



National Center for Child  
Abuse Prevention



- Research
  - Advocacy
  - Prevention
    - Assistance
    - Capacity building
    - Awareness raising
    - Strategic planning

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

# WHO WE ARE...



The National Center for Child Abuse Prevention is a non-governmental organization registered with the Ministry of Justice in 1997. For twenty years we have been promoting children's right to protection against all forms of violence.

Our vision is a society where all children are protected from all forms of violence.

Our mission is to contribute to reducing the incidence and consequences of violence against children through prevention, advocacy, capacity-building and specialized services.

## What we do...



### **Policies and advocacy:**

Advocacy and public policies for an integrated and successful approach to child abuse prevention in the Republic of Moldova;



### **Capacity-building:**

Building the capacities of stakeholders the child/child victim or witness of abuse comes in contact with;



### **Prevention:**

Development and implementation of quality programs aimed at preventing child abuse;

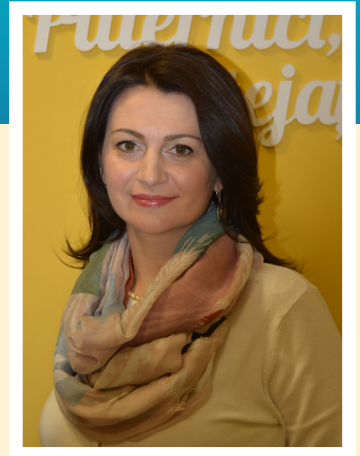


### **Assistance:**

Development and delivery of quality services for child victims/witnesses of abuse and their families.

# 2018 IN FIGURES

**Daniela SIMBOTEANU**  
NCCAP President



**527**

children victims of violence  
**received specialized assistance**

**87**

child victims/witnesses  
of crimes  
**were heard under special conditions**

**3400**

children and adolescents  
**were included in abuse prevention programs**

**1800**

**parents participated in parenting programs**

**300**

professionals  
**were trained in the field of child protection**

**3**

**sociological researches**  
on child abuse

**300 000**

people -  
**impact of online messages**

**18 800**

**information materials**  
distributed to different categories  
of population

## Dear friends!

For our organization, 2018 was a year that meant two decades of commitment and dedication to promoting children's rights, preventing child abuse and ensuring a protective environment for all children in the country. The experience we gained and the lessons we learned gave us courage to proceed to a new stage in the organization's work, so that in 2018 we launched the Strategic Plan for the next 5 years. An ambitious document with large-scale objectives and outcomes that we take full responsibility for.

If we re-visit the work undertaken during the reporting year, we see that we have managed, through our actions, to influence important policies and practices in support of child victims of violence and, at the same time, we have provided child victims with access to specialized assistance services. However, the main aim of the organization is still the prevention of child abuse, which we promoted through a complex program of awareness raising activities for children, young people, parents and professionals.

2018 was full of challenges that, thanks to our team, partners and all those who joined our cause, we managed to turn into tangible results, which are measured in the hundreds of children helped to overcome the abuse they experienced, the thousands of teenagers who have developed resilience to one of the worst forms of abuse - the sexual one, or the dozens of child victims/witnesses of crimes who were heard in the spirit of friendly justice.

Child abuse and neglect continue to be a serious violation of children's rights, and the attention and efforts of the NCCAP will continue to be directed with the same tenacity in the next period to ensure the right of the children to be protected from any form of violence. We thank all our supporters for their trust and support! Together we become stronger in preventing violence against children and giving girls and boys the chance to enjoy their childhood.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018



## January

20 years of activity marked by the launch of several anniversary actions and projects throughout the year

## February

The specialized Barnahus-type service type was presented to Moldovan professionals by its founder and author, Bragi Gudbrandsson.



## March

Study visit to Sweden on learning the practice of assisting child victims of violence within the specialized Barnahus-type service



## April

The NCCAP publications get closer to children and adults, at the 22nd edition of the International Exhibition of Books for Children and Youth where we participated for the first time.

