



ALBANIAN RED CROSS

A century in service



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1921-2021

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ANNUAL REPORT 2021



2021 – THE GREATEST JUBILEE YEAR ONE CENTURY OF ALBANIAN RED CROSS



During this Year, the activities of the Albanian Red Cross were dominated by two important events: In October 2021, we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH) and on October 30th, 2021 we held the 17th (XVII) General Assembly.

We celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Organization with the most important Activity, by commemorating the important date of October 4th, 1921 through a Ceremony which was held in the premises of the Palace of Brigades; where several hundred Volunteers, Red Cross Members, friends, and well-wishers of the Organization honored us with their participation and presence at this Event. In fact, two key figures stood out amongst the crowd, one of them was the President of the Republic of Albania Mr. Ilir Meta, whom ended up Honoring the Organization by Awarding the Nation's Highest Honor "The Medal of Honor", given to the Albanian Red Cross for its Services and Contributions over the Years, with regards to helping the most needy of peoples in the Country. The other figure that stood out amongst the crowd of guests, was Mr. Francesco Rocca the President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to whom the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH) awarded the Golden Humanitarian Medal for the support he has given to our Organization over the Years, the most prominent being the period after the 2019 Earthquake and the periods during and after the COVID-19 Global Pandemic.

This Centennial Celebration echoes the great history of our organization and beyond. It represents

the humanitarian activity of our nation endured by the largest and the oldest humanitarian organization in the country.

Meanwhile, the 17th (XVII) General Assembly approved several important documents for the further development of our organization and for securing the mission we have in helping people in need.

For the Albanian Red Cross (ARC), 2021 was a combination of normal functioning on our day to day operations, as well as, working in a dynamic social environment where positive and negative changes are felt in the lives of people in need and target groups. Our impact on these changes weren't that much different from the previous year.

The Projects that were approved in the Annual Action Plan, based on our 2021-2025 Strategy, have been implemented according to a detailed Activity Plan, both at a Central/National and Local Level. Even during this Year (2021), the Albanian RC continued to demonstrate its vital commitment towards fulfilling its noble mission of helping the most needy in the Country. Significant indicators of this activity have been different activities in the Social Field, which aim to help the most needy, such as: lonely elders who are in difficult economic conditions, disadvantaged women, children of families with economic problems, etc. Our Health Projects were characterized by increasing efforts on spreading the necessary knowledge about good hygiene to the Community, spreading the knowledge about the negative effects of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol usage and activities in the field of the Voluntary Blood Donation where the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) continues to be

the main actor in the country that promotes safe and voluntary blood donation. We can also mention the continuation of our work in spreading the knowledge about First Aid within the Community, as well as, organizing activities with Youth Volunteers, and spreading the knowledge about the Humanitarian Values our Society needs to have, therefore, contributing to the support for lasting peace and improving the quality of human life in Albania.

Ylli Alushi

President of the Albanian Red Cross

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE AND FIRST AID IN THE COMMUNITY PROGRAM



The Year 2021 is the second year of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, where statistics with regards to infections have fluctuated downwards; from 800-1,000 cases per day in the first few months of the year, to 250-300 cases per day in the Summer and Autumn seasons. Meanwhile, from the beginning of the Pandemic, we had 209,516 affected people, 200,465 of them cured, and 3,215 deaths. The COVID-19 Vaccination statistics are as follows: one dose 1,250,672 people, two doses 1,156,751 people and three doses 205,381 people.

In Albania, we are still under restrictive measures on free movement and social distancing, wearing masks, etc. These measures were tightened or released according to the number of active infections. Nevertheless, an increased attention on protective measures was required during our activities, both in the Albanian Red Cross Headquarters and its Branches, especially, when it contact with our beneficiaries. During the year, we have also been engaged in raising awareness about vaccinations, especially through our social media, but also during meetings or various activities within the community.

Due to the pandemic emergency we continued to support the families in need, a Project funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), approved the additional appeals that the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH) proposed to them, by granting us another 350 thousand Swiss Francs (CHF) and extending the deadline of the operation, initially up until March 31st, 2021 and then up until September 2021.

The revised operation had three main focuses:

- Assistance with Standard Food Packages and Hygiene Kits (masks, disinfectants, shampoos, soaps, etc.) for around 2,000 families; thus, raising the number up to 4,000 families assisted during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- Cash and Voucher Assistance for 2,000 families, where one family will benefit an amount of 12,000 ALL per family.

- Psycho-Social Support to reduce the effects of the Pandemic on the Community.

1. According to the revised COVID-19 Emergency Appeal Operation, the following activities were carried out:

a. Material Assistance.

The Branches prepared the list of families in need according to some basic criteria, where basically families suffering from hunger and inability to put food on the table were selected as prime candidates. In all 38 Branches of the Albanian Red Cross (ARC), the prepared packages of food aid and hygiene kits were prepared and sent out. Each Family received: 1 standard food package and 1 standard hygiene kit.

The standard food package consisted on: 10 kg of flour, 4 kg of pasta, 4 liters of oil, 4 kg of beans, 4 kg of rice, 4 kg of sugar and 0.5 kg of salt.

The standard hygiene kit consisted on: 10 masks, 1 hand sanitizer, 1 disinfectant spray, 2 shampoos, and 5 soaps.

Supported by this operation we helped 40 families from small and medium ARC Branches, 80-90 families

in the big ARC Branches and 150 families in Tirana Branch. In Total 2,000 Families benefited from this operation.

b. Cash and Voucher Assistance.

For most of our Branches this was a new way on helping the people (the same Project was done in 2019, during the earthquake emergency and it involved only 7 Branches). Therefore, the Albanian Red Cross Headquarters trained in advance these Branches on how to organize these Cash Distributions. The Branch Secretary and two Volunteers from each city were trained, in total 115 people. The trainings consisted on how to evaluate the chosen beneficiary families, according to an Online System by the International Federation, called KoBo System. Once this happens, door-to-door evaluations of these families was done by Volunteers of the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH) Branches, where the data was transferred Online to Geneva, according to different vulnerability criteria such as: families with social assistance; families with females as heads of households; families with persons with disabilities; families with persons infected with Covid, etc. The cash assistance amount for each family was the same, regardless the number of members: 12,000 ALL per Family, the equal value of a food package for 3 months. Meanwhile, the number of

beneficiary families was: 30 families benefited from small and medium ARC Branches, 100 families benefited from the ARC big Branches, and 120 families benefited in Tirana alone. The checks were then written and prepared, in the name of the lady of the house, in order to increase the authority of all women in the albanian families. In close cooperation with Raiffeisen Bank, the checks were executed in the branches of this bank all around Albania. In Total, 24 million ALL were distributed and 2,000 Albanian Families benefited.

c. Psycho-Social Support.

Three types of leaflets with basic information on protective measures against Covid-19, were printed and distributed to all of our Branches. They were made for our volunteers, the community, as well as, children. Our communication with people continued, via our ***Toll-Free Telephone Number: 08008833*** which the Albanian Red Cross has opened since the start of the earthquake emergencies. Using this line, people from the Community may call to raise their concerns or ask for help and the Albanian Red Cross staff, gives answers on a case-by-case basis, as well as, depending on the questions of the callers. Of course, using this line and through the phone, we try to provide Psycho-Social Support for people who have Mental Health issues. Individual that asked for help through the “Green Line/



Toll-Free Number” or directly contacted the ARC Branches, they have also been given Food Aid from the disaster stockpile.

2. The 22nd (XXII) National First Aid Competition was held.

This year the main activities were held within the framework of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Albanian Red Cross. The competition took place on October 2nd, 2021 along the path leading to the Boulevard “Dëshmorët e Kombit” and Mother Teresa Square. 38 Branches of the Albanian Red Cross attended the competition from all the cities of the country, where each team was represented by 5 volunteers trained in First Aid.

The Competition’s motto was: **“First Aid Saves Lives! Learn how to provide First Aid!”**

For this Competition 15 Simulation Stations were set up, like the following: a car accident, an earthquake, a forest fire, CPR in case of a heart attack, an emergency situation at a picnic, an emergency situation at a playground, etc. For all of these possible situations, volunteer teams performed first aid on all injured patients as part of the stimulation, depending on the situation, different injuries were presented.

This Activity on the 100th Anniversary of the Albanian Red Cross, was of upmost importance because, it raised to an even higher level, the presence and close monitoring during the First Aid Competition and the performance level of the Teams, especially for the President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, Mr. Francesco Rocca and his Team. At the end of the Competition, the following Winning Prizes were awarded: First Prize went to the Tirana Branch, Second Prize went to the Elbasan Branch, and Third Prize went to the Shkodra Branch.

