

LA STRADA | DIRECT ASSISTANCE 

Child Assistance Team (CAT)

Half-year factsheet

January – June, 2026

The Child Assistance Team (CAT) is a specialised service established in 2010 within the Children's Programme of the International Centre "La Strada". The team consists of a lawyer and several psychologists who provide assistance to child victims and witnesses of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation throughout criminal proceedings.

► Our mission

The mission of the team is to ensure the protection of the rights and best interests of the child throughout the entire criminal justice process, with the aim of preventing re-victimisation and promoting the effective application of restorative justice principles.

► Our expertise

Any form of sexual violence against children, manifested through sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, falls within our scope of activity. The use of information technologies as a means of recruitment, grooming, commission of abuse or exploitation constitutes the defining element of our specialisation. We provide legal and psychological assistance to child victims or witnesses of sexual offences.

► Guiding principles



THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

Every intervention is focused on safeguarding the child's well-being and rights.



CONFIDENTIALITY AND SAFETY

We protect the child's identity and ensure a safe environment throughout the intervention process.



PREVENTION OF RE-VICTIMISATION

We minimise the child's exposure to experiences that may intensify trauma.



CHILD PARTICIPATION

We encourage the child's participation in decisions affecting them, in a manner adapted to their age and level of understanding.



MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERVENTION

We combine legal and psychological expertise to provide an integrated and effective response.



**REPORT A CASE OF
ONLINE CHILD
SEXUAL ABUSE**



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Services provided



**LEGAL AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSISTANCE**



**TRAININGS
FOR
PROFESSIONALS**



**HEARING
UNDER SPECIAL
CONDITIONS**



**REFERRAL TO
OTHER SPECIALISED
SERVICES**



**SPECIALISED
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT**



**CHILD-FRIENDLY
INTERVIEWS IN
SAFE CONDITIONS**



WHO CAN REQUEST THE INTERVENTION OF THE CHILD ASSISTANCE TEAM?

- ✓ criminal investigation bodies;
- ✓ courts of law;
- ✓ specialists within the child protection system;
- ✓ parents or relatives;
- ✓ professionals in education, healthcare and social assistance;
- ✓ other institutions involved in child protection.



95

cases assisted by
Child Assistance Team



50 din 95

newly registered
cases in 2026



45 din 95

cases continuing
from previous years

Key results

33

victims of offences against
sexual life;

12

victims of child trafficking
offences;

5

victims of online sexual
exploitation offences;

1 din 3

of cases involved the use of technology
in the commission of sexual offences.

Age of beneficiaries

► **50** of new cases assisted during the period January–June, 2026

7–8 years	3
9–10 years	4
11–12 years	4
13–14 years	17
15–16 years	19

Geographical distribution/cases



► **central region** **43**

► **south region** **7**



41
female
beneficiaries



9
male
beneficiaries

► 50 of cases



99
participations in
court hearings



76
psychological
interventions



41
hearings conducted
under special conditions



18
specialised psychological
assessment reports



11
civil actions, two of which
were admitted by the court



11
psychologist's
testimony in court



2
convictions (prison sentences
of 13 and 20 years)



65
psychological counseling for child
victims and their representatives.

Feedback



I felt heard and safe when I spoke with you (the psychologist). Now it is easier for me to talk about what I went through, even though it was a disaster for me.

Child, 16 years old



I felt that we were not alone. The professionalism and support that we received from you made an important difference for our family, and especially for my daughter.

Parent, 52 years old



The collaboration with the team was very good. The communication and prompt involvement of the specialists contributed to protecting the best interests of the child and to the efficient implementation of the procedures.

Criminal investigation officer, 35 years old



Challenges identified

- ▶ **Delays in judicial proceedings** – repeated postponements of hearings prolong the child's exposure to the criminal justice process and delay access to justice and protective measures.
- ▶ **Challenges in investigating crimes committed online** – the collection of digital evidence and the identification of perpetrators remain difficult, in the context of the use of social networks and messaging applications.
- ▶ **Insufficiently adapted protection throughout the proceedings** – the lack of clear mechanisms for victims who reach adulthood during the criminal proceedings affects the continuity of protection and assistance.

[About us](#)[Our work](#)[Contact us](#)

Reach out to us!

We are always available to provide you with the assistance you need.

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Help is always close at hand.
Free, safe, anonymous, and confidential!

We would like to thank the partners who supported the activities of the Child Assistance Team (CAT) in this semester!

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



PROCURATURA
REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



Child Assistance Team (CAT)

Service provided by the International Center 'La Strada'.