



DEMOCRACY NETWORK PROGRAM

Tirana, Albania

**Quarterly Progress Report
July – September 2000**

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I. GRANTS PROGRAM

ORT has awarded 92 grants to Albanian NGOs since 1995 totaling \$1,052,635 to engage in public policy-oriented activities in four priority sectors: democracy, environment, economic development and social safety net (see Attachment for cumulative list of grants) and to provide social services to local communities. The following is a detailed description of the impact of selected grants.

Social Services Grants

SSG-001 Albanian Disabilities Rights Foundation "Low Cost Wheelchairs for Albanian Disabled People" (\$35,480)

Start Date: 4/1/00

End Date: 9/30/00

The wheelchair production unit of Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF) maintained production at normal rates of 15 wheelchairs per month, and produced a total of 45 wheelchairs per quarter, thereby providing 45 disabled people with mobility means. ADRF carried out an assessment of wheelchair user needs before beginning the production phase. The assessment process, which was carried throughout a wide national area, was supported by a network of contact points established by ADRF including the General Administration of Social Services and Protection which helped with the distribution of questionnaires. Another source of information was provided by the international NGOs operating in Albania, which also address disability issues.

ADRF expanded their needs assessment and wheelchair distribution to the remote North, Northeast and Southern districts, e.g., Kukes, Has, B.Curri and Permet, which ADRF had not previously covered. The project has also met the needs of wheelchair users in other districts such as Skrapari, Shkodra, Burreli, and Peshkopia.

Production Process

The production process has focused on the improvement of the quality of production in wheelchair components, e.g., the brakes, which are now plastic-covered as well as improving the functional and esthetic aspect of the wheelchair. Handicap International (France) has donated equipment for accessories production, which has increased efficiency, and will increase the range of mobility means provided by the unit. ADRF has now established procedures for ordering materials for crutches and other accessory elements.

Distribution Process

More than 50% of the wheelchairs produced were distributed in North and Northeast Albania. These are very remote areas, totally neglected by the state and far from the attention of donors and international organizations. Ten out of 45 beneficiaries were paraplegic. The distribution according to gender was: male - 36, female – 9, including 10 children. The distribution according age was as follows:

4 – 9 yrs	2
10 – 19 yrs	8
20 – 29 yrs	8
30 – 39 yrs	6
40 - 49 yrs	4
50 – 59 yrs	3
60 yrs	13

The wheelchair distribution process also incorporated information dissemination and training components. The wheelchair users were provided with training on the use of the wheelchair as well as physiotherapy treatment in relation to:

- Physical problems and their treatment
- How to transfer from wheelchair to bed , toilet and vice versa
- Different ways of treating wounds, and other health problems that may arise as a result of incorrect stand in a wheelchair
- Different ways to stand correctly in a wheelchair
- Skin care, ways of protecting it from sun burn and other damages
- Personal hygiene treatment
- Ways to keep their balance , overcoming obstacles, ascending and descending the stairs
- Ways of walking and playing (mainly children)

ADRF organized a training session on basic physiotherapy for mothers of children with physical and learning disabilities at the Child Development Center "Help the Life". This will be offered again in the future with other target groups.

ADRF distributed 350 information sheets on five different types of disabilities and tips on how to deal with them. More than 700 information sheets were distributed to wheelchair users regarding their specific disability needs. It has to be noted that the information provided/available on these issues by other state or non-governmental organizations are limited.

In addition, the wheelchair users, disability NGOs and other agencies operating in districts where wheelchairs have been distributed, were provided with other information from ADRF Info Center including:

- Package of Albanian Legislation on Disability Issues
- Third Issues of ADRF Magazine Sfida
- Survey on Public Opinion Attitude
- UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Human Rights (translated)
- World Program of Action for People with Disability(translated)

An integral part of the project was the organization of an Active Rehabilitation Camp for the wheelchair users as a follow up to the wheelchair distribution process. The Rehabilitation Camp, the fourth one for ADRF, took place in Pogradec, on September 25 – 29, 2000. Twelve wheelchair users and one with crutches came from all over the country to participate in the rehabilitation camp. Thirty percent of participants were female wheelchair users, which is consistent with the national statistical data which show approximately 35% of people with disabilities in Albania are females.

The philosophy of the Active Rehabilitation Camps is for wheelchair users to teach other users the skills of independent living, and to expand the number of new wheelchair users that will be trained to become independent in daily life through wheelchair usage. The trainers in the fourth AR camp were mainly wheelchair users from Miresia wheelchair production workshop (two males and one female).

The Rehabilitation Camp addressed important issues in the every day life of disabled people like different techniques related to wheelchair usage, physiotherapy (massage, healing of wounds, physical exercises), emotional and sexual relations, active rehabilitation at home, legal issues related to financial, labor and health benefits. Counseling and recreation activities were also a very important part of the Camp.

Public Awareness Campaign

During the past six months, ADRF has received great media coverage. Public awareness was increased through numerous articles in the daily press, and special talk shows in electronic media. The people interviewed for these programs have been wheelchair users who talked about their concerns, positive experiences, etc.

- The Active Rehabilitation Camp was on the evening news of the Local TV in Pogradec;
- Albanian State TV channel aired a documentary about the Progradec Rehabilitation Camp in the morning program "Miremengjes", which was then followed by an interview in the Studio of a talented wheelchair user from Kruja, who is a writer and was promoting his third publication;

- Articles in major newspapers with large circulations such as *Shekulli*, *Gazeta Shqiptare*, and magazine *Spekter* covered the Active Rehabilitation Camp and individual stories of disabled people (Please, see attached articles)
- A radio program was aired telling the real story of Medi Zeneli, a wheelchair user, 34 years old, who had an accident four years ago while working in a private building enterprise. Thanks to his strong will, he practiced every day and today he lives an active life. The program addressed the main worries of people like Medi, having to do with the legal framework and services available to this category of people and economical conditions. Medi's interview was an appeal to human rights and legislation implementation for people with disabilities in Albania.

The project increased the number of disabled people with access to mobility through the production of 90 wheelchairs in a six month period. It increased their independent living skills through the active rehabilitation camps. The impact of this project is even more significant considering the fact that the government cannot provide such services to disabled people, and ADRF through its wheelchair production unit, is the only organization in Albania able to address their needs. An important result of the project is the high visibility that ADRF was able to achieve throughout the media, government and donor community. It helped to further improve and strengthen the relationship of ADRF with local and international NGOs to better serve disabled people.

ADRF is now acting as a resource center in the disability sector, able to provide a wide range of services to disabled people, including updated information on disability issues, mapping needs and supporting sub-sector lobbying efforts.

SSG-002 Albanian Family Planing Association "Improving Counseling on Reproductive Health Issues for Women in Albania" (\$35,400)
Start Date: 04/01/00 End Date: 09/30/00

During the second quarter of their grant, the Albanian Family Planing Association (AFPA) has achieved progress in the following five areas:

- *Organized a follow up training course for health care providers and AFPA counselors in service centers in Tirana, Durresi, Lezha and Vlora to strengthen their communication skills.*

On September 25-26, AFPA held in Tirana a second training session to improve the communication skills of counselors in the four AFPA services centers. The participants were the same as in the first training organized during the first quarter. Ten participants came from AFPA service centers and local government agencies in Durresi, Vlora Lezha and Berati, and five were from Tirana.

The second training program was designed in response to the needs identified in the first training. Some of the issues discussed in the training were as follows:

- Clients needs and their rights
- Ways of offering counseling
- Problem solving skills of counselors
- Empathy and its influence in counseling
- Counselors reaction toward emotional problems of the clients
- Communication lines between health professional and client

The counseling cycle, starting with clients needs and rights, as well as communication lines, are new concepts not only for the service providing NGOs but government institutions as well. The training addressed direct counseling issues and built counselors skills and confidence in serving the clients. This training introduced new ways to better understand client needs and serving them.

- *Increased women's awareness on Reproductive Health, Family Planing and counseling issues in the Shkodra region – Organization of a regional seminar*

The seminar framework was designed based on the needs assessment conducted through three-field visits before the seminar. The needs assessment visits focused on monitoring the reproductive health situation in Shkodra, the level of awareness among women on reproductive health issues such as the importance of safe motherhood, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, reproductive rights etc. During these field visits, representatives of AFPA had several group meetings with a wide representation of women and local government health institutions.

As a follow up, during September 28-29, AFPA headquarters in collaboration with AFPA Shkodra organized the regional seminar titled "Raising Women Awareness on Reproductive Health, Family Planing and Counseling Issues and Their Influence on Women's Life".

In addition to twenty representatives from Shkodra, ten women from Malesia e Madhe and Lezha attended. One of the main topics discussed was family planning issues in the social-demographic context, generated by a very traditional culture and serious social problems. Local TV and radio stations covered the event. National newspaper *Koha Jone* published an article about issues discussed in the seminar, activities of Albanian Family Planing and the importance of family planing methods.

- *Preparing and producing a guideline on counseling issues, to be used by health professionals*

This manual will be the first publication of its kind in Albania, and will be a tool for all health professionals providing counseling in the governmental and non-governmental sector. The manual has a great value considering the fact that in Albania, service provider-client relationships are new

and not very well developed, especially in the health sector, which is heavily centralized. The manual covers the following:

- Ten fundamental rights of the client
- Counseling on contraceptive methods
- Counseling process
- Who can offer counseling
- Environmental influence in the counseling process

At the end of October, AFPA will finish the distribution of the manual in all of its service centers. An evaluation process is planned after distribution is complete.

- *Increasing the awareness of women/citizens on the importance of counseling/FP services in their RH welfare through the broadcast of TV spots as well as dissemination of leaflets on counseling*

The broadcast of the TV Spot will continue until the end of October. The content of this spot consists of what is counseling, who needs counseling, the best practices of AFPA in counseling etc. Up to now the TV-spot is broadcast on National TV which covers 85%-90% of Albanian territory (15 times), 50 times on Teuta TV (local TV) in their most popular program such as the headline news.

- *Increased women awareness on the Reproductive Health, Family Planing and counseling issues in the districts of Permet*

On September 2-3, AFPA organized the first regional seminar on reproductive health and family planning issues in Permet. Thirty women participants, instead of the 25 planned, came from the districts of Permet, Gjirokastra and Tepelena. In the seminar, AFPA gave a general overview of reproductive health rights in Albania and a summary of reproductive health problems viewed from the gender perspective (Cairo + 5 and Beijing + 5) compared with the situation worldwide. Another issue discussed was the situation of women in the district of Permet and influence of counseling components in the process of service providing.

Local electronic and print media covered the event, which increased the women's outreach and impact of the seminar.

During this quarter 15 health care professionals were trained in interpersonal communication skills, and 60 women and representatives of local NGOs in Shkodra, Permeti, Gjirokastra and Tepelena districts were informed on the importance of RH/FP services and services offered by AFPA. Eighty-five percent of Albanian population informed on the family planing services provided by AFPA service centers.

SSG-003 Counseling Center for Women and Girls “Help and Support for Abused Women and Those Risked from Trafficking in Rural Areas” (\$36,010)
Start Date: 03/15/00 End Date: 10/10/00

The first quarter of the project started with the organization of a press conference by CCWG. The purpose was to attract and focus media attention on violence against women, especially in the rural areas and to promote the new project.

CCWG worked in four villages in Tirana district, five villages in Pogradec district and eight villages in Fushë-Arrez district during this period. The goal of the activity was to increase public awareness on violence and trafficking of women, and identification and training of potential trainers in targeted villages. The selection of working areas is based on the following:

- NGO access in the formal and informal structures in villages (health centers, family, school)
- Possibilities to collaborate with existing staff and people involved in these structures as well as possibilities for future work.
- Size of village population in order to reach a larger number of women and to ensure confidentiality.

In each district CCWG faced a variety of problems. In Fushe-Arrez the influence of Kanun on women presented a serious problem. The low level of education, lack of information, heavy house work and extreme control by husbands were common issues which the Counseling Centers in each district encountered. The meetings with women were conducted in village school premises or women’s houses to facilitate greater participation.

At each meeting CCWG discussed the objectives of the project, types of domestic violence and the phenomenon of women trafficking. The women were informed about the Albanian legislation regarding violence against women and trafficking. CCWG distributed informational material regarding the above issues, as well as services provided by the Counseling Center for Women and Girls.

CCWG identified women trainers that will be able to assist abused women in the area. The women selected represented almost every single village targeted by the Subrecipient. Motivation, comprehensibility and communication skills were some of the criteria of the selection. The women trainers went through a tailored training course delivered in each district. The main topics discussed were:

- Gender differences and their influence on women’s status especially in rural areas.
- Types of violence and their effects on women
- Violence dynamics - power and control. Violence cycle.

- Communication skills.
- Basic knowledge on the counseling process for abused women.

CCWG activity attracted heavy media coverage. The Counseling Center for Women and Girls in Tirana, in collaboration with Albanian public television, organized a cycle of TV programs focused on gender violence, especially violence against women in rural areas and the risk of trafficking. All coordinators in each district where the project is implemented participated in the programs. The broadcasting and the TV spot aired on several national and local TV stations, which promoted the CCWG's services and reached a larger audience.

SSG-004 Women, Reality and Vision Association. "Community Kindergarten and Counseling Help to Women" (\$20,320)

Start Date: 03/01/00

End Date: 08/30/00

During the second quarter of their grant, the Women, Reality and Vision Association successfully implemented their project workplan in accordance with the established indicators. The kindergarten continued to act as a community center providing services to 80 children attending kindergarten and their parents, training 45 parents of disabled children, and counseling and vocational training for unemployed women.

Eighty children from the ages of five to ten years attended the center five days a week, from 9:00 to 14:00. Specialized educators worked with children divided into six groups according to age. The educators developed monthly educational programs consisting of math, English language, Albanian language skills, personal hygiene, etc. The children have individual files, which are updated every day by educators, in order to track their progress.

After the successful exhibition opened on June 1, WRVA developed 36 painting sessions in order to improve the level of training classes and promote the interest of children in this field of art. The children's dancing group displayed six classical ballets and various modern dancing displayed for their friends and parents.

Most of the women and children who attend the center come from the North of Albania. A high percentage of women are unemployed and live on state social assistance. WRVA held 30 counseling sessions with this group of women during the second quarter. The center welcomed divorced, abused women, and single mothers who were assisted with clothes, food and hygienic items as well, thanks to a grant from CRS.

In addition, Women, Reality and Vision Association successfully implemented as part of the center services, the second phase of SNV-funded training project. Seventy unemployed women were

trained in foreign languages (English, French, and Italian) and secretarial skills. The training will increase women's employment opportunities.

A psychologist, gynecologist, lawyer and social worker assisted the clients of the center on a frequent basis. They held 30 different group discussions according to expressed needs.

An additional service provided by the center was the training of 45 parents of disabled children every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The disability specialists assisted the parents on how to face daily problems and give care for their disabled children. The parents were educated on their children's type of disability and how to best integrate them into society. On August 25, the psychiatrist finished the entire check-up of the disabled children and compiled necessary documentation regarding the progress of each child. She noticed positive changes related to communication and motor skills.

During the last week of August, the center held an exhibition with children's photos that revealed their activities and artwork. It increased WRVA's public image and was a tool in attracting additional support for the center.

Summaries of the project beneficiaries and outcomes are as follows:

- Eighty children between the ages of 3 to 7 years received education on a daily basis for six months in the Kombinat area. Of the 80 children who attended the kindergarten 63 of them successfully passed the program.
- Qualified training (six different classes) developed for the children who attend the kindergarten. WRVA developed 450 hours of training sessions through six different classes such as: drawing, dancing, recreation activities, physic education, foreign language and special training for most talented disabled children.
- An exhibition with children's artwork, a photo exhibition and a children's show to celebrate Children's Day. Ninety paintings selected out of 200 creations were displayed at the National Art Gallery from May 31 to June 6, 2000. Some of them won the Golden Plaque at the International Competition of Bitola, Macedonia as the most talented group of participants. One of the children, who attended regular painting classes, won in August First Prize at the International Exhibition of Children in Romania.
- Training provided to 45 disabled children and their parents in order to support children's education. Ten slightly mentally disabled children were integrated into the group of non-disabled children.

- 2,235 women received counseling through 60 sessions during the project implementation and 68% of them were unemployed. An average of 30-35 women took part in each session. 82 % of the women found the information very useful.
- Increased NGO capacity in the area of service providing. Four projects implemented by WRVA focused on service providing and were funded by different donors. Within the first month of running the kindergarten, the number of requests to enroll children in the kindergarten doubled up to 168 and by the end of August it increased to 256.
- Increased and improved NGO public image.
Approximately 1,100 - 1,200 visitors used the information and services provided by the center.

The sensitivity of issues addressed by WRVA and the variety of target groups' problems are evident in the following true accounts:

One day a father, (from Kukes, Northern Albania), who has a boy attending kindergarten, comes with his daughter to ask if he can also bring his 10 year old daughter together with his 6 year old son. The secretary's answer was that since the girl is already at school, she cannot attend at the same time both school and kindergarten. The man replied with decisive gestures: " She is not at school and will not be there until her brother begins school because a girl can't go to school alone. I can't be her guardian, because I have to work all day long. Maybe next year they will start together the first year".

When the lector asked one of the women who has come recently from the North if she liked the sessions or not she answered: "It's enough to make me get out of house, comb my hair and come here. So I say thank you a lot"

SSG-005 Social Help for Women Head of Family "Women and Children Center"
(\$9,153)

Start Date: 04/01/00

End Date: 09/30/00

Social Help for Women Head of Family continued to provide a full range of services to 30 children at the kindergarten level and their single mothers. The group targeted by the Association Social Help for Women Head of Family, represents the most problematic part of Kucova population in terms of social problems and low financial incomes.

The community kindergarten provides education to the 30 children based on a well-developed program. One preschool teacher takes care of the children's education five days a week. In the kindergarten, children learn basic math concepts, Albanian language and are entertained through several educational activities.

