

The Albanian Initiative:



Baseline Survey Report

Section III Northern Region

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CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL

Background

This report supplements the main findings of the baseline survey for USAID/Albania's Coordinated Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) initiative. CAAHT, a three-year USAID initiative implemented by Creative Associates with World Learning, strengthens the capacity of Albanian NGOs to prevent trafficking in humans and improve services that assist the victims of trafficking to reintegrate into their communities. The CAAHT Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) team conducted the survey between June and August 2004 to better understand the nature and extent of the anti-trafficking efforts of Albanian NGOs and to acquire data against which the impact of CAAHT activities will later be measured.

Because the survey was designed to meet the specific needs of CAAHT, it concentrated solely on one element of Albania's civil society: the registered Albanian NGO. The CAAHT M&E team distributed a six-page questionnaire to 157 local NGOs throughout the country and received 52 responses, a 33 percent return.

For purposes of organizing its regional outreach, CAAHT divided the country into four regions, according to prefecture (*qarku*): northern cluster (Shkodra, Kukësi, Lezha and Dibra), central cluster (Durrësi, Tirana and Elbasani), eastern cluster (Korce with districts of Përmeti and Skrapari), and southern cluster (Vlora, Gjirokastra except Përmeti, Berati except Skrapari, and Fieri). Figure 1 depicts the number of NGOs responding from each of the four regions.

The information gathered during the survey offers insight into the efforts Albanian NGOs are making to combat human trafficking, suggestions for improving anti-trafficking services and programs, and guidance for USAID/CAAHT programs.

Summary of the Data for the Northern Region

Northern Region Organizations

Baseline Survey questionnaires were distributed to 35 Albanian NGOs in the north of the country (Shkodra, Tropoja, Kukësi, Lezha, Peshkopia, Bulqiza, Dibra, Puka, Mirdita, Burreli). Of these, 15 completed questionnaires were returned to the CAAHT office. These are 42% of the total baseline surveys delivered to the Northern Region and 9.5 % of the total baseline surveys distributed throughout the country.

Most organizations of the Northern Region have a long history. One of them was established in 1991, one in 1992, one in 1996 and the others after 1997. [Note: The 1999-2000 Kosovo conflict and resulting influx of refugees into northern Albania dramatically impacted NGOs in this region. Existing NGOs shifted resources almost entirely to responding to the refugee crisis and many new organizations were created as well. Since the refugees' return home, NGOs have begun to return to their original missions albeit with less funding than during the crisis.]

The types of organization's registrations of the Northern Region are:

1. Registered as an NGO _____ 2 organizations
2. Registered as a Center _____ 4 organizations
3. Registered as an Association _____ 7 organizations
4. Registered as a Foundation _____ 2 organizations

Mission Statements of the Organizations

Based on the mission statements of the organizations three different categories were identified:

Child-focused organizations

- Support and protect children's rights and freedoms emphasized in KDF
- Help orphans and poor children in the educational aspect
- Help orphan and poor children in the educational and entertaining aspect
- Help children's families on issues which have an impact on their children

Organizations focused on women and girls

- Democratization of Shkodra women's life in all economic, political and social fields
- Improving women's economic status and engagement in market economy mechanisms
- Helping girls of the Roma community fight illiteracy
- Women's organizations fighting against society's negative phenomena such as: drugs, child trafficking, prostitution, etc.

- Reducing poverty in the northeastern part of Albania through the emancipation of intellectual women
- Developing policies and influencing public opinion to promote integration and protection of all generations, focusing particularly on women's socioeconomic status, mental and spiritual state, and physical health
- Developing women's economic status through training, awareness, seminars and activities in agriculture, farming, marketing, gender issues, information as well as mediation on family and community matters
- Promoting the role of women in the environmental and health field, training communities which have poor development, collaborating with socioeconomic organizations in and outside Albania and with international organizations
- Encouraging and supporting women in their attempts to guarantee their families a better life and to have equal rights with men in the family and society.
- Helping and supporting women, victims of gender violence (physical, emotional, economical, inside and outside of the family)
- Providing opportunities to help the families, particularly girls and women with socioeconomic issues

Organizations with other focuses

- Educate the local community on the basic principles of democracy and civil society by stimulating tolerance, understanding and transparency.
- Coordinating and facilitating civil society in Shkodra
- Establishing opportunities to help families that have social and economic issues.
- Joint contribution to support changes in social and public life.
- Educating the new generation with a judicial contemporary culture, reconciling families in conflict
- Helping people in need regardless of religion, sex or ideas
- Eliminating blood feud to prevention of new cases from happening.

