

**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

**National Committee on Women and Family**

**NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR  
CHILDREN**

**( 5 year plan)**

***2001***

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The National Strategy for Children, designed pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, which provides expressly that children have the right to special protection by the state, as well as UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, constitutes an important document which sets out the strategic objectives of the policy of Albanian Government in this sensitive area of our social development.

The children's civil, economic, social, cultural and political rights should be protected and have priority over those of any other person, family and institution, first because children constitute the generally unprotected part of human society, and second because their current stage of physical and mental development shall determine the future of the country.

In this context, Albanian Government shall take appropriate measures both to effect any indispensable changes to the legislation and transform the strategy into a national action binding on all institutions:

- by defining duties, concrete measures in the field of information and education of children;
- towards their physical and psychological inviolability in any setting;
- towards the improvement of conditions and environment directly or indirectly related with their teaching and cultural shaping, enhancement of access to information, healthy development, recreation and leisure;
- towards good treatment and encouragement and promotion of children's skills and talent, etc.

Furthermore, Albanian government shall welcome the commitment of all social actors, local NGOs and international bodies and organizations to assist in the attainment of the objectives of the National Strategy for Children, considering it a noble contribution to the social development of the country.

## **2. SITUATION**

### **2.1 Children in Albania**

Citizens 0-18 years of age are considered minors in Albania. The number of children in Albania is 1,369,000 out of a total population of 3,320,000. 33% are under fifteen years old, 40% under 18 years of age and about half of the total population under 25 years of age. Under the Albanian Constitution, a child enjoys, like every other citizen, equal rights before the law. Albania has recognized the rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Infantile mortality, i.e. 0-12 months old, and child mortality, i.e. 0-5 years old, has kept decreasing in the last ten years. Actually it has decreased by ½ as against '80s and '90s. However, this mortality rate is still among the highest in Europe.

Respiratory, neonatal and diarrheic diseases constitute some of the main causes of the high mortality rate.

Malnutrition and deficiencies in vitamins and micronutrients, such as vitamins A, D, iodine, iron, etc. still remain a major concern. Thus, about 25% of the children aged 0-3 years display symptoms of slight and medium malnutrition, whereas 10% display serious symptoms of malnutrition. This figure is twice as high in the northeastern parts of the country.

Serious iodine deficiency is observed in 63% of children 10-12 years of age.

In the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the national educational system in Albania was rather elaborate, with educational institutions at all levels, preschool to post-university ones.

According to the estimates in respect of undergraduate education in 1990, 56% of children 3-5 years old attended preschool education, 96-98% of children attended compulsory eight-year (elementary) education, 70% of pupils completing the elementary education attended high education.

In the course of the transition period, the number of pupils attending preschool and high school education decreased sharply. The dropout rate in elementary education also increased.

In the year 2000 the estimated figures of registration for school attendance were the following: preschool education: 36% of children 3-5 years of age; elementary education 543,967 pupils and high education 102,971 pupils.

Drug use constitutes one of the greatest threats to juveniles and teenagers. Teenagers (children 14-18 years of age) under the threat of drug use are making up the youngest marginal group in Albania. According to some NGO estimates, the number of drug users in Albania has amounted to 10,000, with 80% living in Tirana and 40% children and juveniles. This group is found not only in Tirana but also other big urban areas and it is increasing at rapid rates in smaller towns, too.

Drug use poses the greatest threat to juveniles coming from well-off families, because they can find sources to pay for the drug and thus add to the number of drug users. Teenagers are at a greater risk, especially while at school, because at school drug is administered free of charge. Children who market and distribute it are under a still greater threat.

The life of juveniles is also threatened by the increasing incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV positive and AIDS. Actually there are about 49 cases of AIDS, most of them involving males 20-35 years of age.

There is also an increase in unwanted pregnancy among young girls. Estimates are indicative of an increase in the number abortions from 1989 to 1998 among girls 15-24 years of age.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Public Order, involvement of minors in criminal activity as perpetrators of crimes against persons and property, has kept decreasing from 1993 to 1999. However, apart from commission of offences juveniles have often been found recently to make up a considerable number of injured parties in sex-related crimes, crimes against morality, etc.

Encouragement of the prostitution of minors both inside and outside of the country, such as Italy, Greece, etc., and coordination of the activity of local criminal groups engaged in prostitution with foreign ones, constitutes another major concern.

Another problem, which has become an issue in the last decade concerns blood feud and related revenge, which affect children both directly and indirectly, i.e. as perpetrators and victims of such acts. Many minors have been forced to abandon school and go into hiding from a revenge killing, which might take their lives, a macabre phenomenon, and a far cry from modern civilization.

Street children represent the most suffering, vulnerable, and least protected category, exposed more than any other groups to risks such as malnutrition, insecurity, illiteracy, mistreatment, etc. The marginalisation of this category is due to a number of economic, social, educational, cultural and family factors. In Tirana, 800 street children have been identified, practicing the "profession" of a beggar, peddler, shoe-polisher and so on.

Unprotected children, orphans, children of divorced parents often fall a 'prey' to numerous forms of exploitation and abuse, thus making up the group of sexually abused children, abandoned children left on the sidewalks or street corners at the mercy of 'charitable' passers-by for their living, kidnapped children for organ transplants or other profit-bearing aims. These issues have been in the agenda of media and TV news and a number of these children be benefited the assistance of charity organizations.

Children engaged in labour and other profit-bearing activities have either dropped out of school for good or go to school and also carry out different jobs, mainly after their classes, in the family or outside of it.

Disabled and retarded children constitute a considerable part of the community of disabled persons in our country. A number of training and rehabilitation centres offer institutional services to retarded and disabled children. Some of them are the following: residential development centres in a number of cities and towns, the daily development centres in Shkodra and Lezha, etc. These institutions offer assistance to about 250

children who benefit social and health care services. To meet the needs in this sector, a major contribution is being rendered by foundations and non-governmental organizations, which provide a wide range of services, bringing about qualitative changes in the conception and structure of offered services.

Mentally and physically disabled Children. Under 8092 Law, date 01.03.1996, *On Mental Health*, the following are considered mentally disabled persons, children included: persons with mental disorders, mentally retarded and disabled persons. Mentally retarded persons and those with mental disorders are treated free of charge in public treatment, rehabilitation and education institutions. Where such persons are under 18 years of age and treated in private institutions, the cost is borne by the state to the amount of the cost of a public treatment institution. That is, the law provides for special support to children, covering a part of the financial costs of their placement in private social care institutions.

