

ANNUAL REPORT

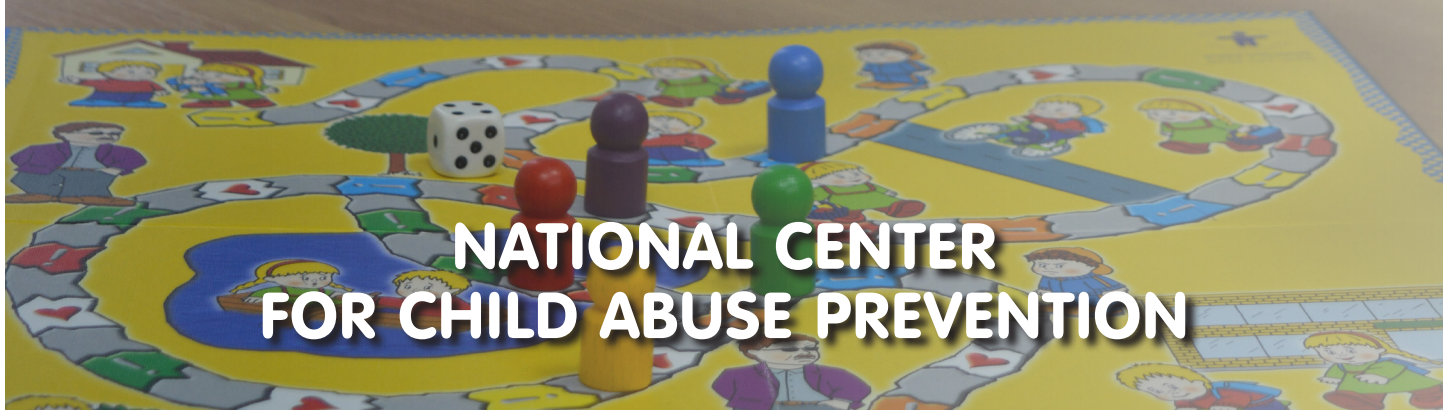
2016-2017

CNPA

Toți copiii merită să fie
LIBERI, PUTERNICI și

Toți copiii merită să fie
LIBERI, PUTERNICI și PROTEJAȚI!

Prevenim
Asistăm
Sensibilizăm societatea
Consolidăm sistemul de
protecție a copilului



**NATIONAL CENTER
FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION**

Who we are...



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

is an NGO from the Republic of Moldova, which has been promoting children's right to be protected from all forms of violence since 1997. Our work includes informing, raising awareness and motivating society in order to stop the ill-treatment of children.



OUR VISION

is a violence-free society, where all children have equal opportunities to fulfill their potential.



OUR MISSION

is to protect children at risk and child victims from all forms of abuse, through prevention activities and specialized services addressed to children and their families.

Our partners and donors



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Institutul
Național al
Justiției





As in previous years, we have strongly advocated for things that we consider the most important for children: safety and protection.

An overview of our work during 2016 and 2017 shows that we have succeeded in influencing important policies for child protection and have contributed to strengthening the child protection system. In particular, with regard to ensuring children's right to protection, we provided specialized services to 650 child victims of violence, and about 8,000 children and 1,500 parents benefited from educational programs provided by NCCAP.

We have promoted the prevention of child abuse through a comprehensive program of informational activities, which have provided children, young people and parents with a new online platform www.12plus.md and two new educational programs aimed at informing pre-school children and adolescents about the risks that could lead to abuse and sexual exploitation. At the same time, we have advocated for revising the school curriculum by introducing new subjects relevant to the protection of children from violence.

During these two years, we have focused our attention on forging a child-friendly judicial system by piloting a justice model that is friendly to child victims/witnesses of crimes, with the goal of pre-

venting traumatization of children in criminal justice proceedings. As a result, national authorities have committed to promoting a law governing the work of the interviewer and creating specialized services for child victims of crimes, which is to be passed in 2018.

We continued to work with local public authorities, especially in the context of implementing a cooperative intersectoral mechanism for identifying, evaluating, referring, assisting and monitoring child victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking, an initiative that was promoted by NCCAP and approved by the government in 2014.

Child abuse and neglect continue to be sensitive subjects for the society, and our attention and efforts, as well as those of other relevant actors, will continue to be focused on these issues with the same degree of concern in the period to come.

For NCCAP's achievements, I would first like to thank the children that motivate us every day to continue working. Also, on behalf of the NCCAP team, I would like to convey our appreciation and thanks to all our supporters, partners and donors for joining us in accomplishing the social mission that we have established.

*Daniela Sîmboteanu
President NCCAP*



■ **Child-friendly justice**

Child victims/witnesses of crimes need a friendly justice system

Child victims/witnesses of crimes are very vulnerable and need special protection, assistance and support appropriate to their age, level of maturity and individual needs in order to prevent further suffering and trauma that may result from their participation in criminal justice proceedings.

The attitudes, knowledge and practices of professionals in investigating cases involving children under the age of 14, victims/witnesses of crimes, need to be strengthened.

By ratifying the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, and by adopting the Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2011-2016, the Republic of Moldova has committed to ensuring a fair, accessible justice system that provides child victims and witnesses with respect and the opportunity to effectively implement all rights at the highest possible level.

The NCCAP, in partnership with IMAS, with the support of USAID and UNICEF Moldova, conducted a study to understand the attitudes and practices of judges, prosecutors and investigation officers in the process of investigating cases involving child victims. The study was conducted in the districts of Anenii Noi, Cahul, Calarasi, Leova, Ocnita and Soroca.

STUDY FINDINGS

- ➔ The hearing of child victims/witnesses of crimes under the age of 14 is conducted under special conditions in specially arranged hearing rooms.
- ➔ The concept of „child-friendly proceedings” is interpreted differently by legal professionals.
- ➔ Only some specialists (<50%) inform the child about the particularities of the hearing, the participants in the hearing and the fact that an audio-visual recording is registered.
- ➔ Although the setting-up of hearing rooms is considered by legal professionals as one of the important achievements in justice reform, de facto, hearing rooms are located within judicial institutions and not in neutral spaces, and their equipment does not meet international standards.
- ➔ The importance of the interviewer is recognized by legal professionals. At the same time, this role is somewhat ambiguous, due to omissions or lack of clarity in the regulation of national legislation regarding the interviewer.
- ➔ The interviewer’s participation in child hearings under special conditions is perceived as part of a multidisciplinary collaboration, not as a distinct service within the legal system; consequently, specialists without special training in the field, mostly school psychologists and psychologists in PAS, are involved as interviewers, which causes child re-victimization, delay/postponement of hearings etc.
- ➔ The training of criminal justice system specialists in the hearing of children in special conditions, with a strong emphasis on the training of interviewers, is considered absolutely necessary.

