



YEAR BOOK

2016 - 2020

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From the Director

I am happy to present to all the partners and public at large the Yearbook 2016-2020 for Initiative for Social Change ARSIS regarding the work and contribute provided throughout these years. The economic development and access to social services has been negatively impacted by the earthquake of 26th of November. In 2019 marked the year where the earthquake in Albania and the difficulties that children and families in vulnerable situation faced impacted the whole programming of activities by the Initiative ARSIS team in Albania.

Throughout these years, Initiative ARSIS has showed engagement, commitment, and experience on providing support to children, youth, and families most in need, in high risk of life and in vulnerable situation, dealing with all the weaknesses of the social protection system and the need for interventions and further help. All supportive services were offered immediately according to each community needs ensuring active intervention and support. During the emergency crisis from the earthquake in Albania (2019), Initiative ARSIS engaged 40 professionals to establish 14 child friendly spaces in the affected areas for providing immediate psychosocial support to more than 1806 children, 370 adults and 45 child protection workers.

Initiative ARSIS has become an important service provider in the child protection system through the provision of immediate accommodation and help for every child, youth, or family with children at high risk, in street situation or victims of different kinds of abuse in all over Albania. By working in straight cooperation with the child protection workforce and institutions in Albania, Initiative ARSIS has been actively contributing to the policy level over

the improvement of the legislative framework and providing support on the replication of these positive models of service provision. In April 2019 Initiative ARSIS supported by ASB SEE launched Social Dimension Initiative in Albania in the Regional Conference. Under the Initiative, it was mainstreamed all WB and of the Albanian projects with the clear goals: to support the people through direct interventions in the field of provision of social services; to support the social welfare systems in the WB countries to develop long-term sustainable services for its most vulnerable citizens.

In the last five years, more than 4000 children have benefitted from 40 small and medium scale programs in around 20 Municipalities of Albania. This was made possible because many donors have believed and continue to believe in the transformational work of Initiative for Social Change ARSIS. I am obliged and honored to say thank you to all our donors and partners.

Actually, the need to continue providing support and ensure wellbeing of children, young people and families in Albania, is still present. Challenges ahead of us demand that we humble ourselves so we can understand, adapt and grow. Above all, we need to strengthen partnerships to solve the current complex problems that hinder child and family wellbeing.

It is our desire that this summary offers a valuable glimpse on how we contributed to the transformational journey over these years. I am thankful to every team member, consultants and volunteer in Initiative ARSIS, for their humble dedication and desire to bring about good change in the society and a life in all its fullness for every child, youth and family.

Because we care...

Sincerely yours,

Ana Majko,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Where we worked:

Municipality of Tirana
Municipality of Shkodra
Municipality of Durres
Municipality of Elbasan
Municipality of Vlora
Municipality of Fier
Municipality of Korca
Municipality of Gjirokastra
Municipality of Saranda
Municipality of Kukes
Municipality of Lezha
Municipality of Kruja
Municipality of Lushnje
Municipality of Gramsh
Municipality of Divjaka
Municipality of Cerrik
Municipality of Devoll
Municipality of Dibra
Municipality of Kavaja
Municipality of Erseka
Municipality of Kamza
Municipality of Kurbin

Our impact 2016-2020

20

Municipalities

40

small and medium scale projects implemented

800

children in need for protection assisted with the case management process

78

child protection workers trained, and supported with professionals assistance

1180

children at risk accommodated in the Safe Emergency Shelter

936

children in contact with the law assisted in Police Stations

500

children every year participated in the summer camps in Albania

2000

children reached through community and multifunctional services

1806

children in 14 child friendly spaces established in the affected areas from the earthquake in 2019

5000

people assisted with direct support

Support for the system

i. Child Protection system

1. Strengthening child protection mechanisms at local level

Albania has made remarkable efforts in the recent years to establish the fundamental pillars for the Child Protection System. The core legislative and policy framework around child protection was significantly reinforced in 2017, with the adoption of the new Law on the Rights and Protection of the Child, and the Criminal Justice for Children Code. However, the entire system is in its infancy and requires significant support, especially at the service delivery level.

Throughout these years Initiative ARSIS, has been engaged to build and strengthen a comprehensive and effective child protection system, for all children in local level. This work took place in straight cooperation with the Directories of Social Services in The Municipalities of Lushnje, Cërrik and Tirana. The main pillars of this approach consist of:

- ✓ Enhancing legislative and policy framework around child protection in local level (Assistance for the development, approval and implementation of the local Action Plan on Child Protection 2019-2022 for the Municipality of Lushnje for the first time in line with the Social Plan);
- ✓ Strengthening mechanisms and capacities of child protection work force for better prevention, identification, case management and response to cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children in Lushnje, Cërrik and Tirana Municipalities (trainings and development of monitoring tools of the case management process);
- ✓ Case management process for the identified children at risk, with immediate intervention, direct support and professional orientation for the child protection workforce;
- ✓ Awareness raising with children, parents and community members through the child protection mechanism in local level for the children's rights and channels of reporting abuse.





2. Strengthening local mechanisms that support Roma and Egyptian communities

Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania continue to live at the edge of marginalization, exclusion, discrimination and facing constant violations of human rights. Despite the lack of detailed statistics, it is very evident that poverty for these communities is multi-dimensional. Although the reasons for these groups disproportionate levels of poverty are unclear, these groups face more challenges than others in accessing secure housing and land, in obtaining reliable and adequately paid forms of income, and in accessing overall government services, including health and education.



In the Municipality of Tirana Initiative ARSIS has provided direct support, development programs and advocacy initiatives for addressing prejudice, discrimination and exclusion of Roma and Egyptian communities in different settlements. The main interventions have been ensured through the access in two day community centers with the provision of informal education, employment programs, access to education system through transport and after school classes, psychological support and lifelong learning skills. This model of service provision for Roma and Egyptian communities has been replicated and provided in other 5 Municipalities in Durrës, Shkodër, Dibër, Devoll and Gjirokastra.

In the Municipality of Cërrik, at the city's outskirts and surrounding villages where Roma and Egyptian families were settled was provided technical assistance on participation and integration of R/E communities, particularly focusing on the economic empowerment of the R/E youth. The main objective was to assist the development, approval and implementation of Municipality's Action Plan on Reintegration of the Roma and Egyptian communities 2019-2022.

In the Municipality of Cërrik for the first time there was developed a detailed report about the current situation of the R/E communities and the mechanisms that are in place for addressing their needs in the frame of the actual legal approach and context. This report ensured that the local action plan for the integration of R/E communities is real, empirically based and frameworks the current situation in the Municipality of Cërrik. This project has addressed directly the needs and the difficulties that R/E community members and children specifically face on a daily base, including child protection workforce and other professionals' capacities in using the right instruments for the reintegration of R/E communities.



Initiative ARSIS national partner for Albania for the the biggest network of social service providers in the Balkans

ii. IRIS NETWORKing - CSOs for protection sensitive migration management

Arbeiter Samariter Bund and its partners back in 2012 established the Western Balkan network of non-profit providers of social services – IRIS Network, with the financial support from the EU Civil Society Facility Program. The goal of IRIS Network is to strengthen the role of civil society organizations as social service providers throughout the Western Balkans and to ensure that these organizations are recognized as equal partners by the public sector. Furthermore, it aims to enable a dynamic civil society actively participating in public debate on democracy, human rights, social inclusion and the rule of law with sufficient capacity to influence policy and decision making processes.

The Network focuses on achieving greater commitment and capacity of CSO networks to enable citizens a voice and influence in the public sector reform processes through analysis, monitoring and advocacy. It also aims to strengthen the CSO Networks dealing with social service delivery SSD in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia in order to improve overall Service delivery to the citizens.

Currently the Network gathers **220 member organizations**, which provide various types of social services for people with disabilities, children, youth at risk and women victims of violence, Roma, migrants and asylum seekers and other members from vulnerable social groups. It is the only regional network that brings together CSO's social service providers in South East Europe and consists of 6 national networks gathering organizations that provide different types of social services to different vulnerable groups.

At the beginning of 2018, IRIS Network commenced a new regional initiative developed by the IDC and its partners from ASB, SOS Podgorica, LIR CD, La Strada and Initiative ARSIS. The initiative aimed to contribute significantly to the improvement of service delivery and policy framework related to the migration in the region of Western Balkans. In the process, CSOs social service providers will increase the quality of migrant related services they provide, as well as internal human resources.



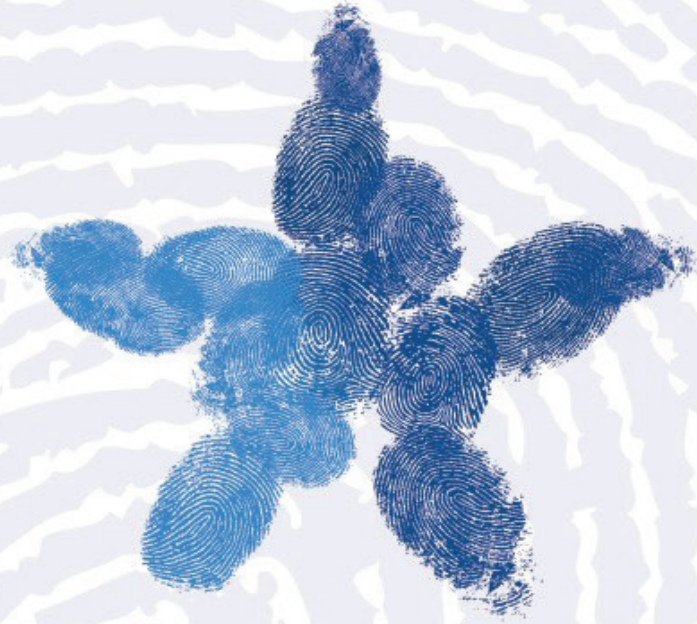
Iris Network in Albania

- National network
- **24 Civil Society Organizations**
- **5 organizations** initiated licensing process
- **20 participants** attended seminars, trainings, academies
- Influenced on over **50+ decision makers and stakeholders** from private and public sector
- **5 organizations** network members supported with the small grants facility



Voice of IRIS in Brussels

On an annual basis, IRIS network organizes an event in Brussels where topics of social inclusion and reform efforts from the Western Balkans are presented to the European Parliament members and other stakeholders. The last round table in Brussels was held on 20th November 2019 in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. IRIS Network presented its Regional Shadow report on the social reforms and migration in WB. Members of IRIS together with small grass-root organizations also got an opportunity to take part in the event. The event brought together representatives of the EU Commission, MEPs, experts, trade unions, and civil society to discuss how a reinforced social dimension in the EU enlargement policy can be brought to life.



