UNIVERSITETI I EJL
ЈИЕ УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ
SEE UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Contemporary Social Sciences

Master Thesis

The Role of International Donors in child protection policies in he Republic of North Macedonia

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Skopje
June, 2021

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1 Introduction

1.1 Research object

This dissertation with title “The Role of International Donors in child protection policies in the Republic of North Macedonia” focuses on the foreign donor impact on child protection in the Macedonian context. The aim of the dissertation is to specify the challenges and opportunities that are relative to effective social work practice and effectiveness research with regard to child protection services in North Macedonia.

1.2 Research Relevance

Previous research on development assistance highlights the importance of the recipient country implementing environment in mediating the impact of aid; however, little is known about the donor side of the donor-recipient relationship. This dissertation fills this gap in understanding by characterizing and assessing the role of this powerful yet neglected set of stakeholders and their influence on aid goals, implementation and effectiveness. It investigates: what are the salient dimensions along which donors differ, how these differences influence child protection policies coverage and outcomes, and what features of the domestic policy process shape which approaches donors pursue. I examine these questions using mixed methods: analyses of reports and quantitative analyses of the cross-national dataset of assistance as well as qualitative analysis of various stakeholders who are recipients of the foreign aid/assistance in the child protection policy.

This body of work offers three key insights for development assistance, related to recipient country ownership, donor type and goal alignment. First, the most prominent difference across donors was the extent to which they formally involved recipient country public, private and civil society sectors in problem identification, resource administration, program design, implementation and governance. The Macedonian context revealed three ownership patterns: ‘doctor knows best’, ‘empowered patient’ and ‘it takes a village’ models, highlighting the

dominance of foreign actors and the central government in development activities. The cross-national data support wide variation in donor perception of the capability and roles of recipient country actors, indicating very low levels, infrequent and inconsistent allocation of budget support financing, in which funds are channeled directly through recipient institutions. Second, rather than observing systematic differences between bilateral and multilateral donors, there was greater variation among rather than across donor types. Actors along the aid implementation chain identified multiple entities to whom they were accountable. Third, although there existed considerable goal alignment among stakeholders within donor countries and between donors and recipients, there was little harmonization or coherence across these very wide sets of goals. Taken together, these findings highlight the unrealized potential to substantially expand the formal involvement of recipient country actors, and the need to prioritize among broad sets of foreign assistance and development goals.

Literature review exemplifies that there is remarkable diversity across donor profiles within the same sector in the same country; the salience of ownership structure – the ways in which different donors formally engaged the same set of recipient country actors in different activities – as the distinguishing characteristic among donors; weak importance of donor type; and considerable alignment between donor and recipient objectives in the specific sector. Having in mind this, the research is relevant due to the fact that it will encompass bilateral and multilateral donor assistance in child protection in the Republic of North Macedonia and it will provide the map of actors supporting the policies in the abovementioned area, their focus, harmonization and coordination efforts, assess whether they are ,,top down,, or ,,bottom up approach,, and provide recommendations for policy makers and donor community for the country and for the region.

1.3 Research purpose

Too often, public resources don’t reach the children most in need. In some places, policymakers fail to allocate the funds necessary for children to grow and learn in a safe, healthy environment. In others, public finances may not be well

managed, reducing the quality or accessibility of health care, education and other services.

Global evidence shows that public spending on children is a smart investment – for children, their communities and entire countries. When governments invest in children, health outcomes improve, incomes rise, economies grow and societies become more cohesive. Despite these benefits, public spending on health and education has stagnated in many parts of the world, and may be insufficient to meet the needs of children. This study is considered an exploratory research (which is the basis of the methodological design), so as to serve as the basis for devising a broader partnership once the present one finishes, with clear delineation of situation (facts and numbers), stakeholders and their needs, outputs and outcomes desired to be achieved.

1.4 Research question

The following activities take place under the “umbrella” of this research:

1 Overview of child-related policies and programs in the two areas, by a documentary analysis of key strategies: National Strategy for Poverty and Social Exclusion Reduction 2015-2020;
2 Analysis of the number of children by gender and years from 2015-2020;
3 Theories of donor assistance and
4 Impact of the Donor organizations on design and implementation of the child protection policies.

Hypothesis :

1 Sufficient resources are allocated for child-related policies and programmes, including by mobilizing additional funds, for full implementation by donor organizations.
2 Donor funding is primarily focused on design and as well as implementation of child protection policies.
3 Donor funding is not coordinated and variety of donors which duplicates donor efforts and thus optmization of donor assitance is lacking.

4 Ex ante analysis of donor intervention is condio sinë qua non for assesing the effect on policy interventions in child protection policies.
5 Resources are better distributed to promote equitable spending with greater attention to disadvantaged groups and areas.

1.5. Research design

Due to the exploratory nature of the study, the research questions are addressed by qualitative and quantitative research. The methodological approach in the analysis is desk analysis/exploratory research, and also, field interview with relevant stakeholders involved in the strategic and operational level was organized:

1 Data collection on funding child-related policies. The following sources of data will be used: data sets from donor ogranizations specifically focused on child protection policies.
2 Desk research / critical documentary analysis on the National Strategy for Poverty and Social Exclusion Reduction 2015-2020 . Calculation of the resources allocated for such policies (possibly by portraying them few years back and ahead, e.g. 2015-2020).
3 Survey with Non-government Organizations and Civil Society Organizations.
4 Interviews with decision-makers and/or donors.
5 Focus group with beneficiaries.

1.6. Thesis structure

The master's thesis, in addition to the Introductory part, is structured in a total of six parts. In the first chapter with title "*Literature Review*" a review of literature is made, ie an analysis of previous research in the field is made. The meaning of the term "child ptotection" is elaborated in detail, and then the child protection systems are explained. Next, the research covers the child labor and other important factors that affect the quality of life of children such as: endangerment and infanticide, child abuse, parental responsibility and child maltreatment. The second chapter, with title "*Donor assistance concept - Literature Review*", explores the donor assistance models and theories of donor assistance. Next, the research is focused on North

Macedonia, with a focus on donor assistance in the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as a focus on some of the world's most important organizations essential for child protection (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO and UNHCR). The third chapter, with title "*Child protection system in the Republic of North Macedonia*", explores the legal regulations regarding the promotion of the best interests of the child and the decision-making process for creating strategies for the promotion of child protection. Existing resources and possible perspectives are explored. The fourth chapter, with title "*Empirical analysis: The role of Donor organization in child protection*", explains the research approach and interprets the results obtained. Next, the *Conclusion* of the master thesis contains important results from the overall research related to the subject of research. There is also a *List of References* that contains scientific sources used in the preparation of the paper and one *Appendix* which contains the questions used for the interviews.

2. Literature review

2.1 Child protection

Some children of the world arrive within established families and are properly cared for throughout childhood and youth. Other children are abandoned or temporarily cared for. Third, they were once cared for, but for some reason they have reduced care and need help. Common to all "categories" of children is that children are seen as a vulnerable category in any society because in the years of development they can not take care of themselves and need constant support.

In a number of studies (Anderson,1997; Barth et al.,2000;Katz,1999), a positive relationship has been observed between the state in which the child is and the protection he or she receives. Consequently, some countries show better results than other countries that show poorer results in addressing child protection needs. Hence, the resources available to countries should play a key role in addressing the need for children to be protected and to create conditions for quality child growth and development. But resources are not always only material, but access to the problem is much more important. Accordingly, the wealth of the state is not always an indicator of child care. The need for change in childcare is everywhere, in all countries of the world, even in the richest.

This is also proven in the UNICEF research where it is stated that: "*child protection is universal: it is for all children everywhere, from low- to high-income countries, in all regions and settings"* (UNICEF,2020). If children do not have adequate protection, it is very likely that they may be victims of negative deviant events because children in the developmental stage can not always think and evaluate rationally and therefore, they are often victims of various types of manipulation. In fact, many of the perpetrators of various crimes reach out to young children and involve them in their criminal intentions.

According to UNICEF, "*the consequences of inaction are catastrophic: profound, enduring and often deadly; with economic costs of violence against children estimated at $7 trillion per year, but this harm is not inevitable, progress*

can be made through political will for the fulfilment of children's rights, societal change, and an emerging science of prevention and response strategies" (UNICEF,2020). That is why special attention is paid to the systems that guarantee child protection and there are also constant campaigns to raise awareness of the need for child protection. Before starting with a more detailed elaboration of the systems that guarantee child protection, several definitions are given that explain the term "child protection".

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2015) "*child protection is the prevention of, and, response to, exploitation, abuse,neglect,harmful practices and violence agains children".* SFCG (2009) adds that: "*the term 'child protection' refers to any action that aims to prevent, protect and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse against children*".

Child protection is an organized activity based on the rights of children, as well as the rights and obligations of parents for family planning and the state and local self-government units for conducting humane population policy (Britner and Mossler,2002). Child protection is achieved by providing conditions and a standard of living that corresponds to the physical, mental, emotional, moral and social development of children. The state, as well as the units of local self-government take care of providing adequate material assistance to parents for support, upbringing, care and protection of children and organizing and ensuring the development of institutions and services for child protection.

Child protection is achieved by providing certain rights and forms of child protection. According to SFCG (2009) a child protection framework may include legislation and policies that provide specific rights for children, services that support the protection of children within communities and child protection work also responds to violence including giving medical treatment, and processes to ensure victims can access justice (p.3). In order to better understand the need for existence and promotion of child protection in the continuation of the master's thesis, several important factors are elaborated such as: the child labour, the endangerment and infanticide, the child abuse, the parental responsibility and the child maltreatment.

2.2 Child protection systems

A child protection system is defined as: "*the set of laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all social sectors – especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice – to support prevention and response to protection-related risks*" (UNICEF,2020). Child protection systems are being debated on a large number of expert gatherings. To better understand their meaning, important points are elaborated below.

The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) was founded in 1977 to facilitate the exchange of knowledge in an interdisciplinary field that deals with the prevention of child abuse and neglect around the world.[1] The topic of the conference was "Improving child protection policy and practice", and it was addressed through plenary presentations and presentations within individual thematic units. Child protection systems in 24 European countries were discussed and it was noted that in 12 countries there is an official government policy towards protecting children from abuse and neglect.

The three main tasks of a child protection system are:

a) to protect,
b) to support and/or
c) to treat and prevent their further abuse.

The emphasis placed on each of these tasks varies from country to country. While child protection systems in Germany and the Scandinavian countries focus on treatment/therapy, in some other countries the emphasis is primarily on the protection itself (for example, in England, an abused child is separated from the family and then returned without treatment).

The presentation compared countries where there are strict rules for dealing with suspected child abuse and neglect, with countries where child protection

[1] Organized by the International Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, more than 140 experts from 52 countries, from 6 continents, participated in the 8th European Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

systems are less centralized. With regard to registration, it has been shown that in a smaller number of countries it is mandatory (e.g. Norway), and in a larger number it is voluntary (e.g. Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium), i.e. that it is part of the national and professional culture. The United Kingdom was highlighted as a positive example of a country where the procedure for identifying child abuse and neglect is clear and known, and the way police and social services work together in cases where children have to appear in court is regulated. In this context, the Netherlands was also highlighted, where psychologists specializing in the examination of abused children work in the police, and the child does not participate directly in the court process.

