



Новинари за човекови права

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
for 2023 of JOURNALISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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1. Introduction

Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) in North Macedonia has been actively promoting and protecting human rights since its establishment in 1996. Initially formed as an informal group, it became a legally registered entity in 1999. JHR is a non-governmental, non-profit, and independent organization dedicated to enhancing citizens' rights, environmental democracy, and poverty reduction. With a strong focus on the protection of children from trafficking, missing children, and digital abuse, JHR actively works on improving the quality of life both nationally and internationally. Our efforts in promoting safer environments, human health rights, and rural development further strengthen our commitment to these causes.

Mission:

Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of children, particularly against trafficking, exploitation, and digital abuse. Through advocacy, education, and collaboration, JHR strives to ensure a safe and just environment for all children, while advancing broader human rights, environmental sustainability, and community development in North Macedonia and beyond.

Objectives:

- Strengthen Child Protection Mechanisms:
- Raise Public Awareness
- Enhance Collaboration and Capacity Building

The vision of the JHR is a strong civil society that fosters a participatory attitude from all stakeholders in the community. And he sees that feasible only through the link: Information - Communication – Education

The JHR program for 2024 envisages continuation of the projects started last year and inclusion and networking in other projects and coalitions.



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STRATEGIC GUIDELINES

Journalists for human rights, the activities implemented in 2023 aimed at the realization of the following activities:

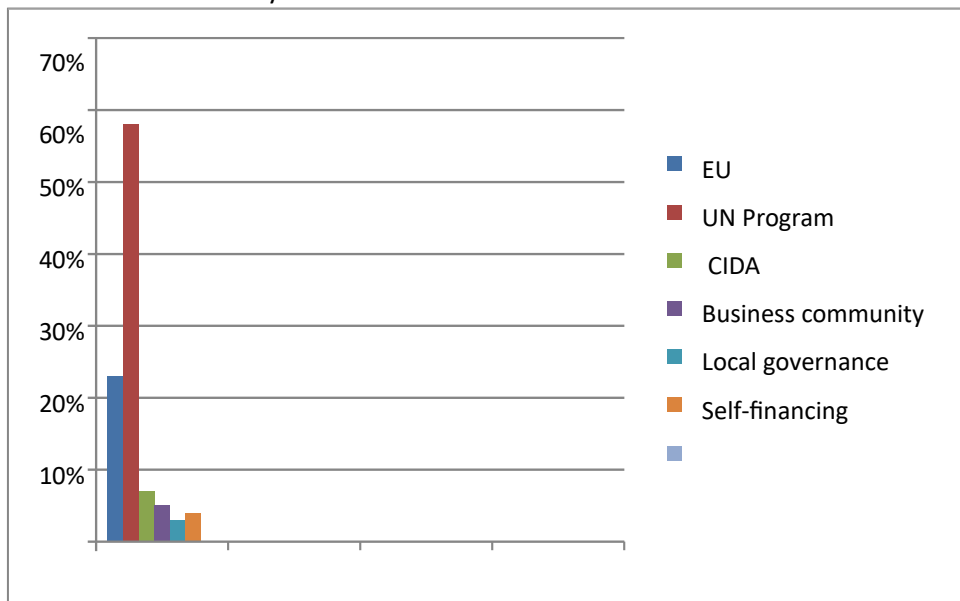
- Early warning system for missing children and set up the Amber Alert in North Macedonia
- Ensuring economic security of youth and gender equality
- Equal access to water and sanitation for all and menstrual hygiene management for girls in schools
- Access to safe products and youth development
- Labor exploitation as case for human trafficking
- Promoting SDGs and implementing projects to achieve them in relation to SDG’s 5, SDG’s 6 and SDG’s 12
- Re-socialization of children from the Center for street children in Suto Orizari

Today, the JHR has a reputation as a CSO that deals with a wider range of social issues. We continue to play a pioneering role in finding creative answers to social problems and environmental protection, encouraging other NGOs to stay on track, as many JHR projects have served as a model for good practice.

Diversity of financial sources

The JHR has so far had several permanent sources of finance, but in our opinion, it is not diverse enough, which over time can cause a certain monopoly situation by one of the financiers. On the other hand, the current image of financing the organization corresponds to our program activities, and based on that satisfies our needs for the realization of current projects.

