Programme activities of IN Foundation in 2017 were carried out with financial support of Kinderpostzegels from the Netherlands.
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Introduction

IN Foundation – a foundation for social inclusion of children and youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina (INF) – as the first foundation for children and youth in the country, has for more than eight years been fully committed to its mission and vision. The INF operates in the entire territory of BiH as a non-political and non-profit organisation, not tied to any religious or other movements.
The INF operates in a rather complex environment, with lots of social, economic and political challenges in the country. BiH is on its slow, delayed and indecisive way to EU integration. The EU accession process is taking too long with a lot of political impediments, with poor ratings on human rights, rule of law, weak economy, high indebtedness, corruption, and problems in every sector of the state, from education and health care to security, now facing high exodus of young educated people looking for a better future elsewhere. Naturally, this situation is also reflected in the NGO sector. There are very few donors present in the country.

Striving to make a difference or positive change is always a challenging process, especially in a society complex as Bosnia and Herzegovina. The biggest and most important resource that any country has are its children and youth. The young generations grow up so quickly and become future parents and active citizens. Therefore, the main focus of the country, turned towards the future, is to pay special attention to children and young people and provide them with the best possible conditions for their growth and development, which later turns into a direct and participatory involvement of citizens in creation of good quality, fair and inclusive environment. Therefore, all our potentials should be committed to keeping the best potential we have, and providing our children and youth the support and services they deserve.

Unfortunately, BiH is still not in the position to address the number of growing problems in our society. Very often children and youth are struggling because of it. Therefore, the civil sector has a major role to play in this context.

With its extensive and comprehensive work and socially innovative interventions with children, young people, their parents, experts and local communities the INF contributes to the change-making process. Together with partner organisations we have strong expertise in designing and implementing projects, and achieving the results and long-term positive changes in our society.

All our activities are based on innovative trends and models of good practices, responding to the actual needs of BiH society. All the work that is behind us puts us in a unique position of being the only foundation in BiH that works with children and youth aiming to safeguard their social inclusion in the society.
As of 2017 the INF has organised its work in two pillars: programmatic activities and development of philanthropy.

Our programmatic activities focus on the field of social innovations through coordinated activities with partners in reaching the zero tolerance to violence in the lives of children in BiH through creating synergies and cross-programme cooperation.

The second, equally fundamental pillar of our work are our philanthropic activities as a tool for development. This segment aims to secure more sustainable position of the CSOs and provide services for children and youth for years to come. In this way we aim to achieve our mission and provide support to grass root organisations for the benefit of the children and youth as well as their parents through innovative programmes. As a part of our philanthropy programme, we are creating different fundraising activities directed towards a wider public, through the network of our partners, corporates and BiH diaspora. The INF team strives to provide positive changes in the given context and create a better environment for our most valuable potential – children and youth in BiH, regardless of ethnic differences.

In 2017 the INF continued its work in providing technical support, trainings, follow-up meetings, monitoring visits to the projects led by our partner organisations in the following programme areas:

- Day-care Nest Centres, centres for children at risk from multi-problem families
- Family Group Conference (FGC) model
- Prevention of gender-based violence in school setting and through youth initiatives
- Development of policies and prevention of peer violence in school setting
- Prevention of violence in children's lives by adopting zero tolerance to violence in rural areas of BiH
- Building positive parenting skills
- Roma children and education
- Internet safety
In the year 2017, the INF team started to develop the strategic plan for the period 2017-2020 and identified the following strategic objectives:

**OBJECTIVE 1**
Ensure sustainability and further improve the Foundation’s philanthropy programme in order to provide financial support to activities in the interest of children and youth in BiH through:

- *a) fundraising, and*
- *b) provision of funds through project approval.*

**OBJECTIVE 2**
Build and further improve social innovation and intervention programmes focusing on:

- *a) methodology/best practice development,*
- *b) technical support provision,*
- *c) cooperation development,* and
- *d) project/programme design and implementation.*

**OBJECTIVE 3**
Improve organisational capacity and ensure quality and sustainability of the INF operations through the development of its own organisational capacity and operations.

