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BASELINE STUDY OF FACT PROJECT

ON SITUATION OF FAMILIES, CASES AND
RISK FACTORS FOR MIGRATION
AND CHILD TRAFFICKING



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BASELINE STUDY OF FACT PROJECT

IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

ON SITUATION OF FAMILIES, CASES AND
RISK FACTORS FOR MIGRATION
AND CHILD TRAFFICKING

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ACRONYMS

LPA	Local Public Administration;
COPC	Community Oriented Primary Care;
FACT	Fight Against Child Trafficking;
ILO	International Labor Office;
IPEC	International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor;
KABP	Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices;
SCM	Save the Children – Moldova (NGO);
CT	Child Trafficking;
Tdh	Terre des hommes;
χ^2	Chi Square Test of Independence.

DEFINITIONS

Child is any person under the age of 18, except the case when, according to the legislation applied to child, the full age is set under the above mentioned age.^{1,2}

Family violence – deliberate action of a member of the family against the other, expressed through physical, psychological, economic, spiritual and sexual abuse, resulting with contraventions and offences against this person's life and health, dignity and honour; against family and minors; against patrimonial and personal properties.³

Child abuse or maltreatment represents all forms of bad physical and/or emotional treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or neglectful care, all kind of exploitation, done by parents or any other person taking care of the child, that lead to present or potential damages to child's health, survival, development or dignity.⁴

Child neglect is a form of abuse toward the child, expressed through voluntary or involuntary omission of a person who has the responsibility to bring up, take care or educate the child, to undertake any measure subordinated to this responsibility, fact that endangers child's life, physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, and body integrity, physical or psychological health.

Child abandon is the action when a child is left without any care by his parents or the persons with legal obligations to take care of him.⁵

Child labour is any economic activity done by a child, which deprives him of his childhood, potential and dignity, and harms his physical and mental development.⁶

There are as well **light work**, considered acceptable, which make the children of legal age responsible and prepare them to the adult life. Light works are not susceptible to do harm to: (i) children's health, physical and psychological security or their development; (ii) schooling; and (iii) participation in vocational trainings, and either „the possibility to benefit from primary education”.

Child exploitation through labour means keeping him in forced conditions of a paid or unpaid labour in order to get different profits.⁷

Child trafficking is the recruiting, transporting, transfer, sheltering or accepting a child, as well as offering or receiving any payments or benefits in order to get consent of the person having the control over the child, with the aim of⁷:

- sexual, commercial and non-commercial exploitation, prostitution or pornographic industry;
- exploitation through labour or forced services;
- exploitation in slavery or conditions similar to slavery, including the case of illegal adoption;
- involvement in armed conflicts;
- involvement in criminal activities;
- organ and tissue sampling for transplanting;
- abandon of the child abroad.

In this study, the children victims of child trafficking were identified on the basis of personal knowledge and experience of the staff of the FACT project. The statute of these children was not qualified by concerned legal authorities and as result, in this document, they are considered as supposed victims of the child trafficking.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Migration and child trafficking

Today, the phenomenon of child exploitation and trafficking is spread all over the world. The enormous difference between the living standards of the poor and rich people, as well as the growth of the poverty and the difficulties the disadvantaged families face to find the right solutions to satisfy their own needs are, undoubtedly, unmistakable elements which stay at the base of this phenomenon.

The poverty and the marginalization of these families are simple answers but not the unique ones given to a such complex phenomenon. This fact does not represent the main cause of the trafficking and exploitation, which affect seriously children's life and future. Another approach of this problem would make us to accept the hypothesis, that each family has a potential victim of exploitation and child trafficking. In fact, the poor families, who struggle with dignity, to survive and to educate their children are not responsible for child trafficking and exploitation.

The phenomenon of child trafficking will persist, undoubtedly, as long as exists either paid or free work force and adults in the communities who deals with child trafficking. In these circumstances, the lack of information and the absence of the possibilities to assist the families at risk represent serious violations of human rights.

In this sense, every public structure or NGO which struggle against the exploitation and child trafficking is obliged to be informed on the families and children situation. It's very important to know their economic and social situation, but in particular, their practices, attitudes and their opinions.

1.2 Baseline study – a work guideline

Despite the fact that child protection is a psycho-socio-juridical activity, baseline study was realized by means of some methods from Public Health Sector, based on COPC principles (Community Oriented Primary Care). Thus, baseline study was realized with the active participation of the authorities and the communities involved in all phases (planning, data collection, validation).

We are convinced that the multiple and the diverse problems connected to the exploitation and child trafficking require an intervention based mainly on public health care principles. In this way, the approach of the phenomenon becomes more structured when the data collection and the analysis of the information is realized with an active participation of the communities in question. Taking into account this fact, an approach based on public health care principles would contribute a lot at the perception and at the solution of this problem. It is certain that the application of these principles is slow, but they would permit a better knowledge and interpretation of the information by the authorized structures and by the actors in question and would facilitate the identification of the new solutions.

Baseline study is realized by Tdh/SCM Moldova team, and a part of it is represented further. This is a work document which informs us on families situations whose children either are victims of the trafficking or are at risk to be trafficked, exploited or exposed to other risks.

The results of baseline study are addressed to the authorities and public services, to the communities and NGOs from target districts, to understand the proportion of the problem, as well as, to identify the solutions and mechanisms for child protection.

Despite the fact we tried to use persuasive statistics and rigorous analysis, baseline study contains fundamental information and doesn't pretend to be published. The data included in this study have to be validated by the authorities and actors from each community. The accumulated information, as well as the analyses which have been realized, could serve as a guide to take the right decisions as for the prevention of migration/child trafficking and the protection of victims.

1.3 The utility and the main contribution of baseline study

The purpose of the analysis included in this report is to present convincing and objective elements to:

- obtain more information on the real situation of vulnerable families, in general and those affected by the migration/child trafficking, in particular;
- start discussion with the authorities and services of respective regions as concerns the proportion and the gravity of this phenomenon;
- identify factors of vulnerability, in order to get a common vision on the families and children in concrete situations;
- identify the risk factors for the migration/child trafficking and define the criteria to localize and register the children who need assistance;
- recognize factors and protective behaviors in the families, in order to strengthen the activities to prevent migration/child trafficking;
- define adapted strategies and coordinated actions in order to prevent this phenomenon, to assist children and families at risk and to protect the victims;
- create, together with the public services, instruments that would permit the identification, the diagnosis and the assistance of the children and families at risk.

The database which stays at the base of the elaboration of the respective report could be used to analyze other problems connected to the situation of vulnerable children and families from the communities.

We have the intention to propose the elaboration of an operational system of up to date data collection on the situation of children in difficulty, addressed to the protection services for children in the districts partners of FACT Project.

Swiss Foundation "Terre des homes" in Moldova
Alfonso Gonzalez J. – Head of the Delegation
Chisinau, March 2006

2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF BASELINE STUDY

2.1 Purpose

To determine the magnitude of child migration and the phenomenon of child trafficking (CT), the characteristics and their main factors in three targeted districts of FACT project from Republic of Moldova.

The baseline study results would give us a better understanding of the investigated problem in order to elaborate an ample project to struggle against child trafficking phenomenon.

The samples which have been selected for the baseline study are not representative for the entire country, that is why we cannot establish the characteristics of child trafficking phenomenon at national level. This study doesn't permit, either, to estimate the incidence of child trafficking phenomenon on the targeted population. The last ones could be qualified as disadvantages of the study.

2.2 Objectives

- 1) To estimate the knowledge, attitudes, the beliefs and the practices as concerns child migration and child trafficking phenomenon on:
 - a) children aged 10-17;
 - b) parents and care givers of children till 18 years old;
 - c) operators in the field and the representatives of the local public authorities; and
 - d) representatives of central public authorities and of district level from selected communities.
- 2) To estimate the prevalence of child migration and the proportion of child trafficking in three target regions of FACT project;
- 3) To identify and to describe the recruitment, transportation and sheltering procedures as well as the destinations, exploitation ways and its consequences among child trafficking victims;
- 4) To determine the potential risk and protection factors in order to identify the children exposed at a high risk of CT.

3 METHODS

Type of study:	cross-sectional.
Volume samples:	1233 children main care givers; 978 children; 17 children victims of CT; 81 key persons of national level and 171 local actors.
Margin of error:	±3.0%
Interviews:	standardized, face-to-face. Semi structured questionnaires.
The period of data collection:	May - June 2005

3.1 Study Population

This research represents a baseline study for FACT project in Soroca, Ungheni and rural region of Chisinau municipality.

Five targeted groups have been selected to carry out the baseline study:

- a) ***The main care giver of the child*** in the household, where there is at least one child in care under 18 years old. The main care givers of children will be named further „care givers”. A care giver is one of the child parents, a relative or another person responsible for the care of the child at the moment of this interview.
- b) ***Children aged 10-17:***
 - i) Children who live in the family, in the present;
 - ii) Children who live in child protection institutions.
- c) ***Child trafficking victims*** – children under 18 years old identified as child trafficking victims.
- d) ***Key persons at national and district level:*** representatives of the ministries and departments, the public authorities at district level, the social institutions, NGO representatives and mass-media, who have a direct or indirect implication in the fight against child trafficking phenomenon.
- e) ***Operators in the field:*** representatives of public structures and NGO-s who work in social, health care sectors etc, at community level.

3.2 Data collection

Six rural communities have been randomly chosen from each of three targeted regions as well as Soroca and Ungheni cities. The city of Chisinau haven't been included in this study.

The households which took part in the study have been randomly selected in every community. Each 9th household was approached and identified as a base household according to selection procedure. If in the selected household children of 0-17 full years (18 without one day) were being brought up, or any child from base household recently (since Jan 2003) left home place for working purpose, this households were the subjects in baseline study. In all, 1233 care givers and 791 children have been interviewed. Another group of children, which participated at this study, comprises 187 institutionalized children from three investigated regions.

In case if, children presumed victims of CT in the past, have been identified in the respective households, they have been interviewed separately using an especial questionnaire. A total number of 17 children supposed victims of CT have been identified and interviewed in the families. The quality of the interviews depended on the capacities and the knowledge of the interviewers.

The group of key persons at national level is represented by 81 interviewed persons and the group of operators in the field is represented by 171 interviewed persons (4.1.3, 4.1.4).

Five different semi-structured questionnaires, for each of 5 groups of population, have been used to perform the interviews. The interviews of these persons and the fill in of the questionnaires have been realized by the representatives of CIVIS⁸ Center. The National Coordination of FACT project organized an instructional seminar to maintain a high level of data collection quality. In the framework of this seminar it has been discussed the general notions of child trafficking phenomenon, as well as the methods to carry out the interviews and to fill in the questionnaires.

The data collection was realized during May 31 - June 10, 2005 for the care givers and children groups, and during June 10-30, 2005 for the key persons groups of national level and for the operators in the field.

After data collection process was finished and the fulfilled questionnaires were received, an electronic database was created.

3.3 Data analysis

The database, which contains the results of the interviews, was validated by selecting, randomly, 50 questionnaires and by verifying the quality of introduced data. In order to proceed to the ulterior analyses, the included variables have been verified and the necessary modifications have been operated. After this process was finished, we did not trace out any majors errors of data collection and data entry. To analyze the data, it has been used SPSS statistic analysis package for Windows, v13.0. In order to determine CT risk factors we used χ^2 test for independency. The level of statistical significance used in the study was 0.05.

4 RESULTS

4.1 The characteristics of study population

The biggest weight among all study populations in the study has the care givers group. In all, 1233 care givers, which represents uniformly the three regions, have been interviewed. In this way, 427 persons were questioned in Sorooca, 398 persons in Ungheni and 408 in the rural area of the municipality of Chisinau. Table 1 represents the distribution of children's care givers in relation with some demographic characteristics. The complete number of the persons included in the Table 1 and others tables described further doesn't coincide, each time, with the number of interviewed persons. This is explained by the lack of some answers in the questionnaires of baseline study.

Taking into account the fact that only 2 urban localities: Sorooca and Ungheni, participated at the realisation of the study, the rural population prevail over the urban population, which is more than 80%. The municipality of Chisinau is represented only by the rural population because the city of Chisinau was not included in the survey. There is no big difference between the distribution by locality in Sorooca and Ungheni.