The financial diversity of JHR for 2023 looked like this:





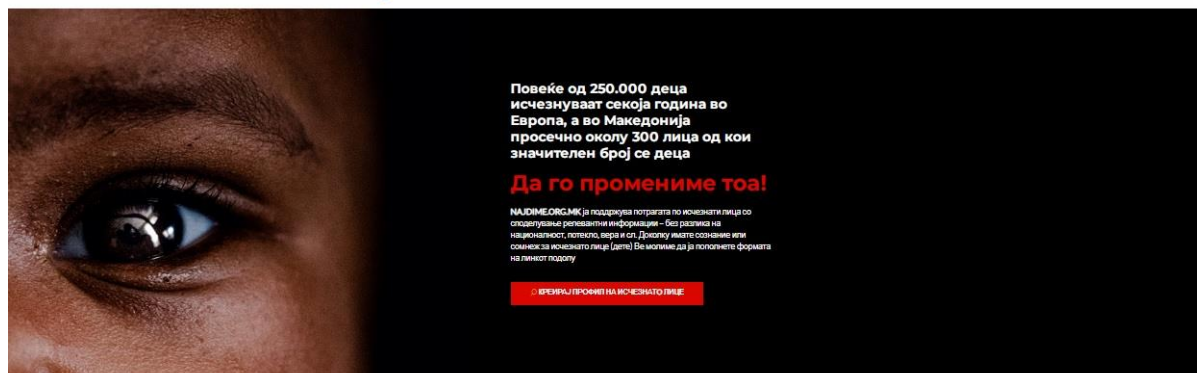
Realized projects in 2023 and their financial size looked like this

1. Early warning system for missing children

Implementing the Pilot Project Early Warning System for Missing Children NRC and in 2023 continued to work on strengthening the national capacities of social actors with a range of trainings and tools to recognize and deal with the risks of human and child trafficking and child disappearance



МИ ТРЕБА ПОМОШ | КРЕИРАЈ ПРОФИЛ НА ИСЧЕЗНАТО ЛИЦЕ | ИСЧЕЗНАТИ ЛИЦА | ЗА ПРЕВЕНТ | КОНТАКТ



Повеќе од 250.000 деца исчезнуваат секоја година во Европа, а во Македонија просечно околу 300 лица од кои значителен број се деца

Да го промениме тоа!

НАЈДИМЕ.МКЈ ја поддржува потрагата по исчезнати лица со сподолување релевантни информации – без разлика на националност, пол, вера и сл. Доколку имате сознание или сомнеж за исчезнато лице (дете) Ве молиме да ја пополнете формата на линкот подолу

[▶ ВСПРАВАЈТЕ СЕ НА ИСЧЕЗНАТО ЛИЦЕ](#)

Со нашите партнери работиме на се повеќе успешни приказни

Партнерите на проектот ќе работат заедно за да ги заштитат децата од исчезнување и да спречат да им се наштети на погодените. Прену ангажирање на различни засегнати страни (јавен и приватен сектор, граѓански организации, медиуми) ќе се стремиме за успешна имплементација на системот за рано предупредување за исчезнатите деца и прену нивно функционално поддршка на партнерите на општеството



ÖSTERREICH FINDET EUCH



In 2023, Journalists for Human Rights continued the intensive activities for implementing the first alarm system for missing children in the country, and after the initial period of 1.5 years, the activities in the continuation of the Pilot Project were announced with an initial meeting: "System for early warning about missing children", in the implementation of EKPAT Austria and NCP, and with the participation of mag. Harald Fuger, attaché of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria, donor of the project as well as IT expert Marjan Delevski.

The project, in a series of activities such as capacity building trainings for institutional representatives for effective sharing of information about children who are absent from school, in April and June realized many constructive discussions and exchange of good practices with domestic and Austrian experts.

At the end of the year we launched the early warning system for missing persons, better known as Amber Alert in partnership with the Austrian organization ECPAT Österreich, and with the support of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria. We also promoted the site www.najdime.org.mk (in Macedonian, Albanian and Romani languages) on which, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the



information about missing persons will initially be distributed to the ATMs of Komercijalna banka AD Skopje, to the taxi drivers who are part of Group of auto taxi transportation in the City of Skopje, to the hotels and restaurants that are part of the HOTAM / HOTAM network, to the public transport company JSP Skopje (JSP Skopje). The information will initially be published on the pages of several media, Radio Pela 96.8 FM, Text.mk, until a legal provision is made to publish the same information on all media in North Macedonia.

