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Office on Good Governance

STRATEGY ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

2019-2023

THE STRATEGY FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

2019-2023 has been drafted by:

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V E N D I M

1. Aprovohet Strategjia për të Drejtat e Fëmijëve 2019-2023 dhe Plani i Veprimit për zbatimin e Strategjisë për të Drejtat e Fëmijëve 2019-2021.
2. Obligohen të gjitha institucionet kompetente për zbatimin e Strategjisë nga pika 1. e këtij vendimi.
3. Zyra për Qeverisje të Mirë/Zyra e Kryeministrit koordinon dhe monitoron zbatimin e Strategjisë nga pika 1. e këtij Vendimi.
4. Vendimi hyn në fuqi ditën e nënshkrimit.

Ramush HARADINAJ

Kryeministër i Republikës së Kosovës

Iu dërgohet:

- Zëvendëskryeministrave
- të gjitha ministrive (ministrave)
- Sekretarit të Përgjithshëm të ZKM-ës
- Arkivit të Qeverisë

"It is more than clear that love and understanding have a very strong connection... one who loves shall understand, and one who understands shall love. One who feels being understood, feels also being loved by others, and one who feels being loved, feels also that is being understood. Moreover, understanding is deeper concept than knowledge. Someone may know us, but few can understand us. Do not try to understand everything. Sometimes is better not to understand something, just to accept it. All the hatred is pain, all the compassion is understanding."

(Breror Rexha, student of VIII grade, lower secondary elementary school, "Faik Konica")

1.0 Executive Summary

Although it is true that children of tomorrow will inherit the world of today, it is also important to remember that the world of tomorrow will inherit the children of today. The policy decisions made today will determine whether millions of children and youngsters will be able to reach their full potential or will be left to face a future of worsening inequity and marginalization. Consequently, they can determine the world we will see tomorrow¹.

Children build the cornerstones of life and the future of the state, therefore meaningful engagement of the community is required to develop a polite, educated, healthy and productive adult. However, it is often the case that this exceptional does not receive proper attention that would match their best interests, including therein the allocation of lower financial resources by the government.

That is why under the Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2019-2023 the human capital development has been defined as an essential factor contributing to economic growth, and consequently children welfare has been put as a specific goal in the Strategy. Confident that investing in children is the only way to build a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous world, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is committed to join the journey of pro-Western countries towards meeting the obligations set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as treaties and other international standards.

In order to respond to local and international challenges, but also in line with the States Parties² obligations set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), specifically Article 4, which states that: “States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention”, the Government has approved³ the Strategy and National Action Plan for the Rights of the Child 2009-2013. The strategic document, dedicated to children, identified issues that needed immediate intervention, by making maximal efforts to provide necessary protection and care for the children,

¹ UNICEF, 2012. Right in Principle and in Practice: A Review of the Social and Economic Returns to Investing in Children. New York.

² Please note that although Kosovo cannot ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child due to its political status before the UN, it has incorporated the CRC into the Constitution which constitutes the broadest point of the legal reference and continues to show commitment to implementation of the Convention. For this reason, this section refers to the jurisprudence of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as the text of the Convention as an instruction for Kosovo in the realization of the rights of the child.

³ Decision 07/69, date 19.06.2009.

their welfare and development. In the light of this process, the Office of Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister has annually prepared 'Progress Reports' aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Strategy and the National Action Plan for the Rights of the Child. These reports pointed out the key issues related to children's rights and progress made in implementing the strategy, and at the same time, international mechanism considered these as achievements of government institutions.

Committed to making the Republic of Kosovo one of the best places for a healthy start to life, where children can live and develop their full potential, the rights of the child are becoming increasingly part of the agenda of national policies development and the legal and institutional framework, whereby the Secretary General of the Office of the Prime Minister issued the decision⁴ for drafting of the Strategy and Action plan for the Rights of the Child 2017-2021.

The Strategy on the Rights of the Child is a continuation of the previous strategy⁵, a component that derives from the National Strategy for Development (2016-2021), based on the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021), the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU, Strategy for Improving Policy Planning and Coordination in Kosovo (2017-2021), treaties and other international standards. It is also in line with the measures envisaged in strategies of sectors related to the Kosovo Education Strategic Plan (2017-2021), the Economic Reform Program (ERP) 2018-2019 approved by the Government of Kosovo, as well as Kosovo's commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As such, it is characterized by its unifying and inclusive approach, covering all government levels by promoting and respecting the rights of the child, based on the principles embodied⁶ in the Convention.

This strategic document aims to establish a comprehensive policy framework and at the same time to serve as a base for other subsector strategies, in order to influence, to the greatest extent possible, the unification of institutional efforts within the reform of the system as a whole, in particular, the system referring to the rights of child. These policies refer to the child's life cycle, including prenatal, infancy, childhood and adolescence care, by prioritizing the most marginalized

⁴ Ref decision.116/2016, date 20.10.2016

⁵ [http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategy_Narrative_-_Shqip03\[1\].pdf](http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategy_Narrative_-_Shqip03[1].pdf)

⁶ Commentary of the CRC General Committee No.5 'The general measures implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 4, 42 and 44 para. 6), para. 28.

children. Such reforms would not make sense, if they were not reflected in a comprehensive spirit, so that to undertake initiatives for improving the situation of children in the economic, social and political context.

This vision will be achieved by meeting the following Strategic Objectives:

Strategic Objective #1	Strategic Objective #2	Strategic Objective #3	Strategic Objective #4	Strategic Objective #5
Improving good governance for realization of the rights of child;	Improving local government for realization of the rights of child;	Involvement and empowerment of children in decision-making;	Inclusion of children in integrated services for early childhood development and education;	Improving of health, protection and well-being of children for reaching their full potential;

The fulfilment of these objectives shall contribute to the achievement of national objectives set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kosovo. The strategic objectives are in compliance and contribute to the main purpose of Agenda 2030, which calls for bringing an end to poverty in all its forms, and elimination of inequalities (SDGs 1⁷, 5⁸ and 10⁹), increase the opportunities for all children to have high educational achievements (SDGs 4¹⁰), qualitative health and social services (SDGs 2¹¹ and 3¹²), prevention of negative phenomena and making their voices heard (SDGs).

The importance of fulfilling strategic objectives and investing in children is manifold, in addition of being the right thing to do, in terms of planning long-term policies for improving the country's state of play; it's also an economic investment of great value in return. The investment in creating conditions for quality child development at early childhood establishes the preconditions for more economic investment in their development in later life periods, as children or adult individuals. Investing in children is, therefore, important not only in terms of lifting children out of poverty

⁷ End of poverty in all its forms, everywhere;

⁸ Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

⁹ Reduce inequality within and among countries;

¹⁰ Good health and well-being - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;

¹¹ End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;

¹² Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;

now but is also an efficient and highly cost-effective way of ensuring that current generations of children become healthy, productive and active adult citizens.

The duplication of efforts by institutions (both central and local level) and domestic and international non-government organizations operating in the Republic of Kosovo is required for building the grounds toward a more resilient and equal future development, and to ensure these rights become a reality for all children.

2.0 Introduction

Children are the greatest asset of the new state of Kosovo, who aspire- to be an official/formal member with equal rights in the European Union. For this extremely important asset to take its place in society, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is mobilized in building and strengthening the system and institutional mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of children's rights.

The strategic approach is built based on the core elements of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU, national and global commitments toward achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) and in the function of implementing and respecting democratic principles, and children's rights, as included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and their definition in domestic policies and legislation.

The studies show that despite the progress made, the rights of the child are violated/ infringed on daily basis, and there are still gaps in terms of legal protection of children, as well as the gap between the law and practice/applicability is growing further. These results prompted the initiative for drafting the strategy, a process that included orientation of measures and policies, which reflect appropriately the CRC principles, EU political and economic standards, as well as recommendations identified in the Progress Reports on the rights of the Child and the Report Chart. All these elements are integrated in a constructive way to support each other in fulfilling the common mission, providing children with the necessary space to develop their full potential, and at the same time, support the contribution and realization of economic, social and political priorities/ ambitions.

The need for drafting the strategy derives from the conclusions drawn from the meeting¹³ of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Rights of the Child¹⁴. Meanwhile, in order to progressively realize the rights of children in Kosovo, the Office of Good Governance/ Office of the Prime Minister (OGG/ OPM), in cooperation with UNICEF, initially took the initiative to assess the Strategy and Action Plan for Protection of Children's Rights 2009-2013. Interested to ensure that the assessment of implementation of the strategic document is as impartial as possible, it was carried out by the Coram Children's Legal Centre, headquartered in London, calling and reflecting the Progress Reports for Children Volume¹⁵, II¹⁶, III¹⁷ and IV¹⁸, as well as providing recommendations for strategy development¹⁹. The assessment of the abovementioned reports has preceded the drafting of the strategy, highlighting the relevance, importance, effectiveness, impact, ownership, and sustainability of government policy orientation strategically.

The realization of human rights begins with the investment in children whose results are interrelated with a high level of productivity for the economy, social status and development of the country. The future of a country depends largely on whether its citizens are healthy and educated. Therefore, despite the difficulties faced by the state, investment in children is the right thing to do towards children's prosperity and the realization of their rights, always focusing on dimming and eliminating such difficulties.

