

ANNUAL REPORT 2008





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Facts & Figures 2008

490 Persons

About 260 adults and 230 children take part at the regular NEHEMIA services.

380 Families

380 Families have recieved humanitarian and financial aid.

10 Centers

NEHEMIA serves in 8 Local Centers & 2 National Centers, in different towns of Albania.

147 Co-workers

115 full time, 9 part time & 5 volunteers work at NEHEMIA. Social security and taxes are paid regularly for all our co-workers.

3 Areas of Service

NEHEMIA serves in 3 main areas: spiritual ministries, social & medical work and education.

1300 Children

1300 children took part at the "adidas-NEHEMIA Challenge Cup" 2008, from Pogradec and the villages around.

Serving with heart, hand and mind for an abundant life in Albania

NEHEMIA 2008

The first Christian churches in Albania were founded in the time of the Apostle Paul in the first century. In 1876 the first Albanian Protestant Church was planted by Gjerasim Qiriazi, one of Albania's best-known scholars and politicians. Later on he, with other Albanian politicians, poets and writers founded the VUSH, the Albanian Evangelical Brotherhood, which continues its activity today. NEHEMIA Church is a member of VUSH.

NEHEMIA Foundation's first missionaries came to Albania in 1991. For the first time they explored Albania, an unknown country for the whole Western world, they saw the situation and understood that there was a great need to help people.

After the Communist regime Albanian society was left with a lot of problems, especially economically. People were poor. NEHEMIA Foundation came first to help Albanians with food and everything needed for survival; but soon we understood the need to draft long term projects, especially during the crises of 1991, 1997 and 1999. During all this time we became familiar with Albania's problems, studying them and becoming aware of defects and problematic issues. NEHEMIA is always trying to increase the human welfare, to improve the environment in which people live and to give answers to their spiritual questions. The Foundation's vision is as simple as it is challenging: **"To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind and to learn to love our neighbors as we love ourselves"**. NEHEMIA Mission is by utilizing Christian values, to impact, in positive ways, the people and societies in Albania and other Balkan countries. Our financial resources, mainly from private donations, are modest compared to the social needs, that is why we focus also on volunteer work.

The Foundation does also engage partners in this endeavor, calling upon their ideas, advice and suggestions and combining resources. Working together we can make greater strides.

Through our Christian values we will positively affect the Albanian society. Forgiveness, compassion, respect, integrity, honesty and commitment are the core values of NEHEMIA.

We serve with heart, hand and mind to fulfill our vision, mission and goals. After 17 years NEHEMIA has grown into a widely spread network of projects. In order to secure efficiency also for the years to come, we have found professional advisors of international renown, who helped us to re-work and shape our Statements of Purpose and based on that, develop a strategy for NEHEMIA that will set the ground for efficiency and growth: NEHEMIA 2020. We believe that it will help NEHEMIA to do what it does best, guided by a simple moral: Love your neighbor as you love yourself.





Highlights 2008

NEHEMIA Statements of Purpose

The NEHEMIA Foundation has further developed and sharpened its Statements of Purpose and the overall structure, which build the fundament of the Foundation's work for the years to come. On August 29, the new organizational concept was officially presented within the frame of a large event taking place in NEHEMIA's Center in Buçimas. The event initiated the transition to a new phase of further development and future growth of the organization.

Capacity Building

Within the scope of a "Capacity Building" program professionals of international status advised and helped us to organize the work effectively and professionally. Thus, the foundation is laid for a further healthy growth of the NEHEMIA work.

NEHEMIA Credits

This year NEHEMIA introduced a new evaluation system for the students of NEHEMIA schools in Buçimas and Pogradec: The NEHEMIA Credit Transfer System (NCTS) Every student can collect credits for social activities, good performance (marks) and excellent behavior. For every year at a NEHEMIA school additional credits are granted. The assessment is done not by the teachers, but the Foundation's external evaluation teams. A high number of credits result in lowering the tuition. The credits also serve as an assessment system for the special support of talented children. In the future, the credit system will be applied for the whole range of NEHEMIA education projects: From kindergarten to the University.

10 years anniversary of NEHEMIA School

On 08.08.08 the NEHEMIA School celebrated its 10th anniversary. During the past ten years NEHEMIA has been investing a lot in the area of education. A unique educational concept for Albania offers education at high level from kindergarten up to the university and continuing education.

Association: "Friends of NEHEMIA"

The association: "Friends of NEHEMIA" was founded in Stuttgart, Germany, with the purpose of supporting NEHEMIA's ideas and activities on education. This association will help us with public relations about Albania and our work, support education projects and coordinate contacts with supporters and counselors. It will help with fundraising and initiate school and church partnerships, with a special focus on the NEHEMIA University.

"Federal Cross of Merit"

On June 20, 2008, Mr. Arnold Geiger, the leader of NEHEMIA Foundation, was awarded the "Federal Cross of Merit" from the German President. He was honored with this decoration for his engagement in Albania since 1990, in special appreciation for his contributions in the political, social-economical and spiritual areas, and also for special merits in charity. The award ceremony was held in the German Embassy in Tirana and the award was given by the German Ambassador, Mr. Borchardt.



Presentation of the Annual Report 2007

On April 16, 2008 NEHEMIA Foundation presented the Annual Report 2007 in the premises of the German Embassy in Tirana. Friends and supporters of our Foundation from different departments of economy, politics, culture and society followed our invitation.

“adidas-NEHEMIA Challenge Cup” 2008

The “adidas-NEHEMIA Challenge Cup” has been awarded for the second time on October 11, as a part of the “German October”. This year most of the middle schools from the whole district of Pogradec participated, 32 of 38 schools qualified for the competition. The unique strategy of the Cup is the mix of assessment criteria: performance, team play and fairness as well as social and charitable activities. In this way children learn to put into practice important values like responsibility, honesty and respect, and this is the original goal of NEHEMIA and adidas with this cup competition.

Challenges 2009

Alfred Wenig

We lost a very dear friend! In January 2009 Alfred Wenig, unexpected for all of us, passed away. For many years he continuously and actively supported the NEHEMIA work in Albania. Alfred Wenig was well known as the “father” of the NEHEMIA partner organization “Golden Cross Mission” (GKM), who received the legacy to go on and fulfill his lifework. This presents a challenging but also a beautiful and rewarding task to the leadership of GKM and NEHEMIA.

Tax laws

Changes in the Albanian legislation burdened NEHEMIA Foundation with an unforeseen and extremely challenging problem: Non-profit organizations have to pay a VAT of 20% on income from charitable projects of public utility. This applies also to the tuition of NEHEMIA Schools, bringing a high financial pressure on the NEHEMIA Schools. Naturally, it also affected preparations for the opening of the University and rendered the transfer of the donated AMARO TAN School buildings to NEHEMIA impossible.

Due to the appeal of many NGOs in Albania and a high diplomatic support of this request, the government issued an exemption procedure, which hopefully will be granted to NEHEMIA in 2009.

