



ANNUAL REPORT



2022

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	A Snapshot of Success _____	05
2.	2022 at a Glance _____	06
3.	A letter from the Executive Director _____	07
4.	We are Action for Mothers and Children _____	09
5.	How We make an Impact _____	09
6.	Our Strategic Objectives _____	10
7.	The Impact of our Programmes and Projects _____	11
8.	The Supply Programme _____	26
9.	Fundraising _____	30
10.	Our Partners _____	36
11.	Our Donors _____	39
12.	AMC Organogram _____	40
13.	Our Board _____	41
14.	Our Medical Committee _____	43
15.	Our Team _____	44
16.	Our Friends of Foundation _____	45
17.	How to Support AMC _____	47

01

A SNAPSHOT OF SUCCESS



In 2022, these eight beautiful babies were born in Lipjan, Kosovo, all of whom have benefited from the Group Care in the 1000 days project. The mothers of these babies received comprehensive prenatal care and support through the program, which enabled them to have healthy pregnancies and safe deliveries.

One of the beneficiaries of the project, a mother who gave birth to one of the eight babies, shared her experience:

"Before joining the group care sessions, I was worried about my pregnancy and had many questions about how to take care of myself and my baby. But thanks to the group care sessions, I received all the information and support I needed to have a healthy pregnancy and delivery. I am grateful for the care and attention that the healthcare professionals provided, and for the other expectant mothers who became my friends and supporters during this journey."

Through the group care antenatal program, the mothers of these eight babies received the care they needed to ensure the health and wellbeing of their babies. Today, these babies are growing up surrounded by the love and warmth of their families, and are thriving thanks to the support they received.

2. 2022 at a Glance



More than **2,600 pregnant women and their partners** were educated on various topics related to healthy pregnancy, healthy child growth, breastfeeding, and other health-related topics



More than **1000** health professionals from the primary healthcare level were trained on different modules through various health programs.



Over **37,000** home visits for pregnant women and children 0-3 years old were conducted.



The Group Care during the first **1000 days project** was launched in **Main Family Medicine Centers** in **Lipjan** and **Prizren**, where many women benefited from.



Through the **Cervical Cancer Screening Program**, more than **2500 free PAP tests** were provided to women and girls of our country.



Over **€199,000** worth of **medicaments** and **medical equipment** have been donated to healthcare institutions



More than **1,000 students, teachers and parents** benefited from educational sessions on the importance of healthy nutrition.



New guidelines and menus have been introduced and **185 pre-school staff members**, including educators and other personnel, have received training on their implementation.

3.



A letter from the Executive Director

Dear AMC partners and supporters,

It is with great joy that I share the progress we have made in 2022 towards our mission of improving maternal and child health in Kosovo. I want to express my sincere gratitude to our partners, donors, board members, and team for their unwavering support and dedication to our cause. Through our Women's Health Resource Centers program, we provided crucial healthcare services and educational sessions to thousands of parents, parents-to-be and girls in need.

The Home Visiting Program expanded its reach in new municipalities, while the Healthy Nutrition and Cervical Cancer Screening programs increased awareness and provided services to those who needed them. Thanks to the support of our partners and donors, we were able to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

We provided donations of essential medical supplies, equipment and medication to healthcare institutions, and to breast cancer patients and GBV victims.

Our staff worked tirelessly to ensure that our programs and services remained effective and impactful. I am grateful for their hard work and dedication.

In 2022, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we were finally able to organize our fundraising events in Kosovo and the Diaspora and meet with our supporters again. I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Albanian community in the Diaspora for their continued support. Your support keeps us motivated to work hard and make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our vision where all women and children in Kosovo are able to realize their right to a qualitative life, health, and wellbeing, and leave no one behind. With your continued support, we look forward to making even greater strides towards this goal.

As we start the new year, I wish you success, growth, and fulfillment in both your personal and professional endeavors. I also want to invite you to read our annual report to learn more about the impact and achievements we made possible in the last year. Our report provides a comprehensive overview of our programs and services, and we hope it inspires and encourages you to continue supporting our mission and join us in making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support, and we look forward to another year of progress and impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vlorian Molligaj". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director

4. We are Action for Mothers and Children

Action for Mothers and Children (AMC), is a non-for-profit foundation with the foremost goal to save the lives of children and improve the health care for mothers in the Republic of Kosovo through developing better systems for the care of pregnant women and their children.

We believe that every child and mother has the right to a healthy life, regardless of where they are or what means they have. By developing and implementing programs that improve the health care of mothers and their infants, the number of children who die unnecessarily can be substantially decreased. We aim to focus on the development of sustainable, high quality, and capacity building health care programs for mothers and children in Kosovo.

5. How do we make an impact?

Our Foundation's work is based upon four pillars:

- **Education** of patients and health care providers in order to improve the quality of care delivered, especially patient-centered health services;
- **Advocacy** on behalf of mothers and children for better health care, especially for evidence-based policy decision-making;
- **Research** and studies identifying gaps in maternal and child health and prioritize the most concerning trends to address them;
- **Fundraising** for supplies of medications and equipment to meet national needs

6. Our Programmatic Strategy

1

Reduce infant and neonatal mortality rate

4

Protect Women's and Children's Rights

2

Reduce morbidity and mortality among women

5

Raise philanthropic awareness in Kosovo and Diaspora

3

Reduce morbidity and mortality among children

7. The impact of our Programmes and Projects

Women's Health Resource Center

More than 10,000 pregnant women, mothers, and couples have received education and guidance on topics such as family planning, having a healthy pregnancy, breastfeeding, and the postnatal period.