3.0 Methodology

The Strategy on the Rights of the Child is developed based on a combined methodology, in order to be comprehensive, address key evidence-based priorities and ensure that targeted interventions will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives. During the process of drafting the strategic document, individual workshops and meetings were organized with key local and international stakeholders, specifically, consultations with representatives of children from the Councils of Students at the country level and the monitoring group for the realization of children's rights - Respect our Rights (ROR). In order to ensure involvement of all key actors, a working group has been set up to draft the strategy. Following a brief analysis of the state of play, the strategic

¹³ Conclusions of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Rights of the Child, on: 31.05.2013;

¹⁴ Decision No.07/46, date 03.12.2008;

¹⁵ www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Raporti_shqip_final.pdf;

¹⁶ www.kryeministri-ks.net/.../raporti_i_vleresimit_2011_SPNVDF.pdf;

¹⁷ www.kryeministri-ks.net/.../Raportit_i_Progresit_shqip_Final.pdf;

¹⁸ www.kryeministri-ks.net/.../Progresi_i_Raportit_ALB_01_web.pdf;

¹⁹ Strategy Development Report, Coram Children's Legal Centre – Coram;

objectives, specific objectives, activities and concrete actions have been determined, which have been budgeted as well.

In a structural and substantive aspect, "The Strategy for Children's Rights 2019-2023 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy on the Rights of the Child 2019-2021 have been drafted in full compliance with the Administrative Instruction (CRC) no. 07/2018 on the Planning and Drafting of Strategic Documents and Action Plans, Government Rules of Procedure No.09 / 2011 and Regulation (QRK) No. 05/2016 on Minimum Standards for the Public Consultation Process.

The strategy development process was divided in three stages: 1) the first stage was characterized by analysing the overall situation as well as carrying out a number of consultative meetings²⁰, which involved children and relevant stakeholders working at the local level; 2) throughout the second phase, the team²¹ responsible for drafting the strategy has analysed the strategic documents in force ²², various reports and domestic and international child-dedicated assessments, particularly EC Progress Reports, Progress Reports on the Rights of the Child²³, Reporting Cards²⁴, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)²⁵, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) ²⁶, Legal Framework for Child Rights in Kosovo²⁷, Analysis of the Situation of Child Rights²⁸, Kosovo in the early demographic dividend stage, a time sensitive window of opportunity, Early Childhood Care and Development Situation Analysis²⁹, Agenda for Children³⁰, Child Protection Index in Kosovo³¹, Our Voice³², Poverty and Deprivation among Children using the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA)³³, etc. Whereas, in the third phase, the document was subjected to public consultations process whereby the inter-institutional working team reviewed and incorporated inputs received, and according to the criteria set out in legislation in force, has been processed for approval.

²⁰ Summary Report of Municipal Consultative Meetings on Defining the Priority Areas of the SPVDF (2016-2020);

²¹ Ref decision 116/2016, date 20.10.2016;

²² http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Regjistri_i_dokumenteve_strategjike_ne_fuqi_.pdf

²³ See references as above;

²⁴ <http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/>;

²⁵ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>;

²⁶ <http://ask.rks-gov.net/sq/agjencia-e-statistikave-te-kosoves/add-news/anketa-e-grupimeve-te-treguesve-te-shumefishte;>

²⁷ https://www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/Legal_FW_Shqip.pdf;

²⁸ https://kosovo.savethechildren.net/sites/kosovo.savethechildren.net/files/library/CRSA_Kosovo_2013%20December_2.pdf

²⁹ https://kosovo.savethechildren.net/sites/kosovo.savethechildren.net/files/library/Analiza%20e%20situates_ALB%20me%20cover%20page.pdf;

³⁰ www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/Agenda_for_Children_SHQIP.pdf;

³¹ <http://www.komfkosova.org/rekomandimet-e-indeksit-te-mbrojtjes-se-femijes-2-0/?lang=en>;

³² https://kosovo.savethechildren.net/sites/kosovo.savethechildren.net/files/library/Young%20Voices%20Report_alb.pdf;

³³ https://www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/MODA_SHQIP.pdf;

4.0 Background

Being a child in Kosovo is not easy. The political crisis and the consequences of the 1990s war led to the collapse of the entire state system, and difficulties continue to linger further following the prolongation of the statehood transition process faced by the country since its independence (2008). Such an unfavourable situation has made children undergo a "double transition", by making them live "the golden time of their life", i.e. the period from childhood to adulthood, while carrying the weight of political insecurity and sustainable development. Nonetheless, the facts over the existing potential of the Republic of Kosovo serve as the light at the end of a tunnel. Children are the country's most important and crucial asset. Fortunately, 30% of the population of the Republic of Kosovo is comprised of children under the age of 18, while 47% of the population under the age of 25³⁴, a percentage that favours Kosovo compared to all European countries, allowing them not to bear the burden of the elderly population as is happening in EU countries.

The human capital development will be an instrumental contributing factor to economic growth in the near and distant future, whereas the quality of human capital available will be one of critical determinants of economic success³⁵. In other words, caring of the new-borns, children and adolescents today, is a precondition so that Kosovo tomorrow is prepared for a competitive skills-based³⁶ and technological innovation environment. The importance of investing in children goes well beyond the scale of economic arguments and must be seen in the context of sustainable social and political development. The literature emphasizes that investing in children is essential for protecting their rights, which allows the fulfilment of broad social goals and also guarantees the state's welfare.

In addition to proven arguments, the importance of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo to take all legislative, strategic, administrative and other necessary measures to enforce the guaranteed rights of children is twice as high as in other countries, by the fact that Kosovo has already entered the first stage of the "demographic dividend", which is an incentive for economic

³⁴ Kosovo Agency of Statistics. 2014. Population projections 2011-2061, secondary variation;

³⁵ Poverty and Deprivation among Children using the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA);

³⁶ Please note: "Skills" refers to the description as it is in the National Development Strategy;

productivity that occurs when the labour force (from 15 to 64 years old) is greater than the subordinate part or the non-working population aged 0-14 and older than 65 years.³⁷

Demographic dividend is considered as a window of opportunities for accelerating economic growth that does not open automatically, but rather depends completely on capitalization of opportunities and implementation of effective policies. To benefit and maximize the benefits of this opportunity, it is crucial that investments are oriented toward human capital, children, by implementing effective policies to address challenges and opportunities with adequate action³⁸.

Based on the findings of the monitoring reports on the rights of the child, which also reflect the current situation regarding their rights in the Republic of Kosovo, by providing information on key indicators that are in line with the criteria set out in the national legislation, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Sustainable Development Goals (known as the SDG and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (known as the MCC), resulted that significant improvements were made by highlighting the most important achievements, including: the ongoing mortality reduction of children and babies, the recognition and protection of children's rights, the comprehensive immunization program, the high attendance of children in primary education and the growth trend of pre-school education, progress in enhancing inclusion in education, reforming the justice system for children, influence in reducing overall inequalities. These achievements are in line with the global agenda and efforts dedicated to children.

However, much remains to be done in terms of improving children's welfare and promoting social progress. Among others, work is still required for overcoming the adverse effects of malnutrition towards and ensuring full healthcare provision for children, facilitating access to healthcare, investigating the causes and effectively stopping the cases of child involvement in heavy and dangerous labour in order to overcome the failure of school achievement and achieving the right educational outcomes for them. The link between disadvantaged economic position and social exclusion has been evident in rural areas where access to major public services, health or education is often difficult or even impossible. Additionally, the social exclusion mainly of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children, poses a challenge in itself.

³⁷ Lee, R., and Mason, A. (2006) What is the Demographic Dividend?" Finance and Development, 2006;

³⁸ UNICEF. 2016. Kosova Kosovo at the earliest stage of the dividend demographics – an opportunity of limited time;

4.1 Economy

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for elimination of poverty in all its forms by 2030³⁹. Despite the efforts and the progress made in several areas, the Republic of Kosovo still faces a significant number of challenges that are directly related to the level of development, high unemployment rates and poverty. Kosovo is one of the poorest countries in Europe, with 17.6% of the population living in overall poverty and 5.2% of the population living in extreme poverty⁴⁰. There is a high unemployment rate, especially among youth with 53.3%⁴¹, while the total inactive population⁴² is 56.5 %⁴³. According to estimates of economic growth and the opportunity to enter the labour market, each year out of the 30,000 young people entering the labour market, only 15,000 get employed⁴⁴.

Given that Kosovo has the youngest population in Europe, this situation becomes even more complex, because it faces the so called "triple risk": being young, unemployed and extremely poor. That is why Kosovo's youth can bring risks and challenges just as much as it can bring opportunities. The fact that Kosovo's workforce has problems with the level of skills and its compatibility to the labour market, which overturns its advantage of being the youngest workforce in Europe⁴⁵, must also be added to this unfavourable situation. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that 27.4%⁴⁶, or over one third of young Kosovars are neither in education nor in work and this poses a risk of becoming a "lost generation". The prospects of finding a job even for those with higher education seem to be deteriorating, according to some data showing a growing number of unemployed graduated people.⁴⁷.

