



# Child begging and what to do about it

Tdh field experience from SEE



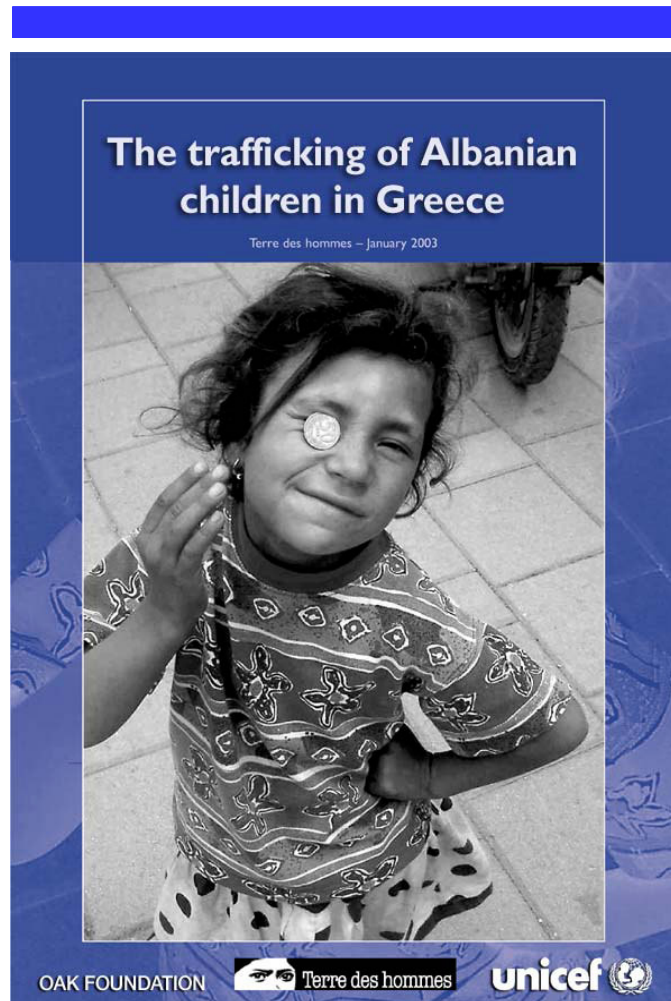
Terre des hommes

aide à l'enfance | Kinderhilfe  
aiuto all'infanzia | child relief | [www.tdh.ch](http://www.tdh.ch)

Working-group Meeting

October 2008  
Bern

# Tdh Intervention by 2000



- Information from partners/ communities on child exploitation and trafficking
- In-depth situation analysis
- Focused and direct activities addressing exploitation
  
- First phase of TACT (Transnational Action against Child Trafficking)



- Prevention
- Protection
- Durable solution
- (Re)Integration
- Advocacy
- Working both in origin and destination countries



# Tdh in SEE in 2008

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- Albania, Kosovo, Romania, Moldova
  - Addressing every form of child exploitation
  - Empowerment and capacity building
  - Advocacy
- Transnational links
  - Greece, Macedonia, Italy, Spain



# Child rights situation

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**Large scale of child labour, incl. child begging**

**Phenomenon especially affecting children belonging to Roma community**



# Identification

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- Outreach social work
  - Mixed teams
  - Cross-checking of information with country of origin
  - Trust of the child



# 3 different scenarios behind child begging

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- Child in street situation
- Child asked to beg by the parents
- Child exploited through begging by third parties
- First step
  - Understanding the context under which begging takes place



# Link with trafficking

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- Palermo Protocol and national legislation criminalize practices similar to slavery
- The 1956 Convention defines labour exploitation of the child by a third party as practice similar to slavery
- Exploitation of the child for begging by third party is covered by Palermo Protocol and national legislation





# The circle of exploitation

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- Movement within exploitative markets depending on
  - Age of the child
  - Incomes
  - Risks involved for exploiters
- Examples
  - Child begging to child prostitution
  - Increased hidden character of the exploitation forms
- Important: supply can also create demand



# Intervention upon identification of a trafficked child

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- Unicef Guidelines
- Accommodation in a protective environment
- Assessment of needs and provision of services
- Identification of biological family



# Durable solution

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- Does the family genuinely and honestly want the child to be a member of the family (Y/N)?
- Does the child want to return to the family and community (Y/N)?
- Is it safe for the child to return to the family (Y/N)?
- Is it safe for the child to return to the community (Y/N)?



# Common features leading to child exploitation/child labour

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- Vulnerability of the child due to family and/or community status
  - Discrimination/social exclusion
  - No access to economic resources
  - Domestic violence/inadequate residential care
  - Irregular status in transit/destination countries
- Lack of adequate protection measures by the State
  - No system in place
  - System lacks resources to ensure efficient intervention
- Children as agencies
  - Alternative options of survival



# Addressing vulnerability

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- Service provision aiming at addressing vulnerability
  - Psychosocial activities
  - Administrative assistance
  - Health
  - Housing
  - Education
  - Access to economic resources
  - Community development



# Empowerment

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- Community, family and child empowerment
  - Listening to the children, families and communities
  - Offering alternative opportunities
  - Investing in the strengths, resilient factors and protective practices
- Change of perceptions on the child's role in the family and community



# National Advocacy

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- Law enforcement but with focus on
  - Standards of care for children
  - Anti-discrimination
  - Migration
  - Social legislation
  - Education
  - Family law





# Thank You

More info on:

[www.tdh-childprotection.org](http://www.tdh-childprotection.org)

