

Distilling Elements of Good Practice:
The Action Programme
against Trafficking
in Minors for Sexual Purposes

Costa Rica | Thailand | Ukraine





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in Minors for Sexual Purposes**

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FOREWORD

ECPAT International's work to galvanise global attention and action against commercial sexual exploitation of children, including child trafficking for sexual purposes, has demonstrated that despite the gains made through both national laws and international conventions, these still suffer from the inadequacy of implementation and we are yet to move from the rhetoric of outrage against these grave violations and heinous crimes against children, to the action and enforcement that is required to effectively protect children.

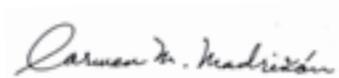
The Action Programme against Trafficking in Minors for Sexual Purposes aimed to reduce child trafficking for sexual purposes through various combined interventions tailored to the specific needs of the countries involved: Costa Rica, Thailand and Ukraine, while ensuring these were consonant with international standards. In addition, when identifying activities at local level in collaboration with our affiliate groups and partners, we took into consideration the similarities between these national contexts. Despite their locations in different regions, the countries where the Programme was

implemented present common features in terms of child trafficking for sexual purposes not only because they are all origin, transit and destination countries with a major sub-regional and internal trafficking problem. In all three countries, local demand represents one of the main push factors of the sexual exploitation of trafficked children, although child sex tourism also fuels the trafficking chain. Additionally, child trafficking is connected to the production and distribution of child abuse images, with the increased use of the Internet and other ICTs by child traffickers and child sex tourists in these countries.

The Action Programme provided an opportunity to address this multi-faceted violation of the human rights and dignity of children. In this framework, the design and formulation of project activities were based on the assumption that it was necessary to work simultaneously on strengthening law enforcement, enhancing prevention and providing effective victim assistance while avoiding overlap with other ongoing activities and programmes being implemented.

The Action Programme has made an important contribution to the fight against trafficking in children for sexual exploitation in Costa Rica, Thailand and Ukraine. The examples of good practice and lessons learned illustrated in this booklet show the benefit of interactive programme elements and their overall, cumulative effect on reinforcing a child rights-focused programme that prioritises the needs of children within countertrafficking responses and activities. Groups in the three countries worked on improving their capacity for identifying children who are victims of trafficking (and so should subsequently receive the required care and protection), to prevent them being mistakenly categorised as illegal immigrants. A participatory strategy, which involved the contribution of key stakeholders from government, non-government and community groups in designing and implementing project activities, impacted on the prevention, prosecution, victim assistance and protection initiatives, making them more responsive to the needs of children, with subsequent benefits for those children exposed to or victims of trafficking.

The Action Programme was an important step in the fight against child trafficking for sexual purposes and I take this opportunity to thank our local partners, FACE, Fundación Paniamor and La Strada for all their efforts in making this initiative a success. ECPAT is committed to building on the valuable efforts of this project in collaboration with government institutions, international and non-governmental organizations, for as the examples illustrated in this booklet will attest, such collaborations can create a formidable force for the protection of children against trafficking for sexual purposes and serve as a united front to convey that these serious violations of human and children's rights will not be tolerated or go unpunished.



Carmen Madriñán
Executive Director
ECPAT International

REACHING TARGET GROUPS WHERE THEY ARE: THE AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN IMPLEMENTED BY FUNDACIÓN PANIAMOR IN *COSTA RICA*

Background and context

Costa Rica's strategic geographical position between North and South America and its higher standard of living compared to neighbouring countries, makes it an ideal location for smuggling and trafficking in persons, including trafficking in children for sexual purposes.

Girls trafficked to Costa Rica for prostitution mainly originate from Latin and Central American countries, especially Nicaragua and Salvador, while cases of minors from countries outside the region (such as Russia and the Philippines) remain isolated. Costa Rica also serves as a transit point for young victims of sexual exploitation being trafficked to the United States, Canada and Mexico, among other nations.

Due to poverty, sexual abuse in the family and a lack of education and child protection institutions, hundreds of adolescents are trafficked from rural areas to the capital, San José, and from there to coastal cities, as well as across borders. The internal movement of children usually occurs during special events, such as popular festivals and carnivals, or upon arrival of boats in the main ports. Trafficking in children for sexual exploitation and child sex tourism are serious concerns in the region, with Costa Rica being the main destination in Central America for abusers from Canada, Italy, Germany and the United States.

“Communities, even in distant, at-risk areas, were sensitised through the radio, television and bus advertising. They have now begun to see child protection and safeguarding as an issue that concerns and involves them, and are making efforts to discourage ‘blind’ migration.”

(Social worker, Ministry of Labour)

Aware of the close link between the various manifestations of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), Fundación Paniamor, one of Costa Rica's leading child protection organisations, has promoted several targeted interventions to enhance prosecution of traffickers and child sex tourists, and to reduce the risk of the crime occurring. This strategy also inspired the implementation of the Action Programme against Trafficking in Minors for Sexual Purposes in the country.

As a follow up to the "Strengthening the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Central America" project, implemented by ECPAT International in collaboration with Paniamor and other NGOs in the region, the Action Programme combined different preventative and law enforcement measures, including design of a website to report CSEC cases; creation of a database programme within the judicial system on CSEC crimes; training for responsible personnel; capacity building for immigration officials and border police; and implementation of a comprehensive awareness raising campaign to prevent child trafficking for sexual exploitation.

"The creative concept of the information campaign is solid and child-friendly. Teenagers really identified with it. They have asked questions about trafficking and have begun to make more informed decisions about the possibility of migrating."

(Psychologist specialised in adolescents)

Description of the Practice

The design of the public information campaign builds upon a process initiated before the Action Programme began. Prior to promoting this activity, Paniamor made significant efforts to develop a good knowledge base in order to promote understanding of the phenomenon of child trafficking for sexual purposes and to identify potential target groups and at-risk areas. Apart from highlighting the CSEC situation in the country on the basis of existing research, Paniamor contributed to a study carried out by Save the Children in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua to develop mapping processes on the migration and social flow related to trafficking in children and commercial sexual exploitation. As an immediate result of this effort, social, economic, cultural and gender factors that promote this crime were identified, at the same time allowing for an opportunity to collect information and generate a spatial representation of the phenomenon, based on the distribution of the geographic areas where it is committed.

More than one hundred blind spots facilitating child trafficking within Costa Rica and two main internal trafficking routes from the northern and southern borders with San José were discovered through the mapping exercise.

