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NGO REPORT ON MONITORING THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

MINISTARSTVO CIVILNIH POSLOVA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE • MINISTARSTVO ZA LJUDSKA PRAVA I IZBJEGLICE BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE • DIREKCIJA ZA EKONOMSKO PLANIRANJE BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE
MINISTARSTVO RADA I SOCIJALNE POLITIKE FEDERACIJE BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE • MINISTARSTVO ZDRAVLJA I SOCIJALNE ZAŠTITE REPUBLIKE SRPSKE • VLADA BRČKO DISTRIKTA
МИНИСТАРСТВО ЦИВИЛНИХ ПОСЛОВА БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ • МИНИСТАРСТВО ЗА ЉУДСКА ПРАВА И ИЗБЈЕГЛИЦЕ БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ • ДИРЕКЦИЈА ЗА ЕКОНОМСКО ПЛАНИРАЊЕ БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ
МИНИСТАРСТВО РАДА И СОЦИЈАЛНЕ ПОЛИТИКЕ ФЕДЕРАЦИЈЕ БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ • МИНИСТАРСТВО ЗДРАВЉА И СОЦИЈАЛНЕ ЗАШТИТЕ РЕПУБЛИКЕ СРПСКЕ • ВЛАДА БРЧКО ДИСТРИКТА

PROJEKAT FINANSIRA



EVROPSKA UNIJA



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„What I noticed in comparing the old reports with the current situation is that the situation in Vareš was getting worse and worse every day, specifically in terms of non-existence of any prevention programs and adequate contents for children and youth. Poverty in all segments has become increasingly present. However, many things can be done even without a lot of money.“

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of a three-month monitoring of the rights of the child in 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was implemented through the Project for the *Enhancing the Social Protection and Inclusion for Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, as well as *Social Mapping and Monitoring of the Rights of the Child*. The results obtained through the monitoring of the children's rights throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina may constitute a general picture of the rights of the child across Bosnia and Herzegovina, because during their selection the following was taken into account: territorial arrangements, economic development level, social relations, different levels of governance, etc. This Report is some sort of the shadow report, because it has been prepared by the non-governmental organizations /NGOs/. General picture of the rights of the child obtained on the basis of the information in possession of these organizations corresponds to the results of the monitoring of the rights of the child throughout the country, which has been carried out by the following NGOs: „*Zdravo da ste*“ from Banja Luka and „*Naša djeca*“ from Sarajevo with the support of informal NGO network working with the children in BiH. However, the monitoring at the local level allows for obtaining community -specific information for a certain local community, which can be used by local authorities, institutions and organizations for producing development documents in the field of the rights of the child on the local level.

1.2 Towns and organizations involved

The monitoring of the rights of the child involved twenty non-governmental organizations from twenty BiH municipalities:

Municipality	NGO
Livno	„Centar mladih“
Kotor Varoš	„Centar mladih“
Novi Travnik	„Galerija“
Bileća	„Vedar osmijeh“
Laktaši	„Omladinski centar“
Sanski Most	„Dijakom“

Novi Grad	„Lira“
Višegrad	„Most“
Stolac	„Orhideja
Sarajevo, the Municipality of Novi Grad	„Budimo aktivni“
Banja Luka	URMNL
Bijeljina	Otaharin
Bugojno	„Saht
Vareš	„Labor omnia sund
Gradiška	„ Eduka“
Istočno Novo Sarajevo	„Vratite nam osmijeh“
Prijedor	„Svjetionik“
Srebrenica	„Amika-prijateljice
Teslić	„Futura.“
Trebinje	„ Sunce nam je zajedničko“

1.3 Methodology deployed

NGOs from the towns that were involved in the projects gained five-month experience last year in the monitoring of the rights of the child in their respective local communities. This activity was preceded by the training that provided them with elementary knowledge and information necessary for their engagement in the monitoring process. The training included: getting familiar with the *Practical Guide on Child Rights Monitoring* in the community (that had been prepared for these purposes), participation of children in the child rights monitoring in the local community, ethical questions associated with the protection of children in the process of participation and child protection policy, social exclusion and poverty, DevInfo methodology for gathering information on children and connecting the NGO monitoring with the municipal data base.

1.4 Data-gathering method

All organizations performed their monitoring according to the indicators of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The practice has shown that majority of the organizations focused on those rights of the child that were complementary with their respective missions. The bulk of information was obtained from interviews with responsible persons from the competent institutions, through focus groups with representatives (especially groups of sensitive children or their parents), from questionnaires and from visits to official institutions and media monitoring.

In all local communities interviews were held with the representatives of the Centers for Social Welfare, representatives of municipal services for social affairs, representatives of elementary and secondary schools, health centers, DevInfo teams, representatives of other NGOs and media. In some locations interviews were held with representatives of day-care centers, representatives of

youth associations, registry offices, centers for mental health and public security centers, etc. The following problems were faced during the monitoring process: lack of relevant statistical data and non-harmonized indicators of the statistics agencies with the indicators of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, non-existing database about children at the local level. Much information about children maintained by institutions has not been classified and systematized, and consequently it was difficult to yield exact indicators. Another problem was that much of information maintained by the institution has not been classified for the age up to 18, but for the age up to 19.

In gathering the information, some organizations used official web sites of governments and their ministries and institutions.

Some NGOs have better database about their users than competent institutions. This primarily refers to the associations of parents of children with special needs. The basic problem related to the gathering of data about children ensues from the fact that there is no unique data base about children on the local or higher levels of authority. Municipalities have an option to resolve this problem by establishing DevInfo database for children.

1.5 Connection with DevInfo teams

Gathering information in the DevInfo system had been implemented in 2007/2008 in 10 municipalities in BiH, and since the last year in another 11 municipalities as well. Teams were formed in municipalities and trained to collect children-related information based upon the established indicators. Information is collected from all relevant institutions working with children. The goal of these activities is creating a unique database at the level of the local community and establishing cooperation between the municipality and institutions working with children.

According to the information of the NGOs, the information is possession of DevInfo teams is incomplete and outdated in some communities (Vareš). DevInfo team in Prijedor is not active, and DevInfo database is not updated. DevInfo team is not functioning in Bugojno either. Indeed, they formally exist, but they do not collect information, so the database is not updated, DevInfo has not worked in Trebinje for the last two years either, and the same situation is in Gradiška.

DevInfo team has successfully worked in Kotor Varoš and the data base has been updated.

2. SITUATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN MUNICIPALITIES

The basic conclusion of the monitoring of the rights of the child in 20 local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina is that the possibilities for children to exercise their rights continue to differ a lot. All the towns where the monitoring of the rights of the child was performed had different economic and institutional capacities for exercise of the rights of the child. In larger and more developed towns, such as Sarajevo (the Municipality of Novi Grad), Banja Luka, Bijeljina,

Trebinje and Prijedor there is a number of educational, health and cultural institutions, as well as numerous NGOs, associations, sports, cultural and art associations etc. In these towns there are sports fields, parks and other contents for children. In other towns such contents are on a much smaller scale or non-existing. It is only natural that the life conditions and life style differ from one setting to another, but however it is not natural that the exercise of the fundamental rights of the child should depend on the place of birth or place of residence of the child. „Basic package of rights“ such as the right to health care, right to social protection, right to education, should be guaranteed for every child whether the child lives in Stolac, Banja Luka or Sanski Most. Difference in the level of the rights that children exercise is particularly notable in the FBiH, because majority of rights is exercised on the cantonal level and it is directly dependant on the cantonal economic resources. Consequently, for example children in one canton do not exercise the right to children’s allowance, while in other places this amount differs from canton to canton.

In the Republika Srpska all children that meet criteria receive the same amount regardless of the municipality in which they live. This amount is very low, but it is the same for everyone.

2.1 Budgets for children

As has been the case so far, none of the 20 municipalities has a specifically defined and adopted budget for children. One can calculate all costs allocated for children’s needs, but the information gathered in this way is unreliable.

