

National Action Plan "On identification and protection of children in street situation 2015- 2017"

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2015 – JUNE 2016



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Introduction

Protection of children in street situation since 2015 is the focus of the institutions as one of the most vulnerable groups, who are involved in some of the worst forms of labour. In order to protect the children in street situation, a cooperation agreement "On identification and protection of children in street situation"¹ was signed in 2014 between The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Based on the study on children in street situation at national level in Albania carried out in April of 2014² and pursuant to this Agreement, it has been drafted the National Action Plan "On identification and protection of children in street situation 2015-2017". This plan has been drafted after abroad inter-sectoral consultation process with stakeholders from central and local institutions as well as partner organizations and it is based on the legal framework that regulates the coordination of work for children protection issues³. The National Action Plan has as its purpose the protection of children from all forms of abuse, exploitation and neglect, through a thorough, integrated, inter-sectoral intervention on children protection and strengthening of their families.

The National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights (NAPCR) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan, as well as the coordination of inter-sectoral interventions including public and private stakeholders. Pursuant to this function, NAPCR supports the local stakeholders in the coordination and implementation of the Plan, performs monitoring, collects data and drafts periodic and annual reports on the implementation of this Action Plan. This report is the second of its kind covering the period from July 2015 - June 2016.⁴

The coordination and intervention mechanism was initially piloted in Tirana, serving as a model for the drafting of the appropriate procedures for the identification and referral of children in street situation. Based on this experience, with the support of OSCE Presence in Albania and in cooperation with the State Social Service, in 2015 it was finalized "Manual on procedures for the identification, immediate assistance and referral of children in street situation".

¹ The agreement was initially signed in 2014 between the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and Ministry of Interior and then later in June 2015 was also signed from the Ministry of Education and Sports.

² The complete study on children in street situation at national level in Albania:

http://www.sociale.gov.al/files/news_files/Studimi.pdf

³ Guideline No. 10, dated 25.02.2015 "Manner, form of cooperation and procedure of intervention by the institutions and main structures responsible for the protection of children to assist children at risk".

⁴ Periodic report 2014-2015 in the following link: <http://femijet.gov.al/al/ep-content/uploads/2015/05/Raport-mbi-zbatimin-e-Planit-t%C3%AB-Veprimit-p%C3%ABr-Identifikimin-dhe-Mbrojtjen-e-F%C3%ABmij%C3%ABve-n%C3%AB-Situat%C3%AB-Rruge-2014-2015.pdf>

NAPCR has coordinated the expansion of implementation of the Plan in 2015 in the following municipalities: Durrës, Elbasan and Fier. At the end of 2015 and during 2016 the municipalities of Shkodra, Vlora and Korça have also been included.

In this report you will find a documentation of the work carried out by the Child Protection Unit and other stakeholders working to protect the children in street situations, the results achieved so far and it also identifies challenges ahead. The report brings a series of figures regarding identified and managed cases, as well as regarding some of the key services and interventions used in the framework of case management. This document highlights that thanks to the cooperation institution-organization – family it is made possible the strengthening of many families who have come out of street situations. It nevertheless identifies the need for constant, long-term and integrated interventions within a systematic approach to child protection.

Summary

Actually, the Action Plan is being implemented in the municipalities of Tiranë, Durrës, Shkodra, Elbasan, Fier, Korça and Vlora. The needs of children and families as well as the specifics of local structures vary from a municipality to another, making the implementation of the Action Plan variable. Nevertheless, the experience of implementation of the Action Plan for children in street situation in all municipalities has shown that due to the cooperation between all central and local institutional and non-governmental stakeholders concrete and positive results can be achieved in the solution of cases – even the most complex ones – of children and families in street situation.

During July 2015 – June 2016 in the abovementioned municipalities **414 new cases** of children in street situation have been identified and during June 2014 – June 2015, **401** children in street situation. Identifications have been conducted from field teams in each municipality. The field teams are composed of CPU workers, State Police and Organizations acting in these municipalities. The number of field teams in each municipality has changed in different time periods depending on the situation of children in street situations and on human resources. At the end of June 2016, **24 field teams were functional**.

Managed cases of children in street situations are **in total 304**. The number of children removed from street situation in comparison with those identified in this situation is low and this remains one of the biggest challenges. The establishment of services and draft of individual plans for every identified case is necessary in each municipality. The most positive example is the Municipality of Elbasan where the services have been provided in 100% of identified cases. Also in the Municipality of Tirana, regardless of the high number of children in street situation, 211 children in street situation have been managed.

There have been **24 criminal charges** for cases of flagrant exploitation of children for economic profit. Registrations of children in street situation in school, kindergarten, nurseries and employment of their parents remain the biggest challenges. This happens because the quota in schools, kindergartens, nurseries is limited, children registered are often dropouts and a proper response of school or social services workers is lacking in these cases. The prejudices for these groups, low level of education and limited job positions, hinder the employment of parents of children in street situation.

In addition, NAPCR, in cooperation with central and local institutions and organizations, aims to expand the action plan in other municipalities. The decrease of number of exploited children for labour and begging is our main and common objective.

1. Strengthening inter-sectoral cooperation to realize coordinated multi-disciplinary intervention for the protection of children in street situation and support for their families (Objective 1)

1.1 Innovations in Albanian legislation on children in street situations: Draft law "On the rights and protection of the child"

The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth has drafted the draft law "On the rights and protection of the child", which for the first time sets out the protection of children in street situations in the framework of protection guaranteed for children working and being exploited for work.

Article 24 of this draft law stipulates the protection of the child from economic exploitation, as well as from any form of forced labour within the family, school, rehabilitation or detention institutions, or in cultural, artistic, sportive, modelling activities or for advertising purposes, that may be dangerous, hinder their education, damages their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. Also, any practice through which the child is obliged to perform actions, whether or not rewarded, is prohibited regardless of the parents being aware of it.

The practice created in implementation of the Action Plan will inform the procedures that will actually be binding by law for the identification, protection and reintegration of these children. Article 62 sets out all the concrete actions that every child protection worker should undertake, from the moment of identification until the monitoring of the child after the removal from the street situation. This law assigns the responsible structures for children protection to undertake concrete actions, with the support of the State Police for the removal of children from the economic exploitation or street situation.

1.2 Guideline "On providing emergency service in social care institutions financed from by state budget funds that provide services of residential care for children in need"

According to the Guideline No.10, dated 25.02.2016, after the identification of the child at risk, including the children in street situation, it is defined the risk level. The level of immediate risk requires urgent intervention. In function of providing this service, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth has drafted Guideline No.14, dated 10.05.2016 "On providing emergency service in social care institutions financed from state budget funds that provide services of residential care for children in need"⁵. This guideline establishes that children in emergency situation, in need of immediate protection, can be welcomed for 72 hours at these institutions according to the respective above mentioned guideline.

Within 12 hours, the Social Care public institutions coordinate the work with the Child Protection Unit to undertake the actions set out in the DCM No. 265, dated 12.04.2012 "On the creation and functioning of the work coordination mechanism between state authorities, responsible for referring cases of children at risk and the way it proceeds". Within 48 hours from the receipt of notice, the Child Protection Unit officially notifies the decision of the Multi-disciplinary Technical Group to the Social Care Institution where the child is accommodated. The decision should clearly express if the child will be reunited with the biological family, will receive alternative community care or will continue the procedures in the Social Care Institution.

Until the end of June 2016 there have been established the emergency rooms in the municipalities of Tirana, Shkodra, Durrës, Vlora, Elbasan. In the municipalities of Fier and Korça, due to the lack of residential institutions, there is no emergency service. During July 2015 - June 2016, the emergency service for children in street situation was realized from the Arsis Organization, which has offered this service for 97 children in street situation, identified at high risk and in need for immediate intervention.

1.3 Local Plans for children in Street Situation

Based on the National Action Plan for children in street situation 2015-2017 as well as the performance of work so far, drafting of local plans for children in street situation in the respective municipalities is under way. These plans are aimed at undertaking institutional responsibilities and coordinating interventions of local institutions.

The drafting process of local plans included some phases until the final product. The process was coordinated from the National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights, with the technical

⁵Guideline No. 14 dated 10.05.2016 "On providing emergency service in social care institutions financed from by state budget funds that provide services of residential care for children in need"

assistance of the OSCE Presence in Albania. Initially the analysis of needs for every municipality was conducted through inter-sectoral meetings, with representatives from local institutions and organizations working in the field. On the basis of analysis and following a similar structure, the local plans were drafted containing the objectives, duties, deadlines, responsible stakeholders and budgeting.