From knowledge base to awareness raising: the information campaign developed under the framework of the Action Programme

The information collected during the preparatory research phase was used to design a targeted awareness raising campaign. As a first step, Paniamor identified an advertising company with experience in social communication, and held a training session on trafficking in minors for sexual purposes for the experts responsible for campaign development. This capacity building activity was organised to provide the necessary information on specific features of the phenomenon, the target group and the type of message to deliver.

The campaign, entitled “Behind a job promise could be a destination of pain!”, aimed to increase awareness on the issue of child trafficking for sexual purposes and to encourage at-risk groups, mainly adolescent girls, to resist seemingly tempting offers of work or travel that could lead to exploitation in the sex industry. The message also targeted families,



The three advertisements showing the campaign slogan: “Don’t be fooled! Behind a job promise could be a destination of pain!”

“The campaign has positioned Costa Rica as an important actor against trafficking in the sub-region.”

(Director of Immigration)

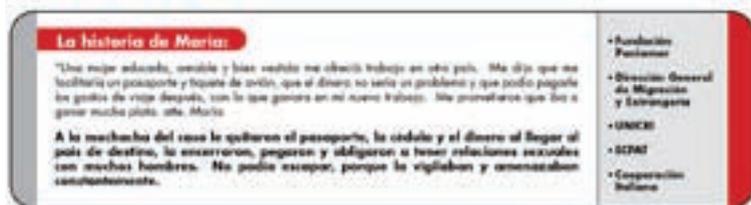
communities and civil society, promoting their active involvement in the prevention and reporting of this crime.

In order to reach the widest possible section of the target population more effectively, a multimedia approach was adopted in the implementation of the information campaign. In particular, audio-visual products (television and radio advertisements) were combined with print advertisements circulated through traditional and innovative communication channels.

The television advertisement was produced by Esteban Ramirez, well known for his internationally distributed film “Caribe”, and was broadcast for two months in prime time and during programmes targeting young people on all major TV channels, as well as on closed-circuit television in the General Directorate of Immigration in San José. It featured adolescent girls encouraging other girls to reject offers of money or gifts in exchange for taking trips that could end up involving them in sexual exploitation.

The radio advertisement featured the same audio track from the television advertisement and was aired for three months on nine radio stations, reaching the most remote areas of the country.

Three print advertisements were posted on billboards and buses, and published as posters, which were distributed across the country. One design shows a passport and a plane ticket inside a cage; a second shows a mousetrap baited with a wad of dollar bills; and the third features



2,500 bookmarks were distributed to minors applying for passports, telling a short anecdote about “Maria”

two earrings dangling from a fishhook. All the advertisements bore the campaign slogan: “Don’t be fooled! Behind a job promise could be a destination of pain!” in Spanish.

Fourteen buses featured the advertisements and circulated for four months in the most at-risk areas identified as trafficking routes. These included beaches, ports, urban sectors in all provinces and rural tourist sites. The billboards were located at Juan Santamaría International Airport, North-West of San José, at the headquarters of the General Directorate of Immigration and at border crossings with Nicaragua (Penas Blancas) and Panama (Paso Canoas). A set of stickers showing the same message were also posted on the windows of all immigration offices.

A bookmark was distributed to minors when given travel documents by the passport office. The bookmark tells a short anecdote about “Maria”, who is promised work in another country, but upon arrival, has her passport and belongings taken from her and is forced into prostitution.

All of the above awareness raising products mention the Costa Rican law which punishes trafficking in

children for sexual exploitation, and urge the public to report incidents to the responsible authority (telephone number 911) to strengthen prosecution of traffickers. The website www.protegiendoles.org, designed within the framework of the Action Programme, is also featured on the print and television advertisements. The website provides information on issues concerning child sex tourism and trafficking in children for sexual purposes, as well as an electronic form on which to anonymously report cases to the police or to prosecution offices specialising in sexual crimes.

To ensure adequate visibility of the campaign and increase its impact, it was launched during a press conference in San José in February 2006. The event was attended by relevant government



Homepage of the website www.protegiendoles.org

stakeholders, including the Public Security Minister and the Head of the General Directorate of Immigration, and was widely covered by media.

Outcomes/Achievements

- 2,500 bookmarks were distributed to minors applying for passports and 100 stickers were posted in immigration offices around the country.
- A large number of potential child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation were reached through the information campaign as a whole. As a result of this effort, the level of consciousness on the risks and consequences of trafficking has greatly increased, especially among young girls.
- Communities, even in distant, at-risk areas, were sensitised through the radio, television and bus advertising. They have begun to see child protection and safeguarding as an issue that concerns and involves them, and are making efforts to discourage “blind” migration.
- The campaign succeeded in informing the public and raising awareness on child trafficking for sexual purposes, which eventually resulted in an increase in public participation on reporting incidents of suspected cases of CSEC to the authorities.
- During the months in which the television advertisements were aired,



Buses featuring the advertisements circulated for four months in the most at-risk areas identified as trafficking routes

Paniamor received more than 10 call-ins per week as well as a higher and more frequent number of reports of CSEC cases, thereby highlighting existing and potential problems. Furthermore, since Paniamor works closely with government and non-governmental agencies providing care services to child survivors, more trafficked and exploited children received the necessary assistance and referrals.

- The distribution of bookmarks and stickers, and the broadcasting of the television advertisement on the closed-circuit TV of the General Directorate of Immigration in San José prompted many people, both adults and minors, to ask for information on safe migration. As a result, target beneficiaries have begun to make more informed decisions regarding the possibility of migrating. Additionally, the General Directorate of Immigration and immigration officials became strongly involved in the prevention of child trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- As a result of the training received, communication company experts, including Esteban Ramírez, have become interested in the issue of child trafficking and sexual exploitation on a more personal level, and are considering producing documentaries/films on the issue. Similarly, personnel from the television and radio channels involved in the campaign have shown



Shots from the TV advertisement produced by Paniamor

an increased commitment in relaying the message to the public.

- Government authorities, policy makers and law enforcers were also sensitised through the campaign. They are now more proactive and accountable in protecting children from trafficking and sexual exploitation and in prosecuting traffickers.
- The campaign has attracted considerable attention from the press and various anti-trafficking agencies, such as the UNICEF Office for Central America and ILO/IPEC, and has been identified as a good example of a preventative strategy.