IRIS Network

IRIS NETWORKing
CSOs for protection sensitive migration management



This project is funded by the European Union

Social Dimension Initiative (SDI) for Western Balkans “Leaving no one behind in the process of EU integration”

iii. Social Dimension Initiative

Political commitment to the European Union (EU) accession process for the Western Balkans region accelerated political and economic reforms. For two decades, Western Balkan countries benefit from substantial EU assistance. Still, the region is facing social risks associated with poverty, income inequality, unemployment and other forms of social exclusion.

The purpose of this Initiative was to enhance the dialog between the civil sector, citizens and political elites in both the EU and WB on the necessity of the social dimension of the EU integrations for the WB countries while additionally promoting core values of the Union and tangible benefits from the accession. The Initiative was promoted within a series of public events (2 regional and 6 national conferences) organized in each of the WB countries.

In the framework of Social Dimension Initiative, on 10th of April 2019, took place the first national conference “Social Dimension Initiative” for Western Balkans in Albania. This conference was organized with the main purpose of addressing country specific topics and needs and also to enhance and continue the dialogue with the European partners. The main focus was to offer an opportunity to local communities’ part of the mentoring process to discuss specific social needs and problems in Albania and also to address in particular, issues of IPA funding and support.



Initiative ARSIS supported by ASB took the process even further – in cooperation with the local partners and communities were prepared **33 ready-to be-funded projects**, originating from **11 municipalities** from Albania.

A number of **140 participants** attended the conference, which overpassed the number of participants expected demonstrating not only the high interest on the topics addressed, but also the active participation of everyone involved in the process of improving social needs. The pressed media and electronic media were also present during the conference, reflecting every discussion in dedicated specific reportages.



Support to the people

Children in emergencies

Child Protection Response to Earthquake Emergency in Albania

In response to the Government of Albania request to provide psycho-social support to the affected children, UNICEF Albania through its child protection program activated its partnership with NGOs including Initiative for Social Change ARSIS. The partnership intended on addressing child protection issues in emergencies and deployed a team of field workers on the disaster affected areas for the identification of key response sites and children's core protection needs. In the first phase, the work was focused on addressing the urgent, life-sustaining needs of children and their families, with a focus on the most vulnerable ones. After the initial live-saving phase, the intervention was focused on providing psycho-social support to children and families through the creation of Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) in the affected communities and support to existing child protection system to prevent and address all forms of violence against children.

- 15 *Children in need for immediate protection identified and reported to the statutory child protection workers.*
- 19 *Statutory Child Protection Workers from 5 Municipalities*





14 Child Friendly Spaces in 4 Municipalities, including **10 Administrative Units**, were established right after the earthquake until the end of the project duration. CFSs were adapted to the environment in which internally displaced people were living and were established in close collaboration with government agencies and child protection structures. A multi-disciplinary team of **45 professionals** comprised of psychologists (14), social workers (13), social animators (8) and teachers (10) worked every day to provide educational and psychosocial support and other activities that enable children to restore a sense of normality and continuity. **1806 Children & 370 adults** received psycho-social support. **15 Children in need for immediate protection were** identified and reported to the statutory child protection workers. **19 Statutory Child Protection Workers** from **5 Municipalities** were supported for case management process.





Preventing and responding to violence against children

Under the coordination of the State Agency on the Rights and Protection of the Child, UNICEF Albania and its local partner Initiative ARSIS have supported existing child protection mechanism, in order to identify, and support children at risk or in need of protection. Statutory child protection practitioners and local structures have been supported with increased capacities to understand the legal frameworks, to implement operational tools in determining best interest of the child and to enable effective prevention and management of cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect involving children.

Regular coordination meetings with the support of the State Agency on the Rights and Protection of the Child were held with the representatives of social services from the 5 municipalities involved (Tirana, Shijak, Durrës, Kavaja and Vora) to coordinate roles and responsibilities and approve working plans in support of Child Protection Workers. Meetings also serve to address challenges and gaps in the provision of effective protection services to children and their families.

19 Statutory child protection workers from 5 Municipalities (Tirana, Durrës, Shijak, Kavaja and Vora) have been supported through coaching, mentoring and direct technical support for case management. In addition, whenever needed, they have also been supported with human and logistical resources to be able to cover the whole earthquake-affected areas for the purpose of identifying children at risk or in need of protection.





Emergency Response in the Earthquake Context

Initiative ARSIS in the frame of the project Emergency response in Albania in collaboration with ASB-Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, provided an integrated intervention through face-to-face and online counseling, psychosocial games, non-formal education, psychological assessment, case management and parenting and socio-economic support based on needs of identified children and families affected by the earthquake in Albania in 26th of November. The intervention has been focused in two most affected areas, respectively Manëz Administrative Unit and Shijak Municipality.



This was an integrated intervention in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection with the support of a qualified staff of psychologists and case managers. The Initiative ARSIS team, provided every day base support to children in child friendly spaces as a way to identify children and their families in need for further support and to enhance the child protection system.

The project started in February 2020 with the establishment of the new CFS in Shijak area and in the same time working with children in Manëz. **246 children attended** the CFS until 9th of March 2020. Despite logistical difficulties caused by the pandemic situation and its restrictive measures, Initiative ARSIS reshaped all activities and supporting means, in order for the psycho-social staff to continue be in contact (face to face and online) with the children and their families.

Families and children in Manëz and Shijak municipality and administrative units were assisted with psycho emotional support and direct support with food and hygienic packages. The direct support consisted on covering their basic needs while they try to integrate to the labor market and active participation into the society. Psycho emotional support was offered through the provision of the integrated intervention through face-to-face and online counseling, psychosocial games, non-formal education, psychological assessment, case management, parenting and socio-economic support based on needs of identified children and families.



Response in Covid-19 Context

Emergency response on the COVID-19 pandemic context (Earthquake affected families)

The pandemic confronted us, with the true uncertainty of human existence and the true vulnerability of human life. It showed us the importance of recognizing not only the purpose of the support we are offering, but also a bigger one, that of a society and of the natural world, in pursuit of not just our individual, self-interested payoffs, but in pursuit of all our overarching communitarian goals that are articulated in our values and cultural aspirations.

Even though the pandemic COVID-19, caused many imbalances in all human functioning areas, it affected in a harsher way, especially communities in need such as children and families affected by the earthquake and still living in temporary shelters (tents). Initiative ARSIS with the support of UNICEF managed to offer direct psycho-social support to children and families affected by earthquake, by building up Community Support Teams to assist families and provide them with



the necessary sanitation equipment and logistics. The psycho-social activities have been organized in **10 municipalities, 23 Administrative Units** and **50 locations**. Among all services provided were: **community involvement and mobilization, awareness raising, psychological counselling, community participation and engagement, and in kind** provision of learning didactic and COVID-19 preventive sanitation materials to children and families. The assessment process involved **270 families; 300 mothers** have been supported directly

with psycho-social support, hygienic packages, provided with administrative support; **50 psycho-social activities** were organized with children in and out school space. Psycho-social activities were welcomed by children, as from March 2020 they were not involved in entertainment activities/initiatives which affected negatively their emotional well-being. **1000 hygienic packages** have been delivered to the families in all targeted location.

Support existing national child protection system, in order to identify, and support children at risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation during the emergency situation

The support offered did expand also on Child Protection Workers which were managing high risk protection cases during the COVID-19. Child Protection Mobile Teams in collaboration with CPW identified **231 cases** of children at risk in **12 Municipalities**; direct on the job assistance was provided, and case management procedures and pathway for interventions were guided. The Child Protection Mobile Teams has provided on job assistance for **51 CPWs** who needed the package of information and practical procedures for case management with the method learning by doing, providing expertise for specific cases identified during the community and field work. Initiative ARSIS Child Protection Mobile Teams has been actively engaged in supporting during the family visits, service delivery, accompanies for the health centers/ mental issues, public institutions for ensuring access, etc.

Children victims, at high risk of being abused, exploited, trafficked and in street situation

Transitional emergency shelter service for children affected by COVID-19

The emergency shelter is the only center in Albania which provided safe accommodation to every child in need for protection during the lockdown and in the pandemic situation, ensuring the implementation of all the protocols for preventing expansion of the virus for all the children/mothers with children in Albania affected or no with COVID-19 in Albania without any exception. Also, all the staff part of the Child Protection Mobile Teams and their collaborators were equipped with PPE materials during the project implementation.

Offering support through such a difficult emergency situation had its positive impact. The community was not left in mercy and disoriented, but was offered services and was channeled into better making use of resources.



Service of Safe Emergency Shelter

Service of Safe Emergency Shelter provides safe accommodation and protection for every child in need of protection in an emergency situation, for mothers with children who are in a situation of abuse or danger. The emergency service is a social service which is set up or contracted by each local unit at the municipal or county level, to provide safe accommodation, accommodation and protection services for children aged 0-18 years and parents with children, who in certain circumstances are unable to take care of themselves.