Even though the field experience in 7 municipalities has started and a mechanism for the identification and management of children cases has been established, drafting of local plans is a necessity regarding the planning of different human and financial resources. These plans will be part of wider local plans on children protection, in the framework of local plans for the protection and social inclusion.

Local plans are finalized and adopted through a joint order of the Chairman of the Municipality, Regional Educational Directorate, Labour Office and the Regional Police Directorate, in 3 municipalities: Korça, Vlora and Shkodra. The joint orders engage institutions in taking the tasks as stated in the implementation of local plans for children in street situation.⁶

In Durrës, Fier and Elbasan, the drafting process has concluded and is expected for approval. In Tirana, the analysis of needs has concluded and the first version of the local plan is being drafted.

1.4 Coordination on implementation of Action Plan

Thanks to the support of UNICEF-Albania, a staff of 3 workers acts with the National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights, as the coordinating core for the implementation and monitoring of Action Plan at this level. This team ensures the coordination of work of field teams, support of municipalities involved in the pro-active identification of children in street situations as well as coordination with non-profit organization and providing services from local institutions.

Also, this team has enabled the monitoring of the hotspots in Tirana after the official working time and during weekends. This team also monitors the performance of local plans in each of the municipalities, drafts reports at the national level, by identifying the problems.

⁶<http://femijet.gov.al/al/ëp-content/uploads/2016/10/Plani-i-Veprimit-per-femijet-ne-situete-rruge-bashkia-Vlore.pdf>
<http://femijet.gov.al/al/ëp-content/uploads/2016/10/Plani-i-Veprimit-per-femijet-ne-situete-rruge-bashkia-Shkoder.pdf>
<http://femijet.gov.al/al/ëp-content/uploads/2016/10/Plani-i-Veprimit-per-femijet-ne-situete-rruge-bashkia-Korce.pdf>

1.5 Manual on procedures for the identification and referral of children in street situation

With the support of OSCE, the Manual on procedures was drafted and produced for the identification and referral of children in street situation. This manual is a practical document, through which the professionals working for the assessment and case identification of children in street situation may find the standard procedures on how to act on these cases. The Manual comes as an additional framework of steps and actions that professionals have as obligation to undertake in cases of interventions.⁷

The Manual was launched in the Municipality of Vlora in an activity organized in the framework of the National Plan of Mobilization #IProtecttheChildren. The participants in this activity were: The Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Mr. Blend Klosi, Chairman of the Municipality of Vlora, Mr. Dritan Leli and the Ambassador of the OSCE Presence in Albania, Mr. Florian Rauning.

2. Coordination with Neighbouring Countries (Objective 2)

With the purpose of children protection from trafficking, in particular children in street situation as the most risked category of being victims to trafficking, Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania have agreed on a Cooperation Protocol and procedures for implementation of this protocol have been drafted as well.

The process has been led by the Ministry of Interior, the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and the National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights has assisted in unifying the forms and procedures for the implementation of the protocol for trafficking victims between these three countries.

These unified forms will facilitate the procedures in case of children identification as victims of trafficking for every worker on children protection.

A procedural guideline will be available on the steps to be followed for the filling of these forms.

4. Identification and management of cases of children in street situation (Objective 3)

⁷<http://femijet.gov.al/al/ep-content/uploads/2016/02/UDH%C3%8BZUES-I-PROCEDURAVE-P%C3%8BR-IDENTIFIKIMIN-NDIHM%C3%8BN-E-MENJ%C3%8BHERSHME-DHE-REFERIMIN-E-F%C3%8BBIJ%C3%8BVE-N%C3%8B-SITUAT%C3%8B-RRUGE-2015.pdf>

Identification of children in street situation will be carried out from the Field Teams (FT), which will frequent the streets, especially the most frequented areas from this group of children, to directly identify the children in street situation, to give the first assistance and to immediately refer it to the responsible structures for case management⁸

The set up of Field Teams has been a necessity for the identification process of children in street situation, in each of the respective municipalities. In July 2016 in the municipalities concerned were active 24 field teams. These teams monitor public spaces, especially the most frequented areas from this group of children, to directly identify the children in street situation, to give the first assistance and to immediately refer it to the responsible structures for case management. The Field Teams for Identification, Assistance and Referral of Children in Street Situations are set up at the Social Services Directorate in Municipality and are composed of at least 2 social workers: 1 Child Protection Worker at the Municipality Unit and 1 experienced social worker assigned from the Social Services Directorate in municipality and/or a social worker from a civil society organization.

SSDM is the responsible institution for organizing the activity of Field Teams and preparing monthly calendars for this purpose. Attached to the plan, are delivered all the contact details of the employees of moving teams. NAPCR collects data and creates a database for children in street situation at national level, as well as prepares an annual report on the implementation of the National Action Plan⁹.

Identification and referral of children in street situation to the Child Protection Unit is only the first step for children in street situations. After identification, the work starts with case management and providing the necessary services for his/her removal from the street and improving his/her family life. The multi-disciplinary technical groups gather depending on the case and needs of providing these services. This group functions according to the 4 ministerial Guideline No.10 dated 25.02.2014 "On manners, cooperation forms and intervention procedures in helping the children at risk for institutions and main responsible structures for child protection".¹⁰

Case management may be defined as the process that ensures to the identified child the fulfilment of his/her needs for care, protection and support. Usually, this is the duty of a social worker assigned to meet the child, family, other custodian and professionals concerned with the child, with the purpose of assessment, planning, treatment of child/family for services or

⁸Guideline of procedures on the identification, immediate help and referral of children in street situations.

⁹ <http://femijet.gov.al/al/ëp-content/uploads/2014/04/Plani-Veprimit-Femijet>

¹⁰ <http://femijet.gov.al/al/ëp-content/uploads/2015/05/Udh%C3%ABzimi-Nr.-10-dat%C3%AB-25.02.2015.pdf>

*approach of issues regarding this category of children/families, as well as the monitoring and review of performance.*¹¹

In the child protection system, the effective mechanisms for case management are of main importance with the aim that the cases of children in street situations get the appropriate and urgent response so that the needs of children and their families will be assessed to obtain the appropriate support until they are removed from the street situation and integrated in society.

In implementation of legislation on children protection in Albania and the National Action Plan for children in street situation, some of the services provided for families with children in street situation consist of:

- Registration of any child identified as unregistered in the National Register of Civil Status completing the necessary documentation and following the appropriate procedures.
- Vaccination of any identified as unvaccinated child.
- Medical visits in healthcare institutions for children and support with medicines.
- Registration in school and kindergartens
- Employment of parents
- Referral on attendance in children day centres
- Placement in social care institution in case of the best interest of the child, etc.

Table 1. No. of identified children and cases managed during June 2014-June 2015 and July 2015-June 2016¹²

Municipality	No. of Children identified in street situation		No. of cases managed by Child Protection Units		No. of new cases managed by CPUs
	Jun 2014 - Jun 2015	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	Jun 2014 - Jun 2015	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016
Tirana	315	242	141	211¹³	70
Elbasan	37	27	23	27¹⁴	21

¹¹The future of the integrated system for children protection in Albania - Document on policies, prepared by the expert Mrs. Anniki Lai

¹²Data on the children identified in street situation and managed are taken from the central database that the NAPCR has

¹³ From 211 cases in management during July 2015-June 2016, 141 cases are in process of management from 2015 and 70 are new cases in management process.

¹⁴From 27 cases in management during July 2015-June 2016, 9 cases are in process of management from 2015 and 18 are new cases in management process.

Durrës	38	71	12	41 ¹⁵	38
Fier	11	19	1	14 ¹⁶	13
Vlora ¹⁷		6		2	2
Shkodra ¹⁸		41		20	20
Korça ⁸		8		3	3
TOTAL	401	414	177	304	167

4.1 Municipality of Tirana

4.1.1 Identification of children in street situation

During July 2015 - June 2016 there were identified **242 children in street situations**.

During June 2014 - June 2015 there were identified **315 children in street situations**.

The process for the identification of children and families in street situation that has started from 2014 continues with a stabilized rhythm in Tirana. The field teams operate in 11 Administrative Units in Tirana, composed of Child Protection Units and social workers of civil society organizations ("ARSIS", "SHKEJ", "Different equal", "Day Centre for children in street situation - Save the children", FBSH) supported by the core coordinating of the National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights. They operate in the field according to the local units based on a defined schedule from the Social Service Directorate in the Municipality of Tirana.