In Sarajevo, the Municipality of Novi Grad, the 2010 budget for children amounted to 43,483,684.00 KM, which is 2,480,408.00 KM more than the budget in the previous year. This amount includes the funds allocated on the level of the Federation of BiH, Canton Sarajevo, the City of Sarajevo and the Municipality. The allocation of the Municipality is 3,210,000.00, which is around 9-9.5 % of the total budget of the Municipality.

In the Municipality of Prijedor there is no separate budget for children, but based on the analysis of the Municipal budget the following budget items directed at the exercise of the rights of the child can be separated:

Utilities and Infrastructure spending Program	
-co-financing of students transportation on municipal routes	15, 000.00 KM
Education and upbringing	
-costs of food for children in special school „Đorđe Natošević“	20 700,00 KM
-transportation for special school students	32 000,00 KM
-funds for student competitions	14 000,00 KM
Funds for financing of unions, associations and other NGOs	
-youth and issues of youth	70 000,00 KM
-funds for children with special needs	1 000,00 KM

Center for Social Welfare	
-one-off assistance and other types of social protection (used also by children)	35 000,00 KM
-assistance for children without parental care	10 000,00 KM
-placement in another family	100 000,00 KM
-health care for socially vulnerable persons	60 000,00 KM
-funds for student text books according to CSR criteria	10 000,00 KM
-funds for co-financing the transportation of students (social group)	5 000,00 KM
 Funds for social protection	
-transportation for hearing-impaired students B. Luka	16 000,00 KM
-one-off assistance for socially vulnerable (among others for children and youth)	50 000,00 KM

2.2 Action plans for children

In December 2009 in all towns where the project „*Social protection and inclusion for children in Bosnia and Herzegovina*“ (SPIS) has been implemented, the 2010-2011 Action plans for social inclusion in the children protection system were developed.

In Višegrad, for example the following funds have been planned for the implementation of the „*Action plan for social inclusion in the children protection system in the Višegrad Municipality for 2010 – 2011*“:

- through JU CSR.....214 200.00 KM
- contribution of local community.....1 872 000.00 KM

In the previous period in accordance with the identified problems regarding socially excluded groups of children and youth in Višegrad, the first steps have been undertaken to resolve the observed problems:

- staff capacities of the Center for Social Welfare were strengthened,
- committee for improving children and social protection in the area of the Municipality of Višegrad was formed,
- participation of children in the Project „*Socialization and recreation for children in the RS 2010*“ - going to the seaside,
- several projects dealing with the improving of the position and status of children were implemented.
- a protocol on multi-sectoral cooperation of organizations dealing with the position of children in the Municipality is under preparation
- introducing new indicators is ongoing.

2.3 The right to one`s life

Organizations the most frequently followed the exercise of the right to one`s life through the following indicators: minor abortions, infanticide and suicide in children.

As to the minor abortions, most of communities do not maintain records on minor pregnancies. In Livno, for instance, at the request of the Cantonal Ministry of Health separate records have been maintained for underage women. One such case was registered in Gradiška in this year. In the first six months, in the Municipality of Novi Grad (Sarajevo), 2 cases of minor abortions were registered. Although they could not obtain this kind of information from other settings, NGO representatives noted that this problem existed and that underage girls had their abortions in private gynecological clinics, although it is prohibited under the law.

According to the information of the Federation Administration of Police over the last three years two cases of infanticide have been recorded in Sarajevo, the Municipality of Novi Grad. One perpetrator stands the trial, while the other case has not been resolved yet. In the last year, 5 abortions in underage girls were registered in Prijedor. Each was signed by the mother. According to the Prijedor General Hospital this was not a relevant information since majority of intentional abortions is performed in private medical practice.

NGOs from smaller towns point out the problem of non-existing maternity clinics in their settings, so that pregnant women must travel to the nearest maternity clinic, while the health centers in local communities do not have records on child-births in minors.

Health-care facilities do not organize educational programs on the protection of reproductive health. This part of work is performed by NGOs and as a rare exception in partnership with health-care facilities.

2.4 Right to non-discrimination

The problem of discrimination against children in the exercise of some of their rights depending on their place of residence has been mentioned already. This discrimination was caused by the lack of political will to resolve the issue of a basic package of rights for every child across the country.

Although according to the reports of most NGOs in the filed there are no drastic forms of discrimination against children, but there are many examples that however indicate its existence.

In Stolac, it is primarily reflected in a great division among people. This implies that as long as day-care centers, schools and health centers are divided (Bosniaks - Croats), children's rights will be considerably violated. This has been discussed for years now, but nothing has been done, and consequently children and youth growing up in a such community cannot respect opinions of other children, nor have knowledge about other cultures or customs, and this is the cause of every day dissatisfaction among peers who themselves do not know who they should socialize with without harming one another. For this reason, majority of children after finishing the elementary school enroll their high school in Mostar or Čaplina and after they complete their high school they stay and work in other towns or they go to Sarajevo or some other town to the University.

Young people believe that there is no future for them in this town because the grown-ups deprive them of their right to safety and secure life.

The message for grown-ups: *Provide a safe future for us with nice and clean town and one school for all of us*“.

In Srebrenica, children of Croat ethnicity have no possibility to follow their classes in Croatian language.

In Sarajevo, the Municipality of Novi Grad, where 210 Roma children attend the elementary school, there is no single Roma student in the high school.

In Bugojno, Roma children and their parents note that they were often subjected to physical and psychological maltreatment by other children in the lower grades of the elementary school that they attended. Some teachers and parents of non-Roma children have also displayed prejudices against Roma children claiming that Roma have no will for getting education, rather they are prone to crime or they are only capable to perform simple physical labor.

Discrimination against children from rural area continues to be present because many rights are not available to them and because their access to education, health-care facilities and many other contents is aggravated. Children from poor families and a still great number of children with disabilities fall into the group of the discriminated. Regardless of numerous activities and measures undertaken by the governments and NGOs the same group includes Roma children.

2.5 The right to participation

In all 20 local communities student committees in elementary and secondary schools have been formed. Activities of these student bodies differ from one setting to another, and depend on the commitment of teachers who are assigned to provide support to these bodies.

According to individual reports we can conclude that children take part in decision-making process in the school when resolving some matters regarding their free time, organization of some activities on the improvement of living conditions in the school and alike. Representatives of the student committees attend teaching-staff conferences and schoolboard sessions. We have no data as to whether their presence is passive or whether the children have actual possibility to represent the interest of their peers and convey the information from those meetings to them.

Students cannot affect the gravity and scope of the teaching material, quality of teachers` performance or grades.

All schools in the area of the Novi Grad Municipality in Sarajevo have their web sites and e-mail addresses. Students in elementary schools have a possibility to participate in preparations of school papers, most often through journalism club. Since the last year, through various projects the student committees have been involved in different actions aimed at improving the quality of life and work of students in the school. We should particularly note the work of PAR groups in 10 municipalities that were included in the SPIS project. In these settings the children were trained and with the assistance of adults they carried out surveys in their communities and initiated actions that were responses to priority problems they encountered.

All schools in the Republika Srpska also have their e-mail addresses, but there is information as to the extent in which the students use them.

The feeling of success that children experience when they successfully finish a planned activity, constitutes the best affirmation of the children`s participation.

However, the readiness of students to resolve problems that they are facing is not supported by adults in all settings. Stolac is the best illustration for this.

„... as both students from Bosniak and students from Croat school say, they have never held a joint meeting of the student committee although they would like that because they think that they could achieve much more through joint efforts and commitment“.

2.6 The child's best interest

The implementation of this principle is best illustrated in the example of the Municipality of Novi Grad (Sarajevo) where Municipal Council in cooperation with the NGO „Naša djeca made a Decision to start the Project „*Town-Municipality fit for all the children*” back in 2008. Through this project many important things have been done for the children on the municipal level. In 2010 20.000 KM were allocated in the municipal budget for co-financing of these activities. The most significant activities carried out in this year were:

- Promoting the Action Plan for the children of the Municipality of Novi Grad 2010-2011
 - Educating the municipal expert team to work on monitoring and implementation of the AP for children
 - Monitoring AP implementation
 - Educating children about participation on the level of local community and preparations for forming of the children's municipal council.

