



World Vision
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Child Well-being

Annual Report



2013 overview



Our vision

for every child
life in all its fullness

Our prayer

for every heart
the **will** to make it so



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Foreword

by National Director

It is my pleasure to present our 2013 Child Wellbeing report. This is an important overview of World Vision's work in Bosnia-Herzegovina focused on children, who are the hope and future of this country.

We believe "A person's a person, no matter how small" (Dr. Seuss). The team of World Vision BiH is driven and inspired by a commitment to protect children and enable them to reach their potential, no matter what religion, ethnicity, gender or background.

Our Child Well-being Report addresses four strategic priorities: Communities sensitive and responsive to the needs of children; Children have improved health, as well as education and life skills; Communities and families have increased economic development opportunities.

We recognise the valuable role of our donors and partners from all around the world, including World Vision's partner offices in Taiwan and Korea. As a community of advocates and practitioners, we believe we can bring real peace and a future of hope to the children of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Thank you for joining us on this important journey!



In solidarity,

Sarah Bearup
National Director
World Vision Bosnia and
Herzegovina



22.021 children
directly benefited
by WV BiH's work in 2013.



Introduction

This report represents the reflection of World Vision Bosnia and Herzegovina's (WV BiH) contribution to child well-being during 2013. WV BiH looks at a child from a more holistic perspective and works on creating conditions for children to become valuable contributors to society.

Who we are?



**To date,
World Vision's
interventions
have reached one third
of the country's
population.**

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Founded in 1950, World Vision works in more than 90 countries of the world and employs more than 45,000 staff.

World Vision has been in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1994 implementing relief, development and advocacy interventions that contribute to the well-being of children and their families, especially the most vulnerable.



Where we work?

World Vision works in six Area Development Programmes (ADPs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. ADPs are distinct geographical areas where World Vision partners with local communities to improve the well-being of children through multiple sector projects. These sectors include children's sponsorship, health, economic development, education and life skills, child protection and participation, as well as spiritual nurture of children.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, ADPs are:

Krivaja (municipalities Han Pijesak, Olovo and Sokolac)

Jahorina (municipalities Goražde, Pale and Pale-Prača)

Vrbas (municipalities Čelinac, Kneževo, Kotor Varoš and Banjaluka)

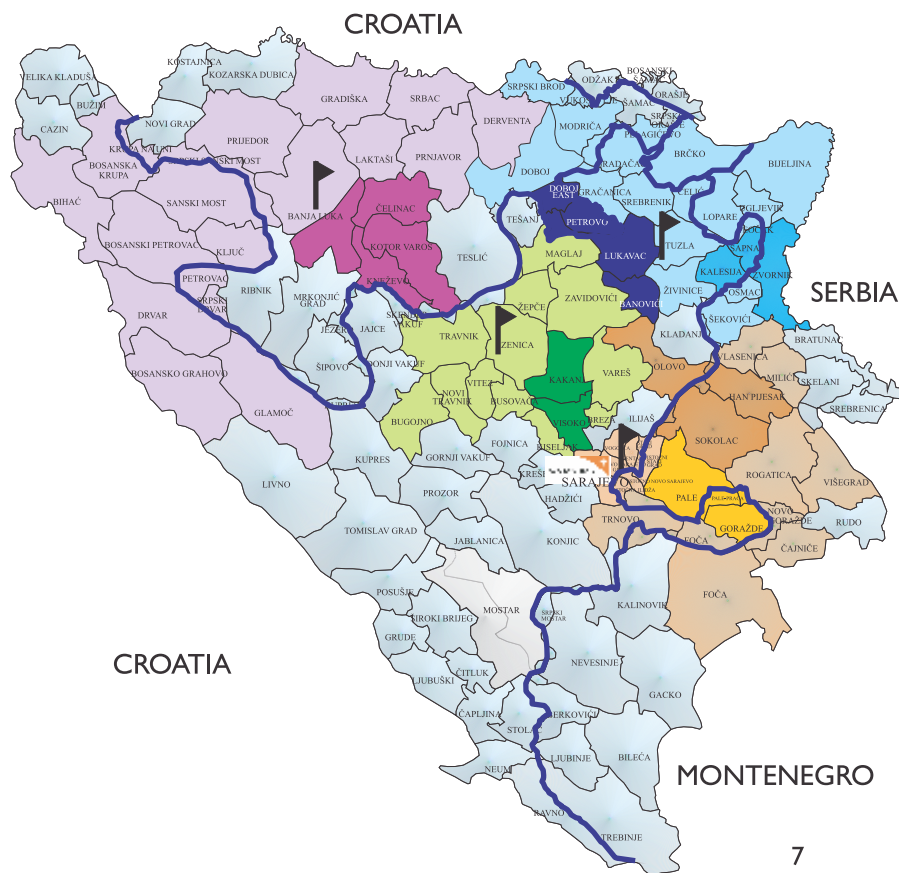
Majevisa (municipalities Zvornik, Sapna and Kalesija)

