



**CHILD TRAFFICKING RESPONSE PROGRAM
SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

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Cooperation with Government Institutions and Other Actors in Combating Child Trafficking

By Rrezarta Jashari, Programme Manager and Ariel Shaban, Advocacy and Communications Coordinator of Save the Children South East Europe Kosovo Programme

Background

When Save the Children in Kosovo (SCiK) started working in projects combating child trafficking in Kosovo in 2002, government institutions failed to react to initial cases that represented a problem that needed a quick and effective response. Consequently, the issue of combating human trafficking was being addressed only by international governmental and non-governmental organizations, mainly IOM, OSCE and UNMIK International Police.

The Project

Save the Children's main goals at that time were to show to newly established governmental institutions in Kosovo that the issue of human/child trafficking needs to be addressed by relevant institutions. They were supported and encouraged actively to take a leading role in this very serious problem that was growing rapidly in the post conflict period.

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Exchange visit of Serbian Astra and Montenegrin Women's Lobby to Animus, Bulgaria

SEE REGION AND COUNTRY UPDATES

CTRP REGIONAL OFFICE EVENTS

During March 2007, the Regional Programme Manager and the Regional Programme Advisor paid a round of visits to countries participating in the CTRP. The main purpose of the visits was to support country coordinators to design their annual plan for the last year of the Programme. One-day visits were paid to Albania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.

End of March-beginning of April 2007, country teams submitted their annual plans to the Regional Management Team (RMT). The plans have been designed on the basis of the findings emerged from the research on risk and resiliency, as well as on previous programme experience developed by Save the Children and its partners in the framework of the CTRP. The RMT compiled the information presented in country plans into a regional year 3 proposal, which was submitted to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval and funding. Overall, the CTRP plan for year 3 envisages a stronger focus on child trafficking prevention, to be achieved through direct work with children "at risk", the consolidation of local child protection mechanisms, and structured advocacy actions.

April 4, 2007, the Regional Programme Manager and Regional Programme Advisor participated in a round-table organized by the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Tirana. The main aim of this roundtable was to present to selected NGOs, international agencies and government institutions working in the anti-trafficking sector in Albania the new ICMPD's programme "*Data Collection and Information Management*". This is a regional programme that will be implemented by ICMPD and its partners in ten countries/entities of South-East Europe, with the aim of establishing two databases in each country, containing data related to trafficking in human beings – one for legal and judicial data and one for victim-centered data. The programme pursues the overall objective of contributing to the harmonization and improvement in quality and reliability of data related to trafficking in persons in the region.

March 20-21, 2007— Warsaw, Poland. The Regional Research Advisor attended the European Conference, '*Focus on Children in Migration - From a European Research and Method Perspective*' which was held in Warsaw, Poland. This conference was organized by Save the Children Sweden, the European Network of Masters in Children's

rights and the Separated Children in Europe Programme. It was attended by practitioners and researchers, with plenary and parallel sessions devoted to contemporary research, participatory methodological approaches and interventions related to child migration. Discussion forums focused on how to align academic and NGO research and how to overcome the ethical and methodological challenges associated with child-oriented, participatory research. The Research Advisor presented a paper on 20th March in the session on '*Latest Research on the Situation on Children in Migration*'. This paper was initially intended to focus on the research methodology, but following the submission of the first draft of the national reports, attempts were made to synthesize some of the key findings at both a national and regional level. This parallel session was attended by 40 conference participants, who were on the whole impressed with both the methodological approach and preliminary findings emerging from this study.

COUNTRY EVENTS

Albania

CTRP updates

March 07, 2007 – Youth Centres of Cerrik and Kuçova. The fourth 2-day training out of a cycle of 4 trainings on peer to peer methods was conducted to train 22 youth members and six adult facilitators. Having completed a total of 8 training days, the youth are ready to deliver peer training sessions for their peers.

Mid-March 2007. Members of Youth Centre in Cerrik (mid-Albania) had an exchange visit to Youth Centre in Kuçova. That was one day visit where the board members of both youth centres had the chance to share experience and talk about their challenges. Part of the exchange visit was also the organization of sports games between members of both centres.

