

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020



First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi – Republic of Macedonia

Kosta Novakovik 22a Skopje
Tel/fax + 389 (0)2465 316
info@childrensembassy.org.mk
www.childrensembassy.org.mk

Final Annual Report for 2020 Implemented Activities

CONTENTS

- 1. SERVICES FOR DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AT RISK**
 - 1.1 SOS Helpline for Children and Youth 2465-316; 070 390 632;**
 - 1.2 Support Service for socially disadvantaged families and vulnerable groups of children**
- 2. PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM**
- 3. STRENGTHENING THE CHILDREN'S CAPACITIES FOR PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE**
- 4. PROJECT "LET'S TAKE OUR RIGHTS INTO OUR HANDS"**
- 5. CIVIKA MOBILITAS – INSTITUTIONAL GRANT, DONATIONS, ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, ISO**
- 6. SUPPORT OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS OF CHILDREN**
- 7. PROJECT FOR SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

1. DIRECT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

- SOS Helpline for children and youth 2465-316
- Materials and resources for supporting socially disadvantaged families

1.1 SOS Helpline for Children and Youth 2465-316

Duration: since 1993, continuously

Summary of the findings from the work of the SOS Helpline in 2020

Over the course of 2020 (January through December) there was a total of **240** initial contacts (reports), and additionally, another **287** conversations were made. The total number of children and youth covered with the reports was **313**. Compared to the previous year, the number of the reports has more than doubled.

Graph 1: Number of contacts (reports) and number of children covered with them

In this twelve-month period, the communication with the callers was mostly carried out through the administrative telephone line (landline) of the Children's Embassy Megjashi - more precisely **172** calls were received through this line. During this period, **37** reports were received via e-mail, **17** reports were received via the FB page, **2** reports were received by mail, and **12** reports were submitted in person at the Megjashi premises.

The reports for the reporting year of 2020 referred to problems that had affected 95 male children, 92 female children, while for 126 children the gender was unknown.

According to the callers' living areas, as shown in the **table** below, most of the children, or **279**, lived in urban areas, **23** children were covered with reports made by callers from rural areas, and **11** were unknown.

Regarding the ethnicity of the callers, as shown in the graph, **193** of the total number of callers were Macedonian, while **19** were Roma, and **16** callers were of Albanian ethnicity. Only **3** of the

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

contacts (reports) were made by other ethnical groups, while the ethnicity of **9** callers remained unknown.

According to this status, most of the calls were made by Macedonians (as a result of the fact that the largest percent of residents in Macedonia are of Macedonian nationality), which confirms that, in the future, it is necessary for Megjashi to find a way to bring the SOS Helpline closer to the other ethnic groups, such as hiring operators who speak Albanian, as well as Turkish and other local languages.

The number of callers from rural areas, as in the previous years, remains very small compared to the number of callers from urban areas. One of the possible reasons for this might be the lack of information that people in the rural areas have on children's rights, the ways and procedures for their protection, as well as the insufficient promotion of the SOS Helpline in these areas. Of course, one of the reasons is the fact that most of the population lives in urban areas.

A general observation for this reporting period is that the work was performed during the COVID-19 emergency period. The calls we were receiving on our administrative line were redirected to the mobile phone of the counselor working on the SOS Helpline for children and youth, so there was no interruption in the availability of the service.

This year's experience also confirms that the trend of reporting cases of violation of children's rights by adults continues. Mostly, it is the parents. Children are still silent and too scared to report violence or violation of any of their other rights. They do not feel safe to report violence, especially when it happens in the home and has been committed by both parents, or one of the parents lacks understanding and thinks it is OK for the children to be beaten.

In this twelve-month period, the problems we were mostly contacted about by citizens relate to the right to protection from violence, the right to education and the right to access to other institutions. No less of a common problem was the exercise of parental rights, granting custody, the exercise of the right of alimony, but we also received calls related to changes in the children's mental state during periods of divorce and broken communication with their parents, while not taking into account the child's opinion on which parent they would like to live with. A big number of the reported cases include abuse of the child's personality and violation of the children's rights by one of the parents who not always, in such cases, considers their children's opinions, needs and interests. During most divorces, children are the victims, and they are immediate witnesses to the broken communication between their parents, so the consequences affect them directly.

Professional services in the institutions should channel their work towards taking measures and activities to improve communication between the parents and their children, instruct them to recognize violence and encourage them not to remain silent, not only about physical, but also about emotional and mental violence, and finally to work on self-acceptance, all in order for the children to feel safe and protected.

Undertaken activities

During this twelve-month period, most interventions were carried out in order to provide direct assistance or support to contacts in which **93** children were affected. Besides this direct assistance, contacts (reports) concerning **130** children and young people were given recommendations, contact information of a relevant institution, and furthermore, contacts involving **24** children or young people were referred to other institutions, while contacts covering **29** children were referred to law enforcement agencies/institutions. Most often the contacts were directed to the following services and institutions depending on the problem they had:

- Professional services within the schools;
- An agency (institution) for child protection in the country;
- Various health professionals, general practitioners, psychologists/psychiatrists, and
- Referrals to emergency services.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

During the implementation of actions and giving support to the children to whom the contacts related, the SOS Helpline team often cooperated with the centers for social work from Skopje and other towns, the Department of Internal Affairs, schools, the Young Lawyers Association, the Coalition for Fair Trials and other actors and organizations in order to provide better and more effective caller support.

During this year we achieved close and successful collaboration with the Skopje Center for Social Work and their Intervention Team on several occasions. Reports regarding violence against children, inappropriate parental care, and failure to act according to the issued decision to see the parent after divorce were some of the successful examples for which, along with the Center, we managed to improve the exercise of the rights for a number of children.

The role of volunteers in the work of the SOS Helpline for children and youth

This year, six volunteers joined the SOS team, including university students, high school students and professors. This team of volunteers prepared several blogs on popular topics for young people in order to get closer to this population and help it recognize us as their supporter. Some of these blogs were published on the Megjashi web and Facebook pages, and the created collection of texts has continued to be published during the following year of 2021. Some of the volunteers also answer the calls during the afternoon shifts on working days, as well as on the weekends.

Activities for promotion of the SOS Helpline for children and youth

In order to promote the SOS Helpline for children and youth among this population, especially during the epidemic, several activities were implemented to bring this service closer to children and youth. In April, two short promotional videos were made in which the Megjashi mascot Bushavko introduced the children to how and why he called the SOS Helpline for support, while he also showed them how he spent his day during the quarantine. These videos were broadcast on several national and local television stations during the quarantine in May and early June in 2020. The same video was later promoted in November and December as part of the Peace Education Program campaign, by its broadcast on public transport (on several buses driving some of the busiest routes) in Skopje.

The SOS Helpline was also promoted within the implementation of the research on the state of children's rights at the level of the entire country, as well as within the Civika Mobilitas program, and during November several blogs were published on Megjashi's social networks, covering topics close to the youth and prepared by the young SOS Helpline volunteers.

1.2. Services for material support and other types of support for socially disadvantaged families/Support for vulnerable groups of children

- Food purchase: food for children was purchased through donations from companies in the business sector and other donors and projects;
- Delivery of technical aids for distance learning to children from families at social risk, as well as basic hygiene and food products;
- Donation of protective equipment and masks for medical staff in several children's hospitals/hospital departments through support from several Megjashi projects;
- Collection, selection and distribution of clothes and shoes;
- Delivery of educational and hygienic products supported by the Arigatou network;

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

The First Children's Embassy - Megjashi, even during the Covid-19 epidemic, under safe and controlled conditions, following the measures, has continued to collect, select and distribute donated clothes from citizens. Many citizens donate worn clothes, shoes and other necessary preserved items in the premises of Megjashi. During the previous year, and with the adoption of the special measures in March 2020, children and their parents in need of this type of help can come in limited numbers every working day in the period from 10:00 to 12:00 and pick up what they need.

2. PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Project/program title: Peace Education Program

Objective: By promoting peace and non-violence as basic values in the education system, the project's objective is to point to the need of a more intensive integration of the Peace Education (PE) in the curriculum.

Target group: The project was initially implemented in three high schools in Skopje: "Nikola Karev", "Zdravko Cvetkovski" and "Dr. Pance Karagjovov"

In the period between 2013 and 2016 we expanded this program to other high schools located in and out of Skopje, such as the following: "Vanco Prke" high school in Vinica; "Vlado Tasevski", "Arseni Jovkov" and "Zef Ljus Marku" high schools in Skopje; "28 Noemvri" high school in Debar, "Kocho Racin" high school in Veles, "Gostivar" high school in Gostivar, and "Shaip Jusuf" high school in Skopje. At the beginning of 2020, the program was expanded with the help of representatives of professional services from several high schools in the country, while the collaboration with several primary schools as pilot schools continued.

