PROIECȚII TEHNO-SOCIO-CULTURALE ALE FENOMENULUI CRIZEI UMANITARE ÎN CONTEMPORANEITATE

TECHNO-SOCIAL-CULTURAL PROJECTIONS OF THE PHENOMENON OF HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN CONTEMPORARY

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Rezumat. *O criză umanitară este o situație de urgență generalizată care afectează o întreagă comunitate sau un grup de oameni dintr-o regiune, care implică niveluri ridicate de mortalitate sau malnutriție, de răspândirea a bolilor și a epidemiilor etc. În general, criza umanitară derivă din probleme deja identificate într-o societate, cum ar fi inegalitatea constantă, sărăcia, lipsa serviciilor de bază, ș.a. Mișcările interne și transfrontaliere la scară largă cauzate de crize creează, de asemenea, populații vulnerabile care pot deveni victime ale traficului.* ***Scopul*** *studiului este analiza fenomenului crizei umanitare prin perspectiva factorilor sociali și culturali ai unei comunități. În această cercetare este utilizată metoda analizei de conținut prin intermediul căreia se va clarifica situația umanitară în contemporaneitate.*

Cuvinte-cheie: *criza umanitară, factori sociale și culturali, traficul de ființe umane, migrație, refugiu.*

Summary. *A humanitarian crisis is a generalized emergency affecting an entire community or group of people in a region, involving high levels of mortality or malnutrition, the spread of disease and epidemics etc. In general, the humanitarian crisis derives from problems already identified in a society, such as persistent inequality, poverty, lack of basic services, etc. Large-scale internal and cross-border movements caused by crises also create vulnerable populations that can become victims of trafficking.* ***The aim*** *of the study is to analyze the phenomenon of the humanitarian crisis through the perspective of the social and cultural factors of a community. In this research, the method of content analysis is used, through which the humanitarian situation in the contemporary world will be clarified.*

Keywords*: humanitarian crisis, social and cultural factors, human trafficking, migration, refuge.*

INTRODUCTION

A humanitarian crisis is an urgent situation that affects a community or a specific group of people in a specific space. The given phenomenon implies a high level of mortality, malnutrition, the spread of diseases, epidemics and urgent forms of health. One

of the recent and most disastrous situations was COVID-19. The crisis created by this pandemic has led to the isolation of vulnerable spaces and their deprivation of humanitarian aid. Of course, other disasters would be armed conflicts leading to climate change and natural calamities.

OCHA[1] in 2019 he warned in a statement about the increase in the number of people around the world who will need humanitarian aid due to protracted conflicts, failed economies etc. „The ravages caused by the coronavirus around the world were not slow to be noticed and soon began to exacerbate humanitarian crises” [1].

Humanitarian aid is material and logistical assistance, in most cases short-term, provided to vulnerable people, such as homeless people, refugees, victims of famine, natural disasters and wars. The EU provides humanitarian aid to all persons affected by the situations listed above based on international humanitarian principles [2] as set out by the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid [3].

In the situation of humanitarian crisis, it is essential to provide humanitarian aid to respond to the needs of vulnerable people. Humanitarian aid takes many forms, such as food aid, medical assistance, infrastructure reconstruction, technical aid or emphasizing cultural elements. Today, the main goal of most international organizations is to reduce the number of vulnerable people in order to enhance the development of a community. Humanitarian aid must also protect fundamental rights by defending and supporting the vulnerable person.

There is a growing body of evidence demonstrating that the humanitarian crises listed above can lead to an increase in human trafficking. Humanitarian crises not only intensify existing human trafficking trends, but can also lead to new forms of trafficking. Trafficking in human beings can occur both within and outside of crisis-affected areas.

