Bosnia and Herzegovina
Preschool institution “Dandelion”
Floods 2014

• 60 % of children from Bosnia and Herzegovina were affected by catastrophic floods in May 2014.
• Preschool children from Banja Luka town decided to organize humanitarian preschool aid and fund raising events for preschool institutions that were destroyed during floods.
• Ethno doll workshops for children and parents were developed across Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a result of preschool altruism.
Floods: Nikola, age 5
Floods: Aleksa, age 4
Floods: Vasilije, age 4
Floods: Iskra, age 4
Natural disaster
Preschool thoughts

• “Natural disaster is when all plants go down and fade.”
  Zana, age 5.5.

• “Natural disaster happens when plants do not bloom and there are no berries. And we can’t live – because there are no berries.”
  Teo, 5.5

• “You can’t cook during floods because water is dirty.”
  Sara, 6

• “Thunder storm can burn forest – and you have no more oxygen.”
  Irinej, 5.5
Preschool institution Doboj

Many preschool children from Doboj and Bijeljina towns could not play anymore at their preschool institutions because they were destroyed in floods.
Preschool Altruistic Activism

- TV show for children
- Preschool Humanitarian aid
- Fair for children and family – Exhibition and Fund Raising Event (preschool works of art)
- Bijeljina and Doboj towns, visit
- Ethno Doll Workshops for parents and children
TV show for children, theme Altruism
Message was sent to the world of adults
With their soul, effort and love - preschool children showed that they were able to help.
Fund Raising Activities
Children age 3 - 6 from seven preschool institutions from Banja Luka town + teachers + parents decided to organize humanitarian preschool aid
Preschool works of art
Price: 0.50 EUR
Raised: 250 EUR
Preschool Altruistic Strategy
Banja Luka Preschoolers for Doboj Preschoolers
Association of private preschool institutions Banja Luka
Fair for children
Play and Resilience
World OMEP

What age group(s) is it intended for?
What kind(s) of play does it focus on?
• √ 3-6 years
• √ Self-directed play
• √ Exploratory play
• √ Structured play
In which setting can it be conducted?

- √ Formalized early childhood education centers
- √ Informal or home-based settings
- √ Low-resourced settings
- √ Community-based settings

Which of the following components of resilience can this project enhance?

- √ Competence (ability to handle situations effectively)
- √ Confidence (belief in one’s own abilities)
- √ Connection (close ties to family, friends, school, and community)
- √ Contribution (understanding of the importance of personal contribution)
- √ Coping (ability to cope effectively with stress)
Play and Resilience
Media activities

• The main aim of this humanitarian action was to send a message into the world of adults – importance of altruism.
• An impact was so strong that preschool art works were presented during prime time news, Alternative television Banja Luka.
• During preschool humanitarian aid, Radio Television of Republic of Srpska invited us to record two themes: TV show for children “Nidzo Radoznalac” and TV show 7 in 1.
Play and Resilience

- Play and resilience project enhanced positive social emotional development in early childhood:
  - by helping others we were becoming a better person
  - by sharing with those who did not have enough
  - by educating adults to think and re-think about importance of true friendship.
- Children with special needs also had an opportunity to help other children in need, which in turn enhanced their positive self image – children with special needs could actually help, not only received help from the others.
Ethno Doll Workshop

Doll has a Heart and a Soul
Individual play
Play in pairs / Group play
Group presentation – how to make a doll?
Doll Workshop
Age 2
Connection/ Confidence/ Connection/ Competence
Ethno Doll Workshop

• After catastrophic floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014 it was extremely important for children and parents to focus on play

• During Ethno doll workshops, parents with the guidance of teachers (* connection) discovered their inner potentials (ability to make a doll / toy from old coat = *confidence) during days when almost all toys were destroyed in dirty water/ rivers.

• These workshops helped parents and preschool children (*connection) to cope effectively with stress after the floods (*competence)
Doll Workshop
Age 3
Doll Workshop
Age 4 - 6
How to use the play materials?
Ethno Doll Workshop:
Creative drama/ Action stories
Talk to a doll: Day of Secret (trauma/ fears during floods)
Theatre for children
Therapeutic stories: Stories that hide black clouds
Ethno doll workshops

• Characters of dolls / roles were associated with the forgotten professions at the ethno village such as shepards, blacksmith,embroiderers (preservation of culture and language through activities and resources)

• Participation of parents were highly appreciated since Ethno doll workshops included activities in pairs (mother and son / daughter, connection / attachment between mother and son / daughter was enriched).
Materials **easily made** by teachers and parents, even by children. 
Textiles, sponge, old socks, buttons, wool, wooden sticks, an old umbrella, plastic spoons, plastic bottles, bags, gloves, old tights. 

Resources were very cheap and **available** (even after the floods)
How can the play enhance the resilience of children? What other results does it bring?

- Ethno doll workshop as a motivational and fun place for play, where preschool children do not think about consequences of floods and were not afraid, but relaxed.
- Play and Resilience project enabled children to continue learning and developing during and after the emergency situation.
Ethno Doll workshops were helpful to parents who were highly stressed.
Doll and Play

• Preschool children gladly accepted a doll like a well-known friend who was following them since the beginning of life.
• Teacher could discover creativity and imagination; doll opened new roads of learning and cooperation with children, developed team energy and raised ecological awareness among preschool children.
• Children could sing with a doll, made jokes or painted a theatre curtain for a doll.
• We could talk about doll and puppetry as motivational, therapeutical and educational means. Preschool children were more open to discussing their trauma situations while playing with a doll/ making a doll. By using a doll preschoolers developed responsibility – a care for others.
• Doll also promoted language development
Doll needed only a voice + gesture = soul.
... Not Forget to Play ...

Our books, baby beds, linens, towels, diapers, clothes, boots, socks, milk, rice, flour, oil, sugar, water, soap, toys and chocolates are ready!

Boxes are travelling to Bijeljina to 3 preschool institutions...
It is important to motivate adults to help...
Humanitarian Aid

- Preschool children from Banja Luka town understood that they could help children in need from Bijeljina and Doboj town.
- (* contribution – altruism during floods) by sending their “pieces of every day life” – a toy / food / a picture book as universal mean of love.
• “To my little friends with hope they will forget hard times through the play.”
Preschool Donation:
rubber boots, beds, pillows, diapers, food, books and toys
Recognition of universal values in life

Adults can learn from children about readiness to help, share and play
Heading to Bijeljina town
Banja Luka children to Bijeljina children
Bijeljina visit
Bijeljina
Humanitarian Aid arrived
Roads are leading to Japan or China ...
Video links
Flooding 2014

- Floods 2014 - Humanitarian Preschool Soul – Not Forget To Play
- Doboj Town, Yellow Boots – Central Info, Alternative Television
- Works of art – Igor Pozgaj, journalist
- An Inspirational act – Mr. Igor Pozgaj, journalist of Alternative television inspired preschool children to share their rubber boots with their friends from flooded areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Audio/ Video recording:
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nU0V1I3obE&list=RDnU0V1I3obE
- Dino Merlin – Rose
- Svako ima nekog da mu ruke pruza – Everyone has someone to give him a hand
• www.vrticmaslacak.com
• Banja Luka
• Bosnia and Herzegovina
Thank you for your attention