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8 CAAHT Grants Awarded to NGOs in Albania in Final Phase of CAAHT Grant Program

A total of **USD 262,804** (19,710,272 Lek) has been awarded in grants to **8 local NGOs** in Albania in the fifth and final phase of the USAID *Albanian Initiative: Coordinated Action Against Human Trafficking* (CAAHT) grants program. With these final awards, the CAAHT grant fund is fully obligated and no further grant awards will be available.

This final phase of grants will continue CAAHT support for the four civil society anti-trafficking shelters, which are central to the National Referral Mechanism. In addition, counter-trafficking awareness raising and prevention services for vulnerable children and women will be enabled in the *qarku* of Shkodra, Dibra, Fier, and Berat. Between May 2008 and May 2009, these USAID funds will be supporting a variety of anti-trafficking initiatives in local communities of Albania.

In this final phase, all grant recipient organizations have mobilized cost-sharing for their budgets. This is seen as a key step to sustainability of counter-trafficking programs in Albania. Donors with which USAID/CAAHT is co-funding during this final phase include: the Vodafone Albanian Foundation; European Center for Training and Agriculture (CEFA); King Baudouin Foundation; Kvinna til Kvinna; Sigrid Rausing Trust; Interreg, Italy; the Labor Directorate of Vlora; Berat municipality and the communes of Vodice, Lumas, Poshnje; and the municipality of Shkodra.

CAAHT Grantee Projects Phase 5

Project Title: *Providing and sustaining reintegration assistance to former Albanian victims of trafficking*

Location(s): Nationwide

Duration: 1 April 2007 extended to 30 April 2009

NGO: **Different and Equal (D&E)**

After providing the first support that enabled Different and Equal to become an independent, locally managed NGO in early 2005, the CAAHT program is continuing to support D&E to provide standardized and sustained shelter and reintegration services to Albanian victims of trafficking, and contribute to the full implementation of the National Strategy on Trafficking in Albania. Serving a wide range of female Albanian victims of trafficking, including single mothers and their children, D&E enables these women and girls to recover from the severe abuses they have suffered and secure happier, healthier futures. In addition to shelter accommodation, services include: medical, legal and psychological support; basic or continuing education; vocational training; and employment placement. This project is planned to be co-funded by CAAHT, King Baudouin Foundation, and Dutch Sisters.

Project Title: *Accommodating, rehabilitating and reintegrating shelter for trafficked girls and women, violated and clandestine, and those at risk of human being trafficking*
Location(s): Nationwide
Duration: 1 May 2007 extended to 28 February 2009
NGO: **Vatra Psycho-social Center**

VATRA provides accommodation and support to at-risk, vulnerable clandestine, and trafficked women and girls for average periods of six months to one and a half years. The shelter offers a safe and friendly surrounding where the women and girls are able to recover from their traumas and restore themselves to normal life. The shelter staff works with each beneficiary to develop an individualized program of services and activities to maximize the success of their long-term reintegration to home, family and community. Available services include: accommodation; individual, group and family psycho-emotional counseling; legal aid; medical assistance; professional preparation and employment; and family mediation. The reintegration process is sometimes furthered through transition housing in rental apartments, where beneficiaries live with the support of VATRA staff. The CAAHT program has been providing financial support for the VATRA shelters since May 2005. This project is planned to be co-funded by CAAHT, Kvinna til Kvinna, Norwegian Church Aid, and the Sigrid Rausing Trust from Britain.

Project Title: *Rehabilitation and social integration of minors, who have experienced trafficking and prevention of this phenomena through offering social services in Elbasan Prefecture*
Location(s): Nationwide
Duration: 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2009
NGO: **Another Vision**

Through this project, Another Vision will continue and expand recovery services and social integration of minors who have been trafficked or are at-risk. Increased prevention assistance to at-risk children and their families will be provided in cooperation with the office of social services in Elbasan Prefecture. Project activities will include: staff supervision and professional development for social service providers who work with at-risk and trafficked minors; a residential community shelter for at-risk and trafficked minors; and reinforcement of coordination for joint anti-trafficking actions at the local and national levels to increase social support for trafficking victims. The CAAHT program has been providing financial support for Another Vision since May 2005. This project is co-funded by CAAHT and European Center for Training and Agriculture (CEFA).