In line with the strategic objectives, development of philanthropy, fundraising and supporting innovative initiatives for children and youth in local communities were put in focus. In this segment a lot of activities and concrete results were achieved in 2017.
Steering Board of the Foundation

Steering Board of the INF, comprised of five members started to play a more active role in the development of the Foundation. Proven experts with experience in economics, finance, civil and international sector, professionals nurturing high moral principles and having expertise, supported the INF work and activities in the strategic orientation for the upcoming period, by offering their support and assistance. It proved to be an essential and constructive encouragement in the new phase of INF’s development.
IN Foundation team:

Branka Ivanović

INF Executive Director, is a psychologist with extensive experience in social innovations, organisational development, and management of psychosocial and children protection programmes, as well as in working with children through programmes with international organisations. Branka has considerable training experience and special professional interest in research of violence and children at risk. She is dedicated, productive and focused, with prominent organisation and managerial skills and ability to motivate, guide and inspire her team.

Aleksandar Božić

INF’s Project Manager, holds an MA in Social Policy and BA in Social Work, has long experience in the management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of innovative social programmes/projects, particularly in the field of child protection, social welfare, education, mental health and social services. He has acquired his experience by working in the public sector and civil society organisations. Aleksandar possesses training experience and has a keen interest in social research.

Sanja Stanivuković

Fundraising Officer, holds an MA in Political Science and International Relations and BA in Lower Elementary Teaching. Over the years, she has worked with all relevant partners at all levels of government, both in BiH and in the region. She is reliable, committed towards achieving results and interested in innovations and new projects for community development.

Mirjana Dinek Mičić

Administrative/Financial Manager, is an economist with extensive experience in finance and administration, accounting and monitoring of partner organisations’ financial management. She likes working with children and in the interest of children. She is dedicated, analytical, team oriented, with good organisational skills.
INF activities in 2017

In the course of 2017, IN Foundation reached more than 36,000 beneficiaries directly or indirectly, including children, youngsters, parents, volunteers and professionals through different project interventions in 52 municipalities, throughout 36% of the country.
WE HAVE REACHED

TOTAL NUMBER OF 36,098

6,694 CHILDREN DIRECTLY

25,052 CHILDREN INDIRECTLY

357 VOLUNTEERS

614 PEER EDUCATORS

1,182 PROFESSIONALS

2,199 PARENTS

IN THE COURSE OF 2017, THE INF CONTINUED TO OPERATE AND SUPPORT ITS PARTNER ORGANISATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME AREAS

01 DAY-CARE NEST CENTRES FOR CHILDREN FROM MULTI-PROBLEM FAMILIES

02 FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE MODEL

03 PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL SETTING AND THROUGH YOUTH INITIATIVES

04 DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND PREVENTION OF PEER VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL SETTING

05 POSITIVE PARENTING SKILLS

06 ZERO TOLERANCE TO VIOLENCE IN LIVES OF CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS OF BIH – PILOT PROJECT

07 ROMA CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

08 INTERNET SAFETY

09 OTHER PROJECT ACTIVITIES
APART FROM THE PROGRAMME AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, THE INF ALSO CONDUCTED THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES IN 2017

**Evaluation report of five-years programme**

Implementation of Family Group Conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina was produced as a publication entitled: Family Group Conference – innovative model of support for children, youth and families at risk in Bosnia and Herzegovina.


**INF team continued the implementation of MATRA project**

"Strengthening the institutional and social response to gender-based violence in BiH" supported by the Dutch Foreign Ministry. In cooperation with our four partner organisations in the region of Livno, Bosansko Grahovo, Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje, Brod and Derventa, this two-year project started on 1 December 2016 and will end on 30 November 2018. In the course of the first project year, project was executed in its full capacity according to the planned activities and achievements.

**First Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research was launched for BiH**

By the end of 2017 the data were gathered from around 1400 primary school students aged 10-12. The report will be prepared and delivered at the beginning of 2018. The preliminary findings indicate that 23% of children aged 10-12 are having adverse childhood experience, which is lower than in comparison to the experience of children in the Netherlands, although the quality of life of children in BiH is lower than the quality of life of their peers in the Netherlands.

**At the invitation of the Czech Ministry of Social Affairs, INF Executive Director was invited to attend the conference on social innovations named “Through the Development of Networks to the Development of Services for Children at Risk and Their Families” in Prague.**

The main focus was on the model of family hubs developed in Ireland, as a model of early intervention support service, connecting and coordinating different services for children at risk and their families. Presentation of the model was followed by the national Analysis of Innovative procedures and services for families and children in the Czech Republic, presentations of professionals from Ireland and Czech Republic on innovative services for children and families at risk including service catalogue and presentation of services in schools.