All other projects that are directed at the benefit of children and initiated by the international and national NGOs and that are implemented in all 20 communities, directly affirm this principle.

We particularly note the contribution of the SPIS project that raised the awareness in municipalities and initiated a number of actions affecting social inclusion of marginalized children groups in communities.

Apart from many good practice examples that were implemented in accordance with the best interest of the child, there are opposite examples in almost all communities.

As to the best interest of the child, the best indicators of violation of that right are betting shops, bars...where despite the warning indicating that the underage are prohibited from gambling and alcohol, all of this is quite normally allowed. Novi Travnik

Problems with betting shops and gambling houses where minors are allowed in (Vareš, Banjaluka, Višegrad...), and their proximity to schools (Bijeljina, Istočno Sarajevo) remain to exist.

Program contents and broadcasting of certain shows and movies through majority of electronic media is not corresponding to the best interest of the child. Apart from numerous campaigns, journalists' education, reactions towards communication regulatory agency, both electronic media and press violate the law on reporting about children. Children's privacy has not been sufficiently protected, while the children from marginalized groups are additionally

stigmatized through media. Sensation-mongering reporting style about children has been in use. In this year the children have even more been exposed to risks on the Internet, while the number of those connected to social network has rapidly increased. Parents and adults usually do not have insight in this part of their children's lives.

2.7 Civil rights and freedoms

NGOs monitored respect for civil rights and freedoms through indicators related to the registration of newborns into the register of births, the right to language, religion, access to information and the right to privacy.

The problem of the registration into the register of births has been resolved in all communities. For the most part, legal procedures have been complied with. In 2009 in Bosnia and Herzegovina a large campaign for the registration of children in the register of births was carried out.

Religious instruction is organized in all elementary schools for members of major religious confessions. At the written request of a parent, the child can be relieved of his/her attendance at the religious instruction classes. The issue of organized activities for children who do not attend religious instruction has still not been resolved.

With respect to the rights of the child to education in their mother tongue, we note the example of elementary schools in Teslić, which organized classes in two languages in the settings where Bosniaks are majority population. However, there are much more examples where children who are members of other ethnicities and ethnic minorities have a possibility to get education in their mother tongue. In Srebrenica children of Croat ethnicity do not have the possibility to education in their mother tongue. In all schools in Livno education process is organized in Croatian language and in accordance with the Croatian curriculum.

With respect to the rights of children, members of other ethnic minorities, they do not have classes in their mother tongue. They preserve their culture, tradition and language through ethnic minority associations. In Prijedor the following associations are active: Roma associations, association of Checks „Česka beseda“, Ukrainian association „Kozak“ and Slovenian association „Lipa“ It is similar in other settings where there is a major number of ethnic minority members. In Prijedor, that is, Trnopolje there are activities on introducing Ukrainian language in schools. This activity is supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Several teachers are to complete the training in Zagreb and thus acquire a certificate necessary to teach Ukrainian language in schools. These classes would be attended by 12-15 Ukrainian children, and there are also children of other ethnicities who are interested in studying this language. In many other communities there are active associations of ethnic minorities. In Bijeljina, Banja Luka and Gradiška, Roma associations have actively been working on the promotion of access to education of Roma children, and exercise of other rights. Local authorities support this process in accordance with their possibilities.

Children in all communities have access to information through public and local media, Internet and school papers. Access to information raised the question of

the protection of children from harmful information. Respect for journalism code of ethics, both in written and electronic media, in the area of protection of children from harmful information is something that requires further efforts, awareness raising and teachers training. A special attention is required for the problem of protection of children from the Internet, where children are exposed to a great pornography risk, children prostitution and alike. Parents believe that their children are safe at computer and not in the streets, without being aware of all possible risks for their child. The problem is that the parents are often less literate in terms of IT than their children and have no possibility to control what their children are doing on the Internet. In 2010 important campaigns were organized for fighting children pornography, prostitution and trafficking in children and other forms of abuses through Internet. („Zdravo da ste“, „Naša djeca“, and EMAUS)

2.8 Family setting and alternative care

The exercise of these rights differs not only from entity to entity, but also from canton to canton and from municipality to municipality. No community has a planned or continued education for the role of a parent. A number of the family counseling centers increased during the reporting period. In addition to the counseling centers in the Sarajevo Canton and Center for Social Welfare in Banja Luka and Livno, counseling centers also work in Laktaši, Bileća, Kotor Varoš, Bileća and Novi Travnik, within the Centers for Integrated Early Childhood Development. These Centers provide a number of services for families and children, but there is a justified fear that the centers would terminate their work upon the completion of the projects, particularly in smaller municipalities. It would have been better, perhaps, had the services that are currently provided in the centers been developed in the existing institutions in these locations.

Particularly notable is the problem of families and children from rural areas whose access to information and services is difficult.

In some communities there is the problem of consequences that the child suffers in case that his/her parents get divorced.

In Trebinju there have been particularly dramatic cases where parents cannot agree about custody over the children after their divorce. Such instances occur in 2-3 cases out of 10 divorces. A couple of months ago in one such case the Center for Social Welfare assigned custody to the mother, but the father did not agree and initiated an appellate proceedings. It's been 7-8 months now that the Court has not resolved this case. During the last year and the first half of 2010 the number of divorces was around 25 a year.

In Sarajevo, in the Municipality of Novi Grad, 44 girls ages 15-19 got married during this year, while there were 9 marriages where spouses were ages 15-19 ..
There were no divorces marriages with one minor spouse.
In the FBiH 11 minors delivered babies in 2010.
In Prijedor there were 3 marriages with underage women, in Novi Travnik, Vareš and Livno there was one marriage with an underage woman in each.

If neither parent fulfils conditions for taking care of children, the Center for Social Welfare can entrust them to another person. There were 2 cases in Trebinje

where the child was entrusted to another person, in Livno there was one such case.

Interest for the adoption in all settings is larger than the number of children for adoption. In most communities where the monitoring of the rights of the child have been carried out in the current year, there was no single case of adoption, but during the last year 6 children were adopted in Prijedor, 4 of which were fully adopted and 2 partially, in Bugojno 4 children were given for full adoption.

Centers for Social Welfare maintain records on children victims of abuse and neglect in the family setting. This information is frequently classified by the child's gender and age.

Protection of these children has not been resolved in any settings. In this case children are placed together with their mothers in safe houses, if they exist. We have a positive example in Trebinje where *Ženski centar* opened a creative center for the implementation of programs for children from rural areas, and for the children from vulnerable and dysfunctional families.

The number of requests for adoption in all settings remains larger than the number of children that could enter the adoption procedure.

In the Prijedor Center for Social Welfare there are 80 applications for adoption, while during 2010 one full adoption and one partial adoption took place

2.9 Health care

All the children in Bosnia and Herzegovina are entitled to free primary health care in the Federation up to 18 and in the RS up to 15 years of age. Within primary health care, all the children are the responsibility of family practitioner, that is, they are entitled to the medical treatment and medicines referred to in the lists A, A1 and B. Medicines in these lists are free of charge or the amount of 10 to 50 % of the full price of medicine should be paid. In practice, the situation is different, and there are frequent cases where the parents pay for their children's examinations as they were not informed in due time how to exercise their right to free health-care.

In all settings there is some sort of health care for babies. For example, all children born in the Municipality of Trebinje mandatory use the services of mothers and babies welfare clinic in their first month of life, which includes a detailed examination by pediatrician and monitoring of the child's development up to 12 months of age. Children elder than one year use services of family practitioners. It is assessed that the number of pediatricians in all locations is small. Health-care facilities organize various types of parents education: seminars and lectures for future mothers on the importance of breast-feeding, prevention of obesity, immunization, prevention of infectious diseases, etc.