In 2022, the Women's Health Resource Centers (WHRC) provided services to 2,648 women and their partners, while over 10,000 pregnant women, mothers, and fathers have benefited from WHRC services since 2015.

To improve the quality of healthcare services in Women's Health Resource Centers, all 14 WHRC-s were provided with necessary work tools, medical equipment and medicines such as pulse oximeter, glucometer, gloves, prenatal vitamins, etc.

Furthermore, professional training was conducted for 60 health professionals on the "Anatomy and physiology of female genital organs" and the use of CTG equipment to increase professional capacities among healthcare professionals in Main Family Medicine Centers. The program "Mother Classes" or Women's Health Resource Centers aims to educate women on family planning, antenatal and postnatal care, postnatal

depression, breastfeeding, new-born care, baby nutrition, immunization, and women's care. Access to information remains crucial for a healthy pregnancy and healthy newborns. These centers provide educational and counseling services directly to women and their partners. Women learn from videos, educational handouts, small group sessions, and individual counseling with a midwife, nurse, or gynecologist, all in a comfortable setting. The program is open to young women, mothers, fathers and couples who want to get reliable information on healthy pregnancies and the postpartum period.





The Home Visiting Programme

The Home Visiting Programme aims at improving the maternal and child health especially for families who reside in rural areas and have limited access to Family Medicine Centers, thereby bringing healthcare services to their doorstep.

More than 80,000 children aged 0-3 and 15,000 pregnant women have been reached since the inception of the Home Visiting Programme. A total of 37,335 home visits have been provided to pregnant women and children 0-3 years old during 2022, and 16.375 children have been visited for the first time during the same period.

Throughout 2022, we organized workshops and training sessions to raise the capacities of health professionals in delivering effective home visiting services for pregnant women and children aged between 0 and 3 years. 16 groups, amounting to 405 healthcare professionals, were trained in the Home Visiting program. The groups consisted of 48 doctors, 307 nurses, 16 educators, and 34 social workers.

To further improve the Home Visiting program and achieve the 2022 goals, seven exchange meetings and two workshops were conducted with program coordinators, while another workshop was held with directors of the Main Family Medicine Centers to expand and improve the program.

Moreover, a Training of Trainers was organized to expand the Home Visiting training package with two additional modules, on "Protecting Children from Vaccine-Preventable Diseases" and "Responsive Feeding," to strengthen the program's health counseling for families with young children.

To support Primary Health Care institutions to respond and control outbreaks and maintain the continuation of home visiting programmes and routine immunization, UNICEF Kosovo in partnership with Action for Mothers and Children supported the Primary Health Care institutions to develop IPC protocols for the Home Visiting programme for children 0-3 and pregnant women.

A total of **200 health professionals** from the Main Family Center such as nurses and midwives were trained in Infection Prevention and Control Training from all municipalities of Kosovo. The training was organized for the coordinators and nurses of this program with the aim of gaining more knowledge about the prevention and control of infection for the health professionals who conduct home visits, especially during the period with the global pandemic COVID-19.

The Home Visiting programme is led by the Ministry of Health, implemented by AMC and supported by UNICEF in Kosovo with the financial support of the Government of Luxembourg.

As part of the Home Visiting programme, two visits are carried out for pregnant women during the pregnancy period and five visits for children 0-3 years old for every family. During home visits, trained nurses and other health professionals assess the health of children and pregnant women, and support families in applying best practices for healthy development, nutrition, child safety, early education and responsible parenting.

Breastfeeding Week "Support Breastfeeding"

As part of the Home Visiting programme, in the municipalities of Gjilan, Lipjan, Dragash and Gjakova, **breastfeeding week** was marked with this year's theme "Support breastfeeding" with promotional activities in order to highlight the importance of breastfeeding.

To raise awareness about the significance of breastfeeding, primary health care nurses offered free counseling for pregnant women, mothers and fathers, and distributed promotional materials like informational brochures, pins and baby gifts. Additionally, Home Visiting nurses and midwives made an appearance on two popular television shows, Familja ime - Klan Kosova and Per dite mbare - RTV 21, to discuss and promote breastfeeding during the breastfeeding week.



To raise awareness about the importance of breastfeeding through the Home Visiting program, we have also launched an awareness video which emphasizes the importance of breastfeeding in the lives of babies and emphasizes the benefits of breastfeeding. The video has been released on Action for Mothers and Children's social media channels and IKSHPK - National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo's social media channels.

Watch Breastfeeding Awareness Video Campaign: <https://shorturl.at/mxFPS>





Group Care for the first 1000 days

An alternative approach for pregnant women to gain a better understanding of prenatal and postnatal care, which involves receiving health care services, education, and support.

