


Save the Children
**CHILD TRAFFICKING RESPONSE PROGRAM
SOUTH EAST EUROPE**
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Children in the Shadows

"Too often poor children are portrayed in the media as being helpless, and as passive victims of circumstances beyond their control. The reality is that tens of millions of destitute children around the world develop sophisticated strategies to cope with circumstances that would overwhelm most adults. We want to recognize the extraordinary resilience and ingenuity of children living on the margins of society, including girls and boys forced to work at an early age, street children, and young people caught up in armed conflict. And we hope to provoke a discussion about the role of outsiders, including non-government organizations, which attempt to help these same children."

A festival celebrating the lives of the world's most courageous children took place in Kathmandu and Bandipur from January 13th-20th, organized by the Foundation of *Terre des hommes* Nepal (Lausanne, Switzerland).

The intent of the Festival organizers was to champion the cause of children who are confronted on a daily basis with exploitation and abuse, but who find a way to survive without the assistance of adults.

<http://www.childrenintheshadows.com/>

OUR DONORS

- ⇒ **NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)**
- ⇒ **OAK FOUNDATION**
- ⇒ **SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)**



Training in BiH on
"Child Protection Measures
against
Trafficking in Human Beings"

*Save the Children—South-East Europe Child Trafficking Response Programme (CTRP). P.O BOX: 8185, Tirana, Albania
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SEE REGION AND COUNTRY UPDATES

REGIONAL EVENTS

February 8, 2007 – Tirana, Albania.

The CTRP Donor Coordination Meeting brought together representatives of donor agencies like Oak Foundation, SIDA and Norwegian MFA and the CTRP Regional Management Team as well as CTRP country coordinators of Albania, Bulgaria and Montenegro.

The Regional Management Team (RMT) summarized its main expectations on the followings: *Sharing experience and learning; Donors' views on the CTRP; Agreement on a set of priorities for future planning.*

The RMT members made presentations on the up-to-date progress, like 1) the progress in the implementation of activities under 1st, 2nd and 3rd objectives; 2) Impact Monitoring System (implementation steps, successes and challenges); 3) Information Sharing Plan and other major activities implemented at regional and country level under the 4th objective; 4) research project and preliminary findings.

With reference to Year 3 country and regional plans, facilitated by the CTRP regional manager, the donor representatives suggested among many issues to focus on equal opportunities, gender issues and violence against children. They also suggested to conduct an external evaluation prior to the end of CTRP phase II with the focus on the added value of the programme regional dimension. For more details, please refer to the summary of donor meeting document sent to country teams on February 16, 2007.

February 2, 2007 – Vienna, Austria.

The CTRP regional advisor participated in a meeting of the Alliance Experts Coordination Team (AECT), which is a team of experts on anti-trafficking issues set up within the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons. This Alliance established in July 2004 by the first OSCE Special Representative on combating THB, brings together numerous national, regional, international and intergovernmental authorities as well as non-governmental organizations.

The latest AECT meeting aimed to share the main events and activities each participating actor is planning to implement in 2007 and to identify the common areas of joint work and priorities for this year. The meeting was chaired by the recently appointed [OSCE Special Representative, Ms. Eva Bi-audet](#).

[The OSCE Special Representative's Assistance Unit](#) will be preparing a summary of the meeting and a

calendar of main 2007 anti-trafficking events. The latter will be sent to country coordinators by the RMT as soon as it is made available.

February 2007.

Update on CTRP Research Project. 5 out of 7 draft reports have been received by RMT since February 01, 2007. Some of these reports have been edited and commented upon. A comparison of the national findings will be presented at the upcoming Bucharest workshop (Feb.26 – March 01, 2007).

At the regional level, the coding of all transcripts has been completed and analysis of 519 transcripts is underway.

A methodology paper has also been prepared on the basis of researchers' feedback and coded transcripts for an upcoming "Focus on Children in Migration" European Conference to be held in Warsaw, Poland, March 20-21, 2007.

COUNTRY EVENTS

Albania

CTRP updates

January – February 2007 – Youth Centres in Cerrik (midland) and Kuçova (mid-south).