An additional service provided, under this project, is free medical and psychological assistance for the children and their mothers. A doctor visits the kindergarten three times a week and meets with the mothers. Sessions on nutrition, hygiene, children's diseases and women's health are held based on the mothers' needs and requests. The doctor also provides medical visits free of charge. The Subgrantee has developed a log of the visits provided in the kindergarten center. Through these visits it was noticed that a low level of health education exists among the women beneficiaries.

The social problems that these women and children face are enormous because of being one-parent families with a high rate of unemployment among women. In order to address this problem, Social Help for Women Head of Family has a sociologist work with mothers and children three times a week.

One of the most encouraging aspects of this project is a partnership between local government and the community which provides free meals for children attending the kindergarten. Considering the fact that Kucova Municipality is one of the smallest in Albania, with a high rate of unemployment, it demonstrates that a successful model of NGO collaboration with the local government and the community is possible with very little means.

SSG - 007 Albanian-American Trade and Development Association "NGO Organizational Development" (\$31,180)

Start Date: 03/01/00

End Date: 08/30/00

During the last quarter of their grant, the Albanian-American Trade and Development Association (AATDA-AL) successfully implemented activities related to increasing membership, policy development, and cross-border cooperation. Additional related tasks and activities, not funded under the grant, were also performed as an integral part of AATDA-AL mission.

The membership development and related services could be considered the core activity of AATDA-AL during this reported time. Recognizing the importance of a large base membership as very important for the success of the organization, AATDA-AL developed a membership-based recruitment plan of action. The plan has been focused on attracting private businesses, business professionals, economic development organizations, government agencies and professionals and others dedicated to the development of the private sector of Albania and the economic and social development of the country. Such efforts have been linked in an integrated form with the

improvement of the Association's services, in an up-to-date effort to offer real services for association members as a meaningful tool for ensuring a large and consolidated membership.

During this quarter, AATDA-AL started implementing the membership recruitment campaign designed during the first quarter of the project. The campaign was focused on the establishment of a membership assistance program consisting of an information system for members, technical assistance and information of every kind. It was supported by an intensive and well-organized publication campaign, including publication of a bimonthly newsletter, publication and distribution of brochures and other booklets, preparation of special information sets containing information on AATDA-AL and AATDA-US activities and services, as well as updating of a web page (shared with AATDA-US), which provides information on business opportunities and related topics for Albanian businesses and other foreign businesses interested in Albania.

Therefore, at the end of the quarter, AATDA-AL counts a membership of 60 active members, 40 of them coming from the private business sector or public institutions. AATDA-AL has dedicated many efforts to the development of the association internal structure and policies related to its mission and priority programs. These efforts were supported by ORT providing Capacity Building Training to four Boards of Directors members and two staff members in June 2000.

AATDA-AL has conducted research and has developed projects and programs to better serve the members needs. These projects are as follows:

- **A Survey of SME Businesses in Albania**

The Albania National Business Survey is designed to identify the needs of Small and Medium Size Enterprises in Albania, as well as to explore their potential for expansion and export in order to find development solutions based on solid knowledge of the Albanian business sector. AATDA-AL will use the survey to develop its own policies concerning business interests in Albania. These policies will be the basis of strategies that the organization will use to promote better business practices among its members, and to lobby public bodies concerning their own policies and practices that affect Albania's business environment.

At the end of the survey, AATDA-AL is planning to compile a report on research findings and recommendations based on survey results for government policy and programs related to SME development. A final conference will be organized to disseminate project findings.

The project is in the process of receiving funding from CIPE- Central for Initiative for Private Enterprise based in Washington DC. The project is expected to begin in October 2000.

- **Training Seminar/Conference in Local Economic Development, Business Development and Business Management in the Region (Corridor 8 Region.)**

The organizers of this project were the Albanian American Trade and Development Association, as well as Albanian American Trade and Development Association located in Tirana-Albania.

More than 110 people attended the Conference through June 13-16, 2000. Attendees came from both public and private sectors of the three principal countries involved—Albania, Macedonia, and Bulgaria. Also attending were major local leaders from other interested parties, including such places as Bari, Italy and Pristina and other Kosovar cities that would be positively impacted by the development of this regional transportation system. The participants attending represented a good combination of mayors, local government officials and private sector leaders, including chambers of commerce, other business institutions and prominent individual businessmen and women. The Albanian delegation included 39 participants, 12 of them representing the business sector.

The project consisted of a 4 day seminar/conference on local economic development, tailored to the needs of the participating communities along Corridor 8. The overall goal was to initiate or enhance the involvement of individual local governments in local economic development planning and development activities and to form a cross-border alliance of localities to lobby for Corridor 8 support and financing.

The event was characterized by open discussions where concerns of localities along the corridor were shown and, we believe a good basis was created to build a better appreciation of how the plan can benefit from more direct involvement of local communities. The program also featured presentations on how to lobby and build successful associations. One of the most important outcomes of the event was *the signing of the Capital Cities Declaration*. Mayors Albert Brojka of Tirana, Mr. Riste Penov of Skopje and Mr. Sofianski of Sofia, agreed to make efforts to form an alliance amongst themselves and also to cooperate with the national governments in their respective countries. They also agreed to lobby for continued financial support of the Corridor Eight Project and to lobby for funding of necessary infrastructure associated with adequate access to the Corridor 8 transportation system for their cities. In addition, they plan to coordinate further organizational efforts among local governments and their business communities throughout the region to provide support for the Corridor Eight Projects.

As a result of discussions in a closing business session, participants and co-sponsors resolved to:

- Continue the process of local involvement in the Corridor 8 development process
- Study development of cross-border projects along the Corridor 8
- Take individual and collective action, in coordination and support of national efforts, to lobby for full funding of the corridor development by international funding agencies

- Meet again within six months in Bulgaria to further develop activities in alliance with one another
- Continue efforts to bring other stakeholders from other countries into this Corridor Eight-support process.

To address some of the issues raised in the conference, AATDA drafted another project focused on studying and finding ways of establishing and running the Local Economic Development Planning Units in communities along Corridor 8. This project has, as its second important task, an advocacy campaign focusing on ways to ensure participation of local communities in all Local Economic Development Planning processes. The study is addressed to a certain number of communities along the Corridor 8 Development Plan, with the possibility to expand in other communities of Albania in a second step.

- **Creation of a “United States Day” Event in Albania to Encourage Closer Ties Between the Two Countries.**

AATDA-AL is an organization specifically dedicated to the development of investment and trade between the US and Albania. Its purpose is to establish investment and trade opportunities between the United States and Albania, and to promote the development of a favorable climate for business and economic development in Albania. An important role the AATDA has been in establishing and maintaining contact with those US Government agencies, multilateral organizations and non-governmental groups most relevant to potential trade, investment, education, and other developments in Albania. As part of this program, a “United States Day” was created, an event in Albania to encourage closer ties between the two countries.

AATDA-AL has facilitated and helped organize the visit of about 20 businessmen from the US in Tirana, aimed at establishing business contacts with potential Albanian counterparts. In addition, AATDA-AL supported the process of establishing the American-Albanian Chamber of Commerce with the support of US Embassy in Tirana. AATDA-AL helps to identify potential Albanian partners and with arranging meetings.

SSG - 008 Intellectual Women /Puka “Puka Women Room” (\$6,440)
Start Date: 04/01/00 End Date: 09/30/00

The implementation of the project in the first quarter started with identification of suitable premises to run the Puka Women’s Room. Intellectual Women of Puka refurbished the center and recruited four staff based on defined job descriptions. The Center consists in two rooms, a pizza place and an information/meeting room. IW/P organized a public information campaign regarding the location and services provided by this Center. As part of the campaign, Intellectual Women of Puka prepared

a poster and a fifteen minute program was broadcast on local TV about the Center's activities. All these activities created the necessary foundation for the Center to be operational.

One of the main services provided by the Center is a 15 day training course to 15 young women who will serve as a nurse assistant at the village level. These women come from villages all around Puka, with a low level of poverty, scarce primary health care services and high rate of mortality. The training addressed issues such as: new practices of babies nutrition, priority of breast feeding, first aid assistance, seasonal diseases, pregnant women's related issues, care for women after birth, importance of vaccination, family planning methods, how to care for new born babies, how to reduce the number of women who give birth to their babies in their houses without medical care, healing wounds, and how to give injections etc.

Intellectual Women of Puka collaborated with the Local Health Directorate which was primarily responsible for the training. The highest percentage of unemployed in Puka are women. The small businesses run or owned by women were destroyed during the collapse of the pyramid schemes. To address the issue, Intellectual Women of Puka organized a training course on "How to Start Up a Business" targeting women that had a business but were in their first steps and women that wanted to start their own business. The participants were selected through an interviewing process. The main topics discussed during the training course included: Personal skills and capabilities, marketing, market research, business responsibilities, business organization, calculation of total costs for production and service business as well as for the wholesale and retail businesses, record keeping, business planning, the action plan etc.

The NGO members and the staff at the Women's Center, trained by the International Labor Organization in the same topics, provided the training. This training served as a way for them to strengthen their training skills.

During the first quarter, IW/P organized three round-table discussions on NGOs-Local Government partnership, gender issues and community involvement in school educational processes. In the first round-table, representatives from the District Council, Municipality and NGOs participated. The local government representatives agreed on the importance of income generating activities for the sustainability of the NGO sector. They also supported joint development programs at the community level. Both parties discussed possible ways to identify and use community resources for the development of the district.

In the second round-table addressing gender issues, the government and NGO representatives discussed apart from domestic violence and prostitution, other important issues like women's role in decreasing illegal arm bearing. IW/P's activities received extensive media coverage, which increased its both outreach and reputation in the public.

SSG - 009 Albanian Young Women Christian Association Albanian Child Care Program (\$12,230)

Start Date: 05/01/00

End Date: 10/30/00

Babysitting service is very new in Albania, and is traditionally provided in an informal way by extended family members. The capital, Tirana, with a large international community and a high percentage of young employed women, provides a perfect market for such a service.

The YWCA, as part of its Child Care Program, began with a massive advertisement campaign. Thousands of posters were printed and displayed throughout Tirana. The distribution of posters was done in accordance with the rules and with prior permission from the Directorate of Culture at the Tirana Municipality.

YWCA drafted a list of potential clients and distributed 118 information packages. These packets included YWCA promotional materials and a short summary of the babysitting program and related services available. The distribution list included all different women and youth NGOs, donor organizations, international institutions, all Embassies in Tirana, written and spoken media, and different Radio and TV stations operating in Tirana. In addition, all hotels, agencies, and other NGOs, which were not reached as part of the distribution process received informational materials by fax.

To increase client outreach, YWCA prepared a TV spot and electronic advertisement on TV channels. The YWCA staff worked together with TV experts to carefully select the message. Two of the NGO members offered their time and home in which to record the spot. The spot was aired on the main TV channels with national wide coverage such as, TVSH, TV KLAN, TVA, TELENORBA, 67 times, twice a day, during the months of August and September. Due to lack of policies concerning the promotion of free public service announcements, the NGO faced extremely high commercial fees. YWCA had to negotiate with several TV stations to arrive at the best price in addition to determining the appropriate hours for advertising and the best watched TV stations.

YWCA conducted a labor market analysis to better establish a fee for the babysitting service. Fifty questionnaires were distributed to different categories of people with different levels of income. The group targeted were employed people working in Albanian and foreign institutions. The data collected showed that employed Albanians were willing to pay approximately 63 lek per hour or 500 lek per day.

To ensure the continuation of providing such services, the YWCA will remit 10% of the part-time babysitter payment and half when they work on a full time basis. Through this, the YWCA is planning to increase the NGOs income up to 30%.

As the next step, the YWCA with legal assistance designed a disclaimer form to be signed by the clients and childcare providers in the presence of the YWCA representative. The disclaimer states the three parties' duties and rights and will be signed by the three parties. It will aid in disputes, should they arise.

A log of telephone calls and data is maintained on interested families in the babysitting service. During the first quarter, YWCA received 40 telephone calls. This figure is high considering the fact the electronic advertisement will not begin until the next quarter. Most of these potential clients learn about the service through the babysitting training course announcements. The interest increased after distribution of posters and information packages.

This period of the project implementation has been successful regarding YWCA's public image. Two of the main newspapers in Albania published two articles about babysitter training courses and the babysitting service.

One of the articles published in *Gazeta Shqiptare* began with the following:

***" Do you want your child to be taken care of?
Ready the first 50 trained girls and women***

The article highlighted the fact that through YWCA training, Albania would have the first trained babysitters available. The articles provided lots of information to the public regarding the skills these babysitters have and the hiring procedures. In addition, some well-known radio stations such as Radio Stinë and Intervista Radio have approached the NGO, inviting its staff to live radio talk shows. An agreement has been reached with Radio Stinet to do a 20 minute program on the Childcare Program. The radio will advertise this program several days in advance. In addition, the well-known TV station TV KLAN is planning to do a chronicle on childcare providers as part of the main news.

During this quarter, YWCA has also organized four childcare provider training courses, under the funds of ICCO Netherlands. Fifty young women and girls between the ages of 18-40 participated and received a certificate. The team, composed of four skillful Albanian trainers, drafted the entire program and was the first of its kind in Albania.

To better equip these trainees with practical skills related to childcare issues, YWCA, under the assistance of the ORT staff, reached an agreement with the Orphans House in Sauk. According to this agreement, YWCA trainees will attend a one-week internship in the orphanage. This whole internship program was not planned in the original project, but came to be very innovative and useful. The Orphans House requested that all the trainees/babysitters possess a health certificate in order to attend the internship. Now, all the babysitters trained and offered by YWCA hold a health certificate as well.

Beneficiaries

- Fifty unemployed young women and girls equipped with new skills in childcare providing.
- Ten Albanian families who have found a trained childcare provider for their babies.
- YWCA with an increased membership up to 50 new members.
- Increased YWCA incomes because of increase in membership. The membership fee is 500 lek and will be collected in January 2001.
- A large percentage of Tirana inhabitants informed on a new type of service available to them, i.e., childcare providers.

During the following three months, YWCA of Albania will announce the new courses for childcare providers to be held during September and October 2000. Three training courses will be organized during the fall. These courses are planned based on the many requests received from women and girls from Tirana. The broadcasting of the TV spot will take place during August - September. YWCA will prepare the trainees profiles and the final draft of the Childcare Providers Training Program.

SSG - 010 Small Business Foundation /Tirana Entrepreneurship and Business Management Training Opportunity for the Unemployed and Poor Women in Tirana and Gjirokastra Regions (\$10,490)

Start Date: 04/15/00 End Date: 10/15/00

In the first quarter, during April 15 – July 15, Small Business Foundation (SBF) delivered two training courses in Tirana and two in Gjirokastra region targeting urban women.

Tirana Region

In Tirana, SBF selected 29 women out of 39 who applied. Two national newspapers, *Koha Jone* and *Shekulli*, published for four days the training announcement.

Before the training period, SBF held meetings with experts of two lending agencies, Besa Foundation and Albanian Partner in Micro Business (APM, a USAID-funded project). They proposed that potential clients of these agencies should be registered with priority for the training event before they will be granted a micro credit.

The training discussed the following important issues:

- Women entrepreneurship in Albania
- Women business motivation and entrepreneurial skills
- Legal framework & tax system for small business

- Procedures for registration and necessary documentation
- Small business marketing
- Small business management
- Preparation of loan application and business plan
- Evaluation of business plan and financial analyses

Representatives of both lending agencies took part in the two training events. During these sessions the bankers informed the women participants on lending criteria, conditions and standards, distributed leaflets on their lending activities and answered many questions asked from women, particularly on the schedule of loan repayments. Approximately 13 women expressed their interest for loans. In the training, women were introduced to a short version of the requested micro business projects for BF, APM and ABA business plan requirements.

In addition, SBF organized on-site visits for the women trainees in the SKAT shpk (ready-made garment) and Bojra shpk (paints manufacturing) to be exposed to successful experiences of the women' managers.

Gjirokastra Region

The two training courses in Gjirokastra were announced in the local newspaper, local TV and radio Gjirokastra. The Regional Development Agency Gjirokastra (RDAGJ), local partner of SBF in this project, organized a meeting with the Women Activists of Gjirokastra Association to inform them about training possibilities.

In two trainings, SBF and RDAGJ trained thirty-two women from Gjirokastra. As in Tirana, the trainees visited two local businesses run by women.

RDA organized a special meeting with the local authorities to discuss loan extension opportunities for the women trainees as the first clients of Besa Foundation-Micro Credit Agency in Gjirokastra.

As part of the first quarter, SBF and RDAGJ trained 58 women from Tirana and Gjirokastra region. Below is given a breakdown list of participants according to their involvement in business.

Region	No. Trainees	Self-employed	State-employed	Private-employed	Unemployed	Start-up	No idea	Loan requested
Tirana	26	12	9	4	1	9	6	13
Gjirokastra	32	8	13	-	11	12	12	18
Total	58	20	22	4	12	21	18	31

Of the women participants in these four trainings, about 50 % of them would like to attend tailored courses on accounting and finance, marketing, business plans, and computer applications for

business purposes. In addition, 21 women expressed their wish to start up their own business. It is calculated that about 31 women participants would like to get access to credit facilities. In September, the office of Besa Foundation will be operational in Gjirokastra. In the interim, SBF & RDA staff are preparing and developing counseling sessions with these potential women entrepreneurs and assisting them to complete loan forms at the Besa Foundation and Albanian Partner in Micro Credit.

During the second quarter, SBF organized two trainings on improving business management skills for 32 women in the community of Vaqarr and Preza. SBF choose these communities in cooperation with Albanian Partner in Micro Credit, who is interested to expand its credit service to these two communities. Based on the APM and Land O'lakes suggestions and considering the fact that the poverty in Albania is more a rural phenomenon than an urban, the second phase of the project was implemented in these two communities.