The First Aid Competition is not only a competition between the participating Teams from all the Branches of the Albanian Red Cross, but it’s also created for raising the awareness about First Aid for the people in



the streets, in town squares, institutions, and the general public; the competition focuses on the importance of learning and the knowledge and techniques of proper First Aid.

The First Aid Techniques practiced by the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH), are based on the standards set by the Global First Aid Reference Center, to which our organization has adhered to since 2008. The 22nd (XXII) National First Aid Competition involved about 1,500 volunteers from branch level competitions and about 450 volunteers in the final competition in Tirana, i.e., a Total of about 2,000 volunteers were involved.

3. The Project: Strengthening Volunteering in First Aid and Disaster Preparedness

In cooperation with the Austrian Red Cross and funding from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) on July 2021, the above Project started, which will last two years (from July 2021 until July 2023); additionally, the total value of the project is about 350 thousand Euros of which the funds that will cover the activities of the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH) with regards to this project are in the amount of 224 thousand Euros.

The Project conceives three types of trainings: special training for our Trainers, Advanced First Aid Training, and training in FA Teams, all done with

our Disaster Volunteer Teams in 9 Branches (Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra, Lezha, Kukës, Elbasan, Korça, Fier, and Vlora).

As well different disaster and advanced first aid simulations will be performed in all 9 branches. The management of our Volunteers and their Volunteering Hours at the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH), will be improved and all the Volunteer Teams will be consolidated into a Standard Database. This project lays the foundation for the establishment of a network of volunteers as First Aid Responders within the community.

In July, with the help of four Specialists from the Austrian Red Cross, we conducted a Three-Day Workshop to launch this Project. This Workshop was attended by 12 Staff Members from the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH) Headquarters, as well as, representatives of the Branches from Tirana and Durrës. Work continued on the preparations of the Draft Manual for Advanced First Aid, by a working Group (2 Coordinators and 3 First Aid Instructors). The Model of the Manual was based on the Austrian Red Cross, however, we adapted it by adding some illustrative photos, which will then be printed out. Meanwhile, in close cooperation with two austrian specialists, a list of materials and equipment that would be needed for the trainings and teams was compiled and the procurement procedures of this kind of process, began according to existing rules.

4. The Project “Flood Resilience Alliance 2.0”

This Project is managed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and is funded by the Insurance Company - Zurich Insurance.

This Project initially was planned to last three years, but per our request in June, it was possible to sign a memorandum of extension for the Project for five years with the IFRC (until March 2024) and the value of the Project was increased in Total to 250 thousand Swiss Francs (CHF).

For this Project, in addition to four Administrative

Units of the Municipality of Shkodra (Dajç, Ana Malit, Rrethina, Bërdicë), two other Administrative Units were added; respectively, one in Fier (Darzeza) and one in Vlora (Fitore). In essence, the Project measures the Level of Resilience/Ability of the Community, in coping with floods through a Software/Computer Program FRMT, where the data collected is uploaded Online on the Network of the International Federation of the Red Cross in Geneva.

In Shkodra, with regards to the implementation of this project, we are in the phase of the intervention projects, where the community requested the creation of a rapid reaction team, equipped with basic tools and with representatives from the community; meetings in schools in order to transmit this knowledge about First Aid and reduce flood risks, etc. were completed. While, for the two newly introduced Administrative Units, in the Branches of the Municipalities of Fier and Vlora, 14 Volunteers were trained from each Branch to use the FRMT Software and interviews were conducted with the respective communities.

5. October 13th, 2021 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

This year as well, some awareness raising activities were carried out, in order to raise the community’s awareness about risk reduction and capacity building for coping with natural disasters.

This year’s message was #Only together, can we cope and manage Disasters. (#ONLYTogether and #DRR Day).

Just like last year, these activities were organized and developed in cooperation with the National Civil Protection Agency, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Vision, and 12 respective Prefectures and Municipalities in Albania. The Activities took place in the following Albanian Red Cross Branches in the City Centers of each Region: Tirana, Durrës, Lezha, Shkodra, Fier, Vlora, Elbasan, Kukes, Dibra, Korca, and Berat.

Specifically, the Activities took place:

- At twelve (12) schools in the main Branches, presentations were made and promotional materials were distributed, with information on the prevention and reduction of various risks that threaten these Communities.

- In the Cities of our larger Branches, tents were set up in the main squares, where a banner and a brochure, as well as, leaflets for October 13th were placed inside the tent. First Aid simulations were also done with 4-5 volunteers.

6. The Capacity Assessment of the Albanian Red Cross was carried out for Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response according to a standard set by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC).

The evaluation was attended by almost all the Staff of Albanian Red Cross Headquarters and representatives from the following three Branches: Tirana, Durrës, and Shijak. The evaluation was led by the International Federation of the Red Cross, through a specialist from the Red Cross of North Macedonia. The evaluation was done according to this standard format; where the achievements based on a legal basis were analyzed, where Disaster Plans, Structures, and Trainings of Volunteers, as well as, logistical capacities, etc., were evaluated according to their current Level (from Level 1-5). Some shortcomings and difficulties of the Organization with regards to an effective response to Disasters, including Communities effected in the case of the COVID-19 Pandemic were highlighted. Based on the Report prepared for this evaluation, an Action Plan was drafted in which it is to be foreseen and carried out via the Training Activities with the Albanian Red Cross Branches on the Topic of “Health during Disasters”, as well as, the consolidation of Volunteer Disaster Teams. For this Action Plan, we have received from the International Federation of the Red Cross, 50 thousand Swiss Francs (CHF).



SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAM AND RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Throughout 2021, the main focus of the Activities for the Social Welfare Program, has been the implementation of Projects and Social Activities, which support groups at risk such as families in need who have been provided with support, in order to meet basic needs such as food and clothing. In addition, elderly lonely people who have received Psychosocial and regular Health Services have also been a part of our focus, as well as, disadvantaged women and girls who have been working with us, in order to increase their knowledge and Vocational Trainings, while also focusing on children in risky situations, by providing them with Social Support and School Assistance.

The main lines of intervention for 2021 are:

1. Providing adequate Social and Medical Services for Elderly Lonely People, so that they can aim for a healthier and more active lifestyle, especially for those who suffer from abandonment/neglect and may have various other Health Issues and Disabilities.

- Within the framework of the Project “Social Health Support and at Home Care for the Elderly” which has been implemented in the following Branches: Shkodra, Lezha, Durrës, Berat, Gramsh, and Librazhd, 180 elderly lonely people without income, were visited every week in their homes by our Project Team Members. The Project Team offered Medical Check-Ups (twice a Month), Psychosocial Support, as well as, giving Food Packages (once a Month) for the elderly participants of this Project. Also, the Project Volunteers provided Psychosocial support at a distance via the telephone, in order to somewhat reduce the level of Social Isolation the elderly were experiencing, especially those living alone.

- After the Pandemic situation had slightly improved in the second half of the year, we decided to reopen the “Day Care Centers” in six (6) Branches of the Project that would be implementing the activities to come. They were attended by around 260 elderly people. Day care centers provide a welcoming and friendly environment, where senior citizens feel safe in the company of others their own age and with likeminded interests, as well as, experiencing a variety of social activities which are offered at these centers: such as birthday celebrations, newspaper readings, and lots of discussions and meetings with our young volunteers. There’s also organizations for health awareness activities, short trips, check-ups, and health sessions.

- Keeping the focus on the Mental Health and

well-being of the elderly, our project teams have continued to provide psychosocial sessions at these centers as part of the project activities. These sessions are mainly organized in groups, relevant topics and issues are discussed on active aging/being active in old age, different ways and activities to be performed are suggested, in order to cope with normal and unexpected changes as a result of the aging process. This project, comes as a threefold cooperation between the Albanian Red Cross, the Red Cross of Montenegro, and the Italian Red Cross, which financially supported this project.

Other activities developed for the elderly during this year are:

- Throughout the year, Vlora and Tirana Branches continued to provide provisions for a Free Meal; meanwhile, for 63 elderly people in the Vlora Branch of the Albanian Red Cross, their Meals were supported by the German Foundation Hilfsverein Nymphenburg. Whereas, the Tirana Branch offers a Catered Lunch for 50-60 Senior Citizens and people in need of food, from Monday to Friday with Branch funding.

- On the occasion of October 1st, 2021, the International Day for Older Persons, as well as, the end of the year holidays, a series of social and entertainment activities were conducted. In addition, gifts and food packages were distributed to the elderly at the Day Care Centers in Lezha, Tirana, Librazhd, Gramsh, Durrës, and Shkodra.