Ozren (municipalities Banovići, Petrovo, Lukavac, Dobo and Dobojs tok)













Lašva (municipalities Kakanj and Visoko)

ADPs are supported by World Vision Taiwan and World Vision Korea.

In addition, WV BiH also works with the Roma national minority in entire Bosnia and Herzegovina on improving their life opportunities and general well-being.



LEGEND:

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | WORLD VISION OFFICES |  | OZREN ADP |
|  | BANJA LUKA |  | SARAJEVO |
|  | JAHORINA ADP |  | TUZLA |
|  | KRIVAJA ADP |  | VRBAS ADP |
|  | LASVA ADP |  | ZENICA |
|  | MAJEVICA ADP |  | OTHER MUNICIPALITIES |

What we do: Improving the Well-being of children

20

YEARS

COMMITTED TO CHILDREN IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

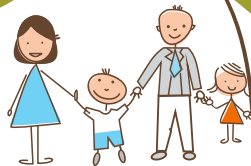
BY 2014 WV BIH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVED WELLBEING OF 375.000 CHILDREN AND YOUTH THROUGH DEVELOPING AND NURTURING COLLABORATIVE SPACE IN WHICH THEY HAVE A VOICE

OBJECTIVE 1

COMMUNITIES SENSITIVE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN

OBJECTIVE 3

COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES HAVE INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT WELLBEING OF CHILDREN



OBJECTIVE 2

IMPROVED HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN

Communities Sensitive and Responsive to the Needs of Children

In 2013, WV BiH fostered creation of the local Child Protection Coalitions comprised of locals take holders from the field of child protection and children themselves. Their primary task is to ensure awareness raising on child protection issues in communities, identify problems and offer adequate, local solutions.



Three Child Protection Coalitions formed

Another segment on which WV BiH puts emphasis is working with children with special needs. Activities with these children are comprised of rehabilitation and socialization sessions led by experts in order to improve quality of their lives and address stigma that these children face.

WV BiH also strengthened its focus on spiritual nurture of children and interfaith with an emphasis on peace building component, as well as on cultural and traditional connectors and dividers. Through faith based organization's activities 1.700 people were reached from four different congregations (Muslim, Orthodox, Catholic and Jewish).

3.405 children participated in Spiritual Nurture of Children

Days of Friendship

"I didn't go to Olovo in more than 20 years," said the teacher Borka from Han Pijesak Primary School with the tears glistening in her eyes. "This is one of most important moments in my life and I'm so happy being here in my home town." During the walk through the city, her former neighbors and friends recognized her, approached and shook hands, happy to see her again.

