

Annual Report 2022:

BECAUSE WE
CARE...
FOR EVERY
CHILD
YOUTH AND
FAMILY



A large, stylized teal graphic of a hand, with fingers slightly curled, positioned on the right side of the page. The hand appears to be reaching towards the text on the left.

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Annual Report 2022

Nisma ARSIS in 2022 encouraged a solidarity-based inclusive society where children, youth, and their families in difficult socio-economic situations were provided with equal opportunities to develop and improve their lives.

Nisma ARSIS in 2022 together with our supporters helped children and their families, whose lives have been at risk as a consequence of abuse, domestic violence, exploitation, trafficking, or of separation. We get help to those who need it most, as long as needed.



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Message from the Director

Reflecting on a year of progress and impact

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I present to you our annual report, a testament to the transformative work we have accomplished together over the past year.

Throughout 2022, our organization remained steadfast in its mission to addressing the critical issue of children and families in difficult situation and at risk. We have continued to advocate for the rights and well-being of these vulnerable children, youth and their families, offering them a safe space where their voices are heard, their needs are met, and their futures are shaped with compassion and care. Our work in 2022 was testimony of cases of children at high risk, victims, youth and families in difficult socio-economic situation, and efforts of many public and nonpublic stakeholders to provide solutions and support to those cases.

We are proud to share that our comprehensive programs and services have had a profound impact on the lives of countless children, youth and families. Our team of passionate professionals, in cooperation with the public stakeholders and the support of our donors, has worked tirelessly to provide essential support to countless children and their families, enabling them to overcome the impact of abuse, violence, neglect, and lack of access to services and create brighter futures.

In all these interventions we have been focused to keep our beneficiaries at focus. Their interest in a better life, resocialization, for recovering from trauma and abuse, and their individual stories inspire our mission and ground our work.

In addition to direct intervention, we have actively engaged in prevention, education and capacity building initiatives, recognizing that building a safer society starts with awareness and action. By collaborating with community partners, we have conducted workshops, training programs, and public awareness campaigns to equip individuals and organizations with the knowledge and tools to recognize and address child well-being and family strengthening effectively.

Throughout the year, we have focused on strengthening our internal infrastructure, enhancing our capabilities, and streamlining our processes to maximize our impact. Our commitment has been reinforced through the implementation of robust monitoring and evaluation systems, ensuring that our programs are evidence-based and continuously improving.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the commitment and dedication of our exceptional team and the unwavering support of our community. Together, we have made strides in breaking the cycle of abuse and providing a brighter future for these young individuals. To the children, youth, and families, we serve, your bravery and strength inspire us every day. We are honored to be a part of your journey toward healing and growth.

To our valued supporters, donors, partners and volunteers, your compassion and generosity have been instrumental in 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 children, youth and families than ever before. Your unwavering commitment to our cause fills us with profound gratitude.

As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of every child, youth and family. With your continued support, we will deepen our impact, expand our services, and work towards a society where no child suffers in silence.

I invite you to delve into our annual report, which provides a comprehensive overview of our achievements, challenges, and plans for the future. On behalf of the entire organization, I extend my deepest appreciation for your trust, support, and belief in our work. Together, we are making a lasting difference.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Ana Majko

Who we are

Nisma ARSIS is driven by the ambition of ensuring that every child, youth, and their families have the opportunity to access essential services, education, and protection. Our association lies in the belief that all children and families deserve to live with dignity and well-being. Our primary focus is on upholding children's rights, and we diligently provide them with dedicated care, support, and social protection services. Our unwavering commitment is to bring about a positive and enduring impact in the lives of children. To achieve this, we collaborate with local organizations, communities, volunteers, public networks, governments, institutions, donors, as well as all children and families, working together to foster positive change.

Mission

To encourage a solidarity-based inclusive society where vulnerable groups such as children, youth, families and marginalized Roma/Egyptian communities are provided with equal opportunities to develop their lives.

Vision

Each child, young person, woman and family in Albania and beyond attains the right to protection, development and participation.

Our beneficiaries

a) Children (0-18 years):

- Victims of violence, trafficking, neglect and abuse, mistreatment, exploitation, in street situations, UASC, discrimination,
- excluded from the education system,
- of Roma/Egyptian origin,
- no parental care.

b) Young people (18-25 years old):

- Who live and work in a street situation,
- unqualified job seekers,
- who live in conditions of extreme poverty,
- who dropped out of school,

c) Women:

- especially pregnant and young mothers,
- as well as other unsupported single parents,
- and other family members,

d) Agencies dealing with the protection and development of children, youth, women and families.

e) Other public actors and service providers.

Where we work

We support children, youth, and their families in high-risk, victims of severe forms of abuse, help people who live in the difficult socio-economic situation, and strengthen stakeholders' (service providers) capacities and coordinating mechanisms to respond to those risks.

In 2022 we worked in more than 11 Municipalities in Albania, Tirana, Kamza, Vora, Kavaja, Korça, Vlora, Kruja, Shengjin, Lezha, Rrogozhina and Durres with dedicated interventions and all over Albania with the emergency support services, for the first immediate response, rehabilitation, and resocialization services.

How Nisma ARSIS operates

Nisma ARSIS value is found in more than our program outcomes. We focus on children most at risk, the most vulnerable communities of people whose lives have been impacted by poverty, social issues, discrimination and prejudice. We prioritize working with those systems and locations where our experience and expertise are needed the most. This caring and disciplined approach helps make the Nisma ARSIS successful. Our strategy is guided by principles around gender, equality and inclusion.

Outcomes:

We work to support children to transform their own lives and are committed to making a positive change, lasting difference for and with children. We put children's rights at the core of everything we do. We work in partnership with local organizations and communities, volunteers and the public, social movements and civil society groups, governments and international institutions, private sector organizations, and, above all, with children and families to create change that lasts a lifetime.