**INF staff also maintained regular contacts with respective representatives of cantonal, entity or state institutions (Ombudsman for Children, Gender Centre, Cantonal ministries of education, representatives of the University of Psychology in Banja Luka), other international organisations (Save the Children, World Vision, UNICEF), as well as with local NGO representatives and authorities and institutions in respective communities, with regards to our programmes, initiatives, projects and partner organisations.**

**The INF got a positive opinion with no specific recommendation for the audit that was conducted by a BL revizor audit company.**

**In 2017 the INF also provided its partner organisations as well as the wider public different updates, reports, papers and new findings on our website and through social media (Facebook page).**

Since January 2017, we have had 108 posts published, 2,251 posts liked or shared, reaching 92,063 people on our FB page.
The INF maintains its membership in several networks by fostering the cooperation and developing partnerships with the aim to improve the situation faced by children in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- STRONGER VOICE FOR CHILDREN IN BIH, INITIATED BY SAVE THE CHILDREN NORWAY
- NEVAC – NETWORK FOR ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, INITIATED BY UNICEF BIH
- EUROPEAN NETWORK ON FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE
- WOMEN’S NETWORK BIH
- NETWORK FOR BUILDING PEACE

**Total Value of New Grants Awarded in 2017**

€186,499

**Total Value of Grants Monitored in 2017**

€444,141.37

**Total Number of CSOs Supported**

29

**Total Number of Grants Awarded**

33
Day-care Nest Centres for children from multi-problem families have been launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a form of preventive and intervention programmes focusing on children aged between 6 and 15. Fourteen centres were opened in small places in BiH in order to ensure more permanent support programmes to empower children at risk to overcome difficulties and challenges in their lives more easily.

A standardised and adapted methodology focuses on building resilience, child participation and encouraging mutual support. The approach allows for individual monitoring and direct work with children.

Every centre has around 30 regular beneficiaries, three employees and around 10 active volunteers each. The centres’ activities cover the children’s parents as well, while cooperation is also established with representatives of schools and other relevant institutions providing support and protection for children at risk.

Nest Centres have proved to be a successful model for the direct prevention of trans-generational transfer of violence. By taking part in the centres’ activities, children make improvements on the personal, family, school and social domain, which helps them to take an active part in other activities in their local community.

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS**

€151,348.16

**TOTAL NUMBER OF INITIATIVES SUPPORTED**

5

- Stolac
- Gradiška
- Olovo/Solun
- Zenica
- Bosansko Grahovo

**PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

- ORHIDEJA
- MOST
- KRIVA RIJEKA
- DNEVNI CENTAR GNJEZDO
- UDRIŽENJE GRADANKI
- STOLAC
- GRADIŠKA
- OLOVO/SOLUN
- ZENICA
- BOSANSKO GRAHOVO
Three Nest centres of the 3rd generation in Gradiška, Solun/Olovo and Stolac are fully operational, they are more recognised by the respective institutions in the community, cooperation with parents is well developed, contacts and communication with schools is established, but in some divided communities, like in Stolac, there are still problems in communication and contacts with local authorities. Centres from the second generation from Zenica and Bosansko Grahovo finalised their cooperation with IN Foundation and reached their goals very successfully. They are finding their way to sustain the work of the centres with the support of some other donors that work with a shorter commitment. Nest Centre in Zenica managed to get financial support from a Dutch volunteer who has managed to raise funds that could secure covering of the basic costs of the centre for next year. The centre in Bosansko Grahovo has small support of the local authorities and will be given part of the funds raised from the Diplomatic Winter Bazaar which might be sufficient to cover modest expenditures and operations in the course of 2018. Communication with centres is still very active. Centres in Zenica and Bosansko Grahovo together with the centres from Gradiška, Stolac and Olovo had an opportunity to meet at a common intervision meeting, in Mostar.

Intervision meetings are a good opportunity for representatives of the centres to discuss the topics and issues like communication with local stakeholders, local fundraising experience and practice, sustainability, reporting requirements, but also exit strategy plans, project extension, new activities with children in the centre, ways to increase the number of children attending the activities in the centre. Staff also creates ways of finding small income and thus supporting the centres.

The Nest Centre Bosansko Grahovo was awarded by the Organising Committee of the Diplomatic Winter Bazaar 2017 as the project of the year 2017. The NEST centre is supported for its excellent work for providing safe environment for the children at risk from violence.