The activity of this service is realized in accordance with the requirements of the local legislation, for social services in the Republic of Albania, for the rights and protection of children (supporting legislation), draft standards for emergency services and positive practices. This service has as mission the provision of protection and welfare for all children at risk and aim to ensure the effective provision of immediate protection services for:

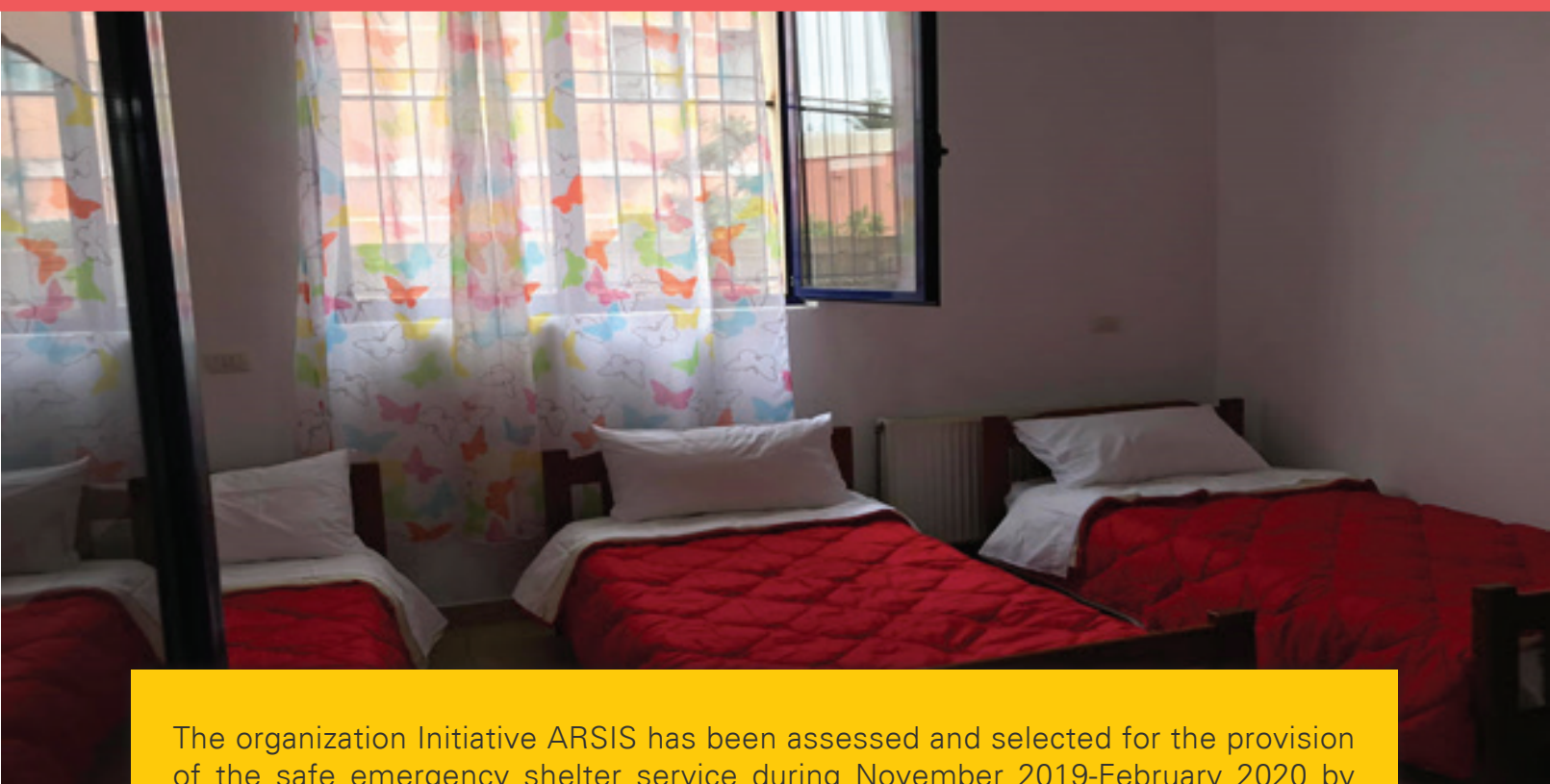
- **protecting the child from harm;**
- **placing the child in a safe environment;**
- **protecting the rights of the child;**
- **promoting child development.**

In the premises of the Center “House of Colors” was established a child friendly shelter for children at high risk or immediate risk for 72 hours in 2011 with the support of the Municipality of Tirana and UNICEF. The Service of Safe Emergency Shelter provides support to children up to 18 and to mothers with their children victims of abuse, neglect, domestic violence, trafficking, exploitation, without parental care, abandoned, unaccompanied, etc. The center has provided support to more than 98 children at high risk in 2019 including their parents per year (**approximately 1000 children in 10 years**).



The Safe Emergency Shelter is the first and the only national service which provide immediate support and protection to every child at high risk 24/7 days per week in Albania. In the emergency service are involved 30 professionals. The service has evolved since 2011 strengthening its role and services like providing not only accommodation, direct services, but in the same time supporting the system to resolve through case management, referral and reintegration of every case.

Safe Emergency Shelter services



The organization Initiative ARSIS has been assessed and selected for the provision of the safe emergency shelter service during November 2019-February 2020 by Partners Albania, on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in Albania, within "Leave No One Behind", a United Nations Joint Programme supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).





The practices were identified through an open application process whereby about 200 public and non-public providers of social care services in all municipalities all over the country, identified through the State Social Services database, were invited to submit their practices related to services for individuals, families and groups in need.

The selection with the third price and one 15 best practices was based upon satisfaction of criteria pre-established by experts involved in the initiative, such as services quality, suitability, innovation, results and impact, sustainability, cooperation with other stakeholders, opportunity for replication in other municipalities etc.

Best practices for the provision of social care services



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



REPUBLIKA E SHqipëRIE
MINISTRIA E SHëndETËSISË
DHE MBROJTJES SOCIALE



UNITED NATIONS
ALBANIA



UN
DP

Fitues i Çmimit të Tretë

të Konkursit Kombëtar "Praktikat më të mira në ofrimin e shërbimeve të kujdesit shoqëror",
organizuar nga Programi për Zhvillim i Kombeve të Bashkuara
& Partnerët Shqipëri për Ndryshim dhe Zhvillim,
në bashkëpunim me Ministrinë e Shëndetësisë dhe Mbrojtjes Sociale:

Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror - ARSIS Bashkia Tiranë

në kuadër të Programit të Përbashkët të Kombeve të Bashkuara "Askush të mos mbetet pas",
të mbështetur nga Agjencia Zvicerane për Zhvillim dhe Bashkëpunim.



Ogerta Manastirliu
Ministre e Shëndetësisë dhe Mbrojtjes Sociale



Limya Eltajeb
Përfaqësues e Përhershme - UNDP Shqipëri



Leave
No One
Behind



PARTNERËT SHQIPËRI
PËR NDRYSHIM DHE ZHVILLIM

Safe Emergency Shelter Service (SESS), offered at the multifunctional Centre "House of Colors", is a community service providing temporary protection for children at high and immediate risk (street situation, victims of domestic violence, trafficking, exploitation, without parental care, unaccompanied, etc.). The service provides support for the operation of the child protection mechanism in the country.

The service reflects the best practices in the field and the international principles of equality, respect and guarantee of the child values and personality, the right to benefit and to be protected, the protection of information about personal life, dignity and security and social integration. It is close to the community and vulnerable families and in direct contact with the responsible social care services' structures, the police and court structures.

Children without access to education system

Full access to quality education for Roma/Egyptian children to fight discrimination, inequality, social exclusion and poverty in Tirana, Shkodra, Dibra and Devoll Municipalities

Although 9-year primary education has been mandatory in Albania for many years, the country still faces a literacy problem, mostly among Roma and Egyptian population. According to the registration of the Albanian population, 48 % of Roma do not have any knowledge on writing and reading (OSFA, Roma Census 2014). This percentage goes approximately to 80% if it is referred to informal settlements and barracks. In order to fight discrimination, inequality and social exclusion, all targeted beneficiaries need to have access and equal opportunities to education system and in order to ensure that, is necessary to tackle their problems like health care problems; decent housing; social protection; civic status services; coaching for employment and/or income generating opportunities; and participation in social life.

Throughout 2017 up to 2019, Initiative ARSIS provided access in education for 540 Roma/Egyptian children in vulnerable situation and follow up for 145 children in peri-urban areas in Tirana, Shkodra, Dibër and Devoll Municipalities by providing school enrolment, basic services and skills development. In this action Initiative ARSIS managed to achieve:

i. school enrolment (therefore increasing the access of Roma/Egyptian children to education).

Support in order to prevent and/or treat 540 Roma/Egyptian children in vulnerable situations at risk of being excluded from education system, through provision of:

- Preparatory classes for children enrolled in public schools and kindergartens in Tirana;
- Equipment with didactic materials, school uniform of Roma and Egyptian children in 4 municipalities;

ii. follow up of 145 roma/egyptian children at school with reinforcement classes, in kind support, transport, health care; psychological support; case management; providing citizenship education for children, youth, parents and lifelong learning sessions.





Full access to quality education for Roma/Egyptian children to fight discrimination, inequality, social exclusion and poverty in Tirana, Shkodra, Dibra and Devoll Municipalities

Improve access to quality early childhood education and primary school

The Republic of Albania has approved and ratified many international and national documents and laws that ensure the fair and equal treatment of Roma/Egyptian minority and fight the discrimination about this community. However, the Roma/Egyptian community's status is below the average living standard in Albania. The bottom line in education is that Roma/Egyptian children in Albania have the highest rate of school dropout and they continue to face racial discrimination and segregation.

Initiative ARSIS contributed towards improving the school readiness and early childhood development (ECD) outcomes of **640 children** of Roma/Egyptian and disadvantaged non-Roma/Egyptian children aged 0-8 years old in 4 localities in municipalities of Tirana, Durrës, Devoll and Shkodra in Albania, by improving the access to and quality of the mainstream ECD and primary services and by enhancing the parenting skills of their parents in early childhood development, care, health and nutrition. The link between parents and preschool institutions is stronger and fully established.

- Nearly **105 children** were identified in vulnerable situation in four municipalities where the project is being implemented;
- **130 children** supported with food and hygiene services in the daily centers;
- **160 children** supported with didactic materials;
- **80 children** supported with medicaments and 8 children supported with medical care;



Preparatory classes were offered daily for **150 beneficiaries'** children in four municipalities, where each age group is given appropriate consultation according to the educational program. With the start of the new academic year 2019-2020, the project supported with school uniform, shoes and other materials over **40 school attending children**. The project secured all the paper work and administrative issues that allowed Roma/Egyptian children access kindergarten and school for the new academic year, in 4 municipalities.





It was established the first social day care center called “Family supporting center and child care” in Tirana Municipality. This center is functional and is the first day center in Tirana Municipality which provides special child care and family support for the group age 0-8 years old. The center is equipped with all the necessary furnitures in order to accommodate up to **25 children** and their mothers. In Shkodra and Durrës Municipalities the daily drop-in centers are functional and supported by the Municipality itself and the project team with the project resources. In Devoll the service is offered directly at the school “Myrteza Sala” premises.

