

**Psihosocijalno istraživanje u okviru
UHD "Prijateljice" Tuzla**

Psycho-social research within
UHD "Prijateljice"

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"Prijateljice" Tuzla,
Bosna i Hercegovina**

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**PSYCHO-SOCIAL
RESEARCH
WITHIN
UHD "PRIJATELJICE"**

English version

Tuzla, 2006.

Jasminka Tadić Husanović

A historic review of UHD Prijateljice

ABOUT US

The humanitarian association (UHD) of "PRIJATELJICE" was registered in July 1996 as a local non-governmental organisation. Its founders are its staff, beneficiaries, and friends from the international organisation "Amica e.V." Freiburg - Germany.

International organisation "Amica e.V." began to operate in Germany immediately when the word spread about the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. First assistance included food, clothing, footwear and hygiene items that this organisation was shipping to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Its permanent mission in what is today the Tuzla Canton, started in 1994, while UHD "Prijateljice" as a local NGO took over and continued its activities in 1996.

The Mission of UHD "Prijateljice" is: UHD "Prijateljice" works in a human, open and professional manner towards active involvement and a better position of beneficiaries in the community, by providing psycho-social, educational and counselling support and services, with income generation possibilities, thereby contributing to the democratic development of the society as a whole.

Our targeted beneficiary groups are different categories of population in the Tuzla Canton (TK) and wider, irrespective of their nationality, religion, age or sex. Activities aimed at meeting the needs of our beneficiaries are designed to provide psycho-social support, education, counselling (related to health care and legal issues), job creation, and support to education reform, two-way return process and the reconciliation process.

Our Association was developing and growing, continuously looking at the needs of our beneficiaries, our members and the vulnerable groups. From the times of emergency operations and reception of forcibly displaced, mainly mothers with children, who arrived from Podrinje area in 1995, to date, the Association developed on the professional level and we currently operate within three main program components:

- ◆ Psycho-social and counselling support
- ◆ Education about the civil society and strengthening of local communities
- ◆ Poverty alleviation by strengthening the Entrepreneurship Centre.

Within the three program components the following projects are operational: Center of Education and Counseling, Rink Ribbon, Clubs, Support to children's integration into school system, Day care center, Support to inclusive education, Support to villages of return, Center of Female Entrepreneurship

Besides, the "Priateljice" is active member of several NGO networks and coalitions, such as the Reference Group Tuzla, FREJA (B&H, Serbia, Croatia and Macedonia), B&H Coalition "Working and Succeeding Together" and GROZD.

To date, the Association has positioned itself at the local, cantonal, entity and the state level as a relevant, recognisable actor, and a proactive creator of the civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As such, we are constantly monitoring and meeting the needs of our citizens. To illustrate these claims, please note that we have entered into an Agreement on cooperation and provision of multidisciplinary support to social cases in need of assistance, signed with the Tuzla Canton's Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, we established formal partnerships with the Department of Pedagogy of Tuzla Canton, with University of Tuzla, (department of Pedagogy-Psychology), we have obtained authorisations from the relevant Ministries to implement our activities in the schools in Tuzla Canton and in Republika Srpska, we have received a two-year financial support from the Tuzla Canton's Government, we entered into a direct partnership with Tuzla Municipality in relation to the successful work of the Entrepreneurship Centre, and we cooperate with the Tuzla Canton's Employment Bureau.

Structure of the Association: Assembly has 46 members, Supervisory Committee (3 members), Steering Committee (7 members), director, finance manager, coordinators of the three teams - psycho-social and counselling support, education about the civil society and strengthening of local communities, and poverty alleviation by strengthening the Entrepreneurship Centre, with members of each of these teams, administrator/secretary. On an average the Association annually employs 22 staff on full time basis, and 33 part time workers.