Duration of the project/program: 2011-2021

Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Partner organization: KURVE WUSTROW

Implemented activities in 2020:

In the period covered with the report, 7 trainings were conducted.

2.1. Forum Theatre for social change on bullying was conducted with students from three high schools included in the Peace Education Program.

The general topic of the training was the preparation of a Forum Theatre play about peer violence (bullying) and recognizing the types of violence.

In addition to the theatrical part of the activities, the participants discussed their own perception of peer violence, their usual reactions, encouraging individual responsibility and a proactive approach in similar situations. The roots and causes of this phenomenon were also discussed, as well as who is responsible to react and how. Two situations were selected for the Forum Theatre performance. The students also agreed on which institutions they would like to invite representatives from to the plays.

At the training, besides the practical element of Forum Theatre, all participants were given a three-page document "Forum Theatre - Origin and Description" in order to obtain more information

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

and theoretical knowledge about this specific form of Theatre, as well as to get acquainted with this method of "developing and solving a particular problem in the community".



2.2. Basic training for peace building and peace education

At the evaluation meeting held by the Peace Education team with representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science in December, the possibility for including specialist services

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

(education specialists, psychologists, learning specialists, etc.) from different high schools in the Peace Education Program was recommended and discussed.

On one hand, following this recommendation, more high schools will become part of the Peace Education, and at the same time the specialist services, too, because the key people will gain more knowledge to deal with violence in schools. According to the statement of a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science, this will help strengthen their capacities for peace education in schools as a whole.

The topics covered in this training were teamwork, communication, violence, conflict, gender, discrimination, peace education, etc. The work on each topic began on a personal level, continued towards the school environment and the specific role of professional services, and ended in the broader social context of Macedonia.

2.3. Training on “Bullying”

At the request of the teachers involved in the program, training on bullying was conducted. The training aimed to raise the awareness of the concept and forms of peer violence and to develop steps for intervention and prevention of violent behavior in schools.

Although the majority of teachers in Peace Education had attended training on this topic in 2018, there was still interest for participation expressed by teachers who had not been able to attend previous trainings on this topic. Besides the teachers, a representative of the State Education Inspectorate participated in the training and said that he highly appreciated what teachers did in relation to peer violence and further encouraged the teachers in their efforts to combat peer violence in schools. Two student volunteers at the Children's Embassy - Megjashi also participated in the training and addressed peer violence through their experiences as students.

2.4. Due to the occurring situation, as soon as conditions for training with physical presence were provided, four trainings were conducted on "Peace Education, Challenges, Opportunities and Expectations in the New Reality", in accordance with the safety regulations related to the Covid-19 situation.

Following the safety protocols, two separate groups were formed for the two appointed dates (in August and September), out of a total of 22 participants, with 11 participants in each group. These two groups worked at the same hotel in two separate rooms, with different time schedules, in order to reduce the chances for joint coffee gatherings and movement of a larger group of people in the same space. Most of the program was carried out outside, in the outdoor area of the hotel.

The training program, in its first part, was dedicated to personal stories and reconnection through a self-help session, as well as helping others in a personal and professional setting. Later, Covid-19 related issues, such as violence and hate speech, were addressed, followed by an Alternative Report on Children's Rights and Youth Participation. During the last part of the discussion on the opportunities for online trainings for Peace Education activities, individual action plans for Peace Education activities for the period September-December 2020 were prepared.

2.5. Ministry of Education and Science (MES)/ “Crisis and Peace Education” Working Meeting

After several delays, the working meeting “Crisis and Peace Education” was held between July 10 and July 12, 2020. The meeting was held in accordance with all of the Covid-19 safety recommendations. Representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science, the Bureau for Development of Education and the Sector for European Integration participated at the meeting. The meeting discussed the challenges in the educational process within the context of the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the role of institutions and non-governmental organizations.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

The first part of the meeting emphasized the changes in everyday life resulting from the occurring situation.

Next, the challenges of online teaching were worked through, which gave a broader picture of the situation in the educational process, given that the participants themselves were involved in the process of creating educational policies, but also recommendations and guidelines for the functioning of schools.

During the last part, the special steps for a higher functioning collaboration and partnership between the participants were discussed.



2.6. Workshop on “Strengthening the teams’ capacities through personal values in the ‘new’ normal conditions”

On June 3, all Megjashi employees (9) participated at a one-day workshop, held outdoors. Under the unusual special conditions, including all personal safety measures and physical distance, Megjashi’s team gathered for the first time after a two-and-a-half month break.

This workshop improved the team’s cohesion by allowing a personal insight to each of the employees regarding the new situation with the long quarantine and the Corona virus impact on the lives of the Megjashi’s team members.

2.7. “Comparative Analysis - Peace Education 2011-2019“

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

The Peace Education representatives at the First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi, organized a press conference in order to present the results from the research on the topic "School Violence and Interethnic Relations", carried out in nine high schools in Skopje, Veles, Vinica, Debar and Gostivar, in November and December 2019.

The survey was conducted by the BRIMA Public Opinion Research and Marketing Agency with the support of the Peace Education Program team, aiming to obtain data on the views and opinions of teachers and students on issues linked to violence and interethnic relations in schools.

The purpose of the analysis was to see the effects of the implementation of the Peace Education Program, conducted in over 20 educational institutions in the country, most of which are high schools, implying a network of over 200 teachers who are involved in various trainings to strengthen their capacities and implement a large number of activities in their schools.

Schools are insufficiently recognized by students as places where they can seek help in case of exposure to violence: they never turn to the school principal (62%), slightly less to another teacher (50%), an education specialist/psychologist (42%), class teacher (34%), classmate (31%).

Finally, an encouraging fact is that over 60% of the surveyed teachers estimated that in 2019 the violence had reduced compared to 2011 and 2012.

What can be concluded is that the activities within the Peace Education Program produce results aimed at strengthening the capacities of teachers and supporting them in the implementation of preventive activities for dealing with school violence, yet a systemic solution is needed, supported by the responsible structures, as well as developing effective and functional procedures in the schools and the community.

The analysis of the research can be found at the following links:

<http://childresembassy.org.mk/komparativna-analiza.nspix> - in Macedonian

<http://childresembassy.org.mk/content/pdf/ANALIZA%20al%20KOMPLETNA.pdf> – in Albanian.



DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

2.8. During the period covered with the report, FCEW Megjashi – Peace Education Program carried out a total of **38 webinars**.

One month after the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak in North Macedonia, Megjashi's Peace Education Program team established an organized and structured communication connection and a connection for support with their circle of teachers. This connection was being maintained through the organization of webinars, something that had never been done before in "Megjashi" with the Peace Education team; however it began with the search for new ways for connecting with teachers and schools, in order for them to be able to give support and encouragement to each other.

What started as a spontaneous reaction within the unusual life conditions, developed in a 40-webinar program over the next 10 months. It included 17 lecturers, 4 of which were not citizens of the Republic of Macedonia.



The webinars took place in the period between April and December 2020, with 40 webinars on 29 topics, and with an average of 16 participants (11 at minimum, 24 at maximum).

The topics covered at the webinars can be divided into two parts - Psychological Support and Teaching Support in the new circumstances.

