

FOREWORD



...The recent years have been special for the team of EveryChild Moldova. The implemented projects, as well as the ones under implementation, demand high intellectual, moral, emotional, and psychical input from the team members. On the one hand, we speak about the development of policies and strategies for the social protection system reform, and, on the other hand, about the implementation of alternative community based social protection and care models for vulnerable groups. This process demands commitments, responsibility, professionalism, and intuition, not to mention patience and creativity. Our team spirit, as well as mutual respect within the team and in the relations with our partners, help us overcome all the difficulties and make real achievements. We are sure that, with our consistency and common efforts, we shall manage to create a more secure world for every child.

Stela GRIGORAS
EveryChild Moldova Country Director

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Grigoras'.



The mission of EveryChild Moldova is to empower families, communities, and the government to ensure the right to the child deprived of parental care or at risk of being separated from parents, a safe family environment that creates optimum conditions for the child's development. Together we plead for meeting the rights of the children, as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children.

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Prevention of child abandonment at birth in Chisinau
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Resources Center within Chisinau Municipal Directorate for Child's Rights Protection
Capacity building in social policies reform

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“... The grown ups who place their children in internats should understand that the life of a child who grows outside family is empty, lacking a model that the child needs to follow in the future. Unfortunately, many grown up persons just admit that the life of children in internats is hard, while so few of them participate and really help those children. We came to this conference to contribute to solving the problems of children deprived of parental care. We demand that we are heard and listened to. Children are the future. Take care of it”.

***Dumitru GALUPA, VII form,
Children’s Conference “A Safe World for Children”,
organized by EveryChild***



INTRODUCTION

About us

EveryChild is an international development charity, based in London, which militates for the protection of children's rights in 15 countries across the world. In the Republic of Moldova, EveryChild has been working since 1995. Collaborating with Chisinau, Cahul, Ungheni, Orhei, and Tiraspol local public authorities, EveryChild develops programs focused on prevention of child separation and institutionalization, social rehabilitation and family reintegration of institutionalized children.



At the same time, nationally, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, EveryChild is implementing a technical assistance program in the reform of social policies for the protection of the child and the family. The goal of the programs implemented by EveryChild is to reduce the number of children in residential institutions in Moldova. By the year 2011, EveryChild will ensure the opportunity to grow up in secure and protected family environment to at least 4000 children separated of at risk of being separated from their families.

A safe world for children



Timeline

- 1995** The year when EveryChild started to work in the Republic of Moldova, namely in Chisinau.
- 1997** In Chisinau, the Directorate for Child's Rights Protection was set up as the first structure of this type in Moldova.
- 1999** The first family-type placement center was opened in the Republic of Moldova. Activity was extended in Cahul and in Tiraspol.
- 2002** Directorates for Child's Rights Protection were set up in Cahul and in Ungheni.
In Cahul, the Day Care Center for children with disabilities was opened.
- 2003** The republican center for the placement of minors was re-structured and officially opened after refurbishment.
- 2004** EveryChild programs were extended in the Orhei rayon
- 2005** The most successful awareness and advocacy campaign on the need for a reform in the field of social care of children and families in difficulty was performed, with the motto "Call Your Future Back Home"
- 2006** EveryChild programs were extended in the Soroca rayon.

The Partners of EveryChild



10 years near the children of Moldova

“On behalf of my colleagues from the Parliament and from myself, I would like to express our highest consideration to EveryChild Moldova for the fact that, for the last 10 years it has been consistently promoting the child’s right to grow up and be brought up in a family environment. I highly appreciate the efforts and the desire of such organisations of the civil society to closely collaborate with authorities of all levels of the Republic of Moldova, with the view to solve problems of major public interest. Real progress in this area will be made only if a sustainable partnership is established and consolidated between the authorities and the civil society.

On the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of EveryChild working in the field of child and family protection in Moldova, I wish luck and achievements to your organization.

*Marian LUPU,
Chair of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
November 2005*



Central public authorities

President's office,
the Parliament and the
Government of
the Republic of Moldova,
the Ministry of Health,
the Ministry of Social
Protection, Family and Child,
the Ministry of Finance,
the Ministry of Education
and Youth,
and the Ministry of Local
Public Administration.

“The system of child protection in the Republic of Moldova needs rescaling, so that it truly best meets the interests of every child. Residential care has a negative impact on children, reducing their life chances through inadequate mental and emotional development” – this is the declaration made by Vladimir Voronin, the President of the country, during the national conference “The Social Scale of the system of protection of children in difficulty in the Republic of Moldova”, organized by the President's Office in partnership with the EveryChild Consortium and the UNICEF mission to Moldova.

Chisinau, 29th May 2006



PARTNERS



Local public authorities

- Chisinau Municipality
- Local Councils of Orhei, Cahul, Ungheni, and Soroca
- Administration of Tiraspol



“...Due to the fact that we started to collaborate with EveryChild, Cahul Rayon is now several steps ahead of other rayons. We focus on working for the integration of children in families, either biological or foster. The reform, or changing of mentality, started many years ago. It is more important to prevent institutionalisation, than to take a child from an internat or another institution...”

*Petru BURLACU,
Vice-Chair of the Cahul Rayon
Conference “Harmonisation of social policies regarding children and families of the Republic of Moldova with the European standards of transparency, efficiency and sustainability”, organised by EveryChild in partnership with the British Embassy to the Republic of Moldova.*

Chisinau, 17 November, 2005.

The Voluntary sector

- The Alliance of NGOs active in the field of child and family protection;
- The Member Organisations of the Social Network;
- The Public Policy Institute;
- The Association of Electronic Press;
- The Chairs of Social Assistance of the higher educational establishments of Moldova



Arcadie BARBAROSIE
Director of the Public Policy Institute

“...The internats are next door to bankruptcy. I mean, not financially, but ideologically. There is a lobby group interested in their existence. However, they must be closed down...”

