

**3 Month’s Report  
January – March 2016**

Country: Albania	Region/place: Rr. Jordan Misja, Municipality nr.9, Tirana.
From: January, 2016	Until: March, 2016
Report per (date): 01.01.2016 – 31.03.2016	Date of presentation: 18.04.2016

**Overall objective:**

Focusing especially on those from the Roma and Egyptian community, we will attempt to combat poverty and social exclusion, by building effective models for supporting children, youth and families in need,

**Specific objectives:**

- 1) To reduce the numbers of vulnerable children who are being exploited and abused in the area of Municipalities No.9 and No.5, by supporting them with formal and informal education.
- 2) To empower youth in difficulty, so that they can face the challenges of life through capacity building focusing on the development of professional skills for employment.
- 3) To strengthen the capacity of marginalized families in these areas, by providing child care so that they can access social services.
- 4) To coordinate action between the government and civil society in relation to child protection issues and the fight against poverty in this region.

**COMPONENT 1:**

**Formal and non-formal education.**

**Specific objectives:**

- 1) The development of linguistic skills, mathematics, science, art skills, physical health and social education skills with the children who attend the centre.
- 2) School support to children who attend public education institutions (public schools).
- 3) Social education through games and group activities
- 4) Socio-cultural and sports activities organized by the centre or in collaboration with other similar organizations inside and outside of SHKEJ

(All of the above and all education offered in this centre is in accordance with the national curriculum in schools in Albania)



During these 3 months the number of the children in the centre has been very good. They have participated in all the activities in the CCLA and attended the public school. The main topic of these months has been “Education through social behaviour and social inclusion”.

**Attendance for all children**

The table below shows the statistics of the number of children who regularly attend the Community

Centre Little Angels: **January-March**

Month	No. of children registered in CCLA	Average no. of children who regularly frequent CCLA	Morning	Afternoon	No. of children in school	No. of children in school recuperation	No. of new children registered	No. of children who have left
January	51	44	25	20	32	12	1	1
February	54	49	28	19	32	17	3	/
March	54	43	23	20	34	9	3	2
<b>Average</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>		

**Activities implemented with the group of children aged 9-14:****Methodology**

The methods engaged for the children development have been:

- Visual view
- Group work
- Games and quizzes
- Practical work with letters and numbers

The group of the children aged 9-14 have mainly worked during these months in development of the literature-linguistic, maths and different topics in psycho-social and science-nature fields.

**Specific objectives for 3 month's**

- Development of academic skills and enlarge general knowledge.
- Support children attending public school.
- Encouraging creativity and develop their skills by interests.
- Improving communication and promoting social behaviour.

**Case study**

L. is a 10 years old boy that frequents CCLA. He lives with his mother and his little brother, who is part of CCLA too. They have a low social-economic level and they live in very poor condition, in a rent room. L. never went to school or in another formal or informal educative institution. When he first came here in November 2015, he couldn't read or write even his name. Now, he can recognize almost all the letters, he can write words, copy and he does some calculation in math. L. and his brother have a poor environment and lack of support outside CCLA, and being part of us they have improved their health condition, behaviors and knowledge's.

**Statistics of educational attainment**

The table indicates the average results in each school subject

Month	No. of children regularly attending	Subjects						
		Language education	Math	Literature	Science	Social education	Educative culture activity	Physical education
January	22	20	19	19	18	20	22	22

<b>February</b>	27	22	22	24	25	25	27	27
<b>March</b>	23	19	19	21	22	22	23	23
<b>Average No.</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Average as %</b>		<b>85%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

From this group 19 children attend the public school. Their grades are as follows: 8 children - fourth grade, 4 children – fifth grade, 6 children- sixth grade, 1 child - seventh grade.

The “school support” group worked individually with the children, based on their pedagogic need, to reinforce the knowledge learnt in school and to ensure their homework is completed.

From a survey of the children at the centre, tests and from the consultation meetings with school teachers, the performance of these children is very good.

### Activities implemented with the group of children aged 5-8:

#### Specific objectives for 3 month's

- Development of language skills, literary and math's.
- Support children attending to public schools.
- Expansion of general knowledge on psycho/social, scientific areas.
- Socialization of children through topics covered and entertainment through games that promotes cooperation.



#### Case study

A.S is an 8 years old boy in the first grade of “7 Marsi” school and from 2 years frequent CCLA regularly. The little brother and older sister of A.S also frequent CCLA. He has a difficult family situation and his family lives in poor condition. They are 4 children and his mother is expecting another baby. They live with the grandparents in the same house, and they have only two rooms. He was very aggressive and the family didn't allow him to start school, but with our support and insist, now he is at school and his behaviour has increase in an appropriate way. Now he attends school regularly and we support him with school support, didactic materials and parents consult because they are illiterate.