Project Title: *Hosting and facilitation of the trafficking victims in the hosting center "Life and Hope" in Gjirokastra*
Location(s): Nationwide
Duration: 1 June 2008 to 31 May 2009
NGO: **Gjirokastra Community Center**

This project builds on the initial CAAHT program investment that enabled the Gjirokastra Community Center to establish the "Life and Hope" transit shelter in October 2005. The shelter provides initial, short-term support to presumed victims of trafficking, primarily returned from Greece through the Kakavije and Tre Urat border points. This program is implemented in close cooperation with local police and other government offices as well as other shelter and social service agencies, governmental and non-governmental, throughout Albania. The project is co-funded by CAAHT and Vodafone Albania Foundation.

Project Title: *Say NO to trafficking*
Location(s): Shkodra, Puke, Malësi e Madhe
Duration: 1 July 2008 to 31 January 2009
NGO: **Women in Development (WID)**

This third grant from CAAHT will enable WID to extend its successful awareness raising and training of trainers to new communes surrounding the municipalities of Puke, Shkodra, and Malësi e Madhe. The project will provide anti-trafficking awareness raising and vocational training for vulnerable women and girls in Shkodra, Malësi e Madhe and Puka. In addition, summer camp education and recreation activities will be provided for vulnerable children from communes near Shkodra. Additional awareness raising activities will be conducted for both women and adolescent boys and girls in rural areas of the three districts of the *qarku*.

Project Title: *Increase of the coordination of the actions for the creation of the state's politics for the prevention of the trafficking and integration of the women and girls in Berati Prefecture*
Location(s): Berati
Duration: 1 September 2008 to 28 February 2009
NGO: **Protection of Urban and Rural Women of Berati**

Since 2005, the CAAHT grant program has supported this women's NGO to conduct community and school-based awareness-raising activities in Berati, Kuçove and nearby communes. The aim of the project is to increase the coordination of the actions among the state's structures, community, civil society and the business for the creation of the state's politics in the prevention of the trafficking in Berati Prefecture, in the framework of the anti-trafficking national strategy. It is a cost-shared project between CAAHT and the organization with support in-kind contribution from the municipality.

Project Title: *Be protected by learning about trafficking*
Location(s): Dibra
Duration: 1 September 2008 to 30 June 2009
NGO: **Agritra Vision**

This second CAAHT to Agritra-Vision will help expand its services to vulnerable communities. This project continues the initiatives already undertaken by this organization to strengthen the social and economic position of rural women in Dibra district. The focus of this project is anti-trafficking awareness raising with women and girls in isolated, rural communities of Dibra *qark*. The goal of the project is prevention of trafficking of the human beings through increasing the level of information of women and girls on the ways of human trafficking and what are its consequences.

Project Title: *One Challenge for Integration*
Location(s): Fieri
Duration: 1 October 2008 to 30 May 2009
NGO: **Murialdo Social Center**

This third CAAHT grant to Murialdo will help expand its services to vulnerable women and children in the Fieri area. This project is concentrated on children and adolescents from the Roma community in the Fier District who live in difficult social and economic conditions. The beneficiaries are the children who have quit school and who can't frequent lessons, children in villages who have limited opportunity for education, and Roma children who are not integrated in school. The program activities help reduce racial discrimination, and encourage social inclusion of beneficiaries through improvement of their social and economic situation. The MSC will cooperate with other local actors such as: Fier Municipality, Prefecture, and *Qark* Council; the Regional Directorates of Labor, Social Service, and Education; and NGOs including those of Roma community. This project is co-funded by CAAHT, Murialdo Social Center and "Leonardo Murialdo Foundation".