



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

This document extracts key data for Lezha 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

Lezhe—Prefect's Office (Technical Secretariat) — Mr. Ndrek Mhillaj
(2006 AC Report, page 31)

Highlights of the presentation

- Based upon the Order of the Prime Minister, an order was issued by the Prefect for the establishment of the Technical Table as well. A list of contact information with all the members of the Regional Committee and the Technical Table were compiled by the technical Secretariat. A scheme for communication and links was presented to the group. The Technical Table was convening once every two weeks in the beginning to clarify the duties and responsibilities, as described in the order and guidelines, and verbatim were kept of the meetings. Media have been invited.
- The cooperation between the members and how they would operate was discussed; especially regarding how to work with the schools.
- Cases of traffickers and victims, potential and actual, were addressed.
- The Second Chance project, promoted by the Education Directorate, appointed five teachers who would hold follow-up classes with children who had dropped out of school.
- The main challenges include a lack of anti-trafficking NGO presence, in the prefecture and on the Regional Committee and Technical Table. This presence helps fight trafficking by reaching out to the community, because it is difficult for the government officials to do that. A second challenge is that the majority of Roma children are not registered.
- A large number of young boys and girls don't have social and employment opportunities; therefore, they try to leave the country or may get involved in criminal activity.

Highlights of the discussion

Question: What needs have the directorates of health, police, education (*qark*-level education and local school directorates) addressed and what information is provided by them?

Answer: Statistics on children who have abandoned the schools are kept, and one case of trafficking and three at risk were addressed and followed up.

- A Regional Coordinator should coordinate projects between civil society and government.
- The Technical Table is not fully capable of addressing trafficked child cases that come to the Anti-trafficking Police Office.

Question: What competences do we have as government officials to go to the family/individual?

Answer: The continuation of the assistance to the victim is achieved through cooperation between the government and NGOs, which is happening now. It was fragmented before, but the Order has changed this.

- Sharing experience and information is very useful.

CAAHT Grantee Presentations

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: Shkodra and Lezhe

(2006 AC Report, page 49)

Five chosen actions:

1. Vocational courses/development for the target groups and legal migration.
2. Mini cooperatives in the mountainous areas that finance projects against trafficking.
3. Better coordination of donors through establishing a coordination structure at qark level.
4. Increasing the capacity of people that will do the job at governmental institutions.
5. Increasing the awareness of target groups—people in need—based on identification of their needs using new appropriate strategies.

All actions from Qark Discussions

Qark Groups: Shkodra and Lezhe

(2006 AC Report, page 70)

All actions

- Learning new professions by women and girls combined with the social support/encouragement for this purpose.
- Governmental institutions should seriously deal with the situation of children, especially from Roma communities and remote rural areas especially focusing on registration, legalization, law enforcement (involvement of the police, etc.).
- Vocational courses/development for the target groups and legal migration.
- Mini cooperatives in the mountainous areas.
- Better coordination of donors through establishing a coordination structure at qark level.
- Improving the education system by giving more weight to professional schools based on the labor market needs.
- Increasing the awareness of small and medium businesses through support by the respective governmental institutions to create new jobs and by differentiating people according to the needs.
- Fighting the invisible trafficking (marriages for economic reasons in mountainous areas, unidentified trafficking of women and girls in large cities connected to prostitution, etc.).
- Transforming the fight against human trafficking into a problem of the whole Albanian society.
- Increasing the awareness of rural families and especially mothers of human trafficking.

- Increasing the capacity of people that will do the job (at governmental institutions).
- Legal education of school children (teens).
- Increasing the awareness of target groups (people in need) based on identification of their needs using new appropriate strategies.
- Establishing some unified regulations for NGOs dealing with these issues.
- Giving priority to activities in accordance with the characteristics/traditions of specific groups (for example Roma) and use this activities to encourage a new way of life for their social integration.
- Establishing rehabilitation centers.

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