The centers are fully functioning by offering on a daily basis all the project services and supporting children and their respective families with the provision of kindergarden and preschool primary education. The centers offer support for a number of **25-30 children** daily, but this number is often overcome because no child in need is left behind, and the project staff tries to act as efficiently as possible by offering the same quality service to each child.



Inclusive education in Lana Bregas community, Tirana Municipality

From January 2019, support work has continued for the children of the Roma and Egyptian community who live in Lana Bregas, near the housing units provided by the Municipality of Tirana, in which **60 families** have been settled. From these families, **35 children** were assisted to register at the community school “Androkli Kostallari” and attend the learning process.

The services provided by Initiative ARSIS, for 35 children in this community, who have attended school focused on: support classes, enhancing inclusion in sports and cultural activities, food, family empowerment through community services and child protection, transportation from community to school and return from school to community.

During the implementation period, it should be emphasized the fruitful cooperation and the establishment of a professional and supportive relationship between the implementing staff responsible for the project and the directorate and pedagogical staff of the community school.

Contacts have been established and ongoing communications have been maintained with Administrative Unit No. 1 in the Municipality of Tirana for any issues or needs during the community support process.



Inclusive education and early childhood development in 5 Roma/Egyptian communities in the Municipality of Shkodra

Through November 2019 up to July 2020, Initiative ARSIS supported the inclusive education and early childhood development on vulnerable and minority groups of Roma/Egyptian communities in Shkodra Municipality.

Throughout the overall support implementation, Initiative ARSIS teachers offered psycho-educational support to more than **30 children** in kindergarten and school, in the premises of the daily community centre "Për Familjen" in Shkodra. In order to strengthen the interaction between school, social services and community members the project staff conducted **32 informative sessions** to which different stakeholders took part, to further build collaboration and discuss their respective needs and concerns related to education. **20 awareness raising campaigns** were conducted in order to raise awareness of the parents and broader community over the importance of early education and also on parental preschool involvement. During the isolation period the project focus shifted from the educational support being offered in the



center premises, directly in the community, providing assistance such as food and hygienic packages, didactic materials packages, online learning through educational video instructions and small community informative sessions to prevent the virus spread.

In all **5 communities**, children and families were supported with in-kind and educational packages. Children and their families had little or no access to online means. In order to ensure the education provision, and make possible that children follow the learning process simultaneously with their peers, the project staff did provide hardcopy exams (**for 25 children**) and made sure that all supported children could pass the exams for the first academic trimester. Despite the difficult period faced, the project staff did continue to provide information over the importance of continued education at home basis.

In collaboration with Shkodra Municipality a community assessment report was delivered, and is already in use by the municipality and readily accessible to each interested party that delivers supportive services directly in the community. The assessment report indicates important data for the Roma/Egyptian communities in Shkodra Municipality, their needs and recommendation for further development of policies and services for these communities.



Children in contact with the law

The need for a child protection approach is a necessity. In the absence of policies advantageous to children, the judicial system appears indifferent and often discriminatory in cases where the presence of children requires effective protection, fair and impartial trial, measures that comply with the best interests of the child. Children's equal access to justice requires legal reforms and child-friendly policies, including capacity building and provision of staff and appropriate and specialized services to meet the needs of children.

Friendly juvenile justice for children in contact and in conflict with the law in the Municipality of Lezha and Kurbin

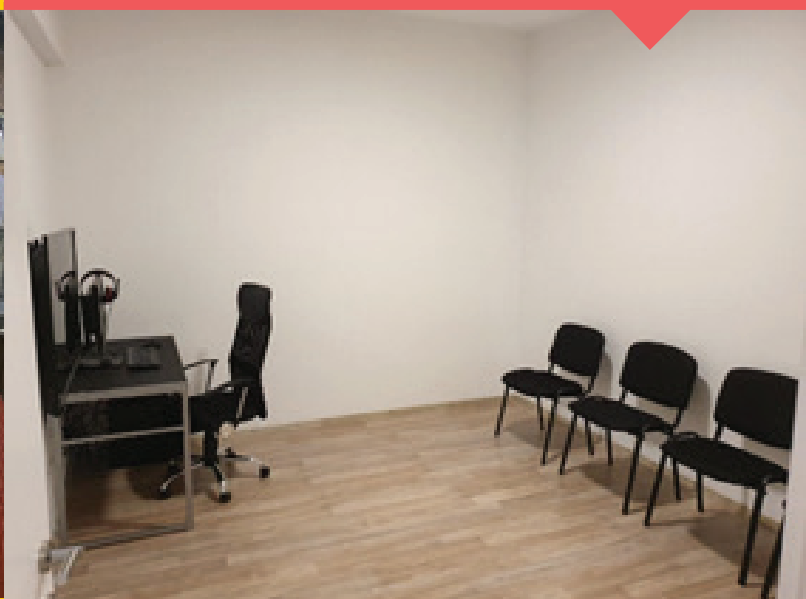
Initiative ARSIS contributed to the improvement of the juvenile justice system, by promoting the protection of children and their rights with a focus on the best interests of the child through a friendly approach and contributed towards strengthening juvenile justice system through intervention, which focused on:

- a) Establishing friendly juvenile interviewing units in Lezha and Kurbin police station (CMUs).
A core aim of the Interview Unit is to provide a child-friendly environment during forensic interviews in order to reduce the level of anxiety of the child. This is crucial for the child's well-being and for successfully obtaining the child's disclosure. It is therefore important that the setting of the interview is carefully designed to make the child feel comfortable and safe. The interview unit is designed to audio-visually record any-and-all accounts given by the child. This ability has two distinct effects on interviews with children; (i) reduced number

Training days with police officers in Kurbin



Interviewing room



Children in contact with the law

of interviews with the child, and (ii) eliminate the need for the child to give their account to a court's jury. Therefore, it is essential that the interview room's technical capability is compliant with modern requirements for interview recording solutions, i.e. a solution that outputs digital evidence and not digital documentation."

The Interview Unit consists of four areas, a waiting room, an interview room, an observing room and an office space.

- b) Friendly treatment by juvenile judicial police officers of children in contact with and in conflict with the law by providing assistance and capacity building for 8 staff with topics such as interviewing juveniles in conflict with the law, those witnesses or victims of crime the legal and sub-legal provisions regarding the treatment of juveniles in the Republic of Albania, identification and referral of those in need of protection and cooperation with Child Protection Units.
- c) Support for the process of interviewing juveniles through the provision of psychosocial services.

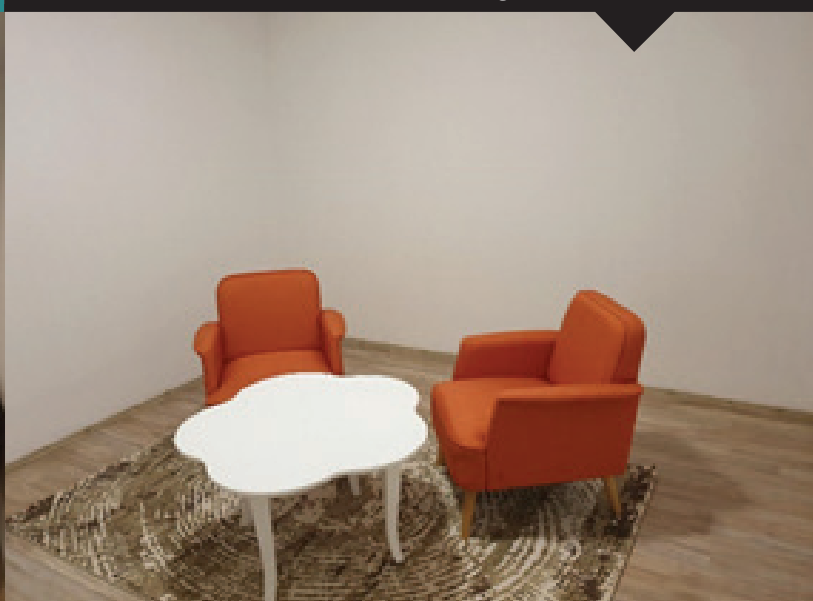
Monitoring Room



Waiting Room



Interviewing room



Emergency Services in Police Stations include psychosocial assistance to children witness and victim during the interview process at the police station. Each action is taken in accordance with the child situation assessed by the police present during the child interview in the premises of police station as defined by the Juvenile Criminal Code. The purpose of psychosocial support is to ensure that children's rights are respected by law enforcement representatives and that judicial police officers and prosecutors treat children fairly during interviews.



The team that assist the child during the interview at the police station consist of a licensed psychologist and a social worker, as well as logistical support (one vehicle). The role of the psychologist is to assess the emotional and psychological state of the child before and during the interview process and guarantees respect for the rights of the child, in accordance with the Criminal Justice Code (Law 37/2017) for minors, Chapter III, Article 19, 20; Chapter V, Articles 33, 34, 35 and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Updated 2017). The role of the social worker is to mediate the connection with the family and ensure that the child's case is reported and included in the child protection system in case of protection needs (Article 35, Duties of the CPU, Chapter V, Juvenile Criminal Justice Code, Article 67 Law 18/2017 "On the rights

Psychosocial services in Police Stations in Tirana Municipalities

and protection of the child” as well as the instruction no. 651, dated 13.09.2019 “On the procedures for reporting cases of children in need of protection”).

In cases where the child is unaccompanied at the police station and needs to be accompanied to the family, the accompaniment is provided by the psychosocial service team through the service of safe transport service along with a police officer (they inform the CPW for each action and during the next working day, perform the official report). This report is also shared with the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of Children (according to Annex 2 of DCM 578/2018 which regulates the procedures of case management).

This Team operate **24/7 days a week** based on a predetermined calendar and has made available a dedicated telephone number that is currently operational with the Tirana District Police Directorate. Initiative ARSIS has entered into an agreement in November 2019 (Date 06.11.2019, prot. No 855/1) with the General Directorate of Police to provide psychosocial assistance and emergency services for children in conflict/contact with the law. Under this agreement Initiative ARSIS has the opportunity to provide direct assistance in psychosocial services during the interview process, and technical assistance of providing the same service in other areas. In 2019 the team assisted **187 children** in the police stations.