Our donors, from the date of registration to date are as follows:

- Cordaid, Netherlands (1998 - 2006)
- Motherhood, Netherlands (2005 - 2006)
- Foundation for support in B&H reconstruction, Netherlands (2004)
- Stichting Vluchteling, Netherlands (2000)
- EZE/EED, Germany (2002 - ...)
- Amica E.V. Freiburg, Germany (1996 - ...)
- Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Germany (2002 - ...)
- Freudenberg Foundation, Germany (2000 - 2005)
- Fluechtlingshilfe, Germany (1998 - 2004)
- Lindenstiftung, Germany (1998 - 2005)
- Uno Weltgebetstag, Germany
- Bosnian Initiative, Germany (1996 - ...)
- Komitee Fuer Grundrechte, Germany (1996 - ...)
- Protestant Church, Germany (2005 - ...)
- Der Missionporkur Der Deutschen Jesuiten, Germany (1998 - ...)
- Kleiner Prinz, Germany (2000 - 2001, 2005 - ...)
- Heinrich Boll, Germany (2005)
- Matera Stiftung, Germany (2003)

HOM, Germany (2001)
CIM, Germany (1999)
GTZ, Germany (1998 - 2002)
Freundeskreis Freiburg, Germany
ORT, USA (2000 - 2001)
ADF, USA (2003 - 2004)
Bosnian Initiative for local development, USA (2003)
Olof Palme Center, Sweden (2003 - ...)
Lakarmissionen, Sweden (1999 - 2005)
Kvinna Till Kvinna, Sweden (1996 - 2003)
DEZA/SDC, Switzerland (2001 - ...)
Nansen Dialogue Center, Norway (2002 - 2003)
Save the Children, Norway (2006 - ...)
Save the Children, UK (2001)
Australian Embassy (2000)
European Commission in B&H (2000 - 2002)
World Bank (2005)
UNHCR, office in Tuzla (2005)
Tuzla community foundation (2006)
Tuzla Municipality (2005 - ...)
Tuzla Canton government (2005 - 2006)

In order to further develop professionally and institutionally, our staff attend various training events and continuously expand their knowledge. Since seven years ago, each year an independent financial auditing of our operations takes place at the level of the Association. Our Association operates in accordance with the valid legislations and regulations of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the international standards that regulate the work of non-governmental organisations.

Altaira Krvavac

Historic review of the Centre for Counselling and Education

Our beginnings...

We were founded in November 1994, primarily with a view to provide humanitarian support to persons displaced from the Podrinje area. Soon after we were founded, we started providing psycho-social support to women and children. We monitored the needs of our beneficiaries, and designed our program accordingly.

The complexity of problems related to our beneficiaries required a multi-disciplinary support: psycho-social, counselling, education, medical assistance, etc.

Activities related to the **psycho-social support** included review of traumatic experiences, fears, confidence building, awareness raising about personal resources, improvement of communication skills, strengthening of the feeling of unity, possibilities to create own future, integration into a community, strengthening of self-confidence, education. With children we worked towards socializing, reviewing of their fears, developing their motorics, and creativity.

In addition to the traumatic experiences which were the result of war, expulsion from their homes, loss of family members, the complexity of the problem was further deepened by all aspects of living in displacement, by slow integration in the community, inability to return, as well as by difficulties to provide for their children's education, finding employment, finding accommodation, and suffering from health problems. Through our work with the children, we tried to socialise them, to relieve them from their fears, improve their motorics, their cultural and hygienic habits, and to develop their creativity. Throughout all these years, and with the support of our donors, we provided free-of-charge summer holidays on the seaside for the children.

The program was organised in the form of group work in six-months cycles. As and when required, these cycles were prolonged, depending on the needs of our beneficiaries. In addition to group work, we also provided individual support, both to children and the women.

In the last 10 years, 1500 women (mostly single heads of families) and almost the same number of children, have been assisted in the six-months psycho-social and education cycles.

Methods applied in our work include elements of therapy, psycho-drama, body, as well as literature therapy.

Through the group work, we focused on issues related to their past, presence

and future, on issues related to identity, the roles of women, emotions and expressing of emotions, conflicts, fears, forgiveness, family, friendship, health, healthy nutrition, dreams, fantasy, gender relations, communications, grieving and the future.

Upon completion of one cycle, our beneficiaries wrote or spoke about what they had gained personally from the six-months cycle. Most often they noted that our Centre was their place to rest their soul, the place where they learned more about themselves, about their own potential, the place where they expanded their general knowledge, where they learned to communicate with their inner selves, their body, the place where they learned about better parenting. They gained a feeling of confidence and belonging, contrary to the fear and disorientation they felt when they had just arrived to the new environment. They learned to live with their pain and to recognise the strength they have to rebuild their future. It was a source of great pleasure for them to learn the various creative techniques, such as painting, working with contour colors, dyeing silk shawls, as well as relaxation and breathing techniques, which we practiced during our sessions.

