CHILD PROTECTION NETWORK
Armenia
Major child welfare and protection issues

- High number of institutionalized children
- Lack of preventive and early intervention services
- Lack of alternative services
- Weak system to provide support to children who are victims of violence
- Absence of Juvenile justice system
Increasing number of working children
High number of refugee children living in inadequate living conditions
Increasing number of abandoned children
Increasing number of school drop-outs
Increasing number of children suffering from distance families as a new phenomenon
Current challenges for child protection in Armenia

- As a post communist country Armenian Child protection system was affected from various International interventions
- Government itself has kind of “socialization” in double and even multi standards: what to demonstrate what to report and the same time how to keep things unchanged.
- Some donors themselves do not always follow up for project results sustainability
Current challenges for child protection in Armenia (continued)

- Specific post soviet mentality: less respect to government and lows and no trust towards to system
- Prolonged process for mobilization of local recourses of business sector in child protection area
- Slow development of charity as a phenomena that is historical but forgotten during the soviet-ization
- Inefficiency of the budget for child protection issues and not effective usage of existing recourses
A collaborative network of twelve NGOs has been formed to address child protection issues starting late 2005.
CPN MEMBERS:

- FAR CHILDREN’S SUPPORT CENTRE
- WORLD VISION ARMENIA
- SAVE THE CHILDREN
- ZANGAKATUN
- PROJECT HARMONY
- ORRAN
- COAF
- AASW
- SOS KINDERDORF
- CHILD DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
- FUTURE IS YOURS
- PEOPLE IN NEED
What is Armenian CPN for?

Child-friendly unit for:
- Promoting children’s rights
- Networking for provision of complex services to at-risk children and their families
I PHASE
(2005-2010)

Mobilization of the existing resources in support of children at risk situations
<p>| Universal terminology | Development of universal assessment forms | Mapping of services and development of a Resource book |</p>
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<th>Fundraising</th>
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<td>Work with media representatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to children and families mobilizing Network recourses</td>
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<td>Referral and management of cases identified through Hotline Phone Service</td>
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Promote the rights of children through enhancement and partnership ensuring the prevention and protection of children from all forms of violence.
ACHIEVEMENTS

- Continuum strengthening of cooperation between NGO-Government
- Continuum improvement of coordination within Network
- Capacity building for Network members and child protection specialists
- Continuum lobbying on child and family protection issues (social housing, child abuse)
How CPN works?

- Donors
- Society
- Mass Media
- Government
- CoTG
- MoLSI/MoES/MoJ
- CPU
- Other local and international NGOs
- MoLSI/MoES/MoJ
- CoTG
Overall vision of CPN

- Improvement of Direct Services to children & families at risk
- Contribution to the improvement of Child Protection System in Armenia
CHALLENGES for NGO NETWORK

• The new role and place of NGOs in the reforming system;
• How NGO local coalition can impact to implement REAL reforms;
• How to avoid the case when NGO-s are in symbioses link with Government;
• How to insure relevant funds and capacity for NGO coalition
The reality for CP Network

Positive aspects

• Existence of Formal protocol of cooperation between members
• Decision making is prepared by working groups
• Final decision is done by general assembly
• Day-to-day and emergency decisions are made electronically
• Members undertake initiative on rotary basis
• The work is carried out on voluntary basis

Negative aspects

• No fees for members
• No secretariat and employed staff
• Lack of resources for future initiatives
Joining Black Sea NGO Regional Coalition

- Unite efforts and voices struggling artificial reforms in our countries
- Share experience to better lobby for child protection issues
- Learn lessons and gaps for deinstitutionalization of children and to develop alternative types of services
- Strengthen lobbying on reallocation of the financial resources from institutions to alternatives services;
- Promotion of idea of necessity of social workers in community level and in general in all services
- Join efforts to impact on public mentality in post soviet area.
THANK YOU