
**SOS Children's Villages
Macedonia
National Office**
Dimitrije Tucovic 25
1000 Skopje
R. Macedonia
Tel: + 389/2/ 3290556
Fax: +389/2/ 3290556
Email: Info.na@sos.org.mk
www.sos.org.mk

ANNUAL REPORT

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES MACEDONIA 2017



Prepared by JULIJANA GAPO
National Director of the Association
SOS Children's Villages Macedonia
Skopje, February 2018
Julijana.gapo@sos.org.mk

A loving home for every child

TABLE OF CONTENT**Page 2****SECTION ONE: ANNUAL REPORT****3**

1.1	Social and economic environment and SOS Children Village role in Child welfare sector	4-13
1.2	Objectives for the year 2017	14-17
1.3	Time table of major events for 2018	18

SECTION TWO : LOCATION PROGRAMS**19**

2.1	SOS Children's Village Skopje	20-21
2.2	SOS Youth Programs 1 and 2 and SIL	22
2.3	SOS Family strengthening programmes	23-24

SECTION THREE: OTHER PROJECTS**25**

3.1	PRIDE Project	26-28
3.2	Project for Social Inclusion and Economic Empowerment of Youth and Young Parents at Social Risk	28-32
3.3.	Social contracting and sustainability of NGOs	32-35
3.4	Emergency support Project for refugees	35-39

SECTION ONE
ANNUAL REPORT

1.1. SUMMARY OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES WORK IN MACEDONIA

In this report, we will shortly the political situation and current socio-economic data for Macedonia, that are available on credible international sites but also some national statistics relevant for our work.

Political situation

The prolonged political crisis for more than 2 years has effected every cell of the society. The institutions were blocked and barely functional, which influenced the business community, NGOs sector and the citizens in this country. The economy already decelerated to a three-year low in 2015 dragged by a steep decline in fixed investment. The sour political climate staved off investment and even crises if officially finished (from Maj 2017) the country is still fragile as strikes of different groups or political parties are our everyday reality.

Even though the new Government was elected 10 months ago, there are no significant movements or introduced any reforms in social, judicial or economical area which are the weakest points in our society. The ongoing political crisis is the main obstacle to growth as it is deterring investments and delaying the implementation of key economic reforms that were supposed to move the country development forward. Even if 2018, hopefully becomes a year of positive turnouts, it will take at least 2-3 years to live and practice the positive results of that.

For the future financial sustainability of our organization, the key preconditions are the adoption and implementation of Social Contracting and introduction of changes in the Law for Donations and Sponsorships, which will motivate corporate sector to donate.

1. According to CAF World Giving Index score (calculated as a combined average of the proportion of people who reported one or more of the following in the month prior to interview: helping a stranger, donating money and volunteering time). Macedonia is ranked between **85-95** places with score **0.571** in the same group with Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Swaziland. Just for comparison with other Balkan countries Bosnia and Hercegovina is scored 0.643 (ranked 64-78), Serbia 0.643 (ranked 64-78) Croatia and Slovenia 0.714 (ranked 41-53). To summarize, according to this Index Macedonia is ranked lowest.

2. According to Child Rights Environment index for Central and Eastern Europe made on bases of following indicators:

- Non-discrimination
- Best interest of the child
- Respect for the views of the child/child participation
- Enabling legislation
- Best available budget
- Collection and analysis of disaggregated data
- State-civil society cooperation for child rights

Macedonia is ranked between 85-95 places (page 149) with score Child Environment score with **0.571** in the same group with Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Swaziland. Just for comparison with other Balkan countries Bosnia and Hercegovina is scored 0.643 (ranked 64-78), Serbia 0.643 (ranked 64-78) Croatia and Slovenia 0.714 (ranked 41-53).

3. Poverty and unemployment. The unemployment rate in Macedonia was 23.1 percent in 2016, which had decreased from 24.6 percent in 2015. Macedonia is ranked 181 on the unemployment rate list comparing other countries around the world. The 23.1 % is not realistic percentage due to populistic

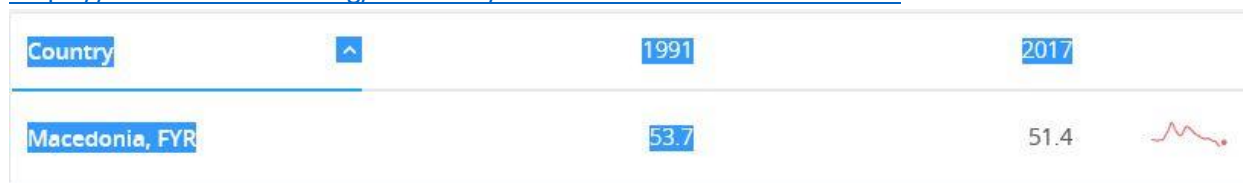
politics of the previous government, which was presenting positive statistics in the public and official documents with specific methodology.

However, about 21.5 percent of Macedonia's population is below the poverty line, which means more than 450,000 Macedonia citizens are suffering from poverty. About 9.1 percent of Macedonia citizens live on less than two dollars every day, and in the past 15 years, 600,000 citizens have chosen to emigrate <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2046.html>

4. Youth unemployment

Youth unemployment is 51.4 which is 20% more than Albania and 12% more than Serbia.

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.ZS?locations=MK>



5. Human Development Index according to UNDP data is 0.740, which is below Albania, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina

6. Child mortality rate

In the World Bank's data, the Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) in 2016, the most western European countries are between 1 and 2. According to this data, Macedonia in comparison with other Balkan countries is ranked very low with 8 (per 1,000 live births), having in mind that Albania score is 6, Montenegro 2, Croatia 3, Serbia 4 and Bosnia and Herzegovina 5 and Bulgaria 4.

7. Violence against children (Prefeasibility study May 2017 available)

SOS CV Macedonia conducted a prefeasibility study (conducted in March-May 2017) in primary schools for the implementation of "Stop the violence against children" project. Although the primary target group of SOS CV Macedonia are children without parental care or at risk of losing it – the project is focused in the primary schools because there one can find all the children, including children with special needs and disabilities. The data were gathered via questionnaires completed by children and school staff in order to investigate the violence that children are experiencing in their lives. However, there is no data how many cases of violence against children were reported, nor how many cases were processed.

When students involved in this study were asked if they had been a victim or being involved in any specific forms of violence, 73 per cent said that they had been involved in a violent interaction of some sort at least once or twice. Still, to be more accurate, we have considered to base the estimation of prevalence of violence on children experiencing incidents more often than once or twice. On this basis, the consultant found that 51 per cent of surveyed children had been involved in violence more than twice i.e. 30 per cent as victims, 7 per cent as bullies and 14 per cent in both roles.

The results in the study show that the most frequent form of violence among children is the verbal aggression towards employees (61.1%), fights among children in the school (66.7%), mockery (54.2%), spreading lies and rumours (44.4%). The most frequent forms of violent behaviour include forced kissing (94.4%), forcing sexual intercourse (91.7%), forcing someone to sell and use drugs (97.2%).

8. "The gray area" between tradition and children's rights – UNICEF 2016

The Roma community is continuously moving in circles of constant risk and is falling into poverty, which continues from generation to generation. In order to overcome this situation a series of positive measures and policies have been undertaken, numerous projects have been implemented through which all

interested parties are trying to minimize the negative factors and influences and to ensure complete integration into society.

However, the fact is that progress is slow, part of the problems remain insufficiently actualized or are treated only as consequences while the results are still not sufficiently visible. For instance, many international organizations that monitor the situation in Macedonia, including committees mandated to monitor the implementation of the ratified conventions by the state, for years express their concern about the state of cohabitation between minors and with a minor. Their reports indicate serious recommendations to the state, as well as to representatives of Roma community who treat the question with less commitment and not considering it a priority.

The data obtained by the Multi-indicator cluster survey showed that the issue of premature marriages (child marriages) and pre mature birth (girls between 15-19 years old) is a current problem in the Republic of Macedonia, and thus there are great differences among different ethnic communities in the category of girls aged 15 to 19 who are married or cohabit: - the rate among Roma is 22% versus the national rate which is 4%, 2% among Macedonians and 6% among Albanians, - additionally, the rate of young women aged 15-19 years who gave birth or are currently pregnant is 3% at the national level, while this rate among Roma is 18%. In the category of the poorest, the national average is 5% while among Roma women it is 25%, and regarding only primary education, the national average is 12% while among Roma women it is 24%.

9. Analyzes of the Social protection law. (SOS Children's Villages Macedonia)

However, in spite of the government commitments in this area, external consultant Bep van Sloten compiled an independent report on assessment of the quality care system of Macedonia. She pointed out that the social protection system in the country lacks services at ground level to support families to stay together and to prevent the separation of children from their parents through placement in care.

According to the report, the services that support children on the street or street children and families in need (many from the Roma community) are private providers who lack funds to help all needy families. The day care centre for street children and children on the street, expressed its priority need for additional staff, for funds to buy materials for activities and for money to sustain the service. Due to the lack of sufficient staff, psychotherapists are carrying out activities better done by educators or caregivers; they are thus unable to provide sufficient therapy for the severely traumatised children in their centres.

CSOs and other religious organisations play an important role in prevention. However, the civil sector does not receive, or receives only insufficient government subsidies to provide for all families in need.

As for the children with disabilities in institutional care, where the number is high it is important to set up more specialised services to assist parents not to give up their disabled children.