Vision, Mission, Values





Vision, Mission, Values

NEHEMIA Vision

“To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind and learn to love our neighbors as we love ourselves”

NEHEMIA Mission

“By utilizing our Christian values we will impact, in positive ways, the people and societies of Albania and other Balkan countries”

NEHEMIA Albania shares the conviction that the most effective and sustainable way to reform societies is through the nourishing of the people’s minds, bodies and spirits. It is through helping them to create healthy and Biblically-based lifestyles that we transform and build-up lives and nations.

NEHEMIA Values

The core values of our organization are:

- Compassion**
- Forgiveness**
- Respect**
- Integrity**
- Honesty**
- Commitment**

Our values and ethical principles come from the Bible. The Bible is the foundation of our work. We believe that in this book God has given his answers and remedies to the many problems the society is going through these days.

In this view, it is essential that our leaders and co-workers respect and act according to the values and standards of our foundation, and that these values become part of their work.

Balkan map



NEHEMIA & Partners

National Centers

Buçimas
NC AL

NEHEMIA University
NC UNI

Local Centers

Buçimas
LC BC

Durrës
LC DR

Has
LC HS

Peshkëpi
LC PE

Pogradec
LC PG I

Amaro Tan
LC PG II

Gjirokaštër
LC GJ

Bishnicë
LC BI

Partners

Apostolic Church
ACH

**Christian Relief
Association, Wismar**
CHW

**Medical Emergency Aid
Albania**
MNA

Christ for the Nations
CFN

**Golden Cross
Mission**
GKM

Global Business Assist
(Cooperating mission in the
USA)

National & Local Centers

Buçimas (NC AL)

The center of the NEHEMIA Foundation at Lake Ohrid consists of seven buildings (with others under construction), that are in use for many projects. At the mission house, guests and co-workers find a warm welcome.

NEHEMIA University (NC NU)

On June 4, 2008 NEHEMIA University received the license from the Council of Ministers. The official opening and start of lessons is planned for September 2009.

Durrës (LC DR)

In this city on the Adriatic coast, NEHEMIA cares mostly for members of the large Gypsy community and for the poor people in the surrounding villages. Additionally to the many regular church meetings, humanitarian aid is provided and a day care center for poor children is operating.

Gjirokastrër (LC GJ)

In this southern city another Center of the NEHEMIA Foundation is in progress. Here people are assisted through church services and various social projects, such as a soup kitchen for the poor and mobile care services.

Has (LC HS)

In the city of Krumë in the district of Has in Northern Albania our co-workers run a small physiotherapy room, a consulting office and organize different projects for urban development.

Pogradec (LC PG I)

About two miles away from Buçimas is our Pogradec Center. Many church activities, courses, seminars etc. take place here, as well as a kindergarten and social work.

Amaro Tan (LC-PG II)

The private Christian School AMARO TAN offers education, shelter and care for poor and needy children. The Amaro Tan School is primarily attended by Roma and physically and mentally disabled children.

Bishnica (LC BI)

In this village about three hours away from Pogradec the NEHEMIA partner CHW has been operating for a long time, helping the community with spiritual ministries, medical and social help and a dormitory for school children.

Peshkëpi (LC PE)

Through the Community Development Project, NEHEMIA has been helping in the village of Peshkëpi since 2002. Various construction and humanitarian aid projects have been implemented there in cooperation with GKM, one of our partners.

Partners

Apostolic Church (ACH)

The Apostolic Church cares mainly for the people of villages near Pogradec. They bring both spiritual help and material aid for people in need. In the village of Stropcka the first floor of the church, which will also serve as social building, is finished.

Christ for the Nations (CFN)

Christ for the Nations started in 2008 with a new Bible school course. CFN prepares young people, spiritually and practically, for church work. In spring 2009 CFN plans to register their own foundation.

Christian Relief Association Wismar (CHW)

CHW has formed its work in Bishnica into a NEHEMIA Local Center and started spiritual, social and educational projects. They work closely together with the United Methodist Church.

Golden Cross Mission (GKM)

GKM works closely together with the NEHEMIA Foundation. GKM supports community development in Peshkëpi and various construction projects.

Medical Emergency Aid Albania (MNA)

MNA is our partner in medical projects. The MNA program includes providing training for the personnel of "home care service" and an orthopedic workshop. Having grown considerably during the last years, MNA plans to become independent in spring 2009 and leave the NEHEMIA partnership.

Global Business Assist Cooperating Mission (GBA)

NEHEMIA closely collaborates with the US business development organization GBA. They support us in the realization of different educational and business-related projects.



NEHEMIA Structure

Our work is based on a focused vision and mission, with clear goals and a detailed strategy, which includes detailed short, as well as long-term implementation plans.

147 Co-workers (total)
115 full-time Albanian co-workers
9 part-time Albanian co-workers
21 foreign co-workers
5 volunteers

Supervisory Board (SuBo)

Arnold Geiger (Chairman)
Christian Vögeli
Isolde Flessa

Board of the Foundation

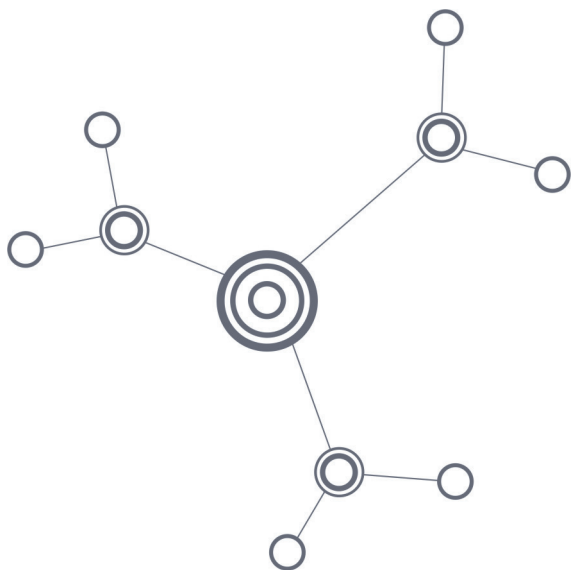
AVC
NEHEMIA Durrës (Ueli Dietrich)
NEHEMIA Gjirokastër (Kristina Baxhella)
NEHEMIA Has (Michael Hanisch)
Universiteti NEHEMIA (Dr. George Sturm)
ACH (Sandro Sardella)
CFN (Dieter Drexler)
CHW (Frieder Weinhold)
GKM
MNA (Dr. Günther Riedl)
Barbara v. Schnurbein
Kai Uellendahl
Toni Gogu

