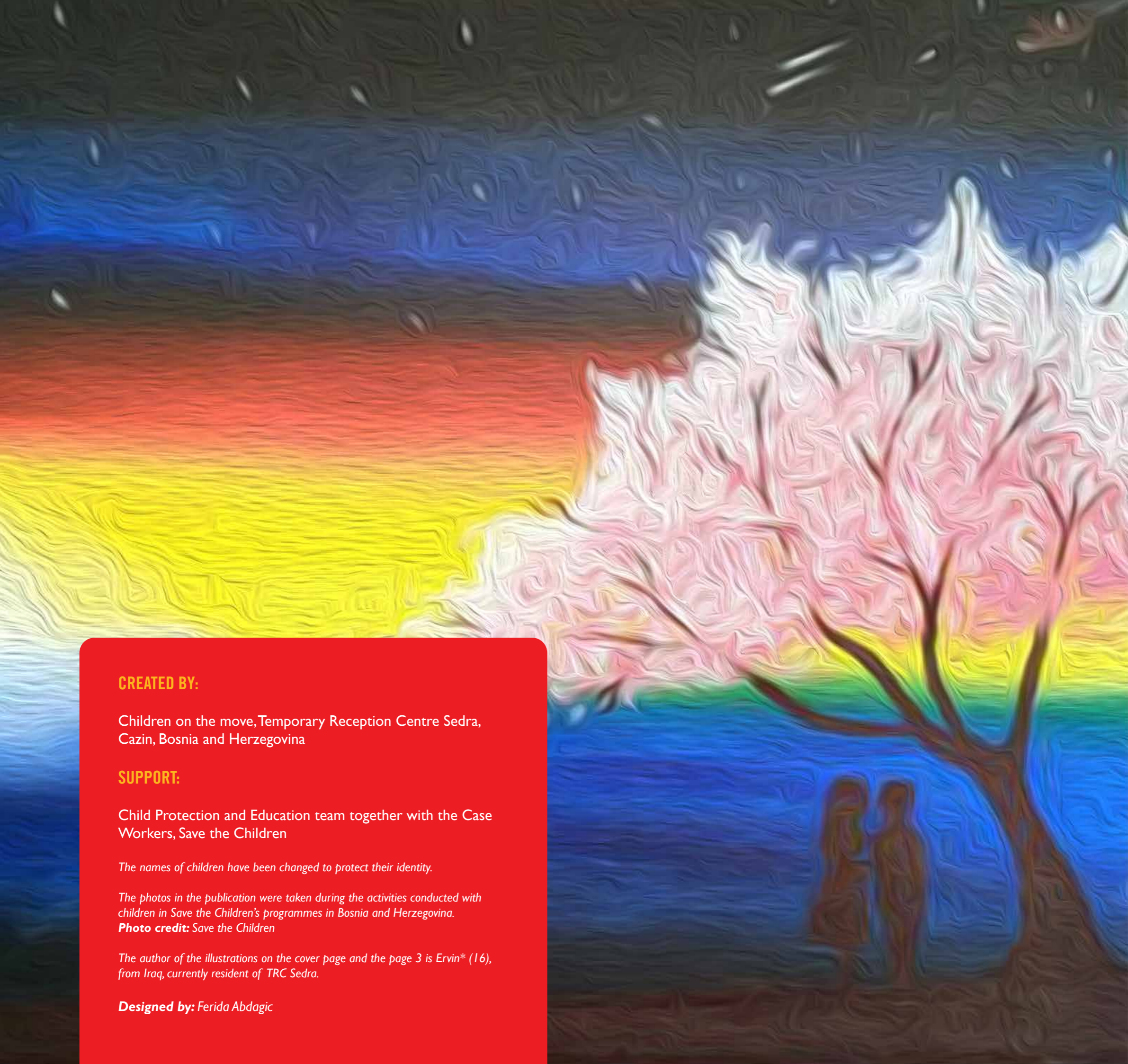




SEDRA EXPRESS





CREATED BY:

Children on the move, Temporary Reception Centre Sedra, Cazin, Bosnia and Herzegovina

SUPPORT:

Child Protection and Education team together with the Case Workers, Save the Children

The names of children have been changed to protect their identity.