Major activities of the organizations

The major activities of the organizations reveal the following basic categories of activities:

Child organizations

- Educational process with children, summer camp, holiday activities, meetings and talks with parents and relatives, training with women on how to educate their children
- Human and children rights in support of the international conventions

Organizations focused on women and girls

- Work with the youth, women and girls in the district of Puka
- Collaboration between women and girls of the ethnic and religious communities of the Puka district
- Seminar in Malësia e Madhe on women's rights
- Workshop in Puka on women's fundamental rights and freedoms in these areas
- Round table in Shkodra and Malësia e Madhe on the issue of women's unemployment

- Provision of training courses with women: “How to start a new business”
- Collaboration with other local, national and international NGOs and has successfully continued the fight on women and girls protection from violence and trafficking
- Prevention and awareness-raising on the girls’ trafficking, a sharp social occurrence even for the rural areas
- Social services for females and youth, occupational therapy, helping individuals became capable to open a small business, message conveyance
- Health education assistance to girls and women that live in the remote areas of Malësia e Madhe
- Regional workshop on girls and women trafficking

Research on women’s and children concerns

- Study on violence and trafficking in Lezha and rural areas
- Study on violence in Shkodra and the opinions of the violence victims
- Study on the risky behavior of the vulnerable youth in the district of Shkodra
- Questionnaires on various issues concerning democratic progress in Albania and at the local level

Organizations with other focuses

- Regional initiative for the organization of a round table on trafficking
- Reconciliation of people, families, social groups, prevention and extinction of all phenomena and crime sources
- Meetings and awareness-raising on health and environment, health counseling, services on the development of women’s capacity, monitoring, tourism, activities on the growth of green areas, cleaning campaigns, etc.
- Trainings, round tables, seminars, workshops, facilitations, finding donors, helping NGOs in designing projects, etc.
- Roundtable “Citizens and the Law”
- Project entitled “Forum with the Candidates in the October’s 2000 Elections” in collaboration with the Women’s Center in Tirana and the Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation of Disputes
- Project entitled “Different Thinking, Is The Foundation For The Development Of Civil Society”
- Project entitled “Freedoms, Human Rights, Law And Civil Education In The Democratic Society”
- Project entitled “Human Rights And The Albanian Reality”
- Project entitled “Awareness-Raising Of High School And University Students On Health Protection From Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs, AIDS”
- The media in civil society
- Transparency in the local governing process
- Youth encouragement on decision making process
- Direct discussions on the local media (TV, radio)
- Meetings and discussions with citizens, intellectuals and various strata on the democratic development issues.
- Project entitled “Transparency, Understanding And Coordination Between Central And Local Government. Growth Of Citizens’ Participation In The Local Governing”

- Continuation of the project entitled “Transparency, Understanding And Coordination Between Central And Local Government. Growth Of Citizens’ Participation In The Local Governing. The Elected Local Counselors, Active In The Community’s Life”
- Project entitled “Democracy, An Equal Start For Everyone”.
- Project on “Education for the Constitution” on a prefecture level.
- Project entitled “Obeisance Of Free And Alternative Thought Is Democracy”

Biggest Successes Over the Last Year

The major successes of the organizations reveal the following basic categories of successful activities:

Organizations focused on women and girls

- Collaboration among women and girls of the Catholic and Muslim communities and the collaboration with Roma women that live in the district of Puka
- Awareness-raising meetings with the high schools and junior high schools to make students become aware of how to protect themselves from STDs, trafficking, drugs, personal and environmental care at school
- Awareness of trained women on their role in the family and society
- Establishment of a counseling line in the rural areas of Shkodra, respectively in the Guri i Zi commune which covers approximately 10 villages which have a great deal of problems
- Public awareness raising through media and meetings at the base as well as on different institutions by establishing sustainable collaborations with them in the fight against gender violence and trafficking
- Implementation of the project “Group Counseling ” as the first psychosocial initiative of this kind in B-H
- Making young females more aware of the risk of getting engaged at an early age (15-18), especially with emigrants
- Occupational therapy with women and girls with major social issues (domestic violence – emotional, physic, sexual, economic violence exercised by the partners, fathers, brothers, etc.)
- Family planning for girls and mothers with many children
- Implementation of “Help Us” project which aimed at supporting women and reducing poverty

Organizations that focus on other areas

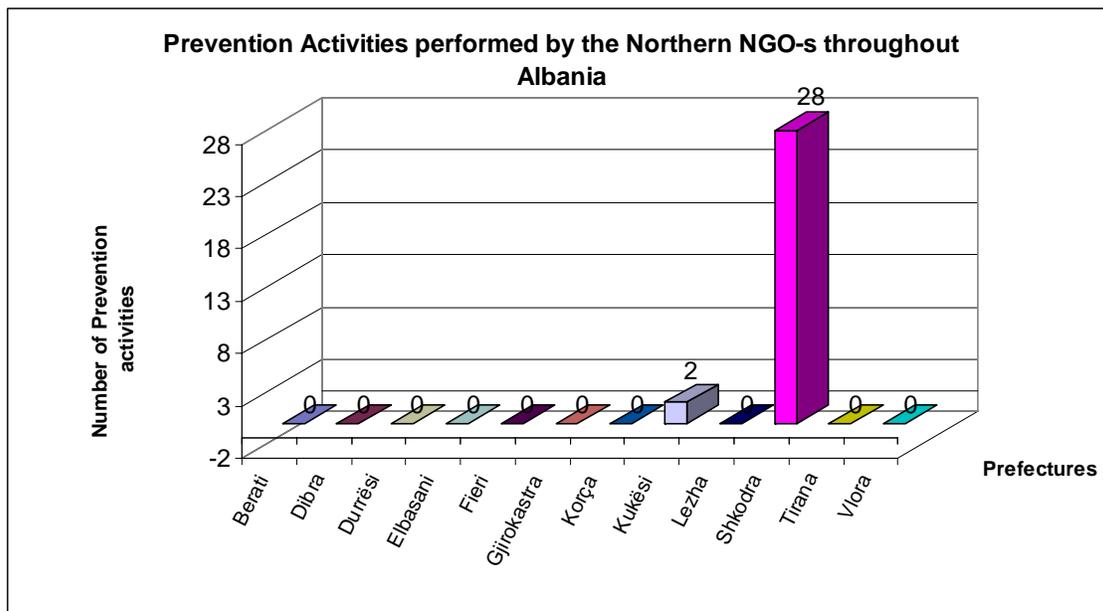
- Establishment of a daily center for the elders
- Awareness-raising of the new generation on environmental care
- Message conveyance against prostitution and blood feud through drama put on stage by the youth
- Prevention of blood feud, prostitution, and drug use through drama

ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES
of the Northern Region NGOs over the last year

PREVENTION ACTIVITIES: Northern Region

PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

Northern Region organizations performed prevention activities almost exclusively in the prefecture of Shkodra, leaving a gap in such activities in Albania's northeastern region. The following graph demonstrates this.