According to rough estimates, about 4,000 children have migrated broad, unaccompanied by their parents (3,000 in Greece and 1,000 in Italy). This category of children living in other countries, far from their family and devoid of its care, is often facing different kinds of vicissitudes such as mistreatment, physical and sexual abuse, employment in hard work, trafficking and other illegal activities. Frequently children are sold by their parents or exploited by Mafioso and criminal gangs for profit-bearing aims.

Refugee children are guaranteed special protection under the 3920 Law, date 21.11.1994, *On the Enjoyment of Civil Rights by Foreign Citizens and Application of the Foreign Law*, which guarantees enjoyment of civil rights recognized to Albanian citizen, as well as 8432 Law, date 14.12.1998, *On Asylum*, which guarantees special protection and support to refugee children, children from poor families, children under the threat of engagement in criminal activities, minors who have fallen victims of prostitution, etc.

There are also groups of children who are subjected to more privations. In general, Roma children live in poverty and dire social conditions. Most of them live begging in streets. In summer, some, especially those living in towns or areas close to the border, go to Greece in search for a job. In these circumstances, some of them fall victims of prostitution, physical and moral abuse, mistreatment or exploitation by the networks engaged in illegal activities. Roma children do not go to school regularly and do not meet school requirements and assignments. Therefore their level of education is to the point of illiteracy. Roma children are exposed to the following problems: illiteracy, poverty, employment at a young age, abuse and exploitation for prostitution, begging, theft, etc.

Another activity of children's life is recreation. At present, the cultural and recreational infrastructure for children is ineffective. It is either used for purposes other than recreation, or ruined. Consequently, there is no question of recreational and educational grounds for children. Home constitutes the only setting for children to play, watch TV and use electronic games (if they have them at home). In towns there is only a government-funded cultural centre whose single event is organization of the children's songs festival every 1 June. The staff engaged in the education of children is not composed of young people and they are often intolerant and hard on children.

As there is no open-air ground where children can go and play, the latter spend most of their time in front of the small screen. Its influence is so strong that it prevails over other inherent aptitudes of the age. Sociologists and psychologists find the main source of the increasing rate of juvenile delinquency in the intensive influence of TV realities, full of images of violence, and the inclination to imitate in real life scenes experienced through the screen. That is why, related legislation helps to prevent and minimize the adverse effect of electronic mass media on the increase of violence among this age.

The low economic level of parents makes it impossible for them to meet the numerous recreational and cultural needs of their children. It very difficult to conducts recreational events in schools after the classes. Parents cannot devote the required attention and time to their children. In many cases, they do not have the adequate background to raise a healthy and happy child.

The socio-economic situation of children is no different from that of the entire Albanian population. However, the above features raise the need for the creation of opportunities for the gradual uprooting of the negative impact of the transition period our country is going through, so that children can live their childhood years healthily and participate in the society with equal rights.

## **2.2 Legal aspects relating to children's rights in Albania**

Children's rights are guaranteed under the Constitution of the Republic of Albania. Article 54 thereof sets lays down the following:

- *Children, juveniles, pregnant women and young mothers shall have the right to special protection by the state.*
- *Children born out of wedlock shall have equal rights as children born to a marriage.*
- *Every child shall have the right to protection from violence, mistreatment, exploitation and use for labour, especially in the minimum age of child labour, which damage health and morality or risk his or her life or normal development.*

Albanian government is committed to the protection of children by completing Albanian legislation with related by-laws and regulations. In the context of the protection of a person's identity, 8389 Law, date 05.08.1998, *On Albanian Citizenship*, recognizes the right and duty of every person to have his or her name and surname. In the meantime, the Ministry of Justice is working on the draft-law *On Civil Status*, which will create better legal conditions for the observance of a person's rights, protection of his or her identity. This is a commitment, which derives from Article 8 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

*In the civil area*, a minor acquires full legal capacity at the age of eighteen years. A minor 14-18 years of age may take part in social organizations, own what he or she earns with his or her labour, deposit savings and own these deposits him/herself. In addition, the Civil Code grants children under 14 the right to effect legal acts that are suitable for their

age and bring a benefit without any counterclaim. Other legal acts are performed by a legal representative of his/her choice on his/her behalf.

*Another important right of the child in the area of civil law concerns what in inheritance law is termed as legal reservation. More concretely, Article 361 of the Civil Code provides that the inheritee may not exclude from legal inheritance his/her minors or other minor inheritors inheriting by substitution, as well as other disabled inheritors if they are called to an inheritance, nor affect in whatever manner by his/her will the share that belongs to these inheritors under the legal inheritance, except where the latter are rendered unsuitable for inheritance.*

Special protection is also granted to the institute of adoptions under the 7560 Law, date 17.12.1992, *On Adoption by Foreigners and Some Amendments to the Family Code*. This Law provides for the establishment of the Albanian Adoption Committee, which grants its consent before the court to a minor's adoption by a person who has submitted a request for adoption. Furthermore, Albanian Government has ratified the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation for Adoptions Outside the Country. This Convention shall ensure recognition of intracountry adoptions between states that reach agreements in compliance with the Convention, thus preventing discrimination of adopted children.

As regards protection of children in case of arbitrary separation from his/her parents, the present Family Code and Civil Procedure Code contain provisions, which lay down explicitly how a child shall be treated on termination of his/her parents' marriage. A child over ten years of age is entitled to choose for him/herself the parent he/she wishes to live with. Moreover, the Family Code sets out explicitly cases of the renunciation of parental right and placement of a child in foster care institutions. Drafting and adoption of the new Family Code shall improve the legal framework and make it more complete. Delays in the adoption of new Code are obstructing the daily activity of courts. The Government should speed up procedures for its adoption.

On the initiative of the Ministry of Justice a draft-law on some amendments to the Criminal Code is already adopted by the Assembly. It contains provisions covering criminal offences such as child trafficking, kidnapping, killing on blood feud grounds (designed to prevent blood feud, which accounts for a considerable number of child victims) and more severe punishment for cases of sexual crimes against children.

The Criminal Code guarantees children special protection. It contains specific provisions guaranteeing the protection of children from crimes against them. The Criminal Code deals also with previously convicted low risk children. Article 52 thereof states the following: *Given the minor's low risk, concrete circumstances and previous conduct, the court may rule out his/her conviction. In these cases the court may rule referral of the minor to a re-education institution.*

Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice may revise and add a few amendments to the Criminal Code, in order to provide for criminal offences against trafficking of minors,

freedom of person, and make a more explicit definition of kidnapping by including special provisions and more severe punishment for cases involving kidnapping of minors.