The training was organized in the respective community school premises and was focused on:

- Small agricultural/livestock farm management
- Small farm management
- Budget for a farm activity/enterprise
- Statistical data on farms in Albania
- Typical revenues and expenditures for different farm activities
- Best farms activities in Tirana region
- Prices determined by the supply/demand balance

The trainees had the possibility to explore four successful businesses, one of them run by a woman.

For each training course, SBF and ARDGJ did an assessment of knowledge gained by the women. The women farmers, who received for the very first time training in business managerial skills, appreciated the training.

Summary Table of the Women Trainees

Region	No. Trainees	Self-employed	State-employed	Private-employed	Unemployed	Start-up	No idea	Loan requested
Tirana	62	48	9	4	1	9	18	25
Gjirokastra	32	8	13	-	11	12	12	18
Total	94	56	22	4	12	21	30	43

II. NGO DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Institutional Development Grants Program

During the last quarter, ORT signed Modification Subagreements with three IDG Subrecipients: Foundation Regional Agency for Development / Elbasan and Foundation Regional Agency for Development / Tirana were granted an extension of two months (04/30/00 through 06/30/00); and the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation was granted an extension of three months (04/30/00 through 07/30/00).

During the extension period, the NGOs demonstrated their role as resource centers in the sector by serving a greater number of NGOs, government institutions and the public. This extension period allowed them additional time to put into practice knowledge and skills gained during the NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy Program, and to show that they can actively develop the NGO sector in Albania.

Upon completion of the subprojects, ORT organized two evaluation visits for three IDG grantees (Foundation Regional Agency for Development / Tirana, Albanian Foundation for Disability Rights and Dairy Entrepreneurs National Association.) The first evaluation focused on whether the subproject had been implemented as planned (status of inputs and outputs) and whether activities had resulted in subproject purpose achievement or impact. The second evaluation was conducted by the ORT Finance Officer focused on Subgrantee financial procedures, the compliance with ORT format and control of inputs purchased under ORT/USAID funding.

The extent of the impact is remarkable that ORT DemNet achieved through its NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy. Three of the sector resource centers have developed financial statements, financial reporting formats and fund raising strategies based on the best international practices.

SARC-001 Foundation Regional Agency for Development / Elbasan: NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy (IDG-\$15,000)
Start Date: 09/01/99 End Date: 06/30/00

The Foundation Regional Agency for Development / Elbasan (ARDE) organized additional in-house training to increase the training capacity of ARDE staff in project development, monitoring and evaluation in order to better serve local NGO needs. At the end of the training ARDE staff was better equipped with training skills in project design, monitoring and evaluation, project implementation and evaluation.

On June 28, 2000, ARDE organized a PR meeting with the presence of local and international NGOs, local government authorities and private businesses. The activity intended to promote ARDE services and inform the public on their achievements over the past 9 months, thanks to ORT Institutional Development and Sustainability Strategy. The meeting was covered by the local TV, which increased ARDE visibility with the local government and the public. The presence in the meeting of local government representatives dealing with the business sector broadened the basis for future collaboration. The meeting was a great opportunity for ARDE to expand its network in the region thanks to the participation of different business NGOs working the prefecture of Elbasan.

In June, ARDE developed a project proposal to provide training and technical assistance to local NGOs in capacity building, similar to what ORT provided to ARDE through Institutional Development and Sustainability Strategy. The whole project proposal and training methodology was based on what ARDE had developed with ANTTARC as part of the Strategy. The project has been submitted to several donors for funding.

SARC-002 Albanian Disability Rights Foundation: “NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy” (IDG-\$15,000)
Start Date: 09/01/99 End Date: 07/30/00

It is common in Albania for people to be unaware of their rights and obligations. This is more serious among marginalized groups like disabled people, where a great percentage, especially the ones living in the rural areas, have no information about their legal rights and benefits. There are disabled people who do not know they are entitled to social assistance and live in misery.

ORT granted an extension of three months to the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF) to produce an updated collection and distribution of the Albanian legislation related to disability issues covering labor, education, housing, health and social protection rights. ADRF had received many requests for such a publication from disabled people.

More than 500 copies of the legislation package were published which will meet the needs of disabled people, their families and different state and non-governmental agencies that serve them. ADRF's contact points in almost all the districts supported the distribution. The contact points include: leaders of disability NGOs, doctors or physiotherapists in district hospitals, officials at district branches of Social Insurance Institute, officials or social workers of economic assistance in the municipality etc.

The package of information was distributed to disabled people, their families and agencies involved in disability issues. ADRF distribution list includes also Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Construction and Territory Arrangement, Social Insurance Institute, residential and day

centers for disabled people, special schools, disability NGOs and others interested on disability issues, ADRF network and donors.

The package of legislation will support the lobbying efforts of the interest group recently established. This group has developed a lobbying strategy aimed at improving and enforcing legislation on specific areas, starting with the right for an accessible environment, the right to education, vocational and rehabilitation programs and the right to employment.

ADRF will also use the package in developing part of its training program on human rights of people with disabilities and existing Albanian legislation on disabilities.

In addition, the legal package will enable ADRF to better play its role as an resource center in the disability sector.

SARC-003 Foundation "Regional Development Agency" / Tirana: "NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy" (IDG-\$15,000)
Start Date: 09/01/99 End Date: 04/30/00

During this period, RDA Tirana extended its services to government agencies, which increased their visibility and reputation among government and the business sector.

Through June 12 - 24, RDA Tirana provided a ten-day training course for government accountant specialists on "Accounting Issues". The training course was designed and performed according to the agreement with the Ministry of Health, whose interest is to increase the capacity of agencies under its authority. The training addressed issues related to public institutions accounting systems, legal requirements and functioning of financial obligations. Thirty-six accountants working for the Ministry of Health and Health Directorate in Tirana and Duresh attended the course. The training modules, developed according to the new accounting law requirements, provided new knowledge to the public accountants most of whom were trained under the old accounting system. Part of the RDA Tirana trainers' team were accountant specialists from the Ministry of Finance who brought in the training experiences from other countries.

A pre- and post-test was used to assess participants knowledge. It showed that the participants improved their knowledge on accounting systems of public institutions.

RDA Tirana charged a participation fee of 10,000 Lek, which covered part of the trainers' fee.

The successful completion of this agreement lead to other training organized by RDA Kruja in Lezha and Kruja with the assistance of RDA Tirana. The training will be replicated in other cities of Albania during this year by the request of several state institutions. The participation fee covers most of the training expenses.

SARC-004 Dairy Entrepreneurs National Association: “NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy” (IDG-\$15,000)

Start Date: 09/01/99 End Date: 04/30/00

The Development and Sustainability Strategy for DENA with the assistance of ENTERIC started with the assessment of the existing Board and identification of new additional members.

The goal was to create an independent board with a diverse representation and areas of expertise. At the end of the process the DENA Board of Directors increased by eight members and now totals 13. The assessment of DENA staff concluded with the recruitment of a new Executive Director. Based on a competitive and open process, DENA recruited two additional staff, a Finance Officer and a Program Assistant.

During October - November 1999, DENA’s board and staff participated in a retreat program on “Development, Leadership and Strategic Planning of NGOs”, conducted by the Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center (ANNTARC). At the end of the retreat program, DENA had developed a new organization mission and vision, a policy and procedures manual and short and long term objectives. The program increased the professional level of the Board of Directors and staff. As part of the retreat program, they were equipped with new leadership and managerial skills.

In addition, the Statute and internal regulations of DENA were revised, drafted and registered at the Tribunal Office of Tirana. The revised Statute will ensure a broader and representative membership, democracy in the decision-making process, increased visibility of the organization and its services and strengthened relations with members, donors, business and government sector.

DENA with the assistance of ANTTARC, designed a big public relations campaign. It consisted of printing a new organization stamp, publishing a press kit, membership booklet and a poster promoting DENA members and its services. The campaign has boosted the public image of DENA.

As part of the nine-month ORT-funded program DENA improved and expanded its collaboration with business organizations, donor and government agencies to better serve its members. DENA is closely collaborating with Land O’Lakes on the distribution of milk cooling tanks to dairy producers, members of DENA. The expected result is the development of small businesses in villages, increased quality and quantity of dairy production, better quality of dairy products served to the consumers and higher income for rural families.

A successful cooperation has been developed between DENA Association and LEA, Union of Albanian Farmers Association, ARD – Tirana. Some of these organizations have used the training capacity of the DENA staff to strengthen their institutional capacity.

DENA has played an active role in advocating on behalf of its members interest. The representative of DENA negotiated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food on the reduction of custom tax on dairy production equipment and VAT on milk. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has considered DENA's proposal on custom tax reduction and has presented it to the Council of Ministers. As far as reduction of VAT on milk is concerned, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food can not consider it before year 2001. The government's economic policies do not allow it.

DENA organized three meetings with the General Director of Food Industry Department and with the Director of the Directorate of Agriculture Program in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The discussions were focused on the ways in which DENA members can be supported by the Agro-processing Equipment Japanese Grant. DENA presented to the Ministry a list of equipment that the members need to improve their business and that can be funded by the grant.

DENA initiated an individual meeting with IFAD and GTZ to facilitate loan procedures for its members. Because of the negotiations three of DENA's members are in the process of receiving a loan.

In addition, DENA organized two meetings with representatives of FEFAD and American Bank to inform members about loan procedures in these two financial institutions.

DENA has started to collaborate with Land O'Lakes and Food Research Institute in publishing a booklet on cheese technology for milk processors.

III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

Drafting and Review of the NGO Law

ORT efforts during this period were focused on expediting the NGO law legislative process and disseminating updated information. The appointment of a new Minister of Justice required additional work on the part of both ORT and its NGO counterparts to re-establish a working relationship with the Ministry.

ORT assisted the NGO representatives in the working group to design a strategy on how to speak with a unified voice in their approach to the government and the Minister of Justice. As part of this strategy, the Executive Director of Albanian NGO Forum, one of the members of the NGO law working-group, wrote a formal letter to the Minister of Justice, introducing the NGO sector efforts in designing the draft law and successful co-operation between NGO and government sector (please see attachment.) A second meeting was initiated by a group of NGO representatives with the Albanian Prime Minister regarding the importance of passing a new NGO law in Albania. The Prime Minister recognised the importance of the initiative, and he assured the group that the issue would be addressed in a special meeting with the Minister of Justice and Minister of Labor.

ORT has been in constant contact with USAID, World Bank, UNDP and OSCE to update them on the most recent developments. All of them have shown great interest and support for the NGO draft law.

Improving Financial Management Systems and Reporting of NGOs

During this quarter, ORT continued to provide training courses in financial management systems and reporting formats to Albanian NGOs. Training courses were offered twice a month and free of charge. Topics include: financial reporting and statements, reporting formats, budget development and fund raising. Training is based on international standards. In July, ORT trained 13 NGO Finance Officers. Since April 2000, when ORT first opened the financial management training to non-ORT grantees, sixty Albanian NGO Finance Officers representing fifty Albanian NGOs were trained.

Most of the NGOs trained during this period were new organizations, coming from all over the country with very little previous exposure to this type of training. The pre- and post-tests, and the evaluation forms indicate how much they benefited from the training.

ORT has received compliments regarding its training quality and impact, including from other USAID projects working with local NGOs trained by ORT.

NGO Code of Conduct

ORT continued to hold round table discussions with Albanian NGOs working in the health and democracy sector on establishing a Code of Standards. Twenty NGOs representatives participated in the discussions.

In these meetings, ORT addressed the issue of the importance of developing such a Code, standards and the process it involves. Benefits associated with the adoption of a Code of Conduct were highlighted and include: stronger and more effective organizations within the non-governmental sector, increased credibility of subscribing organizations with funders, establishment of procedures that promote accountability and thus deter fraud and abuse within the nongovernmental sector, and the increased capacity of organizations to engage in coalition building activities across the nonprofit sector or subsectors to achieve common goals.

ORT stressed the importance that the developing and adopting process should be highly participatory, in order for the code to have the full support of those governed by it. The participants recognized the importance and usefulness of a Code of Standards. It should be noted that all NGOs participating in the discussions had no knowledge on the existence of such a Code and the ways in which it could benefit NGOs.

ORT distributed at the meeting an Albanian translation of the Maryland Association Code of Conduct, with prior permission granted by Maryland Association. It will serve as a model in developing NGO sub-sector codes.

Follow-up plans were designed in the meetings. The Center "Health for All" volunteered to take the lead in the health sub-sector. The Center will call a broader NGO meeting which will lead to the formation of a working group. The Center will also provide space and communication means to reach a larger number of health NGOs.

In terms of the democracy sub-sector, Albanian NGO Forum (ANGOF) expressed an interest to lead the initiative. ANGOF will call a second meeting of the democracy sub-sector to elect a working group that will develop the first draft of the code.

ORT provided in these meetings other information regarding the most recent initiatives taking place in the NGO sector. NGO representatives were informed about the meeting held by the Albanian Minister of State and Albanian NGOs to discuss the government's anti-corruption plan. To ensure active participation of the NGO sector in this strategy, ORT provided them with the most recent monitoring reports of the government and matrix of the anti-corruption plan.

The meetings on the Code of Conduct have served as a forum for the Society for Democratic Culture, The National Democratic Institute of Internal Affairs and the International Foundation for Elections Systems introduced their latest initiative on the establishment of a clearinghouse of Albanian NGOs that are conducting voter education projects in preparation for the autumn local elections.

ORT included special briefings regarding both initiatives in its September newsletter.

ORT Publication "On the Road to Success"

In June and July 2000, ORT issued the bi-monthly newsletter "On the Road To Success". The newsletter, which targets the NGO community in Albania, has increased its outreach in almost each district of the country. The NGOs find the newsletter a valuable tool in getting updated information about training, grant funding and employment opportunities. Also, the newsletter has proven to be an important tool in enhancing the NGO sector role in society. ORT receives appreciation from the donor and NGO community who find the newsletter a great means of communication among them.

DemNet Closeout

A consultant, Leslie Fox, travelled to Albania in July 2000 to conduct interviews with NGO representatives and USAID officials in order to assess the impact of DemNet over the six-year period. A final report will be issued which both reviews the impact as well as lessons learned.

A closing ceremony has been scheduled for December 7, 2000 from 5-7pm in the Hotel Tirana. Speakers include the American Ambassador and USAID Mission Director as well as Albanian NGO leaders.

In addition to the final report, ORT shall submit a final inventory/equipment disposition recommendation to USAID for their approval.

Attachments

- A. "On the Road to Success" Publication (July & September 2000)**
- B. Letter to the Minister of Justice**
- C. Financial Management Training Evaluation Sheets**
- D. A Collection of Newspapers Regarding Albanian Disability Rights Foundation Activity**
- E. Grants Cumulative List**

ATTACHMENT A

“On the Road to Success”

July & September 2000

ORT/USAID

Democracy Network Program

On the Road to Success

GRANTS FOR LOCAL NGO-S !!!

With funding from USAID Cooperative Agreement 182-A-00-00-00104-00, Mercy Corps International and American ORT are pleased to announce the Albanian Social Sector Rehabilitation and Support Program's (SSRP/A) Local Grant Competition.

SSRP/A objectives are: (a) to improve the infrastructure resources and quality of health and education facilities: (b) to strengthen community involvement and capacity through participation and leadership development: (c) to improve the quality of services of the targeted health and education facilities.

NGOs interested in participating in the SSRP/A Local NGO Grants Competition may receive an application as of August 2, 2000 from the Mercy Corp. office at Rruga Elbasanit 33/1 Tirana (next to Hotel Iliria) or for further information, please call the SSRP/A office in Tirana at 729-72.

- Grant amounts cannot exceed \$30,000. Projects should be of duration of six (6) months or less.
- Grant awards will be announced for each round by September 30 and October 30, 2000.

Information meetings for NGOs to review grant criteria, proposal formats and program development will be held at the Mercy Corps SSRP/A office from 14.00 - 16.00h on the following dates:

August 7 August 14 August 21

Grant Closing Dates are:

Round One: September 5, 2000

Round Two: October 5, 2000

NGO CODE OF STANDARDS

ORT will continue to hold round table discussions with Albanian NGOs on establishing a Code of Standards for NGOs to follow. Meetings are scheduled by sector on the following dates.

Health Sector	September 1
Democracy/	September 12
Human Rights	
Environment Sector	September 29
Womens Sector	October 13
Youth Sector	October 16

Meetings will be held at the ORT office in Tirana at 10.00 am.

ORT will come back to you with an invitation reconforming the date and time of the respective meetings

The Code of Standards promotes ethical practices and accountability in the Albanian NGO sector. The standards are based on fundamental values-such as honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility and accountability. Standards describe how NGOs should act in program operations, governance, human resources, financial management and fundraising.

For further information, please contact ORT at 24-523 or 47-601.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

ORT in conjunction with World Learning, recently completed a series of Institution Capacity Trainers, held

between June 20 and July 2 in Tirana. The training included three components: Training of Training, Board Training (two 2.5-day training), and Staff Training (one 3.5-day training). Aside from the normal benefit achieved from networking with each other, concrete partnerships formed, participants strengthened action planning skills, and the understanding and healthy practice of board-staff relations and task division. The action plans were strong and in most cases very well thought out. Local trainers played a significant role and gained experience and new ideas from each other. Following is the list of the NGOs trained:

Albanian Youth Council

Albanian-American Trade and Development Association

Law, Business and Right of Rural Women

Durrresi Businesses Trade Road Association

Livestock Entrepreneurs Albanian Association

Sewing Industry Producers Association

Handicraft Associations

Water System Association

Wood Producers Association

Dentists Association

Healthy Children Association

If your organization is interested in

receiving training, please contact ORT for a list of trainers.

NEW INITIATIVES

The National Democratic Institute of Internal Affairs, the Albanian NGO the Society for Democratic Culture and the International Foundation for Elections Systems are coordinating a clearinghouse of Albanian NGOs that are conducting voter education projects in preparation for the local elections this autumn. The clearinghouse serves as a forum for the exchange of information among NGOs, a place to receiving training and technical assistance specific to voter education initiatives and to facilitate increased NGO collaboration.