The child-friendly justice model, piloted in Balti and Orhei, was presented to authorities for replication

A justice model that is friendly to child victims/witnesses of crime reflects the standards of child-friendly law and the roles and responsibilities of professionals who directly or indirectly interact with children

The proposed standards are in line with international child-friendly justice, which has informed the adjustment of domestic law.

The specialists involved in the implementation of the model (sector inspectors, investigation officers, prosecutors, judges, interviewers, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, doctors) were trained and supervised.

The pilot implementation results were presented in a national workshop organized in collaboration

with the Ministry of Justice, under the aegis of the Interinstitutional Working Group for Action 6.3.2, p. 2 of the Action Plan on the Implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy for 2011 - 2016.

The main conclusions and lessons learned from the piloted model were reflected in the documentary "Child Friendly Justice in Questions and Answers", which recorded over 50,000 views during this period.

In order to ensure the application of standards for child-friendly justice, we have published a number of information and media resources, which are useful for both representatives of law authorities and representatives of the social services: <http://NCCAP.org.md/rom/project/test>



THE MECHANISM OF CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE

Ensuring protection of the best interest of the child victim/witness of sex crimes, trafficking and domestic violence



INTERSECTORAL COOPERATION THROUGH QUICK DATA AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Social framework

Legal framework



Protection interview conducted by a member of the multidisciplinary team and preparing the intervention plan

Ordering forensic expertise, psychiatric review etc.



EMERGENCY PROTECTION MEASURES

Placing the child in safe conditions (extended family, crisis services etc.)

Hearing of the person who conducted the interview

Psychological evaluation and counseling of the child and his or her family

Issuance of the child protection order

Preparing the child for hearing under special conditions



Hearing of the child victim/witness of violence under special conditions (art. 1101 CPC)

Issuing the child psychological evaluation report

Legal counseling of the child (child's representation by specialized legal counselors)



STANDARD NO. 1

Ensuring prompt child protection

STANDARD NO. 2

The investigation is conducted in a child-friendly manner, at all stages

STANDARD NO. 3

Ensuring access for the child victim/witness of violence to counseling and support

STANDARD NO. 4

Legal professionals are specialized and trained for an emergency intervention

STANDARD NO. 5

An effective intervention is achieved through cooperation between professionals: speed and efficiency of data and information

STANDARD NO. 6

The hearing of children under special conditions is in line with international standards

Harmonization of practices in the Republic of Moldova with international standards for hearings of child victims/witnesses of violence - applied in several districts of the country

The approval of special hearing procedures for child victims/witnesses of crimes and the recognition of the importance of a qualified interviewer-specialist is a significant achievement for the Moldovan justice system in recent years.

THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE PARTICIPATES IN DRAFTING LEGISLATION FOCUSED ON THE INTERVIEWER AND STANDARDS FOR THE CREATION AND OPERATION OF HEARING SPACES

Thus, within the Interinstitutional Working Group for Action 6.3.2, p. 2 of the Action Plan on the Implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy for 2011-2016, the Ministry of Justice has undertaken the task of initiating the development of a law outlining the organization of the interviewer's activity, which will determine the interviewer's principles of activity and his/her status, especially regarding selection, attestation, accreditation and salary.



In 2017, we began drafting the aforementioned law which outlines the organization of the interviewer's activity and the Quality Standards for designing hearing rooms with special conditions for child victims/witnesses of crime under the age of 14. In this context, a Memorandum was signed between the Ministry of Justice, UNICEF and the NCCAP

POSITIVE CHANGES

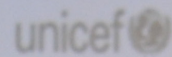


8

trained according to international standards and certified by the NIJ, conducted



114
HEARINGS



Protejem copiii împotriva abuzului, neglijării, exploatării și traficului,
printr-un sistem consolidat și funcțional

Implementarea mecanismului intersectorial de
cooperare pentru identificarea, referirea,
asistența și monitorizarea copiilor victime și
potențiale victime ale violenței, neglijării,
exploatării și traficului la nivel național



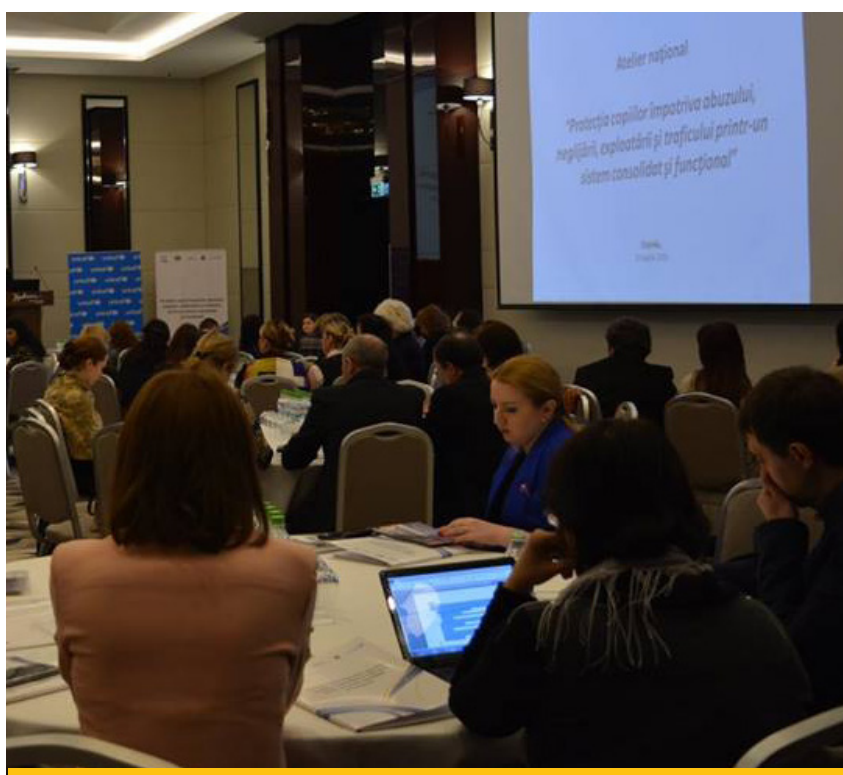
■ Intersectoral collaboration

Intersectoral collaboration can ensure the protection of child victims

Protection of children against all forms of violence is a priority for both the international community and the Republic of Moldova. At the international level, this is confirmed by the Sustainable Development Agenda - 2030, endorsed by the UN member states, which includes the objective of „stopping abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children”. At the national level, the state’s priority regarding the protection of children against all forms of violence is reflected in the Child Protection Strategy 2014-2020 as well as in its Implementation Plan.

PEOPLE REMAIN RELUCTANT TO REPORTING CASES OF ABUSE

After approval of the intersectoral cooperation mechanism by Government Decision no. 270 of 08.04.2014, a comprehensive system of reporting and recording cases of violence against children was established in the Republic of Moldova. The results of the intersectoral mechanism’s implementation, two years after its approval, were presented by the authorities at the beginning of 2016 within the National Workshop „Child Protection against Violence, Neglect, Exploitation and Trafficking through a Consolidated and Functional System.” However, the reliability of presented data is not certain and the actual number of child victims of violence is much higher than the official number.