- Within the framework of the Project



“Strengthening the Resilience of the Elderly and people with Disabilities in the Western Balkans, during COVID-19 and future Disasters”; Psychosocial Support was provided at a distance via telephone for over 600 senior citizens and people with disabilities. This support was limited to, the following three selected areas of: Vlora, Durrës, and Shkodra, meanwhile, preparations have begun for the other component of Financial Support, which will be provided to 1,000 Senior Citizens and people with Disabilities. In order to strengthen this component, during June 23-24th, 2021 the Seminar “Self-Assessment of the National Association, regarding the necessary capacities for the implementation of the Financial Support Program” was held with the participation of the Albanian Red Cross Headquarters Staff and 5 implementing Branches of the Project in the following Cities: Korça, Shkodra, Durrës, Vlora, and Tirana.

Some indicators achieved while working with the elderly:

- Three hundred (300) elderly lonely people, visited the Day Care Centers of the Albanian Red Cross.

- Around 120 elderly lonely people, received a Free Meal at the Branches of the Red Cross in Vlora and Tirana.

- Due to their lack of mobility, 180 elderly people were visited and assisted in their homes or apartments, and were supported with Monthly Food Aid.

- For more than 600 Senior Citizens, remote Psychosocial Support has been offered over the phone.

- Around 18 Staff Members and Volunteers have been trained, regarding the necessary capacities for the implementation of the Financial Support Program.

2. Orientation Services and Vocational Training for Disadvantaged Women and Girls, in order for them to gain more access to Employment Opportunities, and build their capacities and Social Skills, so they may cope with difficult living situations.

- In the Branches of Berat, Lezha, Korça, and Kukës, and with the support of the Italian Red Cross, the Project “Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls in Need” has been implemented in Two Phases of Six (6) Months, as a result this Project has supported 240 Women and Girls whom are going through difficult socio-economic times. The Project aims to build their Technical and Professional Skills, in order to facilitate the process of integration of 240 beneficiary women in the Labor Market, this will be used as an instrument for Social Inclusion and increases their autonomy. For the Women and Girls who benefited from this Project (60 in each implementing Branch), they have been offered Vocational Training in the Fields of Tailoring/ Sewing, specifically five (5) Months of specialized Tailoring Courses and one Month of Internships in a Private Enterprise or Company. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the personal capacities of the women participating, the Project Staff provided Psychosocial and Health Education Sessions, which enables a gradual process that will increase their self-confidence and autonomy.

- At the end of the Project, 64% percent of all participating women were employed or self-employed. In addition, the following results were achieved: Korça- 26 Women Employed and 5 Women Self-Employed; Berat- 30 Women Employed and 9 Women Self-Employed; Lezha- 32 Women Employed and 14 Women Self-Employed; Kukës- 26 Women were employed in small Local Tailoring Businesses and 8 Women were Self-Employed. The implementation of this Project was supported fully by the Italian Red Cross with a Budget of €37,000 Euros.

Some indicators that were achieved in this Project are:

- 240 Women and Girls in need, completed a Six (6) Month Course in Tailoring/Sewing and they also participated in Psychosocial Sessions.

- Around 64% percent of all beneficiaries are employed in either Private Companies or are Self-Employed.

3. Social and Educational Support for Children in difficult situations and for quality Education and Social Integration.

- At the start of the Academic Year, the Tirana Branch accomplished two Festive and Supportive Activities with 150 Orphans, who were given Tablets, Bags, and other School Supplies, on the occasion of the start of the new School Year. These Activities were made possible, with contributions from ABI BANK (American Bank of Investments) that helped 50 Children and QTU (Universe Shopping Center) that helped 100 Children. Meanwhile, the Korça Branch provided School Support for twenty-five (25) Children with Socio-Economic Problems, which were identified in cooperation with Schools, whereas for the Durrës Branch, with the help of Volunteers, we conducted a Fun Activity with Special Needs Children at the Residential Development Center.

Some indicators that were achieved are:

- 175 Children under difficult circumstances, were supported with Backpacks and School Kits.
- 120 Children received Gifts, as well as, being a part of Fun Activities that were organized during the Holidays.

4. Improving the Standard of Living for Families in need, by providing Food and Material Support.

- In order to mitigate the Social and Economic consequences for Families in need, which was aggravated even more so by the situation created by the Pandemic, the Albanian Red Cross intervention was made possible with the help of Standard Food Packages for 2,070 Families in need Nationwide. This type of Assistance was provided by Local Branches during May through June, as well as, December 2021, with Financial Support from the Qatari Red Crescent in the value of \$60,000 USD.

- At the end of the Year, with Local Funds, our Branches organized various support for families in

need as follows: For the Tirana Branch, we supported about 240 Families (mainly supported by Alpha Bank), in the Shkodra Branch 100 Families were supported, in Lezha 50 Families were supported, in Elbasan 50 Families were supported, in Skrapar 20 Families were supported, and in Durrës 40 Families were supported.

Public Campaigns:

- Due to the Pandemic we had limited resources, therefore, some Local Branches have developed Activities within the framework of the Campaign for World Hunger Day, which is on October 17th, 2021. Thus, the Tirana Branch supported about 300 Families (which were supported by EcoMarket and Credins Bank), Lezha supported 50 Families, Dibra supported 15 Families, Elbasan supported 25 Families, and Korça supported 15 Families. Assistance was provided for the neediest families, like those who have elderly members who are lonely and isolated, families with many children and difficulties providing for all of them, families without an income, and so much more.

The Psychosocial Support Program:

- With the support of the Italian Red Cross, the implementation of the Project “Psychosocial Support for Families most affected by the Earthquake” was made possible. This Project’s aim was to support 150 Families, that were not only physically affected by the Earthquake on November 26th,



2019; but they had also, suffered great emotional distress after its occurrence and many aftershocks. For the 150 Families selected, Home Visits were made by the Projects Team. The purpose of these visits, was to better understand the current emotional state of the affected Family Members, how much they had recovered since the Natural Disaster occurred, and whether or not they still had Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/Psychological Concerns. At the end of these visits the Families were offered a Standard Food Package.

- In order to strengthen the material capacities of our Branches, especially in relation to the provisions of Psychosocial Support, thirty-three (33) Work Bags were purchased, as well as, 400 T-Shirts were produced for the Volunteers of this Program.

Some indicators achieved for this Project are:

- Throughout the Year, around 500 Families were assisted by Local Branches.

- From the Campaign that was organized in September through October 2021, around 405 Families were assisted.

- With the support of the Qatari Red Crescent, 2,070 mostly needy Families across the Country as a whole, have been assisted and helped out.

- We have met and visited the homes of 150 Families that were affected by the Earthquake and supported them with Psychological First Aid.

The Search and Rescue Program

- The Search and Rescue Office, continues its work in aiding people who have lost contact with their relatives/family, by providing them with the necessary services to restore these lost connections.

- During 2021, the Search and Rescue Office has closely followed about 50 Search Cases, which were received through the International Search Network, but also from our Local Branches. To resolve Incoming Cases, the Search and Rescue Office continues to collaborate with over thirty (30) Red Cross and Red Crescent Associations/Organizations. This Program is supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross.



FIRST AID TRAINING PROGRAM

The first goal of the First Aid Training Service Program, is to build safer and healthier Communities, while preventing and reducing risks in everyday emergencies, disasters, and in times of crisis.

This objective is achieved through:

- Providing high quality First Aid Trainings, for specific population groups.
- Providing a steady number of trained Instructor's in First Aid.
- Strengthening and increasing, the capacity to provide quality First Aid Trainings and Services.

As an ongoing process, in 39 Branches of the Albanian Red Cross, we're implementing and providing the highest quality First Aid Services, through the development of trainings with candidates that are taking their Driver's License. These Trainings contain an 8-hour program of teaching materials and providing techniques in First Aid for various accidents cases.

This program is approved by the Global First Aid Reference Center, and for this service the Albanian Red Cross is licensed. With regards to First Aid, raising the standards and unifying the Training and Service Program, remains one of the main objectives of this service, so it's important for our National Society as a whole moving forward. As a result, this whole process



This Service is one of the most important programs for the Albanian Red Cross (ARC), and our Headquarters continues to pay special attention to the development of these trainings, specifically with regards to driving candidates, but also, the training services we provide to institutions, companies, NGO-s, and for the general public.

The demand for the expansion of these services continues to rise, therefore, the need to increase the number of first aid instructors for the Albanian Red Cross, is an investment to strengthen and increase human resources that leads to strengthening the capacity of all Albanian Red Cross (ARC) Branches.