A seven-year old girl was facing many challenges when she arrived to the Centre. She was neglected in every aspect: she did not speak the language as she grew up abroad, she had problems with socialisation and good behaviour, and she had no hygiene habits. She didn't know how to hold a pencil and had no fine motor skills developed for drawing or writing. She learned the local language through various workshops and activities, then she learned manners, rules of good behaviour and hygiene. A psychologist helped her to improve her self-esteem, socialisation and behaviour. After attending activities in the daily centre for some time, the results became very visible: she is regular in school, being better accepted by the peers, she has developed good hygiene habits, and she knows how to behave in a group and with adults. She likes to play with her peers and would like to become a hairdresser.
Family Group Conference (FGC) Model

Family Group Conference is an internationally recognised innovative model applied in BiH in working with children and families facing specific life situations and/or crises. Professionals are also involved in the application of this model, but the greatest responsibility for changes is brought by the family itself which resolves a problem at a joint conference (meeting) with the support of its family and social networks, creating the so-called family plan.

This model allows families to employ their own resources to overcome difficulties or challenges. Family Group Conference has a clearly structured work methodology and is applicable in the field of social care, education, health care, and justice (juvenile justice).

The INF has been developing this model in BiH since 2011 in cooperation with civil society organisations and their partners, social welfare centres in local communities.

Bringing into action family and social networks to resolve a certain problem increases the number of community members taking an active and direct part in the prevention of violence.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF INITIATIVES SUPPORTED**

- 6

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS**

€54,415

**PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

- AMICA EDUCA Tuzla
- ŽENE SA UNE Bihać
- ALTRUIST Mostar
- MOST Gradiška
- NAŠA DJECA Zenica
- PORODIČNI KRUG Bijeljina
An evaluation report on the implementation of the five-year programme of Family Group Conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina is being produced as a publication entitled: Family Group Conference – innovative model of support for children, youth and families at risk in Bosnia and Herzegovina and it is available at: http://www.infondacija.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/FGC-report.pdf

The report was done in both languages local and English, and forwarded to stakeholders and interested parties in BiH for their attention (Ombudsman for Children, ministries, centres for social work, faculties, UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision). The report was promoted online and shared among various online professional groups on Facebook (mainly social work, children’s rights, child welfare groups). The article about the development of FGC model in BiH was also published in the Croatian Journal for Social Policy Zagreb which covers a wide range of social policy issues as well as on the web platform ChildHub.

The INF organised a two-day training aiming to introduce the Family Group Conference model to school representatives. The training gathered 30 school teachers and counsellors from 13 schools from Tuzla, Bihać, Mostar, Zenica, Bijeljina and Gradiška.

The participants had the opportunity to learn more about the FGC model in the child protection system in BiH in the period 2011-2016.

The INF provided an in-house training for 7 employees of the Centre for Social Work in Bihać. This training took place due to significant fluctuation of the CSW staff and the need to train the new employees.

The intervision meeting was organised for coordinators of the FGC model from Tuzla, Bihać and Gradiška, while a separate intervention meeting was organised for the second generation of CSOs who finalised their support by the INF from Mostar, Zenica and Bijeljina.

INF team attended the annual European Family Group Conference three-day meeting in Prague, the Czech Republic, which gathered over 30 representatives from several European countries that implement this model directly in practice.

A difficult situation of divorced parents, and especially the father who was physically and mentally abusing the entire family, prompted the teacher of an 11-year-old girl to initiate a family group conference (FGC). The girl was excellent in school, but she needed the assistance since she felt less valuable, had no self-esteem and lived in a constant fear that her father would do something bad. After the conducted FGC and with the support of her social network, the girl felt supported and empowered, overcame the fear and feelings of being worthless, and her personal traits are more and more prominent. Her dream is to get over the current situation, and she would like to help children to live in peaceful and safe homes.
Prevention of gender-based violence in school setting and through youth initiatives

This subprogramme operates in two segments. One segment is implemented in schools as part of the prevention programme and its goal is to raise the students’ awareness of gender equality and equity through training of students and teachers and promote and nurture the relations of gender equality and respect.

The support programme for secondary school students who have negative experience in intimate relationships was also launched in the scope of this initiative. Interventions include education of peer counsellors, mapping of support services and provision of expert counselling support to secondary school students so that they can have higher quality and safe intimate relationships. The basis for such an intervention was formed after a survey that showed that nearly 70% of youth under the age of 18 experienced gender-based violence in intimate relationships.

The other segment is implemented through youth initiatives in rural parts of BiH. After training, youth are able to create and implement activities focusing on raising awareness of the presence of gender-based violence in their communities.

**PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

- UDRUŽENJE ŽENA DERVENTA
- ALTERNATIVE KAKANJ
- OKC ABRAŠEVIĆ MOSTAR
- ŽENE ŽENAMA SARAJEVO
- UDRUŽENE ŽENE BANJA LUKA
- FONDACIJA TUZLANSKE ZAJEDNICE TUZLA
- DEMOKRATSKI CENTAR NOVE NADE OTOKA
INF research findings on gender-based violence in intimate relationship in lives of young people in BiH was produced in September 2016, was made available and shared with our partner organisations. Research findings indicate that two-thirds (67.7%) of respondents have experienced at least one form of gender-based violence in their former partner relationships, all types of violence are present, but control and manipulation is the most frequent (61.9%) and special form of violence, even though the majority of authors see it as a type of emotional abuse, one half of the respondents have experienced some form of emotional abuse in intimate relationships, while sexual and physical abuse is present among adolescents to some degree.

The research report findings served as the basis for preparation of project extension for early intervention approach in the field of prevention of gender-based violence in intimate partner relations of adolescents in BiH. In that regard, training material for peer counsellors in secondary schools was developed in addition to the manual for teachers and school professionals, with additional adjustments and was later made available.

This new approach in the prevention of GBV in intimate partnership relations is implemented in 17 high schools in BiH, through the model of peer counselling, being backed up by professional support of experienced staff of partner organisations: Women to Women Sarajevo, Anica Educa Tuzla, United Women Banja Luka, Association of Women Derventa, Alternative Kakanj and Tuzla Community Foundation.

Project initiatives educated 81 students in peer counselling techniques in 14 communities: Gradiška, Banja Luka, Tuzla, Lukavac, Prnjavor, Doboj, Brod, Derventa, Gorazde, Sarajevo, Istočno Sarajevo, Foča, Sokolac and Kakanj.

In the section related to the prevention of gender-based violence through youth initiatives in rural areas two partner organisations implemented initiatives in the southern part (OKC Abrašević) and central-eastern part of BiH (Demokratski centar Nove nade). Youth groups were presented, selected and trained to prepare their initiatives. After the selection of the best project proposals on the topic of raising awareness of gender-based violence, 10 out of 12 initiatives were awarded small grants.

The partner organisation, Nove nade, experienced in working with youth groups, implemented interventions with youth groups in the region of central and eastern BiH in Pale, Rudo, Sokolac, Rogatica, Istočno Sarajevo, Foča, Višegrad, Gorazde, Čajnice, and Tmovo.

Tuzla Community Foundation in this cross-cutting segment was awarded the project to work on early interventions in cases of gender-based violence in intimate partner relations with youngsters in rural areas of the Tuzla Canton. Activities with peer counsellors in rural areas were initiated in 2016, when the group of peer counsellors was trained and prepared to lead the meetings with their peers in local community and local high schools.

A 19-year-old girl, besides her health problems, was facing problems in her family. Even though she encounters barriers and challenges on a daily basis, she is a big fighter who wants to make a change and improve the position of young people in the society. After getting involved in the activities, she became a youth activist, a leader, an animator and a fighter for prevention of gender-based violence among her peers. Thanks to her strength and energy she has become a recognised participant and leader of the new generation of young people in her municipality.

Tuzla Community Foundation (TCF) focused on the provision of support to young people experiencing gender-based violence through peer support groups, backed by professionals. Activities were initiated in municipalities of Kalesija, Srebrenik, Živinice, Lukavac in the Tuzla Canton and 10 peer counsellors reached 143 youth directly, 300 youth indirectly in 2 schools and 4 municipalities.
Development of policies and prevention of peer violence in school setting

The programme aims to reduce the rate of peer violence among school children by raising awareness and sensitivity to the problem, reducing the level of tolerance to violence and initiating cooperation between students, teachers, expert staff and parents.

Preventive measures are based on early problem detection and on the change of attitudes and behaviour by using different approaches and models of work. The programme also aspires to establish support networks in order to create a safer and more stimulating school environment. By expanding the knowledge of teachers and expert staff in schools, we further empower them to give an adequate and timely response to the occurrence of violence in schools. Project activities also include working with children and parents and providing support to the children who are either victims or perpetrators of peer violence.