³⁹ UN.2015. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030;

⁴⁰ KAS. 2017 Q3. Poverty Report;

⁴¹ KAS. 2017 Q3. Labour Force Survey;

⁴² Note: "Inactive population" refers to the working age population, who are not employed or registered as unemployed;

⁴³ KAS. 2017 Q3. Labour Force Survey;

⁴⁴ WB.2014. Kosovo Public Finance Review: Fiscal Policies for a Young Nation ;

⁴⁵ CHRUP and CRHREI, 2011. Social Policies in Kosovo - Social Schemes and their Conformity with the Kosovo Reality;

⁴⁶ KAS. 2017 Q3. Labour Force Survey;

⁴⁷ WB.2014. Kosovo Public Finance Review: Fiscal Policies for a Young Nation;

Fortuitously, Kosovo's possibilities of overcoming such challenges are vast considering that Kosovo is not facing the fiscal and economic pressures that result from an aging population, a problem faced by many other Eastern European countries⁴⁸. Nevertheless, the public expenditures policies must urgently ensure compliance with the needs of a young population and enterprises operating in Kosovo. Inevitably, the focus shall be put on proper education of children and the training of the workforce, which are the elements that could provide a comparative advantage and also constitute a key resource to growth.

4.2 Education

Children's quality education is of vital importance for the success of the state and for establishing a developed society, as powerful concepts in the development of democracy, justice, equality and fighting against poverty. Moreover, the right to education is one of the fundamental rights in the light of children's rights guaranteed by international conventions and applicable domestic legislation with an essential role in learning, education and development of the child full potential.

The United Nations Organization, within the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, has defined education as a goal (SDGs 4) fundamentally divided and articulated by focusing on quality education according to which "Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to creating sustainable development"⁴⁹.

Therefore, the Sustainable Development Goals call for quality education for all, starting from early childhood and providing lifelong learning⁵⁰. Although the education sector is one of the government's priorities, government spending on pre-university education as a percentage of GDP remains low⁵¹.

⁴⁸ WB.2007. "From red to grey : the third transition of aging populations in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union";

⁴⁹ UN.2015. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030;

⁵⁰ UN.2015. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030;

⁵¹ <http://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2018/02/raport-vjetor-statistikor-me-tregues-arsimore-2016-17.pdf>

Table 1.**Expenditures by levels in pre-university education as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**

Level of education	2015	2016
Preschool	0.1%	0.1%
Pre-primary	0.2%	0.2%
Primary	1.3%	1.2%
Lower secondary	1.2%	1.2%
Medium-high	0.9%	0.9%

While in the context of the Republic of Kosovo, where based on different studies unemployment and poverty are considered the biggest problems, education should be considered as the crucial key element in the radical improvement of employment opportunities and economic engagement, as a precondition for improving livelihood and fighting poverty.

The immediate need of strengthening education emerges from the fact that Kosovo can benefit from "demographic dividends" that result from its young population, which Kosovo will be able to benefit from only if it makes education its highest priority in public expenses⁵² as well. However, should Kosovo fail to do so, chances are that the "demographic dividend", will rather be a "demographic damnation"⁵³.

Based on the data, the enrolment in primary and lower secondary education in the Republic of Kosovo is almost universal, while it is necessary to consider the possibilities of increasing access to lower secondary education. Specifically, the net attendance rate in primary and lower secondary schools is high with up to 95%, while the net attendance rate in upper secondary schools is 82 %⁵⁴. The latest data from MEST for the 2016/17 year, confirm that the situation of pupils' enrolment in upper secondary education is still lower compared to pupils' enrolment in primary and lower secondary education⁵⁵.

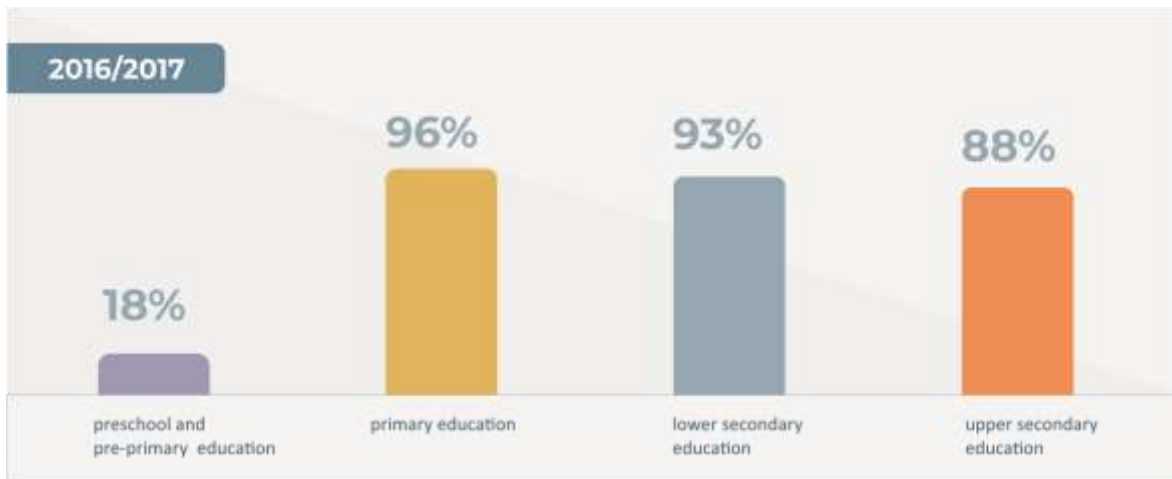
⁵² WB.2014. Kosovo Public Finance Review: Fiscal Policies for a Young Nation;

⁵³ Boughzala, M. 2013. "Youth Employment and Economic Transition in Tunisia", Brookings Global Economy and Development Working Papers 57;

⁵⁴ KAS. 2015. Kosovo Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2013-2014.

⁵⁵ <http://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2018/02/raport-vjetor-statistikor-me-tregues-arsimore-2016-17.pdf>

Figure 1 - Gross Enrolment Rate in Pre-University Education by Levels
Recognition: * Children aged 0 - <6 years



While the situation of children attendance in pre-school and pre-primary education according to MEST remains low despite positive trends in recent years. Compared to 2014/15, when the Gross Enrolment Ratio for pre-school and pre-primary education (age 0 - <6 years old) was 15.7%, in 2016/17 reached 18%. However, disaggregated data by levels indicate that inclusion of children at pre-primary level (5 - <6 years old) results in an increase of 79.6% to 87.6%, while pre-school and pre-primary (3 - <6 years) remains 33.9%

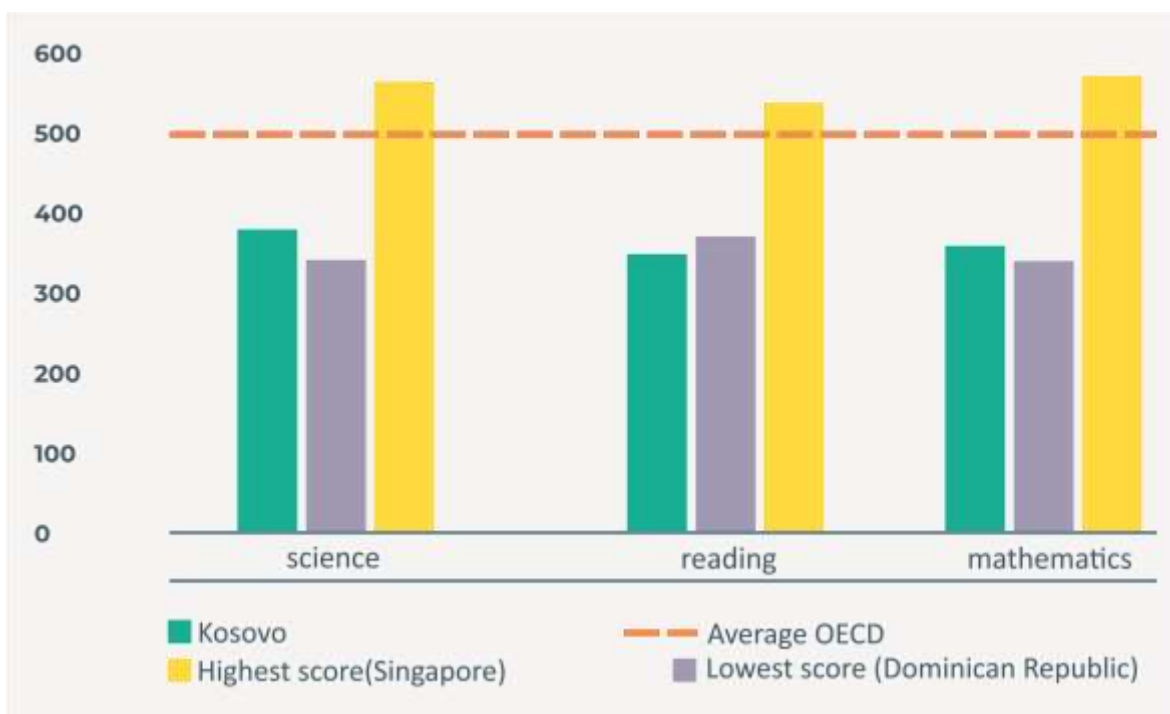
Furthermore, the data in Kosovo show the need for increased opportunities and access, particularly in pre-primary and upper secondary education, where children are mostly deprived of early childhood education⁵⁶.

Increasing education's quality and eliminating pupils' performance related deficiencies remains one of the Government's greatest challenges considering the unsatisfactory passing rate of the PISA test held in 2015⁵⁷, particularly since quality education is one of the fundamental human rights and a public good.

⁵⁶ OPM, 2016. Report Card - Report on the Rights of Children in Kosovo;

⁵⁷ Report on Kosovo's Student Achievement in PISA 2015;

Figure (2) Kosovo's results in the PISA test, the average score by the Organization for Development and Economic Cooperation (OECD), the highest and the lowest scores achieved in PISA 2015.



