

EUROPE WEBINAR

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND NEGLECT

EXPERIENCE OF MONTENEGRO

September 5th, 2018

STRATEGIC 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 system

Ensuring quality of social and child protection services

Participation of children and individualized approach

Legal framework “End violence against children”

Constitution of Montenegro

Criminal Code (2013)

Law on Social and Child Protection
(2013)

Family Law of MNE (2017): Prohibition of
Corporal Punishment in all settings

Law on Free Legal Aid (2015)

Act of Treatment of Juveniles in
Criminal Proceedings (2015)

Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children against Violence 2017-2021

MONTENEGRO STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST VIOLENCE AND THE ACTION PLAN 2017-2021

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

- Adopted by the Government in 2017.
- 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.

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark hair, wearing a dark blue school uniform with white stripes on the sleeves. The child is looking down intently at a worksheet on a desk. The background is a blurred classroom setting with other students and desks. The text is overlaid in the upper right corner.

**COMMUNITY BASED
OPERATIONAL
MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS
FOR THE PROTECTION FROM
VIOLENCE**

OPERATIONAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS (OMT) 2002-2013

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



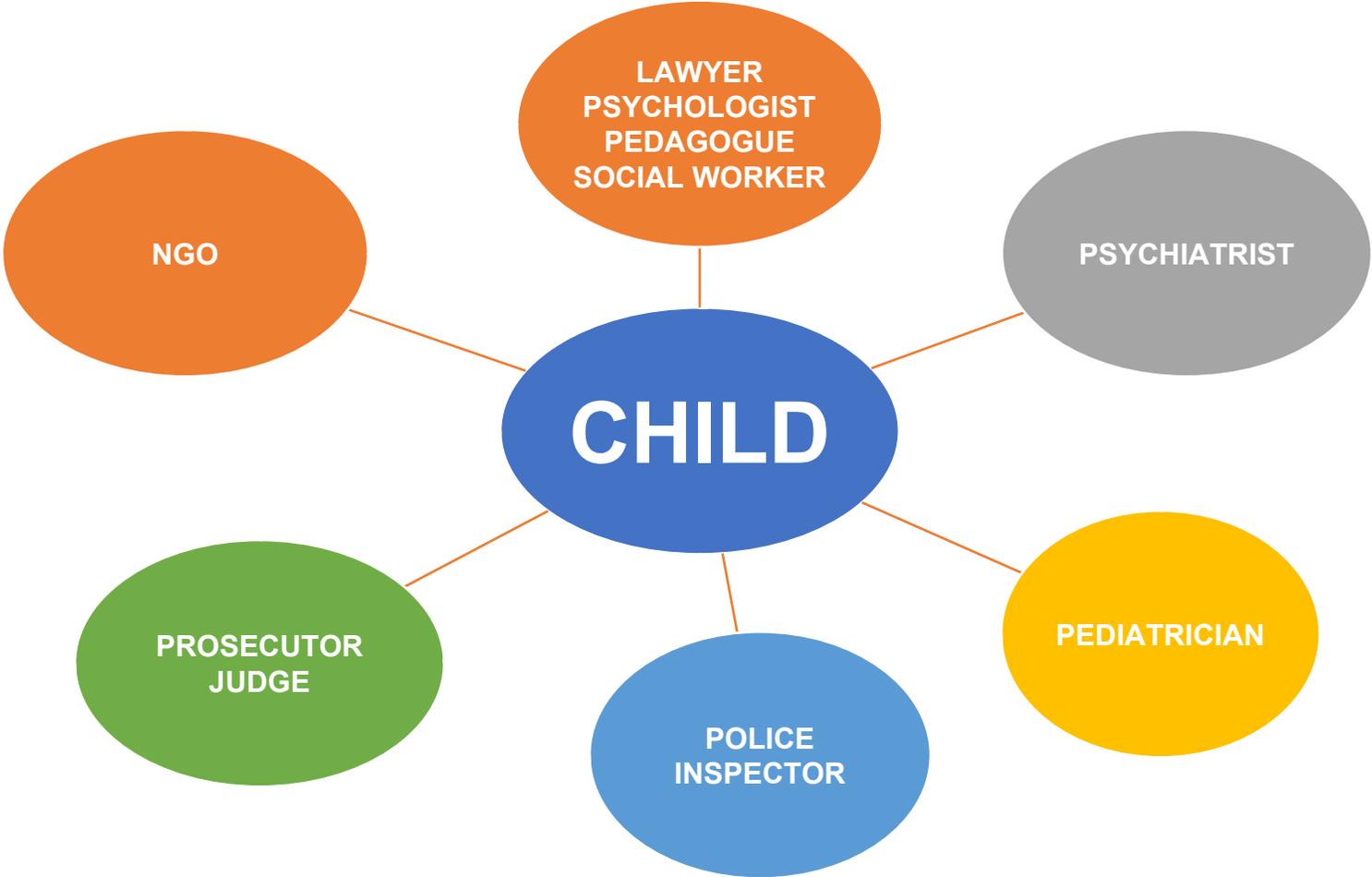
Photo: UNICEF Montenegro/Dusko Miljanic

OPERATIONAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS (OMT) 2002-2018

- **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



COMPARISON OF “OLD” AND “NEW” PROTECTION MODEL

OLD	NEW
<i>Slow and insufficiently efficient work among sectors</i>	<i>Continuous multi-sectoral cooperation, prompt and immediate identification, assessment and intervention</i>
<i>Isolation, lack of inter-sectoral cooperation and integrated documentation</i>	<i>Introduction of a holistic, interdisciplinary approach in assessment, planning, intervention and implementation of individual protection plan</i>
<i>Lack of standards, procedures</i>	<i>Protocol of procedures (unification and standardization of work)</i>

COMPARISON OF “OLD” AND “NEW” PROTECTION MODEL

OLD	NEW
<i>Supervision system not developed</i>	<i>Supervision system gradually developing</i>
<i>Standards for violation assessment not used</i>	<i>Matrix for risk assessment, detection, intervention and protection measures developed</i>
<i>Work limited to working hours</i>	<i>Interventions 24 hours per day</i>
<i>Special records on children not established</i>	<i>Records under the process of establishment</i>

OMTs AS A GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE



- 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

Montenegro

