**Project: Give refugee children hope through education**

**POMOC DECI PROFILE**

Pomoc deci is a Serbian NGO established as a local non-profit making organisation in 2004. Prior to that, for a year and a half, it operated as a Serbian office of an American NGO CCF Inc. Our mission is to create an environment of hope and respect for children and youth, where they have opportunities to achieve their full potential, and to provide children, youth, parents and communities with practical tools for a positive change. It is a developmental organisation with rich experience in analysing the situation in the field, developing and executing long-term projects and programmes. Since its establishment, Pomoc deci has been working together with other local NGOs and developing their skills through a learning by doing approach.

Pomoc deci has five main programmatic fields of work: 1. Improvement of the rights and education of marginalised children; 2. Prevention of children and youth related violence; 3. Mobilisation and capacity building of local and minority NGOs; 4. Mobilisation of youth to become active change makers; and 5. Environment protection.

Pomoc deci is a member of several Serbian and international networks (EUROCHILD, International Network for Peace-building with young children*,* WWSF Children - Youth Section) and has developed a regional PRECEDE Network for peace-building and reconciliation through early childhood education and development. It also has strategic partnership agreements with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, as well as with several NGOs from the Balkan Region, UK and Serbia.

For its work in the field of social integration of the marginalised children through education, Pomoc deci won an international ERSTE Group Award for one of the best programmes for social inclusion in south east Europe in 2009.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

According to the State High Commission for refugees, currently, there are 57,000 persons in Serbia with a refugee status and another 250,000 internally displaced people from Kosovo and Metohija. With this number of refugees and internally displaced people, Serbia is still a country with the highest number of refugees in Europe and one of five countries in the world with protracted refugee situation, 21 years after the start of the wars that saw the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

The researches conducted with the High Commission for Refugees and the International Refugee Organization show that 95 percent want to stay in Serbia and get integrated here, while only five percent want to return to their previous places of residence.

Most of these families have managed to get out of the collective centers, find some place to live and some work to sustain them. However, in 30 collective centers throughout Serbia, there are still about 1,000 children with the parents that cannot find regular employment and support independent life of their family and children. These children are the most disadvantaged group. In order to assist their integration, it is necessary to provide assistance to the children to complete their education and become active members of the society.

**PROJECT GOAL:**

The overall goal is to help sustainable integration of refugee and displaced children into Serbian society by assisting them in getting into the educational system and completing as many cycles of education as possible.

**ACTIVITY PLAN:

Activity 1.** Creating a list of children from the collective centers per level of education they attend and per grade.

**Activity 2.** Determining the needs per type of item (clothes, footwear, snack/lunch, textbooks, bus fare, additional tutoring, stipends and per size/grade) and lists of children who need each particular type of assistance or a combination of different types.

**Activity 3.** Analysis of the educational status and needs of each child.

**Activity 4.** Provision of assistance to the listed children.

**Activity 5.** Monitoring the success of children upon receiving the assistance.

**Activity 6.** Training/workshops with parents and collective center community for raising the awareness about the importance of children’s education.

**Activity 7.** Regular reporting on the project’s progress and sharing the reports with all relevant people – donors, schools, parents and other communities.

**BUDGET OVERVIEW**

**Project Management 7,500 USD**

(Human resources, travel, bank charges)

**Project activities 42,500 USD**

(Snacks/lunches for children 5-10 years 9,720 USD

Textbooks for children 10-18 years 12,690 USD

Footwear and clothes 5,850 USD

Scholarships 9,000 USD

Bus fare for travelling children 3,600 USD

Additional tutoring 1,640 USD

**Total 50,000 USD**