



**Arab Orthodox Christian Community
Romania**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR CHILDREN
(DPAC)**

ACTIVITY REPORT

**Școala Gimnazială Nr.3 (Gymnasium School No. 3), Vânătorii Mari,
Giurgiu County**

26 November, 2012

Activity 1

Theme: *"Stop Violence Against Children"*

Venue: Școala Gimnazială Nr.3, Vânătorii Mari, Giurgiu County

Date: 26 November, 2012

Participants:

- 1) 15 children (aged between 10 and 13 years old), grade IV and VI
- 2) three adults (two teachers and one facilitator)

Facilitator:

Diana Zotea

Activities:

1. Short film on Domestic Violence Against Children
2. DPAC presentation
3. Drawings
4. Prayer

Activity description

On November 26th 2012, "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children" was celebrated by 15 children (aged between 10 and 13 years old) from "Mihai Eminescu"

School (Vanatorii Mari - Giurgiu county), together with the Arab Orthodox Community in Romania.

The activities of the celebration of this day were focused on the following aspects:

- violence in schools;
- violence on playgrounds;
- violence in family;
- physical and psychological abuses against children.

The celebration started with a short film on domestic violence against children, showing children as victims of different forms of violence. Further, the children received special flyers prepared specially to describe the significance and the importance of such theme adopted by DPAC for the current circle. A power point presentation on the "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children" took place by the facilitator. During the activity a scrolling slideshow representing pictures of victims of violence has been used.

During the activity, the participants made different drawings expressing their vision regarding the general theme. This gave them a space to write different messages on their drawings, such as: "Children do not hurt each other, they love each other", "Don't take my Childhood away" or "Set the Children free". The drawings raised the attention of the children to some violent cases from their own life experience (school or playground).

At the end, the participants lighted candles, kept a short moment of silence and prayer for children of the world who are suffering as victims of violence.

Outcomes

A. Participants

The children responded to the evaluation questionnaires and expressed their interest to participate anytime in such activities. They also appreciated the initiative, the short film, and the whole activity. The participants expressed their will to take part in activities implying art or manufacturing objects. Some of them are interested in saving nature, animals or in outdoor activities (including sport, various games).

B. Facilitators

The venue was appropriate. The school ensured the adequate logistics in order to develop the activity in a proper way. The participants were active and expressed their availability for other activities.

As a result of the performed activities, the children acquired a more profound knowledge about different forms of violence and became more aware of their rights and responsibilities within the communities they belong to.

Activity 2

Theme: *"Stop Violence Against Children" and "Christmas decorations and Poverty"*

Venue: Școala Gimnazială Nr.3, Vânătorii Mari – Giurgiu County

Date: 14 December, 2012

Participants:

- 3) 25 children (aged between 10 and 13 years old), grade IV and VI
- 4) four adults (two teachers and two facilitators)

Facilitators:

Rev. Prof. Dr. Qais Sadiq

Diana Zotea

Activities:

1. DPAC presentation
2. Making of Christmas decorations (angels, bells, Christmas balls)
3. Prayer

Activity description

On December 26th 2012, took place a second activity at "Mihai Eminescu" School (Vanatorii Mari - Giurgiu County). The "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children" was celebrated by 25 children (aged between 10 and 13 years old), together with the Arab Orthodox Community in Romania.

The activities of the celebration were focused on the following aspects:

1. Making Christmas decorations as symbols of a peaceful world for children by using simple materials
2. Making Christmas decorations as symbols for a reconciled world.

The facilitator presented a power-point on the "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children" and made an introduction on Child Rights Convention. During the activity a scrolling slideshow representing pictures of victims of violence has been used.

Later on, the children made Christmas decorations as a symbol for a peaceful world. They learnt how to decorate a Christmas tree with items they've already had.

Also, the participants painted Christmas bells and balls and decorated them with golden leaf. Then the children used modeling paste in order to make different figurines symbolizing the arrival of Christmas (snowmen, angels, Christmas trees, Santa Claus, little stars).

Outcomes

C. Participants

The children were active and expressed their availability for other activities. It was a new experience for the children, that they connected to the Nativity of Jesus Christ, Who was born to reconcile the World and Who brought the message of peace and reconciliation.

D. Facilitators

The school ensured the adequate logistics in order to develop the activity in a proper way. As a result of the performed activities, the children learnt that they could decorate their Christmas tree with limited financial resources as a commitment to save money and eradicate poverty.