As regards criminal procedural protection of children, the latter are guaranteed a number of fundamental rights such as the right of children over 14 to bear witness to criminal proceedings and be questioned by the president of the court, where this does not harm their psychological state of mind, and assisted by his/her family members or persons specialized in education of children; the right to free legal assistance where his/her family cannot afford the costs of the trial, etc. In practice, cases where one of the parties is a minor are rarely tried by a judge specialized in such matters and a hearing is not attended by a psychologist or social worker.

### **3. SURVIVAL**

#### **3.1 Health of Children**

Child protection and development have constituted and still do the primary concerns of Albanian Government, especially Ministry of Health.

Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, States Parties should take immediate measures to recognize and guarantee children's right to life and development.

Action for the steady improvement of children's health and quality of life should focus on the following:

Continuous decrease in child disease incidence and mortality through:

- a) Continuous improvement of the quality of health service and care;
- b) Improvement of the level of health culture in the family and society;
- c) Promotion of a healthy style of living and health protection;
- d) Enhancement of access to information and health education for the protection of child health from the impact of environmental pollution;
- e) Enhancement of access to information and health education in respect of child health, feeding, especially breast feeding, personal hygiene and protection from accidents, traumas and any form of violence;
- f) Improvement of national mechanisms monitoring the situation of child health in Albania, by improving the system for the collection and processing of data and information in the field of child and mother's health, and gender-based sharing of this information.

These are some of the priorities, closely linked with the economic development of the country and international assistance granted to Albania, designed to improve the socio-economic situation in the country. In the next years, appropriate measures shall be taken to improve child health especially of the following age groups: children 0-6 years of age and children 10-14 years of age.

In the context of the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy, the quality of health care (rehabilitation services, education, creation of opportunities) shall be improved, relying on the right to social integration, individual development, medical and psychological treatment.

### **3.2 Household Environment and Alternative Care**

*The best interest of the child should be considered of paramount importance.* Protection of personal and private interests of the child is also important for his/her development and growth. Health care and the right to security in the family constitute some of his/her basic rights. These are followed by other rights, such as the right to live with one's parents or, where a child is separated from one or both parents, the right to maintain regular contacts with both parents.

Parents should not use violence, nor inflict physical or psychological harm on the child, or mistreat him/her; they are the first to be held responsible for ensuring that the rights of the child are respected. Parents should care for the child jointly and equally, regardless of whether the child is living with one or both of them.

Therefore, it is necessary to establish centres of social care in towns, which will help in deciding properly which parent the child should live with, taking into account his/her best interest. Special attention should be paid to cases of detachment from parental care, verifying which parent could pose a greater risk to the child, as well as cases when a child is physically and sexually abused by the parents, or when a partner sets an example of violence against the other partner. Household environment is healthy where it promotes the welfare and development of the child. If children are not protected by their parents, then we should have recourse to other forms of alternative care, such as: social care institutions, custodial families, etc.

The groups of children eligible for social protection include (biological and social) orphans and mentally and physically disabled children. The law contains several important provisions relating to the social workers assigned to work in social care institutions where these groups of children are placed, and basic principles of rehabilitation and education policies in respect of mentally retarded children. However, despite its modern content, the law includes children in the category of all persons eligible for this kind of treatment and only in few provisions does it mention children specifically and expressly.

The 7889 Law, date 14.12.1994 *On the Status of an Invalid*, includes groups of persons with different degrees of physical disability and contains their rights, especially economic ones, such as ensuring that they have an economic level that enables them to lead a dignified life, proper work, certain tax exemptions, access to medical treatment, education, recreational and relaxation activities.

However, the law does not provide for disabled children's rights specifically, therefore it is necessary to cover the *manner of treatment of physically disabled children in a special*

*law*. Nevertheless, in real life, in spite of the legal provisions, treatment forwarded to them is for the most part more favourable and at the required level.

In spite of the positive changes in the attainment of social policies for the treatment of disabled children, the problems of this marginalized group are complex and call for effective intervention aimed at determining the structure of institutions and diversity of services, which keep the child close to the community and ensure his/her better and faster integration and rehabilitation in the normal life. This diversity should be ensured and developed further by government and non-governmental organizations.

Elaboration of adequate policies and delineation of clearly defined social protection objectives is conditioned by the *identification of categories of children at risk and assessment of their specific needs*.

Social protection of children should be attained in two ways: *residential institutions (social care institutions and development centres) and non-residential ones (new models and regimes, which come closer to beneficiaries)*, giving priority to both because they are less costly and capable of yielding results that are more tangible and advantageous to the beneficiaries.

In respect of physically and mentally handicapped children, the state undertakes to secure such a social protection and development in respective institutions, as to guarantee their dignity, promote autonomy and facilitate integration in the community.

Institutional treatment of children is offered as a classical residential service to biologically and socially orphaned children and physically and mentally disabled ones. In order to meet their increasing needs and demands, work should continue along the lines of strengthening social care institutions, improvement of the quality of service delivery and its better geographical distribution.

Drawing upon the consideration that social services are not a monopoly of the state, and in view of the significant contribution rendered by NGOs, support for them need be promoted.

Cooperation among NGOs and other structures will lead to more adequate information sharing and better protection for and recreation of Albanian children. On the other hand, this will enable a more successful coordination. Responsibility will be shared in view of the profiles of every structure, which will result in a proper and more efficient infrastructure, composed of the following:

- ◆ **Day care centres** for psychological support and treatment, education and counseling to groups of street children, abuse and mistreated ones, and children about to drop out of school;
- ◆ **Reception centres** (shelters) for the reception and temporary sheltering of repatriated children, who have parted from their parents and have migrated abroad, minor victims of prostitution, etc;

- ◆ **Rehabilitation centres** for children and juveniles who are drug- and alcohol-users, for their psychological treatment, counseling, rehabilitation and reintegration to normal life;
- ◆ **Foster care** – another form of helping orphaned children designed to place children to proper living conditions, offering care and normal upkeep of children. *Adoption of children by new families and distant foster care* shall constitute additional alternatives along this line.
- ◆ **Household/Family** for the treatment of handicapped and orphaned children leaving institutions after 14 years of age;
- ◆ **Polyvalent (multidisciplinary) centres** which offer a wide range of services, such as counseling, legal assistance, psycho-social support and normal upkeep of children, assistance in the family, training courses, information, assistance in the resolution of emergency situations of persons at risk/in need (for instance, accidents in the family, conviction of one of the parents, abandonment of children by parents, and so on).

Local government should identify children most in need of treatment and who do not benefit any basic social services.