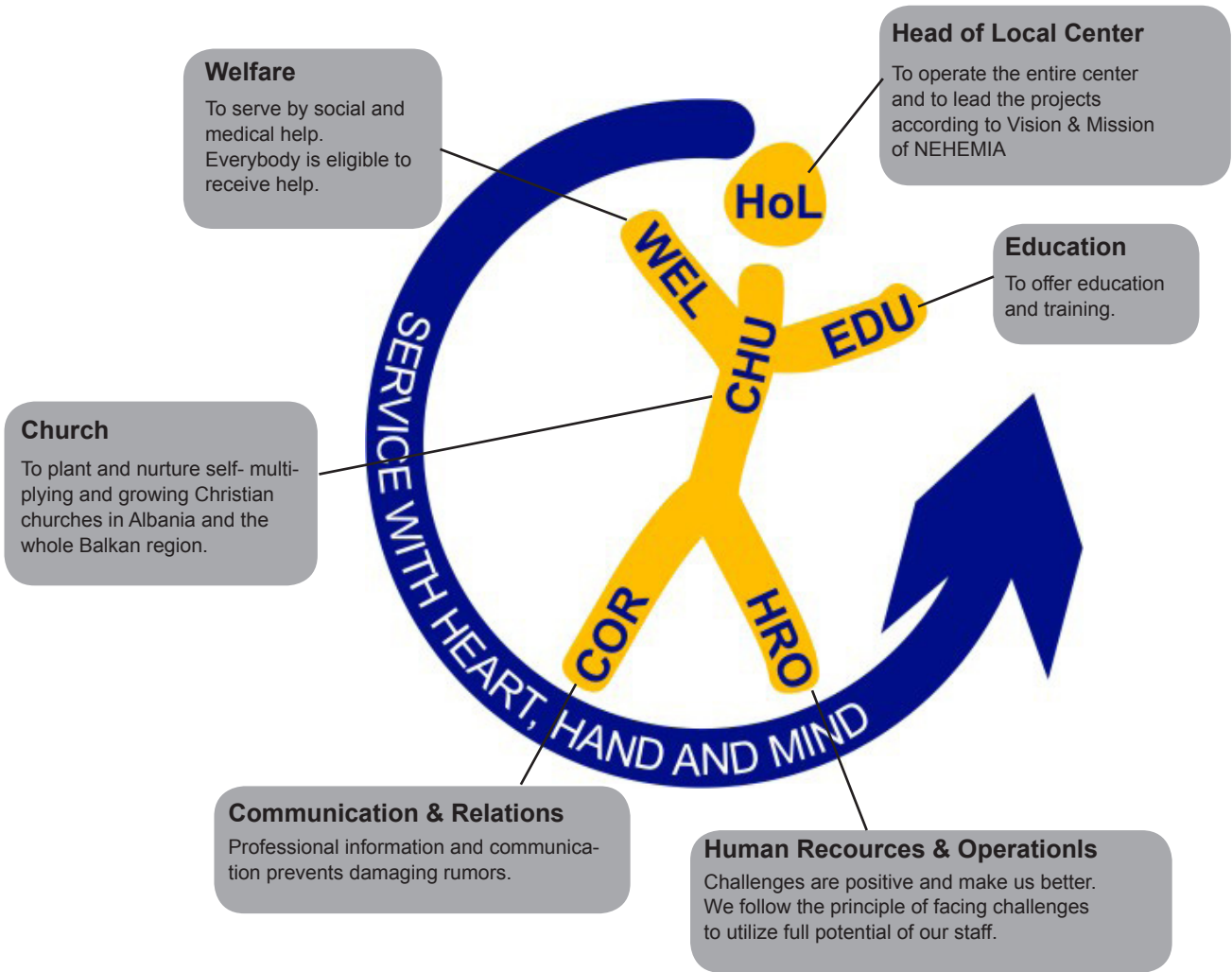
Observers

Dr. Xhemil Zgjani
Dajana Çuçllari
Drini Hajdini
Flamur Elmasllari
Herolinda Shkullaku
Mangalina Cane
Manjola Kamolli

NEHEMIA University Board (NuBo)

Arnold Geiger (Chairman)
Barbara v. Schnurbein
Toni Gogu
Robb Provost
Isolde Flessa
George Sturm (Rector)





Typical for NEHEMIA are the main three areas: Church, Welfare and Education, supported by a good management of Human Resources & Operations and Communications.

Structure follows strategy and service; that's why we started to create Local Centers, each serving in spiritual, social and educational fields. Presently we have Local Centers in Pogradec, Buçimas, Gjirokastër, Durrës, Has and Peshkëpi.

To coordinate the work between the Local Centers we created a National Center Albania. A Regional Center prepares the basis for growth and impact in the South East European region.



PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES





NEHEMIA Goal No.1

to plant and nurture self - multiplying and growing Christian churches in Albania and in the whole Balkan region

Spiritual ministry

NEHEMIA Church is part of the International Pentecostal movement and the Evangelical Alliance in Albania. It is a Protestant church and its doctrines are based on the Bible. Spiritual work is the foundation of all our activities. Christian believers desire to have a positive impact on the Albanian society, starting by what is most important to them: their faith in the Lord and from that to build the Biblical values.

Church services

We have regular church services for adults and children in the three cities Pogradec, Durrës and Gjirokastër and in about 11 villages around these towns.

About 260 adults and 230 children take part in these services regularly.

There are various services from our partners Apostolic Church, CHW and CFN, which are doing a lot of good work in this area.

About 75 adults and 125 children take part regularly in these services which are organized in Pogradec and six neighboring villages.

In NEHEMIA Schools and Kindergarten children have the possibility to attend regular devotion times. About 323 children take part in these gatherings organized in Buçimas, Pogradec and Durrës.



Other activities

Various evangelical outreaches in Pogradec, Gjirokastër and Durrës.
Bible School of our Partner CFN with 9 students from different cities of Albania.

Children and youth summer camps

In 2008 we had several summer camps organized for children and young people.

- Durrës summer camp: 55 children and 30 teenagers
- Pogradec summer camp: 40-50 children
- Amaro Tan summer camp: 30 children
- Gjirokastër summer camp: 57 children for a period of two months
- Libohove summer camp (Gjirokastër village): 60 children
- Royal Rangers Camp in Peshkëpi (Pogradec village): 100 children and teenagers

Also, as every year, other churches and organizations used the premises of NEHEMIA Center in Buçimas for meetings, camps and conferences, among them the CFN summer conference "More for Jesus".

Seminars

- Life in the stream of the Holy Spirit, *Ernesto Murri & Walter Schwertfeger, Switzerland*
- On tour with Jesus, *Jürgen Kleinsorge and Volker Krüger, Germany*
- Relations and advice, *Tony Wegt*
- Church ministry, *Paulin Vilajeti, Center for Christian Leaders, Tirana*
- Internal Bible school, *Sandro Sardella (Apostolic church)*
- We have do not have the spirit of slavery, we have the spirit of the Son, *Dieter Drexler, Germany*

“Teaching Biblical, Christian values is necessary in helping people move from vendetta to Forgiveness, Compassion and Respect”



“With God’s help I will do my best to serve God, my church, and my fellowman.”

ROYAL RANGERS 2008

The aim of Royal Rangers, an international Christian Scout organization, is to instruct, challenge and inspire children and young people in the areas of Bible knowledge, Christian service and moral conduct through interesting activities young people enjoy. Especially nature-related activities help them to develop their social skills and awareness.

The work of Christian Scouts “Royal Rangers” has started off with big leaps!

Since 2008 NEHEMIA Foundation is the official “Chartering Steward” for the Royal Rangers work in Albania. The “Provisional Chartering Steward Agreement” was signed on 07.11.2008 in Skopje. It’s NEHEMIA’s task to coordinate national and international activities and assist other groups and churches in the founding of their own outposts.