### Statistics on educational attainment

The table indicates the average results in each school subject

Month	No. of children regularly attending	Subjects						
		Language education	Math	Literature	Science	Social education	Educative culture activity	Physical education
<b>January</b>	22	17	18	20	18	20	22	22
<b>February</b>	22	15	18	20	16	19	22	22
<b>March</b>	20	15	19	18	15	18	20	20
<b>Average No.</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Average as %</b>		76%	86%	100%	76%	90%	100%	100%

From this group 14 children attend the public school: 2 children – preschool, 8 children – first grade, 3 children – second grade, 1 child – third grade.

7 children aged 4-5 years old work individually in the first basic need for school, like knowing the letters, spelling, drawing, using the pen and also social behaviours with the classmates, rules of the classroom, personal hygiene, etc. the aim is to prepare them for registering in the first class in September.

**Social-cultural activities with the children**

- On 12/02/2015 an activity took place at the centre for carnivals
- On 07/03/2015 various activities were enjoyed at the centre for 7- 8 March. Parents were invited to the party.
- 3 football games between the children of CCLA and children from the “House of Colours” Centre

**Food support**

As always the meals of breakfast as well as lunch are offered at the centre. The conduct is now regular and polite at the table which shows that the children are now familiar with the rules and manners of the centre. The food is prepared in CCLA by our cook, with fresh food which is bought in every day.

2 children during this time have had the possibility to be offered food at the centre because of the extreme conditions of the family. They can't attend the centre because they are too young.

**Medical support**

In February CCLA select another doctor, because the previous one left the work for personal reasons. During these 2 months, 60 medical checks took place in total. These check-ups were made in CCLA. From 60 visited patients; 40 have been given medical prescriptions, 1 was advised to go to a specialist doctor and 20 check-ups resulted with no health problems.

The relatives of the children came to the centre for a Check up, and they get medical prescriptions when there was an emergency.

In accordance with the policlinic of the area, our doctor with the collaboration of the families has begun to register the children who are not registered in the policlinic, in order to equip them with the health card, even if the children are not registered in the Municipality Unit Nr 9.

The morbidity during the period February-March is as follows:

- 55.2% of respiratory diseases (including ear, throat and nose diseases).
- 7.1% of urinary tract diseases.
- 5.2% of the gastro-intestinal tract diseases.
- 3.8% of skin diseases.
- 0.3% of cardio-vascular diseases.
- 19.4% checks und re-checks.
- 0.6% rheumatic diseases.

The total of Morbidity is 71.6%.

During these trimester 44 children are supported with medicines

**Psychological support**

**The main goal:** psychological care for children at the centre and psycho-social support for parent and specifically mothers.

**Specific objectives:**

- Psychological care for the children through individual work
- Psycho-social activities in groups
- Art therapy with a group of children and individual art therapy
- Counselling with mothers and parenting counselling
- Developing informing activities and trainings with the women group
- Co-operation with the teachers of the centre
- Updating individual informative files o the children

**Monthly activity**

**Group work:**

During this 3 months period are realized 4 psycho-social activities with both groups of children in the centre. The main objectives were to give support to social inclusion in groups, educating group collaboration, entertainment time outside with different games.

Also in the frame of group work is developed the art group when every Monday one group of children does painting in canvas. In this activity are involved 16 children and the main purpose of it was increase the self-esteem of the children through art and help them feel positive and optimistic.

**Individual psychological care:****Referral of individual cases**

Cases No.	Gender	Age	Reason of referral	Institution where are referred
1	F	6	Cognitive development assessment	Mental health centre No.3 Tirana
1	M	7	Developmental and cognitive difficulties	Q. Turdiu School psychologist

**Individual psychological intervention**

During this period of time is worked with 20 children. It has been noticed that the main problematic behaviours meet in the children are consequences of dysfunctional family relationships

*Evidence of main problematic shown, frequency and interventions with children*

The main problems encountered	Frequency in cases	Gender	Interventions
Low self-esteem, social withdrawal	4	1 M 3 F	Art therapy Counselling
Learning difficulties, difficulty in concentration	4	2M 2 F	Behavioural therapy techniques Art therapy
Unsafe behaviour for the age, Preadolescence behaviours	5	1 M 4 F	Psycho education on going through adolescence and safety behaviours
Aggressive reactions and inappropriate social behaviours	6	4 M 2F	Techniques of art and play therapy. Counselling, self-control management
Experience on street work	7	4M 3 F	Psycho education, Counselling. Parent counselling
Difficulties on social inclusion	5	3F 2M	Behavioural therapy, counselling

\* The sum of column "Frequency in cases" does not indicate the number of cases that had received psychological services, as a case may have overlapping of problems

**The work with the children` families**

11 family meetings were held in the area in collaboration with social workers. Those meetings were aimed to stay in touch with family situation, to maintain collaborative relationship with children parents, and recording information for new children.

