



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

This document extracts key data for Shkodra 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.

CAAHT Grantee Presentations

Improved protection through offering of legal services to vulnerable or at-risk communities — Ms. Holta Kotherja, *Legal Clinic for Minors*
(2006 AC Report, page 18)

Highlights of the presentation

- The Legal Clinic offers legal and psychological assistance relating to birth registration, registration of unregistered families and children, assistance during the interrogation of children who are victims or witnesses to the prosecutors and police, and care giving.
- The Legal Clinic trains police and offers legal expertise and legal aid.
- Referrals from different organizations help the Legal Clinic to identify cases. These include especially BKTF and legal aid organizations, the police and prosecutor's office, courts, registration offices, and social services at municipalities.
- Legal aid consists of legal representation at court, presence during the interrogation by the police or prosecutor, legal advice, facilitation during the administrative procedures, etc.
- Psychological assistance consists of the presence of the psychologist during the interrogation by the prosecutor, emotional support for child victims, facilitation of family relations, psychological reports for the court, case referrals to other organizations.
- Legal and psychological aid has helped 532 children; 33 cases have been about deported children.
- Police training sessions have focused on interview techniques and children's rights. Ten one-day sessions were organized in ten *qarqe*.

Highlights of the discussion

Question: How many of the children who have benefited from legal aid have had connection with trafficking?

Answer: There are no exact data. Some of the children have been victims or potential victims of human trafficking.

- Legal Clinic is a project. In the future, such services can be incorporated as a function of governmental institutions.
- We need to amend registration laws.
- A major issue is taking care of children without parents.
- While it is important to handle cases that others bring us, we must also be proactive in addressing children's needs.

Coordination with local government structures and communities to increase awareness and responsiveness/commitment to trafficking — Ms. Anila

Trebicka, *Women in Development, Shkodra*
(2006 AC Report, page 27)

Highlights of the presentation

- The project implemented with CAAHT had three main directions:
 - to make the local government, the local institutions and other entities aware of the phenomenon of trafficking, the risks and the consequences that it brings, in order to increase their level of responsibility and commitment.
 - to help in the creation of local capacities in the struggle against human trafficking.
 - to help educate and raise awareness in the communities in rural areas that a responsible and committed society respects and protects the rights of the individual, helps in the prevention of violence and trafficking, and therefore contribute to a total mobilization against these phenomena that incriminate the entire society.
- It was important to establish cooperation agreements with local leaders such as the Head of the Regional Council; the Directors of the Regional Directory of Education, the Education Offices in Malesi e Madhe and Puka, and the office of Social Services in the Municipality of Shkoder, as well as the Vice-prefect of Puka and the Directors of the organizations "Hope for the Future", "Source Center for the Family", and the "Center of Integrated Services and Legal Practice".
- Training of Trainers (TOT) was provided in two phases. The first phase aimed mainly in raising the knowledge of participants about the phenomenon of trafficking and developing their training skill. The second phase focused on strengthening participants' knowledge and training skills, according to the needs identified during the first phase of the TOT, in methodology and in content as well.
- Immediately after the completion of the training seminars, different community based activities were organized to raise the awareness of the community about anti-trafficking issues. The participants in the training sessions played a very important role in the realization of these activities. Additionally, the directors of the schools cooperated in providing the facilities and enabling the participation of the pupils, parents, local power, community etc. Participants also included representatives of local power such as heads and vice-heads of communes,

directors of education offices, and older men of the villages. In general, these activities were welcomed by the participants.

Highlights of the discussion

Question: How difficult was it to get the local government participants to be part of the project?

Answer: They have been very open to collaboration in this project.

Question: How were the target groups selected?

Answer: WID conducted a needs assessment in these communities. WID is also very familiar with this area.

Question: Is ten months long enough to ensure the collaboration of all the actors?

Answer: Yes, if you establish contacts with them, if they are regular members of functioning Regional Committees, and if they have representatives from different agencies.

Question: How do you stay in contact with the people trained under this project, and how do you keep them updated?

Answer: WID staff meets with these trainers and provides them awareness raising information collected from different sources.

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

- AFRC conducted a project to increase conflict resolution, reconciliation, and mediation for civil society organizations and local government institutions involved in anti-trafficking. Moreover, AFRC 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 AFRC 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.

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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