In view of the assessment made in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that family constitutes the natural environment for the growth of children and the main factor responsible for their normal development, the Woman and Family Committee and its contact points with the local government should encourage a better differentiated support and social assistance to:

- *Children of poor families;*
- *Children undergoing sharp social problems;*
- *Children of mothers as head of families.*

The Department of Coordination and Youth Policies in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports aims at conceiving children's agencies in such a way as to comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and protect the rights of children and juveniles. It is also looking at voluntary education and creative activities of juveniles with younger children. Since youth are very close to the age and psychology of children, and children can learn from youth, communication should be established between these two groups, which would make children's life livelier and engage youngsters' energies into this noble and important issue.

Parental care, parent responsibility, separation from parents, family reunion, child care, deprivation of a child from his/her family environment, adoption, unlawful transfer and non-return of the child, mistreatment and neglect of children constitute some of the priorities of which call for the commitment of the Government, to enable and ensure recognition of the principle that parents have the same responsibilities for the raising and growth of their children.

In order to augment the efficiency of state-civil society partnership based on the related laws, the following shall be promoted:

- *Establishment of child care departments in the local government, in order to ensure a more adequate coverage of the needs of children at risk;*
- *Establishment of social service centers in the main cities of the country for the management of residential care institutions and harmonization of services, facilitation of cooperation among all actors operating in the domain of child care and development.*

In order to ensure a better safeguarding of the rights of the children in need, improvement of legislation in the field of social services, and revision of the legal framework is also necessary. In this context, the following step need be taken:

- *Drafting and adoption of a new Family Code regulating problems concerning custody and neglected/abandoned children.*

Additional budget allocations should be made to central public institutions managing social services, by creating better conditions for the absorption of funding from various donors.

The need has arisen for the establishment and strengthening of a fully-fledged information system for the collection of data relating to issues of children at risk, in order to define therefrom efficient objectives, programs and projects for the promotion of social services.

Employment of social workers in institutions such as schools, health centers, prisons for juveniles and communities shall contribute to the establishment of a sophisticated network of social services.

#### **4. CHILD PROTECTION**

Albanian Government should assist especially children whose normal development is under some sort of threat. Given that government institutions are not able to cover and address this issue entirely on their own, the need arises for cooperation in the following directions: public awareness raising on the rights of the child, direct safeguarding of the rights of the child by a specialized staff; keeping children away from street games and bringing them closer to group recreation; development of children's and youngsters' physical and intellectual capacities; voluntary education; commitment of juveniles to social education; training of parents and teachers for a better qualified work with children; sheltering of orphaned and street children.

##### **4.1 Violence against children by the family and community**

Prior to education of parents and children, it is necessary to inform the public at large of the essence of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the conditions it imposes towards achievement of happy childhood.

Besides, direct protection through information gathering and counseling for the solution of child-related problems, as well as commitment of state institutions specialized to this end, would constitute a new experience in the protection of children.

*Legal interpretation of Convention articles should be made in cooperation with legal experts* who prepare the required material to be published in a booklet and distributed to schools and public institutions.

*Education in the family constitutes a very important element of child education.* Family is the single institution, which gives the child the first experience of education and conduct. Therefore, investment in the strengthening of family as an educational and care-taking institution constitutes an investment for the children while they are growing up.

In addition, engagement in a *public discussion with the participation of parents, children and psychologists in the local media* would have a great social impact.

In the present situation, not all parents have the ability to devote an adequate amount of time to their children and create them adequate conditions for recreation during free time. Furthermore, many parents do not have the sufficient training to parent as they should, because they often rely heavily on the experience in which they were raised during childhood and the image of a traditional parent. Consequently, on grounds of authority, affection and emotion, parents abuse a child's freedom and rights, thus jeopardizing the future of their own children. The result: "weak", unwilling children, incapable of resolving problems that crop up.

Education of parents is becoming increasingly necessary and indispensable. This should not be accomplished spontaneously but as a continuous process, based on a certain approach with elements from sociology and psychology.

*Formal education at school is another important element of child education.* Under the Convention, every child has the right to free and regular education, according to curricula set up by the States Parties.

Although the previous educational system was centralized, Albania inherited a satisfactory educational system. Coupling this with the efforts of many institutions and non-governmental organizations for a reform of this system, one can conclude that in a few decades this system shall come closer to required levels and better meet the needs of the community.

However, the network of schools lacks communication and facilities for recreation in free time after classes. Therefore, children attending schools lack the opportunities and facilities to engage in creative activity.

## **4.2 Employed children**

In view of the current situation of children trafficked for prostitution purposes or economic exploitation, Albanian Government has defined the priorities for their protection from trafficking abroad for profit-bearing illegal activity, such as drug distribution, etc., or arbitrary separation from families.

This raises the need for urgent improvements in the legislation related to the protection of children from economic exploitation, especially providing heavier punishments by judicial bodies for all those who kidnap, traffick or exploit children locally or abroad for economic benefits.

The Labour Code guarantees special protection of children by forbidding employment of minors less than 16 years of age. But this prohibition does not apply to the employment of children no younger than 14 years of age during the summer vacation. Moreover, the provisions of the said Code stipulate that the workday for minors less than 18 years should be no longer than six hours.

The State Labour Inspection Office defines priority target groups, specific regions, sectors and forms of employment. It cooperates with all parties for the application and enforcement of the relevant law. However, it rarely takes into account the age-related distinction between employees.

Labour inspectors act in compliance with strategic government policies and make an evaluation of the situation of child labour relations in different work places. They are also assigned to identify priority target groups, employed children in most need of support, and children employed in hard, less protected jobs. In absence of a specific law on child labour and employment, the 182 ILO Convention signed by our country should be complied with.

Training involving employed children, their employers and families is of special importance. This raises the need for cooperation among all stakeholders: employers, local government bodies, NGOs engaged in protection of the rights of the child, groups of experts, trade unions, health institutions, universities and so on.

Special attention should be devoted to the employment and labour of children under the specified employment age, their payment under the minimum legal limit and legal violation of the right to health and social insurance.

The regulations issued in implementation of the Labour Code should define prohibitions relating to the employment of children between 14-18 years in concrete work places and licensing by competent authorities for the employment of minors.

The government is committed to the adoption of the World Labour Organization 182 Convention 1999, *On the Worst Forms of Child Labour* and Recommendation No. 190 *On the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.

In the context of the ratification of this Convention, amendments to the Labour Code should be effected, relating to the employment criteria, rights and duties of employers, as well as liability of legal person in the event of infringements.

Furthermore, the Law on Labour Inspectorate should be revised, in view of both administrative aspects, establishing specific provisions for minors, and legal aspects, giving priority to inspection of minors' employment.