10. Socio- Economic indicators for Macedonia

BASIC ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

GDP (real growth rates)/ 1

1993	2003	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
-7.5	2.2	3.4	2.3	-0.5	2.9	3.6*	3.9*	2.9*	0*	1.8*	-

Inflation (end of period, on annual base, in %)/2

1993	2003	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
229.6	2.6	3.0	2.8	4.7	1.4	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2	0.6	1.5	1.7

Inflation (average, on cumulative basis, in %)/2

1993	2003	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
349.8	1.2	1.6	3.9	3.3	2.8	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	0.5	0.9	1.1

Unemployment rate (in %)/3

1993	2003	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
27.7	36.7	32.1	31.4	31.0	29.0	28.0	26.1	23.7	22.9	22.6	

Budget balance (Central budget and Funds budget balance as % of GDP)/4

1993	2003	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
-13.4	-1.0	-2.4	-2.5	-3.8	-3.8	-4.2	-3.5	-2.6	-0.6	-0.8	-0.4

11. GDP status and Forecast <https://tradingeconomics.com/macedonia/gdp-growth-annual/forecast>



<https://tradingeconomics.com/macedonia/government-spending>

Macedonia Government	Last	Previous	Highest	Lowest	Unit	
Government Debt to GDP	39.10	38.10	57.20	20.50	percent	[+]
Government Budget	-2.70	-3.50	2.40	-13.40	percent of GDP	[+]
Government Budget Value	-267.00	-269.00	4291.00	-11373.00	MKD Million	[+]
Government Spending	22987.00	23856.00	25368.00	11939.00	MKD Million	[+]
Government Revenues	15390.00	14949.00	16840.00	6756.00	MKD Million	[+]
Government Debt	3885.40	3888.70	3946.00	1387.00	EUR Million	[+]
Fiscal Expenditure	15657.00	15218.00	22880.00	6855.00	MKD Million	[+]
Military Expenditure	105.80	105.50	366.40	100.60	USD Million	[+]
Credit Rating	47.50					[+]

12. Government Spending

Government Spending in Macedonia decreased to 22987 MKD Million in the third quarter of 2017 from 23856 MKD Million in the second quarter of 2017. Government Spending in Macedonia averaged 19005.14 MKD Million from 2003 until 2017, reaching an all-time high of 25368 MKD Million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and a record low of 11939 MKD Million in the first quarter of 2009



historical Forecast Alerts Data API

MACEDONIA GOVERNMENT DEBT



<https://tradingeconomics.com/macedonia/government-debt/forecast>

13. Labor and unemployment

Macedonia Labour	Last	Previous	Highest	Lowest	Unit	
Unemployment Rate	22.10	22.60	38.70	22.10	percent	[+]
Employed Persons	743451.00	739892.00	743451.00	498867.00		[+]
Unemployed Persons	211363.00	215807.00	330724.00	211363.00		[+]
Wages	34127.00	33675.00	34374.00	20029.00	MKD/Month	[+]
Population	2.07	2.07	2.10	1.38	Million	[+]
Job Vacancies	7580.00	7871.00	7871.00	4604.00		[+]
Labor Force Participation Rate	56.82	56.90	57.80	50.30	percent	[+]
Long Term Unemployment Rate	18.10	17.50	30.90	17.50	percent	[+]
Minimum Wages	231.40	232.28	232.28	198.95	EUR/Month	[+]
Part Time Employment	29.10	37.20	50.20	21.70	Thousand	[+]
Full Time Employment	704.10	691.40	704.10	515.20	Thousand	[+]
Employment Rate	44.24	44.10	44.24	31.20	percent	[+]
Wage Growth	1.00	1.80	18.60	-5.60	percent	[+]

14. Wage Forecast / Current average salary 377 euros, minimal wages since September 2017 are limited to 200 euros.

Historical Forecast Alerts Data API



Role of SOS Children's Village Macedonia in the Child welfare sector

2017 was very challenging year from the political but also in terms of establishing cooperation and communication with new government bodies specially the Ministry of labour. Namely, the new government was established and we have started the intensive communication in order to secure an update with the mutual processes that were on going and needs to be continued.

This year, SOS Children's Village Macedonia continue to cooperate with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to strengthen the social protection system, focusing on quality of child care.

Namely, the assessment of the social protection system has started with the involvement of representatives from Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Institute for Social Activities-Skopje, SOS Children's Village Macedonia, Centre for social work of city of Skopje, Children and Youth, Caregivers from SOS CV Skopje and external from the foster care system, Day centres for street children, SOS Counselling centres in Gazi Baba and Shuto Orizari, NGO Poraka and university professors from the Faculty of Philosophy-Institute for Social Work and Social Policy.

This engagement produced a report that was submitted to all parties involved and in accordance with the recommendations, SOS CV Macedonia recommended to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to establish a working group that will work on the development of Standards for care of children in foster families.

Regarding already mutually agreed priorities and recommendations, the working group was assembled and the development of standards for quality of childcare in foster families was started.

Representatives of created the working group: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Institute for Social Activities-Skopje, Centre for social work of city of Skopje, SOS Children's Village Macedonia, NGO Poraka and professors from the Faculty of Philosophy-Institute for Social Work and Social Policy.

Upon competition of these documents, it remains our commitment and the will of the MLSP and the ISA to continue to finish the manual for implementing the standards and document for monitoring and evaluation of the quality of care in foster families. This is a challenge, but also an opportunity, linked to all the changes that began with the arrival of the new government.

On the end of the 2017, SOS Children's Village Macedonia succeeded to arrange with UNICEF Macedonia to work on the finalization of the documents as a part of the separate project related with the De-Institutionalization of the social protection system in Macedonia.

After finalisation of the standards, the advocacy activities was intensified and the process for Assessment of legal possibilities for inclusion of PRIDE in the social protection system in RM has started.

The consultant was engaged and the process of analysis was conducted. Analysis raised 5 possibilities/opportunities for legal recognition of PRIDE within the system of social protection in Macedonia. According to analysis, SOS Children's Village Macedonia develop a policy paper and officially approach to government for request to position PRIDE within the legislation according to an already proposed recommendations by the legal analysis.

As a need of more deep involvement of the government for increasing the knowledge for PRIDE methodology, in September 2017, SOS Children's Village Macedonia organized a Macedonian team compiled by representatives from different social authorities, to participate on the International PRIDE conference in Prague, Czech Republic, Europe.

The conference was organized by the Czech Ministry of labour and social policy as main implementer of PRIDE model of practice in the Czech Republic, together with the OKS organization from the Netherlands as a main implementer in Europe and Child Welfare League of America as a developer and right holder of the PRIDE model of practice worldwide. The purpose of the conference was to share implementation practices in Europe and sharing experiences within the states that implementing PRIDE model of practice. On this conference, a new generation of PRIDE modules was introduced and different experiences from different fields of work related with foster care were presented.

This decision resulted with the raised knowledge about PRIDE model of practice and its implementation on the international level and closer collaboration possibilities with the key representatives of the Ministry of labour and social policy and should result also with achieving the strategic objectives of the SOS CV Organization.

According to our strategic directions for an evidence based advocacy approach, the Child rights situation analysis was conducted in order to secure evidence for a situation with the child rights of our target group in the country. This analysis will contribute in advocating and development of appropriate programmes that will support the children and families at social risk.

Through the project "Social contracting to sustainability", SOS Children's Village Macedonia focus was on creating a favourable legal environment for social contracting in the field of child protection and social services delivery, which leads to securing long-term financial sustainability of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This means that government and other government institutions will decentralize and delegate some of their responsibilities as social service provider for vulnerable groups to other entities (e.g. CSOs) and the budget provided for the implementation of these activities will be assigned to those entities. On the other side, the inclusion of CSOs in service provision will have a vital impact on their development and sustainability, which is an important benefit that stems from the mixed modality of service provision.

SOS Children's Village Macedonia presented the guidance for decision-makers and all the stakeholders to help address challenges, enhance the effectiveness of social services, and improve access to social services in the country adapted in a context in which they could be applicable in the country.

With the achievement of its goals, this project contributes towards achieving government objectives importantly, having in mind, that social contracting is more often seen as support to implement government policies, rather than simply as a mechanism to include non-state actors in social services provisioning. By financing selected types of services, the government will "generate demand" for some types of actions by non-state actors that promote its objective in resolving a social problem. Therefore, social contracting will serve as a valuable tool for addressing the need for social services when government capacity is inexistent or insufficient.

SOS Children's Village Macedonia, in 2017, continue to operate the project for Social inclusion and economic empowerment of youngsters and young parents at risk, in order to support the process of employment and self-employment.

To influence in the community, raise visibility, and strengthen the collaboration with companies, we have participated in a meeting of the Business Club of municipality Gazi Baba. Some of the biggest companies in Macedonia are located in Gazi Baba, so our presence at the meeting was important. We presented the project and the local governance who hosted the meeting stressed the importance of our work for increasing the employment of youth. In general, all companies expressed the need for skilled and committed workers.

By end of 2017, 173 beneficiaries signed contracts and have individual development plan. By end of December, 29 small businesses were supported with small grants and several more are in process of development of business plan and will be finalized in the first quarter of 2018.

The Head of the Local Economic Development Unit from the municipality remains as a member of the grants approval panel and big supporter and advocate of our work. Currently we have not received feedback from the municipality on the proposed joint activities aimed for strengthening young entrepreneurs by conducting trainings.

The biggest achievement of several small businesses so far is that some of them created new employments, thus contributing to a socio-economic benefit for the wider community. For example, one small business currently has 8 employees, and another two have one more employee each. We are expecting this trend to increase in the future. Some business also expanded their premises or scope of work.

SOS Children's Village impact was mainly focused on Capacity building of the state foster care system related with implementation of the PRIDE project in Macedonia. PRIDE is a capacity building methodology for foster parents. Macedonia have the copy right for Macedonia.

Following the approach towards the research-based advocacy a comparative analysis of regulation in the area of social contracting in the field of social welfare in Macedonia other countries in the region of SEE and in the EU countries, was conducted. Within the analysis, a special focus was given to the interest of the children and youth. The Comparative analysis and report was distributed to various stakeholders in the country.

With UNICEF, as result from successful cooperation, SOS CV Macedonia signed a partnership agreement for joint activities related to the refugee crisis. Moreover, at the end of the year, UNICEF provided financial support for conducting two important studies that will serve as advocacy tools and further strengthen the evidence for adoption of the social contracting model in Macedonia.

Cooperation with several organizations was strengthened, such as Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Save the Children, UNHCR, Open Gate La Strada, and the Red Cross. MoU's for long-term cooperation were signed with the Economic Chamber of North-West Macedonia and the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce. The both Chambers are providing help and support in employment of young people leaving care and young people at risk.

Additionally, we can proudly say that SOS Children's Villages Macedonia was one of the first organizations that reacted in the **Emergency crises with the refugees transiting in our country**, with the support of SOS Children's Villages International and took this challenge bravely and passionately dedicated to help to those that are in highest need. This was a high-risk challenge also for the country for the last 2-3 years as for Children's Villages Macedonia. The 'investments' that we have given to prepare and implement successful respond on the fields has slightly stagnated our other strategic goals as the Project was given high priority.

Decision to start Emergency Project in Macedonia was highly influenced by our Sustainability strategy, cluster position and international support.

Running Emergency Project was like "running another SOS Children's Villages Organization. Going "through a storm of challenges" we were hoping that we will have time to consolidate, reorganize and strengthen our association in order to prepare for our "sustainable path walk". The information about our nomination for Sustainable cluster country not only that has caught us unprepared but also surprised us considering the economic and political situation in our country for the past 2 years.