Delivering impact and scale



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88	children and their parents/caregivers in high-risk situations affected/exposed to violence, abuse trafficking and UASC provided with emergency response services and shelter 24/7.
484	children in conflict/contact with the law assisted in the police station.
60	children in street situations supported through emergency outreach service.
143	children at medium to high risk of abuse, exploitation or violence assisted with case management services in cooperation with child protection workers.
157	child protection workers supported with capacity building.
132	children provided with education, supportive learning classes, inclusion in sports and cultural activities.
120	youth actively engaged in community initiatives.
2000	Afghan nationals in Albania have been assisted with psychosocial services, GBV and child protection awareness, case management and legal services.
3250	individuals benefiting from awareness-raising activities.
2	Child and Family Support Hubs in Albania assisted in Vlora and Korça Municipalities.

We will accelerate our impact by:

- dedication to advocating, campaigning, and mobilizing for child rights;
- commitment to shifting power and resources to children, communities, and local partners, ensuring that their voices are heard and respected;
- creating valuable partnerships, we aim to contribute impact, influence, income, engagement, and skills to empower those we work with.
- building a kind and inclusive organization that fosters a supportive environment for all;
- incorporating data-driven decision-making, utilizing data to inform our strategies and enhance our digital and technology skills to stay relevant and effective in a rapidly evolving world.

We support the existing national child protection system, in order to identify, and support children at risk of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation including with the gender equality lenses.

We had the honor to have the Ambassador of UNICEF Rita Ora in our center “House of Colors”.

Rita Ora visits “The House of Colors”

Rita Ora, the UK-based music star born in Kosovo and a UNICEF UK AMBASSADOR, visited in September 2022 the community center in Tirana the “House of Colors”, Albania, offering a whole range of services to children and their families including here the emergency shelter as well.



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Every child should be provided with care and a safe environment to access protection services, education, and entertainment. This is what is being provided at the ‘House of Colors’

“

I am truly honored to be here and shine a light on the incredible work that UNICEF and UNICEF Albania are doing. I loved spending time with the inspiring children I met at “The House of Colors”.

Rita Ora, UNICEF UK AMBASSADOR

”

During the visit, the Mayor of Tirana, Mr. Erion Veliaj, the UNICEF Representative for Albania, Dr. Roberto de Bernardi, Permanent Coordinator of the United Nations in Albania, Mrs. Fiona McCluney, and Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Albania, Mrs. Mia Marzouk shared their key messages regarding children’s wellbeing and their efforts to achieve that for every child.

The event concluded with “the wall of colors and light” activity where Rita Ora, the children, and all participants left their handprints and signatures on a white wall, in support of child protection services and the fight against human trafficking and child labor.



Sharing our expertise

Child rights

Child rights are fundamental human rights that protect and uphold the well-being, dignity, and development of every child. These rights, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), encompass the right to life, education, healthcare, protection from abuse and exploitation, and the right to participate and have their voices heard in matters that affect them. Child rights are based on the principle of the best interests of the child, recognizing that every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment that enables them to reach their full potential. Upholding and promoting child rights is essential to ensuring a just and equitable society, where children can thrive, be protected from harm.

Compass National Training Course on Human Rights Education in Albania

The Compass National Training Course on Human Rights Education (HRE) in Albania was the first one implemented so far. As such, it helped the development of the competencies of key multipliers (21 participants) for human rights education with young people around the country (youth workers, teachers of formal education and trainers of non-formal education, HR activists, NGO and local municipalities' representatives). Nisma ARSIS had the leading role to support other actors, and youth organizations, to implement and disseminate HRE courses too. As a result of the Compass National Course, each participant was supported in planning a dissemination activity in her/his workplace context.

