

USAID MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS SUPPORT ACTIVITY (PPMG)

MAY 2016

CHILDREN OUTSIDE REGULAR EDUCATION SYSTEM ACQUIRE RIGHT TO HEALTH INSURANCE IN TUZLA CANTON THROUGH ADVOCACY OF “ZEMLJA DJECE U BiH” ASSOCIATION



The “Zemlja djece u BiH “ (“Country of Children in BiH”) Association managed to acquire health insurance on the expense of the cantonal budget for children aged 6-15 who do not participate in regular schooling in Tuzla Canton (TC), after this right had been denied to them by the September changes in the legislation.

Initially, and followed by public pressure, the Government of Tuzla Canton enacted Decisions on determining the bases, rates and methods of calculation and payment of income for obligatory health insurance in TC through which they suggested a solution for children who were denied the right to health insurance guaranteed to them according to all international standards.

After the Government enacted the Decisions, the proposal of the Resolution was supported by the

Parliamentary Assembly of TC in its regular session held on April 25, 2016. During the session, the Parliamentary Assembly of TC, for the purpose of resolving the problem of children with no health insurance aged 6-15 who are not included in the system of regular education, considered and unanimously adopted the Supplements and Amendments to the aforementioned Decision. In accordance with the Supplements and Amendments of this Decision, the City of Tuzla, i.e. municipalities in TC are determined as taxpayers for calculations and payments of contributions for health insurance of children aged 6-15 who do not have the status as regular students and cannot exercise their right to health insurance on any other basis.

According to the “Zemlja djece u BiH” Association,

CONTENTS

Children outside Regular Education System Acquire Right to Health Insurance in Tuzla Canton through Advocacy of “Zemlja djece u BiH” Association	1
Fund for supporting organizations that focus on problems of the LGBTI population	2
First Training for Grantees Held	2
“Sumero” Association Opens Center for Support to Living in Community for Persons with Disabilities	3
Financial Management Training Completed	4
Over 120 Contestants Participated in International Open Championship and Sports Games of Paraplegics.	5

this is not an adequate and permanent solution for the problem of children with no health insurance, considering that the stated Decision merely determines the taxpayer for paying health insurance contributions to these children and transfers the responsibility to local communities.

The Association believes that the law-determined right to obligatory health insurance, which was essentially denied to the children by the latest Supplements and Amendments of the Law on Social Protection, Protection of Civil Victims of War and Protection of Families with Children in TC, first has to be returned to them, and then a taxpayer for calculations and income payments has to be determined.

The implementation of this Decision during this year is uncertain, since there no funds have been planned in the current municipal budgets for these expenses, which represents an additional problem.

The individual participants of “United against Modern Child Slavery” project that the “Zemlja djece u BiH” Association is implementing as a part of the USAID Marginalized Populations Support Activity (USAID/PPMG) would also directly benefit from this Decision.

The project aims to improve the protection of children – potential human trafficking victims in the area of Tuzla and reduce the degree of their exposure to human trafficking risks.

In addition to educational and integrational activities directed towards sustainable schooling, the project enables its users the advisory support in the sense of exercising the basic rights of children and families in the areas of social and health protection, education, etc. All the activities planned with children and families are being implemented through the structure of the Daycare Center for children involved in living and/or working in the streets, managed by the “Zemlja djece u BiH” Association in Tuzla.

FUND FOR SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS THAT FOCUS ON PROBLEMS OF THE LGBTI POPULATION

In the following period, USAID will issue a Public Call for submitting project applications intended for civil society organizations that focus on advocating for improvements in the position, human and civil rights of LGBTI persons. Detailed information about the Public Call will soon be published on the Marginalized Populations Support Activity website - www.ppmg.ba.

FIRST TRAINING FOR GRANTEEES HELD

The Marginalized Populations Support Activity (USAID/PPMG) is planning to hold a cycle of 5 trainings for grantees for the purpose of developing their institutional capacities from May to July 2016. The first training on

topic of Legal and Organizational Structures was held for representatives of USAID/PPMG grantee organizations from May 17 to May 19, 2016 in Sarajevo.

As a part of the first session, the participants defined the notion of civil society, presented what civil society represents for them and determined its elements and stages of development within a civil society organization.



One of the topics discussed during the training was the requirement for an organization to form a Board of Directors, after which its role was emphasized as well as the division of responsibilities in the organization. The trainer and the participants also reflected briefly on the relationship between the Board of Directors and the staff and defined the criteria for appointing the members of the Board of Directors.

One of the more significant topics of this training was certainly the issue of the role and relevance of rules and procedures in the activities of a civil society organization. Accordingly, during the training, the types of documents and basic principles of developing rules and procedures were discussed. During the exercise, the participants had the opportunity to develop practical skills for writing rulebooks, forms and other documents related to the activities of an organization.