1.2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2017

SI 1	Innovate alternative child care
SI 2	Strengthen families
SI 3	Empower young people
SI 4	Advocate for children
SI 5	Create a movement
SI 6	Simplify SOS
SI 7	Invest for funding growth



Link to strategic initiative	Objective number	2017 objective	Description of 2017 objective
SI 1	1	Improve and extend services for alternative care	This objective is aimed at improving existing services by improving the working methodology, legal set-up and capacity building of existing staff. This objective includes the modeling of new program interventions that will expand the scope of the action program in the future will contribute to increasing the number of customer
SI 7	2	Increase capacities for fund development	Developing an application for the Impact Fund for Children with the purpose of strategically channel the fundraising investments and improve the local income for the period 2017-2020. This includes improvement of local income strategy, development of strategy for increase of Government subsidies, establishing a Fund Development Department and preparation and submission of PF applications for implementation of program activities.
SI 2	3	Strengthen quality of services in social prevention program	Social prevention in our country is at a low level, so by strengthening the methodology for parenting education and capacity building of staff in this program, we will try to establish standardization in the approach of supporting biological parents. This will allow for the future establishment of programmatic intervention to support the reintegration of children in biological families and contribute to promoting the process of deinstitutionalization of the social protection system.
SI 4	4	Improve public policies in social protection and child rights	Developing new public policies for introducing social contracting model and development of a Draft action plan for implementation of the model in the country. Furthermore, development of an application as a further implementation of the social contracting model in the next 2-3 years and conducting a Child Rights Situation Analysis in the RM.
SI 4	5	Ensuring child and human rights for refugees	The refugee crisis in war zones in the Middle East and Africa, significantly affected the Macedonian society and state in 2016. As an organization expressly responded and continue to respond to the challenges of the global crisis through setting standards for working with refugees and programs tailored for that purpose. According to global and national information that pointing out for a new wave of refugees, we have to prepare for taking actions to respond to possible new-onset crisis.

During 2017, SOS Children's Villages was implementing and supporting the following programs:

Family based care program:

- ✓ SOS Children's Village Skopje, supporting 13 SOS Foster families taking care of 58 children
- ✓ Youth Care Programme Radishani, taking care of 13 youngsters
- ✓ Youth Care Programme Bardovci, taking care of 14 youngsters
- ✓ Semi-Independent Living Programme – after care – supporting 34 young adults

Family strengthening Program

- ✓ Counselling Centre for parents and children at social risks – Gazi Baba supported 63 children, 44 adults or 28 families
- ✓ Counselling Centre for parents and children at social risks – Shuto Orizari supported 44 children, 22 adults and 7 families

Other Projects

- ✓ **Capacity building Project – PRIDE** methodology for improving quality in Foster care system
- ✓ **Social contracting for sustainability** – Enhancing the national legislation and policies by developing mechanisms for social contracting in the field of social welfare in the Republic of Macedonia.
- ✓ **Social inclusion and economic empowerment of youngsters and young parents at risk** with income generating measures; (174 young and young adult beneficiaries and 55 children)
- ✓ **Emergency relief project** - supporting refugees in transiting route from Greece to European countries. 2050 refugees receive different kind of support.

In 2017, SOS Children's Village Macedonia agreed and started with piloting the implementation of the Result Based Management system (RBM). This should structure and enhance the quality assurance of the programs. The Kick-off workshop was held with leads by the regional supporting staff. SOS Children's Village Macedonia, afterwards developed an action plan for implementation of the RBM system on the programme level. It is expected that RBM implementation will increase the quality of programmes and secure the desired impact.

The rapid assessment was conducted and all programmes was assessed according to predefined structure. The outcome of this process shows that SOS Children's Village Macedonia has not any significant challenge that should be given a special attention. This assessment result with development of Mid-Term plan and financial frame that strive the priorities of the National association till 2020. According to the Mid-Term frame, the annual plan was developed with clear development activities for 2018.

According to programme development priorities, SOS Children's Village Macedonia conduct assessment of the social protection system in R. Macedonia and deliver recommendations for improvements, with special focus on quality standards. This was done with the support of external international expert proven in this field. Also, assessment of the legal possibilities for inclusion of PRIDE methodology for recruitment, education and development of foster parents in the social protection system in R. Macedonia was conducted.

In the process of capacity building and improvements of the legislation and sub legislation, Children's Village Macedonia with participation of the social authorities and key stakeholders developed draft proposal for quality child care standards and drafted M&E system of quality child care in R. Macedonia.

In order to integrate PRIDE model of practice in the social protection system in R Macedonia Children's Village Macedonia developed and submitted proposal to the Ministry of labour and social policy (MLSP).

The external evaluation of the PRIDE project was conducted and recommendations was defined.

To secure a quality of work in the family strengthening programmes the update of the M&E plans was done.

In order to secure the update and refresh of the knowledge of programme staff on the programme location Skopje, the workshop for Programme database (PDB) was conducted. Every quarter the quality check of the data in PDB was conducted and recommendations and support was delivered. To secure the that the programmes are in line with the policy and standards, the programme advisors conduct and annual programme evaluation on location Skopje. The recommendations was implemented in the next year annual plans.

In 2017, the Guide for programme visitors to prevent potential abuse and respect the children's right to privacy was developed. This should secure the protection of the children of any potential abuse.

In the family based care programme, there was an increase need for dealing with stress and trauma. In this direction SOS Children's Village Macedonia organized a capacity building training on "Dealing with Stress and Trauma" (SOS foster parents and core care co-workers).

As an obligation and commitment to follow the aftercare development of young adult, we have developed an after-care assessment tool. This will allow programming staff to structure and assess the circumstances in the life of young adults after exiting the programmes.

SOS Children's Village Macedonia to update the Child Protection Policy has implemented revised CS responding and reporting procedures. Also, the training to all NMT staff for updated CP reporting and responding procedures was implemented.

To secure the evidence based approach in advocacy activities and development of program interventions to meet the needs of the target group we have conducted a Child Rights Situation Analysis.

By the end of 2017, the service description for temporary foster family and service description for additional foster family on CVP location Skopje and was developed and approved by the regional programme development advisors.

Within the project "Social inclusion and economic empowerment of youngsters and young parents at risk", 173 beneficiaries signed contracts and were supported with tailored activities in order to secure employability. By end of December, 29 small businesses were supported with small grants and several more are in process of development of business plan and will be finalized in the first quarter of 2018. 129 beneficiaries have increased employability (75% Women, 14% Roma); 122 beneficiaries have increased income (72% women, 8% Roma); 52 beneficiaries are employed (79% women, 15% Roma); 40 beneficiaries have paid internship contracts (86% Women, 2% Roma); 29 beneficiaries earn their living through self-employment (58% women, no Roma).

Invest for Funding growth

During 2017 we have we have collected local income from several main sources: government subsidies, corporate financial donations and donations in kind, fundraising campaigns, merchandising such as Christmas card campaign and some indirect cost from Public funding Projects. The local income flow during the year was according to what was planned planning except public funding funds that were not planed during 2016 but contract was signed after the budget submission end of 2015.

- **Gross fundraising income** that includes Fundraising cash and income from Public Funding was targeted at **119.844 EUR** in Annual Plan, and we managed to achieve **201.207 EUR**, due to overreaching both the target for Fundraising cash income, but mainly as a result to generating more funds form Public funding sources. In total, our Gross fundraising income reached **168%** in comparison to the target.
- The target for **Fundraising cash** was set at **55.000 EUR**, and we had a **131%** of realization with collected **71.875 EUR**.
- Our **Donations in kind** target for 2017 was **65.000 EUR** and we have managed to collect **68.623 euros** from companies, individuals and public institutions, which is **106%** realization.
- **Public funding targets were budgeted** of amount of **64.844 EUR** according to already signed contract but due to additional contract signed, our collected amount by the end of the year 2017 was **129.343 EUR** or **199.5%** in comparison to the target.
- The target for **Government subsidies** was **280.268 EUR** and we reached **235.273 EUR**. Under Government subsidies, we calculated family budgets for foster families, SIL program that are paid directly to families and to youth. The subsidies for Youth programs are paid directly to SOS under the alternative form "Organized living with support".

In total, the Local income for 2017 reached 505.103 EUR.

Fundraising and promotional activities

During this year, we have strengthened the communication with corporate partners securing funds through one on one interaction and raising the amounts per contract, pace that we will work on continuing and strengthening in the years to come.

We have also made progress in reaching individuals through payroll giving, through signing contracts with two companies. This activity with both companies is set to continue in 2018 and we plan to upgrade them, but also sign in new companies for this kind of fundraising.

We used all of the mayor organization's public activities such as campaigns, conferences and meetings to promote the Organization and strengthen Brand awareness in the country. We had many promotional media appearances giving us the opportunity to share news and plans with the public.

Our Christmas campaign with the printed cards is continuing at a slower pace due to a continuous decline in the interest from companies for sending traditional Christmas cards, so we had a new approach and introduced a new product, NY calendar with the possibility to be branded according to companies wishes and we see potential in growing this new product, but also a line of others to compliment this campaign in order to secure a steady income from this segment in the years to come.

Realizing fundraising activities continues to be a challenge with limited resources and with consideration of our still unstable political and economic situation in 2017, but we managed to finish the year with positive results overreaching all set targets and starting to set grounds for raising the potential for FR activities and securing funds for functioning of the NA.

Donations in kind were reached with a support of companies and individuals and they were mainly in different services maintenance, home appliances, and activities for children, summer holidays and excursions. We have set a stabile network of partners who continuously support us with donations in kind.

Public funding activities

In 2017 SOS CV Macedonia applied with 9 projects to different donors, including EU/IPA funding opportunities.

In the first quarter, we applied with two projects:

1. Submitted project application "Let's prepare for school", Stimulation of the overall psychophysical development of pre-school children coming from families at social risk. The project was applied to the City of Skopje - Applications for small-scale grants with a total amount of 7.481 EUR, out of which 3.680 EUR were asked from the Donor and the rest is our contribution. The project was approved.
2. Submitted project application for Emergency Response Project to UNICEF Macedonia with a total project amount of 100.613, out of which 73.575 EUR were asked from the Donor and the rest is our contribution. The project was approved.

In the second quarter, we applied with three projects:

3. Submitted project application for the project "Enabling supporting environment for financial sustainability of civil society organizations" to the IPA Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2016-2017 in partnership with the Association SOS Children's Villages Bulgaria and the TRAG Foundation from Serbia. The project total budget amount was 550.000 EUR. The overall objective of this project was to contribute towards improved financial sustainability of civil society organizations in Macedonia. This project was rejected.
4. Submitted application for the project "Strengthening families and children at social risk in Shuto Orizari" to the General Secretariat of the Government/Government of the Republic of Macedonia with an overall budget is 57.400 EUR. The project was rejected.
5. Submitted project Concept for continuation of the Project Social Contracting for Sustainability to UNICEF Macedonia. The discussions and negotiations with UNICEF for this project were postponed for the first quarter of 2018.