The Group Care for the first 1000 days was officially launched in June 2022 with a press conference which provided an opportunity to discuss the project in greater detail. Among the topics discussed was the critical role that midwives play in the project. The conference shed light on the importance of the midwives' support during the early stages of pregnancy and their role in providing valuable guidance throughout the first 1000 days of a child's life. The event highlighted the significance of the project's mission to promote group care for pregnant women, and how it has shown to have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of mothers and their children.

In the Main Family Medicine Centers in Lipjan and Prizren municipalities group sessions for pregnant women as part of the Group Care project were conducted. In Lipjan's Main Family Medicine Center, 21 sessions for four groups of same or similar gestational age were conducted from which 33 pregnant women benefited.. In Prizren's Main Family Medicine Center, 4 sessions were organized for two formed groups, from which a total of 16 pregnant women benefited.

Trained midwives provided reliable, evidence-based information and counseled the women on maintaining a healthy pregnancy and onward. Besides information and counseling offered by the midwives, pregnant women can also learn through the interactive nature of these sessions, allowing them to share their experiences and thereby learn from one another. In 2022, the National Committee for the Supervision of Group Care during 1000 days, held its second meeting to discuss the progress and challenges of the project, as well as recommendations for its effective implementation in the future.

Group Care during the first 1000 days is an international project funded by the European Commission through the HORIZON 2020 program and is implemented by a consortium of partners from the Netherlands, Belgium, United States, England, South Africa, Suriname, United States, Ghana, and Kosovo. Antenatal and/or postnatal group care is being implemented in seven different countries of the world with high, middle and low incomes. The data collected and analyzed during the implementation of this project will be used to compile a toolkit which will serve all countries to implement group care, a model that is also promoted by the WHO.





Coalition Of Organizations On Reproductive Health Rights - K10

Coalition of many organizations dedicated to improving sexual and reproductive health and advancing reproductive rights.

During 2022, Action for Mothers and Children with the support of UNFPA organized training on different topics, where a total of 133 primary healthcare professionals (doctors and nurses) participated.

Some of the training conducted within the program are: Gender-based Violence; Comprehensive Syndromic Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections; Family Planning; Adolescent Health Orientation Program; Professional Ethics and Patients' Rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health of Persons with Disabilities. All these trainings are accredited by the Chamber of Doctors and the Chamber of Nurses in Kosovo.

Every year, these organizations mark nine international days with various campaigns and activities such as: International Day Against Discrimination, World Health Day, World Family Day, World Youth Day, International Day of Contraception, International Day of the Girl Child, Breast Cancer Awareness Month (promotional video, wig and bra donation for 100 women) as well as the organization of the march / traditional walk in Mother Teresa Square, 16 days activism against gender-based violence, International Day of Solidarity with Patients (Round table for insurance health in Kosovo).

Created under the initiative of Action for Mothers and Children (AMC) and with the support of UNFPA - Kosovo Office, K10 is the first Coalition of its kind in Kosovo, addressing the numerous challenges that Kosovo faces in respect to sexual and reproductive health . Through this coalition, along with many other organizations, we advocate to raise awareness about the rights to reproductive health. This coalition, supported by UNFPA, monitors legal systems so that reproductive health rights are respected and protected and mobilizes civil society to react to any violation of these rights. AMC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Division for Primary Care respectively, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA builds professional capacities of health professionals through various training. The training programs are accredited by the Kosovo Doctors Chamber and the Kosovo Nurses Chamber.





The Cervical Cancer Screening Programme

Since the beginning of the programme more than 14,000 Pap tests and cervical cancer screenings have been provided free of charge to Kosovo women and girls in order to prevent cervical cancer.

Only during 2022, **free PAP tests** were provided to **2,544** women and girls. To date, over **14, 000 free Pap tests** have been offered to women and girls of our country through this program to detect precancerous and cancerous processes in the cervix to prevent or treat cervical cancer before it progresses.

With the support of the Australian Embassy to Croatia and Kosovo in September, an online training provided for 200 primary level health professionals on breastfeeding counseling and the use of the/ "Gjdhënia"/"Breastfeeding" website/application, created specifically for the needs of this field. During this training, health professionals had the opportunity to gain knowledge that they will be able to share with patients, about the existence of the website/application, how to use it and above all the importance of breastfeeding. This is the second year in a row that this training is being held to inform and encourage the health staff to use the website/application "Gjdhënia".

To mark the international cervical cancer awareness week, with the support of UNFPA - Office in Kosovo, we donated two computers, one to the Main Family Medicine Center (MFMC) in Pejë and one to the (MFMC) in Mitrovica. This donation was provided after the need to improve the quality of documentation of the Cervical Cancer Screening Program's services had been identified.

During 2022, we organized six educational lectures on the "Prevention of Cervical Cancer," which were attended by 73 primary school teachers and other staff members, and 70 health professionals (doctors and nurses) from the primary health care institutions - Family Medicine Centers in Prishtina.

These lectures were organized with the aim to improve the professional capacities of health professionals and raise awareness about Cervical Cancer Screening.