The mental health centers exist in all bigger towns in the RS. In the FBiH, for instance in Sarajevo, the Municipality of Novi Grad, has 14 employees.

According to the available information they do not provide treatments but only diagnostics. In smaller municipalities there is no form of mental health protection. As a response to the problem of obesity in the Sarajevo Canton, Counseling Center for Nutrition and Nutrition Disorders was opened.

This year, lobbying with the RS National Assembly delegates, the Association for Assistance to Mentally Underdeveloped Persons in Banja Luka, managed to secure that paragraph 2 is added in Article 8 of the Law on Health-care, which reads "On the RS level, health care shall be provided to persons with mental retardation under equal conditions (under d)" which has not been the case so far, and which changed the situation which, since 2009, had been preventing a number of users to exercise their right to health insurance due to the amendments to the Law on Taxes and Contributions, which directly affected all the insured persons through the Center for Social Work.

2.10 Social welfare

According to the applicable laws on social welfare, the group of underage social welfare beneficiaries is composed of the following underage persons:

- without parental care,
- with psychological and physical developmental handicaps,
- whose development is burdened with the family circumstances,
- persons under neglect.

The rights in social welfare are:

- Right to basic financial aid,
- Right to attendance allowance,
- Right to assistance and training of children and youth for work,
- Right to placement in social facility or another family,
- Right to social welfare services.

In the Republika Srpska providing support to parents in performing their parental duties falls under the regular scope of duties of the Center for Social Welfare. This support is usually provided by workers who work on divorces, reconciliation or entrusting custody of children to another person. Support programs to multi-member families and other child-birth incentive measures have been implemented through the Law on Children's Protection, in the form of children's allowance, financial aid, regulating the costs of tuition, transportation, heating, books, clothing and accommodation for such families.

The amount of the children` allowance depends on which consecutive child in the family is in question. For the second child the amount of the allowance is 45 KM, for the third child it is 100 KM, and 45 KM for the fourth child. This allowance is paid to children up to the age of 15, except for children with disabilities when they receive it up to the age of 19 (or until the completion of the education process). Children's allowance for those children amounts to 100 KM. The payments of these allowances are regular. Maternity allowance is also paid regularly and amounts to 100 KM, but a child-bearing woman is entitled to it the total income of the household does not exceed 100 KM per a family member. Infant equipment is paid in the amount of 390 KM and every child-bearing woman is entitled to this kind of assistance. Apart from these payments, we should also note extraordinary allocations by the RS Government intended for the third child in the

family. This allocation amounts to 500 KM for the third child and 400 KM for the fourth child. These fall in the category of one-off assistance. The childbirth allowance was sometimes late for a year and a half. Positive example in some municipalities, for example in Bijeljina and Laktaši where the Municipal assembly issued a decision on the expanded social welfare rights, whereby the number of services increased as well.

In the FBiH the right to social welfare is differently regulated from canton to canton, which inevitably leads to discrimination. The most drastic example is Sanski Most, that is, Una Sana Canton where the children's allowance is not paid at all. In Zenica-Doboj Canton the children's allowance for the first class of children is 9,35 KM, and 14,65b KM for the second class. In Travnik the amount of children's allowance is 29,29 KM, in Sarajevo (Novi Grad) the amount is 33,00 KM, while the increased children's allowance is 49,00 KM. In this municipality midmorning snacks are provided for 908 children from socially vulnerable children throughout the school year.

In Herzeg-Bosnia Canton the employed mothers are entitled (depending on collective contract) to a certain percentage of their monthly incomes, for example the employed mothers in education process receive 80% of their monthly income.

In Bugojno the amount of financial allowance during the maternity leave is 50% of the average salary earned in the last six month, and this allowance is paid for the period between six months and one year.

2.10.1 Children without parental care

Although for several years now different campaigns have been mounted to reduce institutional capacities and expand foster-families network, the major number of children without parental care is placed in children's homes.

This year Children`s Home in Kiseljak near Zvornik was closed down, and the children were transferred to „Rada Vranješević Home in Banja Luka. The Home was closed down due to the scandals that disclosed abuse and neglect of children by the staff.

In Sarajevo 125 children without parental care were registered in the Municipality of Novi Grad.

-Number of children in facilities for children without parental care - 58

-Number of children in foster families - 35

-Number of children in kinship care– 32.

The records of the Center for Social Welfare show that there were 50 children without parental care last year in Prijedor: 13 children without both parents, 26 children without one parent, and 11 children with both parents, but without capacities to take care of their children alone, so all the children are under the custody. In facilities there are 12 children and 13 children in foster families.

2.10.2 The child with the disabilities

The basic problems in this area are related to non-harmonized laws with the actual situation and possibilities of the existing system to apply them. The most drastic problems are present in the education system, as well as in health-care and social welfare systems. With respect to the RS, the laws in these areas are passed on the entity level and implemented on the local level. With respect to the education, the biggest problem for children with special needs is the lack of competent staff (special education teachers, speech therapists, assistants in education process and inadequate space for the implementation of inclusive education. In the Republika Srpska the Strategy for the enhancing of the social status of persons with disabilities was adopted in July 2010, however the law on social welfare has not been adopted yet, which additionally aggravates the position of persons with disabilities. With respect to the health care of children with special needs, the biggest problems exist in the system of tertiary health care, because for example children from Trebinje must travel to Banja Luka 350 km, which creates big financial and technical problems for the parents of children with special needs. Health-care insurance system does not allow for the treatment of children from Trebinje in closer tertiary health-care facilities, such as Podgorica or Mostar.

In all 20 local communities it was assessed that the children with disabilities were discriminated in comparison to healthy children. Although according to the law these children are entitled to many services and financial assistance, these are so low and cannot provide any security for poor families in their child care.

Stolac: During the meeting discrimination of children in schools was discussed, and the biggest problem in the last 4 years appeared to be when the school principle forbade a female student with Down syndrome to go on an excursion with her peers. This problem has been frequently discussed, however nothing has been done yet to resolve it and enable the child to go on an excursion.

In most communities the issues of architectonic barriers for the children with disabilities and of protection measures for the blind have not been resolved yet. In the settings where associations of parents of children with disabilities were formed, the situation is somewhat better, because the parents struggle in different ways to facilitate the position of their children. Smaller places do not have any associations.

In Livno 22 children were classified, 13 of which were males and 9 females. However, it is the fact that a number of children with disabilities in the territory of the Livno Municipality is much bigger, but those children are not officially registered in any facility. NGO „Koraci” believes that this number is much bigger, but those children are mostly in villages of the Livno municipality and nobody save for their families cares about them nor they participate in any programs they are entitled to. In summer time, there was a summer school/workshop for children with disabilities that lasted for 45 days.

So far 10 children with disabilities have been classified in Istočno Sarajevo. Project „*Early detection of children with special needs*“ included 15 children. There are no special programs for the rehabilitation of children with disabilities, but they think this area requires further work. They also have no data about the number of children with disabilities who were adopted or placed in a foster family. In Vareš 116 children with psycho-physical disabilities have been registered.

In Prijedor there are around 350 children that were classified as children with disabilities. Apart from the children living in their families, many children are placed in special facilities for education of children with special needs. Their costs are covered by the Municipality. The amount of the children's allowance for the children with special needs amounts to 100 KM and it is regularly paid to all the children. Parents of children with special needs are entitled to short working hours (4 hours). Additionally, all those children receive free text books and note books for school, their transport to school is covered, and they are entitled to one-off financial assistance.

Only in some towns centers for day stay were opened for the children with special needs, most often in cooperation between government and non-governmental sector. In Sarajevo, the Municipality of Novi Grad, has implemented this activity together with NGO „Oaza“, in Trebinje organization „Sunce nam je zajedničko“, in Istočno Sarajevo „Vratite nam osmijeh“, in Bileća Day stay center is run by the NGO „Vedar osmijeh“, and in Novi Travnik it is NGO „Duga“ that runs the day stay center. In Livno NGO „Koraci“ organizes some activities that take place in the afternoon.