Enhancing a psychosocial support and reintegration by law enforcement agencies for women deprived upon release and combating juvenile recidivism

This intervention initiated from September 2020 and contributes from a multisectorial point of view in formalizing and standardizing good models of psychosocial and rehabilitation services to detained juveniles and mother deprived upon release. It aims to enable a functional penitentiary system for protection of juveniles and reintegration services allowing former juvenile offenders to come to senses and return quickly to society as integrated members of this society. Consolidates access to rehabilitation as a precondition to release and facilitate communication among prisons and probation when it comes to continuation of pre-and-post release plan for mothers deprived upon release in the Women Prison (General Directorate of Prisons).

Initiative ARSIS intervention focus on both management and reinsertion measures, to properly address the needs of the above-mentioned categories using case management as the most powerful tool that will fit needs to give these children and women the opportunity to get out of the vulnerability circle. Need assessment of children in contact with the law and their families, identification of community barriers for integration and resources, empowerment of the network of professionals dealing with these target groups, drafting of operational protocols will contribute to bring the system near to the real needs and justice to guarantee its restorative and non-punitive role.

The program main activities focus on provision of psychological support to detained juveniles (14-18 y.o) in order to assist them for better access to justice and rehabilitation services and on the elaboration of rehabilitation/reintegration plan for each of the identified/referred mothers deprived of their liberties and upon release. The project addresses also supporting services (legal-administrative) support, psychosocial assistance, educational packages, daily services provided, implementation of action plans, development of reintegration and mentoring guideline protocols, development of specific treatment and rehabilitation programs for mothers upon release, design and implementation of training programs for the professionals working about the protocols in the level of General Directorate of Prisons.

Sustainable model of support for women victims of violence

The main focus of this intervention was the economic empowerment of VoDV and their children, through enhancing the participation of VoDV on their own decision making and bringing knowledge to policy makers over the attention and needed support. The project aimed at integrating and developing a sustainable model of re-integration and active participation to strengthen the prevention mechanism of domestic violence. The project's intervention remained focused on the empowerment through a multidisciplinary approach, to ensure a holistic inclusiveness of services which were client-oriented, flexible and based on beneficiaries.

24 women and their **52 children** were assessed and had their needs identified. Personal files for **24 women and their children** were set up and supplemented with ongoing situation analysis information. Individual plans were developed by Nisma project team in collaboration with the NCTVDV staff and the respective CPWs. Individual plans and baselines for reintegration plans were compiled for all identified cases of women inside and outside the residential care. The intervention focused on providing one to one and group sessions in order to provide a more detailed and specific support to women victims of



domestic violence (**108 total**, one-to one and group counseling sessions were conducted; **76 individual psychological** counseling's session; **29 group family counseling** sessions) parent- child relationship, according to their age, gender health situations; children living in dysfunctional families; group counseling's sessions with staff of NCTVDV and support during lockdown. Case management support consisted on the assessment of cases and their families, including family dynamics, parent-child relationships, and check-ups on cases health conditions, work skills capacities, and need assessment for work provision or professional training courses. Per each woman and child on re-integration process, there were identified their academic background, profesional skills, work experience and their job aspirations. **4 cases of women** were supported with undergoing a hairdressing course and after completion supported with material kits. In collaboration with NCTVDV staff **6 women VoDV** were referred to the Albanian State employment Agency.

This intervention focused on offering continuous support to professionals working in the field by conducting a three day capacity building training, in which participated **22 professionals**. The main topics discussed were related to the VoDV phenomena and how to tackle and better respond to the victims of violence needs. **7 professionals** from NCTVDV were contacted and supported on every case that was identified. The support was offered immediately as requested, through phone, on the job, and via other means, creating a bridge of communication with every service provider needed.

Despite the faced challenges, implementing the project activities has positively impacted the psychological and emotional wellbeing of the targeted cases of women Victims of Domestic Violence. They have developed a new perception over their situation, have improved parenting skills, know how to better tackle their children needs and manage their dynamics as well. Another positive result of the project was the relationship enhancement between the shelter and other service provides and public institutions on case management. A new solid methodology was established and a stronger network of support that further enhanced the service provision was enabled.



“Assessment of children in Public Residential Care Institutions and plan their family re-unification or alternative to residential care” Municipalities of Durrës, Korça, Saranda, Shkodra, Tirana and Vloa

The process of deinstitutionalization of the child care system is based on reforming the provision of care service system: from residential institutions into daily care services and finding out other effective options such as community-based alternative services, focusing on integrating these children into families, either being their own families or other foster arrangements, through involvement of wider society structures and appropriate community-based services while respecting the best interests and protection of each child.



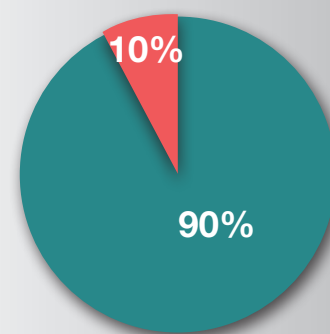
During the period of 2018-2019, MHSP with the support of UNICEF and Save the Children has conducted a need assessment study addressing 232 children residing in **9 (nine) Public Care Services Institutions** (residential). The needs assessment was carried out by the local organizations Initiative ARSIS and Bethany based on a methodology agreed and approved by the MHSP. As part of the study, about **237 children** were assessed. Further, the MHSP is expected to conduct a similar assessment for children placed in development centers. Some of the main evaluation findings resulting from the assessment performed in the first stage are as follows.

Children without parental care

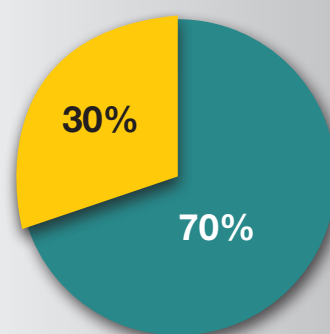
-The highest number of children in public care service institutions (**over 90%**) comes from underprivileged, poor or economically disadvantaged family backgrounds, from unemployed parents, or parents with mental health problems who have no access to essential care services. Despite the fact that the legal provisions of the Decree of Council of Minister no. 518, date 04.09.2018 (defines the standard basket of social care services), there is still not a complete standardized and functional system of social care services through local government units which could provide efficient parenting programs, managing of parental dependencies, treatment of abusive, exploitative parents and/or treatment of aggressive behavior in an adult. It is reported that over 30% of children living in residential care homes are victims of neglect, abuse and exploitation.

-Needs assessment study clearly attests what other relevant reports have already proved – the fact that the children - both with and without disabilities - are particularly vulnerable to the detrimental effects of institutionalization because institutions do not provide a suitable environment for their regular moral, psychological and emotional development. The findings also show that about **70%** of children who were assessed in the study, display developmental delays, especially those caused by environmental factors. Current services provided in residential care institutions are mainly focused on physical care rather than individual development services.

-Based on the needs assessment study conducted in 2019, there is a need to better coordinate and monitor the process of deinstitutionalization, in partnership with other public institutions as well as with international and local organizations which are involved in this process. Particular attention needs to be paid towards encouragement and empowerment of the local government units to include appropriate social care services and mechanisms in their Social Policy Plans which should be child-friendly and family-friendly and related to the local context which could assist in preventing the separation of children and at the same time create the necessary conditions for the deinstitutionalization.



■ Poor Family Background
■ Normal Background



■ Development delays
■ Normal development

National Institutional Consultancy to Technically Support the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to support de-institutionalization process in Albania, second phase

The second phase of the deinstitutionalization process (November 2019-April 2021) with the full support of the MHSP on the drafting and implementation of the strategic plan on deinstitutionalization is being supported by UNICEF, Save the Children and its implementing partner Initiative ARSIS through the following steps:

- Ensuring inter-sectoral coordination at national and local level,
- Finalization of the DE-I National Plan and legal review together with relevant changes,
- Ensuring the well-being of children and following the process of DE-I
- Support in the implementation of individual development plans for each child through a local coordination team (LCT) who will guide staff in the implementation of the plan.
- Complex evaluation of RCIs in order to transform new services. Family empowerment centers will be designed after this process being piloted in two Municipalities.
- Development of a new service model:

The main milestones of this phase are:

1. A guideline on the procedures of the Child and Family Reunification together with a Financial Support Services model.
2. Professional Foster Care model where caregivers provide services through a required level of professional care to children and young people who cannot be part of the process of reunification with the biological family or alternative care with blood ties.
3. Child and Family Support Hub model in order to deliver community based services.

Initiative ARSIS in collaboration with SOS Villages Albania, implemented the “Boosting Foster Care Service in Albanian communities in Korça, Tirana and Durrës”, to which: 13 foster families registered; 21 families showing interest in becoming foster families; 9 training sessions conducted and 13 trained candidate foster parents, over 220 individuals sensitized on foster care issues.



Children victims of trafficking

ARSIS and later on Initiative ARSIS have worked in fight against child trafficking of Albanian children since 2001. It has started with TACT project (Transnational Action against Child Trafficking) identifying Albanian children trafficked and exploited in the streets in Greece, immediate support, protection and also connect with Albanian authorities. This intervention served as the basis for the first Albania- Greece transnational mechanism for the fight against human trafficking in 2008 and later on replicated by Albanian authorities with Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro. ARSIS has been member of Albanian National Mechanism on Anti trafficking since 2010, and now Nisma has applied for membership after ARSIS phase out.

Initiative ARSIS is involved in supporting the transnational actions for supporting cases of children identified in the streets of Kosovo begging. In 2018-2019 social workers placed in cross boards in Kukës and Devoll played a key role on the identification and referral of cases of children victims of trafficking in cross borders. At the present Initiative ARSIS is providing identification, referral, immediate assistance and reintegration of children victims or suspected victims of trafficking.

The Multifunctional Social Daily Centre "House of Colors" is implementing the program of reintegration of children identified as victims or potential victims of trafficking in Tirana Municipality. Initiative ARSIS as a member of URAT Network is raising awareness for fighting trafficking in person in Albania through info sessions, working with the communities and organising UN GIFT box campaign in Elbasan, Korça and Shkodra.



Strengthening protection and assistance mechanisms for victims of trafficking in Albania

Trafficking in Persons is both a serious crime issue and, first and foremost, a violation of the human rights of the persons affected; it can only be tackled in a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary manner, involving a broad range of state and especially non-state actors from a variety of fields and backgrounds. Actors on the ground believe that the most vulnerable groups are women and children from poor families, violated women, (Roma) street children, as well as men, women and children from poor Roma and Egyptian communities in the new urban centers.

