficulties.

"I'm open to innovative and new approaches that children can benefit from. We all need to learn and share experiences to improve our work"

Sabrije, Teacher at Ramzan Jangozi

Sabrije has been supporting ADRA's project ever since the beginning, by adopting the *Reflect* participatory methods used by ADRA in her own classes. As the positive results started to show, other teachers joined the supplementary classes as well as numerous pupils.



264

children improved their numeracy, literacy and social skills via supplementary classes



123

pupils at Skender Luarisi school learnt the basics of German language by German volunteers



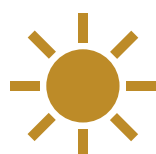
49

children enrolled to the 1st grade



21

teachers trained on contemporary teaching methods



45

children enjoyed summer camp



22

volunteers participating in project activities



18

parents actively engaged in supplementary classes

* Children empowerment in suburban areas of Tirana and Kruja regions through *Improvement in Education and Increased Access to Social Services*



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania

EM 19-009



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford

Humanitarian Assistance to Earthquake-Affected Communities in Kruja Municipality

At the end of November 2019, Albania was hit by a 6,4-magnitude earthquake followed by several powerful aftershocks, costing the lives of dozens and injuring thousands. The epicenter was in the Adriatic Sea close to Durrës and 30 km west of the capital, Tirana. It was the strongest earthquake to hit Albania since 1979 and the world's deadliest earthquake in 2019. It is estimated that 80,000 – 100,000 people are directly affected by the earthquake. There is significant damage to infrastructure, including residential areas schools and medical centers. An unidentified number of people are suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder and are in urgent need of psychosocial support.

ADRA Albania's is responding by providing direct humanitarian assistance in the following sectors:

- Food security
- Shelter
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Education
- Psychosocial support

The intervention is focused on some of the most affected geographical areas which are: Krujë, Thumanë, administrative units of Fushë-Krujë, Bubq and Tirana. In spite of political rhetoric, providing the Roma and Egyptian communities with humanitarian aid is not considered a priority of the government and state institutions. ADRA Albania has been implementing educational projects in the affected regions for over ten years, including psychosocial support to vulnerable groups of adults and children. Due to this long-term presence and involvement at grassroots-level, ADRA Albania is well known by the communities as



well as the local authorities. For this reason, the intervention specifically targets the needs of Roma and Egyptians, communities which are not even further marginalized, while also taking into consideration additional vulnerable groups.

In total, 585 people (over 100 families) are directly benefiting from the project's activities. These comprise, among others, hot meals, stoves, portable toilets, showers, solar water heaters, washing machines, hygiene kits, tents and other shelter materials. Additionally, approximately 3,500 children and adults are provided with psychosocial support through individual counselling sessions, group therapy sessions, excursions and supplementary classes.

Funded by several donors of the ADRA Network, the project is implemented and coordinated by ADRA Albania. It will run until May 31st, 2020.



"I was very scared to go home because one of the main columns of the building was damaged and about to fall. We have been waiting for the municipal staff to come and give us tents to stay in, but no one showed up".



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford



"ADRA came early in the morning and stayed with us, asked us how we experienced the earthquake, asked what our needs were and tried to stay with the kids and play with them. ADRA provided us with food from the very first day after the earthquake and they still are serving us hot meals. The food is very good. It makes me very happy seeing not only my son but all the kids in the neighborhood being happy while eating at the community center."

MARSIDA, woman affected by the earthquake

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Anna Ford



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Germany

Children helping Children



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka Schiller

Children helping Children

ADRA Albania in cooperation with ADRA Germany and ADRA Austria has been delivering Christmas parcels to the ones in need for 17 years now.

Loving wishes and donations from children in Germany and Austria, brought the magic of Christmas to children in areas most affected by the disastrous earthquake of November 2019.

The packages from Brandenburg and Saxony (parts of Germany) arrived on the 9th of December 2019 in Albania with 2.815 parcels and 501 Banana Boxes. In the banana boxes from the Children helping Children project are bed sheets, duvet covers, towels, pillows and a lot more of these things.

Since 1999, ADRA has been transporting tens of thousands of gift packages to Eastern European countries every year during the Christmas campaign, thus creating a glimmer of hope in the lives of children.