On the basis of the above, it could be concluded that no European country has all the answers to open questions in the field of child protection. It seems that we could learn about interprofessional cooperation with the aim of child protection and law enforcement from some, and about multiprofessional cooperation with the aim of treating abused children and their families from other countries.

The plenary presentations further discussed children's rights in the context of the child protection system.

Recall that the World Health Organization proposes a definition of child abuse according to which it "*consists of all forms of physical and / or emotional violence, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, economic or other exploitation that cause actual or potential harm to a child's health, survival, development and dignity in the context of the relationship of responsibility, trust and power"* (WHO,1990).

Whatever the form of abuse, neglect or exploitation of children, the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides guidance on the principles on which the response of child protection systems should be based. The Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified most widely of all human rights conventions, and many countries have incorporated the principles of the Convention into their national policies. However, true adherence to these international standards goes

beyond guidelines and instructions (national, local, institutional, professional), to services that plan and provide services, and most of all to individual practitioners who are in daily contact with children and families.

The convention is important for all children under the age of 18, children who are minors. In the group of particularly vulnerable children, in addition to children with disabilities, refugees and children in conflict with the law, abused children and children without families are mentioned. There are more and more findings that show that these groups have found themselves in an even more unfavourable position due to the way in which social welfare and health care systems traditionally function.

Thus, the abuse and / or neglect of a child may continue without the said systems, recognizing or opposing him or her, or even, once detected, an inappropriate reaction may follow. The Convention gives children the right to be raised by their parents whenever possible, and places a responsibility on states to assist them in this.

According to some experts from UK, they criticized the respect for the principle of prioritizing the best interests of the child. Although many child protection policies and regulations declare a child’s best interest priority, the focus of attention from the child can still be easily shifted to meeting the needs of adults or procedural requirements. They further advocated for real respect for the child's right to express her views on all matters concerning her, and to avoid involving or manipulating children "as decorations" (HR,2020).

Many of the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, also presented in the European Convention on Human Rights, should affect both the development of services and the quality of interactions between professionals and children and their families; they include the right to privacy, identity, information, respect and protection from degrading treatment. This presentation certainly prompted us to ask ourselves how much experts in the child protection system think about the mentioned rights, and to what extent they respect them in their practice.

The rapporteur of the UN Commission on the Rights of the Child, stressed that the Convention on the Rights of the Child treats the child not only as a vulnerable subject of protection but also as an active human being in development who is entitled to his human rights. She stressed that the child's right not to be abused should be interpreted and implemented holistically, which, among other things, necessitates:

1) a holistic understanding of the phenomenon of abuse, including corporal punishment at home and at school;
2) developing a new view of the relationship between family autonomy and privacy and state intervention, including the state's obligation to protect the child in the family and to encourage measures to strengthen the family (eg schools for parents);
3) developing a culture of respect for the child's human dignity, including child-friendly strategies, prevention of secondary victimization, opening up accessible forms for receiving complaints and providing support.

The development of the World Health Organization's child protection strategy in Europe was also explained. It is stated that in Europe the risk of injury and murder of a child is highest until the first year of a child's life. Therefore, efforts are being made to recognize child abuse and neglect as a public health problem, i.e. to assess the child's health needs together with the assessment of the child's health condition. Speaking of primary abuse prevention, safe motherhood was compared to vaccination. In the area of secondary prevention, it was proposed replacing the term “high-risk families” with the term “high-priority families for supplementary services,” and stated that methods are being developed for early detection of children at risk , parental perception of the child and the attachment relationship between the parent / guardian and the child in the first year of his life. Although home visits in England are made by social workers, Brown believes that this should be done by health professionals who, after triage, would include a social welfare system as needed. In this regard, home visits of community nurses to their newborns conducted within the Croatian health care system as example from the

Balkans' health care systems can be considered a measure that has a huge, but unfortunately untapped, potential for primary and secondary prevention of abuse and neglect of children in the family in the country.

Specifically, the importance of Bowlby's theory of attachment was pointed out, both for early detection of parent-child interaction disorders and for understanding the limitations and negative consequences of using institutions instead of foster care and adoption to accommodate abused and neglected children. It was further indicated that the use of institutions is very pronounced in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Let us recall here the efforts of certain professional circles at the UN that institutional accommodation, due to wrong reasons and in bad conditions, should in itself be defined as a form of abuse and neglect of children.

The rules of good practice in response to child abuse and neglect developed by IPSCAN and WHO were also presented. These are guidelines for all phases of child abuse prevention, from definition through identification, prevention and intervention, including rehabilitation, education as well as data collection, to monitoring and evaluation. The principles on which the guidelines are based are:

1) the focus is on the child (more important than the family);
2) they derive from the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
3) are the result of scientific evidence or successful experience;
4) include interdepartmental cooperation;
5) are adaptable;
6) are affordable.

Mian also spoke about the knowledge and skills needed in each sector, the tasks of each sector, aspects involving all sectors, and stressed the need for cooperation and coordination between them in order to achieve the best possible protection of children. Knowing the situation in the Balkan countries, including North Macedonia, where the need for the so-called "Protocol on Interdepartmental Cooperation" which would determine the treatment of certain systems in cases of

abuse and neglect of children, clearly and vigorously articulated by all sectors presentations, is very interesting and useful for positioning the child protection process in the Balkans in an international context.

An extremely encouraging presentation, entitled “Evidence-Based Policies and Practices of Child Welfare,” was given by David Gough. He spoke of developments in the UK and elsewhere, i.e. the need for the policies and practices of helping professions to be necessarily based on empirical evidence. He warned of the present concern that sometimes what experts with the best intentions believe helps not only does not help, but it is sometimes harmful. In response, systems are being established that will provide practitioners and social policy makers with relevant evidence. Thus, for example, in England the government establishes the Social Care Institute for Excellence as an advisory body for practices familiar with the results of scientific research. Such initiatives require systematic syntheses of research findings. In developing their technology for meta-analysis and systematic literature reviews, experts have prioritized users ’perspectives so that research starts from the needs of policy makers, practitioners, and service users, and is not driven solely by academic interests. Gough further criticized the education of professionals, in which the emphasis is on clinical skills of helping, and too little attention is paid to understanding the effects and acquiring knowledge based on research results. He also criticized research that lacks interpretations that would be appropriate for practitioners and social policy makers rather than academic audiences.

Some of the issues mentioned in the plenary presentation were also addressed in some presentations held as part of the review - improvements in the child protection system. Thus, we have heard that research indicates a great potential for errors in trials in general, and some of the unjustified reliance on expert courts in child welfare cases, which require social workers to make expert judgments about children's needs and threats to their safety. The author is committed to improving the adoption of courts and suggests a clearer definition of tasks, improving education and support for social workers.

Interesting results of the research on assessment and decision-making in the field of social protection of children were presented by a representative of the Department for Research and Development, Directorate of Social Services from Stockholm. The longitudinal survey covered 193 ongoing cases in 10 social welfare centers. It was found that social workers were fairly consistent in their risk assessments, that they rarely assessed family strengths, and that their attitudes about the importance of supporting the extended family in preventing further abuse / neglect influenced the decision they made. It has also been found that social workers often make a latent decision and seek information to substantiate it. The same institution is also conducting research on the long-term effectiveness of social services for the protection of children, as part of which it monitors the re-reporting of vulnerabilities to children who are already placed in foster families.

Another contribution, instructive for both researchers and child protection policy makers, was a review of research on how experts have responded to reports of child neglect in Ireland. The results showed that a protection system approach based on general instructions results in inconsistent services to children and their families. Experts interpreted and assessed child neglect differently, leading to different forms of assistance being provided to children and families, depending on who was involved in the assessment. This research also showed the need for a framework for assessment and interventions in neglect, which would allow a standardized approach to cases of neglect. Attention was paid to the evaluation of the process of developing such a framework. By the way, the problem of neglect at the conference was neglected in relation to the problem of abuse. The most significant is the presentation of a group of researchers from Germany on the impact of poverty on primary school children, which showed that the deprivation in which children live significantly limits their social integration and participation in family, school and peer group, and then has long-term effects on their psychosocial development and future life chances.

Among other presentations, it is worth mentioning a paper entitled "Corporal punishment in the upbringing of children in Sweden is no longer accepted", which

was proudly presented by a representative of the Center for Public Health Research at Karlstadt University. Sweden was the first country in 1979 to ban by law any form of corporal punishment of children by parents and any other adult. During the 1980s, similar laws were passed in other Scandinavian countries, as well as in Austria, and later in Cyprus and Costa Rica. As there was a steady increase in police reports of child abuse during the 1990s, in late 1998 the Swedish government set up a Commission for the Prevention of Child Abuse with the task of analyzing, inter alia, the situation following the introduction of anti-corporal punishment laws. Several studies have also been conducted on representative samples of families, children, and young adults. The results showed that corporal punishment of children, although quite common during the 1960s, decreased over time in Sweden. It is also stated that during the 1990s, less than 20% of children at home were ever corporally punished, while only 8% of parents stated that during 2000 they corporally punished a child. In parallel with the decline in the frequency of corporal punishment, attitudes against corporal punishment are becoming stronger in both children and adults. The aforementioned increase in police reports did not reflect an increase in violence against children, but a greater awareness against punishing children.

According to the above mentioned, there are significant differences between the child protection systems in the countries. In the long run, every country should strive for the improvement of resources and the improved care of socially vulnerable children.

2.3. Child labour

Although modern societies are constantly committed to promoting the rights of children and their permanent protection, i.e. providing the best conditions for children to grow into stable, physically and mentally healthy individuals, still, the problem of child labor is visible in many societies in the world. Many children are exploited for other people's interests, and underdeveloped children work to contribute to families or other organizers.

Child labor is a particularly worrying phenomenon due to a number of reasons and it has been concluded that children who are victims of this type of exploitation face numerous consequences in the future. According to Sen (2004) child labor understood as exploitation harms the physical and mental development of children and in many cases they are exploited by mafias, and the most serious cases are those that involve sexual exploitation or situations of close slavery.

The reasons for child labor are primarily related to poverty, in fact, the vast majority of working children come from families with incomes far below the poverty line. For this reason, children have to pay a wage in the house to survive. There are also circumstances in which in some countries children may find it easier to find work than their parents. Wages are lower, they will not demand labor rights and will perform all the tasks required of them.

But in some parts of the world there are cultural factors that explain the phenomenon. The very definition of "childhood" varies depending on where the child was born in the world. In rural African or Asian areas, it is considered normal for children under the age of ten to start developing behaviors typical of adults, such as marriage or work. If these social beliefs are joined by the poverty situation, it goes without saying that all family members must work together for survival, including the youngest. There are also common excuses, such as that work forces children to acquire values like responsibility and sacrifice. In some areas, it is valued even more than education itself, which is limited to learning to read and write. The rest of the learning is considered useless because these relatives do not believe they have prospects other than to engage in their traditional activity, whether it’s farming, fishing or other similar activities. Finally, some parents fear for their children's education because they believe that education will separate them from their traditional beliefs, make them more rebellious against the rules of the house and before their own authority.

