

**IDENTIFYING MINORS  
WHO ARE VICTIMS  
OF TRAFFICKING AND  
EXPLOITATION IN ITALY**



**Save the Children**  
100 YEARS



Croce Rossa Italiana

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The mission of Save the Children Italy is to develop and implement training activities to support social workers in the identification, protection and ward ship of minors who are potential victims of trafficking and exploitation.

In addition to this document, Save the Children has also drafted the Standard Operating Procedures to identify minors who are victims of trafficking and exploitation in Italy.

The two documents represent the update of the AGIRE Guidelines (2012) and the Protection First Book (2013).

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# INDEX

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<b>1. INDICATORS</b>	4
<b>2. GENERAL INDICATORS</b>	5
<b>3. LABOUR EXPLOITATION INDICATORS</b>	7
The story of Said	9
<b>4. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INDICATORS</b>	11
The story of Elena	13
The juju ritual	14
<b>5. PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY</b>	15
Risk and Protection	
<b>6. PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY</b>	17
Labour exploitation	

# 1. INDICATORS

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**WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS?** Indicators are all the collected and observed factors used to evaluate whether the **Unaccompanied Minor (UAM) is already a victim of trafficking and exploitation**; was a victim before their arrival into Italy, or is at risk of becoming a victim. These indicators are not a flawless checklist; each minor is different, even if the elements of some stories could be similar. It is important to recognize a real trafficking risk indicator in order to guarantee protection and support for the victims.

**THE INDICATORS SHOULD BE DETECTED BY WHOM?** Social workers operating within the community where the minor is located are generally the first people able to detect trafficking risk indicators. If these indicators are recognized, social workers should then proceed with discussing and evaluating the case through team work, involving workers operating in centers/camps, psychologists, cultural mediators and possibly legal consultants. Sometimes it is possible to recognize some of these indicators also during the disembark operations or identification procedures; in any case, it is important to take contacts with appointed authorities in order to receive advices for the next steps.

**WHEN AND HOW SHOULD THE INDICATORS BE ASSESSED?** Indicators can be assessed at any time through the observation and analysis of daily routine and behavior of the minor; they may also emerge from conversations with the minor, and when they speak to each other as well as a detailed study of his/her story.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE INDICATORS?** The purpose of the indicators is to provide community social workers and cultural mediators with useful information to assess whether one or more minors may or may not be victims of trafficking and exploitation.

## **HOW MANY INDICATORS ARE THERE AND WHAT ARE THEY?**

There are general and specific indicators. General indicators are useful for the recognition of any particular-vulnerability condition a minor may be affected by. Specific indicators are related to the type of exploitation the minor is or may be a victim of.

## **A VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED BY WHOM?**

After collecting the relevant information and detecting the indicators, community social workers will analyze and evaluate them along with the team to complete a first assessment, which will be sent to the specialized bodies and appointed authorities in order to complete the identification procedures as victims of trafficking.

*The below-enlisted indicators are not necessarily expected to occur for a case of trafficking and exploitation to be recognized. Likewise, the presence of an indicator is not necessarily related to a case of trafficking; for this reason it is important to detect as many indicators as possible, and eventually refer and follow up with competent authorities.*

*The situations in which victims of trafficking and/or severe exploitation may be involved are different from one another. Hence the fundamental importance of the collection and assessment of the indicators in the presence of a minor in a condition of particular vulnerability. If any doubts and suspicions of a possible case of trafficking of the minor, it is essential to inform and involve the ward at all times. Only after an accurate evaluation of the physical and psychological health condition of the alleged victim of trafficking, a early identification must be carried out taking into consideration the victim security, privacy and safety.*