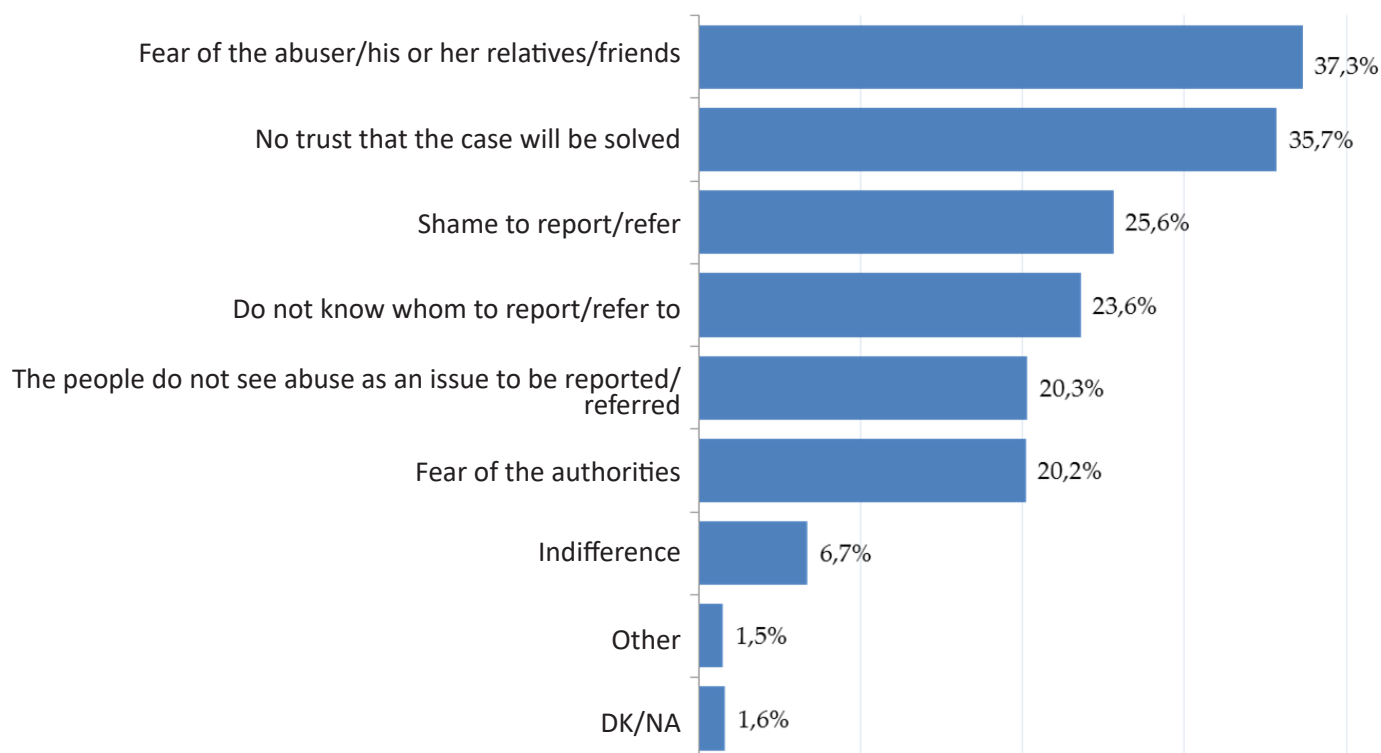
The main causes of non-reporting of cases of violence against children were described in the study „**People’s perception of state intervention in cases of abuse**” carried out by NCCAP in partnership with CBS AXA.

According to the study, the main causes of failure to report cases of violence against children are fear of abusers and their relatives that they may cause them personal discomfort through aggression; the population’s lack of confidence in the competence of state authorities and the population’s lack of knowledge and information regarding ways of reporting these cases.

The standard of living, studies conducted and the person’s environment are all directly correlated with the perception of violence and the reporting of cases of violence.

Even though official statistics show the number of cases of child sexual abuse is increasing, it remains a taboo subject in our society (only 2 out of 10 people perceive this form of abuse as occurring frequently).

GROUNDS FOR NOT REFERRING CASES OF ABUSE



QUESTION:

Why do you think people do not report/refer the cases of abuse to state authorities, in order for the latter to intervene?

Healthcare professionals are involved in cases of child abuse, based on sectoral instructions

After the intersectoral cooperation mechanism and the intervention procedure for health care workers in the cases of child violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking was approved, the role of the health sector in child protection has increased considerably, while the capacities of this system are still unexplored.

In 2016-2017, health care workers identified about 3,000 child victims of different forms of violence, of varying degrees of severity. Of the total cases, 1333 were considered severe and were thus referred, according to the pre-established procedure, to the guardianship authorities and to the law enforcement bodies for multidisciplinary intervention. The most common form of abuse identified by healthcare professionals is neglect; 6 out of 10 child victims identified by doctors suffer from neglect.

DOCTORS WILL CARRY OUT DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS IN CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The identification of child victims by healthcare workers takes place during the medical examination. The qualification of a child's violence case is facilitated by a clinical exam. Hence, the **Differential Diagnosis Applied to the Medical Examination of Children** can now be used by physicians, after being developed in agreement with the Pediatric Society of the Republic of Moldova and approved by the Scientific Council of the Institute of the Mother and Child, as well as by the Pediatric Science Laboratory.

In order to facilitate healthcare facilities' intervention in cases of child violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking, jointly with the Pediatric Society of the Republic of Moldova, infographics have been developed and distributed, showing the actions to be taken by healthcare workers from the moment of identification of a suspected case of violence until it has been resolved.



The Republic of Moldova needs statistical data on cases of violence

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, in both its 2009 and 2017 recommendations, reiterates the need to strengthen the child data collection system to cover all areas of the convention, especially vulnerable children and child victims. The Committee recommends that the Republic of Moldova uses this data for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of national child protection policy documents.

toral and Sectoral Acts in the Field of Preventing and Combating Child Violence, Neglect, Exploitation and Trafficking: Challenges and Perspectives” carried out by NCCAP, supported by the OAK Foundation.

One of the main recommendations of this study is to strengthen the sectoral and cross-sectoral monitoring framework so as to enable the storage, generalization, presentation and analysis of data by sectors in a unitary manner.

WE DO NOT HAVE RELIABLE DATA

In the context of the Intersectoral Cooperation Mechanism, each authority individually determined the indicators for collecting information on child victims, the frequency of collecting data for these indicators, and the disaggregation criteria for the data it collects. Consequently, the data collected is incompatible and incomparable, and raises concerns about the accuracy of cross-sector data flow, evaluation of the efficiency of cross-sectoral collaboration, as well as deficiencies in the analysis of the phenomenon of child violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking at the national level.

