

**Montenegro**  
**Information on**  
**the protection of the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Lessons learned from the experience of implementing the MDGs

Montenegro undertook the obligation to fully implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Government of Montenegro has continuously monitored and regularly reported on achieved progress in realizing these commitments. A number of periodic and regular annual reports on implementation of MDGs have been prepared. Reports on implementation of MDGs included assessment, as well as recommendations for accelerating progress in implementing MDGs. Millennium Development Goals have been adapted to the national context in 2010.

Through the analyses of specific global goals and MDGs indicators relevant for national development priorities, the following nationalized goals relevant for the protection of the rights of the child, have been defined, together with appropriate tasks, targets and indicators:

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

1. Achieve coverage with pre-school education of girls and boys at a level of 40% by 2015;
2. Achieve 100% coverage by elementary education for boys and girls by 2015;
3. Reduce the illiteracy rate of children above the age of 10 to 1%

MDG 4: Reduce child mortality rates

1. Reduce the infant and mortality rate for children up to 5 years of age;
2. Immunization of all 1-year old children;
3. Reduce the accident death rates for children aged 0-4

While adapting global goals to the national context, particular attention was paid that selected targets and indicators are reflective of the achieved level of development in the country as well as of priorities and aspirations for the future. Nationalized MDGs have been considered and taken into account when adopting regulations, policies, plans and programs. This has resulted in a high level of MDGs integration in the sectoral policies. The so far MDG reports showed these goals were compatible with the national framework strategic documents as well as with priorities of the process of acceding to the European Union (EU). In addition, it was assessed that MDGs have acted as an impetus for the implementation of adopted policies and strategies.

According to the fifth and final annual report on implementation of MDGs for 2015, including above-mentioned specific goals and targets related to the protection of the rights of the child, MDG 2 – universal primary education has been almost fully achieved in Montenegro. An important success was accomplished, where positive trends were recorded and where figures on coverage of preschool and elementary education came very close to targeted values. In particular, enrolment of girls and boys in pre-school education in 2015-2016 is 37,69%, while primary education enrolment rate is 98,14 % and primary school completion rate is 97,35%. Illiteracy rate of children above the age of 10 has been reduced below 1%.

The report indicates that MDG 4 - Reduce child mortality, has been partially achieved. Targets related to reducing infant and under-five mortality rate, as well as accident death rate for children aged 0-4 have been fully achieved, while vaccination rate of all 1-year old children has decreased.

#### Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development while ensuring the protection of the rights of all children

Montenegro is one of the first countries in the world that started the process of integration of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs into the national framework. Government of Montenegro adopted the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) until 2030 in July 2016. In preparing the NSSD, SDGs have been considered in detail and transposed into the national sustainable goals in line with national priorities. NSSD goals by 2030 encompass all development issues that were addressed under MDGs. The Strategy also envisages continued monitoring of all the MDG indicators. Continuity in addressing the MDG topics has been thus ensured at the level of strategic planning, and an opportunity created to complete the MDGs tasks where targets had not been achieved by the end of 2015 through the NSSD implementation.

National Strategy defines principles, strategic goals and measures for achieving long-term sustainable development of Montenegro through sustainable governance of four groups of national resources - human capital, social capital and values, natural capital and economic capital. In this way, NSSD emphasizes cross-sectoral approach in the process of implementation and stress the need for functional integration of all dimensions of sustainability of national development.

NSSD represents a comprehensive framework for the national response to the challenges on the path to sustainable development of the Montenegrin society by 2030, while taking into account requirements in the process of accession of Montenegro to the EU. In this context, the NSSD also sets the platform for translating Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030 and SDGs into the national policies and programmes.

In defining the NSSD and its Action Plan, greater attention has been given to the protection of the rights of the child. This issue has been addressed in several thematic areas of the NSSD, namely demographic resources, health, education and skills, employability and social cohesion etc. while concrete actions for improving the situation of children in Montenegro have been defined in the Action Plan for the implementation of NSSD by 2030.

Implementation of these activities should foster achieving SDGs related to the protection of the rights of the child, i.e. SDG1, SDG2, SDG3, SDG4, SDG5, SDG8, SDG10, SDG 11, SDG16, SDG17. This would help building democratic and inclusive society of Montenegro that fully respects, protects and fulfils children's rights through the implementation of the relevant programmes and projects, rule of law, and government transparency and accountability.