Child begging and what to do about it

Tdhi field experience from SEE
Tdh Intervention by 2000

- Information from partners/communities on child exploitation and trafficking
- In-depth situation analysis
- Focused and direct activities addressing exploitation
- First phase of TACT (Transnational Action against Child Trafficking)
TACT Project
Transnational Action against Child Trafficking

- Prevention
- Protection
- Durable solution
- (Re)Integration
- Advocacy
- Working both in origin and destination countries
Tdhi in SEE in 2008

- Albania, Kosovo, Romania, Moldova
  - Addressing every form of child exploitation
  - Empowerment and capacity building
  - Advocacy

- Transnational links
  - Greece, Macedonia, Italy, Spain
Child rights situation

Large scale of child labour, incl. child begging

Phenomenon especially affecting children belonging to Roma community
Identification

- Outreach social work
  - Mixed teams
  - Cross-checking of information with country of origin
  - Trust of the child
3 different scenarios behind child begging

- Child in street situation
- Child asked to beg by the parents
- Child exploited through begging by third parties

First step
- Understanding the context under which begging takes place
Link with trafficking

- Palermo Protocol and national legislation criminalize practices similar to slavery
- The 1956 Convention defines labour exploitation of the child by a third party as practice similar to slavery
- Exploitation of the child for begging by third party is covered by Palermo Protocol and national legislation
The circle of exploitation

- Movement within exploitative markets depending on
  - Age of the child
  - Incomes
  - Risks involved for exploiters

- Examples
  - Child begging to child prostitution
  - Increased hidden character of the exploitation forms

- Important: supply can also create demand
Intervention upon identification of a trafficked child

- Unicef Guidelines
- Accommodation in a protective environment
- Assessment of needs and provision of services
- Identification of biological family
Durable solution

- Does the family genuinely and honestly want the child to be a member of the family (Y/N)?
- Does the child want to return to the family and community (Y/N)?
- Is it safe for the child to return to the family (Y/N)?
- Is it safe for the child to return to the community (Y/N)?
Common features leading to child exploitation/child labour

- Vulnerability of the child due to family and/or community status
  - Discrimination/social exclusion
  - No access to economic resources
  - Domestic violence/inadequate residential care
  - Irregular status in transit/destination countries

- Lack of adequate protection measures by the State
  - No system in place
  - System lacks resources to ensure efficient intervention

- Children as agencies
  - Alternative options of survival
Addressing vulnerability

- Service provision aiming at addressing vulnerability
  - Psychosocial activities
  - Administrative assistance
  - Health
  - Housing
  - Education
  - Access to economic resources
  - Community development
Empowerment

- Community, family and child empowerment
  - Listening to the children, families and communities
  - Offering alternative opportunities
  - Investing in the strengths, resilient factors and protective practices
- Change of perceptions on the child’s role in the family and community
National Advocacy

- Law enforcement but with focus on
  - Standards of care for children
  - Anti-discrimination
  - Migration
  - Social legislation
  - Education
  - Family law
Thank You

More info on:

www.tdh-childprotection.org