Elements of good practice

Creating an empowering image through peer role models

Although there are no guaranteed methods or strategies for raising the awareness of children on issues of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, prevention projects involving or targeting young people have shown that they are more comfortable dealing with people from their own age groups. Based on this key assumption, the television and radio advertisements developed by Paniamor took on a peer-to-peer communication approach aimed at portraying adolescents' behaviours and views in relation to the issue. This approach proved to be very effective as it helped to reinforce a sense of identification of the

target audience with the protagonists of the advertisements, thereby increasing the impact of the message considerably.

The advertisements were also successful in promoting a self-empowerment image for young girls potentially exposed to trafficking for sexual exploitation. By rejecting tempting offers of work or travel abroad, adolescents prove to have an active role in resisting the risks of being trafficked and in making responsible decisions regarding their lives.

Additionally, the television advertisement succeeded in challenging gender stereotypes and promoting children's rights. Its protagonists are all young girls claiming their right to be protected from trafficking and sexual exploitation. This is an important aspect of awareness raising activities in Costa Rica and other Central American countries as the commercial sexual exploitation of teenagers is frequently "justified" by child sex exploiters because of the supposed sexual maturity and beauty of young girls.

A tailor-made multimedia campaign with a cross-border element

The information campaign promoted by Paniamor was designed to meet the needs of specific and clearly identified target groups. Therefore, the preliminary analysis of the potential victim's profile and the identification of the most vulnerable areas were critical conditions for ensuring the

relevance and tailor-made nature of the intervention.

The use of multimedia resources was important as it allowed a higher number of beneficiaries at different levels to be reached. While the television advertisement raised awareness on the issue nationally and the radio advertisement had a far-reaching impact, the advertisements posted on buses were more effective at local and community levels.

Similarly, the billboards, bookmarks and stickers were placed and distributed in key locations, namely the immigration offices, the airport and border stops, to reach young people wishing to migrate or enter Costa Rica. As a result of these combined efforts, the campaign not only affected potential victims living in communities or in the country in general, but also prevented child trafficking for sexual purposes to and from other countries.

Partnerships with media and communication agencies to improve efficiency and effectiveness

Paniamor established strategic alliances with major television and radio stations and secured time slots allotted for public service programmes. In addition to reducing the costs of the campaign, these partnerships made it possible to



Billboards located at the headquarters of the General Directorate of Immigration in San José and at border crossings with Nicaragua (Penas Blancas)

broadcast the television advertisement in prime time and during programmes for young people, therefore reaching a wider audience, including the main target group. Furthermore, the increased awareness and involvement of these media may result in further airing of the advertisements after the completion of the project. This is particularly important considering that generally, a major weakness of awareness raising campaigns is their limited duration.

Paniamor also established a good rapport with a communication agency which proved to have capacities to learn and be actively involved as a partner in anti-trafficking efforts. The preliminary training session and various meetings with the company were essential in fine-tuning the campaign and ensuring the appropriateness of the message and of the media, in order to reach target groups.

Participatory approach to ensure relevance and sustainability

A participatory approach, implying the involvement of primary stakeholders in designing, implementing and assessing the results of the campaign, was adopted by Paniamor during the project. The consultation with the Immigration Office was key in identifying specific information tools, such as the bookmarks, targeting potential teenage migrants, as well as the most suitable locations for implementing the intervention. While requiring an adjustment in the original plan of the campaign, this

consultative process contributed to ensuring the validity and pertinence of all the products developed.

Immigration personnel also played an active role in the implementation of the campaign. For example, as an additional activity, officials provided information on the issues of child trafficking for sexual purposes and safe migration during the screening of the television advertisement on the closed-circuit television at the General Directorate of Immigration headquarters.

This direct involvement, coupled with the training sessions for Immigration personnel and border police carried out by Paniamor, has made the General Directorate of Immigration a privileged partner in the fight against child trafficking for sexual purposes. More importantly, as emerged during an interview with a representative from the Immigration Office, this commitment will endure long after the project has ended because the Immigration personnel are aware of their responsibility to protect children from sexual exploitation and trafficking.

BUILDING ON EXISTING RESOURCES: THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TRAINING MANUAL AND TRAINING SESSIONS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED BY FACE IN THAILAND

Background and context

Thailand is a major destination, origin and transit country for trafficking in both adults and children, and is known to be a major conduit and destination point for victims of trafficking from all countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. Thailand's economic wealth, relative to its neighbours, spurs large flows of irregular cross-border migration, and its infrastructure and quite porous borders facilitate the movement of persons for the purposes of labour and sexual exploitation.

Internal trafficking is also of major concern, with relatively poorer adults and children, sometimes from ethnic minority groups and those lacking citizenship, being trafficked from the poorer rural provinces to Bangkok and other industrialised cities. The sporadic implementation of anti-trafficking and child protection legislation and procedures have also led to a significant child trafficking

problem, with many children being trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. The general widespread public acceptance of commercial sexual activity, the situation of gender inequality, the lack of standard educational opportunities, and Thailand's position as a major tourist destination comprise some of the push and pull criteria in terms of child trafficking for sexual purposes.

The Thai NGO Fight against Child Exploitation (FACE) has been combating trafficking in children and sexual exploitation for more than ten years. In addition to campaigning to raise awareness on the problem, monitoring legal cases and providing legal assistance to victims, FACE has made significant efforts to strengthen the capacities of actors involved in anti-trafficking work. Capacity building has also constituted an essential part of

the Action Programme in Thailand, conducted in close collaboration with other NGOs and with the active involvement of government agencies. The project with FACE comprised two specific activities: the design of a national database on human trafficking; and the development and implementation of a multi-disciplinary training manual and related training sessions.

Description of the Practice

Joint training involving different stakeholders is not a new practice in Thailand. The principle of the multi-disciplinary teamwork was introduced in 1995 by the Center for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation (CPCR)¹, to provide better recovery and reintegration for child victims of abuse. After the adoption of the *Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act 1996* and the *Measure to Prevent and Suppress Trafficking in Women and Children Act 1997*, the strategy established by CPCR was adapted to the unique demands and

“The training provided an opportunity for us to practice together on solving the same problem, and reinforcing the idea that cooperation among different professionals is essential for anti-trafficking work.”

(Social worker)

complexity of trafficking victim assistance. The guidelines on cooperation between government agencies and NGOs working against trafficking (also known as ‘the memorandum of understanding’ – MoU) signed in 1999, represented another important step at policy level, for promoting a concerted response to the problem.

