

Information of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia for the report on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material

The LEPL- State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (hereinafter the State Fund) has been functioning under the state control of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

One of the aims of the State Fund includes:

- Protection, assistance and rehabilitation of the victims/statutory victims/alleged victims of human trafficking and/or domestic violence and/or violence against women and/or sexual abuse.

The State Fund provides the victim and/or statutory victim and/or alleged victim of human trafficking and/or domestic violence and/or violence against women and/or sexual abuse with the following services within the Shelters and the Crisis Centers:

- Providing psychological-social assistance/rehabilitation;
- Organizing/receiving medical service;
- Providing Legal assistance (including legal representation in court and in law enforcement agencies);
- Translator service, if necessary;
- Promoting reintegration in a family and society and other services;
- Daily accommodation

Compensation in the amount 1.000 (one thousand) GEL in case of trafficking.

In order to expand services for victims of THB (legal, medical and psychological assistance, compensation) in 2018 and 2019, 2 additional crisis centers in Marneuli and Ozurgeti were established under the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of THB victims. The Crisis Centers provide with full package of services, including legal aid, medical assistance, etc. to THB victims/alleged THB victims (before having the official THB status) and the depended persons. Currently, overall 5 Crisis Centers operate throughout the country (Tbilisi, Marneuli, Ozurgeti, Gori and Kutaisi).

The state fund developed the Guidelines for Social Work and Psychological Rehabilitation/Assistance of beneficiaries of the structural units and their integration into internal regulations and plans for rehabilitation and reintegration (case management). The guidelines provide practical guides for rehabilitation of victims including children and people with disabilities. Regular trainings and study courses of the staff ensure qualified case management and focusing on the child's best interests. In 2019 special training-sessions were provided to phycologists and social workers of the State Fund for institutionalization of guidelines. However, investigation practices and juridical processes in this direction requires further enhancement. In addition, limited rehabilitation support services that are sporadically available, are unable to provide quality recovery and rehabilitation interventions to the children experiencing violence.

In 2019, Government of Georgia has set up a working group working on the concept of rehabilitation services for child victims of sexual abuse including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse. In addition, with the financial support of the United Nations Children's Fund, an effective psychological-social rehabilitation mechanism is planned in Tbilisi and Kutaisi, which will respond to the needs of children

victims of violence and provide psychological and social rehabilitation services. This services will be provided by the State fund.

It is worth to mention that the Social Service Agency (SSA) plays an important role in child protection and prevention. Any individual case of the victims of the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse examined up with close cooperation with SSA.