At the beginning of 1997, domicile women and children gradually became beneficiaries of our program. We were open to all of those in need, irrespective of their age, education, religion. We celebrated together all the holidays, from Bajram, to Christmas, New Year, birthdays, we organised picnicks.

In the period from 2000 to 2002, we implemented some of our activities in the Grab Potok and Ježevac Settlements for displaced persons. We worked with mothers and their children on improving their communication skills. Given that most of those mothers had lost their husbands during the war, they had many problems raising their children in displacement. They did not know how to play with their children and how to show their affection. We organised the workshops in a way that they were attended by mothers and children together.

Our counselling support was provided through free-of-charge legal aid and information about the activities and services provided by other organisations. We therefore printed a brochure called „Open door,, which contained information about all governmental and non-governmental organisations that provided different services, including their contact details. We also printed a booklet called „You are not alone,, focusing on the issue of violence. This booklet included clarification of the types of behaviour which qualify as violence, a story of a victim of violence, the consequences for child and mother, the list of institutions which deal with domestic violence. In addition, we also published a brochure on the legal protection of victims of violence. We also worked on this issue as part of our membership in the Reference Group Tuzla, by raising awareness in the community about the need to tackle this issue, and by influencing the change in the relevant legislation. All persons who approached us seeking assistance that we were unable to provide, were directed to other competent institutions. Our counselling support also included medical advice, medical examinations which we facilitated for all of our beneficiaries, both children and adults.

Education aspect of our program included sewing courses, patchwork courses, cooking classes, computer course.

Since the year 2002 our project is called Center for Counseling and

Education.

Our objectives are related to strengthening of community through various forms of empowerment of individuals in their social and inter-personal competencies, through preventive actions in community, and through work with victims of negative social occurrences - violence. We cooperate with institutions and organisations (Center for Social Welfare, Orphanage, Faculty of Philosophy, primary and secondary schools, Ministry of Interior, International Committee of the Red Cross, etc.). The purpose of this cooperation is to provide our educational services and different therapeutical treatments. In addition to the above mentioned, we are also supporting development of returnee communities.

In the context of an individual citizen, we observed lack of social psychological competencies, which considerably affects their abilities within a community, and prevents community development. In our work with beneficiaries we observed a continued presence of war-related tramatisation symptoms, PTSP symptoms, depression and development of psycho-somatic symptoms. Overwhelmed by these different symptoms, and in a situation where they are lacking a strong picture about their future (this being one of the symptoms), beneficiaries have experienced aggressiveness and feelings of depression. The latter leads to problems in community as well as in family. Examples are cases of domestic violence or trans-generational dispersion of trauma.

Our targeted groups are persons with un-processed experiences of trauma caused by war and other circumstances, victims of domestic violence, families with disturbed inter-personal relations, children with problems in their development, targeted groups within institutions (teachers, psychologists, pedagogists, social welfare staff, employees of the Ministry of Interior), pre-school and school-age children, returnees to Podrinje area, women and children accommodated in collective settlement, displaced persons, students of the Faculty of Philosophy - Department of Pedagogy-Psychology, students of the Faculty for Rehabilitation and Education.

Psycho-social activities are being implemented at our Centre, in the returnee communities in Zvornik, in the collective settlement Huskići-Lukavac and the settlement hosting a large number of displaced persons, Srnice - Gradačac Municipality. Currently these are the locations where we are providing our support. We already have self-help groups for women in returnee community: Gornje Snagovo-Zvornik, Srnice-Gradačac and for the children in collective settlement Huskići-Lukavac. Also, a group of women with health problems are coming to the Centre. We continue to look into the needs in other collective settlements, so that we can provide our psycho-social support.

In the previous period, we also monitored the needs of returnees to Srebrenica and the surrounding communities. We would like to establish self-help groups in that area, and support them in the development of activities which would contribute to their personal development and that of the community.