As a result of this agreement, multi-disciplinary training was conducted from 1999-2002 for concerned government officials from different sectors. The aim of these sessions, held in the form of lectures, was to inform participants about the existence of the MoU and to identify ways to increase collaboration among different professional groups. In mid-2002, during the development process of the second MoU, which was adopted in 2003², a

¹ CPCR is an organization that has been working on children's issues in Thailand since 1994.

² See the MoU on the Procedural Cooperation between Government and Non-Government Agencies working with cases of trafficking in women and children, 2003.

multi-actor training workshop on trafficking in women and children was organised for the first time, with the active participation of the trainees. The workshop was the outcome of the joint work of several Thai NGOs, including FACE, CPRC, TRAFCORD and The Asia Foundation (TAF). More workshops of this kind have since been conducted, particularly in the north and northeastern provinces, based on guiding materials compiled in a draft curriculum.

How the Action Programme enhanced a multi-disciplinary approach to capacity building on human trafficking

Building on existing resources and experience, the Action Programme provided an opportunity to further improve the content and design of the draft curriculum, turning it into a training manual for wider distribution.

In collaboration with the same NGO partners, FACE undertook a thorough revision of the manual, involving a team of experts with different backgrounds (legal, social, etc.). The draft manual was presented to a national validation meeting held in Bangkok in July 2005. On the basis of the recommendations provided by the anti-trafficking stakeholders participating in the meeting, the manual was reviewed and a new version was pilot tested during three multi-disciplinary training sessions that took

place between August and October 2005 in the central, northern and southern provinces of Thailand.

The training sessions were attended by NGO staff and government officers dealing with the prosecution of cases of trafficked women and children and assistance to victims, including a police officer from the Children and Women Protection Centre, immigration police from the Royal Thai Police, public prosecutors, lawyers, officials from the Social Development and Welfare Department working at national and provincial levels, personnel from government shelters, Ministry of Labour officials, and nurses and psychologists from provincial hospitals.

After suggestions made by the training participants were incorporated, the manual was translated into English and is available on the ECPAT International website under the Action Programme. The final version, in Thai, was printed and officially launched during a national meeting held in July 2006.

The training manual targets a wide variety of actors involved in anti-trafficking work (including judges, public prosecutors, police officers, migration personnel, labour inspectors, social workers, psychologists and physicians), and is based on the assumption that multi-stakeholder capacity building is a privileged strategy to ensure better protection of trafficking victims, and



One thousand copies of the multi-disciplinary training curriculum on human trafficking for practitioners were distributed to various anti-trafficking stakeholders

more effective prosecution of offenders. The training manual pursues four specific objectives:

- a) To create knowledge and a shared understanding on the issue of human trafficking;
- b) To develop a positive attitude towards victims of trafficking among practitioners;
- c) To train anti-trafficking actors on skills and techniques to work holistically on the judicial process, as well as on assistance and protection of victims; and
- d) To create a multi-disciplinary network of skilled persons from government and non-governmental agencies, aimed at combating trafficking.

These objectives are reflected in the manual's structure, which includes nine subjects grouped in three main topic areas:

- 1) The first topic relates to "Attitudes" and comprises two modules on human rights and trafficking, and on the socio-cultural dimensions of the issue. The aim of these modules is to stimulate a non-judgmental approach to victims by providing trainees with theoretical tools that allow human trafficking to be conceptualised as an abuse and a violation of human rights. The main contents of this section include the notions of human dignity and of children's and women's rights, as well as the link between gender and trafficking.

- 2) The second topic area is “Knowledge” and includes five subjects: two are related to the definition of human trafficking, and its forms, causes and impact, while the others focus on the laws and mechanisms that can be used as tools to protect victims and prosecute offenders effectively at national, regional and international levels. In this framework, the specific position and special needs of trafficked children are also taken into consideration.
- 3) The third topic area is “Working in a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)”. Two tailor-made modules provide trainees with different specialisations concerning the knowledge and understanding of a holistic and coordinated approach to human trafficking. In particular, they learn how to work in multi-disciplinary teams specialised in assisting and protecting victims, and in prosecuting offenders. This part of the training is also very practical, using the simulation of case conferences to enable practitioners to identify trafficking cases and plan the rescue, investigation, prosecution, and rehabilitation and reintegration of victims, thereby acquiring stronger skills on working effectively as a network.

With regard to methodology, the training manual includes techniques such as case studies, case conferences and role playing, through which not only can attitudes towards trafficking be changed, but different



Three multi-disciplinary training sessions took place between August and October 2005 in the central, northern and southern provinces of Thailand

types of information can be provided, and a better understanding for the victims of trafficking can be developed.

During the implementation of the training sessions, participants were encouraged to share experiences on dealing with trafficking cases. Some trainees realised their misunderstanding and misinterpretation in dealing with trafficking survivors. The open discussion among participants gave them a better understanding of the issue of trafficking and how to approach and treat the victims.

Outcomes/Achievements

- More than 120 police, prosecutors, social workers, and countertrafficking practitioners were trained in 14 provinces.
- 1,000 copies of the manual were distributed to various anti-trafficking stakeholders, including the Attorney General's Office, the Royal Thai Police, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thai NGOs, international organisations and UN agencies.
- As a result of the capacity building activity and the application of the training manual, trainees improved their legal and theoretical knowledge on human trafficking, while practicing skills on protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, and prosecuting offenders.

They also learned to understand each other's roles and responsibilities and to support each other more.

- In most provinces involved in the training, coordination between government agencies and NGOs on human trafficking was enhanced and multi-disciplinary networks comprising prosecutors, police officers, medical personnel, psychologists, counsellors, social workers, shelter coordinators and NGO staff, were established.
- Participants in the training, in particular police officers, developed a better attitude towards trafficked victims and paid more attention to the process of identification. By raising awareness on the human rights of trafficked persons and on the concepts of push and pull factors at the basis of the trafficking cycle, law enforcers changed their view towards the victims who used to be seen only as 'illegal migrants' or 'voluntary prostitutes'. Furthermore, they recognised that the protection and treatment of victims according to human rights standards are useful for the goals and values of law enforcement. Thus, in the provinces where multi-disciplinary training was carried out before and during implementation of the Action Programme, several girls and women who received support from the multi-disciplinary networks decided to testify against the traffickers, improving the chances for successful prosecutions.