To this must be added gender inequality, lack of access to education, reckless state policies, and other circumstances that cause boys and girls to be forced to work from an early age.

Thereby, a larger number of victims of this type of exploitation are in developing countries (this is also the case with North Macedonia). In addition, practice shows that the situation has improved slightly over the years, which alarms to examine the systemic engagement in this field.

These reasons are strong enough for child labor to be the subject of a detailed analysis. As a social problem, child labor has been examined by a number of academics. Child labor refers to the exploitation of children through any form of work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school and is detrimental to their mental, physical, social or moral well-being (International Labour Organization,2012).

Historically, this problem has been around for a long time. According to Cunningham and Viazzo (1996) child labor has existed to varying degrees throughout history. It is known that during the 19th and 20th centuries (early), for existential reasons, many minors up to the age of 14 worked in the western colonies, and these children worked mainly in agriculture, the home environment, factories, mining, and newspaper delivery services, and some worked 12 -hour night shifts.

According to World Bank data analyzed by Norberg (2007) globally, the percentage of child labor fell from 25% to 10% between 1960 and 2003. According to more recent data released by UNICEF (2013), the total number of child laborers remains high, with around 168 million children aged 5-17 worldwide being included in child labor in 2013.

Next, what's important is the fact that in 2017, four African nations (Mali, Benin, Chad and Guinea-Bissau) witnessed over 50 percent of children aged 5-14 involved in work, and agriculture around the world is the largest employer of child labor (The Economist, 2018). Additional important statistics are given in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Child labor in different regions, main features

COUNTRY/REGION	MAIN CHARACTERISTICS
Argentina	Child labor data in Argentina collected by the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, in collaboration with UNICEF, show that the results are quite negative, as it states that 715,484 children aged 5 to 15 are forced to work. This represents almost 10% of children in Argentina. As is common worldwide, the numbers are higher in rural areas, where 19.8% of juveniles work in various sectors. On the other hand, the research found that every fourth urban child in this situation works on the street or in some form of transport. The girls, on the other hand, mainly work late at night until early in the morning to raise / collect.
Peru	Despite the reduction in the total number of working minors, by 4% less than in 2012, there are still 21.8% of children and adolescents in Peru. With these numbers, the country tops the list of countries in South America in child labor.

	The National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) presented the latest specialized research in 2015. This shows that a good number of underage workers also perform dangerous tasks. Currently, another 1.5% of juveniles are in a situation of forced labor and 5.3% devote more than 22 hours a week to domestic work. The latter implies that, despite being in school, they usually do not reach the appropriate level of learning.
Colombia	Colombia is another country that is taking steps to reduce the number of children forced to work. In fact, between 2015 and 2016 it managed to reduce the rate of child laborers by 1.3%, finally remaining at 7.8% of the total number of minors in the country. The number, however, remains large. Statistics confirm that there are still over 896,000 minors working instead of going to school. Another worrying figure, though declining, is the number of children and adolescents enrolled in armed groups. Recent studies have shown that between 14,000 and 17,000 juveniles

	participate in these groups.
Mexico	Mexico is one of the leading countries in child labor statistics in Latin America. UNAM said in a report that about 3.6 million children work, most of them in poverty and many living on the streets. Although official figures are not too recent, the federal government in 2015 claimed the situation was better. Thus, their number reduced the number of affected to 2.2 million. Of the total number of working minors, 14% are only aged 5 to 11, while 21.8% are aged between 12 and 14. Regarding the economic sectors, the one with the most child workers is agriculture, with 22.6%, followed by trade with 20.2%
Brazil	Brazil is one of the few countries in the region where the number of child laborers is increasing instead of decreasing. The age limit most affected by this increase is between 5 and 9 years. An estimate conducted by child protection organizations says more than 7 million juveniles are forced to work in Brazil. More than 560.00 are domestic

	employees.
Africa	Compared to other regions of the world, the eradication of child labor in Africa is progressing much more slowly. According to the ILO, 26.4% of boys and girls aged 5 to 14 are active in employment, the highest rate in the world. In total, the continent is home to nearly 50 million minors working just behind Asia.
Asia	The economic improvement of part of the continent has enabled a significant reduction in the total number of working children. However, Asia is still a continent with the largest number of children under 15 working. Percentage, 18.8% of the 650 million Asian children are in this condition. In addition, some of the most brutal forms of child exploitation are occurring on that continent, according to UNICEF and other organizations. Those most concerned are child trafficking, sexual exploitation, debt bondage or forced recruitment into armed conflict, or drug trafficking.

Source: WarbletoCouncil (2021)

States strive to overcome this contemporary social vulnerability through legislation, but it is still necessary to have exceptions, i.e. to allow children's art work, family activities, training and other positive forms of child labor (e.g. the Amish case). According to the definition of the International Labor Organization (ILO), it is true that all child labor should not be considered exploitation, as activities such as helping at home, looking for a small job during the summer or other similar activities can even be positive. However, it remains for child protection systems in the states to control whether and to what extent child abuse is present and, if adverse conditions are assessed, to implement appropriate policies to prevent, address and overcome the situation.

2.4 Endangerment and infanticide

In some countries, such as Iran or China, criminals can even be sentenced to death for crimes committed as children (the United States abandoned the practice in 2005). There are cases in history where a large number of juveniles who helped the army eventually ended up as captives. Also, a large number of minors ended up as victims of exploitation, poverty and inability to eat, but also as victims of prostitution (especially female girls).

Infanticide is the deprivation of a child's life at birth. In medieval criminal law it was considered a more serious form of murder, but during the 19th century this form of murder was envisaged as a privileged form. Crucial to the prediction of this murder as privileged are the findings in medicine that, during childbirth and for some time, immediately after birth, the mother is in a state of psychophysical disorder, which justifies her milder treatment in case of child murder.

The perpetrator can only be the mother. If the act is committed by another person, and the mother encourages him or assists him in the commission during the birth or immediately after the birth during the disorder, she will be considered an accomplice, and the perpetrator will be responsible for the murder.

The act of execution consists of depriving a child of his life, which can be done by doing or not doing. The object of the action is the child and it is necessary that the birth has begun and that the child is born alive. If the action is performed before the beginning of childbirth, i.e. in the fetal period, it will be a crime of illegal termination of pregnancy.

Example of infanticide from Germany: *The parents of a North Rhine-Westphalia family went on a weekend trip. Their 18-year-old son, looking for frozen pizza in a deep-frozen box, discovered the babies' corpses. After the parents returned, their three adult children asked for an answer from them, and then together they went to the police, where the mother reported herself as the perpetrator. According to the newspaper in which one of the baby corpses was wrapped, the events took place about 20 years ago. It is probably not a triplet, but three separate deliveries* (DW,2008).

Example of infanticide from North Macedonia: *A nurse from the gynecology department at the Kumanovo General Hospital reported to the SIA Kumanovo that A.M. was brought to their ward with heavy bleeding. (19) from the village of Matejce, Municipality of Lipkovo. An examination by a gynecologist determined that she gave birth in a period of 24 hours. A.M. who was already in an advanced stage of pregnancy and for whom there are no data that her pregnancy was previously medically controlled, started bleeding on August 18, after which she went to the toilet in her house where she gave birth. She took the baby out and threw it into a river that flows behind her house. After her condition worsened, her parents transferred her to the General Hospital in Kumanovo* (META,2016).

Example of infaticide from Japan: *A terrible story of fourfold infanticide comes from Japan. Mayumi Saito, 53, admitted to killing her four newborn children 20 years ago. As she said, she threw the children in concrete bins. She admitted to the shocked police officers that her conscience had bitten her all along, and that she had finally decided to confess to the horrible crime. She kept the bins with the corpses in the apartment, where the police found the remains of the bodies.*

According to police, Saito put the babies in concrete between 1992 and 1997 because she was poor and could not support them (Vistina,2017).

The crime of killing a child during childbirth must be committed during childbirth or immediately after childbirth while the disorder caused by childbirth lasts. The disorder is not considered from the aspect of insanity or significantly reduced insanity. It is debatable how long this disorder lasts. This interval is considered to be from a few hours to a few days. It is necessary to establish that the mother was under the influence of that disorder at the time the crime was committed. The situation is controversial when the mother plans to commit an act before giving birth. For the existence of this work, the existence of intent, direct or eventual, is necessary.

This crime in the Balkan countries is punishable by 6 months to 5 years in prison. European legislation prescribes a stricter punishment for this crime than for involuntary manslaughter, for example, the Swedish and Dutch Criminal Code issue a prison sentence of up to 6 years. Infanticide continues at a much higher rate today in areas of extreme poverty and overpopulation, such as parts of China and India. Female infants are particularly vulnerable, a factor in selective infanticide.

2.5 Child abuse

Child abuse usually involves the abuse of power or the use of power for an unintended purpose. This involves deliberately neglecting, consciously displaying power for the intended purpose. Child abuse contains various forms of unwanted and unlawful behaviors that cause harm to children, both emotionally, emotionally and physically.

Thereby, by reviewing and analyzing the available literature, it becomes clear that children in most of the recorded cases are victims of physical abuse, victims of sexual assault by perpetrators, victims of emotional actions that remain long-term consequences and victims of neglect.

The causes of child abuse are varied and poorly understood. Diagnosis is based on medical history and physical examination. When working on the diagnosis, first the symptoms of the child (psycho-physical symptoms) are recorded, and after receiving specific information about the health condition of the child, it is necessary to officially inform all institutions in order to achieve a plan as it is best to care for the child and potentially hospitalize if indicated.

In 2002, 1.8 million cases of child abuse and neglect were reported in the United States, of which about 896,000 were confirmed. Both sexes are equally affected. One third of the deaths were attributed to neglect. The most common victims were children aged from birth to 3 years (16/1000 children). More than 1/2 of all reports were sent to Child Protective Services by professionals reporting abuse of obligations (e. g. teachers, police officers, social workers, lawyers, kindergarten staff, health workers, foster parents).

Of the confirmed cases in the United States, 60.2% were cases of neglect (including health neglect); in 18.6% on physical abuse; in 9.9% about sexual abuse and in 6.5% about emotional abuse. In addition, 18.9% of children experienced other forms of abuse, such as abandonment and drug addiction. Many children have been victims of multiple forms of abuse. In confirmed cases of abuse or neglect in 2002 80% of the perpetrators were parents, 58% of the perpetrators were women.

Different forms often coexist and overlap to a considerable extent.

Physical Abuse: Physical abuse is a physical assault on a child. Physical abuse is the infliction of bodily injury or engaging in activities where there is a high risk of injury. Specific forms are shaking (cherry), dropping, hitting, biting and inflicting burns (e. g. by pushing or smoking). Severe corporal punishment is physical abuse, but it can be culturally imposed. Practice also shows that many infants are abused and this is most noticeable on their head. Abuse is the most common cause of severe head injuries in infants. Abdominal injury is common in toddlers.

