



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

This document extracts key data for Vlora 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

Vlora—Prefect's Office (Technical Secretariat) — Ms. Dorotea Konomi
(2006 AC Report, page 32)

Highlights of the presentation

- The Regional Anti-trafficking Committee and the Technical Working Table were established, and the first meeting was organized.
- An inner regulation for the functioning of the Committee and the Technical Working Table were developed.
- Government institutions were confident with each other and had good relations with the NGOs that are represented on the Committee. They have given their feedback and expertise. Their coordination is very important in the work of the Technical Working Group.
- The Psycho-Social center “Vatra” has played an important role by running the work at one of the most important shelters in the country. This center has provided a lot of information, data and experience in prevention, assistance and reintegration.
- Internal trafficking has been discussed during the meetings and is recognized as a problem for both the anti-trafficking police in Vlora and the shelter in “Vatra.” Many girls and women, victims or potential victims of trafficking, have been accommodated in the shelter.
- A good collaboration was established between all the partners.

Highlights of the discussion

- The identification of concrete cases of trafficking and reintegration.
- The Technical Working Table has a clear view of the current situation of trafficking, due to the help given from the NGOs.

- This conference is helping identify good practices and models for the future.
- The members of the Technical Table, such as the Prosecutor office, should be more active and collaborative.

CAAHT Grantee Presentations

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.

Reintegration Assistance to Former Victims of Trafficking in Albania

— Ms. Entela Avdulaj, *Vatra Psycho-social Center*

(2006 AC Report, page 26)

Highlights of the presentation

- “Vatra” shelter provides a safe and comfortable environment where the girls and women can get access to accommodation, counseling, medical and legal assistance and reintegration facilities.
- Reintegration of the girls and women in the communities of origin is sometimes accomplished in cooperation with other shelters
- Direct reintegration of women and girls in normal social life is promoted through education, vocational training, employment and raising small family and individual businesses.
- To help ensure further post-shelter rehabilitation and reintegration “Vatra” establishes contact with, and provides counseling for, the families of the victims.
- Post-shelter reintegration assistance, in the form of a rented flat, is available for former victims of trafficking who have passed through all the previous phases of reintegration program.
- “Vatra” staff continues the partnership with the State as a part of the work group in the framework of the implementation of the National Anti-trafficking Strategy for 2006 to 2007.

Highlights of the discussion

Question: What is the situation concerning the families accepting their daughters back?

Answer: This is a very important part of reintegration and in many cases “Vatra” provides counseling for the families and the beneficiaries together, to establish a new relationship between them.

Question: What is the possibility for former victims to reintegrate into normal life?

Answer: There are many problems and the difficulties with reintegration. There are also achievements.

- The anti-trafficking police sectors can take a crucial role in the reintegration process. “Vatra” talked about its experiences with good models of the anti-trafficking police sectors.

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.