Awareness Campaign

- Stop to violence....a reason to live
- Awareness-raising campaign on the women and girls trafficking issue
- Informative campaign
- Assistance to people that are immobilized due to blood feud and prevention of human trafficking

School-based Prevention Activities

- Artistic activities with our school pupils

Camp-based Prevention Activities -none

Prevention Activities with the families

- Visits in families

Daily facilities for children and youth -none

Community Self-Help Projects -none

Micro-Credit Programs -none

Media and Communications

1. Drama

Prevention Activities in Minority Communities -none

Support for Prevention Programming: Northern Region

Seminars, Meetings, Workshops

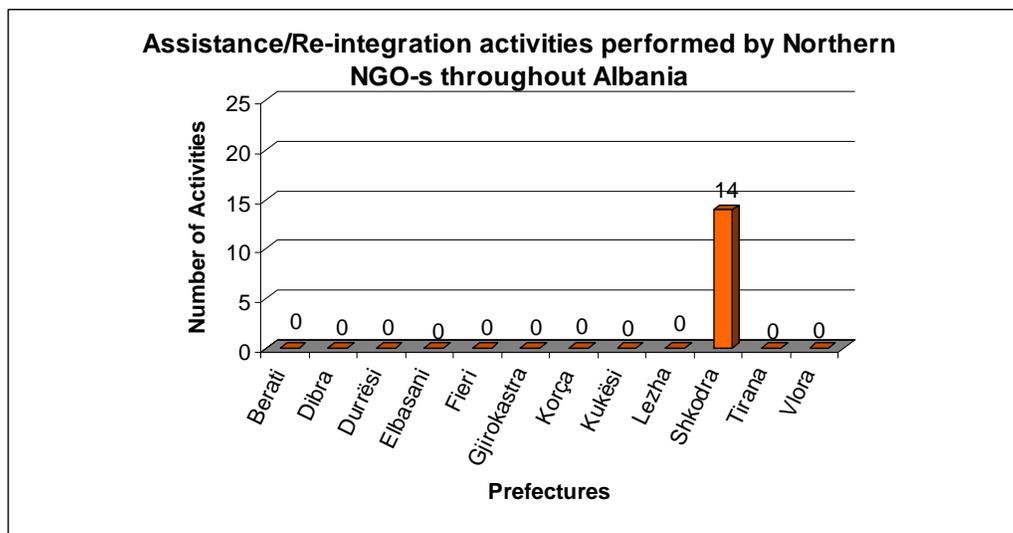
- Meetings
- Meetings and talks with women and girls
- Meetings with the youth
- Meeting with the public order bodies in Shkodra and Malesia e Madhe
- Meetings at the border posts with Mali i Zi
- Seminars in Ulqin and Tuz
- Talks on the fight against trafficking

Legal Framework - none

Research - none

ASSISTANCE AND RE-INTEGRATION SERVICES: Northern Region

Assistance and reintegration programs performed by Northern Region organizations are concentrated mainly in the prefecture of Shkodra. There is a gap of such programs in Albania's northeastern Region. The following graph demonstrates this.



Types of Assistance and Reintegration Services

Residential Shelter - none

Evaluate and Refer

- Referral to other supporting agencies
- Referral to other agencies according to the case

Services Support for Victims of Trafficking

- Face to face counseling
- Telephone counseling
- Face to face counseling with the trafficking victims
- Medical care
- Medical, environmental counseling
- Support for emancipation
- Help offered to the handicapped and the elderly

