

THE ASSOCIATION OF PARAPLEGICS,  
AND OTHER DISABLED PERSONS IN DOBOJ AREA  
INFANTILE PARALYSIS PATIENTS

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#### THE MISSION

The Association of Paraplegics, Infantile Paralysis Patients, and other Disabled Persons in the Doboj area is an organisation that, through its public campaigns and partnership established with the local authorities and institutions, deals in a systematic manner with solving the problems of the disabled persons in the Doboj area as well as in the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina, wanting to help them improve their conditions of living and integrate into a larger social environment.

Our strength lies in our humanitarian and outgoing approach, our tolerance and determination to help our own selves and others too. The Association of Paraplegics, Infantile Paralysis Patients and other Disabled Persons in the Doboj area is a non-governmental humanitarian organisation that applies a systematic approach towards implementing its programme objectives – the improvement of the Association members' conditions of living and working and their integration into the community.

The Association existed before the war too, but with the war breaking out all the Association's activities were aborted. Initiated by the RS Society of Paraplegics, the Association was reregistered on 8 December 1997 and has been working since then in the area of Doboj, covering the following municipalities: Doboj, Derventa, Samac, Petrovo, Teslic, Srpski Brod, Modrica and Vukosavlje.

Association is open for any relation with all other NGOs in the territory of BIH as well as abroad.

OUR IMMEDIATE users are the members of the Association who suffer from paraplegia, in all the strains of the disease, as well as of cerebral and infantile paralysis, including other forms of physical disability affecting walking. The indirect users are the members of their families. We have 296 members registered so far, the number not completed. The users' needs are indeed big, most important among them being: the right to have access, education, job, social security and proper health care, services and personal assistance, and orthopedic requisits too. IT WAS without office, telephone, or financial means and equipment that our Association had begun working. The only thing we did have was enthusiasm and desire to start achieving our programme objectives. Encouraged with a room, however unsuitable, we got for our work, we launched into our first projects and started making contacts and establishing co-operation with international humanitarian organisations. The first project approved gave us strength and guidances to carry on volunteering and putting even greater enthusiasm in our work.

WE MADE plans for our activities, which helped us implement some projects, with the following results:

- The Association's headquarters in Doboj is now equipped with office furniture and appliances – we have telephone, a fax, a computer with printer and Internet connection, copying machine and a projector;
- The branch offices (Derventa, Samac and Teslic) are equipped with a computer with printer and Internet connection;
- We have machines and tools for making picture frames;
- In coalition with the humanitarian organisation of PRO TEMPORE, we have the cleaning machines ( 2 "Rainbow" and 2 "Cleansy") for cleaning and washing carpets and stuffed furniture;
- We trained 28 members for independent computer work;
- In coalition with the Doboj Association of Dystrophy Patients we opened an atelier for our members to express themselves in painting;
- The office of the Creative Work Group has office furniture, a telephone, a fax, and a computer with printer.

We trained 13 members for:

- painting on glass
- making picture frames
- making decorative pieces in clay (terra cotta)

In coalition with Doboj Association of Dystrophy Patients we organised an exhibition of our members' art works. Our members received:

- 12 wheelchairs for adult persons

- 4 wheelchairs for children
- 10 special, wheelchair cushions
- 8 apparatuses with walk-supports for children affected by cerebral paralysis

The Association is getting stronger in its organisation, this being achieved on the basis of ISP (*Integrated Support Package*) and supported by America Development Fund (ADF);

The Association has 6 employees.

Training and seminars organised by our donors have important role in our work: We took an active part in all of them, and that helped us gain new experiences and skills. We have the Managing Board as well as the Executive Board members trained, together with a number of volunteers.

OUR Association' s long-term priorities are:

- a suitable working area, as a permanent solution;
- an organised and coordinate approach towards the law-enforcing and executive authorities in RS and BIH, when it comes to promoting and accepting a social model of invalidity;
- establish and implement our members' status in social, economic, cltural, and sports activities;
- educate and train disabled persons for jobs in an open social environment;
- secure a permanent source of funding;
- establish a good co-operation – partnership with authorities, institutions, business sector, donors and other local and international organisations;
- work systematically to remove architectural barriers by means of public campaigns the goal of which would be to make alternations and amendments in the law and regulations on public buildings and urban establishment;
- have disabled persons involved in the process of making decisions that concern their own affairs establish sub-offices in Modrica, Brod, Vukosavlje, and Petrovo, and have them equipped to function properly; \* train personal assistents and establish helping services;
- increase the number of employees.

The Association of Paraplegics, Infatile Paralysis Patients and other Disabled Persons of Doboj area is expressing the gratitude for the results achieved thanks to:

International humanitarian organisations – donors;

Local authorities and institutions in Doboj, Derвента, Samac and Teslic

Working organisations All the good people who supported our work Our own contribution to having our programme objectives implemented is best seen in:

volunteering  
enthsusiasm  
openess towards co-operating with others  
massive response  
humane approach.

The Project Impelmentation was made possible by the support of the following international and local organisations:

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