



# from increased voice to the improved



## HEALTH CARE ACCESS

The project "From increased voice to the improved health care access" has a goal to help the women in the Republic of Macedonia, who are beneficiaries of social welfare, and who face financial difficulties and are not able to pay the participation for antenatal services.

The Law for healthcare protection defines guaranteed healthcare rights for the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, as health insured persons. One of the many measures in these rights of the citizens is the activities for protection of women during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding, and also for protection of the newborns.

The activities regarding the issue of healthcare protection during pregnancy, are taking place on all three levels of healthcare protection: primary, secondary and tertiary level, which brings administrative procedure which impede the access to antenatal services for all pregnant women.

### Target group

**Our target group are women who are beneficiaries of social welfare (as holders or as associates), aged 15 – 49, in a reproductive period. Therefore, a total of 32.222 women from the Republic of Macedonia are the target group for our advocating. This number is based on official data from the Health Insurance Fund of Macedonia (HIFM) and on unofficial data for the number of women from the Ministry of labor and social politics.**

### Statistics

**There are 27.770 newborns every year in Macedonia. Our estimation is that the number of newborns for a population of 32.222 women aged 19 – 49 (under the assumption that the fertility rate is the same as the general population) is 1.395 per year.**

### Estimation

**Besides the participation for healthcare, we estimated that every woman should have 10 antenatal examinations (according to the Guidelines for antenatal**



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**controls, established by the Ministry of Health). According to the participation percentage, established by HIFM (not more than 20%), for services for secondary and tertiary healthcare protection, every woman is supposed to pay 2.240 MKD.**

**For the women in the country who receive a monthly social help of 1.000 – 3000 MKD, this amount is a fortune necessary for their survival.**

### What are we asking for?

**We ask the state to cover the 2.240 MKD participation per woman, thus providing a free access to the antenatal services for all of the women who are beneficiaries of social welfare. Therefore, the total estimated cost for participation for antenatal services for 32.222 women will be 3,1 million MKD a year, or approximately 50.500 EUR a year.**

Our increased and unified voice will be sent to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry for labor and social politics, the Health Insurance Fund of Macedonia, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as to other government bodies, responsible for the creation and implementation of healthcare politics in the state.

The organization established a network of partner organizations which work on issues related to healthcare. We have the support from: the Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women in the Republic of Macedonia - ESE from Skopje; the Association for Roma community development - SUMNAL from Skopje; Association of educational workers and protection of the rights of women and children - LIL from Skopje; Roma organization for multicultural affirmation - ROMA SOS from Prilep; and the NGO KHAM from Delcevo.

The NRC is also collaborating with gynecologists, medical and patronage nurses, the doctors of social medicine from the Centers for public health, as well as from the Institutes for public health, who, as professionals, have the most contact with the women.

For further information, you can go to [www.ednomagazine.com](http://www.ednomagazine.com) and [www.nationalromacentrum.org](http://www.nationalromacentrum.org). And for first-hand information about the project, you can contact the coordinator, Sebihana Skenderovska, on 031/ 427 557, or by e-mail: [skenderovska@nationalromacentrum.org](mailto:skenderovska@nationalromacentrum.org).

