

INSPIRE Strategies to End Violence Against Children Country Factsheet

KOSOVO



INTRODUCTION

This factsheet is largely based on the inputs and observations of seven organisations working in child protection in Kosovo. As the survey was shared through child protection national coalition KOMF, also the respondents are coalition members. Currently there is no national level INSPIRE working group in Kosovo and the INSPIRE strategies are relatively not very familiar within the NGO community.

However, the organisations that took part in the mapping the survey conduct activities that directly relate to one or more of the INSPIRE strategies.

Number of organisations working on INSPIRE strategies in Kosovo

Results based on information provided by 7 organisations which took part to ChildPact's INSPIRE mapping survey

Strategy 1: Implementation and enforcement of laws

6 organisations

Strategy 2: Norms and values (gender, social, community)

2 organisations

Strategy 3: Safe environments

3 organisations

Strategy 4: Parent and care giver support

4 organisations

Strategy 5: Income and economic strengthening

0 organisations

Strategy 6: Response and support services

2 organisations

Strategy 7: Education and life skills

4 organisations

CROSS- CUTTING ASPECTS

The section below point at cross-cutting aspects that are relevant for all INSPIRE strategies. Examples of activities relevant to the different strategies will be outlined separately in the following section.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NGO SECTOR AND STATE AUTHORITIES

According to the respondents of the survey, there is a certain level of cooperation and support provided by state authorities at both national and local level toward NGO sector in Kosovo. However, taking into consideration the need to improve services, this support is not enough and does not ensure a sustainable and quality service provision. The state support must be regular, structured and consistent in order to strengthen the civil society sector interventions in frame with INSPIRE Strategies.

Few examples of state support are Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, as well as municipalities at local level. In such cases, Ministries enhanced their obligation and mandate to focus more on children and their wellbeing, in a cooperative and structured way with civil society. Through specific signed contracts or MoUs among ministries and organizations, their intervention has been stronger, coordinated and more successful. Organizations have specifically been supported in school facilities, but also for provision of services for other categories of vulnerable children.

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

Several NGOs that responded to the survey do work on prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation while others focus in other areas such as education or service provision for rehabilitation of victims of violence. NGOs that work in this field, mostly focus in advocacy initiatives on prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, training of children, parents and communities to identify and report sexual abuse and exploitation.

While, in the other hand there are NGOs which provide direct services for rehabilitation of children at risk or victims of sexual exploitation. The financial support provided by the ministries to NGOs for provision of such services appears to be insufficient regarding the cost of service provision. Furthermore, the calls for projects create gap of time from one call to another, causing detachment of financing and consequently interruption of service provision. On the other hand, municipal support remains ad hoc and varies from municipality to municipality. Many residential and day care centers that are part of the non-governmental sector face existential security due to lack of financial viability, risking closure of these services.

Children benefiting from the services of non-governmental sector are obliged to move from one form of care to another form, which constitutes a serious violation of children's rights and has a negative influence on their physical and psychological.

Some organisations which responded the survey; Coalition of NGOs on Child Protection, Save the Children and Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT), focus on advocacy initiatives and drafting main recommendations for central and local level to improve the situation. The monitoring tools at both local and national level serve to assess the situation including the one in the field of sexual abuse and exploitation and to come up with most relevant recommendations for institutions and professionals. Moreover all these NGOs (respondents) work constantly to improve and update their child protection policies and child safeguarding policies as core documents toward child protection.

Examples of practices

A good practice which is worth to share from the civil society sector in Kosovo is the implementation of the national monitoring tool: the Child Protection Index (CPI)¹. CPI is an independent instrument created jointly by ChildPact and World Vision that measures a country's child protection system against a common set of indicators. In Kosovo, CPI is implemented by the Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection KOMF every two years and is a national monitoring tool

¹<http://www.childpact.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Child-Protection-Index-2.0.pdf>

which measures government efforts to protect children from all forms of abuse, violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking.²

Another good practice from the NGO sector is the regular maintenance and update of child protection policies as well as the training regarding child protection.

INSPIRE STRATEGIES

STRATEGY 1: IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENTS OF LAWS



NGO respondents to the survey work mainly in addressing violence and punishment of children from parents, teachers and other caregivers. This is mainly addressed through the Family Law, Draft Civil Code, Law on Domestic Violence, Law on Child Protection, Criminal Code, and Criminal Procedure Code. However one of the respondents work in monitoring and improving of the Juvenile Justice Code.

- Civil Code
- Family Law
- Law on Domestic Violence
- Law on Child Protection
- Criminal Code
- Criminal Procedure Code
- Juvenile Justice Code

For all the above mentioned laws respondents work in the improvement of the implementation of these laws.

A good example of the impact of NGOs in improvement of legislation in Kosovo is Prohibition of corporal punishment with Child Protection Law in any environment, at home and in families, educational institutions, in care institutions, law enforcement and the justice system and in community settings.

²<http://www.childpact.org/2018/01/19/child-protection-index-2-0-launched-in-kosovo/>

STRATEGY 2: NORMS AND VALUES (GENDER, SOCIAL, COMMUNITY)



The main area that NGOs are focusing their work regarding norms and values is the community mobilization aiming to change perceptions, reduce harmful norms and raise awareness on positive and constructive values.

