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Action for Mothers and Children represents the foundation developing health programs in

- **Gynaecology/Obstetrics Clinics** (that care for mothers),
- **Neonatology Intensive Care Units** (that care for pre-mature babies), and
- **Pediatric Clinics** (that care for children suffering of Leukemia, heart diseases, asthma and other illnesses).

We believe that every child and mother have the right to a healthy life, regardless of where they are or what means they have.

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Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2014, we want to thank those around the world who have supported Action for Mothers and Children. As we get ready to do even better things for mothers and children in 2015, we ask you to continue your support.

Kosovo continues to have among the highest infant mortality rates in Europe with an ongoing desperate need for help to improve the healthcare for mothers and children.

Back in 2000, Kosovo's perinatal mortality rate was 29 deaths per 1,000 births, far and away the highest rate in Europe. Today, **the rate has dropped to 16 per 1,000** thanks to the ongoing work of many individuals and the concerted efforts of Action for Mothers and Children.

It was heartening to see donors supporting our foundation throughout 2014. In the year we are leaving behind, more than **300 children** have been saved and more than **800 mothers** have benefited from foundation's programs designed in the forms of medical trainings, supplies, equipment, health research and education, in cooperation with the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and the support of corporate, international and individual donors.

The purpose of applauding these figures is about the impact of your support and reflects our belief that humanitarian foundations cannot stand alone.

In our 2015 plan we will make sure that:

- premature babies at Neonatology Clinic will not die in lack of Survanta medication,
- our research programs will be the basis for our advocacy efforts to make sure the voice of mothers and children for better healthcare is heard, and
- our Women's Health Resource Center is expanding so that every mother has access to the information and care she needs.

2015 will find Action with a developed donor-relationship system based on transparency and regular communication, with a functional Medical Committee, and exciting fundraising events. **Our central challenge in 2015** is to match the heroism of children striving to live with the good humanitarian intentions of our local and international donors.

Prospects for the future look better, but Action needs your continuous support. Please remember that AMC is a not-for-profit humanitarian foundation, which plays an important role in the lives of children and mothers in the Republic of Kosovo by developing better systems for their care.

As we share our 2014 accomplishments with you through this end-of-year newsletter, we look forward to your continuous support in the coming year.

Your help makes our mission more powerful and possible. With warmest wishes for a happy and prosperous 2015!

AMC Board of Trustees & Staff



Action's 2014 Milestones

2014 marked a successful year for Action for Mothers and Children! Our **Women's Health Resource Center** expanded in Family Medicine Centers in Prishtina and Ferizaj providing much-needed education and counseling directly to pregnant women and young ones in a cozy and comfortable room setting.

More than 800 women have benefited from center's activities throughout the year.

- 192 babies have been saved during 2014 as a result of using the **Survanta medication**, secured thanks to AmeriCares and donations from Abbot Laboratories - an essential medication to develop lungs in premature babies and help them survive. Survanta vials needed for 2015 are on the way and we expect to deliver them soon.
- As a result of **1800 breathing tubes and the CRP blood-testing analyzer device** donated at Neonatology Clinic, medical staff can now test newborns at the bedside for infections and get the results immediately. Beforehand, parents had to obtain such blood tests for their newborns outside the clinic.
- AMC also established a **sophisticated cervical cancer screening program in Kosovo**, by becoming partner with 700 for Science Foundation, Hologic Company, and American Hospital in Kosovo, through which women in Kosovo have access to one of the most advanced cervical cancer detection and prevention technologies - liquid based cytology. This method has been proven to be more effective in cancer detection due to improvements in sample quality, sensitivity, specificity, and ability to perform reflex

molecular testing.

- After becoming the implementing partner of UNFPA for the **“Initial support in development of Line Services for Gynecology, Obstetrics and Neonatology Units in Kosovo,”** the foundation managed to evaluate human capacities and inventories in Kosovo for this health reform. This pilot program developed the basis for Action to play a key role in providing technical support by developing policy briefs and designing attainable advocacy programs for better health reform implementation.
- Research results from **KoSana Health Dialogue program**, funded by Solidar Suisse in Kosovo, have built a strong basis for upcoming advocacy programs for better health insurance schemes for mothers and children.