Supported by UNFPA, we are the initiators and implementers of the Cervical Cancer Screening Program in Kosovo through which free PAP-tests are offered for women and girls in Kosovo to prevent cervical cancer. These free Pap tests are offered in primary healthcare centers for women and girls in Prishtina, Prizren, Mitrovica and Peja Municipalities to prevent cervical cancer and increase the chances of early detection. Our goal is to expand this program in other municipalities as well, so that screenings can be offered to all women in Kosovo in the future.





Healthy Eating for Children

Providing training, information sessions, and workshops on healthy eating habits to 776 preschool staff members and parents of preschoolers, 628 primary school children, and 386 teachers and parents of primary school students

During 2022, a total of **9 trainings were** held with preschool staff, **12 workshops** with primary school students, **19 info sessions** with primary school teachers of the primary school level about **healthy eating in childhood**

Workshops on healthy nutrition were held with primary school students of 10 different schools in Kosovo. Students had the opportunity to be informed about healthy eating habits and were encouraged to take lunch boxes to school. **A total of 628** Primary school students (10 primary schools) from Gjakova, Lipjan, Dragash, Prishtina and Viti municipalities were benefactors of these workshops.

Information sessions were held with teachers and parents of primary school students about healthy nutrition and cultivating good eating habits for children. In these sessions the practice of taking lunch boxes from home was endorsed and various lunch box ideas were shared with parents. **A total of 208 teachers and 178 parents** of 20 primary schools from the municipalities: Gjakova, Gjilan, Dragash, Prishtina, Ferizaj, Peja, Vushtrri, Viti, Kacanik, Kamenica, Klina were benefactors of these information sessions on healthy nutrition.

A total of 185 preschool staff such as educators, cooks, directors etc., were trained on how to put the guideline and new menus in best use. The training aimed to enhance their professional capacities so that they can cultivate healthy eating habits in children of 6 months - 6 years. Benefactors of this training are preschool staff of the municipalities: Prishtina (Yllkat, Xixëllonjat dhe Fatosat), Gjakova (Ganimete Tërbeshi), Ferizaj (Ardhmëria Jonë dhe Engjujt), Peja (Pëllumbat e Paqes), Gjilan (Integj, Dardania, Ardhmëria 1, Ardhmëria 2), Vushtrri (Foleja dhe Foleja 2), Mitrovica (Gezimi ynë) dhe Lipjan (Çerdhja).

A total of 19 Information sessions with parents of preschool children (individual or in groups) were conducted to equip them with skills and information relevant to support healthy nutrition with 556 parents of the following municipalities: Gjilan, Ferizaj, Kamenica, Fushë Kosova and Lipjan.

A 3-day workshop was held with experts and members of the Interministerial Committee for Health Promoting Schools (HPSs) who are jointly working on the evaluation of the Strategy of HPSs and on the Action Plan for 2022-2026.

On November 30, the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation officially launched the Guide and Menus for Planning Nutrition in Preschool Institutions in the Republic of Kosovo. This event aimed to inform the main stakeholders of the institutional, municipal and national levels about the content and importance of the Guide for creating and sustaining an environment which promotes the importance of healthy nutrition and good eating habits to reach children's full potential in preschools.

The Guide and Menus for Planning of Nutrition in Preschool Institutions in the Republic of Kosovo was drafted by MSc. Blerina Bombay, Clinical Dietitian. the Multisectoral Group, consisting of representatives of: the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Health, University Clinical Center of Kosovo, National Institute of Public Health, Food and Veterinary Agency, Collegium of Directors of Preschool Institutions, Municipal Directorate for Education in Pristina Central Kitchen in Pristina, UNICEF Office in Kosovo, Action for Mothers and Children. This guide is in alignment with the "Administrative Guide for Healthy Nutrition of Children in Pre-University Educational Institutions" which provides key information on the importance and principles of proper nutrition and the nutritional needs of children in educational institutions.

With the support of UNICEF, we started implementing the 'Healthy Eating for Children' project by developing guidelines, menus, and recommendations for healthy nutrition for children, which were then approved by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, and lastly disseminated to relevant actors. The new menus are now being integrated in preschools so that all preschoolers eat meals that are rich in nutrients, thereby preventing noncommunicable diseases that may appear in adulthood due to malnutrition.



8. The supply programme

SUPPLIES OF MEDICATIONS AND EQUIPMENT TO SAVE LIVES OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Through collaborations with various donors and international organizations, we are able to provide essential medications and equipment for the well-being of mothers and children. The annual value of this aid exceeds one million euros.

One of our significant partnerships is with Americares, which enables us to secure medications like Surfactant, used to develop lungs in premature infants, as well as prenatal vitamins, amoxicillin, contraceptives, and other medical supplies that are crucial to the health of mothers and children.

In July 2022, we made a donation of the surfactant medication "Survanta" worth approximately **150,000 euros** to the Neonatology Clinic at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo. This donation of 220 bottles was made possible through our ongoing partnership with Americares.

These donations are essential in providing critical care to mothers and children, and we are grateful for the continued support and collaboration of our donors and partners.

This quantity simultaneously covers the annual supply needed with this life-saving medicine. Babies who experience breathing problems are deficient in surfactant – layer fluid inside the lungs. Babies usually do not start producing surfactant for several weeks after birth. Without sufficient amounts of surfactant, it leads to lung collapse and prematurely born babies cannot breathe.