The photos in the publication were taken during the activities conducted with children in Save the Children's programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Photo credit: Save the Children

The author of the illustrations on the cover page and the page 3 is Ervin (16), from Iraq, currently resident of TRC Sedra.*

Designed by: Ferida Abdagic

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A BRIEF WORD BY THE SAVE THE CHILDREN TEAM

Sedra Express is created together with children staying in the reception centre Sedra, in Cazin in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who we have a privilege to work with within our programmes for support to children in migration in the Balkans. They travelled from their home countries hoping to find safety and better future in Europe. On the way to their country of destination, many of them transit or stay for longer period of time in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We learn a lot from the children we work with. Although they are still children, or young men, they already have a vast experience. Life is a journey - we don't know where it might take us, and what kind of struggle we might face. One of the most important lessons we have learned from the children is that we should always use the opportunity to master new skills and prepare ourselves for the future challenges.

Save the Children has been supporting refugee and migrant children travelling through Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2018, running child protection and education programmes. With support from UNICEF, provided within the framework of the wider project/intervention "EU special measures to Support the Response to the Refugee and Migrant Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)" in partnership with UNICEF BiH and funded by the EU, we run child-friendly spaces, education teams and 24/7 child protection teams in the reception centres

in Una-Sana Canton. Our outreach teams, supported by the EU through ECHO, are reaching out to the newly arrived families and children travelling alone, as well as those staying out of accommodation in Una-Sana, Sarajevo and Tuzla Cantons to identify vulnerable cases, provide information, referrals to accommodation and other key services.



AN INTERVIEW WITH ALMA DIZDAREVIC, THE MANAGER OF THE CAMP SEDRA

Hana (8) and her family have been staying in the camp Sedra for two years. The girl says that she enjoys her time there, because the camp is big and there is a lot of place for playing. She also goes to school and has many friends to play with.*

Hana wished to talk to the camp manager, Alma Dizdarevic, who works for the International Organization for Migration, so she can learn more about how the reception centre functions, and what is a role of the camp manager.*

Hana*: Why did you decide to take this job?

Alma: I am a psychologist and my aim was always to help people. That is why applied for this job in a first place. And, here I am, doing things I love and helping people at the same time.

Hana*: Is it difficult, or maybe boring, sometimes?

Alma: I have been working here for 2 years now, and it's never been boring. I love my job. Every single day is different,

bringing something new. It is a very unique and interesting job. For example, this is the first time I am having this kind of an interview, and I'm enjoying it. I attend many meetings daily, interact with a lot of people, there is also a lot of responsibility but I handle it in the best way I can. My goal is to make everyone's stay here better. What would you like to do when you grow up?

Hana*: Hmm... I would like to do the same as you, to be a humanitarian, to help people. Yes, either that, or a dentist. Being a dentist is also good, I would still help people.

Alma: Both sound great. If you are focused, you can achieve a lot.

Hana*: Maybe I would also like to



become a singer, but I am not sure if my voice is good enough. Also, I am too shy... I am singing only when I am alone.

Alma: You can become anything you want if you work and believe in yourself. Being shy is normal. You said that you are shy in the beginning of this conversation, and you are doing great, like a professional.

Hana*: Thank you! When I play in the halls with my friends, some people ask us to be quiet. Then we use our phones, but our parents say that we are spending too much time on the phone. Can we get a playground?

Alma: We are working on that. You are always allowed to play. However, sometimes we have to be aware that there there are more people staying in the camp and we have to understand them too. I cannot promise, but I think that this problem will be resolved and you will get a new playground soon.

Hana*: Do IOM and Save the Children staff also live in Sedra? I always wondered that.

Alma: (Laugh) It's a great question! The answer is no, our staff is present here 24/7, we work in shifts, and maybe that's why it looks like we live here.

Hana*: Oh, now I understand. Why don't you have a real office like your other colleagues?