In the third quarter, we applied with two projects:

6. Submitted project application to the Australian Embassy - Direct Aid Program for the project Strengthening families and children at social risk in Shuto Orizari, Skopje. The project with a total amount of 57.400 euros was intended to support the FSP project in Shuto Orizari. The project was rejected.
7. Submitted project application with SOS CV Serbia as leading applicant and in cooperation with partner SOS CV Macedonia for the project "Summer camp for youth in alternative care from Wester Balkans

countries" to the Regional Youth Cooperation Office with a total amount of 33.400 EUR. The project was rejected.

In the last quarter, we applied with two projects:

8. Submitted project application for the project "Better Care for Children" to UNICEF Macedonia with a total amount of 64.058 EUR, out of which 48.200 EUR were asked from the Donor and the rest is our contribution. The goal of the proposed project is to strengthen the fostering system in Macedonia through improvement and development of legislation regulating provision and support of foster care. The project was approved.

9. Submitted project application with HGFD as a leading partner and SOS CV Macedonia as implementing partner for the project "Stop violence against children" to the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project's goal for 3 years and 9 months that was approved by the KDI is contribute towards prevention and reduction of violence against and among children and to create safer environment for learning and development of children in Skopje, Macedonia. The total amount for this project is 751.246 EUR, out of which 563.435 EUR were asked from the Donor and the rest is contribution from HGFD. The project application is pending for decision of BMZ.

Governance and Management

During 2017 the Board of SOS Children's Villages has conducted 6 Board meetings in order to support the development of the organization. Furthermore in April 2017 the Board had an exchange meeting with SOS Children's Villages Bulgaria due to the fact that SOS Macedonia was informed that it was moved from Challenge Cluster to Sustainable cluster. There was interest to learn more about the challenges of the Sustainable cluster.

With direct letter to the Management team and the President, the Board requested some additional explanation for this decision and criteria's behind that.

In December 2017 additional analyses and rationale was sent to the Regional office in order to support our request to reconsider the decision about SOS Macedonia on the bases of facts and arguments.

Additionally, the Board supported the initiative of restructuring the National office in order to support the new reality and the sustainability of the organization. This process understands updating of JD's, renaming existing positions and also planning new positions that will be crucial to support development of the organization. The process started in 2017 and it will continue in 2018 when the new organizational solution will be adopted by the Board. In 2018 enlargement of NMT is planned with HR Manger and additional employee in fund development department.

Jointly with the National Director and some NMT members, the Board also supported the changes of Statutes of the Organizations as one very important strategic issue. Due to De-institutionalization and transformation of SOS Families to Foster Care families our main documents remain the same and they don't support the new Program Policy and the transformation.

Considering that SOS Children Villages Macedonia has formed two legal bodies, Non-Governmental association and Private Institution, there are two Statutes that has to be aligned and updated: First one with SOS Children's Villages International Statute and the second one with local legislation.

In the period between 2-5th of December cross –functional audit was conducted in our organization with special focus on National office and public funding. Some recommendations were given in order to improve our operational activities and to maintain high professionalism and transparency with partners and donors which is one of our main values and principals.

Additionally National office has given special focus on data protection and legal alignment with national legislative in order to secure future participation in SPO and PDB.

TIME SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS FOR 2018

JANUARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Holliday's (Orthodox Holiday) and traditional activities and celebrations • Winter Holliday for the youngsters from the Youth Programs • Final Conference of the Emergency Project 2015-2017
FEBRUARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First extraordinary Board meeting • Visit and donation from MMF- Mr. Deputy Director Tao Zhang
MARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second extraordinary Board meeting • 6-7 Regional Conference for introduction of New program structure • 8th Mother's Day Celebration
APRIL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st – April Carnival traditional activities and celebrations • First Regular Board meeting • Midterm planning -2019-2021 • 6-9 Orthodox Easter
MAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st – Labor Day (Holiday) - traditional activities and celebration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of the International Mother's day with traditional partners • 15 International day of families-activities marking the week • Graduation parties for high school youngsters • First Board Meeting and General assembly
JUNE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-8 Leadership conference • 11th Graduating celebrations for graduated students from elementary school • 23rd – Mr. Herman Gmajner Celebration • 15th first day Ramazan Bajram - traditional activities and celebrations
JULY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startup of Pre-dialogs plans for 2019 • Summer Holidays for the children in Caldonazzo and Ohrid lake
AUGUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Holidays for the youth from YF and application to Universities
SEPTEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st school day and traditional celebrations • Transfer of the children from the SOS families to the Youth Programs and high school applications • Transfer of youngsters to SIL program and University applications
OCTOBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's week-traditional activities • Budgeting Process for 2019 • Strategic planning process for 2019 • Third Board meeting
NOVEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic plan and budget approval for 2019 • Participation of SOS Children's Village children in the Halloween parade
DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Universal Volunteer day- Certificate ceremony for volunteers • Christmas cards selling Campaign • 15th -31th - New Year's traditional visits, celebration and activities • Fourth Board meeting

SECTION TWO

FACILITY (LOCATION'S PROGRAM) REPORT

2.1 SOS Children's Village – Program for support of Foster families

In December 2017, 58 children, aged 3 to 18 years, were accommodated in our 12 SOS foster families.

A new part of this program initiated in April 2017, an SOS intervention family was started in the local community, in which during the year were admitted 5 children at social risk, who needed urgent intervention care for up to 30 days, optimal time that is appropriate until the guardians find an appropriate form of care for the children in the future. Two of those children were admitted in the SOS foster families.

In 2017 we admitted 18 children in our SOS foster families in cooperation with the Centers for social work from all over Macedonia, with which we have very professional and functional communication and cooperation. In 2017, 7 children transferred in the Youth care programs, on the request of a legal guardian and the young people.

Social and economic situation in our community have led to an increase of the number of children who needed support and they found their home in the foster families. This also affects young people, because it's harder for them to find work due to this situation in the country.

The general background of all newly admitted children is due to dysfunctional relations in the biological families, single parents, increased violence in their biological families, the absence of one of the parents in the families because they are for treatment in a psychiatric institution or serving a sentence in prison. To help the children to adapt to a family life in the SOS foster family, the following steps were taken: step by step integration of the child in the family, more frequent activities with the SOS mother and the child, before the admission in to the family, all together with the guardian of the child and the social worker from the SOS, preparing children currently in the SOS family for the arrival of a new addition to the family etc.

The challenges in this process that we would like to share are: documentation for the new admitted children that is needed for the school and educational supports are missing. The children are usually facing big health problems, and we take them immediately to have complete medical examinations. The children that are admitted in the SOS families very often are without immunization.

During the year we have a lot of activities with the children. This year we have great concerts in the SOS Children's village performed by the Macedonian philharmonic and the Orchestra from the Macedonian Opera and ballet. Also, we have a lot of activities and educational workshops for the children such as: ballet, taekwondo, creative workshops, drawing lessons, eco workshops with recycled materials etc. Children are also involved in the activities in the municipality such as English classes, visiting other schools, visiting the Prime minister and the government building. This year our children joined the first Scout unit of Skopje. The children are very excited with opportunity to be part of the scout's team. It allows them to develop new skills with the scouts. They are taught: orientation in space, coordination, using a compass, getting into a mountain, a forest, encoding and decoding signs etc.

This year for the first time SOS foster families were together on their summer vacation. Ten SOS foster parents went together with the children to Prespa Lake and they had wonderful time there. Fourteen children with two employees were in Italy visiting the SOS Feriendorf Caldonazzo, summer camp for the children of SOS Children's villages from around the world. It gave our children a chance to meet their cohorts from Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy and other countries. It allows the children to have chance to learn more about new cultures, new languages, new customs. Ten children were able to visit Prague with the children from the SOS children's villages from Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also another 10 children were able to participate in Warsaw, Poland for the world cup football tournament "Hope for Mundial" for children from care homes. Every year the volunteers from Poland and the Sovereign military order of Malta come to visit our village for three weeks and have activities with the children like visiting museums, visiting Vodno mountain, Ohrid lake, the Aqua park, and the Zoo, along with similar activities that children enjoy.

In this program, children get support that they need from the Case workers that work together with the SOS foster parents to assist the child's progress in his/her development. If there is a need a psychologist or psychiatrist will work with children individually to preform psychological testing, and counseling.

Also, from other professionals such as, speech therapist, special educator's that works with children according to their Individual development plan, and professional orientation for children that will go to high school etc.

Dushica is a girl that is the role model for the younger kids in our village. She is an excellent pupil at school and teachers adore her. She is very responsible girl that does her school activities and school homework's with a big enthusiasm. She is good at English language too and attends a foreign language school. She is also very active in the after-school activities. She goes to ballet classes, drama section and taekwondo lessons. She participates in all events that happen in the village.

Nikola is the biggest child in the village. This year he turned eighteen years. Nikola is a youngster that's faces a lot of developmental and behavioral challenges. Our biggest challenge this year was to support him in managing his anger. We are proud to say that Nikola had coped with all the challenges and he manage to overcome all the obstacles he has faced and he now meets all the criteria for admission in the youth house. This success is our pride of the year.

We also receive donations for activities done with the children from the volunteers of Sovereign military order of Malta, visiting Prague and Warsaw. Yoga classes for children, volleyball classes, English classes, Olympics organized from our donor for many years, football training for our very talented boys and many more. Also, we have a lot of donations in kind as support for our SOS foster families.

This year one of our SOS mothers/ foster care givers received golden ring as a jubilee award for her 10 years dedicated work with the children in SOS Children's village Skopje. Also, two employees from SOS Children's village Skopje from the Program for SOS foster families received award for their 10 years working in SOS.

As support for their work the employees received individual supervisions, training and workshops according to their needs, visiting other SOS children's villages and sharing experiences with the other colleagues.

In 2017 we renovated the facades at 4 family houses, put new windows in the houses, and the children received new furniture in their rooms.

2.2 SOS Youth Facility / SOS Youth Programme

In 2017, working with both SOS Youth programs were exacting and motivating. The main activities of the program , care and after care support, are provided in two so called youth houses, both located in city of Skopje. Booth programs are integrated in the community with no institutional sign of their existing. They are administered according to the legislation in Macedonia and acknowledged as a form of care and support for youth .Youth program over the year 2017 was a caring home for a total of 39 youths, 25 girls and 12 boys. Nine of them who reached maturity and were ready to continue with more independent life, left the program during the year. They continued to have support by mentorship and supportive activities. During the year, 38 youth who left care, were supported by semi-independent programme of SOS and three of them became fully independent. Most of the youths in SIL Program are receiving state student scholarships and some of them are employed. Most of the employed youths are working in Governmental institutions, while some of them are employed in public sector, mainly hospitality business. Some of them are already successful in community, and they are positive example and influence for both-children from the SOS and other young people in the country.