These Christmas parcels are packed by children from Central and Northern Europe. They fill the parcels with school supplies, toys, cuddly toys and other useful things that are small things but are something special for the children in need. This action does something for both sides: children from industrialized countries learn that not everyone in the world is as well off as they are and that they can do something good for them with little effort. The children and adolescents who receive these packages usually receive a Christmas present for the first time in their lives and their reactions show our helpers every year how much this small gesture means to them."

This action does something for both sides: children from industrialized countries learn that not everyone in the world is as well as they are, and that they.



17

YEARS

banana boxes

200

Selman Daci School

175

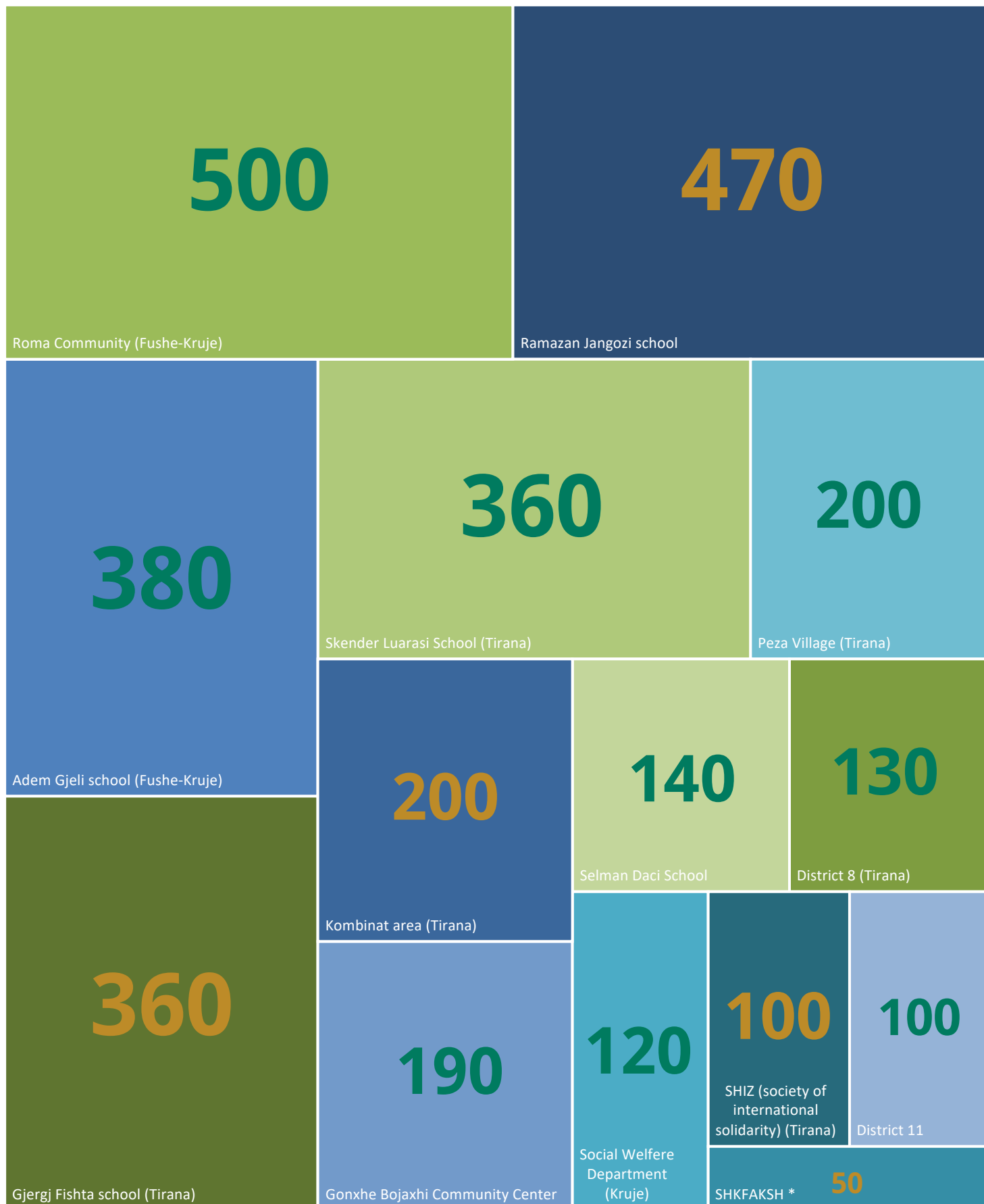
Gonxhe Bojaxhi Community Center

50

Roma Community (Fushe-Kruje)



Parcels



* SHKF (Organization of families with children with disability)

"She couldn't wait to open the box to see what was inside of it. The excitement and pleasure she felt when she opened the box were evident from the radiant smile on her face."