TV program “Call Your Future Back Home”, November 2005





The Mass media

- National, regional, local TV and Radio stations; the press.





International Organisations

- The European Commission
- The UK Department for International Development
- The Swiss International Development and Cooperation Agency
- The Representation of the United Nations' International Children's Fund to Moldova
- The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
- The International Foster Care Organization
- The World Childhood Foundation



PARTNERS



“...For two years the team of EveryChild has been trying to bring the future home. You have definitely noted the spots with two cute children in a swing on the top of a hill. Or have become affected by the sadness and loneliness of the child pushing his bed up a village street. We don't know whether the parents who had abandoned their children went to bring them home, but the society has been definitely become aware of the problem”

*VIP Magazine
December, 2006*



PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

Support to the Delivery of Effective and Sustainable Social Assistance Services in Moldova

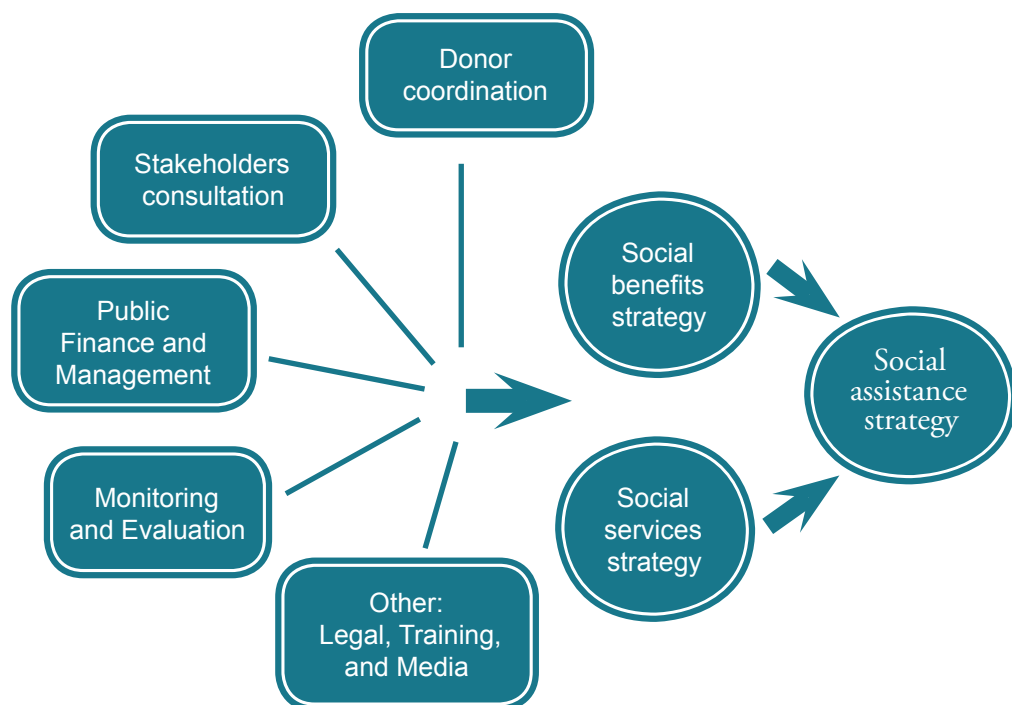
Implemented in partnership with Oxford Policy Management (OPM) (Great Britain), in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child and with the financial support of DFID and SIDA (2007—2010)

Goal

The development of policy and institutional framework for the support to the delivery of effective and sustainable social assistance services.

Expected outcomes

- Policy framework in the field of targeted social assistance.
- National system of targeting of social benefits to the most vulnerable layers of the society.
- Institutional framework for targeted social care services.
- Sector-wide approach policy, ensuring coordination of the donor support with the Government's agenda, with the view to increase the efficiency of the work of the social assistance sector.



I - diagnosis and development of the policy;

II - development of the system, testing / training of human resources;

III - implementation.

Who will benefit?

An efficient targeted social assistance policy, combined with a set of improved community-based social services, will help reduce the level of vulnerability, transitory and chronic poverty among the population of Moldova, both directly, by increasing the living standard of the poor and by offering payments to households, and indirectly, by ensuring that a bigger number of persons at risk of becoming poor benefit of necessary social services in order to maintain their living standards.





The reorganisation of the Cahul residential school

Funded by Andreas A David Foundation
(2007 – 2010)

Goal

To reorganise Cahul residential school into a complex of community based social services for children, permanently or temporarily deprived of parental care, by the end of 2010.

Objectives

1. To support Cahul authorities in developing community based social services for temporary placement of children deprived of parental care, by 2010;
2. To support social integration of children into the mainstream school, to reintegrate the children with their biological families, or to place them in alternative family environments, by the end of 2010;
3. To consolidate community support to children and families, thus preventing child institutionalization, by the end of 2010.

Beneficiaries

- children deprived of parental care and placed in Cahul residential institution;
- children at risk of being placed in the residential institution;
- families of the children, placed in the residential institution, or at risk of being placed.

Stages of project implementation

- Stage I:** Integration of forms II-IV in the community school;
Setup of temporary placement center;
Development of community based social services for children from the institution and the community.
- Stage II:** Integration of forms VI – VIII in the community school;
- Stage III:** Transforming the bedrooms of the internat into social apartments;



Mihai likes dancing and poetry. He is an artistic creature, and his aptitudes need developing, which is quite challenging in an internat.

