

Defense for children's rights Association

**PROGRAM FOR THE WORK OF THE DEFENSE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS  
ASSOCIATION**

**(Period 2016 - 2017)**

January 2016

Skopje

## **Introduction**

The political, economic, social and cultural changes that are currently happening in Republic of Macedonia generate new social occurrences that call for adequate reaction from the society. The society is now confronting with important issues like unemployment, poverty and problems with the people's mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, human trafficking, child exploitation and so on. The consequences of the poverty are manifested into starvation, child's educational inclusion, child labor (street children), human trafficking. The poverty and the limited access to the social services deprive the families and the primary network to provide quality and timely care for the needs of the family members especially for the children. Solving the current status of all vulnerable groups in the country nowadays through the adoption of strategic documents, laws and direct actions, provides upgrading the level of involvement and improving the situation of citizens. With the additions of the social protection system was enabled the participation of NGOs in the performance of certain services of social protection. Through the system of accreditation and financial support of NGOs, the range and the quality of the services to the citizens in the community is increasing. This reflects the intention of Macedonia to join the European initiatives to ensure social inclusion.

## **Defense for children's rights Association**

The Defense for children's rights Association is formed in November, 1998. More than ten years, from October 2001 to June 2012, we were member of the international movement Defense for Children International (DCI) in Geneva. As DCI-Macedonia, section in this reputable international organization, we achieved high results and received international acclaim. The association is non-governmental, non-profit and non-partisan voluntary organization whose main goal is to protect the rights of the child. Its activity is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the previous period, the Association carried out a number of important projects in order to expand the idea of defending children's rights, to investigate the situation of children and vulnerable groups of children, to organize assistance and protection, to mobilize the community in the activities and to inform the public about the situation of children and the implementation of their rights. This contributed to the Association to obtain accreditation in the

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy for providing social services to citizens as well as financial support for the realization of certain project activities that benefit children.

**VISION** of the Association is to create a world in which children will enjoy and realize their rights to mental, physical and social well-being according to the highest standards, to achieve a harmonious development of personality, to grow in a family environment fulfilled with happiness, love, respect, security and understanding.

**MISSION:** Respect and defense the children's rights regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability or other status of the child or his parents or legal representative, guaranteed by the Convention on the rights of the child.

**VALUES** on which is based the function of the Association are: Trust, Security, Dedication, Responsibility, Courage, Communication and Teamwork.

Accordingly, the activities of the Association are focused on implementation and enforcement of laws, policies and practices that enable the improvement of the welfare of the child, protection of rights and full participation of the child in society.

Basic principles, aims and tasks of the actions of the Association in protecting the rights of the child and its immediate protection are:

- Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law and practice;
  - Raising awareness of children's rights and creating a sense of solidarity with children around the world;
  - Encouraging and evaluating the implementation of children's rights of the international law, and especially the rights of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
  - Taking actions to overcome the state of infringement or violation of children's rights;
  - Establishing and managing children's centers (Daily center for street children) for the promotion and implementation of effective mechanisms to protect the rights of the child in specific areas and situations;
- Lobbying for changes and improving the legislation in the field of children's rights;

- Associating in national and regional coalitions and networks of NGOs working in the field of children's rights;
- Organizing symposia, seminars, roundtables, press conferences related to the affirmation and protection of children's rights.

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES**

The Association in the future period will develop projects and activities that will enable the creation of opportunities for development of children and young people, raising their capacity to participate in the community, affirming differences.

Therefore the programs and projects will be aimed at improving social skills, education, children's involvement in institutions and social trends, advocating for the realization of their rights.

In the future the Association will focus on improving the status of Roma children and their families.

### **1. DAILY CENTER FOR STREET CHILDREN – SHUTO ORIZARI**

The Association will continue to develop the Daily center for street children in Shuto Orizari, which was formed in February 2006, by implementing the project for the development of municipalities (funded by the World Bank and Ministry of Finance). From the beginning until today we are working with vulnerable groups of children and their families, their immediate environment and social environment. In providing assistance and protection to children and their families, the center developed activities related government institutions, other NGOs, local government, the ministries, embassies, donors. Because the focus of the center are street children, who represent the most vulnerable group of children, as important partners and

financial supporters of certain project activities are: Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the City of Skopje, FOSM, privately donation TINEX, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ.

The Daily center includes several program activities:

### **Fieldwork**

- Detection / identification of individuals, families and specific population groups at social risk through continuous field visits by a social worker and, if it is needed by the other team members of the Daily center;
- Identification and definition of community problems (conditions for satisfying the social needs: the number of existing community resources, problems in infrastructure and so on.);
- Individual work with families;
- Preparing individual plan according to the specific needs of the family and its individual members, especially children.
- Mediating between citizens / users and providers of social services; ease of access to available services in the residence and inclusion in the system of social protection.