In this respect, a framework of indicators for the monitoring of the intersectoral collaboration mechanism has been developed, including the definitions and their calculation formulas. The matrix of indicators was discussed in the working group created by the order of the Minister of Health, Labor and Social Protection, with participation of representatives of public authorities, non-commercial organizations, as well as development partners. The results of this exercise will be included in the „Social Assistance” Automated Information System.

GAPS IN THE DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM, PRESENTED IN A NEW STUDY

The challenges in the system of collecting data on child victims and the solutions needed to improve it were presented in the study „Mechanism for Monitoring the Implementation of Cross-Sec-

WE WANT THE STATE POLICIES TO BE BASED ON RELIABLE DATA

Statistical data on cases of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking of children would allow qualitative and quantitative research into the phenomenon of violence against children, the foundation of state policies in this field, as well as the efficient targeting of human and financial resources and the optimization of expenditures in this area respectively.



■ **Capacity development**

Protecting children from violence, a topic of initial and further training of professionals

Training, promotion and awareness raising of child protection and children's rights among people working with and for children in education, health, social protection, justice, public order, etc. are equally necessary in ensuring a correct approach, in the best interest of each child. At the same time, it is a commitment Moldova has assumed by ratifying the international conventions in the field.

SEVERAL LOCAL TRAINERS TRAINED

A total of 44 medical workers, social workers, teachers, policemen, psychologists from Chisinau, Balti, Causeni, Cimislia, Criuleni, Orhei, Leova, Hancesti and Straseni became local trainers in the application of the intersectoral cooperation mechanism for identifying, evaluating, referring, assisting and monitoring child victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking.

The specialists attended a 72-hour training program, where they learned about intersectoral cooperation and the role of each specialist in dealing with cases of violence against children. Following this program, local trainers trained around 650 specialists, social workers and local health workers.

LOCAL SPECIALISTS NEED CONSULTANCY AND CONTINUOUS COACHING

Multidisciplinary teams from nine regions of the country participated in a coaching program provided by national child protection consultants. Approximately 300 professionals have received continuous advice, which has helped identify child victims and potential victims of violence, tackle difficult cases of violence against children, collect and analyze data on child victims.

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

Another complex training program (120 hours) was conducted for psychologists from the Psycho-pedagogical Assistance Service. In this program, 54 psychologists in the country learned about the specific nature of the psychologist's role in solving cases of violence against children, as well as intervention protocol in the criminal process in which the child is a victim or witness of crime.

Likewise, about 35 psychologists and social workers in social services have benefited from international clinical supervision to develop their professional skills in assisting victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. The training during this period covered topics such as differential diagnosis, diagnostic techniques for posttraumatic stress syndrome in children and adolescents, and content and strategies of the therapeutic process, with a special emphasis on working with sexually abused children.

A separate topic in the training and coaching was the development of psychological evaluation reports and their use as evidence in criminal proceedings. In this regard, we introduced the

psychologists to the **methodology for psychological evaluation and the development of the psychological evaluation report of child victims, as well as the guide edited by NCCAP in 2016.**

TRAINING AND COACHING OF SPECIALISTS

44

LOCAL TRAINERS
trained

2 ToT

CONDUCTED,
72 hours each

54

PSYCHOLOGISTS
TRAINED
(NATIONAL)



9 regions

SOCIAL WORKERS
DOCTORS,
PROFESSORS,
POLICE



826

SPECIALISTS
TRAINED

34

Workshops
organized,

9 ECHIPE

Territorial
multi-disciplinary-
teams trained



SOCIAL WORKERS
DOCTORS,
PROFESSORS,
COPS,
PRIMARY
PSYCHOLOGISTS



300
SPECIALISTS
BENEFICIARIES
OF COACHING

SHARING BEST PRACTICES

The best practices for abuse prevention and rehabilitation of child victims of violence, as well as educational and social policies and practices in the field of child protection and domestic violence, need to be included in the initial and ongoing training curriculum of psychologists, social workers and teachers. This issue was discussed at the National Conference „Psychosocial Aspects in the Protection of the Child and the Family against Violence” organized in partnership with „Ion Creangă”

State Pedagogical University. More than 170 professionals participated in the event. The „Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University has included the subject of child violence protection into the training program for teachers, social workers and psychologists, and in 2014 the master’s program “Psychosocial Support in the Legal System” was launched for psychologists and social workers who will provide services designed for victims of domestic violence and child abuse.





■ Children services

Children need accessible, specialized services

Child abuse, whatever form it takes, dramatically affects child development and health and has immediate and long-term effects. Children who have experienced violence need complex assistance provided by specialized services.

The Child and Family Psychosocial Assistance Service AMICUL, created by the NCCAP in partnership with DMPDC in 2003, is one of the few specialized services that provides psychological counseling to children and parents, facilitates the friendly hearing of child victims in legal proceedings by specially trained interviewers, provides legal advice and assistance in the application of urgent protective measures, and develops psychological evaluation reports of child victims.