As his father left him shortly after his birth, Mihai's mother was forced to maintain her child by herself. Thus, she decided to go to work in Italy to find a better employment. The first year far away from her home was like a dream – she found a job and she could support her child. After a year she came back home, but she had to return to Italy soon. Mihai's mother never returned after her second departure.

The grandparents are the only family Mihai has. When time for school came, his grandparents decided that a better opportunity for him to study would be the Cahul Gymnasium-internat. At first, Mihai accepted the idea, but as he was growing up, he understood that the best place is home, although he doesn't have a traditional family – it is called extended family in professional language, which means he lives with his grandparents.

Now Mihai Caragea is a 6th form pupil of the Cahul theoretical gymnasium. Even if he is not the best pupil, he leaves everybody behind in artistic activity. He makes friends easily, which was among the reasons why his internat teachers placed him at the top of the list of pupils to be reintegrated, being sure that the boy would easily adapt to a new environment. Mihai is not only very sociable, he is also highly compassionate. He never opposed his grandparents' decision to be placed in the internat. He could have been found in the internat even now, hadn't it been for the intervention of the Cahul Social Assistance Service, which had performed the assessment of the children, placed in residential institutions, and found a successful solution for the boy's case.

Mihai's rescue from residential care was possible only due to the intervention of social assistants. The social assistant helps the family assess the difficulties it faces, draw a complex picture of the situation and, at the same time, evaluate their own potential and determine what help they might need from the Social Assistance Department. The social assistant has a rather consultative role, offering family counseling and legal advice. (S)he is like a mediator between the families and other agencies – either state or private – involved in solving beneficiaries' problems.

Mihai likes dancing and poetry. He is an artistic creature, and his aptitudes need developing, which is why he is in an internat. ... was forced to maintain her child

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... Now Alexandru and Maria are at home. Now they are a family. They probably feel a bit more difficult, but they are learning to overcome difficulties and to be what they always wanted to be. Alexandru is now in the 6th form, and he has been attending gymnasium in the village of Bologan, the Orhei rayon, for the last 2 years. His sister Maria, who is 2 years younger than him, goes to the same school. They are very different – Alexandru is always in the centre of everyone's attention, being a very energetic boy and always itching to play a trick to somebody, whereas Maria is quite balanced and diligent. Their colleagues and teachers never had anything to reproach to the two children, even though they had previously been placed in the internat.

Three years ago, their family had a crisis situation – as a result of an incident at work, the children's father lost his employment. As the family had no other steady source of income, the parents made, probably, the most difficult decision in their lives – to take their children away and place them in the Orhei gymnasium – internat. At the time, in their opinion, it was the best way out and the only chance to offer their children the best they could – good education... Later, the parents were to regret that decision. Maria and Alexandru asked to be brought back home, regardless of the difficulties they had to face in the family. No, they did not complain about their life in the internat. The most disconcerting was the lack of love that only their family could give them. The family gave them forces and they integrated with the new team from the local community school easily.

Now Maria and Alexandru carry out their home and school duties. Alexandru substitutes the parents, while Maria is a nanny to the smaller children. The girl is also responsible to her classmates, who voted her as the monitor.

Maria and Alexandru Placinta's reintegration with their family was possible due to the efforts, made by the staff of the Social Assistance Department, who convinced the parents that, being together, the children would feel much better. At the same time, the Department offered half-a-year financial support to the family.



Development of integrated social services for children and families in the Soroca Rayon

Funded by EveryChild UK
(2006 – 2009)

Goal

Build the capacities of the local public authorities of Soroca rayon in the development and promotion of sustainable community-based social services, focused on the respect of the child's right to a family, by the end of March 2009.

Objectives

1. Efficient mechanisms of support and protection of child and family set up and integrated in the structure of rayon local public authorities by the end of March 2009.
2. Efficient models of social services for children and families developed in Soroca rayon and integrated in social assistance structures of the local authorities by the end of March 2009.



Expected outcomes:

- the local public authority has sustainable mechanisms to prevent child's separation from the family, by the end of March 2008;
- general public opinion raised regarding programs and consequences of child's separation from the family, by the end of March 2009;
- legal framework approved at local level and allows the development of alternative social services in Soroca, by the end of March 2007;
- the team of the center for social assistance for child and family capable of delivering quality services, by the end of March 2008;
- newly created services are fully operational, sustainable and integrated into the social assistance system, by the end of March 2009.

SERVICES TO BE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE PROJECT

Family support and social integration or reintegration

Forms of protection, ensuring the child's growing and development in a family, by preventing abandonment and returning the child from the institution into his / her biological or extended family

What does it offer?

- Social and financial support to families and children in difficulty (the issuance of the necessary documents, support in finding a job, etc.);
- Information and counseling of parents, in order for them to realize the risks and consequences of child institutionalisation;
- Competences, developed with both children and their parents.

What are its goals?

- preserve the child in the family;
- prevent child abandonment and institutionalization;
- reintegrate the child from the institution, and support him/her within his/her family;
- meet the child's needs, regardless of their nature (behavioural, relational, health, etc.);
- increase the responsibility of parents and the community;
- reduce the numbers of children in institutions.



Beneficiaries

- children at risk of abandonment;
- children in institutions;
- street children.

Foster Care (FC)

A form of protection of children in difficulty, consisting in the temporary placement of a child with a person or family that meets material requirements and has the necessary moral qualities to ensure a proper child development.

What does it offer?

- Safe family environment.
- Care.
- Rehabilitation.
- Education and personal development of the child.
- Social assistance to parents in difficulty.



What are its goals?

- Provide care and ensure the child's growing in a family environment.
- Support, care and development of the child in difficulty, according to his/her age, individuality, and minimum standards of quality.
- Facilitate the child's socialisation and (re)integration with biological, extended, or adopting family and the community.
- Reduce the number of children in institutions.
- Increase the degree of community involvement in problem resolution.