The topics of the webinars were:

1. The current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic and the importance of giving support and continuing the collaboration
2. Mental and emotional health during the Corona crisis
3. Stress and coping with stress during the Corona crisis
4. Teamwork and management of teams working remotely
5. Meetings and effective work from home
6. Motivation, self-motivation and influence from the surroundings
7. Why is the Corona crisis particularly affecting young people? How can we support them as teachers and parents?
8. Communication strategies and functional techniques for improved collaboration
9. Leadership skills and styles

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

10. Coordination and collaboration in team processes
11. Transformation of team conflicts
12. Peace Education Challenges in the world today -1
13. Peace Education Challenges in the world today - 2
14. Hate speech in public places
15. Hate speech in public places
16. Gender webinars (1) - Basic concepts and where we are in it all
17. Gender webinars (2) - What is the situation in our society in terms of gender roles and gender equality? Historical overview and current situation
18. Gender webinars (3) - Gender equality and education
19. Hate speech in schools
20. Hate speech in schools
21. What can schools do to recognize and overcome discrimination, hate speech, spreading of stereotypes and prejudice through media coverage?
22. What can schools do to recognize and overcome discrimination, hate speech, spreading of stereotypes and prejudice through media coverage?
23. Dealing with violence - opportunities and challenges in the upcoming school year
24. Multiculturalism and peacebuilding
25. Challenges when using ZOOM - questions, dilemmas, problems
26. Challenges when using ZOOM - questions, dilemmas, problems
27. Challenges when using ZOOM - questions, dilemmas, problems
28. Challenges when using ZOOM - questions, dilemmas, problems
29. From RAF to peacebuilding
30. From RAF to peacebuilding
31. From RAF to peacebuilding
32. From social justice to social peace: How to better advocate for teachers' rights, Independent Trade Union for Education and Science
33. Interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding
34. Introduction to dealing with the past
35. Tools for safe internet use
36. Interactive lesson via Big Blue Button
37. Self-care and the year that follows
38. Self-care and the year that follows

2.9. Activities at schools

During the first two months of the year, the schools already involved in the Peace Education Program were mostly active, and the teachers, in collaboration with the students, implemented various activities and workshops within the Peace Education Program, such as discussions, films, literary and artistic content in the field of PE, Forum Theatre for social change, etc.

During the second, third and fourth quarter of the year, due to the limitations and in accordance with the possibilities, online activities were carried out, during which the teachers wished to celebrate September 21 - the International Day of Peace as distinctively important, through various workshops and activities, and in order to maintain the tradition, only one school, the Kocho Racin High School from Veles, organized a peace march with physical presence, with a reduced number of students and teachers and in accordance with the Covid-19 safety recommendations.

During the preparations for the Forum Theatre play, the students from the three participating schools ("Nikola Karev", "Shaip Yusuf" and "Gimnazija Kocho Racin" high schools) prepared an invitation letter in which they wrote the names of the institutions from which they wished to invite representatives. The Peace Education team received it and forwarded the initiative to the abovementioned institutions. Fortunately, all of them responded positively and sent their

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

representatives (Ministry of Interior, Bureau for Development of Education, Center for Social Work, etc.) to attend the performance in the cinema hall of "Kinoteka" in Skopje. The second play was held in Veles at the "Jordan Hadzi Konstantinov Dzinot" Theatre.

On January 23, students from the Kocho Racin High School in Veles, got organized within the Peace Education Program and watched the documentary film Honeyland in Skopje. Four buses with students traveled to Skopje in order to watch the documentary. Afterwards, the teachers involved in the PE opened a discussion with the students on their impressions, as well as on the questions they had in mind, in accordance with the situation and the messages from the film. At the end of the discussion, they shared their thoughts on what they learned from the documentary.

- 2.10.** The campaign against peer violence on public transport began in November. In coordination with Marathon, a marketing agency for bus advertising in Skopje, it was decided that two of the buses visiting the two main destinations where most incidents occur would be marked with posters from the anti-bullying campaign "Words Hurt" and "Bullying - not at my school." Also, the four videos against all forms of peer violence were broadcast on the monitors of all 50 buses of the Public Transport Enterprise – "Skopje". Due to online learning, cyber bullying had increased, and due to the movement restrictions and online classes, in some children's homes occurred an increased amount of domestic violence. Therefore, an educational video was played on the monitors in the buses with information on where to report violence, domestic violence and other problems bothering children and youth, i.e. on the SOS Helpline for Children and Youth at FCEW Megjashi: 02 2465 316 and 070 390 632.

3. STRENGTHENING THE CHILDREN'S CAPACITIES FOR PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

Name of the project/program: Strengthening the children's capacities for prevention of violence

Objective: The project has three specific objectives: strengthening the capacities of adults (professionals and parents) based on the theory of resilience to understand and respect the needs of children, their opinions and their rights; strengthening the capacity of adults to focus on strengths, resources and potentials rather than problems; and finally, supporting adolescents in recognizing their competencies and resources for prevention of violence and failure.

Target group: Primary schools "Steve Naumov" and "Braka Ramiz and Hamid "from Skopje, students, teaching and specialist staff and parents, the Center for Social Work Skopje, the Sector of Internal Affairs, group homes for children without parents and parental care.

Duration of the project/program: 2016-2021

Donor: OAK Foundation

Partner organization: Social Activities and Practices Institute – SAPI, Sofia, Bulgaria

On October 1, 2016, the First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi started the implementation of the project "Strengthening the children's capacities for prevention of violence" which was implemented through a partnership between civil society organizations from several countries in the region, such as the Social Activities and Practices Institute - SAPI from Bulgaria as the project holder in collaboration with the following partners: The First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi from the Republic of Macedonia, the Association for Child and Family

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

Empowerment "Ave Copii" from Moldova, the Social Services Agency from Latvia, the "Federatia Organizatiilor Neguvernamentale pentru Copil" from Romania, Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia - MODS from Serbia, the Association for a Better World from Slovenia, and the Tirana Legal Aid Society (TLAS) from Albania.

The project was implemented between October 2016 and November 2021, and was funded by the Oak Foundation for the entire duration of the project.

Due to the special circumstances caused by the epidemic and the measures related to it globally, the period for implementation of the activities was extended for additional two months, i.e. until November 2020, so that all activities could be completed.

Activities implemented in 2020:

Between October 2019 and November 2020, the following activities were carried out and the following results were achieved:

3.1. International training for restorative approach

Two Megjashi representatives attended the three-day training on restorative approaches in a youth setting, conducted by Belinda Hopkins from Conflict Transformation, between March 6 and 10, 2020. Both assessed the training as very useful and applicable, not only for this particular project, but for other projects and activities of Megjashi, as well. Once the schools should fully open, most probably the next school year (2021/2022), we will try to work with target schools in order to introduce the management staff, as well as the specialist staff (psychologist, special educator, etc.) to this approach for application in schools.

3.2. Consultative meeting of the network of professionals on the topic of violence in schools

Part of the local network of professionals, such as representatives of the Center for Social Affairs, representatives of the Institution for Care of Children without Parents and Parental Care "11 Oktomvri", representatives of the Ministry of Interior (inspectors for juvenile delinquency), together with representatives of all schools from the Municipality of Centar in Skopje, the Ministry of Education and the Municipality of Centar itself, participated in a consultative meeting on the prevention of violence. This meeting was initiated by Megjashi in response to the frequent cases of violence in this municipality and its schools.

The purpose of the training was multifaceted – first, to raise the awareness and improve the knowledge about violence and its forms of manifestation; second, to develop steps to intervene and prevent violence and violent behavior in the school environment; and third, to build a network and to share their own experiences with challenges, as well to give support in taking the appropriate measures in accordance with the available capacities.

As part of the training, the latest study on student mental health, conducted by the World Health Organization, was presented and discussed, in which Macedonia took a part, as well. This study has been conducted in 48 countries, including Macedonia, on a sample of 5,000 students aged 11, 13 and 15. The study examines data on students' mental health, different types of violence present in schools, and ways of dealing with violence that students typically use. These data aroused great interest, and the discussion among the participants was focused on the regular measures usually taken by schools and other institutions. The participants shared their experiences for including the institutions and the parents in the dealing with violence. The representatives of the Ministry of Interior shared their experience on conducting educational and other activities to prevent violence in schools, and also shared their experience with restorative justice.

This event was co-financed by Megjashi from the Civica Mobilitas Institutional Grant and was moderated by the National Coordinator and an external expert-psychologist.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

3.3. Local network for professionals (including the professional community)

This year Megjashi prepared the Alternative Report on the Situation with Children's Rights in consultations with non-governmental organizations working in the field of children's rights. Therefore, on two occasions, we had network meetings with professionals, including NGOs, to discuss the issues that must be included in the report, with a particular focus on violence and education.

In addition to the preparation of the Alternative Report, two webinars were carried out on the following topics: "Approaches to prevention and intervention of violence in schools" and "The effects of pandemics on students' mental health, resilience support in dealing with the crisis, and student participation as a method for prevention of violence", intended for the network of specialist services in the partner schools.

3.4. Local training for resilience and restorative approach

On September 24, once again through synergy with other Megjashi projects and shared costs, we conducted a one-day training on resilience and introduction to the restorative approach in the schools/restorative classroom for a group of teachers, specialist staff (professional services) and police representatives. It has proved that this type of activities, with mixed groups of our users/partners within the frames of different projects, are useful in more aspects: it strengthens and expands the network of professionals, because, in any case, they are mutually connected in their everyday work; then, it provides an opportunity to better understand each of their roles in the prevention of violence, which contributes to providing a safer environment for children, and finally and equally important, it serves as a support group for their work – they have their own contacts and know who can help them for a certain matter, etc.