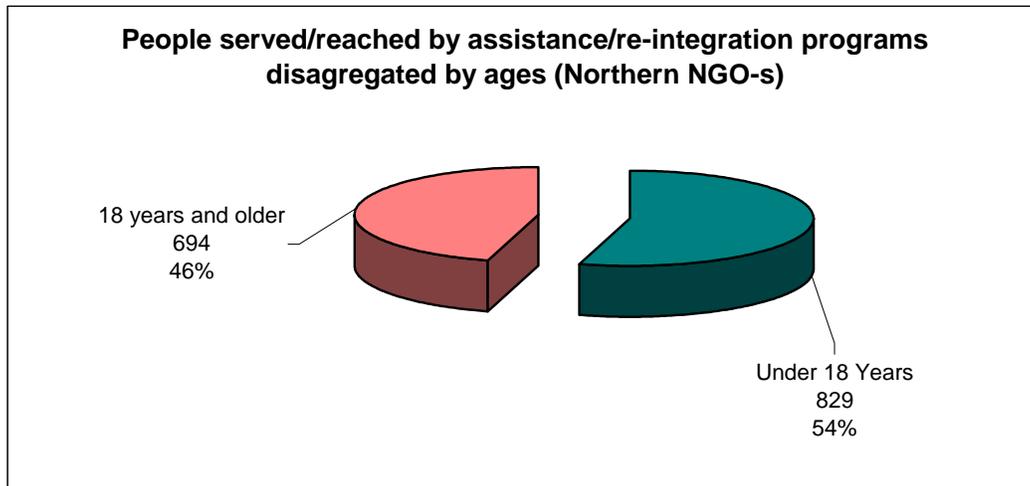
Re-integration services

Mediation with victim's families

- Visits in families

Mediation with victim's families - none

The following graph demonstrates the percentage of services delivered to female victims of trafficking over and under age 18.



Vocational Training and Education of Victims -- none

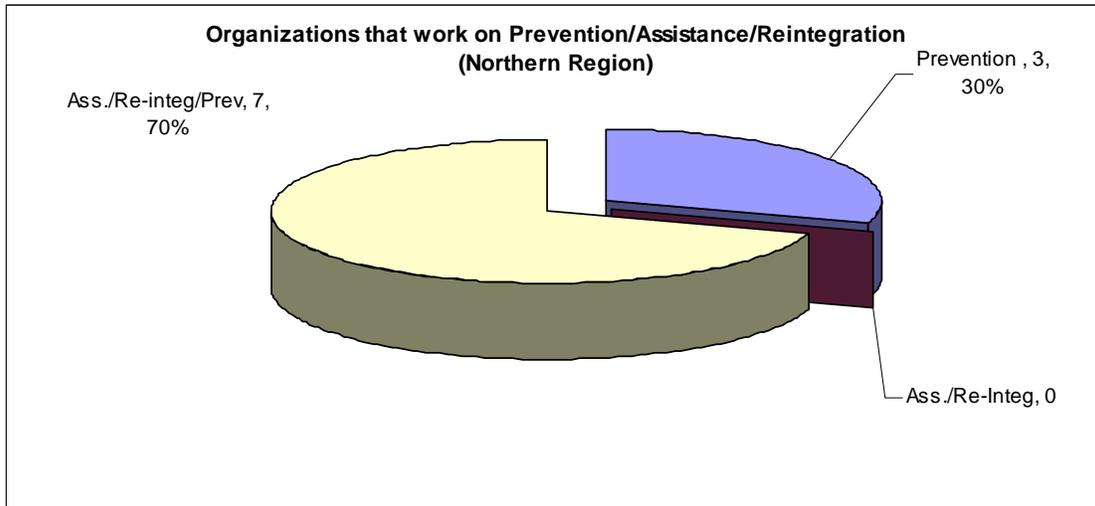
Media -- none

Grants and Funding -- none

Coordination Activities

- Round table
- Round table in Shkodra (the establishment of the network and the signing of a collaboration memorandum for the prevention and assistance of the trafficking victims)
- Meeting of the projects' directors on the relationship with the sister-like associations in Kosovo, (Ferizaj, Prizreni, Peja), exchange of information and experience and establishment of a regional anti-trafficking network among women's NGOs.

The large majority of Northern Region organizations perform prevention activities, as well as assistance and reintegration services. Only a few perform only prevention activities and none perform assistance and reintegration services only. Several of the northern NGOs pointed out that they had no shelter. They also pointed out the cultural uniqueness of the north -- be it a higher number of blood feuds, higher levels of poverty, isolation and lack of infrastructure in mountainous areas. Several suggested innovative ideas in terms of "rehabilitation centers" that would concentrate on re-integration through vocational training and employment placement.



