PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, WOMEN AND FAMILIES IN EMERGENCY SITUATION

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Strengthening Family type care for refugee children

To avoid institutionalization of UASC children – A decision to strengthen existing family type alternative care arrangements for refugee children

Actions required:
• **Adjustment of service procedures** to receive children in placement: analysis of legal framework, methodology, referral mechanism etc, their revision if needed
• Identification of **Foster carers/Educators available** to receive children in placement across the country
• Develop **a capacity building plan** (particularly with *trauma informed focus*) to strengthen competences of foster careers, educators and child protection specialists to provide appropriate support
• **Continuous support** to all stakeholders involved (particularly children and foster carers/educators)
Key achievements

- With UNICEF support a national rapid assessment conducted by P4EC - revealed the limited capacity of LPAs to provide family type services for refugee children due to the lack of capacity, human and financial resources.

- 9 out of 35 districts were identified as available to receive children in placement, particularly in Foster care. 3 districts from the North, Centre and South of the country were selected.

- Agreements with district Councils signed: 30 new foster families planned for at least 60 UASC children. A contingency plan to increase this number in case if needed is under development, including by involving other districts.

- Legislation analysis findings: Similar system and criteria can be applied for placement of refugee children in FC service as for children who are nationals.
Key achievements

Immediate capacity building provided

- A Training program on Psychological First Aid for UASC was developed with UNICEF and CTWWC Initiative support. The training Objectives focused on: building the knowledge on key concepts such as adverse childhood experiences and trauma (the war context); building the skills on how to identify when a child or adolescent is struggling and how to respond appropriately; and providing clarity on support resources for foster families.
- A two-day Training of Trainers on the Psychological First Aid for UASC was delivered to 30 child protection specialists, responsible for Foster Care/Family-Type Homes from 13 districts and 2 municipalities.
- 1-day training on the Psychological First Aid for UASC was for 60 foster carers from the 3 selected districts.
- A training methodological guide developed and adjusted as result of the training and shared with all trainers.

Ongoing capacity building plan: Ongoing psychosocial support, training focused on strengthening resilience, professional burnout, team building etc – through formal and non-formal learning (workshops, support group activities, summer schools, supervisions etc)

Decisions on placement for 4 children: 2 - 16 years old, 1 young mother (17 years old) and her baby
Challenges

• There are still discrepancies in service development and delivery across the country.

Foster care as mandatory service. A continuous need to provide ongoing training, support and supervision.

A need for diversification of type of foster care support to meet diverse needs of children in care.

A continuous need for improvement of general and professional awareness and attitudes towards foster care by national communication and training efforts.

Include Foster care in the minimum package of services to be financed from the national budget. Revise the legislation to increase salaries, child allowances.

• The most marginalized children (children with severe disabilities, with complex emotional needs, babies) not covered.

• Lack of financial recourses to meet the needs.

• Stigma toward Roma, disability.
THANK YOU
for listening!