Organization for Development and Economic Cooperation - OECD, PISA, 2015 Report

Improving pupils' success will allow the strengthening of workforce skills, which in the long run will enable greater economic growth and higher incomes⁵⁸. Studies emphasise the manifold benefits with high parameters deriving from education, underlining that every dollar invested in qualitative education will return 15 times more within two decades. The challenges arising from the low quality of education, among other things, threaten the stability, prospects for future employment of young people and the country's economic development and social cohesion

4.3 Health

For a progressive society, healthcare is considered as a public good and a fundamental factor for development, whose foundations are of great importance for early childhood, characterized by a complete physical, mental and social well-being⁵⁹. The UN, within the framework of the first three

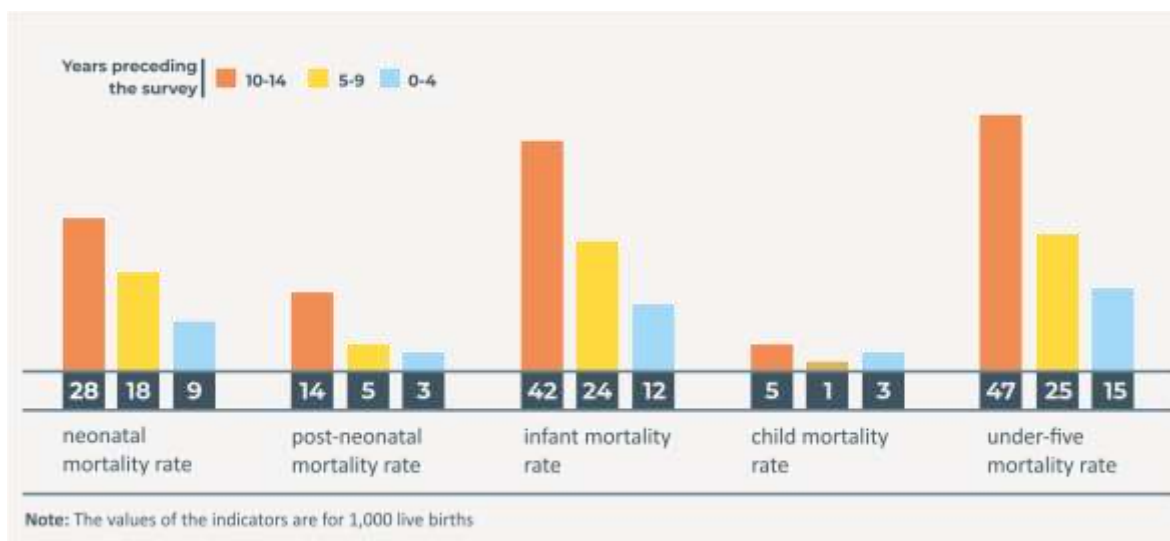
⁵⁸ OPM, 2016. National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2021;

⁵⁹ Andrija Stampar, First President of the General Assembly of the World Health Organization, 1946;

objectives for sustainable development, determines the ensuring of a healthy life and promoting of the well-being of children as essential for sustainable development of the country⁶⁰. The survival and healthy development of children is considered of particular importance in the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁶¹, with special provisions recognizing the right of children to health and health care.

The health determinants are numerous and complex, and closely intertwined to the political, social, economic and lifestyle factors. The complex situation of the healthcare system in Kosovo is reflected by the data of a recent study, which point out that regardless of the progress noted in some of the indicators, there are still high inequality rates in the indicators referring to the welfare and survival of children and mothers, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups. Progress is noted in the declining rate of mortality among neonatal and children under the age of 5 years old. Despite the progress made, the children's health indicators in Kosovo are still the poorest in the region, highlighting inequalities in access and quality of care⁶² while the causes of high infant mortality are closely related to poverty, malnutrition and unhealthy environment.

Figure (3) Mortality rates in early childhood, Kosovo, 2013-2014



Kosovo Agency of Statistics, 2013-2014 MICS in Kosovo, 2015

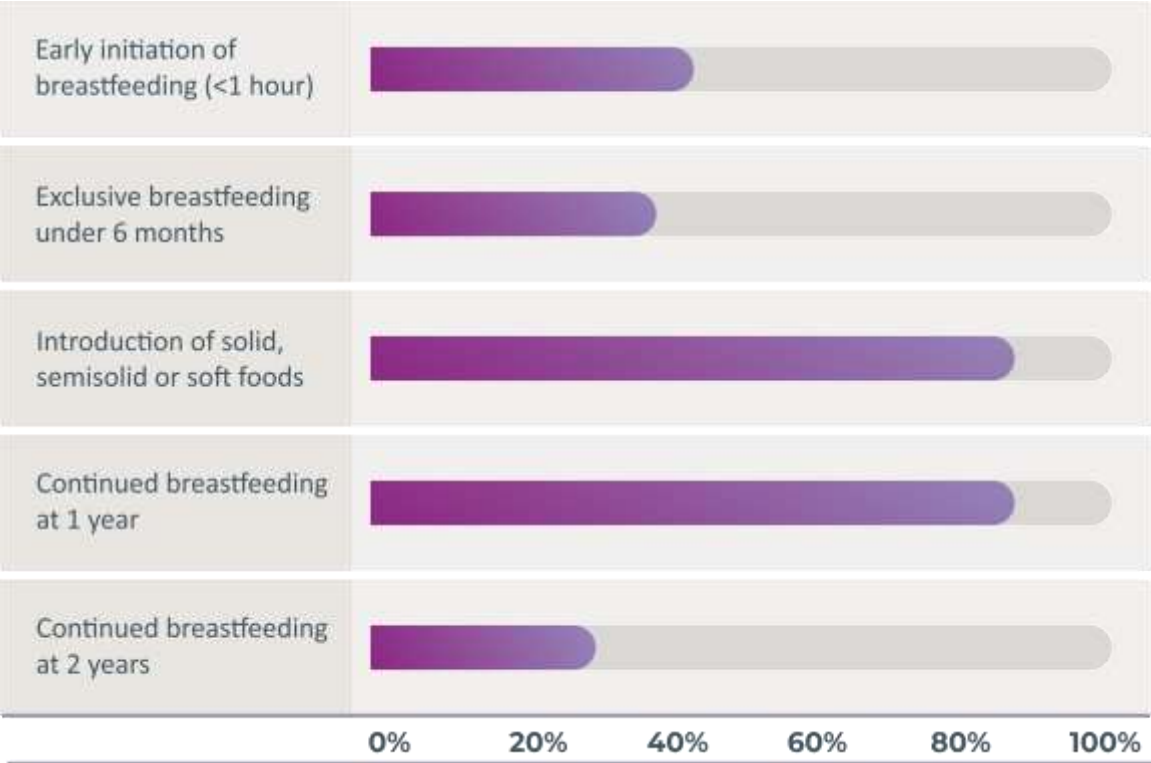
⁶⁰ UN.2015. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030;

⁶¹ UN. 1989. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, see articles: 24, 23, 25, 33 and 39.

⁶² UNICEF and OBSH. 2015. Establishment of an appropriate political environment for improving child health, development and well-being in Kosovo. A political summary based on the findings of MICS in Kosovo;

Global health authorities consider breastfeeding as fundamental to children's good health, considering it an adequate mean for a child growth and development. Breastfeeding generates benefits that are also related to maternal health and increases economic benefits by affecting the reduction of healthcare spending. According to the monitoring of indicators related to breastfeeding in Kosovo, 60% of children are exclusively breastfed up to six months, while 32% of them continue to be breastfed until the age of two. These data highlight the unfavourable situation of the beginning of child nutrition which could threaten the cognitive development and reduce productivity of adults. Therefore, special attention should be paid to promotional policies for increasing the percentage of breastfeeding considering Kosovo's economic aspiration⁶³, knowing that cost-return results of breastfeeding are of a very short period of time, i.e. of one year⁶⁴.

Figure (4) Breastfeeding and baby nutrition, Kosovo, 2013-2014

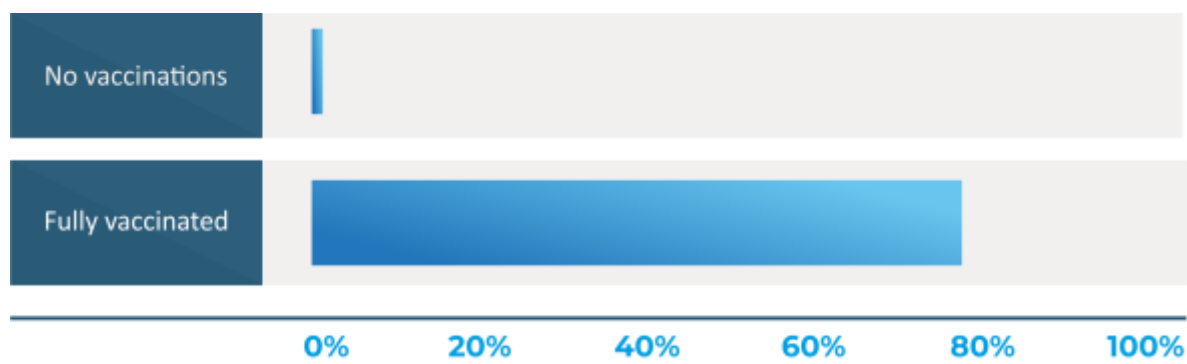


Kosovo Agency of Statistics. 2013-2014 MICS in Kosovo, 2015

⁶³ OPM.2016. National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2021;
⁶⁴ UNICEF. 2016. Kosovo at the early stage of the demographic dividend - a possibility of limited time.

