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## **“Promotion of Modern concepts in the administration of Juvenile Justice in Armenia” PRI Project activity update June – August 2011**

PRI is currently implementing a project in Armenia entitled “Promotion of Modern concepts in the administration of Juvenile Justice in Armenia.” This is a short update on recent activities undertaken within the framework of the project.

### **PRI training event:**

Between 13 – 15 August a three-day training course was conducted for child protection specialists on “Juvenile justice: problems and gaps” which took place on 13-15 August, in Tsakhkadzor, Kotayq Marz a small town approximately 40km from Yerevan. The aim of the training was to contribute to capacity building for participants working with the children in conflict with law. The training used a range of interactive learning tools including role plays, group discussions and use of video materials.

### **Activity Day for children of the Vardashen Special Education Complex No. 1**

PRI assisted in the organisation of an activity day in Tsakhkadzor Resort to provide social and reintegration support for children of Special Educational Complex No 1 (Vardashen) society. Overall 75 people participated in the social event including children and teachers. The children visited the church in Tsakhkadzor where the priest introduced them the history of the church and gave a blessing. A number of social contests (sport, dance & song) were organized for the children and the winners were awarded prizes for their encouragement. The day was enjoyed by all and students reflected that “I have never had such feeling ... It is great when you’re respected...” and “For the first time in my life someone trusted me and believed that I won’t escape...” “Today I could forget that I’m the student of Vardashen School...”

### **The PRI/FAR “Best for our Children” Activity Day**

PRI are implementing this project with partner organisation FAR Children’s Support Centre who jointly organised an awareness raising campaign on Juvenile Justice issues in June 2011. “The best for our children” day took place in “Victory” park in Yerevan. The park was decorated with posters and banners about children’s rights and hundreds participated in an afternoon of concerts and children’s games. Informational leaflets were disseminated among the participants of the event aiming to raise awareness about the children’s rights including juvenile justice issues.

### **Information about the Project**

The overall objective of the project is to promote better understanding and greater practical application of modern concepts in the administration of Juvenile Justice in

Armenia. Specific objectives include awareness raising about children's rights in general and promote legislative reform to ensure conformity of national laws with international norms and standards concerning the juvenile justice concept; The creation of legal framework for the application of international standards on juvenile justice and strengthening the role of civil society in the area of juvenile justice through the provision of rehabilitation services in Armenia. The project is implemented with support of UNICEF.