



**INTERNATIONAL FORUM
OF SOLIDARITY - EMMAUS**

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



**FACILITATE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN FROM
RURAL AREAS OF SREBRENICA**



Applicant:

"HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION
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1. SUMMARY

Since 2006, International forum of solidarity-Emmaus has been working on the construction of the educational centre for children in Potočari, Srebrenica. Year after year, during youth working camps held each year in July one new house has been built. Over a period of several years and many donations IFS-EMMAUS managed to finish the construction of the educational centre. The main goal for construction of this centre was to facilitate process of education for children living in rural areas of Srebrenica who are impeded to come to school during winter due to bad, bumpy, damaged streets and inadequate, irregular means of transportation. One more reason is that often those children come from poor families who have five to six children where elder children have to look after the smaller so that the parents can work in agriculture and provide at least food on the table.

Therefore, the greatest challenge that IFS-EMMAUS faced at the beginning are the parents and their disbelief about the idea that the Centre would provide all what they lack and most importantly free of charge. During years with a lot of work, many workshops for parents we manage to increase the number of children accommodated in the Centre. We started with 5 in 2012 ending in having 60 in 2017/18 academic year. Moreover, each year from the start, it has been worked on improvement of policies, seminars and educations prepared for the staff who work with children. Nowadays we have 12 people who work from Monday to Friday and if needed also on weekends with children accommodated in the educational boarding centre. One more aspect worked on is social inclusion because many of children living in distant rural areas are in danger of social exclusion due to the manner of their living explained in the first paragraph.

To sum up, this project offers multirole activities aimed to improve the lives of children and create better opportunities for their future. By staying in the capacities of the educational centre, free of charge, they have possibilities to grow as individuals and to have activities that only can contribute to their better tomorrow.

Currently, in the academic year 2017/18 IFS-EMMAUS offers accommodation to 60 children of diverse national, religious and ethnic belongings. In order to continue with this practice we need financial support in the amount of 19.122,00 USD. Every year we hope to cover these expenses, but unfortunately that rarely happens. Although we have the written support of many institutions that this is an excellent practice we lack the financial input which we then struggle to find in the hearts of good people/donors.

Hamzalija Okanović
Director

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

NAME	International forum of solidarity-EMMAUS
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DIRECTOR	Mr Hamzalija Okanović
LEGAL STATUS	Non-governmental organization
STRUCTURE	Assembly, Committee Board, Director, Four offices in four different locations (Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Zvornik and the Central is in Doboj Istok) and several coordination units with specific tasks.
GOALS AND AIMS	The main purpose of the Association is: help to others prior to ourselves, to those more in need –help at first to those who suffer most. Due to the obligation to survive, this ideal depends on the whole mankind, each life deserves better to be lived thoroughly. Every sincere peace should be joy for each person and the entire society. We should act so that through common distribution, common participation, and common participation is one sincere dignity.

IFS-EMMAUS is a domestic, non-governmental humanitarian organization established in 1999 with the aim of providing assistance to all vulnerable population groups in need of help. With over 230 employees, over 50 active volunteers and a network of offices, IFS-EMMAUS operates on the whole BiH territory and represents one of the largest self-sustainable NGOs in the country and the wider region.

For IFS - EMMAUS they say it is the last place of hope and haven. Some of the projects implemented by IFS-EMMAUS are: **Reception center "Duje"** in Doboj Istok since 2004 where there is accommodated 440 beneficiaries of various socio-medical pathologies, then **monthly financing of 1,300 children** without one or both parents - orphans throughout BiH, providing **scholarships for 547 children in Burkina Faso**, **Boarding school accommodation** for children of Srebrenica in Potocari (60 children), **Day care centers** for children and young people in Srebrenica - Potocari and Zvornik (100 children). IFS - EMMAUS among others takes care of Public kitchen in Doboj, where is daily prepared 250 meals, leads projects for sustainable return, helps victims of human trafficking and illegal migration, participates in the prevention of child abuse through information and communication technologies, provides home care in the community for elderly people (20 beneficiaries), manages the project of social housing with support (16 beneficiaries), manages the project in BiH of National Soccer Team of homeless people, etc. It is worth mentioning here our sustainability projects in the framework of which we have two economic subjects: Ltd. "MFS-TRADE" dairy plant in Doboj Istok and our greenhouses where we plant our own vegetables used in the kitchen.