*Capacity building through training of labour inspectors* constitutes another priority, in order to equip them with the technical and professional knowledge and skills necessary to address the issue minors' employment. This training should focus on labour legislation, its further improvement, and improvement of working conditions, safety and health.

General and specific training is important as it enables a more efficient inspection of minors' work place. These programs should involve not only inspectors but also employed children, members of their families, parents, first of all, employers, and respective institutions involved in this process.

Hard working conditions, payment under legally specified limits, infringement of the right to health and social insurance should constitute the priorities of the activity of Labour Inspection Office.

The following steps should be taken to this end:

- Identification of sectors where children are employed;
- Compliance with the Labour Code and by-laws addressing their rights, working conditions, length of workday, safety, etc.
- Elimination of child labour, a long-term goal, and improvement of working conditions of children, mid- and short-term objectives.

#### **4.3 Protection of Children in Police Stations, Detention Rooms and Prisons**

Special treatment should be granted to children held in police stations and prisons. This protection should be viewed from the perspective of prohibition of physical violence against children in these institutions, taking of appropriate measures to prevent children from engaging in criminal activity, creation of proper conditions for proper education and treatment of children in detention rooms and prisons, as well as moral and social rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Importance should be attached to the training of criminal police and order officers in children's rights. Children should be treated and kept in separate places in district police stations, detention rooms and prison cells. Involvement of sociologists and psychologists to deal with children as an injured party and criminal offenders should be considered a priority of special importance for the

rehabilitation of children. Special sections of the Ministry of Public Order should focus on the issue of involvement of juveniles in criminal acts, in order to prevent juvenile delinquency.

For this purpose the following measures should be taken:

- The Government should develop a draft-law *On the System of Juvenile Justice in Albania*, to deal with the organization of the system for the sentencing, protection, care and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.
- Upon reorganization of the Ministry of Public Order, Criminal Police should set up a new office handling matters related to child and human trafficking. This office should cooperate closely with the courts. It should look at issues related to the protection of children from unlawful activity, exploitation for prostitution, pornographic materials and shows, prevention of kidnapping, use for theft or prostitution, use of drugs, alcoholic drinks, smoking, etc.
- Transition of the pre-trial detention system under the Ministry of Justice should take into account the increasing requirements for a better treatment of detained juveniles.
- The teaching curriculum of the Academy of Public Order and Police should include training topics for police officers, to acquaint them with national and international acts concerning the rights of the child, and specific treatment of juveniles as an injured party or offenders detained in police stations, detention rooms or prison cells.
- Establishment of a court for juveniles, specialized in the judgement of children and children's issues, is equally important.

#### **4.4 Children in Specific Areas of the Country: Blood Feud and Vendetta**

The process of democratic developments in Albania was accompanied with grave political, institutional, economic and psychological crises. There was a resurgence of serial killing on blood feud grounds and, consequently, self-confinement of many children in a 'prison house', dropping out of school. The situation is especially difficult in the North of the country.

Action has been taken to identify the situation, structure and geographic distribution of revenge and blood feud killing, for purposes of designing a strategy focusing on most affected areas and priority steps to be taken. Apart from identification of blood feud and revenge cases, their breaking down into *old and new cases* is also important, because the latter pose greater threat and lead to a greater number of self-confined children. Furthermore, old blood feud-related killings provided better opportunities for mediation and reconciliation.

To this end, commissions composed of village elderly have been set up, engaged in reconciliation in various districts of the country, as well as law enforcement representatives, NGOs addressing related issues, and schools, in particular. Their aim is

to go deep into the root causes of the resurgence of this phenomenon, some which include the following: inefficiency of the government bodies, large-scale and uncontrolled migration not only all over the country, but also of the population of certain districts, given the historical, political, social, cultural and psychological circumstances of that population.

The actors involved in the resolution of this issue should:

- Identify cases of blood feud and revenge killing by children and minors. According to 1997 statistics, this amounted to 6.5% of cases.
- *They should be aware of the personality of juvenile delinquents engaged in blood feud and revenge killing, and their educational background.* Therefore, the mission should coordinate its activity with schools. Surveys have identified that in most cases these perpetrators are males. A psychological and social analysis of these cases should entail the *participation of psychologists and social workers in the commission.*
- The strategy of the commission should aim at securing people's lives through a normal functioning of the government bodies, disarmament of population, education of values of tolerance and understanding, reconciliation of self-confined families, attendance of school classes by children and their education with feelings of citizenship, organization of joint activity among government bodies and NGOs against blood feud and related revenge. A number of NGOs are actually engaged in the resolution of these issues in the North of the country.
- In order to achieve this strategy, of particular importance is *organization of work in various levels, such as police, prosecution, court, etc., for the prevention of these crimes*, as well as government bodies such as Woman and Family Committee. This will enable *the conduct of more efficient activities with women and children, education of tolerance and understanding in the family and community in these areas.*

Schools and NGOs can play a special role in the work with families and at school, for the eradication of the feeling of revenge among children.

*Public information means and the media can have a positive impact on the prevention of blood feud and revenge.*

## **5. DEVELOPMENT**

### **5.1 Education**

Albanian government assesses that promotion of a good education system constitutes a prerequisite for the creation of conditions of integration in the country and further afield.

Economic, political, social and cultural developments in the last decade have imposed the necessity of reviewing the educational system, its reform, in order to ensure shaping of an individual capable of living in a democratic society, knowing and mastering fundamental values of democracy, tolerance and human solidarity, exercising his/her rights and carrying out his/her duties. In this context, a mid- and long-term strategy is designed for the development of an educational system whose main objectives are the following:

- **Normalization of the educational system;**
- **Promotion of its internal efficiency;**
- **Quality assurance and continuous improvement;**
- **Gradual integration of this system and its levels in the regional developments in the European framework.**

Albanian Government assesses that future activity of all educational institutions should focus on the achievement of a higher level of promotion, knowledge of and respect for children's rights, placing special emphasis on the four fundamental recommendations and strategies the Ministry of Education and Science should pursue for their accomplishment.

#### **a) A Quality Educational System under the Motto "Child above All"**

This is intended to improve the educational system, ensure a global and coherent treatment and meet the needs of children for modern education and shaping, adapted to the conditions of the development of the country, as well as support in multidisciplinary decision-making at ministerial level.