Beneficiaries

- children in difficulty;
- parents/families in difficulty.

Gheorghe Cucui was abandoned in a hospital in the Cahul town. When he was 1,8, he found a family. He is a very energetic and curious boy, and now he is the youngest member of the family, where he has been living for 3 years, and as the boy's foster carers say that he is going to stay with their family forever. Being only 5 years old, Gheorghe can read; he learns poems by heart – alone – which he dedicates to the mother.

... Nobody thought Gheorghe had any chances for life. He had severe dystrophy, hepatitis, and epilepsy. The family had to come through a lot of fighting against the disease, and the boy was the one who won.

Gheorghe is the 4th child in the Balaban family, where only one of the children is biological. Although, when casting a first look, it may appear that all the children are different, they were educated to help each other, and peace reigns in their family.

As Gheorghe was a boy with many problems, his adoption was almost impossible, and he would have most probably ended up in an orphanage...





Gate-Keeping system

Protection mechanism ensuring the child's right to grow up in a family and safeguarding respect for children's needs and best interest.

What does it offer?

- A complex procedure, ensuring the prevention of child institutionalization.

What are its goals?

- Prevent child's separation from his/her parents and institutionalization, by providing a complex assessment of the child's needs.
- Ensure that residential care meets the child's best interest and the fact that it is the last resort.
- Support the development and consolidation of family type and community based services.

Beneficiaries

- children and families in difficulty;
- the society in general.

Long-term benefits:

- Decrease in the numbers of children in residential care and increase in the level and quality of the community based services;
- Improve and consolidate community and government support offered to the parents, for them to take care and educate their own children in the family;
- Consolidate the collaboration and communication at community level in the provision of the necessary support and assistance to children and families in difficulty.



Achievements:

At the end of the year 2006, Soroca rayon council approved the Regulations of Foster Care, Family Support and Reintegration, Gatekeeping system. Since January 2007, the Directorate for Social Assistance and Family Protection employed 6 social assistants, who, together with the personnel of the Directorate, were trained in delivering the services mentioned above. 17 children were reintegrated in their biological families. 90 families with 229 children received family support during the year 2007. As a result of advertising campaign, run for the recruitment of foster carers, in present there are 27 foster care applicants, who are in present being assessed and trained.



Prevention of child abandonment at birth

Funded by Saint Andreas David Foundation
(2006 – 2009)

Goal

Reduce the number of newborn babies, abandoned in the Chisinau Republican Maternity, by the end of 2009.

Objectives

1. Develop a service for the prevention of child abandonment at birth in the Republican Maternity, by the end of 2008;
2. Develop in Chisinau a residential community based service for the support of mothers and their newborn babies, by the end of 2008;
3. Consolidate community support to mothers and babies; consolidate abandonment prevention efforts, by the end of 2009.



Expected outcomes:

- Build capacities of medical staff and other specialists.
- Improve birth and after-birth child-care conditions.
- Set up a mechanism for referral of abandonment cases.
- Develop legal framework for the residential service for social placement of parent-and-baby couples.
- Build/refurbish residential centre for parent-and-baby couples.
- Develop services and build capacities of the staff employed in the residential service to work with mothers and newborn babies.



SERVICES TO BE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE PROJECT

Prevention of child abandonment at birth in the Republican Maternity

What does it offer?

- Social and psychological assistance to mothers before and after childbirth.
- Information and counseling to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of child institutionalisation.
- Contribution to the development of attachment between mother and baby.

What are its goals?

- Prevent child abandonment at birth.
- Increase the responsibility of parents and communities.
- Reduce the numbers of children under 3 years of age placed in institutions.

Beneficiaries

- Newborn babies at risk of abandonment;
- Mothers in difficulty.



Social accommodation unit for parent-and-baby couples

What does it offer?

- Social and psychological assistance to mothers before and after childbirth.
- Information and counseling to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of child institutionalisation.
- Parental skill and ability building.
- Contribution to the development of attachment between mother and baby.
- Development of sociability.



What are its goals?

- Prevent child abandonment at birth.
- Increase the responsibility of parents and communities.
- Reduce the numbers of children under 3 years of age placed in institutions.



Beneficiaries

- Newborn babies at risk of abandonment.





Achievements:

As a result of the activities performed within the project, a multidisciplinary team (consisting of a social assistant, psychologist, and medical staff) was set up, trained, and consolidated within the Republican Maternity. Up to the present, due to this team's intervention, of 62 risk-of - abandonment cases, registered at the Republican Maternity, 49 cases of child's separation from the mother were avoided, with the children remaining in the family. At the same time, the premises of the social accommodation unit for parent-and-baby couples were renovated. This unit is going to be opened officially by the end of 2007.

Prevention of child abandonment at birth in Ungheni Rayon

Funded by the **WORLD CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION**
(2006-2008)

Goal

Reduce the number of newborn babies, abandoned in the Ungheni Rayon, by the end of 2008.

Objectives

1. Develop a child abandonment at birth prevention service in the Maternity and Children's Hospital in Ungheni, by the end of 2008;
2. Develop and test the service of placement of mothers with newborn babies in foster care, by the end of 2008;
3. Set up a sustainable community-based residential service, to support mothers with babies during the after-birth period, by the end of 2008;
4. Prevent abandonment and build on community support for future and new parents, by the end of 2008.

Expected outcomes



- Capacities of medical staff and other specialists in the Maternity and Children's Hospital in Ungheni built;
- Rayon-level referral mechanism for abandonment cases set up;
- Legal framework for the placement of parent-and-baby couples in foster care developed and approved. This type of placement implemented;
- Legal framework for residential social placement service for parent-and-baby couples developed;
- Placement centre for parent-and-baby unit set up;
- The services, provided by the centre, developed and the capacities of the staff to work with newborn babies and their parents built.