- The multi-disciplinary training also impacted on investigations. Personnel providing assistance to trafficked victims (social workers, counsellors, etc.) understood the importance of collecting relevant data and evidence related to the traffickers, and of sharing this information with law enforcers. Similarly, prosecutors dealing with trafficking crimes learned to consult with care service providers during fact-finding missions (for example, to check whether the person under investigation had previously been involved in a trafficking case or if they have a criminal record).
- Multi-stakeholder cooperation established through the training resulted in improved referral and follow up of trafficked victims, enabling them to better access the assistance they needed, and minimise their risk of becoming revictimised. In this connection, it must be stressed that capacity building based on the manual also changed the behaviours of practitioners in relation to victim assistance. Apart from ensuring services such as legal assistance, accommodation in shelters, psychosocial rehabilitation and so on,

“The training manual is a comprehensive resource material and should be used for further training.”

(NGO representative)

trainees began to support the victims in seeking for redress, in particular for civil compensation.

- The training contributed to strengthening the capacities of some of the members of the Operation Centres on Anti-Human Trafficking, set up in each province as a result of the Cabinet Resolution of 14 June 2005. Considering that the main function of these centres is to coordinate the concerned organisations among the public sector, the private sector and communities, and to protect and assist victims of trafficking, the members of these new structures benefited enormously from the training as they had an opportunity to put “policy into practice” by enhancing their expertise in working together.
- Training participants acquired specialised skills and knowledge on how to deal with child victims of trafficking. In particular, they were trained in identification and referral of children who may have been trafficked, child sensitive methods of working and appropriate standards of care, as well as in the specific procedures that apply to child victims and witnesses in the context of the criminal justice system.
 - The use of the training manual will also be instrumental in the future

implementation of the database on human trafficking, which was designed by FACE within the framework of the Action Programme. The users of the information system will be required to have a clear understanding of the issue of trafficking, as well as of the related laws and procedures in Thailand.

Elements of good practice:

A tool promoting effective integrated services for trafficked children

The main strength of FACE's training manual and training sessions on human trafficking lies in the promotion of the multi-disciplinary teamwork. The creation of multi-disciplinary teams has a direct impact on victims of trafficking as it enables the provision of effective holistic and integrated services. This is also true when providing assistance to children trafficked for sexual exploitation. The multi-disciplinary teams include key professionals with a diverse range of skills and expertise, including physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists, social workers and legal professionals (police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers). On the basis of their specialisation, each actor plays a specific role in the rehabilitation and reintegration of a

"Thanks to the training, I have learned to pay more attention to the identification of trafficking survivors and fact finding."

(Police officer)

trafficked child, as well as in the prosecution process.

After a report is made and a first case conference involving the whole team is conducted, police usually coordinate the investigation and rescue the child. The child is then placed in a government or non-government shelter for immediate and short term protection. During this phase, the investigation officer interviews the child through a social worker and sends the taped interview and investigation file to the public prosecutor to build up a case and take further legal action. Another case conference usually follows to discuss the medium and long term assistance to the victim.

The package of services provided varies according to the specific needs of the child, and may include medical check ups and treatment, psychological recovery and rehabilitation, vocational training, legal assistance during the criminal procedure or in seeking for redress or a return to the community or to his/her home country.

A practical and theoretical rights-based resource material

The multi-disciplinary training manual developed by FACE and its partners includes several key elements that make it effective. It is both a practical and theoretical tool. It contains a general section, designed for awareness raising, which includes a comprehensive description of the phenomenon, definitions and *modus operandi*, and a specific section for the multi-disciplinary professionals targeted by the training, giving detailed instructions on the interventions and measures to be taken by these actors when working together.

As highlighted by participants in the training, the combination of theory and practice is particularly important in light of the complex laws and procedures in the framework under which multi-disciplinary work is carried out in Thailand. By conducting case conferences, practitioners enhance the understanding of their and other professionals' concrete role in counteracting trafficking, as established by the various anti-trafficking MoUs and relevant legislation.

Furthermore, the training manual adopts a 'human rights approach', as it is based on international human rights standards and is operationally directed towards promoting and protecting the human rights of the victims. In this context, it is also worth mentioning that, although not focused on

child trafficking for sexual exploitation, the curriculum takes into consideration the specific situation of each child victim, their rights and needs and the concept of the best interests of the child, while devoting an entire module to raising awareness on gender inequality, which is one of the main push and pull factors of sexual exploitation of children in Thailand.

A sustainable, replicable practice developed through a participatory approach

In line with the philosophy of FACE, the training manual was developed with the contribution and active involvement of government and non-governmental anti-trafficking practitioners and experts working at national and provincial level. Apart from being central to the manual's improvement, this participatory approach contributed to the development of a sense of ownership of this resource material and stimulated its use and sustainability.

In addition, the existence of a written comprehensive tool with a clear methodology, encouraged other anti-trafficking stakeholders who had not taken part in the training to extend its application through additional capacity building programmes. Similarly, the demonstrated effectiveness of the training sessions held in northern, central and southern Thailand stimulated participants to replicate this experience in order to further expand the

anti-trafficking networks at provincial and local levels. It is therefore expected that the multi-actor training will become a common practice in all provinces in Thailand and will also constitute a model for countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

A long-term impact at policy level

One of the most important preconditions for the multi-disciplinary teamwork promoted by the training manual is the existence of a legal and policy framework facilitating the transfer of the multi-disciplinary approach into practice. Being aware of this need, before and during the pilot of this strategy, FACE and other Thai NGOs campaigned for legal reform to strengthen the protection of trafficked persons, especially children, and to establish mechanisms for multi-agency collaboration. The several laws and MoUs adopted or reviewed by Thailand in the last ten years may be considered an

important result of this effort to create a favorable environment for the application of a multi-disciplinary approach.

The work carried out under the framework of the Action Programme was also beneficial at policy level. In addition to contributing indirectly to the implementation of the Cabinet Resolution establishing a National Operation Centre in Bangkok and Operational Centres at provincial level, the development of the multi-disciplinary training manual and implementation of training sessions were in line with the National Agenda against Human Trafficking declared by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on 6 August 2004, encouraging agencies to work together on capacity building in order to deal more effectively with the issue of trafficking.

PREVENTING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND CSEC WHILE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO CHILD SURVIVORS: LA STRADA'S HOTLINE IN UKRAINE

Background and context

With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the consequent transition to a market economy, Ukraine has become a significant source of trafficking in human beings, including child trafficking for sexual purposes. Research shows that minors are trafficked for prostitution mainly to Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, as well as to western and southern Europe.