**Individual counselling with parent**

10 cases have received psychological services

*Evidence of main problematic shown, frequency and interventions with families*

The main problems encountered	Frequency	Gender	Interventions
Problematic relationship with mother in low	1	F	Counselling
Difficulties in children desalination	6	F	Parental counselling, education of

			children positive disciplining
Couple problematic relationship	3	F	Counselling

## COMPONENT 2:

**To empower youth in difficulty in facing the challenges of life, by capacity building and by acquiring professional skills for employment.**

1. Case identification in the areas of municipality No. 9 and No 8. in Tirana
2. Identification of youth's needs and desires.
3. Completing forms with information about the cases identified.
4. Holding the social-educational activities with youth group.

### Work with the youth group

#### The identification of young people in need

During these 3 months 14 youth frequented and participated in a range of activities organised by the CCLA. There have been identifies 2 youth in the community, who are now part of the youth group.

#### Identification of needs and expectations

From the past year needs and desires, this year the youth has express the desire and information in finding a work, especially the boys, due to the economic needs of the family. The girls are more focused in going to professional courses like hairdresser or tailoring. They are ready and need to participate in a range of activities that may be organized by the CCLA.

The youth have offered and engaged in volunteering work at CCLA helping with the children.

#### Activities and achievements:

27 individual and group meetings took place with the youth group

- 9 meetings with the youth group in the area
- 6 youth have taken a Gratitude Certificate from Child Protection Agency because they have been volunteers in the awareness campaign against trafficking.
- Training for Bartender organized by Element Art Coffee in CCLA.
- 2 training sessions with the topics of "Juvenile Justice" and "Conflict management" in collaboration with the Centre Today for the Future.
- 3 meetings in the Labour Office of Tirana for youth employment.

#### Achievements

- 1 youth has been employed in a Call Center
- 2 girls have been registered in a professional course for tailoring in Don Bosco center.
- 2 youth have been registered in the professional Course Center of Tirana for foreign language.
- 4 youth has been accompanied by us to take free dentist service.

## COMPONENT 3:

**To strengthen the capacity of marginalized families in our area, by providing childcare so that they can access social services.**

**Objectives:**

- Identification of new children and families in need, in the area of Municipality Unit No. 8 and 9,
- Support of the families who live in the Municipality Unit No. 8 and 9.
- First information files for the new children identified.
- Support through socio-educational activities with the children.
- Meetings and cooperation with other stakeholders.

**Activities and Achievements:****Identification of new cases in the region of municipality No. 9 and No. 8 Tirana**

During this period 7 children has been reintegrated in the CCLA activities. They have left the area times before and now have returned following the activities of CCLA.

**Support to families who live in the area of Municipality No. 9 and 8.**

To achieve this objective, 149 visits were made in two areas, municipalities No.9 and No.8, Tirana. The visits were made for new case identification, meetings with parents and daily visits. Also has been made visits to some families who have returned in the area from the Lake Hills after the Municipality forced them to move.

**Followed up cases**

51 cases have been managed of child and family issues:

- **10 children** - exploitation through begging and working in the streets
- **2 children** - trafficking risk
- **3 families** - economic support. 3 families have been with, payment of school transport for the child, food package and beds donated to CCLA.
- **7 children and 8 adults** - medical support. These cases are accompanied to the health care centres for a range of problems.
- **6 cases** - domestic violence and violence of kids. These cases have been reported to the police and Child Protection Agency and round tables with stakeholders have also been held about these cases.
- **6 cases** - administrative and legal issues for divorce, registration, etc.
- **9 cases** – employment orientation, where 6 adults have begun work with our help.

**Discussion groups with men and women of the community****Strategy of working with the women group**

This group has as its main goal to empower the woman as a key person in the family and community and to inform her and make her aware of a range of important life issues. 20 activities took place with the women's group during this time with the main objective being to empower them for a better life

**Activities with the woman group**

Activities, objectives and achieved results

No	Activity	Objectives	Place	Results	Co-
1	Kitchen meetings	Sharing the experiences in cooking Informing and reflect in effective food managing in home and children nutrition	CCLA	10 women have participated	
1	Social	Coffee with the group for woman day	Tirana	14 women have	

	activity	on 8 <sup>th</sup> march, entertainment time		participated	
2	Trainings	Education of the economic management skills in home through recycling and DIY products  Parents collaboration in positive disciplining of the children	CCLA	16 women have participated	
2	Informing activities	Women empowerment against domestic violence	CCLA	Women group are informed in the ways to stop domestically violence	“Sot për te ardhmen” NGO

On this 3 monthly is realised a pilot program to test the women skills to produce Do It Yourself (DIY) materials, also food products that can be traded in different events.

