



To: Mr. Besnik Bislimi, Minister of Finances and Transfers
Mr. Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

From: Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection - KOMF

Subject: Request

Date: 6 April 2020

Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection – KOMF, which represents 31 non-governmental organizations in the field of child protection, appreciates the government's initiative to approve the 179.6 million euros Emergency Fiscal Package, considering it a very appropriate step which is expected to mitigate the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the other hand, KOMF expresses its deep concern about the fact that 1) Scheme for Material Support for Families of Children with Permanent Disabilities, 2) Foster Families for Children without Parental Care and 3) Professional staff of shelters working 24 hours a day, are not included as beneficiaries under the Emergency Fiscal Package.

1. The Scheme for Material Support for Families of Children with Permanent Disabilities supports families with children with permanent disabilities in the amount of 100 Euros per month. The number of children benefiting from this scheme currently in Kosovo is 2,360 children. The amount of 100 Euros is insufficient to cover the basic needs (food products, hygienic products, therapeutic treatment, necessary equipment, didactic-teaching materials, medicines, etc.) for children with disabilities.
2. Foster families that provide housing for children without parental care who are relatives of the child (Relatives housing) receive EUR 75 per month for child's monthly expenses. While families that shelter children without parental care and are not relatives of the child (alternative foster families), receive 250 Euros per month for the child's monthly expenses. Currently, the number of children without parental care in family housing with relatives is 497 children, while the number of children in alternative family housing is 54. Alternative shelter families are voluntary families recruited by the Centers for Social Work to provide housing for children without parental care, without any social benefit in the name of being a foster family and thus endanger their sustainability.

Because of the reasons mentioned above and because of the fact that household expenditures have increased as a result of the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we request that the above two schemes be included in the emergency package, providing a monetary certain amount for the following months.

3. Shelters or residential centers that provide 24-hour services for children without parental care, victims of domestic violence, victims of abuse and trafficking throughout this period have continued to provide services with full capacity. Like many positions that have been assessed and considered risky in this period, these positions also provide 24-hour services, are open to new cases in need

of accommodation, are directly exposed to the risk of infection in their workplace. We request that the professional staff of the shelters that provide direct services for 24 hours (not management and administrative staff) be also beneficiaries within the emergency fiscal package – specifically part of the Measure no.6.

Considering the common interest of all citizens to have social welfare, KOMF demands your increased attention, in support of children with disabilities and children without parental care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,
Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection – KOMF

KOMF, founded in 2011, is a coalition consisting of 31 local and international non-governmental organizations working in the field of child protection.

KOMF members organizations: Association for Social Training, Research and Advocacy – ASTRA, Action for Mothers and Children, Balkan Sunflowers Kosova, Childproof / CIPOF, Education Comes First – ECF, Iniciativa 6, Organizata Rinore Akti – ORA, Organization for Children without Parental Care– OFAP, OPFAKOS , Civil Rights Program in Kosovo – CRP/ K, PL4Y International, Kosovo Education Center – KEC, Day Care Center - PEMA, Center for Protection of Victims and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings - PVPT, FIT Center for Advanced Studies – FIT, Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims – KRCT, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages in Kosovo, Shpresa dhe Shtëpi për Fëmijët në Kosovë – SDSF, Patients' Rights Association Kosovo – PRAK, Association of Children Paraplegics and Paralysis in Kosovo – HANDIKOS, Terre des hommes, The Ideas Partnership, VoRAE, World Vision, Public Organization for Local Initiatives and Supports – POLIS, Network of Peace Movement – NOPM, SOS Kindergarten and Nevo Koncepti.