

Scaling-up: Day Care Centres

Regional Project on Social Rights for Vulnerable Groups

Short Background

Many families of vulnerable groups suffer from long-term unemployment and lack access to social services, education, housing and other commodities for decent life. Oftentimes, children and youth of these families suffer the most. They drop out of the education system, are exposed to different forms of neglect, abuse and untreated (chronic) illness and are engaged in different profitmaking activities such as begging or collection of recycled materials. Social, education and health services have limited access to these children and youth in order to provide them with continuous social and pedagogical support. Community-based Day Care Centres offer an alternative approach to reach and provide support to vulnerable children and youth.

About the approach

Day Care Centres offer free of charge services for vulnerable groups, such as children and youth, aimed to contribute to the development of their education and social skills. The programme that is offered is needs-based and follows the individual progress of beneficiaries. The success lies in a holistic approach, managed by multidisciplinary teams, consisting of representatives of local institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

While the focus here is on children and youth in street situations, the approach of Day Care Centres can be applied to different contexts based on the needs of communities, e.g. Day Care Centres for people with disabilities, the elderly or vulnerable families, providing the relevant services for these groups.

Results

Vulnerable children and youth in need of social services were identified and referred by social centres and other stakeholders. Through comprehensive needs assessments, support plans were designed to assist children and youth in developing their abilities and skills. If needed, psychosocial support, individual and group psychological counselling and educational support was provided.



Story from the Field

Title	Day care centre in Ferizaj
Timeframe	5 months project duration
Partners involved	SoRi project, Municipality Ferizaj and SOS Kinderdorf
Target group(s)	Children and youth in street situation
Country	Kosovo*
References	N/A

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

The Day care centre of Ferizaj has been implemented by GIZ SoRi I project, Municipality Ferizaj and SOS Kinderdorf. The project's three main components were:

- Psychosocial and educational services for vulnerable children and youth and their reintegration in society;
- Psychosocial support for families, children and youth;
- Advocacy and capacity building of local stakeholders to support vulnerable children and youth.

Needs assessments of children and youth, families, and caregivers were a crucial element of the project's success. Throughout the project, advocacy activities were conducted in order to raise awareness of communities and stakeholders on the needs of the children and youth at risk, as well as of their families on the availability and access to services in their communities. The total number of children and youth that benefited from the project was 32 and the total number of the families 23.



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