During October-December, NAPCR with CPU No.4 and No. 11, Labour Office, Police of the Tirana County, Police Station No.4, Police Station No.2 and organizations ARSIS, SHKEJ and FBSH, have visited three times the targeted communities in the Bregu i Lumit and Shkozë areas, with the purpose of evaluating the needs of these families and identifying children in street situation in these areas.

¹⁵ From 41 cases in management during July 2015-June 2016, 3 cases are in process of management from 2015 and 38 are new cases in management process.

¹⁶ From 14 cases in management during July 2015-June 2016, 1 case is in process of management from 2015 and there are 13 new cases in management process.

¹⁷ The figures for this municipality belong to the period May 2016, because of the lack of Children Protection Unit after this period.

¹⁸ Figures for this municipality belong to the period April 2016-June 2016.

The core team set up at the NAPCR in support of field teams of the Municipality of Tirana carried out field visits during the morning hours. Starting from March, the core team has carried out field visits in afternoon hours and weekends, visiting the "hottest" areas for identifying the children in street situation.

Starting from June 2016, based on the Territorial Reform, in the Municipality of Tirana 24 Child Protection Workers are active. The new workers have received initial training on the identification and management process of children in street situation and have already started the cases management. However, a more in-depth training is required regarding management procedures of cases of children at risk, particularly of those in street situations.

During 10 June - 10 July 2016, the number of children in street situation increased significantly because of the European Football Championship. Given this situation an emergency plan was drafted by the municipality of Tirana in cooperation with NAPCR and State Police. This emergency plan consisted of setting up field teams in 6 most problematic areas of Tirana, in which monitoring was conducted all day long, with the participation of social workers of community centres of the Municipality of Tirana. In some specific areas the field monitoring was conducted until 23:00. 15 trainees of NAPCR, trained by the staff of the Agency also joined this emergency plan. According to a joint schedule between the municipality of Tirana and Agency, the trainees conducted field identification divided into groups.

4.1.2 Management of children in street situation

During July 2015 - June 2016 there were managed **211** children in street situation from which **141** children are in management process from June 2014 - June 2015 and **70** are new cases for the period July 2015 - June 2016.

During June 2015-February 2016, in the Municipality of Tirana 11 Child Protection Units have been active, which have carried out management processing of **169 children** identified in street situation. In February 2016, due to staff restructuring of eight CPUs, accordingly CPUs in administrative units No: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11. The municipality of Tirana took measures on the continuation of functioning of case management through the Office of Social Inclusion and Protection Directorate and Administrators of Administrative Units of this municipality. For the period February-May **17 cases** of children in street situation have been managed. In May 2016, based on the new administrative division of the Municipality of Tirana, 23 Child Protection Units were appointed.¹⁹ During May - June 2016, **25 cases** of children in street situation have been managed.

a) Employment of parents of children in street situation

¹⁹ According to the administrative division there are 24 Administrative Units. It is in process the appointment in the Child Protection Unit in the Administrative Unit Pezë.

The economic strengthening of the family is one of the main aspects that affect child/family to come out of the street situation. The official appointment of a dedicated social worker at the Labour Offices that will coordinate with CPU for the employment of families in street situation, but also of other vulnerable groups has facilitated the management process resulting in **96 employment cases** for the period July 2015 - June 2016.

During the case management, the Social Worker of the Employment group has participated in the technical meetings, organized by the Child Protection Units for different identified cases in street situations. The employment cases concerned mainly the private sector. 159 employment cases have been referred but due to the reasons mentioned below; the employment of all referred persons has not been possible. The challenges in the process are:

- Lack of institutions as nurseries and kindergartens for placement of children. Noncooperation of relatives for children care. This has been an excuse of parents refusing the job offered.
- Business need for qualified workers.
- Prejudices about Roma/Egyptian community. Negative experiences the businesses have from its members.

b) Registration in schools and kindergartens

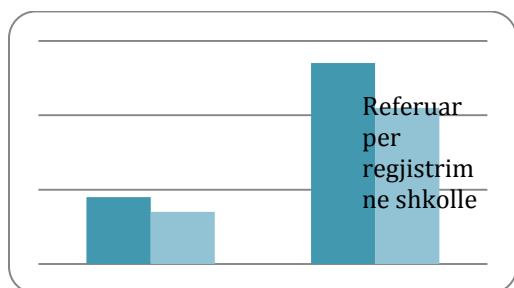
The right to education is a constitutional right of every child and their removal from street and attendance of school remains one of the challenges in the process of case management by CPUs. For the academic year 2015-2016, 253 children in street situation have been referred for registration in school and **42 children** have already been registered. For the academic year 2016-2017, 131 children have been referred for registration and **118 children** have already been registered.

The distance of residence from school, lack of documentation or the difficulty to return to school after some years of abandonment, has made this process even more difficult.

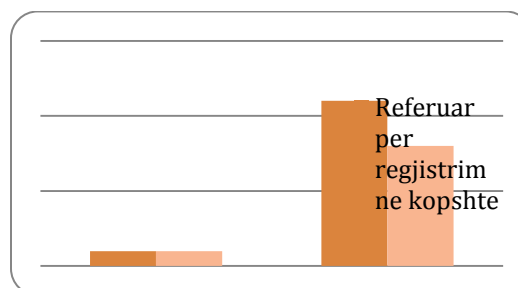
The children registered in school have been provided with books, bags and didactic means from organizations working to help the children in street situations in Municipality of Tirana. (Arsis, SHKEJ, Different and equal, Multi-disciplinary Centre for children in street situation - Save the Children). Child Protection Units, Regional Educational Directorate, teachers and organizations for children in street situations are monitoring their attendance of school. For the year 2015-2016, 55 children in street situation have been referred for registration in kindergartens and **17** of them have been registered. For the year 2016-2017, 122 children have been referred for registration in kindergartens and **46** of them have been registered. Due to the limited quota in public kindergartens, distance from the residence with kindergartens, the registration of all referred children has not been possible. The economic difficulties of families to have an

acceptable hygiene for children and lack of necessary documentation for registration have been causes for non-registration in kindergartens.

Graphic 2. Referral and registration in school



Graphic 3. Referral and registration in kindergartens



[Referred for enrolment in school; Referred for enrolment in kindergarten]

c) Placement of children at Residential Institutions

The Multidisciplinary Technical Groups have organized meetings on the management of cases identified in street situation in the Municipality of Tirana. The institutionalization of children in street situation is not the approach of professionals working for the management of these cases. The institutionalized care has only been used in the best interest of the child, as a last resort and having as the main objective the successful integration of the child.

From the decisions of MTG, **9 children** have been accommodated at the Social Care Institutions. Respectively: 2 children at the institution “Hana dhe Rozafa”, a child at the Orphanage in Durrës, three children at SOS Village, 2 children at the Orphanage “Zyber Hallulli” and one child at the Residential Centre “Vatër e ngrohtë” in Gjirokastra. The families of these children, which have not used the children for economic profit, are being assisted from services of Child Protection Units and organizations with the aim of strengthening them and returning children to their own families.

During the process of case management, when identified and verified from the CPU, from the Organizations supporting the management of children and NAPCR, regarding exploitation and maltreatment of minors for economic profit, **22 criminal proceedings** have been filed with the Municipality of Tirana.

d) Providing main services

For every identified case in street situation and that has started to be managed from the Child Protection Unit, an Individual Plan has been drafted, and depending on the needs, services have been provided as well. Since the moment of identification or visit in family from CPU,

counselling has been offered for the child and family regarding the risk of staying in streets for work or begging and their referral to the appropriate offices to obtain services.

The referral for registration in day centres that provide services for children in street situation and attendance of centres from children has resulted positive in the process of case management. The psychological counselling, providing packages of food and clothing, paying the rent until the economic strengthening of the family, providing a meal, orientation for the vaccination of children and registration at the civil status centre result in the support for children in street situation and their families which until now has been provided from these organizations.

Table No.2 Management of cases of children in street situation in the Municipality of Tirana

Service provided	Result
Registered in kindergartens 2015 -2016	17 children registered in kindergartens
Registered in kindergartens 2016 -2017	46 children registered in kindergartens
Registered in schools 2015-2017	42 children registered in school
Registered in school 2016-2016	118 children registered in school
Parents employed	96 employment cases
Parents/Exploiters criminally liable for child exploitation	22 criminal proceedings
Placement in social care institution	9 children
Basic services	211 children in street situation

4.2 Municipality of Elbasan

4.2.1 Identification of children in street situation

During the period July 2015 – June 2016 there were identified **27 children in street situation.**

During the period June 2014 – June 2015 there were identified **37 children in street situation.**

Throughout the year, in the Municipality of Elbasan there have been active 3 field teams, which except the identification monitor also the cases in management. The ground teams are composed of Child Protection Unit, workers of organizations acting in Elbasan (Roma community centre, Another Vision, Help for Children, Help for the Balkans, Roman Voice, Animators Orionin and CRCA), social service workers of the municipality and police.

