



Language Program for Refugee and Migrant Children

SUMMARY:

Reachout Foundation aims to provide refugee and migrant kids in Bulgaria with Bulgarian Language training and comprehensive support to integrate them into the Bulgarian Education System and Society.

Reachout shall conduct the Bulgarian classes in three groups, distinguished by age, held twice a week during the students' first year of enrollment, providing a total 2500 hours of Bulgarian language education.

CHALLENGE:

In 2020, 1125 children arrived in Bulgaria seeking international protection, 799 being unaccompanied minors. 31 students were enrolled in the 2020/21 academic year, 26 of them being unaccompanied minors.

Bulgarian Law permits enrollment of minors only once they are declared to be refugees, if rejected on grounds of inadequate/lack of documentation, these children are treated as illegal migrants and do not have access to education.

Moreover, the children that are admitted in schools are at a disadvantage in terms of the Bulgarian language as compared to their peers.

Due to the lack of support from the school teachers and the absence of a specialized Bulgarian language curriculum, the refugee and migrant children face difficulties adapting to the language.

This lack of adequate support is the fundamental cause for these kids to not enroll in schools, especially at the high school level.

Furthermore, the academic material provided to learn Bulgarian as a foreign language is mainly targeted for the adult audience, failing to minister to the needs of school children.

SOLUTION:

Reachout Foundation aims to support the children and their parents in the integration process, provide counselling and support for the documentation and administrative procedures regarding their school enrollment by briefing the parents and getting them well acquainted with the education system.

Conduct Bulgarian language training for basic, communication skills for everyday use for refugee and migrant children.

Provide essential school supplies to refugee kids.

Introduce them to the Bulgarian culture through various educational activities and excursions.

In accord with the direct work of the children and their parents, we will prepare a combination of educational material and exercises catering to their language requirements.



LONG TERM IMPACT:

The project will aid the children and their parents in successfully incorporating themselves into the Bulgarian Education System and the society.

Along with the academic Bulgarian education, the language training will assist the kids in their communication skills, providing them with a more relaxed educational environment.

They will successfully be an active part of the community and the society around them.

Encourage them to understand and adapt to their new environment.

Aid in bridging the gap between them and the local population by understanding the language and intermingling with them, boosting their self-reliance and morale, helping them step out of their comfort zone and adapt to their new surroundings.

Detailed Description	Unit	# of units	Cost per Unit (US\$)	Total cost (US\$)
1. Orientation or counselling session for the parents	Per session	200	12	2 400
2. Preparation of learning material for a lesson	Per lesson	100	10	1 100
3. Bulgarian language classes	Per hour	2500	15	37 500
4. School supplies for 1 refugee child	Per child	20	20	400
5. Cultural activity for all children	Per month	12	50	600
TOTAL:				42 000