Lead Institution: Ministry of Labour and Human Resources

Minister: H.E. Kemal Purigović

Pathfinding Country since: 2017

During the last decade, the government intensified its political efforts to children and prevent any form of exploitation. Shifting social norms, revising both legal and institutional frameworks, and instituting the heart of the process.

The government recently adopted the Prevention and Protection Strategy 2017-2021 to achieve a Montenegro free of violence against children. With the same aim, in 2016, the Family Law of Montenegro was amended, prohibiting corporal punishment.

In January 2016, the government's annual high-level inter-ministerial protection of children from violence conference, with the aim of fostering intersectoral dialogue about the problem of directing government policy in this area.

In July 2016, the Prime Minister launched "End Violence", a national campaign to address online violence, which included a high-level conference in February 2017, focusing on family violence and all forms of childhood adversity, as well as public talks held in 22 out of 23 municipalities on the protection of children from violence during the same year, Montenegro.

In 2017, provocative street performances to depict abusive scenarios in order to break the silence on the issue were translated into a television series which were displayed nationwide. In February 2017, the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources established the Operational Multidisciplinary Teams (OMTs) from violence and neglect in 2017. OMTs' team members drawn from different sectors: healthcare professionals, lawyers, police, psychologists all work together to provide in need – usually children suffering extreme violence.

OMTs are coordinated by Centres for Social Outposts of the Ministry for Labour and Human Resources across Montenegro. Currently 17 OMTs operate in the country's 23 municipalities.

OMTs meet twice a month, pooling knowledge and support in particularly difficult cases. Child protection workers, or members of the team on the frontline of child protection – carry out meetings.

Multidisciplinary teams now safeguard Montenegro's most vulnerable children

Uniting sectors has broken new ground in the country's efforts to safeguard its young

INSPIRE

- ✓ Implementation of Laws
- ✓ Norms and Values
- ✓ Safe Environments
- ✓ Parent and Caregiver Support
- Income and Economic Strengthening
- ✓ Response and Support Services
- Education and Life Skills

CRC selected recommendations from October 2016:

1. The adoption of a new National Plan of Action for Children in light of the Convention and the ratified Protocols;
2. The implementation of an Anti-Violence Strategy for the reduction of child abuse/violence, which stresses the need to utilize awareness-campaigns;
3. The augmentation of the quality of the school in terms of interactive teaching methods, better equipment of school and acknowledgement of child violence.

