

**PREVENTING AND
COMBATING VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN
UKRAINE**

**Summary regional and
local multi-agency co-
operation**

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overall objective of the study

- to identify gaps and challenges in the current Ukrainian system of response to violence against women and domestic violence.

Methodology

- desk research -
- visit to the two pilot regions Lviv and Kirovograd on 20-24 April 2015:
- round table discussions
- focus group interviews -
- individual in-depth face-to-face interviews
- written interviews.

The main **beneficial results** of the CR

- preventing cases of violence against women and domestic violence;
- protecting victim from intimidation and secondary victimisation;
- ensuring appropriate and integrated services for the victims;
- ensuring safety for the children;
- building victim's trust in the system;
- ensuring accountability for the perpetrators through immediate protection of the victim and quick arrest of the perpetrator

Multi-agency co-ordination

- a key component of a co-ordinated response, the process and outcomes resulting from different agencies concerned with the problem of domestic violence against women and their children, committing themselves to closely working to improve overall effectiveness:
- providing clear, written mandates to each responsible agency;
- concluding flexible agreements between a variety of stakeholders at local level;
- adopting a common understanding of violence and of the patterns of violence;

Multi-agency co-ordination

- creating a common vision and action plan;
- ensuring communication, linkages, and accountability among agencies;
- establishing an entity to monitor implementation of the co-ordinated action.

Core international standards of CR – Istanbul Convention:

- - to co-ordinate measures and to implement them by way of effective co-operation among all relevant actors playing a role in preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Article 7, paragraph 2)

Core international standards of CR – Istanbul Convention:

- in providing support to victims, states parties must provide for effective co-operation between all relevant state agencies, including the judiciary, public prosecutors, law-enforcement agencies, local and regional authorities as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other relevant organisations and entities (Article 18)

Core international standards of CR – Istanbul Convention:

- - recognises the work and expertise of NGOs in this field and asks states parties to co-operate effectively with these organisations (Article 9)
- - risk assessment and risk management, the need for co-ordinated safety and support measures, and for regular training on multi-agency co-operation- Articles 15 and 51.
- - victim-centred and gender-specific approach
- - to guarantee the effective implementation of their obligations and the compliance with the due diligence

Legislative basis:

- the Law of Ukraine on Family Violence Prevention, Article 3 defines explicitly the bodies and institutions charged with family violence prevention measures- the regional branches of the Ministry of Social Policy and the authorized units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Legislative basis:

- the Instruction N° 3131 on the order of co-operation between structural units of the two main responsible bodies responsible for implementing the state policy on domestic violence prevention- the system of intervention is triggered by a claim or a verbal declaration of a victim of family violence or by a communication about such act against a minor or a legally incompetent. The two bodies should refer to each other within three days. They also are responsible for referring the victims to general and specialised centres for social services.

Main problems according to official sources:

- Implementation of the provisions of the Law is complicated by the lack of co-ordination between various actors responsible for prevention and combating violence
- There are gaps in the system of identifying and referring the individuals affected by domestic violence, the lack of qualified help to the victims, including the lack of the sufficient number of shelters for temporary stay and rehabilitation of victims, inability of early identification of families in crisis, the lack of effective punishment for the perpetrators.

Promising factors and good practices

- The **Law on National Police** was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada in July 2015.
- the practice of Co- ordination councils on prevention of DV, of joint collegiums and other local agreements
- practice of case management centres
- informative cards for available services
- working groups on perpetrators' programmes
- high commitment and willingness for efficiency of officials involved, for example law enforcement
- women's NGOs with strong gender-based and victim-centred approach. are part of informal mechanisms for co- operation
- specialized counseling and risk assessment tools and practices of these NGOs

Major gaps:

- communication between police and social services is not timely
- serious risk for the victim, since the perpetrator is not removed in due time from the family
- no link is made between violence against women and child protection
- gaps exist in the referral system between law-enforcement agencies and the specialised counselling for women

Major gaps:

- no clear definition and limits of the role of law-enforcement agencies
- law-enforcement agencies adopt a perpetrator-centred approach
- women's organisations are not part of the official circle of bodies and entities which are responsible for the protection of the victims of family violence and are not an element of the official system of co-ordination and co-operation between different agencies

Key measures to improve the Ukrainian system of co-ordinated response to violence against women and domestic violence:

General principles

- a clear victim-centred and gender-based approach should be adopted;
- a co-ordinated response system should encompass different areas, such as the prevention and protection of women victims and their children as well as the perpetrators' accountability;

Key measures to improve the Ukrainian system of co-ordinated response to violence against women and domestic violence:

Legislative framework

- the legislative reform in the field of violence against women and domestic violence is key to ensure an effective co-ordinated response;
- the territorial reform should be implemented with caution in order to preserve the resources of social services and the existing good practices and models of co-operation;

- **Institutional framework**
- the role of the numerous agencies concerned should be clarified;
- health care professionals should be involved in the coordinated response system;
- **Prevention - Protection - Prosecution**
- secondary victimisation should be avoided through an effective risk assessment system involving all the relevant agencies. To this aim, the NGOs' expertise in this field should be considered as crucial;
- appropriate human and financial resources should be granted to the existing general support services providing financial assistance, housing, employment, etc.;

- specialized victims' services (for instance, women's shelters, counselling services or crisis centres) should be set up or developed;
- further development of informative cards providing victims with concrete information on existing services at regional level should be encouraged;
- programmes for perpetrators should be implemented in close co-operation with women's support services, law-enforcement agencies, the judiciary, probation services and child protection and child welfare offices, where appropriate;

Co-ordination

- a “protocol” of multi-agency co-operation should be adopted to build a system of partnership at the regional/local level. This would allow, among other beneficial results, immediate protection in cases of danger to life, physical or psychological integrity or other human rights;
- multi-agency case conferences should be more frequently held to provide co-ordinate support to victims;
- a system of referral and close co-operation with the specialist centres should be established to support the victim and her children;

- **Trainings**

representatives of the different stakeholders should be trained on the beneficial effects of multi-agency co-operation;

NGOs

- the role of women's organisations should be officially recognised as key to ensure the effectiveness of the co-ordinated response system to violence against women and domestic violence.

Models of coordinated response to VAW:

- **Duluth model of CCR**
- **Models of CR in Europe- on domestic violence, on sexual violence, stalking, forced marriages and other forms of VAW**
- **models of work with perpetrators**

THANK YOU

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