## May

A year after the launch of the campaign 12plus - thousands of adolescents across the country developed their resilience to sexual abuse and sexual-commercial exploitation.



## June

The conference "Cross-cutting issues in the protection of children from violence" gathered national and international experts and professionals in the field of child protection to discuss good practices of child abuse prevention.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

## July

Useful vacation with NCCAP psychologists for adolescents who rested in summer camps.



## October

The children's hearing room under special conditions inside the NCCAP premises adjusted in accordance with international standards.



## August

The campaign of the first NCCAP volunteers brought together people who started the fight against child abuse in Moldova.



## November

The 2nd edition of the concert "Be the hero of a child" held to support the cause of child victims of violence, took place on the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse.



## September

The curriculum of a new parenting program for parents of adolescents developed by experts from Moldova and Romania.



## December

The new Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 launched at the end of the year, sets out the strategic objectives and outcomes for the 3 areas of activity - the child in the family, in justice and, a new area, in alternative care.



## Child sexual abuse remains a difficult topic to raise in a parent-child discussion

The topic of sexual abuse is still not widely discussed with children aged 5-11 in the Republic of Moldova. Only 4 in 10 parents of children aged 5-11 talk to children about the risks of sexual abuse. These are the findings of the comparative survey [\*“Assessment of attitudes of parents who have children aged 5-11 towards sexual abuse”\*](#) conducted in 2015 and 2018 by IMAS, commissioned by NCCAP and Empowering Children Foundation (Poland), with the support of OAK Foundation.

A similar study conducted in the same period in Poland shows a situation that is far from the realities of Moldova. There, 80% of parents said in 2018 that this topic was discussed with their 5-11-year-olds.

According to the results, the share of Moldovan parents who talk to their children about the risks of sexual abuse decreased by 5% compared to 2015. However, parents who talk to children feel more confident to initiate a discussion on this topic with children at younger ages (6 out of 10 parents), by 20% more compared to 2015. Mothers are considered the key persons responsible for educating children in this area - 67% of answers. The ranking is followed by fathers with 12%, while 6% believe that this role should be played primarily by the school.

Thinking back to the discussion you have had with your child, which of the following statements you agree most with?

	2015	2018
		
<b>It was the most difficult conversation I've ever had with my child</b>	18	10
<b>It was quite a difficult conversation</b>	38	27
<b>It was not a very difficult conversation</b>	24	28
<b>The conversation was not difficult at all</b>	18	34
<b>I don't know / Hard to say</b>	18	1

## The perceptions are erroneous regarding child abuse

Nine out of ten adults in the Republic of Moldova consider that it is necessary to report cases of child abuse to the state authorities, according to the Survey *“Opinions and perceptions about domestic violence and child abuse”*, carried out in 2018 by CBS-AXA, commissioned by NCCAP, with the support of OAK Foundation. At the same time, 7 in 10 people consider that Moldovans do not report cases of abuse and most of them do not do so, because they are afraid of the abuser and do not believe that the authorities will solve the cases.

Verbal violence continues to be perceived as the most common form of child abuse in the Republic of Moldova, as compared to other types of violence (physical, sexual) and is also the most tolerated form of abuse.

Child sexual abuse is a more sensitive aspect for most adults - 90.5% of respondents believe such cases should be reported regardless of the child’s age. At the same time, at least 4 out of 10 people in Moldova have erroneous perceptions about the phenomenon of child sexual abuse: 17.5% of the population believe that child sexual abuse does not happen in our country, and 19.5% of respondents found it difficult to estimate how spread this phenomenon is.

