



Extracts of Presentations and Recommendations for Anti-trafficking work in the **FIERI QARK** from the 2006 CAAHT Annual Conference Report

This document extracts key data for Fieri Qark from the report of the **2006 Annual Conference of the USAID program *The Albanian Initiative: Coordinated Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT)***. Information includes highlights from presentations and working groups regarding good practices and ideas for anti-trafficking programs and activities implemented by governmental structures and civil society actors. The full conference report is available in PDF format on the CAAHT website: www.caaht.com.

Recent developments in the work of the Regional Committee in the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings

Fieri—Prefect's Office (Technical Secretariat) — Mr. Luan Muçaj
(2006 AC Report, page 37)

Highlights of the presentation

- Since its creation, the Technical Table has achieved results in the following areas:
 - identifying problems about the collection and dissemination of data;
 - identifying, referring and solving concrete cases of trafficking;
 - presenting problems that require specific action to be undertaken to prevent trafficking and to protect families, groups, persons, and families at actual and potential risk of trafficking; and
 - monitoring the implementation of local anti-trafficking duties.
- The State Social Service has provided information about the trafficking of children, especially for those communities with a high population of Roma people.
- The Anti-trafficking Police office has worked in the prevention as well as investigation of criminal activities and detention of suspected criminals. They cooperated in the “Clean Sea” anti-trafficking operation which resulted in four criminal proceedings against cases of trafficking in humans that the Prosecutor’s office is handling.
- The Regional Employment Office, a member of the Committee, has implemented an employment program for about 120 unemployed persons, including those at risk.
- NGOs have played an important role by providing valuable information, statistics, and experience in prevention and assistance, including the Murialdo Social Center, Terre des Hommes, DEA Association, and the Hearth Psycho-social Center.

- The Regional Committee and Technical Table are implementing a full program in cooperation with the above-mentioned NGOs by focusing their concrete work in determining the required actions to solve the primary problems at the prefecture level and implementing the National Anti-trafficking Strategy.

Highlights of the discussion

- The Roma communities are grouped in the communes of Levan and Mbrestar. The difference stands in the fact that these communities are physically concentrated. Good reintegration work was made in Levan, where the children are attending school. Only the families that did not receive back their land properties, according to the Law. No. 7501, have more economic problems; therefore, these families face the risk of trafficking. Also, in a number of Roma communities, the Roma civil society has been active in fixing the infrastructure of the communities.
- Priority for employment was given to about 120 persons representing at-risk groups including: divorced women, young girls, widowed mothers with children, and trafficked girls.
- Begging is noticed among the Roma families mainly where there are cases of tutors that exploit the children. Giving money directly to beggars should not be encouraged. Instead, awareness should be raised about how giving money to NGOs that provide educational sessions and vocational courses for these problematic communities would be better.
- Problems shared in other tables are similar to those expressed in the Fieri table. One common problem is that the law for compulsory school attendance needs to be updated and adapted to the new socio-economic reality. There used to be a register of fines, which has been removed now. Nationally, 7% of the children have abandoned the school of which 6% are from the Roma community.
- Coordination between police and Education Directorates should be stressed in the work plan of the Regional Committee.
- Registration of the Roma children: we should enter into their mentality, to understand how to intervene in solving the problems this community faces. Awareness among this community on the education/schooling of children should be raised.
- The model of the Women in Development project in Shkodra for training of trainers should be applied in Fieri as well.

CAAHT Grantee Presentations

Vocational training and job placement as tools to prevent trafficking of young women and children — Fr. Carmelo Prestipino, *Murialdo Social Center* (2006 AC Report, page 21)

Highlights of the presentation

- The center works mainly with 14- to 25-year-olds by providing three-, six-, nine-month and two-year long vocational courses for auto mechanics, carpenters, electricians, office assistants, translators, etc.
- The center provides a youth center for cultural and sports activities.

- The center is both regional and national with work that focuses on the Roma community and on providing literacy courses. In cooperation with the Regional Education Directorate, a strategy for education has been devised and applied. Schooling was provided, and anti-trafficking topics were addressed with the students. Work was conducted with about 40 children and youth who had dropped out of school which resulted in 25 returning to school.
- The project equips the youth with skills that they can apply in their country so they don't feel driven to leave the country and fall prey to trafficking. The youth have a desire for vocational training, and this gives a push to the projects. Their needs and desires are taken into consideration and an individual project is developed based on them.
- The Roma children and young girls seem to be more at risk. Therefore, 20 Roma girls took tailoring courses, and 70% of them are attending the second year of the course.
- The primary project challenges were with school abandonment legislation and that not all of the employers wanted employees from the Roma community.
- The Center has a list of 100 employers where the youth intern from 8:30 to 14:30. After this, they come to the center for courses until 17:00. The center monitors the employers, and the interns can obtain full employment after completing the courses. During the recent project, 60% of 49 youth had employment after the MOLSAEO trained and certified them.
- The value of the project is that the youth feel their life and family situation has improved and that the circle of beneficiaries got bigger through the support of CAAHT.

