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THE STATE OF EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS IN ALBANIA



October 2006

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THE STATE OF EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS IN ALBANIA - JANUARY 2005 TO JULY 2006

AN OVERVIEW OF GOVERNMENTAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	ii
INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION	1
BACKGROUND	2
REVIEW OF RECENT AND CURRENT EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NGOS	3
GOVERNMENT EFFORTS	3
<i>National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2001-2004</i>	3
<i>National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Children and Protection of Child Trafficking Victims</i>	4
<i>Strategic Framework and National Action Plan 2005-2007</i>	6
<i>Notable Prevention Measures by the Government of Albania</i>	9
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DONOR EFFORTS	11
THE ALBANIAN INITIATIVE: COORDINATED ACTION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING (CAAHT)	18
COORDINATION	18
GRANTS	19
OTHER NGO AND COALITION EFFORTS	30

ACRONYMS

AFCR	Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution
ANNTARC	Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center
AVR	Assisted Voluntary return
BKTF	Bashkë Kundër Trafikimit të Fëmijëve/ All Together Against Child Trafficking
CAAHT	Coordinated Actions Against Human Trafficking
CAO	Citizens' Advocacy Office
CCF	Christian Children's Fund
SSA	Council of Social Services Associations
CT NAP	Child Trafficking National Action Plan
D&E	Different and Equal
EU	European Union
GoA	Government of Albania
I3SP	The Institute for Social Work and Psychology
ICITAP	International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program
ICMC	International Catholic Migration Commission
ICMPD	International Center for Migration Policy Development
IGAP	Institute for Gender Applied Policies
ILO	International Labor Organization
IO	International Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPEC	International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor
ISS	International Social Service-Albania
LCM	Legal Clinic for Minors
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
MoLSAEO	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
NAP	National Action Plan
NCRVT	National Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Trafficking
NGO	Non-governmental Organizations
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
OCTF	Organized Crime Task Force
OPDAT	Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
RA	Responsible Authority
RILAT	Rrjeti Lokal i Institucioneve Anti-trafik / The Network of the Local Anti - Trafficking Institutions
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEE	South East Europe
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SPTF	Stability Pact Task Force on Human Trafficking
TdH	Terre des Hommes
TIP	Trafficking in Persons Report
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Unicef	United Nations Children's Fund
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VMA	Viktimat e Minave dhe Armëve / Victims of Mines and Weapons
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION

In February 2006, the USAID/CAAHT program issued an initial report on “The State of Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Albania - 2005.” That report provided an overview of anti-trafficking policies and programs of both the Government of Albania (national and local) and civil society actors during 2005. At the time the report was issued, the recently elected Government of Albania was still consolidating its new structures and appointees and was developing its strategies for anti-trafficking and other policies. At the same time, the USAID/CAAHT program - the largest single donor source for local NGOs implementing anti-trafficking programs - was at the half-way point of its 18-month grant disbursement phase.

This second edition of the “State of Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Albania” report expands on the previous report to provide an overview of current anti-trafficking efforts in Albania between January 2005 and July 2006. The report describes the current state of governmental and NGO programs and services for both prevention of trafficking of persons and the assistance and reintegration of its victims - both child and adult. The 23 prevention and victims’ assistance/reintegration projects supported by CAAHT grants all concluded by July 2006. This new edition of the report includes descriptions of these projects and their results.

Migration management, law enforcement and prosecution are also important areas in the coordinated effort to combat trafficking of persons. These areas are addressed by reports from the Government of Albania and a variety of its

partners such as the EU, IOM, ICMPD, and the US State Department’s Annual Trafficking in Persons Report. The CAAHT program supports close cooperation between local government and civil society actors with law enforcement officials and affirms the importance of the “three P’s” - prevention, protection and prosecution” as the comprehensive approach to stopping trafficking of people. However, assessment of law enforcement and prosecutorial efforts is outside the expertise of the CAAHT program and therefore, this report does not attempt to reflect these sectors in depth.

As the CAAHT program comes to the conclusion of its first three years of activities, it is undertaking - in cooperation with its many project stakeholders - a major evaluation of the results and impact of the CAAHT program from 2003 to 2006. This evaluation effort will culminate in a consultative Annual Conference in November 2006 at which time the CAAHT program will engage a wide spectrum of stakeholders - governmental and nongovernmental, national and international - to examine the conclusions of this evaluation process and develop recommendations for further support and capacity building of the Albania’s “anti-trafficking community.” Therefore, this second edition of the “State of Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Albania” does not include recommendations for action. These will be published as part of the report out from the 2007 CAAHT Annual Conference.

The CAAHT staff wishes to convey our thanks to the many partners who contributed to this second edition by reviewing and updating the information about the important contributions each of their organizations are making to help

prevent trafficking of children and women and to improve the lives of those who have suffered the exploitation and abuse of this crime against the citizens and nation of Albania.

BACKGROUND

In contrast with the situation at the beginning of the decade, Albania is generally recognized to no longer be a country of significant transit or destination for trafficking of persons. This is due largely to the enhanced efforts of Albanian law enforcement and border authorities, culminating in the Vlora “Puna” exercise in June 2002 against fast-launch trafficking across the Adriatic, as well as to the opening up of alternative and more ‘attractive’ trafficking routes through the countries of the former Yugoslavia since the ending of the Balkan conflicts. This assessment has been confirmed by a combination of national police and shelter data, international governmental and intergovernmental organizations (e.g. Unicef, US TIP reports, Regional Clearing Point, etc.) and national and international NGO reports.

However, Albania still remains a source country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor, largely to Greece and Italy, where many victims are then further transited to the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany and the Netherlands. Albanian children, especially ethnic Roma and Egyptian, continue to be trafficked externally for forced labor or begging. The US 2005 U.S. Trafficking in Persons report notes “internal trafficking within Albania and re-trafficking of Albanian victims to other countries remained a

problem in 2005.”¹ Services providers who work directly with victims of trafficking confirm what is noted in the US 2006 U.S. Trafficking in Persons report, namely that internal trafficking within Albania and re-trafficking to other countries are both on the increase.

According to the 2006 U.S. Trafficking in Persons report, the Government of Albania does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The report states that the government continued to produce successful prosecutions and convictions of traffickers, appointed a new fulltime national anti-trafficking coordinator with staff, began to implement its witness protection law for trafficking victims, and signed a bilateral anti-child-trafficking agreement with Greece. While the government demonstrated strong law enforcement efforts, overall implementation of the government’s protection and prevention programs remained weak. The government should fully implement its witness protection program, encourage a greater number of victims to testify against their traffickers, and make efforts to guarantee victims’ safety. Comprehensive reintegration and rehabilitation services are critical to prevent the re-trafficking of Albanian citizens. The government as a whole should assume a greater leadership role in the country’s anti-trafficking efforts, actively implement its National Action Plan, and vigorously investigate and prosecute trafficking-related corruption at all levels of law enforcement.