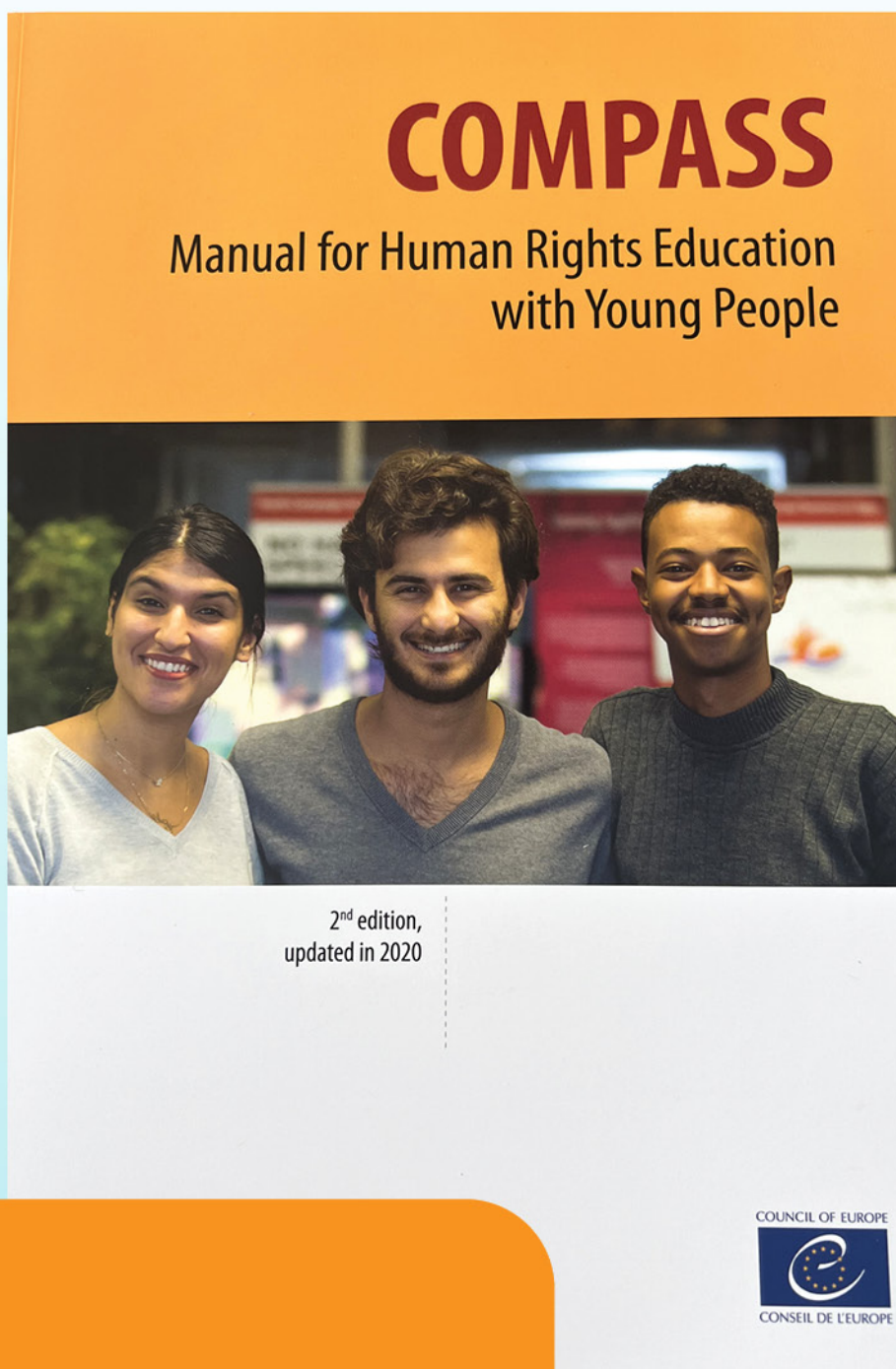


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The aim of the training courses is to support and equip youth workers, educators, social scientists, cultural mediators and public servants with specific tools and techniques in the promotion of human rights through awareness-raising activities/dissemination seminars.

The main learning achievements were:

- promoting human rights education in Albania
- fostering young people's access to rights
- capacity-building and resources to provide HRE
- development of common standards and approaches to HRE
- cooperation and networking to make the right to HRE accessible to everybody
- non-formal learning as quality development in HRE
- inclusive and equitable quality education
- promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



Rights of the unaccompanied and separated foreign children

Steps forward for the protection of unaccompanied and separated foreign children (UASC) with/or statelessness arriving in Albania as part of refugee and immigrant flows has been achieved. Under the direction of the President of the Assembly, at the same time the President of the Group of Deputies “Friends of Children”, Mrs. Lindita Nikolla, Group of Deputies “Friends of Children”, in cooperation with the representatives of UNICEF Albania and UNHCR, Albania, organized the hearing session on their protection in July 2022. This hearing served to advocate and report the main challenges that UASC face in the territory of Albania and recommendation for potential solutions for a better responsive system in Albania.



Child protection

Nisma ARSIS, throughout its journey and throughout the year 2022, in support of the child protection system in Albania, has a clear vision for the protection of children. In its work, Nisma ARSIS contributes to the identified needs of the system by providing support in the protection of children through a multidisciplinary, systemic approach integrated into the prevention, identification, and treatment of problems.

The expertise and contribution of Nisma ARSIS in the protection of children from all forms of violence is based on:

- 1** The organization’s ability to successfully implement integrated and direct interventions with children, families, and the community through the possession of the necessary knowledge and information for fieldwork;
- 2** The ability to assess the needs of the child/family/community/local child protection structures in real-time and professionally and in accordance with the context;
- 3** Ability to define certain problems and diagnose them;
- 4** Ability to contribute to policy-making;
- 5** The ability to advocate in political decision-making;

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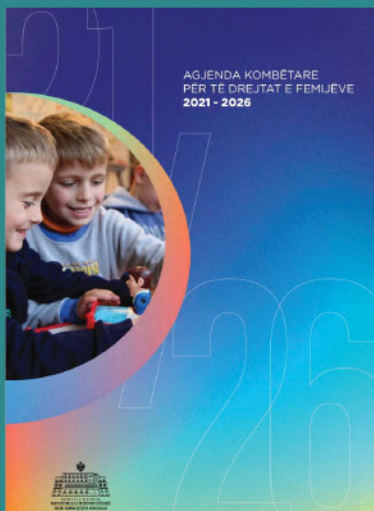
Of course, Nisma ARSIS does not make this contribution alone and disconnected from the system. Nisma ARSIS aims to unite all structures responsible for child protection, at the local, regional, central level, professionals who work with and for children, civil society at the national and international level, experts, children, and young people who are engaged in respecting the rights and protection of children.

Nisma ARSIS guarantees the intersectoral principle of work by strengthening the response of the prevention system, the mechanisms of identification, reporting, response and treatment of problems that are a priority in the protection of children.

The protection of the rights of foreign, unaccompanied, and separated children in Albania is one of the issues highlighted in 2022, where Nisma ARSIS with its experience has contributed to the representation of this issue with the support of UNICEF in the Albanian Parliament. The information collected during the years 2020-2022 from the work in the emergency service as the only service for this category in the entire territory of the country, has been periodically forwarded to all central and local structures responsible for UASC, reflecting the ways in which they can be addressed towards solutions to meet their needs. 38 is the number of children assisted by Nisma ARSIS in 2022. Support to them is offered only in the first 2-3 steps of the case management methodology. For further treatment, interventions are needed in the current legislation where the issue of legal guardianship, the status of the transitory migrant, and the expansion of services for them should be addressed.

Work with children in conflict and contact with the law is another area, where Nisma ARSIS with its expertise has contributed during the drafting process of the strategy for juvenile justice and the 2022-2026 action plan. The Nisma ARSIS team has been part of the working groups at the Ministry of Justice to develop the specific objectives of this strategy with concrete activities related to the protection of children's rights. Another step in this direction is the signing of the cooperation agreement between Nisma ARSIS and the Center for the Prevention of Crimes of Minors and Youth.

The contribution to the drafting of social policies for children and the family has continued with the drafting of the procedural practice and work protocols for the child and family support services piloted in the Korça and Vlora Municipalities, which were approved in December 2022 in the Steering Committee set up at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in the framework of the implementation of the National Deinstitutionalization Plan 2020-2022.



Providing inputs for the progress of the implementation of the activities of the National Agenda on Children Rights 2021-2026 is another contribution of Nisma ARSIS, within which Nisma ARSIS has provided expertise in the drafting of action plans for the protection of children's rights in the conditions of emergency situations as a result of Covid 19 or the earthquake of November 2019 for some of the country's municipalities such as Shijak, Krujë and Durrës.

Advocacy at the local and central levels is one of the main issues that Nisma ARSIS considers not only during the implementation of its projects but also during the drafting of project proposals, where the intended interventions are in coherence and synergy with the drafted local and national policies.