#### **Strategies**

- Consolidation and reform of the public educational system at the levels of preschool, elementary and high education, as well as creation of better opportunities for private alternatives of education at all levels.
- Promotion of interactive contemporary methodologies focusing on the child and its active integration through the process of individual and group research and discovery.
- Development of new curricula and improvement of existing ones across the whole undergraduate system.
- Establishment of didactic and research facilities at all levels of undergraduate education, in order to promote and encourage research and mastery of educational curricula.
- Quality assurance in teacher training universities and continuous in-service training of teachers.
- Improvement of the quality of health and psycho-pedagogical services (i.e. of physicians, social workers, psychologists and teachers) for children at all levels of the

graduate system. Setting up of counseling centers shall offer psycho-pedagogical assistance to children with problems.

- Establishment of an efficient network of educational institutions all over the country, especially in remote rural areas, by concentration of schools, for purposes of improving the quality of child teaching.
- In the context of the overall growth and poverty reduction strategy, the mid-term educational strategy shall offer children from poor families the following:
  - text-books and teaching materials;
  - clothing and a meal.
- **Preschool education shall have the following objectives for the next five years:**
  - to achieve attendance of public preschool institutions by 50% of children 3-5 years, enable and promote alternative education through the establishment of private kindergartens and curricula for the education of children at home.
- **Elementary education shall have the following objectives:**
  - an administrative restructuring of elementary education separating lower primary education from 8-year education, in order to enable teaching in the morning of lower elementary education pupils and ensure greater flexibility of the teaching and educational process;
  - decrease in the drop-out rate to insignificant figures;
  - meeting the needs for special education, improvement of conditions for the conduct of classes, training of teaching staff, implementation of advanced educational methodologies;
  - improvement in the level of teacher training in general and training of those lacking adequate schooling in particular, up to the latter's gradual replacement;
  - education of children in need and experiencing social hardships (children confined at home for fear of revenge killing, neglected children, etc.)
- **High education shall have the following objectives:**
  - extension of high vocational education all over the country, in order to better respond to the needs for an adequate education of students according to their individual skills and aptitude, and labour market and higher education demands;
  - a 2% annual increase in the attendance of high education by pupils completing elementary education;
  - development of legal documentation for the autonomy of high schools in curriculum design, administration and funding;
  - a change in the ratio of students completing general education and vocational education from 85% by 15% to 70% by 30% in favour of vocational training, in order

to respond to labour market demands and ensure an adequate training of students for life;

#### **b) Efficient information system**

The aim is to ensure an elaborate, reliable and comparative information system (based on age and sex). It would enable identification of the children's level of education and various socio-economic problems, which will then condition priorities of political intervention in education.

#### **Strategies**

- Incorporation in the school curriculum of preschool, elementary and high education of concepts relating to the protection of children's rights:
  - preschool and lower elementary education should deal with the experiences related to socially acceptable and non-violent conduct, and respect for others in the class context;
  - upper elementary and high education levels, especially such subjects as history, geography, civic education, sociology, language, literature, economic sciences should deal with more abstract human rights concepts, including knowledge and understanding of philosophical, political and legal concepts.
- Knowledge and study of human rights in school shall aim at a mastery of basic concepts of law, equality, freedom, peace, human dignity and democracy.
- Teacher training university curricula shall incorporate the study of main human rights conventions and documents, and knowledge about international organizations covering protection and promotion of human rights.
- In-service training of teachers shall enable knowledge and mastery of up to date pedagogical practices covering human rights issues through adequate methods and literature.

#### **5.2 Recreation, Leisure and Cultural Events**

Children's free time should be considered in view of contemporary practices combining play, relaxation and learning, in order to avoid watching TV for too many hours. On the other hand, this calls for more space for playgrounds and parks. Lack of relaxing and entertainment space should be everybody's concern. Creation of recreational public and private facilities, cultural centers and sports ground in schools is indispensable.

For this purpose:

- Apart from increasing the budget share and investment to this end, the Government should promote any private or NGO initiative for the improvement of facilities contributing to the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of children.
- The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports should design policies for the creation of a new mentality in this direction, especially voluntary education of children by youth.
- NGOs addressing children's issues should play a positive role in the voluntary education of children. They should build new communication bridges between children and youth.

## **6. PARTICIPATION**

It aims at ensuring effective and conscientious participation of children in decision-making, according to their capacities at all levels of education and at a local and central level.

### **Strategies**

- Completion of the legal framework concerning education with special provisions enshrining the right of children to participate in decision-making related to the teaching process, school and out of school activities, and definition of instruments and modalities that shall enable participation in:
  - information and decision-making along with the pedagogical staff;
  - taking over responsibilities in addressing issues related to them, school, community and families;
  - practice of forms of delegation and representation;
  - participation in school boards.
- Development of programs and projects at school, regional and national levels, in order to train children how to integrate in the life of democratic society, enable them to practice their rights and responsibilities, lead political and economic life of the country (i.e. a further extension of the "students' senate").
- Promotion of programs designed to train children for life through cooperation of schools with other social institutions. Children shall enjoy the benefit of cooperating with:
  - Families, through effective participation of parents' community;
  - local community, through the latter's voluntary participation in the life of schools and children;
  - social and political institutions, through the organization of discussions with public officials, visits in public local and national institutions, as well as organization of out of school events;
  - world of culture, through active participation in social, artistic, scientific and sports events.

The right of children to have their voice on their own issues is a human right. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child reinforces it.

Now students' senates and parliaments are set up in high schools. Their organization into a network shall make students' participation more efficient because it shall involve most of the students. Creation of this network shall lead to a better coordination of work between schools and children, and promote students' say and the messages.

Special attention should be paid to the promotion of students' participation at a local and national level, so that they may exercise their right to play an active role in the society. Participation of children should be viewed as closely linked with their participation in activities organized by the school, community and Government. Children's voice should be heard at a local and national level in respect of all decisions impacting their lives.

- *Establishment of offices for children in municipalities and communes would enable a fair hearing of children's opinions and promote their participation.* Creation of Children's Clubs should be made at school, municipal and communal level.

The Ministry of Education and Science has the following objective:

- Completion of the legal framework concerning education with special provisions enshrining the right of children to participate in decision-making related to the teaching process, school and out of school activities, and definition of instruments and modalities that shall enable participation in:
  - information and decision-making along with the pedagogical staff;
  - taking over responsibilities in addressing issues related to them, school, community and families;
  - practice of forms of delegation and representation;
  - participation in school boards.
- Development of programs and projects at school, regional and national levels, designed to train children to integrate in the life of democratic society, enable them to practice their rights and responsibilities, lead the political and economic life of the country (i.e. a further extension of the "students' senate").
- Promotion of programs designed to train children for life, through cooperation of schools with other social institutions:
  - a) families, through effective participation of parents' community;
  - b) local community, through the latter's voluntary participation in the life of schools and children;
  - c) social and political institutions, through the organization of discussions with public officials, visits in public local and national institutions, as well as organization of out of school events;

- d) cultural institutions, through active participation in social, artistic, scientific and sports events.
- Apart from this, efforts should be made to change the social mentality, in order to recognize *the right of children to participate in all decision-making in the community and family*, and consider it inalienable. This is a long-term goal because it cannot be achieved through improvements in the legislation only. It also calls for a mobilization and progress of NGOs and society at large.