Kristi, ADRA staff



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Marcel Wagner



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka Schiller



"An excited, tense mood awaited us as we entered the classroom. The children couldn't wait to finally get the parcels! When we handed them out, the bank neighbor was happily told what was inside. In the end, the class unanimously thanked: Faleminderit! I will always remember the grateful faces."

Rebekka, ADRA volunteer

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka Schiller

Kindergarten



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka Schiller

Kindergarten

In September 2018, ADRA Albania in cooperation with the Adventist Church inaugurated the first Adventist kindergarten in Albania. Tirana Adventist Kindergarten is part of the worldwide Adventist Education system and it has been built to provide a wonderful environment where children can play safely.

Recently, ADRA Albania has focused on educating children because it believes that investing in early education will create happy children and happy families, thus contributing to a better society. Everything was possible through generous donations from the Adventist Church in Sydney and donations from Croatia, Trans European Division and the Albanian Mission ADRA Albania.

A group of volunteers from Australia came to rebuild the venue and remodel the environment of kindergarten project.

There are three different groups: 3-4 years, 4-5 years and 5-6 years. Besides Music, Art and Cooking lessons, every morning they have Story time in English. The kids go outside in the big garden and play in the playground or learn creatively in the greenhouse. Every day they get fresh food. *"My greatest pleasure is to cook for the kids and to receive their sincere thanks after every meal."* – Aida Lala (chef)

Among the several things that make the Adventist kindergarten a special place, we should emphasize the presence of a native English-speaker, an American volunteer, who provides English classes on a regular basis.

"We started the kindergarten with 9 kids and now we have 31 kids! I am happy to see them learning, playing and growing."

Elda Bashkimi (director of Adventist kindergarten)





Playground

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka Schiller



Greenhouse
Kitchen

Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka Schiller



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka Schiller



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka Schüller



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | Rebekka Schüller



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania

Summer camp "Friendship"



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania

SUMMER CAMP – “FRIENDSHIP”

19-22 June

Implemented within the scope of the projects [Children Empowerment in Suburban areas of Tirana and Krujë regions through Improvement in Education and Increase Access to Social Services](#) and [Return to Thrive](#).

Set in the beautiful nature of Eden Park just outside of Tirana, children started the day with Zumba after which they regained strength from a delicious breakfast.

Divided into groups of painters, singers, actors, dancers and handcrafters’ children had the chance to develop old and regain new skills, challenge themselves in water games, cool down in a swimming pool and test their new friendships in sharing the treasure found after exciting and difficult hunt.



Photo: © 2019 ADRA | ADRA Albania



85

children from Fushë-Krujë, Thumanë and Tirana



3

teachers



6

volunteers and ADRA staff

~ For me the best thing about summer camp was that I tried new things, and everyone encouraged me too. I would love to go again!! ~

~ Having fun and meeting friends. I also enjoyed learning more about basketball and getting an award for most improved player. Thank you! ~

Project duration

PROJECT	PROJECT START DATE	PROJECT END DATE
Children empowerment in suburban areas of Tirana and Krujë regions through Improvement in Education and Increased Access to Social Services	JANUARY 2017	MARCH 2020
Humanitarian Volunteers in Action (EU Aid Volunteers Program)	DECEMBER 2018	DECEMBER 2019
Positive family environment for education of Roma and Egyptian children	MARCH 2019	DECEMBER 2019
Return to Thrive	JANUARY 2019	MARCH 2020
Emergency Response – Roma community in Fushë-Krujë	NOVEMBER 2019	DECEMBER 2019
Humanitarian assistance to earthquake affected communities in Krujë municipality.	NOVEMBER 2019	MAY 2020

Partner/Donors

In 2019, ADRA Albania had the opportunity to work with new partners and donors as well as continuing to build and strengthen relationship current partnerships. Here is the list of our partners and donors in 2019 we would like to thank you:

ADRA Partners:

- ADRA Germany e.V
- ADRA network
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Partner/Donors:

- EU Commission
- German Federal Foreign Government
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



*Justice.
Compassion
Love*



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