4.1.1 Children's care givers

The distribution by age of the care givers is quite uniform in these three regions. 12 persons are younger than 20 years old, 7 of them are brothers and sisters of the children in care. Another extremity of age comprised 223 persons older than 50 years old, the majority of them are the grandparents of children. Fig. 1 shows the age pyramid of the care givers, which indicates an uniform distribution, with an average of 40 years and a standard deviation of 11.5.

The female represents 1046 persons (85%) when compare to 187 (15%) males. The most frequent, mothers are the care givers of children, followed by fathers, grandparents and other relatives. As we can see, there is no substantial difference of the distribution among the categories of the care givers between these three regions. The proportion of mothers is a bit different, with a higher prevalence in Ungheni. At the same time, the percentage of the grandparents is the lowest in this district (5.9% when compare to 12.1 in Sorooca and 11.6 in mun. Chisinau).

If we speak about the nationality or the ethnic groups, the biggest group of the care givers are Moldavians (93%), followed by Ukrainians (2.5%) and Russians (2.2%). The proportion of Roma among the interviewed persons (2%) is relatively big on Sorooca account, where the Roma represent 5.4%. The distribution of the care givers by ethnic groups is very similar with the distribution presented by the National Bureau of Statistics⁹ in the framework of the census realized in 2004, the only exception is the large number of Roma among the ethnic minorities.

More than a half of the care givers have graduated the secondary school (42% women and 48% men have an educational level of 9 to 12 years of study) and the smallest group (1.3%) represents those with post university education (more than 17 years). The percentage of persons with no education is lower in Chisinau municipality (2.7%) when compare with Sorooca (6.6%) and Ungheni (4%).

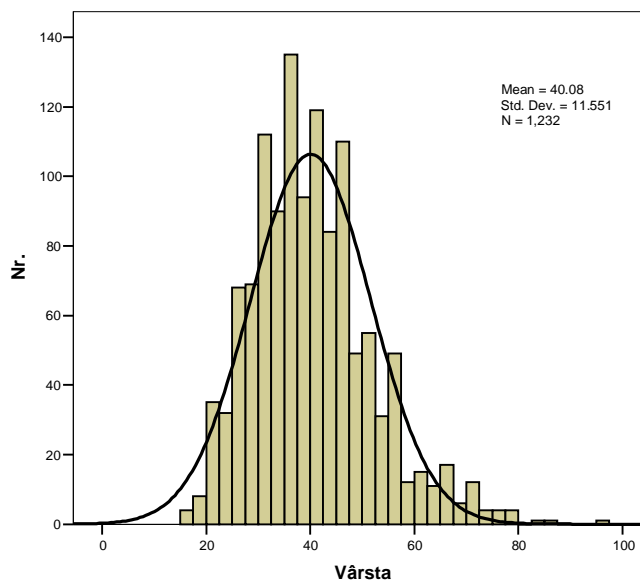
The marital status of the majority of the care givers is "married" (86%), this is explained by the prevalence of rural population included in the study. It is important to mention, that only 590 (48%) of the interviewed care givers are employed, 32% of them are unskilled workers, 20% - workers with secondary school, 17% - skilled workers, 5% - managers, 7% perform occasional

works and 19% of the care givers have other activities. More than a half of the care givers have indicated in their answers that they are unemployed, retired or housewives.

Table 1 - Repartition of care givers by demographic characteristics

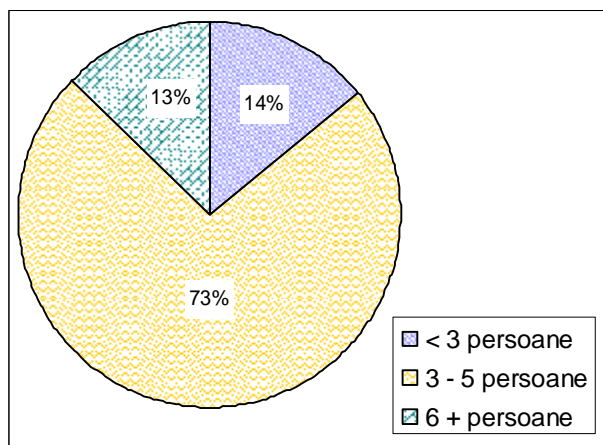
	<i>No=1233</i>		Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Area of life										
Urban	120	28.1%	108	27.1%	0	0.0%	228	18%		
Rural	307	71.9%	290	72.9%	408	100%	1005	82%		
Total	427	100%	398	100%	408	100%	1233	100%		
Care giver										
Mother	312	73.8%	297	76.5%	294	72.4%	903	74.2%		
Father	51	12.1%	60	15.5%	55	13.5%	166	13.6%		
Grandparent	51	12.1%	23	5.9%	47	11.6%	121	9.9%		
Brother/Sister	5	1.2%	4	1.0%	4	1.0%	13	1.1%		
Other	4	0.9%	4	1.0%	6	1.5%	14	1.2%		
Total	423	100%	388	100%	406	100%	1217	100%		
Age										
<20 years	5	1.2%	2	0.5%	5	1.2%	12	1.0%		
20 - 29 years	71	16.6%	65	16.3%	68	16.7%	204	16.6%		
30 - 39 years	151	35.4%	143	35.9%	137	33.7%	431	35.0%		
40 - 49 years	126	29.5%	115	28.9%	121	29.7%	362	29.4%		
50 + years	74	17.3%	73	18.3%	76	18.7%	223	18.1%		
<i>Total</i>	427	100%	398	100%	407	100%	1232	100%		
Gender										
F	366	85.7%	332	83.4%	348	85.3%	1046	84.8%		
M	61	14.3%	66	16.6%	60	14.7%	187	15.2%		
Total	427	100%	398	100%	408	100%	1233	100%		
Nationality / Ethnicity										
Moldovans	388	90.9%	381	95.7%	376	92.2%	1145	92.9%		
Ukrainians	8	1.9%	9	2.3%	14	3.4%	31	2.5%		
Russians	5	1.2%	7	1.8%	15	3.7%	27	2.2%		
Roma	23	5.4%	1	0.3%	1	0.2%	25	2.0%		
Other	3	0.7%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%	5	0.4%		
Total	427	100%	398	100%	408	100%	1233	100%		
Marital status										
Married	365	85.7%	355	89.2%	342	83.8%	1062	86.2%		
Single	12	2.8%	6	1.5%	7	1.7%	25	2.0%		
Concubine	6	1.4%	0	0.0%	9	2.2%	15	1.2%		
Divorced	19	4.5%	12	3.0%	23	5.6%	54	4.4%		
Widowed	24	5.6%	25	6.3%	27	6.6%	76	6.2%		
Total	426	100%	398	100%	408	100%	1232	100%		
Educational level										
<9 years	165	38.7%	140	35.2%	148	36.3%	453	36.8%		
9-12 years	169	39.7%	197	49.5%	163	40.0%	529	42.9%		
13-17 years	57	13.4%	41	10.3%	81	19.9%	179	14.5%		
18+ years	7	1.6%	4	1.0%	5	1.2%	16	1.3%		
0	28	6.6%	16	4.0%	11	2.7%	55	4.5%		
Total	426	100%	398	100%	408	100%	1232	100%		
Occupational level										
Unskilled workers	71	16.7%	56	14.1%	61	15.0%	188	15.3%		
Workers with secondary school skilled workers	30	7.1%	25	6.3%	64	15.7%	119	9.7%		
Managers	27	6.4%	25	6.3%	48	11.8%	100	8.1%		
Unemployed/housewives/retired	3	0.7%	11	2.8%	14	3.4%	28	2.3%		
Daily workers	233	55.0%	235	59.0%	172	42.2%	640	52.0%		
Other	17	4.0%	9	2.3%	15	3.7%	41	3.3%		
Total	424	100%	398	100%	408	100%	1230	100%		

Fig. 1 - Repartition of care givers by age



In Fig. 2 we can see the distribution of the households by the number of persons. 73% of the households have 3-5 persons, 14% have less than 3 persons and 13% - 6 and more.

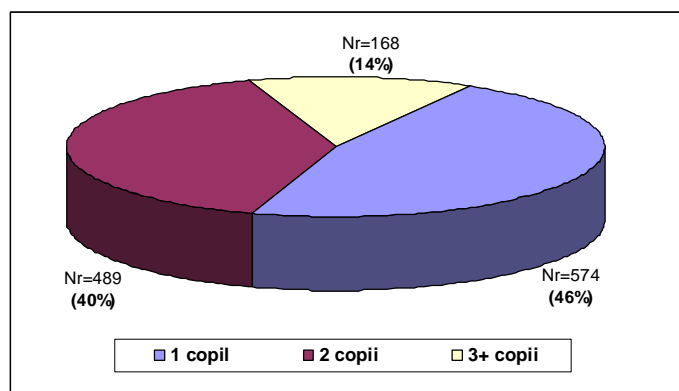
Fig. 2 - Number of persons in families



46% of the investigated families have one child, 40% - 2 children and 14% - 3 and more children (Fig. 3). According to the investigation realized by the National Bureau of Statistics in 2004¹⁰, every second household has one child, 34% - two children and the rest of the households have three and more children (8.9%). The same source describes the households with three and more children as characteristic for the rural localities (12.1%), and those with one child for the urban localities (70.9%). The prevalence of the families with two and more children could be explained by the fact that the interviewed persons for the present study come mostly from rural localities.

On an average, in our study, a household with children gets 1.73 children when compare with 1.5 described in the above mentioned research¹⁰.

Fig. 3 - Number of children in families



4.1.2 Children

The second group which participated at this investigation includes children aged 10 to 17. In total, 978 children have been interviewed. Most of them (Nr=791) come from the families where the care givers have been selected, and 187 children come from Child Protection institutions. The majority of children come from rural localities (85%). In the municipality of Chisinau only children from environs have been selected, so, all children are from rural area (Table 2). The distribution by regions is the following: 296 children from Soroca, 370 children from Ungheni and 312 children from municipality of Chisinau.

Table 2 - Repartition of children by demographic characteristics

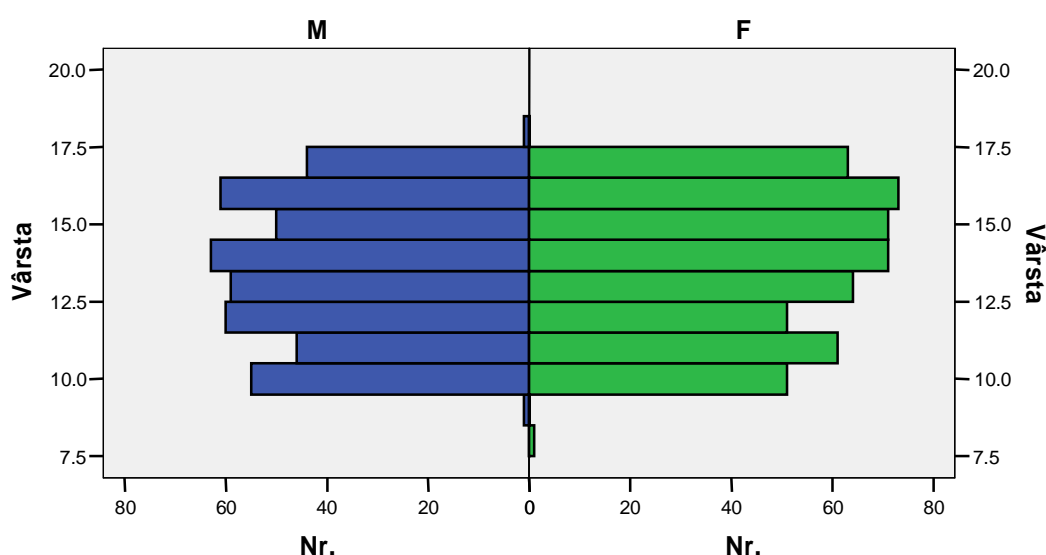
No=978	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Area of life								
Urban	85	28.7%	65	17.6%	0	0.0%	150	15.3%
Rural	211	71.3%	305	82.4%	312	100.0%	828	84.7%
Total	296	100%	370	100%	312	100%	978	100%
Gender								
M	123	42.7%	175	48.1%	142	47.7%	440	46.3%
F	165	57.3%	189	51.9%	156	52.3%	510	53.7%
Total	288	100%	364	100%	298	100%	950	100%
Age								
10-12 years	98	33.4%	125	33.9%	118	37.8%	341	35.0%
13-15 years	114	38.9%	147	39.8%	129	41.3%	390	40.0%
16-17 years	81	27.6%	97	26.3%	65	20.8%	243	24.9%
Total	293	100%	369	100%	312	100%	974	100%
Residence								
In family	277	93.6%	261	70.5%	253	81.1%	791	80.9%
In child protection institution	19	6.4%	109	29.5%	59	18.9%	187	19.1%
Total	296	100%	370	100%	312	100%	978	100%
Education								
<4 years	75	27.1%	70	19.5%	59	19.9%	204	21.9%
5-6 years	54	19.5%	87	24.2%	81	27.3%	222	23.8%
7-8 years	58	20.9%	104	29.0%	80	26.9%	242	25.9%
9+ years	90	32.5%	98	27.3%	77	25.9%	265	28.4%
Total	277	100%	359	100%	297	100%	933	100%

440 boys and 510 girls aged between 10 and 17 participated at the interviews. In 28 cases the sex of children haven't been indicated in the questionnaires. The repartition by sex of questioned children doesn't differ among the three regions.