**PLAN OF ACTION  
OF ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN**

- ◆ Conduct by the Council of Ministers of an annual analysis of social issues related to children and definition of objectives of social structures of social care. Albanian Government, annually.
- ◆ Implementation of this Plan of Action shall be funded from state budget (line Ministries) and related projects funded by various donors interested in the improvement of the situation of children.

**SURVIVAL**

1. Decrease in mother mortality under 10 per 100,000 live births;
2. Decrease in infantile mortality under 10 per 1,000 live births;
3. Decrease in the incidence of anemia from lack of iron in pregnant women from 45% under 25%;
4. Vaccination coverage of over 95% of children (use of effective vaccines, complete immunization, proper and timely application of its schemes, cold chain, etc.);
5. Achievement of breast-feeding of 4-6 month infants by 90% of mothers and up to one year-old infants by 60% of mothers;
6. 50% decrease of deaths from diarrheic diseases among children under 5 years of age;
7. 30% decrease in deaths from acute respiratory diseases among children under 5 and a decrease of the incidence of these diseases to 15%;
8. 50% decrease in severe and less severe malnutrition among children up to 5 years old;
9. Improvement of coverage of pregnancy by health care staff to 90% of cases, and conduct of four examinations in the course of pregnancy of 90% of pregnant women;
10. Increase in the percentage of deliveries under qualified medical assistance in up to 95% of cases;
11. Increase to 95% in the number of children up to 3 years of age benefiting primary health care services at regular intervals;  
Points 1-10: Ministry of Health, 2001-2010
12. Adoption of the Family Code  
Ministry of Justice, June 2001
13. Preparation of the draft-law on the Civil Status  
Ministry of Justice, June 2001
14. Preparation of the draft-law on some amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code  
Ministry of Justice, 2002

15. Signing of two Optional Protocols to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and CE Convention On the Enforcement of the Rights of the Child  
Ministry of Justice, 2002
16. Transfer of the pretrial-detention system under the Ministry of Justice and increase in the requirements for the treatment of detained juveniles by specialized officers.  
Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Public Order, 2002-2003
17. Setting up of a special institution for convicted minors to serve their sentence;  
Ministry of Justice, 2001-2003
18. Revision of laws covering problems of orphaned children: Adoption Law and Council of Minister's Decision No. 510 *On the Criteria for the Placement in Social Care Institutions*;  
Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs 2001
19. Specialization of the educational sector and incorporation of social workers in prisons for minors;  
Ministry of Justice, 2003-2005
20. Training of judges who shall handle cases of minors in the special sections that shall be set up;  
Ministry of Justice, 2001-2005
21. Setting up of an educational institution for juvenile committing slight offences;  
Ministry of Justice
22. Establishment of offices for minor and human trafficking in the departments of the Criminal Police of the Ministry of Public Order and in 12 Police Departments in Circles.  
Ministry of Public Order
23. Setting up of the reception center for unaccompanied minor migrants.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as funded by the counterpart Italian Ministry, 2001.
24. National center for the monitoring of the activity of institutions dealing with (physically and mentally) handicapped children.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, APNSHS, Dokita Association, 2001.
25. Decentralization of social service for child orphans in smaller institutions and closer to family life.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, APNSHS, World Bank.
26. Conclusion of the pilot project on custody for children in need and adoption of the law On Child Custody in the Republic of Albania.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, APNSHS, non-governmental organizations addressing children's issues, (European Children's Trust).
27. Gradual annual increase in the social fund and its allocation with the local government according to needs as identified by APNSHS.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Local Government, 2002.
28. Adoption of concrete measures towards awareness-raising and guaranteeing safeguarding of children's rights while traveling on a vehicle, obligation of parents and drivers to have special seats for minors while on vehicles.  
Ministry of Transport and related NGOs.

## PROTECTION

1. Incorporation in the curricula of the Academy of Public Order and Police Institute of topics and courses devoted to recognition of and respect for the Human Rights Convention and Convention on the Rights of the Child.  
Ministry of Public Order, 2002.
2. Design of programs for the special training of labour inspectors, employers and families of employed children.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Institute of Employment Services, IES).
3. Adoption of concrete measures for the prevention of hard work by children and improvement of working conditions.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (IES).
4. Establishment of a multisector committee with representatives from all agencies dealing with child employment issues.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (IES).
5. Design of programs for pediatric hospitals for a professional treatment of abused children, their rehabilitation and relevant training of physicians.  
Ministry of Health.
6. Planning of training of parents, and teachers in knowledge of children's rights.  
Ministry of Education and Science, related NGOs.
7. Planning of undertaking sociological studies on children's issues and their families.  
Pedagogical Institute, Faculty of Social Sciences, MoES.
8. Printing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and dissemination to all pupils of elementary education and children's rights specialists and institutions.  
Woman and Family Committee.
9. Conduct of public debate in written and electronic media round issues related to the protection of children's rights.  
MoES, Woman and Family Committee, children's rights NGOs.
10. Conclusion of "Emmanuel" Project as a specialized center of psychological treatment of juvenile drug and alcohol users.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (APNSHS), Ministry of Local Government, Emmanuel Community 2001.
11. Adoption of the Law *On the Activity of NGOs in the Republic of Albania*.  
Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2001.
12. Establishment of municipal and communal structures for the management of social institutions covering child orphans, poor and handicapped children.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (APNSHS), Ministry of Local Government, 2001.
13. Gradual replacement of Children's Homes (residences accomodatin agreat number of children) with smaller-sized institutions such as Family Home, SOS villages, etc.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (APNSHS), Ministry of Local Government, NGOs, 2001-2002.