Alma: (Laugh) I am currently based in a container, but that is also an office. My colleagues are based in the office in the building, but sometimes there is too much noise and I need a quiet place where I can have meetings. That is why my office is in a container.

Hana*: Okay, thank you for your answers. I don't have any more questions.

Alma: Thank you, Hana*. This was a great interview, very interesting and refreshing.

LANGUAGE CAFE

HOW I LEARNED MY FIRST WORD IN BOSNIAN

There are seven people in our family, and I am the oldest child. My father is a chef. I am not bad at cooking, but I wish I could cook like my father. I'm staying in Sedra with my younger brother. All people in Sedra are good. I like to talk with all of them. During this journey, I learned two languages, Turkish and Greek, and a little bit of Bosnian. One day me and my brother were walking in the street. A girl was riding a bike, and she rang the bell so she could pass. She said: "Hvala"! She could see on our faces that we didn't understand Bosnian, so she said: "Thanks". That is how I learned my first word in Bosnian, "hvala". I have gained so much experience since I have started this journey. For example, now I know that the smile is the only language that people all around the world understand.

Hamza (17), Afghanistan*

HOW I STARTED TO LEARN ENGLISH

My journey started 2 years ago, when I was 14. I did not imagine the journey would be so strenuous. I did not realize how important it was for me to speak another language. When we arrived to Turkey I realized that no one could speak my language. I was so hopeless. I had to work to earn money for the "game". We were in Turkey for around 6 months, and then we headed to Greece. When we arrived there we met a lot of different people, and many of them spoke English. We tried several times to cross the border until we succeeded. When we were on our way to Bosnia, a smuggler left us in the woods, without phone or food, so we had to find the way ourselves. After that, we were admitted to a family camp. For the first time, I started to learn English. Now I use it every day to communicate. It made my life a lot easier.

Nadin (16), Afghanistan*



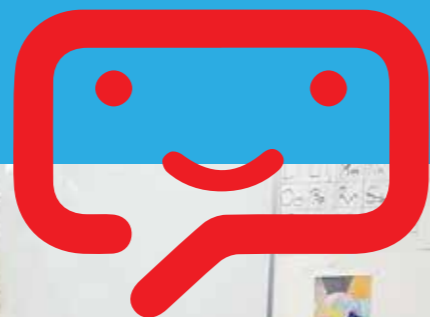
SPORTS CAFE

We play different sports here: football, cricket, badminton, volleyball. I love to play cricket the most because it is very popular in my country and everyone plays it. When it's not raining, we play cricket all day long. It helps me not to think about other things. I forget all the problems and I enjoy the game. My wish for the next year is to play sports in Italy. I want to work and study there.

Faiz (17), Pakistan*

I love playing games and I want to do it professionally. I have played football all my life. Sometimes we have tournaments here in Sedra, and I really like when we go out to Cazin or Bihac and play football with kids from other camps or local children. My wish is to be in Switzerland next year. I would like to become a professional football player. I also love to dance. In my country we have a strong tradition of dancing.

Hamid (15), Afghanistan*



"A magic moment",
captured by Armin*

HOBBY

I LOVE



When I first got here, I thought I wouldn't stay for long, but in the end I stayed for more than two years. I felt lonely at first, but later I made friends with a lot of people. Now I have many friends with whom I share special memories. We went on picnics, to the city, to the movies, we celebrated the holidays. My wish is to be somewhere where I will be happy. I am happy here but all my friends are in Germany. My passion is drawing. Everything I learned, I learned from my art teacher in Iran. I started with a pencil, and later switched to oil painting. In Iran, people are not that interested in art, so I stood out. It was really difficult for me and often I thought of giving up drawing. But I stayed persistent, and now I can see the results. I mostly paint and draw from my imagination.

Ervin (16), Iran*



I started taking photos when I was 10. I got my first camera as a gift from my father. Even though it was an old camera, I loved it a lot. I got my first professional camera as a gift from my friend.