## 2. GENERAL INDICATORS

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- 1. AGE:** The younger the minor is the more vulnerable. However, even when about to reach the legal age of 18 years, the minor may be left more vulnerable and exposed to risks of exploitation, particularly when it is unclear if and how long he or she is allowed to remain in Italy with legal documents for, once the age of majority is reached.
- 2. NATIONALITY:** It is worth noting that there is no nationality excluded from the risk of trafficking, though it is important to emphasize that: minors most exposed to risks of labor exploitation, as well as exploitation in illegal activities, are mainly males, Egyptian, Bengali, Nigerian, Albanian, Pakistani and other countries of origin in sub-Saharan Africa. Underage girls most often exposed to forced sex work mainly come from Ivory Coast Nigeria, Romania and other countries in Eastern Europe. It is important to emphasize the peculiarities of the case of victims of trafficking from Nigeria, even exploited in illegal activities such as drugs smuggling. Minors of Roma ethnicity are those mostly forced to beg, and/or engage in illegal activities and quite possibly sex work. They usually come from Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and other Balkan countries.
- 3. LENGTH OF STAY IN ITALY:** The shorter the time spent by minors in Italy, the more limited is their knowledge of the social dynamics of the country; services they can have access to; and rights to which they are entitled. Minors newly arrived in Italy, and also those recently arrived, are more likely to be exposed to risks; for that reason, their inclusion and integration process may not be yet completed, as they are often forced to change their place of stay or are still waiting for the residence permit.
- 4. LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY IN ITALIAN AND EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Children with a low level of education and low proficiency of the Italian language are more likely to be deceived and exploited. Besides educated people may have been forced by circumstances or closed people to rely on criminal circuits.
- 5. LACK OF FRIENDS OR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULT COUNTRYMEN LIVING IN ITALY FOR LONGER TIME:** If the minor does not have friends, or indeed his/her only friends are adults of questionable trustworthiness, possibly living in Italy for a longer time and involved in disreputable circles, may be considered as indicators of vulnerability. Regarding girls, another indicator could be represented by the presence of a lover boy in the Country of destination.
- 6. DEBTS PAYMENT AND NECESSITY TO SEND MONEY HOME:** If the minor is sent to Italy by his/her family, or owes an upfront payment to smugglers, he or she is considered more vulnerable to exploitation due to pressure by family and/or smugglers to pay the debt off.
- 7. ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED:** Potential illegal activities committed by minors to survive, expose them to higher risks of exploitation from criminal organizations.

**8. UNUSUAL CONTACTS WITH FAMILY RELATIVES:** irregular contacts with family relatives in the country of origin and a consequent difficulty to receive sufficient moral and/or material support can leave the minor particularly vulnerable. The use of tablets and phones, or different SIM cards secretly, may be considered as an indicator of risk. It is also important to supervise the use of social networks, which can be used by criminal organizations to recruit victims and keep control over them.

Equally, too much contact on the phone with family relatives could be an indicator of being controlled, especially when it is known or suspected that the family of the minor is behind the journey to Europe, and possible the pressure to pay the debt off.

**Other elements to assess whether a minor may or not be engaged in labor or sexual exploitation are:**

- Possession of money or belongings which might be irregular and/or disproportionate to his/her circumstances.
- Dealings with countrymen outside the community and/or adults who are unknown to the community workers.
- Signals of alleged forms of control by someone, such as limiting communication with others, restriction of movements, isolation, forced use of drugs and alcohol.
- Minor allowing others speaking on his/her behalf, particularly older countrymen.
- Visible signs of physical violence, fatigue and poor personal hygiene.
- Minor spending many hours outside the center.

It needs to be pointed out that some of these indicators can signify that the minor is simply employed in a job; if the employment is legal, the minor should not feel any shame in openly mentioning it to the community workers. Alternatively, if the minor does not – or even refuses to - discuss it, can be perceived as an element of risk.

The above-listed are general indicators detecting signals of vulnerability, linked to mechanisms typical of the trade, regardless of the specific purpose of the trade. There are also more specific indicators of vulnerability strictly related to the type of exploitation in which the minor may be involved.

## 3. LABOR EXPLOITATION INDICATORS

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There are particular circumstances that could raise doubts in community workers whether minors staying in the facility may or may not be victims of labor exploitation.