SERVICES DEVELOPED WITHIN THE PROJECT

Prevention of child abandonment at birth in the Maternity

What does it offer?

- Social and psychological assistance to mothers before and after childbirth.
- Information and counseling to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of child institutionalisation.
- Contribution to the development of attachment between mother and baby.



What are its goals?

- Prevent child abandonment at birth;
- Increase the responsibility of parents and communities;
- Reduce the numbers of children under 3 years of age placed in institutions.

Beneficiaries

- Newborn babies at risk of abandonment and their parents.





Center for the placement of parent-and-baby couples

What does it offer?

- Social and psychological assistance to mothers before and after childbirth;
- Information and counseling to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of child institutionalisation;
- Parental skill and ability building;
- Development of sociability.

What are its goals?

- Prevent child abandonment at birth;
- Increase the responsibility of parents and communities;
- Reduce the numbers of children under 3 years of age placed in institutions.

Beneficiaries

- Newborn babies at risk of abandonment and their parents.

Achievements

The project was launched in August 2006. According to the decision of the Ungheni Rayon Council, the placement center for parent-and-baby couples was created within the Department of Social Assistance and Family Protection, and is a unit of regional interest. The Ungheni Rayon Council took over the running costs of this residential service. The unit was officially opened in August 2007. It is worth mentioning that a qualitative study was performed within the project, in order to identify the causes of child abandonment at birth and what interventions the community and the local and central public authorities should make.

“...Child abandonment at birth is determined by a combination of a number of causes: economic, financial (lack of living space and of financial resources), psychological (lack of responsibility and of parental feelings), relational (no support from the parents and the family), and educational (lack of sexual education). These causes, in different combinations, are true for different categories of women, abandoning their newborn babies.

Community's opinion (first of all, the opinion of the state), is very significant, and may influence parents' decision regarding the abandonment of their child. This is why women, intending to abandon their newborn baby, choose to deliver in Chisinau. It allows them to keep their pregnancy and childbirth in secret, as well as to avoid remorse caused by accusations made by their relatives, with regard to keeping the child. Thus, determined in many instances by socio-economical conditions, and being rejected by their extended families, women decide to give in to critical circumstances, evading and avoiding assuming responsibility of upbringing their children. It has been revealed that, in some cases, women decided to abandon their child at the suggestion of medical staff, especially of the family doctor – the first contact person for a pregnant woman.

Lack of coordination and of integrity of health and social services at community level favours child abandonment at birth, in the conditions, when a woman at risk does not always receive support and help she needs to overcome difficult situations...”

(Fragment from the research “Causes of Child abandonment at birth”)





Tiraspol Family Counseling Center

Funded by Communication Workers Union, Great Britain
(2005-2009)

Goal

Prevention of child separation from family, by providing a complex of social services in Tiraspol.

Objectives

1. Set up Tiraspol family counseling center and integrate it in the local services system, by the end of 2009;
2. Set up a set of high-quality services and provide them to children and families in difficulty, by the end of 2009.

Beneficiaries

- children at risk of abandonment / separation from parents;
- children-victims of abuse and violence;
- families in difficulty.

Expected outcomes:

- Family Counseling Center set up by the end of 2005, and fully operational, providing counseling services, by the end of 2006;
- Family Counseling Center integrated in the system of services in the field of childcare, by the end of 2009;
- A team of specialists offer quality services, among which social support and psychological, psychotherapeutic, and legal counseling to children and families in difficulty;
- Efficient mechanisms of collaboration with other agencies established by the end of 2007;
- Mechanism of monitoring and evaluation of delivered services developed and fully operational by the end of 2006.



Achievements

The Family Counseling Center was officially launched at the end of 2005, and it currently delivers family support services and psychological, psychotherapeutic, and legal counseling services. 700 children and 300 parents were offered services within the center. An efficient referral mechanism for risk-of-abandonment, institutionalization, and abuse cases was set up within the center, in collaboration with the local administration and NGOs.

“...This is a tragedy of the children, and we, the grown ups, hardly understand it. The message of “Apple Flowers” theatre performance, put on stage with the help of EveryChild, is very simple, and, at the same time, complicated – we should not allow child separation from parents. It’s an appeal for meditation and action, both, for the authorities, and for the society as a whole”.

*Timpul
February, 2006*



IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS



Capacity building in the field of street children's rights' protection

Funded by Communication Workers Union and SIF Moldova
(2001 – 2005)

Goal

Improve the life chances for street children, by providing them with care in a secure and protective family environment.

Objectives

- Reorganize the Center for temporary placement of children in a child-friendly service, focused on social assistance, by the end of 2005;
- The institutions in charge with children's rights' protection collaborate efficiently and show commitment to meet street children's needs and protect their rights.

Expected outcomes:

- The premises of the Center renovated (to create a more friendly environment for the children).
- New regulations, stipulating the reorganization of services and focusing them on the child and social assistance, applied.
- Team of social assistants set up and integrated in the structure of the centre, and their professional skills developed.
- Mechanism for multi-disciplinary collaboration set up within the Centre and operational.
- A mechanism for inter-department collaboration is established.
- Public awareness campaigns designed and launched by the staff of the Centre.

Beneficiaries

- Street children and their families.

Achievements

The Reception Centre for Minors was transformed both legally and physically, into the Centre for Temporary Placement of Street Children (minors). The findings of the final assessment are shown below. This final assessment was carried out by “Axa Management Consulting” Company, at the request of EveryChild.