Periodic reporting at the local and central levels and the processing of data on services and service beneficiaries is another contribution of Nisma ARSIS to the social protection and inclusion system.



Safe Emergency Shelter (SESH)

The safe emergency shelter is offered 24/7 for a period of 11 days in a dedicated and safe environment (shelter) for every child, or mother with children at high risk. Services offered: 1) Accommodation, health care, food, housing, accompaniment in state institutions according to needs (health center, forensic medicine, court, police stations, etc.), hygiene, psychological counseling, psychosocial activities, coordination with the relevant structures for child protection and drafting of the intervention plan, follow-up support according to the needs of the case and 2) Referral for specialized services as needed in each case of children at high risk.

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SESH' mission is to ensure protection and well-being for all children at risk and aims to ensure the effective provision of immediate protection services for children at risk (victims of abuse, mistreated, trafficked, in contact with the law, in street situations, unaccompanied foreigner children, etc.) by:



1

protect the child
from harm

2

placed the child in a
safe environment

3

protect the rights
of the child

4

promote child
development

In 2022 the SES ensured immediate protection for **88 children** (57 boys and 31 girls) accommodated and supported with the full package of services in accordance with their needs and with respect to their rights and dignity, including children's victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking, unaccompanied foreign children, children in street situation, and mothers with children in a difficult situation.

Psychosocial support in police stations:

Psychosocial support during the interviewing of children in conflict/contact with the law in police stations is provided by a psychosocial team (psychologist and social worker) in the municipalities of Tirana, Kamez, Vorë, Kavajë (after official working hours, on weekends, and during official holidays). Children at high risk (victims, witnesses) are identified during this service and reported according to Law 18/2017 to the relevant child protection structures in each Administrative Unit in the targeted Municipalities in which the supported children are located in conflict/contact with the law. The role of the psychosocial team is to guarantee, as appropriate, child wellbeing during the interview and connection with the child protection system in cases of protection issues.

In 2022, were assisted 484 children in contact or conflict with the law. The highest number of children in the police stations is 64% aged 15-18 y.o, 22% aged 11-14 y.o, 8% aged 7-10 y.o, and 4% aged 0-6 y.o. 189 children were identified as victims and 67 as witnesses of criminal acts. 358 children were referred to child protection units. 146 of them dropped out of school.

Children assisted in the Police Station were from different areas of municipalities: Tirana, Kavaja, Kamza, Fier, Rrogozhina, Vora, and Fushë Krujë.



Parents, teachers, schools, community, and law enforcement agencies need to understand, prevent and reduce risk factors that may push children towards adopting behaviors that may harm them and the wider society and are defined as being in conflict with the law. There is enough evidence to prove that with the right kind of prevention and rehabilitation, most children adjust, reform, and return to the maturity of adulthood.

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Support to the case management process

The case management process is supported step by step by the dedicated team of professionals at Nisma ARSIS in support of the Child Protection Unit in close cooperation with CPWs from proactive identification, reporting, and initial and in-depth assessment, but also in drafting the individual protection or intervention plan and monitoring and implementation with dedicated services.

Nisma ARSIS is part of the Intersectoral Technical Groups (ITG) developed by Child Protection Workers at the local level and has always been active in providing expertise in the most efficient case management process but also in providing direct services directly to children and families. For over 180 children for whom the meetings of the ITG were held, the case management team at Nisma ARSIS was present.

In 2022, **143 children (69 girls and 74 boys)** were assisted by the Nisma ARSIS team in cooperation with the CPWs of the municipalities of Berat, Divjakë, Durrës, Krujë, Kamez, Kurbin, Lezhë, Lushnje, Përrenjë, Rogozhinë, Shkodër, Tirana (including 27 administrative units), Vau i Dejes, Vlorë, and Vorë. 136 CPWs were provided support during the case management process, through direct services for the cases of children and their families and professional expertise for the case management procedures.



Reintegration, rehabilitation and resocialization services provided in three community multifunctional centers in Tirana and Durres.

Community Center
“House of Colors” in
cooperation with the
Municipality of Tirana
for every child in need

Location Tirana

Community Center
for Early Child
Development and
Family Strengthening

Location Tirana

Multifunctional
Community Center in
Rrashbull

Location Durrës

I. Community Center “House of Colors”

The community center “House of Colors” has recently transformed its services to follow the Child and Family Support Hub model. This approach focuses on providing community-based services that support both the child and the family, aiming to prevent family separation while strengthening their overall well-being.

The center offers a range of vital services, including direct support for children and families at medium and high risk, which covers essentials such as food, clothing, medications, and educational materials. Additionally, administrative and specialized services tailored to individual needs, rental assistance, and other necessities are also provided.

To empower parents, the center conducts parenting classes aimed at enhancing family dynamics and parenting skills. Moreover, psychosocial activities and psychological support are offered to both children and parents, fostering emotional well-being.

Education-related services include facilitating access to education, assisting with registrations, and supporting professional development for sustainable future employment opportunities. Furthermore, counseling is offered to guide employment choices and empower economic independence.



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The center actively engages with the community, conducting informative and awareness sessions and direct interactions with children and families. Through these efforts, the center has seen a significant impact:

30

children benefit from daily services

20

parents actively participate in parental classes

15

youths are engaged in community initiatives, contributing positively to their surroundings

“House of Colors” serves as a shining example of how a Child and Family Support Hub can create a nurturing environment that strengthens families and enables vulnerable children to flourish. Through comprehensive and tailored services, the center embodies the transformative potential of community-based support.