3.5. Workshops for children on children's rights and prevention of violence

These workshops were organized in October 2019, during the Children's Week, and lasted until mid-December. The workshops aroused great interest among the schools and about 500 third-grade students from seven primary schools in Skopje, and one kindergarten, participated in these basic workshops held either in the premises of Megjashi, or in the schools' premises. The workshop focused on the children's rights and the difference between "rights" and "wishes", the different forms of violence in the schools, how to recognize them, what they do and what they should do when they witness or are victims of violence, and how Megjashi can help them (through the SOS Helpline for Children and Youth).

3.6. Children's project for the development of an Alternative Report on the Situation with the Children's Rights in Macedonia – Children's View

The children's project consisted of mentoring a group of children, students from several primary and high schools, to write the Alternative Report for Children on Children's Rights, which was submitted to the United Nations on November 1. This project for children is actually a wider project, financed through other projects, as well. This project began within the frames of another program in May/June with the research on the situation with children's rights in the country, conducted on a sample of 1077 children aged 12-17, at national level. It was implemented through the Survey Monkey online platform in the period between June 17 and July 14, 2020. The survey was

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

financed by another program and donor. The group of students participated in the preparation of the draft research, proposing the topics and the questions that should be part of the research, and then piloted it, answering the questionnaire. The findings of this research were used as a basis for the Alternative Children Report on children's rights. It was the first phase of the process. Afterwards, through discussions, a group of 13 students decided on what this report would include, agreed on the topic and started the process (end of July – beginning of September). Part of the activities was financially supported by this program. The Report includes recommendations suggested by the children themselves for each of the topics. The Report is available in Macedonian, Albanian and English (the English version was submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on November 1). Five representatives of the children who wrote the Report will present it before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2021.

3.7. A promotional campaign of the Children's Report was carried out during November and December, with focus on the key recommendations that the children would like to communicate to relevant actors and the general public. As part of the communication plan, seven videos were produced by the end of November with financial support from the OAK Foundation, while the other campaign costs were financially supported by another project/donor. The promotion of the videos was during December 2020 and will continue in 2021 with free broadcasting on the MRT National Public Service. The campaign began with a press-conference on the Children's Report on November 20, in order to symbolically celebrate the International Children's Day.

The main goal of this guided project for children was to strengthen their self-confidence and skills to advocate for their rights, which will contribute to a better understanding of their competencies and resources for prevention of violence. The subgoals we were focused on were: raise children's awareness about their rights; encourage children to participate in processes that directly affect them, which will help to establish a trusting relationship between adults and children/adolescents; motivate children to be more active in the school life and all spheres of life, and active involvement of different children (age, ethnicity, place of residence, etc.) in project activities in order to build skills and develop their strengths.

4. PROJECT "LET'S TAKE OUR RIGHTS INTO OUR HANDS"

Name of the project/program: Let's take our rights into our hands

Objective: The project has two specific goals - creating a school environment in which there is no violence, where staff and parents are informed and use affirmative methods to create a safe family and school environment for the children; promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of children in the country, with focus on adequate ways of reporting violation of children's rights.

Target group: The following primary schools:

"Stiv Naumov", "25 Maj"(since 2020) from Skopje;
"Said Najdeni", "Penestia"(since 2020) from Debar;
"Slavcho Stojmenski", "Goce Delchev" (since 2020) from Vinica;
Students, teaching and specialist staff, and parents.

Duration of the project/program: 2017-2021.

Donor: SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) – Swedish Government

Partner organization: Save the Children International in Kosovo

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

Between August 2017 and December 2021, the Children's Embassy - Megjashi implemented the project "Let's take our rights in our hands!" financially supported by SIDA, Save the Children, through the office in Kosovo.

In 2020, the main risk for everyone was the unexpected Covid-19 pandemic. The measures introduced by the Government at the beginning of March led to a situation where we had to reconsider all of our projects, programs and processes, yet we managed to mobilize at the very beginning of the altered situation. We also managed to learn many things during the epidemic, such as the following:

- This crisis period has proved the importance of the groups for support – both for our users (mainly teaching and specialist staff) and for us. At organizational level, we conducted a number of online workshops on a wide range of topics related to the changes caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, including mental health issues, teamwork in different conditions than the typical ones, and many more.
- We created a platform/Facebook group [#togetherathome \(#заеднодома\)](#) for parents and children, who shared ideas on thoughtful and creative ways to spend time at home, which also proved that support is of great importance in times of crisis, and knowing we have indirectly contributed to the mental health of both parents and children is of particular pleasure.
- The technology was fully used to our and our users' benefit, and proved to be a very convenient tool in times of crisis.
- Our daily communication - the morning meetings and the separate meetings, the flexibility to go to the office only when necessary, were all of the factors that have helped us through this period.
- The project "Let's take our rights in our hands!" fits perfectly with the other activities of Megjashi, while the mutual collaboration and integration of the activities lead to much more efficient results at all levels and multiply them.

Activities implemented in 2020:

4.1. Expanding the network of schools included in the project

In 2020, the three schools already included in the project were joined by three additional schools, with currently the project including a total of six schools from three municipalities (Gazi Baba-Skopje, Debar and Vinica). Initially, it was planned to obtain official support from the Ministry of Education and Science and the Bureau for Development of Education, however, at the very beginning of the related conversations, the epidemic started and the schools were closed. Nevertheless, adjusting to the situation, we consulted our partner schools about which other schools best met the criteria for having ethnically mixed classes and so we approached those three new schools. Our partner schools include: "Said Najdeni" and "Penestija" - primary schools from Debar, "Stiv Naumov" and "25 Maj" - primary schools from Skopje, and "Slavcho Stojmenski" and "Goce Delchev" - primary schools from Vinica.

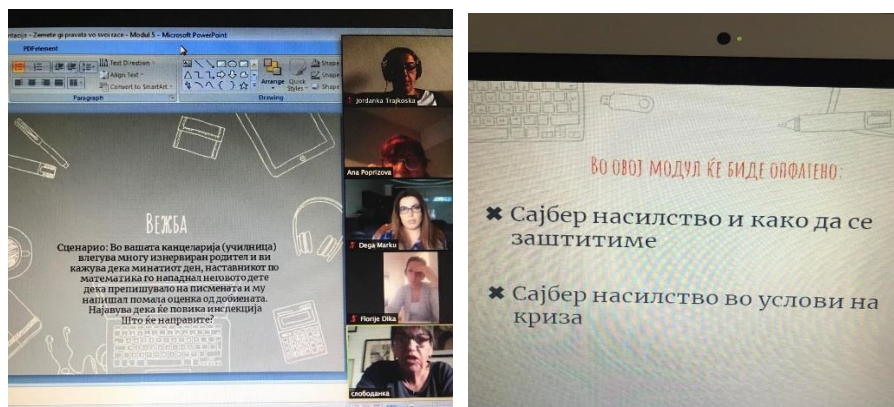
In the beginning, during May and June, we organized an online meeting and exchange of the already existing and the newly involved schools within the online training for prevention of violence. Through the two-month online training, the participants had many opportunities to discuss and exchange real problems related to peer and other types of violence in their work at the schools. The group attending the training consisted of a total of 15 participants - teaching staff and specialist staff (psychologist, education specialist, learning specialist, social worker). This group will operate as a coordinating body for all future activities within each of the schools, but also as a support group for issues related to violence or any other relevant issues. The established support group of specialist staff and teachers continued their communication in a Viber group, sharing materials, questions and other resources. This group was also invited to other online trainings/workshops of Megjashi (adjusted to the prevailing needs, including online teaching skills, self-care and mental health, etc.) during the summer and during the new school year. This inclusion in the other activities of Megjashi, in turn, empowered the sense of belonging to a larger group of teachers and professionals within

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

Megjashi. This is very important, given the new working circumstances for them all, to which their online teaching is exposed, as well.

4.2. Online training for prevention of bullying for professional/specialist services and teaching staff

A three-day workshop on violence prevention was initially planned. Due to the Covid-19 measures, the schools were closed, public gatherings were not allowed, and therefore we adapted the training to an online training. This online training took place between May and early June, once or twice a week.



