EUROPE WEBINAR

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND NEGLECT

EXPERIENCE OF MONTENEGRO

September 5th, 2018
STRAATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM IN MONTENEGRO

- Development of Child protection System harmonized with international regulations and standards
- Multi-sector approach and prevention of social problems
- Decentralization and de-institutionalization of SCP system
- Ensuring quality of social and child protection services
- Participation of children and individualized approach
Legal framework “End violence against children”

- Constitution of Montenegro
- Law on Free Legal Aid (2015)
- Criminal Code (2013)
- Family Law of MNE (2017): Prohibition of Corporal Punishment in all settings

1. Improve legislation and implement policies protecting children from all forms of violence
2. Improve the institutional framework for professional, quality and more efficient care for and protection of children
3. Strengthen the judicial system to protect children against violence and to work in the child's best interest
4. Initiate changes in the social norms that accept, forgive or ignore violence.
5. Development of life skills and resilience among children to prevent violence and its consequences
6. Set up a system for monitoring, evaluation and research

- Developed by a working group consisting of six ministries, the Ombudsperson’s Office, and a civil society organization, with technical assistance of UNICEF.
- A set of common indicators on violence against children agreed by all relevant ministries.
- The coordinating ministry is changing every year following a rotation principle.
COMMUNITY BASED OPERATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS FOR THE PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE
A comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to the protection of children from all forms of neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation established at community level with the purpose of implementing mechanisms and procedures for the efficient:

- Prevention
- Early intervention
- Individual need assessment
- Protection
- Networking
Comprehensive intervention in the most severe forms of neglect, abuse, violence, and exploitation.

Teams gradually established in 17 municipalities.

Originally as a pilot project supported by UNICEF (2002-2008), and then following the adoption of the Domestic Violence Law (2010) became integral part of the system.

These teams have dealt with more than 2,500 children.
OPERATIONAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS (OMT) - STRUCTURE

- NGO
- LAWYER
- PSYCHOLOGIST
- PEDAGOGUE
- SOCIAL WORKER
- PSYCHIATRIST
- PROSECUTOR
- JUDGE
- POLICE INSPECTOR
- PEDIATRICIAN
### COMPARISON OF “OLD” AND “NEW” PROTECTION MODEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD</th>
<th>NEW</th>
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<td>Slow and insufficiently efficient work among sectors</td>
<td>Continuous multi-sectoral cooperation, prompt and immediate identification, assessment and intervention</td>
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<td>Isolation, lack of inter-sectoral cooperation and integrated documentation</td>
<td>Introduction of a holistic, interdisciplinary approach in assessment, planning, intervention and implementation of individual protection plan</td>
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<td>Lack of standards, procedures</td>
<td>Protocol of procedures (unification and standardization of work)</td>
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<th>OLD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Supervision system not developed</td>
<td>Supervision system gradually developing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standards for violation assessment not used</td>
<td>Matrix for risk assessment, detection, intervention and protection measures developed</td>
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<td>Work limited to working hours</td>
<td>Interventions 24 hours per day</td>
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<td>Special records on children not established</td>
<td>Records under the process of establishment</td>
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• Montenegro became a Pathfinding Country for the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children in 2017

• Inter-ministerial high level body on VAC established in 2016

• Work of OMT presented at the Solutions Summit in Stockholm in February 2018
Enhancement of the patronage nurse home visitation system

Special protocol/SOP in the health sector for preventing and responding to violence, abuse and neglect against children and adolescents.
Parenting to Lifelong Health (PLH) for Young Children programme (for parents of children aged 2-9), 65 parents from 4 municipalities received certificates.
PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The first, *national SOS line for support to parents* to raise children without violence launched in February 2017.

1 ½ years later – 420 counselling calls

The first, *national SOS line for support to children* to be operationalized by the end of the year.

*Family Outreach Worker* - a form of home visiting piloted in 6 out of 23 municipalities with UNICEF support. Presently funded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, MoLSW committed to expanding the service to all municipalities in Montenegro by 2021. Between 2016 and now, 86 families with 225 children (42 aged 0-3). 100% children covered by the service remained with their families.
PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Engaging adolescents

“Love and Violence” 2016 – playing real-life situations concerning male-female relations among high school students, interventions from experts in key moments, as well as audience participation. Interactive theatre play - partnership between the United Nations System in Montenegro, the Ministry of Education, experts in the areas of education and fight against gender violence, and NGO. To continue in 2018 with private sector funding.

UPSHIFT
• Creation of preconditions for effective support to children, victims and witnesses, through Professional Support Services established in MNE judiciary

• Application of Child Friendly Hearing procedures in Montenegro’s judiciary in line with CoE Guidelines on Child Friendly Justice

• Continuous specialization of lawyers, judges and prosecutors on how to work with children witnesses and victims of crime in line with UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime

• Continuous capacity building of Ombudsperson’s Office and CSOs on strengthening the capacities for promotion and monitoring of realization of the right of the child to be protected from VAC (even through EU supported regional initiative).
Campaign “End violence” 2017

Launched on 27th February 2017, bringing some of the world’s leading experts on violence against children. The Strategy was presented by six ministers in person (Education, Labour and Social Welfare, Health, Human and Minority Rights, Interior and Justice) in the presence of the President of Montenegro and almost 400 participants.

The campaign actively promoted the first, national SOS line for support to parents to raise children without violence, which was launched in February 2017.

Conference “End violence against children” brought together the President of Montenegro, six ministers, international and local experts on violence against children.

Launching of the free national SOS parent line, implemented by the NGO Association of Parents in cooperation with the UNICEF Montenegro, and with financial support from the EU.
Public discussions about children and parenting in virtually all municipalities across Montenegro (22 out of 23) hosted by the municipalities’ mayors. Street performances with living statues were organized all over Montenegro. The exhibition "Museum of Family Memories" travelled all over the country. TV commercial on all national TV stations, billboards, social media campaign.

Campaign “End violence” 2017

Public talk on parenting organized in Podgorica

Living statues break the silence on violence against children without any words

Citizens of Podgorica visiting the Museum of Family Memories

Photo: UNICEF Montenegro/Dusko Miljanic

One of the campaign’s billboard design

#ENDviolence social media campaign (FB, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube)
KAP survey conducted in December 2017, showed that:

• **41%** of citizens have heard about the SOS parent line
• **40%** of citizens who have seen the TV advertisement claim that it has encouraged them to call the SOS parent line
• **More than one-quarter** of the citizens who have seen the campaign say that they learned something new from it
• **Two-thirds** believe that campaign has motivated citizens to think about bringing up children
• **1 in 2** found the campaign to be motivating them to call SOS parents line to get advice on positive parenting practices
THANK YOU!