Nationality is one of the main indicators to be considered, as minors mainly coming from Egypt and Bangladesh, as well as countries in Central Africa, have been to be victims of labor exploitation in the last few years. Other indicators to be taken into account could denote that the minor may be hiding his/her engagement in a working activity from the community workers, or indeed that the working conditions may be suspicious.

In particular:

### 1. THE MINOR DOES NOT OPENLY MENTION OF BEING ENGAGED IN A WORKING ACTIVITY, BUT:

- leaves and returns at strange hours
- his or her school attendance is irregular
- spends time with adults who allegedly help the minor, but in fact divert him or her from his/her individual learning program (either school education or work placement).

### 2. THE MINOR DOES OPENLY MENTION OF BEING ENGAGED IN A WORKING ACTIVITY, BUT:

- does not have a contract, or has a form of contract not appropriate for the job, or written in language the minor does not understand.
- the job takes time from school (or other activities included in the individual learning program)
- the job puts the minor's health at risk
- spends long hours at work for several consecutive days with no break or scheduled rest days.
- the wage is too low compared to working hours and type of work.

### 3. THE MINOR'S PSYCHO-PHYSICAL STATE:

- The minor shows diffidence towards the community workers: this behavior may be related to a situation of subjugation by adults as the minor's potential benefactors or employers.
- The minor looks more anxious than usual, yet reluctant to talk about his/her worries.
- The minor shows signs of tiredness, probably due to excessively long working hours.
- The minor shows injuries consistent with a difficult or dangerous job.

### 4. THE ARRIVAL TO ITALY:

From the minor's account it emerges that:

- The minor has entered the country illegally.
- The journey to Italy was very expensive.
- The minor is in need to repay the debt incurred for the journey.
- The minor has entered in the Country with false documents.
- The minor has entered in the Country accompanied with so-called "family members".

## THE PROFILES OF VICTIMS OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION

### BANGLADESH

### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND NORTHERN AFRICA

- Most Bengalese are young adults aged 20 to 26, who often declare themselves to be minors.

- The youngsters that usually set out on the journey are aged on average between 15 and 17 and they come from rural villages or outlying areas, lacking an education and may already be involved in underground labor circuits, having worked since infancy.

- They come from very poor and deprived family backgrounds and from big, poorly educated families.

- They have no perception of what exploitation is, or being a victim of it.

- The risk of labor exploitation is high for many minors. Some of them are recruited with the false promise of success in football teams.

- They seem to be becoming more aware of the risks deriving from labor exploitation but, for many of them, the acceptance of the condition of exploitation is functional to their need for money.

- They are exploited by other Bengalese, Italian and Chinese in small commercial businesses or as travelling salespeople.

- They are recruited in their country of origin or in Italy, or alternatively through illegal agencies, word of mouth, mediation of the members of the community of origin. Some of them are recruited through the false promise of success in football teams.

- They may work illegally for up to twelve hours in a row, six days a week, for a pittance.

- They work to pay debts incurred for the journey and avoid arrests or expropriations for them or their families.

The countries of origin of minors coming from Central Africa are mainly Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal.

The countries of origin of minors coming from sub-Saharan Africa are mainly Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

## • THE STORY OF SAID •

Said is a 20-year-old Moroccan who currently lives in a town in Northern Italy. Eldest of four siblings, he was born in a very poor family. He never studied much and left school early to find a job to support his family.

Like many Moroccans, he decided to go to Libya to find a job. He travelled on his own to Libya on a Marrakech-Tunis flight.

At the beginning he was with other Moroccan boys, but things didn't go as planned and, after only two months, many of them decided to return to Morocco, whilst Said received a proposal by some Libyans he met, to travel to Europe to find a job. Disappointed by his experience in Libya which left him still unable to help the family, Said didn't want to go back to Morocco and so he decided to accept the proposal. After asking Said his address in his home country, they appointed Khaled, a mediator to contact Said's family: the cost of the journey was 2000 Euros, and Said did not have that sum. Once the agreement with Said's family was finalized, the smugglers took his documents away and he was imprisoned in a building with other people, waiting for the money to be paid by his family who, to support him, ran into debt. It took some time.