Recently, Ukraine has emerged as a transit and destination country, and during the summer months in particular, many children from CIS countries are trafficked to the Crimea and the Azov sea coast for sexual exploitation. This phenomenon is directly linked to child sex tourism, which involves Ukrainian citizens and foreigners and appears to be on the increase. Ukrainian children are also trafficked internally, especially from rural areas and small towns in southern and eastern regions of Ukraine to larger cities, such as Kiev.

To reduce the incidence of child trafficking for sexual purposes while ensuring appropriate care services to victims, the La Strada Ukraine Center, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, launched the project “Development of a National Referral System for Providing Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation”. Implemented under the framework of the Action Programme, the project included the development of a training manual to combat child trafficking and CSEC; training for trainers and training sessions for different categories of anti-trafficking professionals working with children; knowledge-based development; and awareness raising and information sharing. The project also supported the work of La Strada’s national toll-free hotline on human trafficking and contributed to the creation of a team of hotline operators specialised in child trafficking and CSEC.



Banner advertising the hotline on human trafficking

Description of the practice

The hotline on human trafficking has been in operation since 1997. Initially, it was only available once a week, but the significant amount of calls received led La Strada to consider supporting a daily service, with an appropriate increase in the number of hotline counsellors.

Currently, the hotline (8 800 500 22 50) offers its services from Monday to Saturday, 9 am to 8 pm, and is accessible from all over Ukraine through a two-channel telephone line that allows for consultations to be provided to two clients simultaneously.

La Strada also conducts electronic consultations via e-mail or through the online counselling service available on the organisation's website (www.lastrada.org.ua). The hotline has a preventive role in terms of providing trafficking-specific counselling and information. Given the close connection between trafficking and

migration, La Strada also assists clients who plan to go abroad, to ensure that they migrate legally and safely. In this connection, the hotline provides information on visa processes in different countries, foreign legislation on the status of migrants and human trafficking, marrying a foreigner, and legal possibilities of employment and studying abroad.

Whether related to human trafficking or other potential abuses or fraud, La Strada collaborates with the State Employment Center, Anti-Trafficking Department, to confirm the legitimacy of employment firms. The Department provides information on labour legislation in a particular country, examines the job contracts received and explains the contractual clauses.

To increase awareness about the hotline, La Strada regularly advertises it through the use of leaflets, stickers, posters,

television, radio, magazines and local newspapers. The dissemination of these materials is carried out in collaboration with government institutions, including the State Committee on Border Control, the Center of Social Services for Youth, the State Employment Center and the Ministries of Health, Interior and Foreign Affairs, as well as with NGOs and international organisations.

The work of the hotline also helps in identifying priorities and target groups for preventive activity. La Strada's consultants constantly analyse requests from clients, and by developing statistics on the types of consultation required and the origin of calls within and outside Ukraine, they determine where the emphasis should be placed when planning any preventive strategy.

In addition to reducing the risk of the occurrence of crime, the hotline functions as a referral system for identifying and providing assistance to trafficking survivors. In this connection, an important task of La Strada's hotline is to collect information from people looking for relatives missing abroad, and help them in the search. With support from Ukrainian consulates and embassies abroad and NGOs operating in the country of destination of the victim, the missing person is usually traced and sent back to Ukraine within six months. It is at this point that the social rehabilitation of the victim begins. Depending on the

specific needs of the trafficking survivor, the hotline provides a plane ticket, first aid, emergency psychological counselling, and legal assistance, or refers the case to their national NGO partner network and

ЦЕ ВАРТО ЗНАТИ:

1. Якщо ви запитали Ваш паспорт? Документи, що належать Вашій особі завжди повинні знаходитись тільки у Вас.

2. Якщо ви збираєтесь працювати чи навчатись за кордоном, пошукайте, щоб Ваш контракт був написаний українською мовою, а також, щоб у нього містились такі дані: Ваше ім'я, місце народження, місце та час Вашого перебування, прайв будні чітко обумовлені.

3. Завжди тримайте достатню інформацію про майбутнє місце перебування за кордоном з адресою та контактними телефонами, а також копію свого паспорта та контракту. Ми б також рекомендували включити свої фото та адреси ваших близьких друзів.

4. Не забувайте зберігати номери телефонів українських посольств та консульств у країнах, куди ви плануєте поїти. Якщо ви опинитесь у складній ситуації, або Вам стане небезпечно – звертайтеся до представників своєї країни, ми допоможемо Вам.

5. У зарубіжних країнах активно працюють спеціальні організації та організації, які надають допомогу особам, які опинились у складній ситуації.

6. Тільки перебуваючи на території іншої держави можна повернутись до України. Попередити місцевого державного урядовця Ваш наступний візит до Європи.

7. Не забувайте, що завжди слід з документів мати можливість зв'язатись з родичами в Україні та повернутись до України та повернутись у свою країну.

"ГАРЯЧА ЛІНІЯ"
ПО ЗАПОБІГАННЮ ТОРГІВЛІ ЛЮДЬМИ
8 800 500 22 50
(безкоштовно дзвонити по Україні)
+ 38 044 205 36 94
+ 38 044 205 37 36
(дзвонити по Києву та 11-ти містах)

Міжнародний жіночий правозахисний центр
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НАДІШЛИ:
консульстві, куди повернувшись по допомогу в країні перебування
догомою у повернення в Україну
психологічну, медичну, юридичну допомогу
транспортне перебування в готелю
всю допомогу

La Strada increases awareness of its hotline on human trafficking through posters and other materials

concerned state agencies offering shelters, medical aid, vocational training and job opportunities. In order to strengthen coordination, facilitate access to the consultations at local level and ensure better referral, the work of La Strada's hotline is conducted in close collaboration with regional hotlines throughout the country, as well as with similar structures in other European countries.

The contribution of the Action Programme to the specialisation of the hotline

When the hotline first became active, it was focused mainly on preventing trafficking in women. However, the increasing incidence of exploitation and abuse cases involving children led La Strada to expand the scope of the hotline to include issues related to children. The Action Programme further contributed to the specialisation of the hotline.

Following five tailor-made training sessions, a team of six permanent counsellors, who are specialised in child trafficking and CSEC, was established. The team includes two psychologists (one of them with a medical background), two social workers, a legal expert and a teacher. The training also involved the Coordinator of Programmes on Child Rights Protection and the Coordinator of Social Assistance, who occasionally

provide consultations.

La Strada's hotline is currently used by teenagers, parents and caregivers who get information on issues such as legal channels for minors to go abroad, safety rules for prevention of child trafficking, violence against children and child rights protection, reports on children who have disappeared abroad, repatriation of children to Ukraine, reports on cases/ information on child pornography, child prostitution and child trafficking for sexual exploitation and referral of child victims.

