

ANNUAL REPORT





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A year of dedication and impact at Nisma ARSIS



Friends, partners, supporters and colleagues,

Since our founding, we have built substantial and comprehensive knowledge of how to protect children at high risk and their families, and of the policies and practices that impede their well-being. As we reflect on the past year, I am thrilled to share our annual report, a year of significant progress and impact in our mission to serve vulnerable children, youth, and families.

In the past year, amidst numerous challenges, our organization has remained steadfast in its commitment to addressing the critical issues faced by those in difficult situations. Through advocacy, direct support, and collaborative efforts with public and nonpublic stakeholders, we've worked tirelessly to ensure the rights and well-being of children, youth, and families are upheld. Our comprehensive programs and services have had a profound impact on countless lives, providing essential support to those affected by abuse, violence, neglect, and socio-economic hardship. Guided by the stories and needs of those we serve, we've strived to create a safe space where voices are heard, needs are met, and their lives are shaped with care.

In addition to direct intervention, we've actively engaged in prevention, education, and capacity-building initiatives, engine to the establishment of two new Child and Family Support Hubs

in Albania. By partnering with community organizations, conducting workshops, and spearheading public awareness campaigns, we've empowered individuals and organizations to recognize and address issues of child well-being and family strengthening effectively. None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our exceptional team and the unwavering support of our community. To the children, youth, and families we serve, your bravery and resilience inspire us every day.

To our valued supporters, donors, partners, and volunteers, your trust and support have been crucial to our success. Your belief in our mission and your contributions have enabled us to expand our reach, develop innovative programs, and touch the lives of more individuals than ever before. We extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment to our cause.

I encourage you to read our annual report, offering a detailed glimpse into our accomplishments, obstacles, and upcoming initiatives. As we embark on the unveiling of our new strategic planning document in 2025, your continued trust, support, and faith in our endeavors are deeply valued by everyone in our organization.

Because we care...

Ana Majko,
Executive Director

Tirana, April 2025





Our vision

“To create a society where the rights of every child and individual are respected, and vulnerable groups are empowered to lead fulfilling lives.”

Because we care...



Our mission

“At Nisma ARSIS we are committed to advancing the rights of children, youth and their caregivers facing vulnerability, providing comprehensive services, and facilitating their dignified integration into society.”



Our core values

Community: Fostering a sense of belonging and collaboration among individuals united by shared values and goals.

Diversity: Embracing and respecting the varied backgrounds of children, youth, and their caregivers, ensuring equal opportunities for all.

Teamwork: Promoting collaborative efforts, mutual support, and the sharing of ideas to achieve common objectives.

Professionalism: Upholding the highest ethical standards, competence, and respectful behavior in all interactions.

Integrity: Maintaining honesty, transparency, and a steadfast commitment to doing what is right, even in challenging situations.

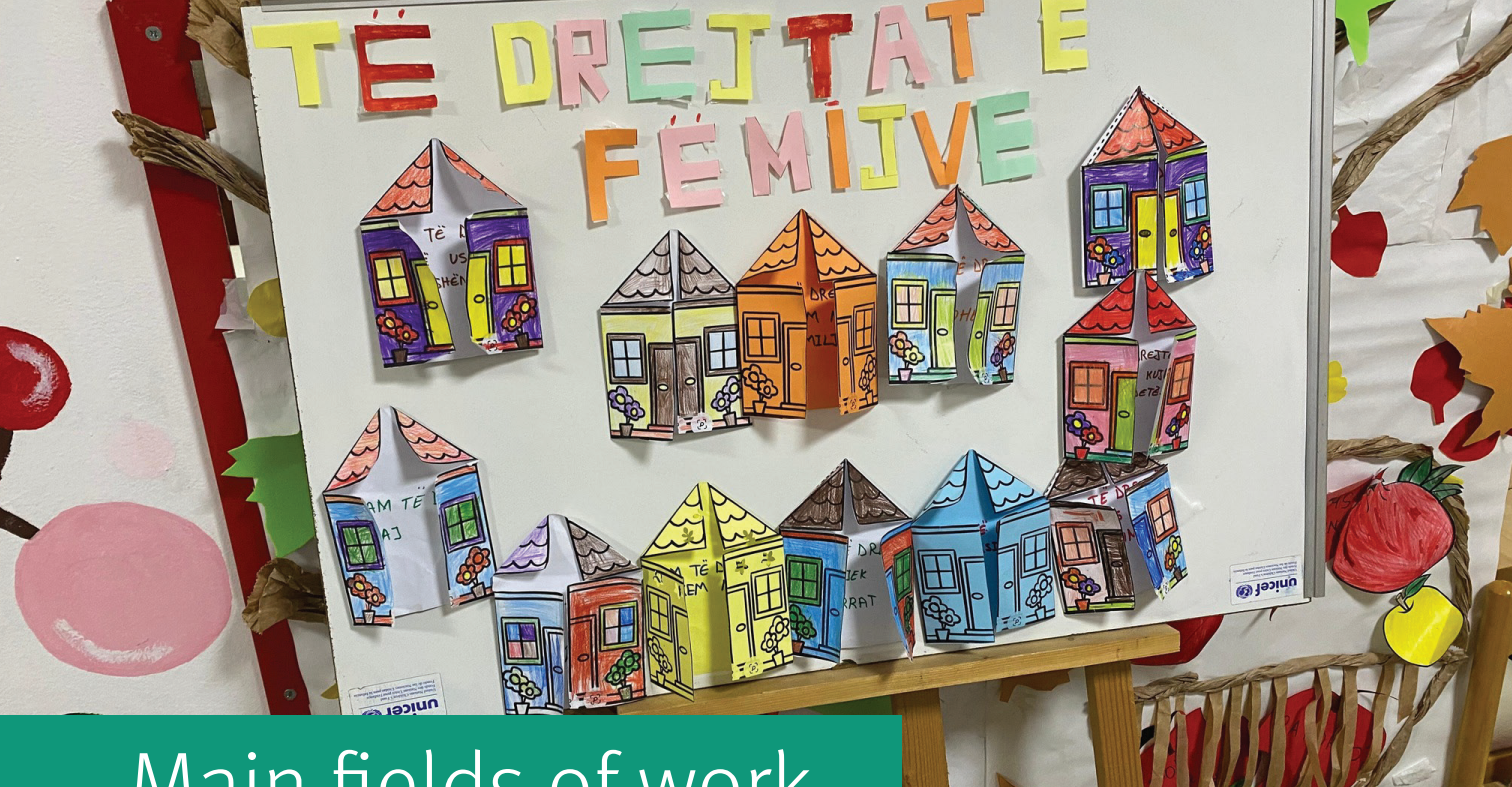


Where we worked in 2024

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS operated in 20 municipalities across Albania. Through partnerships with 32 organizations and institutions across the country, Nisma ARSIS's programs positively affected 5940 children with their varied initiatives.

- ★ Municipalities of Tirana
- ★ Municipality of Kamza
- ★ Municipality of Korça
- ★ Municipality of Vlora
- ★ Municipality of Durres
- ★ Municipality of Kurbin
- ★ Municipality of Lezha
- ★ Municipality of Shengjin
- ★ Municipality of Elbasan
- ★ Municipality of Kruja
- ★ Municipality of Cerrik
- ★ Municipality of Kavaja
- ★ Municipality of Fier
- ★ Municipality of Malesi e Madhe
- ★ Municipality of Fush Kruje
- ★ Municipality of Kukes
- ★ Municipality of Puke
- ★ Municipality of Vau i Dejes
- ★ Municipality of Pogradec
- ★ Municipality of Shkoder





Main fields of work

1. Child Protection

Nisma ARSIS plays a leading role in strengthening child protection systems at both national and local levels, ensuring a coordinated and rights-based response for children at risk. The organization intervenes in emergencies to protect children from violence and abuse and operates safe accommodation and shelters for survivors of violence, trafficking, and abuse. Specialized services are also provided to unaccompanied and separated children, as well as child returnees, ensuring immediate care and protection.

Through its ongoing commitment to building resilient systems, Nisma ARSIS continuously invests in the capacity-building of statutory child protection and social workforce to improve case management and service delivery across the country.

2. Justice for Children

In the field of juvenile justice, Nisma ARSIS supports the development of a **child-friendly justice system**, with a particular focus on service provision in Lezha and Kurbin. The organization has contributed directly to the formulation of the new National Justice for Children Plan. On the ground, it provides **psychosocial support to children in contact or conflict with the law**, especially within police stations, ensuring their treatment aligns with international child rights standards.

3. Child Care and De-institutionalization

Nisma ARSIS is a key actor in promoting **family-based care solutions** and supporting the national deinstitutionalization agenda advancing the transformation process from residential care toward community/family based care. It provides direct services to support family reunification processes, gatekeeping, offers alternatives to institutional care through professional foster care, and develops Family Strengthening service models tailored to children's and families' needs.

As part of its policy and systems strengthening efforts, the organization collaborates closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the State Social Service, and SARPC to provide technical assistance and protocol development for child care reform. Nisma ARSIS also delivers training for professionals working in alternative care services, improving standards and accountability across the sector.

4. Roma and Egyptian Inclusion

Dedicated to advancing the rights of Roma and Egyptian children, Nisma ARSIS implements inclusive education and community development programs. These include access to formal and informal education, early childhood development initiatives in Tirana, and Mobile School outreach in marginalized neighborhoods like Lana Bregas. The organization also assists families facing socio-economic hardship, promoting holistic inclusion and empowerment.