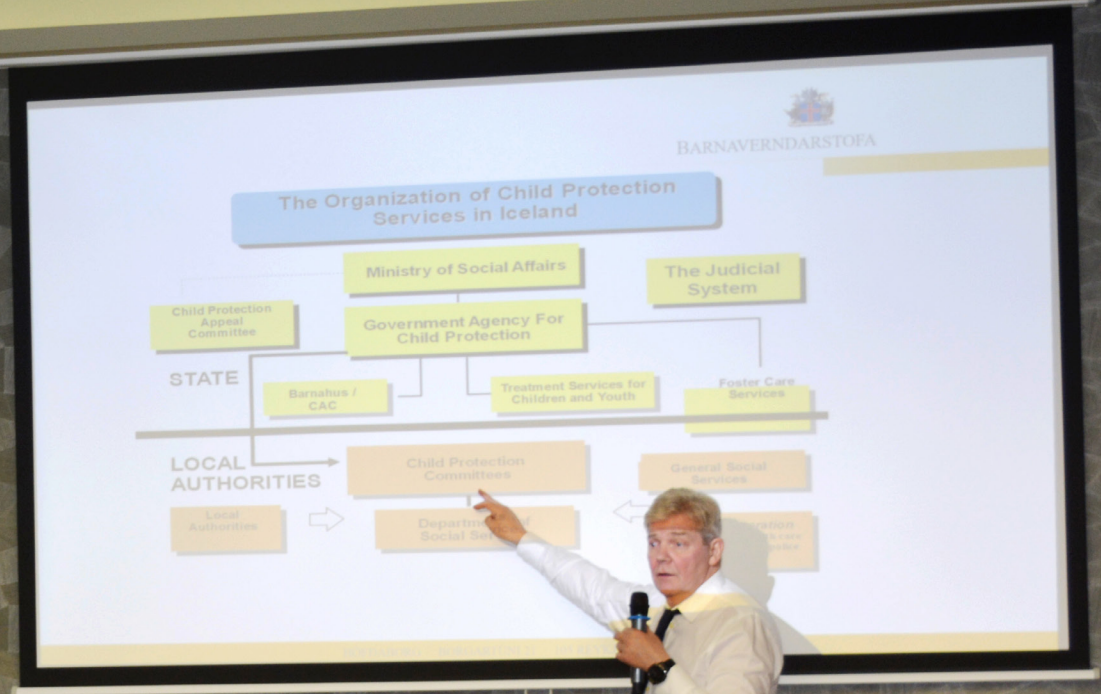
Reasons why abuse is not reported	2018	2015
		
<b>They are afraid of the abuser / their relatives / friends</b>	50.0%	37.3%
<b>They don't believe that the case will be solved</b>	39.1%	35.7%
<b>They are afraid of the authorities</b>	35.1%	20.2%
<b>They are embarrassed to report / notify</b>	33.0%	25.6%
<b>They don't know where and to whom to report / notify</b>	28.4%	23.6%
<b>People do not consider abuse a problem that must necessarily be reported / notified</b>	17.1%	20.3%
<b>Indifference</b>	3.6%	6.7%
<b>Other</b>	0.5%	1.5%
<b>I don't know/Do not answer</b>	4.0%	1.6%

## Being the parent of an adolescent involves as many challenges as adolescence itself

The qualitative sociological survey *[“Needs of the parents of adolescents for communicating, upbringing and disciplining them”](#)* highlighted a number of needs/difficulties of adolescents’ parents: the communication on sensitive topics, particularly, puberty, love, sexuality (some of the parents said they did not even believe that their children might be in contact with a sexually transmitted disease); seeking the adolescent’s opinion and his/her participation in decision-making; finding a balance between giving freedom and setting boundaries, especially, in relation to the use of information technologies; the influence of friends and professional guidance. The study was carried out within the project “Cultivating the teenager’s engagement in family activities”, implemented by NCCAP with the support of UNICEF Moldova.







The seminar “Multidisciplinary response to cases of violence against children through the establishment of the child-friendly Barnahus-type service”, held by the NCCAP in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection and the Ministry of Justice and with the support of the founder and author of the Barnahus service, Bragi Gudbrandsson.