Infants and toddlers are most vulnerable (perhaps because perpetrators know they cannot complain), and the risk decreases during the early years of schooling and increases again in adolescence.

Sexual abuse: Sexual abuse is any act of a child that sexually satisfies an adult or a much older child. According to Sen (2004) sexual abuse of children is a sexual assault on a child. The cases recorded so far show that children can be sexually abused during typical violent sexual intercourse and when the child shows that he does not want that to happen, but sexual abuse can also occur in other ways (violent exposure of the child to pornographic films / materials, touching the intimate parts of the child's body, self-satisfaction in front of the child, etc.).

As Sen (2004) notes: ,,*child sexual abuse is the type of abuse in which an adult or an older adolescent abuses a child for sexual arousal, child sexual abuse also includes questioning or forcing a child into sexual intercourse (regardless of the outcome), indecent exposure of a child's genitals, displaying child pornography, actual sexual intercourse with a child, physical contact with a child's genitals the child, watching the child's genitals without any physical contact or the use of a child for the production of child pornography*".

Emotional Abuse: Emotional abuse is the infliction of emotional harm by words or deeds. Practice shows that perpetrators often emotionally abuse when they do not support what the child has achieved, constantly threatening him if the child wants to decide only on actions, when comparing him with other peers convincing the child that he is less capable and other similar forms. Emotional abuse also occurs by refraining from words and deeds, which is basically emotional neglect (e. g. ignoring or rejecting a child or isolating oneself from associating with older children or adults).

Psychological abuse: Any behavior that manifests neglect of the child at the age when he or she needs it can be potentially psychological abuse of the child and cause the child to feel negative emotions. Reluctant to provide in accordance with the wishes and feelings of the child while it is in his best interest is emotional abuse

(intentional infliction of emotional distress) or negligence is emotional neglect (negligent infliction of emotional distress).

Neglect: Neglect is most simply explained as leaving the child to fend for himself (health, nutrition, emotional, physical).Neglect differs from abuse in that it occurs without the intent to inflict evil. Physical neglect means that the child is not provided with housing, food, clothing and other material resources needed to function normally. Emotional neglect is not providing tenderness and love or other forms of emotional support. Educational neglect is not enrolling a child in school, not caring about the child's attendance, or not providing home schooling. Health neglect is the disregard for the provision of appropriate preventive care to a child, such as vaccinations or treatment required due to injury or physical or mental illness.

There are studies that explore the cause-and-effect relationship. According to the author Norberg (2007) ,,*there is a connection between certain characteristics of the child and the guardian, as well as features of the family environment, with child abuse and neglect, and susceptibility to abuse, whether physical, sexual, or neglectful, depends in part on the age and gender of the child*".

If we refer to the situations from practice, then we can conclude that children at the youngest age often suffer physical insults and neglect because they are not physically attractive, but are in years when they can not show strength and defend themselves. But when children enter puberty and begin to look physically attractive, they are more likely to be victims of sexual assault and provocation that have consequences for children. The main reasons for this are:

- too many household members,
- no income to meet family needs and
- presence of other violent relationships in the home.

In some situations, a consequent association of multiple risk factors may occur, and it is difficult to assess which factor exerted the most intense influence to cause the condition. Therefore, whenever it is assessed that children are potential

victims, it should be borne in mind that all factors have an important impact on the normal psycho-physical development of the child. In doing so, the aim should be to create living conditions in which the child will be protected and will not be a potential victim of abuse, and whenever a risk is assessed, the situation should be monitored and intervened before serious behavioral harm of the child occurs.

Abuse can generally be attributed to a breakdown in the urge (control) over the urges of parents or carers. Several factors contribute to this. Here it is important to mention that the parents' experience is also essential because the parenting model is often transferable, ie if the parents had a difficult childhood and witnessed various situations where there were negative emotions, they are more likely to apply the same model to children. It is therefore necessary to develop their awareness that they need to change their experience for the better.

Drugs or alcohol can encourage impulsive or uncontrolled behavior toward a child. Parental mental illness can increase the risk, and in some cases, abuse occurs while the parent is psychotic.

Also, the state of abuse directly depends on the psychological stability of the parents because some parents resort to violence and neglect because they have faced unexpected difficulties in caring for children (for example, having children with special needs, or hyperactivity in children requiring special treatment).

Physical abuse: Skin changes are common and may include fingerprints or oval nail prints from hitting or squeezing and shaking; long banded ecchymoses from beating with a belt or narrow bruises in the form of a bow from beating with a whip; numerous small round cigarette burns; symmetrical burns on the upper or lower extremities from intentional immersion in hot water; bites; and thickening of the skin in the corners of the mouth from the connection of the mouth. Spotted alopecia can result from hair pulling.

Fractures of the ribs, vertebrae, long bones and fingers in immobile children, and metaphyseal fractures are often associated with physical abuse. Confusion and focal neurological outbursts can occur with CNS injuries. Children subjected to

severe shaking may be comatose or stuporous due to brain injury, but without visible signs of injury (with the frequent exception of retinal hemorrhage). There is no visible sign of injury to the chest or abdomen.

Abused children are often scared and irritable and sleep poorly. They may appear depressed or anxious.

Sexual abuse: Child sexual abuse is known to be difficult for children to recognize and in some cases, there are sudden or extreme changes in behavior. Violent behavior or withdrawal may develop, as well as phobias and sleep disorders. Physical signs of sexual abuse may include difficulty walking, bruising or venereal disease, etc.. If abuse is detected, it is usually after a few days or years. After a few days to 2 i.e. the genitals may look normal or show healed, inconspicuous hymen changes.

Emotional Abuse: During early childhood, emotional abuse can dull emotional expression and reduce interest in the environment. This is one of the most common forms of child abuse because in youth children are meek, it is very easy to touch their emotions and make children feel offended and rejected. Emotional abuse often leads to failure and is often misdiagnosed as mental retardation or physical illness. Delayed development of sociability and speech skills often results from inappropriate parental encouragement and interaction with the child. Despised children can have very low self-esteem. Frightened children or those who are threatened may seem frightened and withdrawn. Exploited children can commit crimes or enjoy alcohol or drugs.

Neglect: The first symptoms of this are the messy appearance of the child, insecurity, malnutrition and etc.Growth retardation and death from starvation or exposure to the environment may occur. According to the author Kolin (2005) neglect, including failure to take appropriate measures to protect the child from harm and gross negligence in providing the basic needs of the child. Needs are actions that need to be taken to protect and secure the child.

According to the author Nussbaum (1998) ,,*protection is the duty of a person who has the authority to take responsibility for the child to take the necessary measures to protect the child and if a child is physically or sexually abused, then there is a (violent) person responsible for the attack and a (negligent) person responsible for not protecting him from the attack. In some cases they may be the same*".

Prevention of abuse should be part of any check-up of the child, by educating the parents or carers and referring each identified high-risk family to appropriate public services. Such parents often express fear of their past and are inclined to accept help. At risk are also parents for whom this is the first child and parents of teenagers with more children <5 years.

Health problems during pregnancy, childbirth, or early childhood that affect a child's health can affect the connection between the child and the parent. During such periods, it is important to determine the parent's feelings about the child's own incompetence and well-being. How can I handle a child with numerous needs or health problems? Do parents provide each other with moral and physical support? Are there relatives or friends who can help them when they need it? A healthcare professional who notices signs and can provide support in such circumstances prevents tragic events in the long run.

2.6. Parental responsibility

The Council of Europe, in Recommendation No. 874 of 1979, proposed that the term parental authority be replaced by parental responsibility in all European legislation. The term parental responsibility has long been used in the basic International Charter of the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and as a term, it is also used in the legislation of England, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands and other countries. Acceptance of this term was essential due to the fact that parents should have rights and powers in relation to their children only to the extent necessary to fulfill their obligations and responsibilities in relation to the proper care and upbringing of children. Thus, the acceptance of the term parental responsibility provides greater awareness among

the general public that basically parenting is an obligation and responsibility that parents have to provide care, protection and proper development of the child's personality.

Children can often be in a worse social situation due to parental responsibilities. Naturally, parents, when making the decision to start a family and have a child, commit themselves to the responsibilities arising from that decision. The responsibilities of parents are legally prescribed in all countries, in order to ensure that children grow up healthy and cared for, enabling them to enjoy all their children's rights.

According to the UK Government, all mothers and most fathers have legal rights and responsibilities as a parent - known as 'parental responsibility'. Parents are responsible for: providing a safe shelter (home) for the child, his care, medical assistance and care, education, fostering emotional security, regular food, etc.

Parents have to ensure that their child is supported financially, whether they have parental responsibility or not (UK Government,2021). Abhlaw (2016) considers another very important dimension of parental responsibility and concludes that natural law means that at birth the parental right belongs to the mother, but when it comes to divorce, there can be a change in parental rights and responsibilities, to the detriment of the child. In practice, an increasing number of parents who have greater financial opportunities receive custody and responsibility over the child, which may further be a reason for inadequate development of the child.

2.7. Child maltreatment

Child maltreatment covers all previously elaborated forms that directly show that children are maltreated and do not enjoy their children's rights and freedoms. Namely, child maltreatment involves a variety of physical and mental forms that leave lasting consequences on the children's health.

Example of maltreatment of a child from North Macedonia: *The Basic Public Prosecutor's Office Skopje filed an Indictment against a 46-year-old man from Skopje who intentionally committed two time-related acts constituting multiple*

offenses - Neglect and maltreatment of a child under Article 201 paragraph 1 in connection with Article 45 of the Criminal Code. The accused - uncle of the injured two children, on June 28, 2020, accepted a trust entrusted by the mother of the children, to supervise them while she was absent. However, he rudely neglected his duty of care and upbringing, so he started harassing the trusted children. On the same day, around 12.30 pm, he tied the 12-year-old boy to his foot with a moped tire. The tied child - a person with special needs and underdeveloped motor skills, could not get free, so his 5-year-old sister approached him and tried to give him a bottle of liquid to drink. At that moment, the accused also attacked the girl, first verbally, and then physically - hitting her in the face and legs. (Akademik,2020).

According to the statistics of WHO (2020) ,,*nearly 3 in 4 children - or 300 million children - aged 2–4 years regularly suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents and caregivers, one in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report having been sexually abused as a child aged 0-17 years,120 million girls and young women under 20 years of age have suffered some form of forced sexual contact, consequences of child maltreatment include impaired lifelong physical and mental health, and the social and occupational outcomes can ultimately slow a country's economic and social development, a child who is abused is more likely to abuse others as an adult so that violence is passed down from one generation to the next. It is therefore critical to break this cycle of violence, and in doing so create positive multi-generational impacts, preventing child maltreatment before it starts is possible and requires a multisectoral approach, effective prevention approaches include supporting parents and teaching positive parenting skills, and enhancing laws to prohibit violent punishment and ongoing care of children and families can reduce the risk of maltreatment reoccurring and can minimize its consequences*".