11 young Christians from various Albanian churches took part in our first “National Training Camp” in September under the leadership of a big group of Rangers from Germany. The young people passed the according exams and qualified to be leaders in their churches’ outposts. Parallel, a children’s camp excited 70 kids and teenagers for life in the open: Tent construction, compass orientation, campfire and a lot of games and fun. The camps took place near the village of Peshkëpi.

In 2008 several Royal Rangers handbooks and manuals were translated into Albanian. In Albania the first outpost was founded in October 2007 in Pogradec. About 30 children in four age groups meet regularly.

In the meantime churches in other towns started with preparatory work. We hope soon to have a nationwide network of outposts among many different groups and churches.



NEHEMIA Goal Nr. 2

to serve with social and medical help

Social & Medical Help

NEHEMIA serves those who need medical help and support them in getting what they need to eat daily. We offer this help for everyone, independent from religion, status and the question of whether somebody deserves it or not. Our guiding principle is solving the problem and then preventing it!

Home visits

These visits include:

- Practical help: cleaning the house, cooking, maintenance and repair, etc.
- Material help such as clothing, provisions, furniture, etc.
- Free medical examinations and treatment, physiotherapy, massage, play therapy, dental care and occupational therapy
- Counseling and training, for example concerning hygiene, family planning, social pedagogical counseling, spiritual guidance and prayer

This is a valuable service especially for older, mentally or physically disabled people.

During 2008, our social workers made 3.072 visits in Pogradec and surrounding villages, Gjirokaštër and Bishnica, where our partner CHW is operating.

Aid for individuals and families

NEHEMIA has helped a lot of people in need, supplying them with everything they need for living: wheel chairs, house mending, house furniture, firewood, etc. In addition, financial help was given to individuals and families in case of emergency. In total, 380 families received food from our social project in Pogradec, surrounding villages and in Durrës.



Soup Kitchen, Day Care Center & Dormitory

Soup Kitchen

The soup kitchens in Pogradec and Gjirokastër offer daily meals to people who do not have any economic support and actually are very poor. Every day, 30 to 40 persons receive a free meal and a coffee. They also get practical help in their homes, medical visits and support, both spiritual and material. Two elderly persons who are not able to leave the house get their lunch served at home.

Additionally, 60 children in the Day Care Center in Durrës and 133 students of Amaro Tan School receive a free daily meal.

Day Care Center

At the day care center in a suburb of Durrës, children from the Roma community, who usually live on the fringes of society, are nurtured and integrated. Fourteen children, ages four to six, attend the center where they not only learn social behavior and personal hygiene but also receive medical and dental care if necessary. We offer extracurricular mentoring for 60 children who already are part of the public school. This includes homework counseling, escorting students on their way to school and back as well as daily lunch.

Dormitory

Our partner organization CHW provides a place to live in the village Bishnica (Pogradec) for children from remote mountain villages, where, due to the rugged geographical conditions and the bad infrastructure, it would take several hours on foot to reach the nearest school. Here the children receive not only lodging and food, but also help for their homework and private lessons.

Physiotherapy and medical help

NEHEMIA physiotherapy room in Krumë, Has, is doing a remarkable work. It has treated people with physical problems since 2005 and it still continuing to grow. It is the only one of its kind in north-eastern Albania, and the treatment is free. In 2008, 130 patients were treated.

NEHEMIA therapy room in Pogradec is one of our other places, where children with physical and mental disability are treated. During 2008, 15 children received treatment in this room. Their parents are truly grateful, NEHEMIA being the only institution in this area offering therapy and services. Physiotherapy and massages are also included in the program of home care services.

Since 1995 we have our NEHEMIA Clinic, placed at the NEHEMIA Center in Pogradec. There is a qualified staff taking care of all the patients: 426 in 2008.

Clinic services include:

- Visits and medical care to different patients, for poor people it's free
- Visits to the NEHEMIA School and Kindergarten children
- Visits and medical care for the persons of the Soup Kitchen, free





Orthopaedic Workshop

Our partner MNA operates a workshop in Pogradec, where patients get custom-made prostheses and where Albanian employees are trained to be orthopaedic technicians and physical therapists. During 2008, about 320 patients received treatment. Additional physical therapy is offered if necessary.

The 18-month course for nursing assistants, which started in 2007 in cooperation with our other partner CHW, in Bishnica, is successfully going on. The course, led by three Germans and two Albanians, is training five Albanians to become nursing assistants for our medical services.

Community Development & Help for Institutions

Some of the NEHEMIA guiding principles are:

Through giving, we are receiving The needs define our program

Based on these principles our community development program is growing and helping individuals, institutions and communities in different villages and cities.

NEHEMIA helped in the reconstruction of the public kindergarten in the village Hudenisht, and installed a heating system.

The urgently needed reconstruction of the public kindergarten in the village of Guras was coordinated by NEHEMIA and financed by the German Embassy.

The Community Building in Peshkëpi was completely reconstructed according to high West European standards. Two workers are employed for community service, e.g. garbage disposal, gardening, etc.

NEHEMIA Center in Has built a public playground, fully equipped with toys and security measures for the children of the area. The project was financed by NEHEMIA.

The sports ground in two villages (Çërrava & Bishnica), whose teams participated in "adidas-NEHEMIA Challenge Cup" 2008, have been reconstructed with the financial support of adidas.

NEHEMIA also helped other institutions like schools, kindergarten, hospital, medical centers in Pogradec, Has and surrounding villages with furniture, clothes, computers, school and medical equipment, toys etc. In addition, Christmas parcels have been distributed in Pogradec and surrounding villages, about 12,500 parcels in total. Different organizations in Germany and Switzerland donated and transported these parcels to Albania.

Mediating Help

From the end of 2007 the Consulting-Office is a public contact point of NEHEMIA in Has for people and for institutions searching for help. During the year 2008 this office helped individuals as well as institutions with advice, consulting and material help.



Commune Buçimas - Pogradec District - Prefecture Korçë - Albania
 2007 2008 2010 2012

adidas-NEHEMIA Challenge Cup 2008

Sports activities

Adi Dassler Fund (adidas) and NEHEMIA Foundation organized the “adidas-NEHEMIA Challenge Cup” in October. It was the second year that this event took place. In the future, it is planned as a annual activity which shall expand, step by step, to national and cross-border level.

The purpose of this tournament activity is to educate the youth through sport activities and teach them the values of team play, competition, social responsibility and honesty. This is realized through the evaluation of not only performance, but also of fair-play and the implementation of social or community projects as a qualification criteria.

The finals took place at NEHEMIA sports ground in Buçimas. During this activity, 300 children were accommodated for a period of three days, 100 co-workers were involved in the organization and during the event, 1.300 children took part. Every school received balls, pumps and further equipment and two sport grounds have been reconstructed with the help of NEHEMIA. It was the first time this event was organized on district level.

Plans for 2009

In the future Adi Dassler Fund (adidas) and NEHEMIA have planned again to help every participating school with sports materials, and to reconstruct sport grounds. “adidas-NEHEMIA Challenge Cup” 2009 will be held on district level again, with participation of guest teams from other towns in Albania, from Greece, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia.