Initiative ARSIS has been provided emergency support, development interventions and mid-term solutions to VoTs in the Municipality of Devoll, Kukës and Tirana. The organization contributed towards improving the identification/initial assessment, the delivery of supportive services and sustainable solutions to VoTs; ensuring cross-sector immediate responses tailored to the needs of VoTs and longer term programs for their development and wellbeing.

Four outcomes were achieved during the implementation of this project:

- Enhanced expertise in identification, delivering multidisciplinary case management services to VoTs in border-crossing and rest of the country through **6 meetings** in all the targeted municipalities;
- Enhanced models of support of VoTs by delivering mobile, flexible and community-based services;
- Strengthened emergent and mid-term case management support to VoTs;
- Raised awareness of key stakeholders of issues affecting VoTs and refugees including NGO-staff, youth oh secondary and high school as well as their families, communities in Kukës and Devoll.

For **56 assisted cases**, after the initial assessment of psychological and social needs, the child protection units were referred, informing the respective municipalities, SACRP and LPDT.

Improving provision of services and awareness to combat Trafficking in Persons in the Balkans, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo

Terre des hommes (TDH) mission in Albania in partnership with Initiative ARSIS implemented the project: 'Improving revision of services and awareness to combat Trafficking in Persons (TiP) in the Balkans, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo', funded by the U.S. Department of State through the J/TiP program. The project aimed to strengthen the capacities of service providers and governmental institutions to ensure provision of comprehensive services to victims of TIP in four **(4) countries** of the Balkan region. **The overall goal of the regional project** was to ensure that TiP victims and potential victims in the Balkans have access to comprehensive prevention, protection and reintegration through functional national and transnational coordination mechanisms for identification, case management, and community based services.

Initiative ARSIS provided the model for reintegration for **40 children TIP victims** and potential victims with key service providers in Tirana Municipality in the community center "House of Colors". It was provided reintegration services to VoT/PVoTs based on the individual reintegration plan and the model of community reintegration services. The components of planned services include but were not limited to psycho-social activities to enhance resilience and life skills of trafficked children and adults; youth mentoring program; economic empowerment activities such as vocational training& income generating activities.

Promoting children's rights

iv. Promoting children's rights

Effective Intervention on Child Protection Rights Response

Starting from March 2020 up to June 2020, Initiative ARSIS undertook an intervention based on the enhancement of the protection of children in local level through an effective assistance and care to every child identified in need for protection. The Promotion of the Child Protection Worker importance and responsibility was considered as the key action to prevent the escalating of any form of violence in this time of pandemic. Within the activities carried out, individuals and communities were informed and guided to refer every child protection issues to the child protection worker in Municipality of Lushnje in the absence of other child protection workers in every unit as it is required by the law. Also an advocacy campaign was organised in cooperation with SACRP (State Agency for Child Rights and Protection) referring to the Article 41 no.1 on the Law nr.18/2017. SACRP under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection is the main actor which coordinates and organizes an integrated child protection system, implementing the national policy on child protection, including the intervention and taking measures to prevent and protect children from the abuse, neglect, maltreatment and violence.





The advocacy campaign was made possible through two main methods: face to face meetings respecting all the restrictions and measures due to the COVID-19 context and online meetings with the Child Protection Worker and other stakeholders. For every activity different communication and visibility tools were used, including remote meetings, social media, emails, phone calls, paper requests if necessary, social media brochures or other materials which integrate information on the role of the CPW, CPW contact and the importance of this position on the overall Child Protection System. Through this advocacy campaign were shared also alternative tools for the identification and referral such as the National Helpline for Child Counselling and the organization emergency helpline of Initiative ARSIS, to increase the possibility of reaching every child in need.

Virtual and face to face meetings were conducted with the child protection worker, high school children and other institutions representatives, in order to further coordinate the activities to help children and to promote the importance of the Child Protection Worker in the Municipality of Lushnje.



v. Youth empowerment

Improved social-economic situation of Roma/Egyptian families in order to overcome marginalization and exercise their full rights as citizens in four different Municipalities

In 2014, Initiative ARSIS conducted the study of children in street situation at a national level in Albania, commissioned by UNICEF and Save the Children, with the support of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. It concluded that most of the families in street situation were from Roma Community, which also moved mostly to Tirana due to better income in the streets. The main reason for this situation was defined the lack of income generating activities for Roma parents and youngsters. They lack labour skills and also are discriminated and excluded from the society. They urgently were in need of counselling, coaching and training for income generation activities and continuous psychosocial support and follow up in order to improve their social economic situation in order to decrease the level of dependence from public and NGO' social services.

The gross employment and unemployment rates highlight the low level of activity in Albania and the critical situation of the Roma and the Egyptians. Long-lasting discrimination and lack of opportunities have led to marginalisation of Roma/Egyptian communities. There is lack or poor professional and real opportunities skills leading to a high rate of Roma/Egyptian unemployment



or under-employment. Due to lack of sustainable income children are pushed/supervised by their family members or third persons on various harmful street activities.

In a period of two years (2017-2019) Initiative ARSIS intended to create a sustainable economic situation for targeted families and youngsters in peri-urban areas in municipalities of Tirana, Gjirokastra, Dibra and Devoll. Services provided, aimed at strengthening the existing programmes and expand them where necessary. **220 Roma and Egyptian adults and Youngsters** had access to the labour market equally qualified as the other part of the population in the targeted municipalities; they have increased their employability and income generating capacities in three years. Support such as case management process, in kind packages, administrative support, vocational trainings, on job training, running small businesses workshops, literacy classes, individual and group counselling and citizenship education, were provided to Roma and Egyptian youngsters and adults in cooperation with public Centres and private businesses. This intervention managed to ensure that all beneficiaries have equal access to employment and have improved their professional capacities and economic situation.



Fostering youth community participation and social capital

Studies about knowledge on human rights showed that youth are informed about the convention and primary human rights. In addition, they see human right law as an important factor of stability in the country. The most important human right in the community are related with security (right to equal treatment before the law and right to security (to be safe)) and poverty (right to adequate standard of living and right to free, or low-cost, healthcare).

Initiative for social Change ARSIS was engaged in 2019 to implement the program of “Fostering youth community participation and social capital”, as part of sub-grantees at World Vision Albania and Kosovo project: “Youth standing up for human rights in Albania”, financed by the European Union.



This project aimed to support vulnerable youth in the Municipality of Lushnje and Municipality of Gramsh to participate in the community life and to enhance their social capital. It also aimed to provide the opportunity to develop youth personnel development and participation in the community life and to support them with vocational educational trainings, development of business plan for youth, assisting youth to approach the labor market, organizing an employability fair, job shadowing, and providing an overall overview of all opportunities that the labor market offers for youth in each chosen municipality. The project also aimed to build up bridges between the target beneficiaries and state institutions, by increasing the capacities of the municipality staff to become experienced in meeting the needs of vulnerable youth groups. In overall a number of **280 youth in both communities Lushnje and Gramsh**, are more aware over their rights, be it the right to employment, education and social participation. These youths are more committed to engage in every social and economic, political process that affects their respective communities. Also they have a deeper understanding of ways in which they can advocate for their rights, needs and everything they want to achieve in their social functioning throughout life.



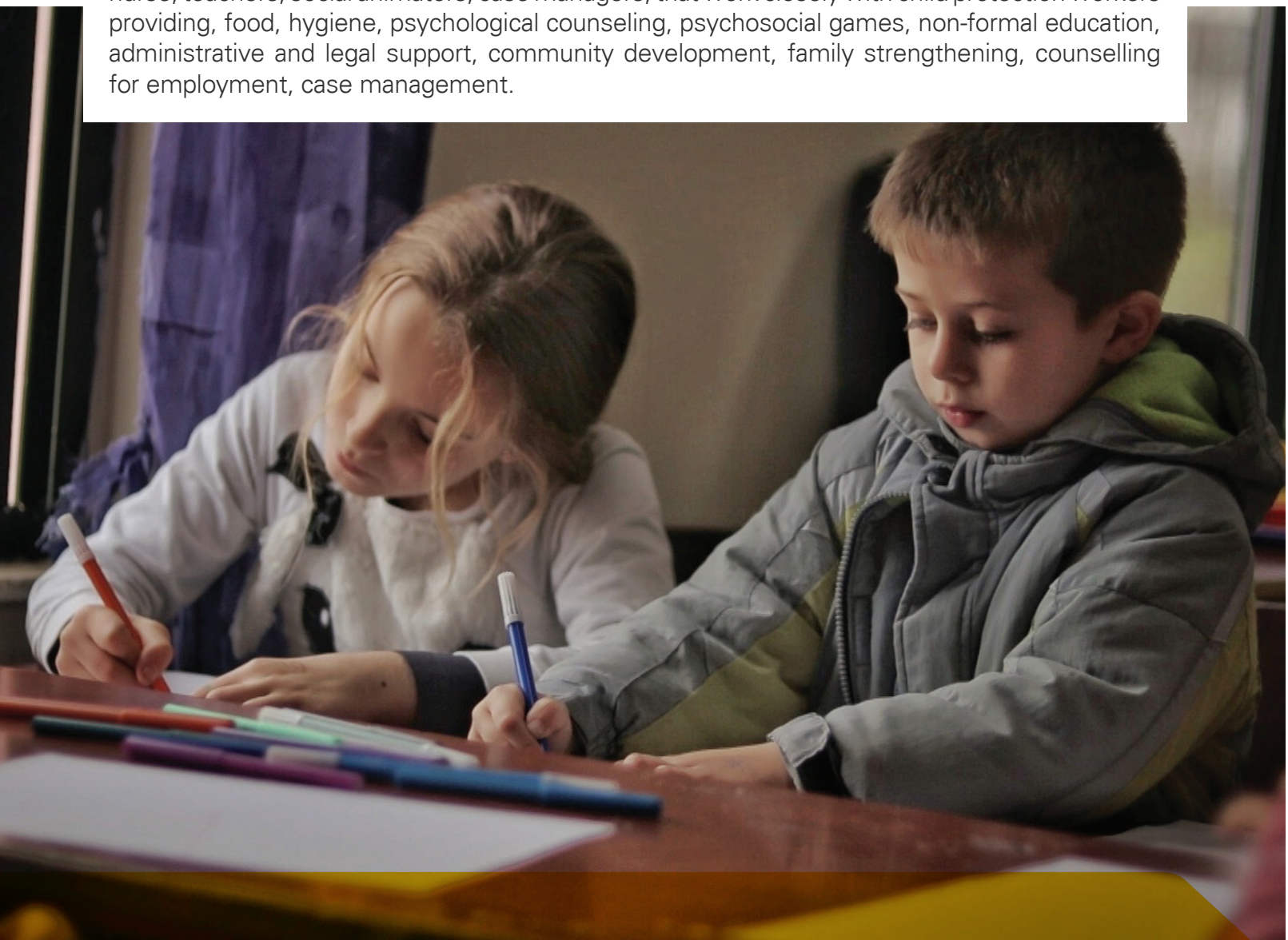
Community development services

vi. Community development

Multidisciplinary services in day drop-in centers

Initiative ARSIS has established the first model of providing Multidisciplinary Services to protect children from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation in the Municipality of Tirana in the center "House of Colors" in the Administrative Unit no.7 in 2010 with the support of Municipality of Tirana. The model established as multifunctional center developed its services in accordance to the needs of children at risk covering the gaps of the system. This model and its methodology are approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and replicated in Municipality of Tirana, Municipality of Shkodra and Municipality of Durrës.