In this regard, based on the requirements and needs presented by the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) Branches, in 2021, we realized two phases of the First Aid Training for new Instructors (in March 2021 and July 2021). These trainings were attended by a total of 23 candidates, who represented 20 Branches of the Albanian Red Cross (ARC). Based on already established criteria, their selection was made by our branches.

The trainings followed an agenda according to our Program Guidelines: first aid techniques, how to be an effective trainer, communication, early preparation and response, organization of our first aid teaching process, use of different methods and technology, and etc. A very important element in these trainings, was the evaluation of micro-teaching methods, with comments

requires constant planning, tracking and monitoring.

On the other hand, our National Society is always aiming to expand its First Aid Activities, in order to respond to the growing demands of the market with professionalism and quality.

- For 2021: 63,995 driving candidates has completed First Aid Training.

Additionally, in implementation of anti Covid-19 measures, the necessary measures have been taken on First Aid Courses for drivers, as well as, any other trainings that are needed in the First Aid field. With this regard, new rules were implemented:

- Disinfection of the premises/classrooms where the trainings were to take place and taking protective measures for the development of learning.
- Classes were organized within the required spaces and in compliance with the rules for keeping distance and social distancing.



for each candidate, as part of the individual evaluation of each participant.

In December 2021, in order to provide the highest quality of service and unify teaching methods for all Branches of the Albanian Red Cross (ARC), a National Test for First Aid Instructors was held. Due to the large number of Instructors taking the test, the testing period was held in three Sessions. A Total of 52 First Aid Instructors participated in this activity.

The testing period was organized in the following three phases:

- Testing the skills and performance of CPR, in case of a heart attack.
- Testing the theoretical knowledge, with regards to First Aid skills.
- Testing the practical steps of each teaching phase for the Instructors.

Providing First Aid Services to companies, NGO-s, public/state and private institutions, as well as, to the general public.

For us, when providing First Aid Services, an important part is occupied by the development of trainings for interested and at-risk groups such as: companies, NGO-s, public/state and private institutions, as well as, the general public. This type of training has a 7-Hour Program that teaches First Aid techniques. This program is also approved by the Global First Aid Reference Center, and for this Service the Albanian Red Cross is licensed.

Depending on the interested group or the specifics of a job; for the participants, the topics at hand are taught and then the First Aid techniques for these trainings are demonstrated.

- For 2021: 2,165 persons have been trained and provide First Aid Certificates.

We've developed and offered these trainings, both in the premises of the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) Branches, as well as, in companies, NGO-s, or institutions, according to the requests and the number of interested employees. These trainings were conducted with respect to the measures for the prevention and the spread of COVID-19.

In cooperation with the General Directorate of Road Safety and Transportation Services, the Albanian Red Cross, has set up an online database/entry system for driver's candidate who are equipped with First Aid Certifications, in order to coordinate and exchange mutual data with the Albanian Government. Through this system, the General Directorate of Road Safety and Transportation Services has the opportunity to verify the evidence presented by each trainee in their theoretical tests for obtaining an Albanian driver's license. As an immediate goal of the First Aid Training Service Program, we want to establish an online registration system for driver's candidates.

The Albanian Red Cross's on First Aid Training Service Program, has launched the application "First Aid App" valid for both Android and iOS. This App, contains all the necessary information on First Aid techniques for different kinds of situations: like, how to be prepared before, during, and after an emergency, as well as, information on possible pandemics/viruses that can affect anyone.



HEALTH PROGRAM



Within the framework of the Health Program and with regards to the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we've developed many Awareness Activities in relation to, the Hygiene Project in our Branches in the following Cities: Elbasan, Tirana, Korça, Pogradec, Durrës, Vlora, Lezha, Berat, and many more.

On April 7th, 2021, which was World Health Day, some Branches like Durrës, Tirana, Berat, Elbasan, Lezha, etc, conducted Awareness Activities in their City Centers/Squares. Meanwhile, on November 14th, 2021, which was World Diabetes Day, in cooperation with the Diabetes Association of Albania, we held many Awareness Activities at Skanderbeg Square with active participants and volunteers of the Tirana Branch of the Albanian Red Cross. On December 1st, 2021, which was World AIDS Day, awareness raising activities were held by most of the Branches of the Albanian Red Cross.

The Accreditation Project

In cooperation with the National Center for Continuing Education and within the framework of the First Aid Trainings Program, our lectures and agendas were updated to meet these new standards. As part of our Annual Planning Process, a file of all the lectures given on each topic is completed. In total there are 12 Medical Topics relating to Emergencies

and First Aid and 12 First Aid Topics, with regards to the following practices: For example, placing of the collar, mobilizing the victim, transporting the victim, using the AED defibrillator, and so much more. For the Topic "Medical Emergencies and First Aid" Medical Staff of the following Categories: Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists, and Dentists, received 15.6 Credits, as a result of their volunteer efforts with the Albanian Red Cross. In the first couple of Months of the Year, with respect to the Albanian Governments Anti-COVID Measures, the participation in the Trainings to be held, was determined to be 10 Participants to start with; meanwhile, in June 2021, twenty-nine (29) participants had participated and in December thirty-five (35) participants had completed the Program.

The Solidarity Fund

The International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies supported the Albanian Red Cross in a new project, which relates to giving support to our volunteers, who have been infected with COVID-19. According to the Solidarity Fund Project, in the absence of the possibility of full Health Service Coverage for our Volunteers, we can choose to self-insure and provide Health Services to our Volunteers coming from families with difficult Socio-Economic Backgrounds. In order for there

to be accountability and good coordination, the Solidarity Fund Project was led by the Solidarity Fund Commission (Office Level with each Branch), which was created specifically for this purpose. The estimated budget for this project was 18,221 Swiss Francs (CHF).

For the First Phase of this Project, an Official Letter was written and sent to all the Branches where the Project was to be presented, and the beneficiaries, as well as, all relevant criteria were to be underlined. The Solidarity Fund Commission held three meetings and reviewed all cases submitted by our Branches. A Total of 15 Beneficiaries from 7 Branches, have benefited from this Project from our Headquarters alone. At the Albanian Red Cross Headquarters, an Official Letter has been sent by each Branch, explaining who the selected beneficiaries are, as well as, the statements they've completed and signed, plus, confirmations from doctors who have recovered from a COVID-19 Infection, as evidenced by Laboratory Tests and Antibodies.

Health in Emergency

Through this Project, the Albanian Red Cross creates capacity building community activities, which aims to strengthen the local communities, in relation to connected emergencies and health issues. The aim is, to increase cooperation and coordination in case of an emergency with Regional and National Public Health Institutions.

During October 2021, the Training Activity for the Topic “Health in Case

of an Emergency” was held for our Local Trainers, in cooperation with Trainers from the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies. The Topics of these Trainings included: Vaccinations, massive accidents, Psychological Assistance and First Aid in case of emergencies, IFRC strategies for Health in the coming years, and so much more. In November, the Albanian Red Cross Headquarters, held trainings on the Topic “Health in case of an Emergency” for nine (9) Branches that were involved in this Project. These Trainings were attended by 22 participants. Thanks to the Branches cooperation, a schedule was compiled for these Trainings, which took place at different Branches of the Albanian Red Cross. The Project developed awareness activities and trainings in Schools, various Institutions, and within the Community.

The three Main Pillars of this Project were:

- Psychosocial Support
- First Aid
- Health in case of an Emergency



VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM



We would like to give special thanks to our staff and volunteers from the Blood Donation Program, who have worked tirelessly and were on the field every day during this Global COVID-19 Pandemic. From January through December 2021, as part of the Voluntary Blood Donation Program, the Albanian Red Cross has continued its promotion sessions, with regards to this programs success and implementation. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Blood Donation Program required more support, due to the nature of this activity and the number of people required to achieve success and meet our goals.

It's important to note, that from January through December of 2021, many of our Donors (both new and regular) were excluded from giving blood, because of their vaccination status against COVID-19 (If the donor has applied a vaccine with a weakened virus, is accepted as a donor himself after 4 weeks have passed from each of the vaccination episodes). The number of Albanian Citizens infected with COVID-19 has been higher than anticipated, thus, those infected have suffered complications post-COVID-19 recovery; therefore, increasing the rates of morbidity and having even higher rates of exemptions for Blood Donations. The most common exemptions are: Anemia, Hypertension and Hypotension, as well as, Post-COVID-19 Recovery Complications, and so much more. This Year, with regards to the Blood Donation Program, access to viable donors has been greatly reduced, in

comparison to previous years.