He waited about six months, during which Said was tortured - the injuries on his skin are still visible - and was with other youngsters from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, separated from the "black" ones. Food was rationed, mainly tinned and out of date. Prisoners received a full meal only in the morning, as there was no electricity in the building and no lights at night.

Said could not openly talk to his family, also because his telephone had been confiscated by the smugglers, who instructed him on what to say to the family members. Violence seemed to be the rule.

The smugglers took every excuse to beat prisoners, who could not scream, lean from the windows, and create panic.

The youngsters were together in a locked room, and there was always someone checking on them.

One day, a boy managed to get out and steal one of the phones to call home and ask for help, but the missing phone was noted straight away and the boy was killed in front of everyone, as a punishment for those not complying with the rules.

After six months, Said was put on a boat with 60 other people; they spent about half day at sea, till rescued by an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) ship. After two days, they landed in Catania, Italy. It was spring of 2017.

In Italy, Said had to fill a form and received medical treatment for his numerous injuries.

After about two weeks, like all the other Moroccans, he received an order of expulsion from Italy.

He then decided to travel on his own to a town in the North-East of Italy, where the husband of one of his sisters helped him for a few days. He afterwards found a place to stay for about a month, and in the end he

managed to reach another town where he was told an association could help him.

He was living in makeshift accommodation and working in fruit picking, but his health conditions got worse.

He asked the association to help him with the documents for the asylum application to start. Said worked under very hard conditions in the fields pruning the vines for a foreign man in various areas. He used to meet the man at an agreed time by a streetlight down the road. All good workers, who did not complain, were called again the next day, otherwise left without work.

He had to manage three vans in total; for that man Said worked every day for about 10-12 hours a day, getting paid about 5 euros per hour, with



**Said worked every day for about 10-12 hours a day, getting paid about 5 euros per hour**

*no contract and without complaining too much. Those who were not good workers were left home without being paid for the week; to Said, who was still waiting for the paperwork and in need of money, this meant he could not make mistakes and therefore worked without complaining. After two months, he got paid 250 euros instead of the expected 1820 Euros based on the total*

*working hours. Many people were not paid by the 'employer', and it often ended in a fight to get the money back.*

*After a month of unemployment, with the help of other Moroccans, Said managed to find another job in the fields owned by an Italian man. Working conditions were not improved – 10 to 13 working hours per day – though the pay was secure.*

## 4. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INDICATORS

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To gain more information to understand whether the minor may or may not be a victim of trade or sexual exploitation, one of the first elements to consider is the minor gender, as well as his/her nationality. Girls are most commonly subject to sexual exploitation; however young boys may be targeted as well.

Some minors are or may become victims of sexual exploitation because of their precarious situations of vulnerability, especially if they are about to reach the legal age of 18 years with no future prospects and with low prospects of being regularized in Italy.

As well as the gender, the nationality of the minor is to be taken into account, as girls who are victims of sexual exploitation mostly come from Nigeria, Romania and Albania; the number of girls from Ivory Coast, who are victims of trade, domestic servitude<sup>1</sup> and sexual exploitation both in the country of transit and in the one of arrival, has also risen.

For each nationality there are various and specific indicators; regarding sexual exploitation it is possible to identify some valid indicators shared by victims from different countries.

- 1. TRANSFERS TO OTHER CITIES OR DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE SAME CITY:**
  - Girls are often moved to more than one area of the same city or even another city in a short time, so that they don't have a clear idea of their geographical location and to prevent them from developing social or emotional ties that could put exploitation at risk.
- 2. PRESENCE OF AN ADULT**
  - Adult exploiters exercise control on the girls over the phone or by keeping an eye on them; they often get in contact with the minor and take her away from the community.
- 3. PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTROL**
  - Exploiters exercise control over the victims through blackmailing, threats and rituals; behind it there is often a romantic relationship between the victim and her exploiter. The minor may appear scared for herself and her family, impotent towards the threats and showing signs of severe psychological abuse.
  - The victim is often subordinated to a person of trust, no matter how devious, who is mostly a man for Eastern European women, a woman for African women. This condition of subjugation is linked to the state of isolation and fragility the victim experiences.
  - Psychological control is often exercised by a person from the same Country of origin who has an overstated lifestyle, especially in comparison with his expected job income; this lifestyle becomes a tool to increase the subjugation by the victims.
- 4. SIGNS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE ON THE VICTIM'S BODY**
  - The victim suffers from sexually transmitted diseases or medical problems linked to illegal and sometimes repeated abortions performed with archaic and improvised methods.
  - The victim suffers from severe medical problems which have been neglected due to lack of access to medical services.

