



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

This document extracts key data for Kukësi 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

Kukes—Prefect's Office (Technical Secretariat) — Mr. Azem Tema
(2006 AC Report, page 38)

Highlights of the presentation

- The Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees ensures the involvement of all government mechanisms, coordination of their actions, and awareness raising for the entire community about combating trafficking of human beings.
- In the *qark* level Action Plan approved, there are clear tasks, defined in precise terms, for government institutions and NGOs, accordingly. Part of this action plan was to set up the Technical Desk with NGOs operating in anti-trafficking.
- An important achievement of the Anti-Trafficking Committee is preparation of its bylaws and the bylaws for organizing and the functioning of the Committee and Technical Desk.
- The *qark* of Kukes is a major transit location for trafficking of human beings into Western Europe via Albania-Kosovo-Serbia and Albania-Montenegro-Slovenia-Italy. In this framework, the cooperation of *qark* with relevant authorities is in an international context.
- In the course of carrying out its activities, the Regional Anti-Trafficking Committee is closely collaborating with Regional Social Service, Regional Employment Office, Victims of Mine Association and other NGOs.

Highlights of the discussion

- The Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees are very useful organizations, but they cannot be considered as the “saviours” of the situations. Their content must be improved especially in the field of capacity building. Nevertheless their role is more coordinating; therefore they mustn't be overloaded with operational tasks that can be carried out with more efficiency by other actors.

- The exchange of experiences between such committees is very important and must be done on regular bases; therefore more attention has to be paid to networking.
- It is still early to judge about the performance of such committees, because the first phase is negotiating with other institutions, establishing collaborations, etc.
- So far, the technical desks have made detailed needs assessments of the committees, which have been presented to the government. If the government will not respond to the assessed needs, the efficiency of the committees will be in jeopardy.
- The Anti-Trafficking Committees must report annually to demonstrate commitment to performing their work.

Objectives and current activities of the municipality child protection structures

Kukes Municipality Child Protection Unit — Ms. Klodiana Pacara (2006 AC Report, page 40)

Highlights of the presentation

- The Kukes Municipality Child Protection Unit, (referred to hereafter as the Office) is attached to the Municipality of Kukes and offers preventative and protective measures for children at risk.
- The Office offers its services through organizing public debates at schools, preparing and disseminating public awareness materials (for example, flyers, posters, banners) to identify children at risk, provide psycho-social services to the marginalized people, and to draft action plans for case intervention.
- To provide such services, the Office, in conjunction with other institutions, has set up several structures, including a multidisciplinary group for case management and a Steering Committee that advocates and lobbies for protecting children's rights.
- To ensure the implementation of above mentioned services with high quality, the Office has developed training activities for local government officers and other sector representatives that increase their capacities for child protection.

Highlights of the discussion

- So far, the interest of the community towards children has been very low and less attention has been paid to the children's problems. This project has increased the sensitivity of parents and other community members to children's rights, which somehow has been neglected so far.
- Another important benefit of this project is that outstanding issues and problematic cases are treated directly by the Office, rather than leaving them to be addressed spontaneously.
- The identification of precise responsibilities and accountabilities is key to avoiding the overlap between Child Protection Units and Regional Anti-trafficking Committees.
- The precise identification of target groups is another important problem, the accuracy of which represents a key factor in combating trafficking of human

beings. Therefore, drafting of accurate methodology in this regard is a guarantee for the efficiency of the project.

CAAHT Grantee Presentations

Building capacity of local government structures to provide effective prevention and protection services for women at risk — Ms. Enkelejda Cenaj, VMA-Kukes
(2006 AC Report, page 20)

Highlights of the presentation

- This project enabled local structures to improve and fully take over social services regarding trafficking issues. VMA Kukes worked closely with government officials to achieve this.
- VMA advised commune-level social administrators and health officials about their roles and responsibilities, and trained them how to provide social services to their communities within the framework of the National Strategy for Social Services. This included learning techniques and methodologies for case identification and tracking.
- VMA, in cooperation with the Department of National Social Services of Kukes, trained and assisted local structures to enable them to design job descriptions and terms of reference for social administrators of targeted communes.
- A Steering Committee and networking between targeted communities were established based on the example of municipality. This has evolved into the Prefect-led Regional Committee in the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings.
- A referral mechanism for all communities was established to help community social administrators address the issues of trafficking in an effective manner.
- They helped local communities establish anti-trafficking action plans, based on the National Action Plan.
- They created training with student governments and front line workers (social administrators, police inspectors, teachers, etc.) to help targeted groups organize awareness raising activities in their own communities.

Highlights of the discussion

- In different regions, some NGOs deal with anti-trafficking issues, and government structures have difficulty identifying those which might help them in the work of the Regional Anti-trafficking Committee.
- Donor organizations should coordinate better how to identify these gaps to ensure better geographical distribution of funds and projects.
- Government and non-government structures should cooperate to identify areas of intervention and to develop projects that contribute to the joint anti-trafficking efforts in each *qark*.
- CAAHT or other donors should lobby with central government structures to ensure that standards developed by government agencies reflect good practices identified during project implementation.

- It is important to develop training modules for capacity building of the government structures involved in the anti-trafficking efforts in the *qarqe*.