For the period of January to December 2021:

The following Branches have organized Voluntary Donation Sessions from January to December:

Berat-230 Units, Durrës-286 Units, Elbasan-364 Units, Fier-290 Units, Korça-288 Units, Lezha-191 Units, Lushnja-110 Units, Shkodra-380 Units, Tropoja-16 Units, Kukës-0 Units, Shijak-36 Units, Gjirokastra-36 Units, Kavaja-45 Units, Tirana-2,148 Units, Dibra-74 Units, Vlora-115 Units, Mirdita-24 Units, Librazhdi-34 Units, and Pogradec-18 Units.

A Total of **4,725** Units of Blood, were collected and donated for the period of January to December 2021.

Let's not forget, that there was a high number of exemptions as mentioned above, which is at 30% percent in a single Donation Session, these Donors, usually are those that have suffered complications from the COVID-19 Virus or who suffer from hypertension and anemia, among other things.

Tirana Branch (our biggest donors), which has conducted 310 Blood Donation Awareness Sessions; out of 155 Blood Donation Sessions that were conducted in 2021, the number of successful donors was 2,148, and there were 508 donors excluded. As usual, we will emphasize that the exclusions are a result of the problems mentioned above, and based on the judgments and analysis of the Doctors at the Blood Bank, who decide on the criteria for Blood

Donations (i.e. hypotension, hypertension, diabetes, anemia, etc). In the Blood Donation Awareness Sessions that were held at all of our Branches, our Secretaries, Volunteers, and Coordinators of the Voluntary Blood Donations, created a set of guidelines or criteria for preliminary exemptions of future donors like: influenza, criteria related to weight, criteria related to age, acute diseases, and etc. During 2021, difficulties in conducting Awareness Sessions were brought on, as a result of the restrictions on working hours, tracking online work, and development of online learning.

For the period of January through December 2021, 62% percent of our planned target goal for this year has been achieved. A Total of **4,725** Units of Blood, were collected for the period of January to December.

We should also mention that, our Albanian Red Cross Volunteers are continuously updating our Social Media Accounts with information and pictures from these Voluntary Blood Donation Sessions. For World Blood Donor Day, an awareness-raising activity and a donation session were held at the National Museum of Albania. For this event, the International Diplomatic Corps and Staff, as well as, other Institutions participated. We should also point out that, a Special Feature for World Blood Donor Day was transmitted on a TV Show for the Vizion Plus Channel, where the President of the Albanian Red Cross, Mr. Ylli Alushi, the Spanish Ambassador, and one of our youngest volunteer donors were interviewed. For the first time this year, a Promo Video Clip was broadcast on the Ring Center's Led Outdoor Wall on June 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2021 in order to raise awareness for World Blood Donor Day.



PROGRAM FOR YOUTH AND HUMANITARIAN EDUCATION



For 2021, the Program for Youth and Humanitarian Education was based on the strategies of the Albanian Red Cross, the policies of the Organization, the experiences of our sister Organizations’, as well as, the previous experiences throughout the years of the Youth and Humanitarian Education Program.

The Youth Program promotes our volunteers and their volunteer work, as well as, knowledge of Basic Principles of Volunteering, Humanitarian Values, and promoting International Human/Humanitarian Rights, as the key tools to change mindsets, save lives, and increase tolerance.

During 2021, the program’s planning and implementation of the activities are based on the following three main principles:

- 1.) Young people as Volunteers.
- 2.) Young people as Leaders.
- 3.) Young people as Beneficiaries.

I. The Project for the Promotion of

Humanitarian Values

The Project was implemented in the following ways:

- On May 8th 2021 “World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day” and on the jubilee year of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Albanian Red Cross.

- Within the framework of the National Competition for Humanitarian Values named “Youth and the Red Cross.” The beneficiaries of this Project are Primary and Secondary School Students (K-9th Grade and High School).

1.1. The Project on May 8th “World Red Cross Day and Red Crescent Day” involved all Branches of the Organization.

The aim of the Project is to spread humanitarian values especially, to our young people.

In the presence of the Covid-19 Global Pandemic, the Project was planned and implemented differently given the circumstance of the Pandemic.

The Project included several Activities:

- Meetings, Online Trainings with Branch Secretaries and Art Teachers.
 - A Campaign for the promotion of Humanitarian Values.
 - Art exhibits at our National Branches.
- The opening and awards ceremonies of the 24th

(XXIV) National Drawing Exhibit “Children and the Red Cross” Art Show.

a. The Campaign for the promotion of Humanitarian Values.

The Campaign for the promotion of Humanitarian Values and the opening of Branch Exhibits are two complementary activities. These Campaign Awareness Sessions gave students’ the important knowledge of the meaning regarding the exhibit slogan which is “In this Pandemic, Volunteering has become more precious than ever,” as well as, important knowledge on the 100th Anniversary of the Organization and the many Activities it is carrying out to help those in need; especially aiding the Community after the November 26th, 2019 Earthquake and during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The knowledge was spared regarding the Red Cross’s mission with regards to its International Movement, its Basic Principles, and Humanitarian Values.

b. Art Exhibits at the Branches of the Albanian Red Cross.

During April, based on the preliminary instructions for our Branches and the preparations of the Activities Calendar, Art Exhibits were organized and opened in the Branches of the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH).

Around 200 Primary Schools (K-9th Grade), were involved in this activity in our Organizations’ many Branches.

Around 3,000 works or pieces of artwork were presented at the Branch Exhibits, which were visited mainly by students, teachers, and parents. By participating in these Art Exhibits, which were held by the Albanian Red Cross Branches (KKSH), 200 students became the winners of various awards.

Within the Branch Exhibits, monitoring was conducted in several Branches to follow up on the organization and implementation of these Activities.

c. The 24th (XXIV) National Drawing Exhibit “Children and the Red Cross” Art Show, took place at “The Cloud Installation” (Reja) in Tirana, Albania on May 8th, 2021.

Ten Winning Prizes were given for the best works/artworks for the children of Elbasan, Tirana, Durrës, Lezha, Pogradec, Korça, Shijak and Lushnja Branches. The winners of the 24th (XXIV) National Drawing Exhibit of the “Children and the Red Cross” Art Show were awarded Certificates and Gifts for their talented efforts.

Various National Television Networks were present and covered the event. This Activity was also promoted in the morning show on RTSH “Good Morning Albania.”

1.2. The 7th (VII) National Competition for Humanitarian Values “Youth and the Red Cross”

This year, the 7th (VII) National Competition for Humanitarian Values “Youth and the Red Cross” was organized within the framework of the 100th Anniversary of our Organization. The activity benefits High School students.

The National Competition for Humanitarian Values, aims to spread humanitarian values among young people, increases their sense of competition, helps with teamwork, and increases their capacity in various fields. The Competition was held in three phases according to the regulations of this Activity, there were 60 young volunteers participating.

The winning Branches were awarded Certificates and Trophies, the Branch from the Tirana Team took first place, the Branch from the Shkodra Team came in second place, and the Branch from the Pogradec Team came in third place.

II. Trainings

2.1. Online Trainings with Art Teachers and Secretaries of the Albanian Red Cross

The Online Training was conducted with the participation of 76 people, including the Secretaries of the Albanian Red Cross Branches and Art Teachers from these Branches.

For the successful conclusion of the 24th (XXIV) National Drawing Exhibit “Children and the Red Cross” the trainings aimed and accomplished an increase of capacity, local engagement, and cooperation between Art Teachers and Branch Secretaries.

2.2. Training for Leadership and Humanitarian Values

The training was held with the participation of 31 Volunteers from 17 Branches of the Albanian Red Cross. The agenda was designed to enable young people to get involved, by sharing their thoughts and experiences with others. The agenda included interactive sessions, ice-breaker situations, and plenary sessions.



The purpose of this training is to increase the knowledge of the participating volunteers, on humanitarian values and leadership, in order to, increase their skills in spreading humanitarian values in their community and as a Volunteer Leader. Many, young volunteers attended and were actively involved in the Training Sessions.

2.3. Online Trainings with Young Volunteers for Youth Leadership

Regarding the Youth and Humanitarian Education Program, the trainings for Youth Leadership with the young volunteers of the Albanian Red Cross, was held as a continuation of the planned Online Trainings. Twenty-five (25) young volunteers participated.

The aim of this training is to increase the capacity of young volunteers to become Leaders of the Albanian Red Cross, thus, giving them knowledge about the Organization that they belong to, humanitarian values, principles of the project’s movement, and training them as Leaders, so that they can distribute humanitarian values to their peers.

The training gave these young people, the opportunity to take responsibility and show their values, in developing topics and managing any situation. This increases the ability to communicate with peers and spread humanitarian values to them.