5. Support to Afghan Evacuees

Since the arrival of Afghan evacuees in Albania, Nisma ARSIS has established safe and nurturing environments for women and children through dedicated shelters and programs. Services include early identification and response to violence, psychosocial support, legal aid, and case management, alongside tailored reintegration and rehabilitation programs for vulnerable evacuee families.

6. Countering Trafficking in Human Beings

Nisma ARSIS contributes actively to national efforts in the prevention of trafficking, awareness-raising, and the provision of services to at-risk groups. The organization also offers rehabilitation and social reintegration support to victims and survivors of human trafficking, creating pathways toward recovery, empowerment, and social inclusion.

7. Countering Violent Extremism

Nisma ARSIS plays a proactive role in preventing and countering violent extremism by working directly with vulnerable youth, families, and communities at risk of radicalization. Through a coordinated approach, it also supports multi-agency local bodies to strengthen inter-institutional responses and promote community resilience. CVE activities include awareness-raising sessions, psychosocial support, and the development of counter-narratives through peer-led dialogues and community engagement events.



8. Women's Strengthening and Economic Empowerment

Nisma ARSIS is dedicated to empowering women, especially survivors of violence, single mothers, and those from marginalized communities, by promoting their economic independence and social inclusion. Through targeted vocational training, mentoring, and access to small business grants, the organization enables women to develop skills and generate sustainable income. Programs also include personalized case management, psychosocial counseling, and legal support to address barriers to economic participation. By fostering local partnerships and market linkages, Nisma ARSIS supports women's transition from vulnerability to resilience and leadership within their communities.

9. Child Participation and Youth Empowerment

Nisma ARSIS actively promotes the participation of children and young people in decisions that affect their lives, in line with the principles of the UNCRC. Children are engaged through the establishment of Child Advisory Boards and peer-led initiatives that foster self-expression, responsibility, and leadership. For youth, the organization implements empowerment programs that combine civic education, mental health support, and skills development, including sport, arts, and digital innovation. Centers like "House of Colors" offer a safe space for youth to connect, organize, and advocate for change, nurturing a new generation of active and resilient citizens.

The organization fosters youth engagement through initiatives that enhance social capital and promote civic participation. At the House of Colors community center, youth participate in clubs and citizen-led initiatives. Programs that integrate sport and mental health support in Tirana help young people build resilience and positive coping skills in challenging environments.

10. Multidisciplinary and Integrated Services

Nisma ARSIS operates comprehensive multidisciplinary service centers that provide integrated support to children, youth, and families in need. The flagship center, "House of Colors" in Tirana, has been operational since 2010, offering mental health, psychosocial, and educational services. Additional multidisciplinary centers have been developed in Rrashbull (for Albanian returnees) and Selita (for children aged 0–8). These centers offer family strengthening, economic empowerment, and specialized protection services that reflect a holistic, community-based approach.



Walking through the paths of progress: 2024 highlights

Present in **20** Municipalities

18 projects implemented
at the national level and regional level

Partnered with **28** organizations
and **52** Institutions

2 child and family support hubs consolidated and supported with services

Integrated service provision in **2** community services
and one emergency shelter for children at
high risk/victims of abuse, violence, trafficking
and children without parental care, etc)





Our impact

7723

children have been reached each one gaining access to support, care and protection

1058

children received immediate emergency support to our Emergency shelter

72

children victims of severe forms of abuse have been protected and integrated into social care services

495

professionals have participated to capacity building programs

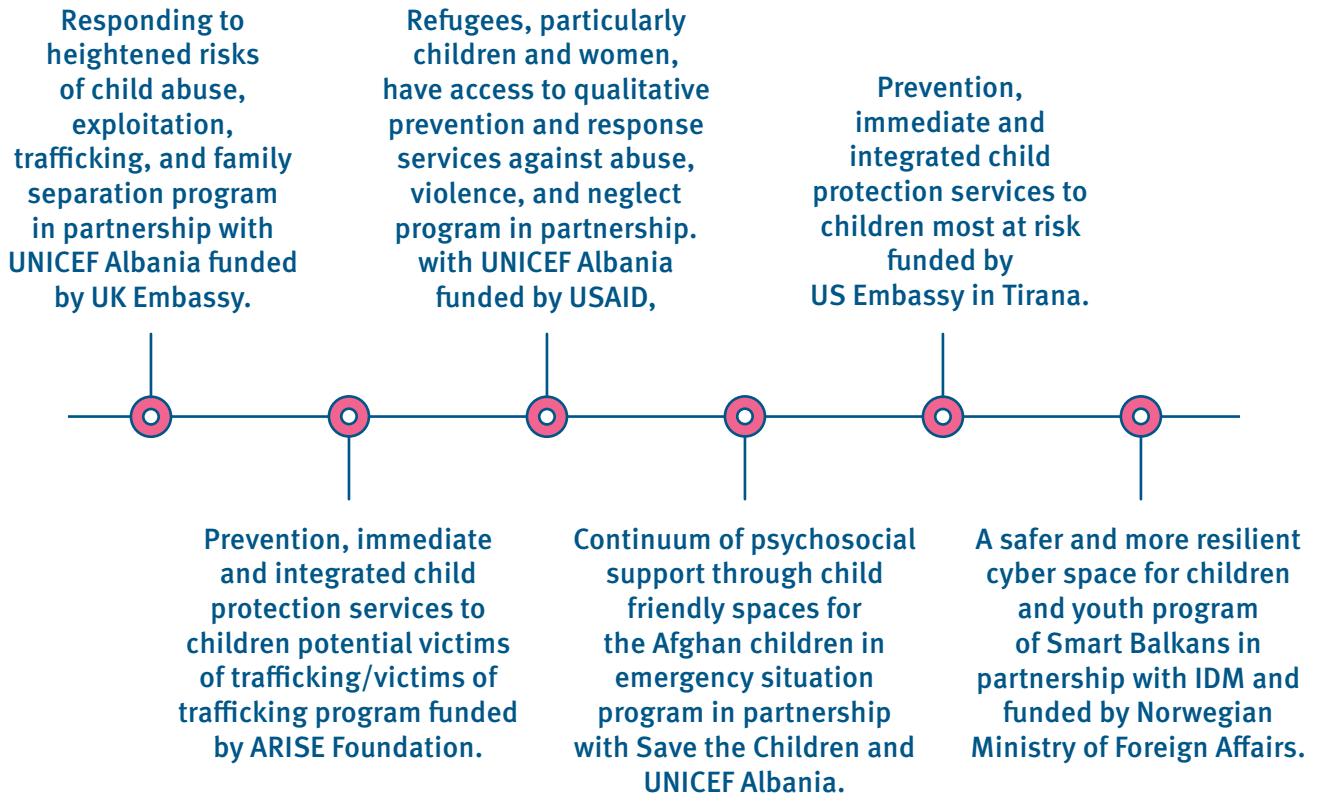
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youth empowered to speak up and become agents of change within their community

"These achievements reflect not only the scale of need but the power of collective action. As we move into 2025, we remain committed to ensuring that every child, no matter their background, has the opportunity to grow up safe, heard and protected."

Reduced risk of child abuse, exploitation, trafficking and family separation, safety

Contributing programs



1. Strengthening child protection mechanisms

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS significantly advanced child protection systems at both national and local levels through targeted technical support, service delivery, and intersectoral coordination. The organization directly supported over **175 professionals**, including

child protection workers, frontliners, psychosocial school teams, and members of intersectoral technical groups (GTNs), enhancing their capacities in legal frameworks, case management, and deinstitutionalization. Key interventions included:





- **211 children and 54 adults** assisted through the deinstitutionalization program, with **5 children successfully reunified with their biological families** and continuously monitored.
- Participation in **164 intersectoral meetings (ITGs)** across 15+ municipalities, supporting the case management of approximately **170 children**.
- Ongoing support to **over 70 cases post-ITG**, including follow-up home visits, psychosocial support, and direct aid.
- Specialized services delivered through centers like “**House of Colors**”, which offered psychosocial, educational, and parenting support in coordination with municipal child protection units.
- Emergency shelter services were provided to **72 children and mothers** at high risk, with comprehensive care including safe accommodation, psychological counseling, and reintegration planning.
- **68 cases of violence and abuse** (including unaccompanied children, forced marriage, and domestic violence) were managed among Afghan refugee families, supported through a 24/7 hotline, community sessions, and individualized follow-up.

Moreover, the team contributed to **policy dialogue and technical assistance** for child protection systems, ensured **case referrals and coordination with over 20 institutions**, and supported **tailored training sessions**, such as those addressing **children at risk of radicalization**, involving **80 professionals in 5 municipalities**. These efforts have solidified Nisma ARSIS's role as a critical actor in Albania's child protection landscape, bridging institutional gaps, empowering local professionals, and ensuring vulnerable children and families receive timely and effective support.



2. Support to case management process for children and their families in need of protection

Nisma ARSIS continued to play an active role in collaborating with Child Protection Units, offering coaching and direct support services involving children in need of protection and part of case management process (children in street situation, abused, neglected, without parental care, trafficked, exploited, radicalised, returned from other EU countries or war zones).

Our tailored interventions focused on a family-strengthening model, promoting environments that prioritize the well-being and safety of children. Throughout the year, we provided case management support services to 80 children in 2024 and their families in coordination with Child Protection Workers (CPW), ensuring that each child received the personalized attention and care they needed. Our holistic approach encompassed various interventions, including home visits, needs and risk assessments, active participation in the Intersectoral Technical Group (ITG), development of Individual Protection Plans, and the provision of counseling sessions and emergent interventions.

