

«ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE WITH SEVERE DISABILITY IN POVERTY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA»

PROJECT REPORT 2006

2005, the *Austrian Doctors for Disabled (DfD)* started to implement the above mentioned project. Within this project, we provide financial and medical assistance to hundred percent disabled persons in poverty who were born disabled or whose disability is a consequence of the war or, a disease or an accident.

Through this project we try to assist the least fortunate among the underprivileged disabled persons in order to help them achieve a dignified life and facilitate their immediate difficulties. Since 2006 we have been engaged a local organization SUMERO who is our partner in the implementing of this project in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The long term aims of our project are:

- regulating the status of people with disability through legislature
- equalize disability allowance in whole Bosnia and Herzegovina and
- gradually increasing the amount of supplementary disability allowance in order to reach the amount of disability allowance in some relationship to the level of United Europe.

This aim we try to achieve through:

- collection of 100 severe disabled persons in poverty from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).
- campaign for equalization of social care of people with disability in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Media presence and press coverage.

Until the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina do not completely implemented the “Law of social care” we will allocate in the frame of our financial support for the 100 clients, different temporary sums of monthly 30-120 Euro, depended from the financial help that our beneficiaries currently receive from the governmental social institutions.

Up to now (In the year 2006) we accomplished a lot of activities:

Österreichische Gesellschaft für
medizinische Entwicklungszusammenarbeit

Austrian Society for medical Developmentcooperation

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- We signed protocol of cooperation between DfD and NGO « SUMERO UNION» and 8 local organizations for the people with disability which define mutual responsibilities, duties and rights. We try to cover a whole territory from BiH, so we choose local organizations in the following cities: Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla, Gorazde, Vlasenica, Banja Luka, Bihac and Trebinje.
- We gradually collected questionnaires about people with severe disability in poverty from this local organizations and create a data-base with all necessary informations about the beneficiaries and fotos. Now we have 100 beneficiaries in our data-base who receive continuously financial support from us! We try to cover different geography position, diagnosis, nationality as well as the most acute cases.

Beneficiaries overview April - November 2006 classified by the local center:

Local center	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Octob.	Nov.
Gorazde BOSANSKO-PODRINJSKI CANTON	20	20	19	19	19	19	19	19
Sarajevo CANTON SARAJEVO	10	10	10	10	10	11	12	12
Mostar HERCEGOVACKO- NERETVANSKI CANTON	6	7	9	13	13	13	13	13
Tuzla TUZLANSKI CANTON	4	8	17	17	17	17	17	17
Bihac UNSKO-SANSKI CANTON			10	10	10	9	9	8
TOTAL FBiH	40	45	65	69	69	69	70	69
Vlasenica	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Banja Luka			14	14	14	14	14	15
Trebinje				14	14	14	13	13
TOTAL RS	1	3	17	31	31	31	30	31
TOTAL BiH	41	48	82	100	100	100	100	100

Diagnosis of clients classified by the local center in BiH:

LOCAL CENTER	Paraplegia	Cerebral Palsy	Quadriplegia	Congenital malformation	Muscle dystrophy	Multiple sclerosis	Mental retardation	Other	TOTAL
Gorazde	0	17	0	0	2	0	1	0	20
Sarajevo (+Zenica)	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	11
Mostar	0	8	0	0	0	1	4	0	13
Tuzla	1	14	0	1	1	0	0	0	17
Bihac	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	1	10

TOTAL FBiH	10	46	1	1	3	1	7	2	71
Vlasenica	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Banja Luka	3	6	0	0	1	0	1	2	13
Trebinje	4	6	0	0	0	0	2	1	13
TOTAL RS	8	13	0	1	1	0	3	3	29
TOTAL BiH	18	59	1	2	4	1	10	5	100

Nationality of clients classified by the local center in BiH:

