



**PLATFORM FOR PROMOTION OF THE SITUATION OF
CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN SOCIAL RISK OF
TERRITORY of Gazi Baba**

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"The family as a natural environment for the growth and well-being of children, to enable the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community"

- Convention on the Rights of the Child, UN-Preamble

Best place where children should grow up is their biological family. Family is the heart of society and a natural environment for the healthy development and well-being of children. Children have a right to grow up in their biological family, where they can enjoy in a caring environment, with love, respect and security.

We live in a world in which many children are deprived of family care. Millions of children have lost their parents and care of their biological families, and even more risk to find themselves losing the care of their parents. Too often, these children have nowhere to find protection, care and support that is needed for physical, emotional and social well-being.

Poverty, social exclusion and discrimination are not individual problems. Thus, poverty and social exclusion is not solely economic dependence, but also represent a serious violation of human rights.

In R. Macedonia in 2011 the poverty rate is 31%, which means that every third citizen of Macedonia is poor.

According to the last census, in 2002, rate of unemployment in the municipality of Gazi Baba was 32.6%, or 9,501 unemployed persons. Most of the unemployed are people aged 20 to 40 years, or 6,229 people.

Communities are a direct source of support for children and their families

Community members bear responsibility for protecting the rights of children and to mobilize their own resources to approach in dealing with the challenges faced by children at risk of loss of caring family and contribute to their development.

Association of individuals, institutions, local authorities and other partners have the aim to build a society in which all children will enjoy a caring family environment. Supporting families in order to improve the situation of children and their families at social risk, begin even before birth, by providing conditions for maintaining a healthy pregnancy, the mother's birth in a hospital setting, timely reporting to the home office and the overall quality of child care after birth. Such an approach would allow for better acceptance of the child by the mother and family will contribute to build stable relationships and relationships between family members, and will enable early identification of risk for child losing parental care.

In order to improve the situation of families / children at risk, we need actions that will strengthen skills of parents to deal with the challenges they face, as well as strengthen of the security networks so that children at risk and their families, within the community.

Members of the PLATFORM FOR IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AT SOCIAL RISK OF TERRITORY of Gazi Baba in its operations will comply with the following principles:

- The best interest of the child;
- The right of the child to life, survival and development;
- Right to information;
- Right to participate in decision-making;
- Respect for human dignity and fundamental rights;
- Non-discrimination;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Achievement of expected results;
- Services tailored for each individual separately (individual approach to service);
- Ensuring safety for all users, including the most vulnerable;
- Continuous and holistic approach;
- Services provided by trained professionals.

Members of the platform in the cooperation and support of children and their families will apply developmental approach that includes:

- Providing access to basic family services for their children (improving the lives of children and families now and in the future);
- Supporting families to gain knowledge, skills and confidence to meet the developmental needs of children (developing parenting knowledge and skills, future planning, skills for providing financial and material resources);
- Strengthening of systems to support children at risk and their families in the community.

Accordingly, we, the members of the PLATFORM FOR IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AT SOCIAL RISK OF TERRITORY of Gazi Baba, by creating a coordinating body for improving the situation of children and their families at social risk in Gazi Baba composed of representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, informal civil society, self-help groups for individuals and society, will work towards promoting equality and social justice, respect for human and children's rights, participatory democracy and civic solidarity. We all share a vision of social welfare, realized children's and human rights and democratic and accountable institutional functioning.

For this purpose, the Coordinating Body will seek to initiate public debates, campaigns, mutual activities to strengthen the cooperation between government and civil society and will promote organized community response in terms of support socially excluded and people at risk.

By signing this manifesto, members of the platform commit to respect its principles and are committed to improving the situation of children and their families at social risk.