Children who are maltreated often become victims of other, secondary social problems such as alcohol abuse, deviance, cigarette smoking, harassment of other peers, constant talking about the person being a victim, premature sexual activity,

unwanted pregnancies and similar unfortunate events. serious effects on the child's health remain.

2.8. Summary

Accordingly, it is stated that children are often abused and abused in various ways (physically, mentally, sexually, emotionally, etc.). There are a number of factors that influence the potential for child abuse and inability to defend oneself. Abusers can be various perpetrators, from parents, to acquaintances, to criminals who locate children as victims.

Practice shows that cases of abuse and mistreatment are not always detected in the first phase, but they are detected once the child begins to develop clear symptoms that are recognizable and signal that the child is in an unfavorable condition. It is the impossibility of locating the problem that influences the statistics of positive cases to grow and the systems to remain powerless in the face of the challenge of overcoming this social problem.

The world (both developed and underdeveloped countries) is still actively fighting to protect children and offer them better living conditions, as every child has the right to grow up well-off, to be financially secure, to have educational opportunities and to have access to significant resources.

Having in mind the research in the first chapter of the master thesis, it is concluded that a large number of children face injustices and are subjected to acts that impair their psycho-physical health.Violence, neglect and abuse of children, especially in the earliest years, can have lasting consequences on the development of their brains (permanent psychological disorders). All this, it was concluded, leaves consequences in the long run and even after the acts are discovered and after an attempt is made to protect the children, it is still very difficult for the children to overcome all the traumas that have happened to them. Children deprived of a family environment receive similar lifelong physical and cognitive scars.

In the world, there are a number of programs that constantly educate that children need to be protected and raised safely, lovingly and cared for. Childhood is essential for the child to build as a healthy and quality person. There are currently national systems in place to prevent, detect, refer and respond to child victims of violence and abuse. However, there are many drawbacks that prevent them from working as efficiently as they should.

3 Donor assistance concept Literature review

3.1 Donor assistance models

Donation and sponsorship are often confused in practice because they are similar terms, but there are clear differences between them. The interest of the master's thesis is the attitude of the donors, i.e. the influence of the donors on the creation of conditions for protection of the rights of the children and their promotion in order for the children to grow up in societies with integrity, safe and socially stable societies.

Donors have a big role to play in trying to create the conditions for children to grow up in normal conditions. In fact, all over the world, there are organizations (mostly NGOs) that strive to solve some explicitly important social problems related to children, but these organizations face the problem of lack of material and intangible resources. Aware of this, they seek active help from world organizations and other types of associations, which appear as donors to their projects.

The donation model as well as the donors are not always the same. Sometimes donations come from government organizations, and sometimes from other forms of organizations or from individual donors.

The most common sources of funds for non-profit organizations come from individual donations, foundations (corporate, family, etc.), wills, corporate donations,

government grants, earned income from economic activities, grants from domestic and international organizations and associations, such as USAID and others. Almost one in three, or 31.5% of people worldwide donated to charity in 2015-2019, and one in four (24%) volunteered for non-profit organizations. Of course the structure of the sources of funds varied from country to country.

There are three levels of key accountability of nonprofits that need to be considered: accountability to donors and compliance with formal regulatory provisions, accountability to the people served by nonprofits or the community in which the purpose of the organization's existence is realized. and horizontal liability, or mutual liability, failure to do so leads to unnecessary duplication, lack of synergy, and unnecessary waste of resources (Naidoo, 2004).

The donation is specific in that it benefits the non-profit organization that receives it and the most common way to get money is by submitting a proposal for a project to potential donors. Donations are always welcome and free from tax burden. Donations to a non-profit organization can also be non-monetary benefits, i.e. some services or goods that will directly or indirectly influence the creation of positive policies for child protection.

It is a fact that it is easier to make non-monetary donations, but they are also very important, and can be divided into (Paunovic, 2006):

a. office space or other activities;
b. products used by the NGO;
c. office materials;
d. professional services;
e. various lobbying;
f. child abuse research consulting - analyzes that are otherwise very expensive;
g. strategic planning;
h. computer services, telecommunications or the use of other high technologies;

i. work engagement of experts from organizations as volunteers in the non-profit organization.

In the desire to find and acquire a donor, the representatives of the non-profit organization try to convince the donor of the benefits it can have in giving money/ intangible support. In practice, most non-profit organizations do not have the opportunity to provide a service to the donor or counter-value for the money they receive, but provide lasting results, i.e. create conditions for child care, for the treatment of children, for the promotion of the need to keep records of the situation with children in need of social support. However, the motivation of the donor is not only in the interest because every donor is a human being with their own interests, strengths and weaknesses and has its own value system, and helping children in the world is a priority of all conscious adults who know that the world is left to the younger generations.

The donor, by giving money, has his own satisfaction from that act, or he wants to calm his conscience or get some social recognition such as (Salamon, 1997):

a. personal glory;
b. feeling of power;
c. calming the conscience;
d. improving public relations;
e. advertising;
f. tax exemption.

Each donation is important and helps to implement projects that strive to improve the situation with children. To this end, it is important to note that NGOs that use these donations have obligations to donors. This is debated by several authors in their research.

The reporting and accountability of donors is in line with the principle of financial responsibility and implies clarification to these people that the funds are used for the purpose for which they are intended, i.e. that they are spent as

previously agreed in order to achieve and complete the project. non-profit organization. In doing so, donors seek complete and detailed data, request reports and consider the possibility of re-financing a particular non-profit organization in a future period, with the ultimate goal of promoting the position of children in societies, especially in socially vulnerable countries.

The reports are composed of three parts - written reports on the implemented activities, financial reports with specifications for the funds spent in relation to the approved budget and documentation. The non-profit organization should adhere to the following recommendations (Kolin, 2005):

1 accurate results should be provided in the reports;
2 adequate modification of the budget in accordance with the plans;
3 to comply with all agreed deadlines;
4 to comment on possible concessions or suspicious actions and not to cover up mistakes, not to spend more than necessary, to count on the long experience of donors and to listen to their advice in order to overcome certain barriers.

It is therefore necessary to develop correct and professional relationships with the donors. Long-term relationships should be nurtured with donors, their expectations should be met and work should be done in accordance with the agreed guidelines.

In reality, there are frequent situations when the harmonization of legal regulations is considered as a formal act, and especially careful analysis of agreements with donors is important, and the provisions of the agreement are relevant in terms of financial reporting (Tokvil, 2002):

- the volume of funds and their purpose;
- allowed overhead costs;
- form of reports, language of reporting;

- dynamics of reporting;
- bank account - some donors request to open a separate bank account for the funds they provide and do not allow interest to be withheld based on the approved amount;
- donors also require independent financial audits of the project they are financing;
- determination of allowed concessions in the budget lines.

In the field of financial operations, the basic documentation is composed of bank statements, contracts, accounts and payment orders, however the donor in certain situations has specific requirements (Pavlovic, 2005):

- request of donors to submit reports on work engagements aimed at the project they fund;
- donors often require the use of specific formats to be used for reporting;
- the donor can request to put his own stamp on the original account which is prevention, the same account not to be used as a document in another project;
- the donor may request verification of all accounts and their copy.

We could conclude that proper operation is of paramount importance, and the goal is for donors, before deciding to donate funds, to make sure that the specific non-profit organization that advocates for child protection has regular financial operations. If this is achieved, opportunities open up for further funding of projects of great importance for the future of children in the world.

3.1.1 Theories of donor assistance models

The first, starting theory for the protection of children and their rights is the *Theory of Human Rights*. From the previous research, it became clear that a large number of situations in which children are victims also testify to discrimination on various grounds (for example, killed female babies). The author Nussbaum (1998) has analyzed this theory in detail and states that "*the inclusion of human rights into development discourse has also brought along a certain language of rights, and this*

*brings a moral resonance to development rhetoric and makes it hard to avoid in today's discourse. Rights are defined as entitlements that belong to all human beings regardless of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic class, all humans, therefore, are rights holders, and it is someone's duty to provide these rights (*p.273)".

Also, important is the *Theory of Capacity building*, which advocates capacity building. The author Sen (2004) elaborating on this theory, came to the conclusion that "*key principles to increase capacity are sought to build upon existing capacities, ensure national engagement and ownership, and adjust to countries' needs as development occurs. In this method, the duty bearers and the rights holders both have an active role in development. The duty bearers are accountable for respecting, protecting, and fulfilling human rights; while the rights holders need to ask what they should do to help promote and defend their freedoms. This action keeps their governments accountable for creating sustainability* (p.339)".

Third and essential for child protection is the *Theory of Change*. This theory has a conventional basis and its strategic setting has several basic functions:

a. Programming at-scale results for children;
b. Gender-responsive programming;
c. United Nations working together;
d. Fostering innovation for children;
e. Etc.

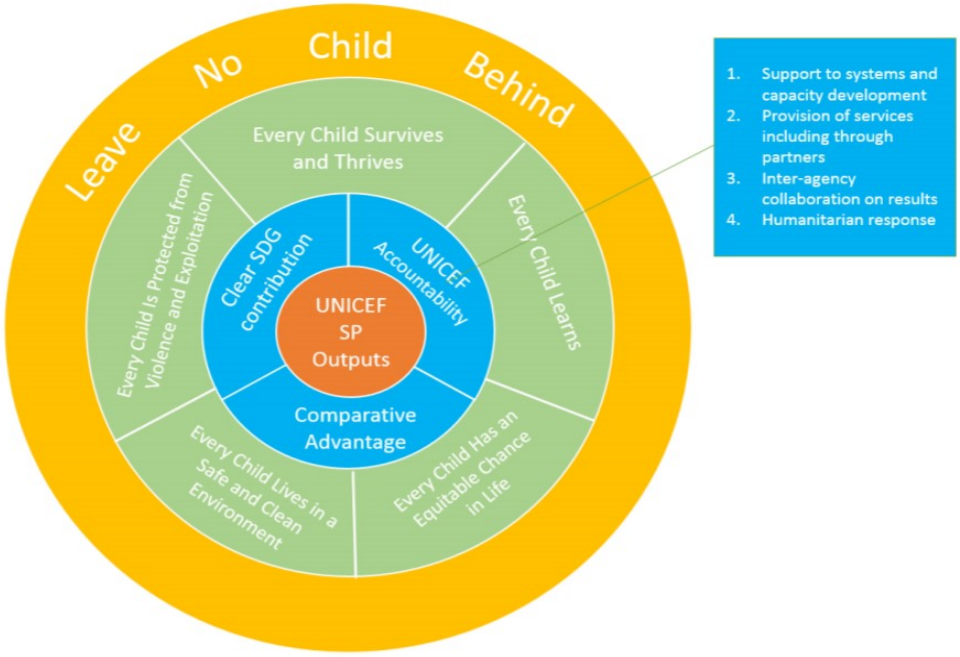
Figure 3.1. Results Framework

Architecture

Source: (UNICEF,2017)

In essence, this theory is based on the idea that every child survives in society, every child learns and experiences, every child should be protected from potential violence and any form of exploitation, every child should have a safe life, and society should be normal and every child should have an equal chance in life (see Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2. Theory of Change design



Source: (UNICEF,2017)

In addition, this theory states that in order to make progress, it is necessary to achieve a reorganization of the Government (to have a modern, transparent, trustworthy government that can be trusted and from which support can be obtained), a reorganization in the Management (be results-oriented, efficient, effective and collaborative), People reorganization (hiring people who are adaptable and skilled at managing change), Knowledge Systems reorganization (implementing secure, efficient, modern connectivity systems).