A total of six modules were delivered covering the following topics /questions:

- Module 1: Definition of violence; Types of violence; Peer violence as a type of violence;
- Module 2: The circle of violence; Identifying students at risk; Different roles of students in the circle of violence;
- Module 3: Definition of cyberbullying; How to protect ourselves from online violence (cyber violence); Cyber violence during the epidemic;
- Module 4: Ten activities for prevention of violence in school; Comprehensive approach to dealing with violence; Support networks; Integrating violence prevention into the curriculum; Protocols; Policies for prevention and intervention of violence;
- Module 5: Different approaches to dealing with violence - intervention in schools; Restorative approach; Ethical principles of work;
- Module 6: Effects of the Covid-19 crisis on students; School climate as a prerequisite for preventing violence; Resilience; Work with trauma; Student participation (inclusion) as a model of prevention.

The sessions were very interactive and the participants had many opportunities to share their real situations and experiences. The trainer provided several case studies on various issues and several practical exercises - cases for discussion with the participants. The participants opened many questions, and the trainer adapted the content of the training in order to best meet the needs of the participants. During the first module, the participants had the opportunity to introduce themselves and the work of their schools. The online training was implemented through the Zoom platform and each module lasted for a maximum of 3 hours without a break. Yet, the attendance rate was 100% during all modules, as well as the engagement/active participation rate. The average grade of the training and coaching was very high (4.92 out of 5).

4.3. One-day training on resilience and introduction to the restorative approach at the schools (training with physical presence)

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

This training was held in Skopje on September 24, following all necessary measures to avoid the risk of Covid-19, for a group of teachers, professional services and police representatives (two police inspectors for juvenile delinquency). The inspectors were invited as our collaborators in other projects, but also because they conduct a prevention program in high schools in Skopje, and therefore we believed it would be useful to introduce them to the school representatives as their potential partners in the prevention of violence.

4.4. Two online workshops: Self-care and Planning of Activities for Prevention of Violence in each of the schools

In December (December 2 and December 9) two online trainings were conducted as a follow-up to the training for prevention of violence in May-June. The online Self-care workshop covered the following topics: defining self-care, recognizing one's own needs, timeframe for the most important events during 2020, ways and methods of self-care. The participants were very engaged and shared their experiences. They rated the workshop as very useful, in terms of learning how to be more in touch with themselves and their own needs and being inspired to try new ways of caring for themselves. The second workshop was intended for planning the school activities that they would implement in the next semester in 2021, with a previous review of the training on violence we passed in 2020. All 6 schools participated in the two online workshops.

4.5. Promotion of the importance of prevention of violence and positive discipline – Translation of Guide for Positive Parenting and Positive Discipline in Turkish

One of the principles of Megjashi's work is respect for diversity and the right to a mother tongue, and therefore we translated all important publications (reports on activities of various programs, such as research, follow-up exercises, SOS Helpline Report, brochures, manuals, etc.) into all of the spoken languages in Macedonia. The brochure "Positive Parenting" was translated into Turkish and copies of the brochure were printed in Turkish. Copies of this brochure have been also provided to the Association of Turkish Language Teachers to distribute among teachers.

4.6. Workshop for participation of children

According to the plan, a Children's Council was established consisting of a group of 21 students in 7th and 8th grade, from three partner schools in Vinica, Debar and Skopje (7 students from each school). In the past years, within the project, these students were trained for child participation and were well prepared to be members of this council. This group of students was presented at the Annual Assembly held on February 26, 2020 and it suggested to the Assembly of Megjashi to what issues it should pay more attention in future activities and projects. The biggest problems they identified were in the following order: violence against children with disabilities, prejudice against children from lower-income families, child abuse, physical violence and other forms of violence by teachers, air pollution, lack of cultural and sports facilities in smaller municipalities (cinema, sports fields, etc.), unsafe neighborhoods (stray dogs and poor street lighting). The Assembly members welcomed and highly evaluated this initiative, giving a promise to the Children's Council that they will encourage Megjashi to take their ideas into account in the future activities and will closely monitor the work of Megjashi. Videos and photos of these activities can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/437346483792329/>

The participation of children was also enabled in the research process of the situation with the children's rights in Macedonia, as well as through their involvement in the process of preparation

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

of the Children's Alternative Report on the situation of children's rights in Macedonia, which they wrote themselves.

On September 7, at a press conference, a group of children, authors of the Alternative Children's Report, presented the key findings of the research on the situation with children's rights. The press conference was held in one of our partner schools in the project, "Steve Naumov", primary school from Skopje, where the children presented the results through the Zoom platform. 15 national and local media services (TV, web portals, press) followed the event, which was covered by all national TV broadcasters.

[Megjashi's research on children's rights in Macedonia \(facebook.com\)](#); [CHILDREN DISSATISFIED WITH SCHOOL HYGIENE \(facebook.com\)](#); [Did the corona crisis threaten the rights of children - Megjashi's first report \(facebook.com\)](#); [Poor school hygiene, including toilet hygiene \(facebook.com\)](#);

Presenting the Alternative Report on the situation with children's rights in Macedonia before the Assembly of Megjashi - the group of 12 children, authors of the Alternative Children's Report on the situation with children's rights in Macedonia, on November 17, 2020, presented their report to the Assembly of Megjashi, as well as the key recommendations for the seven topics developed in it: knowing the rights of the child; violence against children; discrimination; free time; children in the streets; education and living surroundings. After the presentation, the Assembly members asked the children various questions, simulating journalistic questions, to all of which the children successfully gave answers. The Assembly members praised them for their excellent work and encouraged them to continue pointing out to the adults what they should pay attention to.

The Alternative Children's Report was submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on October 30, 2020, and almost a month later, on November 20, on the occasion of the International Children's Day, in order to symbolically mark and emphasize the importance of children's rights, there was a press conference to promote the Alternative Children's Report. This press conference was entirely led by the children-authors themselves, who opened, moderated and presented the report.

4.7. Workshops for volunteering as a tool for recruiting new volunteers

- Establishing a group of volunteers - during September 2020, a group of six volunteers was established, consisting of high school students, university students and professors.

- Weekly meetings - according to the agreement with the group, beginning from September until the end of the year, regular coordination meetings were held once a week. In the absence of physical presence, it was of great importance to be up to date with the work of the SOS Helpline and its cases, as well as to maintain the morale. During September and October, many of the meetings were devoted to training in creative blogging, discussing topics to write about, and writing tips with a review of written texts. The other meetings included discussions of specific cases/calls and discussions of what the volunteers would do in addition to the activities undertaken by the SOS team. During October, as a coordinator of the volunteers, an external psychologist conducted a workshop on prejudice and stereotypes.

- Training on creative blog writing - as mentioned above, of the weekly meetings, four of them were dedicated to the blog wing. Through these meetings and individual consultations, the trainer, an experienced journalist and public relations professional trained the volunteers on how to write on topics in different genres, by giving them a topic and a genre. The aim of the training was to develop skills for motivational and suggestive writing of texts, essays, social media posts, etc. During the training period, the trainer reviewed eight texts of six volunteers.

- Workshop on prejudice and stereotypes - this workshop was initiated by the external psychologist in the SOS service, hired for 2020 in the role of a volunteering coordinator. The topic

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

was deliberately chosen because, in the operation of the SOS Helpline, we need to be aware of our prejudices and stereotypes so as not to allow them to interfere in our work.

- Two online trainings on assertiveness and management of change - stoicism - two online trainings for volunteers were conducted during December.

- Blog publishing - of the eight finished texts, two were already published in November on the Megjashi's website and on social networks under the blog called "And what do you say to this?" in order to engage the target audience (youth) to start a discussion. The texts will continue to be published in 2021, and we expect this to take some time before the real impact is seen.

- Calls on the weekends - since December, some of the volunteers who felt ready and understood the job, have started taking calls on the weekends.

4.8. Publishing the Annual Report on the Work of the SOS Helpline for Children and Youth as a tool for protection of children

Within this activity, several sub-activities were completed:

At the press conference on February 19, 2020 in Public Room, Skopje, [the Annual Report on the Work of the SOS Helpline for Children and Youth for 2019](#) was published. The first five most frequently violated children's rights reported on the SOS Helpline during 2019 were: child poverty, education, children of divorced parents, domestic violence and violence at school. The press conference was covered by most media - all national televisions (5), local televisions, national radio stations, news portals, and followed by a total of 15 media representatives, as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36QvwHfFvIk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHHRFdRiYGE;>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A22Sjlr3lCs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiQ9KZhewyE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX5kcE0al80>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-usBzoSS4EU;>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvbhxp2wTg>

Two videos for the SOS Helpline were produced and then broadcast through several national and local TV and radio services, and for the first time in a long period, calls from children were registered on the telephone line. Due to the epidemic, the first video was related to the stay-at-home measure during the quarantine and targeted primary school children, while the second was primarily for the SOS Helpline for children and youth, promoting it as a service for psycho-social support for children and youth, especially given the epidemic and the effects it has on mental health. Both videos are available in Macedonian and Albanian.