¹ Trafficking in Persons Report June 2006, US Department of State, page 56.

REVIEW OF RECENT AND CURRENT EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NGOS

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2001-2004

The Government of Albania acknowledged trafficking in persons as a serious national, social and law enforcement problem, with negative consequences for Albania's international reputation and Euro-Atlantic integration aims, when, in December 2001, it designed the National Anti-trafficking Strategy 2001-04.

The National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2001-2004, drafted with the assistance of international organizations, has been elaborated with three Plans of Action, namely the supplementary Anti-trafficking Action Plan for September 2003 - September 2004 covering the last phase of the then National Strategy, and the National Anti-Trafficking Strategic Framework and Action Plan (NAP) for 2005-7 as well as the Child Trafficking Strategy and Action Plan 2005-7 which are described in more detail on page three through seven in this report.² Together these documents comprise a comprehensive range of prevention, protection and prosecution measures to address the phenomenon. These have been recognized by many international partners and monitoring agencies³ to be among the most advanced plans in South Eastern

Europe. The Strategy provides for the appointment of a National Coordinator with direct responsibility for National Strategy implementation and for coordination of anti-trafficking activities, and also for the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings⁴. Some months after the establishment of the Committee, it was supplemented with technical focal points which comprised two representatives from each participating ministry and institution. Positive achievements during implementation phase of the National Strategy include the creation of an anti-trafficking unit in the Ministry of Public Order and its 12 regional offices, the establishment of the International Anti-trafficking Center in Vlora, greater law enforcement efforts, including the 2002 Operation Puna, participation in regional anti-trafficking sweeps, the establishment of the National Center for the Rehabilitation of Trafficked Victims, greater public awareness, education initiatives, and improved anti-trafficking legislation and penalties, particularly after the 9 January 2004 incident in the Ionian Sea in which 21 smuggled and trafficked Albanians were drowned at sea.

Amendments to the Criminal Code approved by the Council of Ministers and passed by the Parliament in February 2004 in response to the 9 January 2004 incident substantially increased the scale of penalties, for TIP and illegal border crossing offences, as well as bringing the definition of TIP into line with that in the UN Convention on Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol).

² Anti-trafficking Action Plan for September 2003 - September 2004 was approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee on 3 October 2003; National Anti-Trafficking Strategic Framework and Action Plan (NAP) for 2005-7 was approved by Prime Ministerial Order on 23 February 2005; Child Trafficking Strategy and Action Plan 2005-7, approved by the Council of Ministers on 11 February 2005.

³ For example, the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings (SPTF), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the U.S. Department of State (TIP Report).

⁴ Governmental agencies designated to comprise the Inter-ministerial Committee include: the Ministry of Public Order (MOPO), Ministry of Defense (MoD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and the State Intelligence Service. Names and locations of some of these entities have been adjusted under the new government.

Under these amendments, custodial sentences for trafficking of adult women range from 7-15 years for organizing, managing and financing the offence, to not less than 15 years for causing serious harm, and 20 years/life for causing death. Substantial fines also accompany all custodial sentences. Similar but higher penalties also apply for child trafficking offences.

Reports by Government showed that significant progress was achieved in implementing priority objectives of the Action Plan. However, a number of initiatives envisaged were not fully implemented. These include: activation of Vlora Anti-trafficking Center; establishment of the joint case management database involving the Ministry of Public Order, the General Prosecutors Office and Ministry of Justice to record and monitor the progress of trafficking cases from initial arrests through prosecution, to conviction and sentencing; and full implementation of the Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF) Strategy. Also, protection and prevention measures still continued to rely mostly on intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other donor-funded activities.

National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Children and Protection of Child Trafficking Victims

A noteworthy event has been the development of a dedicated strategy for combating Trafficking in Children and Protecting Child Trafficking Victims Child Trafficking Strategy and Action Plan, drafted in March 2004 and presented at Stability Pact Task Force Regional Conference in Belgrade, though not approved until February 2005. The drafting process of the

strategy was a successful cooperation effort by the inter-ministerial working group and domestic and international NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. The inter-ministerial working group was assisted by Unicef-Albania to ensure conformity with Unicef guidelines and the "best interest of the child", and BKTF (Together Against Child Trafficking). This was the first major effort that brought together governmental structures and NGOs.

This is a medium term strategy for the period 2005-2007. The underlying approach is based largely on the Unicef Guidelines and relevant UN and other international instruments. The Child Trafficking NAP is structured according to a five point matrix of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Assisted Voluntary Return, and Coordination measures, the last being intended to bring together all involved actors at national and international, governmental and non-governmental, and central and local levels.

At the domestic level, the Strategy envisages the creation of a dedicated national child protection structure – based on the internationally recognized Responsible Authority approach - at prefecture as well as central level, to coordinate and supervise the prevention, protection and rehabilitation activities of education, health and social services, law enforcement, prosecution and local government officials. This approach also envisages the formation of local level partnerships of government and non-government actors to work with the central structure in implementing the strategies in the Action Plan.

This last element is particularly important, because without an implementing and coordinating structure to bring together, at local as well as central level, the initiatives foreseen in the Action Plan, there is a risk that the strategy could become no more than a well intentioned document with no meaningful implementation.

Because of the important bilateral dimension of child trafficking issues with Greece, and the risk that the problem could be aggravated by the Olympic Games in Athens in August 2004, officials from the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a round of political consultations with Greece in Athens on 18-19 February 2004, proposed that the two governments agree on a joint approach for solving both short and long term aspects of the problem. Both agreed to have further contacts to address the particular issues posed by the Olympic Games, and to begin drafting an agreement, based partly on Albania's previous positive experience with Italy, for the longer term resolution of the child trafficking issue. The Albanian side presented a draft agreement for the Protection and Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) of unaccompanied, at-risk and/or trafficked children during a Prime Minister's visit to Athens in June 2004. However, the bilateral agreement was signed by the Greek Deputy Foreign Minister and Albanian Deputy Minister of the Interior only in February 27 (see page 7 of the report).

Signing the bilateral agreement served as a positive pressure on governmental structures to give greater impetus to establishment of the Responsible Authority and National Referral Mechanism structures envisaged in the draft.



Ms. Iva Zajmi, Albanian Deputy Minister of Interior, and Mr. Evripiades Stylianides, Greek Deputy Foreign Minister, sign the Bi-lateral agreement on anti-trafficking.

Despite these positive developments and continuing political commitment from the government, implementation of the Child Trafficking NAP to date, has been minimal. Because of the delay in final approval by government until February 2005, most of the timelines in the Child Trafficking NAP need to be revised.

