



International NGO “Ponimanie”: Development of Child Protection System in Belarus in 2009-12

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INGO “Ponimanie”: Re-brush your Minds



- Since 2000 operating in Belarus, since 2002 in CEE/CIS Region.
- Since 2003 – national leader in prevention and responding child abuse in Belarus.
- Since 2006 – ISPCAN National Partner in Belarus.
- 135 members, 78 volunteers, 12 staff members and 31 experts, the head office in Belarus, branches in Ukraine and Lithuania.
- Interdisciplinary Approach.
- 1st Time in National History:
 - MDT - 17 MDT on the date of January 1, 2012,
 - CAC/Barnahus - 12 Houses of Understanding (CAC/Barnahus) by July 1, 2012,
 - National Child Helpline 8-801-100-1611 was established in July 1, 2011, joined CHI as an Associated Member.
 - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was launched in January 1, 2012, joined GMCN.
 - National Strategy for Prevention of Child Abuse and Support to Abused Children developed in 2009 (following to CoE CM Recommendations 2009/10). Included into the National Plan of Action towards Child Protection for 2012-16.

Strategy of Prevention/Response to Child Abuse and Support Abused Children for Belarus



- Developed in 2009, updated in 2011
- 6 chapters starting from prevention up to M&E
- Includes Infrastructure/Legal and Educational Components
- Focus on a Child
- Partially adjusted at National Plan of Action towards Child Protection for 2012-16