NGOs with voter education and outreach projects, particularly those with a national scope, are welcome to participate in the clearinghouse. Please contact the Society for Democratic Culture at 42 47658 or at shkd@albnet.net

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Dear Colleagues,
We are happy to inform you that in the framework of the "NGO Sector Support Program" implemented in Russian Federation by World Learning (USA) and The Center for NGO Support (Russia) and funded by USAID/Moscow the new web page will be launched within the NGO Digital Library (http://ngo.org.ru/index_en.shtml). This page will contain the information about the events (conferences, trainings and so on) in Russia and worldwide.

If you are planning any event and you would like the information about it to be available to the wider audience please send us the following data:

1. The name of the event;
2. Location;
3. Time schedule;
4. Organizations/contact information;
5. Who may participate;
6. Deadline for application;

7. Agenda (if available) and web-site address where the info about the event is available).

You are kindly invited to visit our site (<http://ngo.org.ru/>) and use our digital library. You will find valuable publications and information about NGO community in Russia and main links to Russian and international web sites related to NGOs. Site is on both languages: Russian and English. **New!**: the new publication: "Legal regulation of NGOs in Russian Federation", micro grants program in Russia on our web page. Sincerely, Lena Kordzaia,
Manager Information Programs
World Learning/ NGO Support Center
Moscow, Russia
tel/fax (7-095) 281-3394 / 2734
www: <http://ngo.org.ru>

Contact Forum Sarajevo 2000 September 21-24, 2000

Contact Forum Sarajevo 2000 will bring together more than 50 participants from different youth groups and youth organisations, of which about 40 will come from Southeast Europe and the remaining from Norway. The contact-forum will start on Thursday evening and last until Sunday afternoon (September 21.-24.), and will be located in or just outside of Sarajevo.

Who can participate in Contact Forum Sarajevo 2000

All participants should be between 18 and 30 years old, and be involved in a non-governmental youth group or youth organisation. Except for a number of Norwegian participants, we invite young people in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Yugoslavia to apply to attend the contact-forum. Only one person from each organisation can apply.

Practical information

The Norwegian Youth Council (LNU)

is responsible for selecting the participants for the Contact Forum Sarajevo 2000. The deadline to send in your application form is August 15th 2000. The application form should preferably be sent to LNU either by e-mail (lnu@lnu.no) or by telefax. (+47 23 31 06 01). You can also send your application by mail, but be aware that all applications must have reached LNU by August 15th!

There is no participation fee for persons from Southeast Europe. The organisers will cover costs for food and lodging, and pay for cheapest way travel costs for all participants (airfare travel possible for participants from Macedonia and Albania). Travel reimbursements will be made at the end of the contact-forum unless other arrangements have been made.

If you have questions about the Contact Forum Sarajevo 2000, please contact Finn Yrjar Denstad, international officer in LNU, at finn.denstad@lnu.no. Since summer is also vacation time, it may be easier to reach me by mobile phone: +47 90 86 88 12.

ORT NEW PHONE NUMBERS

Effective July 15, 2000, the new telephone and fax numbers for ORT will be as follows:

Tel: (355-42) 47-601
Tel/Fax: (355-42) 24-523
Or come visit us at our office at:
Rruga Ismail Qemali 32/1
3rd floor
Tirana, Albania

ORT E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

To contact any of the ORT staff, please use the following e-mail addresses:

Country Director
Juliana Hoxha
Jhoxha@albaniaonline.net or
director@demnet.albnet.net

Finance Officer

Liliana Dango
finance@demnet.albnet.net

Administrative Assistant

Elona Kapexhiu
guest@demnet.albnet.net

Program/Administrative Assistant

Edlira Topola
assistant@demnet.albnet.net



ORT/USAID

Democracy Network Program

On the Road to Success

GRANTS FOR LOCAL NGO-S !!!

With funding from USAID Cooperative Agreement 182-A-00-00-00104-00, Mercy Corps International and American ORT are pleased to announce the Albanian Social Sector Rehabilitation and Support Program's (SSRP/A) Local Grant Competition.

SSRP/A objectives are: (a) to improve the infrastructure resources and quality of health and education facilities; (b) to strengthen community involvement and capacity through participation and leadership development; (c) to improve the quality of services of the targeted health and education facilities.

Local NGOs may receive an application from the Mercy Corp. office at Rruga Elbasanit 33/1 Tirana (next to Hotel Iliria) or for further information, please call the SSRP/A office in Tirana at 372-972 or 376-136.

Grant amounts cannot exceed \$30,000. Projects should be of duration of six (6) months or less. Grants will be issued in two rounds: The first round deadline was September 5. Grant awards for the first round will be announced by September 30.

The Grant Closing Date for the second round is **October 5, 2000**. Grant awards for the second round will be announced by October 30, 2000.

An information meeting for NGOs to review grant criteria, proposal formats and program development will be held at the Mercy Corps SSRP/A office from 14:00 - 16:00h on **September 11, 2000**.

NGO CODE OF STANDARDS

ORT will continue to hold round table discussions with Albanian NGOs on establishing a Code of Standards for NGOs to follow. Meetings are scheduled by sector on the following dates.

Health Sector	September 1
Democracy/	September 12
Human Rights	
Environment Sector	September 29
Youth Sector	October 16
Women Sector	October 20

Meetings will be held at the ORT office in Tirana at **10.00 am.**

ORT will be sending reminder notices by sector to NGOs reconfirming the date and time of the respective meetings

The **Code of Standards** promotes ethical practices and accountability in the Albanian NGO sector. The standards are based on fundamental values-such as honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility and accountability. Standards describe how NGOs should act in program operations, governance, human resources, financial management and fundraising.

For further information, please contact ORT at 224-523 or 247-601.

LOCAL TRAINERS AVAILABLE IN NGO INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

In our last issue we announced the NGO Institutional Capacity Building Training that was organized by ORT in conjunction with World Learning this past June. One of the three components was a training of six local trainers.

Several local NGOs and umbrella groups have expressed their interest to organize training using these trainers. The following is a list of qualified trainers in NGO Capacity Building and Organizational Development. If your organization is interested in receiving training in this area, please feel free to contact the trainers directly.

Valbona Shutina
Tel.office:226200

Ermira Lubani
mira@rec.tirana.al
Tel.office: 239444

Klotilda Ferhati
Tel. office: 56493

Arbian Mazniku
paul@youth.soros.al

Monika Spahivogli
nat&org@icc.al.eu.org

Elona Kapexhiu
guest@demnet.albnet.net
Tel.office: 247601

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

On Friday, August 25, 2000, the Minister of State held a meeting with Albanian NGOs to discuss the government's anti-corruption plan. The next meeting is planned to be held within the next two months. To ensure active participation of the NGO sector in this strategy, it is suggested that NGOs become familiar with the most recent monitoring reports and matrix of the anti-corruption plan. If you are interested in receiving a copy of these documents, please contact ORT.

OTHER INITIATIVES IN THE SECTOR

The National Democratic Institute of Internal Affairs, the Albanian NGO the Society for Democratic Culture and the International Foundation for Elections Systems are coordinating a clearinghouse of Albanian NGOs that are conducting voter education projects in preparation for the local elections this autumn. The clearinghouse serves as a forum for the exchange of information among NGOs, a place to receiving training and technical assistance specific to voter education initiatives and to facilitate increased NGO collaboration. NGOs with voter education and outreach projects, particularly those with a national scope, are welcome to participate in the clearinghouse

Please contact the Society for Democratic Culture at 42 47658 or at shkd@albnet.net

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ABANDONED BABIES "CUDDLING PROGRAM"

Organization for the Support of Albania's Abandoned Babies (OSAAB), an American NGO which provides support to abandoned babies while they remain in Maternity Hospital No. 1 in Tirana, is looking for volunteers to assist in the babies care during feeding times. Volunteers are needed to work a minimum of one hour a week during pre-determined feeding hours.

The program provides support to over fifty abandoned babies a year in the maternity hospital. Babies remain in the hospital anywhere from the first two weeks to seven months of their lives prior to being moved to one of the orphanages throughout Albania. On average, ten babies a month are provided care by OSAA B.

OSAA B does not get involved in the adoption of the



babies but merely ensures that while they remain in the maternity hospital, they receive all the love, care and medical attention needed in a babies first few months of life.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Enkelejda Hoxhallari, in Tirana at (4) 224-878.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

International Association for Community Development - Rotorua 2001 Conference

Dear Colleagues,
We are happy to inform you that the International Association for Community Development, The Community of Development Group of the N.Z. Department of Internal Affairs, The Rotorua District Council, The Confederation of Tribes of Te Arawa, The Rotorua Ethnic Council and The Pacific Island Development Trust are jointly hosting in April 2001, the International Association for Community Development Rotorua 2001 Conference. The conference will discuss community development's response to the benefits and impacts of globalization. The theme focuses on three central issues currently facing societies:

- Social Inclusion** - social development, putting people first
- Environmental Sustainability** - protecting our environment
- Economic Regeneration** - rebuilding local economies.

The I. A. C. D welcomes people working in or supporting community development. The conference is open to both I.A.C.D. members and non-members. Participants from indigenous communities, small organizations, women's groups, and low wage economies are especially encouraged to attend. Some assistance with costs may be available. People interested in presenting papers on the conference themes need to prepare a 250 word outline by September 30, 2000 and send it to:

I.A.C.D.
Margie Scotts
Department of Internal Affairs
P.O. Box 805
Wellington, New Zealand
fax: 64 4 4959 444
E-mail: margie.scotts@dia.govt.nz
Website: www.iacdglobal.org

International Year of Volunteers IYV 2001

In preparation for the International Year of Volunteers, IYV 2001, The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) has launched a new version of its website. The web site offers an online information system linking all IYV participants and news in one location. Visitors can also download logos, slide presentations and a wide range of background material that can be adapted to meet local and national needs. You can register and present your organization. The site contains an IYV Toolkit to help people get involved as individuals or as part of an IYV National Committee.

- <http://www.iyv2001.org>
- <http://www.un.org/>
- <http://www.iyv2001.org.graphics/unlogos/UN>
- <http://www.iyv2001.org.graphics/unlogos/iyv>
- <http://www.iyv2001.org.graphics/unlogos/unv>

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Elona Kapexhiu
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guest@demnet.albnet.net

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Edlira Topola
Program/Administrative Assistant
assistant@demnet.albnet.net

Tel: (355-42) 47-601
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Rruga Ismail Qemali 32/1
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Tirana, Albania

ATTACHMENT B

Letter to the Minister of Justice

ALBANIAN NGO FORUM

Tirana August 15, 2000

Mr. Arben IMAMI
Minister of Justice

Honorable Mr. Minister,

First of all on the behalf of the NGO representatives in the working group for drafting a new law for the non-governmental organizations, I would like to wish you successes in you new position.

In the authority of your position and especially your interest and the good will demonstrated during the last weeks regarding the NGO draft law, the working group would like to inform you about the efforts that has been done to approach the final draft law which you will find attached.

In 1996 - 1997 the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs proposed a restrictive NGO "licensing" law. Lobbying efforts of the NGO sector assisted and supported by ORT and ICNL (two projects funded by USAID) were able to stop the approval of this project.

The following need to be mentioned as very important steps towards the establishment of a law for the NGOs in Albania:

- The establishment of a 40-member NGO coalition which was able to persuade the Ministry of Labor in delaying the approval of the draft licensing law in order to enable NGOs new inputs in this field.
- The establishment for the first time on January 1998, of a NGO - Government joint working group for the drafting of a complete law for the NGOs.
- The organization by the Ministry of Work and Social Affaires of the first hearing seance of the project, the publication in three big newspapers and invitations regarding the public interested in giving its specialized opinion in relation with the project drafted by the working group.
- As a result of several strategic meetings held in the NGO sector and with the support of ORT Democracy Network Program, the Albanian NOGs showed their special interest for a complete legal framework supporting their activities.
- All members of the working-group served on voluntary basis and worked hard for a progressive draft, which reflects the best international practices.

- Great interest of the international organizations regarding the draft law: UNDP funded a study tour visit of the working group in the Czech Republic, where the main ideas about the structure of the draft- law were launched. USAID, OSCE and the World Bank have shown their special attention during the whole process.
- Very positive remarks regarding the draft law have been expressed in different international and regional conferences.
- Great appreciation by deputies as well as specialists and high state administration, in the meetings with members of and experts in the working group.

As previously mentioned, the working group for drafting the NGO law, would like to express once more the wish and belief that You, Honorable Minister, will influence with Your authority to the approval of the NGO law as soon as possible.

On behalf of the NGO representatives in the working group.

With respect,

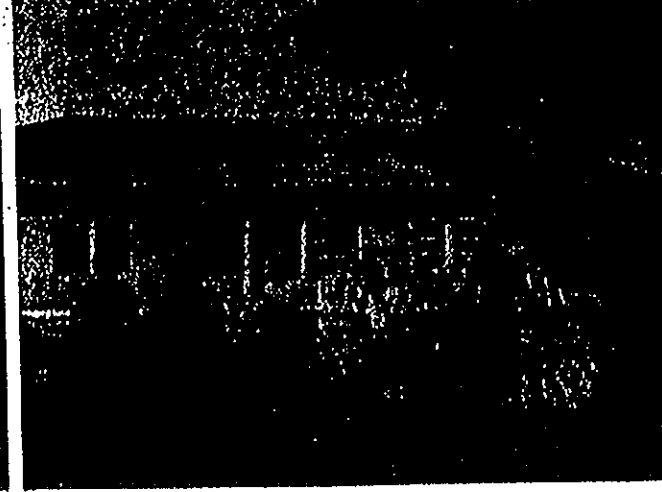
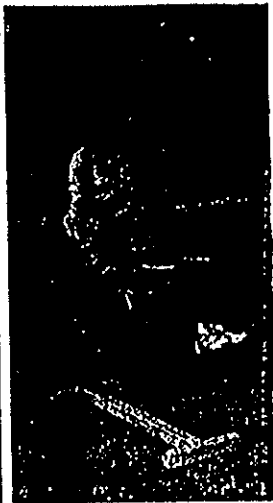
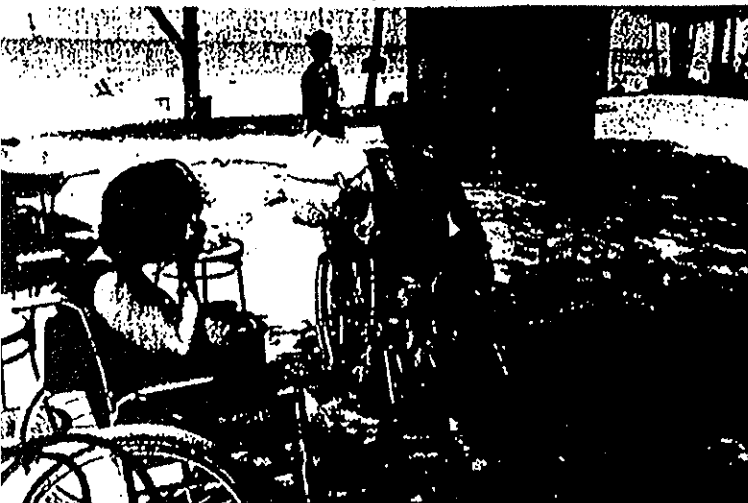
Alfred Kocollari
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT C

Financial Management Training Evaluation Sheets

ATTACHMENT D

Newspaper Articles Regarding Albanian Disability Rights Foundation Activity



SFIDA E FATIT DHE SHTETI QË HESHT...

Nga ZEFINA HASANI

“Askush nuk kujtohet për ne”. Dikur ky rënkim i mekur është kthyer në një refren të përditshëm. Ishin njerëzit me aftësi të kufizuara që trinin struktur brenda mureve të shtëpisë, të pafuqishëm ndaj fatit që “u ra në dorë”. Si pengje të pamundësisë për të ndryshuar gjendjen e rënduar në vitet. Si qenie që nuk kishin asnjë të drejtë nga jeta, sepse ishin “të sëmurë”, dhe s’kishin pse të ankoheshin. Sot ata ndihen shumë më ndryshe, ndërsa ngjiten vetë në një pedale druri, drejt derës së Fondacionit Shqiptar për të Drejtat e Paaftësisë. Aty ku marrin gjithçka për çfarë kanë nevojë. Aty ku askush nuk i quan “sakatë” ose “të sëmurë”. Aty ku harrojnë se janë ndryshe nga të tjerët. Aty ku gjejnë të drejtat e tyre, të hartuara rrugëve të Shqipërisë... Për fat të keq, janë shumë ata që kanë nevojë në çdo sekondë të jetës së tyre për pak ndihmë, për një gotë ujë, për një shtetje në ajër të pastër, për një njeri që t’u japë dorën e tij. E mbi të gjitha, që kanë nevojë për një trajtim krejt ndryshe nga sytë, nga gjykimet e shoqërisë, që deri më sot ka rënduar keq mbi ta. Edhe pse janë qenie njerëzore, njësoj si gjithë të tjerët. Edhe pse kanë të drejtat e tyre, të

Përpjekjet e një fondacioni për të zbutur sadopak “hallet” e njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara. Mes një godine dhe problemeve që mbarten aty çdo ditë nga njerëzit që kanë nevojë për një këshillë, një trajtim ndryshe, një punë të përshatshme. E mbi të gjitha, për një karrige me rrota. Planet dhe projektet e Fondacionit Shqiptar për të Drejtat e Paaftësisë, përmes rrëfimit të drejtoreshës, Blerta Çani. Gjithçka që bëhet pa “dorën e ngrohtë” të shtetit

cilat për fat të keq, askush nuk i respekton. Madje as shteti, edhe pse ligjet e shkruara janë ende nëpër letra zyrysh.