2. Menstruation is not taboo, let's eradicate menstrual poverty

Within the project "Menstruation is not a luxury: Improving the quality of life of a woman" with the support of our friends from dm drogerie markt Makedonija we worked to raise awareness and promote the importance of healthy and sustainable options for managing menstruation. Through this project, all we focused on improving the standard of living of women, providing them with access to alternative products for menstrual health. Because sharing experiences about education in the family, breaking taboos, but also education through the media is especially important when it comes to menstrual health and the fight against menstrual poverty, one of the activities, in addition to educational materials, meetings with schoolgirls, women in various branches of industry, was also an educational event moderated by journalist Magdalena Stojmanovikj entitled - "Come, find out and start using" where experts in the field of women's health, Dr. Adela Stefanija, gynecologist-obstetrician at the University Clinic for Gynecology and Obstetrics and prof. Dr. Mihail Kochubovski from the Institute of Public Health spoke about why the menstrual cup is the optimal choice for maintaining menstrual hygiene. In parallel with this, 50 menstrual cups were donated to girls and women.

STOP gender-based violence!

As part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, for 2023 titled "Invest in prevention to eradicate violence against women and girls!!!" we launched a social media campaign throughout the 16 days with public messages of how much we care about prevention and what we are doing in that direction.

Only 1 percent of gender-focused government aid goes to women's organizations, and funding has not improved despite increasing momentum and clear evidence of need. Three out of four countries do not have systems in place to monitor budget allocations for gender equality in full. Data on national budgets to address violence against women and girls is hard to come by.

According to the latest research, 78 percent of countries have budgetary commitments to implement legislation related to violence against women.



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But it is not clear how countries are integrating prevention into different sectors, including education, health, economic development and social protection. Empowering women through self-defense training may be one tool, but we believe there are more... From 16 strong women, we heard during those 16 days of activism solutions to combat gender-based violence.

ЕДНАКВОСТ НА ЖЕНИТЕ
Септември да го промовираме зајакнувањето и солидарноста на жените

ШТО ЗНАЧИ ЗА ВАС ЛИЧНО „ДА СЕ СТАВИ КРАЈ НА НАСИЛСТВОТО ВРЗ ЖЕНИТЕ“?
Да се стави крај на насилството врз жените“ за мене лично има длабоко значење - значи залагање за општество во кое жените ќе можат да живеат ослободени од страв и насилство, каде што се почитуваат нивните права и каде што имаат еднакви можности. Тоа вклучува активна работа кон укинување на општествените норми и стереотипи кои го продолжуваат насилството, подигање на свеста за ова прашање и обезбедување поддршка за жртвите.

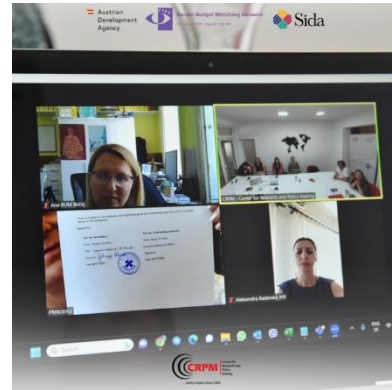
КАКО ВАШАТА РАБОТА ПРИДОНЕСУВА ЗА ПОДОБРУВАЊЕ НА СТАТУСОТ НА ПРАВАТА НА ЖЕНИТЕ ВО СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА?
Како долгогодишен граѓански активист и новинар по професија, мојата работа вклучува застапување и лобирање, поттикнување на разговор и известување за посилна законодавна заштита, унапредување на правата на жените и борба против дискриминацијата. Со подигање на свеста и мобилизирање на заедниците, се стремам да го промовирам зајакнувањето и еднаквоста на жените во сите аспекти на општеството. Дополнително, преку заеднички напори со други активисти и организации, имам за цел да се осврнам на системските прашања и да придонесам за создавање поинклузивна и поподдржувачка средина за жените.

