



NGO KHAM - DELCHEVO

**Building effective partnerships
between Roma communities and
local authorities
To improve access to childhood
immunization**



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Who are we ? →



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MISSION OF NGO KHAM

Improvement of the socio-economic status of the Roma population and the other marginalized groups



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History • 1996

Projects • Over 80

members • ~120



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How do others see us?

An organization that acts in the field of health and education and quite frequently realizing social and infrastructure projects.

Immunization of Roma children

- The official immunization rate in Macedonia is a bit above 90%.
- Roma community : 65-75 %



The necessity of inclusion of Public authorities from the community:

- Wrong image in Macedonia of NGO and projects
- Solution: positive models that are recognized in the community throughout which it identifies itself. Their power is immense, especially in community mobilization.



Need of inclusion of Health professionals:

- Roma leaders and Health professionals pointing on the importance of the immunization.



Building common (informal) body:

- The informal body = every possible obstacle is planned to be overcome with the objective to implement empowerment or the community through education where the same will be practiced; what time would be the most convenient and who will be invited.

The role of NGO "KHAM"

- As it has been already mentioned, the organization has implemented more than 80 projects. Our activities provided free accommodation to all Roma children at age 0-6, free books, clothing for the poorest families. Also, we advocate in front of institutions for health issues, assist with the access, we complete forms of legal complaints, etc. We also provided employment of about 20 Roma through the program for self-employment with grants of 3,000 Euros. The NGO demonstrates high capacity and dedication.

Selection:

- Lobby is made at the **Institution** whereas a representative is usual to be appointed as their substitute or a counselor. The interest is an order by the Ministry of Health to identify non-vaccinated children; the signed Agreement of the Roma Decade to protect its environment and living area from epidemic diseases. The values are humanity of profession, stimulation of the willingness to help.
- With the **Leaders** most often is the presence of maintaining the position of a leader, advancement in the career; values are the sensibility within the own community, responsibility.

Results of the team approach are the following:

- The immunization rate at the Roma community in our working region has increased about 90% and the vaccine of the female children is 100%.
- Long term influence and a regular vaccination habit has been acquired.
- The confidence of the community has been increased toward the health institutions.
- Empowered living together.

Challenge

- Bad economic condition of the Roma resulting in frequent migrations
- High degree of motivation at Roma leaders
- Political influence
- Absence of immunization is a consequence and the reasons have to be eliminated



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