Due to the systematic field work and services offered by the case management, the number of children begging in the city of Elbasan has been significantly reduced.

For the period, July 2015-June 2016 there were identified 27 cases of children in street situation. Municipality of Elbasan is one of the municipalities which have the best cooperation with all the institutions and organizations for the identification and management of cases of children in street situation.

4.2.1 Management of children in street situations

During July 2015-June 2016 there were managed 27 children in street situation, 9 of them have been in management process for the period June 2014-June 2015 and 18 are new cases for management.

The positive cooperation between institutional and non-governmental stakeholders is reflected in 100% management of identified cases in the Municipality of Elbasan. During this year, the work of CPUs and all professionals that work for children protection has been more focused in case management and their monitoring.

For every managed child the individual plan has been drafted and the MTG meeting has been held. Every task set in the meeting is carried out from stakeholders (RED, Labour Office, Police, non-governmental organization, State Social Service).

a) Employment of parents of children in street situations

Thanks to the cooperation of CPU with Terre des Hommes organization, in the municipality of Elbasan, it has been achieved the self-employment of two parents of children in street situation selling used clothes. Terre des Hommes has provided a microcredit for these parents. 3 other employment cases belong to the private sector. Employment is one of the most successful aspects in case management in this municipality because in 6 referred cases for employment, 5 of them are today employed.

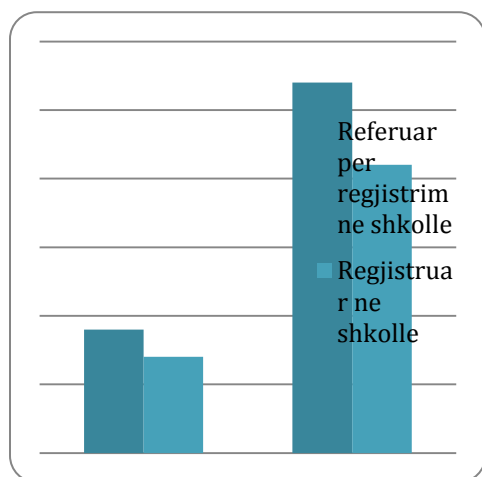
b) Registration of children in schools and kindergartens

During the two academic years reported for this report (2015-2016 and 2016-2016) registration of children in street situation in schools and kindergartens has resulted successful.

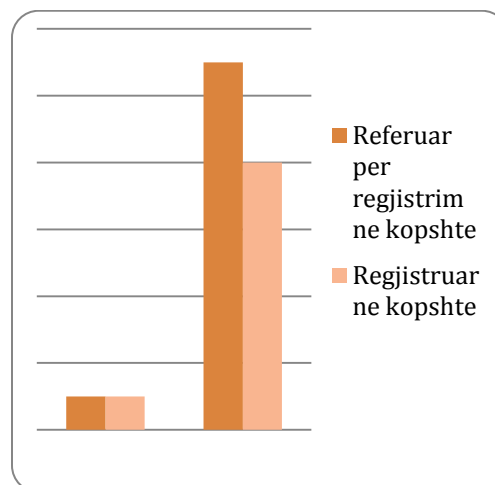
In the academic year 3 children in street situation have been referred for registration in kindergartens and all the 3 are registered. In the academic year 2016-2017, 5 children in street situation have been referred for registration and today all of them attend kindergarten.

Regarding registration in school for the academic year 2015-2016, 11 cases have been referred and 8 of them have been registered and in the academic year 2016-2017, 16 children have been referred and registered in school. CPU and the organizations that cooperate for helping children in Elbasan are monitoring the attendance of school from these children.

Graphic 3. Referral and registration in school



Graphic 4. Referral and registration in kindergartens



[Referred for enrolment in school; Enrolled in school; Referred for enrolment in kindergarten; Enrolled in kindergarten]

c) Placement in Residential Care institution

Due to the continuous maltreatment and exploitation for begging of 2 minor girls from their mother and step-father, MTG decided to place the girls at the Residential Care Institution and to criminally prosecute their parents.

d) Other services

Registration at the civil status centre, accompaniment to the health centres, providing books and packages of food and clothing, referral on attendance of day centres are some of the services offered by the Municipality of Elbasan in the management of 21 children in street situation.

Continuous support and monitoring of the situation of these children and families is a joint process of all stakeholders in this municipality.

Table No. 3 Management of cases of children in street situation in the municipality of Elbasan

Service provided	Result
Registered in kindergartens 2015 -2016	3 children registered in kindergartens
Registered in kindergartens 2016 -2017	5 children registered in kindergartens
Registered in school 2015-2017	8 children registered in school
Registered in school 2016-2016	16 children registered in school
Working parents	5 (2 parents sell used clothes through the microcredit enabled by Terre des Hommes and 3 others are employed in the private sector)
Parents/ Exploiters criminally liable for child exploitation	1 (one of which with criminal records)
Housing reconstruction	1
Registration in civil status centre	1
Urgent health service	1
Placement in social care institution	2 children (2 girls whose parents were criminally charged for maltreatment of

minor)

4.3 Municipality of Fier

4.3.1 Identification of children in street situation

During July 2015 - June 2016 there were identified **19 children in street situation**.

During June 2014 - June 2015 there were identified **11 children in street situation**.

In the municipality of Fier, the work of field teams proceeds based on a calendar approved from the Social Service Director at this municipality. The field teams are composed of CPUs, workers from the Social Services Directorate as well as workers of the Terre des Hommes organization.

During the period July 2015 - June 2016, 19 children in street situation have been identified from 2 of the field teams established in this municipality. The process of identification of children in street situation has been facilitated very much from a field worker of Terre des Hommes organization, who speaks the Roma language. The number of children in street situation in Fier has changed at different periods of reporting: during January-March 2016 there has been a decline in the number of children in street situation. The children in street situation are mostly from Levan and all belong to the Roma and Egyptian communities.

4.3.2 Management of children in street situation

During July 2015 – June 2016, **14 cases of identified children in street situation** have been managed, **of which 1 case in management process in the period June 2014-June 2015 and 13 are new cases**.

The movement of families and children in street situation identified in the city of Fier in different periods of the year to other cities such as Durrës, Tirana, Vlora makes the process of case management more difficult.

The lack of cooperation between institutions and lack of services for children at this municipality have also been reasons for the failure to manage every identified child in street situation. The Judicial Office at the municipality and the Labour Office have not been cooperative in case management and one of the most concerning challenges is the dropout from children and the

failure of Regional Education Directorate to refer them. As to the monitoring of children regarding the school attendance for the academic year 2015-2016, CPU has cooperated with the Observatory for Children's Rights.

Table No. 4. Management of children in street situation in municipality of Fier

Service provided	Result
Registered in kindergartens 2015 -2016	0 children registered in kindergartens
Registered in kindergartens 2016 -2017	There were no children referred for registration from the Child Protection Unit.
Registered in school 2015-2017	13 children registered in school
Registered in school 2016-2016	There were no children referred for registration from the Child Protection Unit.
Employed parents	1 parent support for mini business in home conditions
Parents/ Exploiters criminally liable for child exploitation	1
Placement in social care institution	0
Placement in custody	1 case

4.4 Municipality of Durrës

4.4.1 Identification of children in street situation

During July 2015 - June 2016 there were identified **71 children in street situation.**

During July 2014 –June 2015 there were identified **38 children in street situation.**

a) In the municipality of Durres, the field teams are composed of CPU, Social Services Directorate in municipality, Multifunctional Community Centre – Nishtulla and from organizations: Centre for Community Development “Today for the Future”, Association for Women with social problems, day centre “Morning Sun”.

Durres Municipality is one of the municipalities with the biggest number of identified children in street situation (after Tirana with 242 children in street situation). Characteristic of identified children in street situations in this municipality is that most of them come from other cities. From the identification, there are 71 children in street situation where:

- 13 cases have been referred to CPU Elbasan
- 12 cases have been referred to CPU Fier
- 2 cases have been referred to CPU Gramsh
- 3 cases have been referred to CPU Tirana

The number of children in street situation has varied at different periods of the year.