КАКО ПРВ ЛИЦЕНЦИРАН ТРЕНЕР ЗА „ЗАЈАКНУВАЊЕ ПРЕКУ САМООДБРАНА“, КАКО ГИ РЕШАВАТЕ КУЛТУРНИТЕ ИЛИ СОЦИЈАЛНИТЕ БАРИЕРИ КОИ МОЖАТ ДА ГО ПОПРЕЧАТ ПРИФАЌАЊЕТО НА ОБУКАТА ЗА ЗАЈАКНУВАЊЕ ПРЕКУ САМООДБРАНА?
Како тренер за зајакнување преку самоодбрана, посветена сум на создавање инклузивни услови за учење. Се обидувам да ги адаптирам обуките според културните и социјалните контексти на учесниците. Креирам безбедно и поддржувачко опкружување каде што секој може да се чувствува слободен да учи и развива вештини за самоодбрана, без оглед на пол, возраст, раса или култура.

Our commitment to raising awareness when it comes to the fight against gender-based violence and public speaking, but also the action of institutions, we rounded off in 2023 with the December promotion of the book "Bitter Dumpling" by Valentina Gjorgievska Pargo, which on more than 250 pages managed to convey real stories of women victims of violence. We also confirmed our commitment to the prevention and fight against RBN as part of the Conference on prevention and protection from violence against women and girls - Regulation, implementation and reality, which took place at the end of December, organized by the Macedonian Women's Lobby, in cooperation with The Commission for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the Club of Deputies at the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.



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3. JHR with a place in the international committee of the World March of Women

We confirm the activities in the fight for women's rights with our continued presence in international bodies, one of which is the World March of Women. So in October 2023 in Ankara at the 13th International Meeting of the World March of Women, where about 150 representatives from over 60 countries attended, we marked 25 years since the beginning of the movement. Within the framework of the conference, our active participation in the working groups this year, as in previous years, was recognized and confirmed with a place in the international committee, where Natascha Dokovska from NCP was voted as the representative of the European Coordinating Body.



Gender within the framework of systemic solutions – implementing measures for gender-responsive budgeting

Within the framework of the Network for Gender Responsive Budgeting, in July 2023 we signed the contract for the sub-grant regional project "Strengthening the responsibility and gender-sensitive responses of local authorities to crises in 3 countries" within the project "Strengthening transparency and responsibility for gender equality in Western Balkans and Moldova (GBWN)", a project implemented with the support of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and GBWN.

The project under the leadership of Udruženje žena Priroda Bratunac from BiH, in partnership with Bečejsko Udruženje Mladih from Serbia, will be implemented by Journalists for Human



Rights over a period of 18 months in a total of 24 municipalities in the region in order to increase transparency and accountability for gender equality and the gender-sensitive responses of local authorities to crises and climate change in the three countries of the Western Balkans.



In May in Ulcinj, Aleksandra Radevska actively contributed to discussions and activities within the framework of the training on Monitoring Funding for Gender Responsive Resilience with organizations from North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova, within the framework of the Network for monitoring gender budgets. **In** October, again in Berovo, within the framework of the strategic planning workshop of the Gender Budget Monitoring Network, Alexandra Radevska

took an active part in sharing fruitful ideas and excellent teamwork. This gave the opportunity to also coordinate activities with the partners Udruženje žena Priroda Bratunac, BiH and Bečejsko Udruženje Mladih, Serbia for the regional project "Strengthening the responsibility and gender-sensitive responses of local authorities to crises in 3 countries" within the project "Strengthening transparency and accountability for gender equality in the Western Balkans and Moldova (GBWN)".

We also monitored gender-responsive budgeting through the activities within the project "Through women's lenses: raising policies and budget initiatives, monitoring the implementation of local action plans for gender equality", implemented by @Center for Research and Policy Making, RAJM "Luludi" - Roma women and youth association "Luludi", Rural Coalition - Rural Coalition, Journalists For Human Rights - JHR, and ECHO Educational Humanitarian Organization, with financial support from the European Union.

Within the framework of the activities in 17 municipalities in the country, we cooperated and coordinated the activities with local non-governmental organizations and their cooperation with the municipalities of Vevčani, Struga, Brvenica, Krivogaštani, with the aim of integrating the gender perspective in local policies and programs and advancing the process of gender-responsible budgeting.





The activities and contribution of the NCP in the promotion of gender responsive budgeting, Alexandra Radevska was pleased to share with the representative from Sida - Styrelsen för Internationellt Utvecklingsamarbete, in March 2023 at the offices of the Center for Research and Policy Making, presenting the achievements of our sub-grant project funded by SIDA for the reduction of VAT on menstrual products from 18 to 5% in North Macedonia.