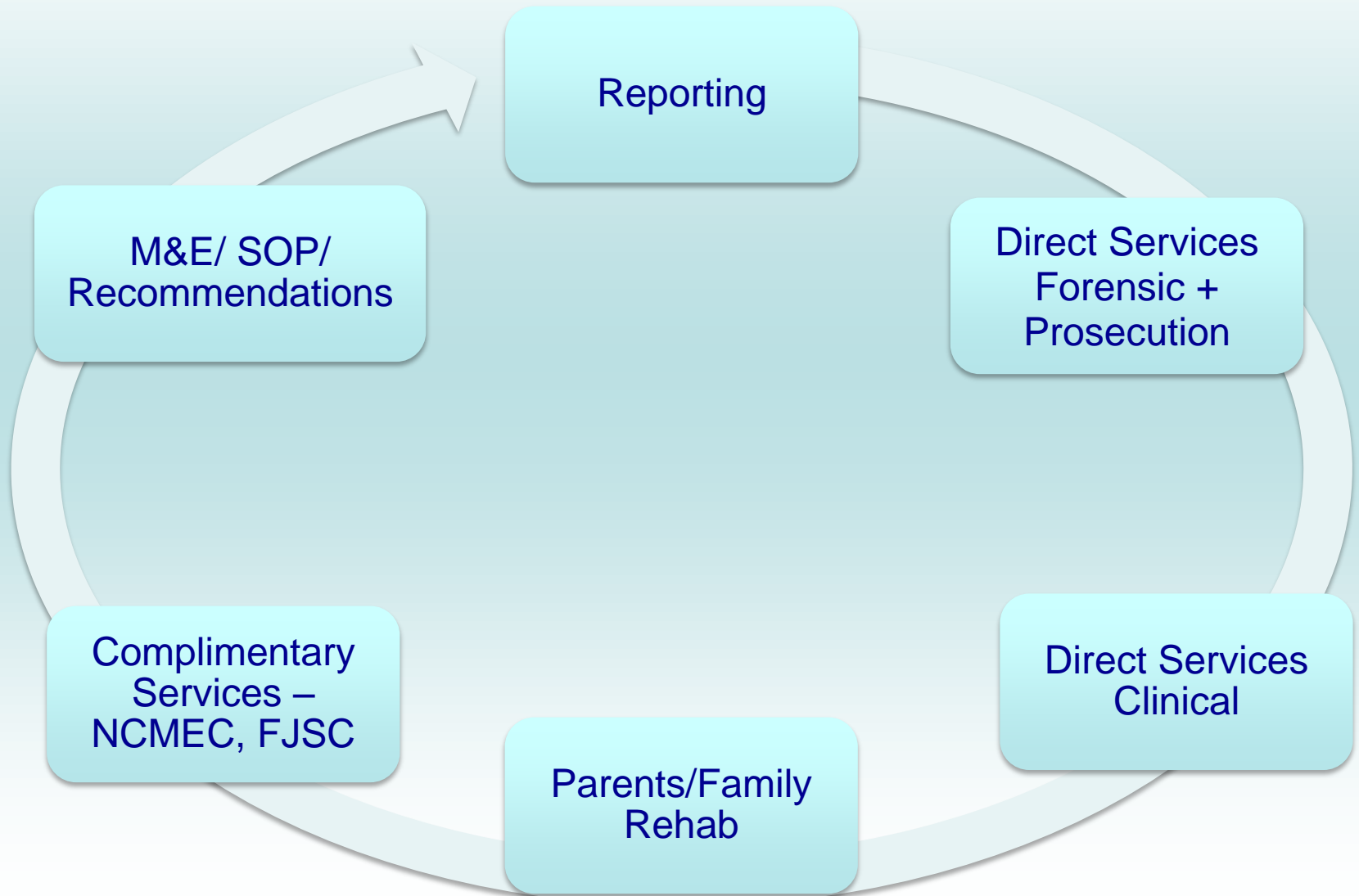


Content of the System

- Aims and Purposes
- Infrastructure
- Referral System
- Prevention and Public Awareness
- Partnership
- Fundraising
- Monitoring and Evaluation



General Overview of the System Functioning





Legislative Base of the System

1. ECOSOC Resolution (2005) on appropriate help to children-victims and witnesses of crime,
2. Belarus Presidential Decree Law #18 on protection of children in families of social risk,
3. Decision of the Belarus Council of Ministers #47 – Instruction on multidisciplinary/ interagency cooperation to implement DL #18,
4. Decision of the Commission on Juvenile Affairs #33-13 on launch of National 7/24 toll-free Child Helpline,
5. The Strategy of Prevention of Child Abuse and Support to Abused Children following to CoE Committee of Ministers Recommendations on design and Implementation of National Strategies to Support Children-victims of Violence.



Aim and Purposes

The Aim of the Child Protection from Abuse System in Belarus is to end up with Child Abuse through comprehensive prevention and response.

Objectives:

1. To provide children, parents, and professionals with effective and accessible tools to report cases and get an immediate support through development of National Child Helpline
2. To provide children-victims and witnesses with child-friendly investigation and trial through modern Direct Service of the House of Understanding based on CAC/Barnahus Model
3. To provide children-victims of abuse with adequate and free-of-charge clinical interviewing, treatment and rehabilitation through modern Direct Service based on US Clinical Model
4. To provide families of abused children with comprehensive rehabilitation through modern Direct Service based on several evidence-based practices
5. To offer to the society truthful information about Child Abuse and its influence on a Child and consequences for the Society through action, training, and cooperation with media
6. To raise awareness and competency of Children, Parents, Professional Community and wider society about aspects of Child Abuse in an appropriate manner for each target audience through training, action and cooperation with media
7. To secure success and sustainability of prevention and intervention through using of modern tools of monitoring and evaluation (RBMME, Child Participation, Civil Society participation, etc.)

Dynamics and Development



- Dynamics of sexual crimes against children as the most indicative manifestation of child abuse shows that its number is growing up:
- 2007 – 191 case – November Salty Childhood Campaign, 4 MDT
- 2008 – 248 cases – Salty Childhood Silhouettes, 6 MDT
- 2009 – 270 cases – 1st House of Understanding/Barnahus, Model of Direct Service, Strategy for Belarus
- 2010 – 269 cases – plato, network of HU – 5, MDT – 6
- 2011 – 330 cases – National Child Helpline, HU – 7, MDT – 12
- First half of 2012 – 169 cases – NCMEC Belarus, HU – 12, MDT – 17
- Comparative Analysis of crimes against children still shows its highest latency in Belarus: Sweden (9, 2 Million inhabitants) – 2992 cases reported to police (2010), Belarus (9,45 Million inhabitants)– 269 cases (2010). What's wrong?
- A new model of Child Protection in Belarus that is able to provide training for professionals and direct service to abused kids is just established.
- The Juvenile Justice is still being discussed in Belarus. UNICEF discusses, and Ponimanie builds 😊
- There is legal provision for mandatory reporting but there aren't still key components of this: list of people who are obliged to make mandatory report, and quite invisible responsibility for non-reporting.
- And of course – low level of people's confidence to traditional state owned Child Protections system