There has been a combination of education and recreation activities in both youth centres. Round 50 children/youth participate everyday in Cerrik Youth Centre activities and 80 children/youth in the activities conducted by Kuçova Youth Centre. Both towns are identified as hot areas in terms of youth at risk of being trafficked.



Sports Facility of the Youth Centre in Kucova, Albania

SEE REGION AND COUNTRY UPDATES

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January 07, 2007 – Kuçova.

The inauguration of the sports facility, the only one in town was considered an important event.

In addition, the youth centre established the "Muse Club" (February 07, 2007), which is a youth-led club to promote creativity among its members. The club started a series of "Creativity Workshop" sessions to stimulate creative thinking through peer-led activities.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

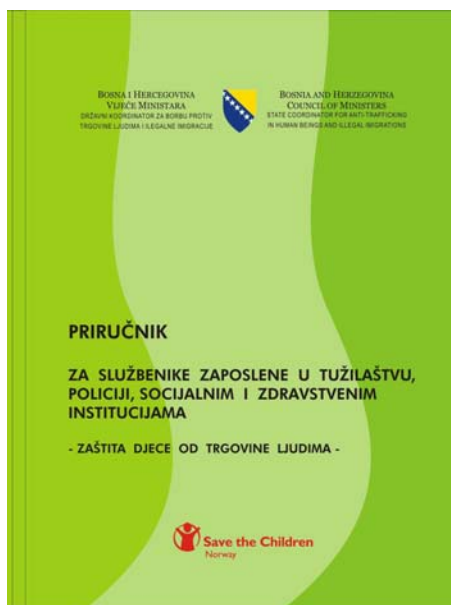
CTRP updates

February 4 – 6, 2007 – Brcko District.

The BiH Office of State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration conducted the 5th out of 6 trainings on "Child Protection Measures against Trafficking in Human Beings" with the participation of 14 professionals of that district. The training aimed at increasing the professional capacity of social workers, medical workers and police officers in terms of prevention and protection of children from trafficking. The training is based on the findings and conclusions coming out of the analysis and mapping of the gaps existing in the legal and institutional framework that address the issue of Trafficking in Human Beings.

February 2007.

The Draft Manual for professionals addressing the issue of child trafficking is finally completed with crucial materials developed throughout the trainings. It is now in the print out phase and will be distributed in March 2007.



General updates

February 2007.

The regulations for the treatment of domestic citizens, victims of trafficking are getting drafted. Its completion is expected within 2007 and the implementation at all state levels will follow soon after its completion.

February 2007.

IOM in cooperation with BiH State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration have completed the primary and secondary school teachers Manual on "Prevention and Raising Awareness against the risks of trafficking in human beings". This Manual has the consent of all relevant ministries in BiH (13 Ministries of Education in the country). Starting from 2007/2008 academic year, a new teaching unit, addressing the issue of trafficking in human beings, will be incorporated in the existing school curricula and this Manual will serve as a guide.

The print-out and distribution of the Manual is expected by the end of February.

UN-administered Province of Kosovo

CTRP updates

February 19, 2007.

Save the Children in Kosovo initiated the training of "Kosovar Youth Council" and "Integra", the two local NGOs selected as implementing partners to run the activities on "Peer to Peer Education" and "The Establishment of Child Protection Working Groups at community and municipal level". The training conducted by the local expert was on "Child Protection and Social Welfare in Kosovo" as well as on anti-trafficking issues.

General updates

February 22, 2007.

Catholic Relief Services and Kosova Population Foundation (KOPF), its implementing partner in coordination with the Prime Minister's Office for Good Governance held a Press Conference to launch the findings of a research on "Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions of Kosovo people about Trafficking of Human Beings". This research is one component of a USAID-supported Partnership against Trafficking in Human Beings (PATH) Pro-

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ject. The research included surveys with common people, minors (females) age 14-18, and interviews with former victims of trafficking as well as users of sex workers.

For further details on this research findings, please contact Rrezarta Jashari,
email: Rrezarta.jashari@scik.org

Montenegro

CTRP updates

January 2007.

With reference to the establishment of community-based child protection mechanisms in 5 Montenegrin towns, a number of meetings are held with the representatives of centers for social work acting as local coordinators on issues like documentation and reporting, monitoring and evaluation in line with country and regional guidelines and plans.