In the wider community, the programme aims to develop policies for the prevention and protection of children from peer violence through cooperation with the non-governmental sector. Application and enforcement of these policies is ensured through building school staff competencies in order to achieve sustainability in the prevention of peer violence in the school setting.
Six INF partner organisations finished the implementation of their three-/four-year project cycles. All implemented projects were completed successfully, and it can be confirmed that the implemented activities have successfully developed integrated measures and policies for the prevention of peer violence in schools and decreased the level of violence among children, by raising awareness and sensitivity to the problem of all targeted groups.

This programme was taking place in over 40 schools across B&H, in partnership with civil society organisations. Preventive measures were based on early problem detection, on the process of change of attitudes, opinions and behaviour, as well as on early interventions and support of peer groups. By using different models of work, the involved schools established safety nets and created a safer and more stimulating school environment. Different seminars and trainings that were organised either through granted projects or by the INF significantly strengthened teachers and school professionals’ competencies to respond adequately and timely to the incidence of peer violence in schools.

Information about the work of the IN Foundation on interventions related to the improvement of school policies and programmes for the prevention of peer violence has been officially forwarded to the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Since the Ministry is collecting and providing information to the BiH Parliamentary Assembly on the state and presence of peer violence and violence among children in BiH, we wanted to inform the Ministry with our official letter about the achieved results, implemented initiatives and number of involved targeted groups through INF support.

An eleven-year-old boy had problems to adjust in his class, very often he had headaches and stomach problems. He had no close friends and was alone very often. His parents were too protective. Activities with the boy aimed to develop his skills and increase his self-confidence, and many things were done in class to include him in everyday activities. Thanks to project activities in the association, and with the support of his mother and peers he has become more independent, self-confident and has expanded his social network. Now, the boy has a dream to become a doctor and help others.
Zero tolerance to violence in lives of children in rural areas of BiH

The programme aims to contribute to the reduction of violence in the lives of children and youth in rural areas of BiH on the basis of a defined programme model. An inclusive, participatory approach to target groups including children, youth, parents and older residents allows the collection of data in an initial survey, and then opens and examines the problem of types of violence, from domestic, to gender-based, to peer violence in selected rural communities.

During joint workshops and with the support of moderators, causes of the problem are defined, relationships of power, views and adopted norms of behaviour are examined, and answers are sought and adequate interventions offered through education, building of capacity and improvement of skills, psychological support, counselling, and assistance through services within the community. Attempts are made to foster gender equality through microfinancing in the community, while parents are given an opportunity to attend workshops for building positive parenting skills. In this way, the community defines its commitment to zero tolerance to violence.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS
€25,567

TOTAL NUMBER OF INITIATIVES SUPPORTED
2

9 RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THREE BIH MUNICIPALITIES

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

LI – WOMAN
LIVNO

OMLADINSKI CENTAR
GORNJI VAKUF-USKOPLJE
The programme is implemented by two partner organisations in nine villages in the area of Gornji Vakuf - Uskoplje, Livno and Bosansko Grahovo.

Both organisations, Omladinski Centar Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje and Li-Woman Livno, reported that their respective communities were more and more eager to cooperate, people were ready to take active part, and they were more aware and open to talk about different forms of violence. Participants were sensitised and aware about the violence and different inappropriate disciplinary measures towards children, men were openly talking about challenges in upbringing of their children, about change of roles, culture and different expectations.

All activities that we had with the groups of children, women, men and teachers contributed to changing the consciousness in the community about the importance of participation in all decisions, planning and problems solving. Groups were encouraged to speak clearly about the issues in their communities and how the change could be reached in a peaceful way.

Women and children have shown particular interest in the project and the activities. These interventions provided significant support to teachers in small remote schools as well as to their students. Additionally, parents also felt supported, especially mothers who used meetings to discuss different challenges with regards to the upbringing of their children. Children were very eager to take an active part in the workshops that were very useful, which was confirmed by their parents too. The children felt good, safe and had a lot of fun.

Participants were empowered, they reported on improved relations among family members, teachers received training and improved their knowledge about the prevention of peer violence. In addition, participants broadened their knowledge about parental skills, forms and types of violence and how to prevent it.

Small grants enabled higher participation and motivated women to meet, exchange opinions and experiences about events in the rural community, as well as to monitor the occurrence of violence and react to it.

Activities in communities are closing down with success and significant impact in the selected communities.

An active member of the Youth Centre, who has been a volunteer for 10 years, participated in various activities with children, mostly in creative workshops with the topics related to the prevention of violence, stereotypes and prejudices, and creation of peace and activism. The thing he liked the most is that while working with young people he learned things himself, and especially the fact that he realised his work made positive effects on children and helped them learn and develop.