Direct Service Delivery

“Before you ring the bell of public awareness you have to establish comprehensive direct service delivery for children-survivors” –
Prof. Dr. Barbara Bonner, 2004



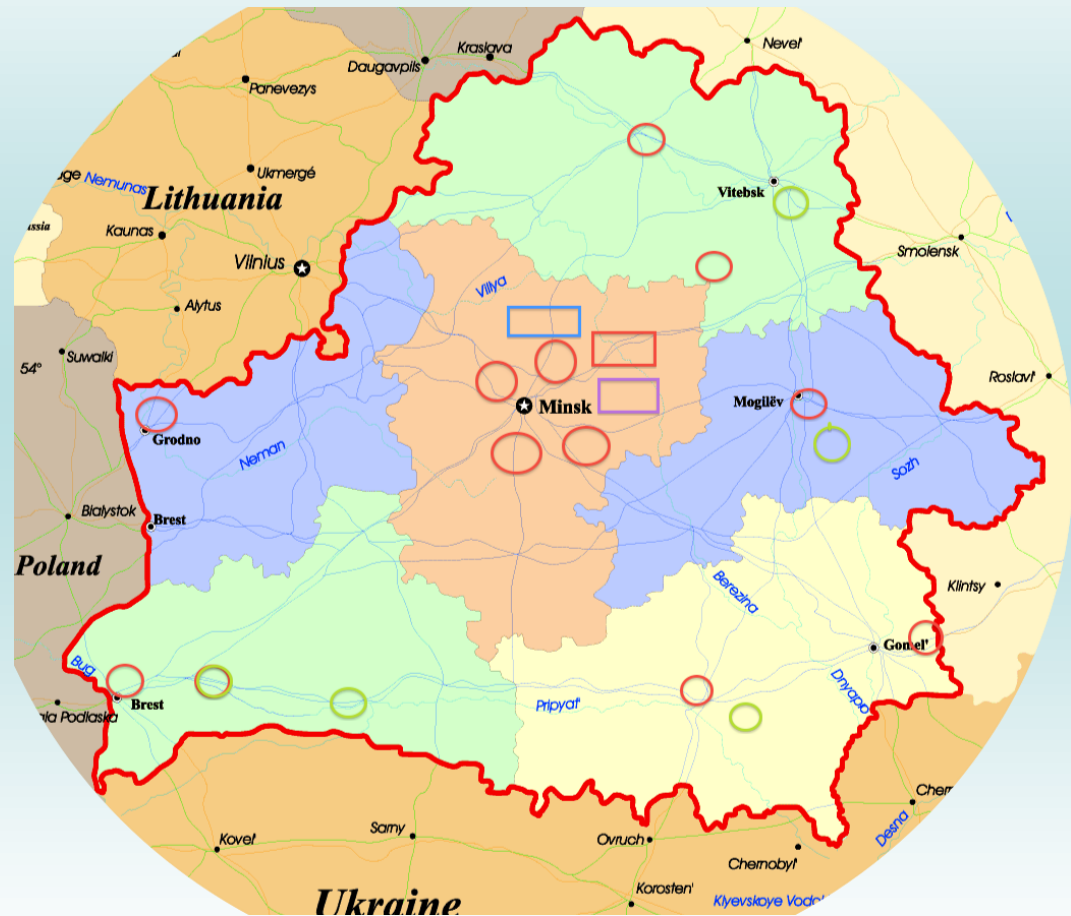
Description of Infrastructure

- National toll-free 7/24 Child Helpline 8-801-100-1611
- Child-friendly Interviewing Rooms to conduct Forensic Interview -12 across the country, MDT – 17 across the country
- Child-friendly facilities to conduct Clinical Interview, Exams, and Rehabilitation - 1
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children – 1
- Child Protection Unit to support Family Justice - 1
- Coordination, Development, Training, and M&E Unit including Prevention/PA group and Intl. Conference “Safe Belarus for Children” group (started on annual base in 2010)



Geography of elements of modern Child Protection System in Belarus, July 1, 2012

- Minsk – 4 HU/MDT, NCH, NCMEC, 6 VG, 5 universities, INGO Ponimanie, 2 local NGO
- Brest – 1 HU/MDT, 1 university, 1 VG
- Vitebsk – 1 MDT, 1 university
- Kalinkovichi – 1 HU/MDT
- Chashniki – 1 HU/MDT
- Kobrin -1 MDT, 1 NGO
- Pinsk – 1 MDT
- Novopolotsk – 1 HU/MDT, 1 VG, 1 university
- Grodno – 1 HU/MDT, 1 VG, 1 university
- Gomel – 1 HU/MDT
- Mozyr – 1 MDT
- Mogilev – 1 HU, 2 MDT, 1 NGO