"They didn't forget me, my townspeople," said Borka who was visiting Olovo as one of the participants of "Days of Friendship" event organized by World Vision in October, 2013. More than 64 children and 30 of their teachers, religious and municipal representatives from Han Pijesak and Olovo took part in this gathering. Olovo and Han Pijesak are two neighboring municipalities, just about 40 kilometers apart. Olovo is in the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina, while Han Pijesak belongs to Republika Srpska. During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina that lasted from 1992 to 95 these municipalities were divided, and still, almost 20 years after the war, communication between them is at very low level.

But "Days of Friendship" aimed to bring these children and adults together. During this gathering, children from Olovo prepared special program about Aid-Al-Adha and with the singing and performances tried to introduce to their peers the joy and the beauty of this important Muslim holiday.

After the program guests from Han Pijesak had the opportunity to visit the primary school in Olovo, parts of the city and the Orthodox Church where a local Orthodox priest held a brief introduction. During this visit to the church both Orthodox Christian and Muslim religion teachers presented some similarities that these two religions share to the children much to their amazement.

Ef.Pepic, a head Imam in Olovo, said "We cannot change people that differ from us at our own will, just like they cannot change us at their will. But we're called before God and made responsible to accept each other and help each other in goodness. It's worth the effort, because of all these children, to come together and live and work together and we need to ask ourselves what kind of world we are leaving behind for them to inherit. We are beseeching the dear God to get us together closer, to be able to better help each other and respect each other. We want our country to be peaceful and prosperous. We want people of our country to understand each other and help each other in all eventual troubles and hardships."

Children Have Improved Health, Education and Life Skills

4.560
children
benefited through
dental health
activities



WV BiH based its health programming mainly around HIV-AIDS and Tuberculosis prevention in Roma communities. In cooperation with three Roma HIV centers and through extensive work of 20 outreach workers, WV BiH reached 3.877 Roma community members in more than 50 Roma settlements, achieving an increase of 19.1 % comparing to the year before.

In 2013, WV BiH has continued implementation of oral health project. This project has a comprehensive approach ranging from awareness rising among parents and children on importance of oral health to supporting provision of dental services.

In 2013, WV BiH has worked extensively in local schools with both children and school staff. As a result, 85% of school principals stated that WV BiH's work in schools is extremely significant.

As a way of developing life skills of children, 1.104 children were actively involved in improvement of formal education. These children were taught to identify and write project ideas, resulting in the implementation of 17 projects. This approach motivated children who then mobilized their local community and institutions to achieve completion of their projects.

In addition, children and youth mobilized and managed to secure funding from the local government structures in order to build two playgrounds directly benefiting 1.131 children. Furthermore, reflecting a change in attitude and behavior of other community members, 65 volunteers from the community took active part in construction of playgrounds.

Through its youth and children empowerment initiatives, WV BiH created a network of peer educators who reached over 3.519 children and youth. Emphasis was put on topics such as healthy life styles and peer pressure.

Elevator of Hope

Elementary school Pale is one of the schools where World Vision implemented project "Improvement of Quality in Formal Education". Students of seventh grade of this school developed beautiful idea in order to help their most vulnerable friends - children with disabilities. They recognized problem of inequality related to inclusion of all children to elementary school: their friends with disabilities were not able to attend classes of Chemistry, Computer science and other. Why? Because these classrooms are located on the upper floors of the school and children with disabilities couldn't approach them.

Students thought: *"This is not fair! Education should be equal for all and accessible to all."*

So they decided to work on a project which would resolve this issue in their school. First of all, team of students identified problem that didn't affect them directly, but their most vulnerable peers. They included entire class in identification of the problem and development of the project idea. They ensured support from the school management and teachers. At the end, they presented idea of elevator for disabled children and the idea won World Vision's contest in their school.

However, cost of the project was around 40.000 KM. World Vision, together with Pale Municipality, provided 12.000 KM, but still 28.000 KM were needed. Not a small amount. And children were aware of it. They were aware it could be very difficult to reach required funds. But children said: *"We will do it! Not we will try, but we will do it."*

And they did it! With support from their teacher, students succeeded in reaching their goal.