I like to do fashion photography and portrait photography. When the time is right and I feel inspired, I capture that moment with the camera.

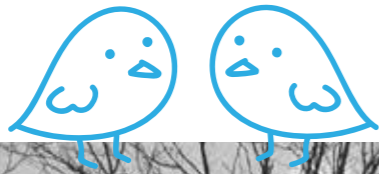
Armin (18), Iran*

How I met my best friend

Emina* is my best friend. She is a local, and she is the first friend I made in school. We met in a classroom and she gave me a paper in the shape of a heart. I also gave her one paper heart and we started exchanging hearts and laughing. Very quickly I could see that she was a very good person and that she was becoming my friend. She can't speak English and I don't speak Bosnian, so we draw pictures for each other and we could understand each

other very well. It was not a problem that we didn't speak the same language. She is a very good girl and I love her very much. Every time I need something, she helps me. If I don't have a book or a pencil, she always gives me hers. The camp is now closed and I can't go to school. I hope I will go back to school soon and see my best friend.

Emina (8), Iran*



MY STORY



MY STORY

Seeing what others don't see

It was spring when I left my country. I wasn't sad or worried at all. The first time I got sad was in Greece, for Eid. That is when I realized my family was not around and I was alone. I changed my house and my school for a camp. I got to see a lot of things during this journey. From Iran to Turkey I met many women and children. I wasn't that strong, but I tried to help them as much as I could. Once, a woman gave me her baby and said to me -

please take my baby with you. My group helped her and her baby and they are in Turkey now. Many people helped me, gave me food, money and clothes. But there were also people who crossed to the other side of the street when they saw me and my friends.

Hazeem (17), Pakistan*



From school in Afghanistan to school in Bosnia

I completed the first grade in Afghanistan. After that we left my home country and I continued to go to school, completing other grades, in Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia.

It was nice in Afghanistan. It was our country and I could understand everything. It is also nice here, but I had to learn Serbian and Bosnian language.

When I came to Serbia I tried to speak Bulgarian with my friends, but I realized that they didn't understand it as those were not the same languages. So, I started learning Serbian every day before school or after school. Later, we came to Bosnia. We stayed in Sarajevo for three days because our clothes were very wet. When we came to Bihac, we stayed in isolation for 7 days. I asked about school but I needed to go to a doctor first, to check my blood. After a few days, I started going to local school together with my two friends.



Now I am a translator for my friends and my teacher. In school, I like to learn German language. In the beginning it was very difficult because I have never learned this language before, but I like languages. We have been on the move for 5 or 6 years. When we started our journey from Afghanistan, I was small and me and my older sister were holding my mother's hand. Now we are bigger and, when we go, we are in front of my mother and father, and my little brother and sister are holding our mother's hand.

I want to go to Germany to complete my education and have a nice life with my family. I want to work in a humanitarian organization, to help people and children who do not have food and clothes. If I don't find such an organization, I will work somewhere else to earn money and make my own organization to help people.

Maha (12), Afghanistan*



I go to school with joy



I was 13 when I left my family and friends. I had a lot of reasons to do that. I have one sister and two brothers. One of them is here with me, in Bosnia.

I remember my childhood because of the good days I had in school. I completed 6 grades. After that, I decided to go on this game with hope for better days and future.

How did I come here? It was a long journey, Firstly I left Afghanistan, then I travelled through Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece and Serbia to arrive in Bosnia. It was very tough - it's impossible to explain how much.

In all these countries I saw different people and culture. When I came to Bosnia, I was in a bad condition, I had nothing, but one Bosnian family helped me. They gave me accommodation, food and clothes.

Now I'm here, living in the camp Sedra with my brother. I go to school, with joy, because I have a lot of friends. One of my friends is translating for me when I don't understand something. It's hard sometimes, but I know that education will be very useful for my future.

I'm very good in playing football, ping-pong and drawing. I would like to go to a country where I can make my dreams come true. It doesn't matter where I am, if I am happy. My biggest wish is to take my family out of Afghanistan so we can live a happy life together. I want to go to school, play sports and paint.