Therefore, Surfactant is essential in prevention and treatment of RDS (respiratory distress syndrome) and reduces the mortality rate caused by RDS. Over the past 10 years, Surfactant donations have saved the lives of more than 6000 premature and low-birth-weight babies in Kosovo.





With the financial support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), we donated laptops worth 5,327.7 euros to 7 Women's Health Resource Centers (WHRCs) that lacked functional ones, as well as medical supplies to 14 WHRCs, including digital baby scales, glucometers, and test strips for glucometers.



Additionally, we have donated prenatal and lactation vitamins in the amount of 3,000 bottles, worth 12,572 euro, to the Clinic of Gynecology in the University Clinical Center of Kosovo (QKUK) in June 2022, and 11,299 euro to 14 Main Family Medicine Centers in Kosovo in 2022. These donations were made possible with the continued support of the donor Americares.

Furthermore, we have made a donation of approximately 2,400 euros' worth of equipment, food, and other essential products to shelters housing gender-based violence victims in Kosovo with the financial support of EBRD.

We have provided 100 care packages worth 1,500 euros to breast cancer patients and 300 care packages worth 3,000 euros to shelters housing GBV victims.

In October 2022, mebendazole medication, including 25 bottles (30 ml) of syrup and 60 (100 mg) tablets, was donated to the Pediatric Clinic at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK).

The hospital pump for pumping breast milk in the amount of 3,597euro was delivered to the Neonatology Clinic, as a donation from a joint campaign between Ariana Nila Jewelry, Mother, AMC and Rina Demiri - representative of La Leche League Kosovo



In October 2022, Ariana Nila, Rina Demiri, together with us - AMC joined forces to promote breastfeeding through launching an awareness raising campaign structured to help, inform and educate new mothers and pregnant women on the importance of breastfeeding and overcoming its difficulties.

Simultaneously with raising awareness, the goal of the three-month lasting campaign was to raise enough funds to purchase a professional hospital breast milk pump, for premature babies, which would be donated to the Clinic of Neonatology in the UCCK.

To support the cause, Ariana Nila Jewelry launched two products: "Silver Nursing

Cups" and "Breastmilk Jewelry". A portion of the sales made from these products was allocated to the budget intended for the purchase of the professional pump. Whereas, Rina Demiri helped translate and adapt an educational book about breastfeeding, which was approved by IKSHPK and published by AMC. With the purchase of one of the Ariana Nila Jewelry products, this book was given away for free. The campaign was financially supported by the AMC.



9. Fundraising

Fundraising events and Philanthropy Awareness

Since the establishment of our foundation, together with our donors and partners we have been committed to improving the healthcare system so every mother and every child, regardless of their socio-economic status, can receive health services of quality in our country, without needing to seek financial support for medical treatment abroad. Despite the difficulties and challenges that we face through this journey, the continuous generosity and unwavering support from many well-wishers and donors motivate us to never cease our efforts and keep pursuing our vision. The philanthropy plays a fundamental role in improving the healthcare services offered in Kosovo. Thus, it is crucial to build relationships between the philanthropic communities in Kosovo and the diaspora. To support our cause, AMC organizes several fundraising events in Kosovo, Zurich and USA among the Albanian community.

As part of our public relations and awareness raising effort, AMC has established different social media platforms. Through these platforms we keep our donors, partners, stakeholders, collaborators and community informed of AMC's achievements, results, and overall mission. Additionally, through TV and radio broadcasting we promote our programs, raise awareness and advocate AMC's mission: to save lives and improve the health of infants, children and mothers in the Republic of Kosovo.

Save a Life is a charity event organized for several years in Zurich that brings together the Albanian community living there with a common goal: to improve the health services offered for mothers and children in Kosovo.

In 2022, via this event **over 24,000 euros** were raised. Many prominent personalities from the field of health, art and representatives of various Albanian companies and organizations attended the evening and contributed by donating funds to help and support AMC's programs. During the event, there was dinner served accompanied with live music.



Cycle Kosovo for Children is a fundraising event that was first organized in 2014. Since then, a group of 40-50 cyclists participate in the annual tour that lasts 2-3 days, cycling across Kosovo to support AMC's mission. This event has been transformed into an annual tradition, enthusiastically awaited by many foreign and local cyclists.

The tour continues every year with the same goal of helping children and babies have access to health services of quality, by raising funds for the purchase of medical equipment for Pediatric and Neonatology clinics in Kosovo hospitals.

The funds collected from last year's event were destined to purchase the much needed medical equipment for the Pediatric Clinic in the Regional Hospital of Gjilan, to help diagnose and treat different diseases. The donated equipment includes: a pediatric monitor, three electronic pulses oximeters, a portable pediatric spirometer, three inhalers, a glucometer, a pediatric ophthalmoscope, a sphygmomanometer, a table with a baby heater, a vein detector, three non-contact thermometers, a tympanometry - amounting to approximately **10,000 euros**.



Let's Dance is an annual fundraising event that gathers over 500 participants in Prishtina, from the business community, civil society, local and foreign companies/organizations for a night on the dance floor, to mobilize the community to support our mission.