Also, despite good intentions to achieve positive results and satisfy recognized international anti-trafficking standards, it can be argued that the Plan was too ambitious and premature, given the lack of government capacities and expertise, at both central and local level, and budgetary limitations handicapping implementation. This is particularly the case for governmental social service structures, which remain insufficiently developed to provide social support, educational reinsertion programs, and comprehensive case monitoring for trafficked minors and their families. Hence there is now a strong need for greater participation of non-governmental organizations and civil

society actors, especially in the areas of prevention, assistance and re-integration envisaged in the plan, to ensure its efficiency and sustainability.

Strategic Framework and National Action Plan 2005-2007

The purpose of this latest Plan is to ensure continuity and maintain the progress achieved during implementation of earlier strategies and National Action Plans, while at the same time developing new legislative and institutional approaches to meet the changing nature of human trafficking, and a more systematic, credible and verifiable statistical approach to measuring output.

This latest Action Plan (NAP) reflects, on the one hand, progress made and gaps identified in national and international assessments of Albania's performance over the last period of the 2001-4 Strategy. On the other, it seeks to harmonize the structure of Albania's national anti-trafficking response with the recommendations of international and EU partners, and the emerging practice of Albania's regional neighbors.

The National Action Plan 2005-7 is based on the following guiding principles:

- government ownership,
- civil society participation,
- human rights based treatment of victims
- interdisciplinary coordination and cross-sector responses at government level, and between government, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs; and
- systematic evaluation and sustainability.

In seeking to remedy continuing weaknesses and gaps identified by national

and international assessments of Albania's performance, this NAP 2005-7 addresses particularly poor cooperation between police and prosecution, insufficient action against police, prosecutors, judges and other officials complicit in trafficking; as well as the need for greater government, as well as NGO-led, initiatives in the areas of protection and prevention. As regards the latter, the Plan reflects the government's recognition of its own responsibility for promoting greater social inclusion and alternatives to illegal migration and trafficking through a combination of poverty reduction, gender equality, and educational and employment-creating initiatives.

The National Action Plan 2005-7 follows a structure based on international and EU standards, and, in particular, a model format for a comprehensive anti-trafficking response, endorsed by all countries of the SEE region as part of the EU CARDS program "Enhancement of Implementation Strategies for National Anti-Trafficking Action Plans in Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) Countries", implemented by the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

In accordance with this regional approach, the National Action Plan 2005-7 has a two-level Strategic and Operational structure, consisting of Strategic Aims and Specific Objectives, and an Operational Framework identifying activities to be undertaken to implement the Plan. The latter level also includes: assigned responsibilities and time lines; resource and budget implications; and operational and qualitative output indicators.

NAP 2005-7 gives greater emphasis than the 2001-4 National Strategy to the

mobilization of government, as well as NGO resources, allocation of responsibilities, timelines, and statistical and qualitative evaluation of results.

In addition, the NAP incorporates a number of substantive new initiatives, as follows.

- Regular reporting of statistics on arrests, prosecutions and convictions in trafficking and assisted illegal border crossing cases.
- Similar reporting on arrests, prosecutions and convictions of state police and other state officials complicit in trafficking and assisted illegal border crossing cases.
- Improved victim and victim/witness protection and compensation provisions, including new in-court legal and physical protection procedures, and the creation of a state compensation scheme, funded in part from the seizure of traffickers' assets.
- Creation of a National Referral Mechanism for the initial identification, screening, referral, protection and reintegration of returnee or intercepted trafficking victims, involving all government and NGO parties, including Albanian MFA officials in main destination countries.
- Creation of a national 'Child Protection Committee' and 'Responsible Authority' at Central Government and Prefecture levels to improve the effectiveness of child care and anti-trafficking prevention efforts, and to implement proposed new identification, assisted return, referral and reintegration procedures for returnee child trafficking victims.

- Government sponsorship of safe overseas employment, vocational training and alternative employment initiatives, as well as other Internet monitoring, education and targeted public awareness initiatives.

- Institutionalization of victims' rights and anti-trafficking awareness training in the police and prosecution services and the judiciary, and the organization of parallel awareness training for the media.

The above new elements in both the National Anti-Trafficking Strategic Framework and NAP 2005-7 and Child Trafficking Strategy and Action Plan reflect State Department recommendations made following the June 2005 TIP Report on Albania, and Anti-trafficking Guidelines prepared by the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Like the Child Trafficking Strategy, the NAP 2005-7 got late approval by government and also suffered from the electoral hiatus at senior coordination level. Therefore, little implementation was achieved and deadlines have not been met generally. The main achievements so far have been the signing of the joint Order by the Minister of Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MOLSAEO) for the establishment of the Responsible Authority (RA), with main responsibility will be to coordinate and process referrals for all trafficking victims, and to perform all other coordination and reporting functions assigned to it in the NRM Agreement.

In addition to establishing a data base for numbers of victims identified, assisted, provided with long term protection, rehabilitation etc., the Responsible Authority should ensure that beneficiaries are well informed about the kinds of services that

can be provided centrally and locally within the National Referral Mechanism, and ensure that they have adequate access to them. The NRM needs established a directory of centers and organization, capable for offering adequate services to victims of trafficking, whom RA could contact and refer victims. In addition, should also to be better elaborated and defined to ensure that all appropriate NGOs and commercial service providers meet minimum standards of services and also are able to become participants in the NRM at either the Central or Local Government level.

In the first half of 2006, the Government of Albania continued to pursue interdiction investigation, prosecution and conviction of traffickers. Its modest efforts to protect and re-integrate victims of trafficking also continued. The Office for Protection of Witnesses and Collaborators of Justice, within the Ministry of Interior, cooperated with the Ministries of Justice and Finance as well as the General Prosecutor's Office to complete the by-legal acts to the Witness Protection law. At the moment 11 cases, covering 54 persons (witnesses and their extended families), have been provided with special protection measures. Since 2005, 15 witnesses have been provided with temporary protection for a period of one month. One of the special protection cases is a victim of trafficking.

Much remains to be done to ensure adequate protection of victims of trafficking as witnesses. The envisioned witness protection technology for the courts, which would allow victims to provide anonymous public testimony via video, is not in place. This significantly reduces the confidence of potential

witnesses in the ability of the system to protect their identity. Service providers who work directly with victims of trafficking report that the system of witness relocation inside Albania, while good in theory, is not functioning in practice. In addition, due to the small size of the country, it remains questionable whether sufficient witness protection can be achieved within the country's borders. Direct service providers who work with returned victims of trafficking have reported that since the law on witness protection was passed in 2004, they have noticed a decrease in the willingness of foreign governments to provide witness protection and relocation of victims because they assert that there should be sufficient protection in Albania. If the aim is to improve the rate of successful prosecutions and convictions, Government clearly needs to gain the confidence and cooperation of victims and potential witnesses. The financial and technical requirements to develop effective witness protection within Albania, and outside the country when necessary, are known. The Government of Albania continues to need the cooperation and donor support of the international community in order to secure a comprehensive victims protection mechanism in which its citizens have confidence.