THE PROFILE

an assisted child

3 of 10 children
have been sexually abused

Every 3rd child
has been abused
emotionally

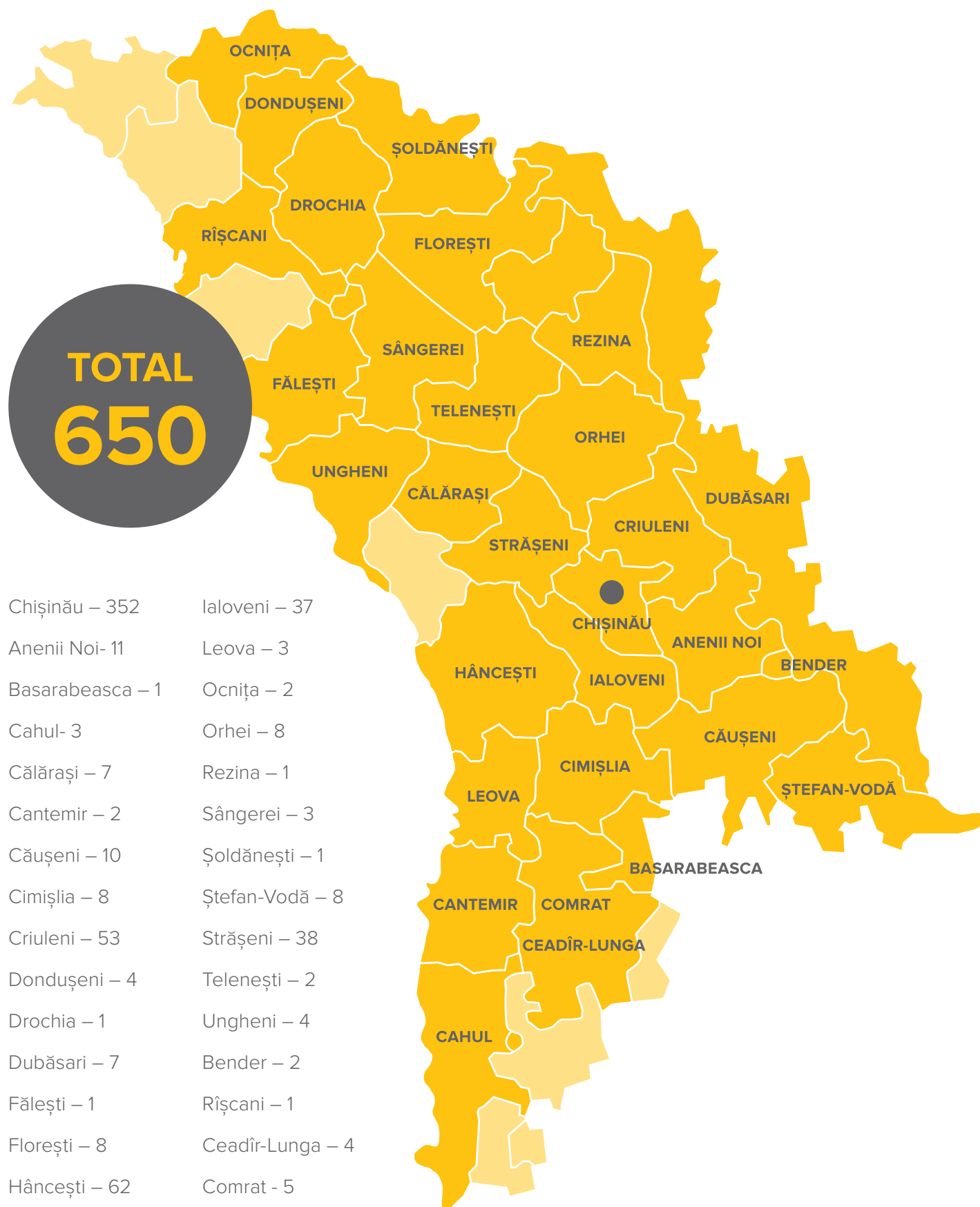
1 out of 3 abused children
is under 3 years of age

4 out of 10 abused children
are between the age
of 11 and 15

Every 2nd abused child
is a boy



Assisted children 2016-2017:



EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

In planning interventions with local multidisciplinary teams, NCCAP assumes a number of specific interventions. The most effective interventions for solving cases are:

- Psychological support for children in crisis situations;
- Ensuring child-friendly hearing conditions;
- Developing psychological evaluation reports.

In the absence of a regulatory framework at the national level, the NCCAP systematized its over 15 years of experience in the field and developed the guide „Evaluation and Development of the Psychological Assessment Report in the Case of Child Violence, Neglect, Exploitation or Trafficking“. This methodology establishes the manner of organizing and implementing the psychological evaluation process, the elaboration of the report, principles and processes of child victim psychological evaluation, stages of psychological evaluation, and the structure of the report.

RESULTS

650 children assisted

By Psychological Support Services for Children and Families AMICUL;

71 abusers condemned

in assisted cases

57 assisted children

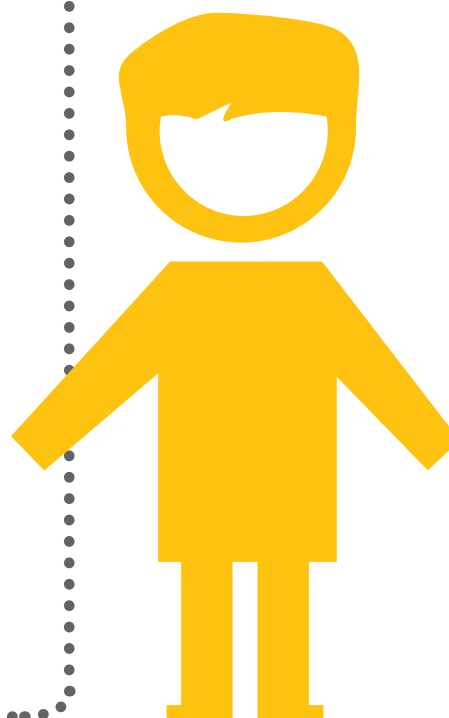
were protected by authorities by applying the protection order/restriction order

65 child psychological evaluation reports

submitted to criminal investigation and guardianship authorities

114 hearings

with participation of certified interviewers



The general public contributes to the rehabilitation of abused children

We have felt the support of hundreds of citizens from the Republic of Moldova and abroad, in the effort to assist child victims within NCCAP's specialized services. The donors have supported us in various ways, encouraging us to develop these services in other regions of the country in order to help an even greater number of child victims of abuse.

the rehabilitation of abused children. Every child receives individual assistance, which lasts from 6 months to 3 years. The costs incurred in providing assistance vary from one case to another, depending on the specifics of the individual, the trauma the child has suffered, and the duration of rehabilitation. Thus, the costs required for the rehabilitation of a child range between 4,000 lei and 20,000 lei, depending on the duration and complexity of the interventions.

DODO – A FRIEND OF ABUSED CHILDREN

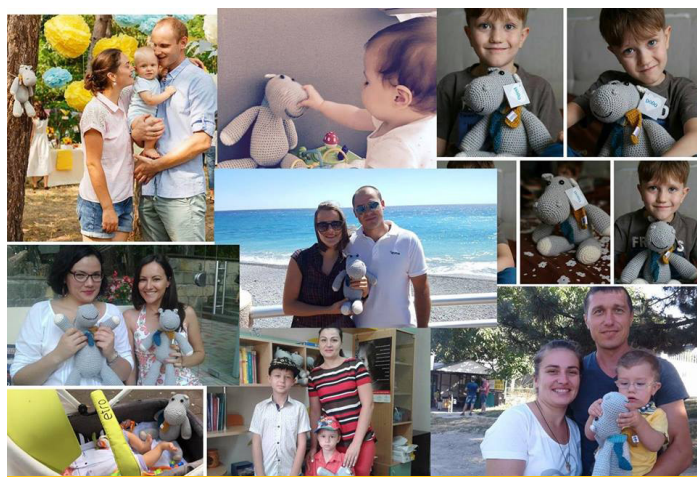
DoDo, a handmade, crocheted toy that has become a friend of abused children, has also become the mascot of our fundraising actions for the rehabilitation of child victims of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. By purchasing a Dodo toy, more than 120 donors made a personal contribution to the rehabilitation of child victims of abuse in the AMICUL family.

The Dodo toy has reached dozens of families from both the Republic of Moldova and other countries, such as Italy, Romania, USA, Poland, Ireland, thus actively supporting and promoting

LET'S PAINT WITH DODO

In 2017, in the context of the International Children's Day - June 1, we launched the coloring book „Let's Paint with Dodo.” The main character, Dodo, along with his friends, illustrate the security rules on the playground, in a playful manner. The book is accompanied by a set of pencils/pens and provides an opportunity to help more child victims receive the specialized assistance they need. The Dodo books have reached the homes of more than 800 donors.