A group of beneficiaries that is becoming ever so significant is witnesses in the court proceedings for war crimes, and members of the Tuzla Canton's team of experts for exhumations.

Our overall objectives since 2005 are:

- ◆ Initiating self-help groups (violence, trauma, depression)
- ◆ Improving social competencies for a better integration (communication skills, self-confidence)
- ◆ Raising awareness in communities about integration
- ◆ Educating of pre-school children and their parents in relation to better integration
- ◆ Improving young persons' self-confidence
- ◆ Raising awareness about psycho-social competencies
- ◆ Educating families about communications with a view to prevent domestic violence
- ◆ Preventing violence in schools, faculties and orphanage, through mediation and communication training (creative conflict management)
- ◆ Preventive actions related to mental health, including education, counselling and supervision
- ◆ Raising awareness about problems related to mental health
- ◆ Supporting parents and their children who are being cured for addiction
- ◆ Educating parents in relation to integration into the education institutions
- ◆ Educating and supervising managers of women's clubs, as well as self-help groups
- ◆ Educating parents, care-takers and teachers about communicating with children
- ◆ Educating returnee women with a view to involve them in the development of their community
- ◆ Educating children in the fields of mediation and communication
- ◆ Facilitating sewing courses
- ◆ Supporting schools in their work with children with special needs
- ◆ Supporting parents to become involved in school management bodies
- ◆ Supporting Centres for Social Welfare in their work with clients
- ◆ Supporting the Orphanage staff in their work with orphans
- ◆ Supporting community through self-help groups
- ◆ Supporting returnee communities through education and supervision of self-help groups
- ◆ **An important element of our work is research** conducted in our work with clients of the Centre for Counselling and Education, as well as with members of self-help groups in returnee communities, as part of our Project of Support to Returnee Communities. Our objective is to research the consequences of war and forming of the PTSP and depression symptoms, as well as issues related to human rights. We also intend to monitor the results of our work, so as to continuously evaluate the techniques and methods applied in our work, and to continue to improve, so that we can act as experts with clients who come to seek our assistance.

Besima Ćatić and Altaira Krvavac

Groups in the field-processing traumatic experiences caused by the war and assistance in the repatriation

Introduction....

The objective of our field work is to organise returnee women in their places of return. Problems in these places are very complex: financial and social situation, health insurance and medical treatments, education of children, house work, presence of strong emotions in view of the traumatic experiences from the times of war.

These persons feel that they were abandoned by everyone and that no one is interested in their fate or how they are living. It is very touching to be among returnees. When meeting with them, one experiences a whole scale of their emotions: from anger, sorrow, disappointment, rage, to welcoming and gratitude for coming to see them, for listening to them and for being interested in their day to day lives. When work with them begins, they are mainly interested in receiving humanitarian assistance. They demonstrate a high degree of disbelief that they need psycho-social support or that it can help them. Already after 5-6 sessions, they demonstrate awareness of feeling better in a group, and attach great importance to these sessions.

After more than a decade since the signing of the General Framework Agreement for Peace, also known as the Dayton Agreement, displaced persons from Podrinje are still in the process of returning to their homes or building their lives in Tuzla Canton.

In our organisation, return related issues are dealt with aim at assisting displaced persons when returning, or assisting them at their current places of residence to organise their lives, to process their traumatic experiences and improve the quality of their life, so they can live in dignity.

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Safety and protection of elderly persons-returnees to pre-war places of residence

In our field work in return areas, we come across violations of basic human rights and the returnees' feeling of helplessness. Returnees truly are a neglected category of population in BiH, and no one knows how long they will remain in this position. In response to their helplessness, and in view of our strong feeling of responsibility to inform the wider public how returnees live, the following article was written and presented at the **2nd CROATIAN GERONTOLOGY CONGRESS, with international participation. It was held in Opatija, Croatia, from 09 to 12 March 2006:**