After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, on its 6th edition the charity event **Let's Dance** returned full of energy to help the mothers and children in our country. This time the event was held at Klan Arena, where 400 supporters of AMC's mission attended. The funds collected from sponsorships and ticket sales amounted to **33,000 euros**. The purpose of this event is to raise funds which will be used to support the continuation of AMC's programs, through providing medicines and medical equipment for public healthcare institutions in Kosovo.



Meet Us Halfway is an annual fundraising event organized by AMC in New York, gathering the Albanian community living there to raise funds to help improve the health of mothers and children in Kosovo. This annual charity event brings together over 100 well-wishers and benefactors in support of our cause. The spirit of generosity and unwavering help of AMC's mission promoters, unfolded once more at the "Yale Club Grand Ballroom" in New York, USA, on October 21st, 2022. After a two-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the "Meet Us Halfway" event raised over **70,000 US dollars**.



The donated funds of our supporters, coming from the business, political and cultural community of the Albanian diaspora in the US, will be used to acquire medications and medical equipment for the public healthcare institutions in Kosovo through AMC's programs.

During a special ceremony at the 6th edition of the Meet Us Halfway fundraiser at the Yale Club on October 21st 2022, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and inspiring work for mothers and children the **Lifetime Contribution Award 2022 was presented to Mr. Valon Xharra**.

The Lifetime Contribution Award, recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions towards Action for Mothers and Children, through their major support and their professional career to the progress and development of the AMC. The award

acknowledges the individuals that have played a major role in the introduction, growth and development of revolutionary programs with the organization at national and international level.

Mr. Valon Xharra was a chairman of AMC board for two mandates during the 2018 – 2021. During his time as a chairman, Mr. Valon Xharra made crucial steps towards further development of the foundation, both in funding and in networking especially in the USA. One of the biggest successes for AMC at the time the board was led by Valon has been organizing the annual fundraising event “Meet us Halfway” in New York, USA, where for years we managed to raise thousands of dollars to support AMC programs that have a major impact on improving the health of mothers and children in Kosovo. Currently, Mr. Xharra continues his contribution as a Vice Chairman of the AMC Board.



Social enterprise Teshavesha

Teshavesha is a charity shop in Prishtina, that operates with the main goal of raising funds to support the programs of AMC. The shop receives clothing donations from the citizens and clothing companies free of charge, which are then sold at symbolic prices.

In addition to its charitable and social objectives, Teshavesha also strives to contribute

towards reducing environmental pollution by promoting the reuse and recycling of textile materials and products.

Teshavesha is not only dedicated to raising funds for its cause, but it is also committed to empowering marginalized women by offering them employment opportunities through its thrift shops. The Social Enterprise operates entirely on the goodwill of community members who donate their gently used clothing items.

Overall, the donation of clothes is a significant gesture of support from the community towards Teshavesha's mission. It not only provides much-needed financial support but also helps tackle critical social and environmental issues faced by society.

Teshavesha has been operating successfully for several years now, with two stores located in Prishtina. In 2022, there was a significant increase in clothing donations from both individuals and companies who wanted to contribute to the organization's mission. Teshavesha every year recycles about **25,000 kg** of textile.



10. Our Partners

At AMC, we recognize the vital role that partnerships play in achieving our mission. Our partners bring unique expertise, resources, and perspectives to the table, allowing us to expand our reach and impact. We are proud to collaborate with a diverse range of organizations and institutions who share our vision and are committed to making a positive difference in the health sector in Kosovo. We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners and look forward to continuing our journey together.

UNICEF



Save the Children



United Nations Fund for Population Activities



World Health Organization



Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center



The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice



Americares



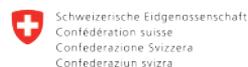
March of Dimes



Direct Relief International



Swiss Embassy



Australian Embassy



▼
Bulgarian Embassy



▼
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

Activity supported by the
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Activité soutenue avec l'appui du
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

Canada

▼
Group Care Global, USA



▼
TNO, Netherlands

TNO innovation
for life

▼
City, University of London, United Kingdom



▼
LUMC, Netherlands

L U Leids Universitair
M C Medisch Centrum

▼
VUB, Belgium

VUB VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

▼
University of Cape Town, South Africa



▼
PERISUR, Suriname

Perisur

▼
PHS, Ghana



▼
SIMAVI, Netherlands

Simavi
Powerful women, healthy societies.

▼
Cycle Kosovo for Children - CKC



▼
EBRD Community Initiative

European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

End of Violence Against Children



Women's Children and Adolescent's Health



AMC has a long history of working in collaboration with the Government of Kosovo, ministries, municipalities, healthcare institutions, etc. Our joint efforts have significantly contributed to lower infant mortality rate and improve the health of mothers and children. Below are the names of some of the institutions that we have been closely working with



The Government of Kosovo
Office of Good Governance



Ministry of Health



Ministry of Education, Science
Technology and Innovation



Ministry of Labour and
Social Welfare



Assembly of the Republic of
Kosovo, Committee on Health
and Social Welfare



University Clinical
Center of Kosovo

Municipality of **Deçan**
Municipality of **Gjakovë**
Municipality of **Glllogoc**
Municipality of **Gjilan**
Municipality of **Dragash**
Municipality of **Istog**
Municipality of **Kaçanik**
Municipality of **Klinë**
Municipality of **Fushë Kosovë**
Municipality of **Kamenicë**
Municipality of **Lipjan**
Municipality of **Obiliq**
Municipality of **Rahovec**
Municipality of **Pejë**
Municipality of **Podujevë**

