Capacity building for combating trafficking for labor exploitation

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Child centered community

NGO Centre for Youth Integration, 2004-2012.
Serbia, Belgrade (Bosnia, Nis, Novi Sad)
Street involved children and youth (and their families) – serving 600 children

CYI is dedicated towards development of **Child centered community**

Our Approach means working with a child, family, community, local and national government, regional cooperation.

Characteristics of our work are non discrimination, children’s participation, development of community based social services, focusing on primary education, strengthening whole family
From harm reduction to...
... reintegration assistance

2005- Outreach program (children, youth & families)
2007- Drop in centre for street involved children
2009- Day care Center for children below 15
2009- Educational program (preschool, primary school, vocational trainings, employment)
2009- Program of prevention of HIV and HCV
2011- Anti trafficking program

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Begging in practice and theory

Not a new phenomenon- Oliver Twist (C.D. 1838)

20 years ago..

as stated in Article 32 (1) of the Convention: “States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development”.

10 years ago...

In 2004, International Labor Organization adopted the definition of begging. Begging is defined as „a range of activities whereby an individual asks a stranger for money on the basis of being poor or needing charitable donations for health or religious reasons. Beggars may also sell small items, such as dusters or flowers, in return for money that may have little to do with the value of the item for sale.”
Children make difference between „labor“ and „begging“. Strong identity of their role in the family, participation in the family (group) earnings, they feel proud and important if successfully participating to the family (group) income.

Perception of force in “force begging”, upbringing patterns vs direct force. Begging- organized, forced, by choice (situational) and upbringing patterns. Children are informed (aware) of risks – they have heard.
Adult perception of child – working or begging

Most visible form of child exploitation is begging. Institutions do not register child begging cases as a separate phenomenon. Lack of unique understanding of begging among institutions. Social welfare system refers to either tradition (of Roma), neglect or exploitation when registering a case and planning the action (accommodation or repression). Police rely on capacities and obligations of the social welfare agencies in treating a child + fines to a family or a child (depending upon the country, for children over the age of 14). Educational system, health care system, civil society organizations, public (taxi drivers)?
By STC report on “Prevention of child exploitation in South East Europe” in 2010-

✓ relevant Montenegrin authorities registered 323 children aged 2 – 17, who were caught in the act of begging.

✓ relevant authorities of Republic Srpska, in the same period, registered 131 child caught in the act of begging.

✓ by using different data sources, 35 social care institutions in Serbia established that 225 children were engaged in begging.

70% of children CYI works with reports that they need to earn money each day.
Who are children who are begging?

Minority- vulnerable groups (mostly Roma).
Poor and dysfunctional families.
Boys vs. girls.
Aged between 10 and 14 (started early from the age of 2)
Begging as an entry point for exploitation.
(miss) perception of authorities- police and centers for social work.
Difficult to reach, usually under the supervision of adults in the area.
Domestic victims- had contact with social welfare system before (or their families, risk hasn’t been registered timely)
Does migration happens? (organized begging, renting a child for begging..)
Foreign victims- rarely identified (experience in Belgrade- Romanian children),

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Designing the intervention

Excuse or bigger picture—at risk families?
Social services break down, early identification of at risk family?
Role of a child within the family—how children sees it?
What protection and reintegration services are available locally and in the region?
(urgent intervention—shelter accommodation, fostering families, reintegration assistance?) Post identification—shelter experience—STC research—back on street.
Ban on begging?
A lack of specialized shelter and reintegration services for trafficked children and their families left some victims vulnerable to continued exploitation and re-trafficking.
Thank you!

Inspiration for the image used in PPT http://www.banksy.co.uk/

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