### **The childcare role of the Daily Center for street children**

- Childcare in the Daily center for street children, Monday to Friday from 8am to 4 pm;
- Beneficiaries of the Daily center for street children are 100 children from 4 to 18 years;
- Providing conditions for personal hygiene and education on personal hygiene (bathing, brushing, haircut, changing into clean clothes, cleaning the lice, etc.);
- Through informal education - preparation and literacy of children entering the education system and support the children who are enrolled in schools to stay in the education system (work with 100 children, divided into three groups according to age and the achieved social skills);

- Providing psychosocial support (information, counseling) to disadvantaged children through individual work with children and their families especially in cases of domestic violence, human trafficking, labor and other abuses;
- Strengthening of children, youth and their parents with education and development of social skills through working on various topics through: workshops, informational and educational materials (such as brochures), etc.;
- Workshops with children: educational workshops, creative workshops, art workshops, music workshops, nature workshops, sport activities;
- Implementation of various cultural, recreational and sports activities organized in the form of trips in and out of Skopje (organized 5 - day local visit to the cultural and educational Theater for children and youth, Museum etc.), to introduce the culture and history, develop curiosity and desire in research, building knowledge, and organizing a three-day winter vacation in Children resort "Shula Mina" - Krushevo or in the Children resort in Pelister;
- Workshops for parents on different themes that correspond to the problems they face in their lives as parental care and responsibility, education, child protection and children's rights, juvenile marriages, juvenile pregnancy (risk / impact), unwanted pregnancy and other;
- Assistance in the procedures for providing basic types of care: health insurance card, immunization and so on;
- Providing humanitarian assistance (warm clothes, shoes, school supplies and hygiene kits);
- Providing personal documentation (procedures for providing birth certificates, using DNA analysis).

### **Cooperation and coordination**

Expansion of all forms of cooperation with all institutions that offer protection of children's rights, providing assistance and protection in order to improve their mental, emotional and physical health, by:

- Communication and cooperation with government bodies, institutions and the local government;
- Networking the Defense for children's rights Association with other local, national and international NGOs;
- Establishing cooperation with the private sector.

### **Raising the capacities of the Defense for children's rights Association's members and the Daily Center for street children's team**

- Training workshops for members of the team:
  - Rights of the Child;
  - Juvenile Justice;
  - Methods and techniques for working with children and fieldwork;
  - Development of workshops with children from 4-7 years / experience of the work of kindergartens;
  - Development of recording and documentation of the Daily center- software (with expected financial support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ;
  - Exchange of experiences with the resource centers in the pilot municipalities/ GIZ project working with vulnerable groups in the community (Probishtip, Kochani, Debar, Kumanovo).
- Regional workshop that can be arranged with the countries involved in the project of GIZ (Republic of Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina), towards the end of the project in order to exchange experiences and results of the work.
- Increasing capacities of the Defense for children's rights Association on the and management of projects and requests for financial support by training the members of the Association and direct technical and financial support from the Office of GIZ.

## **Promoting the work of the Defense for children's rights Association and the Daily centre for street children**

- Appearance in the electronic and printed media;
- Brochure - pamphlet, poster for the Daily center in this project.

## **2. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

The Defense for children's rights Association is implementing the monitoring as a process at several levels. Monitoring of a child or a group in order to encourage sensitivity to the broader environment to perceive and create conditions for the realization of children's rights. Then the Association prepare a notification to the competent authorities on the situation and the progress in improving the status of the child. The Association has an active relationship and participate in the protection of children's rights and defend their rights and interests.

Nationally, the Association will participate in developing the Children's Alternative Report on the situation of child rights in the Republic Macedonia, which is prepared by the non – governmental sector of the Committee on the Rights of the Child – part of the United Nations based in Geneva.

## **3. RESEARCHING**

With more strategic documents it is determinate certain number of measures and actions to reduce poverty and to provide social inclusion of vulnerable groups, especially when it comes to working with street children, their parents and the community. So, the Defense for children's rights Association will implement research on socio-economic status and social inclusion of the Roma population - whose children are users of the Daily center for street children in Shuto Orizari.



#### **4. INVOLVEMENT IN THE PREPARATION OF STRATEGIES, LAWS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

The Defense for children's rights Association monitors the implementation of international and national documents and laws for the conditions and realization of children's rights. With its initiatives, proposals and direct participation, it would contribute to the harmonization of legislation with the EU and the UN as well as with the best practice in the EU and worldwide.

#### **5. REALIZATION OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATION**

In order to accomplish its duties and overall activities, the Association cooperates and communicates with the ministries, centers for social work and social protection institutions, schools, health institutions, non-governmental and humanitarian organizations. For the implementation of various programs the Association will continue to cooperate with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

#### **6. PUBLISHING**

The Association is going to make efforts that certain papers in the field of protection of children's rights and the results of its work are publicized - preparing promotional materials (brochure), maintaining the current Web page.