During 2017, the greatest emphasis was put on the educational process, which is, motivating the youngsters for achieving better results in school and fulfilling their free time with extra-curricular activities, courses and hobbies. In order to achieve the stated goal, besides the employees in the program, also external collaborators for educational support of the youngsters were engaged. All of the SOS youth finished their

respective school year, and some of them performed excellent at school. Half of them received high school state scholarships. The engagement and enthusiasm of all employees, including well-motivated youngsters, has resulted in approximately 70% of the youngsters gradually improved their school result. These activities were project financed by the local municipality of Skopje.

This year some youngsters were involved in volunteers activities with our partner NGO organisation, Red Cross of Macedonia. In the summer period, there was a voluntary involvement of SIL youngsters in summer holidays as a direct support of the care co-workers. The idea was to provide peer-to-peer support on leaving care process. This engagement was organized on the demand of the youngsters themselves. 2-day self-evaluation process of the youth program identified that youngsters very much appreciate peer-to-peer support, especially from the ones that being in their shoes in the past.

The focus in youth care program is mainly on preparation for the leaving care process and reaching independency. Most of the young people leaving care in Macedonia decide to continue their education at higher education institutions, primarily because of the benefit that the state gives to this category of young people. This include financial compensation for studying which is in the amount of average monthly salary in the country, but many of them do not continue the education process after the first year. It is a challenge these young people to be motivated to work, to be included in employment and self-employment support programs, and even more challenging is to show responsibility, a solid working performance and retain the workplace. In the period of adaptation through the independency, sometimes it happens for a young person to fall in to life crises and in these cases, individual, intensive first aid psychological and material support is provided by SOS. This year one young girl was re- admitted in the youth house, for a period of half a year. She fell in psychological crises and social isolation. Her two sisters were already in the youth care and together with the staff helped her to overcome the crises. This approach promote permanency, trust and true care, and is very important example of what are our values. Fortunately, she overcome the fears of independence leaving and she is now ready to try it for the second time.

The biggest challenge for this year was to provide support for youngsters with specific behaviour and development challenges, 6 of them in the Youth care program. These youngsters were raised in dysfunctional families for a long time, without adequate stimulation and positive role models, victimized and neglected, and did not manage to develop resilience and heal earlier in childhood. For them adolescence is a period of development, when there is an extra challenge, beside the independency. They are struggling to manage the residual effect of early-unsolved trauma and losses. These youths can easily develop a negative self-image that will lead to a marginalization of their position in society and can leave them without many opportunities for development and social inclusion, if they do not have adequate support by their caregivers and their peers.

2.3 SOS Family Strengthening – Prevention program

The family strengthening programme is consisted of two Counselling Centers, the first one is located in municipality of Gazi Baba and second is located in the municipality Shuto Orizari, which has largest Roma community in the Balkans.

As of December 2017, the program supported a total of **120 children, 3 young adults, 73 parents, and 41 families. 8 families** left the program based on “Self-reliance”. In comparison with 2016, the number of supported families and children in FSP Shuto Orizari is increased. The programme team is consisted of 6 employees (FSP Gazi Baba - 1 manager/coordinator, 1 social worker/family advisor and psychologist/family advisor and in FSP Shuto Orizari - 1 project coordinator/Social Worker, 1 psychologist /family advisor and 1 educational co-worker).

We are very happy to share with you the **major achievements with the children**: 98% of the school age children are enrolled in school and 75% of them are attending school regularly; 60% of the children are with improved social and communication skills and have quality leisure time through participation in children's clubs, recreational and socio-cultural activities, communication & personal development trainings; 81% of

the children received preventive and curative health care and 94% of the children possess legal identity documents. We are also proud of the ***success of our parents***: 73% of the exited families attained self-reliance; 45% of the parents are with improved social and communication skills and increased self-confidence through participation in support groups, personal development trainings and psychological counselling; 71% of the families received housing/living condition support; 78% of the parents are with improved knowledge's for child care & parenting; 59% of the parents received economic support (39% of them completed vocational trainings and have strengthened skills for finding job, 20% of them have access to social security rights).

The two Counselling Centers were open to ***support the children from the Village and the local community***: Group activities were organized with the participation of the children from the FSP and the program for supporting foster families - excursions, summer camps and vacations, sports and recreational activities, socio-cultural events. The children participated in Education for Children's Rights and creative workshops for handcrafts. Preschool children supported by the two programs visited the Children's Corner Happy Childhood, within the SOS Resource Center. Through these joint activities, the children from the village and the community had the opportunity to increase their living and social skills. We had regular and active ***cooperation with the neighborhood***:

In 2017, SOS with its FSP representative, was again elected chair of the Informal local network for supporting children and families at risk in Gazi Baba. In 2017, 3 coordination meetings were conducted and 1 training on the topic "Dealing with conflict situations", actively participated 11 representatives. Beneficial information was shared on new projects and services of member organizations that are aimed at the well-being of children at risk. Also, expert consultations and coordination were conducted for individual cases. With the change of local government in the municipality of Shuto Orizari, new perspectives were opened and a working meeting were held with the mayor, in which were defined fields for cooperation and joint action to promote the situation of families and children in social risk. The contributors provided free services for children and parents (informative sessions for children's rights and health prevention educations for parents and children; legal advice and advocacy, training parents for jobs, English language course for children, educational workshops for pre-school children). Cooperation has started with new collaborators, with whom we signed memorandum for cooperation and implemented common projects with the participation of children and parents in social risks. The programme team members participated in coordinative working meetings, conferences, public debates and panel discussions organized by the collaborators, in the direction of advocating for children's rights.

Functioning of FSP in comparison to other facilities in the country: FSP is the only one organization, that implements preventive program for the families in social risk. The programme team is implementing the Case management procedures in working with the families, which ensures a comprehensive approach for fulfilling the needs of the participating families and children and participatory approach in all stages of support. During 2017, ***renovation and equipment of premises*** took place: At the end of the year, the FSP team Shuto Orizari moved into a new facility with a greater space for individual and group work with children and parents. In FSP Gazi Baba, one big room was separated, which resulted in 2 smaller halls for daily group work with children and parents. Both halls are equipped with basic furniture. This made them very happy and proud, both employees and families.

Success Stories for SOS Programme

In July, ten of the youth were part of a team that participated in football World Cup tournament for children from social protection systems in Warsaw-Poland. The team had good performances and they made an excellent impression in the tournament in a highly competitive group and spend a

great time in Poland. It revealed that those boys have an undisclosed talent for the football, and they were looking forward to the next tournament.

One Youth who had photographic affinities, was successfully involved in a photography course through a donation, both-for the course and for the purchase of a new camera, and he was extremely happy about that.

An important aspect of working with young people, even while they are in care, is the creation of work habits and their inclusion in seasonal work engagement during the summer holiday. This year, eight youngsters in care were seasonally engaged and were thankworthy for their engagement by employers. They successfully managed to develop their working habits and to expand their monthly budget.

A female youngster from the Semi-Independent Living Program formed a family and, at the end of the year, she gave a birth of a baby girl. In the meantime, she used the money from sponsors to renovate a part of the family house and to equip the space.

An especially big challenge and at the same time and pride, were two separated reintegration processes for two of the Youth, to continue their lives with the biological parents. Those were separated integration processes, one for one Youth-boy, who at the end successfully continue his live with his father in a different city in the country, and second-one, for one girl who continue her live with her father and a grandmother in another municipality in Skopje.

SECTION THREE

OTHER PROJECTS REPORT

3.1. PRIDE Project

According to political challenges in the country, some of the activities in 2016 were postponed for 2017 in order to secure the effective and efficient way of conducting the planned activities and reach the desired results.

Namely, with the consent by the donor, SOS Children's Village Macedonia develop action plan that secured achievement of the remaining project activities and to set related actions that will be covered with budget savings from the previous year and to contribute to a strategic directions of the association.

The following activities was a priority for 2017:

1. Assessing the present social protection system in RM and delivery of recommendations for improvements, with special focus on quality standards;
2. Developing draft proposal for quality child care standards;
3. Developing draft proposal for M&E system of quality child care in R. Macedonia;
4. Assessing legal possibilities for inclusion of PRIDE in the social protection system in RM;
5. Submitting proposal for integration of PRIDE model of practice in the social protection system in R Macedonia;
6. Attending PRIDE conference in Prague;
7. Child Right Situation analyses (This is in addition no related with PRIDE but approved from the savings from PRIDE);
8. External Evaluation.

As of January 2017, SOS Children's Village Macedonia started with the planned activities for implementation of the PRIDE project. The preparation and consultation has conducted with the advisers from the regional office to find a consultant outside Macedonia to assess the social protection system and prepare working versions of the Standards for quality care for children in foster families and a working version of the monitoring system and assessment.

After receiving a recommendation for a consultant from the Program Director of the region, Nicola Oberzaucher and the consent of the financier, preparation of the activities was started.

The offered consultant was Bep Van Sloten, from the Netherlands, that was asked to send an offer to conduct the Assessment of the present social protection system in RM and delivery of recommendations for improvements, with special focus on quality standards.

In February the assessment of the social protection system started in accordance with the agreed structure, developed and proposed by the consultant, which included representatives of Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Institute for Social Activities-Skopje, SOS Children's Village Macedonia, Centre for social work of city of Skopje, Children and Youth, Caregivers from SOS CV Skopje and external from the foster care system, Day centres for street children, SOS Counselling centres in Gazi Baba and Shuto Orizari, NGO Poraka and professors from the Faculty of Philosophy-Institute for Social Work and Social Policy.

After the assessment, a report was prepared that was submitted to all parties involved and in accordance with the recommendations, SOS CV Macedonia recommended to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to establish a working group that will work on the development of Standards for care of children in foster families.

The consultant Bep Van Sloten was engaged with the support of the Regional Program Department on the bases of TOR and sent offer with the proposed methodology for the Development of draft quality childcare standards and Development of draft proposal for M&E system of quality childcare in R. Macedonia.

After accepting the offer, the working group was formed and the development of standards was started. The working group was created by representatives of: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Institute for Social Activities-Skopje, Centre for social work of city of Skopje, SOS Children's Village Macedonia, NGO Poraka and professors from the Faculty of Philosophy-Institute for Social Work and Social Policy. Several meetings were organized in order to structure and streamline the process of the development of standards according to the needs and the system of social protection.

After development of the first draft, an official consultation with the working group was started and feedback information and remarks were requested. After the remarks received, the content was corrected in accordance with the recommendations and remarks. The standards were submitted for consultation with the SOS regional advisers for program development and after the recommendations, the changes were implemented.

Following the recommendations from all key stakeholders, internal adjustments and refinements were made to the document, and the development of a working version of the Manual for the implementation of standards and the establishment of a framework document for monitoring and evaluation of the quality of care in foster families was started.