The objective of this paper is to assess the position of senior citizens, who have returned to their former places of residence, in relation to their feeling of security and protection, and in relation to the community's care for them. We analysed the situation of 50 returnees to former places of residence in the municipalities in Podrinje area. A short questionnaire, designed for this research, was used to obtain data. The questionnaire contained 10 items. In addition, we used one general questionnaire (age, sex, experiences related to loss of family member during the war), and one questionnaire on the availability of community services for provision of the necessary care (health care institutions, social welfare centres, religious institutions). Of the total number of surveyed persons, 43 or 86% were female, and their average age was 72.3 ± 8.4 . Most of the surveyed persons stated that they did not feel safe and protected. Among the sources of their feeling of insecurity, they noted the following: solitude, moving back to their homes which do not have the same characteristics as their pre-war houses, living in containers as a form of emergency accommodation, unavailability of health care services, difficulties to obtain medication, having to depend on themselves. Most surveyed persons are forced to perform their religious practices inside their houses, and in the absence of religious officials. One of the sources of insecurity that they noted is the winter period, when they are completely isolated, and when access to their places of residence is prevented by weather conditions. In relation to their experiences of personal loss, 78 % of surveyed persons noted loss of children or children unaccounted for. Majority (89%) returned to pre-war place of residence alone, and their economic security is their pension, whose amount is insufficient to meet even their basic needs for medical. Results of this research indicate that senior citizens who are displaced persons-returnees,

are in a way “victims” of return, who are neglected and forgotten by their communities. Meeting of their needs mainly depends on occasional interventions by non-governmental organisations.

Key words: senior citizens, returnees, feeling of security and protection, care of the community

Besima Ćatić(1),Irfanka Pašagić(2),Monika Kleck(3)

UHD Prijateljice(1), Tuzlanska Amica(2),
Freudenberg fondacija(3)

Persons who suffered a loss: close relative killed or missing during the aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina

Many persons are missing/unaccounted for in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the aggression, displaced persons have suffered severe, long-lasting and multiple traumatic experiences, and loss of close relatives is one of the particularly important ones. In addition to the large number of persons killed, a huge number went missing. Some are known to have been detained, however there are no traces of them after the detention.

Long-lasting traumatisations and uncertainty about the fate of the missing close relatives lead to development of PTSP and depression symptoms. This research involved 98 women who were beneficiaries of the psycho-social projects implemented by HD Prijateljice.

The objective of this research was to determine the incidence of lost or missing close relatives and the related presence of PTSP and depression symptoms.

Applied methods and instruments: Harvard questionnaire for PTSP and BDI-scale for depression, as well as an internal questionnaire on traumatic experiences.

Key words: loss, killed or missing, symptoms of PTSP and depression.
The research was conducted in 2002.

Literature

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2. E. Hilberman (1980) The Wife-Beaters Wife Reconsidered: *American Journal of Psychiatry* 137, 1336 - 47.
3. P. B. Sutker, D. K. Winstead, Z. G. Galina et al., (1991) Cognitive Deficits and Psychopathology Among Former prisoners of War and Combat Veterans of the Korean conflict: *American Journal of Psychiatry* 148, 67 - 72.
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Besima Ćatić

Education and seminars for students, volunteers employed in the governmental and non-governmental sector

Violence is present in all avenues of life and groups around us: in family, in the street, at school among younger and senior students. The issue of violence is closely co-related with the inability to communicate adequately. This communication should be based on self-confidence, self-determination and determination of others, on knowing how to express her/himself through an "I" message, knowing the techniques of active listening and working with others through discussion and consensus.

Within the Project, in 2005, special attention was given to education of adults. Given that trainers for AVP Workshops (creative conflict management) are members of our team of experts at the Centre, education is provided on the basis of these workshops for adults (teachers, social welfare staff, care-takers, Ministry of Interior staff, unemployed persons and students).

For this type of education, the Centre obtained an authorisation from the Tuzla Canton's Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, and from the Pedagogy Institute Tuzla. AVP workshops are being held with the support of the Quacer Peace Organisation based in Sarajevo. Alongside our trainers, the AVP trainers from elsewhere in B&H and the Republic of Croatia joined our workshops.

Objective of the workshops: to enable participants to creatively manage conflict, which represents a genuine art of living, therefore AVP workshops became an important Project activity of our Center.

