

M A R C H

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MONITORING OF PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITY
ALBANIA

SPECIAL
EDITION



M O N I T O R I N G O F
P H I L A N T H R O P I C A C T I V I T Y
d u r i n g
C O V I D - 1 9 S I T U A T I O N

MARCH 2020

Partners Albania has been monitoring philanthropic activity in Albania through media research, including social media, as well as other sources of information from public and non-public institutions. The research is conducted on a daily basis and the findings present the supported issues, the nature of the donations, and the nature of the donors. Through this Special Edition Partners Albania presents cases of the monitoring of this activity during the COVID-19 situation in Albania.

Philanthropy in quarantine time

Current Situation
31 March 2020

243

Cases

13

Victims

52

Recovered

For months we have been facing a global health crisis as a result of COVID-19. The current situation is very difficult and unprecedented, and unfortunately we still know very little about this virus. Up until March 31 2020, more than 88,000 people affected worldwide were estimated.

Managing and curbing this pandemic continues to be an extremely difficult challenge that has cost the lives of many people, including those of the medical staff on the front line. As a result, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the economic, health and social management of its consequences, different countries have adopted different measures.

This misfortune makes us realize that we are interdependent and need each other!

Despite many difficulties human solidarity has been abundant. In addition to the various nongovernmental organizations that reached out to help people in need, the greatest respect and gratitude goes to the medical staff, which continues to serve with dedication and self-denial being at risk in dealing with this virus in the front line.

Besides their tireless work to cope with the situation in our country, about 30 doctors and nurses from Albania set out to help their Italian colleagues in the fight against the coronavirus.

This humane gesture had an international resonance and was greeted by various personalities from the political or artistic world. A strong expression of gratitude was also expressed by an Italian flutist, who as a sign of gratitude played the Albanian national anthem in the Italian media.

Our neighbor, Italy, has been the country most affected by the pandemic, and expressions of solidarity came from both the institutions in the country and the Albanian citizens. Such was the displaying of the tricolor flag in a series of facades in institutions such as: Petro Marko Theater in Vlora, the Presidency of Albania, the Clock Tower in Elbasan, or on the walls of the castle of Argjiro in Gjirokastra.



After Italian doctors appeared in a video expressing their concern and despair as a result of the lack of ventilation equipment, many people around the world began to look for innovative, alternative and quick solutions.

Two dental laboratory technicians in Tirana managed to produce through a 3D printer an adaptive device, which enables the doubling of the capacity of the ventilators in the fight against COVID-19. They stated that they had also been offered assistance by colleagues in Kosovo. Also, two architects Dea Buza and Albano Guma, in their architecture office produced protective masks for the medical staff of QSUT and that of Shkodra Hospital, with 3D printers and their own expenses. Their initiative was joined by the '3D Army' studio. Another initiative is the online platform "HEROIM" where all persons willing to provide assistance can register.

This platform aims to create a network of volunteers from all over Albania, to come to the aid of health professionals and their families.

MILANO PËR SHQIPËRINË

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Milano Medical

After sending 30 Albanian doctors and nurses to Italy, Albanian doctors living and working in Italy offered support to the Albanian population in these difficult days by offering advice, recommendations, information or consultations through the online platform "Milan for Albania". This project inspired by Dr. Altin Palloshi was also embraced by other doctors who offer their contribution not only to Italy but also to other European countries.




To help improve the medical infrastructure with mostly ventilation equipment, the crowdfunding campaign "Covid-19: Help Albanian hospital buy ventilators" was created. This is an initiative of Mr. Argon Shehaj, which aims to raise funds for the purchase of some ventilators for the Sanatorium Hospital.

Also different INDIVIDUALS have given their help in the face of this crisis. Businessman Alban Kardashi, who owns a graphic studio, produced about 70 face shield masks for the medical staff of the Durrës hospital and about 100 of these masks for the staff of the regional hospital in Fier. Meanwhile, 90 pairs of sanitary shoes were donated to this hospital, donation of a tailor shop in Kruja.

Anila Lici, a seamstress from the city of Elbasan, decided to use her professional skills for a good cause to help those most at risk from CoVid-19 such as policemen or doctors by contributing to the sewing and distribution of more than 500 masks.

In addition to helping improve medical capacities and finding innovative solutions, gratitude towards physicians has also been expressed in symbolic or artistic forms. The initiative of the show 'Hipokrati' invited all families in Tirana and everywhere in Albania, to go out on their balconies and greet with a 15 minutes applause the doctors and nurses in their fight against coronavirus.

A similar initiative was taken by the European Union Office in Tirana, which also invited Albanian citizens to come out on their window to applaud in support those who are on the front lines of the fight against coronavirus such as doctors, nurses, sanitary workers, firefighters, police officers etc.