The theory shows that there is an important link between what is invested and what is gained. The relationship between inputs and outputs is presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Theory of Change relationships of outcomes to outputs

Goal Area (Outcome) Statement	**Output to outcome level**
Girls and boys have access to high-impact Health, Nutrition, HIV and ECD	For children (boys and girls) to live better and to have better conditions, it is

interventions from pregnancy to adolescence, enabling them to survive and thrive.	essential how the institutions will be set up in each country. The institutions need to take care of what the children really need and at the same time when a woman is pregnant to be offered all the conditions for carrying a child. Then, after the child is born, the institutions need to offer all the conditions for immunization and health care. If this happens (especially in developing countries that lack resources) then children will have a better quality of life and will be able to live healthier, with greater capacity.
Girls and boys, in particular the most marginalized and those affected by humanitarian situations, are provided with inclusive and equitable quality education and learning opportunities.	If countries have strengthened education systems then every child, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, can learn.
Girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable and those affected by humanitarian situations, are protected from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices.	In order to avoid exploitation of children, in order for young people to be able to make voluntary decisions when they get married, in order not to suffer violence, in order not to be bullied, it is necessary for each country to have a system that will guarantee that children must not be victims of any abuse, violence and the etc.
Sustained use of safe water and safe environment for girls and boys,	Every state has a duty to provide children with access to basic resources (such as access to water) in order to

particularly the most disadvantaged and those affected by humanitarian situations.	ensure hygiene, especially when it comes to girls at a younger and more mature age. However, there are still countries with limited resources.
Girls and boys should have equitable chance in life.	In many countries, although there are constant efforts to achieve equality between the sexes, boys and girls do not have equal opportunities, which again leads to numerous social inequalities and greater susceptibility to abuse due to powerlessness, conditionality and meekness. To this end, states are required to take responsibility and implement strategies.

Source: (UNICEF,2017)

There are other theories that may be analyzed in future research. What is common and important for the theories is that they contain a basis for the current problems faced by children in modern societies and provide solutions to how unfavorable situations would be overcome if the offered recommendations are implemented.

3.2 Donor assistance in the Republic of North Macedonia

The Republic of North Macedonia as a developing country, which is not yet a member of the European Union due to blockades by other countries, has a clear need for assistance in managing the social system in the country. Thereby, the high rate of poverty of the population additionally influences the development of social problems that in the long run affect the security and stability of the Macedonian society. For that purpose, donor assistance is needed.

In practice, projects aimed at improving the situation with child protection in the country are in small numbers covered by state donations. Most donations come from international organizations and individual donors.

Example from North Macedonia: *This is shown by the practice of one of the best known NGOs in North Macedonia, Sos Children Village. SOS Children's Villages International is an international non-governmental organization for social protection, dedicated to the protection and implementation of children's rights since 1949 when the first SOS Children's Village was founded by Hermann Gmeiner in Imst, Austria.*

For almost 70 years this organization has been working to protect and care for children who have lost, or are at risk of losing parental care. They work with communities, partners and states to ensure that the rights of all children in every society are met. With the support of many donors and contributors, the organization is rapidly expanding and helping children around the world. In 136 countries and territories, the activities of the international organization SOS Children's Villages focus on supporting children without parents and parental care and children at risk of losing care of their families.

. In SOS Children's Villages and Youth Care Programs, they find security, love, and a warm home again. They grow up in a stable family environment and receive continuous individual support until they become independent young people. SOS Children's Villages provide support to all children at risk, especially those without parents and parental care and those whose families live in difficult conditions. The basis and goal of the work of the organization is to respect, promote and raise the voice of children's rights. Through its activities, SOS Children's Villages strive to inform the general public and all partners and collaborators about the problems faced by children and call for measures that will promote the well-being of children around the world. SOS Children's Villages respect different cultures and aims to work with different religions and nations for mutual recognition and acquaintance.The work of SOS Children's Villages is in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is being promoted around the world.

Family empowerment programs are very effective in supporting the improvement of the resources of families and communities, their ability to self-organize and their responsibility for the well-being of children.

Regarding donation, the organization has the most international donations, but a particularly important factor is the so-called committed donors. Dedicated donors are those donors who every month, continuously, continuously help the children and represent a strong generator of the stability of the programs and the success of the children to receive adequate protection and care.

Individual donors are important actors for all NGOs working on child protection projects. However, these are continuous, but small funds, which again makes it clear that donor assistance is needed from international organizations, elaborated in detail in the continuation of the work.

3.3 Donor assistance in child protection system

UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, UNHCR and others are the most proven international organizations that provide permanent donor support to developing countries, as is the case with North Macedonia. In addition, their strategic approaches in the attempt to permanently provide child protection and child support are elaborated in detail.

3.3.1 UNICEF

UNICEF[2], as an international organization, is of great importance for children's rights and their protection in North Macedonia. The organization not only

[2] UNICEF, abbreviated as the United Nations Children's Fund, is a New York-based UN program providing humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers in developing countries. UNICEF was established by the UN General Assembly on December 11, 1946, to provide emergency food and health care assistance to children in World War II-torn countries. The founder of

offers financial support to important projects but also provides the institutions with intangible assets, which they need for continuous work with children.

The first shipment of UNICEF for North Macedonia was in August (1947) and responded positively to the then needs of the children from this region.

UNICEF in North Macedonia actively works with its partners and is fully committed to providing each child with a childhood, future and equal opportunities. It prioritizes child health and proper nutrition, child protection, education, social protection, monitoring of children's rights, monitoring of emergencies and situations related to adolescents and young people. In addition, several examples from the practice of how UNICEF donates to the country are elaborated.

- Support in locating the beneficiaries was also provided by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of RSM, through the regional centers for social work. Within the donation, large quantities of disinfectants, protective gloves, masks, disinfectants for surfaces and to institutions that care for children and youth, people with special needs and vulnerable users were delivered (CKGS,2020).
- UNICEF is donating $ 500,000 to support the efforts of the United Nations Children's Fund. The donation aims to help stop the further transmission of Covid-19 into the country and reduce the effects of the pandemic on the most vulnerable, children (A1On, 2021).

In addition, UNICEF is recognized as an organization around the world, due to which a number of individual humanitarian activists donate thousands of US dollars to the UNICEF account, so that UNICEF can further allocate funds and support projects that are essential for the future of children in vulnerable social systems where there is no adequate financial assistance.

UNICEF is considered to be the Polish doctor Ludwik Reichmann, who is also its first president. In 1950, UNICEF's mandate was extended to help children and women in developing countries. UNICEF is funded by contributions from governments and private donors.

3.3.2 UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, UNHCR

UNDP in North Macedonia through its donations, in relation to child protection, is committed to reducing poverty, promoting the health of children and disease prevention, as well as building a better security structure so that children are not victims of war violence. Based in New York, UNDP is fully funded by Member States that provide multi-segment donations, including child protection.

In addition, at the international level, UNDP is assisting countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

- Example: Involving all children in regular classes, through adapted textbooks, technology and educational assistants where needed. Education assistants in the country's schools have been around for several years, and they were part of the UNDP program that was launched to help students with atypical development in the process of inclusion in the education system (Okno,2020).

According to Okno (2020) ,,*since its establishment in the country in 2007, as part of the UN system and within the accepted UNDAF document, UNFPA North Macedonia has supported the Government in the field of reproductive health, population and development and the fight against gender-based violence and main areas of work are: access to accessible high quality integrated sexual and reproductive health services, enhanced responsibility for eliminating all forms of discrimination, and empowerment of marginalized groups, with a focus on people with disabilities, welfare recipients, Roma women and women from rural areas, adolescents and young people*".

According to Okno (2020) ,,*UNFPA North Macedonia, together with several implementation organizations and other partners, in terms of sectoral policies / strategies at the national level, is working on Comprehensive Sex Education (VET), as part of Adolescent and Young Sexual and Reproductive Health, Development and Welfare, including innovative approaches for people with disabilities. UNFPA, as part of a joint project with other UN agencies in the country, also works in the*

field of prevention and addressing gender-based violence, including persons with disabilities, and then seeks to integrate the Minimum Initial Services Package (PMU) for Reproductive Health under the Health Sector Response (LSR) - participation of a number of stakeholders in the creation of policies for SRH and SRH based on evidence, and also works in the field of population dynamics and human capital, censuses, etc".

WHO has its representative office in North Macedonia since 1996 and is committed to the health of all citizens, and implements special programs for protection and prevention of child health. WHO supports important projects related to child protection and, over the years, has proven to be an important organization that helps fight to build healthy youth despite all the social risks to which children are exposed in the country, which is still behind the doors of the European The Union has limited budget funds earmarked for the promotion of children's rights.

The UNHCR is the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which prioritizes the needs of refugees and seeks to help them socialize, integrate and settle in another country. In North Macedonia, the recent migrant crisis was a major challenge. It is important to note that UNHCR has greatly assisted in fostering refugee children who have experienced physical and psychological abuse in their attempts to cross the border and seek refuge. This organization not only donated equipment but also helped in the implementation of important strategies to protect children, not to miss their education, not to feel a visible decline in terms of their quality of life and more.

According to the analysis, it is concluded that each of the international organizations that donate in North Macedonia work on different segments that allows the state to receive donations from different organizations for different projects and the children to be supported in terms of any support they need.

3.3.3. Finance Think, Save the Children, Red Cross etc.

In addition to the major international organizations working to protect children's rights, organizations such as Finance Think, Save the Children and Red Cross also actively contribute to North Macedonia.

Finance Think strives to achieve three statutory objectives: ,, *to contribute to improve economic, social and development policies and reforms through producing evidence, based on research and driven by data. Specifically, this strategic objective is founded on conducting first-class economic – empirical and policy-oriented – research, founded on sufficient theoretical basis and executed by the means of the state-of-the-art economic methods, while being relevant and beneficial for domestic and/or regional policymakers, to increase the eff-ect of Finance Thinks' products on target groups (skills), policymaking (policies and reforms), and society (awareness). Specifically, this strategic objective is founded on the premise that Finance Think's work is done for the benefit of the society, channeled through influence onto the policy formulation and implementation process, through affecting the discourse of the public debate, and through direct impact onto the skills and work of immediate target groups and to develop the institutional capacity of Finance Think, in terms of research, advocacy, funding and communication, to have a stronger impact on economic reforms and the e-ffects policies have for citizens. Specifically, this strategic objective is founded on the premise for a permanent investment in building capacities and networks, both organizational and individual, for the purpose of better research, increased domestic and international visibility and increased overall reputation*" (Finance Think,2021).