“On completing the qualitative study, we can state that the first objective of the Project was fully achieved by obtaining both the planned and the unplanned outputs, such as the change in the attitude of the staff, children and families regarding the need to reorganise the service, in order to create a positive perception of the Centre.

As to Objective 2, findings can be formulated by analysing the current statistical data, especially the ones presented in annual reports made by the Center to the Ministry of the Interior.”

pre-school minors						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Pre-school minors	68	74	52	61	52	63
Increase	8,8	-24,32	17,31	-14,75	21,15	
Increase 2001-2005 (%)						14,86

Mainstream school pupils						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mainstream school pupils	260	386	411	473	510	458
Increase (%)	48,46	6,48	15,08	7,82	-10,2	
Increase 2001-2005 (%)						18,65

Internat-school pupils						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Internat pupils	149	166	243	273	383	464
Increase (%)	11,41	46,38	12,34	40,29	21,15	
Increase 2001-2005 (%)						179,52



On the basis of these data, we can formulate the following findings:

There is a general tendency for aggravation of the situation around street children, and this fact is determined not by the negative influence of the Project, but rather by external factors that cannot be influenced by the Project (such as the socio-economic situation in Moldova, increase of emigration, and, consequently, of the numbers of children deprived of parental care, etc.).

The growth dynamics is noticed only in the case of children, coming from the institutions of the educational system, whereas one of the reasons leading to an aggravation of the phenomenon of street children resides in the activity of these institutions. Moreover, the most severe situation is noticed in internat schools, where the comparative growth of the numbers of children placed in the Center between 2001 (when the Project started its activity) and 2005 (the last year of Project activity) constitutes 179 %.

This finding is supported by reverse dynamics, in significant decrease, which refers to the numbers of minors, who neither work nor study. The table below demonstrates that this category faced a significant decrease:

Minors, who neither study nor work						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Minors, who neither study nor work	627	623	737	745	311	315
Increase (%)	-0,64	18,3	1,08	-58,25	1,29	
Increase 2001-2005 (%)						-49,44

The significant decrease in the numbers of minors, belonging to the category of those who neither study nor work and placed in the Centre between 2003 and 2005, leads to the conclusion that the positive impact of the Centre over this category of minors is not so susceptible to other institutions' influence.

Thus, we can state that, in case of minimum influence of other external factors, uncontrolled by the general intervention of the Project, the positive impact of the changes made to the work routine of the Centre, implemented through the Project, has played an important part in the improvement of the situation around street children.

Final Conclusions

Through this Project, sufficient sustainable conditions were created for the work of the service for street children, which provides day care, education, and medical and social rehabilitation. Thus, it has become possible to maintain the high quality of the services, provided within the Centre, and reduce the numbers of street children, in case if the external conditions, uncontrolled by the Project, become more favourable.

These statements, however, are subject to risks, relating to:

- The reduction of opportunities for development of the staff of the Centre after Project closure;*
- staff turnover, especially within the team of social assistants;*
- insufficient opportunities for dissemination of best practice, accumulated by similar institutions from other localities.*



It is also worth mentioning that the Centre is subordinated to the Ministry of the Interior. During the assessment period, it was discovered that, in some instances, the Ministry's policy with regard to street children is in discrepancy with the principles of child protection, while the collection of statistical information is the key activity in working with street children or young offenders. This is why, the Centre for temporary placement of children, being a social institution, should be transferred under the jurisdiction of the branch ministry – the one of Social Protection, Family and Child”.

(Fragments from final assessment of the project, performed by “Axa Management Consulting” Company).



Resource Centre within the Chisinau Municipal Directorate for Children's Rights' Protection

(2002-2004)

Goal

To setup, by the end of 2004, a sustainable structure for training and resources for professionals and decision makers in the field of child protection within the Municipal Directorate for Children's Rights' Protection (MDCRP).

Objectives

- To support the MDCRP in the setup of the Resource and Training Centre;
- To offer continuous training opportunities for practitioners and decision makers, by creating a local team of trainers and developing the training modules;
- To build capacities of the Centre's team in researching, monitoring and evaluation of services for children and families, and in the dissemination of best practice.

Beneficiaries

- professionals and decision makers, working in the field of child protection, other specialists working in relevant areas, such as police, medicine, education, as well as interested persons from all areas of the country, as direct beneficiaries;
- families and children of social services beneficiaries, as indirect beneficiaries.

Expected outcomes



- Resource and Training Center launched and fully operational.
- Training practices and opportunities piloted by different donors and reviewed.
- Methodological training basis developed.
- Database of local trainers developed.
- Database of training needs developed.
- Training program/modules developed.
- Annual development plans of the team in place.
- Monitoring and evaluation services developed.

Achievements

The Resource Centre was set up, taken over, and integrated in the structure of the MDCRP. Up to present, over 1000 specialists and professionals benefited from training and resources of the Centre.





Capacity Building in Social Policy Reform in Moldova

Funded by the European Commission within the TACIS Programme
(2003 – 2006)

Goal

Build the capacity of the Government of Moldova to implement a coherent social policy reform in the childcare field and decrease reliance on institutional care.

Objectives

- Support the Ministry of Health and Social Protection with the Ministry of Education in developing working models of alternative childcare and decrease the reliance on institutional care;
- Support the Government to develop the competence of staff and their managers in best practice in the field of child protection and childcare;
- Increase public awareness of the effects of institutionalisation and the effective methods of working with children at risk in the community.