The child immunization system is functional, enabling immunization to a satisfactory degree, 79% of children appear to be fully vaccinated.

Figure (5) Percentage of fully vaccinated children of 24-35 months old, and children who have not been vaccinated at all in the general population 2013-2014.



Kosovo Agency of Statistics. 2013-2014 MICS in Kosovo, 2015

Various reports referring to the health system state that information on health, healthcare and health indicators, their linkage to basic social indicators at individual and country level, is deficient, inaccurate and fragmented. Consequently, the lack of such information makes the analysing of the populations' health status difficult, thereby resulting more often than not with policies and decision-making being often incoherent. Fortunately, work is being done in the expansion and functionalization of the Health Information System⁶⁵, aiming to establish a unique and digital healthcare system, thereby allowing the overall improvement of the healthcare system functioning.

For the purpose of increasing the health services' quality and safety, which are also major impetuses toward improving health in general and among the most crucial elements for economic development, the health resources should focus mainly on Primary Healthcare⁶⁶. The health system should orient its activities towards preventing diseases so that the society does not have to pay in the form of treatment and lost productivity. This approach would contribute to the establishment of a positive cycle enabling the improvement of basic health services for new-borns, babies and children, nutrition, child and mother health, achieving their full potential, with

⁶⁵ As defined in the Strategy of Health Information System in Kosovo 2010-2012;

⁶⁶ Quilici, R., Smith, R., & Signorelli. C., (2015). Role of vaccination in economic growth, J Mark Access Health Policy;

significant effects on advancement of community mentality on healthy life and high benefits in the country's economic development.

4.4 Social Inclusion and Protection

Child protection begins by removing children from poverty.⁶⁷ They have the right to survive, to be safe, to be heard, to receive adequate care, and to grow in a protective environment. Living in extreme poverty is in itself a violation of rights, which largely determines the growth and development of negative phenomena as a result of which children may fall victims of various negative phenomena, including: school dropout, exploitation, trafficking, and involvement of children in serious and dangerous jobs, delinquency and other behaviours that are in conflict with the law⁶⁸. Studies point out that in addition to the impact on the child, the failure to provide children with a protective environment has major, immediate and long-lasting consequences for the country's economic development. No society has had a result in mitigating poverty without a large and sustainable investment for children⁶⁹.

Upon approval of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), world leaders have set a transformative course on the future of human development, beginning with the eradication of poverty in all its child-centred forms, promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development. These objectives have, among other things, integrated the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which relate to the survival and development of the full potential of the child.

Furthermore, the essential elements of the Stabilization and Association Agreement go beyond protecting the rights of children and fundamental rights in the general sense of the word, addressing the need for commitment to the individual protection of the child⁷⁰.

The Republic of Kosovo is considered to be one of the poorest countries in Europe, while the most vulnerable ones are the children.

⁶⁷ UN. 2000. Millennium Declaration;

⁶⁸ Bower. 2003. The Relationship between Child Abuse and Poverty;

⁶⁹ UNICEF 2010. Child Poverty in Kosovo;

⁷⁰ The Stabilization and Association Agreement between Kosovo, on one hand, and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, on the other, 2015.

Figure (6) Poverty rate by place of residence for the general population and children of 0-18 years old (%) 2012-2015, Source: HBS 2012 – 2015, KAS 2017

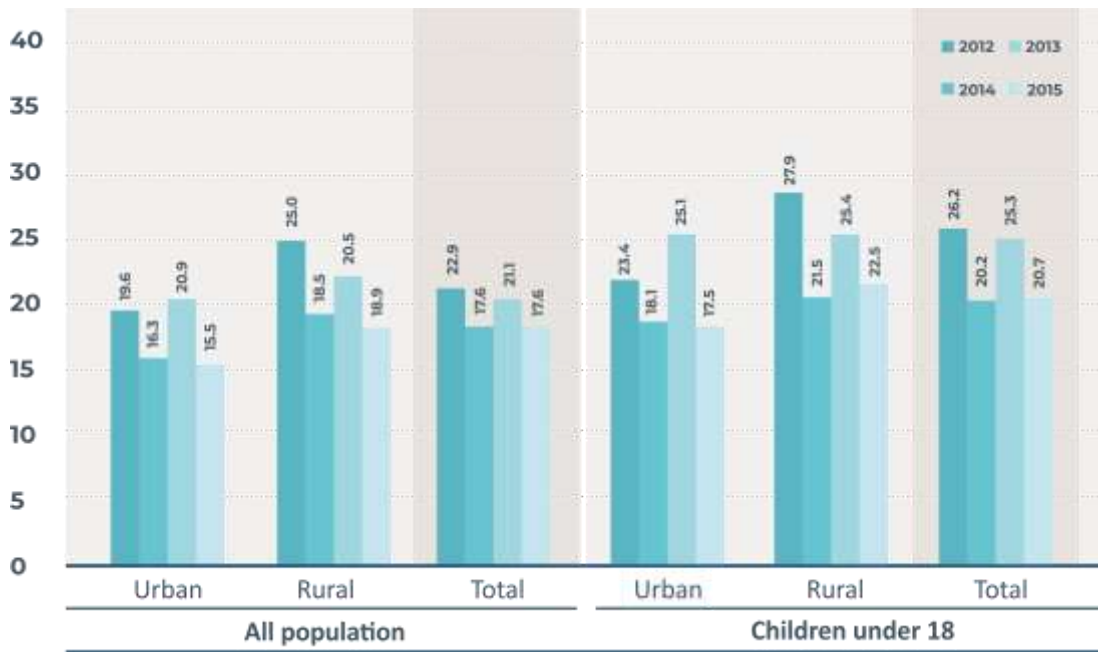
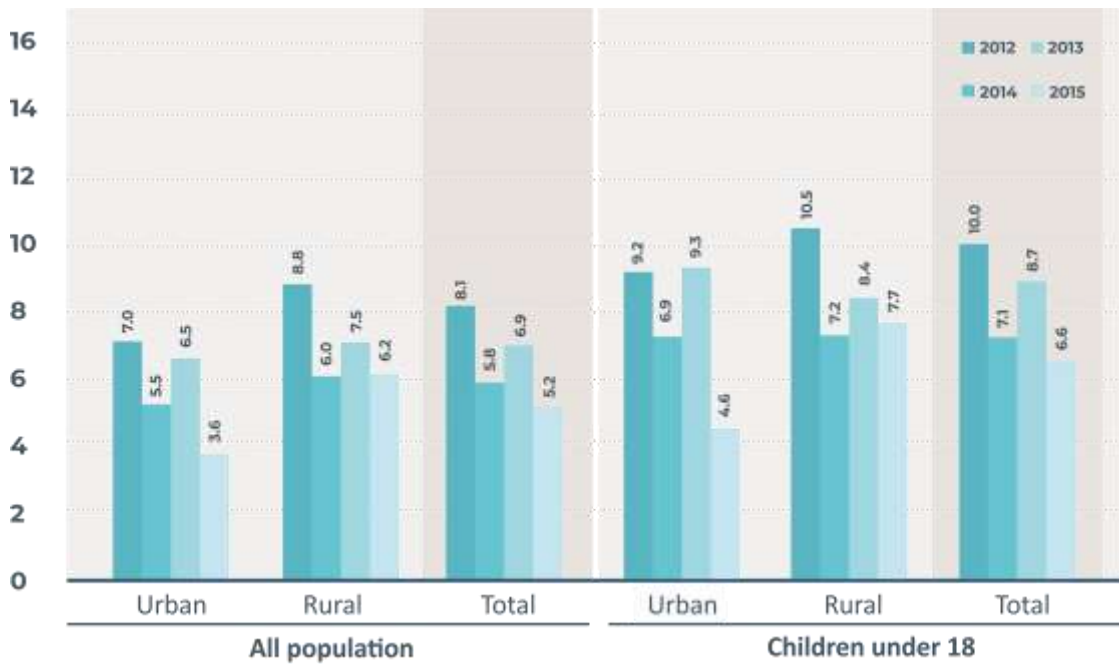