Political will and coordination

The Government recently adopted the first-ever Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence 2017-2021 to achieve a Montenegro free of VAC. With the same aim, in 2016, the Family Law of Montenegro was amended, prohibiting all forms of VAC, including corporal punishment. In January 2016, the Government of Montenegro instigated annual high-level inter-ministerial meetings on the protection of children from violence and exploitation, with the objective of fostering intersectoral cooperation, facilitating dialogue on the problem at the highest political level and directing government policy in this area. Reiterating the Government's commitment to end VAC and to promote systematic efforts to prevent it, a multi-year campaign, End Violence, was launched by the Prime Minister of Montenegro in July 2016. The first phase addressed online violence, while the second phase, initiated at a high-level conference in February 2017, focuses on family violence and all forms of childhood adversity. This conference, as well as public talks about children and parents held in 22 of 23 municipalities, sparked a public debate on the protection of children from all forms of violence.

Consultation

Montenegro's national Action Plan 2017-2021 to prevent and protect children from violence was developed through multi-stakeholder, multisectoral consultations that included the Government, UNICEF, NGOs, academia, the media and youth networks.

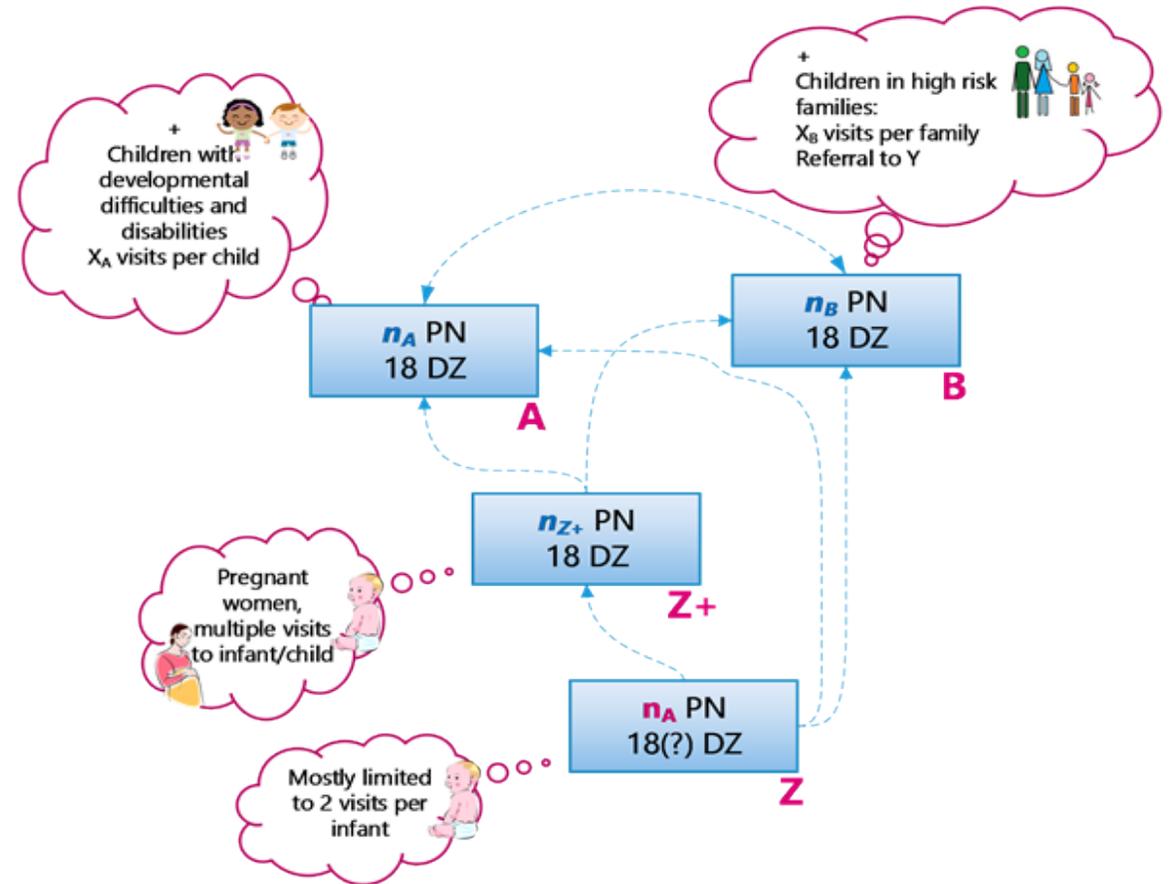
Data collection

The first survey on adverse childhood experiences was carried out in 2015; it reported a high prevalence of violence and other adversity in childhood at a policy dialogue supported by WHO. In the same year, the research institute Ipsos carried out a survey on the awareness, attitudes