Through the implementation of prevention-oriented, child-centered, and economic empowerment approaches, we aimed to intervene proactively, emphasizing early identification and effective treatment to mitigate long-term consequences.





ÇDO VPERIM FIZIK E
PSOKOLOGJIK QË MË
CËNON MUA.

- PROBLEMET NË FAMILIE
- PROBLEMET EKONOMIKE

3. Safe accommodation shelter for children/mothers with children survivors of all forms of abuse, trafficking, exploitation

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS continued the operation of the “House of Colors” Center, providing a safe and supportive shelter for children and mothers who have endured severe abuse, trafficking, and other forms of violence. Established in 2011 in collaboration with the Municipality of Tirana and UNICEF Albania, the Safe Emergency Shelter remains a vital service for the most vulnerable, offering immediate protection and comprehensive care.

More than just a physical shelter, the center serves as a specialized service of protection and empowerment. Our dedicated team, trained in trauma-informed care, supports children and mothers daily through individualized case management, parenting classes, life skills development, and one-on-one counseling sessions. Recognizing the long-term risks for children who witness violence—such as future experiences with intimate partner violence, bullying, and health issues, we implement an age-appropriate approach that promotes healthy relationships and positive behaviors.

In 2024, the shelter provided safety and protection to 62 children and 10 mothers. Among them, 15 were identified as potential victims of trafficking, 14 were unaccompanied foreign minors, 24 were in street situations, 10 were survivors of domestic violence, 8 were without parental care, and 1 was a victim of sexual abuse. Our continued commitment ensures these individuals are met with compassion, stability, and a clear path toward healing, reintegration, and hope for the future.





A Path to Stability: Xhulio's Story

When 11-year-old Xhulio and his mother returned to Albania after being deported from Germany, they found themselves homeless, vulnerable, and unsure of what the future would bring. Their asylum application had been denied twice, and despite the hardships they had faced, they were sent back—Albania deemed a “safe country.” With nowhere else to turn, they sought help from the State Police, who quickly referred them to Nisma ARSIS’ Emergency Shelter Service “House of Colors.”

At the time of their arrival, both mother and child showed signs of exhaustion from their journey and the emotional toll of displacement. Physically stable but emotionally fragile, they were welcomed into the shelter, where they received not only a safe place to sleep but also warm meals, hygiene supplies, and psychological support.

Xhulio’s mother shared her story with staff: she had fled Albania in December 2023 due to persistent domestic violence and lack of social or economic support. She had not had any contact with her husband for nearly

nine years, and her divorce proceedings remained unresolved. Prior to leaving, she had been living with her parents, but her father’s psychological and physical abuse made the situation untenable. At “House of Colors,” the family was given more than temporary shelter—they were given hope. With the help of dedicated staff, Xhulio’s mother was guided through the search for a stable rental home. She received support in preparing for and attending several job interviews, aiming to build financial independence and security for herself and her son.

Even after leaving the emergency shelter, the support continued. Nisma ARSIS helped secure a rental agreement and has remained a constant source of psychological and emotional guidance. Through regular follow-ups and counseling, the team continues to support Xhulio and his mother on their journey toward long-term stability and social reintegration.



*Their story reflects the mission of **Nisma ARSIS**: to provide not just emergency care, but a foundation for resilience, healing, and new beginnings.*

4. Provision of immediate psychosocial support in Police Stations in cooperation with State Police in Albania

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring quality psychosocial support for children in contact or conflict with the law by operating an on-call service that extended beyond official working hours, including weekends. Through a dedicated team of professionals, 24/7 support was provided in nine police stations across the municipalities of Tirana, Kamëz, Krujë, Fushë Krujë, and Vorë, with the overarching goal of safeguarding the best interests and rights of each child.

This service was institutionalized through a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Albanian State Police, paving the way for its potential expansion at the national level. The core focus of the intervention was to deliver timely and high-quality psychological and social assistance to children undergoing police procedures, with a particular emphasis on preventing re-victimization and ensuring child-sensitive interviewing practices.

Functioning as a complementary layer to the statutory child protection system, the service addressed critical human resource gaps by guaranteeing the presence of a psychologist and a child protection worker in police settings, an obligation outlined in Albania’s Criminal Procedure Code for Minors. Beyond immediate response, this model helped strengthen institutional coordination between the juvenile justice system and the broader child protection framework, contributing to a more child-centered and rights-based approach in handling cases involving minors.

In 2024, our efforts resulted in providing psychosocial assistance to 1058 children in conflict or contact with the law, including 222 girls and 836 boys, across police stations and field services.

Gender	Group ages				Total
	0-6	7-10	11-14	15-18	
Girls	14	24	84	100	222
Boys	20	46	255	515	836
Total	34	70	339	615	1058

In 2024, a total of 1,058 children were assisted, of whom 222 were female and 836 were male. Among them, 442 were identified as offenders, 223 as witnesses, and 393 as victims. Recognizing the varying levels of risk these children faced, 504 cases were referred to the responsible child protection structures within the respective administrative units



Nisma ARSIS achieved:

- Timely referrals and coordination
- Dignified treatment and safety assurance
- Continuous monitoring and follow-up

National Study: Children victims, witnesses, and suspected offenders in Albania

Children victims, witnesses, and suspected offenders in Albania

*Profile and experience within the immediate
response in Police Stations and protection system*



State Police
Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARSIS



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Profile and experience within the immediate response in Police Stations and protection system

The national study led by Nisma ARSIS in cooperation with the Albanian State Police aimed to deepen understanding of the experiences of children who come into contact with the justice system whether as victims, witnesses, or suspected offenders focusing on their treatment in police stations and their interaction with the child protection system. Drawing from both qualitative and quantitative data across 12 regions, the study provides a nuanced profile of these children and critically assesses the responsiveness of police structures to their unique needs. It identifies key gaps in procedures, capacity, and inter-institutional coordination, while highlighting opportunities to strengthen child-friendly approaches in line with national and international legal standards.

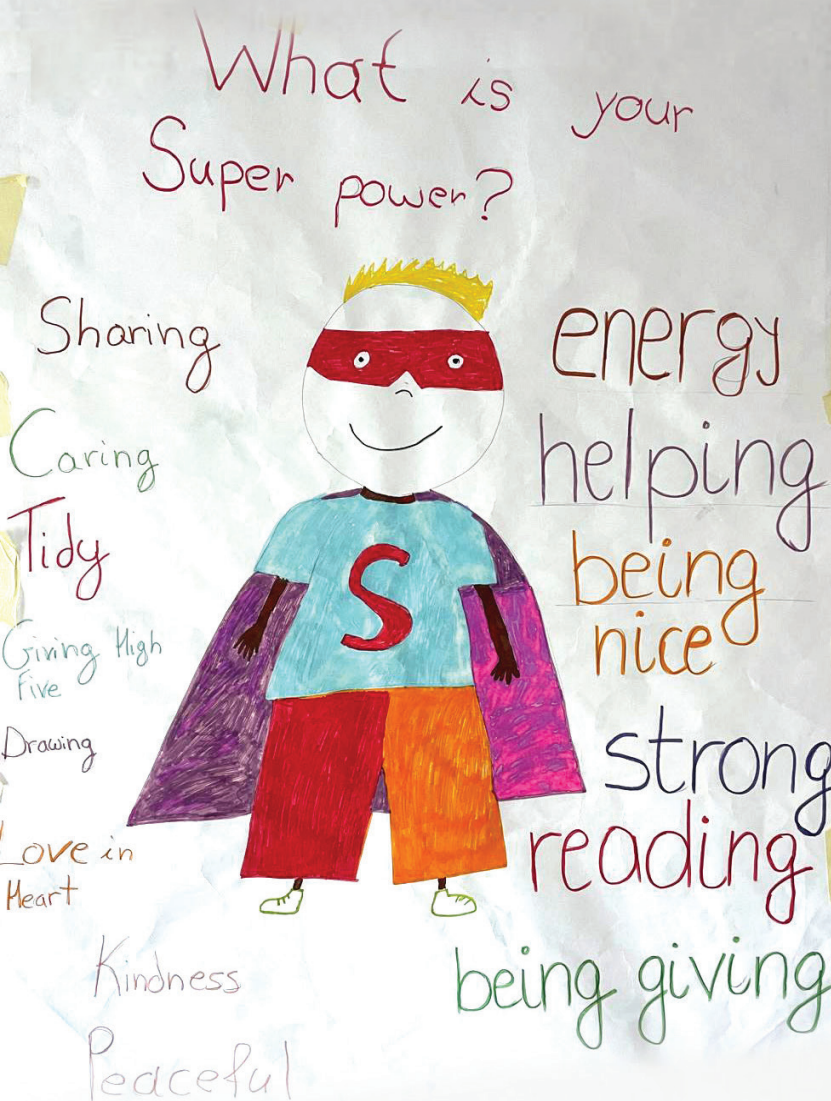
Over the years, Nisma ARSIS has played a pioneering role in shaping a more human and rights-based police response for children. Since 2011, its multidisciplinary teams composed of psychologists and social workers—have provided on-call psychosocial support in police stations across Tirana, Kamëz, Krujë, Kurbin, and other municipalities, bridging a critical gap in Albania's juvenile justice system.