Institutional Strengthening/Capacity Building

i) Training received by the organizations over the last year

<u>Training Topic</u>	<u>Training organized by</u>
Project management and writing	Women's Center
Anti-trafficking	OSCE
NGO Management	Partners Albania
Advocacy and Lobbying	MSI-USAID
Organization Of Work In The Community	UNDP (LGP program)
Communitarian Services And The Community	UNDP and LGP
The Economic Field	Partners-Albania
Work Techniques Of Group Counseling On Children's Rights	UNICEF
Advocacy And Lobbying	MSI-USAID
Management Of Human Resources	CAFOD-Albania
The Economic Field	On The Road
Gender Training	CSDC

ii) Training Provided by the Northern Organizations to:

- *Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Judiciary*
 - Training on the new family code
- *Government*
 - Training with high school teachers

➤ *Community*

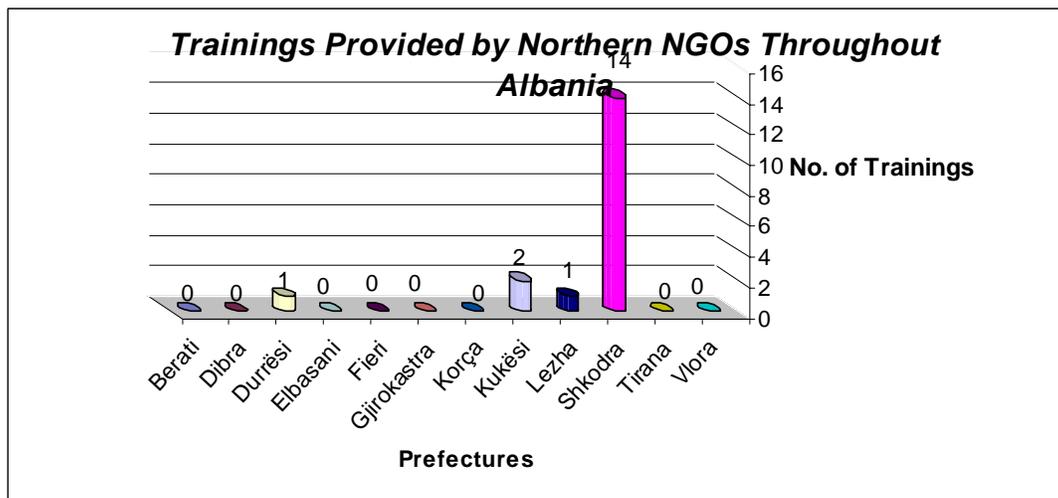
- Meetings and talks with women and girls
- Artistic activities
- Trainings on the trafficking phenomenon and how the damage be reduced, guide for teachers, caretakers, parents and girls
- Meetings “Say No to the Trafficking Phenomenon”
- Training “Equal Rights”
- Meetings, training on “Violence and its types “, “ Prostitution, drugs, AIDS and ways to prevent it”
- Sexual education

➤ *Other NGOs*

No Trainings Were Provided in This Field

The geographical distribution of the training provided by the Northern Region organizations is illustrated in the following graph.

Note: Five organizations declared that they did not provide training and technical assistance



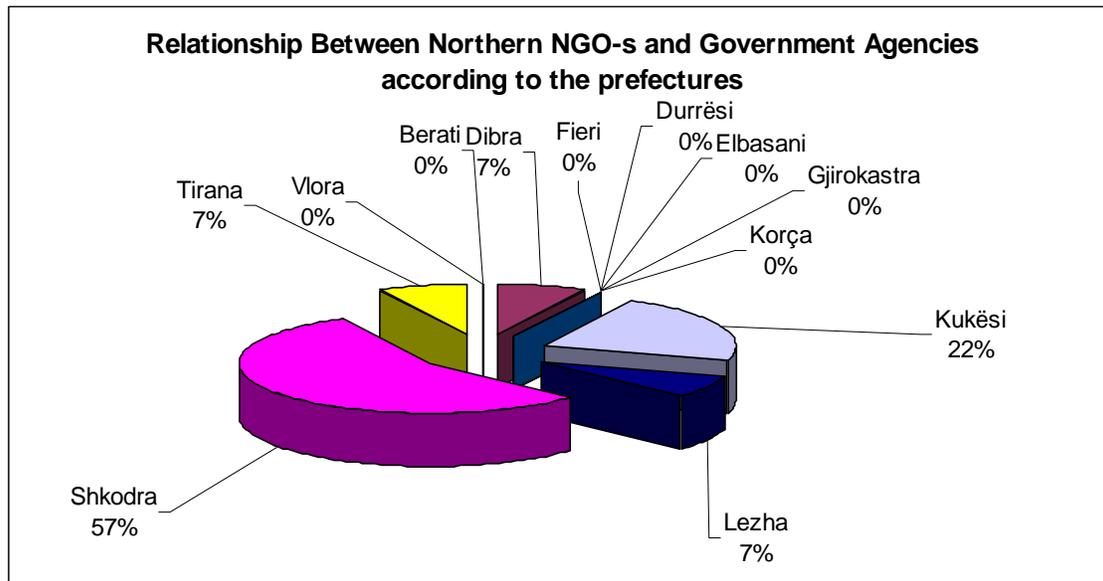
Other programs that may have an opportunity to prevent trafficking

