



International Center for Women Rights
Protection and Promotion „La Strada”

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SUMMARY

ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

January – December 2015

Prevention of Child Sexual
Commercial Exploitation

*National Toll Free Hotline on Safe Migration
0 800 77777 - nationally
(+373 22) 23 33 09 – from abroad
08.00-20.00/week-round, confidential*

*National Trust Line 0 8008 8008
24/24, confidential
National Child Helpline
116 111
24/24 hours*

ACTIVITY AREA III	COUNTER-ACTING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN
Strategic objective 1	To support the Government of RM in streamlining national child rights protection policies
Activity stream 1.1.	To support development of national legal mechanism facilitating protection of HR of children victims-witnesses
Activity 1.1.1.	<p>To provide Expert support to the MLSPF in streamlining child protection policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015 La Strada experts participated in a series of workshops organized by MLSPF in partnership with leading national child rights protection NGOs in Moldova for the finalization of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children 2014-2020 and development of relevant Strategy Action Plan. Most recommendations of La Strada have included into the text of the Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy was approved in December 2015 while the Action Plan approval was postponed for the first quarter of 2016 given political situation.
Activity 1.1.2.	<p>To provide Expert support to MLSPF in developing and implementation of the Child Help Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Center "La Strada" experts provided support to MLSPF in developing the Communication strategy and the Development Plan of the Child Helpline in Moldova. The development plan was approved by MLSPF Order # 201 from 10. 12. 2015.
Activity stream 1.2.	To support lining-up national law to international and European treaties and directives
Activity 1.2.1.	<p>Support in harmonization of the national legislation to the international and European treaties and directives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Strada expert contributed with recommendation to the draft Law on rehabilitation of victims of crimes. Most recommendations of La Strada have been incorporated into the draft Law concerning the right of the victims to get the compensation for non-pecuniary damages. Based on own experience and lessons learnt, La Strada shared its views and recommendations with a national expert group engaged in the development of the draft Guidelines and Methodology for the psychological evaluation of children participating in criminal and court proceedings. Although La Strada continued to provide expert support to the MoI on streamlining national legal framework for effective investigation of child online sexual exploitation and protection of children, the legal initiative got stuck due to political instability.
Activity Stream 1.3.	To support integration of emerging on CR into national policies on CR protection
Activity 1.3.1.	<p>Expert support to ECPAT research access to justice and remedies for children victims of SCEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During March-June, 2015, "La Strada" contributed to the International ECPAT Research "Access to Justice and Remedies for victims of sexual exploitation". La Strada's contribution consisted in preparing a summary note with conclusions and recommendations based on interviews with professionals from the justice sector. The summary note has been incorporated into the ECPAT overall Review and shared within IPSCAN meeting in Bucharest. <p>Research on the access of victims (including children) of sexual violence to legal and social protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "La Strada" conducted the study "<i>Ensuring access of victims of sexual violence to adequate legal and social protection</i>". The study allowed researching experience of 14 women and girls victims of sexual violence (who have been in contact with the legal/social protection system and benefited/not benefited from assistance) and collecting opinion of 20 managers of service providers for victims of domestic violence (since in Moldova there are not specialised services for women affected

	<p>by sexual violence), 35 specialists from legal and social area. Major conclusions are: sexual violence is the least recognized and reported form of violence; the biggest majority of cases don't get into the attention of the authorities; the main factors which favour this situation are multiple: (i) stereotyped social norms in which maleness is associated with domination and aggression, while femininity with obedience and silence; (ii) blaming persons who are victims of these situations, as being guilty for the producing of these offences; (iii) the fear of the persons to denounce such cases, in order not to be blamed, marginalized, etc. The key scope of this exercise was to emerge professional discussion around the need to improve law and implementation mechanisms in support and protection of the rights of victims. The report on the study will be presented and discussed with main stakeholders on February 2016.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.	<p>To conduct case-based analysis of the organics of CSCE and vulnerability of children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, "La Strada" performed an extensive analysis of the cases assisted by "La Strada" throughout the 2010-2014. The analysis aimed at identification of factors leading to increased vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation/ trafficking. A total of 58 cases have been selected for this research, of which 64% are girls and 36% boys. The final analytical product includes also a series of recommendations for the consolidation of prevention efforts, assistance and reintegration of children who have suffered from the CSCE.
Strategic objective 2.	To contribute to reducing vulnerability of children to CSCE and abuse
Activity stream 2.1.	To ensure availability and accessibility of information about online safety for children
Activity 2.1.1.	<p>Maintenance of the dedicated informational portal to promote child safety online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, "La Strada" continued offering on-line information and counseling via informational portal www.siguronline.md. During the year, 137 online consultations have been provided via "Questions and answers" and 90 online counseling via "support online" option, thus making a total of 227 online counseling being provided as compared to 139 in 2013. Comparative with 2014, an increase has been registered in the number of questions related to profile safety issue with 50%, cyber bullying and harmful content while the number of request of a general nature has decrease with 20%. The online counseling system allowed identification of 2 presumed cases of child online grooming that have been referred to the C4. A total number of 8 new thematic articles have been developed by "La Strada" staff and circulated via the portal and fb page. <p>Informing about online safety for children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 interviews have been provided by "La Strada" representatives to 4 newspapers/press agencies, 10 TV agencies and 3 radio stations as related the topic of CSCE/child abuse including online; 4 articles were written by "La Strada" staff for mass media on CSCE aspects.
Activity 2.1.2.	<p>To conduct outreach activities in rural areas</p> <p>Organize Peer-to-Peer Educators Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 108 seminars and outreach events in summer camps have been conducted for 3001 young people on child safety online issues. These events have been organized by "La Strada" Peer-to-Peers educators in cooperation with Educational Departments on district level in line with MoU signed by "La Strada" with Ministry of Education; 2200 copies of educational and promotion materials on safety online have been distributed during seminars for youth in schools and awareness activities in summer camps; 22 "La Strada" volunteers (Peer-to-peer educators) who will carry out educational seminars and outreach activities in 2016, have been trained to promote safer internet for children in the framework of a training organized by "La Strada" on December 5-6, 2015.