The most of the institutionalized children (109 from 187 children) come from Ungheni, and only 19 children who have been interviewed in Soroca were in Child Protection Institutions.

The age of the majority of children varies between 10 and 17 years with 3 children that do not belong to this age limit. The age pyramid of children by sex is represented in Fig. 4.

Fig. 4 - Age pyramid for children



10.6% of children aged between 10 and 17, who have been interviewed don't attend the school regularly, and 2.8% never went to school (Table 3). The percentage of children who attend school regularly among the children who live in the families is higher in comparison with those institutionalized. From another hand we can observe a higher prevalence of children who do not attend school at all among those who live in the families, except Soroca. The higher rate of children who never attended school in this district could be explained by a higher prevalence of Roma children who are not impelled by their parents to go to school.

Table 3 - School attendance by children in the past 3 months

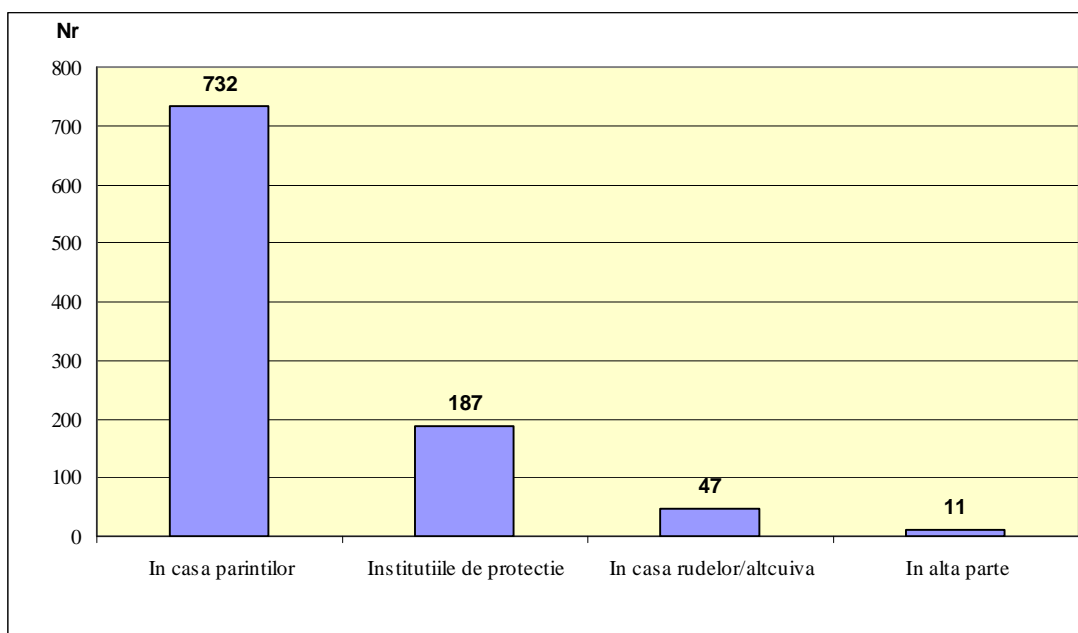
No=978	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau		Total (N=958)
	In family (N=270)	In instit. (N=19)	In family (N=253)	In instit. (N=109)	In family (N=248)	In instit. (N=59)	
Every day	87.0%	73.7%	88.9%	79.8%	88.3%	81.4%	86.4%
Sometimes attends/don't attends	8.1%	21.1%	7.9%	20.2%	9.3%	18.6%	10.6%
Never attended	4.8%	5.3%	2.8%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	2.8%
Graduated	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

69.2% of questioned children attend general school, 17% boarding school, 2.4% - technical school, and 4.5% do not attend any school. Eight of the interviewed children (2.1%) aged till 16 are not involved in the compulsory study process (Table 4).

Table 4 - Repartition of children by type of attended school and age

No=978	Age						Total	
	10-12 years		13-15 years		16-17 years		Nr	%
	Nr	%	Nr	%	Nr	%		
General school	262	78.0%	280	72.2%	126	52.3%	668	69.2%
Private school	-	-	4	1.0%	3	1.2%	7	0.7%
Technical school	1	0.3%	-	-	22	9.1%	23	2.4%
Boarding school	60	17.9%	69	17.8%	35	14.5%	164	17.0%
Other	13	3.9%	27	7.0%	20	8.3%	60	6.2%
Don't attend a school	-	-	8	2.1%	35	14.5%	43	4.5%
Total	336	100%	388	100%	241	100%	965	100%

58 (7.3%) of interviewed children from the households (791) don't live with their parents, 47 (5.9%) of them live in their relatives' house and 11 (1.4%) in other places. The permanent address for 187 (23.6%) children is the residential institution for child protection (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5 - Repartition of children by place of residence

4.1.3 Key persons at national and district level

The third sample involved in present study is composed of key persons from national and district level. From the total number (81) of key informants of national level we interviewed 18 representatives of central public authorities, 24 representatives of public authorities at district level, 17 representatives from social institutions active the fields of health and education, 8 – NGO representatives and 11 representatives of Mass-media. The distribution of the interviewed persons by region is represented in the Table 5. The number of the persons who have been selected for the interviews from the municipality of Chisinau is larger, this is because, the institutions of central public authorities as well as the social institutions and mass media are placed mainly in the capital of the country.

Table 5 - Repartition of the national and district key informants by region and type of institution

<i>No = 81</i>	Type of institution					Total
	Central public authorities	District public authorities	Social institutions	NGOs	Mass-media	
Soroca	-	8	3	3	2	16
Ungheni	-	10	4	3	2	19
Chisinau	18	6	10	2	7	43
Total	18	24	17	8	11	78

4.1.4 Local informants

Another group included in the baseline study represents the local level informants. In all, 171 persons from many sectors connected to child protection, have been interviewed. Among the interviewed persons 64 are from Soroca, 71 from Ungheni and 36 from the municipality of Chisinau (Table 6). Most of the informants of local level are from Educational sector that is teachers, heads of the school and educators from kindergartens. The group of local public administration employees is composed of mayors and the secretaries of the Primarii (36 persons). There are 20 employees from health care sector, 10 police employees, 13 are from social assistance sector and 35 persons are from other sectors.

Table 6 - Repartition of local informants by region and type of institution

<i>No = 171</i>	Type of institution						Total
	Local authorities	Education	Health care	Police	Social assistance	Other	
Soroca	13	23	5	4	6	13	64
Ungheni	16	25	9	3	5	13	71
Chisinau	7	9	6	3	2	9	36
Total	36	57	20	10	13	35	171

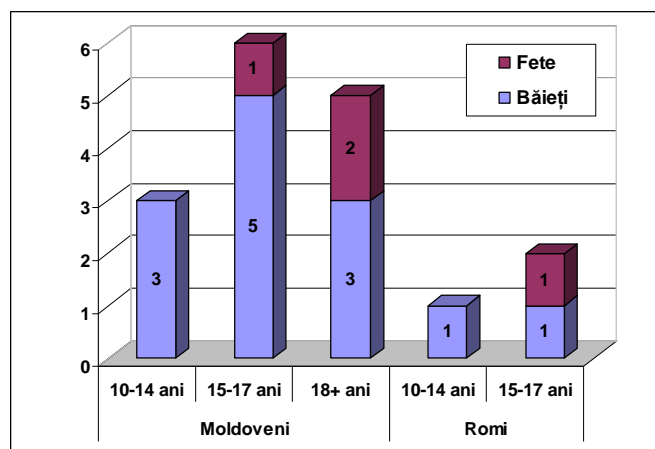
4.1.5 Children victims

17 children qualified by the interviewers as supposed CT victims have been included in the study. The number of children is smaller than presumed in our previous hypothesis (a number of 50 children have been estimated). Four girls and thirteen boys have been interviewed in all three regions. The majority victims have been registered in Ungheni (Nr=8). 4 children have been interviewed in Soroca and 5- in the municipality of Chisinau, (Table 7).

Table 7 - Number of interviewed children, supposed victims of CT by region and sex

	M	F	Total
Soroca	2	2	4
Ungheni	6	2	8
Chisinau	5	0	5
Total	13	4	17

Only 14 Moldavian and 3 Roma children have been registered as potential CT victims.

Fig. 6 - Repartition of children, potential victims by age, nationality /ethnic group and gender

4.2 Family/Community

A list of specific questions have been used in order to describe the socio-economic situation of the population in study and the characteristics of families and communities. The questionnaires contained questions on family legal incomes, on different goods and commodities in the household, on the possibilities and on the presence of job offers in the community, on the socio-cultural activities as well as on socio-demographic characteristics, on the communications skills with the children, on the attitudes towards children problems and their approach.

At the question „Who brings more money in the family?” 65% of the care givers from three regions indicated „father” in their answer and 28.3% - „mother”. Seven percents of the respondents indicated in their answers other relatives or other source of income. There is no big difference between the regions (Table 8).

Table 8 - Who brings more money in the family? (more than one answer are possible)

No=1233	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Father	285	67.1%	277	69.6%	232	56.9%	794	64.5%
Mother	108	25.4%	92	23.1%	148	36.3%	348	28.3%
Grandparent	18	4.2%	10	2.5%	13	3.2%	41	3.3%
Brother/sister	0	0.0%	2	0.5%	3	0.7%	5	0.4%
Other relative	1	0.2%	2	0.5%	1	0.2%	4	0.3%
Other sources	13	3.1%	15	3.8%	11	2.7%	39	3.2%
Total	425	100%	398	100%	408	100%	1231	100%

More than a half of the care givers indicated a monthly income for the hole family less than 1000 lei and only 2% of them answered their income is more than 4500 lei.

At the same time, there is a higher prevalence of families with a monthly income under 1000 lei among those composed by less than 3 persons (76.6%) and those with more than 6 persons (73.2%), as shown in Table 9. The figures indicated might not correspond to the reality and could be explained an informational bias. The persons who have been interviewed might not have wanted to give a correct answer at these kind of questions or the difficulty to obtain a correct answer is explained by the lack of a stable income in some families.

Table 9 - What is the monthly income in your family (in money or goods)?

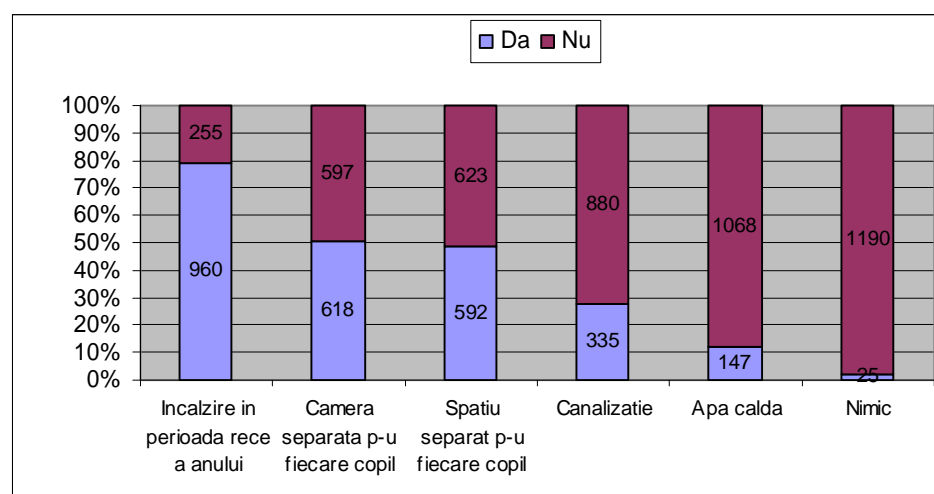
Nr=1233	< 3 persons	3-5 persons	6+ persons	Total
< 1000 lei	76.6%	62.9%	73.2%	66.1%
1000-4500 lei	22.2%	34.9%	25.5%	31.9%
>4500 lei	1.2%	2.2%	1.3%	2.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The distribution of different goods in the households is indicated in the Table 10. The care givers had to indicate which of the goods enumerated in the questionnaire they have in their possession.