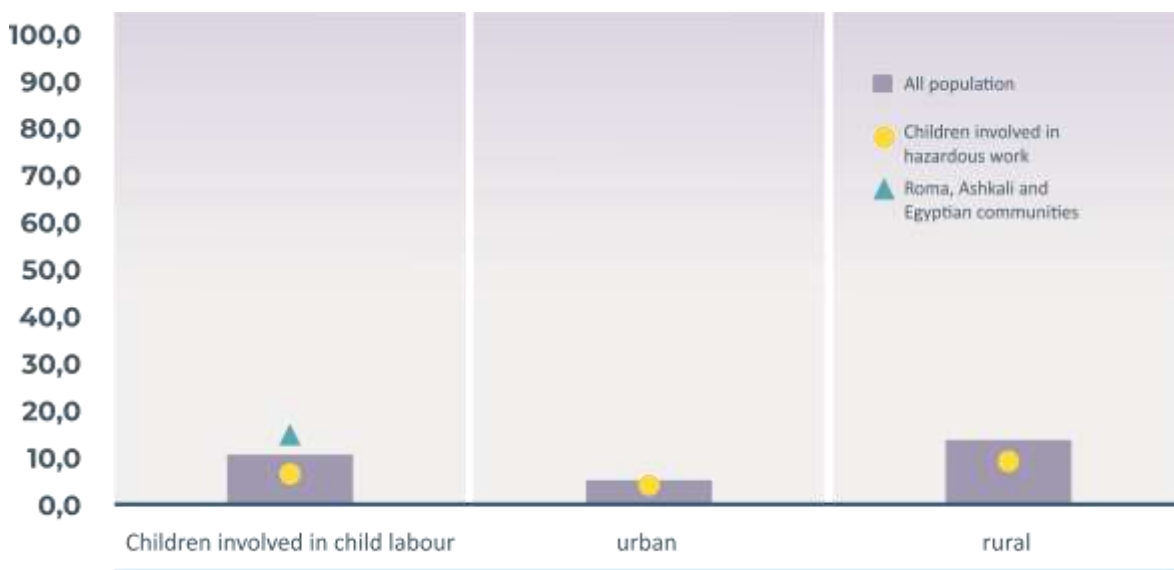
Figure (7) Extreme poverty rate by place of residence for the general population and children of 0-18 years old (%) 2012-2015. HBS 2012 – 2015, KAS 2017



According to data throughout the years there is no difference in the extreme poverty rate in children. The poverty profile reflects the image of the state, where the likelihood of being in poverty is strongly linked to age, gender, educational level and ethnicity. From this situation, the most vulnerable are children, especially children living in rural areas and those living in families with three or more children⁷¹.

Lack of effective policies to address poverty in line with citizens' needs⁷², lack of a child benefit scheme⁷³, discrimination of children of 5 to 18 years old to benefit from the social assistance scheme according to the criteria set out in category II⁷⁴, are considered to be among the main factors of involvement of children in serious and dangerous jobs, although the latter is sanctioned by law. Child labour reinforces cycles of the generations of poverty and harms national economies, where data show high percentage (11%⁷⁵) of children involved in work.

Figure (8) Percentage of children of 5-17 years old involved in work during the last week (of the survey), the percentage of those working in hazardous conditions by place of residence in general population and the percentage of children involved in work of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo, 2013-2014



Kosovo Agency of Statistics. 2013-2014 MICS in Kosovo, 2015

⁷¹ OPM. 2014. "Progress Report on Children IV"- Strategy and National Action Plan on the Rights of Children 2009-2013;

⁷² Please refer to the findings in WB Report, Kosovo - Public finance review : fiscal policies for a young nation, 2014;

⁷³ Please refer to the findings in UNICEF Report, Child Poverty in Kosovo, 2010;

⁷⁴ Law No. 2003/15 on the Social Assistance Scheme;

⁷⁵ Kosovo Agency of Statistics. 2015. Multiple Indicators Survey in Kosovo 2013-2014 (MICS);

There are many reasons why children are forced to work, however poverty remains the most important factor. Poor families are forced to put their children to work in order to increase their insufficient income⁷⁶. Poverty is both the cause and consequence of child labour.

The prioritization of protective measures for providing children with necessary support and prevention of violence and promoting positive discipline in parenting and education⁷⁷ is of vital importance. Such measures can significantly affect the promotion of social progress and democratic citizenship in achieving greater collective awareness of children's rights for equal protection from risks and consequences of violence. For the purpose of ensuring protection and social inclusion of children, the situation analysis "Legal and fiscal context as well as the capacities of social service providers in Kosovo"⁷⁸ recommends the need to recruit specialized child protection staff locally to provide qualitative services in accordance with the minimum quality standards for social services and existing child-oriented policies.

This approach has already become a consensus among all the parties within the UN, which is also the 16th objective of sustainable development goals, to mobilize for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, to ensure access to justice for all and to build effective, responsible and inclusive institutions at all levels⁷⁹, within which States commitment to stop all forms of violence against children.

Facts prove that violence: prevents child development, learning abilities and school performance, positive relationships, encourages lowering of self-esteem, emotional distress, and depression, and sometimes leads to self-harm and injury. Whereas, in Kosovo research emphasizes the use of violence as a mean of discipline at all levels of society, with data showing that 61% of children have been subject to violence only in the last month.

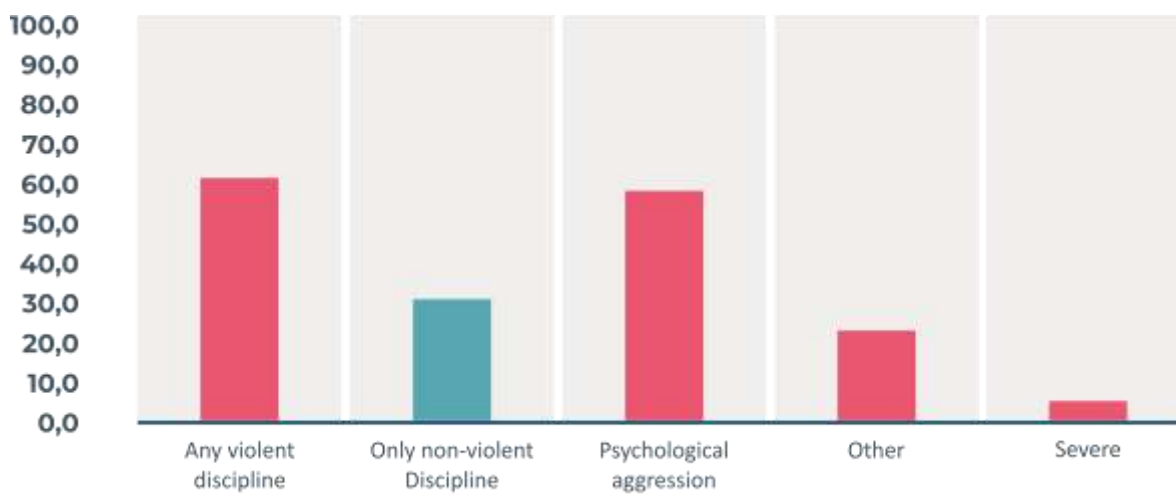
⁷⁶ <http://www.aag-m.org/centrum/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/143-164.pdf> ;

⁷⁷ Please refer to Recommendation Rec (2006)19 of the Committee of Ministers on policy to support positive parenting;

⁷⁸ Save the Children in Kosovo and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (2018);

⁷⁹ UN.2015. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030;

Figure (9) Percentage of children of 1-14 years old by the disciplinary methods experienced during the last month (survey), Kosovo, 2013-2014



Kosovo Agency of Statistics. MICS 2013-2014 in Kosovo, 2015

Children’s views with regard to addressing challenges for realization of their rights in Kosovo, extracted from the research “Zëri Ynë” point out that 41.7% of surveyed children do not know where to go when their rights are being violated or they are treated unfairly, many children (50.3%) said they do not know where to go when they have family problems, 38.9% said they do not know where to go when they are subject to violence, threats or other crimes, while 31.2 % of children have stated they do not know where to go when they have psychological problems.

Understanding children's poverty and deprivation is important to developing policies that ensure children's wellbeing and sustainable economic development. Therefore, the Republic of Kosovo should take the necessary measures to practically join global efforts of alleviating children from poverty, prevent violence, abuse, exploitation and negligence through improved and equal preventive and child protection systems⁸⁰.

Poverty indicators emphasize the obvious need for social protection. Therefore, it is necessary to create a functional system for better identification of the poor and vulnerable, ensuring that the social assistance scheme provides families with the necessary support for avoiding poverty⁸¹. Child poverty and social exclusion can be addressed more effectively through child protection systems

⁸⁰ UNICEF.2014. UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017;

⁸¹ WB.2014. Kosovo - Public finance review : fiscal policies for a young nation;

that carefully integrate preventative measures, family support, early childhood education and care, social services, education and housing policies⁸².

4.5 Inequality

When children are not given a fair chance in life, large inequalities appear between those who have more and those who have less. These inequalities are transmitted from one generation to the other, thus creating a vicious circle that leads to an unequal and unfair world, leaving a trail of significant economic, social and political consequences. Therefore, investing in children, particularly in those that are poor, and unequal is the right and the smartest thing to do. Evidence suggests that this approach has a better and cost-effective perspective, brings many benefits not only to the child, but also to the prosperity and sustainability of the family, community and development of the country, enabling children to have a fair chance in life.

Investing in more disadvantaged children is the greatest hope of breaking the cycle of inequalities that affects billions of people⁸³. This principle is further empowered by the European Parliament's decision⁸⁴ to reduce inequalities with a particular focus on child poverty, considering it as a necessity for childcare as the most vulnerable members of society. The necessity of investing in children, inter alia, is proclaimed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Social Charter as well. These Treaties seek to guarantee the right of every child to enjoy an adequate standard of living, social-economic protection, physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development of the child.

Global efforts to build an equal world have become a key priority of the United Nations agenda, within which a goal dedicated to reducing inequalities is determined (SDGs 10)⁸⁵.