Key Findings and Priorities:

- **Socioeconomic drivers** like poverty, family dysfunction, and domestic violence are strongly linked to juvenile offenses, requiring integrated local and national responses.
- A **gender-equitable, multidimensional intervention model** is needed—combining education, social services, and justice reform to reduce reoffending.
- Stronger **inter-institutional collaboration** is essential, including specialized training for police and social workers on child-friendly procedures.
- **Community-based services** must be expanded to support prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration of children into society.

While progress has been made, the study calls for continued reform to build a justice system that truly protects and empowers vulnerable children.





5. Implementing child protection responses in humanitarian emergencies

Since August 2021, Albania has become one of the hosted countries, with more than 6000 Afghan refugees resettled. Rafaelo Resort in Shengjin is the only place of Afghan refugee accommodation in Albania. Nisma ARSIS has spearheaded psychosocial support services and the implementation of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and child protection reporting mechanism. Over the past 4 years, this intervention has been conducted in collaboration with different partners like IRC, Vital Voices, IOM, UNICEF Albania, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisor with a strong focus on providing psychosocial services, raising awareness, offering direct support for GBV and child protection, and strengthening the child protection system.

Nisma ARSIS, in partnership with UNICEF Albania, implemented the program "Refugees, Particularly Children and Women, Have Access to Quality Child Protection and GBV Prevention and Response Services." This program provided integrated support through a multidisciplinary team of psychologists, social workers, nurses, and community mediators. It has significantly contributed to the protection, resilience, and well-being of Afghan refugee families in Albania, reinforcing both service provision and community-based care models



Key Achievements:

270

children (ages 2–5) engaged in emotional development activities at the **Child-Friendly Space**

416

mothers and children accessed health, counseling, and peer support at the **Mother and Baby Corner**

497

women and girls empowered through the **Women and Girls Safe Space** offering psychosocial care and life skills

60

individuals received specialized **mental health support**

68

protection cases (e.g., early marriage, domestic violence) were identified and referred

171

service providers trained in **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**

Furthermore, a **GBV and Child Protection Referral Pathway** has been established and shared with service providers, serving as a positive intervention model.

In 2024 Nisma ARSIS was capacitated and selected as a Focal Point for the development and implementation of PSEA Policy among all the service providers with the aim to disseminate that information in the community and with all the partners and stakeholders engaged in providing support to Afghan nationals. 171 Professionals has been trained for the implementation of PSEA policy in their field of work.

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS continued the work with the Afghan community through the “Support for the Voluntary Integration of Afghan Nationals in Albania” program, targeting Afghan nationals whose U.S. Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applications were denied but who have chosen to remain in Albania. Funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and implemented in partnership with IOM, this initiative aims to foster long-term socio-economic inclusion for these families. Through the “Support for Voluntary Integration” program, Nisma ARSIS also provided:

- Accommodation, legal aid, and targeted cash assistance
- Access to healthcare, education, and employment services
- Ongoing psychosocial support

This comprehensive response has promoted safety, dignity, and long-term inclusion for Afghan families choosing to remain in Albania.





Asma's Journey: From separation to a joyful reunion



At just two years old, Asma was separated from her parents as they fled Afghanistan, forced to leave her in the care of an aunt due to legal and logistical barriers. Months later, with her visa approved, Asma traveled to Albania under the guardianship of extended family members.

Under the care of Nisma ARSIS's Child Protection Focal Point, she received psychosocial support, health checks, and age-appropriate care in a safe environment. Her emotional and physical well-being was closely monitored as she waited for her father's arrival from the U.S.

After nearly a year apart, father and daughter were finally reunited—a moment filled with joy and healing. Asma's story is a testament to the resilience of family bonds and the vital role of coordinated child protection in restoring hope and dignity.

Reflecting on their journey, Asma's father shared words of encouragement for other families in similar situations. "Be patient and have faith," he said. "Every step may feel heavy, but the day you're reunited with your child, it's all worth it." Asma's story is a powerful reminder of how comprehensive child protection systems, coordination between family members, and the commitment of humanitarian professionals can come together to make the seemingly impossible, possible.

6. Advancing Family-Based Care: Nisma ARSIS's Commitment to De-Institutionalization in Albania



In 2024, Nisma ARSIS continued its long-standing commitment to supporting Albania's deinstitutionalization process, focusing on the transition from residential care to family-based and community-oriented alternatives. In close partnership with UNICEF Albania and key government institutions including the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, ASHDMF, and the State Social Services, Nisma ARSIS contributed to piloting and implementing new models of child and family support services in the municipalities of Tirana, Durrës, and Shkodër. The organization's approach emphasized prevention, family reunification, professional foster care and strengthening intersectoral cooperation for child protection.



MODELI I SHËRBIMIT TË KUJDESIT ALTERNATIV PROFESIONAL KAP

Kujdesi Alternativ Profesional është model që synon ofrimin e përkujdesit **në familje**. Prindërit kujdestarë profesionistë punësohen në bazë të vlerësimit të kapacitetit të tyre profesional për t'u kujdesur për fëmijët dhe të rinjtë pa kujdes prindëror, me nevoja të ndryshme kur ata nuk mund të qëndrojnë në familjet e tyre biologjike.

Çfarë synon:

- Fëmijët rezidentë në IPSH dhe qendrat e zhvillimit (rezidenciale), të mund të jetojnë në mjedis familjar të shëndetshëm duke zhvilluar potencialin e tyre të plotë
- Të ofrojnë akses në mbështetje të përshtatshme për të promovuar sigurinë dhe ndërhyrjet e hershme
- Shërbimet sociale dhe të mbrojtjes së fëmijëve të kenë alternativë familjare të gatshme sa herë paraqitet nevoja emergjente për përkujdes
- Të shmangë/redukojë kohën e qëndrimit të fëmijëve në IPSH





During the year, the team conducted assessments and developed individual care plans for 80 children in public residential institutions. As a result, **13 children were reunified with their biological families**, and 5 of them continued to receive long-term support, including housing assistance, psychological therapy, kindergarten fees, and reintegration services. To prevent child-family separation, two Child and Family Support Hubs were established and piloted in Tirana and Durrës, offering integrated services to 158 children and 54 adults. These services included home visits, counseling, parental training under the “I’m Here for You” module, after-school activities, and provision of essential supplies such as food, hygiene kits, and educational materials.

At the national level, Nisma ARSIS also contributed to system strengthening by training **215 professionals** from municipal child protection units, psychosocial services, education, health, and civil society organizations. The organization played an active role in 164 intersectoral case management (GTN) and SVK meetings, providing technical assistance to public staff and direct support to families and children at risk. Despite significant achievements, the process faced several challenges, including delays in rent subsidy disbursements, limited GTN activation for children in residential care, economic hardship among families, and slow judicial processes for reviewing children’s legal status. Additionally, physical distance from service centers posed barriers for vulnerable families in accessing support.



Letter to my family



Dear Family...



I hope this letter finds you well.

My name is Ani, and I have been living at a residential care institution for as long as I can remember. I wanted to share a little bit about my life here with you, in the hope that you might understand my world better.

Every day, I wake up with a heart full of hope and dreams. The caretakers here are kind and loving, but deep inside, I still long for a family of my own. I see other children being picked up by their families, and I can't help but wonder when it will be my turn.

I dream of simple things - holding someone's hand while walking in the park, sharing stories at the dinner table, and feeling the warmth of a hug when I'm scared or sad. I imagine what it would be like to hear someone say, "I love you" before I go to sleep each night.

Life here is not always easy. Sometimes, it feels lonely, and I miss having someone to call my own. But I find joy in the little things, like playing with my friends, learning new things at school, and imagining the family that might one day find me.

I want people to know that we, the children here, are not so different from those who have families. We have the same dreams, the same hopes, and the same capacity to love. We just need a chance - a chance to be part of a family, to feel like we belong.

I believe that one day, someone will see me and feel in their heart that I am meant to be part of their family. Until then, I will keep dreaming, keep hoping, and keep believing that love will find its way to me. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

With hope and dreams,

Ani



National Conference

Deinstitutionalization in Albania

Transforming Social Care Institutions into Community-Based Services

13 September 2024

On September 13, 2024, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in partnership with UNICEF Albania, Nisma ARSIS, and key social care institutions, organized the national conference “Care for Every Child and Family” in Tirana. The event brought together over 90 participants, including high-level representatives from government institutions, civil society, municipalities, and international partners, to reflect on the progress of Albania’s deinstitutionalization process and the transformation of residential institutions into community-based family support centers. The conference showcased the successful piloting of two Child and Family Support Hubs in Vlora and Korça, highlighting the shift toward integrated, preventive services that promote family reunification, alternative care, and parenting support. Testimonies from parents and professionals illustrated the tangible impact of reuniting children with their families and reducing reliance on institutional care.