Table 10 - Which of the following goods you have in your household?

No=1233	N	%
TV set	1151	93.6%
House/flat	1069	86.9%
Domestic animals	968	78.7%
Fridge	960	78.0%
Telephone	897	72.9%
Land/garden	874	71.1%
Washing machine	686	55.8%
Car, bus, tractor	342	27.8%
Computer	74	6.0%

At the question „Which are the commodities in your house/flat.” (Fig. 7), 255 of the care givers or 21%, have indicated there is no heating in their dwelling-place during the cold period of the year. About a half of the respondents(49%) say there is no children’s room in their house. In 880 households (72.4%) there is no sewerage system and in 1068 (87.9%) of them – there is no hot water, 25 of the questioned persons say there aren’t any commodities in their houses.

Fig. 7 - Which are the commodities in your house/flat? (more than one answer are possible)

Only 12,5% of the care givers who have been interviewed in the three regions say there is a possibility to get a job in the community. Almost a half of the care givers (44.5%) say there are few possibilities to get a job in the community and 43% affirm there is no such possibility, or at least as for some kind of jobs (Table 11). At the same time we can observe a difference of the answers in these regions. For instance, the respondents from the municipality of Chisinau, say

there are more opportunities to get a job in their communities, when compared with those from Soroca and Ungheni.

Table 11 - Which are the job opportunities in your community?

<i>No=1233</i>	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
There are job opportunities	27	6.3%	34	8.5%	93	22.9%	154	12.5%
Few job opportunities	220	51.5%	197	49.5%	131	32.3%	548	44.5%
No job opportunities	166	38.9%	152	38.2%	168	41.4%	486	39.5%
No opportunities for my specialty	14	3.3%	15	3.8%	14	3.4%	43	3.5%
Total	427	100%	398	100%	406	100%	1231	100%

In the case of any difficult situations or problems the majority of the adults prefer to discuss with their husbands/wives (70.1%). Only 14,5% of the interviewed persons say they discuss with their children. Some of them prefer to discuss about their problems with the relatives: with the parents 7.1% and brothers/sisters 2.8%. The persons who don't share their problems with anybody represent 5.7%. The discussion with teachers, social workers is not characteristic for them (Table 12). The fact these persons are not open to discuss their problems with other persons but the family is explained by the tradition „don't wash your dirty things in public”.

The investigation which have been realized by Winrock International supported by USAID in 2005¹¹ shows, in case if any problem occurs, 12% of the women aged between 16-35 don't discuss it with anybody and 26% discuss it with a person who is not a relative. According to our results, younger women (16-24 years old) prefer to discuss their problems with strange persons rather than women aged 25-35 (30% in comparison with 14%). The difference of answers between these two investigations is explained by the fact that the majority of interviewed within the baseline study are older than 25.

Table 12 - When you have any problems, who are you discussing with? (more than one answer are possible)

<i>No=1233</i>	No	%
Spouse	863	70.1%
Children	178	14.5%
Parents	87	7.1%
Nobody	70	5.7%
Friends/relatives	50	4.1%
Brother/sister	34	2.8%
Teacher/social worker	4	0.3%

The care givers have been asked about their favorite sources of information. More than one answer could be chosen. In their opinion the most important sources of information are radio/TV, friends and neighbors, family's members and the press (local and national newspapers). Almost all the respondents say they learn the world news from TV and radio (94.5%). The proportion of the respondents who learn the news from TV and radio is almost equal in these three regions. The communication with others persons is the second important source of information – from friends or neighbors (50.0%) and from family's members (48.1%). We can observe a higher percentage of the persons who learn the news from other persons among the care givers from the municipality of Chisinau, when compared to others regions. The third by importance source of information are the local and national newspapers (46.1% and 43.7%). The national newspapers are read, mostly, by the care givers from the municipality of Chisinau, and the local ones – by the care givers from Ungheni and Soroca. Only 7% of the

questioned persons learn the news from Internet, and 1.8% are not interested in what happens in the world (Table 13).

Table 13 - How do you prefer to get information/news from the world?

	Soroca (No=427)	Ungheni (No=398)	Chisinau (No=408)	Total (No=1233)
Radio, TV	95.8%	94.5%	93.1%	94.5%
Friends/Neighbors	44.7%	49.0%	56.6%	50.0%
Family members	44.0%	43.2%	57.1%	48.1%
Local newspapers	49.6%	50.8%	38.0%	46.1%
National newspapers	37.2%	38.4%	55.6%	43.7%
Internet	3.7%	6.0%	11.3%	7.0%
I'm not interested in news	1.6%	2.8%	1.0%	1.8%

Church attendance is the most frequent activity indicated by the adults (of all possible answers included in questionnaires). In general, women go more often to church than men. 33.4% of the interviewed women say they go to church regularly, when compare to 18.2% men. At the same time there is no difference between the gender of persons who affirm they go sometimes to church. We have to mention that the care givers, men as well as women, from Soroca go more often to church than those from the other two regions. The second important activity of the interviewed persons is the school parents committee meeting attendance, where women are also more active than men, 23.5% of women are active members when compare to 15.0% men). Only 6.2% women and 5.3% men take an active part at the public activities in the community.

Table 14 - Which are the community activities you are involved in?

<i>No=1233</i>		Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau		Total	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Church attendance	Active member	38.5%	24.6%	28.3%	18.2%	32.8%	11.7%	33.4%	18.2%
	Passive member	51.4%	44.3%	64.5%	66.7%	54.0%	58.3%	56.4%	56.7%
Member of a social organization	Active member	4.4%	1.6%	7.5%	9.1%	6.9%	5.0%	6.2%	5.3%
	Passive member	12.0%	9.8%	19.3%	12.1%	14.4%	10.0%	15.1%	10.7%
Parent's committee	Active member	21.0%	13.1%	25.6%	15.2%	24.1%	16.7%	23.5%	15.0%
	Passive member	17.2%	8.2%	23.5%	19.7%	7.8%	15.0%	16.1%	14.4%
Other activities	Active member	0.3%	0.0%	0.9%	4.5%	2.3%	0.0%	1.1%	1.6%
	Passive member	1.1%	1.6%	1.5%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	2.1%

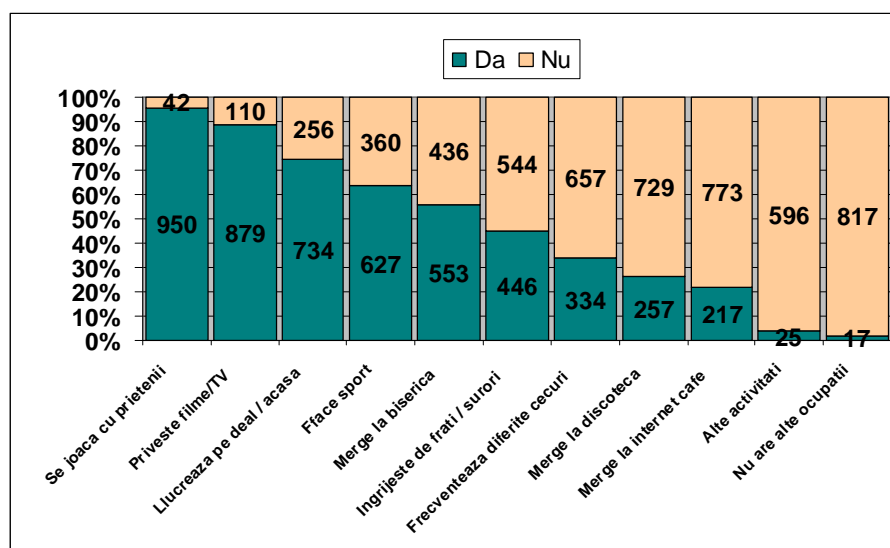
The perception of the family as being happy or unhappy is very important for the interpersonal relationships. 64% of the interviewed persons perceive their family as a happy one and 13% don't agree with this idea. 23% can't answer at this question. There is a difference between answers among women and men. 65% of women think they have a happy family when compare with 58% men. More men (28%) could not respond at this question in comparison with 22% women.

Table 15 - Do your relatives and friends consider your family as a happy one?

No=1233		Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Women	Nr	681	135	230	1046
	%	65.1%	12.9%	22.0%	100.0%
Men	Nr	109	26	52	187
	%	58.3%	13.9%	27.8%	100.0%
Total	Nr	790	161	282	1233
	%	64.1%	13.1%	22.9%	100.0%

Children's care givers have been asked about children's activities after classes. More answers, indicated in the questionnaires could be ticked. The majority of children of the respective families play (950-95.8%) and watch TV (879-88.9%) after classes (Fig. 8). (734 – 74.1%) of children do either household or agriculture work. According to other sources, the household work is seen as a family tradition, especially in the rural localities. According to the report published by ILO/IPEC²² older children often do household works to the prejudice of the classes.

It is important to be mentioned that 64% of caregivers indicated in the answers that their children after classes usually do sports, 56% - go to church, and 34% - attend different hobby groups.

Fig. 8 - What does your children usually do after classes?


The majority of the questioned parents (67%) say, in case of an inappropriate behavior of the child, they explain where hi or she was wrong (Table 16). Another reaction to the inadequate behavior of the child, is the verbal aggression or the parents don't speak to the child „shout at him or do not talk to him” (20.8%), both of the actions being dangerous. The interdiction of going to play (4.2%) and the physical punishment (3.5%) were among the most frequent answers. The financial restriction (0.9%) and the child labor (1.4%) are not applied so frequent.

The attitudes towards the child have been grouped in three categories: (i) adequate attitude; (ii) hyper-protective; and (iii) hypo-protective¹². In order to evaluate the attitude towards the child, the questionnaires offered the following answers: for the adequate attitude - „The child must be as independent as possible, but I am ready to help him”; for the hyper-protective attitude - “The child must always do what parents say”; and for the hypo-protective attitude - „The child must be on his own, I have enough problems”.

It is interesting to underline that two categories of attitudes are characteristic for the interviewed persons– adequate and hyper-protective. 59.8% of the interviewed persons indicated an adequate attitude towards children. Hyper-protective attitude towards the child is characteristic for 37%, and hypo-protective attitude only for 3.2% of questioned persons. The high percentage of the hyper-protective attitude might be explained by the way children are usually educated in the Republic of Moldova when parents have a tendency to protect and control their children as much as possible.

80% of the interviewed care givers say their discussion with the child is based on daily activities, that is, what the child has done during the day. 17% of the care givers just check if the child finished the work he had to do, and 3% don't have time to talk to the child. In consequences we can say that every fifth interviewed person discuss with their child formally.

It is important to mention that some of the respondents wanted to put their family in a good light. If we take into account this fact, the psychological situation (atmosphere) of the family is quiet strain:

- i) A little more than a half of the interviewed persons perceive their family as a happy one;
- ii) a fourth of the population included in this investigation aggress verbally children or refuse to communicate with them;
- iii) a third of the questioned care givers have the tendency to hiper-protect their children, even they are quite big (the majority of the children are between 12 and 15 years old);
- iv) at least 20% of the care givers discuss formally with their children. In fact, this percentage might be bigger, because the interviewers told about the lack of sincerity of many questioned persons.