Achievements

- (1) Improvement of legal framework in child protection field, improvement of secondary legislation for services implementation, improvement of services delivery standards and quality;
- (2) Development of flexible financial mechanisms that would allow for the development of community-based services and delivery of targeted services, in the context of guarding the money-follows-the-child principle;
- (3) Development of a system of community-based social services for children and families in difficulty, focused on gate-keeping, social rehabilitation and reintegration of children with their families in pilot regions of Cahul, Orhei, Ungheni, and the dissemination of the project in 50% of regions from Moldova;
- (4) Development of the following documents: the Regulations with regard to the work of the Rayon Gate-keeping Commission (Commission for the Protection of the Child in Difficulty) as an independent and efficient system of prevention of institutionalisation, implemented in pilot regions; Foster Care Service Regulations; Family Support and Reintegration Service Regulations; and their approval by MSPFC and local councils;
- (5) Assessment of residential institutions in pilot regions; development and implementation of a sample strategy for the reorganisation of local child protection system;
- (6) Support and development of National Action Plans for residential care system reorganisation;
- (7) Development of policy for redirection of money from residential care to family-type care;
- (8) In-service training and retraining of 450 specialists within the system;
- (9) Setup of National Resource Centre for the dissemination of best practice and development of the team of national trainers in the field of social care;
- (10) Development of Strategy and Curriculum for national training and retraining of social care specialists, etc.



“...Obviously, the initial terms of reference for this project were too ambitious in the political circumstances at the moment when the project was launched. Due to a lack of Government’s engagement in reforming the child protection system, two years had to pass before the President’s office became involved. If the project had not been extended for another year, this objective would not have been fulfilled. Taking

this into consideration, it would probably have been better if / when the agreement for the project was signed with the EU, the Government had been fully aware of the engagement and the role it had assumed.”

The main verifiable factor of the project was decreased number of children in internats in the three pilot rayons.

Dynamics of decrease in the numbers of children in institutions					
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2006/07 - % against the numbers of children in 2003/4
Orhei	450	445	377	330	73%
Ungheni	384	332	273	240	63%
Cahul	261	235	186	153	59%





“I would like to say that the project had noble objectives. Unfortunately, the residential system of childcare used to be a significant part of the educational system during the Soviet times, and, at that moment, there was no alternative for parents in difficulty – they actually were pushed to place their children in residential care. We also used to believe that this was the best method to help children in difficulty. However, with the help of this project, we became aware of alternative ways. We also managed to raise public awareness. Thus, families’ situation started to be assessed, and family support and reintegration services started to work.

Last year, about 50 children were reintegrated with their biological families: we all now admit that children should be cared for and brought up in families, and that internats are not the best option for them. Certainly, we cannot simply close the internats down. First, we should develop alternative ways, and then transform the internats into community schools. At present, the conditions are better, the social assistants perform the professional assessment of families and children, and the mentality of institutions’ staff and of the civil society is changing.”

*Tudor BOGDAN,
Department of Education, Youth and Sport, the Orhei Rayon.
(Fragments from final evaluation of the project,
performed by Richard CARTER, independent expert,
Great Britain.*

“Moreover, it is beyond any discussion that the decrease in the number of placements would have been even greater, if internats had not recruited children from other rayons as well – another argument in favour of the efficiency of Rayon Commissions for the protection of the rights of children in difficulty... Very efficient teams of social assistants were created. These teams, supported by newly created Gate-keeping Commissions, had a sig-

nificant impact on the rate of children's entries in internat schools in the three pilot rayons. Social assistants were employed and trained in all three pilot rayons. Then mechanisms for the development and delivery of family support and reintegration, foster care services and gate-keeping system were created, according to a standard model used by EveryChild in countries from the region.

Number of children placed in Foster Care service

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Orhei		-	1	12
Ungheni		13	15	10
Cahul		16	18	13

Number of children placed in FS&R service

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Orhei	-	72	31	211	49
Ungheni	296	246	307	215	77
Cahul	122	156	177	82	58
Soroca	-	-	-	-	39



Very effective work was done within the financial component, especially on calculating relative costs of residential and family-based care. A big number of training was done, efficient professional standards were developed, very extensive work was done to adjust the legislation in the area. Also, extremely efficient was the work performed within the public relations component – a significant result was the speech of President Vladimir Voronin in May 2006.”

(Fragments from final assessment of the project, performed by the independent British expert Richard CARTER).



The Project's activities were supported by the social campaign "Call Your Future Back Home". Its goal was to raise public awareness of the need to bring the child up in the family, as well as of the negative effects of institutionalisation.

Trough media products, community-based social services for children and families were promoted, while both the government officials and communities were encouraged to apply residential care for children only as the last resort.

THE MAIN ACTIONS OF THE MEDIA CAMPAIGN

"Call The Future Home"

- 20 journalists from the central and local mass media were trained within the study visit to Great Britain;
- Project partners were trained on efficient communication with the mass media and on advocacy;
- Two opinion polls were performed by IMAS – at the beginning and at the end of the campaign;
- Social theatre "Apple Tree Blossoms" was organised (idea, promotion, broadcast, put on stage and on TV);





- 2 national and 1 international conference were organised;
- 5 video and 3 audio tracks were launched;
- Radio and TV debates' programs were organised;
- Materials were published in the press;
- Radio and TV marathon was organised at the public company "Teleradio-Moldova";
- 1 topical documentary and 4 films about alternative social services were broadcast;
- 29 specialised newsletters, 3 bilingual magazines (Romanian and English) were printed;
- Advertising materials, billboards, and stickers were printed and cast, etc.





True stories about real children Little Madalina went to the first form. She got ready for this important event together with her new mother – foster carer. They went to school together – both of them having the same emotions. As she is just at the beginning of school, Madalina needs a lot of help. Her home tutor is her elder sister – Lucia, with whom Madalina always sticks together.