III. Summer Camp for Active Youth of the Albanian Red Cross

The Youth and Humanitarian Education Program planned and implemented a Summer Camp, for the Albanian Red Cross Volunteers and active youth participants.

During their stay at Camp, young people were introduced to the basic topics and knowledge about the Organization such as: the Albanian Red Cross

and the International Red Cross Movement (i.e., History, Creation, Henry Dunant, etc.), as well as, the basic principles of the Red Cross Movement and its Programs.

Addressing Social Topics such as: Leadership, hands-on demonstrations of First Aid Practices, saying NO to smoking, drugs and alcohol abuse, as well as, ending and preventing domestic violence within families and stopping bullying in Schools, focusing on awareness of Human Trafficking etc.

The Summer Camp achieved its goal of motivating volunteers and increasing their capacity towards spreading humanitarian values. This was noticed, in their engagement and discussions both during the Training Sessions and in the cooperation with each other especially in Group Work.

In the role of Facilitator, active volunteers were involved in the development of the topics for the Summer Camp.

IV. The Activities for Important Marked Dates

a. International Volunteer Day on December 5th, 2021

On December 5th, 2021, within the framework of International Volunteer Day, a round table discussion on “Volunteerism and its Dimensions” was held at the Operational Center of the Albanian Red Cross. The purpose of this Activity, is to motivate young volunteers regarding their own volunteer work in the relevant Branches of the Organization, as well as, to help people in need and to encourage them to invite their peers to join the Red Cross Volunteer Service.

Fourteen (14) young volunteers participated in this Activity. Participating volunteers were 18-25 years old. Some of the issues discussed are as follows:

- Sharing their personal experiences, in terms of Voluntary Service.
- Answering the Question: How can we make

volunteering attractive to our peers and invite more friends to volunteer?

- The relationship between volunteering and youth, in today’s society.

On December 5th, 2021, within the framework of International Volunteer Day, the Albanian Red Cross Branches organized various Activities, in order to motivate and thank our Volunteers. These Activities were meetings with young volunteers, distribution of leaflets within the Community, actions towards improved hygiene, awareness sessions in Schools, and essay writing competitions on the topic of volunteering.

b. International Youth Day on August 12th, 2021

Within the framework of International Youth Day, the Branches of the greatest importance organized many activities. International Youth Day, is celebrated every year with the aim of bringing attention to Youth Issues, as well as, to show that young people today are active partners and participants in Global Society. Every year, this day brings a certain theme to the forefront, always referencing the slogan of the United Nations. Usually this Topic, becomes part of the discussions of our young volunteers at the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH). “Nutrition Methods, Youth Innovations to improve everyday human health.” These topics are closely related to other topics, such as, the Environment, Global Warming, Health, and so on.

The Branches held Online Meetings with the Volunteers, where certain topics were discussed.

Around, 150 young volunteers participated in these Branch Activities. The Activities were reflected on the Social Media Accounts of the Branches.

THE PROGRAM OF ORGANIZATIONAL FUNCTIONING

For the Organizational Functioning Program, the year 2021 has been unlike any other year due to the situation created by the Global Pandemic in 2020. During 2020, because of the situation created by the COVID-19 Pandemic, one of our mandatory activities that was supposed to be developed this year under the Albanian Red Cross Statute, (Branch Member Meetings and the General Assembly) did not take place because the Pandemic lasted longer than expected. Nevertheless, during 2021, the Steering Council continued to hold Meetings mainly Online, in order to implement protective measures against COVID-19.

During 2021, Eight Steering Council Meetings were held. The first Meeting was held in January, at this Meeting we presented some Proposals and Materials, which were approved unanimously by the Members of the Steering Council. Thus, the President of the Organization proposed that:

- Renewal of our Cooperation with the Auditing Company Deloitte Albania.
- Digitalization of the System of Registration and



Reporting of Data related to Candidates for Drivers, who take their First Aid Courses at the Albanian Red Cross (KKSH).

- The involvement of the Law Firm “Panajoti Law Group” in order to pursue in Court, the Case of the return of the property “Divjaka Forest.”
- A Special Issue that was discussed was the “Proposal for Activities that will be organized on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Albanian Red Cross” and this proposal was approved by Members of the Steering Council.

For 2021, the Second Meeting of the Steering Council took place in March; this was the next Meeting on our Agenda. At this Meeting, the Activities and Financial Reports of the Organization from November to December 2020 were reported. Since this coincided with the closing of 2020, the Secretary General, also made a Summary of the Activities of the Organization for 2020 as a whole, as well as, concluding the Financial Reporting for 2020. Detailed information was presented at this Meeting, regarding the Activities of the Organization in helping the neediest families throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

For another Section, the President of the Organization informed the Steering Council about some properties of the Albanian Red Cross, which were recently identified and have come to our attention.

The Third Consecutive Meeting of the Steering Council was on April 30th, 2021. At the next Meeting, the Report of the Activities for January-to-March 2021 and the Financial Reports for January- to- February 2021 were presented. A new feature for this Year was the division of the Plan of Activities and its Budgets

into two parts (i.e. January to March and April to December); so in this third Meeting, the Steering Council was presented with the Action Plan and Budget for April to December 2021 and the Total Annual Budget for 2021.

Also, an important decision from this Meeting was when to hold the Meetings with the Members in our Branches. While the Pandemic situation was slowly but surely improving and hope of a normal everyday situation was nearer, for its next Meeting on April 30th, 2021 the Steering Council decided to hold the Meetings with our Members from June through July 2021.

In the Meetings in May and July, respectively on the fourth and fifth of the Month, the Steering Council has taken into consideration some special and very important issues for the Organization such as the following:

- Request from the Construction Company “OBER” sh.p.k.
- Request for exclusion from the payment of the First Aid Course for paraplegic persons.
- Proposals for the supply of the Solidarity Fund.
- Proposals for Funds that were left unused by Bilateral Donors that were given in the framework of the Earthquake Recovery Plan.

In September, the Steering Council held its next Meeting, which was the sixth Meeting for this Year. This Meeting was also held Online, due to the implementation of the measures for protection against COVID-19.

The Reports for this Meeting were on the Activities that were carried out by the Organization during April to June 2021, as well as, the presentation of the Financial Reports for March to June period. One of the most important issues at this meeting was the approval of materials that would be presented at the 17th (XVII) General Assembly of the Albanian Red Cross, which took place on October 30th, 2021. The Vice President of the Organization, informed the Steering Council about the development and progress of Members Meetings in our Branches. For the Celebrations of the

100th Anniversary of the Albanian Red Cross, a Budget was drafted and presented at this Meeting; this Draft was approved by the Members of Steering Council.

From November to December 2021, the Steering Council continued to hold Online Meetings, regarding the implementation of safeguards against COVID-19. During this period, Two Council Meetings were held and the first one was in early December. This was the next Meeting for the Steering Council, which means that the next Report was going to be for the period of July to October for the Activities carried out within the Organization during that time; as well as, the Financial Reports for July to September 2021.

In addition to the discussion of the Legislative Reports, at this Meeting with the Steering Council another special issue was discussed, which was “A Proposal for the Founding of a Commission in order to Draft a Regulation on the Functioning and Expression of Gratitude within the Organization (i.e. Medals)” this Proposal was made by the President of the Organization Mr. Ylli Alushi. The Members of the Steering Council, agreed to set up a Commission, which will Draft a Regulation on how this “expression of gratitude” will work within the Organization, meanwhile, the Members of the Council approved the President’s Proposal for the Members in charge of this Commission.

The Eighth Meeting of the Steering Council and the last one that took place for 2021 was held in December.

The main purpose of this Meeting was: the Action Plan for 2022 and the Budget for 2022!

For the drafting of the Action Plan and Budget for the Organization for 2022, at the beginning of July the Coordinators of the Albanian Red Cross Headquarters sent instructions for each Program to our Branches, so that the Branches had a Guide on which to draft the Annual Plan. During August and September, in consultation with the Instructions, as well as, with the Coordinators and their Staff, our Branches drafted their Action Plans and their respective Budgets. During October and November, the Headquarters worked on drafting an Action Plan for the Organization, while

taking into account the Action Plans of our Branches. For the drafting of the Action Plan for the Organization for 2022, another important document for our Team was the ongoing Strategy for 2025, in which, we defined the Main Guidelines for the work of the Organization for the next Five (5) Years. With the completion of the Action Plan for the Organization for 2022, the respective budget of the Organization was drafted.

This Action Plan was presented at the Online Meeting of the Steering Council on December 17th, 2021. The Members of the Council, after becoming familiar with the Material presented by the Secretary General, shortly approved it.