The community mobilization is aimed in some cases through support toward grassroots NGOs that work in the field directly with communities. For example, Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection provided 7 sub grants for 7 grassroots NGOs to draft the Municipal Regulations and Municipal Strategy and Action Plan on Child Rights.

Kosovo Education Center provided sub grants to 10 NGOs for protection and promotion of child rights, while Save the Children supports NGOs with programs for awareness raising and capacity building for training parents and professionals.

STRATEGY 3: SAFE ENVIRONMENTS



NGOs intervention has been mostly undertaken in the infrastructure of institutions working with children such as schools with the scope of making these environments more child friendly. Trainings and activities with children and youth are conducted to promote diversity dialogue tolerance and peace.

- Change school environments and adopt them to children
- Training teachers and professionals for prevention and protection of children from violence
- Learning and educating children and youth through sport activities

For example, Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection through Child Protection Index highlights and addresses “hotspots” aiming to reduce violence and produce safer environments.

Kosovo Education Center works in creating a safe and child friendly environment in schools through dissemination and implementation of the Protocol for the Prevention and Referral of Violence in Kosovo Pre-university Education Institutions and establishment of Peer Mediation Groups.

Save the Children works inside schools to make environments more child friendly through provision of trainings for professionals. OFAP provides counselling with foster care families for children without parental care, while KRCT works with the communities.

STRATEGY 4: PARENT AND CARE GIVER SUPPORT



NGOs that provide direct services such as services for children without parental care or children with disabilities, also work in families, communities and among professionals / care givers aiming to increase their capacities for better support as well as to improve the provided services.

Some of the respondents to the survey also work in promoting alternative parenting and care giving manners such as positive discipline. For instance, Save the Children in partnership with local organizations organizes the training Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting and Teaching, HANDIKOS continues to train parents of children with disabilities in the principles of Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting, Organization for Children without Parental Care supports foster families, and trains them for protection of children without parental care placed in foster care permanently. While SOS Children's Village Kosova, through various psycho-social, educative, health and advocacy activities, ensures that children have access to essential services, which protect their wellbeing; SOS support parents in building parental capacity and their independence by ensuring that they protect and care for their children's wellbeing; SOS also advocates towards the community to react in situations when the family is at risk of separation.

- Promoting the program of positive discipline among parents and caregivers
- Training programs to increase capacities of caregivers

STRATEGY 5: INCOME AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING



Only few of the respondents such as SOS, OFAP, KRCT work toward income and economic strengthening mainly to empower vulnerable groups, specifically children without parental care in order to make them able for life in adult age.

Specifically, SOS and OFAP support children through supervised semi-independent form of protection.

- Supervised semi-independent form of protection
- Microfinance activities to enable children and youth to become independent
- Fundraising events to ensure sustainable care and services for children without parental care

STRATEGY 6: RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES



In general NGOs provide counselling, protection and rehabilitation services as well as to fill the needs of vulnerable groups and communities in order to empower vulnerable groups and strengthen support toward them.

Save the Children supported NGOs for provision of social services for vulnerable groups in need for social services and protection.

Shpresa dhe Shtepi per Femijet provides housing for children in need of protection (low risk), provides medical / psychological services and education, rehabilitation and reintegration of children placed, until the family reunion or other alternatives will take place.

SOS Fshatrat e Femijeve provides shelter and social and psychological services for protection of children without parental care or victims of neglect and abuse.

OFAP work in the specific field of foster care to develop foster care system for children without parental care.

- Psychological and pedagogical services
- Counselling for children with disabilities and their families

STRATEGY 7: EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS



NGOs that responded to the survey mainly focus on enabling safe environment and improving knowledge among vulnerable groups. Attention is payed to increase capacities and to build life skills, as well as to increase enrollment in preschool, primary and secondary school.

- Life skills program for children with disabilities
- Training program anger management and decision making for children in educational/correctional setting

SOS and OFAP are providing trainings and education on life skills.

KRCT is investing in life and social skills training. Under the action with Netherlands Helsinki Committee KRCT builds capacities of correction institution to introduce the concepts and deliver trainings for the juveniles under the communication and decision making skills, social skills, angry management etc.

LINKS AND REFERENCES

The table below includes a full list of the organisations that replied to the survey and made reference to activities that relate to INSPIRE, as well as links to their homepage, and selected links to specific initiatives when relevant.

Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection KOMF - <http://www.komfkosova.org>

Organization for Children without Parental Care - <http://ofap-ks.org>

HANDIKOS - <http://www.handi-kos.org>

Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT) - <http://www.krct.org>

Play International - <https://pi4y.international/fr>

Save the Children in Kosovo - <https://kosovo.savethechildren.net>

SOS Children's Villages in Kosovo - <https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/where-we-help/europe/kosovo>

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This factsheet is produced by ChildPact and Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection KOMF in the frame of two regional projects funded by Oak Foundation and INSPIRE Fund. The two projects include complementing initiatives to map the activities that are currently being conducted in line with the INSPIRE framework in the extended Black Sea Region with the objective of better understanding the current efforts and improving synergies between existing actors working on the implementation of INSPIRE strategies.

We would like to thank all the organisations who have participated to this important mapping exercise during the last months.

The data was collected between April and July 2019. The Mapping Survey is available in English at [this link](#).



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