*Chisinau, February 22, 2018*

## For **child-friendly justice**

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the General Police Inspectorate, we promoted the **draft Law on the organization of the interviewer's work**, which regulates the interviewer's status and role in the hearing of child victims/witnesses of crimes. The document encourages professionals to be interviewers, defines the institution responsible for managing the interviewers' work and its role in the inception and follow-up training. This project is necessary to ensure the quality of the hearing without revictimizing the child. In 2019 we will continue to work on this important project.
- In order to launch the **first Barnahus-type service** in our country, together with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection (MoHLSP), we developed the draft Regulation of the Regional Integrated Assistance Service for child victims/witnesses of crimes, the quality standards for this service, as well as its costing and financing mechanism. The establishment of this service allows child victims/witnesses of crimes to receive multidisciplinary assistance in the framework of the Regional Integrated Assistance Service for child victims/witnesses of crimes.
- In partnership with MoJ, we developed the draft **Standards for the accreditation of rooms for hearing under special conditions of child victims/witnesses of crimes**. The standards will allow equipping all the hearing rooms according to international practices. Once the accreditation Standards are approved, the quality of the evidence collected from children's testimonies will be ensured, avoiding repeated hearings.



## Prevention of violence against children

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MoECR), we were able to update the curriculum of the subject “Personal Development” for primary grades with a number of skills/content aimed at recognizing the signs of abuse, including sexual abuse, identifying and enforcing safety rules in potentially dangerous situations at or near the school, in the park, at the grocery store, on the street, at home or near home.
- As a result of the collaboration with the line ministry, the Standards for early education and the Curriculum for early education were approved and indicators aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse were included in these documents.

## Monitoring violence against children using unified indicators

In collaboration with MoHLSP, we developed a set of unique indicators for collecting data on cases of child abuse identified and reported by the authorities. These indicators allow unifying the systems for the collection of data on cases of abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking of children, from the social protection, health, education and police systems. The unification of indicators and the accurate collection of data will allow us to have a full picture on violence against children at national level.

## The program for children - “On the way home”

About 2,900 YOUNG CHILDREN of school age, including children of refugees, were informed about the safety rules on their way home. The professionals created contexts in which children might experience personal efficiency, encouraging them to find solutions to potentially dangerous situations that might be encountered at school, on the street, in the park or at home independently. Thus, children improved their capabilities to identify situations of insecurity and threat in a playful manner.

### Libraries - a protective space for children

Based on the partnership established with the “Novateca” Program, we managed to bring this program to children through several libraries in Hincesti, Leova and Cimisia districts. Thus, libraries managed to become a protective space for children and the librarians became resource people for both young users of library services, and for the system of primary protection of children-victims or potential victims.

### The program for parents - “No smacking”

More than 1800 PARENTS learned how to handle their anger in difficult situations and how to set boundaries for the child with love and respect. Parents declared that after going through the program they became friendlier and thriftier with children, wiser and, as a result, the relations with children improved.



## Program for adolescents - 12PLUS

More than 500 ADOLESCENTS were informed and empowered to recognize risky sexual relationships such as sexting, sponsorship and child trafficking. The adolescents approached these types of relationships from the perspective of their motivation, the mechanisms of coercion/manipulation used by the aggressors, the decision-making processes and the consequences of these relationships on physical and psycho-emotional health. Thousands of people were informed through the website [www.12plus.md](http://www.12plus.md) which



# PREVENTION

[www.12plus.md](http://www.12plus.md) - a website for and about adolescents



- Informs and sensitizes adolescents on prevention of sexual and commercial abuse and exploitation
- Contributes to awareness of risk situations and recognition of risky sexual behaviors
- Connects to adolescence
- Provides access to trusted psychologists
- Responds to age questions and challenges
- Contributes to promoting safe adolescence values

**Over 10 thousand ADOLESCENTS, PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS**

were informed and empowered to realize risk situations and recognize risky sexual behaviors.

## The child and family **psychosocial support service AMICUL**

527 CHILD victims received direct services within the child and family psychosocial support service AMICUL. We included 311 new children-victims in the service, while other 216 children received follow-up assistance.