A part of this training was also the session on Gender Equality in the context of the topic, held by Ms. Jadranka Miličević, a representative of the CURE Foundation. The aim of the session was to indicate to the importance and presence of the gender issue in all structures of the organization included in its policies and procedures. The complete statements of several participants are presented below:

“This training is useful for all organizations, particularly ours. This will be of great help during the development of procedures and the strengthening of our organization.”

Erna Kotlo, Association “SUNCE”

“I believe the training is very good – it is equally important in the context of preparation of all documents and in the context of performing analysis in order for us to see where we are and what potentially needs to be changed.”

Gordana Vidović, Association “Budućnost”

ASSOCIATION “SUMERO” OPENS CENTER FOR SUPPORT TO LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

On Tuesday, May 24, 2016, the Association of organizations for supporting persons with intellectual disabilities in FBiH “Sumero” opened a multifunctional center in Donji Hotonj, municipality of Vogošća, intended to provide persons with disabilities with adequate support to living in the community.





The Center has housing units, rooms for trainings, a greenhouse of professional rehabilitation and other content necessary for working with persons with disabilities. The “Sumero” Alliance intends to invite other local communities to get involved in the deinstitutionalization process, which is a sort of sustainable platform enabling persons with disability to live in the local community. The Center in Donji Hotonj stretches across 550 m2. Users will have access to experts in various fields, and the Center will have 6-7 employees. The construction of the “Sumero” Center for supporting persons with disability was funded by about 20 donors with funds amounting to a total of 540,000 BAM. The Center is not intended to provide long-term housing for persons with disabilities, but to provide them with professional rehabilitation, education and retraining through working in a pizza shop or a growing plants in a

greenhouse. The Center’s opening ceremony was attended by numerous guests, and members of the “Sumero” Alliance performed a play for the guests, which they prepared with the actress Staša Đukić. The play “This is me” is performed by persons with disabilities telling their own personal stories. The goal is to reduce the stigmatization of persons with disabilities and show that their lives are similar to the lives of persons without disabilities. What oftentimes makes their lives difficult are the attitudes and prejudice that others have towards them and their capabilities. USAID’s Marginalized Populations Support Activity (USAID/PPMG) supports the project implemented by the Alliance “Sumero”, with the goal of strengthening the process of deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities and developing a support system in the local community.

TRAINING ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPLETED

From May 24 to May 26, 2016, in Sarajevo, USAID/PPMG held the second training for grantees. The three-day training focused on the importance of financial management, its basic concepts and components. One of the topics of the training was the system of internal controls and financial accounting and reporting as the basic components of financial management in NGOs. An equally significant topic that was discussed



focused on practical steps and elements for establishing a financial management system. Participants learned about the importance of internal rules and procedures, and worked on developing such procedures during group exercises, during which they also defined their content. Trainers reminded participants of the concept of financial reporting, with special emphasis on legal obligations and the most frequent mistakes in bookkeeping. As the participants themselves pointed out, the training was attended by representatives with varying degrees of familiarity with financial management, and were given ample opportunity to learn and improve. The topic Financial Accounting included a session on project accounting and reporting, which trainers used to teach



the participants how to record and allocate expenses and define ineligible expenses. Ms. Sanda Kovačević, representative of the Foundation CURE, held a session on gender equality in the context of the topic. In her presentation, Ms. Kovačević spoke about the importance of the gender component in an organization’s internal documents and gender-responsive budgeting. She pointed out that gender-responsive budgeting in program budgeting which creates a space for integrating gender equality principles in budget processes.

The training also discussed procedures for hiring staff and all the legal obligations that NGOs have as employers.

OVER 120 COMPETITORS AT THE INTERNATIONAL PARAPLEGICS SPORTS GAMES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The thirteenth International Sports Games Open Championship for Paraplegics and Persons with Poliomyelitis was held from May 27 to May 29 at the Olympic stadium “Asim Ferhatović Hase” and in the hotel “Terme” in Ilidža. The Championship was organized by the Association of Paraplegics and Persons with Poliomyelitis in FBiH.

The competition attracted over 120 participants from Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Zenica-Doboj Canton team was the most successful both in male and female competitions; the top spot in





female competitions was taken by Alma Bajramović from the Una-Sana Canton, and Dušan Slana from Slovenia was the top male competitor.

The youngest competitor was Nedim Šido from Jajce, and the oldest was Ramiz Humić from Jajce. At the stadium “Asim Ferhatović Hase”, the participants competed in the following disciplines: 100, 200 and 400 m wheelchair races, 4x100 relay races and throwing sports – javelin, shot put, discus and club throw. The team from the Zenica-Doboj Canton placed first at the round-robin chess tournament held at the hotel Terme.

Sports games for paraplegics and persons with poliomyelitis are an important form of resocialization of persons with the most severe forms of disability, and a strong motivation to achieve results. Sports, as the most natural form of treatment, has an extraordinary effect and includes persons with disabilities in social life, showing them that disability does not mean inability. This most important and massively attended event for competitors with disabilities was organized with the support of USAID’s Marginalized Populations Support Activity (USAID/PPMG).



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