From the activities carried out is concluded that food products can be realized, they have shown very good skills in cooking, but the DIY products was more difficult to realize because the group has not shown any ability to create any specific product and the interest was low. To develop the program of producing food products is the need of financial revenue.

### **Activities, objectives and results achieved with the men group**

Most of the time the meetings with the men are in the family or cafes near them, because the men finish their work in the late afternoon. Have been organized 2 meetings with them in the neighbourhood and they have participated in 3 trainings for “positive disciplining of the children” and “juvenile justice”.

### **Support given for the activities at the centre**

During these months community operators participated in these activities:

1. Supporting staff to organise the party for 7-8 March celebrations. The support given was in preparing the children for the artistic preparation and family contact.
2. Supporting staff in children’s daily activities, sport activities, etc

### **Accompanying the Education Operators and psychologist for meetings in the community**

Over the period, 12 sessions took place with the psychologist and the Educative Operator at the family homes, public schools and Municipality Unit.

### **Meetings and cooperation with third parties**

During this time **79** meetings took place in collaboration with 32 institutions, partners and state entities.

- 29 meetings with public schools, kindergartens and nursery.
- 14 meetings with partner organizations (SOS, ARSIS, Mary Ward Loreto foundation, legal office “Qendren per Nisma Ligjore Qytetare”, CC EDEN, etc.)
- 15 meetings with health care institutions (“Aldent” University, QSUT, Dental Urgency)
- 13 Meetings with state institutions who are responsible for child protection (National Employment Service, Ministry of Welfare, Agency of child protection, CPU No. 11, No 9 and CPU No. 8, etc)
- 8 meetings with other institutions for assistance, case referral, economic support, job, administrative and legal support (Institute for Democracy and Mediation, counselling centre “Cesli im”, “Rreze Drite” church, dance fitness “Royal Academy of Dance”, etc)

**Staff meetings:**

Every month 2 staff meetings take place at which all the work of the CCLA is coordinated and upcoming activities are planned.

**Staff training/Capacity building**

- Psychologist has attended 1 module of the specialization on Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy
- Project Manager has attended 4 module of Specialist for Child Protection Issues

**Supervision of Interns**

- 2 student of psychology from the University of Tirana have started to come as interns at the centre. Is developed a program for the time that they will be intern at CCLA
- A volunteer is supervised; he contributed in the group art therapy Trainings

**Project application**

In February 2016 Shkej started a new project founded by EU IPA Projects, in partnership with Arsis Albania, for the Municipality Unit nr 8 and 4. These projects include development of capacity in these Municipality Unit's for a new community centre. Shkej hired 2 new employees for this project who are under the responsibility of the PM of CCLA because their work is related strongly with the work of CCLA.

**Difficulties Experienced, Attempts and Solutions**

In April, due to a new project founded by EU in partnership with Arsis Albania, the staff of CCLA has had some changes. Our Community Operator, Erjola Locaj passed as staff at the new project, so the Educative Operator, Bora Molla is now part of the Com. Ope and also we hired a part time Edu. Operator. The staff now is complete and also has been made some changes in the budget to help more financially the families in need.

Facing several cases of children with serious behavioural problems as a result of very difficult family situation. Trainings with families and individually work with the children.

Economic situation of the families continues to be very hard and difficult for them. Our work consists in orientating them and registering to the Labour office, or find different jobs for the parents. It's not easy to find a job but with we hope that with our help the adults of the family will have an opportunity for job.

The situation of the children in street is growing in number during these months. We have had a lot of meetings in the Municipality, Ministry of Welfare for these issues and we plan to make strong advocacy activities for the problems of these children. We are also part of the Mobilization Plan of the Agency of Child Protection with the logo #YneMbrojFemijet which has a lot of activities for the children rights not only in Tirana but in all Albania.

**Recommendations**

- Applying methodologies and strategies for positive discipline in class
- Lobbying and advocacy activities for children's rights
- Activities to increase the visibility of CCLA

**Report author**

Erion Prendi

Project Manager

Community Center Little Angels

E-mail: [qkev@shkej.org](mailto:qkev@shkej.org)