Cyprus

Qualitative questionnaire on national systems of statistics and registration on child abuse

Introduction

With the term “child abuse” we refer to the following definition given in 1999 by the WHO Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention: “Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.”

Using the traditional typology all ChildONEurope Members and Observers are asked to provide information on the existing systems of both data collection and registration of cases related to child abuse, in particular:

- sexual abuse
- sexual commercial exploitation (child pornography, child pornography on web, prostitution)
- emotional neglect
- physical neglect
- physical ill-treatment
- psychological ill-treatment
- witnessing violence
- trafficking for sexual exploitation
For the aims of this survey, “national system of data collection” means an official public structure or a mechanism for describing periodically the statistical profile of the phenomenon of violence against children. Usually, the data is gathered in an aggregated form and the statistics could be the result of specific survey instead of a systematic collection of data on each, individual case.

On the contrary, a “national system of registration” might assume a system of recording for each case of child abuse referred to a specific body or service or institution at a local level, and, later, this body submits aggregated data to a central unit/agency using a specific form or questionnaire (e.g. the Child Protection Register in England).

For identifying preliminarily the institutional framework, we adopt some questions from the UN Questionnaire on violence against children.

A. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

1. Are there any Governmental authorities, structures and mechanisms, including at federal, state/provincial, municipal and local level which are currently responsible for addressing violence against children?  

   X YES  □ NO

   If YES, identify these authorities and describe how coordination between them is ensured.


   Coordination is ensured through a manual of interdepartmental procedures, the implementation of which is approved by the Council of Minister’s and unofficially by the Advisory Committee for the prevention and combating of family violence which is set up according to the law.


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1 http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/study-quest-E.doc

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ChildONEurope Secretariat
2. Is there a lead Government authority tasked with responsibility for addressing violence against children?  □ YES  X NO
If YES, describe briefly its organization and tasks

Social Welfare Services is the official agency for the provision and promotion of Social Welfare Services. The Social Welfare main goals are: to identify, prevent and deal with social problems and concerns - to secure the welfare and best interests of children and of other vulnerable groups such as the elderly and persons with disabilities, to safeguard the right to a decent standard of living for all persons legally residing in Cyprus.

3. Has your country a national or federal / regional / provincial / municipal / local human rights institution, such as a human rights commission or ombudsman, or a child-specific human rights institution, which has any role or competence in the area of violence against children, including receiving complaints?  □ YES  X NO
If YES, describe briefly its organization and tasks

There is an Ombudsman which examines complaints for only administrative decisions and a national COMMISION for human rights which accepts complaints against human rights including complaints for violence against children.

4. Are there any particular parliamentary structures (for example special committees) to address violence against children?  □ YES  X NO
If YES, describe briefly its organization and tasks
5. Is there a legal obligation to report cases of suspected “child abuse” ?  **YES** ☐ NO
*See the categories indicated in the introduction.
Specify, if necessary, the type of legal obligation for each form of child abuse.

- sexual abuse
- sexual commercial exploitation (child pornography, child pornography on web, prostitution)
- emotional neglect
- physical neglect
- physical ill-treatment
- psychological ill-treatment
- trafficking for sexual exploitation

not obligations for witnessing violence, but for the rest of the cases

All the above types of abuse are reported as part of the mandatory reporting to the office of the Attorney General

Including witnessing violence by a child in his/her home.

6. For which professionals?

SOCIAL WORKERS WORKING IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE, DOCTORS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

WORKING IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, TEACHERS, SCHOOL COUNSELLORS, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, POLICE

7. To whom the professionals must report?
Specify, if necessary, the type of legal obligation for each form of child abuse.

TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE ABOVE PROFESSIONALS MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL
**B. DATA ON CHILD ABUSE**

**B.1. National systems of statistics on child abuse**

1. Are there institutions or agencies or government units responsible for the collection of statistical data on child abuse?  □ YES  X NO

   If YES, indicate which kind and at which level:

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<th>Sector</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Regional / Local</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Judicial Sector</td>
<td>YES, in which year it was established............................................</td>
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<td>Other (specify)</td>
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2. For each system, specify which institution(s) keeps the database:

1. EACH DEPARTMENT COLLECTS ITS OWN STATISTICS – THERE IS NO NATIONAL SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION OF CHILD ABUSE
   THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES WHICH COLLECT STATISTICS ARE THE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, THE POLICE AND THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

B.2. National system of registration of child abuse

1. Are there national agencies tasked with managing a national system of registration of child abuse? ☐ YES ☐ NO
   If YES, indicate their name(s)
   ACCORDING TO MANDATORY REPORTING THESE SERVICES REPORT EACH CHILD ABUSE CASE TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY – GENERAL
   a. ____________________________________________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________________________________________
2. Regarding only National system(s) of registration of child abuse, illustrate the main characteristics of the system(s) (Please answer to all questions for each system of registration indicated above)

2.1 Does the system(s) cover all the national territory? a. □ YES □ NO b. □ YES □ NO c. □ YES □ NO

2.2 Which is the authority or service responsible for it at local and at national level?
If there is more than one system, please specify for each one.

6. 3. Which are the main aims of such a system of registration?
If there is more than one system, please specify for each one

6.4 Is there any standard reporting form for each case? □ YES (please, send a copy to the ChildONEurope Secretariat) □ NO

6.5 Are there guidelines for reporting and registration? □ YES (please, send a copy to the ChildONEurope Secretariat) □ NO

6.6 Is there a system in place in order to avoid the duplications in the registration process?
□ YES (please describe in the note) □ NO
6.7 Is there a code assigned to each registered child? □ YES  □ NO

If No, is your country thinking of developing such a method? □ YES  □ NO
6.8 Which categories are used to register the children (e.g. child at risk, emotional neglect, etc.)?

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6.9 How is the system kept up-to-date?

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6.10 Is there any standard reporting form for assemble data at national level? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Other information

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
7. Is there a National Registry of those convicted of sexual offences against children? □ YES  X NO

If YES, Which institution keeps the database?_________________________________________________________

Notes