2. Community Center “For Early Child Development and Family Strengthening”

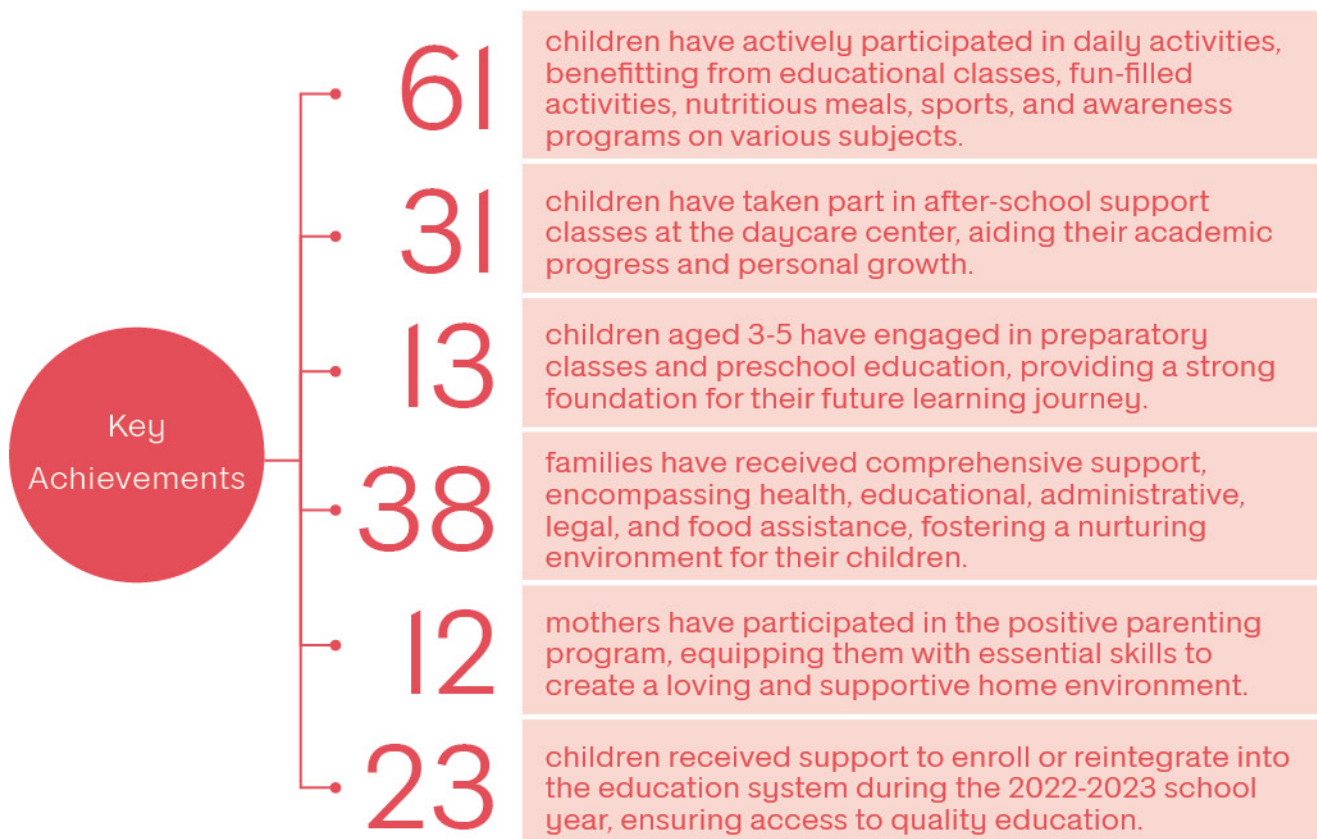
Situated in administrative unit no. 5, Selita, Tirana, the community center serves as a daily sanctuary for children and families facing vulnerable circumstances. Operating as a secure and nurturing space, the daycare center provides personalized services tailored to the unique needs of each child.





Dedicated professionals at the center are committed to raising family awareness about early interventions in children's lives and identifying their strengths to foster skill development. By engaging closely with the community and understanding families' needs, the center effectively prevents various forms of violence, abuse, and mistreatment of children, steering families towards alternative solutions and opportunities.

Years of fruitful collaboration between the organization and educational institutions, including nurseries, kindergartens, and schools, have enhanced the sustainability of interventions in the community. The creation of a dynamic network involving families, institutions, and the community center has significantly increased early access to formal and informal education through continuous mentoring and family awareness.



The community center's unwavering commitment to children and families has undoubtedly made a positive impact, cultivating a sense of hope and empowerment within the community. Through continuous dedication and collaboration, the daycare center has become a beacon of support and opportunity for those in need.

3. Multifunctional Community Center in Rrashbull

The Multifunctional Community Center in Rrashbull, a collaborative effort between the Municipality of Durres and Terre des Hommes Albania, is part of the "Sustainable Socio-Economic Reintegration of Migrants Returned to Albania" project, generously funded by GIZ and implemented by Nisma ARSIS. This initiative focuses on supporting migrant families in need who have returned from unsafe migration or individuals at risk of such journeys.

Throughout 2022, the center continued its impactful work, benefitting a total of 467 individuals through a range of essential services, including:

- Direct aid provided to 20 returned families and individuals at risk of unsafe migration, ensuring their immediate needs were met.
- Implementation of 6 Income-Generating Activities (IGAs), empowering individuals to create sustainable livelihoods and improve their economic prospects.
- Offering 5 paid internships for a minimum of three months to unemployed returnees in need, providing valuable work experience and opportunities for personal growth.
- Conducting 11 parent classes and 11 family support groups, fostering a supportive environment for families to navigate challenges and strengthen their bonds.
- Providing 21 individual psychological counseling sessions for young people, along with 26 counseling sessions for children and 20 sessions for parents, tailored to their specific needs.
- Organizing after-school classes and recreational activities, enriching the learning experiences and leisure time of young participants.
- Conducting 4 career counseling sessions attended by 87 young people, guiding them towards informed career choices and future prospects.

The Multifunctional Community Center has proven to be an indispensable resource in supporting the reintegration of migrant families, nurturing personal development, and fostering resilience among vulnerable individuals.



Capacity building and developing best practices

- ➔ coaching and mentoring the professional staff engaged in emergency services;
- ➔ online support by email and phone call for the professionals for every child at high risk or in immediate need of emergency services;
- ➔ exchanging and sharing good practices;
- ➔ training and workshops for introducing and raising knowledge on the best practices for focusing on the best interest of the child.

Education

Nisma ARSIS plays a vital role in education by actively promoting and facilitating access to quality education for vulnerable and marginalized youth and children. Through a variety of educational initiatives and programs, Nisma ARSIS aims to empower young individuals with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to thrive and become active contributors to their communities and society at large.