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<sup>1</sup> Domestic servitude involves the victim being forced to work in a private household.

- The victim manifests a lack of personal care and hygiene, possibly due to a reaction to the excessive attention to her body by the exploiters.
- The victim presents signs of violence on her body such as stab wounds or burns.

## 5. BEHAVIOURAL ASPECTS

- The victim assumes different attitudes depending on the person she talks to; her behavior is not very collaborative, it may appear arrogant, at times she assumes an angry and violent reaction towards social workers, whilst she tends to be more composed and collaborative towards external people and institutional representatives. Sometimes a victim could have a very compliant and accommodating behaviour imposed by traffickers aimed at avoiding the attention from social workers.
- Because of the trauma she experienced, the victim shows either a sexual behavior which is too mature for her age or otherwise a total rejection of emotions and sex.
- Victims tend to interact with others to prove their strength, becoming at times aggressive.
- When interviewed, the victims tend to be very quiet, assume a defiant attitude or give pre-prepared answers.

THE PROFILES OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION		
NIGERIA	ALBANIA	ROMANIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls coming from poor family backgrounds in South Nigeria, Edo State or Delta State, with a very low level of education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls with very few personal and financial resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls who just reached the age of majority showing emotional and cognitive deficiencies.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls who are mostly orphans or with only one parent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are forced to prostitution by their boyfriends.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are often recruited right out of an orphanage, or just before to leave it, by their lover boy with the false promise to buy a house, even showing a payment transfer.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls who are forced to prostitution on the streets or indoors to pay the debt for the journey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are victims of extreme physical violence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The exploiter exercises a severe form of subjugation towards more vulnerable girls</li> </ul>

## • STORY OF ELENA •

Elena is a 20-year-old Nigerian who lives in a town in the North-East of Italy. She was welcomed as UAM in 2017 in one of the villages in the area; through another Nigerian person, Elena managed to get in contact with a trade union and asked for help; at the time she was living with a woman who forced her to become a prostitute.

Elena was born in Lagos, though her family was originally from Benin City. When she was three years old, her father died in a robbery so her mother decided to go and live in Benin City with Elena and her three brothers.

Her mother worked in the fields and Elena finished school dreaming of living in Europe.

One summer, a woman called Joy, who knew her mother, asked Elena if she wanted to go to Europe to work as babysitter.

She told Elena it was an easy job and she had a few contacts in France and Germany.

Joy spoke to Elena's mother, who at the beginning was quite reluctant, but in the end agreed for Elena to go. Before leaving, Joy took Elena to a native doctor who told her that if she didn't pay 35000 Euros needed for the journey, she would die.

Elena left Nigeria in 2016, with two other girls; she was told that in Europe she would be welcomed by a woman, whom she would work for, whilst the other girls would take different destinations.

The oldest of the three girls was given a mobile phone with a SIM card, on which she was sent instructions for the whole duration of the journey to Libya. Coach transfers were already paid, and two weeks later the girls arrived in Libya and they remained there for about two months.

In Libya they met a woman called Jennifer, who was paid by Joy to place the girls in various group centers in different locations, whilst they were waiting for the departure by boat.

In autumn Elena arrived in Italy, where she received medical assistance as she felt sick during the

journey. From that moment she lost contact with the other girls, who were assigned to different refugee centers. After undergoing photo identification procedures, Elena was transferred to another refugee center in the North West of Italy, where she called her mother and Joy to inform them of where she was and that she was safe.