NEHEMIA Goal Nr. 3

to offer education and training

NEHEMIA Education

Sustainable changes can only be achieved by a growing number of well-educated and trained people that will have influence on their own society over time.

Our key focus for education is on children and youth. At NEHEMIA they can study from the kindergarten to university level, including professional training.

After a long period of experience in the region, we see these aspects as some of the most vital, change-needing and promising areas in Albania and the entire region.

The NEHEMIA Kindergartens

70 children attend the NEHEMIA Kindergartens at the Pogradec Center and AMARO TAN School. The children are provided with nice, well equipped classes and playrooms as well as a small dormitory, a safe environment and beautiful playgrounds where they can play and learn. At AMARO TAN kindergarten the teaching program includes Montessori elements allowing for specific support and help for the children from poor social background.

NEHEMIA Schools

The NEHEMIA schools continue to grow. In 1998 the first NEHEMIA school opened with only 5 classes. Today we have four private schools and a total of 338 students.

- NEHEMIA School in Buçimas (primary school, secondary school, high school)
- NEHEMIA School in Pogradec (primary and secondary school)
- AMARO TAN School in Pogradec (primary and secondary school)
- NEHEMIA Evening High School in Pogradec



The NEHEMIA Schools in Buçimas and Pogradec are focused on the support of talented children. Tuition helps to cover the operating costs. The schools work according to the curriculum of Albanian public schools, with some extras:

- English (from kindergarten)
- German (from 5th grade)
- Informatics (from 5th grade)
- A rich program of voluntary extra-curricular activities like music, sports, drama, devotions etc.

This year the NEHEMIA Credit System has been introduced. A first palpable result was the reduction of students in order to better encourage and support the talented and committed children, who have the capacity to be the leaders of tomorrow.

The NEHEMIA School in Pogradec is placed at the very heart of NEHEMIA Foundation's facilities of NEHEMIA National Center in Buçimas. Surrounded by a beautiful and secure environment the modern school building and sports facilities offer nearly perfect learning conditions.

NEHEMIA School in Pogradec is placed inside our multi-purpose center in Pogradec city, featuring a beautiful playground and a safe and guarded school yard and gardens.

The AMARO TAN School in Pogradec offers education, shelter and care for poor and needy children. Primarily Gypsy and physically and mentally disabled children attend Amaro Tan. The school is exclusively financed by donations, mostly by private donors. Amaro Tan is a registered Protestant educational institution in Albania.

The NEHEMIA Evening High School in Pogradec offers education for young people who did not have the opportunity to visit a regular high school. Here they have the chance to receive a quality education, pass their A-level exams and face the challenge to actively build their own, better future.

NEHEMIA Schools generally have small classes with a limited number of students, who receive not only a quality education but also a good meal and transportation with our school buses.

Every year the teachers receive training and attend high quality seminars with lecturers from Albania and abroad. In 2008, like almost every year, several students won competitions on local and national level in various disciplines.

A wide horizon and exchange of experiences is important for a good education. Therefore NEHEMIA Schools foster partnerships with several schools in different nations:

- In Germany: the prestigious "Stiftung Landheim Schondorf am Ammersee", where two of our students were invited to study for 3 months, and teachers passed internships.
- In the U.S.: "Trinity Oaks Christian Academy", a partnership for children in primary and secondary school.
- In neighboring Macedonia: the "Orce Nikolov High School". In 2008 several cross-culture projects have been successfully implemented with the students from Macedonia.

In 2009 NEHEMIA High School will take part in a Youth Exchange program "Youth in Action", initiated and funded by the European Commission Committee.

FACTS

In July 2008 NEHEMIA School celebrated its 10-year anniversary!

21 students took their A-Level diploma, with high average results. All of them succeeded in registering at universities in Albania and abroad.

In 2008 the NEHEMIA Credit Transfer System has been introduced, an assessment system for talented and committed students.

Talented students from poor families receive support by sponsorships that help to cover the tuition.

The AMARO TAN school for children from poor families is exclusively financed by donations, mostly from private donors.

Further Education

The Professional Forum organizes seminars, courses, trainings for further qualification, not only for NEHEMIA co-workers, but also for individuals and other organizations who are interested in a further good education in different fields.

Regular Courses

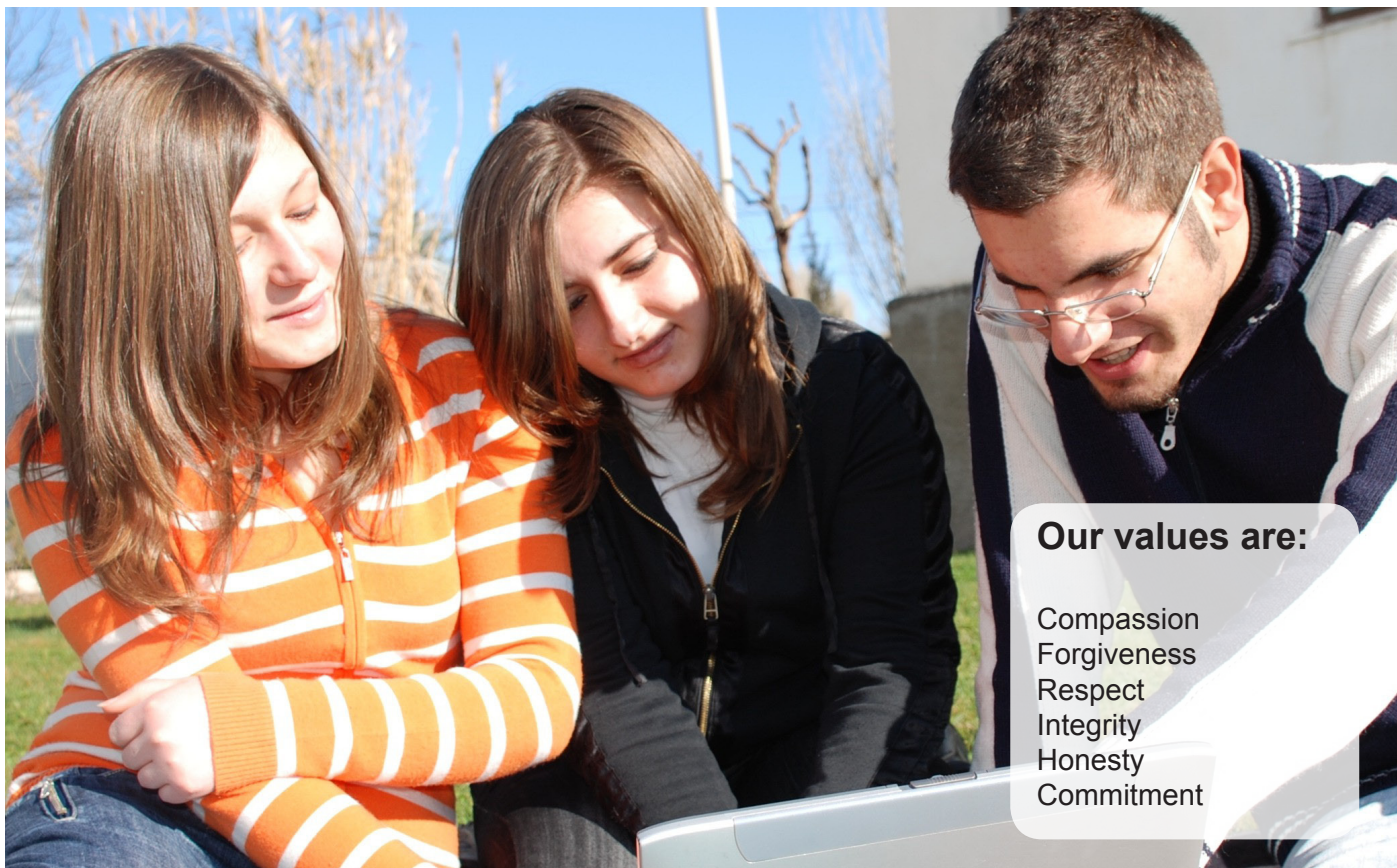
- German & English language course (licensed)
- Sewing Course (licensed)
- Hairdressing course (licensed)