I would like that children who live like I do know that they shouldn't give up on their goals, despite all difficulties.

Ahmed (16), Afghanistan*

THE THINGS I HAVE LEARNED FROM YOU

Every day, we learn something new – from books, from our experience, or from the people who surround us. Here we discussed about the valuable lessons we have learned from each other in our daily interactions in the camp Sedra.



From you, Mohammad*, I learned how important it is to be persistent, to know your rights and fight for them, and that sharing with other people is the most noble thing you can do: "sharing is caring".

Emina, Caseworker

From you, Emina, I learned to make difference between right and wrong. I learned about balance, and how to create it. I also learned not to "judge the book by its covers".

Mohammad (17), Afghanistan*



From you, Ilan*, I learned what it means to be strong and self-confident. I learned about the importance of friendship, and how to stay positive, even if it seems impossible.

Sara, Child Protection Officer



From you, Sara, I learned how important it is to help other people, how to believe in good in others and how to treat people in equal way.

Ilan (17), Afghanistan*



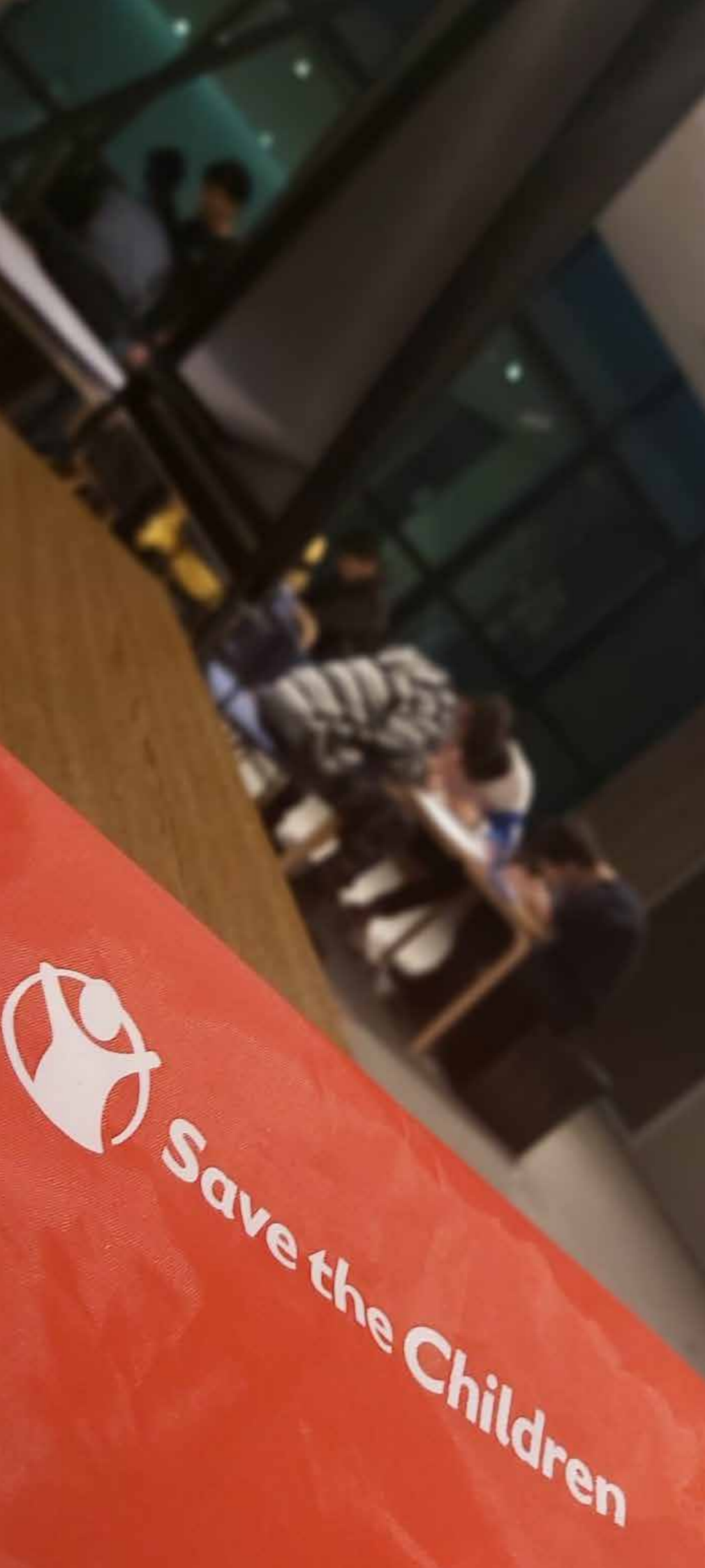
Harun*, you have taught me that I should never give up on my dreams and goals, that a kind word and nobility are the strongest weapon, and that caring about others and an honest heart is what makes good people.