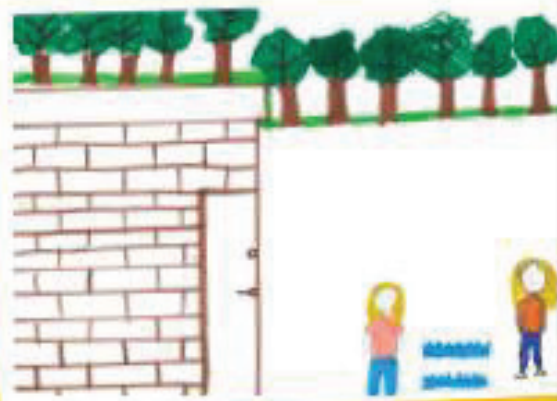
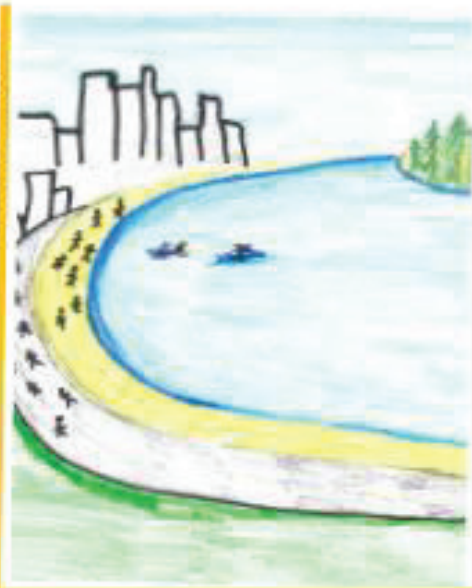
Key achievements included the launch of new social care models, introduction of missing services in residential centers, and the promotion of foster care and adoption as sustainable alternatives. The conference also facilitated policy dialogue on aligning Albania’s reforms with EU integration chapters 23 and 19, emphasizing the importance of coordinated action to ensure every child grows up in a safe, supportive family environment.



7. Empowering communities vulnerable to radicalisation

In 2024 through the support of the US Embassy, our work focused on reintegration of individuals and communities at risk of radicalisation enabling them to redirect their lives and become contributing members of their communities. Fostering strong partnership between local governments and communities we set the groundwork for long-term, sustainable approaches to deradicalisation and social inclusion. Also the interventions aimed the strengthening of community resilience and institutional readiness there were taken some strategic actions implemented such as:

- Capacity building of the Inter-Sectoral Technical Group in 5 Municipalities (80 professionals);
- Ongoing Coaching for case management.
- Direct resilience support for 10 families affected by the radicalization
- Costing social reintegration support for children belonging to radicalized families.

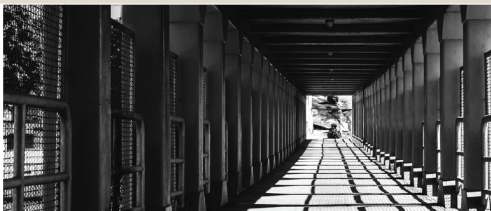


Strengthening Multi-Agency Local Bodies and Government Institutions to deal with P/CVE and R&R in Albania

Fact sheet



Strengthening Multi-Agency Local Bodies and Government Institutions to deal with P/CVE and R&R in Albania



Nisma për Ndryshim Shqiptar
ARSIS in partnership with
Albanian Center for Population
and Development financed by
Global Community Engagement
and Resilience Fund (GCERF) and
cooperation with the
Coordinating Center against
Violent Extremism in Albania.

Activities

Overall goal

Communities at risk are more resilient against violent extremism

Objectives

Objective 1: The CVE center is able to coordinate with local stakeholders and to make informed decisions on P/CVE and R&R processes

Objective 2: Increased informed engagement of community leaders, media and communities at risk on P/CVE and R&R

Objective 3: Improved well-being and sense of belonging of returnees children

Vlorë,
Fier,
Kavajë,
Cërriku,
Pogradec
Tiranë



Programmatic approach

The program is designed to use a holistic, grassroots approach to address the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) in six municipalities: Vlorë, Fier, Kavajë, Cërriku, Pogradec, and Tirana. The program focuses on several key areas to ensure comprehensive and effective interventions, such as:

1. Supporting the CVE Center to strengthen its coordination mechanism for referring and managing violent extremism (VE) and reintegration and rehabilitation (R&R) initiatives.

2. Informing and raising awareness among community members in the targeted municipalities, particularly focusing on youth, teachers, parents, religious leaders, local journalists, and grassroots local CSOs.

3. Supporting returnee children and their mothers in Tirana Municipality by providing psycho-social, educational, and well-being activities to facilitate their smooth reintegration into the community, reducing the risk of re-radicalization.

- Creation of a database with information on frontline professionals involved so far in issues related to P/CVE (Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism) and the R&R of individuals returning from conflict zones.
- Technical support to enhance the functionality of the platform for the referral and management of P/CVE and R&R cases.
- Conducting on-the-job technical training for CVE center personnel.
- Development of a communication plan tailored to the local level for the dissemination of P/CVE.
- Creation of a database of religious representatives and local journalists.
- Conducting training sessions with religious leaders and local journalists on digital education.
- Development of thematic seminars with local journalists on approaches needed for P/CVE and R&R.
- Organization of informative and awareness-raising activities with local communities.
- Development of summer camps for children and youth.
- Organization of two informative seminars for 200 young people aged 15-18.
- Development of 40 awareness-raising activities led by youth.
- Design and implementation of a sub-granting process for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating in the field of P/CVE and R&R in the 5 municipalities of the project.
- Provision of psychosocial, pedagogical, healthcare, and welfare services for children and youth returning from conflict zones in Tirana.
- Provision of educational and psychosocial activities for the mothers of children returning to the municipality of Tirana.

Launched in August 2024, this program addresses the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) in six municipalities across Albania Tirana, Vlorë, Fier, Kavajë, Cërrik, and Pogradec—through a comprehensive, community-based approach. The initiative is implemented in close collaboration with the Center for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and aims to strengthen its institutional capacity to coordinate efforts related to violent extremism (VE) and the rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of individuals affected by it. The program focuses on building community resilience and promoting social cohesion by raising awareness and enhancing civic education among youth. Activities include training sessions, peer engagement, and empowerment initiatives that foster democratic values, the rule of law, and human rights. In addition to youth-focused interventions, the program also engages parents, teachers, religious leaders, journalists, and local CSOs through awareness-raising and dialogue sessions that promote inclusive narratives and counteract drivers of extremism.

A specific component is dedicated to supporting returned children and their mothers in Tirana, offering psychosocial, educational, and well-being activities to facilitate their reintegration into society with dignity and long-term support.

24 months (1 August 2024 -31 July 2026)

WWW.NISMA-ARSIS.ORG

Contact: info@nisma-arsis.org
+355698233113

8. A safer and resilient cyberspace for children and youth

The implementation of this project aimed at fostering a safer cyberspace for children and youth in 4 Municipalities of Tirana, Elbasan, Kruje and Durres marked a critical step toward addressing the threats of online abuse, exploitation, trafficking and digital violence. The initiative prioritised institutional coordination, community awareness and early intervention placing a strong emphasis on building resilience among vulnerable groups and strengthening protective systems at local level.

Through a comprehensive and strategic action plan developed during the initial implementation phase, NISMA ARSIS team worked closely with schools, community centers, social service providers to define targeted areas of intervention, identify at- risk groups and establish mechanisms for sustained multisectorial cooperation.

Formal partnerships with key authorities such as AKCESK and ASHDMF succeeded in all the interventions of this project in empowering the capacities and preparation of case identification for frontline professionals, community mobilisation and parental active participation.

372

children participated in awareness raising sessions on digital safety and online violence prevention

48

parents engaged in informal meetings aimed at promoting protective behaviours and awareness of cyber risks

42

professionals from diverse sectors participated in their inter-sectoral dialogue platforms contributing to coordinated responses

40

youth took part in youth-led activities and digital safety initiatives in their communities



Child and youth participation

A guarantee of their rights and wellbeing

“ Our work is guided by the belief that child and youth participation is not optional, it is a right, a responsibility, and a powerful tool for change. ”

Contributing programs

Democracy Workshops in Albania program in partnership with Albanian and Austrian Parliaments and funded by Erste Foundation.

Empowered youth, agents of change, and active participants of community initiatives with a social nature in the Municipality of Kamza program of ReLOaD funded by EU and implemented by UNDP.

Enhancing child well-being through mental health awareness in partnership with Condivisione fra i popoli ONLUS funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

Summer camps in 4 Municipalities in Albania,

Youth clubs in House of Colors



1. Democracy Workshops in Albania

The “Democracy Workshops” programme, originally established and implemented by the Austrian Parliament in 2007, landed in the Albanian Parliament through a dedicated format personalized to “Punishtja e Democracise” and implemented by Nisma ARSIS from December 2022 till present. During the March 2024 – June 2024 reporting period, thanks to the support of ERSTE Foundation, the programme achieved the following key results:

Since December 2022, Nisma ARSIS has been proudly implementing the “*Democracy Workshop*” program originally developed by the Austrian Parliament aimed at sparking children’s and young people’s interest in democracy, politics, and civic life. Running until June 2024, this educational initiative has given thousands of young people the chance to understand how parliament works, how laws are made, and most importantly, how they can make their voices heard. The workshops go beyond teaching the basics of democratic systems. They also help young participants develop the skills they need to speak up confidently and think critically about the media they consume—two essential foundations for active citizenship.



Our Impact:

Over **2,000** children have actively participated in “Punishtja e Demokracisë” and “Democracy Workshops.”

100+ newspapers were created by children as part of the workshops and shared among participants.

4 skilled trainers were selected, trained, and led engaging sessions across the project.

44 schools, **3** NGOs, and

3 community centers from Tirana, Durrës, Cërrik, and Elbasan took part.

135 educators and staff members contributed directly to the workshops.

More than **27,000** people were reached through social media awareness campaigns across Facebook and Instagram.

2. Empowering youth for a diverse and inclusive approach

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS experienced a notable increase in youth participation, with 55 young people aged 15–24 actively engaged in psychosocial and educational programs aimed at fostering emotional well-being, inclusion, and active citizenship. Participants included high school and university students from diverse neighborhoods in Tirana, bringing varied perspectives that enriched group dynamics.