She used another girl's mobile phone to make calls and after three days she received a call from Joy who told her to abandon the refugee camp to go to the train station where there was a man waiting for her. Elena did what she was told and met the man, who took her to the train station of a little town in the North East of Italy, where she met the woman Joy told her about.

This woman – who told Elena to call her “auntie”, although everybody used to call her “Mama Divine” – took Elena to the apartment where she lived with her two kids. For the first two weeks, Elena spent most of the time at home, except for going out for small shopping trips and always accompanied by that woman. When Elena asked her about the job, or why she was told that the job was in France or Germany and not in Italy, the woman didn't answer, mocked her, or got angry and told her to shut up.

After two weeks, the woman told Elena a man will come to the apartment to check her body out. Elena was scared, she didn't understand what the woman meant and told her she was still a virgin. The woman got very angry. One evening she took Elena to “a party” to see some people she knew. During the evening, one of the men forced Elena to have sex with him.

The next day the woman seemed nicer to Elena, she bought her clothes and took her to the hairdresser. She also gave Elena a mobile phone with a SIM card and told her some African men would call her to go out with her. Afterwards she told Elena she rented a room out for her at a friend's place, where



**Afterwards she told Elena she rented a room out for her at a friend's place, where she would meet the clients.**

she would meet the clients. Elena tried to refuse, but she had no alternatives and did as the woman said. She then moved to this friend's place, where every week she met "Mama Divine" to give her the money she earned.

When she noticed a less tight control of the woman over her, Elena refused the clients and stopped with prostitution for a while; when "Mama Divine" noticed what was happening, she told Elena to go back to live with her, and work directly at clients' homes.

Elena believed she gave the woman all she had, about 1000 Euros.

Only on one occasion, Elena kept a small sum for herself, 80 Euros, which she tried to send to her mother for her appendix operation.

The woman was also trying to send Elena away to another town for street prostitution; it seemed Elena's departure to this other town was imminent and so she tried to escape.

At an African shop, she met a Nigerian man to whom she told her story; she asked him for help before being sent away to another town and he put her in contact with a trade union, with which Elena started all the procedures for protection and integration.

## • THE JUJU RITUAL •

In Nigeria, women and girls are generally recruited by the Madame, who makes them false promises about future economic prospects, and made "prisoners" of the juju curse, invoked by a priest called native doctor.

The juju ritual is a form of oath: paid by smugglers, the native doctor asks the girl never to betray the people who are helping her with her journey. If she breaks the oath, her punishment will be death.

The girl swears that, once she is in Italy, she will pay off the debt incurred for the journey to Europe, not knowing that she will be exploited as a prostitute.

The girl accepts to be exploited because, during the juju ritual, the native doctor takes some parts of the girl's body (pubic or underarm hair, nails,

menstrual blood or intimate objects, often with traces of organic material), which will be taken to the temple where the juju ritual will take place.

The native doctor, swearing on her body's parts, subjugates the girl, threatening to reach her wherever she is if she breaks the oath.

Despite Oba Ewuare II, the King of Benin City (current Edo State, Nigeria) on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 having ordered native doctors of the Edo State to revoke all of the curses and oaths placed on victims of trafficking, officially condemning the juju ritual and persuading the girls to free themselves from their condition of subjugation, the juju ritual still represents one of the main issues when tackling the trafficking of Nigerian girls, especially if they

come from other States than Edo State.



**The juju ritual is a form of oath: paid by smugglers, the native doctor asks the girl never to betray the people who are helping her with her journey.**

# 5. PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

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## RISKS AND PROTECTION

The aim of the participation activity below is to make minors aware of the risks they may incur, and identify a series of actions to mitigate/contrast these risks.

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<b>Target audience:</b>	minors who allegedly may be at risk of labor or sexual exploitation.
<b>Purpose:</b>	to develop a correct knowledge of the risks of exploitation, and how minors can be protected from these risks.
<b>Facilitator:</b>	adequately prepared operators.
<b>Duration:</b>	60 min.
<b>Materials:</b>	posters, maps of risks and maps of protection, papers, marker pens, ball.

