



Information Gathering through Outreach Work- La Strada's Experience

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Context of the Outreach Work in LS

3rd year ongoing programme in La Strada

Based on the outreach social work key terms:

- Natural environment
- Risk factors
- Mapping
- Survey
- Harm reduction



La Strada's outreach work:

- Specific form of intervention into the target groups' environment
- Based on the methods and principles of outreach social work and social work generally
- Method of prevention and intervention followed up by further services
- Information gathered through the outreach work are to be further used in advocacy on behalf of the target group



Target group

Trafficked and exploited persons and persons at risk of trafficking and exploitation

- 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous, difficult)
- Considerably substandard accommodation
- Outer appearance
- Isolation and/or acting as a group
- Absent or insufficient knowledge of the local language

Outreach work locations

- Locations where target groups work or where they engage in usual social activities
- Locations frequented by communities speaking the same language
- Some of the public places used by target groups for other purposes than is usual
- Other places for entertainment and cultural events



Selected methods of outreach work

- Getting ready to enter a location and mapping
- Survey
- Safety plan
- Harm reduction



Getting ready to enter a location and mapping

Getting ready to enter a location:

- Gathering **maximum information** about the target group, about **its presence** among the monitored population, about **the relevant points** where the target group may be contacted, about **the key institutions** that may be helpful in locating and contacting the target group
- **Contacting** relevant institutions/ organizations/ persons
- **Focused observation** of the location (pre-survey)

All the above stages should be carried out in keeping a safety plan.



Getting ready to enter a location and mapping

Mapping

- Identifying exact places to go to
- How exactly a particular location looks
- What or who may facilitate the work in the field (for example the distribution of information materials)



Survey

Active identification of a particular characteristic- indicators of the existence or the risk of trafficking and exploitation among the target group.

Establishing initial contact:

- **Active contact-** directly approaching members of the target group
- **Passive contact-** being regularly present on locations frequented by target group and waiting to be approached by the target group or its members
- **Contact through the third person-** an outreach worker is introduced in the target group by its member

Safety plan

- Outreach workers are not in „their own environment“
- Considerable effort has been invested in the designing safety plan
- The safety plan itself has been a subject to testing and multiply revision and still is opened for revision
- Trained outreach workers



Harm reduction

The objective of outreach work is to prevent human trafficking and exploitation in general.

Harm reduction- activities facilitating the reduction of risk factors relating to the actual situation of the target group and/or minimizing of effects of human trafficking and exploitation by making use of provided services.

- Providing the target group with **sufficient amount of reliable information relating** to their potential job prospects
- Enable the members of the target group **to see their situation from different angles** in order to make **informed decision**.
- It is beyond La Strada's capacity **to eliminate all risk factors** affecting the target group or to minimize the effects of trafficking and exploitation directly in the field.



The recent report from La Strada's outreach work „**Vietnamese Workers in Czech Factories**“ is enclosed in the CD.



La Strada Czech Republic

www.strada.cz

La Strada International

www.lastradainternational.org

Thank you!