

"All my life I have been in wheelchair, so when I want to go into town, I cannot due to high pavements and cars parked on them."

"As a teenager I realized that corruption in my country is stronger than anyone's hard work and effort."

"I want teachers at schools to try harder and explain school subjects to children better."

"I would love my school to have playground with slide and swings."

"I would love all people in my country, especially the most vulnerable ones in our society, to feel that state looks after and loves its citizens."



hope and homes  
for children

SNAŽNIJI  
GLAS  
ZA DJECU

World Vision

Save the Children

# BIH CHILDREN'S MANIFEST: Don't Neglect Our Needs!

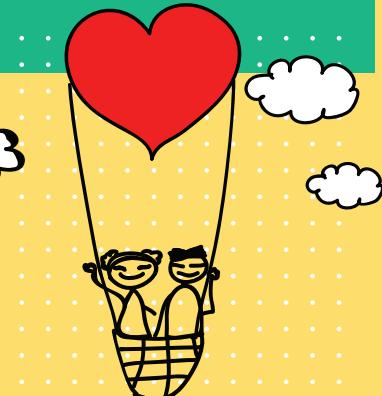
1.243.923 children live in BiH, 178.000 of whom live in poverty. One fourth of our country's population are children, who do not have the right to vote. Children put their trust into parents, guardians, teachers and other significant adults, expecting from them to make the best decisions for their community.

Children live the consequences of our decisions and it is our responsibility to provide children with safe and healthy environment in which they will happily grow and have opportunities for fulfilment of their potential. Have we justified the trust placed in us by one fourth of the country's population and made good decisions when it comes to environment in which children grow? The organisations, members of the Child Protection Working Group – World Vision BiH, Save the Children and Hope and Homes for Children, together with the NGO Coalition Stronger Voice for Children, gave children the opportunity to state their views on schools they attend, parks they play in, roads they walk on the way home and communities they live in.

Children shared their views in the form of letters to decision makers in positions of power. Through analysis of over 200 letters from children who live in Banovici, Banja Luka, Bihac, Brcko, Istocno Sarajevo, Kalesija, Kladanj, Mostar, Pale, Sarajevo, Tuzla, Teočak, Zenica, children's responses have been grouped in four categories - Home and family, School, Community and Environment.

"I would love everybody to go to school and wish there were more schools and kindergartens."

"I wish my friend would stop beating me."



## Home and family

- Every child has the right to home and family
- Children without parental care and vulnerable families need more care and support
- Jobs for parents need to be secured
- Price of food should be lower
- Children should not be beaten!

"Children who do not have home and family... need to be adopted to have family."



"School meals should be free of charge as some children do not have money to pay for them."

## School

- Every child needs conditions favourable for development and education
- Our schools need new walls, new boards and cabinets
- Teachers should build better relations with pupils
- Teachers must not belittle children
- Psychologists should be employed at schools
- Schools should have dental surgeries and first aid services
- Problem of peer violence in schools needs to be solved not simply noted
- All children must have school meals
- Schools need to have playgrounds and parks



## Community

- Every person needs to be given a chance to work and contribute
- Efforts to prevent violence and address existing problems related to violence need to be made
- Support must be ensured to young people leaving homes for children without parental care
- Everybody should have equal chances for success
- Alcohol and cigarettes must not be sold/ given to children
- Quality of city transportation needs to be improved and new lines established
- Stray dogs need to be adequately taken care of

"My heart aches when I hear that out of 10, 7 friends of mine will enrol medical schools and later move to Germany."

## Environment

- Trash bins need to be placed in parks and forests
- Citizens must stop throwing rubbish into rivers
- The problem of polluted air needs addressing

"I wish my parents had a job."

"Violence, violence, violence and violence is everywhere. Children think they have the right to belittle, beat and tease other children. Parents, teachers and schools principals do not notice this, children withdraw and violence lasts."