Action for Mothers and Children will launch its website soon

Here at Action for Mothers and Children, we are very excited to announce that the launch of our newly designed website which goes live soon is located at the new web address www.amchealth.org. The site’s homepage features bright colors and an uncluttered design, and the whole website will portray updates on our programs, news, as well as support and donation platforms. With this new website we aim to increase public awareness of our work and improve our transparency and openness.



Action for Mothers and Children hosted a Local Conference on Health Reforms

As an implementing partner of UNFPA, through funds of the initiative “Partnership for Improving Mother and Child Health” (UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO) financed by Luxembourg Government, AMC hosted the national conference on health reforms with the topic on Line Services as cornerstone for reforming

the health system in Kosovo. The conference presented preliminary results on evaluation of human capacities and the study on inventories for Gynaecology/Obstetrics and Neonatology hospitals in Kosovo and provided concrete concept note on efficient implementation of reforms for better healthcare delivery for mothers and children. More than 70 representatives from medical institutions, civil society and international organizations attended the conference.



The Consul General of the Republic of Kosovo in New York hosted a fundraising event for AMC

On December 9, 2014 the Consul General of the Republic of Kosovo, Mrs. Vlora Citaku hosted an informal benefit at her home supporting Action for Mothers and Children,

jointly with Viosa and Richard Lukaj in New York. This event managed to support the forces of Action for Mothers and Children towards saving the lives of mothers and children in the Republic of Kosovo by sustainable programs that reduce infant mortality rates and improves their healthcare. More updates will be shared in an upcoming newsletter.



The Fundraising Gala Dinner in Kosovo managed to raise Eur 16,650 for children in Kosovo

In its fundraising gala dinner hosted in November, Action for Mothers and Children managed to raise Eur 16,650 to support the mission of AMC to continue developing programs that save the lives of children and mothers in the Republic of Kosovo.

In this fundraising dinner, the leaders of AMC thanked Kosovar business community, who,

despite the economic challenges, did not hesitate to contribute for AMC's mission. This event was also supported by American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo. Among the companies who contributed in this dinner were: Bechtel Enka, Paper Communications, VM3 (platinum sponsors), Laboratori Prolab, RTV 21 (gold sponsors), Baker Tilly Kosovo, HIB Petrol, Limak Kosovo, Meridian Corporation (silver sponsors), Albi Group, AUK, Finca, Intercoop Group, Ipko, KEP, Koslabor, NLB Prishtina, Pestova, Railtrans, Z Mobile (regular sponsors).

The dinner was also supported by Albanian Embassy in Kosovo, Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo, AMM, Area Support Team Balkans, BlaueBlume, CEED Kosovo, ICK, Ipko Foundation, KEIS, ProCredit Bank, RC Cola, SCAAK and TEB.



Albanian Film Week in New York supported Action for Mothers and Children

Besides its unique long week activity, AFW this year served as a fundraiser for Action for Mothers and Children, aiding mothers and children with critical care needs in Kosovo. Each ticket purchase donated \$1 to AMC.

New Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees elected

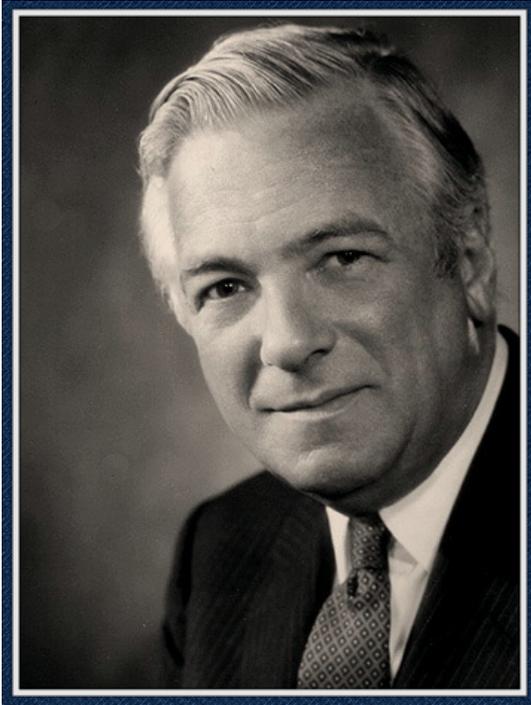
Action for Mothers and Children elected a new Chair of the Board and Vice-Chair. Ms. Ardiana Bunjaku is now the Chair of the Board at Action and Ms. Jehona Gjurgjeala our Vice-Chair, effective September 2014.