Also, in response to measures envisaged in the NAP to improve cooperation and sharing of information on potential trafficking cases with the public and NGOs, the Ministry of Interior is implementing a community-policing strategy to improve relations of police with the general public, media and NGOs. The Ministry has also taken steps to increase the level of

coordination with NGOs and international organizations for anti-trafficking prevention, assistance, outreach to vulnerable groups and training. NGOs and IOs are regularly invited by the office of the National Coordinator to participate in the meetings of the Inter-ministerial Anti-trafficking Committee and various government policy making initiatives.

Notable Prevention Measures by the Government of Albania

Consistent with the prevention measures in the NAP 2005-7, several notable efforts were undertaken by government including:

- approval of the National Strategy for Migration, which seeks to promote safe, legal and non-exploitative employment opportunities abroad through the negotiation of labor migration schemes with key European and other destination countries;
- licensing of 81 vocational training courses for vulnerable or at risk groups;
- implementation of the project "Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Albania through educational activities and capacity building of schools" in cooperation with IOM and extending the previous project for training teacher about human trafficking and its consequences in 10 new schools; and
- the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunity is working with NGO and IO advisors to define standards for services and criteria for victims of trafficking.

The commitment to continuity of anti-trafficking policies and programs by the new government and the appointment of a Deputy Minister of Interior exclusively in charge of anti-trafficking were crucial developments. The Deputy Minister of Interior is serving as the National Coordinator for Anti-trafficking and a new anti-trafficking coordination unit is functioning under her leadership. This unit, composed of a director and three inspectors, serves as technical secretariat to the National Coordinator and coordinates and monitors the performance of governmental institutions.

The creation of dedicated local anti-trafficking structures at the qarku/prefect level to coordinate and supervise the prevention, protection and rehabilitation activities of education, health and social services, law enforcement, prosecution and local government officials is an idea that emerged through the consultative process facilitated by the CAAHT Regional Cluster Groups as usual mechanism to enable implementation of the coordinated anti-trafficking strategy envisioned in the National Anti-trafficking Strategic Framework and Action Plans.⁵ During 2005, local government and civil society participants in CAAHT Regional Cluster Groups discussed and elaborated ideas about the design and function of effective local anti-trafficking structures. In particular, they urged that such groups be convened by either the President of the Qarku or the Prefect and that key qarku-level directors of central ministries be asked to serve on these committees in order to ensure sufficient political will and administrative cooperation. It was also recognized that civil society organizations

⁵ The 2005-2007 Strategic Framework and NAP calls for the creation of "... regional coalitions of local anti-trafficking NGOs/reintegration centers, anti-trafficking police/prosecutors and social services..."

are at the forefront of anti-trafficking programming design and implementation. Therefore, it was seen as essential to invite representatives of NGOs with practical anti-trafficking experience to serve as members of these structures.



Staff from the CAAHT program, MOLSAEO and Public Order assist Deputy Minister of the Interior, Ms. Iva Zajmi, in drafting the Administrative Order to establish the Regional Committees.

On June 19, 2006, the Prime Minister, signed Administrative Order No. 139 to create Regional Committees in the Fight Against Trafficking in Humans at the prefecture-level. These committees will mobilize the political will, human and financial resources of local anti-trafficking government and civil society organizations, and ensure implementation of anti-trafficking laws and activities countrywide. In accordance with the National Anti-trafficking Strategy, the new committees will monitor, coordinate and prioritize the actions of governmental and non-governmental parties to prevent trafficking and to protect victims of trafficking at the local level. In order to orient the newly established committees to understand their anti-trafficking roles and

responsibilities, the Office of the National Coordinator organized a series of Regional Orientation Workshops with technical and financial assistance from CAAHT Program, for representatives from the member institutions/agencies and civil society. The workshops were organized in Vlora (7 July 2006), Shkodra (11 July 2006) and Tirana (13 July 2006).

On 24 May 2006, a joint Order by the Minister of Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MOLSAEO) established the Responsible Authority to coordinate and process referrals for all trafficking victims, and to perform other coordination and reporting functions assigned to it in the NRM Agreement. The Ministry of Interior/National Coordinator's Office is responsible for managing the National Referral Mechanism/Responsible Authority which will comprise two specialists from the Ministry of Interior and two specialists from the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With reference to the implementation of the CT NAP, the most noteworthy development was the signing of the Child Trafficking Bilateral Agreement with Greece on 27 February 2006. The agreement was ratified by the Albanian Parliament and is pending approval by the Greek Parliament.

The Child Labor Unit in the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is piloting a program in Tirana, Korça and Berati titled "Child Labor Monitoring System", with technical and

financial support from ILO/IPEC. Trafficked children are one of the main target groups of this program which aims to establish an institutional framework through Local Action Committees with representatives of high level stakeholders at the local level. Also, child specialists have been appointed in each of the 12 Regional Social Services Directorates, with additional focal points appointed in 65 municipalities and 308 communes throughout the country.

The Management System for Overall Information (TIMS), piloted in Tirana, Durrësi and Vlora is now deployed in most of the border checking points (Kakavija, Kapshtica, Murriqan, etc). Government continues to not provide sufficient specialized training for police. Such training remains limited to inclusion of special subjects on trafficking in humans in the curricula of the Police Academy. CAAHT funding enable the Legal Clinic for Minors to conduct one-day of training for police officers in each of the twelve qarku police departments on the child-friendly and child-rights based interviewing techniques of children.

Many of the new government's anti-trafficking priorities coincide with objectives envisaged in the NAP 2005-7. For example, it calls for enhanced efforts to combat organized crime, trafficking and corruption, the development of Social Services, particularly in the regions and for disadvantaged groups, increased attention from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for emigrants and greater emphasis on protecting migrants rights abroad, poverty reduction, job creation, education, and better cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and civil society.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DONOR EFFORTS

Initially the main impetus for non-governmental cooperation with government came from intergovernmental organizations such as the IOM, OSCE and Unicef. Most of these efforts, at least in their early stages, relied on the expertise of international staff, technical consultants and NGOs to provide know-how in many areas, such as human rights training, police sensitization to anti-trafficking, domestic violence, public awareness, etc.

These activities received encouragement and funding commitment from a large number of donors including: Unicef, IOM, US Embassy/USAID, Embassy of Netherlands, Council of Europe, OSCE, ILO-IPEC, UNHCR, SIDA etc. But increasingly international donors/organizations have realized the importance of working with and developing the capacities of local NGOs, in order to enhance the local ownership and sustainability of their efforts in Albania.

