EUROPE WEBINAR
Pathfinding partner exchange

Experience of Romania

September 5, 2018, CHILDHUB
What we want to share?

INSPIRE strategy “Parent and caregiver support”

INSPIRE strategy “Response and support services”

EVAC built-in the new integrated approach of the child protection system reform
A new integrated approach:

- Closing large old-style institutions and developing alternative, family based services
- Building-up the prevention capacity at community level
Why this integrated approach is effective in preventing violence against children?

**Children in institutions**
- No longer geographically isolated but integrated in the community
- Easy access for the parents to visit the children
- Small number of children = better personalized care provided by the staff
- No more peer-to-peer violence

**Children at risk in the communities**
- Response and support services in the community prevent child abuse, neglect, exploitation or traffic
- Providing parent and caregiver support addresses the child violence risk factors
Why this integrated approach is effective in preventing violence against children?

Risk factors for child abuse and neglect = risk factors for child separation

Once violence against children is identified, reported and investigated, the child might be separated from his/her parents, if the risk evaluated during assessment is high.
National context to EVAC: Efforts grown progressively to tackle violence

**National legislation** to ban, prevent and combat all forms of violence against children

**County social services** build-up in all 47 counties – children in need for state care

**Local level:** providing support in situations involving child risk factors for violence with the aim of strengthening the parents capacity to better care for their children
National context to EVAC:
Efforts grown progressively to tackle violence

Informed by high quality data, sectoral National Strategy was adopted for 2014-2020 in the area of Child Right’s Protection, concentrating in one of its core four pillars the objectives and measures targeting specifically VAC.

National Health and Social Inclusion Strategies approved to support the development of an integrated community approach and delivering of a minimum package of services aimed to address prevention and combating VAC at grass root level.
Consultation and coordination:

- Coordination Council - National Authority for the Protection of Child’s Rights
- Ombudsman
- County Council National Union
- Association of Executive Directors of the GDCPSA
- National professional associations of psychologists and social workers
- NGO Federation for Child
- MoE, MoH, MoJ, MoIA, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Ministry of External Affairs
- Working Group on EVAC - subcommittee of the CC
Romania became pathfinding country – high level launching event

- To confirm the high profile on political agenda, the GPEVAC was launched nationally in March 2017, in the presence of the Prime Minister, key ministries and civil society.
Romania became pathfinding country – information and awareness campaign

- UNICEF in partnership with the Romanian Government launched the fourth year of a multi-annual campaign raising awareness on the forms and consequences of violence against children
Situation at national level:

The child protection system:

- ~19,000 in foster care
- ~19,000 children in residential care
- ~19,000 children in family care

3,698,878 children in Romania

10,000 new entries/year
Further analysis and evidence:

2016
- National Study - National Authority for Child Protection, UNICEF Romania and World Bank

2017
- In-depth research: complex diagnosis of the remaining institutions + mapping of the prevention services
- Unitary, national set of methodologies
Evidence from strategic projects: UNICEF Romania
Evidence from strategic projects: UNICEF Romania

AURORA – an intelligent on-line application
- assuring unitary methodology for identification of vulnerabilities for all children by all community professionals – social workers, community nurses, etc
- facilitating the generation of an integrated services plan for children and their families to be provided by or with support from the community professionals.
Evidence from strategic projects: UNICEF Romania
Evidence from strategic projects: UNICEF Romania

Main results*

93% of the children identified as having no identity documents have now birth certificates and identity cards;

97% of the children who had not been registered with the health insurance system are now registered with a family doctor;

100% of the children identified at risk of family separation continue to live with their families and benefit from the support of the community team and other community members.

* Data available on the 30th of April 2018
Next steps:

• Drafting, submitting and evaluating projects for closure of institutions and development of preventive services;

• Considering a second round of project submission, should the first one not provide the all the expected planning for closure of all old-style institutions;

• Operationalization of the minimum package of services and transferring into practice by hiring at least one social worker in every administration at local level;
Next steps:

- Design a **child monitoring and tracking system** in order to have a clear evidence of both children at risk in the communities and those entering the child protection system;

- **Strengthening the human resources capacity at local level** to properly implement the minimum package of services, do the needs assessment and screening of vulnerabilities, as well as the planning of support services for the vulnerable families.