6 OUT OF 10 children and their families received social assistance focused on defining the type of abuse, determining the degree of danger to children's life and health, planning and carrying out specific interventions to provide a protective environment.

5 OUT OF 10 assisted children and their parents/caregivers received psychological assistance based on individual intervention programs aimed at reducing the consequences of abuse and at developing parental skills.

Out of the total number of child victims of crime in the country who were heard under special conditions, 4 OUT OF 10 were heard with the support of NCCAP.

For 42 CHILDREN taken into care in 2018, psychological evaluation reports were developed and used by the guardianship authorities, law institutions and other line institutions to demonstrate abuse and identify optimal solutions for child protection.

52 CHILD ABUSERS were convicted in the assisted cases, including due to the support we provided to children and courts of law in the framework of the legal proceedings.

### Profile of an NCCAP beneficiary



**Every 2nd beneficiary** is a psychologically abused child



**2 in 10 children** are victims of sexual abuse



**3 in 10 children** are under 7



**4 in 10 children** are 11-15 years of age



# CONFERINȚA

Aspecte multidisciplinare  
în protecția copiilor  
față de violență

20-21 iunie 2018, mun. Chișinău

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The conference “Cross-cutting issues in the protection of children from violence” organized by NCCAP and the Child Rights Information Center in Moldova (CRIC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research. The NCCAP team and Figen Sahin Dagli, university professor, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey.

*Chisinau, June 20-21, 2018*



# CAPACITY BUILDING

## Professionals trained for the establishment of the first Barnahus in the country

- More than 150 PROFESSIONALS, judges, psychologists, lawyers, doctors, public prosecutors, investigation officers, social workers and forensic pathologists were trained in the development of the first regional specialized Barnahus-type service for child victims/witnesses of crime.
- The first training in this regard was provided by the founder and author of the Barnahus Service in Iceland, **Bragi Gudbrandsson**, member of the Council of Europe's Committee for the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, who came to Chisinau for this purpose.
- Another series of 5 trainings were supported by NCCAP trainers and addressed the specialized approach of the child within this type of Service, so that Barnahus provides a friendly and safe environment for children, bringing all relevant services under one roof.



### Training of professionals in the Barnahus Service

**28** SOCIAL WORKERS

**17** JUDGES

**13** LAWYERS

**12** PROSECUTORS

**16** INVESTIGATION OFFICERS

**36** PSYCHOLOGISTS

**17** FORENSIC PATHOLOGISTS

**12** DOCTORS

The supervision of professionals - a reliable form of increasing efficiency in the assistance of child victims

**Over 60 professionals (psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers) benefited from:**

- 2 clinical supervisions with the participation of international experts - the psychologist **Pavel Kornienko** (Russian Federation) and **Sorina Petrica** (Romania), that addressed the work with sexually abused children. The focus was on the specificity of work with the consequences of various types of psychological losses, the specifics of therapeutic work with the effects of sexual abuse and the primary reaction to loss.
- 2 clinical supervisions with the participation of national experts - Parascovia Topada and Oxana Sevcenco (NCCAP), which addressed the most frequent difficulties in identifying and understanding atypical behaviors of children as indicators of sexual abuse and the defense mechanisms that are most commonly used by victims of sexual abuse.



The cause of child victims of violence, supported at the second edition of the concert “Be the hero of a child”, organized on the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse.

*Chisinau, November 19, 2018*

# AWARENESS-RAISING AND FUNDRAISING

## The cause of child victims of violence, supported by more and more people!



The event of the year was the 2nd edition of the concert **“Be the hero of a child”** with the performance of the singer Vali Boghean, who became an advocate for the cause of abused children, and his Band. The most beautiful songs in the singer’s repertoire and the touching lyrics created an atmosphere where love and empathy filled the air. Hundreds of people who came to the concert became aware of and contributed to the rehabilitation of abused children. The sale of tickets allowed raising 76,450 MDL. The event was conducted with the support of partners: Felicia Foundation, Dulcinella Chain, Radisson Blu Hotel, S. A. Bons Offices, CIO Film.



