

# Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs

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# Overall goal and objective

## GOAL:

To guarantee children with disabilities access to quality preschool and primary education in 8 municipalities of the 7 Kosovo regions

## OBJECTIVE:

Contribute to the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups in the economic and social life in Kosovo, starting from school.

# Problems that are addressed

- Estimate of 150.000 people with disabilities
- 40,000 are children, who often live in poor conditions, hidden by the families and invisible for the society
- the figure on the number of children with disabilities (CWD) in the school system ranges from 1,000 to 1,500 (1.3 – 2%)
- estimated 1.078 CWD are attending “special” schools or “attached” classes
- lack of mechanisms for the identification and monitoring of CWD in pre-school and primary education.

# Model developed

- Work with Ministry of Education and Municipal Education Departments at local level, reaching out to include CWD in 8 pre-school and 9 pre-primary classes in schools.
- supported 8 Handikos (partner NGO) community-based rehabilitation centers
- supported pre-school and primary institutions' capacities to implement inclusive education practices for CWD  
(trainings, removing architectural barriers, provision of didactic materials, hiring teachers, enhancing interserctorial services at local level)
- work on acceptance of “diversity” beginning at pre-school, where children don't have prejudices yet

# Why this solution is better

- strong working relationship with the ministries, institutions, civil society, university of Prishtina and the community
- holistic approach taken, ensuring they are part in every process of the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the work
- ensured that legislation and policies are in place at national and local level through advocacy work
- contribution made to the University of Pristina, Faculty of Education, ensuring the accreditation of a Master's program on IE
- leaving ownership at country and ensuring sustainability

# Total reached

- 367 CWD were enrolled for the first time in mainstream education system (pre-school / day care, pre-primary),
- 749 CWD received assistance through Handikos community rehabilitation centers
- 7500 overall benefited from provision of didactic materials and trained teachers.
- 17 support educators/teachers enrolled in teacher payroll system at municipal level
- 500 teachers MEST/University of Prishtina, educators, school assistants, school directors and administrative staff, community rehabilitation

# Future plans

- Breaking the stigma of participation of CWD in all main basic stream education
- Establishing a functional support system - to establish the budget formula for expenditures for CWD
- institutionalization of mechanisms for evaluation and certification of disability
- enabling teachers and other relevant institutions to provide adequate services to CWD

Thank you !