



Ministry of Social Protection,
Family and Child



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație

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Press Release

ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION CENTRE OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY
TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING

Chisinau, 2009 – February 2009 will be remembered by the Moldovan Counter-Trafficking community for excellent results achieved due to continuous and devoted efforts to prevent human trafficking. On February 10, 2009, the Strategy and Action Plan for the National Referral System for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (NRS), entered into force and became a legally binding document after its approval by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on December 5, 2008. Furthermore, as a direct result of the real cooperation among the NRS partners, the Chisinau Assistance and Protection Centre (CAPC), widened its capacity to provide quality assistance to those in need

The capacity fulfillment of the CAPC reflects the close and fruitful cooperation between local CT actors, as well as the overall efficiency of the NRS. This was possible due to the trust and commitment shown in the NRS by local administration, NGOs and other CT partners. Since the opening of the Center in September 2001, Governmental and non-governmental actors have made important progress and set the basis for a systematic and comprehensive action against human trafficking, with prevention through assistance as the key focus.

Since August 2008, the CAPC has been run by the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child (MoSPFC), in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, Mission in Moldova (IOM Moldova). It still serves as the only facility of its kind in Moldova, providing for the recovery of (potential) victims of trafficking through safe accommodation, medical care, psychological counseling, and legal assistance. The CAPC is one of the key elements within the assistance infrastructure for (potential) victims of the NRS, serving as the first point of contact for the majority of identified trafficking victims. The CAPC can accommodate and provide assistance to 24 (potential) victims of trafficking, and currently offers crisis assistance and rehabilitation services to 23 beneficiaries. These beneficiaries include one man, 14 women, two teenagers and six children of the beneficiaries (from an infant to a 7-year-old).

The NRS represents a comprehensive system of cooperation between governmental and non-governmental agencies participating in counter-trafficking, and is based on common and internationally recognized standards. It has been reinforced by the NRS Strategy and the Action Plan which provides NRS partners with a legal framework for implementation of



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assistance and protection measures in a systematic way. The 2009-2011 NRS Action Plan further develops the activities necessary for achieving the set objectives aimed at:

- harmonization of national legislation in accordance with international standards;
- elaboration of regulations and quality standards for providing protection and assistance at national and transnational level;
- development and consolidation of the institutional mechanism, strengthening of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders capacities;
- increased allocation of financial resources in the social assistance budget for implementation of the specific protection measures for victims of trafficking.

The NRS was originally launched by the MoSPFC in partnership with IOM Moldova in 5 pilot rayons in 2006. Currently the NRS has been expanded to 16 rayons, 2 municipalities (Balti, Chisinau) and the town of Otaci. Additional 10 rayons will receive training during 2009 and by 2011 the NRS is expected to provide assistance and protection to vulnerable persons in every community of the Republic of Moldova.

*****END*****

The National Referral System for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and the Chisinau Assistance and Protection Centre have been supported by the the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the European Commission, Lakarmissionen (Swedish NGO) the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC), Government of Japan through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Children on the Edge Foundation (COTE), Mary Kay Inc.



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