During 2008, 41 participants completed these state approved courses.

Seminars

- Topic: Training on the Mission Field, *NEHEMIA Foundation*
- Topic: TEMP Method, The E point, "Expectations" - What do customers expect from the school?, *Barbara von Schnurbein*
- Topic: First Aid, *Dr. Eberhard Brachtel*
- Topic: Communication, *Jürgen Imiolczyk*
- Topic: Lohn Method Time management, *Herolinda Shkullaku*
- Topic: How to be a good teacher
 - Attention deficit hyperactive disorder and how to treat it
 - What is dyslexia and how to treat it, *Annita Dijkstra*

Challenges are positive and make us better.



NEHEMIA University *in the making*

Contrary to original plans, the NEHEMIA University did not make it to the opening in 2008. However, plans, commitment and external support did not change: A university with high European and U.S. American standards for students from Albania and the surrounding countries will open its doors in Pogradec.

Highlights in 2008:

- Heads of five universities and institutions signed letters of intent for a future collaboration.
- The license to open the NEHEMIA University as an “institution of higher learning” has been granted by the Albanian Council of Ministers.
- Support of academics all over the world willing to contribute.

Challenges 2008:

- The license was issued more than 1 ½ years after the first application, which made concrete preparation impossible regarding funding, staff, etc.
- The license does not fully comply with the points applied for.
- The new tax law (20% VAT on tuition) distorts business plans.

Plans 2009:

- Start of classes in September 2009
- Opening of Research Institutes
- Construction of further buildings

Due to internal and external administrative barriers, the planned opening in September 2009 is still in question (Spring 2009).



NEHEMIA University (NU) the program

NEHEMIA University received its license in July 2008 and is working according to the principles of the Albanian Law of Higher Education. Albania is on its way to become a member of the European Union, thus, the University is working based on the Bologna Agreement, which helps Professors from Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the United States in their teaching assignments. At the same time, the international recognition of the degrees will be secured. NEHEMIA University will offer Bachelor and Master courses which meet the needs of students and the needs for academics in governmental and economics area. Through cooperation between NEHEMIA University and other public and private universities there are possibilities for promotion. Postgraduate studies are offered as seminars in Albania and Germany. The research field of NEHEMIA University is followed by research Institutes which are also involved in the educational activities.

Supporting panels:

- **Association „Friends of NEHEMIA“ (VFBN)**

Board: *Prof. Dr. Kurt Schönherr, Barbara v. Schnurbein, Ute Hauser, Horst Schaller*

- **Academic Counselors:**

- *Prof. Dr. Marian Heitger, former director of the educational institute of Vienna University (Austria)*
- *Prof. Dr. Dietmar Herz, Chair for Comparative Government at the University of Erfurt*
- *Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Lobkowicz, Director of the Central Institute for Middle and East European Studies (ZIMOS), Catholic University of Eichstätt*
- *Barbara Loos, former Chair of the German association of high school principals*
- *Prof. Dr. Georg von Schnurbein, Leader of the Center for Philantropy (CEPS), Basel University (Switzerland)*

Faculties and programs

Over time the University will offer a variety of courses:

Faculty: Business and Technology

- Statistics and Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Business and Economics

Faculty: Humanities

- Journalism
- Modern Languages
- Education and Ethics

Bachelor programs (3 years)

- Applied Statistics
- Mathematics
- Computers and Informatics
- Business and Economics
- Journalism
- English
- German
- Religion and Ethics

Master's programs (2 years)

- Leadership and Educational Assessment
- European Studies “blended learning” course in cooperation with European Institute LIBERTAS

Four Institutes of research will be part of the NEHEMIA University, supporting the university's research capacities:

- Institute for Statistical Research
- Institute of Energy, Ecology and Inter-Cultural Architecture
- Institute of Ethical Leadership
- Institute of Journalism, Film and Computer Design



A part of the NEHEMIA staff

Internal service projects

Administration

An untiring team cares for the smooth workflow of our activities. The administration office deals with the main accounting, financial audits (those of our partners and branches as well), personnel management, contracting and all administrative issues.

Communication and Relations

Our media office deals with the production of presentation material, Corporate Identity and Public Relations of NEHEMIA Foundation. Good publicity and donor support are essential as the majority of NEHEMIA projects are funded by donations. This additionally includes graphic work and layout, video production and web design.

Guests

Accommodating guests and staff is an important service at NEHEMIA. Every year hundreds of guests enjoy care and the best catering at the various NEHEMIA Centers. In 2008 we counted 635 guests in total. This year the construction of a guest house in Buçimas made considerable progress. In NEHEMIA Center Durrës the guest rooms have been renovated.

Security concept

Safety is an important concept for NEHEMIA. This is the reason why we have created a fire brigade in Buçimas, which receives regular training, safety instruction and First Aid courses.



Licences and registration

NEHEMIA Social and Medical Projects:

NEHEMIA Foundation Pogradec, courses - License No. 558, March 13, 2006
by the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Chances

NEHEMIA medical clinic - License No. 3391, July 7, 2006
by the Ministry of Health

Daily care service and family, disabled and senior service - License No. 2634
by the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Chances

NEHEMIA Education

NEHEMIA Elementary School - License No. 5342 Prot. No. 72, October 10, 1998
by the Ministry of Education and Science

NEHEMIA Kindergarten - License No. 4524 Prot. No. 160, November 23, 1999
by the Ministry of Education and Science

NEHEMIA Middle School - License No. 4088 Prot. No. 300, October 5, 2000
by the Ministry of Education and Science

NEHEMIA High School - License No. 6194 Prot. No. 288, September 14, 2004
by the Ministry of Education and Science

NEHEMIA Evening School - License No. 7001 Prot. No. 383, October 10, 2006
by the Ministry of Education and Science

NEHEMIA University - License, June 4, 2008 by decision No. 2300/1 Prot. No. 830
of the Council of Ministers

AMARO TAN School - License No. 5059, December 3, 2002
by the Ministry of Education and Science