IOM - Tirana, in addition to providing technical and financial assistance for the establishment of the National Center for Returning Victims of Trafficking (NCRVT), continues to collaborate closely with Different and Equal, a recently established NGO that runs a reintegration shelter for returning Albanian victims of trafficking in Tirana with financial support from the CAAHT program and the Embassy of the Netherlands. IOM has equipped short term reception and interview facilities for police at main border crossing points, and assisted the government in drafting the

recently signed National Referral Mechanism (NRM) agreement. Furthermore, IOM is implementing a regional project “Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” supported by SIDA, which provides return and reintegration direct assistance to former Albanian and third country victims of trafficking, and support and consolidation of the capacity building for the Government of Albania, the National Reception Centre and “Different & Equal”.

IOM is also implementing two prevention projects. “Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Balkans Through Educational Activities and Capacity Building of Schools” aims to prevent trafficking in human beings in the Balkans through capacity building and educational activities, raising awareness about the risks and consequences of trafficking among children in schools, as well as non-attendees thereby reducing their vulnerability to trafficking. “Promoting safe migration and preventing human trafficking” intends to promote safe migration and prevent trafficking in human beings through the creation of appropriate information exchange channels among all the stakeholders/interested groups, part of which is the creation of a helpline for victims of trafficking and their families, operated by Ministry of the Interior, with support from IOM and UNODC.

UNICEF’s anti-trafficking efforts in Albania focus on supporting Government and civil society partners to strengthen protection mechanisms for trafficked children and children at-risk,

which contributes to strengthening the national child protection system in Albania. UNICEF’s strategic approach focuses on the following key areas:

- developing policies and legislation that ensure the protection of trafficked children and children at risk;
- strengthening local, national and international coordination on child trafficking and child protection;
- building the knowledge and skills of local government and front line professionals to manage and deliver rights-based care to trafficked children and those at risk; and
- ensuring that children and their families have access to a range of community-based protection services.

UNICEF advised in the drafting of CT NAP, NAP 2005-7, National Standards of Care for Victims of Trafficking, Bilateral Agreement between Albania and Greece for the Protection and Assistance of Children Victims of Trafficking and National Referral Mechanism. It has assisted the National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking to strengthen its child protection components through the development of standards and protocols of care, ensuring a child-safe environment, and building staff capacity in child-centered approaches to care. In addition UNICEF supported the piloting of Municipal Child Protection Units in Tirana and Kukësi, in which municipal structures work to coordinate local-level response to and case management of trafficked children and children at risk.

OSCE The OSCE Presence in Albania supports the Albanian Government and other actors in the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its Action Plan in order for the Government to meet the international commitments. As part of the Strategy, a legal review was drafted by Albanian and international legal experts who were commissioned by the Presence. It contributes to the fight against child trafficking in its position on the advisory board of BKTF. The OSCE chaired a Witness Protection Task Force which negotiated third country resettlement arrangements with cooperating governments and international partners. The Unit participated in a national project on pre-screening of trafficking victims and of irregular migrants. Through its project “Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Travel and Tourism Industry”, the Presence is contributing to combating trafficking and sexual exploitation of children by having Albanian travel, tourism and hospitality sectors adopt and implement a Code of Ethics in order to join counter-trafficking efforts. In the framework of prevention tools to trafficking of human beings a joint project of OSCE and GTZ office in Albania was focused on “Enhancing employment through business competition in the North of Albania”. The project consisted of delivering start up grants to the young women/men winners of the business competition from remote areas of Shkodra, Kukësi and Dibra region. 44 winners out of 123 applicants were able to benefit from the small grant program and to start up their own businesses.

In partnership with the ODIHR and the OCEEA, the Presence is implementing a 2006-2007 program to promote economic empowerment and legal assistance to help prevent human trafficking and to strengthen the ability of the state to provide protective services to trafficking victims.

World Bank World Bank in cooperation with IOM and Different & Equal will soon start implementing the project “Empowering Youth at Risk: Development of a Youth Driven Counter-Trafficking Campaign in Albania” The objectives of this project are to step up prevention efforts and to address the needs of vulnerable youth in Albania by equipping them with relevant skills and knowledge and allowing them to develop, design and present their own counter-trafficking campaign.

SIDA has supported IOM-Tirana anti-trafficking projects through a grant to IOM for the implementation of the IOM Regional Counter-trafficking Project Europe. It is currently co-funding to two organizations specialized in actions against child trafficking - Terre des Hommes for the implementation of the Transnational Action against Child Trafficking and Save the Children Norway for its Regional Trafficking Response Program, Southeast Europe, in which Albania is one of the participating countries. During this time Sida has also financially supported the MTV Anti-trafficking in Persons Pan-European Campaign, implemented by MTV Networks Europe that has produced anti-trafficking information as TV spots, features, campaigns and offered free air-time for information through the broadcasters of MTV.

UNHCR Within the framework of EC funded CARDS program, UNHCR is working to improve the capacity of border police to deal with victims of trafficking and irregular migrants. Under the CARDS project UNHCR together with IOM and OCSE has provided training to over 2,000 police officers and border guards on pre-screening of victims of trafficking, irregular migrants and asylum-seekers. UNHCR also supports the Linza Reception Centre for the victims of trafficking with one vehicle and office equipment. In addition, UNHCR assisted the Government in rehabilitation of 11 border reception facilities to be used for temporary accommodation for victims of trafficking and irregular migrants.

Norway In Albania, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes prevention of child trafficking through its contribution to Unicef, which supports the Vatra shelter for trafficking victims in Vlora and a range of children's projects implemented by local NGOs under the umbrella of Save the Children. During 2006 the Norwegian Embassy in Tirana supported a project in Berat for awareness rising about trafficking and its risks. "Intellectual Women of Shkodra", a project implemented by Human Dimension in Shkodra intended to provide psychological assistance to victims of trafficking, and potential victims of trafficking as well as awareness among groups at risk. During 2005-06 Norway supported a project implemented by "In Help of Northern Women of Puka" for a computer training course with at risk or vulnerable women and girls and is also a co-donor of the TACT project. Norway has been supporting Vatra shelter in Vlora

through one of Norway's five largest NGO's, Norwegian Church Aid.

Embassy of Netherlands Through its grant program, the Dutch Embassy in Albania has supported a series of anti-trafficking activities of both government and non-government structures. The project also anticipated publishing manuals for teachers and students, and including trafficking in the school curricula. The Dutch Embassy has also supported programs on reintegration of victims of trafficking, and institutional capacity building of law enforcement agencies.

The UK Government The British Embassy, through UK Government centrally administered funding programs, co-sponsored an IOM Project entitled "Fostering Sustainable Reintegration in Albania, Kosovo and FYROM", from 2003 to 2005. It is currently the sole sponsor of a major IOM project entitled "Promoting Safe Migration and Preventing Human Trafficking", which is scheduled to last from February 2006 to January 2007.