The French legislation and practices related to juvenile offending, imprisonment measures for juvenile, other institutional sentences and measures against juveniles in conflict with the law are introduced to the child protection teams.

January 2007.

In terms of writing a guide booklet with child-friendly information to trafficked children on their rights, legal procedures, existing services and possibilities, a draft version of this booklet is shared with children and juveniles to get their feedback. This guide book is being written by Montenegrin Women Lobby, social worker of centre for social work in Podgorica and a member of child protection team.

Romania

CTRP updates

January 2007 – Timisoara County.

Save the Children Timis branch was involved in training volunteers on trafficking issues, who in return would inform other children about trafficking.

6 volunteers assisted in informing 120 children on the consequences of trafficking, victim profile and recruitment process through an informative program designed with games and drawings, to make

children express their opinion on trafficking issues.

January 24 – 25, 2007.

Save the Children Galati branch held a round table meeting on child trafficking with public authorities and key actors (Local Working group) from Buzau and Ialomita. Public Authorities included a number of representatives from Public Health Authority, Combating Organized Crime and Anti-Drug Brigade, department of Organized Crime Investigation, County Council, General Department for Social Assistance and Child Protection, School Inspectorate, etc.

The objectives were: to outline a local strategy against human trafficking; to develop and distribute a local newsletter on child trafficking; to develop a set of common activities to prevent and combat human trafficking, targeting high-risk groups and vulnerable communities in the above-mentioned counties.

January 25, 2007 – Ialomita.

Save the Children Galati branch local coordinator attended a single-act play named "*Guilty or Not Guilty*", which took place in a secondary school (Ialomita county). 20 students acted in the play, written by themselves and was about human trafficking, legal and illegal drugs.

General updates

January 2007 – Bucharest.

The National Anti-Trafficking Agency offered the "Minimum Standards to assist and protect victims of trafficking" to public debate. The document can be downloaded from http://anitp.mai.gov.ro/ro/docs/Standarde_asistenta_final.pdf

January- February 2007 – Bucharest, Iasi and Galati Counties.

The National Agency against Human Trafficking through its regional centers has started launching the "*Watch Out, You are paying*" national campaign against human trafficking. This national campaign aims at raising people's awareness on causes of human trafficking, its consequences and mechanisms, information on violated rights and on the legislation. The campaign among many activities includes school campaigns, radio and TV spots, posting of posters and distribution of brochures.

This national campaign was first launched in Bucharest in December 2006 and is expected to be launched in other counties too. This campaign is going to continue until September 2007.

SEE REGION AND COUNTRY UPDATES

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February 01-02, 2007 – Timisoara County.

The Romanian Red Cross conducted a seminar in Dava, on the "Program to Prevent Human Trafficking". The seminar was attended by representatives of Border Police, School Inspectorate, General Department of Social Assistance and Child Protection and local NGOs. The seminar aimed at sharing experiences among the institutions working in the field of trafficking in human beings.

Serbia

CTRP updates

February 13-14, 2007, Sremska Mitrovica.

Child Rights Centre with the support of Save the Children (CTRP II) conducted a two-day training on "Trafficking in Children – Threat and Reality" for representatives of local centers for social work, medical workers, school teachers, police, justice department, all from Sremska and Macvanska District (south of Serbia). The speakers were representatives of police, justice, I/NGOs and forensic medicine. The training was conducted in the framework of professional capacity building.

CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Bosnia-Herzegovina

March 05-07, 2007 – Sarajevo.

The Office of the State Coordinator will conduct the 6th training on the "Child Protection Measures against Trafficking in Human Being". The trainees are social workers, medical workers and police officers.

March 2007.

The State Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, expected to convene in a retreat next month, will complete the report on the Office of the State Coordinator's work in 2006 and develop the work-plan in 2007. The representative of Save the Children Norway SEE Regional Office will be taking part too.

Romania

March 2007.

Save the Children Timis branch in partnership with Hunedoara Analysis and Prevention of Criminality Department, General Department of Social Assistance and Child Protection and School Inspectorate will hold an information campaign focusing on the prevention of trafficking in school rural areas of Hunedoara, Dolj and Timis counties.

