Success Story
Moldova 2016

Child Protection Policy: a New Tool Developed to Prevent Situations of Violence Against Children

The Moldovan Coalition (APSCF) Develops and Disseminates a New Set of Tools to Strengthen Child Protection

This new developed document is composed of a set of tools with specific measures to prevent not only situations of violence against children, but also their exclusion, including educational exclusion of children with Special Education Needs (SEN).

Principles of the Child Protection Policy (CPP)

- Children have the right to be protected from all types of abuse, neglect and exploitation, according to the UNCRC
- Child welfare must be protected and promoted
- Where a conflict of interest may exist, the best interests of the child must be the priority
- Recognition of the importance of parents, families and caregivers
- Recognition of the importance of partnership with other agencies/structures active in the field of child protection
- Recognition of the right of staff members and volunteers to benefit from training and receive support

Considering the important role that all organizations and institutions dealing with children play, a special tool that enriches child protection systems with new techniques for the identification of risk situations and to promote better interventions, has been elaborated.

The Child Protection Policy (CCP) is not just a document, it is a set of tools, elaborated according to the specific needs of the beneficiaries of any of the institutions dealing with children, and taking into consideration the type of services provided by the institution.
This document is a perfect tool for a wide range of stakeholders involved in the issue of child protection.

**Children**
Children are vulnerable and they need to be protected from all forms of dangers, they need to know that their voice will be heard, their rights will be respected and, in any situation, they can rely on the adult’s protection.

CPP guides children to the institutions and individuals that can provide them with any needed help, and can ensure the respect of their rights, in order for them to enjoy the benefit of a harmonious and multilateral development. Children need to feel safe, without exclusion and/or discrimination, and to be sure their privacy will be respected and their issues treated with complete confidentiality.

**Teachers and Educators**
CPP is concerned also with key persons working with and for children, including teachers and kindergarten educators. This policy helps them to find the better solution for different situations, according to specific and very clear rules. They can identify situations of risk and refer them to competent institutions, as stated in the CPP which is, thus, a good mechanism for reporting too. When a teacher, a social assistant or a caregiver understands that a child can be at risk, they have all the necessary knowledge and instruments to protect the child, and act on his/her best interest.

**Managers**
Managers are responsible for ensuring clear rules for personnel, not only regarding their direct obligations, but also concerning referral mechanisms in case of abuse, violence, exclusion or neglect of children they are working with. A manager that clearly understands thereal
importance of the CPP, will be able to help in the eradication of abuse and violence against children.

Even if APSCF does not work directly with children, the coalition considered important to elaborate and to approve its own CPP in order to ensure, that all its members (89 NGOs) know and respect fundamental rights of the child. It is fundamental that all members of the coalition know and apply child protection measures against all type and forms of abuse and violence.

The document is mandatory for all Coordination Council members, Secretariat members, volunteers, partners, providers. Taking into consideration the importance of the tool, APSCF encourages all its members to rely on its use, and offers support to the member organization through the organization of training courses, seminars and mentoring activities, a series of which have been already organized in 2016.

Around 50 representatives of schools and kindergartens, where usually children spend most of their day, have been involved in seminars and training activities too, in order to familiarize them with the CPP, its importance, its main parts, and practicing concrete techniques of identifying the risks children can be exposed to in their institutions.

A mentoring activity is being planned in order to help NGOs, schools and kindergartens to elaborate their own CPPs, taking into consideration the specificity of the beneficiaries, the type of provided services and the potential risks children may face in their concrete institutions.