

2016 - 2026  
SMART CITY

GO  
TIRANA

## Operational Social Service - SOS Field Unit

about project

# S05



### Budget

ALL 3,000,000

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Street children are a worrying phenomenon for the community of the city of Tirana. The number of street children is increasing steadily and there is variability in age from 3-4 months to 15 years old. There is a lack of proper statistical data about the number of children of this category. However, what is clear is that these children are totally neglected, abused, exploited, and exposed to physical and psychological violence. They cannot exercise many of their rights as written in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Family Code of the Republic of Albania. Street children as a term refers to children who are homeless or live in the street, but in the context of this project, also includes those children who beg or work in public areas, e.g. in streets selling small things (cigarettes, nuts, phone cards, chewing gum etc.).

In order to improve the situation of children / individuals in street situation in Tirana, Tirana Municipality in cooperation with local partners that are active in this area of childcare and welfare will work to identify and protect children / individuals in street situations by activating the mechanisms of inter-institutional coordination.

But the realization of this plan requires the identification of children / individuals in street situation, a process that requires the establishment of SOS Field Unit. This process will include the CPU, the staffs of social centers, NGOs.

The project aims to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation and neglect and help all individuals in street situation through a coordinated intervention of cross-sectoral child protection / empowerment of individuals and their families. The project also foresees the establishment of a toll-free telephone number.

### OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Providing direct intervention in the field of services for children and individuals in street situation.

- Reduction and gradual elimination of begging in the street and street work by children in the city of Tirana and improved protection for children at risk.
- An improved understanding of the situation of street children and what services exist to support them and how to appropriately respond
- Increase coordination of key actors as well as their capacities in order to improve protection for children
- Ensure proper support for these children, through referral and provision of direct services (not only by structures like school system and service offering NGO's, but mainly by their families).

### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY

#### Activity 1. Information and knowledge base:

- Periodic assessment/monitoring of situation for street children.
- These assessments will be done by student of social work in the Faculty of Social Sciences who work as volunteers in the CPU
- Creating a map of services offered for street children by different organizations, institutions, etc.
- Setting a complete database for street children



BETTER  
SOCIETY



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### Activity 2.Coordination

- Establishing and maintaining contacts with key NGOs, ministries, etc
- Coordinating meetings with actors who will participate in the project
- Meeting with all administrative units of Tirana to orient them to the project, and distributing the map of services.

### Activity 3. Activating the referral system to support children and families

- Providing alternative education for street children
  1. Referring children to organizations that provide alternative education programs
  2. Providing direct support to 7 teachers in public schools to run extra classes after school with children.
  3. Provide direct support to 2 social workers in public schools to support children and families at risk.
- This process also is followed up by providing children with packages of didactic materials (pens, pencils, notebook, bags etc.) for an academic year.
- Referring families to income generation services, including:
- Other departments of the Tirana Municipality, that will help in identifying businesses that are willing to employ people with economic and social problems.
- Vocational training schools
- Referring families to psychosocial and health support services

### Activity 4.Distributing food and aid packages for the most vulnerable families