Amela, Caseworker



Amela, you have taught me how to solve problems through dialogue, how to be a good person and how to be strong in facing my own problems.

Harun (17), Afghanistan*



MESSAGE BOARD

From Save the Children staff to the children, from the heart



WRITE YOUR MESSAGE TO US

[Empty white box for writing a message]

Build bridges
wherever you go.

Mirnesa Mujic

When you grow up,
don't forget to stay
a child at heart.

Sara Kulenovic

A beautiful word is
like a beautiful tree, its
branches high in the sky
and its roots firm in the
ground.

Ermina Vukalic



You have taught me a lot, and
working with you makes me a
better person. Your journey is
challenging, and I hope that you
will always be safe. I am glad
that I can be there for you on
that journey.

Haris Maglajlic

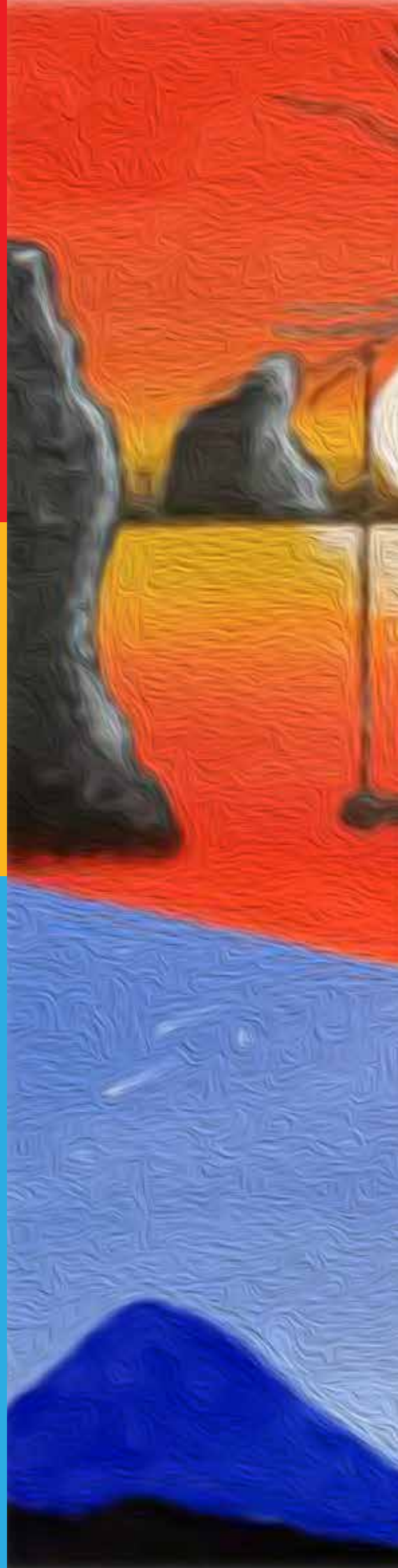
„May you grow up to be righteous
May you grow up to be true
May you always know the truth
And see the light surrounding you
May you always be courageous
Stand upright and be strong
May you stay forever young“

Sara Malkoc

You taught me how to
be strong. To be a part
of your path helped me
light up my own.

Nadia Alagic





May 2021