The Italian Government currently is supporting several related to anti-trafficking. In Tirana, Shkodra and Elbasani support on for policies on minors is being implemented. Among other activities, it is intended to increase the capacities of the National Committee for Adoptions, support the establishment of an Inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral Coordinating Forum at the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities for the protection of at risk and abandoned minors, and conduct a study on the problems associating at risk or abandoned minors. The Qarku of Shkodra is being

supported to develop its social policies for the prevention of youth migration and promotion of regular migrations in the Western Balkans through offering information services for migrants.

Austrian Government The Austrian Development Cooperation is supporting three ongoing projects “Cooperation of Police to combat trafficking and smuggling of Human Beings, and illegal migration”, a three-year program for training and integration between Austria and South Eastern Europe, as well as “SEE-Parliaments work against” to support the Network of the Parliaments of the South-Eastern European Countries in the fight against the organized crime and a comprehensive anti-trafficking training entitled “Multi agency proactive investigation into trafficking in human beings”.

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been supporting a number of activities and initiatives in Albania on improving social justice, one its main domains of cooperation with Albania. In this framework, since 1998, SDC is financing a development project on Integration of the street children in the cities of Korça, Elbasani, Bat and Tirana, This project, titled “Classes for Alternated Education and Vocational Training” is being implemented by NPF. It aims to reintegrate street children (between 12 to 18 years old) into schools, reduce risk of child delinquency and prostitution and prevent them from being trafficked. The project consists on opening of two classes per city in Elbasani, Berati, Korça and Tirana, where 320 Roma and Gypsy children learn how to write and read and, where they participate in vocational training activities in order to

acquire the necessary skills to find a job later. Some of the children assisted in this project previously had been trafficked; but through this program they have been integrated into classes and have stopped going to Greece or Italy.

Hellenic Aid is the development agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Greek Government. It contributes to the multi-donor supported Transnational Action Against Child Trafficking (TACT) being implemented by Terre des Hommes (Switzerland, Tdh) and Arsis (Greece), in cooperation with BKTF members. (For further information about the TACT project, see page 31.

International Labor Office (ILO) International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC)

ILO-IPEC's mandate is to provide technical and financial assistance to member States in the implementation of child labor conventions, especially the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (1999). Currently ILO-IPEC is implementing a four year (until 2009) sub-regional Project of Technical assistance against the labor and sexual exploitation of children, including trafficking, in countries of Central and Eastern Europe (PROTECT CEE) which is being implemented in Albania, as well. In the framework of this sub-regional project three projects are under implementation in Albania: 1) “Integrated program for the elimination of child trafficking in three selected areas of Albania: Elbasani, Korça and Berati”; 2) “Vocational training for the prevention and elimination of child trafficking in Korça” and 3) “ Child Labour Monitoring System in Albania” (Tirana, Korça and Berati).



US Ambassador Marcie B. Ries makes a guest appearance on the educational radio soap opera, *Rruga me Pisha*.

US Embassy The US Government has been a major contributor to overall anti-trafficking efforts in Albania through the Department of State, USAID, ICITAP, OPDAT and the Department of Labor. The US Embassy, through its Democracy and Governance grants program provides support for initiatives of local NGOs (Vatra, Council of Social Services Association in Durres, Women's Advocacy in Tirana, IGAP and In Help of Northern Women of Puka) in their efforts to advance democratic development, fight trafficking, and promote economic opportunity. Prevention of trafficking through providing employment and economic opportunities to the victims of trafficking and women and girls at risk has been the objective of projects supported by the Democracy Commission program in 2004. Also, government and NGO officials have been included in the International Visitor Program (US Department of State) which every year brings to the US future Albanian leaders to US for exposure to American policies and

strategies. A prosecutor from the Serious Crimes Prosecutors' Office participated in the IV program: EURP-Combating Trafficking in Persons in June 2006. Through the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), US government is also supporting a 3-year, USD 3.5 million USDOL-funded ILO-IPEC regional project to combat the trafficking of children for labor and sexual exploitation. This project was renewed in September 2006 for another 3 years. The project is working in partnership with the Government of Albania and local organizations. Project activities include distributing educational materials and training teachers in 12 regions and youth representatives to use the materials in local communities to raise awareness on combating child labor.

International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP)

ICITAP supports the professional development of the Albanian National Police. Current support includes development assistance in the areas of integrated border management, combating organized crime, reforming the police academy and training, developing merit-based personnel management, and installing and implementing a complete law enforcement information management system. ICITAP has supported the establishment of the Anti-trafficking Unit in the Ministry of Interior and its 12 regional units in the regional Police directorates. ICITAP's "Three Ports Strategy", designed to enhance the ability of law enforcement structures to detect and interdict illegal migration and trafficking, has evolved into a broader focus on enhancing overall border management through the restructuring of the Border and Migration Police and improvement of blue and green border

security. In addition, ICITAP has a full-time advisor based in the National Coordinator's office. The National Coordinator, attached to the Ministry of Interior, is a position created specifically to design, manage and coordinate the GoA's programs and efforts to fight trafficking in persons.

Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT)

has organized and conducted a series of trainings for prosecutors and judges throughout the country, on issues including witness protection, organized crime, and investigative means. OPDAT works particularly closely with prosecutors in the Serious Crimes Prosecutor's Office, with an emphasis on these same issues. The OPDAT resident legal advisor chairs the Legal Reform Working Group of the International Consortium, participates in the Witness Protection Working Group, and has provided assistance in the drafting of important pieces of legislation in the last two years.

USAID USAID/Albania supports a broad range of anti-trafficking efforts in Albania which focus on prevention and protection. Currently USAID funds two major anti-trafficking initiatives -The Albanian Initiative: Coordinated Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) and Transnational Action against Child Trafficking (TACT) project (see page 32 for further information about the TACT project). Both of these activities began in 2003, and were renewed for an additional three years in 2006. CAAHT and TACT share similar components of prevention, reintegration and coordination, and are focused on addressing the issue of trafficking from a



USAID CAAHT grants for NGOs in Shkodra were announced at a ceremony 15 December 2005. Left to right: Mr. Gjovalin Kolombi - Prefect; Mr. Harry Birnholz - USAID Albania Mission Director; Mr. Lorenc Luka - President of the Regional Council; Mr. Ahmet Premçi - Director of the Regional Police Directorate.

victim's and/or child's rights perspective. Both projects are further illustrated in the course of this report. The description of the CAAHT program immediately following includes information about the 22 NGOs supported through CAAHT grants. Each of the grantee projects is contributing to the achievement of one or more of the objectives of the NAPs. These are noted in italics at the end of each paragraph that describes the project. Prior to the current USAID Anti-Trafficking programs, USAID supported reintegration assistance to Albanian victims of trafficking and protection, social, and health services to third country national victims through capacity building of a National Reintegration Support Network (RSN) and shelter; implemented by IOM. In addition, USAID worked through Partners for Democratic Change (PDC) and Management Systems International (MSI) to implement its anti-trafficking activities. PDC's efforts focused on addressing the

prevention aspects of trafficking through their Women and Youth Leadership Program, while MSI's work incorporated the needed involvement of government officials in efforts to expose and address the crime of trafficking through their work in anti-corruption.