Municipality of **Prishtinë**
Municipality of **Prizren**
Municipality of **Skënderaj**
Municipality of **Shtime**
Municipality of **Shtërpcë**
Municipality of **Suharekë**
Municipality of **Ferizaj**
Municipality of **Viti**
Municipality of **Vushtrri**
Municipality of **Malishevë**
Municipality of **Novobërdë**
Municipality of **South Mitrovica**
Municipality of **Junik**
Municipality of **Hani i Elezit**
Municipality of **Mamushë**

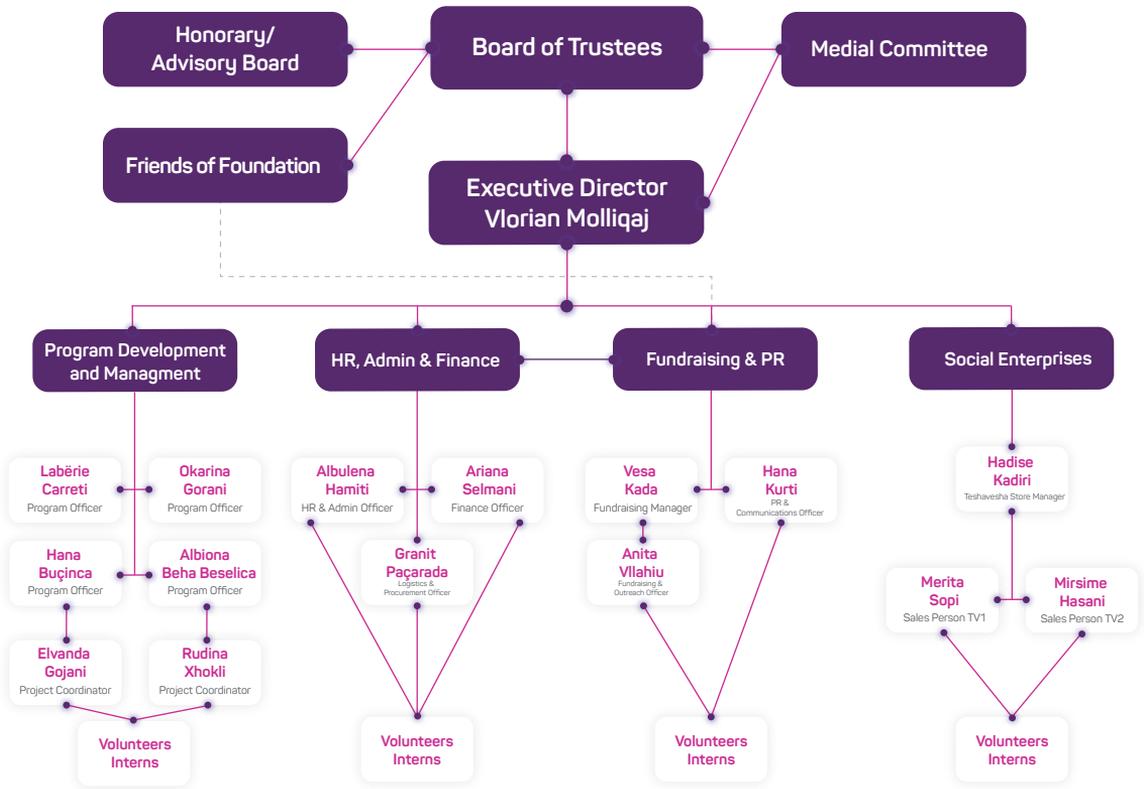
11. Our Donors for 2022

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors for their unwavering support throughout the year. Their generosity and commitment to our mission have enabled us to make a significant impact on the betterment of health of mothers and children in Kosovo. Thank you for being a part of our journey and for making a positive difference in the world.



12. Organizational Structure of AMC

As we present our organizational structure through this organogram, we recognize the invaluable contributions and extend our gratitude to each member of our organization for their continued efforts to make a difference in the health sector of Kosovo.



13. Our Board

Our Members of the Board play a critical role in guiding AMC by strategically planning its direction. Composed of a dedicated international group of individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise, our Board provides invaluable leadership, governance, and oversight to our organization. We are grateful for their commitment to our mission and the countless hours of service they dedicate to AMC.

