

**HANDIKOS
REPORT
January – September 2007**

Financed by Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Introduction

The main Objectives of HandiKOS for year 2007 were continuation of service provision for people with disabilities especially children with disabilities and recognition of those services from the Kosovo Government. The services were provided in 12 Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Centers and 13 Local offices.

The services provided in the CBR Centers are:

- Primary physical and psycho social rehabilitation
- Prevention of consequences as the result of disability
- Motivation and encouragement of the parents through advices related to the disability in the continues consultancy meetings organized individually or in groups. Organizing meetings of the parents whose children have the same pathology. Information sharing and increasing knowledge about the prevention of deformities, proper use of the supportive equipment for children and raising awareness of the members of the community and families.
- Motivation of the parents to support their children related to the personal autonomy
- Monitoring and supporting the work of the parents in their houses related to the fulfillment of the tasks (references) about building special chairs, orthopedic references, etc.

Primary Physical Rehabilitation – Activities

- Position and relaxing exercises
- Passive mobilization of the extremities
- Stimulation of the muscle for the head position
- Stimulation that activate mobilization in different positions
- Training for improvement of the balance in different positions: seating, seating in knees, standing, etc.
- Trainings for proper seating that will prevent deformities
- Trainings related to the communication, nutrition, etc.
- Demonstrations and trainings on how to build and use the special chair for children with disabilities
- Training on using different orthopedic equipments such are walkers, crotches, parallels, etc.

Psycho Social Activities

- Psycho social stimulation execute activities to improve communication, concentration, creativity of the children
- Activities related to the preparation of the children to attend schools
- Rehabilitation through art activities
- Rehabilitation through sport and recreational activities
- Promotion of the socialization
- Motivation of the parents to include their children in the education

The Mayor achievement during the year 2006 was establishment of the National Council on Disability. During year 2007, the National council continued with it's work and until now they achieved to organized to working meetings. HandiKOS president Mr. Halit Ferizi is co-chairman of the National Council.

Also, during 2007 HandiKOS continued with capacity building program through trainings for the staff and it's members. Mainly the trainings were focused on Project cycle management, writing the project proposals, financial management and reporting, financial laws in Kosovo, organizing fund raising campaigns, lobbying and advocacy work, etc.

During year 2007 the Ministry for Labor and Social Welfare continued the financial support to HandiKOS. The support is focused on service provision, covering operational costs in three CBR centers of HandiKOS, in Mitrovica, Vushtri and Podujeva. We have to mention that this support is very important do to a fact that the Ministry is recognizing the services provided by HandiKOS.

HandiKOS with the support of EDF (European Disability Forum) continued the work on chairing coalition of DPO's with the goal to establish the umbrella organization of Disabled People organizations. In the same year the coalition achieved to compile the National Report on Disability in Kosovo, the report was presented in the Conference organized from EDF in Dubrovnik (Croatia).

Other objectives of HandiKOS during 2007 were continuation of promoting the Human Rights of People with disabilities, to raise awareness of the institutions and society about the situation of PWD in Kosovo.

Please find bellow more details about implemented activities during 2007.

I. Activities in the network of HandiKOS

The major objective of CBR activities of HandiKOS is to insure that people with disabilities are empowered to maximize their physical and mental abilities, have access to regular services and opportunities to become equal, contributing member of their communities and their societies. The CBR activities of HandiKOS are implemented through the network of HandiKOS which contains 12 Community Centers and 13 Local Offices in 25 municipalities of Kosova, including sub-office in North part of Mitrovica.

1. Community based rehabilitation (CBR) – Centers

The statistics are showing that during the period (January – September 2007) there were **526 children** who received the services of HandiKOS on daily bases (including both services).

- Again based on the statistics, from January until September 2007 there were totally **26 462 sessions** with the children in the community centres of HandiKOS.

Main activities of the centers are mentioned bellow:

- **Primary physical rehabilitation**

Primary physical rehabilitation activities which were done during the **period (January – September 2007)** continued to be focused on prevention of orthopedic deformities with passive mobilization and relaxation, training to keep the balance, good seating position, crawling and walking by using parallels and walkers. Two workers provide Primary rehabilitation to the children in **45 minutes** sessions, teaching the mothers / caretakers the activities that they will repeat at home. Only in the primary physical rehabilitation there were totally **201 children** who received total of **7 044 sessions**. Most of the children are continuing the sessions from previous year based on the program prepared by the CBR team of HandiKOS, but, there are new children that started to attend the rehabilitation, the number of the new children that are attending the services of HandiKOS starting from 2007 is **52**. The work of CBR Centers is based on the plan which is prepared by the CBR team and by respecting the results of the evaluation of each child which is done every 4 months jointly with parents of disabled children.

- **Psycho social activities**

During the period January - September 2007 as one of the major activities in the psycho social sessions with children was Mio-oral stimulation to improve nutrition and speech; activities related to improvement of the communication, attention, creativity of the children; prepare children to join the regular education system; promote socialization and creative activities. Psycho social activities are done individually for each child and in the group, depending from the nature of the activities. Only in psycho social activities there were **122 children** who received **3 701 sessions**.

Based on the evaluation done from the CBR team there are children who need to be present in both activities, the number of children who attended both services during this period was 203 who received total of 14 187 sessions.