Table 16 - Communication with children

No=1233	No	%
How do you act in case when your child doesn't behave good?		
explaining him where he was wrong	827	67.3%
shout at him/don't speak with him	256	20.8%
don't allow him to play	51	4.2%
beat him	43	3.5%
other actions	23	1.9%
compel him to work	17	1.4%
financial restriction	11	0.9%
Attitude to child		
the child should be as independent as possible, but I am ready to help them.	736	59.8%
the child must always do what parents say.	456	37.0%
the child doesn't have to wait advises from parents because parents have their problems.	39	3.2%
When I discuss with my child...		
I'm asking him what have happened during the day.	967	79.7%
I'm checking if he finished the work I gave him	211	17.4%
I don't have enough time to discuss with my children	35	2.9%

79.2% of the interviewed children aged between 10 – 17 answered they live with the both parents, 15.4% live with one of the parents and 5.4% - without both parents (Table 17). The percentage of the children who live in complete families is almost equal in all three regions included in this investigation. The proportion of children who live without parents is lower in the municipality of Chisinau (3.6%), when compare to Soroca and Ungheni (6.2% of cases in each).The informational note of the National Bureau of Statistic from Republic of Moldova, as

concerns children's situation in Moldova for 2004¹⁰, shows that 40.4% of children live with the both parents, 49,2% of them live in multinuclear families and 10.4% children live in a single parent family. The percentage of children who live with one parent is almost twice higher in the baseline study when compare to the research presented by the National Bureau of Statistic. Even if our study population can not be considered representative for the entire country, this difference is significant.

Table 17 - With whom the child lives with?

<i>No=791</i>	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Both parents	218	79.3%	208	80.0%	196	78.4%	622	79.2%
Mother	29	10.5%	33	12.7%	36	14.4%	98	12.5%
Father	11	4.0%	3	1.2%	9	3.6%	23	2.9%
Without parents	17	6.2%	16	6.2%	9	3.6%	42	5.4%
Total	275	100%	260	100%	250	100%	785	100%

At the question „Who looks after the child mostly” (Table 18), the most frequent answer, given by children was „mother” (72%), the next answer was „teacher” (9.5%), then „father” (6.7%) and „grandparents” (6.3%). Other relatives and persons represent 4.8%. Taking into account that the proportion of mothers among the care givers group is highest (74.2%), we can observe a light difference between the answers given by children and the distribution of the care givers.

Table 18 - Who takes care of you most of the time?

<i>No=978</i>	No	%
Mother	709	72.6%
Educator	93	9.5%
Father	65	6.7%
Grandparents	62	6.3%
Brother/sister	18	1.8%
Other relatives	18	1.8%
Friend/neighbor	3	0.3%
Other persons	9	0.9%
Total	977	100.0%

The majority of children (95.6%) say they like to live in their house and 4.4% answered “no” at this question (Table 19). There is no big difference between the answers given by the children from these three regions.

Table 19 - Do you like to live in this house?

	Soroca	Ungheni	Chisinau mun.	Total
Yes	96.3%	94.9%	95.8%	95.6%
No	3.7%	5.1%	4.2%	4.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

41,6% of the interviewed children say their parents have enough money to buy all they need. Only 2.7% of the institutionalized children gave the same answer. 24.3% of the institutionalized children and 3% of children who live with their parents say they never had enough money to buy all they need. Children's answers differ in these three regions. The most frequent, the lack of money is indicated in Ungheni and Soroca districts, as shown in Table 20.

Table 20 - Does your family have enough money to buy all you need?

No=978	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Children in families								
Always	123	44.4%	81	31.0%	125	49.6%	329	41.6%
Sometimes	143	51.6%	175	67.0%	119	47.2%	437	55.3%
Never	11	4.0%	5	1.9%	8	3.2%	24	3.0%
Total	277	100%	261	100%	252	100%	790	100%
Institutionalized children								
Always	1	5.6%	2	1.9%	2	3.4%	5	2.7%
Sometimes	13	72.2%	75	69.4%	47	79.7%	135	73.0%
Never	4	22.2%	31	28.7%	10	16.9%	45	24.3%
Total	18	100%	108	100%	59	100%	185	100%

Children have been asked if they discuss either with their parents or with their teachers about the persons they can trust in case if something bad occurs. 3/4 of answered children discuss sometimes, 39.7% say – always and 8.4%- never. 47.2% of the care givers say they discuss quiet often, 29.5% - sometimes and 23.4% never discuss about this subject. (Table 21)

Table 21 - How often do you discuss with your parents/educators about persons you may trust in?

No=978	Nr	%
Always	387	39.7%
Sometimes	507	51.9%
Never	82	8.4%
Total	976	100.0%

78.2% of children say, the parents and teachers ask their opinion when they decide something for them (Table 22). 15.8% of children say their opinion is asked sometimes and 6.1% say never. There is a insignificant difference between the study regions.

Table 22 - When your parents/teachers take decisions for you, do they ask your opinion?

No=978	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	229	77.6%	278	75.3%	255	82.0%	762	78.2%
Sometimes	46	15.6%	68	18.4%	40	12.9%	154	15.8%
No	20	6.8%	23	6.2%	16	5.1%	59	6.1%
Total	295	100%	369	100%	311	100%	975	100%

72.4% of children affirm, in case they don't behave properly, their parents (educators) try to explain them where they are wrong, as indicated in Table 23. It is important to mention that 67.3% of the care givers gave the same answer at this question (Table 16). The verbal aggression and the fact parents stop talking to children applied as a punishment is indicated by 21.0% of children and 20.8% of parents. 2.0% of children and 3.5% of parents mentioned the physical punishment. Other punishment methods were rarely indicated. The difference between children's answers is not big in the regions. According to the results of the questionnaires, children's physical punishment, is quite frequent applied in the municipality of Chisinau. As we could observe, in Ungheni, the additional work is used quiet often as a punishment for an inappropriate behavior.

Table 23 - How do your parents/educators usually act in cases when you don't behave well? (more than one answer possible)

No=978	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Explains me where I was wrong	212	71.6%	274	74.1%	221	71.1%	707	72.4%
Shout at me/don't discuss with me	71	24.0%	69	18.6%	65	20.9%	205	21.0%
Don't permit me to play	14	4.7%	24	6.5%	14	4.5%	52	5.3%
Compel me to work	5	1.7%	12	3.2%	4	1.3%	21	2.1%
Beat me	4	1.4%	8	2.2%	8	2.6%	20	2.0%
Financial restrictions	4	1.4%	6	1.6%	1	0.3%	11	1.1%
Other actions	1	0.3%	2	0.5%	1	0.3%	4	0.4%

In case if a problem occurs, 64.8% of children say they talk to their parents. 28.7% of them talk to their friends and 11.9% talk to their brothers or sisters, these answers are the most frequent ones (Table 24). We have to mention, only 4% of the interviewed children talk to their teachers and 6.6% - to social workers. Children from Soroca discuss more often with their parents in case of a problem, children from the municipality of Chisinau prefer to talk to their friends and brothers/sisters. The discussions with the teachers are very rare in Soroca (0.3%), when compare to 5.7% in Ungheni and 5.5% in mun. Chisinau. The proportion of institutionalized children in Soroca is lower when compare with two others regions, this it may be the case why the percentage of children who discuss with their teachers in case of any problem is lower in this region.

Table 24 - Who are you discussing with in cases of different problems? (more than one answer possible)

No=978	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Mother/Father	205	69.3%	231	62.8%	196	63.0%	632	64.8%
Friends	72	24.3%	109	29.6%	99	31.8%	280	28.7%
Brother/sister	19	6.4%	49	13.3%	48	15.4%	116	11.9%
Grandparents	18	6.1%	25	6.8%	41	13.2%	84	8.6%
Educator/social worker	6	2.0%	45	12.2%	13	4.2%	64	6.6%
Teacher	1	0.3%	21	5.7%	17	5.5%	39	4.0%
Other persons	3	1.0%	4	1.1%	5	1.6%	12	1.2%
Nobody	17	5.7%	15	4.1%	16	5.1%	48	4.9%

4.3 Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices

A compartment of the questionnaires which have been applied in the framework of baseline study comprised questions concerning knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices.

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the knowledge level, attitudes and practices among the interviewed persons regarding child migration and child trafficking phenomenon.

Some answers, in relevant cases, have been included and formulated in the same way for all groups of interviewed persons, in order to compare samples' answers.

76.5% of the interviewed care givers say, the most frequent, children leave their homes to go to work (Table 25). 73.4% of the care givers affirm – for studies, and 58.9% of them say, children leave their homes to go on holiday.

When asking children this question 75.3% of them say- to go to study, 72.8% - to go to work and 72.2% - to go on holiday.

We have to mention that the care givers as well as children are aware of the fact that children leave their communities for work.

Table 25 - What is the most frequent purpose children are living their communities?

	Care givers (Nr=1233)		Children (Nr=978)	
	N	%	N	%
Holliday	703	58.9%	697	72.2%
Studying	876	73.4%	727	75.3%
Visiting their parents abroad	403	33.8%	403	41.8%
Work	913	76.5%	703	72.8%
Other causes	29	2.4%	22	2.3%

The majority of the interviewed care givers and the local operators think the main purpose children leave their homes is to go to work. The destination for most of them is Chisinau, but they go to others localities of Moldova as well (Table 26).

Table 26 - Where do you thing children usually go to make money?

	Care givers (No=1233)	Children (No=978)	Local Operators (No=171)
Chisinau	21.9%	31.6%	35.1%
Other localities in Moldova	8.6%	14.9%	12.9%
Abroad	59.0%	49.5%	58.5%
Don't know	9.8%	5.7%	5.3%

In Table 27 we can see the answers of those four groups at the question „in which country do children go to work, the most frequent”. 84.4% of key persons at national level, 71.1% of local actors, 64.8% of children and 59.1% of care givers answered – Russian Federation. The increasing percentage of those who choose Russia as the destination country is quiet obvious. We can say the key persons of national level have a better understanding of this phenomenon due to their experience in dealing with cases of Moldovan children abroad.

Table 27 - To what country children travel most for working purposes?

	Care givers (No=1233)	Children (No=978)	National key informants (No=81)	Local operators (No=171)
Russian Federation	59.1%	64.8%	84.8%	71.1%
Italy	57.8%	52.6%	29.1%	74.1%
Greece	18.9%	13.7%	5.1%	22.3%
Portugal	16.4%	10.8%	7.6%	30.1%
Turkey	15.3%	9.9%	45.6%	6.6%
Ukraine	3.8%	6.9%	32.9%	12.7%
Other countries	36.3%	47.3%	67.1%	45.2%

The care givers, children and local operators groups have been asked which are the main reasons children go to work. They could choose more than one of the offered answers.

The opinion of 80.3% of the care givers is the lack of a living sources. 19.5% of them say – the desire of children to be independent as much as possible. The number of the persons who have this opinion is larger in the municipality of Chisinau when compare to others regions (Table 28).

Table 28 - What is the reason for children to leave their families for work?

	Care givers (No=1233)			
	Soroca	Ungheni	Chisinau mun.	Total
The family doesn't have enough means of subsistence	84.8%	83.5%	71.9%	80.3%
Children want to be independent	14.5%	17.0%	27.6%	19.5%
Other reasons	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

According to children's answers the main reason they go to work is that the family doesn't have enough living sources. 62.8% of the respondents have chosen this answer. 29.7% think the reason is the desire to be independent. 6.7% of children have indicated the following answer: "the family compels children to work" (Table 29).

The opinion of the care givers and children from the municipality of Chisinau is the same as concerns the main reason children go to work. On the second way there is children's desire to be more independent.

Table 29 - What is the reason for children to leave their families for work?

	Children (No=978)			
	Soroca	Ungheni	Chisinau mun.	Total
Lack of enough living sources for families	68.2%	63.3%	56.8%	62.8%
Children's desire to be more independent	25.3%	28.5%	35.4%	29.7%
Children are compelled by their families	5.8%	7.1%	7.1%	6.7%
Other reasons	1.7%	2.4%	0.7%	1.7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

The local operators had to choose from the list with answers, three main reasons for children to go abroad. The most frequent answers were: „a good opinion about life abroad and the hope to have a better future” (84.2%), „children go abroad to their parents” (63.7%) and the third reason was „the lack of parents supervision” (53.2%) (Table 30).

Table 30 - Which would be in your opinion the three main reasons for children to go for work abroad or in other localities of the Republic of Moldova?

	Local operators (No=171)	
	No	%
Good opinion about life abroad and the hope for better future	144	84.2%
Children go abroad to their parents	109	63.7%
Lack of supervision by parents	91	53.2%
Work opportunities for work offered by some adults	66	38.6%
Belief that children must work to support their families	62	36.3%
Other reasons	10	5.8%

The care givers as well as the children think children's travel abroad is organized by their parents (Table 31). On the second place there are unknown or strange persons who organize

children' travel abroad. 14.3% of the care givers and 13.4% of children do not know who could organize their travel abroad. It is important to be mentioned that 38.6% of the local operators know concrete cases when the parents organized their own children's travel abroad. (Table 32).