They decided to step outside of the school and mobilize their community. These children visited institutions of local government advocating for support. They visited every private business in the community looking for funds. They visited every state owned company. They reached TV and radio stations and presented their project, asking of people to join their initiative. They organized Donors dinner, where they collected substantial amount of money.

They even reached office of President of Republic Srpska for the support. They tried to include everyone. And they succeeded!

They reached their goal and collected missing funds. Their peers will be able to attend classes with friends, in equality all children deserve. This is a victory of will, this is a victory of solidarity. This is a victory of community. But more than anything else, this is a victory of one small, but determined team, together with their teacher!

Communities and Families have Increased Economic Development

203 beneficiaries received capacity building

WV BiH strives to improve economic well-being of its community members by providing low-income households access to finance, resource mobilization and creation for self-employment and income generation as well as agricultural capacity development for food security, income generation and expansion.

WV BiH has helped families living in ADP's through input support and credit access. Thus, in 2013, a robust demand for subsidized-interest loans drove a 73.8% increase in the number of loans extended by WV BiH's partner Microfinance Foundation EKI, and a 52.7% increase in the overall loan value disbursed. The number of children benefiting from these loans has increased 82% compared to the year earlier.

The sustainability drive has been an integral part of all activities, particularly with requisitions regarding local government participation in project financing and participatory budgeting.



Peer educators continue expanding their knowledge on healthy life styles

With an aim of expanding knowledge of peer educators on sexual and reproductive health, World Vision organized training on the topic of Healthy Life Styles in 2013. The training was attended by 50 peer educators, primary school students from grades 7, 8 and 9, from five World Vision's Area Development programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Lašva, Jahorina, Majevisa, Krivaja and Vrbas.

"This particular training is on advanced level, where we are introducing children who already have knowledge on sexual and reproductive health with new topics: healthy life styles and peer pressure" explains trainer Feđa Mehmedović.

World Vision envisaged peer educator's trainings as place where young people are taught new information, but also enabled them to transfer their knowledge to their peers. Besides healthy life styles, training covered topics of adolescence, puberty, male and female reproductive system, life skills, tobacco and smoking, alcohol and drugs.

"We started this training by identifying needs of adolescents: from defining adolescence, specifics of adolescence that influence youth while forming their opinions, attitudes and values. We also identified some of the factors that put adolescents in vulnerable position" continues Mehmedović.

Upon completing training, peer educators are able to answer questions about above mentioned topics that their peers might have. And why are peer educators so important? These topics are almost non-existent in Bosnian-Herzegovinian formal education system; young people are left to find answers by themselves which can often be misleading and lead to high risk behavior. World Vision hopes to bridge this gap with its peer educators. Or, as 15-year old Ljubica confidently explains advantages of peer education: *"It is easier for children to talk to us, then to someone older. We explain them better"*.

Peer educators receive valuable knowledge during training, and also learn how to interpret that knowledge in a way adapted for their peers. When they go back to their communities, learning continues, so this process is not only limited to closed training groups, but has life of its own. Children also gain different social skills through this process, from communication to presentation, which then help them build their self confidence. Peer educators trainings also have strong peace building component, as they gather children of different nationalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Living mostly in rural areas and one-national communities, these trainings are unique opportunity for children to meet their peers of other nationalities and strengthen inter-ethnic bonds.

Besides knowledge, awareness is also one of the important issues training focused on. *"If you know that healthy nutrition is important, that doesn't mean that you will eat healthy. But if you have awareness about the fact that nutrition influences health, that can affect decision"* says Mehmedović.

Melika, 13-year old peer educator, says that children always ask lot of questions when she has peer education presentations, but mostly about puberty. *"Young people are most interested in topics they hear the least about"* adds Mehmedović.

What's Next



As in the previous years, World Vision will continue working together with its local, national and international partners towards society in which children enjoy good health, are educated for life, experience love of God and their neighbors, and where children are cared for, protected and participating.

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