A number of factors make people more vulnerable to trafficking in crisis situations, including: large-scale human, material and economic losses; the vulnerability of families and communities to provide for their basic needs; limited options to seek national or international protection safely and regularly; the erosion of the rule of law and the breakdown of social safety nets and other social protection systems. More recently, two other factors have appeared, namely the technological aspect through which people can be manipulated and the cultural aspect which through tradition, rules and norms make people more vulnerable.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Two methods are used in this study namely content *analysis method* and *social documentation method.* In the first case, the qualitative nature of the content analysis method gave us an overview of the phenomenon of the humanitarian crisis and human trafficking. An important aspect was the analysis of the reports made by the representati-

[1] OCHA - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

ves *La Strada,* such as *Mapping existing services in the Republic of Moldova for people displaced from Ukraine. Identifying the risks of exploitation and human trafficking* [4] and *The evaluation report of the National Strategy to prevent and combat human trafficking for the years 2018-2023* [5]. Both reports explain the terms *human trafficking*, the *vulnerability of displaced persons* etc.; national strategies to combat human trafficking are analyzed.

In the second case, the social documentation method provides details about the researched topic and which can be found in the form of bibliographic sources at the end of this article. In contemporary society, the process of collecting data on certain phenomena, such as humanitarian crisis, humanitarian aid and human trafficking, matters.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, social and cultural projections are analyzed in the contemporary world with reference to the phenomenon of the humanitarian crisis and in particular the phenomenon of human trafficking. The research also involves identifying the role of information technologies and AI in preventing the phenomenon of humanitarian crisis and human trafficking.

As we noted earlier, there are a number of factors that can cause a humanitarian crisis: political unrest, environmental causes, medical emergencies, migration, hunger and malnutrition, lack of basic services, etc. OCHA defines humanitarian aid as a set of actions undertaken to provide assistance, protection and defense to people affected by a disaster and affecting their lives. Therefore, humanitarian aid efforts are aimed at protecting human life, alleviating suffering, providing decent conditions and guaranteeing access to basic services such as food, water and shelter.

As I said before, one consequence of the humanitarian crisis is human trafficking. Trafficking in persons is a serious violation of human rights and a serious crime under international law and the national law of most countries. Through deception, coercion, physical or psychological threats or abuse of their position of vulnerability, victims of human trafficking can be exploited in various forms, including through forced labour, begging, organ harvesting, sexual exploitation, or forced marriage.

In the Republic of Moldova, the Law on preventing and combating human trafficking no. 241 of 2005 defines *human trafficking* as „recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving persons, by threat of force or by the use of force or other means of coercion, by kidnapping, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerable situation or by giving or receiving money or benefits of any kind to obtain the consent of a person in control of another person for the purpose of exploiting that person" [6].

In a statement *La Strada* vorbește about the obligations assumed by the Republic of Moldova regarding the prevention and combating of human trafficking "by signing and ratifying the acts of international and regional law in this field, such as the Protocol on the Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Human Trafficking, in particular of

women and children (Palermo Protocol) additional to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Council of Europe Convention on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" [7].

Another cause that sometimes leads to human trafficking are cultural factors (individual, relational, community and societal). UNICEF in 2021 defined culture as "a collection of ideas, social behavior and customs of certain people or society" [8]. Often traditional practices are among the causes of trafficking in both women and men. The way we perceive a situation, how we communicate with others, how we interact with the environment is also influenced by human cultural values. Vulnerable people come from different cultural contexts and it is not only related to economic vulnerability but also to the circumstances in which the person finds themselves.

CONCLUSIONS

A humanitarian crisis is preceded by a series of events that lead to an imbalance in the well-being of a person or a community. The humanitarian crisis requires a local, national and international response. Humanitarian crises are caused by various factors outlined in this article, but each humanitarian crisis requires a unique response targeted at the affected spaces or communities. Damages, in the given situation, are short-term or long-term. Examples given of humanitarian crises can also lead to a refugee crisis or human trafficking.

The impact of the humanitarian crisis is of a different nature, from the changing status of women, the crisis of the socio-economic reality, to the ecological and environmental crisis. Of course, they expect a solution or solutions when a humanitarian crisis arises. However, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. In most cases, the main cause is related to other factors and then a brainstorming of solutions is proposed.

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