Activity Stream 2. 2.	To mobilize private business and society for the prevention of CSCE
Activity 2.1.1.	<p>Organizing info and awareness events for/ in partnership with private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the occasion of the Safer Internet Day (February 10) - XII-Edition entitled "Together to make the Internet safer!" La Strada jointly with the C4 have organized a series of events and actions including: organizing distribution of information www.siguronline.md info portal via a collective sms distributed to mobile phone users by a national ICT company; distribution of brochures "Guide for Responsible Parent" within flash mobs organized in the biggest sales centers in Chisinau and distribution of info materials to McDonald's clients during several days.
Strategic objective 3.	To contribute to human institutional capacities to effectively respond to the cases of CSCE and abuse
Activity stream 3.1.	To enhance skills and abilities of professionals to secure rights of children during criminal and court proceedings
Activity 3.1.1.	<p>Elaboration of a Rehabilitation and reintegration(R&R) Program for victims of sexual abuse/exploitation (ECPAT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the elaboration of a relevant R&R Program in Moldovan context, a working group of 5 experts was called who have compiled a draft Support Guide for professionals involved in R&R of children affected by sexual exploitation. The Guide included several modules: Personal efficiency in working on the cases of children who suffered sexual abuse/exploitation; Definitions; The incidence of sexual abuse/exploitation in the Republic of Moldova; Childs reaction to the abusive/exploitative situations; Indicators of abuse; Legal investigation of the cases of sexual-commercial exploitation of children; Writing reports on psychological assessment of the children victims of sexual abuse/exploitation; Psychological assessment and intervention on the cases of child sexual abuse/exploitation; Conceptual approach of the family in the practice of social assistants. During November 26-28 the group of experts conducted training on the use of the developed support Guide targeting service providers in the field of CR Protection. The participants have been selected so that they represent team of two – psychologist and social worker – from various Centers across the country who is engaged in the assistance of children who have suffered from sexual abuse and/or sexual exploitation; 32 professionals, including from partner organization who were co-trainers (CCF, CAP, CNPAC) participated in the training. Each participant received the draft Guide that was presented and exercised during the training days; in addition, the participants received a book of exercises designed for working with children with trauma. Participants were encouraged to become co-writers for the final Guide by adding glimpse of their experience. The training is also considered a Guide pre-piloting phase. Hence, by the end of the training, participants received templates for case monitoring, being informed that during the piloting phase, they can enjoy coaching and mentoring in order to help them apply the Guide and collect feedback. The program will be piloted through March 2016. In 2016 a final workshop for best practices exchange will be organized leading to the finalization of the Guide on R&R.
Activity 3.1.2.	<p>Provide case-based consultations to LE on the treatment of child victim-witness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attorney and psychologist of La Strada intervention team has offered 85 consultations for the law enforcement professionals, and 95 consultations for other professional groups as related to the special procedures for interviewing children victims and treatment of child victim/witness throughout criminal proceedings.
Activity stream 3.2.	To strengthen knowledge of practitioners about CSCE and abuse
Activity 3.2.1.	<p>To distribute methodological materials to practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only Guide elaborated in 2015 was the draft Guide for professionals on R&R of children victims of sexual exploitation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August, La Strada in partnership with ECPAT International, organized a Training on the research objectives for psychologists that interviewed children victims/survivor of CSEC, with participation of 12 local professionals (psychologists) representing national NGOs in the field of child rights. The training was conducted by Simon Baker - a trainer identified by the ECPAT International Secretariat. As a result of the workshop a new questionnaire was developed. Consulted questionnaire was used by the psychologist from La Strada and CNPAC in order to interview children victims of SCEC. The results of interviews at the moment are interpreted and integrated by ECPAT International researchers. We expect to be able to use the funding of the research inclusively in elaboration of future informational materials. Also in August, La Strada in cooperation with ECPAT International has organized a workshop for the exchange of good practices on the rehabilitation of children and adolescents who have suffered from/are engaged in sexual activities. The workshop allowed getting familiar with practices from UK and Israel and served as good starting point for extensive discussions among national service providers on various aspects of assistance to children, challenges and priorities. <p>To organize debriefings with medical staff on identification of CSEC case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In fall, 2 seminars for medical staff of medical institutions (clinic and hospital) specialized in medical care of children have been delivered on health and psychological indicators of sexual abuse/exploitation aiming at equipping and encouraging medical staff to identify and refer children to protection mechanisms. Since medical staff exhibit interest for this topic, and they are first line professionals who can identify possible victims, such events are seen as helpful to introduce a module on identification and assistance of children victims of CSEC for medical staff.
Activity Stream 3.3.	To support institutionalization of professional education on interviewing vulnerable witnesses
Activity 3.3.2.	<p>To offer support in integration of the training course into the formal curricula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Strada's specialists has developed the <i>Curricula for master degree in Forensic Psychology</i> targeting future specialists to be engaged in conducting hearing of the child victims/witnesses of crime participating in criminal proceedings. The Curricula has been approved by the decision 01/16 of the Moldova State University dated 09.01.2014 and later on approved by Ministry of Education. As of September 2015 the first group of students was selected and started the course Forensic Psychology at the State University. La Strada expert secures curricula implementation ad participate as core lecturer-expert.
Strategic objective 4.	To ensure accessibility and availability of specialized services to children victims of CSCE and abuse
Activity streamline 4.1.	To provide children and their families with specialized support throughout criminal proceedings
Activity 4.1.1.	<p>Providing mediation of legal interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46 mediations of legal interviews have been performed as related to 41 assisted children in the frame of police investigations and court hearings. The mediation regarded cases of girls abuse/exploitation (41 interventions) and of boys (5). Over 90 consultations and psychological support sessions were performed by psychologists with the victims and their family members.
Activity 4.1.2.	<p>Providing legal counseling and representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 148 legal counseling and representation actions have been provided by La Strada's attorney in relationship to 39 children (5 boys and 34 girls); 444 legal consultations have been provided to professional groups and beneficiaries by la Strada attorney.
Activity 4.1.3.	<p>Providing psychological counseling and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46 victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse enjoyed individual psychological