2.2 ABOUT THE PROJECT

The idea for the development of this project emerged during distribution of humanitarian help to the returnees in villages of Srebrenica. Children encountered there were the youngest population and unlike their peers who lived in urban areas, they were deprived of care and safe childhood because they had to work and help their family in agriculture since it was the main tool for surviving. Often, due to the desire to be educated, they had to walk through woods on bumpy roads or to be transported in inadequate vehicles to schools. And the nearest is about 20 km away. During winter those trips could last even for two to three hours and finish unsuccessfully because in that period these villages are cut off from the world even for weeks. That situation demanded a change. That change IFS-EMMAUS saw in the project of accommodation children in the capacities of educational centre in Potočari, Srebrenica. In Potočari, in 2006 IFS-EMMAUS started the construction of a centre that consisted of 7 houses-one big and 6 small with a building that is a dining area and a kitchen. The houses with two floors. Each floor has two rooms and one bathroom. Due to the presence of children the balconies are closed. Thanks to many donors and volunteers the construction finished in summer 2012 when we also started the outreach activities for the project. The team of two persons visited the villages in Srebrenica and surrounding area who were „cut“ by the society and presented the project. Many of parents were delighted to be given this opportunity, but many were sceptic especially because these services were offered free of charge. But with time the perception changed.

During the stay in the Centre Emmaus children are offered: accommodation from Monday to Friday, three meals per day, hygienic supplies at disposal, assistance during studying and doing homework, various educational and entertaining activities, sports activities and foreign language courses. The employees that work with children are experts in their fields. The team consists of 12 people: social assistant, pedagogue, psychologist, teachers x2 and two volunteers who stay there from Monday to Friday. They try through a thorough systematic and detailed program that will positively influence all educational fields with special emphasis on improving the socialization aspect by all the users. A very common problem that all employees encounter is poor communication skills. Therefore they try to work on that issue in order to improve their capacity to communicate. Through various activities they mark all international holidays in cooperation with local institutions and NGOs.

What can be noticed in the work so far done is that the school success has improved and the number of missed classes and unjustified absences has decreased. Children have improved their knowledge from various subjects because they have responsible persons whom they can ask for help and assistance. Moreover, since most of them lack basic hygienic routines the team works on that by encouraging them to brush their teeth, take baths etc. They work on themes like love, tolerance, peace and overcoming differences and respecting those.

In September 2012 for the school year 2012/13 we only had 11 children by the end of the year. While the confidence of the local population in IFS-EMMAUS grew so the number of children increased. In 2016/17 the Centre accommodated 47 children. And only 12 of that number had sponsors. In 2017/18 we climbed to the number of 60 children which is a significant indicator of the good practice of the Centre. Unfortunately, we still lack funds for financing the work of the Centre. The salaries are covered by IFS-EMMAUS but we lack funds for direct costs which you can see in the budget in financial section.

2.2.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT AND BENEFITS

The general aim of the project is to facilitate access to education to children that are forced to drop school or expose themselves to danger in order to reach the school especially because of long and cold winters and unsuitable and irregular transportation. This facilitation will be achieved by offering children the possibility for accommodation, food, assistance in the educational center in Potočari.

Moreover one of the basic goals is improvement of the process of education and contribution to the realization of basic children's rights through enabling conditions for normal growth and development.

The goal is to offer children and their parents a **choice**, to have a grown educated child willing to invest in its future and in the future of its country. Long-term outcomes that we expect: 60 children participating in daily organized activities including education, recreation and rest, household chores; the children should be taught appropriate life skills to enable them to survive in wider society.

A child in the Centre will have the opportunity to attend the school regularly and with help of professional staff in the Centre to develop talents and even to visit other countries. Last year, we manage to send 10 children to the sea. Some of them never went out of Srebrenica. This is a non-measurable benefit for those children. The benefits are numerous and really cannot be counted.

3. LOCATION

3.1 GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

Municipality of Srebrenica is located in the north-eastern part of Republic of Srpska, in the middle of a large bend of the River Drina. Now, this city is only known for the genocide that happened in 1995 leaving many villages impossible to reach due to many mine fields and destroyed streets. Srebrenica municipality is formed of 19 local communities. According to current statistics, in Srebrenica lives the total population of 13,406 citizens.¹

Educational Centre in Potočari is situated in the municipality of Srebrenica. One kilometre from that Centre is the city of Srebrenica. Not far from the Centre is the memorial Centre where each year on 11th July is held the funeral for the victims of genocide. The location of the Centre is great because the primary school is opposite the Centre while high school is 500 meters away. This area also doesn't have many traffic, bars, stores so that children can move freely.