Ms. Ardiana Bunjaku is the Executive Director of Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Kosovo -SCAAK - one of the most effective, sustainable and internationally recognized Non-Governmental Organizations in Kosovo. In addition to her other accomplishments, in last twelve years she was part of development of accountancy profession and professional education in Kosovo. She has also been appointed by the Government of Kosovo to several powerful committees that provide oversight in key sectors relevant to the development of Kosovo's economy.

Ms. Jehona Gjurgjeala has extensive experience in strategy and execution in both profit and non-profit sectors. In her current role as Director of Account Management Customer Experience at Egencia (an Expedia Inc Company) she leads a number of large-scale commercial projects of high impact for the business globally.

Board of Trustees at Action for Mothers and Children is the highest organ of the organization responsible for governance and decision-making at Action.

John C. Whitehead joins Action as



Honorary Trustee

We are very pleased to announce that Mr. John C. Whitehead has joined Action as an Honorary Trustee. John C. Whitehead is a leading philanthropist in the USA. He is currently a board member of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation. Whitehead graduated from Haverford College in 1943 and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In 1947 he received an MBA from Harvard Business School, and subsequently joined the prestigious New York bank of Goldman and Sachs. From 1985 to 1989 Whitehead served as United States Deputy Secretary of State in Ronald Reagan's administration. In 2012, Whitehead was awarded the Freedom Prize for the second time.

Action is very pleased to have Mr. Whitehead join the Board of Trustees.



Richard Lukaj, Member of the Board of Trustees at Action is awarded "Nderi i Kombit" by President Nishani

Richard Lukaj, member of the Board of Trustees at Action, is awarded "Nderi i Kombit" by the Albanian President Nishani in New York recognizing his distinguished contributions to the creation and the defense of the Albanian state, the independence of Albania and Kosovo, the freedom and democracy, the protection of the rights of Albanians in Montenegro, Preshevo valley and Macedonia, and promoting greater ties between the Albanians and the American people.

Dr. James Strickler, founder and Honorary Trustee at Action is awarded as Outstanding Alumni for his Career Achievements

In an event held at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Dr. James Strickler was recognized for his career achievements by Dartmouth Medical Alumni. Dr. Strickler is the former dean of Dartmouth's medical school, who introduced the clinical curriculum and strengthened its academic programs and financial foundation. Dr. Strickler went on to lead global health initiatives to provide medical care to refugees and conflict-affected peoples around the world. He also spearheaded the Dartmouth project to assist Kosovo in rebuilding its health care infrastructure and systems.

To support our work:

Your donations are gratefully accepted and will be used to continue improving the healthcare for

mothers and children in Kosovo.

Give online via Donate Now button below. Donations are accepted through the Hitchcock Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organisation. Under *name of fund, program or doctor** please specify Action for Mothers and Children/Kosovo Fund.

DONATE NOW

Other ways to contribute:

Gifts may also be made by credit card, direct deposit, or cheque.

In the U.S.A.:

Action for Mothers and Children
Hitchcock Foundation
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
1 Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, NH 03756

The check or money order should be addressed to the Hitchcock Foundation/ Kosovo Fund/Action for Mothers and Children. The Hitchcock Foundation is recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. United States taxpayers may deduct contributions to the Foundation from their income taxes to the extent permitted by law.

In the U.K.:

HSBC Bank, Sort Code 40-29-08, Account No. 41244337
Or online at: <http://www.lcvs.org.uk/givemoney/donate-online/fhmb-kosovo.phuse>

In Kosovo:

Bank Name: Raiifeisen Bank Kosovo
Account No.: **1501-090-002-825-780**
Account Name: Aksioni per Nena dhe Femije

All donations to Action will be acknowledged in writing, and external auditors will annually review Action's budget. The Trustees and staff of Action will appreciate your generosity and also any comments, ideas and suggestions you may have.

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Our mailing address is:

Action for Mothers and Children

Mark Dizdar, St. #D8 Ulpiana
10,000 Prishtina
Republic of Kosovo
Email: info@amchealth.org
Phone: +381(0)38 748 309
Mobile: +386 49 685 943
Web: www.amchealth.org



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