Highlights of the discussion

- MOLSAEO and the donor organization monitor the project's funds.
- The Regional Education Directorate made it possible to identify and register the Roma children.
- Youth obtain jobs after turning 16 and upon completing the professional courses.
- There are no economic benefits for the employer currently. They are motivated by the desire to develop a new generation.
- A member from PSHM (Albanian Partners in Micro-Credit) noted that he has observed two women who took office assistant courses at Murialdo who are now performing very professionally in their jobs.
- Both private and state enterprises have cooperated closely.
- Roma teachers are preserving the positive values of their tradition so as not to lose them in school/training.
- The regional Employment Office handles employment.
- Participants wanted to share information and contacts with the Center.

Awareness raising and skills building with Roma girls and women

— Ms. Maringlena Meminaj, *Vatra Psycho-Social Center*
(2006 AC Report, page 19)

Highlights of the presentation

- According to Vatra's data, about 50% of women and girls trafficked for prostitution purposes were from the Roma community.
- The problems of working with the Roma community include their high illiteracy levels, unregistered children, massive unemployment, young marriages, trafficking and exploitation of children for begging, and exploitation of women and girls for prostitution.
- Intervention should take into consideration characteristics of Roma community.
- The main objectives of Vatra's intervention include sensitizing Roma youth and the general community about the dangers of human trafficking; identifying families affected by trafficking; working with the local government to present identified problems, and helping find solutions.
- Different activities help solve these problems: education for high school youth, education for women, community seminars, and other activities, including TV programs, information dissemination, etc.
- Eight women and girls participated in vocational courses and received medical, legal and psychosocial assistance.

Highlights of the discussion

- Employment of Roma women and girls is important: it helps specific cases but also serves as a model for others.
- There is need for cooperation with the employment offices.
- Those who have received vocational training can work in the areas from which they come and in large cities.
- The mentality of Roma communities combines with the difficulties originating from the stereotypes of other people about Roma people.
- The high level of illiteracy is a major obstacle for training and education in Roma communities. We must find the best approaches, especially through simplification.
- It is difficult to contact and identify potential beneficiaries. The government must do something about their registration.
- There are also other difficulties including cases where the Roma people sell or misuse equipment that the government gives them.
- It is important to know how the Roma communities function: certain individuals dominate them, mobility is difficult, and there are differences between Roma communities.
- Numerous Roma associations — often organized based on tribes — make it difficult to implement projects. Vatra has cooperated with Amaro Drom.

House to house awareness raising to reach vulnerable communities and individuals — Ms. Miranda Fishka, *Institute for Gender Applied Policies* (2006 AC Report, page 12)

Highlights of the presentation

- We implemented this project in the rural areas of Lezhe, Mirdite, Prenjas, Lushnje and Devoll.
- The target group is 12 to 16-year-old girls.
- Its services included awareness raising, prevention, advising and informing.
- The methodology included situation analysis, data analysis, determining intervention areas, training animators, home visits, and distributing information.
- In the areas where the project was implemented, partners included village elderly, the Education Directorate, Social Department, and the police.

Highlights of the discussion

- We focused on the mentioned areas because of their specific needs. There are other at-risk areas—the city of Pogradec and districts of Devoll and Shkodra.
- It is important to establish partnerships with different stakeholders—village elderly, Education Directorates, and the Social Department—for the successful implementation of such projects.
- There were initial difficulties with home visits because of different social and infrastructure problems.
- The contribution of teachers for the implementation of such projects is very important.
- It is important to measure success/results of such projects.

Identifying Actions in Qark Groups

Qarqe: Vlora and Fieri

(2006 AC Report, page 50)

Five chosen actions:

1. Lobbying the NGOs for mediation and enhancement of a legal framework.
2. Creating awareness campaigns and activities to prevent and fight corruption in the anti-trafficking framework.
3. Organizing educational sessions and awareness to sensitize communities about the prejudices and stigmas for trafficking victims.
4. Increase training for professionals dealing in anti-trafficking issues, especially for police, and ensure stability in their positions (to avoid frequent replacements of trained and experienced staff). This should be done by the responsible institutions and organizations of the field.
5. Offering scholarships from state institutions and NGOs for potential victims of trafficking who are from poor families and cannot afford school.

All actions from Qark Discussions

Qark Group: Vlora and Fieri

(2006 AC Report, page 71)

All actions

- To be implemented in continuity the anti-trafficking initiatives that are already undertaken.
- Vocational training for potential victims and life skills lessons
- Awareness campaigns for the youth on the negative consequences of trafficking.
- To eliminate corruption in courts.
- Sustainability and continuity of prevention projects.
- Legal enhancement.
- Avoid prejudices to victims of trafficking
- The earned experience at this conference has to be extended at the regional level, in all municipalities.
- Lobby of the NGO-s for mediation and enhancement of legal framework.
- Awareness campaigns and activities in order to prevent and fight corruption (in the anti-trafficking framework).
- Educational sessions and awareness to sensitize community for the prejudices and stigma existing for the victims of trafficking.
- More training for the professionals who are dealing in anti-trafficking issues (especially Police officers) and their carrier proceeding. (this should be done by responsible institutions and organizations of the field)
- Offering from state institutions and NGO-s scholarships for potential victims of trafficking that are part of pore families that can not afford schooling of their children.

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5. Offering scholarships from state institutions and NGOs for potential victims of trafficking who are from poor families and cannot afford school.