



UNICEF IN THE NEWS

## CHILD POVERTY STUDY & MICS LAUNCH

Skopje Office  
20 November 2007

<b>Radio:</b>	Macedonian radio
<b>Programme:</b>	Central news
<b>Time:</b>	15:30
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2007
<b>Author:</b>	Julija Antovska

The number of poor households with children increases with huge speed. Around 18,000 children from this country are outside the educational process, and 3,000 children spend their days on the street. The poorest are those from the age of 7 to 14, who are part of the primary education. The death rate is much more expressed among our youngest population that is on the edge of poverty. This is only part of the defeating information of UNICEF. No matter whether he is born in privileged or poor family, every child has the right to equal chances for reaching his own potential, as a future citizen of EU and overcoming children's poverty should be a national priority. The Government is aware of its obligation to help the families in execution of their responsibilities regarding the raising of children and providing a standard that will provide them a positive physical, mental, spiritual and social development. The Law on Protection of Children should be corrected. In this process, except for the state, the parents, educational, health organizations and the NGO sector are already involving.

<b>TV:</b>	Sitel
<b>Programme:</b>	Central news
<b>Time:</b>	18:00
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2007
<b>Author:</b>	Snezana Jovanovska

One third of the population in Macedonia is poor, and 60% of them have children. The children poverty in Macedonia increases constantly, reacted officials from UNICEF. This is unacceptable condition, particularly for a country that strives towards the EU. *"I am worried regarding the situation in the country, which is becoming alarming. The number of families who live on the edge of relative poverty has increased from 19% in 1997 to 30% in 2005. It is also alarming that 66.6% of the poor families in Macedonia are actually families who have children, and this number in 2002 was 49.3%",* Hong Wei Gao, representative of UNICEF in Macedonia announced. The families that will receive money help from the *SISITI* project and the ministry will be obliged to educate their children and will have to take their children regularly to a doctor, Ljupcho Meshkov, Minister of Labour and Social Politics underlined.

<b>TV:</b>	Telma
<b>Programme:</b>	Central news
<b>Time:</b>	18:30
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2007
<b>Author:</b>	Anita Stojanovska Buhovski

According to the study of UNICEF and the information of the State Statistics Office, the children's poverty in Macedonia moves in upper line. Handling the children's poverty should be one of the national priorities of Macedonia. *"I'm concerned about the situation in this country which becomes alarming. The number of households who live under the line of relative poverty has increased from 19% in 1997 to 30% in 2005,"* said Hong Wei Gao, representative of UNICEF in Macedonia. According to the Minister of Labor and Social Politics, Ljupcho Meshkov, the children's poverty is only part of the overall poverty in this country. The Government will introduce a new access to defining the protection of the children by a draft law.

<b>TV:</b>	MTV 1
<b>Programme:</b>	Central news
<b>Time:</b>	19:30
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2007
<b>Author:</b>	Katerina Grupce

According to the latest data from 2005, the percentage of poor households with children is 66.6% of the total number of households in RM. Their number increased by around 17% since 2002. *"It is beyond acceptance to allow children's poverty to increase, especially having considered that the country is moving forwards in all aspects of development",* the representative of UNICEF, Hong Wei Gao said. The biggest factors that contribute to children's poverty are the insufficient public investments in healthcare, education and social protection. Around 17% of all children below the age of 19 do not have health insurance. And regarding education, going to school is the biggest problem for the children in the poorest environments. There, only 61% visit elementary school, and a pathetic 33.3% visit high school. One third of all children in Macedonia aging between 15 and 19 are totally excluded from education and employment. Investing in the children does not only represent an obligation in the convention on the rights of children, but a public treasure as well, which is of good political and economic sense.

<b>TV:</b>	Kanal 5
<b>Programme:</b>	Central news
<b>Time:</b>	17:00
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2007
<b>Author:</b>	Gjorgji Tomik

Over 50% of the population in Macedonia lives in poverty. The research carried out by UNICEF and the Macedonian Institute for Economic and Political Researches showed alarming results, even 66% of the poor families have children. The handling of the poverty should be one of the national priorities of the Government, advised officials from UNICEF. The condition is alarming, the number of 19% of poor families in Macedonia in 1997, has increased by 30% in 2005. UNICEF warned that even 17% from the children on the age of 19 do not have health insurance in Macedonia and 34% are excluded from the education.