In 2017, 19,000 lei were donated to the cause advocated by NCCAP



VALENTIN BOGHEAN AND FRIENDS PERFORMED IN SUPPORT OF ABUSED CHILDREN

More than 500 people watched the folk music show **BE THE HERO OF A CHILD**, performed at the National Philharmonics „Serghei Lunchevici” in Chişinău on December 10, 2016, with the participation of artists Valy Boghean, Ion Razza, Viorel Burlacu, Paul Arva (Romania) and Nicolae Jelescu. The most beautiful folk melodies and touching lyrics created an atmosphere of storytelling and sensitized viewers who, at the end of the concert, donated to support the rehabilitation of abused children.



*Big things have often small beginnings!
Human values are passed from generation
to generation also through music.*

*Everything we do and the charity actions we are
involved, we help raise awareness of the world. As
many people as possible will do good deeds, the
better our future will be, the future of our children.*

VALI BOGHEAN BAND





MIA HAS JOINED OUR CAUSE

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has joined the cause protecting abused children by organizing a special concert to support the assistance of child victims, on the occasion of 25 years of independence in the Republic of Moldova.

The event was attended by MIA leadership, Parliament Speaker Adrian Candu, the Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, Pirkka Tapiola, ambassadors, ministers and other guests, who spoke about the importance of protecting children from abuse and encouraged people to contribute to the rehabilitation of abused children.

THANKS FOR:

Fundația Felicia,

Hotelul Berds

Rețeaua Dulcinella

Vali Boghean

Agenția Panda Tur

Quiz MOLDOVENCE din SUA

Specialized regional services – a need for Moldova

According to official data, more than 3,000 children are victims of violence annually in the Republic of Moldova, of which about 1,000 children are victims of severe forms of violence classified as crimes. The development of a range of services for child victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking is provided for in the Action Plan for the years 2016-2020 on the implementation of the Child Protection Strategy for 2014-2020.

In order to overcome the traumatic situations that they have experienced and to mitigate the negative consequences of abuse, these children need specialized services that are currently not provided by the state.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIALIZED SERVICES

The study on the assessment of the regulatory and financial framework for the development of specialized services for the protection of child victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking, was carried out in June 2016. With the support of UNICEF, we demonstrated that the most viable and sustainable formula of ensuring access for child victims to specialized services in our country is the regional development of such services.

At the same time, these types of services can be financed from public money, both through the modification of the normative framework and by using the existing legal norms. The study proposes several scenarios for the development of regional services for child victims.

1. Specialized services subordinated to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection

2. Specialized regional services at the level of LPA II, financed by the state budget, through special-purpose transfers

3. Specialized regional services at the level of LPA II, through cooperation between local public administration authorities level I and II, financed from the budget of the LPA overseeing the residence of the beneficiary

4. Specialized services provided by non-commercial organizations



■ **Prevention**

Abuse prevention activities must be introduced in university curricula

The prevention of sexual abuse and assistance to victims of sexual abuse needs to be based on professional education.

Even if more professionals are responsible for preventing child abuse, they do not have a clear understanding of their duties, the possible consequences of sexual abuse and exploitation, and the need to develop and deliver programs to prevent abuse – conclusions highlighted by the study „**Correlation between Sexual Abuse in Childhood and Risky Sexual Behavior**”, conducted in partnership with the SocioPolis Research and Advice Center.



RESULTS OF THE STUDY

As a result of the study, recommendations focused on protective and risk factors, specifically preventing cases of child sexual abuse and reducing the consequences of trauma in such cases.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Developing/strengthening** strategies and systematic approaches in the field of child protection.
- **Including activities** aimed at primary prevention of child sexual abuse in all university service programs.
- **Promoting structural programs** to prevent child sexual abuse.
- **Developing the legal framework.**
- **Establishing quality standards** for the psychological services provided and introducing a professional growth mechanism for psychologists.

Abuse can be prevented by improving resilience in children and adolescents

Child abuse can be prevented. In this respect, several programs have been initiated and carried out to develop the resilience of children.

ADOLESCENCE IS MORE BEAUTIFUL WHEN IT IS SAFE

In recent years, the number of reported crimes committed against children has increased considerably. While in 2010 the Ministry of Internal Affairs registered 653 crimes against children, in 2017 the number of child victims of crimes reached 1401. In this context, in 2017, in partnership with the Empowering Children Foundation, we launched the „**Safe Adolescence**” campaign. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about sexual abuse and the exploitation of children and to provide information to children and adolescents and their families/caregivers/the whole society about the prevention and fight against

this phenomenon. As a part of the campaign, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, we distributed informational materials on the needs of adolescents in schools in 33 districts of the country.

12 PLUS CLUB

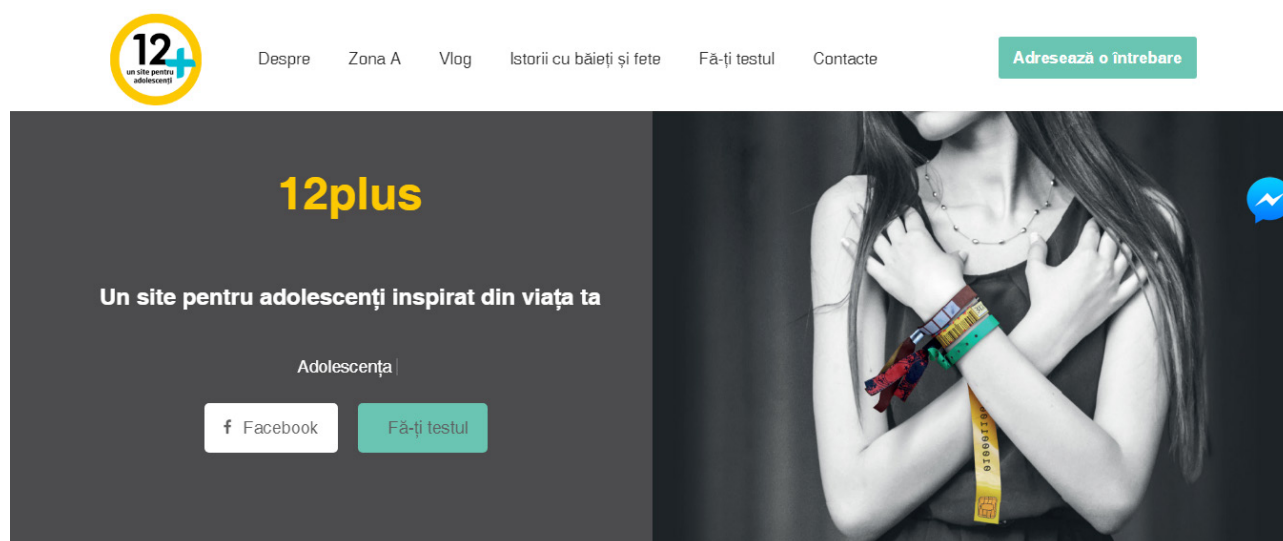
In 2017, 6 discussion clubs were organized with young people aged 12-18. During these meetings, the participants, guided by NCCAP psychologists, had the opportunity to talk about love relationships, sponsorship, violence, sexting and online communication, as well as topics related to the sexual life of young people. More than 100 adolescents received answers to their questions. Even more, they asked for these meetings to be organized in their localities, in their educational institutions. At the request of young people, we organized such meetings at the local level too: Ghidighici, s. Sălcuța in r. Căușeni and in Straseni.



