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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

APRIL 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
30 April 2020

773

Cases

31

Victims

470

Recovered

The pandemic situation as a result of Covid-19 continues to be present throughout the globe. Albania has been among the countries which have fortunately undergone significant improvement and a slow normalization of the social and economic life of the country has been observed. Meanwhile, we still continue to face an extraordinary situation which carries with it many difficulties, various demands, great changes and always the need for solidarity. Thankfully, support and solidarity have not been lacking, as neither has civic responsibility. People are conscious and hopeful for the future.

Doctors, nurses, firefighters and paramedics continue to be at the forefront of the battle with the Coronavirus disease. Our gratitude to them is immeasurable. In addition, businesses, civil society organizations and various individuals have contributed to mitigating the consequences of pandemics.

Albania sent a second medical team to neighbouring Italy, after sending 10 doctors and 20 nurses about a month ago. A gesture that was again greeted by our Italian neighbours and by Foreign Minister Di Maio himself.

Professors and students of the Polytechnic University of Tirana joined the very creative and useful initiative of printing 3D masks to help the medical staff in its mission.

Psychologist Marinela Shpata put her professional skills to the service of the elderly in the Lezha district so as to alleviate their psychological and emotional state as a result of the long isolation.

The firefighters of Tirana surprised the doctors and nurses of the Infectious Diseases Hospital by going to the hospital with some banners in their hands and giving their messages of gratefulness to the doctors.

The chain restaurant KFC showed solidarity as well by donating food packages to the doctors of the Infectious Diseases Hospital and along with the packages each staff member wrote a personal dedication to the medical staff.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the food distribution network 'Baboon' in cooperation with some prestigious restaurants in Tirana has continuously supported with food meals the doctors and nurses of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The American Investment Bank helped the community of doctors and nurses by donating three ventilators for intensive care, to increase the capacity to cope with the situation created by COVID-19, but also as a token of gratitude to those on the front lines of the war.



A very special artistic initiative was to bring back the song "Bella Ciao" as a symbol of popular resistance against the invisible enemy. Part of the project was also the Albanian singer Irma Libohova together with other artists from different countries of the world such as: Tommaso Primo from Italy, Guillem Roma from Spain, Samah Mustafa from Palestine, Davis Caldea from Brazil, Georgios Stimpakos from Greece and and and Laye Ba from Senegal.

The Albanian National Theater, thanks to the support of Raiffeisen Bank Albania presented to the public through different social media outlets the initiative 'The Show Must Go On'. This project presented various interpretations of some of the greatest european and albanian works of literature, performed by some of the most famous artists of the Albanian National Theater.

Another initiative aiming to bring a slightly different atmosphere to the medical staff and patients affected by the Coronavirus was the performance of artists Marsela Çibukaj and Vitmar Basha, who offered some entertaining and relaxing moments to the staff of the Infectious Diseases Hospital and its patients.

Quarantine time inspired Albanian artists from around the world to bring different versions of the songs of the albanian national repertoire. The initiative of two young Arbëresh people, Francesco and Francesca Manoccio, brought together a group of young people from different parts of the world in order to recreate the famous Arbëresh song "Lule, lule". Artists worked for circa 4 weeks to bring this song as a gift for the Easter holiday.



"Tirana këndon" brought some unusual concerts on the streets of Tirana thanks to the participation of Eneida Tarifa, Denisa Xhemnica and Lorenc Hasrama who performed to entertain the isolated citizens at home.

ABI Bank was the main sponsor in the realization of some online artistic/cultural events such as "Opera me Pizhama" or Grand Gala "Të gjithë e duan Agim Krajkën". These events were followed via Facebook.



The main telecommunications companies in Albania have provided assistance in overcoming COVID-19, mainly by facilitating the process of providing online lessons by offering their services free of charge to those accessing these platforms.

Albtelecom Albania provided free access to the "SchoolMe" platform until the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Telekom Albania offered free access to the educational platform of "RTSH Shkollë" which is dedicated to students and senior students, who can attend home schooling programs which include the main subjects from the 1st-12th grade, as well as the fundamental subjects of the maturity exams, all these brought on screen by different teachers.

Vodafone Albania provided smart devices to about 5,000 children from all over Albania who had not been able to attend online lessons. The distribution was carried out by the Ministry of Education throughout the country. In addition, Vodafone also introduced 'Vodafone Home Concert', online concerts with various guests performed live to entertain and accompany the audience in these difficult days.



The joint effort of civil society organizations, businesses and citizens has been crucial in coping with the situation we have been facing in the last few months. Foundations such as "Firdeus" or "Fundjavë Ndryshe" were assisted in their tireless work by numerous businesses such as: "Eurolab Internacional Grup shpk", "Kosmonte Foods AI", "Brunes", "Gjonaj Group Holding", "IuteCredit", "Sigma InterAlbanian Vienna Insurance Group", "Agro Blend", "INSIFA", "Farma Net", "MSSC sh.pk", "Bojra Fatjon", "Avantgarde sh.pk", "Hotel Koloseo", etc.

Some of the most important banks in Albania, such as Credins Bank, OTP Bank or Alpha Bank Albania, supported the community during these trying times. Thus, OTP Albania responded to the request for help from the municipality of Kamza and enabled the delivery of food packages to the families in the quarantine without any source of income. Credins Bank supported Down Syndrome Albania in order for it to continue with the online speech therapy last month and Alpha Bank Albania joined the initiative of the Albanian Red Cross - Tirana by contributing with 100 packages of food and sanitary products given to families in economic need.

Balfin Group showed a keen sense of social responsibility by providing a wide range of assistance such as supporting about 100 families in need in the municipality of Kamza and donating to the The Albanian State Police about 10,000 masks and gloves to be used by police forces during the war with COVID-19.

Some of the main civil organizations that have continuously supported citizens and various state structures are: Open Society Foundation for Albania, which contributed with 5 thousand protective masks and 10 thousand gloves for the The Albanian State Police; EKO Mendje in Shkodra , which has continued every day since March 20 its voluntary work to help people who are isolated at home, the elderly and families in economic need by buying medicines, bread, or donating food; Down Syndrome Albania by providing food packages for people with special needs living in families in economic need and which were assisted in their mission by *AlbanianCourier*; Food Bank Albania, which was backed up in its mission to collect and distribute food to the ones in need *by the internal staff of the Dutch and Greek Embassies, AlbKalustyan; residents of Long Hill Residence or the supermarket chain UniCoop Albania* and World Vision Albania that cooperated with several municipalities to assist families in economic need with food and hygiene packages, as well as agricultural equipment / products.

The Albanian Red Cross also provided assistance to people in need and to professionals who are still fighting the pandemics, operating through the branches of the Red Cross throughout the country. Food and hygiene packages were made available to citizens in economic need in the cities of Tirana, Durres, Elbasan, Berat, Vlora, Fier, etc. The Albanian State Police was also assisted with masks prepared by volunteers of the Albanian Red Cross.



Philanthropy in quarantine time

During the month of April, despite the limitations and the extraordinary circumstances that continued to be part of our daily lives, a significant improvement of the situation was noticed. The socio-economic life began to revive, and there was a decrease in the number of infections and an extension of the circulation hours. We can only hope that this slow and constant improvement will continue and that we will be able to adapt quickly and successfully to our new reality.



Partners Albania for Change and Development
www.partnersalbania.org

Stayhome