and practices of VAC. In 2016, the SOS helpline for women and children victims of violence Niksic, the Centre for Women's Rights and UNICEF conducted a similar survey among the public related to VAC. In addition, research was conducted on the online experiences of children and parents within the Global Kids Online research network developed by UNICEF Innocenti in collaboration with the London School of Economics.

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Enhancement of the **patronage nurse home visitation system**

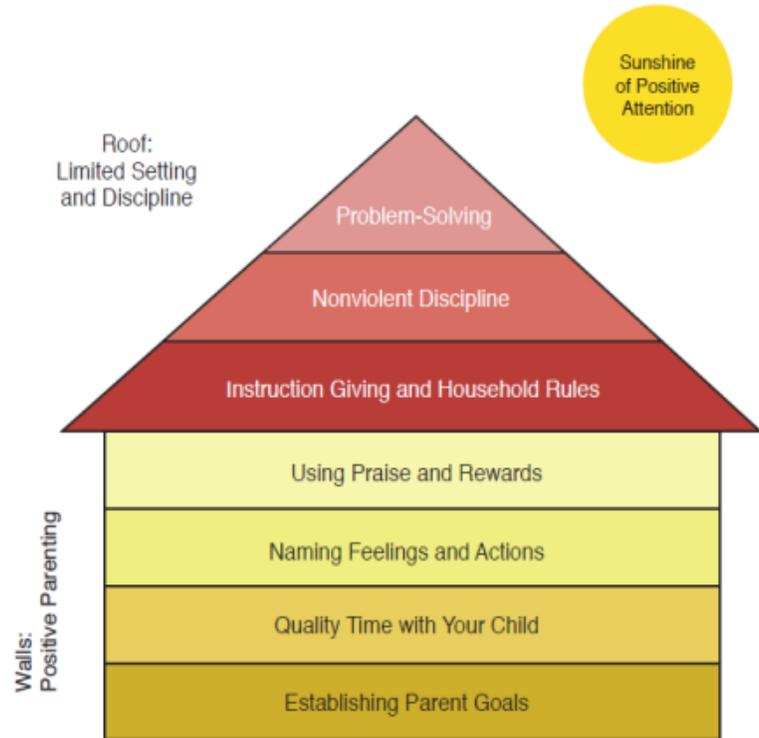
Special protocol/SOP in the health sector for preventing and responding to violence, abuse and neglect against children and adolescents.



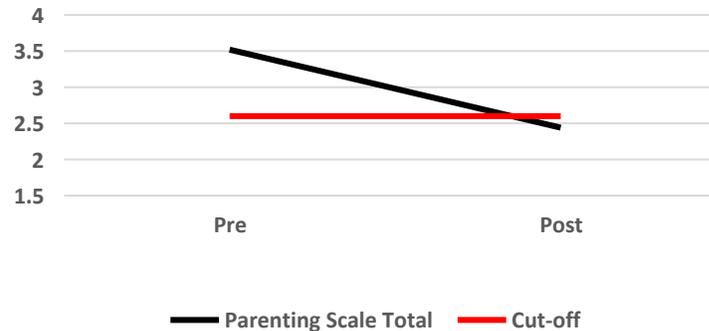
PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Parenting to Lifelong Health (PLH) for Young Children programme (for parents of children aged 2-9), 65 parents from 4 municipalities received certificates

House of support



Parenting Scale Total



Daily newspaper Dan report on piloting of the parenting programme by the Health Centre in Bijelo Polje.

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



United Nations in Montenegro Photo: Željko Bračanović

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

- 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).



Photo: UNICEF Montenegro/Dusko Miljanic

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.

Campaign "End violence" 2017

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.



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



One of the campaign's billboard design



#ENDviolence social media campaign (FB, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube)

Campaign “End violence” 2017

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!