Table 31 - Who organize the travel of children for work purposes abroad?

	Care givers (No=1233)		Children (No=978)	
	Nr	%	Nr	%
Parents	540	45.0%	463	48.3%
Other family members	102	8.5%	95	9.9%
Persons form the locality	138	11.5%	120	12.5%
Unknown persons	247	20.6%	156	16.3%
Don't know	171	14.3%	128	13.4%

Table 32 - Do you know somebody who organizes travel of children for work abroad?

	Local operators (No=171)	
	Nr	%
Parents	66	38.6%
Other family members	7	4.1%
Persons form the locality	15	8.8%
Unknown persons	22	12.9%
Don't know	73	42.7%
Other persons	4	2.3%

Another question concerning the knowledge of CT situation was to enumerate the occupations of children who went abroad or in others localities of Republic of Moldova. As we can see in the Table 33, the majority of answers were work activities of the children. Every interviewed person could mention several children's activities. Others occupations qualified by the local operators and by the care givers as being important are beggary and prostitution.

Table 33 - Which activities are common for children abroad or in other localities of Moldova?

	Care givers (No=1233)	Children (No=978)	Local operators (No=171)
Work activities (different work)	97.7%	102.2%	111.9%
Beggary	15.5%	15.7%	34.5%
Robbing	9.4%	7.8%	12.5%
Studies	6.4%	9.3%	14.9%
Prostitution	21.1%	9.0%	43.5%
Other activities	7.1%	7.8%	35.1%
Don't know	9.3%	11.4%	4.2%

4.4 Migration and trafficking in children

From 1233 interviewed families, 574 have only 1 child aged under 18, 489 have two children, 120 – 3 children 32 families have 4 children, 13 families have 5 children, 2 families - 6 children and only one family have 8 children (Fig. 3). At the moment of the interviews 64 children were gone to others regions, or abroad. (Table 34).

If we make a comparison between children who left the community (Nr=64) and the number of investigated families (Nr=2125), we obtain 3% of children that left the community in order to go to study or to work. According to the data we have¹³, there are 83057 children aged under 18 in Soroca, Ungheni and in the rural localities of the municipality of Chisinau all together. If the sample chosen for baseline study is representative for all the families with children under 18 from these three regions of Republic of Moldova, then, we can say there are 2458 children who left the families, with a margin of error of $\pm 3\%$.

From discussion with the care givers, we found out that 57 children of different age went abroad to study, and 7 children work abroad or in others localities of Republic of Moldova (Table 34).

32 of 57 children declared to be abroad to study are younger than 17, and only one child of those 7 children gone to work, are younger than 17.

Table 34 - Number of children out of their families at the moment of interview

	Soroca	Ungheni	Chisinau mun.	Total
Left for studies	17	32	8	57
Working out of the community	1	4	2	7
Total	18	36	10	64

It is hard to evaluate the prevalence of CT phenomenon in the targeted population and can be defined by the number of trafficked children at the moment of investigation. According to the results of the interviews with the parents, 7 children of the total number of those out of the family are trapped in child labor either abroad or in other localities of Republic of Moldova. That is why we can qualify them as presumed victims of child trafficking. Six of them are in Russian Federation and one in Chisinau. 3 children of 6 who are in Moscow are working at construction, 1 is employed as a street seller, 1 works at a factory and 1 - at a canteen. The child who is in Chisinau works as a street seller. 2 of 7 children presumed to be victims of CT are from the same family (the both are working at construction in Moscow). The distribution of these children by regions is the following: one child is from Soroca; four of them - from Ungheni and two children are from Chisinau municipality (Table 35).

Taking into account the total number of children from the families which have been included in this investigation (2125), seven children victims represent a prevalence of 0.33%, or 1:303 children. Thus, we can calculate the probable number of children victims of the study population. Taking into account the total number of children 83057¹³ from Ungheni, Soroca and the rural region of the municipality of Chisinau, we could estimate 274 CT victims in these three regions at the moment of investigation.

The total number of CT victims in the past, identified by the interviewers in the framework of baseline study was 17 persons. There are four interviewed children from children protection institutions among them. Table 35 shows the number of children who have been trafficked in the past, and identified in the families, as well as the presumed CT victims in the present. CT

victims who have been interviewed in child protection institutions were not included in the table because they haven't been selected according to the established methods. The distribution is by destination country. As we can observe the majority of children have been sent to Russian Federation.

Table 35 - Number of children presumed victims of CT at present or in the past

	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total
	At present	In the past	At present	In the past	At present	In the past	
Russia	1	3	4	6	1	0	15
Moldova	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Turkey	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1	4	4	8	2	1	20

4.5 The recruitment and transportation procedures

The recruitment and transportation of CT victims have been investigated by questioning the CT victims of the study population. Taking into account the small number CT victims, it is difficult to make any conclusions. In Table 36 and 37 we can see the number and the percentage of CT cases.

As we can see the majority of the parents knew their children would go abroad. In many cases, the parents organized their children's travel abroad. 12 of 17 identified CT cases have been organized either by the biological, step parents of the children or by other relatives. There are 5 cases when the children's travel was organized by known or unknown persons.

According to these person's promises, 11 of 17 children had to leave the community in order to get a job, 2 of them – to study, and for 3 children no promises have been made.

The promised destination was Russian Federation (9 cases). The localities of Republic of Moldova - 4 cases and other countries – 3 cases.

Cars and buses were used to transport children in the localities of Moldova. Abroad children were transported by train.

During the travel children usually were accompanied either by relatives (5 cases) or by known persons (4 cases). There is only one case when the child was accompanied by an unknown person.

Table 36 - Recruitment procedures for CT victims

	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Parents knew that their children will go abroad								
Yes	4	100%	6	75.0%	4	80.0%	14	82.4%
No	0	0.0%	2	25.0%	1	20.0%	3	17.6%
Total	4	100%	8	100%	5	100%	17	100%
Who organized CT								
Parents	3	75.0%	2	25.0%	2	40.0%	7	41.2%
Step parents	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	1	5.9%
Relative	0	0.0%	3	37.5%	1	20.0%	4	23.5%
Known person	0	0.0%	2	25.0%	1	20.0%	3	17.6%
Unknown person	1	25.0%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	2	11.8%
Don't know	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	4	100%	8	100%	5	100%	17	100%
Initial promises								
Get a job	4	100%	5	62.5%	2	40.0%	11	64.7%
Studies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	1	5.9%
Travel	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	1	5.9%
no promises	0	0.0%	3	37.5%	0	0.0%	3	17.6%
Don't know	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	1	5.9%
Total	4	100%	8	100%	5	100%	17	100%
Promised country of destination								
Russia	3	75.0%	6	75.0%	0	0.0%	9	56.3%
Moldova	0	0.0%	1	12.5%	3	75.0%	4	25.0%
Turkey	0	0.0%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	1	6.3%
Bulgaria	1	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	6.3%
Ukraine	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	1	6.3%
Total	4	100%	8	100%	4	100%	16	100%

Table 37 - Transportation procedures of CT victims

	Soroca		Ungheni		Chisinau mun.		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Type of internal transportation								
Car	1	33.3%	2	66.7%	3	75.0%	6	60.0%
Bus/Microbus	2	66.7%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	3	30.0%
Train	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	1	10.0%
Total	3	100%	3	100%	4	100%	10	100%
Type of external transportation								
Car	0	0.0%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%
Bus/Microbus	1	25.0%	1	14.3%	1	100%	3	25.0%
Train	3	75.0%	5	71.4%	0	0.0%	8	66.7%
Total	4	100%	7	100%	1	100%	12	100%
Accompaniment person								
Relative	2	50.0%	2	40.0%	1	100%	5	50.0%
Known person	2	50.0%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%	4	40.0%
Unknown person	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%
Total	4	100%	5	100%	1	100%	10	100%

4.6 CT risk factors

It is known the fact that human beings trafficking has a negative impact on the health and psychology of the trafficked persons especially on children. A research¹⁴ in this domain showed the impact of trafficking on the health condition, such as psychological trauma, physical trauma sexual transmissible disease, HIV/SIDA, reproductive disturbance, alcohol abuse. All these consequences could be avoided, if the protection and assistance actions of CT victims would be accompanied by the identification and prevention actions of the vulnerable population, especially of children at risk.

The main purpose of baseline study was to determine the risk factors of CT. Risk factors are the elements which can stay at the origins of a phenomenon. When we speak about CT, these factors include socio-economic factors, as well as health problems, traditions, people habitudes etc. In this case the risk factors are the precursors of the target phenomenon¹⁵.

To make possible the statistic processing and the analysis of data which have been obtained at the application of the questionnaires to determine the eventual risk factors, we needed to join and to analyze the information received during the interviews with three groups of population included in baseline study, that is the group of the care givers, the group of children aged 10-17 living in families and the group of CT victims. The group of CT victims allowed us to make a comparative analysis between the characteristics of the families who have suffered and the families who haven't been affected by CT phenomenon. So, we obtained a total number of 18 families with supposed CT victims, identified either during the interviews or in the past. These cases have been included in the ulterior analyses. Unfortunately, the variable of interviewed children group and victims group doesn't correspond to selection criteria and it was impossible to analyze and to compare the possible common characteristics of these groups.

Taking into account the small number of CT cases, either in the past or in the present, the results obtained at the analysis of the data should be regarded carefully.

At hypothesis level, before proceeding to the realization of the study, a list of important factors and characteristics which were thought to be important as associated factors with CT have been established. Among them we distinguish: the marital status of the parents; the parents who leave abroad; the mother sees seldom her child; family monthly income; the number of children in the family; church attendance; school attendance; child abuse in the family; little knowledge on CT phenomenon among parents and children; low level of school attendance; auto evaluation of the family situation; way of communication with children in the family; children's labor in the household and other factors.

In order to confirm the above mentioned hypotheses, we made a statistical data analysis. This fact permitted us to qualify some of the factors as being associated with CT phenomenon, while others qualified as not being important for CT phenomenon. At the same time, we could establish other factors which are important for CT within the study population. All these factors have been classified in six groups:

1. *Demographic factors* (the marital status of the care givers, ethnicity, age, gender, educational level of the care giver, the number of children in the household);
2. *Relationship factors* (how often the mother sees her child, the perception of the family as a happy one, the solution of cases when the child behaves inappropriate, the communication with the child and the attitude towards the child);
3. *Socio-economic factors* (the main source of revenue in the family, the monthly income in the household);

4. *Socio-cultural factors* (church attendance, the attitude towards the child labor abroad, the use of the slang in the speech);
5. *Educational factors* (school attendance, the regularity children do their homework);
6. *Other factors* (the knowledge of CT phenomenon, emotional depressive state).

4.6.1 Demographic factors

Among demographic factors, the marital status haven't been found to be associated with CT. It was supposed that children from mono-parental families are at higher risk of CT. Despite the high percentage of CT cases in the families where the care givers are divorced or widowed, there isn't any correlation between these two variables.

A high association have been found between the care giver's ethnicity and CT. As we can see in Table 38, 15 of all CT cases identified during the interviews, were Moldavian children and 3 were Roma children. Children of another nationality haven't been identified among the victims. When applying χ^2 test for independency, a high association have been found between the ethnicity and CT ($p < 0.01$). In this way, we established that Roma children are at higher risk of CT.

Another mentioned factor was the large number of children in the family. It was ascertained that in families with more children the risk for CT is higher. There is an association between these characteristics ($\chi^2 = 23.7$; $p < 0.01$). So, we can consider the large number of children in the families as a CT risk factor. We could not highlight a clear association between CT and other demographic characteristics such as age, sex and level of education of the care giver.

4.6.2 Relational factors

Factors concerns the relationship between the care givers and children, as well as self-appreciation have been investigated. As a result no association between the fact that mother left the house and CT risk has been found.

There is an important association between the unhappy family perception of the care givers and CT ($\chi^2 = 9.6$; $p < 0.01$). The proportion of CT victims in those who perceive their family as an unhappy one is larger. In this way, we concluded, children whose care givers qualify their family as an unhappy one, are at a higher risk of CT.

The statistic analysis of the data obtained during the interviews with the care givers showed no clear association between CT and child verbal and physical abuse, and lack of communication with child.