The youth met twice weekly for structured sessions on topics such as mental health, emotional literacy, teamwork, and human rights, complemented by creative workshops, awareness campaigns, and educational games. Activities were aligned with national and international awareness days and emphasized key issues like gender equality, anti-trafficking, and youth participation. Designed to be both interactive and empowering, the sessions created a safe space for self-expression, reflection, and skill-building. Participants demonstrated improved emotional awareness, communication, empathy, and concentration, and many became more active in volunteering and community initiatives.

Through this program, Nisma ARSIS reinforced its mission to empower youth as agents of change, promoting inclusion, resilience, and civic engagement. The initiative continues to provide young people with the tools and confidence needed to face life’s challenges and contribute meaningfully to their communities.



3. Well-being together, Occupational therapy, workinclusion and experimentation of independent living for people with mental and psycho-social distress”

The project during 2024 continued to foster the importance of mental health awareness and created an inclusive approach for children aged 6-18 years old in 6 community centers and 7 schools in Tirana Municipality. Self-care and stigma reduction sessions have been the pivotal domain of this intervention where **2,075 students** have been actively participating.

A key addition in May 2024 was the launch of activities at the Educational Farm “Da Sandra” in Peza, where children interact with nature and animals to enhance emotional and cognitive development. The project emphasizes inclusivity, involving children with different abilities, and covers topics such as mental health indicators, the role of nature, and the impact of early-life experiences. The activities with a comprehensive approach equip children with essential skills to manage mental health, seek help, and create healthy routines.



4. Summer Camps in Albania

As part of its commitment to child well-being and community-based engagement, Nisma ARSIS organized summer camps in 2024 in the municipalities of Tirana, Vlora, Fier, and Cërrik, reaching **a total of 230 children**. At the Multifunctional Center “House of Colors” in Tirana, over a period of three weeks, children from Administrative Units 1, 4, 7, and 11 took part in structured psycho-social activities, developed in close cooperation with Child Protection Units of the Tirana Municipality. The camps focused on promoting play and physical activity, building resilience and protective behaviors, boosting self-confidence, and fostering social values and teamwork. Through games, group challenges, and creative expression, the initiative aimed to strengthen children’s emotional well-being and social skills in a supportive and joyful environment. Similar models were replicated in other regions, further contributing to the preventive and inclusive mission of the organization.



Education

in terms of literacy and numeracy, as well as foundational, vocational, and life skills

Contributing programs

Expanding Roma and Egyptian children/ students' access to quality and inclusive education in Tirana Municipality program in partnership with OSFA funded by EU

Ensuring access to education in Lanabregas, Tirana Municipality

A Continued Commitment to Early Childhood Intervention in day care Selite

Mobile School





1. Empowering Roma and Egyptian children through inclusive education

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS enhanced the educational landscape for Roma and Egyptian children in Tirana Municipality. Through the project titled “Expanding Roma and Egyptian children/students’ access to quality and inclusive education and Educational Achievements,” – EDUJobs introduced inclusive education models to three public schools: “Androkli Kostallari,” “Gjon Buzuku,” and “Yzberisht.” These models aimed to improve online education access for Roma and Egyptian students, targeting the prevention of school dropout and functional illiteracy.



Key Achievements:

256

children participated in activities held at three public schools, focusing on enhancing their digital learning skills and providing after school support.

52

teachers were trained and mentored, equipping them with innovative blended teaching methods.

55

students received mentoring on innovative methods of utilizing technology labs to develop va

rious tasks, fostering their digital skills.

248

parents (65 fathers and 183 mothers) have participated in awareness sessions for positive parenting and know-how approaches to support blended education for their children in a school environment.

IT support was provided in the three schools where technological devices were installed, ensuring seamless integration of technology into the learning process.

The interventions implemented in these schools focused on supporting compulsory education for Roma and Egyptian children. This was achieved through enhancing the ICT infrastructure and introducing new approaches to blended learning.



2. Ensuring access to education in Lanabregas, Tirana Municipality

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS continued its commitment to enhancing access to education for the children of the Lanabregas community near Administrative Unit No. 1 in Tirana. Through its safe transport service, Nisma ARSIS ensured daily transportation for **32 children** throughout the school year, facilitating their regular attendance at school in collaboration with “Androkli Kostallari” School and monitoring the children drop-out. The school environment was recognized as supportive and stimulating, nurturing not only academic growth but also fostering social and emotional well-being in every child.

academic results and instilling a sense of active participation within the classroom environment. This success was a testament to the continuous and dedicated collaboration between the school, the Nisma ARSIS team, and the families of this community.

The participation of parents in organized meetings, in partnership with the school, opened new opportunities for every child reaching school age. They received all necessary facilities and proper support from the school’s leadership and teaching staff.



3. Mobile School- Empowering Children through Accessible Education

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS continued to implement the Mobile School program, bringing non-formal education and psychosocial support directly to children in four marginalized areas of Tirana, including Selitë, Shkoza, Bregu i Lumit, and the “House of Colors” Day Center. Over a 19-week period, the psychosocial team conducted **24 outreach sessions**, reaching **284 children—164 girls and 120 boys**—the majority of whom were school-aged and living in street-connected situations, engaged in child labor, or had dropped out of school. Alarming, **22 children were identified as drug users**, underscoring the urgent need for integrated support.

The Mobile School offered a safe space for learning and expression, using interactive panels with content on **literacy, health, emotional intelligence, and children’s rights**. Sessions emphasized the value of education, addressed sensitive topics like violence and trafficking, and helped children build confidence and reconnect with learning.

On the international level, Nisma ARSIS presented its good practices at the **StreetSmart International Conference** in Leuven, Belgium, sharing over a decade of experience in vulnerable communities. The organization also participated in the **#DuwMee 2024 global campaign**, promoting inclusive education and expressing solidarity with international volunteers.

The Mobile School remains a vital tool in combating social exclusion and promoting the right to education for every child.



4. A Continued Commitment to Early Childhood Intervention in day care Selite

After five years of dedicated service, the daycare in Selite has established itself as one of the preferred early childhood intervention services for parents seeking a supportive environment for their preschool-aged children. With a focus on comprehensive educational programs and a team of highly specialized professionals, the center has become a cornerstone for children in need of support, care, and a secure environment that fosters their developmental potential.

Leveraging years of expertise in educational and psycho-social development, the daycare has adopted a sustainable model aimed at strengthening both community and family dynamics, particularly within vulnerable communities. The center prioritizes a participatory approach, involving parents in all aspects of their child's development. This collaboration is key to ensuring that interventions are tailored to the individual needs of each child, with the ultimate goal of guiding the child's growth in their best interest.

Currently, the daycare supports 20 preschool children and 10 children from the early primary school level on a daily basis. Services provided include after-school support, psychosocial assistance, and management or referral to additional services as identified through a thorough needs assessment process.

The positive parenting meetings have significantly enhanced the parenting skills of 23 parents, resulting in a positive shift in their approach to child-rearing. This improvement has had a tangible impact on the enrollment of children into the formal school system and has contributed to a notable reduction in dropout rates, reflecting the center's long-term commitment to sustainable educational outcomes and community resilience.



Social and economic wellbeing

engaging vulnerable communities, ensuring access to justice, working with women in GBV reintegration and resocialization services, economic empowerment

Contributing programs

Multifunctional Center “House of Colors” - comprehensive support for vulnerable families in Tirana

The project “Rehabilitation and Resocialization of Children in Conflict with the Law and Children/Mothers Victims of Domestic Violence or Trafficking.” in partnership with UNDP and Municipality of Kamëz

The project “Supporting the socio-economic reintegration of migrants and vulnerable groups” in COLLABORATION WITH GIZ ZME

Raising Awareness and Supporting Women Overcoming Violence in the Municipalities of Malësi e Madhe, Pukë, and Vau i Dejës



“

We believe in a future where every individual has the chance to live a life free from injustice, exploitation, and discrimination - where they can thrive, contribute, and achieve their full potential.

”

1. Multifunctional Center “House of Colors” - comprehensive support for vulnerable families in Tirana

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS continued its dedicated work in the Municipality of Tirana through the Multifunctional Center “House of Colors,” providing comprehensive support to vulnerable children and families. The center brought together a multidisciplinary team of social workers, psychologists, nurses, educators, animators, and case managers who collaborated closely with local child protection structures to deliver tailored, family-centered services.





Health and Basic Needs Support:

90 children and 6 adults received health services, including check-ups and referrals to specialized care. For over 70 children at risk, the center provided case management, home visits, rental support, food and hygiene packages, and medication—helping families meet their essential daily needs.



Education and Psychosocial Services:

120 children participated in after-school tutoring, summer activities, and recreational programming. 75 children were supported with school supplies. Psychosocial support was provided to 30 individuals through one-on-one and group counseling sessions, aiming to strengthen emotional resilience and well-being.



Community Engagement and Prevention Efforts:

During Anti-Trafficking Awareness Month in October, 15 awareness sessions were delivered in schools and community centers, reaching over 300 children and young people with critical information on prevention and reporting of trafficking and violence.



Knowledge Exchange and Best Practice Sharing:

The center also hosted several study visits, including delegations from UNICEF and IOM Albania, as well as professionals from Tajikistan and Medaille Trust, to share experiences and good practices in emergency care, child protection, and anti-trafficking services.