Emel Ćatić and Selma Hodžić

Working with children and youth

Pre-school age

Early childhood is a period from age 2 to age 6, and it ends with enrollment into school. In this period, bodily development is no longer as fast as it used to be, but it is still notable. During early childhood, many physical skills are learnt, and opinion is concretely linked to a direct experience. It is a period when a child wishes to learn as much as possible about its environment, and many questions are asked. It is also a period of intensive speaking.

Objective of the workshops:

- ◆ Proper physical development
- ◆ Socio-emotional and cognitive development (reducing or eliminating some of the fears and achieving as high a degree of socialisation as possible in the contacts with other children and with adults; adopting new habits and knowledge),
- ◆ Teaching them to work cooperatively in a group and to act together.
- ◆ Developing hygienic, cultural and work habits.

Literature

1. Diana Nenadić-Bilan, Donna Kesler (1997), Activities for pre-schoolers, pre-school trainers, mentors and care-takers, Save the Children,
2. Nenad Suzić, Games aimed at learning letters and numbers, IT-Centar Banja Luka,

Lejla Redžepagić

Work at the Centre with school-age children

One of the regular activities at the Centre for Education and Counselling is work with school-age children. This program includes children aged 7 - 14 and activities are organised at our premises. The work is based on six-months cycles, attended, on an average, by thirty children. These children are attending schools located in different parts of the town, and come both from domicile and displaced population. We have divided them in two groups, morning and afternoon one, depending on the school schedules. Children come in periods 09-11h and 13-15h.

Workshops' content is prepared in advance and workshops last for 2 to 2,5 hours.

Objective: socialisation-mediation and creative conflict resolution, development of creative abilities, working on their emotions.

Lejla Redžepagić

Work with speaking-impaired children

Working with school-age speaking-impaired children is an important part of the Center's work. These children come from schools nearby and from the Orphanage. Unfortunately, it has not yet become a policy to hire defectologists of different specialities to work in our schools, so as to treat school-age children with special needs. Therefore, these children have to receive the logopedic treatment at the Health Care Centre, the Clinical Centre or at the private practices. For this reason, the work of a logopedic specialist at our Centre is extremely important, as the children who live far from the Health Care Centre can receive this treatment at our premises. These treatments are, of course, free of charge and available at all times. Seven children receive logopedic treatment per week.

Objective: to assist children who are speaking-impaired to overcome the difficulties that they are facing in children's institutions, and in families.

Literature

1. Marinković S., (2001), The talk-book, Creative Centre, Belgrade,
2. Matic V.Miodrag (1968), How to overcome the speaking malfunctions and disorders in children, Belgrade

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Psychological-social problems of children and their mothers, whose family members are missing

To have a family member missing/unaccounted for represents a special kind of loss. This puts survivors in a situation where they do not know whether to continue to hope or to accept that a missing person is dead, and may never be found. A considerable number of our clients have close relatives who are still registered as missing or being unaccounted for. In some families, discussion about missing relatives is avoided. Small children often have no personal picture of their father, due to lack of photographs and discussions with surviving family members. Both mothers and children have developed PTSP and depression symptoms. There is still a need to process the traumatic experiences of adults, children and youth, through discussions, drawing, writing, and other therapeutic techniques.

Among 115 displaced women, who were subject of this research, and with whom we worked in our groups during 2005, 74 women (64.4%) have relatives who have gone missing during the war.

Objectives and tasks: examine the family relations with missing persons, the state of development of PTSP and depression symptoms among children, and try to provide assistance to family members (most often wives, children and parents) whose relatives are missing. This assistance includes helping them to work through their traumatic experience related to missing persons, and, as/when needed, to re-organise their lives and continue to build their future.

Applied methods/instruments:

- ◆ Internally designed questionnaire for collection of socio-anamnestic data
- ◆ Harward questionnaire
- ◆ BDI- scale for depression
- ◆ Impact of Evens scale -IES for PTSP symptoms
- ◆ SES-Birleson scale for depression

Key words: family and missing persons, symptoms of PTSP and depression, therapeutic treatment.

Literature

1. Ayalon O (1995) Lets save the children (Handbook for group activities for assistance to children under stress). Školska knjiga: Zagreb.
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Lejla Redžepagić

Work with school-age children in the field in 2001-2005

Following demands of the project, it was also implemented in the field, in remote areas, collective centres and settlements of Grab Potok and Ježevac, collective settlement Huskići, and rural area of Srnice, inhabited by displaced population. We tried to bring to each of these areas a part of the atmosphere from our workshops with school-age children, but adjusted to their needs and interests. In some locations, we worked jointly with mothers and children, and in others we worked with separate groups. 50 children were assisted through this type of psychosocial support.