The way care givers discuss with their children is very connected to CT phenomenon. The care givers have been asked to choose the nature of their relationship with children. We can observe an increasing trend of CT cases in the families with a formal inappropriate relationship with children. When the statistic test for independency was applied we obtained a moderate association of the way the care givers talk to the child and CT ($p = 0.49$). When the same test was applied but using other factors as control variables, such as the age and educational level of the care giver, the association became insignificant.

There is no direct connection between parents' hypo-protective attitudes for children and CT risk. Also, children labor in the household hasn't been found to be associated with child trafficking phenomenon.

4.6.3 Socio-economic factors

It is ascertain, children whose mothers are the main source of income in the family, are at a higher CT risk. It is obvious the prevalence of CT cases in these families. The association of the fact mother is the main income source and CT might be influenced by other factors, such as the absence of the father in the family, or mother is working abroad. All these facts might have a negative impact on the child.

There is no clear connection between the level of the monthly income and CT risk. On of the first hypothesis was the level of the monthly income is related to CT phenomenon, which was not proved.

4.6.4 Socio-cultural factors

The most important risk factors of all socio-cultural factors are the attitude to children labor abroad and the use of the slang in the speech. The use of the slang among the care givers seems to be quiet associate with CT ($P<0.01$). There is, also, a correlation between CT and the attitude of care givers towards the child labor abroad ($P=0.04$). So, CT risk is increasing in the families where the care givers see the child labor abroad as a good experience. Church attendance hasn't found to be a protective factor for CT. There is no association between the regularity of church attendance and CT.

4.6.5 Educational factors

The information as concerns school attendance and the regularity children do their homework was included in the interviews with the care givers. There is a higher prevalence of CT cases in families where children do not attend school or do not prepare their homework regularly, both of the factors being high associated with CT phenomenon. The irregularly school attendance and homework could be considered as risk factors for CT.

4.6.6 Other factors

It was supposed that the fact care givers do not have enough knowledge about CT may serve as a risk factor for CT phenomenon, but this supposition didn't come true.

Among other factors which might increase the risk of CT we found the emotional depressive state of the interviewed care givers ($\chi^2=7.5$; $p<0.01$). The emotional state is a subjective characteristic which has been registered during the observations made by the interviewers.

Table 38 - Demographic factors

		Victims of CT at present or in the past					
		No		Yes		Total	
		Nr	%	Nr	%	Nr	%
Civil status of care givers							
	Married	654	97.9%	14	2.1%	668	100%
	Unmarried	17	100.0%	0	0.0%	17	100%
	Concubine	9	100.0%	0	0.0%	9	100%
	Divorced	35	94.6%	2	5.4%	37	100%
	Widowed	45	95.7%	2	4.3%	47	100%
	Total	760	97.7%	18	2.3%	778	100%
Ethnicity*							
	Moldovans	704	97.9%	15	2.1%	719	100%
	Ukrainians	17	100.0%	0	0.0%	17	100%
	Russians	18	100.0%	0	0.0%	18	100%
	Roma	18	85.7%	3	14.3%	21	100%
	Others	4	100.0%	0	0.0%	4	100%
	Total	761	97.7%	18	2.3%	779	100%
Age of care givers							
	<19 years	6	100.0%	0	0.0%	6	100%
	20 - 29 years	37	94.9%	2	5.1%	39	100%
	30 - 39 years	304	98.4%	5	1.6%	309	100%
	40 - 49 years	290	97.3%	8	2.7%	298	100%
	50+ years	123	97.6%	3	2.4%	126	100%
	Total	760	97.7%	18	2.3%	778	100%
Gender of care givers							
	Females	651	97.7%	15	2.3%	666	100%
	Males	110	97.3%	3	2.7%	113	100%
	Total	761	97.7%	18	2.3%	779	100%
Level of education of care givers							
	Primary school	279	97.6%	7	2.4%	286	100%
	College, professional school	335	98.0%	7	2.0%	342	100%
	University	101	99.0%	1	1.0%	102	100%
	Postgraduate studies	10	90.9%	1	9.1%	11	100%
	No education	36	94.7%	2	5.3%	38	100%
	Total	761	97.7%	18	2.3%	779	100%
Nr of children in family*							
	1	325	98.8%	4	1.2%	329	100%
	2	308	97.5%	8	2.5%	316	100%
	3	91	98.9%	1	1.1%	92	100%
	4+	37	142.3%	4	15.4%	26	100%
	Total	761	97.8%	17	2.2%	778	100%

* χ^2 (p<0.01)

Table 39 - Relational factors

		Victims of CT at present or in the past					
		No		Yes		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
How often does mother see the child							
	Daily	689	97.9%	15	2.1%	704	100%
	Weekly	4	100.0%	0	0.0%	4	100%
	Several times a week	6	100.0%	0	0.0%	6	100%
	Several times a month	6	100.0%	0	0.0%	6	100%
	Several times a year	49	94.2%	3	5.8%	52	100%
	Never	7	100.0%	0	0.0%	7	100%
	Total	761	97.7%	18	2.3%	779	100%
Auto evaluation of the family as being happy*							
	Yes	483	99.0%	5	1.0%	488	100%
	No	102	95.3%	5	4.7%	107	100%
	Don't know	176	95.7%	8	4.3%	184	100%
	Total	761	97.7%	18	2.3%	779	100%
Ways of solving inappropriate behavior of the child							
	Explaining where he was wrong	511	97.9%	11	2.1%	522	100%
	Shout at him/don't speak with him	168	98.2%	3	1.8%	171	100%
	Don't permit him to play	29	100.0%	0	0.0%	29	100%
	Beat him	27	93.1%	2	6.9%	29	100%
	Compel him to work	10	90.9%	1	9.1%	11	100%
	Financial restrictions	7	100.0%	0	0.0%	7	100%
	Other actions	9	90.0%	1	10.0%	10	100%
	Total	761	97.7%	18	2.3%	779	100%
Type of communication with the child							
	Adequate	599	98.4%	10	1.6%	609	100%
	Formal	140	95.2%	7	4.8%	147	100%
	Inadequate	16	94.1%	1	5.9%	17	100%
	Total	755	97.7%	18	2.3%	773	100%
Attitude towards child							
	Hyper-protective	277	96.9%	9	3.1%	286	100%
	Hypo-protective	34	100.0%	0	0.0%	34	100%
	Co-operation	450	98.0%	9	2.0%	459	100%
	Total	761	97.7%	18	2.3%	779	100%

* χ^2 (p<0.01)

Table 40 - Socio-economical factors

	Victims of CT at present or in the past					
	No		Yes		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Main source of income in the family*						
Mother	233	96.3%	9	3.7%	242	100%
Father	484	98.8%	6	1.2%	490	100%
Grandparents	15	93.8%	1	6.3%	16	100%
Other relative	5	100.0%	0	0.0%	5	100%
Allowance/Pension	12	85.7%	2	14.3%	14	100%
Others	11	100.0%	0	0.0%	11	100%
Total	760	97.7%	18	2.3%	778	100%
Monthly income in the household						
<1000 MDL	506	97.7%	12	2.3%	518	100%
1000-4500 MDL	235	97.5%	6	2.5%	241	100%
>4500 MDL	16	100.0%	0	0.0%	16	100%
Total	757	97.7%	18	2.3%	775	100%

 * χ^2 (p<0.05)

Table 41 - Socio-cultural factors

	Victims of CT at present or in the past					
	No		Yes		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Church attendance						
Active member	254	97.7%	6	2.3%	260	100%
Passive member	420	97.9%	9	2.1%	429	100%
Never	87	97.8%	2	2.2%	89	100%
Total	761	97.8%	17	2.2%	778	100%
Attitude towards children's work abroad *						
Good experience for them	156	96.3%	6	3.7%	162	100%
Not good for them	561	98.4%	9	1.6%	570	100%
Don't know	43	93.5%	3	6.5%	46	100%
Total	760	97.7%	18	2.3%	778	100%
Utilization of slang**						
Yes	13	81.3%	3	18.8%	16	100%
No	740	98.0%	15	2.0%	755	100%
Total	753	97.7%	18	2.3%	771	100%

 * χ^2 (p<0.05); ** χ^2 (p<0.01)

Table 42 - Educational factors

		Victims of CT at present or in the past					
		No		Yes		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
School attendance of children *							
	Daily	710	98.9%	8	1.1%	718	100%
	Irregularly	15	78.9%	4	21.1%	19	100%
	Don't attend school	17	94.4%	1	5.6%	18	100%
	Total	742	98.3%	13	1.7%	755	100%
Regularity of preparing of homework by children *							
	Regularly	651	98.9%	7	1.1%	658	100%
	Irregularly	60	92.3%	5	7.7%	65	100%
	Don't prepare homework	5	100.0%	0	0.0%	5	100%
	Total	716	98.4%	12	1.6%	728	100%

* χ^2 (p<0.01)

Table 43 - Other factors

		Victims of CT at present or in the past					
		No		Yes		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
Knowledge about CT phenomenon							
	No	158	95.8%	7	4.2%	165	100%
	Yes	599	98.2%	11	1.8%	610	100%
	Total	757	97.7%	18	2.3%	775	100%
Depressive emotional status*							
	Yes	30	90.9%	3	9.1%	33	100%
	No	717	98.1%	14	1.9%	731	100%
	Total	747	97.8%	17	2.2%	764	100%

* χ^2 (p<0.01)

5 DISCUSSIONS

The survey in question was accomplished in the framework of FACT project and represents a baseline study for this project. The main purpose of baseline study is the description of CT phenomenon and children migration, the magnitude and their characteristics, as well as CT risk factors in Ungheni, Soroca and the rural area of Chisinau municipality.

The population included in this study is divided in two categories: interviewed persons in the households and interviewed persons in protection institutions (children's care givers, children aged between 10 and 17 and CT victims); and key persons at national level, and field operators. In all, five groups of persons have been questioned.

The main objectives of the study were:

- To estimate the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and the practices regarding child migration and CT phenomenon;
- To estimate the prevalence of child migration and CT in three targeted regions of FACT project;
- To identify and to describe the recruitment, transportation and sheltering procedures, as well as the destination, the exploitation ways and their consequences of CT victims;
- To determine the possible risk and protection factors in order to identify children at high risk of CT phenomenon.

5.1 Knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices

The interviewed persons seemed to be quiet informed on CT phenomenon in general and on personal experience and practices in particular, their knowledge level is relative.

As it was presumed, the majority of the interviewed care givers and children are aware that, the main purpose children leave the house is to go to work. According to the population included in this study, living the community in order to get a job, is caused by the poverty these families face. This is the opinion of the care givers as well as of the children. According to the local operators, who have an experience in this domain, another reason children leave their community is looking for a better life beyond the community and the parents who work abroad take their children with them. Very often these children are compelled to work. Another reason mentioned by the local operators is the lack of parents supervision.

Most of the respondents affirm, children go to work abroad to earn money. The majority of the persons included in baseline study have the opinion that, as soon as children reach the destination country they are employed. Tacking into account this fact we can say there is a "demand" for child labor. The relation of the demand and supply represent a main reason for CT phenomenon. Dr. June Kane¹⁶ describes CT as an equation of demand and supply. According to this equation the supply of the workers (including children) from low economic level countries, satisfy the existing demand from developed countries. In this case we talk about the demand of the „services' buyers". Another demand form is the one offered by the traffickers. That is, the case of Moldavian children trafficked in Russian Federation for begging.

The majority of the care givers, children and local operator, are aware that children's parents organize their travel abroad.

From FACT project experience, we can affirm that some children are recruited with their parents' agreement. The parents who are looking for an easy way to get money, agree to send their children abroad to work, but they are neither aware nor informed about the risks children might face. Therefore, we think these parents play an important role in the CT network and they can be qualified as traffickers or accomplice.

According to the interviewed persons, Russian Federation is situated on the first place as destination county for Moldavian children who go abroad to work. This is one of the preliminary hypothesis of the study, which was confirmed. All the groups indicated Russia as a destination country, except the local operators who indicated Italy as a destination country.

When we assess the knowledge and the attitudes as concerns CT phenomenon, it is important to admit that the answers are given taking into account the experience of the interviewed persons, because there is a major migration trend of the population. The positive experiences about the work abroad are shared in the community, while those negative are hidden and unknown.