In Banja Luka there is a daycare center for children with serious disabilities (mostly combined disabilities) up to the age of 14; there are twenty children and this daycare center is free for parents.

The Trebinje Municipality is the best example, in our circumstances, of care for children with disabilities. By the municipal decision to extend the rights, all children and youth with serious and sever disabilities receive financial assistance in the amount of 215 KM for severe disabilities, 155 KM for serious disabilities. 15 children and youth were included in the work occupation program in the Center for Children and Youth with special needs (easy and moderate) and in addition to regular meal a day and transport they also receive financial assistance in the amount of 71 KM. Seven children with serious psycho-physical disabilities were included in day stay where they receive adequate protection (child-sitting, changing clothes and feeding) and 30 children regularly use services of speech therapist, psychologist and special education teacher.

Children with disabilities in all municipalities in the Republika Srpska are included in the social integration program which is implemented at the Montenegrin seaside during summer.

2.11 Education

Pre-school upbringing and education in communities is organized through public institutions, private daycare centers and daycare centers organized by religious congregations. Local authorities participate in the cost of daycare centers, but

only in public ones as a rule. In Bijeljina we have an example where the municipality co-finances the stay of children in private daycare center as well, but not in all. Recently, play-rooms for children have been open, but they do not have the status of daycare center, and they are established by non-governmental organizations and private companies. In Sarajevo, the Municipality of Novi Grad, covers 9% of children with pre-school education. Not even close does this satisfy the needs of parents. In other places in the Federation where monitoring was performed there is one or two pre-school facilities.

In the Republika Srpska the law regulated that 6 months before starting the school children must attend an organized form of pre-school education. However, as in many other cases, there are no conditions for implementation of this obligation. Throughout the country the number of children covered with pre-school upbringing and education is very low. Children from families with low socio-economic status have no access to daycare centers, because every form of pre-school education is expensive for their parents. Public institutions have more favorable cost than private ones, but waiting lists are huge.

In some settings, children with disabilities, spend time in daycare center together with the other children. The problem of the lack of specially trained staff and crowded groups make the work more difficult, which affects the expected results both in work with children with disabilities and with the other children.

In the Prijedor Municipality, that is, in pre-school facility in Omarska there is one child with special needs and one child in the town daycare center who spends up to two hours a day there. In other municipalities too pre-school children with mild disabilities are placed in regular daycares centers. Only in Banja Luka daycare center *Marija Mažar* there are children with serious disabilities (mostly combined disabilities) up to the age of 14. This service is free for the parents. In daycare center in Istočno Sarajevo, organized by the NGO „Vratite nam osmijeh“ there are children with disabilities.

In Stolac there are two daycare centers, one for Bosniak children and the other one for Croat children. Neither, as the teachers in those facilities indicate, wants to work together because both have their own rules that they do not want to change.

2.11.1 Access to education

All the children in communities where the monitoring of the children's right was performed do not have equal access to education. All schools did not remove physical barriers for access of children with disabilities, and in many instances children with other forms of impairments are not in the inclusion process, due to technical and staff problems in some schools. Children from rural areas of municipalities have aggravated access due to the distance between their schools and homes; many are exposed to traffic risks while walking to school. Transport of students to school has not been resolved in all settings.

Due to lack of minimum funds children from extremely poor families do not go to school. One such case was recorded in the Laktaši Municipality.

In all local communities certain measures have been undertaken, free textbooks and transport secured, rarely including midmorning snacks, however it is not sufficient to depreciate the great poverty. In some settings, for example in the municipalities of Gradiška and Bijeljina, preparation for the future first-grade pupils is organized, as well as for older children who did not finish the school in regular term.

In the Municipality of Gradiška, majority of children, around 99% is covered with elementary education, and a bit less with the secondary education. Most Roma children are not covered with either elementary or secondary school education, and these are the children who either drop out or leave the school earlier due to social exclusion and their life style.

In Bugojno, irrespective of the fact that the official records of the Municipal service for social affairs have no Roma children registered in the territory of the Bugojno Municipality, volunteers of the Youth Volunteers Center "ŠAHT" during their three-month survey established that in the settlements of the Bugojno Municipality there were around 20 Roma children, age between 6 to 15, who do not attend school. Most of them have permanent residence in the area of Bugojno municipality, and they are children of poor parents or children without one parent who is collecting secondary row materials for living. A minor number of children is placed in an improvised camp in the area of unfinished hospital at Obješnica near Bugojno, whose close family members are begging and from whom we did not manage to get more information.

Some parents of Roma children that we managed to talk to clearly indicated that the education had a great importance for them, which is contrary to the positions of some teachers and broad local community. One of the basic problems that they mentioned is lack of money that is, inability of parents to pay for the books, school equipment and transportation to school given the fact that they live in rural settlements.

Access to education is also aggravated due to non-compliance with the laws. An example from Bileća confirms the foregoing.

„Bileća has implemented the inclusive education program, however we noticed some flaws in legislation. The Law on Secondary inclusive education includes three-year secondary school education (bricklayer-house-painter, tailor-garment worker, baker, cook, hair-dresser and locksmith).

In the Bileća secondary school center none of the aforementioned professions is studied, so the children are forced to learn a trade that they will not be able to perform in practice whereby this education is useless“.

The percentage of the elementary school completion in all 20 municipalities is almost 100%. In Bijeljina, which has a great number of Roma students, it is 99.92%. In Novi Travnik this percentage is je 99.25.

In the communities included in the monitoring of the child's rights, the problem of access and completion of elementary school associated with Roma children is noted. Although over the last several years the number of Roma children going to school considerably increased, this problem continued to exist. The problem of terminating education in schools is still present. In some settings activities are initiated to prepare for nonregular completion of certain grades for Roma children

elder than 15. Bijeljina has had the most success in that regard. In some settings there are cases of children with special needs who are excluded from the elementary education system, primarily in cases of a great distance between school and place of residence or other technical problems that parents cannot overcome on their own.

In order to facilitate access to education of excluded children, majority of local communities for the most vulnerable classes of children secure free text books, organize transport to school and partly participate in the transport cost.

In Vareš there exists a problem with the payment of transportation tickets for children. In some individual cases the Municipality provides assistance and money, but in general parents cover the expenses.

In this school year in the Municipality of Novi Grad in Sarajevo all pupils of the elementary school from socially vulnerable families got free text books from the text book fund in the school libraries, or from the Federation Ministry and Municipal Services for Social Affairs. Parents only purchased note books and text books for foreign languages. In school year 2009/2010 the Municipality donated 200 sets of text books valued at 25,000 KM.

For three consecutive years in the Republika Srpska free text books have been secured for all the pupils of the first, second and third grade of the elementary school. It is the process of gradual harmonization of practice with the laws on free elementary education.

2.11.2 Inclusion in education system

Children with expressed developmental problems receive education in specialized facilities, while children with mild problems have been introduced in the regular education system. All municipalities included in the monitoring of the child's rights more or less have carried out the inclusion of children with special needs. Only in Gradiška there exist three special departments in elementary schools in the town, where 4 special education teachers are currently working. Inclusive approach to resolving education problems of children with special needs faces many problems in the field. Non-governmental organizations list some of those:

- Lack of special education teachers,
- Architectonic barriers in schools,
- Excessive number of students in classes,
- Lack of education and prejudices of teachers,
- Inadequate preparation of the other children and their parents.

A great number of students with special needs are covered by inclusion process without required documentation (1698 students in RS). Public Fund for Children's protection in the Republika Srpska has financed and supported the project of early detection of children with disabilities for the purpose of early treatment. According to the information we obtained in the Republika Srpska:

- Number of students in inclusion with psycho-physical disabilities with documentation is 945.
- Number of students with psycho-physical disabilities without documents is 1698. This number is important because the number of children in inclusion without documents were excluded from the program conducted outside of school and in a way neglected and left exclusively to their parents.