Një derë e hapur

Tani dikush mendon për ta. Njerëzit me aftësi të kufizuara kanë se ku të trokasim. Kanë kaluar gati pesë vjet që nga dita që ata u bënë me një strehë mbrojtëse. Ata vijjnë një herë në javë edhe nga rrethet e largëta të Shqipërisë, për të mësuar diçka se si të mundin të trajtojnë sa më mirë veten e tyre. Pra kanë dalë nga “strolkulla e turpit”. Shumë prej tyre e kanë pasur të pamundur kapërcimin e pragut të shtëpisë, pasi vetë prindi, e ka ndrydhur prej

vitësh, sepse askush nuk duhej ta merrte vesh se si ishte tërëzia i tij. Ndaj të gjithë ata që kanë hyrë në këtë godinë i vlerësojnë shumë shërbimet që u jep ky fondacion. “Transporti i tyre bëhet me makinat tona. Por shumë prej njerëzve që kanë nevojë mbeten pa ardhur këtu tek ne pasi për ta duhen makina të posaçme”, sqaron drejtoresha ekzekutive e fondacionit, Blerta Çani. “Ulen në sallën e vogël ku ne zhvillojmë për katër orë rrethit këshillime dhe terapi në grup”. Janë të vetmet orë ku njerëzit me aftësi të kufizuara ngrenë zërin, me gjithë fluqinë e dhembjes së tyre. Janë të vetmet orë ku ata shohin diçka që dëgjon hallet e tyre të pafund. “Strehimi,

punësimi, formimi profesional janë problemet më kyçe për ta. Por gjithsesi nuk janë vetëm këto. “Mjekja jonë prikaire e quan gjënë më të rëndësishme organizimin e këshillimit me familjet e kësaj kategorije njerëzish.” Pasi shumë nëna e përjetojnë si faj të tyre fatin që u solli në jetë një fëmijë me të meta të pariparueshme. Ndrydhim veten dhe fëmijën, që asgjë të mos dalë jashtë shtëpisë. Kështu, dashje pa dashje, ua humbasin njeriut edhe shpresën e fundit për të jetuar si gjithë të tjerët.

Në kërkim të së drejtës

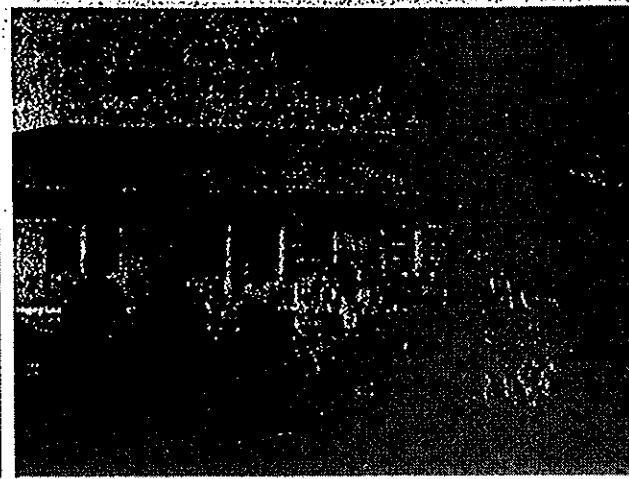
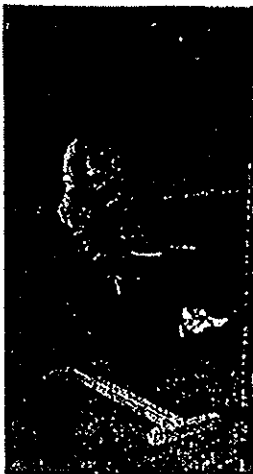
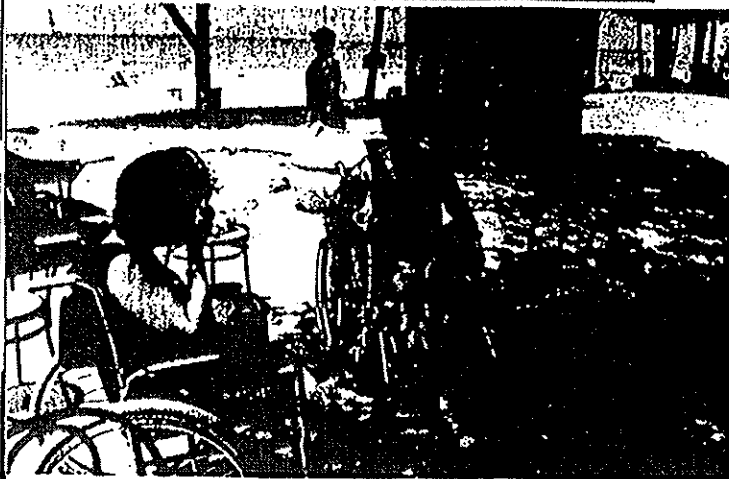
Asnjërit prej tyre nuk i mjafton vetëm ndihma, këshillimet dhe gjithçka tjetër që kanë marrë nga kjo strehë. Ata i duan deri në fund të drejtat e tyre ndaj para dy muajsh kanë ngritur Grupin e Avokatit, grup që merr në mbrojtje të gjitha të drejtat e personave me aftësi të kufizuara, i cili do të jetë përgjegjës për kryerjen e lushatave të avokatit në zbatimin e legjislativionit, në punësim, edukim dhe përshatshmërinë për personat me aftësi të kufizuara. Grupi është i përbërë nga 15 anëtarë, të gjithë persona me aftësi të kufizuara për arsye të ndryshme. 12 anëtarë janë nga Tirana ndërsa tre prej tyre janë të ardhur nga rrethet. Grupi mbledhet dy herë në muaj për të disku-

tuar problemet e përcaktuara sipas një programi pune të orientuar në tre drejtime kryesore: Përshatshmëria ndërtime e mjedistit për nevojat e njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara. Probleme në punësimin e tyre dhe në edukimin e tyre. “Këta persona hasin në pengesa të mëdha në jetën e përditshme, në shkollat e larta, hyrjet e papërshatshme në banesa, sipërfaqe jo të mjaftueshme për lëvizjen e karrocave në mjedise publike, trotualet e lartë, rrugët e papërshatshme.” I thotë drejtoresha që e ka kohë që ndodhet pranë shqetësimeve jetësore të kësaj kategorije njerëzish. “Ligjet për zhdokjen e këtyre pengesave janë dhe grupi kërkon vetëm zbatimin e tyre. Dhe puna ka filluar me një ritëm shumë të shpejtë. Hapi i parë është hedhur drejt ndërgjegjësimit të opinionit mbarë. Për këtë fondacioni ka bërë një studim, nga i cili del se pjesa më e madhe e shoqërisë, i shohin këta njerëz si të sëmurë, duke i mëshiruar. Gjë për të cilën ata asnjëherë nuk kanë pasur nevojë. Personat me aftësi të kufizuara janë të diskriminuar në aspektin e punësimit edhe pse ligji ua njeh këtë të drejtë, duke u krijuar kushte të përshatshme në vendin e punës. “Ne kemi filluar bisedimet me Ministrinë e Punës por nuk na kanë dhënë shumë shpresa për krijimin e mundësi-

të një punësimi të përshatshëm për Jo vetëm kaq. Problemi i njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara qëndron edhe mundësitë e edukimit normal si gjithë tjerët. Ligjërisht shteti mbron dhe mason arsimin special, por vetëm për kontingjent të kufizuara. Por edhe në institucione nevojat e njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara nuk janë të plotësuara në nivelin e kënaqshëm. Fondacioni po për që kjo kategori njerëzish të integrohet arsimin publik, duke krijuar kushte të domosdoshme në shkollat që të b të mundur pjesëmarrjen e tyre në mesin mësimor, në mënyrë të barabart me të tjerët. “Gjithë bota këtë gjë ton, pasi një pjesë e mirë e tyre nuk nojnë të shkojnë në këto lloj shkol speciale, duke mbetur kështu të pashuar”. Për të gjitha këto grupi ka hap planin e punës në bashkëpunim me institucionet shtetërore, por duke kër me këmbëngulje zbatimin e ligjit.

Karrigia e “shpëtimt”

Shteti jo vetëm që nuk i zbaton ligjin por nuk ka mundur as të prodhojë edhe ca karrige në ndihmë të kë njerëzve. I vetmi fond që ka dalë nga ert e tij është shifra prej 3 milion kësh, për gjithë vitin. “Rifalësimi është një lëvizje që drejtohet nga



SFIDA E FATIT DHE SHITETI QË HESHT...

Nga ZEFINA HASANI

“Askush nuk kujtohet për ne”. Dikur ky rënkim i mekur është kthyer në një refren të përditshëm. Ishin njerëzit me aftësi të kufizuara që rrinin struktur brenda mureve të shtëpisë, të pafuqishëm ndaj fatit që “u ra në derë”. Si pengje të pamundësisë për të ndryshuar gjendjen e rënduar në vite. Si qenie që nuk kishin asnjë të drejtë nga jeta, sepse ishin “të sëmurë”, dhe s’kishin pse të ankoheshin. Sot ata ndihen shumë më ndryshe, ndërsa ngjiten vetë në një pedale druri, drejt derës së Fondacionit Shqiptar për të Drejtat e Paaftësisë. Aty ku marrin gjithçka për çfarë kanë nevojë. Aty ku askush nuk i quan “sakatë” ose “të sëmurë”. Aty ku harrojnë se janë ndryshe nga të tjerët. Aty ku gjejnë të drejta e tyre. Të harruara rrugëve të Shqipërisë... Për fat të keq, janë shumë ata që kanë nevojë në çdo sekondë të jetës së tyre për pak ndihmë, për një gotë ujë, për një shtëpitë në ajër të pastër, për një njeri që t’u japë dorën e tij. E mbi të gjitha, që kanë nevojë për një trajtim krejt ndryshe nga sytë, nga gjykimi i shoqërisë, që dori më sot ka rënduar keq mbi ta. Edhe pse janë qenie njerëzore, njësoj si gjithë të tjerët. Edhe pse kanë të drejtat e tyre, të

Përpjekjet e një fondacioni për të zbutur sadopak “hallet” e njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara. Mes një godine dhe problemeve që mbarten aty çdo ditë nga njerëzit që kanë nevojë për një këshillë, një trajtim ndryshe, një punë të përshtatshme. E mbi të gjitha, për një karrige me rrota. Planet dhe projektet e Fondacionit Shqiptar për të Drejtat e Paaftësisë, përmes rrëfimit të drejtoreshës, Blerta Çani. Gjithçka që bëhet pa “dorën e ngrohtë” të shtetit

cilat për fat të keq, askush nuk i respekton. Madje as shteti, edhe pse ligjet e shkruara janë ende nëpër letra zyrash.

Një derë e hapur

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vitesh, sepse askush nuk duhej ta merrte vesh se si ishte fëmija i tij. Ndaj të gjithë ata që kanë hyrë në këtë godinë i vlerësojnë shumë shërbimet që u jep ky fondacion. “Transporti i tyre bëhet me makinat tona. Por shumë prej njerëzve që kanë nevojë mbeten pa ardhur këtu tek ne pasi për ta duhen makina të posaçme”, sqaron drejtoresha ekzekutive e fondacionit, Blerta Çani. “Ulen në sallën e vogël ku ne zhvillojmë për katër orë rreth këshillime dhe terapi në grup”. Janë të vetmet orë ku njerëzit me aftësi të kufizuara ngrenë zërin, me gjithë lloqinë e dhembjes së tyre. Janë të vetmet orë ku ata shohin dikë që dëgjon hallet e tyre të patund. “Strehimi,

punësimi, formimi profesional janë problemet më kyçe për ta. Por gjithsesi nuk janë vetëm këto. “Mjekja jonë prikiatre e quan gjënë më të rëndësishme organizimin e këshillimit me familjet e kësaj kategorie njerëzish.” Pasi shumë nëna e përgjetojnë si faj të tyre fatin që u solli në jetë një fëmijë me të meta të pariparueshme. Ndrydhin veten dhe fëmijën, që asgjë të mos dalë jashtë shtëpisë. Kështu, dashje pa dashje, u humbasin njeriut edhe shpresën e fundit për të jetuar si gjithë të tjerët.

Në kërkim të së drejtës

Asnjërit prej tyre nuk i mjafton vetëm ndihma, këshillimet dhe gjithçka tjetër që kanë marrë nga kjo strehë. Ata i duan deri në fund të drejtat e tyre ndaj para dy muajsh kanë ngritur Grupin e Avokatëve, grup që merr në mbrojtje të gjitha të drejtat e personave me aftësi të kufizuara, i cili do të jetë përgjegjës për kryerjen e fushatave të avokatëve në zbatimin e legjislatcionit, në punësim, edukim dhe përshtatshmërinë për personat me aftësi të kufizuara. Grupi është i përbërë nga 15 anëtarë, të gjithë persona me aftësi të kufizuara për arsye të ndryshme. 12 anëtarë janë nga Tirana ndërsa tre prej tyre janë të ardhur nga rrethet. Grupi mbledhet dy herë në muaj për të disku-

tuar problemet e përcaktuara sipas një programi pune të orientuar në tre drejtime kryesore: Përshtatshmëria ndërtimore e mjedistit për nevojat e njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara. Probleme në punësimin e tyre dhe në edukimin e tyre. “Këta persona hasin në pengesa të mëdha në jetën e përditshme, në shkollat e larta, hyrjet e papërshtatshme në banesa, sipërfaqe jo të mjaftueshme për lëvizjen e karrocave në mjedise publike, trotuarët e lartë, rrugët e papërshtatshme.” -thotë drejtoresha që ka kohë që ndodhet pranë shqetësimeve jetësore të kësaj kategorie njerëzish.

“Ligjet për zhdokjen e këtyre pengesave janë dhe grupi kërkon vetëm zbatimin e tyre. Dhe puna ka filluar me një ritëm shumë të shpejtë. Hapi i parë është hedhur drejt ndërgjegjesimit të opinionit mbarë. Për këtë fondacioni ka bërë një studim, nga i cili del se pjesa më e madhe e shoqërisë, i shohin këta njerëz si të sëmurë, duke i mëshiruar. Gjë për të cilën ata asnjëherë nuk kanë pasur nevojë. Personat me aftësi të kufizuara janë të diskriminuar në aspektin e punësimit edhe pse ligji ua njeh këtë të drejtë, duke u krijuar kushte të përshtatshme në vendin e punës. “Ne kemi filluar bisedimet me Ministrinë e Punës por nuk na kanë dhënë shumë shpresa për krijimin e mundësisë

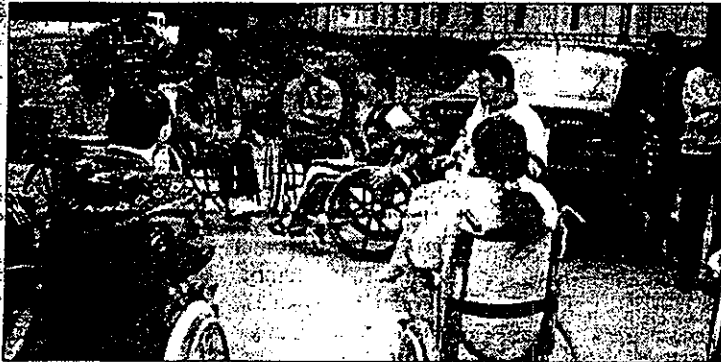
të një punësimi të përshtatshëm për ta. Jo vetëm kaq. Problemi i njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara qëndron edhe i mundësitë e edukimit normal si gjithë tjerët. Ligjërisht shteti mbrohet dhe munc son arsimin special, por vetëm për institucione nevojat e njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara nuk janë të plotësuara në nivelin e kënaqshëm. Fondacioni po përpiqet që kjo kategori njerëzish të integrohet arsimin publik, duke krijuar kushte të domosdoshme në shkolla që të bëjë të mundur pjesëmarrjen e tyre në procesin mësimor, në mënyrë të barabartë me të tjerët. “Gjithë bota këtë gjë zëton, pasi një pjesë e mirë e tyre nuk përbëjnë të shkojnë në këto lloj shkolla speciale, duke mbetur kështu të pashkolluar”. Për të gjitha këto grupi ka hartuar planin e punës në bashkëpunim me institucionet shtetërore. Por duke kërkuar këmbëngulje zbatimin e ligjit.

Karriga e “shpëtimit”

Shteti jo vetëm që nuk i zbaton ligjin por nuk ka mundur as të prodhojë qo edhe ca karrige në ndihmë të këtyre njerëzve. I vetmi fond që ka dalë nga ert e tij është shifra prej 3 milionë kësh, për gjithë vitin. “Riaftësimi i është një lëvizje që drejtohet nga F.

Një kamping për paraplegjikë nga të gjitha rrethet. Mësojnë të përdorin karrocet dhe dalin nga letargjia

Karrocet janë prodhuar, por ata duhet të mësojnë se si t'i përdorin, si të ecin me to, si të mbajnë trupin, si të kalojnë pengesat etj. Për ta përdorur më mirë mjetin lëvizës, ata u mbledhën në Pogradec



Në foto: Grupi i paraplegjikëve në hotelin e Pogradecit. Djathtas, Edmond Ruçi

Mësojnë në Pogradec për të ecur përsëri...