Hotline operators provide tips on safe migration to young people who are planning to go abroad to work, such as: verifying whether a job agency or opportunity is legitimate; leaving contact information in their destination country with relatives or friends; and obtaining addresses and telephone or hotline numbers of NGOs that assist foreigners, including those that work with trafficking victims, and of embassies and consular offices in the country of destination. In light of the increase in the production of child pornography in Ukraine, La Strada's hotline has also focused on raising awareness among children and their families about the dangers connected to the use of the Internet and new technologies. Consequently, young callers can now receive advice (i.e. "netsmart rules") on how to protect themselves from online predators.

The hotline has become an important element of the national referral mechanisms for identifying child victims of trafficking and CSE and giving them access to assistance. The identification process usually starts with a request for help, for example, in cases of tracing a missing child abroad, rape, domestic violence, substitution of a child in a maternity hospital, etc. Such a request may be made by the trafficked children themselves, the child's parents, relatives or friends, and in a few cases, by concerned state institutions, such as the regional Departments on Family and Youth under the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Upon receipt of the request for assistance, a social worker from La Strada's hotline contacts the representative of the foreign NGOs to ensure support to the trafficked child as he/she returns home, meets the victim at the airport, talks to him/her and defines basic needs. The victim may stay in Kiev for a while to receive emergency medical and psychological assistance. Information about legal rights and the possibility of testifying against the traffickers is also provided to the victim by the hotline's legal expert.

According to Ukrainian legislation, information on child trafficking cases must be reported to the responsible law enforcement agency. As a result, the hotline counsellors are expected to liaise with the Department of Criminal Militia

on Minor's Affairs under the Ministry of Interior, to start an investigation. In the meantime, an individual rehabilitation and social reintegration plan for the child is developed, and depending on the circumstances, the child may return to his/her family or relatives, or be placed within a state establishment for children. Education or professional courses, together with medical and long-term psychological support, are also provided. In order to ensure these services, La Strada cooperates



A leaflet advertising the hotline

with NGOs working with children, and with several state institutions active at regional level, including the relevant department on Minor's Affairs, the Centers for Social Services for Youth, departments on Family and Youth Affairs, and departments of education and healthcare.

To complement this project activity and to inform the public about the new services provided by the hotline, La Strada produced a television advertisement on the issue of trafficking in children and CSEC, which was broadcast for three months on national and regional channels and on the underground plasma videos in Kiev.

Outcomes/Achievements

During the implementation of the Action Programme, the hotline achieved significant results, in particular:

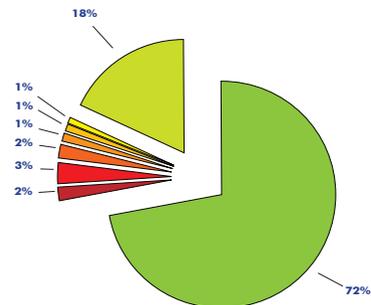
- 8,105 consultations were given on the hotline between January 2005 and August 2006.
- 431 consultations were given through the Internet during the same period.
- The hotline proved to be a useful tool to promote safe migration and provide job-vetting services. The toll-free number was used mainly by people looking for information on working, studying or vacationing abroad. A significant number of calls were related to finding ways to return to Ukraine and tracing relatives who disappeared abroad. Only

1% of calls were made by trafficked persons who had returned, their parents, friends, or relatives.

- Statistics which disaggregated data on the basis of age, developed by La Strada, revealed that 72 calls received between September 2005 and August 2006 were related to children. Of those calls, 83 per cent were made by adults and 17 per cent by children. Information requested focused, among other things, on how to prevent child trafficking and CSEC when going abroad for work or study, while requests for assistance were related to domestic violence against children, disappearance of children abroad, and child trafficking and CSEC cases.
- 19 cases involving children were reported and received assistance through the hotline. Analysis revealed cases to be related to such problems as domestic violence, substitution of a child in a maternity hospital, rape, illegal adoption and tracing a missing child abroad. However, for about half of these cases, La Strada does not yet have final results as they are still at the stage of clarifying circumstances or checking data – for example, parents filed a report on a missing child, and it is unknown whether the child was kidnapped for further trafficking or was lost in the city. As a result, only a few cases can be considered as trafficking or CSEC.

- The television advertisement, “No, it must not happen...” advertising the hotline number, contributed to raising awareness on child trafficking and CSEC in Ukraine among at-risk children, parents, caregivers and the public. According to La Strada’s operators, the number of calls referring specifically to CSEC and child trafficking cases has increased as a result of airing the advertisement.

National hotline on prevention of human trafficking



Statistical Breakdown
January 2005-August 2006
Total: 8,105 calls

Olena’s story

Olena is a young girl from a small village in Ukraine who did not attend school until the age of nine. With her father suffering from illness and and her mother at work all day at the railway station market, Olena had no one to look after her. When her parents were deprived of their parental rights, Olena was placed in a special boarding school.

She stayed at the school for two years, and then escaped with a 16 year-old friend who earned money from prostitution. When Olena’s friend offered her the opportunity to earn money in the United Arab Emirates, she agreed and a foreign woman took Olena out of the country with forged documents.

She travelled with two men and four women and when they arrived at the hotel, the men raped Olena, beat her, and then offered her to clients. She was forced to service 5-6 clients a day and to work almost daily, but was never compensated. After nearly one and a half years, Olena managed to escape, with the help of a young man who took her to his home.

After some time, Olena realised she was pregnant, but was afraid to return home with a child. She had an illegal abortion during the 6th month of pregnancy, which nearly cost her her life.

Olena was later arrested and

- 72 % - consultations on working, vacationing in other countries
- 2 % - consultations on studying
- 3 % - searching for ways to return to Ukraine
- 2 % - questions about those who have gone missing abroad
- 1 % - questions concerning obtainment of a resident permit
- 1 % - calls from trafficked persons (their parents, friends, relatives) who have returned
- 1 % - consultation about marriage with a foreigner
- <1% - consultation about divorcing a foreigner and questions about returning children
- <1% (8 calls) - consultations about judicial process in cases of trafficking in human beings
- 18 % - other, which includes:
 - organisational questions on helping those in need
 - La Strada consultation and interviews for journalists
 - La Strada consultation for the unemployment center
 - calls from Ukrainian and foreign embassies
 - request for information on seminars, training, lectures
 - questions which are outside organisation's competence

imprisoned because she had no documents. She stayed in prison for 9 months before being deported back to Ukraine. When she arrived at Borispol Airport in Kiev, she turned to the transport police department. Representatives from the department contacted Olena's grandmother and gave her the number of La Strada's hotline. A social worker from the Centre picked up Olena at the airport and took her to the shelter where she was given medical and psychological assistance.