- **Referring**

Other important services for children with disability and their health condition is HandiKOS referral system, which evaluates their Health condition and further suggests to the professional and institutional care. Evaluation of the condition of the disabled children continued during the period January September 2007 and based on the results of evaluation children are referred to the specific health care, total number of children which were evaluated from the CBR team in all **12** centers of HandiKOS was **52**. To the:

- Educational system **25** children
- Chirurgical operation **9** children
- Ophthalmologist **9** children
- Neurology **10** children
- Ortho Prosthetic center – **15** children
- Psychologist – 5 children
- Special chair **7** children

- **Trainings and Meetings with the parents**

The most important partners of HandiKOS on implementing the program especially related to the children are parents of children with disabilities, there for their capacity building and meetings with them are continues process. During the period January – September 2007 the HandiKOS staff organized a various trainings and meetings with parents of children with disabilities in each Center. Major trainings were focused on rights of the children for education and in building their capacities on lobbying and advocacy work. Same time HandiKOS staff, organizes the individual meetings and consultations with parents of the children depending from the situation of their disability, and also are distributed guides and relevant brochures to increase their knowledge related to the treatment of specific disabilities of the children.

2. Lobbying and Advocacy – Supporting PWD – Local Offices

- **Persons with disabilities**

Staff of the local offices, as continues process and part of the program supported people with disabilities through direct visits – home visits. Main reason of the home visits is to advice people with disabilities for preventing deformities, contractures and other causes. Other objective of the visits is to advice people with disabilities about the human rights,

new laws and legislations that are related to disability. Number of People with disabilities which were visited for first time during this period was: **387**, continues visit's for people with disabilities to whom the support is most needed was **201**.

It is important to mention also that during this period HandiKOS with the support of UNICEF is implementing the project "Equal access to education" for children, first objective of the project is to register the children with disabilities that are not included in the educational system and to identify the reasons for that.

Only during the first phase of the project's implementation HandiKOS staff from the local offices achieved to directly visit at their homes **228 children** with disabilities.

Data's collected during the first phase of the project will be presented in front of the Ministry of Education and municipal institutions responsible for education.

- **Donors**

As reported in previous reports, HandiKOS achieved to secure funds to cover the costs of the network for the last period of 2007 from the donor, Non Governmental organization "Wamba - Athena" from Italy. After the Ministry for Foreign affairs of Finland the Italian Donor Wamba Athena is the most important donor. It is important to mention that the agreement for donation is signed between the Italian Donor Wamba Athena, Ministry of Labor and social welfare and HandiKOS as the implementing agency. This agreement includes the Ministry of Labor and social welfare to financially contribute on services provided from HandiKOS and also to monitor the implementation of the activities

When it comes to donations, HandiKOS local offices are focused also on including local donors to support the activities of HandiKOS, during this period local offices in Skenderaj, Lipjan, Kaqanik and also centers in Prishtina, Gjilan, Malisheva, Suhareka, Drenas achieved to include the municipal authorities to financially support their activities, other donor that supported activities and services of the local office in Istog is Spanish KFOR.

Many objectives that HandiKOS implements are supported from other donors, it's important to mention the project supported from UNICEF which works on inclusion of the children with disabilities in the regular school system.

Other important donor is the INGO "Save the children", the organization that covers the costs of the office in the north part of Mitrovica.

In the field of capacity building and awareness raising the donors were organization "FDI" (foundation development Initiative, ATRC – IREX financed by USAID, Handicap International, etc.

Related to the peer support and recreational activities the main donor as previous years was the donor from Italy, Onlus Bazzoni, this organization supported the summer camp in Montenegro sea side for 155 people with disabilities and their family members.

- **Distributions**

One of the results of the Home visits is also identifying needs of people with disabilities about the necessary orthopedic and sanitarian material. During this period HandiKOS staff achieved to distribute 97 Wheelchairs, toilet Wheelchairs 3, crouches 16, walkers 2, anti decubit cushion 6 pieces and 1 small wheelchair for children.

It is important to mention that the needs of people with disabilities for orthopedic and sanitarian material are increased comparing with other years in the same time unfortunately the number of the donors that supported HandiKOS with this material are decreased. Considering that for people with disabilities HandiKOS is the only organization that provides such a material and in other hand there is still missing the support from the governmental institutions in this direction, it makes HandiKos the only hope for people with disabilities to cover their most necessary needs.

The equipment that HandiKOS distribute are 100% received from the international donors, during the period January – September 2007 we received donation from the Danish KFOR, Organization “Presence aid humanitare” from France, etc.

HandiKOS sub- office in Mitrovica (North)

The office and staff in the HandiKOS sub office in North part of Mitrovica are financially supported from the International NGO “Save the Children”. This office is working based on the general plan and program of HandiKOS, but also during this period they achieved to implement other Projects that are focused on capacity building and recreational activities for people with disabilities from the Serbian minority.

“Save the children” is financing the project for building the centre for people with disabilities which will have multi ethnical approach. The building is planned to be finalized by the end of this year.

Also it is important to mention that part of the orthopaedic equipment received from the Danish KFOR was distributed in north part of Mitrovica through our sub office with the goal of fulfilling the needs of people with disabilities there.

Please find attached the annex 1 of the report related to the specific activities.