⁸² Council of Europe. 2016. Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2021;

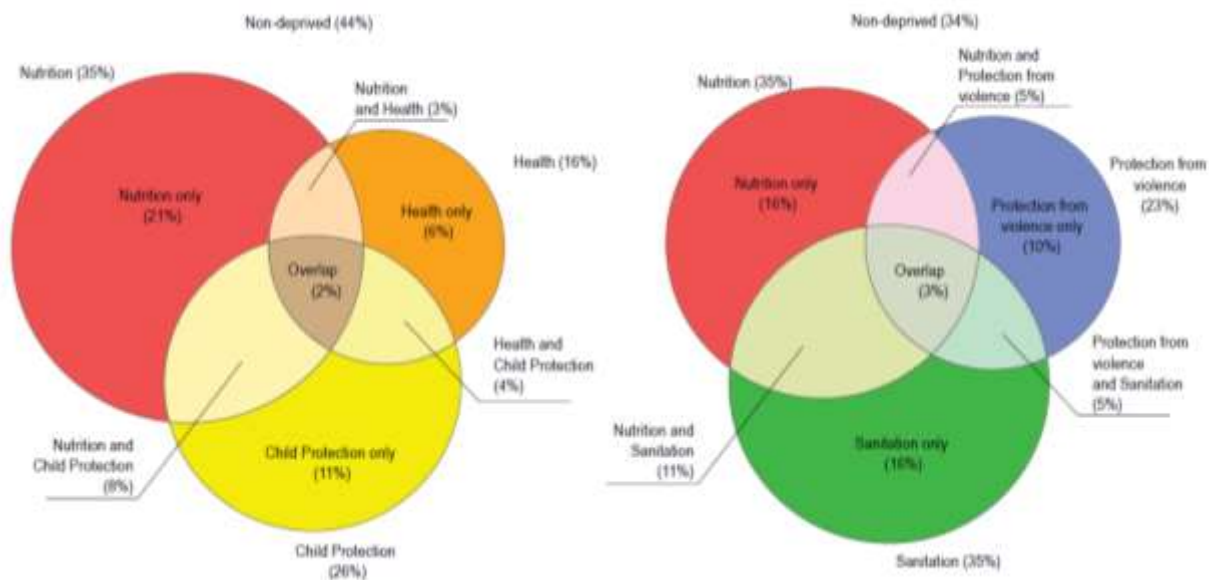
⁸³ UNICEF. 2015. A fair chance for every child. UNICEF Executive Board Special Session on Equity Conference Room Paper;

⁸⁴ European Parliament. Decision 2014/2237;

⁸⁵ UN. 2015. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030;

Data show that many children in Kosovo are deprived of their rights and are discriminated based on factors beyond their control, including gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status and place of birth⁸⁶.

Figure (10): Analysing deprivations for children of 0 to 11 months old in different fields.



In Kosovo's Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis, it is noticed that young children are more likely to be deprived of their rights in multiple dimensions and simultaneously compared to older children. The violation of children's rights in general, and particularly of those under the age of five, should be treated with special care. Literature proves that traces of gaps created by early childhood deprivation cannot be regained or fulfilled later. Because half of a person's intelligence potential develops up to four years old and early childhood incentives can have a lasting effect on intellectual capacity, personality, and social behaviour. In order for Kosovo to benefit and maximize the demographic dividend, the need for investment in human capital is crucial⁸⁷.

All children deserve the opportunity to be happy and healthy, to explore their world safely and to reach their full potential⁸⁸. Investing in children is the only way to end poverty and create equal

⁸⁶ Please refer to the findings: Poverty and Deprivation among children by using the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA), UNICEF, 2015;

⁸⁷ UNICEF. 2016. Kosovo at the early stage of the demographic dividend - a possibility of limited time.

⁸⁸ www.unicef.org/equity/

opportunities, and by addressing inequalities that often appear before the baby is born. Only as we come close to the realization of the rights of all children, states will be able to get close to their respective goals on development, well-being and peace⁸⁹.

5.0 Strategic Objectives and Specific Objectives

Jean Piaget believed:

“Children are active thinkers, constantly trying to construct more advanced understandings of the world”.

In the cornerstone of reforming the social protection system, work should be done in installing the philosophy of encouraging social prevention policies, thus creating conditions for free development and fulfilling the livelihoods and development needs of all children.

In order to achieve the Strategy goal, strategic objectives have been set with specific objectives, such as:

5.1 Strategic objective #1:

Improving good governance for realization of children's rights

Good governance determines how work processes and daily institutional practices are effective and efficient in achieving equality, transparency, participation, accountability and law enforcement. At the same time, the main test of good governance is its extension rate in the context of promoting and fulfilling children's rights. In addition to the institutional internal value, good governance is useful to a broad range of development results, including eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, economic growth and wider social development.

Children's rights cannot be fully realized without effective, transparent and accountable governing mechanisms. Therefore, achieving the first strategic objective is considered to be essential in the realization of children's rights, effectively achieving a broad range of sustainable development

⁸⁹ Anthony Lake. Executive Director of UNICEF, 2014;

objectives, and establishment and empowerment of the institutional mechanism and system for rights of the child in the context of advancing the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of policies and legal framework.

For the achievement/fulfilment of the strategic objective, the following specific objectives are foreseen:

Specific objective 1.1	Specific objective 1.2	Specific objective 1.3	Specific objective 1.4	Specific objective 1.5
Harmonization of the legal framework for children's rights with international standards and improvement of implementation;	Functionalization of mechanisms for children's rights at the central level;	Strengthening the complaints system for protection of children's rights;	Prioritization in appropriation and allocation of the budget for realization of children's rights	Advancement of monitoring children's rights;

5.2 Strategic objective #2:

Improving local governance for realization of children's rights

With an approach and objective almost identical to the first strategic objective, the second strategic objective requires that, within the development agenda of local government, children's rights be prioritized, aiming to improve the lives of children within their jurisdiction in the context of the realization of children's rights in accordance with the obligations arising from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the legal framework for children's rights, national policies and strategies.

This in practice requires that the needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions. By paying special attention to budget allocation for children, undertaking a set of measures to increase the quality service provided, as well policy alignment and central level actions, restructuring and functionalizing mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of children's rights at the local level.

For achievement/fulfilment of the strategic objective, the following specific objectives are foreseen:

Specific objective 2.1	Specific objective 2.2
Policy alignment, restructuring and functionalizing mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of children's rights at the local level;	Improvement of coverage and quality in providing childcare services;

5.3 Strategic Objective #3:

Inclusion and empowerment of children in decision-making

Participation of children in decision-making processes is more than merely asking the children about their ideas and views. The process of involving children in decision-making is about listening to them, taking them seriously and turning their ideas and suggestions into reality.

The inclusion and empowerment of children in decision-making processes is of a particular importance for many reasons as it provides them the opportunity to express their experiences, ideas and assessments for the decisions that affect them, learn new skills, have fun and develop closer ties with the community and state institutions, Therefore, this strategic objectives foresees the strengthening of actions relating to the right of children to be heard and have a role in taking all decisions affecting them, such as: family, school, community, local and central institutions.

In this regard, the provision of stable institutional mechanisms for child participation is foreseen, influencing the changing of attitudes and practices of consulting a child. Furthermore, the development of cultural and civil values in children, affects the proper understanding of the responsibility to contribute for the society as an honest and responsible citizen.

The following specific objectives are foreseen for achievement/fulfilment of the strategic objective:

Specific objective 3.1	Specific objective 3.2	Specific objective 3.3
Participation of children in decision-making at central and local level ensured through sustainable mechanisms;	Strengthened education system for development of children's competences for participation in decision-making;	Empowering children to develop knowledge and skills for monitoring and reporting for the situation of children's rights;

5.4 Strategic Objective #4:

Inclusion of children in integrated services for early childhood education and development

The main contribution for human capital development is early childhood development. The first years of a child, i.e. early childhood, shape a person, and education in this period influences the composition of a child's later capacity for learning, behaviour in society, and personality. By providing adequate education, support, and care, good health, well-being and nutrition, the child is more likely to be successful in school, integrate into society, and become a responsible and productive citizen. Limiting these opportunities affects the development of children's skills and quality of life; hence they fail to develop their full potential. Therefore, the paradigm of national, economic and social development in Western countries is shifting from pure economic progress to human well-being. The strategic objective aims to establish the appropriate steps that will ensure sustainability and quality investment in early education programs, by having an impact in the improvement of the quality of life and reducing the burden of unproductive costs.

The following specific objectives are foreseen for achievement/fulfilment of strategic objective:

Specific objective 4.1	Specific objective 4.2	Specific objective 4.3
Prioritizing Early Childhood Development by the Council on the Rights of the Child;	Increasing investment and ensuring inclusion of children in preschool, pre-primary education including alternative programs;	Improving the system of service quality assurance in the Early Childhood Development;

5.5 Strategic Objective #5:

Improving a child’s health, protection and well-being in order to achieve their full potential

Every child has the right to achieve his or her full potential. For children to enjoy this right, it is necessary to create a more powerful protective environment by ensuring that child protection services are child oriented. Although every child is entitled to protection, some children are deprived on daily basis of their guaranteed rights, including children with disabilities, children involved in serious and dangerous labour, child victims and witnesses of violence, children in conflict and in contact with the law. Therefore, the strategic objective foresees the prioritization of safeguards to provide children with necessary support through adequate investment to ensure equality and inclusiveness for all groups of children without distinction, at the same time concrete actions with preventive and responsive approaches addressing the responsibilities of all members of the society, in the context of promoting non-violent discipline, positive education and healthy development. Child protection can only be achieved when the rights of the child are respected by everyone, parents, legal guardian, family members and the community; professionals working in public and private institutions. Therefore, the objective foresees the mobilization of the society towards raising social awareness for damages caused by the violence against children and the need to work continuously for its prevention and sanctioning, aiming at changing attitudes towards the phenomenon of violence. In this context, it is aimed at promoting social progress and democratic citizenship in achieving greater collective awareness of children's rights, with the help of meeting the following specific objectives:

Specific objective 5.1	Specific objective 5.2	Specific objective 5.3	Specific objective 5.4	Specific objective 5.5
Prevention, protection and reintegration of children involved in serious and dangerous labour;	Strengthening inclusive and integrated services for children with disabilities;	Preventing and protecting children from violence and negative phenomena;	Ensuring access to justice for children and the prevention of delinquency;	Awareness of the population towards better parenting;

6.0 Implementation, monitoring and reporting arrangements

“The ability to execute strategy is more important than the quality of the strategy itself”

Robert S. Kaplan

The main goal of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo is undoubtedly the full implementation of the strategic document, a process that will be determined by the implementation of activities and objectives set out in the Action Plan throughout the years. The process of implementing the strategy will be a process of achieving its strategic goals and objectives.