Upon completion of these documents, it remains our commitment and the will of the MLSP and the ISA to continue to finish the manual for implementing the standards and document for monitoring and evaluation of the quality of care in foster families. This is a challenge, but also an opportunity, linked to all the changes that began with the arrival of the new government. On the end of the 2017, we succeeded to arrange with UNICEF Macedonia to work on the finalization of the documents.

After finishing the development of the documents, the advocacy activities was intensified and the process for Assessment of legal possibilities for inclusion of PRIDE in the social protection system in RM has started. The consultant was engaged and the process of analysis was conducted. Analysis raised 5 possibilities/opportunities for legal recognition of PRIDE within the system of social protection in Macedonia. According to analysis, SOS Children's Village Macedonia develop a policy paper and officially approach to government for request to position PRIDE within the legislation according to an already proposed recommendations by the legal analysis.

In the September 2017, the Czech Ministry of labour and social policy as main implementer of PRIDE model of practice in the Czech Republic, together with the OKS organization from the Netherlands as a main implementer in Europe and CWLA as a developer and right holder of the PRIDE model of practice world wide, organized a conference for sharing implementation practices in Europe and sharing experiences within the states that implementing PRIDE model of practice. In this conference, there were presented a new generation of PRIDE modules and different workshops from different fields of work related with foster care.

For the purpose of raising the knowledge and awareness of new key representatives of the Ministry of labour and social policy, SOS Children's Village Macedonia decided to take them on the PRIDE conference in Prague. This decision resulted with the raised knowledge about PRIDE model of practice and its implementation on the international level and closer collaboration possibilities with the key representatives of the Ministry of labour and social policy and should result also with achieving the strategic objectives of the SOS CV Organization.

During the last quarter of the year, according to the plan, the preparation activities for conducting the Child rights situation analysis and external evaluation of the PRIDE project was started. ToR was developed and announcement was distributed. After decisions in the process of selection, the action plans and methodologies was developed and the team for collaboration with consultants was introduced.

There were a working meetings organized during the process of analysis and external evaluation and recommendations delivered to consultants.

On the end of the 2017, the CRSA was finished and the final report was received. Also, external evaluation was finished, according to the plan and final external evaluation report delivered to SOS Children's Village Macedonia.

All products developed in 2017 according to plan are archived in the SOS CV Organization and are available upon request.

3.2 Project for Social Inclusion and Economic Empowerment of Youth and Young Parents at Social Risk via Income Generating Measures in Gazi Baba – Skopje

The number of beneficiaries increased steadily throughout 2017. The number at the end of the year reached **174 beneficiaries**. Each beneficiary has undergone an assessment and career counselling by case managers, as well as psychosocial counselling by our psychologist. The two employment advisors, the business development advisor and the psychologist all work as case managers. Besides working as case manager, the psychologist provides psychosocial counselling and support to beneficiaries who need to increase their self-confidence and motivation in addressing certain difficulties they face in finding or retaining employment. Both employment advisors provide soft skills trainings and the business development advisor provide business trainings and financial literacy training. Based on the results of the assessment an individual development plan (IDP) is developed by the case manager and the beneficiary. The plan specifies the steps/activities needed (trainings, job seeking, or opening a small business) so the beneficiary can reach the main goal set in the IDP. Based on the IDP the beneficiary becomes part of the employment module or of the self-employment module.

Starting from the second half of the year there was significant increase in number of young people who came to the Resource Center on recommendation by former or current beneficiaries. This indicated that our services are needed in the community, but also in other communities, since we had some young people coming over from other municipalities in city Skopje. This new development had increased motivation and energized the project team since it showed that we are contributing towards positive change in young people's lives.

By end of December 174 beneficiaries signed contracts and had individual development plan. Each one of them was in different stage of involvement in the project -- career counselling, participation in trainings or are already employed/self-employed. The work with youth at risk is stressful and challenging, there are times when expectations are not met, but the many positive outcomes and increased number of employed youth are clear indicators of good work of the team. Every new employment or progress of a beneficiary is celebrated by the team as result of their collective effort.

The team spirit is high, the confidence in providing career counselling and preparation of the IDP is evident -- there are less questions asked, less dilemmas, the successfully applied the new learning and experience collected throughout the year in their everyday work. Consequently the provision of services is improved and the benefit for youth has increased.

The Resource Centre and its services were promoted at a press conference organized with the Employment Agency. There were 3 TV stations present invited by the Employment Agency with a purpose to inform the general public about the activities of the Agency and its collaboration with other organization. They selected our project as a good example of collaboration that gives positive results for youth at risk. The news was broadcast on primetime news.

The project was promoted at info session with the Youth Council of Gazi Baba municipality and in front of the Presidents of the local community in scope of Gazi Baba municipality. We had 4 meetings with them and agreed that they will inform their members and refer them to the Resource Centre. In addition, they took posters and flyers to give to potential beneficiaries.

UNDP was designing a brochure with success stories of their Community Works Programme. The story of our beneficiary Katerina Jovanovic, a single mother was included in the brochure and she also spoke at a conference organized by UNDP on the topic of care economy. She got permanent employment after she completed the Community Works programme.

Two events were organized in April for the beneficiaries with active involvement of volunteers and community committee members. One event was focused on beneficiaries who are using services from the employment module. Two guest speakers gave interactive lectures – one was representative of the Employment Agency and she talked to the participants about the services that the agency has for the unemployed and about the government measures for employment. She addressed some of the questions and concerns of the beneficiaries related to the job searching process. The other speaker was Manager of the HR Department in a company which is a household name in Macedonia and employs thousands of people, mostly women with lower education. She talked from perspective of employer – what are the most common mistakes in writing CV and interview, what are the employers looking for in the job candidates, etc. Both lectures initiated high interest and interaction with the participants. They contributed to diminishing the common myths related to job searching and fostered the motivation and self-confidence of the beneficiaries.

The other event that the Community Committee organized was focused on self-employment. Two speakers were invited from the business sector – both businesses are very popular and well-known. One is a pioneer in social entrepreneurship and the other is owner of the famous Yellow Pages.

Both events proved very innovative and valuable for the participants, since they got opportunity to speak and listen to valuable knowledge from first-hand experience of the speakers. We expect that the events will contribute to changing attitudes among beneficiaries and will reflect positive on their level of self-esteem. The events were filmed with professional camera, so parts of the material could be posted on project's FB page to reach more beneficiaries.

The volunteers took lead on organizing participation at another important event – presentation of the project at the Employment Fair organized by the Employment Agency. The project had a stand with promotional materials that the project team and the volunteers disseminated among the visitors. Representatives of media were covering the event and the project manager gave statement about why we are participating at the fair and brief description of the project. It was broadcast on the national TV outlets. We collected contact information of interested youth that were invited to a more detailed information session at the Resource Centre. Some of them who have fulfilled the entry criteria signed contract to become project beneficiaries. In scope of the Employment Fair the project manager took part in the forum with other employers. Contacts were made, especially with those that are interested to hire new employees. Following the fair, we had separate meetings with several companies and as result official MoU's were signed.

In May a round table was organized by the Red Cross and it took place at the Resource Centre. The participants included representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Centre for Social Work, the Employment Agency, municipal authorities, CSOs representatives, etc. We presented the project and discussed with other stakeholders how to improve collaboration among institutions and with the institutions to improve the provision of services for people at social risk. The Red Cross with IPA funds was implementing similar project in 3 municipalities in Skopje. Since their project was finishing in summer 2017, we had a meeting to identify how to include some of their beneficiaries in our project so we can provide additional support until they find employment or open their own small business.

In June the project manager was member of focus groups organized by UNDP to assess the benefits of the Community Works programme and to identify things that can be improved in 2017 in the programme design phase.

In September, the volunteers and the community committees led the organization of an event that took place in a pizza shop located in rural area of Gazi Baba municipality. The event had 2 purposes -- to award certificates to beneficiaries who finished various courses (soft skills, language, computers, and vocational trainings). The second purpose was to promote positive attitudes among the beneficiaries by inviting a speaker who delivered a motivation lecture about setting goals, taking action to achieve the goals, being persistent and determined, etc.

Throughout September, the volunteers were engaged in identifying unemployed youth that could be engaged in the Community Works Programme. Namely, at end of August we submitted a new proposal to UNDP which got approved and as result 14 youth got six months paid practice in preschool facilities located in Gazi Baba. Six informative sessions describing the Community Works programme were organized at the Resource Centre for unemployed youth and young parents. The volunteers were responsible for making phone calls inviting the unemployed people, welcoming them in the RC and providing the basic information about the programme and referring the young people to the employment advisors.

In December we were invited to the meeting of the Business Club of Gazi Baba. Some of the biggest companies in Macedonia are located in Gazi Baba, so our presence at the meeting was important. We presented the project and also the local governance who hosted the meeting stressed the importance of our work for increasing the employment of youth. In general all companies expressed the need for skilled and committed workers. It was decided that the next meeting of the Business Club will be held at the premises of the Resource Centre which is strategically important for us to be recognized by the business community and for them to visit the premises and to see the services and opportunities we are providing to youth at risk. Our long term goal is to sensitize the companies about the specific mind-set of youth, especially youth at risk and together to develop strategies how to retain youth on the workplace once they are employed. The issue of retention is equally important as the issue of finding employment. Youth at risk has low motivation and low commitment to persist in keeping a full time employment.

In December the project manager and the pedagogue from the ECDF were invited in popular morning talk show to talk about the workshops with children and parents. We presented the work of the ECDF and briefly talked about the project in general.

The intended outcomes for the training in communication skills included: knowledge in communication styles and types, active listening, communication in business setting; how to behave on interview; how to resolve and transform conflicts in everyday life and in the workplace. The duration of the training was 2 days.

The purpose of the training in financial literacy is to increase awareness of participants about the benefits of the sound management with personal budget; how to plan their finances and how to avoid impulsive spending and marketing tricks, especially online shopping. The duration of the training is 1 day.

The provision of the computer courses and the language courses was done by external providers. Most of the beneficiaries were attending English language course but we had also 2 groups in German. Courses were delivered in the Resource Centre in days/times that suited the participants. The length of the courses was 3 months, 3 times per week.

Each beneficiary gets certificate upon finalization of the course and passing of the final exam. The courses in basic IT skills is tailor made to provide basic knowledge and skills in MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point and Internet. The duration of the course was 8 weeks.

The language school gave an option to participants to go to classes either in the Resource Centre or in the school which has premises on three different locations in the city. The language school provided free classes in English and German language for children of beneficiaries during the summer holidays. Some of the beneficiaries took this opportunity and enrolled their children for free. Moreover, the language school offered discounted prices to those beneficiaries who after finishing the basic language course are interested to continue with classes for more advanced levels. The same goes for the computer courses.