WWW.12PLUS.MD – A WEBSITE INSPIRED BY THE LIFE OF ADOLESCENTS

The age of 12+ is an age accompanied by challenges, questions and needs that most adolescents do not have anyone to talk to about. The need for a trusted person, as well as information to help them understand certain characteristics of adolescence, led us to launch the www.12plus.md platform. This website contains information about love relationships in adolescence, sexting, sponsorship, exploi-

tation, and adolescent trafficking. All of these topics are addressed in an easy and accessible manner, and help young people/site visitors to understand certain situations during this period, and how to cope with the risks. Moreover, the platform also provides a unique mechanism by which young people can confidentially ask questions directed toward specialists and in turn receive prompt answers.



THE PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPING RESILIENCE, 12PLUS, IS AVAILABLE TO ADOLESCENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

114 psychologists from Psycho-pedagogical Assistance Services and Youth-Friendly Health Care Centers across the country were trained and empowered under the „12 PLUS” educational program for developing adolescent resilience mechanisms against sexual abuse and sexual

exploitation. In 2017, approximately 1,800 adolescents were informed and empowered to recognize mechanisms of constraint/manipulation used to attract young people into sponsoring, sexting, child trafficking and sexting, to identify trusted people, and to seek help.

KINDERGARTENS CAN BE INVOLVED IN PREVENTING THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

A new prevention program for pre-school children was piloted in 33 kindergartens in Chisinau and the Hancesti and Orhei districts. 45 educators have been trained to implement the “Children in Safety” Program, with the goal of developing children’s abilities to identify and overcome situations of insecurity and threats. During the piloting period, 2298 children were informed and empowered to protect themselves from potentially dangerous situations by applying safety rules and identifying trusted persons.

The main outcomes of the pilot program in the 33 pre-school education institutions were reflected in recommendations offered to the Ministry of Education for the introduction of an early



childhood prevention curricula, with the goal of preventing sexual abuse and the exploitation of pre-school aged children.

PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE, WITH THE HELP OF THE BOARD GAME “ON THE WAY HOME”

The way home is safer when a child knows how to prevent and overcome risky situations. A very important role in this process is played by a child’s confidant who helps the child and encourages him to find solutions that can provide security in potentially dangerous situations near school, in the park, in the shop, street or at home.

During the years 2016-2017, through the „On the Way Home” program, 276 professionals (teachers and librarians) from 7 districts of the country (Hincesti, Orhei, Cimislia, Leova, Căușeni, Strășeni, Criuleni) and 2 municipalities (Chisinau and Balti) were empowered and, as a result, developed resilience in over 3,500 children of primary school age (6 to 12 years).

The professionals trained in the program have become an important resource for the commu-



nity, being part of the system protecting child victims or potential victims. They learned how to identify and refer at risk children to competent authorities (social assistance, police, town hall). Due to the involvement of librarians, more at risk children were identified.

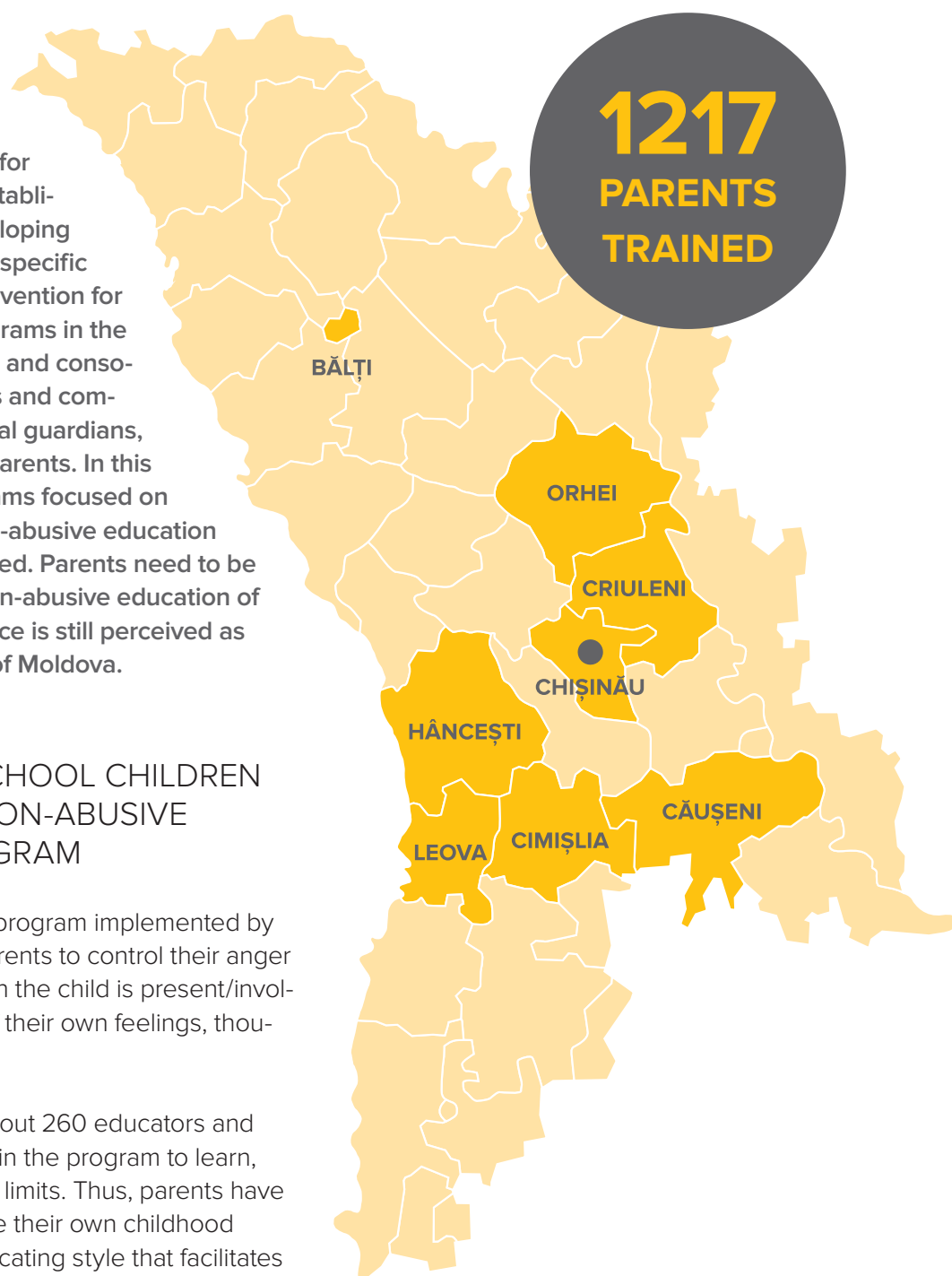
Change in parental educational practices can ensure child protection