Participants of MDT and the Team of HU

- MDT: Law Enforcement – Investigators, Prosecutors, Police: Juvenile, Counter-drugs, Criminal; Psychologists; Social Care Teachers; Teachers/Other Pedagogues; Physicians: Pediatricians, Gynecologists, Surgeons, Psychiatrists, Nurses
- Team of the House of Understanding – Core of MDT: Investigator, 2 Psychologists, and Case Manager



Referral System

- Ponimanie's own Networking – National Child Helpline, HU - Interviewing Rooms, MDT, local NGO, national/regional Govts., local authorities, universities
- Governmental Agencies – SPC, hospitals, policlinics, the Militia/police, Investigation Committee, prosecutors' offices, social services
- NGO of national and local level – crisis rooms, rehabilitation



Prevention and Public Awareness

- Ponimanie's Prevention and Public Awareness Programs – Salty Childhood, Baby Race, ICDP, etc.
- Cooperation with other NGOs more specialized on Prevention, especially in schools and parental communities
- Cooperation with Media through Training, Engagement, and Joint Action



Partnership must be win-win Its Tools

- National/Regional NGOs – coordination of efforts, referral system
- Local NGOs – referral system, sub-granting
- International/ Foreign NGOs – coordination of efforts
- National Governmental Agencies – partner projects
- Local Authorities (community colleges, schools, social services, policlinics, etc.) – referral system, engagement
- International Treaty Agencies – UNICEF, IOM, UNIFEM, UNFPA, ILO – coordination of efforts
- Foreign Governmental Agencies – partner projects, engagement as donors
- Foreign NGOs – partner projects
- Universities – training, curricula, partner projects
- The Media – training and engagement
- Community – public awareness, engagement, training



Research/ Data Collection

- National Study on Dissemination of Child Abuse 2011-12 – once a 4 years on regular basis
- Cost Efficiency Study of modern Child Protection 2012 – to be continued on regular basis



Curricula in Universities

- Curricula on MDT, Case Management, Forensic Interviewing, Child Friendly Investigation and Trial, Clinical CP, Rehabilitation of Abused Children Prevention and Response to Trafficking in Children – in 9 universities across the country
- Plans: CAST, MEC, FJ



Fundraising

1. International Donors' Market:

1.1 Funds/Foundations

1.2 Corporations

1.3 Wealth People

1.4 Governmental Agencies of Development/ other governmental agencies in most developed countries

2. Local Donors:

2.1 People

2.2 Corporations



SOP, Recommendations

- Every element of the System needs Standard Operational Procedure and recommendations to implement better evidence-based practices
- Ponimanie develops SOP for House of Understanding, Child Helpline, Clinical/Treatment service, Child Protection Emergency Unit, NCMEC, and NFJSC
- Ponimanie also develops and issues recommendations to use EBP for frontline professionals employed at partner organizations where our services are located



Monitoring & Evaluation

- M&E of intervention on-ground
- M&E of Prevention nationwide
- M&E of cost efficiency (benefit-costs study)
- Complex M&E of the effectiveness of program activity/ strategy implementation

The Method of M&E is RBMME – Result Based Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation using SMART indicators of the progress



Cost Efficiency Study

- Method: Cost-Benefit Analysis adapted from National CAC CB Study of 2005
- Type of Study: Desktop Study
- Description: Costs of randomly selected 100 cases passed through CP System in 2008 were compared to costs of the second 100 cases passed through CP system in 2011-12. Benefits for children and families of the same cases were compared
- Findings: modern CP system (\$490 per case) provides to society with higher cost efficiency in 2,7 times rather than traditional system (\$1324 per case), and higher benefits/save for children and families up to 3 times (\$1200 to \$400) because of less costs of therapy as consequence of less secondary trauma