[Bushavko calls the SOS Helpline 02/2465316 or 070/390632 \(facebook.com\)](#)

The above-mentioned activity triggered by the pandemic, the support groups on Facebook and Instagram #togetherathome (#заеднодома) during the quarantine, should serve as a platform for engaging parents and children, as well as young people in conditions when regular school activities and socializing are limited. The Facebook group aroused great interest and within three months reached a membership of over 2600 members. Many creative and innovative ideas on how to spend quality time together for parents and children were published and shared in the group. The group is still growing.

4.9. Strengthening the organization capacity in three different capacity areas

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

The project also plans activities that contribute to strengthening organizational capacities. During this year, several activities were implemented in the following three areas of organizational capacity:

Management and structure - the establishment of a Children's Council within the management structure (Megjashi's General Assembly) contributed to the enabling of children to actively participate in the decision-making processes within the organization.

Based on the analysis of the necessity for staff training, a survey was conducted on the parents' opinion about the organization of the new school year (online classes, regular classes with physical presence, or combined) at national level. The survey was conducted online between July 27 and August 7; a press conference was held on the research findings, as well as a discussion workshop for representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Bureau for Development of Education and the teachers.

Implementation and quality - in order to increase the capacity of the staff in specific thematic areas related to the rights of the child, the promotion of the Children's Alternative Report on Children's Rights was made through a campaign to promote the key messages of the report. The campaign was not just a powerful advocacy tool to put pressure on the newly formed Parliament and its bodies to decide on legislation and issues related to the rights of the child. More importantly, this activity strengthened our advocacy capacity and put us in a better position for next year's planned activities in this regard. The costs related to the campaign were within the planned funds for this activity. The campaign started with a press conference on November 20, 2020, symbolically marking the World Children's Day:

[The Children's Alternative Report on the... - Детска амбасада Меѓаши / Children's Embassy Megjashi | Facebook.](#)

As part of the campaign, seven videos were prepared on seven different topics covered in the Children's Report and were promoted on various portals during December 2020:

[VIDEO: What do children say about violence against children: which types of violence exist, how many of them were victims? \(crnobelo.com\);](#)

[Violence against children \(facebook.com\);](#)

[\(VIDEO\) What do children say about discrimination against them? Which types of discrimination exist and what are the most common reasons? » ekran;](#)

[VIDEO: What do children say about the children in the streets? What are the biggest problems these children are facing and how can we protect them? \(facebook.com\);](#)

[VIDEO: What do children say about education? What is the quality of education and what kind of changes would they like? \(facebook.com\);](#)

[VIDEO: What do children say about the environment? What problems affect them most and what can be done to improve the situation? \(facebook.com\);](#)

[\(VIDEO\) What do children say about discrimination against them? Which types of discrimination exist and what are the most common reasons? \(facebook.com\)](#)

Finally, in collaboration with our partner organization Save the Children - Kosovo, it is important to highlight the activity for mental health support for us as a partner organization, as well as our constituents and users, which included hiring an external expert who conducted an online research and workshops on mental health care during pandemics and crisis situations. The research was used by one of our partner schools to plan their activities related to mental health care within their school and for the students. This is especially important in the context of preventing violence, as caring for our mental health (happiness) and discussing mental health issues is crucial.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

5. CIVIKA MOBILITAS - INSTITUTION GRANT, DONATIONS, ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, ISO

In July 2020, the implementation of the second year of the Civika Mobilitas grant started. The funds from the grant for the second year were mainly intended for the realization of several significant activities for FCEW Megjashi, such as the implementation of the Strategic Planning 2021 - 2025, donations of protective equipment for health workers, increasing the volume and the scope of educational and psycho-social services for children, generating funds from economic and other activities, and ISO recertification.

5.1. Strategic Planning 2021 – 2025

The workshop for the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 of the First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi was held from October 27 to October 29, 2020 in order to determine the main organizational directions for the next medium-term period of five years.

In anticipation of the workshop, Megjashi prepared a brief overview of the achievements in accordance with the previous organizational strategic plan for the period between 2016 and 2020, revised in 2018. The key organizational and programmatic issues that the management staff and the staff of Megjashi felt should be the focus during workshop discussions were identified and shared with the facilitator.

An external facilitator was hired for leading the process – Vladimir Lazovski, who was included in the preparation and formulation of the previous strategic plan of the organization.

Long-term objectives

With all its activities, Megjashi contributes to the realization of the following **long-term objectives**:

- respect, protection and promotion of children's rights, especially the children and youth participation,
- promotion of peace and non-violence culture,
- strengthening the civil and social mobilization for children's wellbeing,
- building functional institutions which act in the best interest of the child, and
- Megjashi is proactive and sustainable, based on clear values and capable to offer solutions and initiate changes.

<http://childrensembassy.org.mk/strateshki-plan-2021-2025.nspx>

5.2. Donation of protective equipment for health professionals

On several occasions during 2020, the first children's embassy in the world - Megjashi donated protective equipment for the health professionals. The purpose of this activity was to prevent the spread of the Corona virus to children who had already been treated in the pediatric departments of hospitals where other patients infected with the Corona virus were treated at the same time.

At the beginning of 2020, when the spread of the virus began, we received a request from the health professionals at the Children's Clinic and the Children's Department at the University Clinic of Psychiatry, after which we procured and delivered protective equipment consisting of 50 protective masks (N95 standard), 25 overall protective suits and 36 doctor suits in the amount of 58,640 denars, being the funds from economic activities and donation boxes.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

Due to the large deficit of protective equipment and the additional requests that FCEW Megjashi received at the beginning of the pandemic, a reallocation of funds from most ongoing projects was requested. In May, through Civica Mobilitas, 132,643 denars were initially allocated for protective equipment, including 184 N95 protective masks and 85 overall protective suits donated to the Institute for Transfusion Medicine, the Institute for Lung Diseases, the General Hospital in Strumica, the University Clinic of Psychiatry and the University Clinic for Pediatric Diseases.

The second donation through Civica Mobilitas was carried out in October in the amount of 38,254 denars, when 30 overall protective suits and 281 N95 protective masks were donated to the University Clinic for Pediatric Diseases.

5.3. New Year Greeting Cards

The sale of the New Year greeting cards for 2020 followed the practices of the previous years, so there were no significant changes in the manner of conducting the activity, and there were only minimal changes in the offer. Companies, institutions, organizations and citizens could choose from the five new motifs, or the additional six existing motifs at a reduced price compared to the previous year. Unlike the previous year, in 2020 we noticed a decrease in the orders and a reduced income from this activity by about 20% compared to the previous year.

5.4. Donation boxes

The activities in the area of donations from citizens, that is, the distribution and change of donation boxes in 2020, were reduced to a minimum and this led to a decrease by about 65% in both items. During this year, there was no installation of donation boxes at new locations.

5.5. ISO Standard recertification

At the end of 2020, the First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi was recertified for the ISO standard. The management of the ISO standard was taken over by the Finance and Joint Services sector and the Research, Development and Sustainability sector. The annual external audit of the quality management system was carried out by the YUQS – Organization for Quality Systems Certification. The external audit confirmed that all procedures were carried out in accordance with the prescribed regulations, guidelines and rules for quality system management. During the external audit it was inspected and confirmed that the implemented internal audits had been carried out, that the organization had regularly implemented corrective and preventive measures, that the recommendations given during the previous audit had been implemented, etc.

6. SUPPORT OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Due to the state of emergency caused by Covid-19, it was impossible for the activities from March 2020 to be implemented as initially planned. This was the reason why the Children's Embassy - Megjashi, in coordination with representatives of Arigatou, adjusted the activities according to what the situation required.

Due to Covid-19, supplying food and hygiene items for marginalized groups of children and their families, who use the services of the Children's Embassy - Megjashi, and who are at social risk, has become more complex. Due to movement restrictions and curfew, even those who worked and earned a minimum wage by collecting bottles for example, lost their jobs. Therefore, the funds planned for the workshops with children and parents were reallocated to food aid, hygiene items and school supplies, all of which were distributed to 30 families.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

Being provided with school supplies was a real joy for the children, as it helped them to spend more productive time in the period of movement restrictions.