The intersectoral strategy for the development of parental skills and competences for the years 2016-2022 establishes directions for developing parental education as a specific form of specialized intervention for the organization of programs in the formation, development and consolidation of parental skills and competences of parents/legal guardians, as well as prospective parents. In this context, parental programs focused on the development of non-abusive education skills should be diversified. Parents need to be helped/guided in the non-abusive education of children since use of force is still perceived as normal in the Republic of Moldova.

PARENTS OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO NON-ABUSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The "No Hands" parenting program implemented by the NCCAP aims to train parents to control their anger in difficult situations in which the child is present/involved in to become aware of their own feelings, thoughts, beliefs and needs.

Between 2016 and 2017, about 260 educators and 1,300 parents were trained in the program to learn, love and respect the child's limits. Thus, parents have developed skills to integrate their own childhood experience into a child-educating style that facilitates a harmonious relationship between the parent and child. This parental education has helped parents and educators collaborate in the best interest of the child, but also to be closer to the individual needs of the little ones.



Newsletter



WE ARE 1,100 NOW!
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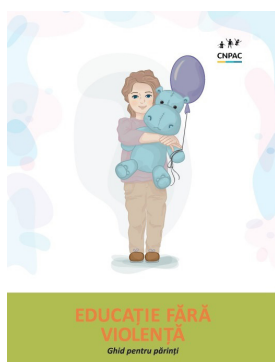
Resources for the prevention of abuse

We are strong and safe when we are informed!



„12 PLUS”

It is a guidebook for professionals to help and empower adolescents to recognize the coercive/manipulative mechanisms used to attract young people into sponsoring, sexting, child trafficking and sexual relationships, but also to identify people who are trustworthy and seek their help.



“VIOLENCE-FREE EDUCATION”

This publication is intended for parents and guides them in understanding children’s behaviors and establishing harmonious relationships with them. The guide answers parents’ questions about the best methods for developing beautiful, positive behaviors in children – behaviors accepted by society.



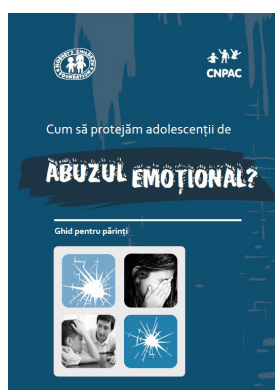
„EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT IN CASES OF VIOLENCE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION, CHILD TRAFFICKING”

This guide is a methodological reference document for clinical psychologists working with abused children and involved in the process of writing psychological reports at the request of child protection authorities and law enforcement agencies. The guide is developed on the basis of the Methodology for Psychological Assessment and Development of the Psychological Assessment Report of Child Victims (NCCAP). This paper serves as a reference for all psychologists specialized in working with child victims of violence, neglect, exploitation or trafficking.



“HOW TO RECOGNIZE ABUSE?”

Booklets for children in grades I-V and adolescents. These publications provide information to children about what abuse means, how it can be recognized, how to protect oneself against abuse, how to help other children in situations of abuse and how to use the internet safely.



“HOW CAN WE PROTECT ADOLESCENTS AGAINST EMOTIONAL ABUSE?”

A booklet for parents of adolescents, addressing ways to prevent emotional abuse in the family and at school. In this booklet, parents can find out if the adolescent is emotionally abused, why emotional abuse between parents and adolescents occurs and what its consequences are. The booklet also contains recommendations that could help parents avoid emotional abuse of adolescents.



„NO HANDS AND NO ABUSE”

A publication for parents of 0-6 year-old children, but also for persons responsible for child education and protection. The booklet is designed to help parents establish limits for children with love and respect. Several case studies are outlined in the booklet, from which parents can learn about educational behaviors.

[See NCCAP library here](#)

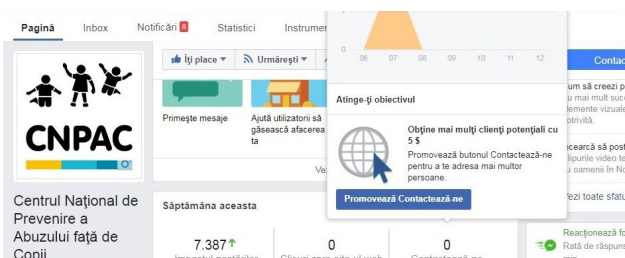


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IMPACT ON 7000 PEOPLE

FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

INCOME SOURCES	EURO	%
1. Nongovernmental National and International Organizations	296406	93.39
OAK Foundation	145693	
Empowering Childhood Foundation	12584	
WorldChildhood Foundation	11096	
Embassy of Netherlands in Bucharest	65161	
UNICEF Moldova	60162	
IREX Moldova A.O.	1710	
2. Business Companies	670	0.21
Felicia Foundation	670	
3. Private Donation	8045	2.53
Private donation	8045	
4. Income from Services Provided	12250	3.86
Direcția Municipală pentru Protecția Drepturilor Copilului mun. Chișinău	12250	
TOTAL INCOME	317371	100.00
EXPENSES	EURO	%
PROJECT EXPENSES	173922	83.74
Child direct assistance	52590	
Training and capacity building	98136	
Advocacy and awareness	23196	
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	33763	16.26
TOTAL EXPENSES	207685	100.00

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

INCOME SOURCES	EURO	%
1. Nongovernmental National and International Organizations	311530	94.88
OAK Foundation	156180	
Empowering Childhood Foundation	24360	
WorldChildhood Foundation	32940	
Embassy of Netherlands in Bucharest	34560	
UNICEF Moldova	54250	
FHI 360	9240	
IREX Moldova A.O.	653	
2. Business Companies	0	0.00
	0	
3. Private Donation	3470	1.06
Private donation	3470	
4. Income from Services Provided	12375	3.77
Municipal Direction for Children's Rights Protection mun. Chisinau	12375	
5. Income from Services Provided	952	0.29
2% allocation from the state budget	952	
TOTAL VENITURI	328327	100.00
CHELTUIELI	EURO	%
CHELTUIELI PROIECTE	197815	81.91
Child direct assistance	108450	
Training and capacity building	53460	
Advocacy and awareness	35905	
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	43702	18.09
TOTAL EXPENSES	241517	100.00