During summer, the identifications have been more concentrated in the area of Shëtitore and the beach, as the most problematic areas. The identified children and families are mainly from the cities of Elbasan and Fier, who during the summer season are placed in Durrës or are on the move every day. Children beg or sell most of the time and in most cases are accompanied by their relatives.

During July 2015, due to the large number of children selling in the beach area of Durrës, field teams of Tirana joined the action organized by the Agency in cooperation with the Social Service Directorate at the Municipality of Durres and CPU Durrës, local institutions, organizations acting in Durrës and organizations acting and providing services in Tirana. A total of 21 people were divided into 6 field teams combined with representatives from Tirana and Durres. These teams were operating in the field to exchange experience but also to help professionals in Durrës on the identification of cases of children who beg and sell in these areas.

Another action coordinated by the Child Protection Unit in the period July-August 2015, with the participation of 15 persons in 5 field teams, supported by World Vision identified 32 children who sell during the summer in the ‘Gjiri i Lalësit’ area. All children were contacted, families were visited and data of them and their family members were obtained as well.

During September 2015 it was reported a significant decrease in the number of children who beg or work. This is related to the end of touristic period and the return of children and families in their cities of origin.

Given the Local Plan for children in street situation, 15 trainees have been engaged at the Social Service Department Durrës, who after being trained by the staff of NAPCR on the identification

procedures and cases referral of children in street situations, were organized in 5 field teams which made identifications in the hottest areas of the city during the summer season 2016.

4.4.2 Management of children in street situation

During July 2015 - June 2016, **41 children in street situation** have been managed, out of whom **3 are managed cases for 2014-2015 and 38 for July 2015 - June 2016.**

Sometimes, the process of children management in street situations by actors who work for children protection in street situation has not functioned due to the lack of cooperation and non-implementation of duties set from MTG.

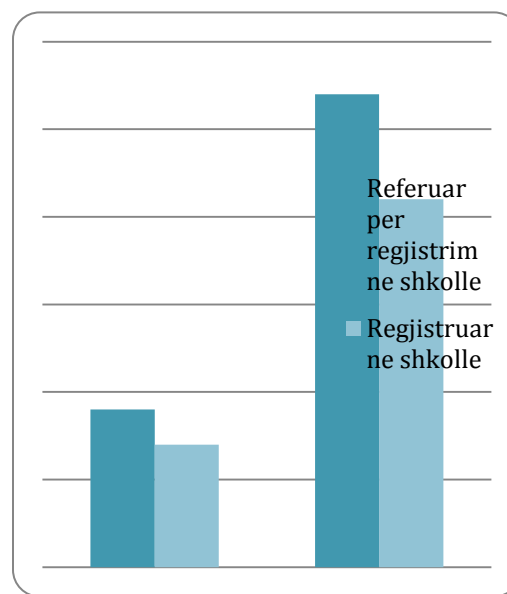
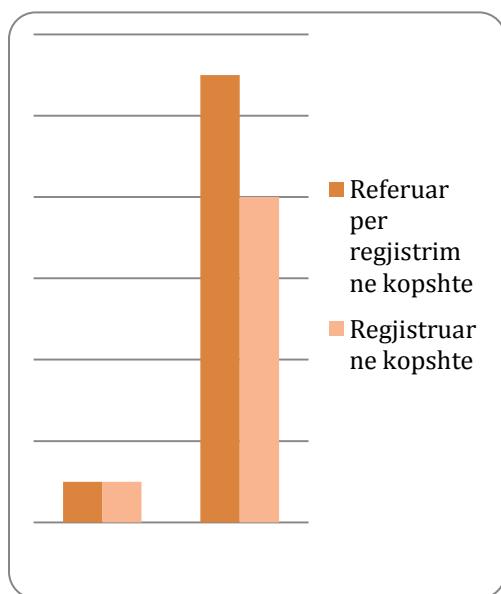
Migrating families from other cities (Tiranë, Elbasan, Gramsh, Fier) have not been able to take stable services because they do not have continuous residence but only seasonal one in the municipality of Durrës. The lack of services and organizations providing service for children in street situations has hindered case management. The only community centre for children in need is the Multifunctional Centre Nishtulla in which children in street situation are referred.

- Registration in school and kindergartens

In contrast to academic year 2015-2016 where 9 children were referred for registration in school and 7 of them were registered and 1 child was referred for registration in kindergartens and was able to be registered, in the academic year 2016-2017, 27 children in street situation have been referred for registration in schools where 21 of them have already been registered and 11 referred for kindergarten where 8 of them have been registered. CPU and RED Durrës is monitoring the school attendance of children. In cooperation with the Civil Status Office and TLAS organization in registers of Civil Status 2 children have been registered and in cooperation with the Economic Assistance Office 5 families have profited economic assistance.

Graphic 5. Referral and registration in kindergartens

Graphic 6. Referral and registration in schools



[**Referred for enrolment in kindergarten**; **Enrolled in kindergarten** **Referred for enrolment in school**; **Enrolled in school**]

During this year the cooperation with Police has resulted difficult because even though scheduled in the calendars of field teams, there have not been any field operations. Furthermore, difficulty has been noted in the perception of police employees on the maltreatment of minors according to Article 124/b of the Criminal Code.

Table No. 5 Management of children in street situation in the Municipality of Durres

Service provided	Result
Registered in kindergartens 2015 -2016	1 child
Registered in kindergartens 2016 -2017	8 children
Registered in school 2015-2017	7 children registered in school
Registered in school 2015-2016	21 children
Employed parents	1 parent

Parents/Exploiters criminally prosecuted for minor exploitation	0
Placement in social care institution	2 children
Economic assistance	5 families
Registration in Civil Status Office	5 children
Informing and counselling for the child and family	All children identified in street situations

4.5 Municipality of Shkodra

4.5.1 Identification of children in street situation

During the period April 2016 – June 2016 there were identified **41 children in street situation.**

In the Municipality of Shkodra 3 field teams are active which have started their fieldwork since April 2016, immediately after completion of drafting the local Plan for children in street situation. Only two field teams have acted until June 2016, but until the end of the month, another team will be established in order to have three active teams during the summer season. Part of the field teams are CPUs, State Police, administrator of Administrative Units region 1-2-3-4-5, Posttribe, Velipoje, Dajc, Berdice, Ana Malit and Rrethina. Also representatives of organizations Woman in Development, ACLI IPSIA, The Door, Hope for the World, SOS, Student Voluntary Initiative. At this period in the Municipality of Shkodra there were identified **41 children in street situation. From the identified cases, 3 have been referred to CPU of the Administrative Unit No.6 Tirana.**

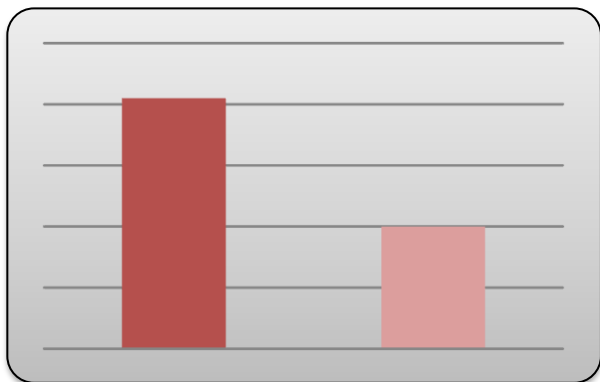
4.5.2 Children management in street situation

During April-May, the work of CPUs has been focused on the identification of children in street situation, family visits and counselling for families and children. In June it results that 11 from the identified children are recidivist in street situation.

In the meetings of MTG, institutional actors and non-profit organizations in the Municipality of Shkodra have managed 20 cases of children in street situation.

Registration and attendance at the daily centre for children "Woman in development", community visits and assistance with packages of food and clothing have been the first steps regarding the children management in street situation. Identification of children at the age for

school and registration in schools has been a positive experience because 69 children have been registered in schools.²⁰



Graphic 7

Comparison between identification and management of cases in street situation in the Municipality of Shkodra

4.6 Municipality of Korça

4.6.1 Identification of children in street situation

During the period April 2016 – June 2016 there were identified **8 children in street situation**.