Finance Think as an organization aims to improve the economic status of Macedonian society, which directly affects the reduction of the poverty rate. What makes the organization unique is that it has a statistical-empirical approach, ie it conducts constant research on the market situation in the country. The results obtained are essential to create new projects that will improve the current situation in the country.

Save the Children is an organization that puts children in the focus of its work and with donations actively contributes to the process of helping children who do

not have active opportunities. Namely, this organization directs its interests towards poverty and lack of food, concluding that in the world children are not born equal and some children have greater access to resources than other children. Therefore, it directs donations to solve this problem. The existence of a representative office in North Macedonia is essential for reducing child poverty.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia functions in the city of Skopje as a humanitarian organization that works to help those most vulnerable categories who seek help and this organization is always available to people and groups in disadvantage (health, financial, security, etc.). The organization helps with food, health care, material resources and everything else that marginalized, vulnerable families need.

Donations are aimed at acting, encouraging and promoting human values in order to respond in a timely manner to contemporary humanitarian challenges, while doing more, doing better and getting further. Many of their activities also involve children, such as clothing and food supplies, medical training and more.

4. Child protection system in Republic of North Macedonia

4. 1 The laws of negligence and contract

The protection of children's rights from negligence and other forms are prescribed by the Law on Child Protection. In 2013, a new Law on Child Protection was adopted, which regulates the system and organization for child protection,

whereby child protection is defined as an organized activity based on the rights of children, as well as the rights and obligations of parents for family and state planning and local self-government units for conducting humane population policy.

According to the law, the protection of children is achieved by providing conditions and a standard of living that corresponds to the physical, mental, emotional, moral and social development of children. The state, as well as the units of local self-government take care of providing adequate material assistance to parents for support, upbringing, care and protection of children and organizing and ensuring the development of institutions and services for child protection.

4.2 Safeguarding the welfare of the child

The welfare of children is an important segment for which the Macedonian system stands. Of course, international organizations also play an important role. Such an example is the British Council in North Macedonia.

Another example is the UNICEF Positive Parenting Program, according to which the care and protection of the child is necessary for his / her well-being and both parents are equally responsible for the well-being of the child (UNICEF,2018).

4.3 Proper consent or agreement

Consent or agreement is essential for a child's normal development, especially when the child is in an atypical environment (for example, a child of divorced parents). In trying to create long-term strategies to safeguard the best interests of children, it is necessary to think substantively, not practically. Such are the decisions for child care, parental assignment and the like. The institutions in charge of making important decisions for the future of each child also have an important role.

In the practice of North Macedonia, the institutions are committed to making decisions according to the material ability of the parents, ie the practical approach is

present, which can be treated as a limiting factor, subject to analysis in some further research.

4. 4 Welfare, risk assessment and the calculus of negligence

The system advocates for the well-being of children, supports projects to develop and promote awareness / the need for well-being of children and a peaceful environment that will affect the physical and mental health of children. However, in cases where there are victims, detection is not in the first stage. To this end, the institutions take measures for risk assessment and calculation of negligence. It affects in a way that instead of solving the situation it will be prevented and no major social problem will arise.

4. 5 Promoting the welfare of the child and the CAF Assessment

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF Model) is a tool for fully managing children's quality of life. The implementation of this model is considered to have a tendency in the future to significantly reduce the number of children who are abused because it encourages coordination and use of all available resources for the same purpose, protection of children and creating conditions for equal enjoyment of their rights.

4.6 The best interests of the child

The best interests of the child are an explicitly important segment of family law and it should be guaranteed that even in the event of a divorce, both parents will make decisions that are best for the child and his or her future. In doing so, the child should be protected from any kind of exploitation, physical or mental abuse.

4.6.1 Decision making

The decision-making process should include rationality and only the interests of the children should be in the foreground. In Macedonian practice, children are often used to gain some individual interests of one parent. To this end, institutions

and international organizations make clear criticisms of overcoming this situation and provide training for positive parenting, as exemplified by UNICEF.

4.6.2 The welfare checklist

The Welfare Checklist Criteria contains segments for assessing the best future of the child, ie, aims to answer what is best for the child (see Table 4.1).

The Welfare Checklist Criteria conteins ,,*the ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child concerned (considered in the light of his age and understanding) – the court are required to take the wishes and feelings of the child into consideration, it is not defined in law at which age the court will begin to listen to the child, but the court will tend to place more weight on a child's wishes and feelings from the age of 11 or 12 onwards, however, it does depend on the individual circumstances of the child in question; the court will assess their maturity and understanding of the situation and ordinarily it will be the role of CAFCASS to speak to the child and ascertain their wishes and feelings. In exceptional circumstances the Judge may speak to the child themselves. It is important for the court to be satisfied that these are indeed the true wishes and feelings of the child and they are not mirroring the views of a parent. It is important to be aware that the wishes and feelings of the child are viewed in conjunction with other factors and will not wholly dictate the outcome. The physical, emotional and educational needs - the court are required to consider the child's short term and long term physical, emotional and educational needs, they will consider which parent is best placed to provide these to the child and this will usually be based on evidence that has been submitted to the court, physical needs tend to be straightforward whereas emotional needs may require more investigation, and a child's needs will change as they become older and therefore the court must be satisfied that the parents can manage these changes and provide stability for the child at the same time. The likely effect on him of any change in his circumstances - The court are required to consider the potential impact of any change in circumstances on the child, the court will often take a decision that will cause the least disruption to a child's life, an*

example of this may be where the non-resident parent applies for residence of the child and the court will need to consider the potential impact that the change in residence would cause, i.e. change of school, change of social environment. His age, sex, background and any characteristics of his which the court considers relevant – the court are required to consider the child's age, cultural and religious background and other characteristics which are specific to the child and the wider family. Any harm which he has suffered or is at risk of suffering – the court will examine harm that the child has suffered and harm that the child is at risk of suffering in the future. Harm is defined as "ill treatment or the impairment of health or development", the court will weigh up the potential risk to the child and issue an order which is reflective of this, the order could feasibly contain protective measures which are aimed at safeguarding the child and this particular criterion will require the court to examine allegations of domestic abuse. How capable each of his parents, and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting his needs – the court will want to ensure that both parents are putting the child first and are able to meet all the child's needs, this criterion will therefore require the court to consider the respective accommodation that both parents are able to provide and the extent to which both parents can meet the child's needs, this will be case specific and therefore it will depend on the specific needs of the child and the abilities of the parent and there is no assumption that a mother is better placed to meet a child's needs compared to the father (ChildLaw,2020)".

4.6.3 Decision making and legal disability

When making decisions that are important for the future of children, it is essential that stakeholders can use all legal sources, without legal obstruction, that is, to eliminate the possibility of legal disability.

4.6.4 Physical, moral and emotional health, the mental faculties of decision making

Making care of the mental, moral and emotional health of the children is also important when making important decisions for the children in the Macedonian system. The case law shows cases when seemingly fair decisions are reasons for further child disorientation, initial criminal behavior and the like. The international practice with its advanced instruments can undoubtedly intervene and help the Macedonian practice to improve by introducing more modern methods of decision-making.

4.6.5 Child development and parental responsibility

Decision-making is also crucial because decisions are often tied to responsibilities. Both parents have the parental responsibility from the very act of giving birth to the child, but in the Macedonian practice there are cases when the parental responsibility is abused and redirected, which is subject to control and monitoring.

4.6.6 "A child is a person not an object of concern"

It is crucial for the protection of children to be seen as individuals and to respect their personality. Seeing children as objects and irrational condemnation that they can not decide for themselves and that they must be under existing authority can also be a cause of unintended consequences for children's health.

4.6.7 Disability, parental disability and social inclusion

In the last few years, the Macedonian society, with international support, has started working in the field of disability. Namely, it is assessed that the disability (of the child or the parent) is an important factor that determines the quality of life with the child. To this end, mostly the non-governmental sector introduces active measures for social inclusion that guarantee the inclusion of children with disabilities in normal life and their acceptance as they are.

4.6.8 The MARAC Process and risk assessment

The aims of a MARAC are: ,,*to share information to increase the safety, health and well being of victims – adults and their children, to determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community, to construct jointly and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm, to reduce repeat victimisation, to improve agency accountability, to improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic abuse cases and to identify those situations that indicate a need to for the Local Safeguarding Children Board's Child Protection Procedures to be initiated* (Crichton,2011)".

According to Crichton (2011) in order for a MARAC process to work effectively there needs to be a common understanding of risk among the participants.

4.6.9 State intervention

Although the mentioned techniques are mainly attributed to the non-governmental sector, they should be implemented in the state management of child protection. Namely, in North Macedonia there are institutions that for many years resolve disputes in the same traditional ways that do not always prove productive. For that purpose, a redesign of the state intervention is necessary.

4.7 Preventing child neglect and abuse

In order to prevent the situation and to prevent child abuse and bullying, it is necessary to implement international conventions for the protection of children and to conduct controls, especially in families where there is a high risk. In addition, educational programs are needed to develop awareness, confidence in children that they are not alone and have someone to trust and express themselves whenever they are victims. Next, it is necessary to hire experts in the field who are educated and trained in how to deal with child victims, monitoring activities and redesigning whenever necessary.

5 Empirical analysis: The role of Donor organization in the child protection

5.1. Research and qualitative approach

Once the topic of the paper was established, the analysis of the information to be collected was started. This provided a research direction. Qualitative research contains a collection of opinions, views and experiences related to the research topic. This approach is used in the existing master thesis. With the primary research, with the application of a questionnaire with open questions, four key informants were examined:

1- *UNICEF*
2- *SOS Children's Village*
3- *Institute for Social Activities*
4- *Bureau for rehabilitation*

5.2. Research method

The most used research methods related to qualitative research are observation, analysis, synthesis, induction and deduction, the application of which leads to general knowledge and specific data relevant to the process.

5.3. Data Collection

The questionnaire was distributed electronically, with the consent obtained that the respondents agreed to answer. After obtaining the results, it was proceeded with their analysis. In doing so, it was concluded that the key informants largely agreed in their views and considerations. However, the research has limitations, and these are a few short answers, which lack a detailed explanation in order to get a clear idea and to propose recommendations for improved work in relation to the problem of child protection, from the aspect of donation. In continuation, a comparative review of the obtained answers is elaborated.

5.4. Data analysis

Q1. Is there a document for child protection by domestic or foreign service providers or donors?

1. Yes, Child protection manual World Vision, Save the Children & Unicef
2. Law on Social Protection, Law on Family, Law on Protection of Children, etc.
3. As far as I know, a unique national document that would protect children who receive services / donations from domestic or foreign donors, no, but according to the laws governing various areas (social protection, child protection, justice for children, etc., laws for donations, sponsorship, foundations and civic associations). Donors should be managed indirectly so as not to cause additional damage /risk. Of course, here are the principles and internal rules of the organizations through which they provide donations / services, which, in addition to the organization itself, should be respected by each donor / sponsor.
4. We are not informed that there is such a national document.