2. Supporting vulnerable Families in Kamëz - Protection rehabilitation and Empowerment

Nisma ARSIS, in partnership with UNDP and the Municipality of Kamëz, and with the financial support of the European Union under the RELOAD 2 program, implemented the project “Rehabilitation and Resocialization of Children in Conflict with the Law and Children/Mothers Victims of Domestic Violence or Trafficking.” The project aimed to strengthen the local social care system and provide direct services to children and families in situations of deep vulnerability. The intervention focused on three levels: building the capacities of local structures through training and consultative roundtables, assessing community needs through focus groups, and delivering specialized and integrated services for children and mothers who are victims of domestic violence or trafficking.

117	families (211 individuals) received direct assistance, including food and hygiene products, rent support, medical examination fees, didactic materials, and heating devices.
6	individuals benefited from specialized psychological services while 5 mothers who had experienced domestic violence were supported with resources to launch small businesses for economic empowerment.
45	professionals were trained over 7 days.
3	consultative roundtables and 3 community focus groups were conducted.

This initiative became a model of inter institutional cooperation, contributing to a more inclusive and responsive social protection system in Kamëz.





From Violence to Independence



"For a long time, my life was a daily struggle. Domestic violence had silenced me, stripped me of confidence, and left me feeling like I would never escape the cycle of fear and insecurity. But today, with pride and gratitude, I can say that I am on a new journey - one of empowerment and independence. With the support of the dedicated staff at Kamëz Municipality and the ReLOaD 2 program, implemented by UNDP in partnership with Nisma ARSIS, I found the helping hand I so desperately needed. At first, I received psycho-emotional support to cope with the trauma, and then I joined training focused on economic empowerment and entrepreneurship. I learned how to manage finances, understand the basics of a business plan, and most importantly - I learned to believe in myself again. Thanks to the support I received, I am now building a small business that provides not only income but also a sense of dignity and stability for myself and my children. This program didn't just give me economic assistance, it gave me hope, self-confidence, and a new path to independence. I am living proof that when a woman is supported, she not only rises herself, but also inspires the next generation."

3. Socio-economic reintegration of migrants in Tirana and Shkoda Municipality

In 2024, Nisma dedicated its services to supporting the socio-economic reintegration of migrants and vulnerable groups in collaboration with GIZ ZME. The project created a successful practice of networking with the NAES referring to the potential cases of returns to the program and initiated new opportunities for the beneficiaries in their reintegration programs provided by other partners. The team of experts provided psycho-social counseling services to 160 individuals in Tirana and Shkodra Municipality. Additionally, 20 families received support through a program focused on income-generating activities, with assistance in acquiring the necessary equipment and materials to operate their businesses. The team conducted individual mentoring and coaching interventions for each business plan, successfully creating new opportunities for business expansion.

In Shkodra, most of the economic employment cases identified were related to farming, with a focus on promoting agricultural development incentives. In contrast, in Tirana, the cases primarily involved the development of professional and trade skills, including hairdressing, plumbing, electrical work, vending, dressmaking, and other activities aligned with labor market demands.





4. Ending Violence Against Women

As part of the UN Joint Programme “Ending Violence Against Women – Phase II”, funded by SIDA/Embassy of Sweden and implemented by UNDP Albania in partnership with Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARSIS, the 2024 **“16 Days of Activism” campaign** carried the powerful slogan: “No Excuse: Together Against Violence Towards Women and Girls.” Implemented across Malësia e Madhe, Vau i Dejës, and Pukë, the campaign used inclusive, artistic, and community-based methods to raise awareness, amplify survivor voices, and promote shared responsibility for preventing gender-based violence (GBV).

Over two weeks
(Nov 25–Dec 10)

222

participants

153

women/girls

69

men/boys

engaged in nine public events combining education, dialogue, and creative expression.

Highlights included the “Information Cube”, a traveling public art installation on GBV and reporting services; youth-led performances, poetry, and storytelling; and interactive sessions for men and boys on positive masculinity. Awareness materials were widely distributed.



Impact across municipalities:

In **Malësia e Madhe**, events in Tamarë and Gruemirë fostered intergenerational dialogues through community theater and open discussions.

In **Pukë**, exhibitions and motivational sessions in Qerret, Luf, and the city center highlighted women's empowerment and challenged cultural stereotypes.

In **Vau i Dejës**, institutional roundtables with frontline professionals and municipal council members emphasized the integration of dedicated funding for GBV case management.

This campaign marked more than an awareness initiative it was a community-driven movement for social change, sending a clear message: *violence against women and girls is never justified, and change begins with each of us.*



Voices from the Campaign *What the Community Told Us...*

"These activities made me realize that I am not alone. There are people who care, who listen, and who want to make a difference."

— *Woman participant from Gruemira*

"For the first time, I felt that as a man, I have a role to play—not just to avoid being violent, but to intervene when I see violence and to support the women around me."

— *Young man from Puka*

"When we performed stories of violence on stage, many of us spoke about ourselves for the first time. It was both liberating and empowering."

— *Amateur actress in the campaign performances, Malësi e Madhe*

"We are on the front lines, but often feel unprotected. This campaign gave us hope that we are not alone and that the system can improve."

— *Healthcare worker, Vau Dejës*

"The messages through art even reached those who don't speak openly. It was a new way to talk about violence—without fear."

— *Teacher at the Puka exhibition*



Advocacy

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS continued its steadfast commitment to advocacy efforts within various networks and engagements, amplifying voices and championing the rights of vulnerable populations. Through strategic partnerships and active participation in local, national, and international forums, our organization tirelessly advocates for policy changes and initiatives that promote social justice and uphold human rights.



Awareness campaign against Human Trafficking – Berat, July 2024

On July 30, 2024, in commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Nisma ARSIS joined the launch of the UnGift Box awareness campaign in the city of Berat. The initiative aimed to raise public awareness and promote prevention in the ongoing fight against human trafficking.

The opening event brought together 10 member organizations of the URAT anti-trafficking network, alongside representatives from the General Directorate of State Police, Berat Municipality, and the Prefecture of Berat County. The campaign served as a platform for joint advocacy, institutional cooperation, and public mobilization under the common message: “STOP Human Trafficking.”

Launch of National Awareness Campaign Against Human Trafficking – 2024

In 2024, UNICEF Albania, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the British Embassy in Tirana, launched a national communication campaign as part of the program “Transforming the National Response to Human Trafficking in and from Albania.” The campaign aimed to increase awareness and mobilization, particularly among youth against trafficking in persons, emphasizing it as a grave violation of human rights and dignity. The launch event brought together institutional and civil society actors. Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARSIS was invited to participate and contribute as a key speaker, sharing its field-based experience in prevention and victim support, and highlighting the importance of community-led approaches and youth engagement in anti-trafficking efforts. The organization emphasized the role of outreach initiatives, and regional campaigns, in reaching at-risk groups. The campaign also introduced www.ndrit.al, a national platform designed to inform youth about educational, vocational, and small business opportunities in Albania, strengthening protective factors and reducing vulnerability to trafficking.



National Conference: Advancing a Victim-Centered Approach in Combating Human Trafficking

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS actively participated in the National Conference on “Advancing a Victim-Centered Approach in Combating Human Trafficking”, organized by the Ministry of Interior in collaboration with the URAT anti-trafficking network led by Nisma ARSIS, with the financial support of ARISE.

The conference served as a key platform for presenting recent developments in Albania’s anti-trafficking efforts and encouraging critical dialogue on improving legislation, institutional coordination, and victim-centered services. It brought together a wide range of actors including public institutions, international organizations, NGOs, civil society, media, and anti-trafficking professionals—demonstrating a strong collective commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of trafficking survivors.

Keynote speakers included Minister Taulant Balla, Ms. Allison Dyess (Head of Political Section, U.S. Embassy), and Mr. Stefano Varriale (EU Delegation), who emphasized the importance of inclusive policies, referral mechanisms, and integrated services for victims.

The conference reaffirmed the central role of the URAT network, including Nisma ARSIS and its partners, in driving forward national efforts to combat human trafficking through advocacy, service provision, and survivor empowerment.



European Anti-Trafficking Day – awareness to Action

On October 18, 2024, Nisma ARSIS joined national stakeholders in marking European Anti-Trafficking Day through an awareness-raising event organized by the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the URAT Network and key central and local institutions. The event was part of Albania’s National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons 2024–2025.

Held under the slogan “From Awareness to Action: Join the Fight Against Trafficking”, the campaign emphasized the message of the national hotline: “I hear you. I believe you.” The event brought together public institutions, civil society organizations, members of the National Referral Mechanism, private sector actors, high school students, media, and community members to reaffirm collective responsibility in combating trafficking.

Speeches were delivered by representatives of the British and U.S. Embassies, the Minister of Interior, and the Deputy Mayor of Shkodra, all emphasizing the urgency of protection and coordinated action.

Nisma ARSIS participated as an active member of the URAT Network, presenting its anti-trafficking efforts at the stakeholder fair and contributing to the symbolic unveiling of the “Blue Heart” art installation, which served as a call for solidarity with victims and survivors of trafficking.



Advancing Cultural Competency in Anti-Trafficking Efforts: Nisma ARSIS at the London Shared Learning Event

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS, in collaboration with the URAT Network, actively participated in the Shared Learning Event titled “Enhancing Cultural Competency in Addressing Modern Slavery: Cultural Insights from Albania,” organized by the Bakhita Centre at St Mary’s University and Medaille Trust in London. This engagement provided a platform to share our experiences and practices in supporting child victims of trafficking, including the provision of safe emergency shelter services and psychosocial support within police stations. This event was part of a broader research initiative examining the influence of culture on human trafficking and modern slavery prevention, as well as the potential for culturally competent approaches to support survivors. The research highlighted the importance of understanding cultural dynamics linked to precarious migration, human trafficking, and modern slavery, particularly focusing on the pivotal role of family in migration decision-making.