Objective: educational-psychological support to mothers and children accommodated in collective settlements.

Lejla Redžepagić

Work with children of primary school-age on the theme of “Mediation”

Having obtained authorisation from the Tuzla Canton's Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports in February 2005, as well as from the Pedagogy Institute Tuzla, we begun implementing an education project for senior school-age children on the theme of “Mediation”.

Objective: Educating children on basic forms of conflict resolution and overcoming of misunderstandings in a constructive manner.

Literature

1. Trikić Zorica et all. (2003), Peers' mediation, Print Co., Beograd
2. Plut Dijana, Marinković Ljiljana (2001), Conflicts and how to handle them, Grafiprof, Beograd

Emel Ćatić and Besima Ćatić

Children with special needs

Children with special needs are a specific group, both in terms of their physical and their psychological characteristics. They require timely treatment by experts. Results of the treatment directly depend on their timely provision and expertise. Unfortunately, today we can often come across children who require a special treatment, but they are not receiving one due to various prevailing circumstances.

Children from their natural families are often not being treated, while situation is specific with children from the orphanages. Regulations about the number of children per one care-taker or per one nurse, as well as their related needs for qualified professionals, usually do not match the actual needs in those institutions. As a result, these children are automatically deprived of the right to timely treatment and expertise.

Objective: Given the needs of these children in Tuzla Canton, support to families and institutions for children with special needs is planned within the project activities of the Centre for Counselling and Education.

Key words: children with special needs, treatment

Literature

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2. Bojanin S., Neuro-psychology of the development age and general re-educative methods, Privredna štampa Beograd 1979

Sehaveta Srabović

“Support to the uniform education system in BiH”

Basic information about the project

Project objectives

1. Reconciliation and relations between children from both Entities (Federation BiH and the RS)
2. Improvement of children’s social competency
3. Establishment of students’ clubs as basis for development of children’s networks among schools in both Entities

Project tasks

- 1.1. Support to two-way return and the uniform education system in both Entities
- 1.2. Removal of prejudices that exist in both Entities
- 1.3. Cooperation between youth and facilitation of internet-based communication
- 1.4. Strengthening of civil society through empowering children and improving their social competencies. Education of children and development of their creativity, their ability to communicate and resolve conflicts, building of self-confidence, adopting knowledge about children’s rights and about protection of environment
- 1.5. Introduction of new skills and work methods in schools
- 1.6. Overcoming trauma
- 1.7. Adopting positive features of a personality, developing of tolerance, responsibility, understanding, self-respect, and non-violent communication as a form of dialogue
- 1.8. Development of children’s cross-Entity network, based on students’ clubs

Targeted group

76 children aged 14-15 (secondary school)
230 children aged 11-13 (primary school)
9 teachers/professors from schools
600 parents, or foster parents of beneficiary children.

Main duties of the members of the school project are schooling activities which are conducted every week, i.e. one activity per week in one school, involving 6 primary and 2 secondary schools in BiH:

Federation of BiH

Republika Srpska

Gymnasium "Meša Selimović"

Gymnasium "Filip Višnjić" Bijeljina

Primary school "Simin Han" Tuzla

Primary school
"Sveti Sava" Zvornik

Primary school "Lipnica" Tuzla

Primary school "Desanka
Maksimović" Oraovac/Čelopek

Primary school "Solina" Tuzla

Primary school "Sveti Sava" Dobož

RESEARCH CONDUCTED WITHIN THE PROJECT

* AT THE BEGINNING OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

* ONE YEAR INTO THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Objective of the research:

To make recommendations. To assess, by evaluating results, what are the "weak points". To design a strategy so as to meet the project objectives to the extent possible.

Specific objectives of the research:

Determine among project beneficiaries the status of trauma, psycho-social competencies, children's rights, tolerance and democracy. Learn about the structure of beneficiaries, their social environment and whether they wish to return to the other Entity.

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