The center "House of Colors" provides support to children, youth and their families on daily bases, with a multidisciplinary team composed by social workers, psychologists, child careers, nurse, teachers, social animators, case managers, that work closely with child protection workers providing, food, hygiene, psychological counseling, psychosocial games, non-formal education, administrative and legal support, community development, family strengthening, counselling for employment, case management.



Mobile School: An innovative approach to learning on, and from, the streets

The mobile school is an extendable six-meter-long, two-sided blackboard on wheels. It comes with more than 300 educational panels ranging from literacy to street business, to health and hygiene. It allows local organizations worldwide to unlock and discover the talents of street-connected children in their own environment. The educational panels are easily attached to the mobile blackboard with plastic screws before being taken to the streets for non-formal educational sessions, through which street educators interact creatively with street-connected children and youth.



By focusing on opportunities, rather than the problems children face on the streets, these mobile schools provide an open, accessible and recreational meeting place where children and young people are unconditionally accepted and appreciated. Through this positive approach, young people feel empowered, regain a positive self-esteem and self-image, and develop the tools to make conscious and sustainable decisions about their own futures.

205 children were assisted through the Mobile School sessions during 2019. Children have reacted positively towards this intervention which is focused on working with children in street situation, helping them to discover and unlock their talents and regain a positive self-image.



Bring About Change

The program provides skills development and sustainable social economic opportunities for vulnerable adolescents, youth and their families. Protection and development was ensured for children, adolescents and youth as well as their families through:

Provision of multidisciplinary services in the day centre combined with different kinds of outreach interventions

Learning from the positive examples set by those around adolescents and youngsters

Increasing awareness for their rights

Advocating to state related agencies/institutions



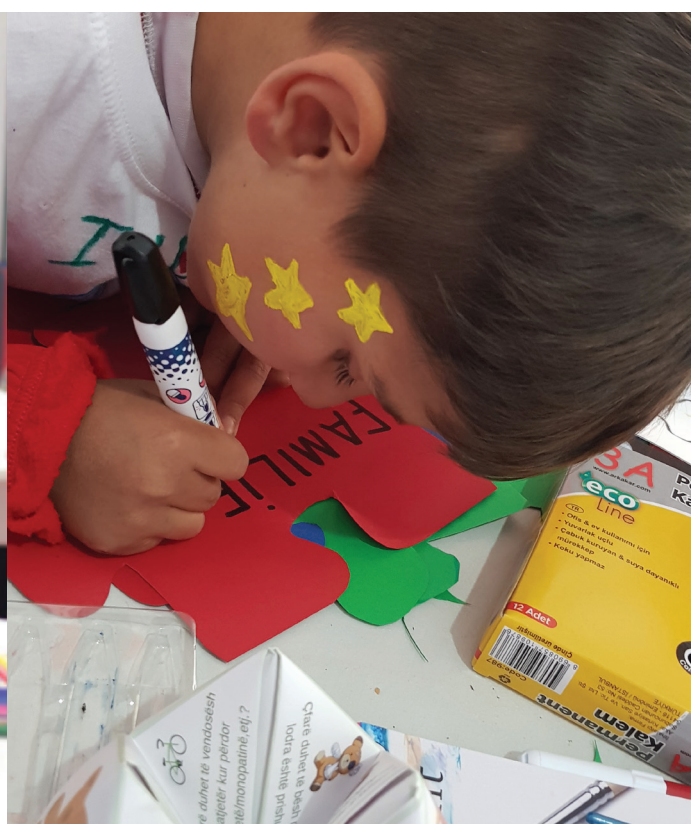
The program results are considered very positive despite the faced challenges that came from uncontrolled external factors. The support offered from the Centre to address the immediate needs of the society was very helpful and eased somehow the community needs. The target group gave a very positive feedback, especially youth which were engaged in a different range of activities during this period and that served them positively. Youth state that they feel more connected with their communities and society in overall.

Providing access to health care

Enrolment to the educational institutions

Entertainment activities with special focus on inclusion and non-discrimination

Lifelong learning skills



vi. Returnees

During 2014-2016 there was a massive flow of Albanians asylum applications mainly to Germany. Out of 57,300 refused asylum requests in 2015-2016, there were 6,268 repatriations from Germany. Many others have returned voluntarily, but there was no comprehensive data of their reintegration in the system (employment, social support, schooling and training). While some have a smooth reintegration, many faced challenges they couldn't overcome on their own. At the same time, communities, regions and countries to which migrants return may not have the capacities to provide an environment conducive to successful reintegration due to a lack of local infrastructure and resources .

IRMA 1: Improving access and (re)integration in education, employment and social services of Returned Migrant children, youth and families.

The project implementation has been developed in close collaboration with the partner Terre des hommes and their support and straight connection with the Municipality of Tirana. The project aimed to improve access to community, social and educational services for children and vulnerable families returned or at risk of insecure migration in order to ensure full reintegration into society in Tirana Municipality.



Through its activities the project has facilitated the reintegration of families returned to Albania by improving their access to employment, social services and other needs for a dignified life. During the reporting period have been identified and assessed as families returned from unsafe migration and at risk of unsafe migration 40 families resident in Tirana Municipality. As for, **40 families** have been part of the case management process. **24 families** have been assisted with direct services (house equipment, rental payment etc.), and other reintegration community services in the MfCC “Stay Together” and in each community baseline. It has also promoted cooperation between communities, civil society organizations, and municipal institutions in order to enable the full reintegration of returned children and families. Through capacity building activities the project has as well increased the capacity of civil society service providers and local government bodies to provide quality services to returnees.



Summer Camps 2019-2020

Initiative ARSIS has been contracted by World Vision in Albania (2019-2020) for the development of the summer camps with children coming from returnee families in **11 Municipalities** during the summer season, for two years in the frame of the project "Returnees reintegrate and reinvest within country" – RE-IN-VEST –Project in Albania. Children were assisted with a specific psychosocial program in cooperation with the local stakeholders.



Children **aged 5-18 years** old were part of the Summer Camps 2019-2020. The summer camp was attended by children from vulnerable families' returnees, who were being supported and followed by the Child Protection Unit and any other children who had an interest in participating. Children participating in the summer camp became aware of their rights. They gained information on how to refer to and address concerns that may mainly be related to violence or ill-treatment as well as all forms of violation of their rights.

The activities helped children to gain experience in group work and inclusion mechanisms. Children have acquired knowledge on some components (children's rights, critical thinking, social relations, and communication) that directly affect their development and well-being, as well as are familiar and informed about the law on children's rights.

Participating children were involved in group discussions, where they expressed ideas, concerns they face every day in community living. Psychosocial games and educational and developmental activities integrated and adapted to the specific needs of children have promoted self-esteem and trust in each other.

Activities Summer Camps 2019-2020



Coaching for Employment (C4E) Project

Initiative has worked as a partner of Swisscontact for the implementation of the program "Coaching for Employment", contributing with the participation of more than 60 adults coming from vulnerable situation in the Tirana Municipality and that have interest on employment cycle and coaching.

Coaching for Employment project is based on an innovative concept for labor market insertion of vulnerable groups. Training of coaches and coaching cycle processes were supported in cooperation with National Employment Service and civil society organization partners, working with unemployed vulnerable individuals such as Roma and Egyptian communities, vulnerable women and youth, people with disabilities and victims of trafficking in the following directions:

- 1.1 Capacity building activities**
- 1.2 Implementation of the coaching cycle processes**
- 1.3 Cooperation with private sector project unit**

IRMA 2: Sustainable Socio-Economic Reintegration of Returned Migrants in Albania in Durrës Municipality

Initiative ARSIS is working as a partner of Terre des hommes Albania (2020-2021) for the implementation of the project IRMA 2 "Sustainable Socio-Economic Reintegration of Returned Migrants in Albania in Durrës Municipality, Administrative Unit of Rrashbull" providing:

- Outreach work for the identification, information, awareness and empowerment of vulnerable returned migrants or persons at risk of unsafe migration;
- Quality Multifunctional Community Services delivered to the returned migrants and persons at risk of unsafe migration;
- Concrete employment and self-employment opportunities provided to vulnerable returnees.



Our partners

Partnering is the main approach for Initiative for Social Change ARSIS to meet the strategic objectives regarding child well-being aiming to increase incomes, influence and impact to our communities. To us meaningful partnership is important to solve real problems and innovate in development. Partnerships provides opportunity for improving continuously, by recognizing the qualities and competencies of each sector and finding new ways of harnessing these for the common good.

We strongly believe that only with comprehensive and widespread cross-sector collaboration we can ensure sustainable development initiatives that are coherent and integrated enough to tackle the most intractable problems.

Collaborating with various partners, and stakeholders nationally and locally; open to network and to channel the voice of the unrepresented (vulnerable children, youth, families and communities) are some of the ways we seek to share our successes and challenges as we continue to create a sustainable impact through our partnerships. The following provides an overview of the institutions, organizations corporates and individual donors who trusted us in 2019. We are thankful for their contribution in common efforts and goals for the overall well-being of children, families and communities.