LOCAL CENTER	BOSNIAN	CROATIAN	SERB	OTHER	TOTAL
Gorazde	19	0	1	0	20
Sarajevo (+Zenica)	11	0	0	0	11
Mostar	7	6	0	0	13
Tuzla	16	1	0	0	17
Bihac	10	0	0	0	10
TOTAL FBiH	63	7	1	0	71
Vlasenica	0	0	3	0	3
Banja Luka	0	0	13	0	13
Trebinje	0	1	12	0	13
TOTAL RS	0	1	28	0	29
TOTAL BiH	63	8	29	0	100

- We created a new promotiv flyer, folder of beneficiaries and participated in following radio and tv shows to present our projekt:
Radio KAMELEON 15 min
TV ALFA 20 min
Radio KAMELEON 20 min
News paper «Dnevni avaz» and «Oslobođenje»
- We have a several meetings with representatives of Ministry for human rights, Mrs Saliha Djudjerija. We presented our project and agreed on future joint work.
- The main sponsor of our project is Raiffeisen Bank and Alarm West. They are supporting the over-head costs from SUMERO in each case with 3.000 € per trimester. Up to last trimester 2006 we also will be financially supported from Tondach, with also 3.000 €. For the last 8 month DfD supported our beneficiaries with altogether 49.063 €, while the SUMERO over-head costs was supported with 17.765,58 €. Financially support for our beneficiaries is mostly covered from the DfD funds, but we also have a individually sponsors for our beneficiary: 10 in Austria and 3 in BiH. Our next primary activities are to fund a new sponsors specially in BiH.

COSTS OVERVIUW April - November 2006:

MONTH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL APRIL - SEPTEMBER
COST FOR BENEFICIARIES	2.331,00 €	2.918,00 €	6.096,00 €	7.605,00 €	7.655,00 €	7.560,00 €	7.461,00 €	7.437,00 €		49.063,00 €
OVER-HEAD COSTS SUMERO	1.715,88 €	1.917,00 €	2.430,00 €	2.527,90 €	1.880,00 €	1.882,80 €	2.856,00 €	2.556,00 €		17.765,58 €
TOTAL COSTS PER MONTH	4.046,88 €	4.835,00 €	8.526,00 €	10.132,90 €	9.535,00 €	9.442,80 €	9.442,80 €	9.442,80 €		66.828,58 €

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA RELATING TO SOCIAL STATUS OF THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Due to very complex political and economical situation in BiH the institutions of government ensure scarce assistance, if any, to people with disabilities – as a consequence, a lot of them live below the poverty line.

Since BiH is administratively divided in two entities-- Federation BiH (FBiH) and Republic of Srpska (RS)-- so is the social care responsibility of each of the entities. FBiH is also divided in 10 Cantons with their own social care practise and rules. Each municipality in RS has also their own procession in the social care field. That means: there is no existing one “State Ministry of Social Care” in BiH as well as no existing of one general “Law of Social Care” in state of BiH. There is no harmony between two entities, no harmony in the social politic between cantons in FBiH as well as no harmony in the social politic between different municipalities in RS.

This kind of administrative regulation ahead to the additional discrimination of the people with disabilities in dependence of their leaving place. This discrimination we can show in the next table:

***OVERVIUW CURRENTLY DISABILITY ALLOVANCE FROM LOCAL SOCIAL AGENCIES
CLASSIFIED BY CANTONS IN FEDERATION BiH/MUNICIPALITY OF REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA:***

DIFFERENT CANTONS IN FEDERATION OF BiH	CURRENTLY DISABILITY ALLOVANCE FROM LOCAL SOCIAL AGENCIES
Sarajevo CANTON SARAJEVO	85 €
Gorazde BOSANSKO-PODRINJSKI CANTON	75 €
Mostar HERCEGOVACKO-NERETVANSKI CANTON	0 €
Tuzla TUZLANSKI CANTON	53 €

Bihac UNSKO-SANSKI CANTON	25 €
DIFFERENT MUNICIPALITYS IN REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA	CURRENTLY DISABILITY ALLOVANCE FROM LOCAL SOCIAL AGENCIES
Banja Luka	20 – 45 €
Vlasenica	20 €
Trebinje	21 – 78 €

Additional problem to the no existing of the “State Ministry of Social Care” and general “Law of Social Care” in BiH is also the fact of no existing of exact database from people with disabilities! There is an estimation that in BiH currently are living around 120.000 persons with disability.