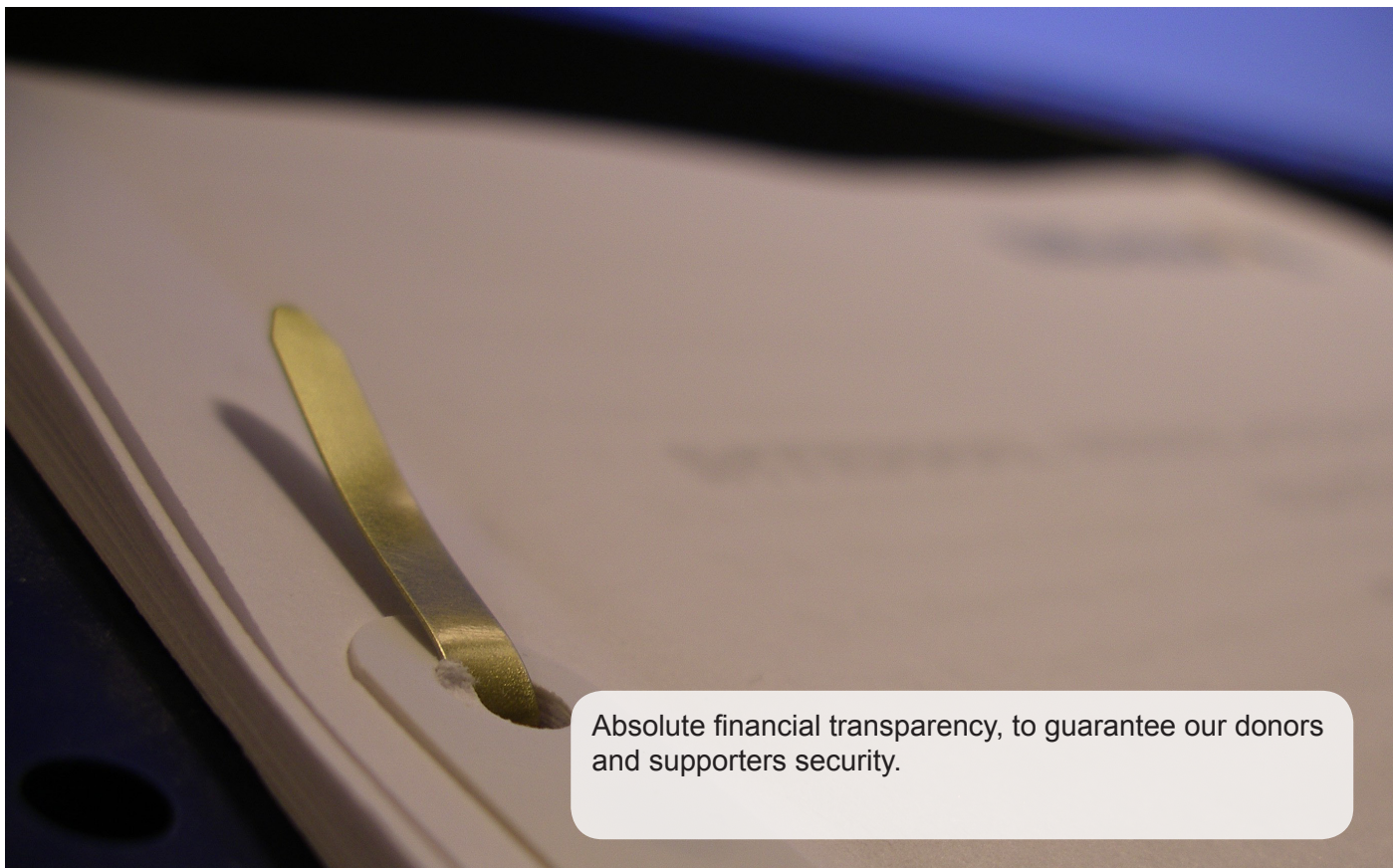
AMARO TAN Middle School - License No. 3132 Prot. No. 173, May 15, 2006
by the Ministry of Education and Science

Registration

NEHEMIA is registered in Albania as a humanitarian non-profit foundation. The founders are the German humanitarian organizations "NEHEMIA Christian Aid Ministries" and "Action Committee for Persecuted Christians, AVC" (Member of the Pentecostal Alliance), both have their centers in Nidda (Germany).

NEHEMIA Albania was first registered on February 20, 1992 by the Albanian Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports.

Because of the changes in the law, the NEHEMIA Foundation was re-registered accordingly on May 13, 2002 at the district court of Tirana.



Donations & Finances

As a non-governmental relief and mission organization, NEHEMIA Foundation depends on voluntary financial support and practical assistance from individuals, churches and other organizations. In addition to financial support we also receive:

Spiritual support

We believe in the power of prayer: That is why we consider intercession and prayers of Christian believers as one of the most effective ways of support for our projects and for the whole country of Albania.

Professional advice

We are very grateful for competent advisors, who put their rich experience at our disposal: Mission leaders and successful managers, who help us to put our vision into practice by developing long-term strategies and solutions for the daily challenges in our growing projects.

Practical assistance

Many people support our projects practically through different kinds of activities. In short term outreaches during their holidays, many of our partners from Germany and Switzerland support different projects and/or offer help wherever needed.

Most of the donations for our work come through the founding organizations AVC and NEHEMIA in Germany and Switzerland. Different project are also financed directly by partner organizations who lead the according projects.

Several of our projects contribute to covering part of the financial needs through their own income (for example the NEHEMIA School). Church offerings are used for the spiritual work and to help the poor.

The responsible use of the donations is our rule. We emphasize:

- *Regular financial audits by licensed auditors from Albania and other countries.*
- *Transparency through regular publication of financial and activity reports.*
- *Continuous internal financial audits.*
- *Continuous training and further education of our managers and accountants.*
- *Modern computer programs and techniques for accounting and administration.*



Audit report

We have audited the attached financial statements of the NEHEMIA Foundation, which include the Balance Sheet on December 31, 2008, the respective Income and Expense Statement, the Change of Equity Statement and the Statement of Cash Flow for the period ending on that date, and a summary of the important accounting methods and other annex notes.

The management is responsible for the genuine preparation and presentation of these financial statements, in accordance with the accounting principles widely accepted in the Republic of Albania. This responsibility includes: preparation and implementation and keeping of the internal audit, genuine presentation of the financial statements, which are without material anomaly, implementing the proper accounting methods, and also making the accountancy estimation for the proper circumstances.

Our responsibility, based on the executed audit, is to express an opinion over these financial statements. We executed the audit in accordance to the International Standards of Auditing. These standards require that we implement the ethical requests and also plan and execute our audit, to obtain the logical guarantee that the financial statements do not contain material anomaly. The audit includes procedure achievement to gain audit evidence about the amounts and the given information in the financial statements, based on tests, evidences which support the amounts and the given information in the financial statements. The audit includes the estimation of the accounting principles performed and of the important evaluation done by the management, furthermore to assess the general presentation of the financial statements. We believe the audit evidence we have received is sufficient and appropriate to give the basis of our opinion for the audit. In our opinion, the financial statements give a real and genuine image of the financial situation of NEHEMIA Foundation on December 31, 2008, of the financial result and of the cash flow for the closed period, in accordance with the widely accepted accounting principles in the Republic of Albania.