The most popular vocations the beneficiaries are applying for are hairdresser, beautician, truck drivers, accounting assistants, administrative assistants, photography, traditional crafts, advanced computer skills (Java, Photoshop). There were couple of beneficiaries interested to learn cooking but we could not find training provider for the course at that time. This had come up as an issue for certain vocational trainings – the providers usually wait until they can assemble a group of at least 10 participants to start the training. The collaboration with vocational training providers was good and in most cases we negotiated to get discount on the regular training prices.

The team put efforts to promote internship among beneficiaries, especially paid internship, but the interest was lower. Youth was primarily interested to get a paid job to meet their basic needs or the needs of their family, so even though internship increases chances to find a job it was not an attractive option for beneficiaries, especially if the duration was longer. By the end of year 37 beneficiaries got paid internship – the number was mainly as a result of youth who had been part of Community Works Programme in 2016 and again in 2017.

Skilled workers were in demand, especially in food industry, textile industry, production of steel, warehouse workers, taxi drivers, etc. However, the low salaries and the working conditions and the long working hours were unappealing for youth.

In 2017 the project teams started with delivery of start-up trainings for business and provision of small grants support. In order for a beneficiary to enrol in the self-employment module, certain criteria had to be satisfied, including: a) expressed interest by the participant (business idea, desire to own and operate a business, entrepreneurial aspiration); b) qualification for business (assessment of the business idea, findings from the initial assessment, including family support); c) determining assets, previous experience, knowledge, skills, willingness in participating in other programs for supporting self-employment via financing.

The trainings were delivered by the business development advisor in groups of 5-6 participants. Training topics include: Entrepreneurship and small business; Strategic goals of small business; Industry and Market Analyses; Small Business Marketing Management; Financial Management; Working Procedures and Operation Management; Creativity and Innovation; E-business.

The training topics for development of the business plan include: Introduction to the concept of business plan; Executive summary; Analysis of the market and industry for the particular business; Company strategy; Business investment; Products or services; Marketing strategy; Competition Analysis; Organizational Structure; Costs; Cumulative effects of investment; Annexes (Table of own contribution, Table of project grant, Table of product/services revenues, table of product/services material costs, Projected income statements-5 years, Projected balance sheet-5 years, Projected statement of cash-flow-1 year, Projected statement of cash-flow-5years, Vertical Bar chart of profitability)

Upon finishing the trainings, each beneficiary worked under close mentorship of the business advisor until the business plan was developed. As soon as the business plan was finished the next step for the beneficiary was to present it in front of a committee to get recommendation for funding.

By the end of 2017, the number of children that received daily care in the ECDF reached 55 children. Some of them came regularly, the others came occasionally, depending on the needs of the parents and their possibilities to bring the children over.

Each day the ECDF staff plans various age-appropriate educational activities and play time for the children. Each activity focused to promote the emotional, cognitive, motoric and language and communication development of the child.

Each month the children were introduced to different topic. The methods for teaching include play, demonstration, practical use, research and observation. Children learn individually and in a group. The play roles, use sport requisites for physical development, social games, etc.

The engagement of the art teacher in working with children promoted their creativity, imagination, fantasy and their personal development was enriched through opportunity for authentic expression and promotion of aesthetic perception of the environment, as well as using art expression in function of setting of personal life values. It is important to stimulate the early childhood development. The art activities were adjusted to the age of the children and were in compliance with the annual work programme of the ECDF.

Almost every month parents were invited to workshops. The staff organized focus groups, developed questionnaires and initiated discussions with parents to identify what are the needs of the parents content-wise in order to design the workshops.

The first workshop was on the topic of the Importance of early childhood development and what were benefits for the child if it comes regularly in the ECDF.

The second workshop was on the topic Positive Parenting -- how to promote positive parental behaviour, with focus on how to recognize and avoid emotional and physical violence in the family.

A workshop on Home safety and learning of children was organized. The workshops focused to raise awareness among parents on home safety and to teach them how to ensure safety of the children at home. In addition, a workshop on the topic How to promote development of speech and language skills was organized for parents/caregivers to. The objective of the workshop was to increase awareness of the parents of the ways in which the child acquires literacy skills, how to prepare child for school and how to promote development of speech, language and initial literacy skills.

The target group was involved in direct way, by participation of beneficiaries in the Employment Committee and in the Self-employment Committee and with active involvement of volunteers in everyday business of the Resource Centre. Indirectly, the target group, or more specifically the beneficiaries who had positive experience of our services were acting as promoters of the Resource Centre and were referring peers who are in need of such services. This was a huge recognition that the Resource Centre was making positive changes in the community.

3.3 Through Social Contracting towards sustainability of NGOs

In 2017, the SOS CV Macedonia continued with advocacy activities mainly related to the implementation of the Project Social contracting for sustainability. The overall objective of this project is to contribute towards increasing the financial sustainability of CSOs in Macedonia by creating favourable legal environment for social contracting, whilst the Specific objective is improvement of the national legislation and policies by developing mechanisms for social contracting in the field of social welfare in the Republic of Macedonia.

The project is focused on creating a favourable legal environment for social contracting in the field of child protection and social services delivery, which will lead to securing long-term financial sustainability of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). With the achievement of its goals, this project will contribute towards achieving government objectives importantly, having in mind, that social contracting is more often seen as support to implement government policies, rather than simply as a mechanism to include non-state actors in social services provisioning. By financing selected types of services, the government can “generate demand” types of actions by non-state actors that promote its objective in

resolving a social problem. Therefore, social contracting will serve as a valuable tool for addressing the need for social services when government capacity is inexistent or insufficient.

During the reporting period SOS CV continued with the ongoing activities according to the defined work plan. Related to the project partners, during the year, virtual meetings were organized among the representatives of project partners and project team for discussing the process and review of the work plan. Also, the project work plan was discussed related to implementation of the tasks and obligations of each party as the timeline of project activities. The coordination with partner organizations is an ongoing activity.

Finalization of all documents prepared within the project

After drafting the policy documents, they were presented and discussed with different stakeholders from social sphere on public events in Skopje and six cities (Bitola, Strumica, Ohrid, Tetovo, Veles and Shtip) in Macedonia in order to gain feedback for their improvement. Additionally, developed policy documents were presented and discussed with the members of the Multipartite Committee. Right after, the drafted policy documents were finalized by the working group and the project team and were ready to be submit to the Government, i.e. Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

Organizing National Conference

On 07-08 of February 2017, a National conference for introduction of social contracting model in Republic of Macedonia was organized in Skopje. About 150 representatives from: EU Delegation, MSLP, Regional office of SOS Children's Village, SOS Children's Villages from Armenia, Kosovo, Albania, Bulgaria, Finland, Ukraine, International expert from Netherland, UNICEF, GIZ, ISA, ISWP, Save the children, public institutions within the social protection system, Center for social work, Local self-government – Social protection Department, Civil organizations, project partners etc. participated the event.

Right after participants were introduced international experiences in implementation of social contracting for social services (benefits, roles and responsibilities, challenges) by Rositza Dimitrova - Veliko Tarnovo Municipality, Bulgaria. Experiences of Government and local institutions in the implementation of the social contracting model in delivery of social services in the Netherlands by Prof. Rene Klarijs – Netherlands and experiences of Civil Society organizations in provision of social services provision in the Scandinavian countries by Juka Kotkavuori – Finland.

Second day of the conference started by summarization of the first day presentations and discussions. Right after, Sofija Spasovska from Ministry of Labor and Social Policy presented the results of process of decentralization of social services in Macedonia. Almandina Guma – Regional Office of SOS Children's Villages International presented the UN Guidelines for alternative care and the international Quality4Children standards for quality care

Nadya Shabani from Bulgarian Center for Non-profit law – BCNL realized presentation of Comparative Analysis report. The second part of the second day conference was committed to presentation and discussion on drafts documents within social contracting model development:

- Policy Paper - Vaska Draskovic – Policy Advisor, SOS Children's Village Macedonia
- Standards and procedures for licensing – International WG Experts – Pavleta Aleksieva - BCNL
- Legal issues related to implementation of social contracting model in Macedonia – Local WG Experts – Svetlana Trbojevic

After each of the presentations, a constructive discussion related to exchange of experiences and benefits from implementation of social contracting model was developed. The conference ended with recommendations and conclusions from the presented experiences and suggestions for implementation of best practices in development of social contracting model in Macedonia.

It could be concluded that by organizing the National Conference, and presenting and discussing the proposed Social contracting model, international and local participants had the opportunity to give their feedback related to presented documents that were very important and will be useful and taken into consideration in further improvement of development and implementation of model of social contracting in Macedonia.

Organizing public debates for promotion of the Social contracting model

Related to regional promotion of Social contracting model, public debates in six cities in Macedonia (Bitola, Shtip, Strumica, Ohrid, Tetovo and Veles) were organized.

About 100 representatives from public institutions in social protection area, Regional Centres for social work, Local self-government and civil organizations introduced, discussed and gave their feedback related to proposed Social contracting model. The event started by presenting the goal of the public debate for proposed social contracting model. Right after participants were introduced the three documents developed within the project:

- Policy Paper
- Standards and procedures for licensing and public procurement and contracting
- Legal issues related to implementation of Social Contracting model in Macedonia

After each of the presented documents a debate was developed. Participants gave their comments, suggestions and propositions for improving the proposed social contracting model.

At the end of each of the regional public debate, recommendations and conclusions were summarized related to improvement and successful implementation of social contracting model in Macedonia. What's more, some of them were incorporated in finalized policy documents.

Organizing the promotional event aimed for promotion and submission of the proposed changes in the legal framework

The organization of this event was aimed to public submission of developed social contracting model to the Government, i.e. the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Having in mind the actual political situation in that period (May 2017), when the new Government was in process of establishing, the public event was not organized, but the Social contracting model, i.e. policy documents were submitted to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy on 18th of May 2017.

Related to implementation of this working package and completion of project activities the request for two months non-cost extension was submitted to Contracting Authority. Since the project was suspended on May 19th 2017, this working package was not implemented during the reporting period.

In that period was impossible to implement these activities due to the ongoing political crisis. Namely, these activities were supposed to be implemented after the adoption of the Social contracting model and all developed policy documents in order to prepare the institutions and other stakeholders for its future implementation.

Additionally, during reporting period, several monitoring meeting with General Secretariat of the Government of Republic of Macedonia for reviewing implementation of the project were realized. It was concluded that most of the project activities and results are realizing according the project plan and goals. At the last monitoring meeting with GSGRM in April 2017, the ongoing activities and updated work plan were overviewed. In addition, the project implementation was put in the context of actual political situation and the need for urgent feedback related to requested extension of the project implementation.