Gjithë njerëzit e hotelit mbajtën nga vizitorët e vecantë që zbrisnin nga autobus dhe furgonët. Zbritjet në karroca, montohej dhe me pas-ulej njeriu. Ata

ishin njerëzit me aftësi të kufizuara, rreth 20 veta, paraplegjikë, të paralizuar nga mesi e lart, të cilët mbërritën në Pogradec nga rrethet e ndryshme për kamping. Ky kamping po

organizohet nga Fondacioni Shqiptar për të Drejtat e Paaftësisë, FSHDP, për katër ditë rresht: nga e hëna deri ditën e premte. Një projekt i këtij fondacioni është ai i prodhimit të

karriqeve me rrota për këta të paralizuar. Karrocet janë prodhuar, por ata paraplegjikët duhet të mësojnë se si t'i përdorin, si të ecin me to, si të mbajnë trupin, si të kalojnë

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kanë katër vite që prodhohen falas nga kjo qendër, në punishten pranë Qendrës Spitalore Universitare "Nënë Tereza". Aktualisht në këtë punishtë janë të punësuar 9 vetë, pesë prej të cilëve janë njerëz me aftësi të kufizuara, anëtarë të shoqatave patnerë në projekt. Këto karroca janë të dizajnuara për ambientin shqiptar. Ditën e hënë, që ishte dhe dita e parë e kampingut, që në orën 8 të mëngjesit, paraplegjikët nisën të luajn basketboll me njerëz tjerë. "Fishtëpura e mëngjesit është shumë e domos-

HISTORIA

Denisa Xhoga

Një të paralizuar që i mbyllin derën gjithkund, madje dhe i kërkojnë para, megjithëse duhet ta ndihmojnë

Edmondi, i harruar deri në përbuzje

AKSIDENTET

Ruçi ecte si gjalle të tjeret dhe gëzonte gjithcka që mund të ketë një njeri i zakonshëm. "Isha në mal me bagëtitë. U rrezova në humnerë nga 30 metra lartësi. Kam qëndruar 24 orë në akull", tregon Edmondi. Megjithëse verë, në malin Ibrico të Libohovës trupi i tij paralizohet nga ngryca. Me pas ai u kurua në Greqi, në spitalin e Janinës. Por për të shkuar deri atje, ai tregon se ka hequr shumë.

"Në Gjirokastër mjekët më thanë se donin 60 mijë lekë për të më lënë ambulancën që të shkoja në Tiranë. Ndërsa taba itim i thanë se y bi, edhe në Amerikë të shkojë, nuk shërohet. Vetëm nga kjo përgjigje babai u sëmur. Pasi një vit e gjysmë vdiq nga kanceri i mushkërisë", shprehet Edmondi. Ai tregon se dhe për të shkuar në Janinë mjekët i kërkuan 100 mijë dhrahmi për ambulancën. Në Janinë ai u kurua falas nga spitali, po kështu ata i siguruan

se tij, lart e lartëta mbanin në Janinë, kirurji Jorgo Çibuku dhe shefi i pavionit Kristo Vëçinoski, ishpëtojnë jetën. Nga njëra mushkëri kirurgu i hoqi 6 kilogram ujë. Ai në Greqi takoi dhe Edmon Cekanin, ish-trajneri i vajzave të basketbollit, i cili njihet për bëmat e tij si fizioterapist.

"Erdhi në shtëpinë time dhe më mori përsipër, dhjetë ditë më bëri masazh dhe dha rezultat. Për vetë kushtet e këqija që kisha në shtëpi, më tha që të shfutesha në spitalin e Gjirokastër dhe të paktin për një muaj e gjysmë do të më ngrihte në këmbë. Por s'munda", tregon Edmondi.

Në këto kohë, e vetmja ndihmë që merr nga shteti është vetëm një 15 mijë lekësh. Sipas tij, nga këto, 2 mijë ia merr Bashkia për dokumentin çdo muaj dhe një mijë doktori për raportin. "Nga Bashkia e Libohovës, s'kam pasur asnjë përkrahje. "Ik ore sakat. S'keni kohë të merremi me ty", më thonë. Bashkia është kthyer

tatën Edmondi, nga shtetit shoqëror Edmondi nuk përfiton asnjë pension, po kështu dhe ai i të atit i është prerë, e ëma s'ka mbushur moshën. E gjithë familja prej katër vetësh jeton me 12 mijë lekë, ku vetëm për Edmondin duhen 100 mijë lekë në muaj ilaç. Megjithëse Edmondi ka punuar disa vite derisa u aksidentua, sigurimet shoqërore nuk ia njohin këto vite. Po kështu, për të fituar pension invaliditeti mjeku ia jep firmën, ndërsa administratë e sigurimeve shoqërore, jo. "Ma tha çofë punojësi përgjegjës: duan 1 milion lekë, po unë s'kam. Doktori i sigurimeve shoqërore më tha të takojtë 34 mijë lekë edhe pension për personin shoqërore", tregon Edmondi.

Ajo që i qëndron afër Edmondit në çdo moment është e ëma, Vezirja. Ajo i la lënë të gjitha punët e tjera. Për shtëpinë kujdeset vajza 20 vjeçe. "Tre vitet e para Edmondin e ktheja me çarçaf. Nga të ndënjurit në krevat

punëton si ai të më pas të vuan shpejt. Në të vërtetë, epikriza ime i shpëtë shtuar dikujt tjetër me 250 mijë dhrahmi. Të paktin kështu më kanë thënë", tregon Edmondi.

Rrugat

"Ky shtuar e gjithe rruga nga qendra deri afër shtëpisë sime. Mbeten edhe 50 metra pa shtruar. "Shkuan në Bashki që të shtronin edhe këtu për të kryetarit i Bashkisë më tha se kishte lekë për të shtruar xhaden, jo rrugën. Përpara derës ishte një tub i nxjerrt në sipërfaqe. Nuk shërbehte për të sjellë ujë.

djalit i hap mishi, në të dy anët nga një pjesë plagë dhe një në gju. Tani vetëm njërin ka të hapur. Po mjekët më kanë thënë se ajo nuk i mbyllt më. Kur i bëri operacionin kirurgu më mbajti aty. Më ia të fletë. Ai më mbajti që të shikoja si pastrohej plaga.

Tani e bëj vetë çdo ditë një punë të tillë. Po të shkojë në ambulancë, duhet të paguaj pesë mijë lekë për këtë mjekim", tregon

Elektoku

"Kjo familje kishte pesë muaj rresht pa paguar faturat e gjatave. "Me 12 mijë lekë faturë të paguaj", shprehet e ëma Vezirja. Punonjësi në marrëz të vjetër, "Elektoku" e policisë. Por dhe ata u larguan, duke parë se ishte familja e një të paralizuarit. Sipas tij, të përparaplegjikët janë të shpesh favorizuar. Por derisa të shprehin gabëzimet për zbatimin e ligjeve dhe administratës së çdo rrethi, do të duhen edhe disa kohë.

Vezirja. Gjatë muajve të verës e bija e saj ishte detyruar të shiste lule dhe me to kishte fituar jo më tepër se 150 mijë lekë, të cilat gjithashtu shkuan ilaç.

Vezirja shprehet se e ëma e saj dhe motrat që ka e ndihmojnë në çdo moment me parë. Nuk do të kishte zgjidhje tjetër, se kjo familje ka shtuar edhe të vetmen pasuri që kishte, tufën e dhënjëve.

vesti, koordinatoja e shpërndarjes së prodhimit të Karrocave. Gjatë këtyre Latë ditëve paraplegjikët do të kenë mundësi të bisedojnë me avokatit për paktin e ligjorë.

Ata do të kenë mundësi të bisedojnë me punonjësit socialë, e cila kishte ardhur nga Holanda vullnetarisht, po kështu edhe me psikologun. Ndërkohë do të ketë dhe telanika të tjera për të realizuar aktivitetet nga më të domosdoshmet: të transferimit të veshjes dhe të kapërcimit të pengesave. Në këtë mënyrë këta njerëz do të arrijnë të krijojnë një pavarësi nga tjeret. Në një pjesë tjetër të ditës ata do të flasin për nevojat që kanë, e cila do të quhet edhe dita e informacionit. Gjatë kësaj kohe ata do të marrin pjesë edhe në lojëra Creative me letra, shah, domino me fregeta, basketboll, me stafeta etj. d.sh



SFIDA E FATIT DHE SHTETI QË HESHT...

Nga ZEFINA HASANI

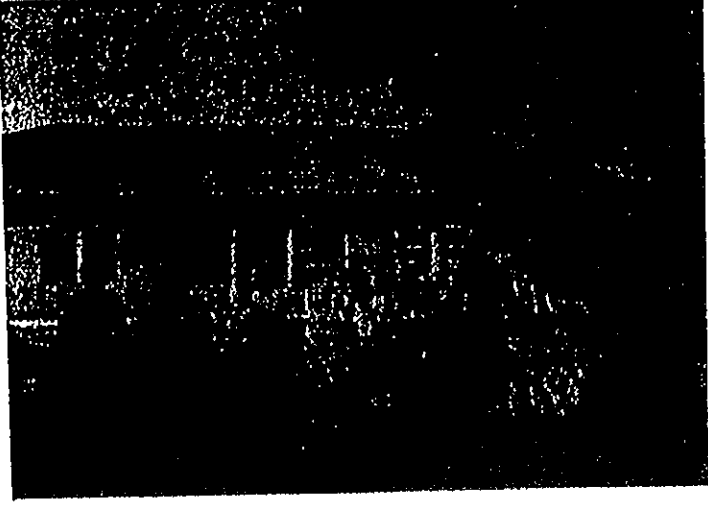
“Askush nuk kujtohet për ne”- Dikur ky rënkim i mekur është kthyer në një refren të përditshëm. Ishin njerëzit me aftësi të kufizuara që rrinin struktur brenda mureve të shtëpisë, të paluqishëm ndaj fatit që “u ru në dorë”. Si pengje të pamundësisë për të ndryshuar gjendjen e rënduar në vite. Si qenie që nuk kishin asnjë të drejtë nga jeta, sepse ishin “të sëmurë”, dhe s’kishin pse të ankoheshin. Sot ata ndihen shumë më ndryshe, ndërsa ngjiten vetë në një pedale druri, drejt dorës së Fondacionit Shqiptar për të Drejtat e Paaftësisë. Aty ku marrin gjithçka për çfarë kanë nevojë. Aty ku askush nuk i quan “sokatë” ose “të sëmurë”. Aty ku harrojnë se janë ndryshe nga të tjerët. Aty ku gjejnë të drejta e tyre, të hartuara rrugëve të Shqipërisë... Për fat të keq, janë shumë ata që kanë nevojë në çdo sekondë të jetës së tyre për pak ndihmë, për një gotë ujë, për një shërbim në ajër të pastër, për një njeri që t’u japë dorën e tij. E mbi të gjitha, që kanë nevojë për një trajtim krejt ndryshe nga sytë, nga gjykimi i shoqërisë, që deri më sot ka rënduar keq mbi ta. Edhe pse janë qenie njerëzore, njësoj si gjithë të tjerët. Edhe pse kanë të drejtat e tyre, të

Përpjekjet e një fondacioni për të zbutur sadopak “hallet” e njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara. Mes një godine dhe problemeve që mbarten aty çdo ditë nga njerëzit që kanë nevojë për një këshillë, një trajtim ndryshe, një punë të përshtatshme. E mbi të gjitha, për një karrige me rrota. Planet dhe projektet e Fondacionit Shqiptar për të Drejtat e Paaftësisë, përmes rrëfimit të drejtoreshës, Blerta Çani. Gjithçka që bëhet pa “dorën e ngrohtë” të shtetit

cilat për fat të keq, askush nuk i respekton. Madje as shteti, edhe pse ligjet e shkruara janë ende nëpër letra zyrash.

Një dorë e hapur
Tani dikush mendon për ta. Njerëzit me aftësi të kufizuara kanë se ku të trokasin. Kanë kaluar gati pesë vjet që nga dita që ata u bënë me një strehë mbrojtëse. Ata vijjnë një herë në javë edhe nga rrethet e largëta të Shqipërisë, për të mësuar diçka se si të mundin të trajtojnë sa më mirë veten e tyre. Pra kanë dalë nga “stratukulla e turpit”. Shumë prej tyre e kanë pasur të pamundur kapërcimin e pragut të shtëpisë, pasi vetë prindi, e ka ndrydhur prej

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Në kërkim të së drejtës
Asnjërit prej tyre nuk i mjafton vetëm ndihma, këshillimet dhe gjithçka tjetër që kanë marrë nga kjo strehë. Ata i duan deri në fund të drejtat e tyre ndaj para dy muajsh kanë ngritur Grupin e Avokatishë, grup që merr në mbrojtje të gjitha të drejtat e personave me aftësi të kufizuara, i cili do të jetë përgjegjës për kryerjen e fushatave të avokatisë në zbatimin e legjislativës, në punësim, edukim dhe përshatshmërinë për personat me aftësi të kufizuara. Grupi është i përbërë nga 15 anëtarë, të gjithë persona me aftësi të kufizuara për arsye të ndryshme. 12 anëtarë janë nga Tirana ndërsa tre prej tyre janë të ardhur nga rrethet. Grupi mbledhet dy herë në muaj për të disku-

tuar problemet e përcaktuara sipas një programi pune të orientuar në tre drejtime kryesore: Përshatshmëria ndërtime e mjedisit për nevojat e njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara. Probleme në punësimin e tyre dhe në edukimin e tyre. “Këta persona hasin në pengesa të mëdha në jetën e përditshme, në shkollën e larta, hyrjet e papërshatshme në banesa, sipërfaqe jo të mjaftueshme për lëvizjen e karrocave në mjedise publike, trotualet e lartë, rrugët e papërshatshme.”-thotë drejtoresha që ka kohë që ndodhet pranë shqetësimeve jetësore të kësaj kategorie njerëzish. “Ligjet për zhdukjen e këtyre pengesave janë dhe grupi kërkon vetëm zbatimin e tyre. Dhe puna ka filluar me një ritëm shumë të shpejtë. Hapi i parë është hedhur drejt ndërgjegjësimit të opinionit mbarë. Për këtë fondacioni ka bërë një studim, nga i cili del se pjesa më e madhe e shoqërisë. I shohin këta njerëz si të sëmurë, duke i mëshiruar. Gjë për të cilën ata asnjëherë nuk kanë pasur nevojë. Personat me aftësi të kufizuara janë të diskriminuar në aspektin e punësimit edhe pse ligji ua njeh këtë të drejtë, duke u krijuar kushte të përshatshme në vendin e punës. “Ne kemi filluar bisedimet me Ministrinë e Punës por nuk na kanë dhënë shumë shpresa për krijimin e mundësive

të një punësimi të përshatshëm për ta.” Jo vetëm kaq. Problemi i njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara qëndron edhe në mundësitë e edukimit normal si gjithë të tjerët. Ligjërshët shteti mbrohet dhe mundëson arsimin special, por vetëm për një kontingjent të kufizuara. Por edhe në këto institucione nevojat e njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuara nuk janë të plotësuara në nivelin e kënaqshëm. Fondacioni po përpiqet që kjo kategori njerëzish të integrohet në arsimin publik, duke krijuar kushte më të domosdoshme në shkollat që të bëjnë të mundur pjesëmarrjen e tyre në procesin mësimor, në mënyrë të barabartë me të tjerët. “Gjithë bota këtë gjë zbaton, pasi një pjesë e mirë e tyre nuk pranojnë të shkojnë në këto lloj shkollash speciale, duke mbetur kështu të pashkolluar.” Për të gjitha këto grupi ka hartuar planin e punës në bashkëpunim me institucionet shtetërore, por duke kërkuar me këmbëngulje zbatimin e ligjit.

Karrigia e “shpëtimit”
Shteti jo vetëm që nuk i zbaton ligjet, por nuk ka mundur as të prodhojë qoftë edhe ca karrige në ndihmë të këtyre njerëzve. I vetmi fond që ka dalë nga dyert e tij është shifra prej 3 milionë lekësh, për gjithë vitin. “Rialistisimi fizik është një lëvizje që drejtohet nga Fon-

► dacioni ynë nëpërmjet tre kampeve të rehabilitimit. Këtu hyn edhe projekti i karrocave". Që në vitin 1994 është ngritur një punishte në qendrën spitalore "Nënë Tereza", enkas për prodhimin e tyre. "Karrigia është e stilit aktiv dhe bëhet sipas përmasave trupore.