Today Olena lives with her grandmother, attends evening school and receives medical treatment and specialised psychological support.

Elements of good practice:

Wide impact and empowerment of children through comprehensive awareness raising

It is difficult to directly measure the impact of La Strada's hotline on prevention of trafficking because calls are usually anonymous and therefore follow-up with clients is not possible. However, the high number of calls on how to safely work abroad, and their constant increase, clearly shows that the campaign has affected many people and is effective in terms of reducing vulnerability to trafficking. Although it does not decrease people's interest in migration, hotline counselling has a subtle impact on behaviour. With raised awareness of trafficking and a method available to check the legitimacy of job offers, potential migrants appear to be willing to take the additional steps necessary to migrate safely.

The limited number of calls received by La Strada's hotline about and from children suggests that strategies need to be developed to ensure that the most vulnerable of migrants are aware of this service and can access the hotline. It is clear that providing information on safety rules and legal channels to go abroad empowers young people to take responsibility for protecting themselves from trafficking and sexual exploitation, and to make an informed decision about whether migrating for work is the best choice and, if so, how and when to go. Furthermore, teaching young people about their human rights and how to seek assistance if their rights are violated or if they need help, will increase the chances that young people will seek help if they have problems while working abroad or if they are victims of human trafficking.

Combined awareness raising strategies and partnerships with the private sector to reduce costs

Data provided by La Strada shows that the hotline usage by vulnerable children and adolescents, parents, caregivers and the public increased significantly when tied to the broadcasting of television advertisements on the fight against CSEC and child trafficking. Therefore, advertising the specialised services of the hotline and linking them with an awareness raising campaign can be an effective outreach tool for the at-risk group. In this connection, La Strada received free airtime from a local advertising agency and reduced tariffs for the hotline from a telecommunications company. Such in-kind contributions made a big difference in reducing the costs of implementing the practice, while allowing the use of local resources and creating significant partnerships with the private sector.



Information materials with tips to prevent human trafficking, including contact details for the hotline



Shots from the TV advertisement produced by La Strada

Direct impact on child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking

La Strada's hotline has become an effective tool for establishing contact with child and adolescent victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, or those potentially exposed to these problems, as well as their

families, friends and relatives. Following implementation of the project, child victims can now easily access a wide range of integrated support services, such as on-site rescue after they are identified within or outside Ukraine, to rehabilitation in state shelters and reintegration into their families

and communities. Specialised assistance, based on a child rights approach, including medical aid, psychological counselling, and legal assistance, are provided directly by La Strada's hotline operators, who receive appropriate training for this purpose.

Additional support services for child victims (including long-term placement in an establishment, education, vocational training, assistance in finding a job and support in testifying against traffickers in court) are ensured by the network of governmental and non-governmental organizations collaborating with La Strada's hotline. While the network of agencies

providing social assistance to human trafficking survivors in Ukraine has been functioning since 1997, it is only with the implementation of the Action Programme and the adoption of an integrated strategy for assisting trafficking and CSEC victims, that a strong collaboration on these specific issues among governmental institutions and NGOs involved in the referral has been established.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Action Programme reaffirmed findings which show that the transnational nature of trafficking in children for sexual purposes requires global approaches and solutions. A unique framework to support collaboration and systematic exchange of information and learning across the participating countries and project partners influenced the interventions undertaken in Costa Rica, Thailand and Ukraine. Resources and experiences were shared (see, for example, the UNICRI website devoted to the programme and the Mid-Term Review Meeting held in Bangkok in February 2005) and adapted to respond to the specific situations and needs identified at national level. In this sense, the initiatives undertaken during the Programme provide replicable examples of meaningful and practical international collaboration for child protection.

Several elements of good practice emerged from the implementation of the Programme. The Programme provides a clear indication that regardless of the national context, anti-trafficking

initiatives can be undertaken based on child rights principles that take into account the unique position and needs of children throughout the trafficking cycle. The focus on ensuring the best interests of the child is then reflected in all elements of programme intervention. On a practical level, the use of a participatory approach which involves the primary anti-trafficking stakeholders in all critical processes (including needs analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of activities), strengthens the foundation and reinforces the commitment to a child rights focus. Such active participation was crucial in ensuring that the validity, tailored nature and pertinence of the products developed (training manuals, information materials and campaigns, etc.) during the Programme were assessed in light of its rights focus. More importantly, the consultative processes contributed to the creation of a sense of ownership in all the aspects and outcomes achieved, thereby guaranteeing greater sustainability of the actions undertaken.

Similarly, the use of an integrated approach, which supported the structured participation of a broad range of partners in all programme activities, also ensured cooperation and coordination among government and non-governmental actors working on prevention, prosecution and victim assistance and protection. In all three countries involved, the network of agencies providing support services to children trafficked for sexual purposes has been strengthened, with a consequent increase in victim referrals.

In Costa Rica and Ukraine, partnerships with the private sector were established to broaden the social support and contributions to activities, thereby improving the reach and replicability of initiatives. In Thailand, the implementation of multi-disciplinary training not only changed the attitudes and behaviour of practitioners, but also influenced policy at local, provincial and national levels.

While the selected activities described in this booklet met several criteria that characterise good practice in work against child trafficking for sexual purposes, some key elements received limited attention. For example, the promotion of meaningful participation

of children and young people in the activities was not considered in the design and implementation of the Action Programme. Furthermore, although the practices targeted both internal and cross border trafficking, institutionalised transnational strategies to foster cooperation among and between sending and receiving countries, in order to counter child trafficking, were not fully developed. Similarly, specific interventions to address the root causes of trafficking and to alleviate the circumstances that make children vulnerable to trafficking for sexual exploitation, including the creation of disincentives to prevent and eliminate the demand, were only partially addressed. The replication or adaptation of the practices outlined in this publication therefore require that such elements are taken into consideration.

The Action Programme constitutes an example of how the challenges posed by the complexity of child trafficking for sexual purposes can be addressed. It is hoped that by building on this experience, further actions to strengthen the protection of children from this serious violation of their rights will be promoted.



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