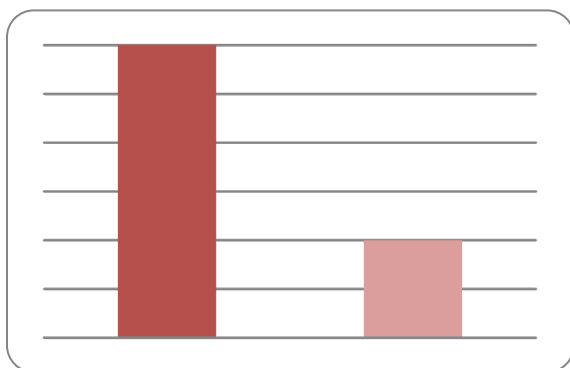
In the Municipality of Korça there are 2 field teams active that monitor since April 2016. In this municipality two field teams which are operating consist of CPUs, State Police, Coordinator of Community Centre Korça, Regional Social Service and Kenedi Organization. At this period in the Municipality of Korça there were identified **8 cases of children in street situation**.

4.6.2 Management of children in street situation

During the period April 2016 – June 2016 there were managed **3 children in street situation**.

In the Municipality of Korca, the CPU is on maternity leave and since mid-May the work has been suspended. For the period April-15 May there were realized family visits of children in street situation conducting an in-depth assessment. In the MTG held in Korca, 3 children in street situation, assessed at high risk, were decided to be placed in the Social Care Institution for children.

²⁰ The figure of 69 children has been referred in August near NAPCR; at this period, in this municipality there were identified 152 children in street situation.



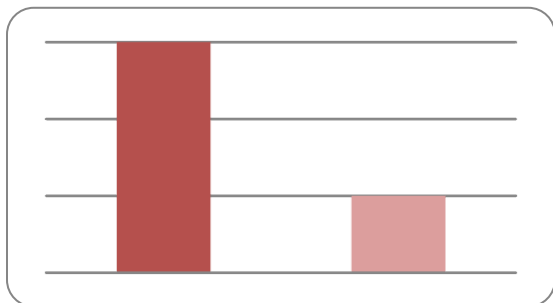
Graphic 8 Comparison between identification and management of cases in street situation in Municipality of Korça

3.7 Municipality of Vlora

In the Municipality of Vlora are acting 2 field teams, which have been established in April 2016. During April there has functioned only one ground team composed of CPU and a worker of Vatra organization. Meanwhile during May it functioned partially because CPU left for personal issues. During the summer season two field teams operated being composed of one specialist from the Social Service Directorate in the Municipality of Vlora, one social administrator and Vizion organization.

In this period there were identified **6 cases of children in street situation.**

Only 2 children in street situation have been managed providing accommodation to them at the industrial building in Vlora. Due to the lack of staff in the Children Protection Unit, the work has been suspended and no case of children registered in schools and kindergartens has been referred.



Graphic 9 Comparison between identification and management of cases in street situation in the Municipality of Vlora

5. Increasing accessibility to basic services of education, employment for families in street situation (Objective 4)

5.1 Registration in civil status centres of unregistered children

Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the right of the child to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

To ensure access to all services, a necessary condition is the registration of every child in the Civil Status centre. In the period July 2015 – June 2016 there were registered 11 children. In some cases, the registration in the civil status centre is supported from TLAS organization.

Table No 6. Children registered in Civil Status Centre

Children in street situation registered in Civil Status Centre	Tiranë	Durrës	Elbasan	Shkodra
	2	5	1	3

5.2 Identification and registration of children in street situation, unregistered in the obligatory education and pre-school programs. Transmission of lists at REDs

Ministry of Education and Sports, as a party of tri-ministerial agreement “On the identification and protection of children in street situation” has played an important role in the registration of children identified in street situation in these municipalities.

Child Protection Units, organization working for children in street situation and Regional Educational Directorates have identified and drafted lists with children in street situation.

The National Agency for the Protection of Children’s Rights has coordinated the drafting process of the list of children in street situation at the age for registration in schools, obtaining information from every municipality, and these lists have been referred at the Ministry of Education and Sports. There has been a good commitment from REDs and the directors of schools to enable case to case the registration of children.

MES has coordinated with every RED to enable the registration, especially for those children who have passed the age for registration in the first class. The children in street situation as a category of children in need or children of Roma and Egyptian community have been provided with books free of charge.

For the academic year, 2016 – 2017 there were registered in school 234 children. This figure has increased, as in the previous year there were registered only 70 children in street situation (from 305 identified). The registration of children remains still a challenge in kindergarten where for the academic year 2016-2017 there were referred 170 children in street situation for registration in kindergartens and 88 have been registered.

Table No. 7 No. of children registered in school for 2015 – 2016 and 2016 - 2017

Municipality	No. of Children referred for registration in school 2015-2016	No. of Children registered in school 2015-2016	No. of Children referred for registration in school 2016-2017	No. of Children registered in school 2016-2017
Tirana	253	42 (17%)	131	118 (90%)
Durrës	9	7 (80%)	27	21 (76%)
Elbasan	11	8 (72%)	21	21 (100%)
Fier	32	13 (40%)	-	- ²¹
Vlora			-	- ⁹
Korça			5	5 (100%)
Shkodra			69	69 (100%)
TOTAL	305	70	253	234

Table. No. 8 No. of children registered in preschool education for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

Municipality	No. of Children referred for registration in kindergartens 2015-2016	No. of Children registered in kindergarten 2015-2016	No. of Children referred for registration in kindergarten 2016-2017	No. of Children registered in kindergarten 2016-2017
Tirana	52	17	118	42
Durrës	1	1	27	21
Elbasan	3	3	21	21
Fier	-	-	-	- ²²
Vlora	-	-	-	- ⁹
Korça			4	4
Shkodra			-	- ²³
TOTAL	56	21	170	88

²¹There has been no child referred for registration from the Child Protection Unit

²²There was no child referred for registration from the Child Protection Unit.

²³There is no information from Shkodra CPU.

Issues on children registration in the education system are related to the fact that some of the children in street situation are not registered in the civil register or are registered in other municipalities of the country and have not transferred the civil status in the municipality where they live. The abandonment of school from children who in most cases end up in street situation still remains an issue.

Another challenge is the full integration of these children in the education system so that they don't abandon school. For this purpose, the teachers, psychologists of schools, parents of other children and community must be cooperative and supportive.

5.3 Employment of parents and families

The need for employment remains in every family with children in street situations, as the employment is the best way for their economic recovery. The best cooperation example is the Municipality of Tirana, where an employer at the Labour Office manages all the employment cases referred from the CPU for parents of children in street situation. (96 employment cases)

In the Municipality of Elbasan the cooperation between the Labour office and CPU, has identified problems regarding the provision of employment opportunities for some parents of children identified in street situation and removal of economic aid for some families of this category due to their failure to appear at the Labour offices for the procedure needed to be followed periodically. There has been cooperation between the Labour Office and Organization Terre des Hommes for the employment of 5 parents of children in street situation. In the Municipality of Fier and Durres, there has been only one employment case.

Table No. 9. Referral for employment and employment

Municipality	Referred for employment	Employed
Tirana	159	96
Elbasan	6	5
Fier	1	1
Durrës	1	1
Shkodra	-	
Korça	-	
Vlora	-	
Total	167	103

6. Protection of children in street situation from exploitation for begging, work or risk of trafficking as well as the criminal prosecution of alleged subjects (Objective 5)

During the process of case management, punishment has not been used as the approach to children/family members that have forced the child to sell or beg on the streets. For each municipality, the main objective has been the provision of services for the strengthening of the family. But not always there has been cooperation from the parents of children in street situation. In cases when the child has been identified several times in street, the family has refused the services provided and when the CPU and field teams have verified that the child is being exploited by the parent for economic gain, there have been criminal charges.

The cooperation with Police has been positive regarding their availability to respond for the accompaniment of children in houses (when identified alone) or accompanying parents in the police station at the request of CPUs; employees of organizations working for the children protection and field working teams. But there has not been any case reported or accompanied by the Police itself. Also, obtaining information from the Prosecutor on the progress of the judicial process has been impossible.

During the period July 2015 – June 2016, there were 24 criminal proceedings for minor abuse.

Table No. 10. No. of criminal proceedings

Municipality	Cases for prosecution	Information
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Durrës	0	-
Elbasan	1	Exploiter has been criminally proceeded.
Fier	1	There is no information from the Prosecution.
Tirana	22	One case the prosecutor has ended the case, in 21 other cases there is no information from the prosecutor.
Vlora	0	-
Korça	0	-
Shkodra	0	-
Total	24	

7. Building capacities for professionals on protection of children in street situations (Objective 6)

7.1 Training of police employees

During 19-25 November 2016, NAPCR and Regional Police of Tirana, with the support of partner organizations Terre des Hommes and ARSIS, organized the training on “The role and responsibilities of police officers in the protection of children and work of the multidisciplinary group”. The participants were **115** inspectors, specialists, SPZ from the Police Inspectorate of Tirana, Regional Traffic Police Station, Police Station of Kavaja, Police Station of Vlora, Police Station of Rrogozhina, General Directorate of the County of Tirana, Operative Room and specialists of nr.126. An important role in the training process played the acknowledgment with the work procedures for children in street situation and discussion of concrete cases from the field work.