14. In compliance with the Stockholm Action Agenda, design of a national program to combat sexual abuse of minors, for purposes of prevention, protection, treatment and care, and regional cooperation.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, MoES, Woman and Family Committee, 2001.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

1. Study of demographic distribution and development of a complete program for elementary education.  
Ministry of Education and Science, 2001.
2. Study of the concentration of elementary education schools in rural areas (pilot project).  
Ministry of Education and Science, related NGOs, 2001-2003.
3. Improvement of the didactic facilities and equipment for kindergartens and schools.  
Ministry of Education and Science, related NGOs, 2001-2003.
4. Construction and renovation of lower level elementary education schools.  
Ministry of Education and Science, 2001-2003.
5. Construction or adaptation of facilities for dormitories close to lower level elementary education schools in remote areas in order to improve attendance and combat illiteracy.  
Ministry of Education and Science, NGOs, 2001-2003.
6. A study relating to the strategy for the training of teachers and administrative staff.  
Ministry of Education and Science, 2001-2003.
7. Establishment of agencies for children.  
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.
8. Organization of sports championships among elementary and high education schools.  
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, MoES.
9. Establishment and enrichment of school libraries.  
MoES, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.
10. Organization of national child song festivals.  
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.
11. Transformation of school premises and grounds in recreational facilities for children after lessons.  
MoES, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.
12. Creation of a data base to address concrete problems of education and improvement of curricula through:
  - quality and universal training;
  - training of teachers lacking full academic training;
  - in-service training of teachers;
  - enhancement of parent's participation in solving school problems.Ministry of Education and Science, INSTAT (Institute of Statistics).
13. Creation of a quality educational system (child above everything else) in view of:

- infrastructure, content;
  - teaching and learning standards;
- Ministry of Education and Science
14. Establishment of an efficient information system containing:
    - educational data (MoES);
    - social data (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, INSTAT);
    - economic data (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Trade, INSTAT);
    - cultural data (Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports);
    - coordination (Woman and Family Committee).
  15. Education for all:
    - inclusion of vulnerable groups in education (ethnic groups, children with problems, in prisons, Roma, self-confined, drug and alcohol users, trafficked, affected by war and armed conflicts, etc.);
    - incorporation of illiterate adults;
    - education of illiterate girls.
  16. Strengthening of existing structure to monitor implementation of the National Strategy for Children by writing reports to the Government for this purpose or establishment of a new structure to this end.  
 Woman and Child Committee, MoES, Local Educational Departments, Institute of Pedagogical Studies, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, parents' committees.
  17. Development of modules relating to the knowledge of the main human rights documents and instruments ensuring their implementation, in all teacher training universities.  
 Ministry of Education and Science, 2001-2003.
  18. Training of about 800 inspectors and teachers for the experimentation of integrated curricula of civic and human rights education.  
 Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with UNESCO, 2002-2003.
  19. Analysis of the existing curriculum of civic education and extracurricular human rights experiences.  
 Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with UNESCO, 2001-2002.
  20. Design of integrated human rights curricula, training modules of democratic citizenship and human rights, manuals for high education teachers and provision of didactic equipment.  
 Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with UNESCO, 2002.
  21. Experimentation of integrated curricula and teacher's manuals.  
 Ministry of Education and Science, 2003.
  22. Extension of social service delivery for children to the community and empowerment of local government in this direction.  
 Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (APNSHS), World Bank, Local Government (2001-2005).
  23. Establishment of child daily centers as proper institutions of psycho-social education.  
 Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (APNSHS), Town Halls and communes, 2001.

24. Establishment of residential centers for counseling and training of parents of children with specific social problems.  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (APNSHS), Town Halls and communes, NGOs, 2001-2002.
25. Employment of social workers in institutions dealing with children such as schools, prisons, health institutions, etc.  
Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, 2001-2002.

## **PARTICIPATION**

1. Organization on a national scale of the network of student's senates, coordination of their activity and creation of their database system.  
Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Youth Council.
2. Publication of the regulation of the Ministry of Education and Science on the functioning of students' senates.
3. Various activities (seminars, round tables, TV debates, publications intended to make Albanian society aware that participation of children in decision-making in the family, schools and society is a human right which has an impact on the democratization of the society at large).  
Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Woman and Child Committee, children's rights NGOs.

### CAUSES OF MORTALITY IN PERCENTAGE (1991-1999)

YEARS	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Respiratory diseases</b>	39.4	41.5	42.5	37.7	34.8	30.9	33.3	30.3	27.2
<b>Gastro-intest. diseases</b>	10.5	9.4	11.1	13.1	7.7	8.0	9.3	8.8	5.5
<b>Congenital anomalies</b>	11.0	11.1	10.9	13.3	19.8	22.6	23.9	20.3	28.9
<b>New-born disease</b>	10.0	8.5	7.9	7.4	9.9	10.5	10.3	13.6	14.6
<b>No diagnosis</b>	9.2	5.3	7.3	8.7	8.5	9.5	7.9	8.5	4.0
<b>Infectious diseases</b>	4.5	5.2	5.4	4.5	4.9	6	5.9	4.5	3.7

### NEONATAL AND PRENATAL MORTALITY (1990-1999)

Year	Number of births	Mortality in 0-28 days (%0)	Prenatal mortality %0
<b>1990</b>	82 177	(8.6)	12.5
<b>1991</b>	77 361	(8.3)	14.1
<b>1992</b>	73 602	(8.5)	11.5
<b>1993</b>	71 079	(9.0)	11.2
<b>1994</b>	71 421	(11.4)	14.6
<b>1995</b>	72 081	(11.3)	13.4
<b>1996</b>	68 352	(10.8)	14.4
<b>1997</b>	61 746	(10.5)	15.2
<b>1998</b>	...59 307	(9.8)	14.3
<b>1999</b>	54 609	(9.5)	13.4

**(Chart 1) Number of children, pupils and university students  
(1990-2000)**

**Total**  
**Preschool education**  
**Elementary education**  
**High education**  
**Higher education**

**Table 1: Number of pupils attending elementary education  
(in thousands)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>No. of pupils</b>	557	540	526	536	551	558	561	559	553	544	535

**Chart 2: Number of dropouts (1990-1999)**

**Number of pupils who dropped out of school**  
**3-D Column 2**  
**3-D Column 3**

**Table 2: Number of students attending high education  
(by thousands)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>No. of pupils</b>	206	147	116	103	94	90	93	99	102	103	107

**Table 3: Level of education according to age-group  
(in %)**

Age group	1990	1994	1997	1998	1999	Of these	
						M	F
3-5 year-old children in kindergartens	57	37	36	37	38	35	37
6-13 year-old pupils in elementary education	100	97	96	91	89	97	94
14-17 year-old pupils attending high education	79	40	39	43	43	42	36

## MAIN INDICATORS OF CHILD HEALTH

### Infant mortality per 1000 live births

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
%0	25.1	31.2	32.8	35	35.7	29.9	25.8	22.5	20.5	17.5

### Mother mortality per 100 000 live births

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
%000	37.7	29.7	25.1	22.8	40.6	28.5	24.5	27.5	20.5	16.5

**Chart: Mother mortality per 100 000 live births per year**

*Source: Ministry of Health, Statistics Department*