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### 1. WARM UP CIRCLE

Everybody (minors and operators) stands to form a circle, each one of the participants greets the others in two or more languages and everyone repeats the greeting.

Alternatively: the facilitator starts with stretching and muscle loosening exercises, demonstrating the directions of movement (forward, back, right, left). Everybody repeats the exercise.

### 2. PRESENTATION - EXPLANATION OF THE ACTIVITY

Minors will be informed about:

- Operators involved in the activity, who they are and what is their role in the activity
- What is the purpose of the activity (for example “today we will attempt to understand the types of risk you may incur and the best way to protect you as minors”)
- The “rules of the game” (how to participate, how to intervene, how to work as a team, which spaces and materials to be used, timelines). These rules can be easily written on a poster (in Italian or other languages) and possibly associated to a graphic sign (a drawing and/or a symbol)

### 3. ATTIVITÀ - LABORATORIO

Forms of protection from labor exploitation.

- Everybody writes the words “risks” and “protection” in two or more languages on two posters on the wall, and explains their meaning to the group.
- The participants are split into two or more teams (for example based on language they speak), and given “protection cards”, with an explanation of their meaning (for example: participation, being listened, work, school, medical assistance, wards, friends, home, lawyer, documents, community, asylum, contacting the family).

The operators sticks “risk cards” on the “risks” poster, and explain their meaning to the group (for example: being far away from the family, war, mistreatment, exploitation, foreign language, not being informed or listened to, racism, not being able to go to school or be cured). The teams sticks “protection cards” on the “protection” poster as a response associated to each risk, and provide a reason why they have chosen that particular protection option against that particular risk.

- The teams are given four white protection cards, onto which they can draw the form of protection they think is best suitable to that particular “risk card”, and explain why (for this purpose, the number of the risk cards is higher than the “protection cards”, so that the groups are more stimulated to create their own “custom-made” protection cards).
- The team who associates the highest number of protection cards to risk cards is the winner.
- All the cards have a drawing so that they are easy for the teams to understand; the meaning of each card is explained in two or more languages.
- The minors are told how the community (or the SPRAR/SIPROIMI center) will put these forms of protection into practice (for example: presence of a ward, a lawyer or a cultural mediator that will help the minor to better understand his/her situation and the best options to consider; the possibility to get in contact with the minor’s family, to live with a group of other minors, to receive documents and medical treatment in case of disease, to go to school, learn the language and receive an academic title, to be involved in a regular working activity with no risks of exploitation, to have friends inside and outside the community, to have time to play and have fun).
- A ball is thrown to a participant who will then ask a question. After that question has been answered, the person who asked the question throws the ball to another participant who will then ask another question, or make a statement, and so it continues.

#### **4. SHARING THE RESULTS**

The answers to all questions asked by minors, particularly with regards to their rights in the community or in the center, have to be clear and accurate.

#### **5. CLOSING**

Final remarks and applause.

# 6. PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

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## RISKS OF LABOR EXPLOITATION<sup>2</sup>

The aim of the participation activity below is to make minors fully aware of the risks related to labor exploitation they may incur.

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<b>Target Group:</b>	all the minors present in the facility.
<b>Purpose:</b>	to share with the minors all regulations contained in the Italian legislation regarding child labor and risks related to labor exploitation.
<b>Facilitator:</b>	adequately prepared operators.
<b>Duration:</b>	60 min.
<b>Materials:</b>	posters, pencils, marker pens, papers.

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### 1. WARM UP CIRCLE

Everybody (minors and operators) stands to form a circle, each one of the participants greets the others in two or more languages and everyone repeats the greeting.