April 21-22, 2007 – Kuçova. The Youth Centre in Kuçova (mid-south of Albania) successfully held a whole-day event on the occasion of the Global Youth Service Day and the Earth Day. The activities aimed at involving youth to address important issues to the community and to implement unique service projects that engage community partners,

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Activity of Youth Centre in Kucova, Albania on the occasion of Global Youth Service Day, April 21-21, 2007

public officials and youth from entire community. It also aimed at promoting environment protection awareness, responsibility, youth recreation and team work.

Activities included a large-scale trash pick up and planting of flowers and trees around the school. The event was supported by SC in Albania within CTRP and Youth Service America (YSA). YSA selected Kuçova's Youth Center proposal as one of Disney Grant Winners 2007 among 350 worldwide proposals for the reason that it showed leadership and commitment to engage youth in quality service projects. (for more info on YSA and its grants policy visit <http://ysa.org/>)

This activity is having added value as Youth Centre in Cerrik would like to replicate the project in their community.

Both towns are identified as hot areas in terms of youth at risk of being trafficked and the activities are taking place in the framework of prevention activities to reduce the risk of child/youth vulnerability to trafficking,

Bosnia-Herzegovina

CTRP updates

March 5-7, 2007 – Sarajevo.

The BiH Office of State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration, supported by Save the Children Norway SEE Regional Office, conducted the 6th out of 6 trainings on "Child Protection Measures against Traf-

ficking in Human Beings" with the participation of 39 professionals from Sarajevo and surrounding regions. This training was the last one out of a planned cycle of 6 trainings for professionals which took place in Neum, Banja Luka, Tuzla, Zenica and Brcko. 99 is the total number of trained professionals in the cycle of 6 trainings. The trainings were part of implemented activities within the CTRP and they aimed at increasing the professional capacity of social workers, medical workers and police officers in terms of prevention and protection of children from trafficking.

April 04, 2007

The Manual for professionals addressing the issue of child protection against trafficking in human beings is launched. This manual is a product resulting from the contributions of participants in the 6 above-mentioned trainings.

General updates

March 22-23, 2007 – Sarajevo.

The BiH Office of State Coordinator held a meeting with partners from NGOs and international organizations. The first part of the meeting was about sharing information on the completed activities by each participating institution during January-March 2007 and their upcoming activities.

The second part of the meeting was about in-depth discussions on the *regulations for protection of domestic citizens, victims of trafficking in human beings*. The regulations, which completed in early March 2007, are currently in the phase of adoption by the newly formed government of BiH.

March 29, 2007. The government of BiH adopted the "Operational Plan 2007, for combating trafficking in human beings". The measures and the activities making up the plan represent priorities identified by state institutions and I/NGOs, who have actively contributed to making the State Action Plan and Operation Plan and implementing them as well. The activities planned to be supported by SC Norway SEE within the CTRP are also included in the Plan.

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Bulgaria**CTRP updates**

March 15-17, 2007 – Sofia. Animus Association Foundation (AAF) hosted 5 representatives from the Serbian Astra NGO together with 2 representatives of Montenegrin Women's lobby NGO (*both, Astra and MW Lobbying are CTRP local partner organizations*) in an exchange visit aimed at sharing experience in regard to SOS hotline and working practices with children and adolescents. "We introduced to our guests the child-oriented services provided by the Crisis Centre, the consultative programme to children and their parents, "Help-line" work with children and the training experience with the adolescents - *says Diana, the Animus coordinator*". The visit was of special interest to AAF staff as well, as the staff had the opportunity to listen to and exchange ideas about SOS hotline functioning and experience with reference to women and children in crisis. (*see photo on page 1*)

UN-administered Province of Kosovo**CTRP updates**

March-April 2007. Save the Children in Kosovo has identified two partner organizations "Integra" and "Kosovo Youth Council" local NGOs, which will be implementing the establishment of peer to peer education groups and child protection groups (network) at community and municipal level. For the reason stated above and in order to build the capacity of the two partner organizations, SC in Kosovo conducted 3 two-day training sessions for 9 members of partner organizations focusing on UN Child Rights Convention, child protection and trafficking issues. The training module is set up based on the research findings.