In the Municipality of Novi Grad in Sarajevo it is noted that the children with special needs are not different than other children, but there are many undefined procedures, due to which the parents of children with disabilities come across different obstacles, starting with denying them the right to enroll, through incompetent treatment to neglect. The laws did not precisely define the education of children with special needs, and the pre-war laws still apply (Classification of children). The established and registered Center for Observation and Diagnostics was not financially supported by the relevant Ministry. Children with disabilities exercise their right to education, thanks to the involvement and frequently financing from non-governmental sector.

A number of students with special needs in the Municipality of Sarajevo Novi Grad is:

- 735 with and without documents in elementary schools in the Sarajevo Canton, of which 229 are students with documentation, and 506 without documentation
- Of 229 students with special needs 72 of them work according to IEP (individual education program)
- Of 506 students with special needs without documentation, 54 students work according to IEP
- Total number of education programs is 126
- In secondary schools there are presently 7 children with special needs

It is important to note that all of 60 children who receive their education in the Facility for the blind and partially sighted children are included in studying two foreign languages, English and German.

The situation is similar in Istočno Sarajevo, because apart from the adjusted curriculum all other barriers continue to exist.

In all seven elementary schools in Bugojno the inclusion in education has been applied since the last year. During the inclusion process 6 children were included in regular education in Vareš and special education is organized for 3, that is, they have a special class.

Number of children included in the inclusive education in Kotor Varoš is not determined, because all the children did not undergo specialized examinations and Commission for classification of persons. Most frequently the problem is

posed by parents who, for a number of reasons, do not want to accept that their child has disabilities.

In the Elementary school *fra Lovro Karaula* in Livno education was organized for 12 students with disabilities. Teaching process was organized in 2 classes and it was implemented with the assistance of two teachers, speech-therapist, orthopedic and pedagogue. In 2008, 4 students with disabilities completed the school. In this school year 7 students with disabilities attended the school.

Only a few schools in Prijedor have removed physical barriers for access of students with disabilities.

2.11.3 Education goals

NGOs that monitored the situation of the child's rights in 20 communities did not directly report on education quality. However, the commentary and recommendations clearly show that education quality is not at a satisfactory level. In most communities education of professionals on the child's rights is recommended, on necessity of learning tolerance, non-violent communication and appreciation. They also recommend introduction of prevention programs for prevention of violence, playing truants and other forms of unacceptable behavior. It is obvious that the education component of the work in schools is primary, while the upbringing component is less and less given attention. In many communities the problem of cooperation between school and parents is marked as insufficient, which precisely indicates that the children from families in which the parents do not show sufficient interest in education the children do not have good role models. The upbringing function cannot and should not be performed by the school only, but it cannot be excluded from it either.

2.11.4 Two schools under one roof

This phenomenon continues to exist. Of municipalities covered with the monitoring of the child's rights, this phenomenon was noted in Bugojno, where two such schools exist: The first Bugojno Elementary School and General – Program Secondary School in Bugojno.

In Vare domicile school the principle of two schools under one roof is still applied. Some subjects are taught by the same teachers, but the children are physically separated in two floors.

Drastic examples are schools and daycare centers in Stolac. In comparison to the last year, there is a more positive climate in the school now, because the students- members of both majority populations expressed their wish and readiness to implement joint operations.

2.11.5 Free time and cultural activities

In all SPIS municipalities the situation in schools regarding the organization of free activities for students has been improved. Many hobby groups were organized beyond regular education process, and these are lead by the teachers.

With respect to the contents and infrastructure for the organization of free time of children, there are huge differences among local communities. These differences are reflected in the number of playgrounds, sports fields, cultural institutions and alike. They are conditioned primarily by economic resources of the municipality. Generally speaking, we can say that children who live in the center of municipalities are in a much more favorable position than the children in rural areas.

2.12 Special protection measures

2.12.1 Children refugees and displaced persons

In most communities there is no record on children refugees and displaced persons. This information is no longer required from schools by the relevant ministries of education.

Children are still living with their parents in the so called alternative accommodation. In Višegrad in 2010, of 103 registered students, 5 lived in alternative accommodation. Children from alternative accommodation are stigmatized by their peers.

2.12.2 Juvenile delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is on the increase in most communities. However, in Sarajevo in the Municipality of Novi Grad during the period January-September 2010, 126 juveniles were recorded under the grounds of suspicion of having committed 338 criminal offences. In comparison with the same period of 2009, the number of juvenile perpetrators was reduced by 88 or 41.1 %, while the number of criminal offences that they committed was reduced by 132 or 28.1%. Of the total number of criminal offences perpetrated by juveniles, 232 are from the reporting period and 106 from earlier period.

In comparison to the situation from the last year, we can notice a larger proportion of educational measures imposed on juvenile offenders.

In the Municipality of Novi Grad in Sarajevo- the imposed educational measures:
Referral to the Disciplinary Center: 9 cases
Fortified supervision of parents, adoptive parents or caretakers – 22 cases;
Fortified supervision by relevant social protection authority: 16 cases
Referring a juvenile to prison – 1 case;
Measure: fortified supervision in another family, referral to educational facility, referral to correctional and penal facility, referral to another facility for professional training – none.
In Bileća a fortified supervision of eight underage children by their parents was imposed
In Trebinje fortified supervision by parents of 8 children who committed petty criminal offences.
In Gradiška, in organization of the Center for Social Welfare, workshops in schools on the prevention of juvenile delinquency took place. Juvenile offenders and recidivists regularly attend counseling in the Center for Social Welfare.

In all municipalities of the Republika Srpska Public Security Center in cooperation with centers for social welfare work on the implementation of the juvenile delinquency prevention programs. These programs have been

implemented in senior grades of elementary school and junior grades of the secondary schools.

In Istočno Sarajevo, project on the level of the Public Security Center regarding juvenile delinquency, that is, juvenile delinquency prevention is under preparation. This project will include children in the fifth grade of elementary school and in the first grade of the secondary school, parents and teachers. The Project should be finalized by May 2011. In Istočno Sarajevo a seminar was organized within a joint project entitled „Strengthening Juvenile Justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal is to strengthen and support those institutions that are dealing with juvenile delinquency problems.

2.12.3 Protection of children from trafficking in human beings

In Bosnia and Herzegovina there exist only one Shelter for women- victims of violence.

This shelter's capacity is 8 to 10 girls who are victims of emotional, physical and sexual violence (trafficking, incest, prostitution, rape). The primary goal of this project is ensuring direct protection of girls- violence victims. It is designed for BiH female citizens between 12 and 18 years of age. Psycho-social rehabilitation is provided in the shelter for the girls (group and individual therapy), as well as resocialization (continuation of school education and programs, new inclusion into social life).

Teslić- During the current year of the reported cases of sexual exploitation of juveniles, there was one case of child pornography. It was the case of one underage female.

2.12.4 Protection of children from economic and sexual exploitation

As the response to the problem of begging, within Project *Protocol on the Protection of children in the Streets*, a day stay center was opened in Sarajevo, and its services were used by around 120 children during 2010. Every day around 30 users stay in the Center and receive services from two psychologists and pedagogues, social workers, assistants, mediators and young people involved in the activities in the field.

Teams in the field will be fortified, new eighth social workers will be hired, and the police will also fortify their resources. In the following period a meeting with judicial authorities will be convened to discuss the option of application and repressive measures (seizing money acquired through exploitation children's work).

2.12.5 Protection of children from psychoactive substances

According to the information obtained through the monitoring of the child's rights one can draw a conclusion that by talking about the increase in the number of children abusing drugs, we neglected a problem of children consuming alcohol and cigarettes.

In Kotor Varoš, according to the conducted survey by DevInfo team on a sample of 165 students in final grades of the elementary school, 59.4% of respondents consumed alcohol and 22.97% cigarettes.