Networking and partnerships

Strengthening Regional Partnerships – ASB South East Europe

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS strengthened its regional collaboration efforts through a strategic partnership with Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) South East Europe. During a high-level visit to Albania, the ASB delegation led by Elmir Bojadzic, Regional Director, Gordan Vele, Regional Partnership Coordinator, and Dafina Hoxha, Director of ASB Kosovo joined Nisma ARSIS in signing a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize and expand cooperation.

This partnership marks a significant step toward consolidating regional support systems and enhancing the delivery of social care services in Albania, particularly for vulnerable communities. The agreement reflects a shared commitment to advancing solidarity, inclusion, and impact across the Western Balkans.



ASB SEE Delegation Visit

**Wir helfen
hier und jetzt.**

ASB
Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund



Strategic Partnerships and Institutional Engagement

In 2024, Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror – ARSIS continued to strengthen its collaboration with key institutional partners to enhance child protection services in Albania. A notable highlight was the visit of Mr. Murat Sahin, the newly appointed UNICEF Albania Representative, to our “House of Colors” Social Center. This center serves as a critical hub for emergency support and family strengthening services for children at high risk of abuse, exploitation, and family separation.

During his visit, Mr. Sahin engaged with frontline professionals to discuss the sustainability of integrated service models that provide immediate and high-quality responses to children’s needs. The discussions emphasized the importance of maintaining and scaling up such models to ensure the resilience and effectiveness of the child protection system.

This visit underscored the longstanding partnership between UNICEF and Nisma ARSIS, particularly in two main programs:

Emergency Services and Shelter: *Providing immediate support and safe accommodation for children identified at high risk of abuse and exploitation.*

Family Strengthening Programs: *Preventing child-family separation through the implementation of the Child and Family Support Service model, aimed at empowering families and promoting child well-being.*

These collaborative efforts reflect our shared commitment to building a robust and responsive child protection system in Albania.

Civil Society Week 2024: Empowering Communities Through Skills and Engagement

During the Civil Society Week 2024 (May 27 – June 2), Nisma ARSIS actively participated in sharing best practices and services, aligning with the year's theme: "Skills for All: To Learn, Work, Engage." This annual event, organized by the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania, serves as a platform for civil society actors to unite, discuss, and create joint solutions for societal challenges. National Resource Centre. Nisma ARSIS contributed by presenting its initiatives focused on empowering vulnerable communities through skill development and inclusive engagement. Our programs, particularly those supporting children and families in need, emphasize the importance of education, vocational training, and community involvement. By sharing these experiences, Nisma ARSIS highlighted the role of civil society in fostering positive change and promoting equal opportunities for all.

Shqipëri
Java e
Shoqërisë
Civile
2024



— “ —
*Aktivitete integruese dhe
ndërgjegjësuese "Rëndësia
e shëndetin mendor pranë
"Ferma didaktike"*

— ” —



Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARSIS synon të promovojë të drejtat dhe të ofrojë shërbime të qëndrueshme për fëmijët, të rinjtë, dhe familjet në situata vulnerabël, duke përfshirë komunitetin rom dhe egjiptian, si dhe grupet e tjera të marginalizuara në Shqipëri.

Articles

In 2024, Nisma ARSIS had the honor of hosting Ernst Radius, a distinguished educator and senior advisor at Sociaal Werk Nederland, at our “House of Colors” center. Mr. Radius, renowned for his extensive experience in youth work, engaged with our team to discuss best practices and share insights from the Dutch context, particularly emphasizing the importance of cultural competency and individualized approaches in youth work.

During his visit, Mr. Radius authored an article highlighting the impactful programs and services offered by Nisma ARSIS, especially those aimed at empowering children and youth in vulnerable situations. His reflections underscored the significance of tailored support and the role of community-based initiatives in fostering resilience among young individuals. This collaboration not only enriched our perspectives but also strengthened the bridge between Albanian and Dutch social work practices, paving the way for future partnerships and knowledge exchange.



House of colours: A safe shelter for children and mothers in Tirana

REPORT TIRANA • ERNST RADIUS | PAGE 1

OUR AMAZING PROFESSIONALS



Albana Kumanaku – *Coordinator*

Albana Troshani – *Coordinator*

Alma Jella – *Case Manager*

Altea Xhaferaj – *Finance Officer*

Amarildo Hoxha – *Driver/Logist*

Ana Mjako - *Executive Director*

Andrea Ujka – *Social Worker*

Anisa Shpati – *Teacher*

Arli Capu – *Social Worker*

Blerina Sheta – *Nurse*

Brikena Lasku – *Social Worker*

Dea Miloti – *Psychologist*

Denita Mancellari – *Program Manager*

Edlira Zdralla – *Psychologist*

Elda Ndoja – *Youth Worker*

Enxhi Gega – *Coordinator*

Entela Gjinaj – *Psychologist*

Entela Hida - *Teacher*

Ermelind Malko – *Social Worker*

Esmeralda Breshani – *Psychologist*

Esmeralda Limi – *Teacher*

Ethem Jace – *Social Worker*

Fjorina Hoxha – *Program Manager*

Flutra Rranxi – *Psychologist*

Greta Troka – *Administrator/Finance Manager*

Illirjan Karaj – *Driver/Logist*

Indrit Preza – *Social Worker*

Inva Shimi – *Social Worker*

Jola Celmeta – *Psychologist*

Jora Katro – *Social Worker*

Julinda Vokopola – *Program Manager*

Kejsi Kasemi – *Psychologist*

Kesjana Matera – *Social Worker*

Klea Marku - *Psychologist*

Kristina Kadena – *Finance Assistant*

Elona Doko – *Cooking Lady*

Melisa Ismaili – *Psychologist*

Migena Nako – *Technical person for supporting the grass roots CSO*

Nazmie Sinani – *Nurse*

Roberta Profka – *Program Manager*

Rrezearta Hoxha – *Social Worker*

Sibora Avdyli – *Psychotherapist*

Sidorela Lasku – *Psychologist*

Silva Mhilli – *Nurse*

Tauland Sadiku – *Driver*


Tedi Jaho – *Psychologist*

Tefta Cecaj – *Teacher*

Xhesjana Lazaj - *Psychologist*

Xhevahire Hoxha – *Cooking Lady*

Financial reports 2024

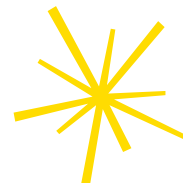
The background of the page features a dark blue gradient with a series of light blue lines and circles, resembling a network or data flow. A large, light blue arrow points diagonally upwards from the bottom left towards the top right. At the bottom, there is a bar chart with many vertical bars of varying heights, colored in shades of blue and teal.

Operational expenses	1,185,403
Total Operational Revenue	997,652
Foundation Grants	948,710 , 95% of total funds
Government Grants	48,942 , 5% of total funds

Total Assets	126,598
Receivables	35,738
Cash and bank	36,954
Tangible fixed assets	53,905

Liabilities and Net Assets	126,598
Payables	43,785
Retained Net Assets	275,442
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-192,629

Donors and Partners 2024



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, dedicated partners, and unwavering supporters. Your commitment and contributions have been very important in advancing our mission to protect and uphold the rights of children everywhere.

- 
1. Ministry of Health and Social Protection
 2. Ministry of Interior
 3. Ministry of State for Youth and Children
 4. State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child
 5. Municipalities of Tirana
 6. Municipality of Kamza
 7. Municipality of Korca
 8. Municipality of Vlora
 9. Municipality of Durres
 10. Municipality of Kurbin
 11. Municipality of Lezha
 12. Municipality of Shengjin
 13. Municipality of Elbasan
 14. Municipality of Kruja
 15. Municipality of Kavaja
 16. Municipality of Rrogozhina
 17. Municipality of Cerrik
 18. Municipality of Peqin
 19. Municipality of Malesi e Madhe
 20. Municipality of Fush Kruje
 21. Municipality of Kukes
 22. Municipality of Burrel
 23. Municipality of Bulqize
 24. Municipality of Lushnje
 25. Municipality of Pogradec
 26. Municipality of Prrenjas
 27. Municipality of Diber
 28. Municipality of Belsh
 29. General Directory of Police
 30. State Social Services
 31. ARSIS Association for the Social Support of Youth in Greece
 32. Arbeiter Samariter Bund South East Europe
 33. Center for Crime Prevention and Case Management
 34. Medaille Trust
 35. National Association Education for Life
 36. Foundation "Spirit of Love Diakonia Agapes
 37. University of New York Tirana
 38. Universiteti Marin Barleti
 39. Urat Network
 40. Food Bank Albania
 41. Aleanca Pro LGBTI+
 42. STREHA
 43. Qendra për Advokim Social
 44. Agjencia e Administrimit të Pasurive Të Sekuestruara dhe Konfiskuara

How you can support Nisma ARSIS:

Advocate

Join the Nisma ARSIS efforts to raise awareness about children's rights and report cases of violence and all forms of abuse.

Volunteer

Volunteers help our children and their families and communities to strengthen their positions and improve their lives.

Donate

Contribute financially to extend our support to children, youth and families in need.



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Instagram: Nisma ARSIS

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