March 17-18, 2007 – Pristina. The Partner organizations conducted a two-day training for 70 children from peer to peer groups of Pristine municipality on trafficking issues and peer to peer education methodology. Another one-day training for 40 children was held on March 25, 2007 on child protection issues. The knowledge gained by trainees has been disseminated to other student peers at schools.

Montenegro**CTRP updates**

March 15-17, 2007 – Visit of Montenegrin Women's Lobby and Serbian ASTRA NGO team members to ANIMUS Association Foundation-AAF in Sofia, Bulgaria. (For more information about this exchange visit, please read the information under Bulgaria section.)

Mid-March 2007. The children, victims of abuse, exploitation and trafficking are provided with a guidebook, which contains child-friendly information about their rights, legal procedures, existing services and possibilities and information on important institutions and organizations. The guidebooks are distributed by NGO SOS lines, shelters, centers for social work, police, court and other institutions in contact with the victims.

Mid-March 2007. In the framework of capacity building of the professionals to deliver more effective interventions to protect the rights of the trafficked children and those at risk of being trafficked, SC UK Montenegro Programme within CTRP conducted a training for 30 participants. The participants were coming from 2 SOS help-lines, including Montenegrin Women's Lobby SOS line staff, 3 shelters for victims of trafficking, a team from the centre for social work, representatives from Ministry of Social Welfare, "Home for Children" orphanage, police inspectors and medical workers. Both trainers were a psychologist and a social worker from "Bravo Phone" NGO and the Polyclinics for the protection of abused children, located in Zagreb, Croatia. The major topics included: direct contact with abused children in terms of communication, support, diagnosis, forensic interviews, treatment, advice and coordination between services.

March 2007 was the month of media campaign with TV spots to promote the Montenegrin Women's Lobby SOS hotline among young people.

March-April 2007. Forum SYD/MNE NGO is chosen as SC UK Montenegro programme new local partner to work on the development of community-based services for the targeted groups of vulnerable children, identified in the research findings. The groups of vulnerable children include children at "Home for children" orphanage and those at Roma refugee camp. The aim is to help strengthen child resiliencies and develop the life skills necessary to overcome their social isolation and provide

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Training of teachers and school psychologists on child trafficking prevention in Montenegro

a better protection environment.

April 2007. SC UK Montenegro Programme in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science conducted a three-day training on capacity building of teachers and school psychologists in order to support the implementation of the child trafficking prevention model based in the manual for school teachers in the primary schools of Montenegro. This is part of this Ministry's annual action plan that goes in line with NPA for combating child trafficking. The training covered topics on child rights, prevention of child abuse, national referral system and would help teachers make better use of the manual for school teachers on "Prevention of child trafficking", developed and printed last year.

Serbia

CTRP updates

March 14-15, 2007 – Palic. Child Rights Centre with Save the Children CTRP's support held a seminar on "Child Trafficking in Serbia – A threat and reality" with the representatives of local media, social welfare centers, police, judiciary and those of education and health departments from Južno-backi Region. The lecturers were representatives of police, NGOs and Institute for Forensic Medicine.

March 15-17, 2007 – Visit of ASTRA NGO team

members and Montenegrin Women's Lobby to "ANIMUS Association Foundation" in Sofia, Bulgaria. (For more information about this exchange visit, please read the information under Bulgaria section.)

General updates

March 14-15, 2007 – Novi Sad. Activists of "Esperanca" NGO held 4 workshops for second-grade students of "Svetozar Markovic" high school in Novi Sad. The students were introduced with all relevant information about trafficking in human beings and the prevention possibilities.

March 17, 2007 – ASTRA network carried out street action campaigns in 11 towns and cities, respectively in Zrenjanin, Vršac, Novi Sad, Velika Plana, Niš, Vranje, Vlasotince, Dimitrovgrad, Novi Pazar, Užice and Belgrade. The campaigns aimed at raising public awareness against trafficking in human beings. On that occasion, educational materials were distributed as well.