At the Meeting of the Steering Council, the Undersecretary General presented the Budget of the Organization for 2022 and after the declarations from the Finance Committee; the Members of the Council approved an important Document for the Organization for 2022.

An important Document for the Organization was the “Regulation for the Expression of Gratitude within the Organization” which was presented at this Meeting. In a Previous Meeting, the Working Group that was proposed by the President prepared a Draft Regulation, which was presented in this Meeting. After the presentation of this Draft, questions and discussions with the Council Members was evident, with regards to the “Regulation for the Expression of Gratitude within

the Organization” there weren’t any objections and it was approved without changes.

As provided in the Statute and the Rules of Procedure, the Finance Committee has regularly held its Online Meetings, in which it reviewed the Financial Reports prepared by the Finance Office; Reports, which were presented at the next Meeting of the Council. At the end of its Meetings, the Finance Committee has drafted a statement by the Committee, which was presented at the next Meetings of the Steering Council by the Chairwoman of this Committee, Ms. Vjollca Katroschi. For 2022, regarding the Budget of the Organization, the Finance Committee after getting familiar with the material, it drafted its statement for the Meeting with the Steering Council; a statement which was read by the Chairwoman of this Committee, Ms. Vjollca Katroschi. With respect to the safety measures against COVID-19, the Branches held Council Meetings while implementing in these Branches said Pandemic Safety Measures.

The Main Topics of these Meetings were the Reporting of Activities in all Branches of the Albanian Red Cross, as well as, the Annual Financial Reporting. In these Meetings a special topic was the understanding of Memberships in the Albanian Red Cross. There have been difficulties in achieving Memberships in our Branches because of the Pandemic situation, as most institutions and schools have been closed and the



activities of our Branches has been limited as a result.

The next Meeting of the Steering Council was on April 30th, 2021 and the Meetings of the Members in our Branches were held from June to July 2021. Due to the fact that these Meetings were going to be held during a Global Pandemic, and the inconvenience that this type of situation was going to cause, the Albanian Red Cross Headquarters sent specific Instructions to our Branches, which they were advised to take into account, as well as, the possible obligations that would arise from the Basic Documents of the Albanian Red Cross. This was the only way; we could have a successful preparation and conduct our Meetings with our Members.

Therefore, on April 30th, 2021, based on the decision of the Steering Council, all of our Branches will hold Meeting with our Members. In 2018, there were four Branches (Gjirokastra, Bulqiza, Hasi, and Tepelena), which due to their non-fulfillment of the statutory obligations of Memberships, could not hold elections and therefore do not have an Elected Council for their Branches. However, the Steering Council gave the right to these Branches to also hold Membership Meetings for 2021, with the good intention that, in these Branches work would continue with regards to the fulfillment of the obligations that the Branch has according to the Statute and the Internal Regulation of the Albanian Red Cross. Nevertheless, the Tepelena Branch, unlike the other three Branches in 2019 and 2020, for this year it has fulfilled the Statutory Obligations for Memberships, so this year it will also be allowed to hold elections for a new Branch Council.

By May 20th, 2021, the Branches were asked to send to the Albanian Red Cross Headquarters the dates of the Members Meetings, in order to plan their attendance via a Delegate at the Steering Council Meetings. They were also asked to send to the Headquarters the List of Members who would like to be removed from Council duties, as well as, the List of New Co-Opted Members, which the Branch Council intends to propose to the Forum for approval. Due to the Pandemic, the Forum participation for the Second-Category Branches

(i.e. Small and Medium Branches) will be held with approximately 20 participants and for the First-Category Branches it will be around 30 participants. Due to Pandemic Safety Protocols, the Branches were asked to provide spacious, airy, conference halls, where there was enough space for the participants and where they could respect social distancing measures. At the time of registration, participants would be provided with masks (preferably masks with logos prepared on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Albanian Red Cross); hand sanitizer should also be available to all participants. Due to the fact that participation was limited, our Branches were advised to notify Volunteers and active branch members to participate in these activities. They must be notified of the dates and times of the meetings at least 15 days in advance.

The Main Elements from the Members Meeting, which took place this Year, were the following:

- The Presidents of our Branches gave a Report on the state of their Branches.
- The Branch Secretaries gave a Report on the Activities of each Branch for the following Years 2018, 2019, 2020 (since the Forum did not convene in 2020).
- The Financial Reports for that same period were then kept by the Branch Secretaries.
- Setting up an Action Plan and Budget for the following Year (2021) and general Guidelines for the upcoming Year (2022) were presented and approved at the Members Meeting.
- Finally, the Chairman of the Financial Committee presented his Report with the comments and recommendations from our Branch Members, with regards to the Annual Financial Reports and the Draft for the Budget.
- According to the Preliminary List that was sent to the Headquarters, voting for Co-Op Members of the Branch Council was on the Agenda.

The First Members Meeting was organized in Tepelena Branch, it was delegated by Mrs. Mirela Huta a Member of the Steering Council. In this

Meeting, Elections were held and Reporting was done according to our Specific Instructions. In addition to the measures imposed by the COVID Situation, all of our Branches have taken extra safety measures for the Elections of the Branch Council, the Ballot Boxes, as well as, the printing of Ballot Papers by Positions for each of the Members of the Branch Council. Positions such as: Branch President, Branch Vice President, and Chairman/Chairwoman of the Commission of Finance for the Albanian Red Cross. All participants in this meeting also participated in the voting process during this important election for our organization and branches. According to the information from the Delegates of the Steering Council, the Meetings of the Members and the Elections in this particular Branch were conducted in accordance with the Statutory Criteria and the Instructions given by our Headquarters.

From the Reports of the Delegates and the Information in all of our other Branches, in general, it resulted that these Meetings, were held in accordance with the norms set by the Statute and the Rules of Procedure. In addition to the Reports, in 13 Branches: Patos, Pogradec, Shijak, Puka, Saranda, Peqin, Tirana, Kuçova, Elbasan, Fier, Dibër, Berat, and Kavaja, the Action Plan for the next Two Years and its approval, was Voted for by the Members of the Co-Opt, who would have replaced the Elected Members of the Branch Council, many of whom had resigned for various reasons. In the Elbasan Branch a New Member was Co-Opted by the Volunteers of this Branch, in the Fier Branch 4 were Co-Opted, in the Dibra Branch 2 were Co-Opted, in the Berat Branch 2 were Co-Opted, in the Kavaja Branch 2 were Co-Opted, in the Patos Branch 3 New Members of the Branch Council were Co-Opted, in the Pogradec Branch 4 New Members were Co-Opted, in the Puka Branch 2 were Co-Opted, in the Saranda Branch 4 were Co-Opted, and in the Peqin Branch 1 was Co-Opted, in the Tirana Branch there were 5 Co-Ops, and in the Kuçova Branch there were 3 Co-Ops. In Total, 33 New Members were Co-Opted from the Ranks of the most Active Volunteers

of our Branches; the Members Meeting approved unanimously all the proposals that were made.

Two Branches, Has and Peqin, held the Members Meeting outside the set deadlines and calendar. The Has Branch, held its Members Meeting on August 3rd outside the deadlines set by the Steering Council, and after the Secretary of this Branch resigned due to her involvement in Politics, since; she was the President this Branch, who was in charge of organizing a Members Meeting within this Branch. The Peqin Branch held its Meeting on August 4th, this was also outside the deadlines set by the Steering Council, because the Secretary of this Branch had Health Problems, and therefore, this was the last Meeting of Members within the Branch. In conclusion, Members Meetings were held in 38 Branches, and were attended by a Total of 1,500 Members and Albanian Red Cross Volunteers, and in 13 Branches, a Total of 33 New Members were Co-Opted. From the Reports of the Delegates and the Information given, it resulted that these Meetings were generally held in accordance with the norms set by the Statute and the Rules of Procedure.

On October 30th, 2021, the 17th (XVII) General Assembly of the Albanian Red Cross was held; it was chaired by the President of the Organization. At this Assembly out of 53 Delegates, only 42 Delegates participated. This General Assembly took place a Year late, because of the Global Pandemic Situation, which resulted in delays in Reporting and Approval of some important Documents for the Organization. The Assembly took place in the “Silvano Pedrollo” Conference Hall, near the Central Building of the Polytechnic University of Tirana at Mother Teresa Square. Unlike other Assemblies, in this Assembly, Reports on the Activities of the Organization for the following three Years (2018, 2019, 2020), as well as; the Financial Reports for these Years was showcased. The Action Plan and Budget for 2021 and 2022 were presented; these were approved by the Assembly Delegates. Two Documents were of the utmost importance at this Assembly, they were the Revised

Statute of the Organization and the Strategy for 2025. The changes in the Statute were presented by the President of the Organization Mr. Ylli Alushi and the Delegates approved all these changes or any clarifications of the Statute. The Delegates of this Assembly approved the 2025 Strategy, which contained the Main Directions of the Work and Activities of the Organization for the next-five-years in a detailed Document.