In all 20 communities the laws on prohibition of furnishing and selling alcohol and tobacco products to minors have been violated. In comparison to the previous reporting period, the situation has improved with respect to displaying this prohibition in commercial and catering facilities.

In the Municipality of Novi Grad in Sarajevo the Program of the Prevention of Drug Addiction, which is the responsibility of the Inter-sectoral team selected by the Municipality Head. The framework of the program includes education of students in elementary and secondary schools, educational workers, social workers, police and parents through organized seminars. A part of the program is designed as financial support for the work of therapist communities in whose care abstaining persons from the territory of the municipality are, and implementation of surveys in elementary and secondary schools, as well as among the parents. The survey is expected to reach exact indicators on a possible lowering of age level of new consumers of narcotic drugs, by finding the most quality way to stop such trends and including a great number of residents in the fight against drug addiction disease.

3. NGOs Recommendations

Banja Luka

- A progress has been made in the local community in terms of existence of a budget for children and possibility to monitor the funds allocated for care of children with disabilities up to 15 years of age, however efforts must be made for other institutions in the system across the country and for all needs of the children to have a specific budget allotment that is traceable as well as a greater budget transparency.
- In the protection of children and persons with disabilities it is necessary to resolve the legislation by passing the unique law on protection of all persons with disabilities (regardless of the cause of their disability) because if this is not done-discrimination problem will not be resolved. According to the existing laws, disabled war veterans and civilian victims of war have more favorable position than disabled persons with hereditary or acquired disability.
- Although organizations, which, according to their program activities, work on protection of children and persons with disabilities and take over a considerable portion of social activities in the country, and give active contribution for development of democratic processes in the society, and although the Strategy for Improving the Social Status of Persons with Disabilities indicate that it is necessary to strengthen non-governmental

sector dealing with problems of children and persons with disabilities, the impression has been made that the state discourages this sector, because the funds for work of these organizations since early 2009 is reduced by 50% in comparison to the previous year.

- For more successful work and improvement of position of children with disabilities, it is necessary to strengthen capacities of institutions by hiring special school teachers and children neurosurgeons.
- Introduce the registry of children under neurological risk and expand existing programs of the RS Fund for children's protection.

Bijeljina

- It is necessary to establish a facility for day stay of children with disabilities who are socially vulnerable and increase the amounts of children allowance and other forms of financial assistance.

Bugojno

- It is necessary to harmonize the laws on all levels.
- Continuation of *DevInfo* team work and establishing of the unique database.
- Ensure considerable financial and material funds for socially vulnerable families with multiple children.
- Ensure financial funds for work with children with special needs.
- Work on a better inter-sectoral cooperation (no support from health and private sectors).
- Establish municipal committee for the child's rights and children protection on the local level.
- Ensure education of technical staff, parents and children.
- Health and social institutions should develop prevention programs.

Gradiška

- Ensure higher level of information of parents in rural areas of the municipality on the child's rights and methods on achieving those rights.
- Educate parents about their responsibilities and commitments towards children.
- Inspection authorities and the MUP should conduct more frequent inspections into compliance with and implementation of the Law on Prohibition of furnishing minors with alcohol, and sale of tobacco products, while offenders should be sanctioned with higher fines including prohibition to work.
- Center for Social Welfare and Municipality should establish better cooperation with non-governmental organizations dealing with the child's rights, including the activities that occasionally take place in the area of the Gradiška Municipality.

Livno

- Institutions working with children must increase their capacities and obtain larger financial funds because they are currently limited in their work.
- Establish a database on children on the local level.
- Ensure the implementation of the passed laws.
- Ensure better cooperation between institutions and organizations that work with children.
- NGOs should be more involved for improving the situation in the community.

Kotor Varoš

- Center for the Social Welfare must establish the number of children living below the social minimum, rather than making arbitrary assessments and undertake measures corresponding to the established situation to assist them.
- It is necessary to ensure media presentation of all activities organized for the well being of children in order that everyone in the community is well-informed and have a chance to get involved.
- A larger number of educational programs should be introduced for professionals working in the institutions with children.
- Greater attention should be paid to inform the children on their rights and ways to exercise their rights.
- Information that is available through DevInfo base, apart from being public and available to everyone, should be distributed to all relevant institutions, facilities, organizations and broad social community.
- Establish connections with other organizations throughout BiH dealing with issues of the children's rights in order to collect good practice examples and implementation of the best quality programs that have proved to be effective in other local communities.

Prijedor

- Local authorities should allocate more considerable funds for social needs of population, because the needs are much higher.
- Local community should allocate more funds for the needs of special school students, that is, for establishing a day stay center where they would spend time, both the students who attend this school and students who completed it.
- More attention should be given to creating of better conditions to start families and increase birth-rate and increase the amount of the children's allowance which currently amounts to 45KM for the second child, 100KM for the third child and 45KM for the fourth child, which have been the same for years now. Efforts should also be made to make regular payments of maternity allowance that have sometimes been late for as much as one year.

- Special attention should be given to the protection of minors during pre-election campaigns, because there are other areas to win battles for power, without jeopardizing the child's right to privacy.
- It is necessary to continue working on establishing the unique database on children on the local community level.

Novi Travnik

- It is necessary to invest all available forces in community in order to prohibit the children from accessing betting shops, from furnishing alcohol and buying tobacco products.
- It is necessary to introduce individualized programs for children with disabilities in the secondary school education.

Trebinje

- Work on a better coordination of all stake holders in the inclusive education system.
- Ensure professional assistance for the students of final grade of the elementary school in career-choosing.
- Analyze causes why the increasing number of students abandon the secondary education.
- Stimulate non-governmental organizations to develop alternative programs for children and their protection.
- Courts should be more efficient in the divorce process.
- Ensure greater and better quality inclusion of children in media.
- Improve quality of all forms of health protection.
- Define the work of DevInfo teams.

Stolac

- Adults should enable joint meetings for the council of students and teachers of school working according to Bosniak curriculum and schools working according to Croat curriculum, and organize some joint seminars and creative workshops.
- It is necessary to perform training of management and school staff on the child's rights and discrimination against the child, and produce a Rule Book in that regard.
- Establish a better cooperation between school and parents.

Sarajevo, Novi Grad

- In the future period it is necessary to study the needs and expectations of children on a large scale, and include them in the decision-making process on the matters of special interest for them.
- It is necessary to harmonize laws on all levels with the European Social Charter.
- Harmonize records on children according to equally defined age groups.
- Define cooperation mechanisms for all institutions for care of children, vertically and horizontally.

- Strengthen the work of social service and hire social workers in educational institutions.
- Special attention should be devoted to pre-school upbringing and education, ensure the coverage of children of pre-school age, particularly on the right side of the Municipality that is underdeveloped, and coverage of school children in extended day program.
- Introduce more restrictive measures in cases of superficial, unprofessional and irresponsible relation towards children particularly in cases of observed violation of the child's rights.
- Improve health protection by expanding the network of facilities, employing sufficient number of medical workers and raising the level of health protection.
- Support and participate in improving the quality of professional advancement of medical staff and educators
- Improving health protection through strengthening connection between medical and educational facilities, reduce absence of students from the classroom.
- Transfer some powers for upbringing and education to the municipal level.

Višegrad

- All stake holders working with children or in contact with children (parents, educators, medical workers, policemen, social workers and civil servants) should be familiar with the child's rights.
- Establish cooperation between governmental organizations and NGOs with the view to raising awareness of public (particularly parents and persons working with children about problems in exercising the child's rights.
- Create legislative and other pre-requirements in order to assist children in exercising their rights.
- Make more aggressive anti-alcoholism and anti-smoking campaigns (these vices remained in the background due to drug problems).
- In the future partial adoption as the most efficient way to protect children whose development is impeded by the family circumstances. It is about taking away or limiting parental rights as a pre-requirement for this form of the children's protection, and there are potential adoptive parents.
- Providing support and material assistance to families living in strained circumstances, and developing the program for the poorest families and families where neither parent works, in order to ensure the rights to basic living needs for these children as well.
- More active inclusion of media in the promotion of the child's rights. Media could have a significant role in raising awareness on the rights of the child but this must be done by professional and educated journalists.