Solutions to cover Gaps in Infrastructure/ System

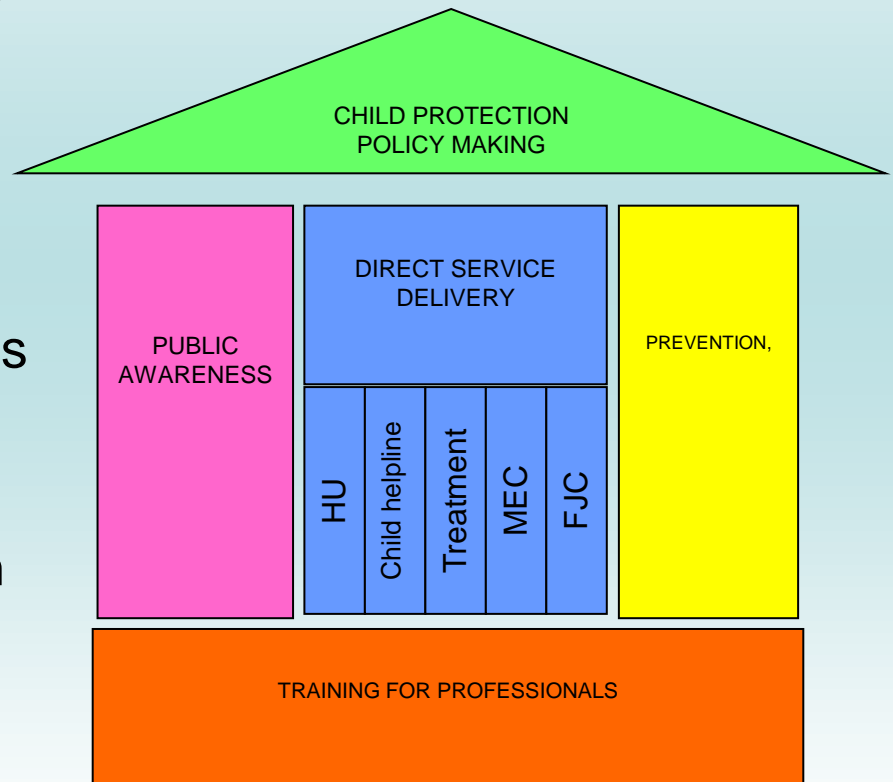
- Underdeveloped National Child Helpline – involving CHI and UNICEF resources, and other important players as development/funding partners
- Just 12 HU – Child Friendly Interviewing Rooms are opened, it's such a low number for 10-million country – to involve more donors in the process
- Weakness of Treatment Model – to learn more about the model and involve donors for its development
- Weakness of the Unit for support Law Enforcement to search missing children and support to rehabilitation/reintegration of exploited children – to develop further the Center of MEC, active participation at GMCN, and active local/international fundraising for the Center
- And the most important – absence of the place for Coordination, Development, Training, and M&E Unit/ Center – to establish the UNITED MODEL CHILD PROTECTION CENTER – we're looking for donors' support



Conclusion

- Systematic approach in Policy-making, Education, and Direct Service Delivery was chosen in Belarus. New services such as National Child Helpline, HU/CAC/Barnahus Model, Treatment/CPU Model, MEC Model were implemented, and FJSC implementation is on-going.
- The system of protection of children from violence in Belarus is dynamic and has a number of significant achievements, as well as opportunities for improvement, it reflects the current capacity of government and other participants, represents a huge scope for development, expansion, improvement and additions at the expense of engaging the resources of civil society/ donors in addition to existing programs.

Conclusion



- CP action of Ponimanie has significantly contributed to the development of reporting, investigation, prosecution, treatment and rehabilitation of children-victims and witnesses of abuse;
- CP actions are **EXTREMELY LIMITED WITH RESOURCES** but very important and serve thousands of children;
- Establishment of modern Child Protection System in 2009-12 has initiated great change in effectiveness/ cost efficiency of response/prevention of CA, as well as in humanization of attitude of public and professional community to the needs of victimized children.
- The Model of United Child Protection Training and Direct Service Delivery Center must be implemented in Belarus as the **EXCELLENT EXAMPLE** and the most appropriate way to increase Impact on Children in developing countries with limited resources

ADVERTIZING!!!

- The next 4th “Safe Belarus – for Children” international conference is scheduled for December 11-13, 2012 in Minsk, Belarus and cordially welcomes participants from Region of Eastern Europe/CIS and experts willing to contribute from worldwide
- Please go to our website www.ponimanie.org to be updated



Thank you!

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