28 January, 2009, Pogradec

Auditor

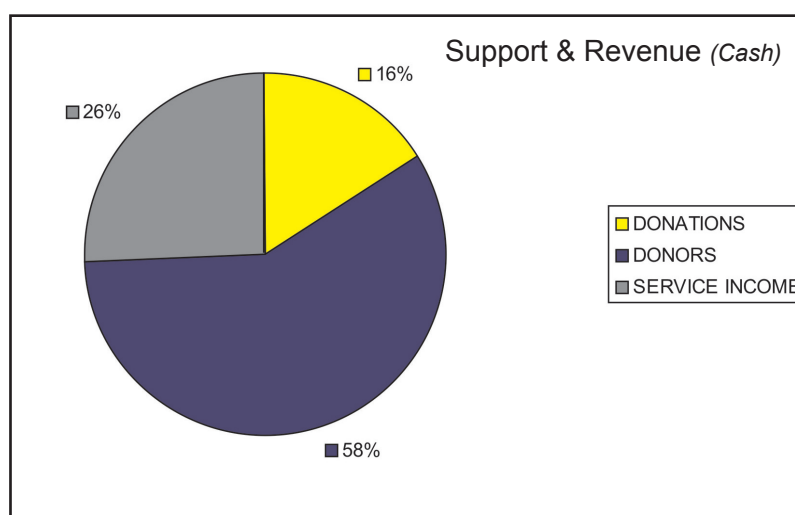
E.K.A. Bashkim KILLO

Statement of activities

Statement of activities for the year ended 31 December 2008

	EU 122	EU 122	LEK	LEK
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
DONATIONS	194.074,73		23.677.117,38	
DONORS	694.209,04		84.693.503,06	
SERVICE INCOME	309.546,12		37.764.626,90	
Total Support and Revenue		1.197.829,90		146.135.247,34
EXPENSES				
COMMUNICATION	38.019,42		4.638.369,46	
CARS / TRANS & TRAVEL	142.194,69		17.347.752,18	
OPERATIVE EXPENSES	459.854,38		56.102.234,87	
PERSONEL	552.097,43		67.355.886,04	
Total Expenses		1.192.165,92		145.444.242,55
OTHER REVENUE AND EXPENSE				
Other Revenue				
HUMANITARIAN ITEMS INCOME	167.641,09		20.452.212,70	
OTHER INCOME	76.446,74		9.326.501,83	
Total Other Revenue	236.339,00		29.778.714,53	
Other Expense				
HUMANITARIAN ITEMS DISBURSED	81.272,29		10.240.308,50	
OTHER EXPENSE	0,00		0,00	
Total Other Expense	81.272,29		10.240.308,50	
Total Other Revenue and Expense		160.150,87		19.538.406,03
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		165.814,84		20.229.410,82

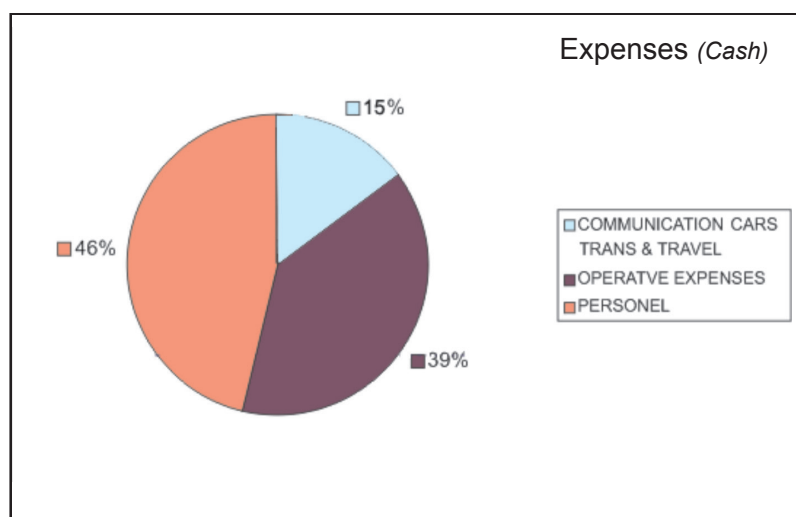
* The sum in Euro is calculated according to the average exchange rate for 2008. (122 lek/1Euro)



Statement of financial position

Statement of financial position as of 31 December 2008

	EU 122	EU122	LEK	LEK
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash Bank	167.082,25 €		20.384.033,89	
Cash on Hand	14.824,82 €	181.907,06 €	1.808.627,66	22.192.661,55
Accounts Receivable	45.189,47 €		5.513.115,61	
Total Current Assets		227.096,53 €		27.705.777,16
Fixed Assets				
Land	611.465,59 €		74.598.802,30	
Tools and Machinery	151.360,01 €		18.465.921,39	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-110.641,80 €		-13.498.299,30	
Equipment	198.033,98 €		24.160.146,05	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-150.973,24 €		-18.418.735,45	
Automobiles	196.127,93 €		23.927.607,00	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-140.966,14 €		-17.197.869,14	
Buildings	3.473.953,33 €		423.822.305,74	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-1.303.135,74 €		-158.982.560,42	
Total Fixed Assets		2.925.223,92 €		356.877.318,17
TOTAL ASSETS		3.152.320,45 €		384.583.095,33
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
LIABILITIES				
Insurance Payable	10.412,08 €		1.311.922,00	
Other Tax Payable	2.911,17 €		366.808,00	
Accounts Payable	50.622,83 €		6.378.476,00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		66.042,67 €		8.057.206,00
NET ASSETS				
Total Fund Balance	2.827.749,83 €		356.296.478,51	
Net Income	160.550,88 €		20.229.410,82	
TOTAL NET ASSETS		3.086.277,78 €		376.525.889,33
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		3.152.320,45 €		384.583.095,33



Visit our website!



www.nehemia-al.org

Please visit our website for more information on the Foundation, history, projects etc.

In 2009 the NEHEMIA website will receive a new face, which will be more user friendly and interactive.

The new website will come soon.

Donations

Germany

AVC
Commerzbank Münchberg,
BLZ 780 400 81
Kto: 311 440 200

IBAN:
De27 7804 0081 0311 4402 00
BIC: COBADEFF780

Albania

NEHEMIA Found.
ProCredit Bank
Pogradec Branch/Alba-
nia
Kto: 55-002422-00-02
Swift: FEFAALTRXX

Switzerland

AVC Hilfswerk
Credit Suisse
2501 Biel
Konto 214 992-81
or:
Postkonto 25-11156-1

USA

For donations from the
United States please
visit our cooperating
mission online:
www.gba.org

NEHEMIA National Center, Albania

Rruga Nehemia/ Buçimas, Pogradec, Albania
Tel: +355 (0) 868 20004
Fax: +355 (0) 868 20005
E-mail:
nehemia@nehemia-al.org