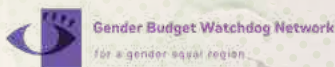
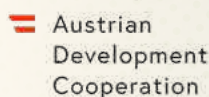


With funding from



GRB CHAMPIONS - MKD

GENDER RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING FOR INTEGRATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE EDUCATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AERODROM

Prepared by:



Name of the organization: **POLIO PLUS**
 Movement for the rights of people with disabilities
 Name of country: **Macedonia**
 Sector: **Education**

GRB tools used:

- cost-benefit analysis;

BACKGROUND

One of the elements for active social and economic inclusion is inclusion and integration in the education system of the children with disability as it has a great role in tackling discrimination and social exclusion of people with disabilities. Problems at the national level regarding the issue of disability have a great role for the position of the municipalities themselves in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on

THE GRB INITIATIVE

In 2016 Polio plus – Movement for the rights of people with disabilities joined the CRPM Consulting implemented Gender budget watchdogs program funded by UN Women. They focused on the issues of integration of children with disabilities in primary education in Aerodrom. At the beginning they commenced with gender budget analysis, which found out that the municipal budget is financing

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in all areas, including education. In that direction, the Municipality of Aerodrom is facing a series of challenges. The municipality has 8 primary schools and 2 kindergartens with 8 branches each or a total of 10 kindergartens. In the past, the number of students at the municipal level shows an upward trend, without significant gender differences. However, when looking at the data on children with disability one can observe that only 67 children with disabilities of 598 children with disabilities have been included in education and that there is considerable gender gap in this sub group as 61% of the children included in education are boys, and only 31% are girls.

only the travel expenses for 2 students with disabilities in 2015, in total value of MKD 58,800; while the rest 47 children with disabilities in 2015/2016 and the 84 children in 2016/2017 received no support. The municipality did not plan investment in infrastructure, staff, equipment and training to expand the reach out and increase the number of enrolled children with disabilities.

Therefore, the organization conducted an expenditure analysis for ensuring adequate and accessible schools for all disabled children, including their specific and different gender needs, Polio+ calculated:

PAY-BACK PROJECTION

INVESTMENT	CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS RAMPS	ELEVATOR	MARKED PARKING	ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY	ACCESSIBLE TOILETS	TACTILE PATHS INTENDED FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE /STUDENTS
Expenditure	MKD 120.000	MKD 6.457.500	/	MKD 2.400.000	MKD 900.000	MKD 2.400.000
Total	MKD 12.277.500 (MKD 2.455.500 per year in a period of 5 ys)					

The total necessary funds to ensure solid accessibility of the primary schools in the Municipality of Aerodrom are MKD 12,277,500. If these funds are distributed in five (5) years, 2,455,500 denars would be allocated, which would adjust the schools during five years and thus become affordable and accessible. If these funds are divided by the number of children with disabilities enrolled in primary schools, which is on average about 80 children with disabilities, we get an amount of 30,694 denars to be invested per child per year.

The initiative has gender impact as with inclusion of 80 children with disabilities in regular education and provision of transport by the municipality for all children with disability releases the burden of care the mothers are taking and they become economically active and independent from their husbands.

SUCCESS OF THE GRB INITIATIVE

The municipality of Aerodrom after advocacy campaign of Polio plus and CRPM in the municipal budget for the period 2018 -2021 has included the costs for construction of access ramps, installed two elevators, marked parking and with reconstruction of the toilets built accessible toilets for children with disabilities. The investment program as per the Polio plus GRB initiative is not yet fully implemented but is progressing well. The municipality is the best prepared for integration of children with disabilities in the whole country.

SUCCESS FACTORS

The organization Polio plus for over 30 years advocates for the same goals and has always received acceptance of their initiatives by the local and central governments but their implementation usually lagged behind or never happened. The success of this initiative was in the fact that with expenditure analysis Polio plus strengthened their arguments and gave concrete recommendations, on how much for what in which budget line to allocate will benefit how many citizens of the municipality and include how many children that have been excluded from school. The concreteness of this proposal made the local government realize that the initiative is feasible and implementable. Thereof the GRB initiative was not just accepted but also implemented.

CHALLENGES

The main challenge was to break the practice to budget only for uniforms, security and insurance for children in schools, but to expand the education funding for adapting the school infrastructure and improving their accessibility. Once the practice was established, the municipality managed to attract support from foreign donors and enhance even more than planned the investments for accessibility of education in the municipality.