Access to Education: Nisma ARSIS works to ensure that every child and young person has equal access to education, regardless of their social, economic, or cultural background. The organization advocates for inclusive and equitable education, striving to eliminate barriers that prevent vulnerable youth from attending school. At the same time provide direct assistance to children and their families for attending school and accessing schools.

Educational Support Programs: Nisma ARSIS provides educational support programs for children and youth facing difficulties in their academic journey. These programs may include tutoring, mentoring, and after-school activities that enhance learning outcomes and boost self-confidence. Mobile school are innovative and flexible educational initiatives designed to bring education directly to marginalized and hard-to-reach communities. Through mobile school, our team provides information to children and youth on different educational topics including literacy, math and other subjects. Children are encouraged to participate and express their creativity.

Life Skills and Vocational Training: Recognizing the importance of practical skills and competencies, Nisma ARSIS offers life skills and vocational training to equip young individuals with tools for personal development and future employment opportunities.

Advocacy for Education Rights: Nisma ARSIS advocates at local, regional, and national levels for policies and practices that support the right to education. The organization raises awareness about education-related issues, striving to create an enabling environment for all children and youth to access quality education.

Promoting Gender Equality in Education: Nisma ARSIS actively works towards promoting gender equality in education, ensuring that all girls and boys have equal opportunities to learn and grow.

Partnerships with Schools and Communities: Nisma ARSIS collaborates with schools, local communities, and other stakeholders to strengthen educational infrastructure and create a conducive learning environment for children and youth.

Through these concerted efforts, Nisma ARSIS is committed to building a brighter future for vulnerable youth and children, with education serving as a cornerstone for personal growth, social inclusion, and sustainable development.



Community development

“Giving circles” event

One of the initiatives selected at the “Giving Circles” event, organised by Partners Albania for Change and Development “Small Steps,” has successfully brought to life a much-awaited playground for the children living near administrative unit no. 1 in the Lanabregas area of Tirana Municipality. This heartwarming idea, nurtured by children and their parents since March 2022, has now become a functional and accessible space where kids can spend quality time in their community.

The journey towards realizing this dream was made possible through the invaluable contributions of each participant at the event. Over several months, the project flourished, fostering collaborations with both private and public sectors, and uniting the community in a common initiative.

Nisma-ARSIS Organization, along with dedicated partners such as Balfin Group, One Telecommunication, NOA, Credins Bank, Abi Bank, SOROS, and others, came together to make the playground a reality. Additionally, local institutions, including the Municipality of Tirana, Parks and Recreation Agency, and Regional Directorate No. 2, provided support in engineering design and essential equipment, ensuring the space met the necessary standards for children’s enjoyment and safety.

The expertise of professionals and the collective effort of collaborators in this initiative highlights the significance of community-driven projects. Beyond solidarity and social responsibility, these initiatives unite resources for the betterment of vulnerable children, fostering an environment where they can thrive.

The “Small Steps” playground stands as a testament to the power of unity and collective action. Together, we have created a vibrant space where children can play, learn, and grow, emphasizing that every small step taken in the spirit of community has the potential to bring joy and positive change to young lives.



Economic empowerment

“Supporting returnees in difficult situations through psychological services and economic empowerment activities”

This program comes to the aid of every family from all the Municipalities of Albania, where after the return, mainly from Germany and European countries, there was a need for psychological and economic support. Psychological and professional economic assistance are two of the supports that have followed the entire implementation of the project with the aim of reducing the consequences of unsafe emigration and finding alternatives for families to have financial stability in their country. The program has been financed by GIZ, PME “Migration for Development” Program.

203

individuals participating in informational activities organized in 19 Municipalities of Albania on the services offered by DIMAK and other partner organizations for anyone who has returned from emigration and is in a difficult situation.

319

individuals advised on their involvement in the support services provided by the organization.

72

individuals participated in the training of the employment cycle in order to increase their abilities to generate financial income and were included in the labor market.

44

families supported with financial packages to encourage employment and economic empowerment.

124

families and adults have been part of the meetings and psychological services offered by professionals in order to adapt after returning from emigration.

“Employment in the community”

Employment in the community is an initiative promoted by the National Agency for Employment and Skills (NAES) that has been implemented by Nisma ARSIS in cooperation with the Regional Employment Office in Tirana Municipality. The purpose of this program was the inclusion in the labor market of long-term unemployed job seekers through the provision of training opportunities and part-time employment activities with a focus on services for the benefit of the community.

The persons selected in cooperation with the NAES regional office were a total of 10 individuals, of which 9 were female and one male, who were engaged in various professions such as sanitary workers, artisans, assistant teachers, maintenance workers, and gardeners. From the indicators collected in this phase of the project, it was noted that three of the participants were single mothers, 5 belonged to the Roma and Egyptian

minority, and all the participants were individuals who were treated with economic assistance and registered as unemployed jobseekers. of at least a one-year period.

- Training and raising individual capacities for each of the participants in the program.
- Program participants are empowered to be engaged in the labor market and continue to be employed part-time or full-time.
- Raising and improving social relations, participating individuals are engaged and have been part of other activities, meetings with mothers, meetings with women, or meetings evaluated by the participants themselves as activities of interest.
- Establishing contacts with businesses and hiring some participants.

Youth empowerment

“Promoting Youth Towards Healthy Choices, Development of Life Skills Towards Overall Well-being”

In the framework of the Tirana European Youth Capital 2022 program, the project *“Promoting Youth Towards Healthy Choices, Development of Life Skills Towards Overall Well-being”* has been implemented, with financial support from the National Youth Congress in collaboration with the Municipality of Tirana.

Throughout the project’s duration, the primary goal was to instill confidence and emotional intelligence in youth groups through Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). These therapeutic approaches, complemented by creatively designed physical activities, aimed at empowering young individuals to be proactive agents of their well-being.





Key Achievements:

The project successfully engaged 108 youth aged 14-19 from four community centers in Tirana, with 33 boys and 75 girls participating.

Participants were guided towards physical and mental well-being, fostering self-acceptance and problem-solving skills.

Youth developed a stronger sense of individuality while learning the value of cooperation and acceptance of others.

Through emotional management, participants embraced healthier behaviors, leading to a reduction in aggression, addiction, and school dropout instances.

Group play facilitated socialization among youth, nurturing respect for rules and each other's roles, while enhancing focus, reflexes, and various skills.