The process of implementing the measures and policies provided for in the Strategy on the Rights of the Child has a lifespan of 5 years, covering the years 2019-2023. Whereas, for the implementation of the strategic objectives, a 3-year Action Plan is drafted, determining the specific objectives, concrete activities towards responsible and supportive institutions for their implementation, SMART indicators, the existing situation, objectives/targets, financial resources to be estimated referring to the budget envisaged in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) as well as the timelines for their fulfilment. Moreover, current or planned donor-funded projects by specific areas should be taken into account in the assessment of financial needs.

The Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister will be responsible for the coordination of the work during the drafting of the Action Plan in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders. All mandatory state institutions, at the central and local level, are obliged to implement the objectives and activities set out in the Strategy and Action Plan on the Rights of the Child. Likewise, the responsible institutions should ensure the inclusion of these strategic policies within their annual work plans.

While the monitoring and evaluation of the objective implementation and the effectiveness of the respective activities are an integral part of the strategy and the main component of its implementation process. Monitoring and evaluation will serve to track the progress of the strategy, to measure the extent to which its objectives are achieved in the process, assess the

need and determine the directions of adjustments, particularly with regard to the activities. The monitoring process will be carried out by the Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister in cooperation with governmental institutions responsible for implementation of the strategic document and a wide participation of interest groups.

Monitoring will be a key process of providing necessary information for accountability purposes, it will not be effective unless action is taken against what has been assessed and reported. Therefore, at the end of each year, the Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister, in cooperation with the responsible mechanisms set out in the Law on Child Protection, will draft an annual report which should include evaluation of the most successful activities and in general the fulfilment of the strategy goals, identification of challenges and difficulties encountered during the implementation process, and provision of concrete recommendations for removing the obstacles presented in the course of the fulfilment of the specific and strategic objectives.

The following are essential for monitoring the implementation of the strategic document and its effectiveness:

I	to ensure that goals are being achieved,
II	to monitor invested contributions and activities,
III	to ensure whether the implementation is proceeding according to the determined flow,
IV	to warn the responsible institutions on the problems/delays or potential problems before the situation becomes critical,
V	to suggest corrective action or revise the strategy based on the acquired experience.

By monitoring the strategy and performance indicators, the institutions will be able to create an overview of the situation, i.e. to what extent is the strategy achieving the defined goals, lessons learned, taking corrective measures, and, if possible, its review processes. It is noted that evaluation is most useful when lessons are learned from developed process, which is then used for future processes. Therefore, when assessing the effectiveness of the strategy, this should be considered. In this sense, the strategy will be a dynamic document that will adapt to changing objectives, circumstances and acquired experience.

6.1 Implementing Mechanisms

All governmental, central and local institutions are obliged to undertake all necessary measures for implementing the obligations set out in the “Strategy on the Rights of the Child” and Action Plan for the implementation of the strategy over the years in accordance with the responsibilities and their legal mandate.

6.2 Monitoring Mechanisms

The monitoring and evaluation system will extend to all responsible and supportive institutions for implementation of objectives set out in the Strategy and the activities to be set out in the Action Plan.

In order to assess the quality and effectiveness of interventions or vice versa, the mechanisms for the Rights of the Child as provided in the Law on Child Protection will report annually on the implementation progress of the strategic document.

The Office of the Prime Minister/Office for Good Governance will have the lead role in coordinating the work, overseeing and evaluating the implementation process of the Action Plan. At the same time will serve as a Secretariat and will report annually directly to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Rights of the Child. By the end of each year, the OGG/OPM in cooperation with the Council on the Rights of the Child are obliged to draft the "Progress Report" on the implementation of the strategic document, which will be the key indicator to clearly reflect the progress or the regress on the level of implementation of objectives and activities foreseen in the Action Plan. While, depending on the recommendations deriving from the “Progress Report”, the responsible institutions are obliged to review and implement them on the most optimal possible basis.

Simultaneously, the central and local government institutions will report on the needs and demand run by the OGG/OPM, so that the institutional reports are unified and inclusive.

Student Councils, Parent Councils, non-governmental organizations in partnership with governmental institutions are encouraged to participate in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategic document.

In any initiative undertaken by state institutions, the civil society and the NGOs will be encouraged to present their observation reports on the implementation of the strategic document or their reports on the activities carried out related to the projects and programs for implementation of children's rights.

7.0 Budgetary impact and implementation of the strategy

The Action Plan for the implementation of the Children's Rights Strategy has a total implementation cost of **1,364,499.96 Euros** for three years of implementation 2019-2021. Much of the cost (about 90% of the budget) will be used for running costs related to capacity building, regulation of the monitoring and reporting system related to children's rights.

Table 1 provides a summary of the budget for the implementation of the Plan by and by year, while this is based on detailed expenditure calculations for each planned objective, while Table 2 provides a summary of the budget for the implementation of the Plan according to the sources of funding.

The implementation of the action plan for the first 3 years will require funds as shown in the table below in millions of euro (KT - General Budget for the Action Plan, CR - Current Costs, K - Capital cost, SG - Subsidies and Grands).

Table 1.

Summary of budget by objectives and years.

Strategic Objectives	2019				2020				2021			
	KT	KR	K	SG	KT	KR	K	SG	KT	KR	K	SG
Improving good governance for the realization of children's rights;	43,490	43,490	0	23,000	32,155	32,155	0	15,400	60,565	40,565	20,000	32,000
Improving local governance for the realization of children's rights.	61,900	61,900	0	40,000	79,260	79,260	0	38,000	63,260	63,260	0	35,000
Involvement and empowerment of	91,566	91,566	0	60,000	87,566	87,566	0	60,000	81,566	81,566	0	55,000

children in decision-making.	.66	.66		000	.66	.66		000	.66	.66		000
Inclusion of children in integrated services for early childhood education and development.	51,890	51,890	0	22,000	28,390	28,390	0	12,000	26,890	26,890	0	13,000
Improve the health, protection and well-being of children to achieve their full potential.	274,666.66	244,666.66	30,000	135,000	237,166.66	194,166.66	43,000	130,000	181,166.66	171,166.66	13,000	115,000
Total by year:	523,513.32				465,238.32				416,448.32			
In total 2019-2021:	1,405,199.96											

Table 2.

Cost structure by years and planned in action plan and source of funding

Year	Total cost		
	BRK (the budget of the Republic of Kosovo)	Donors	Total:
2019	243,513.32	280,000	523,513.32
2020	205,338.32	259,900	465,238.32
2021	163,448.32	253,000	416,448.32
Total:	612,299.96	792,900.00	1,405,199.96

Table 3.

Cost structure for the last two years of strategy and source of funding

Year	Total cost		
	BRK	Donors	Total:
2022	160,313.12	220,000	380,313.12
2023	80,122.22	124,700	204,822.22
Total:	240,435.34	344,700	585,135.34

8.0 Alignment of the Strategy on the Rights of the Child with SDGs

	SDG Goal	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Strategic objectives indicators (Strategy on the Rights of the Child)	Specific Objectives indicators (Strategy on the Rights of the Child)
1	Goal1: No poverty	1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	1.2 Child poverty rate (age 0-18 years)	
2	Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex	4.2. Percentage of children aged 36-59 months who, in the development aspect, meet at least three of the four following criteria: literacy and numeracy, physical, social-emotional and learning aspects	
			4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	4.1. Gross Enrolment Rate in preschool and pre-primary education (age 3-<6 years);	

	SDG Goal	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Strategic objectives indicators (Strategy on the Rights of the Child)	Specific Objectives indicators (Strategy on the Rights of the Child)
		4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States	4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country		4.3.2 Number of trained staff for pre-school education.
		4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated		4.2.1 No. of community-based centers 4.2.2 Number of children with disabilities involved in the resource centers by educational level 4.2.3 Number of children from Roma, and Egyptian communities involved in preschool education;

	SDG Goal	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Strategic objectives indicators (Strategy on the Rights of the Child)	Specific Objectives indicators (Strategy on the Rights of the Child)
3	Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.	8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age.	5.1 Percentage of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour.	
4	Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	5.2 Percentage of children aged 1-14 who have experienced psychological or physical violence during the last month	
		16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)		

	SDG Goal	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Strategic objectives indicators (Strategy on the Rights of the Child)	Specific Objectives indicators (Strategy on the Rights of the Child)
		16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	1.1 Percentage of children under the age of 5 whose births are reported as registered	