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS have been engaged in the management of the on-site situation from the start. Two of the most important foundations in the country, such as 'Fundjavë Ndryshe' and 'Firdeus', have been close to people in need, distributing thousands of food packages for families in economic need throughout Albania in coordination with the Ministry of Defense. These foundations were aided in their mission by many businesses that have provided their assistance, such as: "Kosmonte Foods AI", "Eurolab Internacional Grup shpk", "Balfin Group", etc.

A group of civil society organizations and professionals came up with a virtual platform 'Më mirë së bashku' to provide information and services to families and individuals in need, isolated as a result of the measures taken against the coronavirus pandemic.

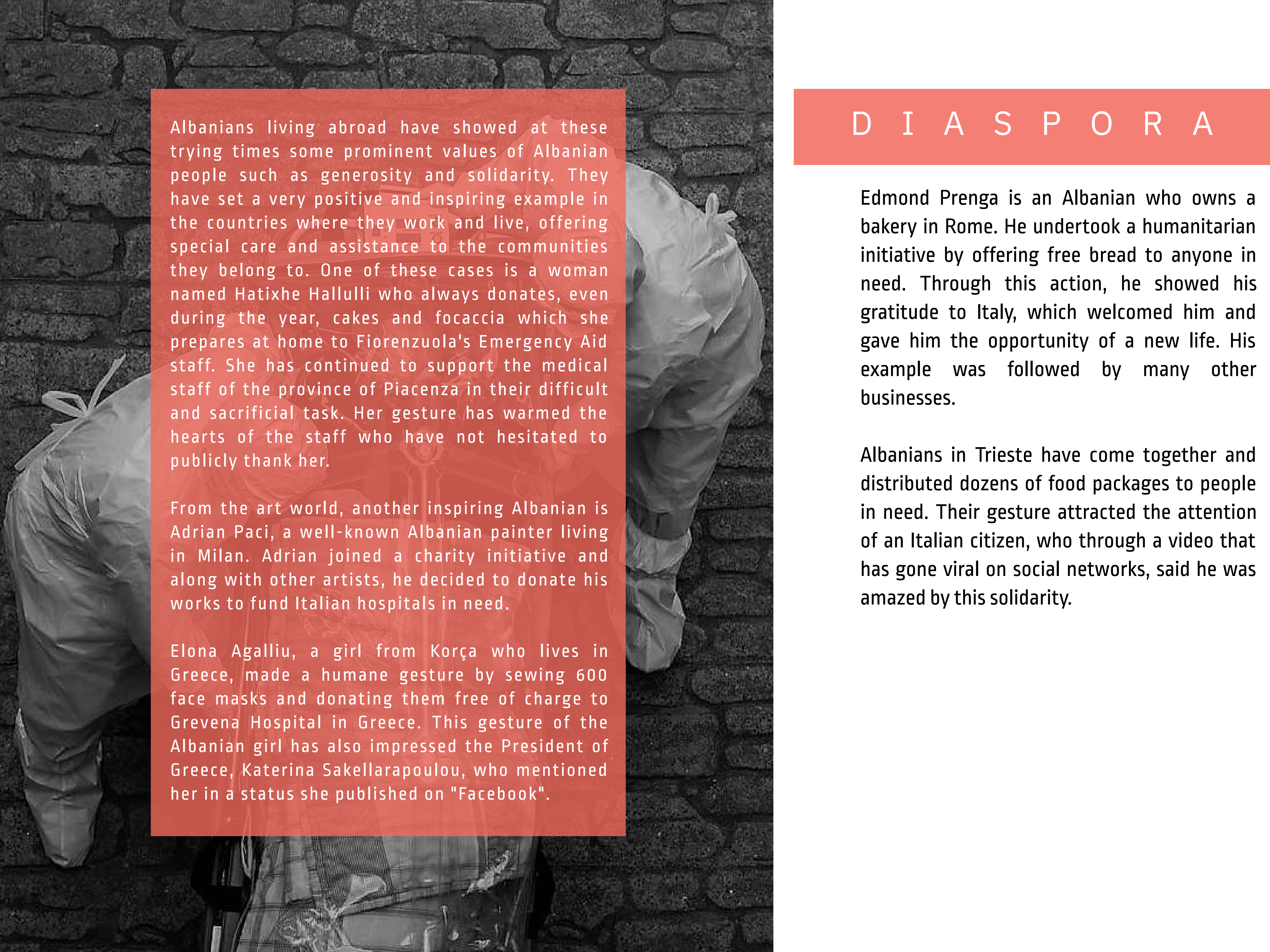
The "Dhuro një lule për Sarandën" team along with Saranda Web have distributed about 80 food packages (purchased with contributions from activists). The team launched a gofundme campaign for those who feel like contributing to this cause. Another organization that has been close to families in need with food and sanitary packages is the ARSIS (Social Organisation for the Support of the Youth). The SME Albania Institute, which supports small and medium-sized enterprises, made a donation to about 250 families in need in the city of Tepelena

BUSINESSES have also given a big contribution.