- Programs on the trafficking phenomenon and its prevention on local radio and TV
- Economic support in collaboration with French associations, medical assistance, medicine and health check

Collaboration / Relationship to Government Agencies

<u>Government office</u>	<u>Type of collaboration</u>
Municipality of Kukësi	Institutional collaboration as well as exchange of information and needs
The police court, government (Shkodra)	Agreement Memorandum of Understanding
The Office for Development (Shkodra)	Agreement: Creation of ideas and information received
The Health Center	Memorandum of Understanding
Municipalities of Shkodra, Puka	Exchange Information Memorandum of Understanding
Municipality of Peshkopia	Exchange Information
Prefecture (Shkodra, Puka)	Exchange Information
The School's and Orphan Houses' Directorates	Memorandum of Understanding
The public order bodies (anti-trafficking offices, the police directorates in the districts of Shkodra, Malësia e Madhe, Lezha, Peshkopia, Kukësi) local government offices, municipalities and communes	Agreement: delivering and receiving information on specific cases of girls taken for trafficking purposes as well as on traffickers
The Employment and Social Assistance Office (Shkodra)	Agreement : support on the cases of women that experience violence or that have gone through the experience of trafficking
The Court of the Shkodra District	Agreement
The Regional Educational Directorate - Kukësi	Institutional collaboration for operative and thematic needs
The Environment Office REC (Tirana, Shkodra)	Agreement

The types of collaboration mentioned above take place throughout Albania. The highest levels of collaboration are found in the prefectures of Shkodra, Kukësi, and Tirana.



Referrals

Organizations that your organization refers clients to (when the same organization was cited more than once, the number of times is noted in ().)

NGOs

1. The Counseling Line for Women and Girls (3)
2. Reflections (the employment project) (2)
3. The Women Center “Easy Steps” (2)
4. Women Center
5. “Human Dimension”
6. “Our Step 3”
7. The Center for Civil Society’s Development
8. The Handicap Association
9. The Reconciliation Foundation
10. Mutual referral with the institutions
11. Education and Women NGOs
12. CSDC Shkodra

Government Agencies

1. Hospital. (2)
2. Police
3. Local Government
4. Health Department

Organizations that refer clients to your NGO (when the same organization was cited more than once, the number of times is noted in ()).

NGOs

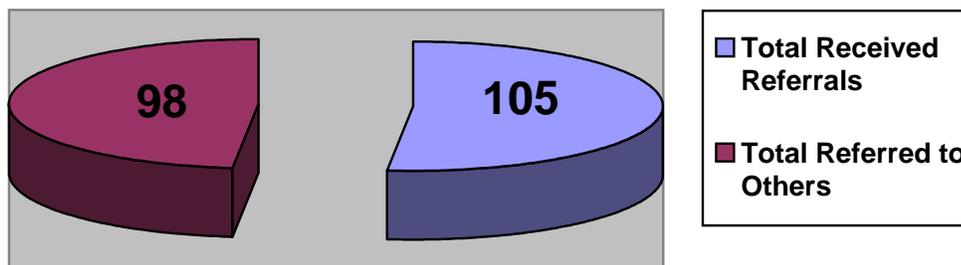
1. World Vision
2. The education of youth and women NGOs on female trafficking