Local government and NGO leaders from Tirana, Durrësi and Elbasani discuss common challenges in anti-trafficking work at the Central Regional Cluster Group meeting.

THE ALBANIAN INITIATIVE: COORDINATED ACTION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING (CAAHT) - USAID

Coordination

A core component of the CAAHT program is its effort to encourage extensive and sustainable coordination of NGO activities with those of local government. It is doing this by bringing together key local government and NGO actors in Regional Cluster Groups (RCG) and by supporting the creation of Qarku-level Anti-trafficking Working Groups. In order to contribute practically to prevention, assistance and reintegration efforts and to ensure better services

throughout the country, the RCGs have identified existing gaps and specific needs and opted for practical activities to combat trafficking in their individual regions.

The development of RCGs is the CAAHT program's response to the practical anti-trafficking needs that have been identified at local and national levels. As explained earlier, government structure outreach is not good in terms of both assessing and addressing the extent of the phenomenon at local level, identifying vulnerable communities, and the kinds of assistance and services that need to be provided. The advantage of the CAAHT approach is that it recognizes that each prefecture is different in terms of the trafficking vulnerability of its populations and their needs in shaping anti-trafficking responses. Earlier this year, based on ideas that emerge from its Regional Cluster Group meetings, CAAHT advised the new government that regional committees were needed to more effectively combat trafficking in humans in Albania.

The National Coordinator for Anti-trafficking consulted CAAHT in the design of the new committees. Subsequently, CAAHT produced an advisory paper with information and recommendations about the purpose and structure of these regional anti-trafficking committees. The paper was welcomed by the National Coordinator, who invited CAAHT staff to be part of a small working group which drafted the Order that was then signed by the Prime Minister on 19 June 2006. The Order reflects substantially the design and purpose initially suggested by the CAAHT program.

The design establishes 12 regional committees, one for each prefecture, to promote anti-trafficking activities country-wide, and to enable increased enforcement of existing anti-trafficking laws. In accordance with the National Anti-trafficking Strategy, the new committees will monitor, coordinate and prioritize the actions of governmental and non-governmental parties to prevent trafficking and to protect victims of trafficking at the local level.

The regional committees will also enable government and non-governmental sectors to collect and exchange information, identify, refer and solve actual trafficking cases, determine the necessary measures to prevent trafficking and protect families, groups, persons and children at risk of being trafficked, among other duties.

In order to support the Regional Anti-trafficking Committees, created by order of the Prime Minister, CAAHT staff provided technical and financial assistance to the office of the National Coordinator, to prepare and conduct three Regional Orientation Workshops for prefects and the members of their committees to orient them to their roles and responsibilities and assist them in beginning to organize their work together. These workshops were held during the second and third weeks of July in Vlora, Shkodra and Tirana.

On 25 May 2006, CAAHT gathered key staff from the Community Center of Gjirokastra, Vatra Psycho-social Center, Different & Equal, Tjeter Vizion, and the National Center for the Reception of Victims of Trafficking for a technical discussion of the role of the recently established Gjirokastra transit shelter; and

to help improve the cooperation and coordination among this core set of service providers for victims of trafficking. The participants indicated that this was the first time they had gathered as just the four anti-trafficking shelters to discuss and better synthesize their work. In addition to their serious and thoughtful discussion of the agenda topics, they identified several important areas for future discussion.

Grants

Between February 2005 and July 2006, USAID Albania, through the CAAHT Grants Program, supported a wide variety of dynamic civil society anti-trafficking efforts throughout the country. These initiatives include development of the first university anti-trafficking curriculum for social workers and psychologists; shelter and reintegration services for women and children victims of trafficking; house-to-house awareness campaigns in highly vulnerable rural areas of the country; awareness raising and empowerment training for Roma women; and an educational radio soap opera broadcast three times a week throughout the country. Each project is being conducted in close cooperation with local and national government offices and officials.



Representatives from Gjirokastra from the Regional Police Directorate, District Prosecutor's Office, Regional Office of the State Social Services and Terre des Hommes discuss the establishment of their Regional Committee at an orientation workshop organized by the Ministry of the Interior with the support of CAAHT.

By this comprehensive approach, CAAHT seeks to respond to appeals from both governmental and non-governmental actors for better cooperation and joint initiatives. Connecting activities and anti-trafficking efforts of all state and non-state actors in this way is indispensable to success in addressing and eradicating in the longer term this criminal activity. A new phase of CAAHT grants will be committed in the first quarter of 2007.

Three NGO programs supported by the CAAHT Grant Program were implemented by NGOs, which are not necessarily long-term anti-trafficking partners. However, each project made an important contribution to the improvement of the anti-trafficking work in their sectors. These projects include:

The Institute for Social Work and Psychology (ISWP) was funded by the CAAHT program to create a new social work and psychology curriculum specific to anti-trafficking and training for University of Tirana students, as well as professionals, in these advanced social work and counseling skills. This coursework included providing professional higher education training on victims' assistance and reintegration issues, establishing more effective mechanisms for planning and implementing post-shelter reintegration, and improving psychosocial services that assist and reintegrate the victims of trafficking into their communities. A draft curriculum was written with the aim to increase the skills of psychosocial workers in shelters and other institutions and organizations. A 16-day course was conducted using this draft

manual, which resulted in a training experience (rather than a full academic curriculum) for approximately 209 students and practitioners. The CAAHT program will continue to consult with the University Faculty to pursue ways to utilize this material within the framework of the Faculty academic curriculum. [This project supported NAP 2005-7: activity 6 at Strategic Aim 1/Specific Objective B under Prevention; CT NAP: activities 1 and 2 at specific objective 3, activity 14 at specific objective 5 under Prevention, activity 6 at specific objective 1, activity 1 at specific objective 3 under Protection.]

Rruga me Pisha Foundation created and broadcasted a year-long nationwide radio soap opera with multiple anti-trafficking story lines. The project intended to raise nationwide public awareness via radio in order to improve human rights for the most disadvantaged people generally affected by trafficking in persons and the target groups directly affected by trafficking. The project produced 104 radio episodes of a radio soap opera (15 minutes each) over a 12 month period and reached 7200 persons. Broadcasting for a large audience it informed and educated them about the actual situation and their efforts on the prevention. At the end of the project there will be more information available on trafficking related issues, including disadvantaged target groups of people and especially about human rights standards in Albania; [the project also complemented awareness raising activities envisaged in both NAP 2005-7 and CT NAP]

Professional Journalists of Gjirokastra

trained media in south Albania about professional media ethics, standards and good practices for reporting trafficking related stories. The project aimed to improve the level of reporting of the persons trafficked, from the journalists who work for the local and national media in South of Albania. Journalists participated in training workshops and then practiced what they learned by contributing to a monthly newspaper supplement in which the strategies for preventing and combating human trafficking were discussed. 2,400 copies per month of this four-page newspaper supplement, titled 'Against', were distributed nationwide. [This project supported: CT NAP activity 1 at specific objective 3 under Prevention; NAP 2005-7: activity 3 at Strategic Aim 1/specific objective A under Prevention]

The following eight national and international NGOs were supported by the CAAHT grant funds awarded in the first and second phases of the grant program to implement a variety of programs to prevent trafficking of women and children and to better assist and reintegrate the victims of trafficking.