We strengthen the capacities of the members, but also of the association itself, with continuous trainings from different segments, and in the area of financing and sustainability, we did it by participating in the training in March organized by the National Council for Gender Equality on the topic "Financial Management and Collection of funds (fundraising) for NGOs." Financial management was reviewed and a budget was drawn up for women's civil society organizations, strategies for collecting funds for them were shared. Attendees had the opportunity to write grant proposals, and a fundraising campaign was also simulated.



The environment in the focus of work in 2023 as well

In addition to the numerous activities in which solutions related to the preservation of the environment are implemented, from raising public awareness, through preventive activities in reducing waste at the individual and systemic level, to issues related to environmental pollution and health effects, with special emphasis on women and girls, NCP actively participates in international meetings where climate sustainable solutions are discussed, so in 2023 we traditionally attended COP28 UAE, from where we brought impressions, experiences, good practices, but also networking for further improvement of climate action in the domain of strategic goals that the NCP has outlined.



Co facilitating for UNEA 6 and UNEA 7

As officially accredited organization within UNEP, JHR's program director Natasha Dokovska is appointed as regional co-facilitator for Europe for UNEA 6.



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Othe project with significant impact in last year:

Circular economy for youth prosperity

Objective: The project aims to address the lack of job opportunities for young women and men in labor market activities oriented towards the future and the green economy. The aim is to build the capacity of youth-focused CSOs in 3 target municipalities in Northern Macedonia (Kavadarci, Struga and Resen) and to provide them with skills, tools, an online platform and partnership opportunities to demonstrate their vision and opportunities for youth employment in the new green and circular economy as part of the EU integration process.

Implementation time: September 2021-May 2023

Donor: EU

Project budget: 27500 euros

Water as a public good

Goal: Ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation in schools throughout Northern Macedonia

Implementation time: September 2020-September 2023

Donor: German Ministry of the Environment

Буџет на проектот: 45000 евра

Eradicating menstrual poverty and promotion of sustainable hygiene product

Objective: With the support of the British Embassy in Skopje launched the project "Eradicating Menstrual Poverty" which aims to 2030 all girls involved in the regular education process to receive free menstrual hygiene management packages and achieved SDG's 6.2. One of the goals of the project is the implementation of sustainable standards for menstrual hygiene management, which means to have: a sufficient number of toilets, to be accessible to all, the cabins to have space for washing hands, paper and soap, to provide privacy and security, as well as to minimize the risk of violence, toilets to be easy to clean, appropriate to local cultural and social conditions, age and gender, as well as to have appropriate boxes for waste selection in the management of menstrual hygiene.

Implementation time: July - December 2023

Donor: British Embassy, NA, Natra Care

Project budget: 50000 euros

Aarhus for journalists

Objective: Overall goal: Active participation of the local media in creating public opinion on the policy-making and decision-making processes on environmental issues. **Specific**



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objective (s): Educate local journalists and editors on the Aarhus Convention and the rights and obligations arising from it

Implementation time: May 2022 -May 2023

Donor: EU

Project budget: 15000 euros

Plans for WatSan

Objective: Within the project in the implementing countries Romania, Northern Macedonia, Albania and Serbia there is a lack of sustainable water management and sanitation in rural areas, which can lead to serious consequences for the environment and the health of the population. Our goal is to introduce and further develop the Water Safety and Sanitation Planning (WSSP) tool in the target countries. WSSP demonstrates methods for risk analysis and assessment of water and sanitation systems and explains measures to minimize risks and improve water and sanitation. In various educational activities, the WSSP complex already developed by us will be presented to various stakeholders in education, administration, policy and institutions.

Implementation time: September 2020-September 2023

Donor: BMUB

Project budget: 40500 euros

Climate change – preparation for COP26

Objective: The aim is to acquaint youth in North Macedonia on the topic Climate Change, environmental issues and COP 26. This will be done through social media post, where the youth spend most of their time, so the message will be best conveyed through it. We intend to have high school students as our direct beneficiaries, but also have the idea that we will indirectly affect over 4000 followers on our media outlets to whom our posts reach daily.

Implementation time: December 2022-March 2023

Donor: British embassy

Project budget: 2500 euros

Link to project information: <http://jhrmk.org/index.php/klimatski-promenipodgotovka-za-kop-26/>

Скопје, 12.03.2024

Изработил

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