



## Community Center Little Angels

The National Association Education for Life - SHKEJ began operating in Tirana since 2003. The focus for this project is to support the disadvantaged and marginalized groups which are identified as the most vulnerable.

The project **"Addressing poverty and social exclusion through building effective models to support children, youth and families in need, especially for Roma and Egyptian families in Tirana"** is one of the projects which have been implemented by the National Association Education for Life since June 2008. A community centre has been opened for children, youth and families in socio-economic difficulties.



The project aims to promote the social integration of people in need, mainly those of Roma and Egyptian communities living in the Municipality Nr. 9

### IMPLEMENTED AREAS

Informal areas of Tirana including the area near the Railway Station, the area of Detention 313 - Municipal Unit no. 9, Tirana.



### PARTNERS

State Social Services; Education Directory of Tirana; Directories of the Schools "Q. Turdiu, 7 Marsi, etc; Vocational Training Center Nr 1, and Nr 4; Health Centers; Coalition BKTF; ARSIS, FBSH; Amarodrom, Don Bosko, ADRA, SOS, etc.

### APPROACH OF INTERVENTION

#### The Identification and Case Management of Children, Youth and Families in Need

The Community Center "Little Angels" - QKEV has as the direct beneficiaries children and youth. They are identified in their areas of residence and benefit from project support for a specific time based on the needs of each case. Case management is a process of coordinated services, where the project staffs, together, assess the case to analyze what will best serve this person, what services they need, what provisions they will benefit from in the services offered and also to guarantee a regular monitoring during their delivery. Case management is aimed at removing children from the streets and the dangers that it offers, registration of children who for various reasons are not registered in the Civil Registry Offices, school, medical services and all necessary human provision services

#### Direct Support in Improving the Welfare of Children in Need

Community Center "Little Angels" provides direct support for children in psycho-social services at the center, but also in the communities in which children live. The services offered are for children aged 6-14 years and the services are categorized into:

- + Social-educative support
- + School support classes and integration of children into the school system and vocational public centers
- + Social, animated, sport activities, summer camp, and different excursions.
- + Psychological support
- + Health care support
- + Food support (breakfast and lunch)



## Child Protection on Education System

The Community Center "Little Angels" supports children during their formal education at educational institutions for the development of a regular teaching process. The project facilitates the registration of children in educational institutions as well as pursuing a regular progress of cases throughout the year by contacting and involving the teaching staff at the schools in training for capacity building, in collaboration with partners, to reduce school drop-out by the children.



## Supporting and Strengthening of Families in Need

Strengthening families in need consists in establishing committees of parents. This group engages in training activities aimed at increasing their capacity to be more effective in identifying and addressing key issues of child protection. It also includes the addressing of issues relating to children's rights and welfare of children, by eliminating forms of abuse and exploitation of their labor and begging. Having extensive knowledge on the socio-economic situation of the parents will provide more opportunities to address and advocate these issues. Women and girls are the target beneficiaries in terms of mediation services and training to further their employment, giving information about women rights, on aspects related to domestic violence and trafficking, and health care.

## Support, Education with Citizen Values and Youth Empowerment

One of the target-groups of QKEV is youth. The project supports young people by creating peer education groups, offering training and empowering them in terms of the interiorization of the values of citizenship. Participation and peer education, vocational education training helps young people to continue to attend school and also helps other youth, who have dropped out of school due to socio-economic conditions of the community. It helps them in their education by enhancing civic values and increasing their self-esteem.



## Commitment to Local Empowerment and Advocacy

Community Center "Little Angels" in addition to providing direct support to children, youth and their families, advocates locally, by conducting regular meetings with administrators of the Municipality Unit, State Social Service Offices, Office of Employment, Vocational Training Centres, various partners and civil society Coalition - Together for Education of Children - BKTF. The project works in close partnership with all of these social actors to ensure the welfare of the communities in which it operates, and in supporting and encouraging change. QKEV staff also aim to inform the community about the services provided by local authorities, such as economic aid, pensions, welfare, etc. It mediates in the light of the problems and needs identified by the community.

## Center Management:

The Community Center "Little Angels" staff is a multi-disciplinary professional staff, and includes:

- + Project Manager
- + 2 Teachers
- + 3 Community operators
- + 1 Doctor
- + 1 Psychologist
- + 1 Cook

Plus regular volunteers at the centre

## Beneficiaries / Participants of the project in numbers:

- 70 children and young people located in the informal areas of Municipality Unit Nr. 9
- 50 children benefit daily services on the Community Center "Little Angels"
- 10 youth attend activities in citizenship education values and needs assessment on vocational training
- 55 families located in the informal area of Municipality Unit Nr. 9