Government Agencies

1. State schools
2. Hospitals
3. The Regional Police
4. Offices for Development

Note: Nine organizations claimed that they referred a total of 98 clients to other , and 11 claimed that they received 105 referrals

Referrals by Northern NGOs (Incoming v. Outgoing)



Main sources of funding during the last year for Northern NGOs

When the same donor has been stated more than once, the number of times is noted in parentheses ()

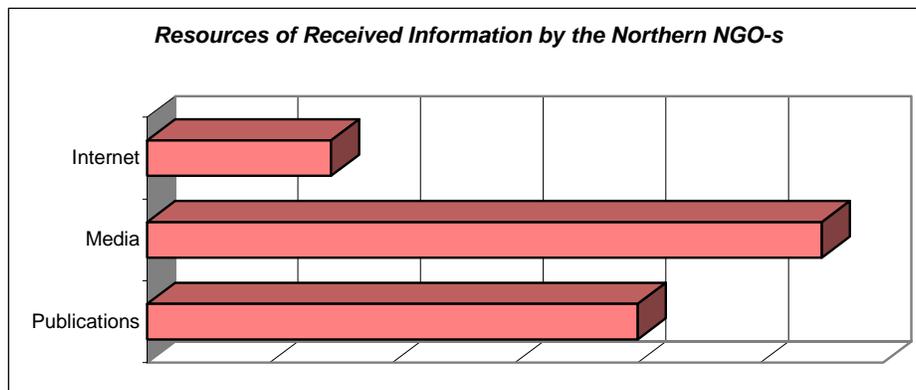
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. SOROS (6) | 8. Partners Albania |
| 2. US Embassy (2) | 9. Red Cross |
| 3. British Embassy | 10. Save the Children |
| 4. CARITAS | 11. TEULEDA |
| 5. CRS | 12. UNOPS |
| 6. NOVIB | 13. World Bank |
| 7. Orthodox Community | 14. YMCA |

Networking

International/ Regional Networks	National Networks	Local networks
Children's Regional Alliance	Children's National Alliance	Civil Society Coalition in Kukësi (3)
	UNOPS	CSDC Shkodra (3)
	Albanian Coalition Against Corruption (2)	Red Cross Shkodra

Information sources

The graph demonstrates that media is the main source from which the Northern Region organizations gather information. They rely on publications less often and receive little information via the Internet



ACRONYMS

ACTA-	Anticorruption and Anti-trafficking Action
AECI-	Agensia Espanola de Cooperation Internationale
AFCR-	Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution
ATACT-	All Together Against Child Trafficking
BYCF-	Balkan Youth and Children Foundation
CAFOD-	Catholic Fund for Overseas Development
CARITAS-	(It is a humanitarian confederation of catholic organizations)
CCF-	Christian Children's Fund
CEFA-	European Committee for Capacity Building and Agriculture
CFF-	Children First Foundation
CIDA-	Canadian Agency for International Development
COE-	Council of Europe
CRCA-	Children's Human Rights Center of Albania
CRS-	Catholic Relief Services
CSDC-	Civil Society Development Center
ICCO-	Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation
ICITAP-	International Criminal Investigation Training and Assistance Program
ICMC-	International Catholic Migration Commission
ILO-	International Labour Organization
IOM-	International Organisation of Migration
ISS-	International Social Services
MSI-	Management Systems International
NOVIB-	OXFAM Netherlands
OSCE-	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

REC-	Regional Environmental Center
SOROS-	George Soros Foundation
TDH-	Terre Des Hommes
TEULEDA-	Local Economic Development Agency in Shkodra
TWIG-	Tirana Women's International Group
UNDP-	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF-	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS-	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID-	United States Agency for International Development
WFP-	World Food Program
YWCA-	Young Women's Christian Association of Albania
YMCA-	Young Men's Christian Association