We can mention Vodafone Albania, which to facilitate things for students and high school graduates, offered for free the School Me platform, where young people have the opportunity to receive lessons and lectures in audio-visual form. Virtual Innovation Lab - ICTSlab is also a very optimal opportunity to follow the virtual courses and classes that this application offers.

We can mention a group of businessmen in the city of Durrës who donated 200 loaves of bread daily to people in economic need. In Gjirokastër a small enterprise, which was closed during the quarantine decided to distribute the store's goods to the ones in need. The production team of 'Krienko Jeans' responded to the need for help by producing masks at an economical price for the public whereas 50% of the masks produced were donated to the medical personnel.

A very meaningful initiative has been "Adopto një gjysh e një gjyshe!". This initiative was joined by an 83-year-old woman who donated her pension to retirees and families in need. The initiative called on all young people to help retirees or families in need living near them during the hours at their disposal to go out and buy groceries. Ms. Hatixhe proved that real heroes are people like her who come to the aid of others with a generosity and self-denial that should be an example to all.



Albanians living abroad have showed at these trying times some prominent values of Albanian people such as generosity and solidarity. They have set a very positive and inspiring example in the countries where they work and live, offering special care and assistance to the communities they belong to. One of these cases is a woman named Hatixhe Hallulli who always donates, even during the year, cakes and focaccia which she prepares at home to Fiorenzuola's Emergency Aid staff. She has continued to support the medical staff of the province of Piacenza in their difficult and sacrificial task. Her gesture has warmed the hearts of the staff who have not hesitated to publicly thank her.

From the art world, another inspiring Albanian is Adrian Paci, a well-known Albanian painter living in Milan. Adrian joined a charity initiative and along with other artists, he decided to donate his works to fund Italian hospitals in need.

Elona Agalliu, a girl from Korça who lives in Greece, made a humane gesture by sewing 600 face masks and donating them free of charge to Grevena Hospital in Greece. This gesture of the Albanian girl has also impressed the President of Greece, Katerina Sakellarapoulou, who mentioned her in a status she published on "Facebook".

D I A S P O R A

Edmond Prenga is an Albanian who owns a bakery in Rome. He undertook a humanitarian initiative by offering free bread to anyone in need. Through this action, he showed his gratitude to Italy, which welcomed him and gave him the opportunity of a new life. His example was followed by many other businesses.

Albanians in Trieste have come together and distributed dozens of food packages to people in need. Their gesture attracted the attention of an Italian citizen, who through a video that has gone viral on social networks, said he was amazed by this solidarity.



The Albanian Football Federation (FSHF) has launched a campaign to motivate children during the national quarantine. FSHF launched this campaign on social media, urging children to stay at home and play football while staying inside. Different awards will be awarded to the 20 best videos.

Some of the most famous Albanian artists gave a spiritual gift to Albanians in the form of a musical collage to the sounds of the song “Shqipëri o vendi im” in the difficult days of isolation due to the quarantine. Albanian instrumentalists have also offered a show as part of the Ministry of Culture's ‘Unë qëndroj në shtëpi’ initiative. Instrumentalists from different cities in Albania joined the initiative.

Another initiative of the Albanian arts under the hashtag #mebluzatebardha, was the performance of a song in the form of a collage as a gift of gratitude for the medical personnel.

Attention has also been paid to reading. The National Book and Reading Center announced the competition “Libri i karantinës”, which invited all Albanian authors to participate. This competition will continue until May 15 and the best work of this competition will be published by QKLL.

The Dokufest Film and Documentary Festival has joined the international short film community at the ‘My darling Quarantine’ online festival, which aims to raise money for people affected by the Coronavirus as well as those who are helping to fight this virus through a gofundme campaign.



P h i l a n t h r o p y i n q u a r a n t i n e t i m e

Thankfully the infection spreading curve is declining and we are hopeful we will return to normality soon. Of course the world we will find will be quite different from what we left behind and the consequences will be felt for a long time. It is up to us, however, to draw the right lessons from this trying time and to get closer to each other by appreciating our lives, our health, and our daily lives. But most importantly by developing a sense of solidarity and setting aside the individualism which is a part of our society.



Partners Albania for Change and Development
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Stayhome