Q2. Which areas, policies or programs are interesting/ attractive for implementation by donor organizations?

1. International & European conventions on human rights, child rights, persons with disability.
2. Law on Social Protection, in the field of pluralization of social services, especially in relation to children without parents and parental grievances, children with special needs, Mechanisms for protection of children's rights from violence (domestic violence, gender, bullying, etc.) with coordination between all superfluous institutions.
3. From my experience in the field of social and child protection, and I can share information, the areas of interest to donor organizations are in all spheres of living, the risks to which children are exposed, both through direct donations to children as ultimate beneficiaries, but also indirectly - through investing / raising the capacity of domestic service providers (infrastructure,

capacity building of professionals in procedures intended for the children, etc.). Of the current support from donors, the most visible are actions, support intended for deinstitutionalization of children, children with disabilities, marginalized children, children in risk, increasing the coverage of children in preschool institutions, etc.

4. The most interesting are the children living in poverty. The need for treatment and in general children from marginalized groups

Q3. How is the contact made between domestic donors and children?

1. School & Community based activities.
2. The contact should be between organizations that work with those children, with parents or guardians, and not with children.
3. Depending on the nature of the donation: through organizations, institutions that turn to donors for the purpose of supporting certain programs, actions, holding conferences, promoting initial / final activities, visits by donors during realization of projects, etc.
4. Most often through stories from the media that are also intermediaries in the contacts.

Q4. How is the contact made between foreign donors and children?

1. School & Community based activities
2. The contact should be between organizations that work with those children, with parents or guardians, and not with children.
3. Depending on the nature of the donation: through organizations, institutions that address donors in order to support certain programs, actions, holding conferences, promoting initial / final activities, visits by donors during realization of projects, etc.
4. Most often through the civic organizations that represent the children

Q5. Is there a regulated system by International Donors that will observe/follow the selection, contracting and employment of children in North Macedonia?

1. Not sure.
2. I am not informed
3. I assume that international donors should respect the provisions of the law on associations and foundations for the age of which one person can be a member of association, and of course the Labor Relations Act in which the conditions are provided - age, nature of work, shift work, earnings, etc., in order for a child to be able to perform certain works.
4. We are not informed of the existence of such a system.

Q6. Is the Code of Conduct harmonized between the international donors and the National legislation of the North Macedonia?

1. I believe it is
2. I am not informed about others, except for UNICEF.
3. Honestly, I am not aware that there is a code to which donors adhere, but I assume that they should respect the domestic legislation governing this area (answer in item 5). If the logic is followed, by international donors publish calls for engagement of persons for various needs (consultants, researchers, service providers, etc.) and when they are required to respect the principles of organization / donor, I assume that the donors themselves adhere to their internal procedures, code, etc.
4. Yes.

Q7. Does your organization (institution) meet the needs of children for social protection and protection of the children's rights?

1. Not always
2. I am not informed
3. I don't have enough information, but I would expect the politicians to agree with the principles of an international organization that are part of the domestic legislation, because they have a common goal - respect for the best interests of the child.

4. Our organization deals with children with disabilities and we think that with our activities we meet their needs.

Q8. Does your organization (institution) have an appropriate place and role in social assistance for the children?

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. Yes
4. Yes

Q9. Is there enough information about the international donors in North Macedonia (area of engagement, financing, level of participation)?

1. No.
2. Yes
3. The public institution Institute for Social Activities - Skopje is a research and development institution for improvement of social activity that monitors them, studies, analyzes social phenomena and problems, proposes measures for improvement of social activity protection, prepares standards and procedures for the work of the experts in the social protection activity, supervises professional work, and manages the process of licensing of professional workers in the institutions for social protection. All these competencies of the Institute are reflected in the direct professional work of the donors of social services for children, so in the context of this, the Institute has prepared a large number of professional documentation, techniques, instruments at their disposal of the professional workers in the activity of social protection, in the activities intended for children.
4. There is enough information for international organizations present in the RSM, but for international donors I think not.

Q10. Are there big differences between domestic and international actors?

1. Yes.

2. No, I think that donors should be proactive and transparent in this area, being the population, but NGOs do not have enough information.
3. I assume that it is difficult for the general public to obtain information for the international community donors, but stakeholders - beneficiaries of donations, find ways to informi - following calls, etc., through donor conferences, promotional events, media coverage, direct collaboration.
4. Yes.

Q11. Do domestic donors apply international standards through harmonized procedures?

1. Not always.
2. Yes, and that in values, transparency, interests, accountability, ways of acting, etc.
3. Not always.
4. I don't think so, domestic donors work more spontaneously, as recommended.

Q12. Is there a coordination between international donors in North Macedonia?

1. Yes and no.
2. It depends on what we mean by donor. Some domestic organizations are transparent, accountable and follow all international standards, but some do not.
3. I could not give a relevant answer.
4. We are not informed, but I don't think so.

Q13. Do the duplicated efforts of the donors in North Macedonia have a positive effect on the child protection policy?

1. Yes.
2. Insufficient and untimely.
3. Although I have participated in various working groups for the establishment, monitoring, implementation of activities supported by international donors,

where coordination was established and "division of spheres of interest" and non-interference among themselves. However, it happens that the same activities are financed by different donors, or in the focus of funding there is a specific target group and a large number of donations - projects are aimed at that target group, at the expense of which the other group remains neglected.

4. Yes, but not in large quantities.

Q14. Do donor organizations (donors) properly use the procedures for communication and use of content materials for children (information, photos, videos)?

1. Yes
2. Sometimes yes, but other times they have the opposite effect, as each donor often promotes his own values and policies.
3. This much depends on the planned and delivered activities, capacities, commitment and a number of other factors that may or may not be influenced by the organization / institution beneficiary of the donor funds. And although an improvement in the position of the target group would be expected (e.g. street children) there is no great visible effect in the protection of the target groups. Thus, the question arises about the sustainability of some activities that have resulted with the effect, but with the completion of the donations, there is no possibility for their continuation.
4. In the worst case, yes, but not always. There are many exceptions.

Q15. Do donor organizations have a procedure for reporting and child abuse?

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. The organizations (UNICEF, UNHCR), with which I had direct experience, showed respect for privacy, protection of the identity of children, in various displays - photos, shots, express on children's experiences.
4. I think no.

Q16. Is there an effective assessment of the potential risks of the child abuse by donors and donor organizations?

1. Not sure.
2. I have no information for others, except for UNICEF.
3. Not sure.
4. I think no.

Q17. Does the child protection policy in North Macedonia, as a result of donor interventions, give appropriate and expected results?

1. Not sure.
2. Only in some cases, e.g. SOS Children's Village.
3. As I have already mentioned, to the extent that donor interventions are appropriately distributed, directed to the whole group to which interventions are currently needed, they ensure the sustainability of the activities that are effectively maintained during the support, then efficient and long-term results will be provided.
4. Not sure.

Q.18. Does the participation and influence of the children in society have an appropriate effect and justify donor policies?

1 Yes.
2 In our country, children are not properly represented, i.e. they do not participate in the decision-making processes, except at several levels in the work of SOS Children's Village.
3 Recently, the effect of donor interventions on participation has been a remarkable impact on children in society, especially young people over the age of 15 and their ability to present themselves and in their own name, to show their participation and to change what they do in society, how they mix with their peers, but also adults. Maybe this is my perception due to the greater presence and announcements of various activities taken from the young people who do it in the media and electronic space, but certainly from

them taking "things in their hands", their strengthening and awareness of the need for their participation and role in society and public events.

4 Yes.

5.5. Summary

According to the above, it becomes clear that there is a high agreement between the answers of the respondents which confirms that the answers are relevant and durable. It is important to note that the answers testify to the existence of legislation and international donation that facilitates the work of organizations. The existing answers testify that the organizations from Northern Macedonia meet the conditions for donation and that they work for the benefit of children and their protection, enabling constant coordination with donors and following their instructions.

However, there is no absolute agreement that the effects achieved are long-term and that they permanently affect the child protection situation. In addition, donor organizations do not have sufficient authority to report and detect cases where children are victims of abuse and other forms of abuse. This opens the possibility for further research, especially in terms of donor control over the donation, their utilization and achieved results as expected.

6 Conclusion

6.1 Summary of findings

Children are often abused and abused in various ways (physically, mentally, sexually, emotionally, etc.). There are a number of factors that influence the potential for child abuse and inability to defend oneself. Abusers can be various perpetrators, from parents, to acquaintances, to criminals who locate children as victims. Practice shows that cases of abuse and mistreatment are not always detected in the first phase, but they are detected once the child begins to develop clear symptoms that are recognizable and signal that the child is in an unfavorable condition. It is the impossibility of locating the problem that influences the statistics of positive cases to grow and the systems to remain powerless in the face of the challenge of overcoming this social problem. The world (both developed and underdeveloped countries) is still actively fighting to protect children and offer them better living conditions, as every child has the right to grow up well-off, to be financially secure, to have educational opportunities and to have access to significant resources.

The Republic of North Macedonia as a developing country, which is not yet a member of the European Union due to blockades by other countries, has a clear need for assistance in managing the social system in the country. Thereby, the high rate of poverty of the population additionally influences the development of social problems that in the long run affect the security and stability of the Macedonian society. For that purpose, donor assistance is needed. UNICEF, UNDO, WHO, UNHCR and others are the most proven international organizations that provide permanent donor support to developing countries, as is the case with North Macedonia.

In practice, projects aimed at improving the situation with child protection in the country are in small numbers covered by state donations. Most donations come

from international organizations and individual donors.Donors have a big role to play in trying to create the conditions for children to grow up in normal conditions. In fact, all over the world, there are organizations (mostly NGOs) that strive to solve some explicitly important social problems related to children, but these organizations face the problem of lack of material and intangible resources. Aware of this, they seek active help from world organizations and other types of associations, which appear as donors to their projects.In practice, most non-profit organizations do not have the opportunity to provide a service to the donor or counter-value for the money they receive, but provide lasting results, i.e. create conditions for child care, for the treatment of children, for the promotion of the need to keep records of the situation with children in need of social support. However, the motivation of the donor is not only in the interest because every donor is a human being with their own interests, strengths and weaknesses and has its own value system, and helping children in the world is a priority of all conscious adults who know that the world is left to the younger generations.

6.2 Contributions of findings

The results of the research contribute to greater awareness of donor organizations operating in North Macedonia, for readers to understand the problem of the need for child protection versus the financial impossibility of the Macedonian budget, for donors to follow the weaknesses of the system and the opportunities they would open by donating.

6.3 Practical implications

The practical significance lies in the fact that the paper has analyzed numerous examples from practice, but also techniques and measurement methods applied by international organizations that, if implemented in North Macedonia, could better assess the risk and prevent it.

6.4 Limitations of the study

The only limitation of the research can be the number of respondents, which in conditions of a pandemic was extremely difficult to increase.

6.5 Recommendations for future research

Donor organizations do not have sufficient authority to report and detect cases where children are victims of abuse and other forms of abuse. This opens the possibility for further research, especially in terms of donor control over the donation, their utilization and achieved results as expected.

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