<https://amchealth.org/board/>



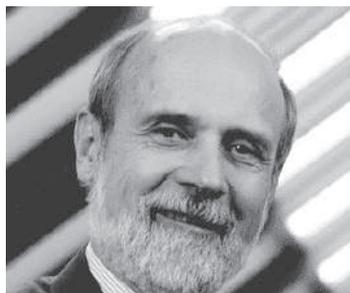
Mrika Aliu Chairwoman



Valon Xharra Vice Chairman



Ilir Hoxha Board Member



George Little Board Member



Elizabet Peraj Board Member



Drin Kukaj Board Member

Advisory Board



Afërdita Ademi Osmani



Merita Stavileci Mustafa



Zarrin Munusamy

Honorary Board



James Strickler

Honorary Chairman



Elia Zaharia

Honorary Trustee



Richard Lukaj

Honorary Trustee



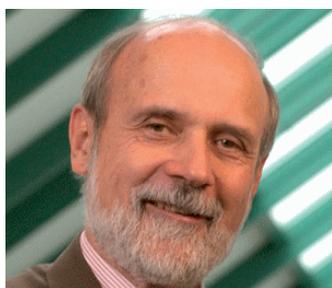
Philip Sigwart

Honorary Trustee

14. Our Medical Committee

Our Medical Committee's expertise and guidance are particularly critical in our maternal and child health programs. Their knowledge and experience in obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, neonatology, and midwifery are invaluable in ensuring the safety and well-being of mothers and children. They provide critical oversight and quality control to our programs, ensuring that our care is evidence-based, up-to-date, and aligned with best practices. Thanks to their effort, we are able to provide comprehensive and high-quality care programs for mothers and children, improving their health outcomes and reducing maternal and child mortality and morbidity rates in Kosovo.

<https://amchealth.org/medical-committee/>



Dr. George Little

Chair of Medical Committee



Dr. Jehona Binishi Sylja

Member



Dr. Drita Lumi Demiri

Member



Dr. Pranvera Zejnullahu Raçi

Member



Dr. Qamile Zeqiraj

Member



Dr. Merita Vuthaj

Member



Dr. Elida Islamaj

Member



Dr. Mynavere Latifi Hoxha

Member

15. Our Team

We acknowledge and appreciate that the foundation of AMC's success is built upon our team and their commitment to achieve the shared goal. We are fortunate to have a passionate and dedicated group of individuals with rich experience and expertise in the field. AMC will always be grateful and thankful to the team for the years of service and devotion to making our mission, vision and values come true every day for the community we live in.



Vlorian Molliqaj

Executive Director



Vesa Kada

Fundraising & Events Manager



Albiona Beha Beselica

Program Officer



Laberie Çarreti Sylejmani

Program Officer



Okarina Gorani

Program Officer



Hana Buçinca

Program Officer



Elvanda Gojani

K10 Coordinator



Rudina Xhokli

Program Coordinator



Hana Kurti

PR & Events Officer

**Anita Vllahiu**

Fundraising and Outreach Officer

**Ariana Hoxha Selmani**

Finance Officer

**Albulena Jashari Hamiti**

Office & Procurement Officer

16. Our Friends of Foundation

Our Friends of Foundation is a group of passionate individuals who support our fund raising efforts. Their commitment to our mission enables us to expand our programs, reach more women and children, and make a greater impact. Thanks to their dedication, we are able to continue to grow and scale-up our programs.

**Agnesa Vuthaj****Agon Gashi****Bekim Ahmetaj****Bledar Asllani****Fadil Berisha****Ilirjana Bajraktari**



Jehona Gjurgjeala



Lindita Baleta



Dr Omer Dzemali



Merita Gashi



Sara Shala



Teuta Sahatqija



Zana Aqifi



Vlora Çitaku



Përparim Avdili



Barrbara Burri Sharanih

17. How to support AMC?

Together we can save lives and improve the health of infants, mothers and children in the Republic of Kosovo. Maternal and child mortality is closely linked to poverty, lack of education and lack of necessary medications and equipment. By developing and implementing programs that improve health care for mothers and children, the mortality rate can be significantly reduced.

Your help would have an invaluable impact in achieving our goal. You can help us by [volunteering](#), [giving donations](#) or organizing [fundraising](#) activities to support our organization's mission.

Volunteer

Get involved now by becoming a volunteer! Lend a hand to help those in need!

Our organization is dedicated to offering volunteer work opportunities to young students, researchers, scholars and others! If interested please fill out the form on our website or contact us.

Fundraise for us

Do something great and help us be there for mothers and children in Kosovo.

As an independent NGO, support from fundraisers like you really go a long way in helping us provide vital support to the most vulnerable people in Kosovo. There are lots of ways to get involved – from running, cycling, to organizing a tournament. Whatever the idea, every single donation, no matter how large or small, makes a difference.

Donate

Your donations are gratefully appreciated and will be used to continue improving the health of mothers and children in Kosovo.

All donations to us will be acknowledged in writing, and external auditors will annually review AMC's budget.

Donate in Kosovo

Bank Name: Raiffeisen Bank Kosovo

Account name: AKSIONI PER NENA DHE FEMIJE

SWIFT Code: RBKOKKPR

Account number: 1501090002825780

Currency: EUR

IBAN: XK05

IBAN for foreign transfers: IBAN = XK051501090002825780

Donate in the USA

Action for Mothers and Children

Hitchcock Foundation

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

1 Medical Center Drive

Lebanon, NH 03756

You can also contribute by direct deposit or cheque.

* Online donations in the U.S.A. are accepted via PayPal at the Hitchcock Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization. Under name of fund, program or doctor* **please specify** Action for Mothers and Children/Kosovo Fund under section name of fund, program or doctor*

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.

Contact us

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www.amchealth.org



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