Through various modalities of collaboration partnering opportunities are arising in exploring, creating, and strengthen the prepositioning and positioning of Initiative for Social Change ARSIS.

- Aleanca LGBT
- ALO 116 111
- ANTTARC
- Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB) – South East Europe
- Argitra Vizion
- ARSIS Greece
- Diakonia Agapes
- Different and Equal
- Dynamo International
- Equal Rights and Independent Media (IREM)
- European Playwork Association (e.p.a)
- European Asylum Support Office (EASO)
- Food Bank Albania
- Foundation Together Albania
- Gruaja tek Gruaja
- Initiative for development and cooperation (IDC)
- International Association for Solidarity (SHIS)
- Juventas
- KMOP
- Marry World Loreto
- Mobile School
- National Association Education for Life (SHKEJ)
- Partners Albania
- PICUM
- Psycho-social Center VATRA
- Risi Albania
- Save the Children Albania
- Schuler Helfen Leben
- SOS Villages in Albania
- Streha
- Swisscontact
- Terre des hommes Albania
- Tirana Legal Aid Service (TLAS)
- UNDP
- UNICEF Albania
- USAID
- US Embassy
- World Vision Albania

Ministry of Health and Social Protection

- State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child
- State Social Services

Ministry of Interior

- State Police
- Antitraffickign Office
- Directory of Migration and Border

Ministry of Justice

- Probation Service
- Directories of Prisons

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

- Regional Directorated of Education

Ministry of Finance

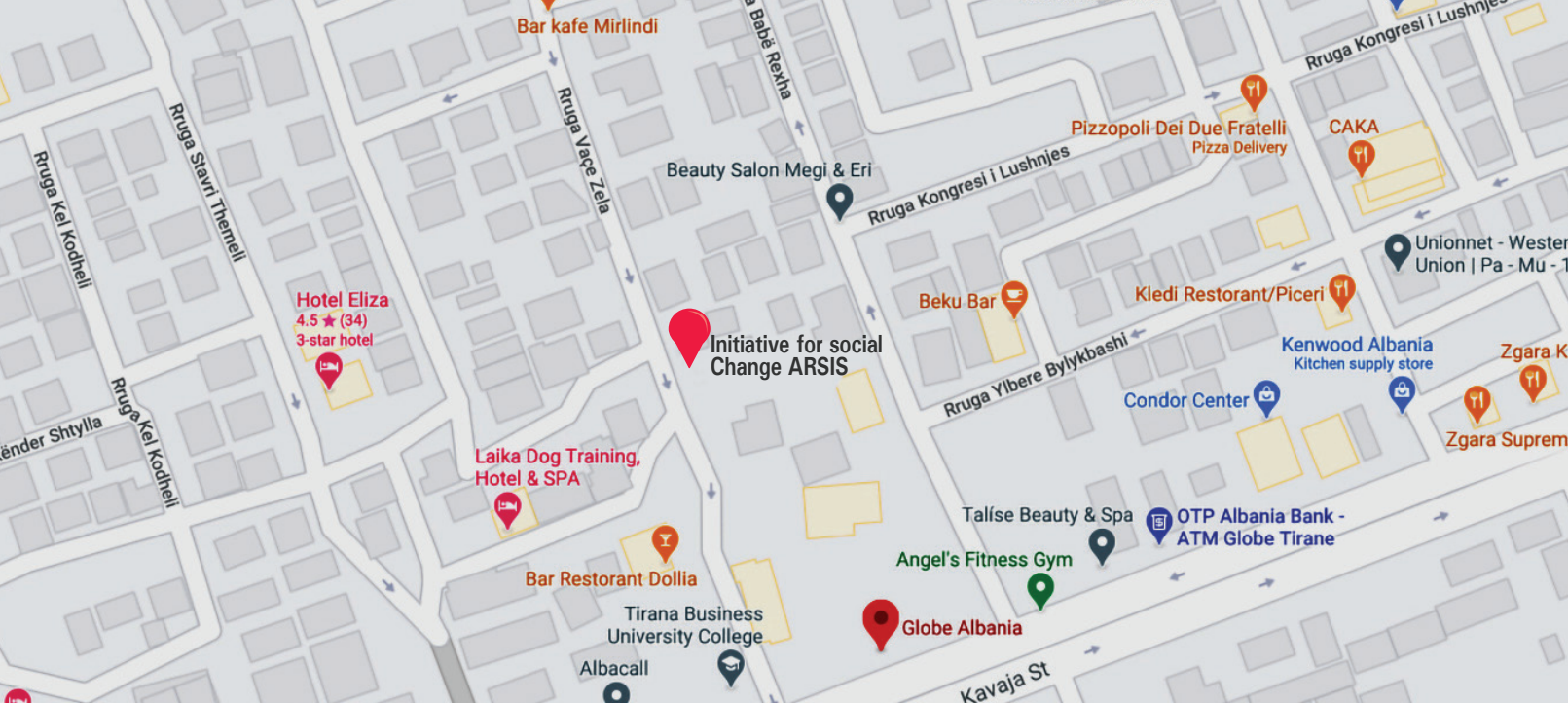
- National Agency for Employment and Skills

Municipality of Tirana
 Municipality of Shkodra
 Municipality of Durrës
 Municipality of Elbasan
 Municipality of Vloa
 Municipality of Fier
 Municipality of Korça,
 Municipality of Gjirokastra
 Municipality of Saranda
 Municipality of Kukës
 Municipality of Lezha
 Municipality of Kruja
 Municipality of Lushnje
 Municipality of Gramsh
 Municipality of Divjaka
 Municipality of Cërrik
 Municipality of Devoll
 Municipality of Dibra
 Municipality of Kavaja
 Municipality of Erseka
 Municipality of Kamza
 Municipality of Kurbin

Financial summary

Initiative ARSIS funding is primarily supported by international donors. Our objective is to diversify funding streams by increasing grant acquisition, local fundraising, with special focus on corporate funding and public to ensure our mission for reaching the most vulnerable children in poor and remote areas in Albania. Throughout these years, the funds that enabled us to reach the children, youth and families in our program were as follows.

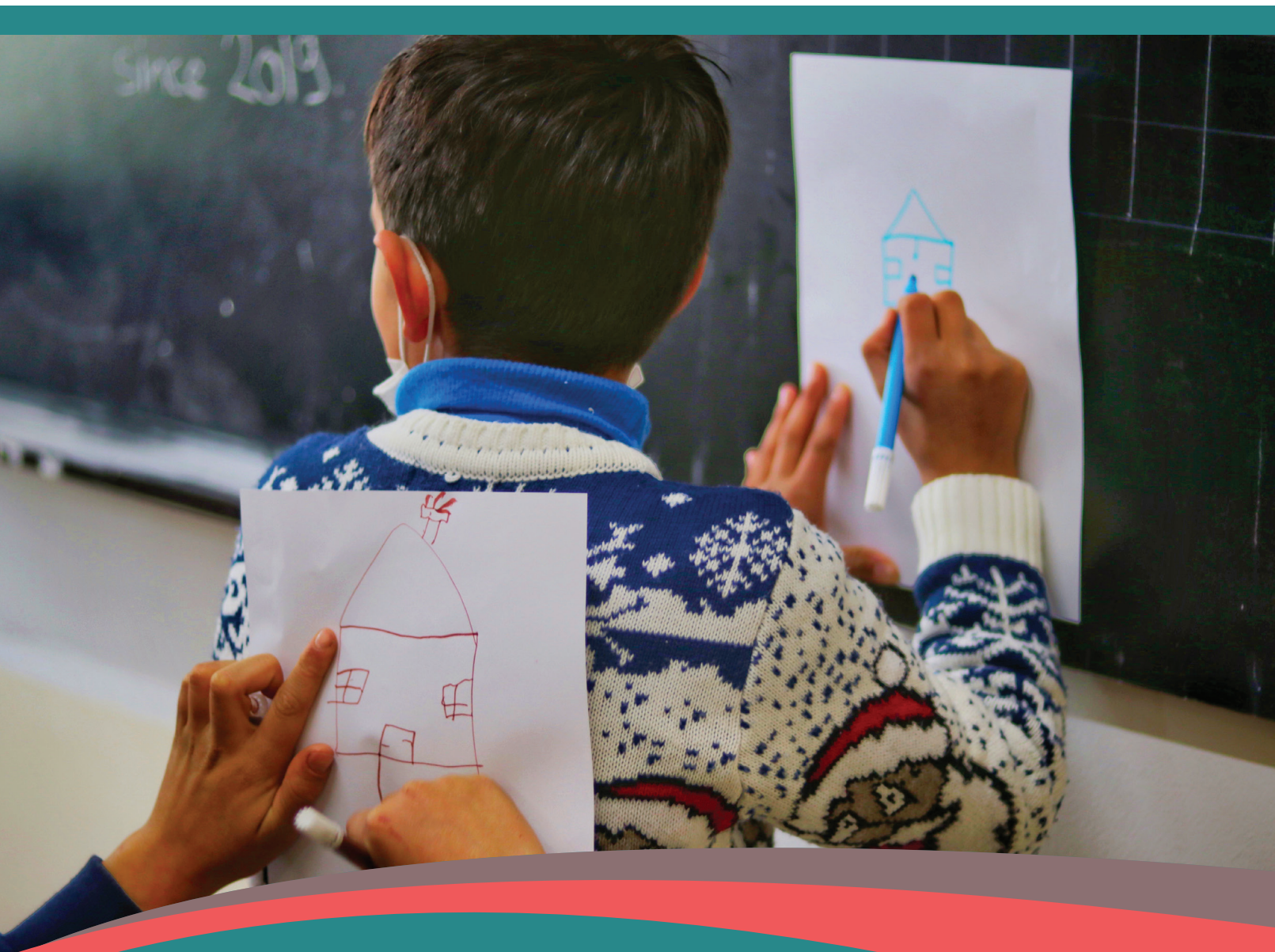




Where you can find us

- ➔ Nisma main offices; Kavaja street, Building A, Entrance no.3, Ap no.27, Tirana (near to Globe Centre)
- ➔ Multifunctional daily Centre "House of Colors", AU no.7, Sali Butka street, Ish Nësherek
- ➔ Family daily Centre, AU no.5, Gjergj Bubani street, Villas in Selitë





YEAR BOOK 2016 - 2020

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📘 Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARSIS

📷 Nisma ARSIS