In order to inspire parents to spend quality time with their children during the pandemic, we created the educational platform on Facebook and Instagram "Together at home" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/332016164425472>, where parents and young people can share ideas for the quality time spent together at home. They shared games that were interesting for the children as well as educational. The group is still active, although not as much as in the beginning during the first few months. It now counts more than 2700 members - parents and children who share their educational and interesting ideas, such as various creations, crafts, drawings, recycling, reuse of materials, etc.

7. PROJECT FOR SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

In partnership with the First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), applied and was selected by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) on the public request for expression of support for municipalities/potential providers of social services in the preparation of project proposals for applying for grants for development of social services (ref. no. MK / SSIP # 1.2.14).

The project "Support to Municipalities for the Establishment of Social Services" will be implemented as part of the MLSP Project for Improvement of Social Services (ISS Project) for which the state has been approved a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The general objective of the project is to contribute to poverty alleviation through local level support in the field of social services.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the system for providing public services in the field of social protection.

Target group of the project are municipalities in Macedonia.

Direct users are citizens of 65 municipalities covered with the project.

The expected **results** of the project include strengthened municipality capacities and potential service providers who will express their interest in receiving a grant for development of the social services for the existing social assistance recipients and other vulnerable groups in their municipalities.

The project will be conducted through the following **activities**:

1) Identification, communication and preparation of application forms for grants for the establishment of social services

MCIC and the FCEW Megjashi, in collaboration with the MLSP will establish communication with the municipalities that have expressed interest for developing social services. Forms will be prepared that the municipalities will use in the preparation of grant applications for establishment of social services. In the preparation of the forms, the criteria for evaluation of the applications that are part of the Operational Manual for administration of grants for social services development will be taken into account. During the meetings with the municipalities, the team members will instruct the representatives of the municipalities and their partner organizations on filling in the forms for the narrative and the financial part of the application. In addition, the ideas i.e. the potential social services will be discussed, as well as the dilemmas related to them and the

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

technical aspects, such as the certification of the organizations and the licensing of the service providers.

2) Providing support in the preparation of grant applications for the establishment of social services

MCIC and FCEW Megjashi will provide expert advice to potential social service providers regarding the preparation of application documents for receiving a grant for development of social services, and will provide preparation of project-proposals for the service to be developed. The prepared projects will be in accordance with the Rulebook on the norms and standards for providing social services.

During the delivery of the services, it will be ensured to group all related initiatives from different municipalities, where possible, as well as to encourage the collaboration between municipalities.

When giving advice, MCIC and Megjashi, will take into account the sustainability component of this project. This means that efforts will be made to strengthen the capacities of the municipalities so that, in the future, they are able to prepare the projects and provide funding independently. In addition, both organizations will be guided by the MCIC training methodology, which is based on participatory learning with focus on the exchange of experiences and practical application.

The period for implementation of the project is between **January 1, 2020** and **June 30, 2023**.

APPENDIX

Important links:

Videos

https://youtu.be/A_Ab7yw_rYw; <https://youtu.be/iBJ9hT77E9s>; <https://youtu.be/FCUUbF9kCbs>;
<https://youtu.be/adcgIBxarrc>; <https://youtu.be/WIZWREqBCh0>; <https://youtu.be/6r6AMQulmZk>

[Statement of Ana Bitoljanu about the consequences of the girls from the group “Public Room”:](#)
<https://youtu.be/WiglI0JiWY0>

[Jordanka Cerepnalkova Trajkoska in online statement on the news about the same topic:](#)
https://youtu.be/mNYk_MbxbgM

[Dragi Zmijanac: The public room is a possibility for connection of a pedophile group:](#)
<https://youtu.be/3WcFrUdUgfA>; <https://youtu.be/CY0nO9eaYRQ>; <https://youtu.be/Dhy7ArY9hRg>;
<https://youtu.be/AY5nW4Oesqw>; <https://lokalno.mk/zmijanats-javna-soba-e-mozhna-pedofilska-mrezha/?fbclid=IwAR0hg6gQJHJSQYEnHpSXIQDGAXCRWZS6YYd8bA9VVLd9iSx8MplmOnkV9Qk>

Dragi Zmijanac on the same topic in open studio:

<https://youtu.be/ThdajuGxm64>;
<https://www.facebook.com/SOSHELPLINEMEGJASHI/videos/307196023573062/?t=6>

Fatmire Ajdari about the safety of children in social media:

https://youtu.be/LMU5mmM_hlg?fbclid=IwAR3QLyqXiLW-HnTkr5A-53BzOZR7sX7QKwuTprekImZEGq5LT3XgIDAUHU

Forum theatre- secondary school students – bullying:

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

https://kanal5.com.mk/articles/408863/forum-teatar-od-srednoshkolci-za-vrsnichkoto-nasilstvo?utm_source=daily.mk&utm_medium=daily.mk&fbclid=IwAR2fzKtVPIshPeAvkHaQrmv5aJ4Wz8upuS8n6KBrpilKKxahYi89HZ5m1R8;
https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fm.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Ffeature%3Dyoutu.be%26v%3DG1kX57r8mt4%26fbclid%3DIwAR2vpxpm8N8-4xlaXLtKoOUPubXvJaQNLJDJSOnGSo7CvfjyUuKgeAKd2TsM&h=AT1uCLxA_AeJfxzr9feiGwix6FEjImBVcoKe44wD_UXhW7M-RRzS8JpGy80gB6ihBxcLd0bK0uDF08p990BMJqinK_21QK8tLgF6pFlpGgtbtpfZ8iwPhs-X7-ZB2AxjerwBgNmmsycbuVc; https://sitel.com.mk/forum-teatarska-pretstava-za-preveniranje-na-bulingot-kaj-srednoshkolcite?fbclid=IwAR2SpN_TwL-wiZzFggk70fI5UYy-nLGdqG1kOAHc2Z1sLHd27-zlogMMgcc;
<https://youtu.be/2ejkx-NLRmE?fbclid=IwAR397tv8OZ8h8jkYgFshlqnGGHzcZVofSXtlk0THCboPOeJl-mIfUw8NBois;> https://www.slobodenpecat.mk/srednoshkolata-eva-vo-utrinski-brifing-rabotime-na-vrsnichka-medijacija-za-da-go-zapreme-bulingot/?utm_source=daily.mk&utm_medium=daily.mk&fbclid=IwAR0uJAAG58LE5_IXrtfv2k-BSy6IF5b01ZzRIXh0yJOpvMDPsjwusEGAE40; https://www.slobodenpecat.mk/da-ne-bideme-pasivni-nabluduvachi-na-vrsnichkoto-nasilstvo-tuku-vednash-da-prijavuvame/?fbclid=IwAR08O_Evc9f2o-wFOnzDol8iMf8UFrdoholIIOHzCuHFb1Gzw9yerTdQ-w

Forum theatre bullying show in Veles:

<https://sitel.com.mk/forum-teatarska-pretstava-na-tema-megjuvrsnichko-nasilstvo-vo-veles?fbclid=IwAR1ZVBzCUHplYPG4wE3x07ZVWniaktYYT0PvypIFPwTW9ZMix9SkLPKasCs;>
<https://www.facebook.com/dragi.zmijanac.5/videos/2753214238097804/?t=11;>
<https://www.facebook.com/megjashi/videos/628758801191782/?t=4>

Ana Bitoljanu: Street fighting among minors as an organized occupation among high school students:

<https://www.facebook.com/megjashi/videos/1028052894236761/?t=6;> <https://mia.mk/immediate-action-needed-against-peer-bullying/?lang=en&fbclid=IwAR2D2jzfnWz4-3I15cNbU3NHq7DZFHng8Uh2VbjaMH9T9kL9Ylep6igrEjM;>
https://www.vecer.press/%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%81%d0%b8%d0%bb%d1%81%d1%82%d0%b2%d0%be%d1%82%d0%be-%d0%bc%d0%b5%d1%93%d1%83-%d1%83%d1%87%d0%b5%d0%bd%d0%b8%d1%86%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b5-%d0%bc%d0%be%d0%b6%d0%b5-%d0%b4%d0%b0-%d0%b8%d1%81/?fbclid=IwAR0dL898FcuvoIbKI6cmNMjx25AbKugh_JxOtYC0gAdCoRt_mPhPbmDMYxA;
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8e1nZaW27NY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1Im5Fy22q_y0rABp70EJ4zXFiwawZcHsRC3C6bc58X2cA6iXIFpUeqCxU;
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcpNnYmI1HQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0bE2TLpjmQKrAxAgHRDncaWbaN_jv_cN1ub438H2zmFd5ThicKX9ELV0A;
https://youtu.be/q0gTZiOwu6I?fbclid=IwAR3pTFyG6qoN1HBnT4zI7E4wi4u_e3g9kncGeCgNWgg311vRvjPI3-8HjbU; Media appearance for the period April –June 2020

