

SAVE THE CHILDREN ROMANIA

**Expert Meeting: Returns and Transfers in
Practice: Case examples of children exposed
to exploitation and trafficking and children at
risk**

VILNIUS, 9 – 10 September 2014

SAVE THE CHILDREN ROMANIA

Save the Children Romania is a national non-governmental organization, established in April 1990, whose purpose has been since then to promote, defend and monitor children's rights in Romania, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It carries out programs within its 12 local branches and Bucharest and it is mainly based on the volunteer activity of its 6,000 members who actively support it.

SAVE THE CHILDREN ROMANIA

Salvati Copiii's programs address to all children, but the organization's activity focuses mainly on the most vulnerable groups of children: working street children, abused, trafficked and neglected children, children without a proper parental care, roma children, etc.

Throughout the years, the organization has developed educational programmes, protection, social and medical assistance programmes, at the same time stimulating children's participation in activities of promotion and recognition of their rights; Over 750,000 children have been involved in its activities.

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An important component of its identity is represented by advocacy and lobby activities, mobilizing the civil society leaders and carrying out awareness raising campaigns, in order to change for the better the lives of children.

It is a member of Save the Children International, the world's largest independent organization for the promotion of children's rights, including 30 members and conducting programmes in more than 120 countries around the world.

Case example- risk factors analysis

Individual factors:

- age, every child is vulnerable
- 14 years old is a teen, with a lot of needs and changes in the mood and behavior
- gender, vulnerable to rape, domestic violence
- low awareness level on risks
- history of psychological, physical abuse
- emotional and behavioral problems- runaways
- early engagement in sexual relationship
- school drop out

Case example- risk factors analysis

Family level

- deprivation of parental care, love and supervision
- single parent family
- weak relations with the extended family
- weak relation and communication between mother and girl
- in poor county of Romania
- conflicts between the girl and mother's partner and between mother and her partner
- verbal and physical violence
- non reporting to the authorities on family problems and especially related to the girl correlated with limited intervention strategies at the grass root/community level
- an underestimation of the risks of migration

Case example- risk factors analysis

Socio-economic factors

- poverty
- low educational level - leads to fewer income opportunities
- limited opportunities of employment and resources for employment
- limited intervention strategies at the grass root/community level

Structural/institutional factors

- weak services to coordinate and act in unison to deal with the various dimensions of child protection either from a preventive perspective or from a curative perspective
- culture of tolerance regarding violence against women, youth and children, sexual violence, inequality and gender discrimination

Psychological and social intervention

- **Assessment**

A multidisciplinary process- Child and Family, Bucharest and Bacau

- ***Child- Transit centre, Bucharest***

Problems identified:

- Behavioral difficulties such as hyperactivity, impulsivity, often in conflicts with others, lack of respect for rules, runaways
- “Sexualized” conduct
- Emotional skills: difficulties in expressing and self-regulating emotions.
- Negative attitude about self, others, or world.
- Lack of satisfaction related to educational activities

Psychological and social intervention

Resources:

- Good intellect and understanding
- The love for and need of a present mother
- Need of a peer group

Facilitating a change through crisis and preliminary intervention

Objective:

- To generate changes acceptable to the girl and useful for her reintegration.

What changes?

- To develop some cognitive, social and emotional abilities, which should enable her to adapt more healthily to the reintegration

Psychological and social intervention

Addressed through preliminary intervention

- difficulties in expressing and self-regulating emotions - as support for reintegration and prevention of runaways

How?

Developing abilities of emotional and social self-regulation

- The proper development of these abilities is part of the rehabilitation process.
- Acquiring self-regulating emotional abilities helps her cope with the past and adjust better to future circumstances.

Psychological and social intervention

Family- Direction for the Social Assistance and Protection of Children's Rights

Assessment focused on the family

Objectives:

- to establish to what extent is the family a factor of support for the girl's reintegration and recovery or, on the contrary, an obstacle
- what kind of intervention should be performed .
- Assessment first defined whether the girl is at direct risk by staying with her mother, and whether a court order should be sought for a (temporary) suspension of parental rights.
- The mother is willing to have her daughter back and she is attending the assessment sessions.

Psychological and social intervention

Problems identified

- Feeling of losing her relationship with her daughter for some years ago
- Guilt and shame about her daughter behaviour
- Signs of depression
- Isolated from other family members

- **Resources**
- Willingness- to rebuild the relationship with her daughter and to have a job
- An aunt identified in the family, in a good relation with her daughter

Reintegration

Addressed through preliminary intervention

- Understanding her daughter needs and behaviour
- Express and regulate her emotions
- Diminishing the signs of depression

Reintegration

- The girl returned at her mother. Both signed a contract and are continuing the intervention at the General Direction for Social Assistance and Protection of Children's Rights
- A safety plan was developed and the family is provided with additional community resources and support- mother is working in a local shop, the girl was enrolled in school and she attended a skill camp organized by a local NGO.

What's next?

- Continuous assessment of the child's and mother's progress and monitoring.
- The case manager will review the progress as per indicators defined before and the feedback from institutions /organisations involved.
- It is of great importance for the case manager to constantly add up some updates to his mapping of services to try to make available more flexible services to the child and mother.

What's next?

THANK YOU!

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