As a result of this transformative initiative, the project contributed significantly to the personal growth and holistic well-being of Tirana's youth, preparing them for brighter and healthier futures.



Youth clubs at House of Colors Center

Youth engagement is not just a concept; it is a powerful force that drives positive change in our communities and beyond. 30 Youth has been engaged in our programs to promote the belief in the potential and agency of young individuals. It is about creating spaces where young people feel heard, valued, and empowered to participate actively in decision-making processes. Whether it's in schools, local communities, or on global platforms, youth engagement fosters inclusivity, diversity, and innovation.

Through youth engagement initiatives, we encourage young minds to dream big, envision a brighter future, and take concrete steps to realize their aspirations. By nurturing their talents, skills, and passions, we unleash a wellspring of creativity that drives solutions to some of the most pressing challenges we face.

Emergency humanitarian response

SUCCESS STORY

Zarghona, the first deputy of the Baloch Council in Afghanistan

Zarghona was evacuated from Kabul in September 2021, to be resettled in Shengjin-Albania. She was the first deputy of the Baloch Council in Afghanistan. In 2005, she started working with women in Kandahar City and districts on election preparations so that they could talk about their rights and defend and vote for women's rights. These efforts resulted in more than 5000 women of the Baloch nation and Pashtuns tribe casting votes in the 2013 and 2019 presidential elections. The Baloch people of Afghanistan are facing many challenges with the new developments, as the Baloch is an ethnic minority, nationalists, and believers in democratic and human values in the wake of extremist religious Taliban rule in Afghanistan. In Baloch nation, around 150 women and 350 men served in military services, in the Ministry of Defense, and Interior, and their lives are in danger now in the new regime of Taliban. They are hiding in different homes and cities to save their lives.

Zarghona applied for Afghan resettlement in Canada for her nuclear family and the other part of the family located in Afghanistan. Her process went very well and she has completed all the necessary procedures to legally flee for a permanent residency. The IRC in cooperation with Nisma ARSIS (legal office) assisted her from the start of the application until the last correspondence with the IRC and IOM to confirm the chronology of her family history.

She benefited from her eight months in Albania to prepare an employment plan in Canada through the Baloch group (Canada branch), and to be included in the English course offered in the resettlement. For this she was constantly consulted with the law office, being our almost daily client. Her persistence in learning and long patience were rewarded for the whole family.

Zarghona said that at first she was demotivated to continue with the application process due to challenges in communication, and the lack of a proper legal consultation made her often confused with the required documents. But, having a strong sense of belonging with the Baloch group has turned into a force to reduce all the obstacles that the long waiting time had.

She ended her confession through a humble plea saying that: "The Baloch nation is a peaceful and patriotic community and they have never been indulged in war and conflicts in recent decades. They have been deprived of their basic rights of education and health. Baloch nation has been forced to serve in the military and has never been given freedom of speech and decision making. There was nearly no representation of Baloch in general and particularly women in parliament and senate representative in Government."



Afghan Refugees in Albania

Refugees, particularly children and women, have access to qualitative prevention and response services against abuse, violence, and neglect

Refugees, with a particular focus on children and women, have been provided access to high-quality prevention and response services to address abuse, violence, and neglect. For over a year, Albania has welcomed more than 2,500 Afghan refugees who sought onward movement to countries like Canada, the United States, and Western European nations. Among them, over 1,600 individuals found accommodation at Rafaelo Resort in the Shengjin Administrative Unit, where Nisma ARSIS spearheaded a psycho-social intervention program from October 2021 to the present.

In response to the identified needs of the evacuees, Nisma ARSIS developed a comprehensive program dedicated to mental health and psycho-social support. To create a safe and nurturing environment, three distinct Safe Spaces were established: the Women and Girls Friendly Space, the Mother and Baby Corner, and the Child-Friendly Space.

Annual report 2022



A specialized team diligently implemented a full range of psycho-social services, ensuring beneficiaries could participate in organized activities, socialize, express themselves, and receive essential psycho-emotional support, recreational engagement, and life skills training as they embark on the journey of rebuilding their lives. These spaces also provided opportunities for parents and caregivers to actively participate, share information, receive guidance, and boost their own self-confidence in protecting and caring for their children.

To enhance the team's capacity in providing psycho-social services to refugees, multiple online and face-to-face training sessions were conducted. Additionally, Nisma ARSIS collaborated with the International Rescue Committee and later with UNICEF Albania to establish the first referral pathway for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection cases within the Afghan community.

Part of the GBV and child protection program involved raising awareness within the Afghan community in Albania about the risks of violence, including GBV and incidents of violence against children, abuse, neglect, and harmful practices like child marriage. The program ensured that these cases were promptly identified, referred, and provided with the necessary support.

Furthermore, through this initiative, Nisma ARSIS provided support to the existing national child protection system, strengthening its ability to identify and assist Afghan children and mothers with children who were at risk of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Through our collective efforts, we are committed to offering a protective and nurturing environment for refugees, empowering them to heal and rebuild their lives amidst challenging circumstances.



MHPSS prevention, promotion, and self-care

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities encompassing prevention, promotion, and self-care have been diligently provided to address the well-being of individuals. Throughout 2022, efforts focused on sensitization, awareness building, and skill enhancement. During this period, several individuals sought mental health care for various reasons, with the most prevalent psychological difficulties identified as follows:

- Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Symptoms of Depression
- Symptoms of Anxiety
- Profound grief stemming from multiple losses

The impact of these challenges manifested in cognitive and emotional functioning, with individuals experiencing ruminations, excessive worrying, feelings of sadness, emotional numbing, and a profound longing for family members and friends who are either missing or left behind.

Through our dedicated MHPSS initiatives, we are committed to providing comprehensive support, empowering individuals to cope with and overcome these psychological difficulties, and promoting mental well-being for all.



Case management and psychosocial support

Nisma ARSIS, in collaboration with Vital Voices Global Partnership, successfully executed the program titled “Emergency Provisions for Afghan Women Evacuees and their Families in Albania.” This comprehensive initiative encompassed a multi-dimensional approach, promptly addressing the diverse needs and concerns of the beneficiaries. Since December 2021, a total of 518 Afghan citizens have received essential psychosocial support from our dedicated team.