5.2 Children migration

There is a small number of studies and works about migration phenomenon in Republic of Moldova. Most of them have a qualitative character of the description of the situation and are focused on teenagers older than 16 migration and trafficking phenomenon.

The illicit character of the migration, makes difficult the investigation of this phenomenon magnitude. Sometimes, the phenomenon of CT is misunderstood, because people consider CT only the cases when children or their organs are sold and the cases when children are sexually exploited. The subject of CT is considered by the population „taboo”, which is an obstacle to study this problem. Taking into account the above mentioned, we can suppose the interviewed persons, especially the care givers and children, gave some answers which do not correspond to the reality. Some answers are „conformist”, this is explained by lack of knowledge or by own beliefs. That is why the obtained results, especially those connected to the prevalence of child migration and CT, have to be carefully interpreted, because the reality might be underestimated.

Baseline study allowed us to show the magnitude of CT phenomenon of the population in study. It is ascertained, 2457 children, or 3% of all children aged till 18, from three regions included in the study are not in the community. From care givers discussion, a total number of 57 children have been declared to be gone to the others communities or abroad to study. So, we established 32 children of 57 are younger than 17, that means they didn't finish the secondary school yet. This leads us to the doubt that these children went abroad to study. Unfortunately, this fact remains at hypothesis level, because we do not have too much information about children who are not in the families, about the way they left.

We established as well, that 7 children of the total number of investigated families were gone to work beyond the community. One of them is younger than 17. The fact that 6 from 7 children are in Moscow for work, shows us once again that Russian Federation is the most important destination country for children from these localities.

5.3 Recruitment, transportation and sheltering of the victims

One of the objectives of baseline study was to describe the recruitment, transportation and sheltering methods of CT victims. These methods stay at the origins of CT phenomenon and it

is important to be known in order to establish efficient prevention, identification and assistance actions of CT cases. Unfortunately this objective was not fully realized firstly because of a small number of interviewed CT victims. Only a descriptive analysis of procedures in those 17 estimated cases of CT included in the study.

Further investigations have to be done in order to describe the above mentioned procedures, and this could be realized within the FACT project by registration, interview and analysis of all new cases of CT.

5.4 Risk factors

There are no researches based on epidemiologic principles in Republic of Moldova, which would characterize the magnitude of CT phenomenon. The majority of existent studies describe the characteristics of CT victims, highlighting some hypothesis of possible risk factors.

CT risk factors have been studied and described in a lot of works and researches conducted in many countries. Similar characteristics for the Republic of Moldova might be present in SEE region and New Independent States, taking into account similar geopolitical and socio-economic status. The evaluation report of the CT phenomenon in Albania, published in 2003 by ILO-IPEC¹⁷ describes a list of factors that can lead to CT, amongst which are: divorced parents, high number of children in the family, social problems in the family like violence and alcohol abuse.

A similar research realized by ILO-IPEC in Ukraine¹⁸ described, among the most important CT risk factors, street children, alcoholism and drug addiction in parents, verbal and physical aggression in the family. The child abuse and violence are also mentioned as CT risk factors in Romania. Report published by “Save the Children” in 2004¹⁹.

CT risk factors which have been described, the most frequent, in different publications are: domestic violence and child abuse (especially sexual abuse), alcohol abuse and drug addiction in the family, school abandon, poverty and other social and economic problems.

In the present study we tried to establish which of the above mentioned risk factors, as well as other ones, are important in the context of the Republic of Moldova. Therefore, after the statistic analysis some of the factors proved to be important, others – less important. At the same time, we managed to spotlight others factors which play an important role in CT phenomenon in the three regions included in the study.

5.4.1 Demographic factors

From the list of demographic factors we identified the ethnicity and the large number of children in the family as associated with CT phenomenon, the last one being described in Albania, as well. Other demographic characteristics such as age, sex and the educational level of the care giver didn't prove to be related to CT phenomenon. Unlike the results obtained in this study, the report published by ILO-IPEC in 2003¹⁷ describes the low educational level of the parents as an important CT risk factor.

5.4.2 Relational factors

One of the findings of the baseline study is the lack of an association between the child violence in the family and CT (child sexual abuse haven't been studied in this research). As we

mentioned above, the violence is seen as an important CT risk factor. In baseline study, the statistical analysis shows no connection between these elements.

The perception of the family as an unhappy one was one of the factors which proved to be related to CT phenomenon. This is a subjective perception and depends on each person's perception.

5.4.3 Socio economic factors

The report published by ILO-IPEC as concerns trafficking in children for sexual exploitation and labor in Moldova²⁰ describes poverty as one of the main factors for CT in Moldova. The poor living condition is described as an important factor in other sources as well^{17-18,21}. We haven't establish an association between the monthly income and CT risk. As we mentioned in this study, there might exist a reporting bias, that is the interviewed persons might have answered incorrectly at these questions, or some of the families don't have stable income. Another research realized with the support of World Bank in Benin in 2000, didn't show any association between the poverty and trafficking in children phenomenon as well. Even if, the present study did not establish any correlation between the poverty and CT, this factor can not be excluded while we plan an intervention.

5.4.4 Educational factors

Another confirmed hypothesis was the irregularly school attendance and the irregularity of performing homework by children. These ones can be qualified as CT risk factors. In the report published by ILO-IPEC as concerns trafficking in children in Moldova, Ukraine, Romania and Albania²², these factors are described as important risk factors. Some children are compelled to abandon school for work. Despite the fact, the educational system is theoretical free of charge, often children are compelled to pay for different services of school renovation, to rent the books, and sometimes they have to compensate teachers' wages. All these cases lead to school abandon and increase CT risk.

According to the same source²², at the beginning of 2005, the percentage of children aged 5 -16 who do not attend school was 11%, and 20% attend school irregularly. The results from our study are different. There is 2.8% of children who do not attend school. We have to note that the age of children included in the baseline study is between 10 and 17 and proportion of institutionalized children is quite big, these facts might have influenced the results. Also, we have to mention that the population included in baseline study represent only three regions of the republic and not the whole country.

5.4.5 Other factors

The results of this study allowed us to determine a list of CT risk factors, which are particularly important for three regions where the FACT project is conducted. These factors have to be examined carefully in the framework of the project. Other factors described either in different works or known by Tdh experts, which have not been confirmed don't have to be neglected. These ones together with risk factors which have been determined will help us to better understand CT phenomenon and to orient our prevention and the protection activities by elaboration of appropriate work tools.

6 CONCLUSION

As a conclusion, the results which have been obtained during this study can be considered satisfactory. Even though there were some methodological and organizational gaps, the purpose and the objectives have been reached. The main findings of the baseline study are:

6.1 Community / socio-economic situation

- The majority of the care giver (87%) affirm there are no possibilities in their community to get a job, or at least there are few;
- More than 66% of the families have a monthly average of salary less than 1000 lei;
- 64% of the care givers think they have a happy family;
- The majority of the care givers (95%) learn the world news from radio and TV, and 87% of them attend the church regularly or sometimes. This fact has to be taken into account in case of possible awareness and information activities.

6.2 Family / Communication with children

- 74% of children from the families included in the study do household work after classes;
- In every fifth family the relationship between children and parents is formal;
- In one third of the families included in baseline study children are physical or verbal abused, or financially restricted when they do not behave well;
- Only, 34% of children say their families have enough money to buy all they need;
- 96% of the interviewed children say they like to live in their house;
- 65% of children discuss their problems with parents.

6.3 Migration / TC

- The majority of the interviewed persons (76% of the care givers and 73% of children) consider children leave their places for work;
- According to the care givers and children the main reason children go to work is the lack of living sources;
- Local operators consider children leave their families and go abroad to look for a better life;
- The majority of the interviewed persons say children go, more often, abroad for work;
- A lot of care givers and children think that children go abroad to work;
- The parents, often, organize children's travel abroad for work;
- 2460 children from three regions are gone to study, or to work, 274 of them are supposed to be CT victims.
- According to the majority of groups of interviewed persons, Russian Federation is the most attractive destination country for Moldovan children who go to work.

6.4 CT risk factors

- The main CT risk factors, established during the statistic analysis of the data are:
 - Ethnicity;
 - The large number of children in the family;
 - Family perception about their family as being unhappy;
 - The inappropriate way of communication with the child (weak association);
 - Mother as the main source of income in the family;
 - The opinion of care givers that child labor abroad is a good experience for children;
 - The use of the slang by care givers;
 - School non attendance or irregular attendance of school by children;
 - Children perform their homework irregularly;
 - Care givers' emotional depressive condition.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to baseline study we got some results about children's situation from Soroca, Ungheni and the municipality of Chisinau. In order to make more efficient and dynamic the actions of FACT project, it is necessary to analyze and to validate these results together with the local authorities and actors from every district, and to direct our activities against trafficking and exploitation in children, FACT team established the following recommendations:

7.1 Research

- To validate the baseline study results at district and local level;
- To continue the analysis of data obtained in the framework of baseline study and to analyze the data which would be collected in the future in the framework of FACT project, in order to extend the knowledge of the local actors as concerns CT phenomenon and the situation of vulnerable families;
- To establish, in the districts where FACT project is implemented, some systems of relevant data collection on CT and vulnerable situation;
- To estimate the total number of cases to be assisted considering the data from baseline study;
- To investigate children's situation who are not in the families (children who are abroad to work or to study), in order to evaluate their situation after they left the community;
- To study the characteristics, living conditions and children's occupation in Russian Federation.
- To investigate supplementary, together with the police, border services and others stakeholders, the recruitment, transportation and sheltering procedures of CT victims from each district.

7.2 Sharing of the results with team partners

- To use the information which have been obtained during baseline study as concerns child abuse, children negligence, exploitation, migration, and trafficking, as well as the risk factors, in the training activities of FACT team, local and district level actors;
- To present the results of baseline study at the level of local and district partners;
- In each of these three regions, FACT partners are encouraged to analyze the results and to make some conclusions and local recommendations in order to reduce migration and child trafficking phenomenon;
- To revise FACT strategies and to adjust them to the conditions and needs of each community.

7.3 Diagnosis, monitoring and assessment

- To establish the most important vulnerability and risk criteria for CT and exploitation among families and children from each community;
- To elaborate and to adjust a questionnaire to register and to analyze new cases of CT;
- To elaborate some diagnosis, registration, assistance and monitoring tools for children at high risk of CT in the framework of FACT project;
- To elaborate some registration, assistance and monitoring tools for CT victims in the framework of FACT project;
- To adjust the above mentioned tools to the legislation in force of the Republic of Moldova;

- To train the actors on the efficient use of identification and assistance system of children at risk.

7.4 Exploitation prevention / TC

- To use the information on knowledge, attitudes and practices obtained in the framework of baseline study for the prevention activities;
- To identify all possible partners from three regions included in FACT project. To agree together with partners on partnership relations and information exchange with the aim to reduce the phenomena of CT and migration;
- Taking into account the complexity and the multi-factorial nature of the phenomenon, it is necessary to take into account all risk factors and not only those identified in the framework of this study.
- To pay more attention to the prevention activities of CT in schools, taking into account the high rates of school abandon and irregularly school attendance;
- To consider one of the target group the children who graduated secondary school in order to plan some prevention activities for them;
- CT prevention activities planning for Roma community in the targeted region;
- To identify and motivate the members of Local Councils for Child Protection and to establish in common with them the mechanisms for intervention and individual plans of assistance for families/children;
- To involve local authorities, teachers, church and others local actors in the organization of discussions and sharing of information among rural families about CT phenomenon and exploitation;
- Promotion of initiatives and facilitation of contacts between children and their parents abroad (telephone, Internet, etc).

7.5 Protection of CT victims

- To use the information on knowledge, attitudes and practices obtained within baseline study, in the framework of activities of protection of CT victims;
- To organize meetings with the local authorities and actors from health care, social, educational, police sector in order to strengthen the knowledge and to harmonize the opinions as concerns trafficking in children and exploitation;
- To organize meetings with specialized actors from child protection sector and to discuss on the strategies of identification of CT cases and procedures of intervention;
- To establish together with health care services some of the mechanisms to provide medical and psychological assistance of CT and exploitation's victims;
- To establish together with Educational Departments from districts some mechanisms for educational assistance for the victims of CT and exploitation;
- To take the decisions together with police services from each district as concerns the mechanisms to provide legal protection for CT/exploitation victims.

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