By learning and gaining new experience every day, we are making progress and improving our skills in work with children and young people. His dream is to continue to work with children and build his future in BiH.
Building positive parenting skills

Parenting is a unique, challenging and complex development task for which one is often neither sufficiently skilled nor prepared. Families today face numerous challenges and high expectations. At the same time, social support and professional support programmes which are supposed to help parents fulfil their role and build competencies for boosting children's early growth and development are lacking.

Through its Let’s Grow up Together programme, the INF has educated and trained educators and professionals at kindergartens across BiH to work with parents. Parents who attended the workshops learned how to raise their children in accordance with recent scientific findings, recognise and adequately respond to their developmental needs, build a good relationship with them, set boundaries and discipline the children, without compromising parental love and affection.

No major developments in this subprogramme, except it is used as complementary activities in some other sub-programmes like Nest Centres.

In May 2017, we signed a new MOU with American Psychology Association for ACT Raising Safe Kids Programme for the period 2017-2019.
The programme aims to provide support to Roma children attending mainstream education system in order to help them overcome the demanding school curricula and successfully complete primary school. Access to education significantly improves their chances in life, and also directly reduces the risk from exclusion and violence. Many Roma children do not go to school, but if they are included in the school system, they are exposed to a great risk of dropping out before they finish school and acquire a diploma.

One segment of the project interventions also includes pre-schoolers by way of workshops preparing them for school. At the same time, their parents are involved in various educational activities, meetings, workshops and home visits helping to emphasize the vital role of education in children's lives.
Project activities include volunteers, as well as young unemployed teachers who thus acquire their first practical experience and become sensitised to working with marginalised social groups. The relevant projects usually have Roma assistants/mediators, which makes the socialisation of Roma children easier, improves the monitoring of children, communication with school representatives and contacts with families, and simultaneously builds the capabilities of mediators.

Four projects supported 246 direct beneficiaries, Roma children in the programmatic field Roma children and education, as well as 498 indirect beneficiaries located in 5 municipalities in the area of Tuzla, Bijeljina, Kiseljak, Mostar and Čapljina. The programme interventions mainly focused on supporting Roma children in regular mainstream education process aiming to improve their school achievements as well as to keep them in the education system as long as possible. Another segment of the work focused on school preparedness with pre-school age children in order to upgrade their knowledge and strengthen their chances once they start regular school.

Project interventions took place in 7 schools and engaged 33 professionals and 42 volunteers. In addition, all programmes do have activities with parents (254) and they are mainly directed to raise awareness about the importance of education, to develop positive parental skills and thus to create safer and encouraging family environment through counselling and education services. The project team held parents’ meetings, made home visits and thus improved parents trust, communication and their involvement in monitoring and supporting their children. Some projects made significant results (Zemlja djece) in advocacy activities related to Roma issues.

A fifteen-year-old teenager had a lot of problems in school with mathematics. He started to attend additional classes and with the help of the project assistant, he realised his goal – he successfully finished the grade and the school year. He is now planning to enrol in the secondary school and graduate. He would like to become a good car mechanic and open his own shop. With hard work and assistance from others, he can achieve his dreams.
The goal of this programme is to raise awareness of children, youth, their parents and teaching staff about the ways of using the Internet more safely and responsibly. We also try to promote prevention of online violence against children committed by their peers as well as adults.

This programme aims to raise awareness and strengthen the capacities of students, their parents and school staff about the safe use of the Internet.

We are supporting one existing project implemented by Zdravo da ste from Banja Luka, which is taking place in Prnjavor, Srbac, Kozarska Dubica, Kostajnica, Novi Grad, Banja Luka and Zvornik. Due to a very limited number of partners in this subprogramme there are no other subprogramme activities.

The project has entered its third year. The INF has been monitoring the partners’ progress, their final project reports, and assisted the organisations in preparing extension application requests.
A twenty-year-old student has been active for two years as a peer educator on the topic of internet safety of children. The things he likes most is working with children, teaching them how to use technologies in a safe way and make a positive impact by setting a good example to others. His motto is – you can always do better but perfection is not the goal.
Matra project

The Embassy of the Netherlands in Bosnia and Herzegovina awarded the INF project “Strengthening the institutional and social response to gender-based violence in BiH”. The implementation started on 1 December 2016 and will go on until 30 November 2018 in the municipalities of Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje, Bosansko Grahovo, Livno, Derventa and Brod.
Different meetings were organised with the multi-sectoral groups in targeted communities and workshops with beneficiary groups in selected rural communities as well as follow-up meetings with project partners and stakeholders (Gender Centre FBiH, Gender Centre RS, UNW, Agency for Gender Equality BiH). Mid-term financial and narrative progress reports were delivered.