3.2 TARGET GROUP

Target groups are children from six (6) to eighteen (18) years of age. According to available data, the target area has a population of 650 children aged 10-14 years and 942 children aged 15-19 years, for a total of 1,592 children who are potential beneficiaries of this kind of accommodation. On the other hand, in the given target market there registered a similar institution that provides such services, which means that only 3.64% of the total number of children use the services of boarding schools. These data point to the obvious untapped potential of the market, so that the continued operation and expansion of the scope of activity and the number of children has its full market justification. An additional argument in favor of this is the current strategy of development of the local community in which points to the lack of facilities for the accommodation of children in other institutions.

4. ACTIVITIES

Considering the number of children and their background, IFS-EMMAUS team who works with children tries to implement multirole activities with the only scope to make of those children self-aware individuals capable of critical thinking. Therefore the focus is put on four scopes.

¹ <http://www.srebrenica.gov.ba/>

4.1. ENRICHMENT

There will be possibilities opened to participate in sports activities, recreation, creative workshops, tutoring, help with their homework, and sometimes also clinical treatments. Values and social skills will also be taught.

4.2. FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

The presence of stable, concerned adults in children's everyday lives will provide a healthy and home-like surrounding for children.

4.3. FAMILY PRESERVATION

Efforts will be made to accept children from their homes geographically close to educational Centre in Potočari, Srebrenica so that family connections can be maintained. Keeping siblings together will be also a priority, and can often be accommodated in Centre's larger group settings. Enrolment in this program events including sports games, fine arts performances and academic progress meetings.

4.4. FLEXIBILITY, FREEDOM AND CHOICE

Provisions for weekends with family, off-centre activities, recreational activities in the center and flexible schedule of tutoring for children will be offered. The aim is to create an environment resembling to a family gathering as possible.

5. PROMOTION OF THE PROJECT

Promotional activities will largely be realized through the use of Internet marketing, both because of the possibility of direct interaction and two-way communication with parents and potential donors, as well as due to significantly lower costs, compared to traditional media (television, radio, print, billboards, etc.). First of all to promote Boarding schools through an active presence on social networks Facebook and YouTube), but also through the official website. In addition, in accordance with the possibilities, from time to time, in accordance with the activities, broadcasting and contributions on local radio stations, as well as informing potential beneficiaries (parents) through leaflets and brochures, and visiting distant places in the municipality of Srebrenica.

However, the most important channel for the promotion will be recommendations of satisfied parents and children, therefore much attention will be given to the constant training and motivation of employees to constantly maintain high level of quality services provided.

6. MONITORING

Through continuous monitoring, by the project management, IFS-EMMAUS will ensure the rational use and responsible attitude towards property, materials and equipment used for the implementation of project activities. Moreover, the team responsible for children will continuously analyse and value the activities that are flexible and will be adjusted in accordance to the children's needs.

7. REPORTING OF THE PROJECT

Reporting of the project will follow by financial reports and photos of the conducted activities.

8. FINANCE ANALYSIS

IFS-EMMAUS tries each year to find sponsors for each child in order to provide the continuity of the project. Therefore on this aspect if IFS-EMMAUS fails to find a donor/sponsor, the entire project depends on EMMAUS and its other sources of financing. So far, we have the support of foundation from Bosnia and Herzegovina that covers expenses for 10 children then the Sarajevo Football Club that covers expenses for 2 children, Italian organization that covers expenses for 5 children, and the Islamic community in BH covers expenses for 13 children.

Budget is attached bellow.

Project: "Facilitate access to education for children from rural areas of Srebrenica"							
No	Operational and other expenses	Type of costs	Period/month	Amount in BAM	Total amount in BAM	Funds requested from donor in USD	Description of expenses
1.	Electricity	Consumption	9	150,00	1.350,00	814,69	Average consumption
2.	Phone/internet	Consumption	9	60,00	540,00	325,88	Average consumption
3.	Pellets for furnace	Heating the structures	6	430,00	2.580,00	1.556,97	Calculated based on previous winter season(October to April)
4.	Groceries	Food	9	2.347,00	21.123,00	12.747,26	It is put special emphasis on types of food and diversity. Organic food is preferred.
5.	Hygienic supplies	Washing and cleaning	9	180,00	1.620,00	977,63	Expenses for maintenance, washing sheets etc (soap,shampoo, softener,toilet paper, detergents...)
6.	Fuel	Transport	9	400,00	3.600,00	2.172,52	Travel expenses for implementation of activities
7.	Workshop material		9	97,00	873,00	526,84	Educational workshops require a lot of stationery material along with colored material etc.
TOTAL					31.686,00	19.121,80	