Since several years our partner organization SUMERO, as well as many other Bosnian NGO`s, makes several success with campaigns for passing and implementation of “Law of Social Care” in FBiH.

This “Law of Social Care” passed in Parliament of FBiH on January 1st. 2005!

Through this law, people with 100% disability will receive by the Federation government following amounts per month:

- Personal disability allowance **75 €**
- Assistants and care from others **75 €**
- Orthopedic device **17 €**

From this we can see that people with 100% disability will receive amount of **150 -167 €** per month.

But the implementation of this Law started only in the middle of the year 2006, and only little changed up to now to our clients!

The reason of this is:

- great number of requests of people with disability,
- existing of only one Central Revision Commission in whole FBiH for the valuation of the disability degree and social screening of people with disability,
- as well as lack of readiness of Federal ministry.

In the meantime a small part of beneficiaries received a written decision of Federal Ministry in which disability allowance is approved on their own bank accounts. But great majority didn’t receive any answer still now as well as any allowance.

We have make a partly investigation in the different cantons in Federation BiH considering the implementation of the Law, and we receive a following results:

INVESTIGATION ABOUT CURRENTLY SOLVED REQUEST:

DIFFERENT SOCIAL AGENCYS IN DIFFERENT CANTONS IN FEDERATION OF BiH	SOLVED REQUEST UNTIL NOW
Sarajevo CANTON SARAJEVO	We didn't receive any information from the social agency.
Gorazde BOSANSKO-PODRINJSKI CANTON	950 request was sended in the Central Revision Commission in Sarajevo, 50% from requaest are solved, but only several beneficiers received their allowance.
Konjic HERCEGOVACKO-NERETVANSKI CANTON	847 request was sended in the Central Revision Commission in Sarajevo, 16% from requaest are solved, but there is no information if any beneficiers received their allowance.
Gradacac TUZLANSKI CANTON	50% from requaest are solved in the Central Revision Commission in Sarajevo, but only several beneficiers received their allowance.
Bosanska Krupa UNSKO-SANSKI CANTON	230 request was sended in the Central Revision Commission in Sarajevo, 56% from requaest are solved, but only 20% of beneficiers received their allowance.
Cazin UNSKO-SANSKI CANTON	All sended reques in the Central Revision Commission in Sarajevo are solved, but only several beneficiers received their allowance.
Zavidovici ZENICKO-DOBOJSKI CANTON	700 request was sended in the Central Revision Commission in Sarajevo, 8% from requaest are solved, but only 8 beneficiers received their allowance.
Zenica ZENICKO-DOBOJSKI CANTON	2000 request was sended in the Central Revision Commission in Sarajevo, 25% from requaest are solved, but only several beneficiers received their allowance.
Vares ZENICKO-DOBOJSKI CANTON	500 request was sended in the Central Revision Commission in Sarajevo, all requaest are solved, but no one beneficiers received their allowance until now.
Orasje POSAVSKI KANTON	280 request are solved in the Central Revision Commission in Sarajevo, but only 70 beneficiers received their allowance.

In the contacts with representatives from this Ministry, our partner organization SUMERO were told that by the end of the year, ministry will finish database and checks of beneficiaries so the payments will start by the end of 2006 or begininig of 2007.

With implementation of this law we hope that in year 2007 the goals of our „Doctors for Disabled“project:

- **„People with severe disability need to get minimum of 120 euro per month from the state“**
- **„Regulating the status of people with disability through legislature“**

will be achieved in Federation BiH!

If that will happen we plan to start:

- **with MOBILE SERVICE to our clients**
- **with intensive Campaign that also in Republic of Srpska a Law of Social Care will pass Parliament soon**