Teacher from HS Nikola Karev talks about the situation of the students as a result of the pandemic and online learning:

<https://www.facebook.com/utrinskibrifing/videos/537380073632669/UzpfSTeWMDAwMjI3NzY0MDI4MTpWSzoyOTAwODgxNDMzMzI4MDIz/>

PEP member on the occasion of the 28th birthday of FCEW Megjashi:

<https://youtu.be/k8FI4y2eF7A>

PEP member: violence towards children is increased:

https://youtu.be/h9wW_OPNU6M

PEP member: Platform “Together at home”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnxmjilGTre>

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

PEP member: Megjashi has registered four calls on violence toward children during the corona crisis:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAFK0s_ECBO

President of FCEW Megjashi on the occasion of the 28th birthday of Megjashi:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6FOGEWpE44>

PEP member on the occasion of the 28th birthday of FCEW Megjashi:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEIPJnpVv9U>

PEP member about the activities of FCEW Megjashi during the corona crisis:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEJpXa8adjI>

PEP member on the occasion of 1st June International Children's Day:
<https://youtu.be/TGUv1hRiYSc>

President of FCEW Megjashi on the occasion of 1st June International Children's Day:
https://youtu.be/S5b_NP3jZRI

PEP team member on the occasion of June 4th International Day of Aggression Victims:
<https://youtu.be/JYoekAeOIi8>

President of FCEW Megjashi on the occasion of June 12th World Day Against Child Labor with focus on the impact of the pandemic and the economic crisis:
<https://youtu.be/WPeYTeH3nDQ>

PEP team member on Children's abuse during the political campaign:
<https://youtu.be/f68lfbvYjuc>

PEP team member on the occasion of June 26th International Day in Support of Victims of Torture:
<https://youtu.be/PYkAZQrUzKE>

Dragi Zmijanac – children abuse during political campaigns:
https://youtu.be/vsC_JsNvYK0; <https://youtu.be/Iduzeugf0GA>; Forum theatre article:
<https://civicamobilitas.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/civic-world-mk-4.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2aFUOu6kUJdgH527pBxujM9I9I8RxdJDIG3Sb25sJoOcZ2Jgbq-jL4rU>

Press conference on the results from the Comparative Analysis Peace Education 2011- 2019:
<https://youtu.be/9P6eVdlpRRY>; <https://youtu.be/MWGoE1t16SY>; <https://youtu.be/v8R-ZL86Jcs>;
<https://youtu.be/1OK9J955UPs>; <https://youtu.be/Ab-o-pKFYm8>; <https://youtu.be/cXJnag20vPk>;
<https://youtu.be/MWGoE1t16SY>; <https://youtu.be/EC22KGbcxO8>

Public reaction due to online learning, Megjashi points that the Peace Education Program should focus on the vulnerable groups of students:
<https://expres.mk/megjashi-bara-zashtita-na-najranlivite-kategorii-uchenici/?fbclid=IwAR3hoFskM3gjqHoyXwfkzXv9Z64882oo3PebSPbsgrxZ9D6wHdy36zOpsyg>;
<https://frontline.mk/2020/07/30/me-ashi-so-istrazhuva-e-za-roditeli-na-uchenici-za-presto-nata-2020-21-uchebna-godina/?fbclid=IwAR2Nx8j16eWs1JGqoOEKgfZg6Y7jgFcyodexoCEYGR4dxrTqrsIhQoSq1c>

Megjashi with statement that students should be involved in decision making:
<https://mms.mk/165408/%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%93%D0%B0%D1%88%D0%B8-%D1%81%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%88%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B1%D0%B0-%D0%B4%D0%B0->

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

[%D0%B1%D0%B8%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%82/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=%D0%B
C%D0%B5%D1%93%D0%B0%D1%88%D0%B8-
%D1%81%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%88%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%86%D0%B8
%D1%82%D0%B5-%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B1%D0%B0-%D0%B4%D0%B0-
%D0%B1%D0%B8%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%82&fbclid=IwAR2DLvp0caY3HE0Kzvkq -
HS3UmdStBSFWIE5hUeylPgpzTXyo3oZXF-s8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Dragi Zmijanac – TV debate on the beginning of the new school year in the conditions of the “new reality”:
<https://youtu.be/42DMuWVaSfM>

Dragi Zmijanac - statement on the results of the survey of parents' opinions for the new school year
2,020/21:
<https://youtu.be/R4vXWNYVP7s>; <https://youtu.be/VvbWSHbwqlc>; <https://youtu.be/oNhI0PIjhlo>;
<https://youtu.be/QtyTrv2SuWjY>; <https://youtu.be/tZFNNRm71Fc>; https://youtu.be/QonrNq_wegQ;
<https://youtu.be/LWjYRpDAWDo>; <https://youtu.be/42DMuWVaSfM>; HS Vanco Prke Vinica on occasion of
21st of September – International peace day; <https://youtu.be/2rnVcsrjlql>

Presentation of Children’s Alternative Report on the Situation with the Children’s Rights in the country
prepared by children:

[https://hashtag.mk/prezentiran-detskiot-alternativen-izveshtaj-za-sostojbata-na-pravata-so-decata-vo-
makedonija?fbclid=IwAR1iR26tHs0t6gXoMljf6aRXGgOnJWYNEsjCRbFVzkc9NUjfkfmFU7O2SFs](https://hashtag.mk/prezentiran-detskiot-alternativen-izveshtaj-za-sostojbata-na-pravata-so-decata-vo-makedonija?fbclid=IwAR1iR26tHs0t6gXoMljf6aRXGgOnJWYNEsjCRbFVzkc9NUjfkfmFU7O2SFs);
<https://www.facebook.com/megjashi/videos/125675725790710>; <https://youtu.be/wcJLQv3ItSc>;
https://youtu.be/_HcZ9eaHdeo; <https://youtu.be/UqIXzsJTH-U>; <https://youtu.be/RAI6pO3Xhqc>;
<https://youtu.be/IDVFSpu4WtY>; <https://youtu.be/2j6gGL4R-FQ>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lySWnqjt-Vs>

Public reaction due to the situation in schools and kindergardens in the country caused by the Covid-19:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftsNpBx1tHI>

Megjashi- online learning excluded many students from the educational process:
<https://youtu.be/mwhFvpi9Vpg>

Statement on the activities of Megjashi and bullying in schools:
<https://youtu.be/pMm1KFYONaE>

Statement on the decoration of the city for the new year and the needs of the children:
<https://youtu.be/j6ITuvKBopc>

Press conference for the Alternative Report on the Situation with the Children’s Rights in the country
prepared by NGOs:
<https://youtu.be/ldUk1ISqdE4>; <https://youtu.be/X-yJzX29FWA>; <https://youtu.be/9qEUjTWtjVk>;
<https://youtu.be/k7CyLMuLis8>; https://youtu.be/_8p0mQg_qDU; <https://youtu.be/X-yJzX29FWA>;
<https://youtu.be/pVF0Ehvia1k>; <https://youtu.be/XK1Q-i0Jpcg>; https://youtu.be/_Jy4Yv_NAR8;
https://youtu.be/bMA5_mEsAtc; <https://youtu.be/ie2QJKpuPLE>; <https://youtu.be/pbVNz74sBhA>;
<https://youtu.be/p19hZUgcl1o>

Public reaction due to the air pollution:
<https://youtu.be/ReUjrGHU95Y>

Statement on the activities of Megjashi:
<https://youtu.be/GPmDqkr-74w>

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2020

Children's Conference:

<https://youtu.be/giw9XTxGY3A>; <https://youtu.be/2aouSjCaxs>; <https://youtu.be/TL-DtYDdR98>;

https://www.flickr.com/photos/childrens_embassy/50071556246/in/datetaken-public/;

https://www.flickr.com/photos/childrens_embassy/50244126023/in/datetaken-public/