7.2 Training of field teams in the respective municipalities

NAPCR, in cooperation with experts in the children protection field has conducted trainings in 5 municipalities where the Action Plan for children in street situation is being implemented. The purpose of this training was the training of professionals who work in the field for the identification and referral of children in street situation.

- ✚ Tirana- 62 employees for the month of emergency, including trainees of NAPCR
- ✚ Durrës- 15 employees – field teams for the summer season
- ✚ Korça – 10 employees

✚ Shkodra- 17 employees

✚ Vlorë- 6 employees

Total: 110 persons trained for the field teams in the municipalities of Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra, Korça and Vlorë. In municipalities of Fier and Elbasan, the training of the field teams was not necessary.

7.3 Trainings on "Inter-sectoral work for children protection"

The National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights, in cooperation with organization Terre des hommes and UNICEF organized trainings on "Inter-sectoral work for children protection" in 9 municipalities: Kukës, Shkodra, Korça, Elbasan, Fier, Berat, Lezha, Durrës, Gjirokastra. The aim of the training was getting to know the duties of each institutional actor and organizations in children protection, as well as getting to know each-other and creation of an inter-sectoral system for case management.

In each of the trainings there have been 25 participants.

In total 225 professionals have been trained on this topic.

7.4 Trainings on "Protocol on the rights of the child"

In cooperation with OSCE and Terre des Hommes, NAPCR organized trainings with the aim of presenting 4 ministerial Guidelines(No. 10, dated 25.02.2015) "On manners, cooperation forms and intervention procedures in helping the children at risk for institutions and main responsible structures for child protection", which has clarified the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, especially of local level regarding children protection from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, including both the economic and negligence one. There have been organized 2 trainings on "Protocol on the rights of the child" in municipalities Fier and Tirana.

In total 50 professionals have been trained on this topic.

7.5 Trainings on "Presentation of the Manual on the identification and referral of children in street situation"

The Manual on identification and referral of children in street situation as a procedural manual for all the identification process of children in street situation has been necessary to be presented in 3 new municipalities where the Local Plans for children in street situation were drafted and formalized.

Vlorë Municipality – 20 employees

Shkodra Municipality – 27 employees

Korça Municipality – 22 employees

In total 69 professionals have been trained on this topic.

8. Awareness of the public at large on the exploitation of children in street situation for labour or begging (Objective 7)

8.1 "No child in street situation for labour or begging"

CPUs of municipalities involved in Action Plan for children in street situation have been engaged in the awareness campaign in the framework of the anti-trafficking month, with the participation of volunteers and other stakeholders. In the municipalities of Durres, Fier and Vlora there were distributed 3000 public awareness sheets. In four municipalities were established info points in which there were the CPUs and volunteers for information and distribution of leaflets/flyers for citizens against the exploitation of children in street situation. The motto of the campaign was "No child in street situation for labour and begging".

The campaign continued throughout October 2015, where there were CPUs-organized awareness activities in communities, schools, community centres, institutions.

On the occasion of the holiday season festive activities were organized with gifts for children in street situation, organized by NAPCR, with the participation of the Minister of MSW, Mr. Blendi Klosi. One of the activities was organized in the 9-year-old school "Pal Engjëlli", school that welcomes many of the children coming from street situations and Roma and Egyptian community.

The other festive activity "Holidays need Love" was organized in the Tirana Youth Centre with the participation of 150 children in street situation that have been managed by 11 CPUs of Tirana municipality. The participating children and parents shared their success story and the manner for reintegration.

Following the campaign organized during October-December 2015, it was deemed reasonable that in the International Day of Children in Street Situation, to have another awareness initiative.

The campaign lasted until the end of June 2016, in the 7 municipalities involved in the Action Plan for children in street situation. The core team of the Agency has cooperated with the respective municipalities to finalize the flyer used for the campaign, whose function was informing and raising awareness for citizens and businesses. An important part of this campaign was the establishment of contacts of Children Protection Unit of each municipality in the informative leaflets.

8.2 Volunteers from the Vocational Training Directorate No. 4

In the National Mobilization Plan #IProtectthechildren, launched on 1st of March 2016, were involved 30 volunteers who helped in the distribution of leaflets in some areas of Tirana. This campaign played an important role in informing, sensitizing and raising awareness of citizens to not offer money to children in street situations. The campaign, which lasted 3 months and was coordinated by NAPCR, was concluded on the 1st of June 2016 with the "Rights Party"

On 13th of April 2016, in the International Day of children in street situation it was organized an event at the Pedonale in Tirana, NAPCR in cooperation with the network of organizations held a recreational and informative activity with children in street situation, children of schools in Tirana, representatives of institutions and citizens.

Representatives of the National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights, participated in an activity in the summer camp for vulnerable children and in street situation in the city of Fushë-Kruja, organized from the organization ADRA, where through the passport of rights, the children were introduced to the right of identity.

8.3 National Employment Practices Programme

Many students of Social Sciences applied at the Vocational Training Directorate in the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. According to the standard procedure the winning students were selected for the practice with this institution. In the offices of the National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights, 15 students were selected for internship.

Following the selection, all students were informed on the following meetings. Initially, the interns were introduced to the Agency, its role and objectives. The engagement of the interns will be in the Action Plan for children in street situations and therefore they were trained by the staff of the Agency, in view of their practice for children in street situation. The main part of the internship will be the identification of children in street situations, but also office work for the recognition of procedures and documentation of cases. In the first field operations, the interns were accompanied by the Agency's staff, conducting the specific procedure of case identification. Interns will continuously operate according to a regular calendar for field action teams being combined with municipal social workers or Social Centres.

9. Cooperation with international and non-profit organizations

The non-profit organizations that provide services for children have given a valuable assistance and contribution for the children identification and case management. NGO staff has joined field teams helping in the identification and case management and providing services in day centres.

In Tirana, the cooperation has been with the following organizations: "ARSIS", "SHKEJ", "Different and equal", "Children of the World and Albania", Day Centre for children in street situation - Save the children. All these centres provide services for children in street situations,

which consist of providing a meal, monthly food packages, and assistance in the payment of rent for houses. Children who have been taken from the street frequent these centres every day.

The ARSIS organization plays a very important role, and throughout the year has provided the emergency services for 72 hours. Also, based on an agreement with the State Police, it provides psychologists to all cases of minors being escorted to the police station. For the period June 2015 – July 2016, **97 children in street situation have received the emergency service at ARSIS.**

Also in April 2016, for the first time was established the Network of organizations for children in street situations. The network was founded by a number of organizations such as: ARSIS, SHKEJ, Save the Children, FBSH and Woman in Development, whose focus is providing services in 6 centres for children in street situations in Tirana and Shkodra as: Multifunctional Centre "Colour House", "Eden" Centre, Small Angels Centre, Daily centres for children in street situation in Tirana and Shkodra and Children of the World and Albania – Human Rights. This network provides direct services in ensuring, improving and developing living conditions for Children in Street Situations; advocacy, in ensuring fulfilment of Children's Rights in Street Situations, practices exchange in improving the field work; research and studies on phenomenon of children in street situation.

Launching of this network was done on 13 April 2016, on the International Day for Children in Street Situation with the presence of Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Mr. Blendi Klosi, Vice Chairman of Tirana Municipality Mr. Andi Seferi as well as ambassadors, representatives of institutions, citizens and children. The activity was realized at the Piedonale in Tirana.

With the initiative of the Agency, occasional meetings have been organized with representatives of these organizations with the aim of recognizing and handling the most difficult cases of children in street situation.

During this period, we have had a very good cooperation with international organizations OSCE, UNICEF and Terre des Hommes.

With the support of OSCE, it has been drafted and produced the Manual on identification and referral procedure of children in street situation. This manual was launched in the Municipality of Vlora in an activity organized in the framework of the National Mobilization Plan #IProtecttheChildren. Participants in this activity were: Minister of Social Welfare and Youth Mr. Blendi Klosi, Mayor of Vlora Municipality Mr. Dritan Leli and the Ambassador of OSCE Mr. Florian Rauning.

