

Abstract Details

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The project of ‘Strengthening capacity and skills of professionals on judicial interview’ in Turkey

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Children who are in contact with the legal system due to being a victim or witness of a crime may be secondarily victimized by the complicated and harsh approach of the legal system. According to the Turkish legislation, the principle of the best interest of the child has been adopted for all procedures regarding the children. The most recent development in this area is the establishment of judiciary interview rooms with a sound legal framework and in a way to prioritize children. In order to benefit from these interview rooms effectively, a sufficient number of qualified interviewers should be available. Therefore “Strengthening Capacity and Skills of Professionals on Judicial Interview” project was started.

Objectives: to build necessary grounds for high quality implementation of the judicial interview rooms and to bring the procedures in line with the rights and well-being of children, women and other concerned vulnerable groups. The specific objectives were:

1. Enhance knowledge and skills on specific interview skills of the experts in justice system,
2. Develop training manuals and guidelines for various professionals (i.e. experts, judges, prosecutors and lawyers).
3. Creating an M&E and a supervision framework for quality assurance.
4. Raising awareness among the professional and local communities concerning the judicial interview.

Results

Capacity and fundamental skills of the court experts were increased and monitoring and supervision tools were made available. In order to operationalize supervision, a group of court experts took an additional supervisory training.

Conclusion:

This training clearly reaffirmed the fact that, to ensure better and full use of these rooms in practice, the judges and prosecutors should also receive a special training. The experience has confirmed the importance of safeguarding the multi-sectoral approach by training “heterogeneous” groups including different professionals. A group of court experts participated in the training together with the judges and prosecutors.

Keywords:

judicial interview,
training,
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