



## **2008 REPORT ON THE SD SERBIA PROJECT SCHOOL WITHOUT VIOLENCE**

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November 2008

The primary school "1st October" in Botos is located in the Municipality of Zrenjanin. It has 172 schoolchildren, out of which 9 children have special needs. In the application for the programme "School without Violence," the school reported frequent incidents of violence among children within the school and also violent behavior within the families. The main objective for implementation of this UNICEF programme is to change behavior and reduce tolerance to violent behavior among children.

The following children's statements reflect their expectations and hopes for change that will occur from this programme:

"If our school manages to implement this programme, there will be more good students", Grade 4 student.

"Stronger students beat weaker students, and then, weaker students beat the younger", Grade 3 student.

"This programme will enable me to love my breaks within classes", Grade 6 student.

"In order to make friends, not to accuse each other", Grade 8 student.

"In order to feel good at school, not to be afraid of older students", 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade student.

"I would like to have my peaceful school meal", 4<sup>th</sup> Grade student.

"I would like to go to the toilet without any fear", Grade 6 student.

The survey on the frequency and types of violence among teachers and children in the school was conducted on the 13 and 14 November. All the employees of the school agreed to complete the survey and fully participate in the first meeting with the programme mentor. All the students from third to eight grade completed the survey and demonstrated interest in the subject. The survey results are currently with the Institute for Psychology at the Belgrade University and the final results are expected to arrive mid-December.

The mentor has visited the school several times and has completed several workshops with the teachers and the school team. The school team suggested that all the grades should conduct the specific course with the cartoon called "That's unfair". They confirmed that this cartoon will be the best method to sensitize the pupils to the problems that exist in the school. It contains the topics that are close to the children.

During the first training with the students, it was noted that they are aware of the problems related to violence, but they expect someone else to resolve the problems for them. The teachers were present at the training and they liked the working methodology. All the participants agreed to start with the workshop that includes the cartoon.

Members of Susila Dharma Serbia who were presented and active in the process of the survey will be involved in the presentation to the school staff and parents and the programme evaluation.

The next workshop is planned for the second week of December when the school team will be trained on how to set the rules and facilitate restitution.