Regarding the work for drafting the 2025 Strategy, a very important direction for the Program of Organizational Functioning were the following: Due to the COVID-19 Situation during 2020, many activities that were planned to take place on behalf of the Albanian Red Cross were postponed until further notice. For example, the Drafting of the Albanian Red Cross Strategy for 2021-2025 was postponed, therefore in 2021; work began on drafting the 2025 Strategy, which was also submitted for approval to the General Assembly. This Year, for the drafting of this Strategy we had the support of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies the Region of Europe, as well as, from the Regional Coordinator for the Development of National Societies, Mrs. Liliia Bilous. From the start, a plan of activities and a working group was appointed in assisting the drafting of this Strategy. For this process, we involved all Main actors of the organization such as, volunteers and elected management at the Branch levels and Headquarters.

The Working Group started with the design of a questionnaire, which will help them to take into account the opinions of volunteers, as well as, of all actors of the Organization. To be more effective in the completion these questionnaires, three Meetings were organized, which due to the COVID-19 Situation took place Online. The First- Meeting took place on April 16th, in this Meeting; we invited the most Active Volunteers of the Organization from all 12 Major Branches for a Total of 26 Volunteers. The questions from this questionnaire were read one by one, and all participants in the meeting gave their answers, opinions, and comments. The Second Meeting took place amongst those that were Elected,

Members of the Councils of the Major Branches, as well as, Members of the Steering Council; a Total of 20 Participants was present and the procedures were the same as in the First Meeting. The Third-Meeting took place with Management, Secretaries of all the Major Branches, and the Coordinators of the Headquarters. At the end of these Meetings, a Summary of all opinions and responses received in all these Meetings was drafted and sent to the Coordinator of the Federation. A Meeting for the Self-Evaluation of the Organization was part of the Working Groups plan for drafting the Strategy. Under the Direction of Mrs. Liliia Bilous, this Meeting was organized in July with the participation of the Coordinator at our Headquarters, as well as, the Secretaries of the Branches in Dibra, Durrës, and Tirana, a total of 16 participants. The methodology used to make the Self-Assessment of the Organizations capacities was by the Federation. At the end of this two-day meeting, the strengths and weaknesses of the Organization were identified and an Action Plan was drafted for future improvements, a very valuable asset for drafting the Strategy Documents.

During July and August, Weekly Meetings were organized with Mrs. Liliia in order to draft the 2025 Strategy; a Draft which was presented to the Elected Officials at the Central Level, in order to receive their opinions or suggestions for the improvement of this Draft, which would eventually be submitted to the General Assembly for approval. The Year 2021 coincided with the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the Albanian Red Cross. On this occasion, various activities took place, which concluded with the Celebration Ceremony at the Palace of Brigades. While there, a Concert was organized and Members, Volunteers, and Collaborators of the Albanian Red Cross were invited and at this celebration the President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies, Mr. Francesco Roca, as well as; Representatives of the Red Cross of Kosovo and North Macedonia were present in the festivities.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

In 2021, the Albanian Red Cross's humanitarian activities were dominated by two major events: Relief efforts for Albanian families affected by the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, as well as, the Centennial (100 Years) Celebrations of the creation of the Albanian Red Cross.

For both the Albanian Red Cross Headquarters and its 39 Branches all over Albania, attention has been focused on the timely and rigorous coverage of all relief activities carried out throughout the country, as displayed on the Organization's and Branches Official Social Media Pages (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram). Attention has been focused on the Organizations activities in support of Albanian families most affected by this Global Pandemic.

Of the greatest importance the following Campaigns were Organized: Protective measures and preventing against the spread of COVID-19, Psychosocial Support for individuals in need as a result of the isolation from the Pandemic Lockdowns and Social Distancing measures and economic support which came in the form of a Financial Bonus that was distributed to families most affected by the pandemic.

Within the framework of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Albanian Red Cross, as part of the Organizational Group, concrete work has been done to draft a plan of activities that are part of the Organizations structure and history. In this regard, the following activities have been organized:

- The establishment of the Albanian Red Cross Historical Museum: The Museum was made possible, thanks to collected historical materials that were made available to us and within the specified quantities needed. Now, the Albanian Red Cross will

have its own "Story" to tell, thanks to its own Historical Materials. I strongly believe, that the establishment of this Museum, would be an important first step among many steps and actions, in reflecting the History of the Organization over the years, a step that without a doubt will enrich our Organizations history even more.

- In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Albanian Red Cross, a video dedicated to its history was made just in time for the celebration of this important day. This was followed up with a PDF Presentation of the 100th Anniversary and its History. Its tools like these, that give us more opportunities to introduce and present the Albanian Red Cross to interested Groups, especially young people.
- In practice, the presentation of the Albanian Red Cross Official Website has been radically improved. In addition to the various aspects of the Website that enables a faster and updated access to the Organizations Activities and History, now, those interested will find a Virtual Archive of the Organization, which we hope will be continuously enriched with materials from various documentary sources.
- For the festive activities in celebration of the Centennial of the Organization, like the 22nd (XXII) National First Aid Competition, in addition to placing flags with the logo of the 100th Anniversary along the entire length and path of the Boulevard "Dëshmorët e Kombit", we also placed a Visual Presentation/Posters with the 100th Anniversary Logos in front of the Main Building of the University of Tirana.
- The 100th Anniversary Celebrations of the Albanian Red Cross was accompanied by an increased presence and coverage by Local Media (both print and audiovisual). The organization of the main celebration ceremony took place at the Palace of Brigades and was televised directly by RTSH (Albanian Radio Television).
In addition, four bulletins were realized, in which all the activities of the Organization and each Program

as a whole were reflected.

As an important part of the Program, the preparation and publication of the 2020 Annual Report of the Albanian Red Cross has been completed. Also, the preparation of the three issues of the Periodical Magazine of the Albanian Red Cross, was distributed to all the Branches of the Organization.

As part of the 100th Anniversary Celebrations, press releases were prepared and sent out to the Media for further details.

Throughout the year, both at the Headquarters and at the Branches, special attention has been paid to the Social Media Accounts of the Organization. Regarding this, special care has been given for a timely and high quality update of the Official Website, the Official Facebook Page(s) and the Official Instagram Account(s) of the Organization and its Branches, with regards to the Branches special care has been given for a more regular follow-up of the Social Media Posts that relate to the activities of the Branches and not only that, but the Organizations work as a whole. As always, care has been given to the coverage of various events and activities by the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement (the IFRC and ICRC), some of which have been reported to the National and Local Media, which we continue to maintain a good cooperation and relationship with. Program Coordinators were invited and presented the work done by the Albanian Red Cross in the respective fields.

Albanian Red Cross Financial table for 2021

	Realized Expenses Divided by Programs (in Lek)	Headquarters	Branches	Total
1	Disaster Preparedness and Response and First Aid Program	74,026,233	890,653	74,916,886
2	First Aid Services and Training Program	6,869,457	2,920,479	9,789,936
3	Social Program, Fundraising and Tracing Service	24,338,958	9,366,001	33,704,959
4	Health Program	51,020	32,685	83,705
5	Promotion of the Voluntary Blood Donation Program	1,139,181	2,254,531	3,393,712
6	The Organizational Functioning Program	11,506,325	3,931,560	15,437,885
7	Youth and Humanitarian Education Program	6,086,315	868,885	6,955,200
8	Public Relations Program	8,522,941	-	8,522,941
9	Property Administration Program	6,006,930	-	6,006,930
10	Administrative Support for All Programs	19,464,861	36,086,876	55,551,737
		158,012,221	56,351,670	214,363,891

	Shpenzimet e realizuara ndarë sipas donatorëve (në lek)	Headquarters	Branches	Total
1	The International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent	63,776,000	-	63,776,000
2	Qatar Red Crescent	6,242,435	-	6,242,435
3	Italian Red Cross	12,725,558	-	12,725,558
4	Serbian Red Cross	2,178,582	-	2,178,582
5	National Blood Transfusion Center	1,139,181	2,254,531	3,393,712
6	Local Donors	-	5,919,109	5,919,109
7	Albanian Red Cross's Funds	71,950,465	48,178,030	120,128,495
		158,012,221	56,351,670	214,363,891