March 23, 2007 – Belgrade. Save the Children UK-Serbia Programme held an initial meeting in Rex Cultural Center, Belgrade regarding the launch of a campaign for the legal ban of violence against children in Serbia.

March 23-24, 2007. ASTRA and the Institute of Forensic Medicine, supported by OSCE mission to Serbia, conducted a two-day seminar on "Learning about the problem of human trafficking and Basic forensic principles for documenting body injuries of trafficked victims". The trainees were medical workers and the lecturers were representatives of Astra, Incest Trauma Center and the Institute of Forensic Medicine.

March 31- April 01, 2007. Astra NGO conducted training on the "SOS hotline Assistance to Potential Victims of Trafficking and their Families" for the activists of 'Vranje Human Rights Committee-NGO". The topics addressed at the training included: the concept of human trafficking, international and national legislation, the psychology of victim, the experience of Astra SOS hotline in terms of principles of work, types of calls, running the database of call records, etc.

CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Albania

CTRP coming event

May-June 2007 Kuçova. "The Summer Youth Leadership Programme" will start in May and will continue for approximately one month and half. The preparations to implement this month and half long activity are underway by members of Youth Centre in Kuçova. This programme would help youth develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Serbia

General coming event

May 08-11, 2007 Belgrade. Child Rights Centre supported by OSCE Mission to Serbia is going to conduct a two day seminar on child trafficking with the participation of police and social workers in OSCE organization. It's worth mentioning that the initial seminars on child trafficking were initiated by SC in UK within CTRP phase II and no other international organization had any special child-focused programme.

ARTICLE

Cooperation with Government Institutions and Other Actors in Combating Child Trafficking

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SCiK pointed to relevant institutions the inadequate knowledge regarding all aspects of human/child trafficking among the general population through the research conducted in 2002 and also worked on awareness raising among children and general population about human/child trafficking, which was first phase of the Regional Anti Child-trafficking Project (RACTP).

As result, Save the Children in Kosovo formed a working group consisting of all the international, local government and non-government institutions and organizations, with the purpose of organizing the first International Conference to Combat Human Trafficking in Kosovo in October 2003. This conference produced clear recommendations to establish the first steps toward drafting of a National Plan of Action (NPA) to Combat Trafficking in Kosovo. The Provisional Institutions of Self-

Governance and the Office of Prime Minister took the leading role in coordination and the creating of the NPA as well as coordination of all agencies involved in combating child trafficking. The working group then was renamed as the Inter-Ministerial Working Group to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Kosovo.

Child Participation

SCiK was one of the main actors during the process of compilation of the NPA, which was finalized in June 2005. One of the main results of Save the Children's role together with UNICEF was to include the child right's perspective into this plan. Our organisation contributed with a specific section within the NPA that is particularly addressing child trafficking from the child rights perspective, and inclusion of child trafficking subject in the regular schools curricula. This had been previously achieved in the form of the Civic Education subject in primary education. It became a very important component in efforts to raise the awareness of children, as the trafficking trends in Kosovo were changing. Kosovo increasingly shifted from being a location of transit and receiving, to the one of providing children, victims of trafficking, for trafficking purposes.

Involvement of Stakeholders

Save the Children considers active involvement of the Prime Minister's Office/Office of Good Governance in this process as very important. Previously, this office had a very limited experience and expertise in human/child trafficking, which necessitated the involvement of Save the Children to contribute actively within the sub groups of Inter Ministerial Working Group. Currently, our organisation has involved this group and the Office of Good Governance within the project of regional research, which is currently in finalization phase, by informing and involving all relevant actors during the phase of collection of data for the research.

As result, the Office of Prime Minister has shown the interest and readiness to contribute with concrete recommendations and suggestions toward finalization of the research report. This document is being considered as one of the most important assessments contributing toward fulfilment of NPA for Combating Trafficking in Kosovo. The NPA time-frame ends this year and as members of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group we are obliged to report how we contributed toward fulfilment of this NPA, our future steps and our position toward combating child trafficking in Kosovo.