

Child Trafficking Response Programme in South East Europe

Phase II: April 2005 – March 2008

Programme Presentation

Child Trafficking in South Eastern Europe

Child trafficking continues to be a serious concern in South Eastern Europe, with high numbers of children trafficked for exploitative purposes. Despite increased attention and responses to the issue over the past years from relevant actors in the region, the capacity of governments to undertake effective measures to prevent children from being trafficked and to protect and promote the rights of those who have been trafficked remains limited, mainly because of weak child protection systems, lack of financial and technical resources, a limited understanding of factors that make children exposed to trafficking and failure to address the root causes and the structural dimension of the problem. Apprehension and prosecution of criminal networks and individuals engaged in trafficking remains limited.

What is Save the Children doing?

Between May 2002 and April 2004 Save the Children implemented the first phase of a Regional Child Trafficking Response Programme in South East Europe, which piloted anti-trafficking projects with at-risk and trafficked children in six countries/entities. Through the pilot first phase, Save the Children and its partners in countries increased their understanding of child trafficking issues and identified ways to improve and strengthen anti-child trafficking interventions.

Save the Children continues to see child trafficking as a regional priority in South East Europe (SEE). Therefore, in April 2005 it initiated a **phase II** of its **Child Trafficking Response Programme (CTRP)**, building upon achievements and lessons learned from phase I. This is a three-year programme that is expected to end in March 2008.

Our Donors

The CTRP is funded by the **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)**, the **Oak Foundation** and the **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)**



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Oak Foundation

What do we want to achieve?

The **overall goal** of the CTRP II is to increase protection of the rights of trafficked children and children at risk of being trafficked from selected countries in South East Europe.

The programme's **main objectives** are:

1. **Prevention** of trafficking in children, by understanding and addressing the main risk factors and by strengthening child protection systems in countries
2. **Identification** of and **assistance** to trafficked children, removing them to safety, and providing them with appropriate services
3. **Reintegration** of children who have been trafficked, ensuring their rights are respected and that they are treated in a manner specific to their needs as children
4. **Strengthening National Capacity** to deliver more effective interventions to protect the rights of trafficked children and children at risk of being trafficked

Where do we work?

Save the Children in Albania is the managing agency of this initiative, in which **seven countries/entities in South East Europe** participate. These are: **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania** and **Serbia**. The CTRP is managed by a regional team, based at Save the Children in Albania's office, which coordinates and supports all seven projects in countries. At country level, the programme is implemented by Save the Children and NGOs experienced in counter-trafficking and/or child rights work, in collaboration with local anti-trafficking and child protection actors.

Main Activities

- Qualitative, child-centered, participatory **research on risk and resilience** of children to trafficking, implemented in all seven countries/entities involved in the programme. This research casts new light on the factors that expose some children to higher risk of being trafficked than other ones and will enable Save the Children, its partners and other actors to design better targeted programmes and policy interventions. The research included individual interviews and focus-group discussions with approximately 600 children across the region and Save the Children plans to publish a child-friendly version of the research results as a direct feedback to the children who participated and also as an advocacy tool.
- **Advocacy** at country and regional level, involving children and other key actors, focused on child trafficking prevention, based on research findings and learning from programme implementation
- Provision of **services for high-risk children**, their families and communities, through: outreach work and drop-in centers for children living and/or working on the street, life-skills education and other empowering activities for children living in institutions and in refugee camps.
- The establishment of **Child Protection Networks**, aimed at preventing child trafficking by strengthening the protective environment around children in their communities.
- **Youth Centers and child-led activities**, aimed to prevent trafficking among peers are supported in five programme countries.
- Training and **capacity building** of professionals, aiming at strengthening their knowledge and improving service provision to trafficked and at-risk children. Training programmes focus on how to apply a child-rights based approach to trafficking prevention and when identifying and protecting children who have been trafficked. Initiatives target a broad range of professionals, including: social workers, police officers, judges and prosecutors, education and health care representatives etc.
- **Direct assistance** to trafficked and at-risk children through child-friendly hotlines and service provision, including: shelter, psychological counseling, medical examination and treatment, legal

assistance etc.

- Support to **social inclusion** of previously trafficked boys and girls who have returned to their families or relocated to other safe place. Support includes: family mediation, psychological counseling, legal support, material aid etc.

Furthermore, a comprehensive **impact monitoring system** has been designed for the programme, to assess whether the programme has achieved the intended impact on the lives of targeted children. This implies the active participation and direct feedback from children and key target groups. The programme hopes to document interventions and service provision that actually help prevent trafficking and exploitation, and that provide protection and reintegration of children who have been trafficked.

Save the Children's policy

- Child rights-based approach:
 - Children's participation
 - Focus on the most vulnerable children
 - Non-discrimination
- Child protection/Code of Conduct
- Gender-sensitive approach
- Evidence-based approach

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