Mediation and conflict resolution techniques to decrease stigmatization and improve reintegration of victims of trafficking — Mr. Oltion Kadaifciu, *Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution*
(2006 AC Report, page 18)

Highlights of the presentation

- AFCR conducted a project to increase conflict resolution, reconciliation, and mediation for civil society organizations and local government institutions involved in anti-trafficking. Moreover, AFCR local offices deal concretely with mediation of existing conflict cases, focusing on mediation between victim and family. The most important step towards reintegration in the society is the reconciliation with the family and being accepted and not stigmatized. This process will, in the long run, decrease the stigma towards the victims and will make society more accepting of such human suffering.
- Project objectives to improve the reintegration included:
 - Increase the capacity of these structures to deal better with conflict cases between family and victims of trafficking.
 - Increase the training capacities of the involved actors by creating a sustainable structure.
 - Offer reconciliation and mediation for concrete cases between victim and family or other parties.
- Using appropriate survey and research techniques, they developed two manuals and corresponding training modules that demonstrated how to apply basic conflict resolution and mediation skills in cases related to vulnerability to trafficking and reintegration of victims of trafficking. Training participants considered the content and form of the produced manuals as good quality.

Highlights of the discussion

- Participants wanted to know about the concrete mediation of the cases and the techniques used. The AFCR representative described several specific cases from the organization such as victim-family conflict, or family-family conflict. Some of the conflicts that he reported to the group were resolved, some were in process, and some have not been able to be resolved.
- The AFCR representative gave participants additional information about the collaboration with and help provided by other organizations for the identification of the cases assisted by AFCR. He noted that they have had a good collaboration with anti-trafficking police officers, who have become one of AFCR's primary referral sources.
- Participants wanted information about specific conflicts and their solutions. These kind of specific cases of conflicts were explained to the group during presentation. The participants discussed particularly about this issue because they wanted to suggest some more ideas about solutions.

School-based prevention activities — Ms. Aida Orgocka, *Christian Children's Fund, Albania*
(2006 AC Report, page 23)

Highlights of the presentation

- The project *Addressing the unattended migration of children through the initiatives of local groups of interests* encouraged communities to discourage the illegal migration of children in and out of Albania. The project was implemented in several villages of Kukes, Has and Tropoja regions in cooperation with Parents Associations in Kukes and Has, the Youth Forum of Diber and New York University in Tirana.
- The main objectives of the projects included:
 - Increasing the collaboration between schools and the community.
 - Increasing the impact of teachers and administrators on child trafficking.
 - Conducting information and education campaigns in schools.
- The organization of groups of interest allowed for collection of data about children at risk, who was taking care of them, and whether or not they were enrolled in schools or other institutions.
- Because of project implementation in the villages of Shishtavec, Gjinaj, Pac, etc., there have been many successes.
- An awareness raising campaign distributed 1,500 flyers and 150 posters with anti-trafficking messages.

Highlights of the discussion

Question: What made you successful in the project implementation?

Answer: The particularity of this project was the very special target audience to whom it was addressed. This audience had never been exposed to such initiatives in the past. Beside this, the involvement of representatives for various interest groups (teachers, parents, outstanding figures of the community) and their high level of voluntarism contributed significantly to the success of the project.

The involvement of other relevant government authorities (the police departments, prosecutors and judges) was also important to the success of the initiative.

Trafficking of children is a business. For the families at risk, the sensitizing component is not sufficient to prevent trafficking of their children; raising awareness must be done in conjunction with economic, financial and education assistance to help sustain anti-trafficking in the future.

For the successful implementation of such a project, it is very important to know the inside spiritual world children, their wishes and their concerns.

Setting up special anti-trafficking structures within the local government is an important instrument to combat human trafficking. Awareness raising activities must address all the actors involved, from local government and civil society.

Identifying Actions in Qark Groups

Qarqe: Diber and Kukes

(2006 AC Report, page 48)

Five chosen actions:

1. Improve legal framework and standards.
2. Raise awareness in schools and for the general public.
3. Improve cooperation and coordination between government structures and NGOs to improve and ensure full provision of services to victims and those in need.
4. Increase government commitment through allocation of relevant financial resources, especially to the government institutions represented in the Regional Anti-trafficking Committees.
5. Increase participation from the media and the religious community in the anti-trafficking efforts.

All actions from Qark Discussions

Qark Group: Diber and Kukes

(2006 AC Report, page 69)

All Actions

- Improve legal framework.
- Train anti-trafficking police.
- Ensure stability/continuity for anti-trafficking police in their respective offices (not change them time after time).
- Improve coordination and cooperation between government structures and NGOs by defining responsibilities and accountability for each actor.
- Participation of the religious community in the anti-trafficking efforts.
- Improve prevention through awareness raising activities in schools and for the general public (public opinion).
- Improve and ensure provision of relevant services to victims.
- Develop Qark Action Plans.
- Develop individual Action Plans for each institutions represented in the Committee.
- Identify best practices and develop unified standards.
- Capacity building for members of the institutions represented in the committee.
- Participation of media in the anti-trafficking efforts to ensure reporting of government actions to combat trafficking and to increase trust of public opinion in the government structures.
- Allocation of funds to support the work of the committees.

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