The Manual of identification, immediate help and referral of children in street situations procedures is a practical document, through which the professionals working for the assessment and identification of cases of children in street situations may find standard procedures how to act in these cases. This manual comes as a complete framework of steps and actions that the

professionals have as a duty to take in intervention cases for identification, immediate assistance and referral of children in street situation.

Also, with the support of OSCE, the local plans has been drafted in municipalities applying the Action Plan for children in street situation and stakeholders that work for the protection of children in each municipality have been trained.

Terre des Hommes has been a partner in organizing trainings on "Inter-sectoral work on children protection", and also in the support of small grants on the strengthening of families in Fier and Elbasan municipalities.

In Elbasan we have cooperated with organizations: "Help for Children", community centre "For the Albanian Woman", "Another Vision", "Terres des Hommes", "A 2 B ", "A dream more", "Help of Wailheilmit", "Lucky hours" - Caritas.

In Durrës we have cooperated with organizations "Terres des Hommes", "World Vision", Community Centre "Today for the Future", "Morning Sun" centre, Society "For the Albanian Woman", as well as volunteers who have been very active in the identification and training of cases.

In Fier we have cooperated with the Social Centre "Murialdo" and Terre des Hommes. The initiative continues to have the support of international organizations such as UNICEF, OSCE and UNDP.

In the municipality of Korca, the best cooperation was with the organization "Kenedi". This organization is, through social workers, part of the field teams for the identification and referral of children in street situation. Kenedi also provides daily services for children in street situations.

In the Municipality of Shkodra, there has been a very good cooperation between the organizations acting to help the children and CPUs. The organizations have been present through their representatives in the Workshop to discuss the Local Plans in this municipality, being involved in discussions and giving suggestions for the drafting. The Social workers or psychologists who work in these organizations have been trained from the experts of Terre des Homes and the support of NAPCR, for the "Inter-sectoral work for Children Protection". In addition, social workers of organizations Woman in Development, ACLI IPSIA, The Door, Hope for the world, SOS, Voluntary Student Initiative have been attached to field teams and have taken the respective training for their work in identification and referral of cases of children in street situation. Organization "Woman in Development", through financed projects from Save the Children has a day centre for children in street situation already in place. These organizations were part of the activities in the framework of National Mobilization Plan #IProtecttheChildren, reflecting the work carried out in their daily programme.

In the municipality of Vlora, organizations having close cooperation with CPUs are World Vision and Vatra.

9.1 Agreement with Alo 116 111

On 21st of April 2016, between the National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights and organization Alo 116, was signed a cooperation agreement with the aim of institutionalization of cooperation, definition of commitments for achieving the objectives and implementation of activities that aim the establishment of a Functional and Effective system of Children Protection in Albania. Also, it aims the improvement of the system for collection, analysis and data reporting as well as general children and public awareness for the protection and rights of children, as well as the referral of cases of children in risk signalled at ALO 116 111.

Until the end of June 2016, **at Alo 116** have been **reported 10 cases of children** in street situations. The cases have been referred to the National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights near the Child Protection Units, Municipality of Tirana. In these referred cases, 4 of them have been identified and are in process of management from CPUs in Tirana.

10. Assessment and monitoring of AP (Objective 8)

10.1 Periodic reports from the National Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights

Based on the National Action Plan on the identification and protection of children in street situation, the Social Service directorates and CPUs in the respective municipalities draft the quarterly month report on the performance of field work teams and support of cases of children and families in street situation. Based on the reports of CPUs of involved municipalities in AP, SAPRC drafts and publishes the periodic reports every 3 months.²⁴

These reports serve to evaluate the dynamic of identification and case management of children in street situation, number of field teams, field examination, characteristics of identified children and specific services provided.

The report also reflects issues encountered by stakeholders in case management and cooperation between them.

For the period July 2015-June 2016 there were drafted 3 reports (July-September) (October-December) (January-March) and the annual report July 2015-June 2016.

10.2 Creation of a national central database

Agency has drafted a central database where all the cases identified from the field teams are updated in the 7 municipalities involved in the AP.

²⁴<http://femijet.gov.al/al/raporte-2>

Every beginning of the month, the Child Protection Units deliver electronically to the NAPCR the updated database with the cases of identified children in street situation and the measures undertaken for their management.

With the purpose of preventing the move of children from one city to another to beg or work, from the central database that the Agency has, these cases have been identified and are referred in CPUs of municipalities where they have their residence.

With the cases identified, CPUs of municipalities together with the employees of organizations and police have conducted visits in communities with the purpose of informing and raising awareness not to move from one city to another to beg but to obtain employment and services in the area they live in.

From the general database it was drafted the list of children registered in nurseries, kindergartens and school. These lists will be referred in official manner to the Regional Educational Directorate in each of the municipalities, to ensure that these children attend the academic year 2016-2017 and are provided with free books.

10.3 Monitoring of CPU work on the implementation of AP

In implementation of the Inter-ministerial Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Sports dated 12.06.2015. No. prot.3430 and National Action Plan "On identification and protection of children in street situations" 2015-2017, NAPCR has the duty to monitor the implementation of this plan. The Agency has drafted a plan for monitoring the municipalities involved, where it is defined that every month at least one of the involved municipalities will be monitored.

In each of the Units it was monitored the documentation of CPU, the files of children in street situations and their work in case management. For each monitoring conducted it has been sent the official document with recommendations on improving the work to the Chairman of the relevant municipality.

During monitoring in municipalities of Fier and Durres the lack of cooperation has been noted between actors for case management. Representative of Police and Prosecution has never been present in MTG. The lack of services at communities of children in street situations has been a factor in difficulties on case management in street situation in these municipalities.

In Tirana Municipality, the problems and cases managed differ from one Administrative Unit to another because also the services provided from the organizations and the number of children in street situation in each of them is different. CPU in Administrative Unit results to have close cooperation with the Multidisciplinary Centre for children in street situation but registration of children in kindergartens is difficult due to the lack of response from the Nurseries Directorate at Tirana Municipality. Other problems that have been encountered are those relating to documentation because cases in management process are from other municipalities. The

attendance of school remains a challenge and duty for monitoring every child to be registered in kindergarten because of the various conditional factors (living in barracks away from school, lack of clothing, etc).

In Shkodra municipality, the monitoring is focused on the procedure of identification from field teams and is recommended to start, as soon as possible, the process of case management.

In the framework of monitoring performed, meetings have been held with other actors involved in local plans as well. In monitoring in Fier and Shkodra, municipalities have conducted meetings with police directors in these municipalities, with the aim of coordinating the work between CPU and Police as well as contact between institutions. In municipalities of Durrës and Fier meetings have been held with representatives of organizations that have close cooperation with CPUs, namely in the municipality of Durrës with organization World Vision and in Fier Municipality with Terre des Hommes organization. All meetings conducted in every municipality have been done because of the problems identified mainly in work coordination or lack of cooperation.

Recommendations

Budgeting

- So far, the provision of basic packages of food and clothing for children in street situations is done by NGOs. Municipalities within the local plans should have a specific budget for this purpose.

Case management

- The school director/teacher should be part of MTG in case management of children in street situations
- Employment of parents/family members of children in street situation by increasing the cooperation with Labour Office - spreading the example of Tirana in relation to creating a dedicated position only for these cases - also in other municipalities
- Giving a continuous feedback from all actors to CPU on the case management process
- All professionals should respond to invitations of CPU for participation in MTG and based on the legislation must perform their duties for the management of children in street situations.

Expansion of local plans

- To be expanded within 2017 AP with 4 new municipalities (Kruja, Saranda, Peshkopi, Kavaja)

Increase of capacities

- To increase the number of CPUs in the municipalities involved in AP
- To conclude the drafting process and formalization of local plans in municipalities of Tirana, Fier, Durrës, Elbasan
- Continuous and thorough training of new workers as CPUs in municipalities of Korça, Vlora, CPU No. 1,3,4,6,8,10,11 in Tirana Municipality on the management procedures of cases of children in street situations.

Service establishment

- Expansion of quota for registration in kindergartens and nurseries of children in street situations.
- Frequent monitoring on the attendance of school from children in street situation
- The number of identified cases in comparison with the number of managed cases has a big difference. The work of all actors in continuation shall be focused in the case management and removal of children from street situation and not only in their identification.
- To increase the number of day centres for children in street situations in municipalities of Durrës, Fier, Vlora
- To establish the emergency service in the municipalities of Fier and Korça.