The psycho-social team involved in this project delivered a holistic range of services, which included conducting thorough Needs and risk assessments, providing psycho-emotional support, offering direct assistance, ensuring safe transportation, and facilitating access to essential medical aid.

Moreover, beyond the provision of basic necessities, our intervention seeks to establish an integrative case management system, catering to the specific needs of Afghan children, youth, and families currently residing at Rafaelo Resort. To achieve this, we have fostered collaborations with other service providers, both within and outside the resort, to create a cohesive and supportive network.

Through this impactful program, we are dedicated to extending unwavering support to those who have sought refuge in Albania, ensuring their well-being and empowerment during these challenging times.

Legal services

Nisma ARSIS, with invaluable support from the International Rescue Committee, has been dedicated to providing comprehensive legal assistance to Afghan citizens, tailored to their specific needs at any stage of their journey. Through information sessions and orientations, we have equipped individuals with crucial knowledge about legal frameworks, GBV issues, human rights, and Albanian legal procedures. Our commitment to client support includes offering individual counseling and ensuring translation services, both written and verbal, to ensure clear communication and understanding of the process. To further enhance accessibility, we have developed informative materials, including info sheets and leaflets in multiple languages, to effectively introduce our free legal aid services.

Legal activities aimed at supporting Afghan citizens in Albania have been carried out with effectiveness, yielding significant outcomes:

- A total of 23 informative sessions were conducted, drawing participation from 357 individuals eager to enhance their understanding of legal matters.
- A remarkable 383 clients received personalized counseling sessions, with 217 Afghan citizens benefiting from one-on-one counseling tailored to their specific needs.
- Legal representation was extended to 101 clients among the 230 who sought assistance, ensuring their rights and interests were protected through legal channels.
- Our efforts also led to the successful registration of 20 newborn Afghan children in the civil status of Shengjin Municipality Unit, following Albanian legal requirements and procedures, thereby ensuring their legal rights from the very beginning.



Focus on our beneficiaries

The heart of our organization's mission lies in our unwavering focus on beneficiaries — the children, youth, and families facing risk and vulnerability in our communities. They are at the center of everything we do, and their well-being and empowerment drive our efforts day in and day out. We firmly believe that every child, regardless of their circumstances, deserves a chance to thrive and succeed. Our commitment to serving beneficiaries in vulnerable situations is not just a duty but a deeply held value that guides our approach to creating lasting impact.



And how do we ensure the sustained focus on beneficiaries remains at the core of our organization's work? That is a question we constantly ask ourselves as we strive to make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. Here are some key ways we ensure our focus on beneficiaries remains steadfast:

- Continuous Needs Assessment: We conduct ongoing needs assessments to stay attuned to the evolving challenges and aspirations of our beneficiaries. This helps us tailor our programs and services to meet their changing needs effectively.
- Implementation of 6 Income-Generating Activities (IGAs), empowering individuals to create sustainable livelihoods and improve their economic prospects.
- Engagement and Participation: We actively involve beneficiaries in the planning, design, and evaluation of our programs. Their voices and perspectives are central to the decision-making process, ensuring that our initiatives are relevant and responsive to their realities.
- Staff and Volunteer Training: We invest in the professional development of our staff and volunteers to enhance their understanding of the needs and challenges faced by our beneficiaries. This empowers them to provide more compassionate and effective support.
- Partnerships and Collaboration: We actively collaborate with other organizations, governmental agencies, and stakeholders to strengthen our collective efforts. By fostering partnerships, we can expand our reach and make a greater impact together.
- Advocacy and Awareness: We engage in advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns to shed light on the issues affecting our beneficiaries. By raising public consciousness, we can mobilize support and resources to address critical challenges.
- Transparent Communication: We maintain transparent communication with our beneficiaries, donors, and the public. By sharing stories of impact and progress, we build trust and credibility, reinforcing our commitment to those we serve.
- Resilience and Adaptability: We remain resilient and adaptable in the face of challenges and setbacks. By embracing innovation and learning from experiences, we can continually improve our approaches to better serve our beneficiaries.

As we move forward, we do so with a profound sense of responsibility to empower, uplift, and transform the lives of the children, youth, and families we are privileged to serve.

Our focus on beneficiaries is not just a chapter in our story; it is the essence of who we are and the reason for our existence. Together, we strive to make a lasting impact, one life at a time, and to be a beacon of light in the lives of those who need it most.

Financial report

Financial Performance Highlights:

We are pleased to present an overview of our financial performance during the fiscal year ending 2022. This past year has been one of progress and resilience, and we are grateful for the unwavering support of our donors and partners.

Revenue and Funding Sources:

Our total revenue for the year reached \$1,286,932, reflecting the generous contributions of donors, partners, and grants from esteemed international organizations. Their steadfast commitment to our mission has been instrumental in driving our initiatives forward.

Expenses:

A significant portion of our expenses, 60% to be precise, was allocated to our life-changing programs, empowering beneficiaries and fostering positive change. Operational expenses, including administration and fundraising, accounted for 40% of the total budget, ensuring our organization's efficiency and sustainability.

Future Financial Outlook:

Looking ahead, we remain focused on maintaining financial sustainability and expanding our reach to serve even more vulnerable populations. We are actively exploring strategic partnerships and diversifying our funding sources to ensure the continuity of our vital programs.

Financial Transparency and Accountability:

As an organization committed to transparency and accountability, we uphold the highest standards in financial reporting and governance. Our audited financial statements are available for public review, and we welcome any inquiries regarding our financial practices.

Acknowledgment of Donors and Supporters:

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our donors, supporters, and funding partners who have played an indispensable role in advancing our mission. Their belief in our vision has been instrumental in driving our programs forward and creating lasting positive change in the lives of our beneficiaries.

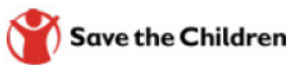
We are deeply grateful for the trust and support of our community, and we pledge to continue utilizing resources responsibly to make a profound impact on the lives of children, youth, and families in vulnerable situations.

Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARSIS

July 2023



Donor and partners 2022



How you can support Nisma ARSIS:

→ Advocate

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

→ Donate

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





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