Madalina cannot remember her biological mother. Too much time has passed since she had been abandoned. The girl's mother left, determined to change her own life. She changed it, but did it so far away from Madalina, by founding a new family...

Now the girl is enjoying herself in the Scutaru family. Madalina's coming to Larisa's family, a year and three months ago, and taught her four boys that love has no limits. Madalina found her way in the family easily. Although she is the family's favourite, the girl has her own duties, just like everyone else. She learned the family's rules, and she follows them.

Madalina also has a brother, whom she saw only several times. When she was born, her brother was 8 and he already was in residential care. Although the two siblings see each other very seldom, Madalina, being a very friendly creature, became friends with her biological brother quickly. She says she loves him and her grandfather, who took care of her, but she wants to stay with in her new family...

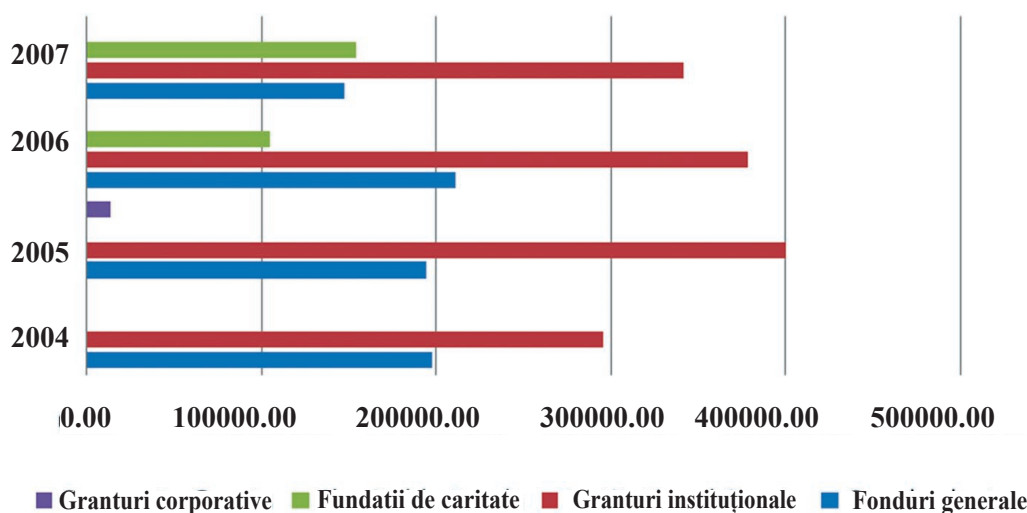


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME

	2004	2005	2006	2007
General funds	198200,00	195117,46	279883,84	153292,63
Institutional Grants	296242,05	400533,00	192239,79	348118,50
UNICEF	36080,05			0,00
DFID			14145,79	336671,00
European Commission, TACIS Program	260162,00	400533,00	178094,00	0,00
Council of Europe				11447,50
Charitable Funds	0,00	0,00	208360,49	107500,83
Andreas A David Foundation 1			89420,00	10023,95
Andreas A David Foundation 2				76962,88
World Childhood Foundation			118243,81	20514,00
Corporate Grants	0,00	14500,00	696,68	0,00
Gazprom				0,00
CWUHA			696,68	0,00
Other		14500,00		0,00
TOTAL	0,00	0,00	15000,00	67941,00
	494442,05	610150,46	695484,12	676852,96

VENITURI





EXPENDITURES

	2004	2005	2006	2007
General funds				
Foster Care service, Chisinau	25358,22	30703,6	20410,52	16765,81
Center for Temporary Placement of Minors, Chisinau	11884,49	12837,93	597,77	0
Tiraspol Family Counseling Center	26977,72	19738,18	23877,86	12144,48
Family Support Project and Reintegration, Cahul	5388,2	5603,39		0
Foster Care Service, Cahul	8123,88	10474,77		0
Foster Care Service, Ungheni		8898,35		0
Training and Resource Centre Chisinau	3020,64	138,55		0
Integrated social services for children and families in Soroca			4920,97	12921,47
Project Prevention of Early Child Abandonment in Republican Maternity Hospital			17146,32	10179,56
Lobby and Advocacy				8713,27
Family Counseling Center, Chisinau				50912,42
Subtotal Core Budget	80753,15	88394,77	66953,44	111637,01
Institutional Grants				
Development of integrated social services, Ungheni	36079,97			0
Support in Delivering Effective and Sustainable Social Assistance Services in Moldova			28907,78	234652,63
Capacity Building in Social Policy Reform in Moldova	243243,75	325645,32	286174,38	0,00
Support in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities				11440,53
Subtotal Institutional Grants	279323,72	325645,32	315082,16	246093,13
Charitable Funds				
Prevention of Child Abandonment at Birth, Ungheni Rayon			77695,13	44075,52
Child socialization Program		754,5		0
Prevention of Child Abandonment at Birth, Chisinau Maternity Hospital			77118,50	15821,93
Cahul school-internat reorganization				27439,66
Subtotal Charitable Funds	0	754,5	154813,63	87337,11
Corporate Grants				
Children socialization program			696,68	0
Tiraspol play ground and Psycho-Neurological Hospital renovation		13817,51	682,49	0
Tiraspol Family Counseling Center	17493			
Support to Tiraspol Psycho-neurological hospital	7872,56			0
Subtotal Corporate Grants	25365,56	13817,51	1379,17	0
Other				
Prevention of Child Abandonment at Birth in Chisinau Republican Maternity Hospital (extension)			29000,00	12949,32
Subtotal Other			29000,00	12949,32
Administrative costs	116529,53	122463,52	147332,33	78022,64
TOTAL	501971,96	551075,62	714560,73	536039,24



O lume sigură pentru copii

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