<b>Newspaper:</b>	Vecer
<b>Title</b>	3000 street children in Macedonia
<b>Original title:</b>	Vo Makedonija 3000 deca ziveat po ulici
<b>Date:</b>	21 November 2007
<b>Author:</b>	Milena Georgievska
<b>Dimensions:</b>	216 cm <sup>2</sup>
<b>Page N°:</b>	3

A great number of children in Macedonia live at the edge of existential. Around 3,000 children in the Republic of Macedonia are children on the street, most of whom do not even have a home. They do not go to school, and the parents do not take them to a doctor. The information of the research of UNICEF in our country for children's poverty imply on alarming trend of growth of the households with children who are poor. The information speak that the modest economic growth did not bring to equally improved living standard for the entire population. According to Hong Wei Gao, representative of UNICEF in Macedonia, it is unacceptable for the children to wait and the children's poverty to constantly increase. The European Ambassador Erwan Fouere said that Europe and the whole world face with the problem of poverty.

<b>Newspaper:</b>	Nova Makedonija
<b>Title</b>	Less children's poverty
<b>Original title:</b>	Pomalku detska siromashtija
<b>Date:</b>	21 November 2007
<b>Author:</b>	Editorial Staff
<b>Page N°:</b>	4

The recommendations for handling children's poverty in Macedonia, from both new reports of UNICEF, were announced in Skopje yesterday. *"Understanding of children's poverty"* is the topic of the gathering that was held under the motto *"All children have equal chances for achievement of their top potentials, as adult citizens of the European Union"*.

The representative of UNICEF in Macedonia, Hong Wei Gao, the European Ambassador in Macedonia Erwan Fouere, and the President of the working group of EU for children's poverty and welfare of children, Erik Marlie spoke on the gathering.

<b>Newspaper:</b>	Dnevnik
<b>Title</b>	The poverty grows faster than children
<b>Original title:</b>	Siromashtijata raste pobrzo od decata
<b>Date:</b>	21 November 2007
<b>Author:</b>	T.P.
<b>Page N°:</b>	1, 4

*"The situation in this country becomes alarming. The number of poor households has increased from 19% in 1997 to 30% in 2005. Most of the poor are households with children"* warned Hong Wei Gao, representative of UNICEF in Skopje at yesterday's gathering under the motto *"Understanding of the children's poverty"*. She emphasized that the handling of children's poverty should be a national priority, because they cannot wait.

Reasonable use of the European pre-accession funds, cooperation between the Government and the NGO sector and investing in the children is only part of the conclusions from the conference on children's poverty in organization of the Office of UNICEF in Skopje. The Minister of Labour and Social Politics, Ljupcho Meshkov said that the poor families will get financial assistance, which would oblige them to send their children to school. The European Ambassador Erwan Fouere said that the employment should increase so as the children's poverty could be handled.

<b>Newspaper:</b>	Utrinski Vesnik
<b>Title</b>	Children are most affected by poverty increase
<b>Original title:</b>	Decata se najpogodeni od porastot na siromastijata
<b>Date:</b>	21 November
<b>Author:</b>	A.P.
<b>Page N°:</b>	8

For 2007, the Government has planned MKD 1.5 billion in the programs that refer to the children. Out of the total of MKD 1.5 billion, 60% of the means are aimed for building construction, decentralization programs and financing the daily care and recreation centers, and the rest 40% is aimed directly to reduction of children's poverty. This is part of the conclusions mentioned in the UNICEF report that refers to children's poverty in the country. The report states that the rights of the children in Macedonia are guaranteed but are not always secured. In 2005, more than 50% of the households with children lived on the edge of relative poverty. *"This condition is unacceptable. Especially if we have in mind that the country notices an economic improvement"*, Hong Wei Gao, representative of UNICEF in Macedonia announced yesterday at the press conference. She added that there is a need of intensive fight against the children poverty of all state institutions.

<b>Newsagency:</b>	MIA
<b>Title</b>	Understanding Child Poverty
<b>Original title:</b>	Razbiranje na detskata siroamstija
<b>Date:</b>	20 November
<b>Author:</b>	Frosina Pandurska

The two reports supported by UNICEF highlight that the moderate economic growth achieved in the country has not translated into equally improved living standards for the entire population. Data demonstrate an alarming trend of incremental increase in the proportion of households with children who are poor, rising from 49.3 percent in 2002 to 66.6 percent in 2005. Furthermore, many children in Macedonia, especially from ethnic minorities and other socially excluded groups, are still not accessing basic rights to education, health care, social protection and participation - a situation that will have dire consequences for these children and for Macedonia's longer-term stability and regional competitiveness.

"The situation in both monetary and non-monetary terms is critical," said UNICEF Country Representative, Ms Hongwei Gao. "It is not acceptable to witness and allow child poverty to continue to increase, particularly since the country, in all aspects of development, is improving and moving towards EU membership."

<b>Newsagency:</b>	Makfax
<b>Title</b>	UNICEF Calls for More Child-focused Policies
<b>Original title:</b>	UNICEF povikuva na politiki fokusirani na decata

**Date:**

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