### 2. PRESENTATION - EXPLANATION OF THE ACTIVITY

Minors are informed about:

- Operators involved, who they are and what is their role in the activity.
- What is the purpose of the activity (for example “today we will talk about plans for the future, work, how the Italian legislation works in Italy, and the risks one may incur when finding a job”).
- The “rules of the game” (how to participate, how to intervene, how to work in team, which spaces and materials to be used, timelines).  
These rules can be easily written on a poster (in Italian or other languages) and possibly associated to a graphic sign (a drawing and/or a symbol)

### 3. ACTIVITIES - WORKSHOP

Labor exploitation:

- Every facilitator gives a piece of paper to each participant (who can also use pencils, pens and marker pens), who will be asked to draw and/or write his/her dreams and desires for the future (how he or she sees him/herself in the future), and share them with the rest of the group. Each participant will be given some time to elaborate a representation and will be asked questions to stimulate their ideas (for example what they like to do and /or learn, how they see themselves in the future, what their dream was when they were little). Also the operators participating to the activity will do a representation.

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<sup>2</sup> *Partecipare si Può!* Volume 2. Strumenti e buone pratiche di partecipazione e ascolto dei minori migranti. (“Participation is possible” Volume 2. Tools and good practices to ensure that migrant children arriving in Italy are heard and are offered the chance to participate within society). Save the Children, 2019, pp. 64-65.

- Once all participants have finished, the facilitator invites them to share their work. The topics are: single experiences, legal system in Italy, if minors are allowed to work or not.
- After the participants share their work, the facilitator, having seen the content of their work, asks the participants about their experiences in their countries of origin; if they were involved in a working activity and which one, how much were their wages, how many hours per day they worked for, what jobs are available in their countries and at what age one is allowed to start working, what skills they acquired. The facilitator will write all the results on a poster. The facilitator has to stimulate dialogue, by valuing every participant's contribution and giving each of them the opportunity to express their opinion. If the facilitator thinks it is a better option, he or she can ask a general question to "an imaginary minor, same age as the minors of the group, living in the same country of origin".
- After gathering all the information, analyzing all the results on the posters, the facilitator, adopting a child friendly approach, will explain the legal system in Italy and compare the Italian situation with the experience of each minor in their countries of origin. Such comparisons will be developed with honesty and responsibility, highlighting conditions, requirements and rules for employment. At this stage, it is recommended to involve a legal consultant to provide the minors with guidelines and to answer their questions.
- The participants are split into small groups (max four people per group) who are asked to answer the question: "in your opinion, what does it mean to be exploited? What could be a good example of an exploited person?" The answers, shared by the whole group, are provided in writing or through drawings. Participants are given time to elaborate. Each group appoints a spokesperson to present elaborate answers/definitions; during this presentation, the facilitator sticks the concepts/words expressed by each group on a poster.
- After the spokesman of each group terminates the presentation, the facilitator shares (in one or more languages) a child friendly definition of labor exploitation with all the participants: "labor exploitation means working without a contract and therefore not being able to ask to be paid, the work may be dangerous for the health and safety of the employee, too many working hours and with no rest". It is important to underline that the minor can be subject to labor exploitation even if he or she experiences just one of the experiences mentioned above. Afterwards, the facilitator compares the content of the definition of labor exploitation with the actual answers the groups have written or drawn, highlighting differences and points in common.
- Participants are given some time to ask questions.

#### **4. SHARING THE RESULTS**

All the answers to all questions asked by minors, particularly with regards to Italian laws related to child labor have to be clear and accurate.

It is recommended to terminate the activity with a key message such as: "when in need to work, one doesn't have to think about potential risks and dangers. It is important to be aware of employment rights and regulations, to think before accepting a proposal in order not to end up in a situation of exploitation".

#### **5. CLOSING**

Final greetings, communications of next appointment and final applause.



At Save the Children, we want every child to have a future. We work every day with passion, determination and professionalism in Italy and around the world to give children the opportunity to be born and grow up healthy, receive an education and be protected.

When an emergency breaks out, we are among the first to arrive and the last to leave.

We work with local realities and partners to create a network that helps us to meet the needs of children, guarantee their rights and listen to their voice.

We concretely improve the lives of millions of children, including those most difficult to reach.

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