Albania

April 21-22, 2007 – Kuçova.

On the occasion of the Global Youth Service Day, the board members of the centre assisted by a Peace Corps volunteer are planning to hold a whole-day event. The plan includes an opening ceremony and then the youth members would be dispatched to the 7 schools of the town for a clean-up and landscape activity. Later during the day, a poster-making competition to promote clean environment and teamwork would take place. The posters would then be exhibited in the Youth Centre, library and local restaurants for a couple of weeks.

GENERAL ARTICLE

Prevent trafficking in human beings by addressing the root causes

by Thomas Hammarberg

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

There has been much talk about trafficking of human beings - but not enough action. UNI-CEF and Terre des Hommes recently reported about the failure to protect children from traffickers in South Eastern Europe. They requested stronger action to address the root causes and the patterns of supply and demand that govern the cycle. They are right that the campaign against the trafficking of both children and adults must intensify to become more effective. The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is a key instrument for that purpose and should be ratified by all member states without further delay.

Trafficking is a serious criminal offence and is diffi-

GENERAL ARTICLE

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cult to uncover. The shadowy nature of the trade, the practice of *omertà* – “code of silence” - applied by the criminal networks, and the victim’s fear of retaliation if they report their condition, make it particularly difficult to estimate the extent and precise nature of this dirty business. The degree of force and deceit involved in the exploitation also vary from case to case.

What we know, however, is that trafficking is a major source of income for organised criminal groups and that the number of victims is incredibly high. We also know which are the most common countries and regions of origin, transit and destination.

Some of the trafficking is connected to sexual exploitation, but not all. Many of the victims end up in begging, domestic work or manual labour, for instance, in agriculture or construction.

What these victims have in common is that they easily become dependent on criminals, and that they are frequently exploited by local employers or clients. A large number of them are undocumented migrants and are therefore particularly vulnerable. In fact, many of them live in slave-like conditions.

Therefore, human rights standards must be at the core of all strategies against trafficking. Police action is essential but alone it is not enough. It must be supplemented by concrete preventive measures and by an effective protection of the rights of the victim. This also goes, of course, for victims *sans papiers*.

Undocumented migrants have the right to safety and protection and to be treated as victims and not as criminals. Indeed, they should be granted a fair hearing with due process. Indeed, they should be granted a residence permit in the country if they co-operate with law-enforcement or if their personal situation so warrants.

Many trafficked victims hesitate to take the risk of seeking help from the authorities because they fear they will not be heard or they will be just deported. It is an urgent challenge for governments in transit and destination countries to find humane but effective ways of helping these individuals.

The traffickers must be caught and punished; the conduct of employers and clients who knowingly exploit those trafficked should be taken to justice; and the victims should be effectively protected and

assisted. However, much more must also be done to prevent the trafficking chain at its very beginning.

The root causes are known: poverty, gender inequality, unemployment, abuse and marginalisation. These human rights problems must be addressed. People are lured by traffickers because they are desperate and public information about the risks involved has not been sufficiently effective. It is the responsibility of all countries implicated throughout the process of trafficking to support the countries of origin to change the situation. After all, this is a common problem.

The Council of Europe Convention is a comprehensive treaty which aims to prevent trafficking, protect the victims and prosecute the criminal organisers. It calls for information and education programmes targeting those at risk, as well as action to suppress demand in destination countries.

The Convention is not perfect: negotiations and compromises have, in my opinion, somewhat weakened the rules for victim protection. Yet, the Convention is the most advanced and ambitious treaty targeting trafficking in human beings. It possesses a clear human rights dimension and provides for multiple measures of physical, psychological and legal assistance to the victims, including compensation for the damage suffered.

Moreover, the implementation of the Convention will be monitored by a group of independent experts, *GRETA*, which will undoubtedly increase the effectiveness of the system.

Unfortunately, the treaty has not yet entered into force because too few governments have so far ratified it. Only Moldova, Romania and Austria and Albania have hitherto taken that step.

Common action against trafficking cannot wait any longer. The Convention should be seen as an urgent and necessary first step forward. It is the responsibility of European governments to make sure that it becomes applicable without any further delay.

http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/viewpoints/070219_en.asp?