Çdo muaj prodhohen rreth 15 karrige" Ç'ka do të thotë shumë për punonjësit dhe shumë pak për njerëzit që kanë nevojë jetësore për to. "Edhe ata që i prodhojnë këto karrige janë njerëz me aftësi të kufizuara, të cilët ne i kemi angazhuar në një lloj pune të dobishme"

Deri në muajin korrik karrigia është dhënë falas, ndërsa tani ajo do jepet nën vlerën prej 20 dollarësh. "Kostoja reale e tyre është 260 dollarë, por në kurrsesi nuk mund t'ua ofrojmë njerëzve me këtë vlerë". Janë rreth 850 njerëz me aftësi të kufizuara që sot ecin mbi rrotat e karrigeve të dala nga kjo punishte. Por kërkesat janë ende të shumta. "Ne jemi në krizë për këtë projekt, -thotë Blerta Çani, -pasi kemi kaq vjet që ndihmohemi vetëm nga donatorët tanë. Ata kanë filluar të shprehin shqetësimin e tyre, ndërsa shohin se vetë shteti shqiptar nuk nxjerr asgjë nga xhepi. Aq sa kanë arritur të na thonë-"Deri kur do mendojmë ne për ju!" dhe punonjësit e Fondacionit kthejnë kokën mënjanë, pa ditur se ç'përgjigje të japin. Ndërsa ata që kanë nevojë vazhdojnë të shpresojnë në ndihmën e të huajve... ■

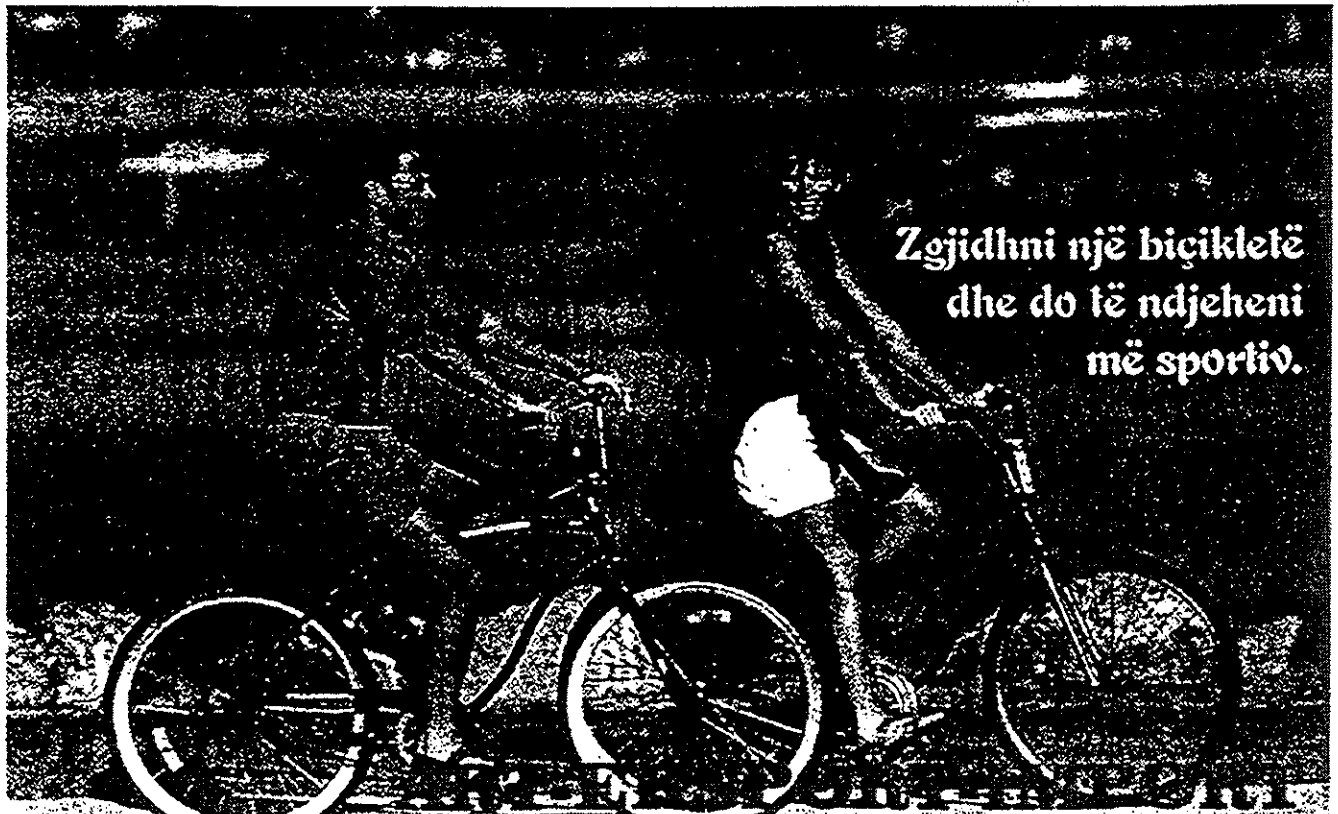
Fondacioni Shqiptar i Rehabilitimit të Pafalësve dhe Kriminave të Shtetit 1994 fillimisht i ofroi programin PS-FAM-it për Shqipërinë. Mit pas qe prej 1996 si një OJPO e pavarur vendore. Qëllimi i saj është krijimi i një qendër burimore që të afëson shoqërinë për të arritur objektivat e përmirësimit të statusit social të personave me aftësi të kufizuara me anë të ofrimit të shërbimeve të ndryshme për persona me aftësi të kufizuara, familjet e tyre dhe shoqatat që veprojnë në këtë drejtim. Ndergjegjësimi të opinionit publik rreth problemeve të personave me aftësi të kufizuara. Nismave për zbatimin apo përmirësimin e legjislacionit për këtë kategori. Për realizimin e misionit të tij, ky fondacion punon ngushtë me individë me aftësi të kufizuara dhe shoqata të tyre, duke

synuar në zhvillimin e procesit të avokatisë dhe avokatisë nëpërmjet informacionit, trajnimeve shërbimeve të ndryshme. ESHDP organizon shërbime Këshillimi individual e terapi grupi për person



at me aftësi të kufizuara apo familjet e tyre, i orientojnë ato drejt shërbimeve ekzistuese, i ofron atyre bazë rreth problemeve apo dis-funksioneve të tyre, i informon ata mbi të drejtat që ata gëzojnë prej ligjeve në fuqi, i fton ato të bashkohen në veprimtari të ndryshme argëtuuese që fondacioni organizon.

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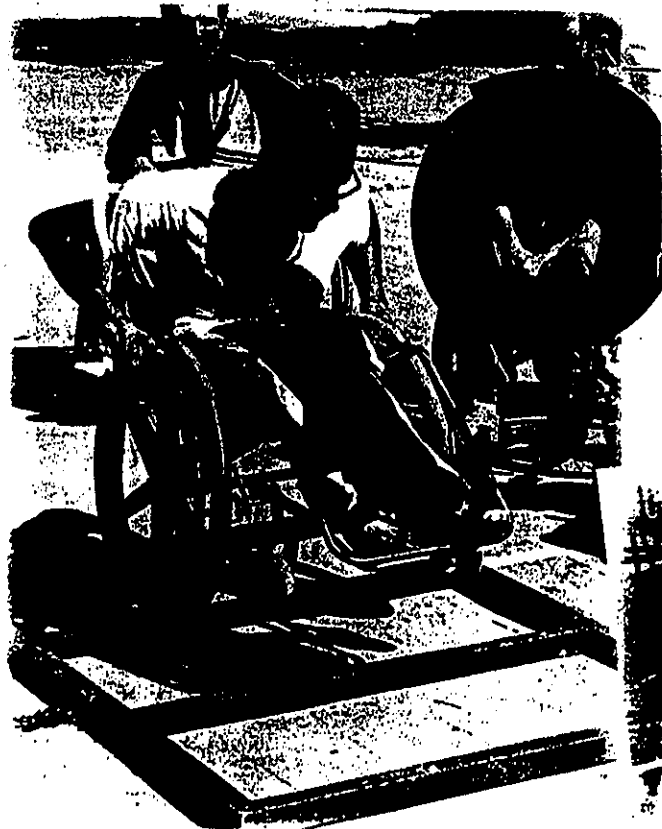


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Si doli nga shtëpia për herë të parë djaloshi që nuk kish mundur të ecte kurrë me këmbët e tij. Si mësoi abetaren fëmija që nuk pati mundësinë të shkonte në shkollë. Si i... theu hekurat e kafazit brenda të cilit e mbërtheu jeta. Eltoni që shëtit gjithë botën me karrocën e tij, i pashqetësuar nga fati...

Nga ZEFINA HASANI



mbyllur i fatit. Atëherë njohu jetën, atëherë njerëzit mësuar se kush ishte ai, njeriu që qëndronte pas parvazit të një ballkonit...

Historia

Ishte fare i vogël që të kuptonte se ç' kishte ndodhur, ndërsa dergjej në shtratin e spitalit. Vetëm qante, ashtu siç mund të rënkojë nga sëmundja fëmija njëvjeçar. Shumë vonë, do njihje me fatin e hidhur. Dhe do ndiente pasojën e rëndë që i la për gjithë jetën poliomielitit. Elton Lleshi, djaloshi laçian, nuk do të mundte kurrë të vinte në lëvizje këmbët e tij, nuk i hodhi çapat e parë, nuk mësoi të ecë, duke u kapur me doçkat e tij pas sustan-it të nënës, si gjithë vogëlushët e tjerë. "Ky ishte fati që Zoti caktoi për mua". Në sytë e tij nuk ka dhimbje, asnjë farë pesimizmi. Por një lloj çudie për të tjerët, për ata që mund të ecin normalisht mbi dy këmbë. "Çuditërisht vërtet se si lëvizni ju". - E qeshura e tij karakteristike të bën të besosh se jeta mund të jetohej edhe kështu. Në një karrocë me rrota, të cilat

mund ta çojnë gjithkund. Eshhtë i bindur për këtë, dhe ka filluar t'ua mësojë edhe të tjerëve që i ngjasojnë në "fatin e keq". Ia ka marrë mirë dorën karrocës dhe me të bën çudira. Asgjë nuk ruan për vete. Në çdo kamp rehabilitimi, gjithëka që di u jep edhe shokëve të tij. Kjo është detyra që ai ka marrë përsipër, kjo është edhe kënaqësia më e madhe për të. Gjithëka që rrefen sot e ka mësuar nga prindërit. Ata i kanë treguar për ditët e vështira nëpër spitale, kur mjekët nuk e gjenin dot se nga se vuante loshnja e tyre. Ishte një torturë që zgjati dy vjet. Vetëm atëherë do të merrej vesh se paralizimi që i ndodhi djalit nga mesi e poshtë ishte pasojë e poliomielitit. "Më kanë thënë se në atë kohë ishin rreth 40 fëmijë të sëmurë me lloje që kaluan në sëmundjen e poliomielitit. Gjithsecili pati pasojë të ndryshme. Dikë e la me të meta mendore, dikë me një dorë... ndërsa mua me paralizim në këmbë". Kur u thanë se nuk kishte më shërim prindërit e morën fëmijën dhe u kthyen njëherë e përgjithmonë në shtëpi, pa menduar të rëndnin më nëpër pavione spitalësh. Nuk kishim as-

Personazhi shqiptar i 'HENRIT dhe 17 vitet pas një dritareje



një lloj mundësie t'i binim nga pas këti halli, nuk kishim lekë". Ishte me e lehtë ndrydha brenda mureve të shtëpisë, për 17 vjet me radhë. "Lëvizja këmbadoras për të dalë pak në ballkon. Nuk njihja asgjë tjetër nga qyteti i Laçit veçse pjesën që shihja nga ballkoni im." E vetmja rrugë që iu fiksoi në sytë e lodhur ishte ajo që e çonte tek shtëpia e gjyshes.

Vitet kalonin dhe Eltoni nuk linte asnjë sekondë t'i ikte kot. "Dëgjoja shumë muzikë. Doja të lexoja por nuk dija sepe dihet që unë nuk mund të shikoja në shkollë". Kjo do të ishte dhembja e parë që do të ndiente. Shikonte të vëllain të iktë në shkollë, shikonte abetaren e tij dhe diçka mendonte me vete. "Nisa të mësoja vetë duke pyetur herë pas here vëllain që ishte më i vogël se unë. Vullneti im më nxori në dritë. Dhe të gjithë u çuditën kur unë lexoja edhe më mirë se im vëlla që kishte ndjekur shkollën rregullisht." Gjithsesi Eltoni nuk i mjaftonte vetëm kaq. E ndiente se duhej të kujdesej për veten. "Ndaj fillova të merrcaha edhe me matematikën". E ndiente se duhej të



jepte ndihmën e tij në familje edhe pse ishte në atë gjendje. Sepse asnjëherë nuk e mendonte se ishte ndryshe nga të tjerët. "Jo vetëm se Zoti më krijoi të lëviz dhe të jetoj kështu." Nuk e kishte aspak të vështirë të bënte edhe punët e shtëpisë ndërsa e ëma vinte e lodhur nga puna dhe lotonte nga gëzimi, ndërsa ndiente vullnetin e të birit. Kështu kaluan 17 vjet rresht. Djali i vogël u rrit duke e shijuar jetën e vertetë vetëm nga ballkoni i vogël i shtëpisë.

Pas 17 vjetësh

"Mund të ketë qenë një nga ditët e tetorit të '94, kur dola për herë të parë nëpër qytet." Sepse kishte gjetur një karrocë tek një kushëriri i tij. Kishte shëtitur për tre orë rresht çdo pëllëmbë të qytetit ndërsa qeshte me komshinjtë që i thoshin - "Mos je ti ai djali i ballkonit?". Nuk kishte veshur këpuccë, s'ishte mësuar me to. "Më vinte shumë zor kur njerëzit më shikonin me kureshtje dhe më hidhnin lekë, mendonin se mos kisha dalë për lëmoshë." Aakush nuk kishte mundur t'ia kuptonte emocionin e asaj dite dhe e

vrantë ashtu krejt padashje me mëshirën e tyre. E megjithatë ai e kapërceu dhembjen sepse ishte Eltoni tjetër, që lindi edhe një herë pas atyre viteve të burgimit. "Karroca më bëri të hyj në jetën e vërtetë, të lidhesha me miq të bëja gjithëçka që mund ta kisha menduar për vite me radhë" Dhe filloi të merrej me pikurën, të luajë në organo edhe pse nuk dinte asnjë notë muzikore, të shkojë rregullisht në kishën e qytetit, të dalë shëtitje ose të pijë një kafe me shokët...

Pastaj çdo ditë do ta njihje me mundësitë e reja. Deri sa një ditë në derën e tij do të trokasinin disa polakë të cilët do t'i bënin të ditur se do të hapej një kamp në ndihmë të njerëzve me aftësi të kufizuar. "Kur u hap kampi kishin kaluar tre muaj që nga dita që unë dola me karrocë. E pranova menjëherë ftesën sepse, për herë të parë, do të dilja nga qyteti. Ishte një mrekulli aq sa edhe në këmbë të isha ngritur nuk do të gëzoheja më shumë." Sepse gjatë asaj jave ai gjeti shoqërinë që i përkiste, sepse doli i pari në lojërat-konkurs që organizoi fondacioni. "Fitova edhe një vizë për në Poloni ku do të kaloja edhe 15 ditë të tjera mrekullie". Ai tregon se ka guxuar të udhëtojë shpesh herë vetëm nga Laçi në Tiranë, ka guxuar të lëvizë nëpër Itali, Rumani. Dhe për gjithëka e ndihmon vullneti, të cilin e falenderon herë pas here në heshtje. Pa të, zor se do të ishte ky Elton që është. Zor se do të futej në jetën normale, zor se do të qeshte ashtu si qesh sot, pas 23 vjetësh. ■



Me "njerëzit e karrocave" për 5 ditë në kampin e rehabilitimit në qytetin e Lasgushit. Gjithçka organizuar nga fondacioni për të drejtat e paaftësisë

Në Pogradec, mes ëndrrës për t'u ngritur në këmbë



Bedria Cangul, një nga personat me aftësi të kufizuara në Kamp

POGRADEC

Etiola Kola



Tri rrasat në kampin e Pogradecit

Nuk kish lëvizur nga fshati i tij, në afërsi të Mamurrasit, që prej aksidentit. Pogradecin e shiti për herë të parë. Eshhtë vetëm 22 vjeç, dhe për herë të parë lëviz me një karricë me rrotë. Këtë e bëri më së pari në ditën e parë të kampit, një ditë para të vjetëris, afërsisht të gjithë të tjerët.

Një 19-vjeçar pak mistrec. Një aksident me makinë... dhe nuk do të ngrihet më kurrë në këmbë. Shylykën kurrizore të dërrituar, këmbët e paralizuar, ai e di, megjithatë jeta e tij nuk ka mbaruar këtu...

Rruga

Udhëtimi ishte i gjatë, i lodhshëm. Kishin lënë karrocën për të zënë vend në autobusët që i transportuan deri në hotelin, ku do të qëndronin për pesë ditë me radhë. Mbrojtjen mbrojtëse e së dielës, për t'u kthyer sot në mëngjes, pas ditësh të tëra argëtimi mes miqsh. Në kampin e rehabilitimit aktiv, organizuar nga fondacioni shqiptar për të drejtat e paaftësisë, ishin "njerëzit e karrocave" nga e gjithë Shqipëria. Edmondi nga Gjirokastra, Eltoni nga Laçi... të gjithë për aktivitetin që prisnin prej muajsh. Një pjesë mbërriti në Pogradec në orët e vona të së dielës, pas shumë orësh udhëtimi. "U lodhëm içik rrugës, po ishalla do t'ia kalojmë mirë këtu", të thotë Bedria nga një fshat i Fushë-Krujës, me të mbërritur në hotelin fare pranë liqenit. Aty ku ata ishin vizitorët më të veçantë. Pjesa e mbetur, mbërritën të nesërmen për të qëndruar ditë të tëra. Ditë që do t'i kujtojnë për shumë kohë.

Qëndrimi

Asgjë nuk bartnin nga zymtësia, trishtimi që të ndillte liqeni. Ata ishin aty për t'u argëtur dhe kjo reflektohet në buzëqeshjet e tyre. Kujdesi ishte i gjithi për ta. Një xhiro buzë liqenit? Nuk ia hoqën vetes këtë kënaqësi. Por çdo gjë e programuar. Atë mëngjes, me t'u ngritur, të gjithë me fizioterapistin, për gjimnastikën e mëngjesit. "I ndihmon shumë, i fuqizon. Dhe kjo është e domosdoshme, sepse lehtëson përdorimin e karrocës", thotë Nertila Këllici, fizioterapiste. Pjesa më e madhe e tyre, lëvizin mirë me rrethet që, për fatin e tyre të keq, do t'i shoqërojnë për shumë kohë. Të tjerët kanë ende vështirësi. Aty mësojnë "të ecin" të gjithë... Por nuk janë mjaftuar me pak gjimnastikë. Dielli vjeshtak sapo ka filluar të ngrohë dhe ata janë në kampin e improvizuar të basketbollit. Duket shumë e yeshurë, sikur nuk do t'ia dalin kurrë... Me karroca lëvizin fare lirshëm dhe topi... jo, nuk është dhe aq i rëndë. Pas pak minutash, koshi nuk është më "i rrallë" për të rinjtë e paralizuar. Dhe më pas stafeta. Lojë që aktivizoi të gjithë. Skaudrat, të vendosura nga dy anë, "vraponin" të kopmën shallin. Argëtimi? Më shumë se i dukshëm. Disa

në volejbol, të tjerë në lojë të freçeta, ndërsa disa zgjedhën lojërat "pa shumë mund", domino, shah, me letra...

Jo vetëm aktivitete

Jo vetëm lojëra në kampin e riaftësimi. Në programin e ngjitur në hyrje të vendqëndrimit të tyre, për-

ca ktohej gjithçka. Për teknikën e veshjes kanë mësuar në ditët e qëndrimit në Pogradec. "Eshhtë shumë e rëndësishme që të fitojnë pavarësinë në veshje. Këtu mësojnë mënyrat se si të vishen pa shumë mund", thotë fizioterapistia. Por jo vetëm të vishen. Në dushet e tyre kishte disa hekurë që ndihmonin të bënin dushet vetë.