The **Dodo toy** - the mascot of the abused children, as well as the coloring books where Dodo is the main hero, accompanied us to the public events we attended. On the eve of winter holidays, we launched a new Dodo product - the Dodo biscuits, which decorated Christmas in many families.



The **Dodo products** reached 800 people, both in the country and abroad, including thanks to the partners: BERD’s Design Hotel, Radisson Blu Hotel, Regency Hotel, “Panda Tur” Travel Agency, National Children’s Library “Ion Creanga”.

Through the fundraising campaigns, we managed to collect funds that covered 2% of the annual budget of the organization.

# STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2019-2023

## We will act for...

- Developing resilience, informing and assisting children;
- Developing parental skills, informing and raising awareness of parents, foster families and other adults children contact with (educators, doctors, lawyers, judges, policemen and other professionals);
- Developing functional, accessible and friendly public systems and mechanisms that work for the benefit of children and families;
- Developing and implementing child abuse prevention programs;
- Developing and delivering quality services to child victims or witnesses of abuse and to their families.

### **1 Promoting a family environment resilient to any form of violence**

- 1.1** Developing parental skills of adults who look after children
- 1.2** Increasing the resilience of children to adversity
- 1.3** Increasing the access of children and families to qualitative psycho-social assistance services

*We will help families be a resilient environment for children.*

### **2 Strengthening the capacity of alternative services to create a protective and favorable environment for the rehabilitation of child victims**

- 2.1** Developing the capacity of alternative services to implement child protection policies
- 2.2** Increasing the ability of alternative services' personnel to meet the needs of children facing adversities
- 2.3** Increasing the resilience of children in alternative services to the risk of abuse

*We will contribute to strengthening the resilience of children in alternative services to the risk of abuse and to developing friendly services.*

### **3 Promoting a friendly justice system for child victims/witnesses of crime**

- 3.1** Putting in place integrated intervention for child victims/witnesses of crime (development of Barnahus-type services)
- 3.2** Building the capacities of professionals who interact with child victims/witnesses of abuse to meet the needs of the child

*We will endeavor to ensure friendly justice for child victims and witnesses of violence*

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

INCOME SOURCES	EURO	%
<b>1. International donors</b>	449595	95.74
Oak Foundation	136040	
Empowering Children Foundation	29610	
World Childhood Foundation	90615	
Netherlands Embassy in Bucharest	88790	
UNICEF Moldova	83600	
Bedfordshire University	20940	
<b>2. Private companies</b>	910	0.19
<b>3. Individual donations</b>	7075	1.51
<b>4. Local public authorities</b>	11285	2.40
<b>5. 2% allocation from the state budget</b>	740	0.16
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>469605</b>	<b>100.00</b>


EXPENSES	EURO	%
PROJECT EXPENSES	256035	82.49
Child direct assistance	120450	
Training and capacity building	76720	
Advocacy and awareness	58865	
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	54350	17.51
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>310385</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## 120 MEDIA COVERS

**6330** unique visitors  
on the website



**8340** average impact of  
Facebook posts



**4132** people  
following NCCAP  
on Facebook



**200 MII** people  
total impact of the products



# PARTNERS/DONORS

## NCCAP partners

### Donors



### Social partners



### Governmental partners

- Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
- Ministry of Justice
- State Chancellery, Department of Permanent Secretariats
- Superior Council of Magistracy
- Prosecutor General's Office
- General Police Inspectorate
- Forensic Medicine Center
- Municipal Directorate for Child Rights Protection, Chisinau

### Non-governmental partners

- International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)
- Empowering Children Foundation
- Alliance of NGOs active in the field of Child and Family Social Protection (APSCF)
- Child Rights Information Center in Moldova
- Youth Health Center "Neovita"
- National Coalition "Life without Domestic Violence"
- "Novateca" Program

# CONTACTS



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