Moreover, the first evaluation meeting with representatives of the Dutch Embassy was held on the premises of the INF on 18 August 2017. The first project year was successfully completed on 30 November and we can confirm that all planned activities for the first project year were effectively achieved.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness and promote an inclusive and participatory approach of the members in targeted rural areas to the prevention of gender-based violence, as well as to strengthen the vertical coordination of activities on implementation of local policies and practices in order to prevent and combat gender-based violence. Project is implemented by IN Foundation with involved local partner CSOs: Women’s Association Grahovo, Association Li-woman from Livno, Women’s Association Derventa, Youth Centre Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje as well as Foundation Kinderpostzegels from the Netherlands as the Dutch partner with its monitoring and supporting role.

In the past 12 months of the project implementation, we have conducted a baseline survey, organised a training for school teachers and professionals, set up 5 multi-sectoral working teams in targeted communities for protection of victims of domestic and intimate partner violence and conducted workshops with school children and youngsters in selected rural communities. Also, multi-sectoral teams in all communities signed protocols or memorandums on cooperation in order to strengthen the coordination and cooperation among the relevant actors and provide better support to the victims of violence. A two-day training for the members of multi-sectoral groups from targeted municipalities was organised as two-day conference for the members of multi-sectoral groups, and other selected stakeholders from cantonal, entity and national institutions. We created and published flowcharts and lists of referral mechanism for institutions of targeted local communities.
The INF has decided to direct a share of its activities towards the development of philanthropy as an important segment of development of organisational capacities.
Main achievements of INF’s fundraising activities in 2017 were:

- The INF actively participated in the regional conference “Philanthropy in the Western Balkans and Turkey MAKING IT WORK” in Belgrade organised by the Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO). The Conference gathered representatives from 7 countries coming from various CSOs, foundations, corporate sector, official institutions and media, discussing development and current state of philanthropy in the region, legal framework, mobilising local resources, partnerships of different sectors, along with some practical examples and advice.

- INF team organised meetings with four foundations: Podrži život, Ana and Vlade Divac foundation, Trag foundation and Hastor foundation with the goal to establish cooperation and discuss models of sustainability and fundraising activities.

- INF team successfully completed a three-day workshop on the development of philanthropy, and a three-day training in EU project writing

- The “Nest of Love” – the first INF fundraising campaign was launched on 20 October 2017. Even though the campaign will be addressing three target groups: wider public, corporates and diaspora; it was decided to focus on the first two – wider public and corporates in 2017, while diaspora will be addressed in the first quarter of 2018.

- Initial fundraising activities in 2017 included drafting various documents, making the logo and messages for the campaign, creating video material, promotional material, creating various data bases, updating the website and Facebook page (especially with new information related to fundraising activities and the first fundraising campaign), contacts and meetings with other foundations and organisations dealing with philanthropy and fundraising activities, in-house workshops and trainings, research on available socially responsible companies, conducting a short survey on companies and their donation practices, establishing contacts with Associations of Employers in RS and FBiH, initial steps for creating a pool of INF Ambassadors, establishing contacts with companies and representatives of the business sector in general, etc.

- Contacts were established and meetings organised with more than 25 companies in B&H .

- The first partnership with the business sector – EuroExpress Company, was officially announced during an event at the Nest Centre Zenica on 22 November 2017, where this company decided to donate packages (with didactic material) to 9 Nest Centres throughout B&H .

- The INF participated in the Winter Diplomatic Bazaar on 9 December 2017 in Sarajevo using an opportunity to promote our activities during the event.

- Two Newsletters were produced and shared with our partners, contacts and on social media.

- The INF established cooperation with three radio stations: Radio Active Zenica, Radio Gradski FM Banja Luka and Radio Olovo, and each of them supported our campaign and broadcast jingles created for the campaign.
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Address: Zmaja od Bosne bb, 71 000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Account Number: 1610450060110064
Account Name: IN FONDACIJA ZA UNAP SOC INKLUIZIJE DJECE I ML
IBAN: BA391611450000359954
SWIFT: RZBABA2S
Holder of the account: IN fondacija za unapređenje socijalne inkluzije djece i mladih u BiH
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