Bileća

- Harmonize carrier -choosing in the secondary schools with the law on the secondary school inclusive education
- Within one elementary school one class must be formed to include the children with moderate mental disabilities.

Istočno Novo Sarajevo

- Secure as many programs and projects for children with disabilities as possible that would be financed by the Ministry or international organizations.
- It is necessary to organize special rehabilitation programs for children with disabilities.
- Develop as many activities as possible for the social integration of children with disabilities.
- It is necessary for the local community to deal with key problems and that the NGO acts as a collaborator and not the other way around.
- Work on improving inclusion in schools.
- Ensure day stay center for children that cannot be included in regular school education.
- Animate a large number of school children to participate in the implementation and preparation of radio and TV shows for children.
- Organize health campaigns on reproductive health, particularly with minors.
- Pay more attention to peer violence and work on its prevention. In case of the first signs of violence over children by their peers, teachers, parents as urgent as possible response is required, particularly of expert team in school.
- Organize prevention programs and education on abuse and neglect that would be implemented in the Center for Social Welfare.
- Individuals and institutions should pay more attention and enable the children to spend their free time in the best possible way, in order to remove children from the streets.
- Carry out as many campaigns as possible on harmful effects of drugs and narcotic drugs, and a bigger number of anti-alcohol campaigns.
- Organize programs of sexual abuse prevention, education on sexuality and abuse of sexuality.
- Ensure specific training for police in the area of the child's rights and communication with children, particularly about the first contact of minors with the police.

Laktaši

- Ensure measures to encourage international cooperation and exchange of materials from different cultural, national and international sources
- Create conditions for opening the Center for rehabilitation and mental health and day centers for children with psychological and/or physical disabilities
- Develop programs of joint education of parents and children on the right to freedom of choice to study religious instruction, whereby parents and children would be supported in exercise of that right and stigma regarding one's denomination would be removed
- Ensure greater options for inclusion of students in work of schools through council of students, animate and activate parents to become members of council of parents, in order for them to get more actively involved in the work of schools.
- Ensure more joint activities aimed at reduction of intolerance among teachers, children and parents.
- Ensure more cultural activities as free time activities of children and youth, particularly children with disabilities, in order to encourage their social integration.
- Design and implement campaign that would be directed at the possibility of transforming the municipal offices into the areas for free time for children and youth
- Implement campaign to underline the position of minorities, their rights and needs in the local community.

Sanski Most

- Work on the implementation of the adopted Law on children's allowance for the families that are entitled to it.
- Prevent begging of children.
- Provide free text books and school equipment for children from socially vulnerable families.
- Ensure free visit to Bihać for classification for children with special needs
- Fight against abuse of children in political campaigns.
- It is necessary to resolve the problem of transportation for children with special needs who must continue their school education in Prijedor.
- Make efforts to secure funds for a polythene greenhouse where work therapy on children with disabilities would be conducted.
- Work to expand the team for work with children with special needs
- More work and expert assistance required for children in community of pedagogues.
- Seek opportunity to form counseling centers for parents.
- Affect the change of radio Sana broadcasting program to introduce shows about children and their success and counseling/education on the rights and commitments of the children.

- Organize education workshops for children, parents and teachers on the topic of appreciating differences, tolerance, conflict resolution, life skills, etc.
- Perform more activities to establish causes of the increased number of low grades, educational neglect, juvenile delinquency, big number skipped classes, alcohol and narcotics consumption and smoking.

Teslić

- Ensure minimum health-care for all the children.
- By establishing connections among different sectors in society and increasing awareness of citizens, improve the quality of life of children with special needs.
- Improve cultural contents in the area of the municipality
- Ensure continued education for children and youth about topics that are actual as well as existing problems.
- Ensure access to the fields and spaces for sports and recreation for all the children
- Improve the work of the Center for mental health in the Health-care Center

Vareš

- It is necessary to initiate developing programs for addiction prevention of addition, minor pregnancy, sexual violence, family violence and juvenile delinquency.
- It is necessary to re-activate Commission for children and youth, which would not be politicized and which would not exist in paper only.
- It is necessary to adopt budget for children and other general funds for children's projects.
- DevInfo team should be more engaged since the information they have are out dated and incomplete.
- Governmental organizations and NGOs dealing with children should increase their capacities, in terms of having a bigger number of educated staff and more projects in different segments, and both should be more involved as voluntaries for the benefit of the community.
- With assistance of NGOs, schools and Municipality focus on assistance to children in rural areas in order for them to get adequate contents and extra-curricular activities

Novi Grad

- It is necessary to sensitize society as much as possible to problems of less wealthy, poor, children with disabilities, children from multiple member families.
- Through joint efforts of local authorities, social institutions, NGOs, youth, education institutions and police sector attempt through various projects to ensure funds for technical equipment of educational and rehabilitation institutions.

- It is necessary to form the unique database on the current quantitative and qualitative situation and position of children and youth in the area of Municipality.
- Inform the children about their rights, through examples based on experience and actively work on the improvement of the rights of the child through improving their protection via media promotions, different debates, lectures, radio shows.
- Organize different forms of support and assistants aimed at rehabilitation and social integration of children with certain problems.
- Bigger funds are necessary for smooth work of clubs and sports organizations. It is necessary to engage professional sports staff to work with children since their early age.
- It is necessary to work more on education, strengthening, identification and use of offered chances, joint performance of all relevant stake holders (local authorities, social institutions, educational institutions, media, NGO sector.....).

Srebrenica

- It is necessary to work more on coordination and partnership between NGO and governmental institutions in our settings in order to improve the exercise of the child's rights
- Advocate for space through local radio for monitoring and reporting on the children's rights and life of children in Srebrenica.
- It is necessary to animate parents for the existing educational programs implemented by the local non-governmental organizations aimed at improving the situation in the family setting.
- It is necessary to organize education of teachers and education staff in schools of Srebrenica.
- Program for prevention and removing of the consequences of psychoactive substances, alcohol and tobacco consumption by children and youth, with inclusion of all local stake holders in this process

4. CONCLUSIONS

- Number of children living in poverty in all communities is on the increase.
- There continue to exist great misbalances between the legally prescribed rights and realistically attainable rights of the child.
- There are no budgets for children on any level of authority.
- It is necessary to continue working on establishing of the database on children indicators in local communities with the emphasis on improvement of work of *DevInfo* teams in locations where they are formed.
- Children in all settings are exposed to discrimination according to the place of residence, because majority of their rights is exercised on the local or cantonal level.

- The social inclusion process has only begun, but the experiences from 20 municipalities included in the project are encouraging.
- Including children with disabilities in education system, irrespective of its progress, is followed by many problems. Apart from the lack of staff, non-acceptance, these also relate to technical obstacles as well.
- All forms of violence against children are on the increase. Particularly concerning is the increase of violence among the children themselves. Sexual abuse of children and trafficking in children are also on the increase. We are concerned about low imprisonment sentences for sex offenders.
- Juvenile delinquency has showed the increase in all communities, but the number of serious criminal offences decreased. An increase of alternative measures imposed on the juvenile offenders is notable.
- Despite of the law, all children do not complete their elementary school. There are good examples of local authorities to make the school available for all the children.
- NGOs are still not partners to the governmental sector. There is a huge difference in the number of NGOs, their capacity, diversity and program quality in big and small municipalities.
- Relation of media towards reporting on children has not considerably changed. Although majority of electronic media informs the viewers about the programs inadequate for children, selection of shows and broadcasting program are not in the child's best interest.
- Children continue to be hostages of the political situation in the country, which is proven by division of services for children on ethnic ground. Children do not have sufficient number of good role models among adults, nor favorable opportunities for learning tolerance and appreciation of differences.
- The right of children to participation formally exists but in practice it has been implemented very slowly.