"Kjo synohet, thotë fizioterapistia, të jenë të zotët e vetes". Kanë gjetur kohën të bisedojnë me njëri-tjetrin, të flasin për hallet e tyre, si e kanë pritur aftësinë e kufizuar, probleme që kanë të bëjnë me legjislativin, atë çka duhet të përfitojnë nga shteti kategoria më e pambrojtur, ata, njerëzit me aftësi të kufizuara.



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Korrespondenca

Mësuesit pa diplomë në auditore

TIRANE. Gjatë kësaj korrespondence, për herë të parë, një mësues i shkollës së mesme të diplomuar për të gjuhën shqipe dhe anglisht, i cili për shkak të mungesës së diplomës në auditore, nuk ka mundur të marrë pjesë në konkursin për mësues të kësaj shkolle. Në këtë rast, mësuesi në fjalë ka qenë i detyruar të shprehë shprehërisht kërkesën për të marrë pjesë në konkursin për mësues të kësaj shkolle. Në këtë rast, mësuesi në fjalë ka qenë i detyruar të shprehë shprehërisht kërkesën për të marrë pjesë në konkursin për mësues të kësaj shkolle. Në këtë rast, mësuesi në fjalë ka qenë i detyruar të shprehë shprehërisht kërkesën për të marrë pjesë në konkursin për mësues të kësaj shkolle.

ka secila zonë për të kualifikuar mësuesit pa diplomë. Dhe nuk janë pak. Vetëm në rrethin e Hasit, 90 për qind e mësuesve që japin dije në shkollat e zonës, nuk kanë diplomën e arsimi përkatës. Nuk janë pak edhe Mallakastra, Bulqizë etj. Në bazë të negociatave që do të bëhen në ditët e ardhshme, do të përcaktohen edhe vendet për sistemin e korrespondencës së vitit të ri akademik. Jo të gjithë mësuesit pa diplomë do të përfshihen në kualifikim. Një shtet që do të bëjë ende pa arsim të lartë, mendohet të jetë konkursi. "Eshhtë diskutuar shumë në këto ditë. Mendojmë të mos kishte konkurs për mësuesit, por kjo del jashtë ligjit të arsimi të lartë", thotë me nga specialistet e Ministrisë së Arsimit. Megjithatë do të kenë lehtësi, nuk do të konkurrojnë si kandidatët e tjerë. Do të testohen vetëm për degen që japin mësim në shkollat ku janë. Për këtë arsye, nuk mund të themi se çfarë do të ndodhë në ditët e ardhshme të konkursit të mësuesit, ashtu siç është tani.

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ATTACHMENT E

Grants Cumulative List

ORT Albania Democracy Network Program
 Cumulative List of Grants a/o October 31, 2000

TOTAL GRANTS: 92

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED: \$1,052,635

CROSS-SECTOR INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Total Amount: \$289,929

Project Duration Dates:

<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>		
08/01/98	06/01/00	CRSNWK-001	Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Recourse Center: "NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy"(DAG-\$290,000)

SECTOR AREA RESOURCE CENTERS

4 Grants Total Amount: \$57,150

Project Duration Dates:

<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>		
09/01/99	04/30/00	SARC-001	Foundation "Regional Agency for Development/Elbasan: "NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy" (IDG-\$18,710)
09/01/99	04/30/00	SARC-002	Albanian Disability Rights Foundation: "NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy" (IDG-\$7,323)
09/01/99	04/30/00	SARC-003	Foundation Regional Agency for Development/ Tirana: "NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy" (IDG-\$18,691)
09/01/99	04/30/00	SARC-004	Dairy Entrepreneurs National Association: "NGO Development and Sustainability Strategy" (IDG-\$12,426)

MG = Microgrant
 IDG = Institutional Development Grant
 DAG = Development Activities Grant

SOCIAL SERVICES**10 Grants Total Amount:\$209,184**Project Duration Dates:StartEnd

<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>		
04/01/00	09/30/00	SSG-001	Albanian Disability Rights Foundation "Low Cost Wheelchairs for Albanian Disabled People" (\$35,426)
04/01/00	09/30/00	SSG-002	Albanian Family Planing Association "Improving Counseling on Reproductive Health Issues for Women in Albania" (\$35,400)
03/15/00	09/15/00	SSG-003	Counseling Center for Women and Girls "Help and Support for Abused Women and Those Risked from Trafficking in Rural Areas" (\$35,822)
03/01/00	08/30/00	SSG-004	Women, Reality and Vision "Community Kindergarten and Counseling Help to Women" (\$20,320)
04/01/00	09/30/00	SSG-005	Social Help for Women Head of Family "Women and Children Center" (\$9,063)
04/01/00	09/30/00	SSG-006	Independent Forum for Albanian Women "Support for the Social-Economic Integration of the Albanian Imprisoned Women" (\$22,470)
03/01/00	08/30/00	SSG - 007	Albanian-American Trade and Development Association "NGO Organizational Development" (\$21,523)
04/01/00	09/30/00	SSG - 008	Intellectual Women /Puka "Puka Women Room" (\$6,440)
05/01/00	10/30/00	SSG - 009	Albanian Young Women Christian Association "Albanian Child Care Program" (\$12,230)
04/15/00	10/15/00	SSG - 010	Small Business Foundation /Tirana "Entrepreneurship and Business Management Training Opportunity for the Unemployed and Poor Women in Tirana and Gjirokastra Region" (\$10,490)

DEMOCRACY SECTOR 37 Grants Total Amount \$235,260***Project Duration Dates:***

<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>		
12/22/95	1/30/96	DEM-001	Union of Independent Dissidents: "Memorial Conference for the Poet Nexhat Hakiu" (MG-\$100)
2/1/96	5/31/96	DEM-002	Women's Center: "Promotion of Women's Participation in Politics" (MG-\$1,106)
1/1/96	3/31/96	DEM-003	Kavaja Community Center: "March 26 Democracy Painting Contest" (MG-\$500)
1/1/96	6/30/96	DEM-004	Society for Democratic Culture: "Elections '96: Informing the Voters" (DAG- \$24,595)
7/1/96	12/31/97	DEM-005	Albanian Helsinki Committee: "Annual Operational Budget" (DAG - \$28,488)
9/1/96	11/15/96	DEM-006	Society for Democratic Culture: "Radio/TV Spots for Elections" (MG-\$234)
9/1/96	11/15/96	DEM-007	Society for Democratic Culture: "Media Monitoring Campaign" (MG-\$2,864)
2/1/97	10/30/97	DEM-008	Albanian Youth Council: National Symposium, "Youth Policy in Development" (MG-\$4,760)
1/1/97	4/30/98	DEM-009	Albanian NGO Forum: "NGO Networking" (MG-\$3,335)
7/1/97	12/31/97	DEM-010	DeMeTra: "Developing Communication Skills in NGOs" (MG-\$3,894)
5/22/97	6/29/97	DEM-011	Society for Democratic Culture: "Media Monitoring of Albanian National Elections '97" (MG - \$7,413)
09/01/97	09/30/97	DEM 011a	Society for Democratic Culture "Institutional Capacity Building" (MG 8,045)
6/1/97	10/30/97	DEM-012	Society for Democratic Culture: "Elections Monitoring '97" (DAG \$21,482)
6/10/97	7/15/97	DEM-013	League of Pensioners of Albania: "Parliamentary Candidates: "Together at a Round Table with All" (MG-\$1,527)

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6/17/97	7/15/97	DEM-014	Union of Vlore Intellectuals: "Parliamentary Candidates Face to Face with the Electorate" (MG-\$2,335)
6/17/97	7/29/97	DEM-015	Law and Rural Women's Rights: "Improving Democratic Culture among Rural Women in the Parliamentary Elections '97" (MG - \$1,380)
6/25/97	12/31/98	DEM-016	Foundation for the Reconciliation of Disputes: "Promoting Tolerance, Understanding, Culture and Improved Capacity in Treating and Resolving Conflicts" (IDG- \$14,363)
9/16/97	11/30/97	DEM-017	Young Researchers of Social Sciences - Shkodra: Civic Education Project: "O Tempora? O Mores!" (Now? or Never!)(MG- \$1,910)
10/18/97	11/20/97	DEM-018	The Women's Legal Group: "Building a Partnership Between Women Deputies of Parliament and the Women's Legal Group" (MG - \$625.00)
3/1/98	11/6/98	DEM-019	Society for Democratic Culture: "Media Monitoring in A Non-election Environment" (\$9,081)
3/1/98	5/15/98	DEM-020	The Albanian Human Rights Group: "The Protection of Human Rights through Improved Enforcement of Judgements" (MG-\$1,895)
4/10/98	5/6/98	DEM-021	Foundation for Juridical Culture: "Constitutional Publication" (MG- \$1,150)
4/1/98	6/30/98	DEM-022	Institute for Contemporary Studies: "An Ombudsman Institution in Albania" (MG- \$2,950)
8/7/98	9/30/98	DEM-023	Center for Economic and Social Studies: "Citizen Review of the Draft Constitution -Korca" (MG- \$1,390)
8/14/98	9/30/98	DEM-024	Center for Economic and Social Studies: "Citizen Review of the Draft Constitution - Gjirokaster" (MG-\$1,420)
11/1/98	11/30/98	DEM-025	Society for Democratic Culture: "How to Vote Correctly" (Constitutional Referendum) (MG- \$2,500)
01/01/99	06/30/99	DEM-026	Albanian Center for Economic Research: "Improving Municipality Services: Developing and Implementing a Local Level Anti-Corruption Action Plan" (MG-\$5,000)

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DAG = Development Activities Grant

04/19/99	06/04/99	DEM-027	Albanian Human Rights Group: "Center of Testimonies on Crime and Genocide Against the Kosovo Albanians" (MG-\$5,000)
06/10/99	11/10/99	DEM-028	Institute for Contemporary Studies: "Efficient, Non-discriminatory and Transparent Public Procurement Law" (MG-\$4,960)
06/05/99	11/15/99	DEM-029	Albanian Foundation for the Reconciliation of Disputes: "Implementing New Mediation Law as an Alternative in Conflict Resolution" (MG-\$2,690) Bank Wire Fees (\$30)

NGO Service and Network Grants:

11/1/95	10/31/96	DEMNK-001	Albanian NGO Forum: "Institutional Capacity Building Project" (IDG-\$13,256)
7/15/96	2/15/98	DEMNK-002	Albanian Youth Council: National Program to Extend a Youth NGO Network" (IDG- \$14,984)
4/1/97	7/30/98	DEMNK-003	Women's Center: "Effecting Public Policies related to Women through Dissemination of Information on Gender Issues" (IDG-\$14,967)
6/10/97	6/28/97	DEMNK-004	Albanian Youth Council et al.,: "Live & Vote" (MG- \$2,990)
04/19/97			Albanian Youth Council "Gathering for Tolerance" (MG-\$1,790)
5/17/97	7/31/97	DEMNK-005	Professional and Business Women's Association et al.,: "Promoting Women's Participation in the Electoral Campaign" (IDG - \$7,970)
1/1/98	8/31/98	DEMNK-006	DeMeTra: Institutional Building of DeMeTra – "A National Management, Training, and Consultancy Organization" (IDG - \$11,658)
5/15/98	6/15/98	DEMNK-007	The Local Coordinative Forum for the NGOs in Elbasan: NGO Law Training in Elbasan \$623)

SOCIAL SAFETY NET SECTOR**18 Grants****Total Amount: \$100,859**

3/15/96	11/15/96	SSN-001	The Albanian Resource Center for Health: "Albanian Medical Ethics and Law Handbook" (MG-\$3,926)
3/1/96	1/31/97	SSN-002	The Family Planning Association: "Improving Reproductive Rights in Albania" (IDG-\$13,000)
5/1/96	8/31/96	SSN-003	The League of Albanian Anti-Communist Women: "National Platform for Action" (MG-\$1,992)
7/15/96	10/15/97	SSN-004	Useful to Albanian Women: "Monitoring Center for Drug and Alcohol Abuse" (IDG-\$15,642)
8/1/96	10/31/96	SSN-005	Albanian Patients Association: "Charter of Patients Rights" (MG-\$717)
7/1/96	9/30/96	SSN-006	Humanitarian Assoc. Of Labor Invalids: "Labor Invalid Identity Cards" (MG-\$1,746)
2/1/97	12/30/97	SSN-007	Association to Assist Mentally Handicapped Persons - Pogradec Branch: "Improvement and Implementation of the Law on Social Assistance for Mentally Handicapped Person and Caretakers" (MG-\$1,591)
2/15/97	4/15/98	SSN-008	Albanian Hemophiliac Assoc.: "Campaign for the Identification of People with Hemophilia & an Evaluation of Their State & Treatment" (MG-\$3,625)
6/15/97	9/30/97	SSN-009	Law and Rural Women's Rights: "Assessing Violence Against Village Women" (MG-\$1,831)
6/23/97	7/15/97	SSN-010	Albanian Blood Donors Association: "Save a Life - Give Blood During the Crisis" (MG - \$3,000)
11/5/97	4/30/98	SSN-011	Law and Rural Women's Rights: "A Law Addressing Family Violence" (MG - \$2,290)
11/22/97	12/31/97	SSN-012	Albanian Paraplegic Association: "Building an Enabling Path for the Disabled" (MG-\$758)
11/1/97	7/15/98	SSN-013	Useful to Albanian Women- "Drug Monitoring Center" (\$15,070)

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DAG = Development Activities Grant

4/10/98	12/20/98	SSN-014	Albanian Disability Rights Foundation: "Building a Government - NGO Partnership on Law For Disabled Persons" (\$2,989)
5/6/98	10/31/98	SSN-015	Law, Business and Rural Women – "Institutional Strengthening of the Association" (\$3,200)
5/1/98	5/31/98	SSN-016	Albanian Family Planning Association: "Improving Reproductive Rights in Albania – II" (MG-\$150)

NGO Service and Network Grant

3/15/96	3/14/97	SSNWK-001	The Albanian Resource Center for Health: "Health for All Center" (IDG - \$15,381)
12/1/97	1/31/99	SSNWK-002	Health NGO Forum: "Strengthening the Network of Health NGOs" (IDG- \$13,951)

ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR 11 Grants Total Amount \$39,323

7/1/96	7/30/98	ENV-001	Association for Protection and Preservation of the Natural Environment: "International Symposium on Prespa Lakes" (IDG-\$10,125)
7/15/96	1/15/97	ENV-002	Biologists Association: "Reform of Teaching Programs in Environmental Education in High Schools" (IDG-\$7,170)
7/1/96	11/26/96	ENV-003	Albanian Ecological Club- Mirdita: "Regional Seminar on Reforestation of Rubiku Hills" (MG - \$2,683)
7/1/96	10/31/96	ENV-004	Association for Protection and Preservation of the Natural Environment - Shkodra Branch: "Increasing Public Awareness of Lake Shkoder" (MG-\$1,825)
2/1/97	12/30/97	ENV-005	Albanian Ecological Club- Lezha Branch: "Reestablishing Nature Reserves in Vain and Kune" (MG\$1,759)
3/1/97	5/30/97	ENV-006	Kadmi and Harmony: "Keeping the River Clean Keeps the Lake Clean" (MG - \$2,939)

9/15/97	5/15/98	ENV-007	Albanian Scientific-Didactic Association of Speleologists: "Creating a Policy for the Legal Status and Management of Karstic Caves According to Scientific and Didactic Values" (MG - \$3,050)
3/20/98	9/20/98	ENV-008	Transborder Wildlife Association: "Protection of Nature, Beauty, Life: Natural Resource Management" (MG \$2,972)
1/15/98	4/30/98	ENV-009	Public Health Institute: "The Voice of Associations in Compilation of Public Health Policies" (MG - \$2,779)
5/1/98	5/31/98	ENV-010	Protection and Preservation of the Natural Environment: "An Albanian Law to Protect Its International Lakes" (MG- \$1,050)
5/1/98	6/30/98	ENV-011	Albanian Scientific-Didactic Association of Speleologists: "Mobilizing Support for a Law on the Status and Management of Karstic Caves" (MG- \$2,971)

ECONOMIC GROWTH SECTOR

11 Grants

Total Amount \$120,930

2/1/97	7/20/98	ECON-001	Assistance Center for Business Assoc./Korca: "Establishment of an Assistance Center for Business Association" (\$7,425)
2/15/97	6/30/98	ECON-002	National Union of Albanian Farmers: "Institutional Capacity Building and Advocacy" (IDG- \$14,748)
6/15/97	7/15/97	ECON-003	Albanian Center for Economic Research: "The Economic Crisis: Its Causes, Consequences, and Possible Solutions" (MG- \$2,021)
8/1/97	4/30/98	ECON-004	Albanian Consumers Association: "Improving Consumer Protection Rights and Institutional Development" (IDG - \$14,970)
10/18/97	12/31/97	ECON-005	Institute for Contemporary Studies: "Mobile Business School" (MG - \$2,974)
11/15/97	12/15/97	ECON-006	Organic Agriculture Association: "Promoting Support for Organic Food Production in Albania" (\$2,150)

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12/1/97	10/31/98	ECON-007	Center for Economic and Social Studies: "Qualitative Privatization and the Transformation of Public Enterprises in Albania" (IDG - \$14,617)
1/1/98	4/30/98	ECON-008	Research Center for Rural Development: "Issues of Rural NGOs Network: Today and In the Future" (MG-\$2,920)
01/01/99	12/31/99	ECON-009	Albanian Consumers Association: "Cooperation of ACA with the Local and Central Government on Implementation of Consumer Protection Law and Other Laws Strengthening Consumers' Rights" (DAG-\$30,000)
02/20/99	04/30/99	ECON-010	Association of Women Intellectuals of Puka: "Small Business an Opportunity for Employment and Self-employment" (MG-\$3,816)
02/26/99	02/26/00	ECON-011	National Union of Albanian Farmers: "Promoting Policies in Support of Agricultural Development" (DAG-\$25,289)

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