	<p>counseling via 46 extended sessions offered by La Strada psychologist;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 135 consultations with/for prosecutors, judges, social workers, psychologists were offered by La Strada's psychologist as to identify the current needs and refer the children to specialized service providers in correspondence to identified needs and taking into consideration the best interest of the child;
Activity streamline 4.2.	To provide (presumed) victims of CSCE/abuse/neglect and their careers with easy-to-access info and protection tool
Activity 4.2.1.	<p>Providing Hotline counseling on the issues of CSCE and abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance was provided in 29 cases including 4 children victims of CSCE (pornography, prostitution, child trafficking, 6 child victim of trafficking), 13 children victims of various forms of sexual abuse and 6 children missing presumed victims of CSCE/sexual abuse; • 43 calls have been counseled regarding searching and/or recovery of 29 children (21 girls and 8 boys) considered as trafficked/sexually abused/exploited. <p>Providing access to info counseling online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18736 unique visitors and 44270 total visitors have accessed www.siguronline.md run by "La Strada" targeting teachers and parents; • 227 online counseling have been offered to children as related to safety online issues through website www.siguronline.md; • 123 consultations have been provided via web-site help line as related to profile safety issues, 23 consultations as related to cyber bullying, and 5 consultations as related to harmful content due to www.siguronline.md "help line" opportunity; • 5 cases of data stolen have been reported via on-line reporting system; • 834 "likes" icons as related to website www.siguronline.md content have been registered on www.facebook.com and 332 on www.odnoklassniki.com; • 3624 visitors have been accessing a specialized web profile on Facebook promoting www.siguronline.md.
Activity 4.2.2.	<p>Providing counseling via Trust line on the issues of domestic violence and abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 101 cases have been registered that regard to children suffering from various forms of violence and abuse being provided with counseling, referral/social mediation and case monitoring. Among these, 38 were cases of domestic violence committed exclusively against children, 41 cases of domestic violence committed against women and their children, 15 cases of child abuse outside the family, 5 cases of conflicts between children and their parents and 2 cases of institutionalized child rights' violations. <p>Providing counseling via National Child Help Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7026 calls have been counseled via National Child Help Line, among which 5413 are calls from children, 228 from community members, 68 from professional groups and 2 from mass media.
Activity 4.2.3.	<p>Functioning of the mobile team to respond to field requests on case identification and assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2015, the "La Strada" mobile team had 4 emergency responses in cases of child abuse/exploitation. All children have been safeguarded, cases referred to law enforcement and special monitoring secured with follow up relevant legal and psychological intervention.
Activity 4.2.4.	<p>Organizing referral to social service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all cases assisted by "La Strada", these have been referred to the NRS for further comprehensive assistance and support