What's more, monitoring meetings with contract authority, CFSD, were realized during reporting period. During the meetings all project documentation, including financial documents, were presented and reviewed by CFSD representatives. It was concluded that the project is managed at high level and no major remarks were found.

Specifically, beside the support and good cooperation with governmental institutions and local government units, the ongoing political situation in the past two years, influenced implementation of some of the project activities like meetings with the members of National Parliament, Trainings for implementation of proposed Social Contracting model and Final Conference. The period of implementation of those activities overlaps the period of establishing the Government and difficulties in functioning of the Parliament, Public and Local Institutions. That situation affected the implementation of the activities because these activities should have been realized in close relation and cooperation with the representatives of the Parliament and Governmental Institutions. Having in mind the actual political situation, a request for non-cost extension was submitted to Contract Authority at the end of 2016. Accordingly, a request for amendment of the Project Contract was submitted to the Contracting authority. Due to the short time period, the Contracting authority suggested a suspension of the project until the decision for non-cost extension is made. The project was suspended on 19th of May and some of the activities mentioned above were not completed during reporting period.

Having in mind that the Contracting authority did not approve the request for non-cost extension, the project was closed without the implementation of all planned activities. However, SOS Children's Village Macedonia and its project team succeeded to raise additional funds from UNICEF office in Macedonia for conducting activities related to the project and one important activity that was planned within the project i.e. the Public Event that was planned under the 3rd working package.

With the UNICEF support, SOS Children's Village Macedonia conducted Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and Cost – benefit / Cost Effectiveness analysis (CBA) of adopting the Social Contracting in the country. Furthermore, at the end of July, a Public event was organized in order to promote the two analysis and more importantly to promote the model of Social Contracting. At this event, in a presence of more than 60 representatives of the Government institutions, Centres for Social Work, the Institute for Social Activities, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, CSOs, representatives of several Local Municipalities from Skopje the Social contracting model (the whole package) developed during the project was handed over to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Mrs. Mila Carovska.

With this small project funded by UNICEF not only that we conducted two additional analyses related to implementation of the Social contracting model, RIA and CBA, but we managed to organize the Public event that was planned during the project, activity that was not implemented due to the closure of the project.

3.4 Emergency Response Programme, European Refugee Crisis

During 2017 the Emergency response project continue with the same focus of help and support of the most vulnerable group of the refugee within the 4 key components of the project throw the psychologists, pediatricians, social workers, sociologists, interpreters and administrative and logistics staff):

- Psycho-social support and protection for children
- Enabling communication and providing Internet access for the refugees, in order to prevent family separations.
- Help and support in the form of food and non-food items for the target group.
- Provision of adequate infrastructure for the safe stay and transit of refugees

Base on the humanitarian need assessed in the begging of 2017 as well as the number of refugee in the county and later in the middle of 2017, the Emergency Respond project there were two significant changes regarding the realization of the activities and services. Regardless of the changes in the focus of action, the location has not changed. The project components were implemented in the Transit Centers Tabanovce - Kumanovo, Transit Center Vinojug - Gevgelija and the Lipkovo region (village Lojane and Vaksince)

At the beginning of the project, a set of indicators and results were set, according to the assessment made in 2016, with the assessment of the conditions and possibilities of the project, the expectations were set according to the number of refugees and their need.

In 2017 a total number of **233 beneficiaries** have been reached;

- January: 29
- February: 38
- March: 18
- April: 18
- May: 19
- June: 25
- July: 16
- August: 30
- September: 15
- October: 11
- November: 7
- December: 7

In the framework of recording services and activities within the above mentioned components, the following results have been achieved:

<i>Month</i>	Child Friendly Space	ICT	Humanitarian help (FI & NFI)
<i>January</i>	2,071	1,762	8,074
<i>February</i>	1,962	1,774	5,673
<i>March</i>	1,607	1,042	2,693
<i>April</i>	2,505	2,250	2,257
<i>May</i>	1,298	3,140	2,120
<i>June</i>	1,457	2,139	2,009
<i>July</i>	1,628	5,524	1,783
<i>August</i>	1,793	5,610	1,600
<i>September</i>	1,575	4,839	1,373
<i>October</i>	1,133	3,921	625
<i>November</i>	1,043	1,423	111
<i>December</i>	733	3,694	513
<i>TOTAL</i>	18,805	37,118	28,831

TOTAL services to 233 refugee in 2017 are 84,754

According to the need and the filed assessment in May 2017 with Emergency Regional office, additionally from July 2017, ICT corner was open in village Lojane. The ICT Corner was open in cooperation and support with the NGO Legis i.e. in their premises. The location was choice according to the position of the office, which is in the middle of the “refugee road of walking to Serbia and from Serbia to Macedonia)

In frame of the Child protection, artist from Arabic background was involved at Child Friendly Space activities as art therapy and art psychosocial support of unaccompanied minors, young and children.

In frame of the human resource, the number of staff and the number of shifts was decreased base on the assessment on the field but in the same time for the employed staff was provide professional supervision.

In Macedonia was organized the International ToT for Holistic Trauma Healing Approach, organized by SOS Children's Village Macedonia, covered by SOS Children's Village International for staff members of ERP Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine.

Additionally the project team in frame with the assessment established new position, Integration officer. The project manager with the integration officer was included in the process of making the new strategy for integration of refugee and migrant on national level and design an action plan for integration of refugee and migrants in Municipality of Butel.

Child protection

Child protection was a crucial type of help and support within this project, and it comprised unaccompanied children, children with special needs, and children with a single parent or guardian. Help and support were realized via a set of activities, in order to reduce the acute stress and minimize the consequences of trauma, which was apparent in these children.

Furthermore, mitigating circumstances were created for their unobstructed growth and development in the new environment they found themselves in and in the process of transiting through the Republic of Macedonia. Professionals (psychologists, pedagogues, social workers and sociologists), based on previously prepared methodologies and handbooks by professors and Ph.D.'s in this field implemented this set of activities.

The component of child protection involved the following:

- Short-term psychosocial support and long-term support and protection
- Early child development / working with children with PTSD, as well as educational activities
- Social welfare and adaptation of children and unaccompanied children
- Creative and music workshops

In general, engaged professionals implemented the activities of Child protection in the Child-friendly space. Activities were performed based on:

- First aid handbook - psycho-social support of children from war zones, Dr. Marcekić
- Early child development handbook for children with PTSD, SOS Children's Villages and UNICEF
- Handbook for psycho-social intervention and support, UNICEF
- The programme for psycho-social support of vulnerable categories of refugees (children, mothers, unaccompanied children), as well as with people with PTSD deriving from any difficult situation, SOS Children's Village Macedonia (Macedonian association for applied psychology, SIMBOLIKUM, Skopje), as well as a set of international- and national-level trainings by SOS Children's Villages International, UNICEF, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, UNHCR and others.

Enabling smooth communication and Internet access

The need for communication was one of the refugees' greatest needs. They needed to communicate with their loved ones, to find out if they were alive, safe, how far they got, etc. Even in the very beginning, when priority needs assessments were made in order to be able to respond to them in the best manner... a list of needs was created: water, food, clothes, medical aid, communication, and on the top of the list, the Internet showed up. The need to communicate was more important than food and water for some of them. In order to meet this need, SOS Children's Village Macedonia provided communication corners in both transit centres, Kumanovo and Gevgelija. These ICT corners to them were a window to the world, contact with their loved ones, information about their birthplace, information about what is nearby, as well as risks on the way to their next destination... for them this was particularly important... and for

those who stayed longer in the centres, the corners were a place to escape their cruel reality and truth, but also an opportunity to spend time and socialize with each other.

The communication corners we established in Gevgelija and Tabanovce were fully operational 24/7 in three shifts, and provided internet, phone charging, printing and scanning of documents. Within 15 square meters in both transit centres, equipped with computers, phone charging stations, free internet and additional equipment for copying documents, these corners are often visited by children and younger generations, but also adults, which consider this place useful to reestablish contact with their families, as well as for printing and scanning of their personal documentation.

Providing safe and adequate nutrition (food and non-food items) as well as medical protection

Within this international refugee crisis, SOS Children's Village Macedonia cooperated with the Macedonian Red Cross. SOS Children's Village Macedonia was actively involved in the Red Cross-led activities responding to the humanitarian needs of migrants transiting through our country, as well as in providing humanitarian aid to those who stayed in the country after the formal closure of the borders. Providing the Red Cross with humanitarian aid packages, i.e. food and non-food items, in partnership with the Red Cross, SOS Children's Village Macedonia managed to provide the much-needed support for the refugees, especially children. This help was much appreciated for meeting the basic needs of refugee children and their families during their stay in Macedonia. Help was provided daily in the form of hygiene supplies, food, drinking water, clothes, first aid and powder milk for the babies.

FOOD and NONFOOD Items 2017						
Jackets	Colgate	Bottle of milk	Boots	Blankets	Baby cream	Shampoo
5	724	462	28	46	698	729
Diapers	Milk bottles	„Carrier“	Bags	Underwear	Wipes	Baby clothes
2,430	462	3	38	48	2,968	389
Milk		„Musli“ yogurt	Baby porridge	Plasma	Energetic food	Juice
2,350		3,490	274	941	1,257	824

Networking and Coordination

In the interest of the target group and the advisability and realization of the project, during the project realization period, SOS Children's Village Macedonia participated on a set of trainings organized by UNICEF, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and other international organizations.

In 2017 should be emphasize the participation of the European project for acquisition of good practices and methodologies in relation to refugees and migrants, implemented by the Social Chamber of the Republic of Slovenia, in partnership with the International IB, Croatian Red Cross, Centre for vocational education and training of Slovenia and GERI Centre of Slovenia. On the other hand, apart from trainings, vocational education and acquiring new practices and methodologies, SOS Children's Village Macedonia gave its contribution in the process of creating the new Strategy for integration of refugees and foreigners in the Republic of Macedonia, and prepared the Local Action Plan for integration of refugees and foreigners of the Municipality of Butel.

SOS Children's Village Macedonia was recognized as a crucial organization in the field of children protection within the International refugee crisis, hence it was included in all national bodies and groups working toward coordinating the help and support for refugees in Macedonia. Out of many partnerships and a lot of cooperation, SOS Children's Village Macedonia emphasizes the following, without which the success and support of the most vulnerable people would not have been achieved:

- Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the Republic of Macedonia
- Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia
- National Centre for Border Management of the Republic of Macedonia
- Crisis Management Centre of the Republic of Macedonia
- Regional Crisis Management Centre Gevgelija
- Regional Crisis Management Centre Kumanovo
- UNICEF
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Macedonian Red Cross
- ADRA
- UNHCR
- IOM
- DRC
- Macedonian Young Lawyers Association
- Civil Association "LEGIS"
- Municipality of Butel