International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) has conducted in the past projects including sheltering to third country nationals and awareness raising. With funding from the CAAHT program, ICMC conducted a regional pilot project in Durrësi Qarku, which sought to develop a local government and NGO coalition approach to protection and prevention, as called for in the CT NAP and NAP 2005-7. This ICMC project established a coordinated community based system of anti-trafficking programs

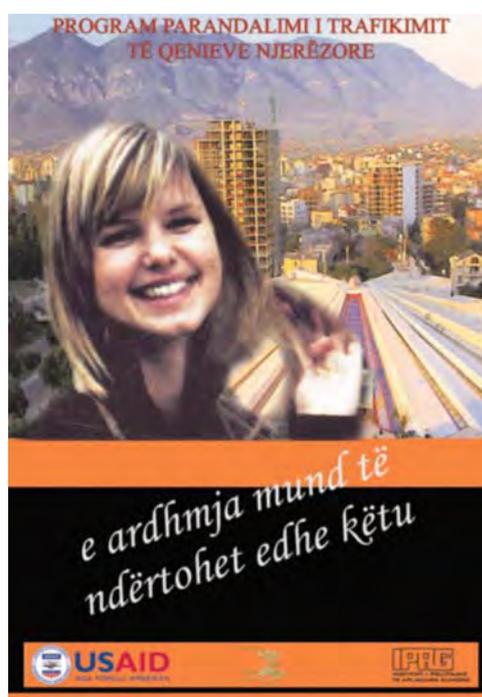
and services in the prefecture. Key structures within the local authorities (e.g. the Directories of Social Services, Education, Health and Police), which are well positioned to serve victims of trafficking were brought into working groups with local civil society organizations. ICMC developed the capacities of these governmental and civil society institutions to prevent trafficking and to address the needs of victims returning to their communities. Capacity building efforts were focused on the need for prevention, providing proper protection, assisting in victims' return and re-integration, and coordination of services within the Durrësi district and with other regions of Albania. The project served as a pilot for emerging anti-trafficking working groups in other prefectures/qarkus of the country. It reached 6,362 persons through its prevention activities and assisted seven victims of trafficking. [This project directly supported activities in the CT NAP: activities 1 and 2 at specific objective 4 under Protection; activities 1 and 2 under Coordination; and NAP 2005-7: activity 5 at specific objective B under Protection.]

Legal Clinic for Minors (LCM) provides psychological and legal assistance to the victims of trafficking. LCM has accomplished public awareness campaigns by distributing posters and leaflets to the general public, especially at the high schools, police stations, courts, district prosecutions offices, etc. LCM has provided specialized training to police and CAAHT stakeholders about the legal framework concerning trafficking in children, children's rights, psychological support to children and child friendly interviewing techniques. The CAAHT grant program supported the Legal Clinic for Minors (LCM) to

provide legal and psychological assistance at the operational level to vulnerable children. Such assistance was provided in conformity with Albanian legislation in the areas of civil, family and criminal law. By addressing the legal and psychological needs of these children, LCM intended to decrease children vulnerability and make them less exposed to child trafficking and other crimes. LCM referred cases of children assisted by itself to other private and public service providers for further assistance according to the needs of the child. In this aspect particular emphasis was given to the operational network of BKTF. This all enabled children to profit by a comprehensive system of protection, which will either prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking or guarantee their protection and reintegration. [This project will contribute to the implementation of activities envisaged in NRM agreement and CT NAP: activities 2, 3, 5, and 6 at specific objective 1 under Prevention; activity 2 at specific objective 2; activity 1 at specific objective 3 and activity 14 at specific objective 5 under Protection; activity 4 at specific objective 1 under Prosecution.]

Different and Equal (D&E) was established by the IOM. Thanks to CAAHT funding and the continuing support of IOM, D&E has become an independent Albanian NGO providing shelter and reintegration services for victims of trafficking. Within the CAAHT program Different and Equal provided a full and comprehensive set of short term and long term reintegration services to victims of trafficking in Albania and complemented other services in the field of counter trafficking within the framework of a

counter trafficking network. The primary beneficiaries of the project were victims of trafficking who were provided with direct reintegration assistance. The project directly assisted approximately 83 beneficiaries during the 15 months of operation... Other beneficiaries of the project included those NGOs and national institutions that were provided training within the framework of this project. At least five NGOs were provided training with a further ten cooperation agreements developed between D&E and other partners concerning direct or indirect assistance to victims of trafficking. [This project supported activities under both NAPs and NRM. NAP 2005-7: Strategic Aim 1 - specific objective B i.e. activities under NRM approach; CT NAP: activities 3, 6, 8, 13 at specific objective 1; activity 1 at specific objective 3; activity 3 at specific objective 4 and activities 7 and 8 at specific objective 5 under Protection; activity 9 at specific objective 5 under Prevention.]



IGAP's trafficking prevention message: The future can be built even here!

Institute for Gender Applied Policies (IGAP) conducted prevention activities targeting 6,293 girls, women and children, such as: awareness campaigns about the risk of trafficking; rural house-to-house anti-trafficking information campaign and an educational. The project funded by CAAHT targeted young women in underserved rural areas of Lezha, Rreshen, Lushnje, Perrenjas and Devoll who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking. This program educated women, girls and boys about the phenomena of trafficking in order to protect themselves against trafficking and sexual exploitation. The project used an innovative house-to-house information campaign, disseminating information on possibilities for legal migration, providing age appropriate information on sexual relationships, gender sensitivity, and life skills. Other project activities included awareness rising in schools and communities, producing and distributing posters, leaflets and sugar packs in schools, bars. [This project supported CT NAP: activity 1 at specific objective 3 under Prevention; NAP 2005-7 activity 1 at Strategic Aim 1/specific objective (a) under Prevention].

Tjeter Vizion / Another Vision provided legal and psychological assistance to at-risk and trafficked children. The CAAHT supported project had two main focuses: the social rehabilitation and integration of minors who have been trafficked; and the reduction of trafficking through the provision of social services to at-risk and vulnerable groups. It built on the organization's successful work with school drop-outs using non-formal basic education. Project services included residential centers, shelters and secure

apartments in the district of Elbasani. CEFA-Albania (the European Committee on Formation and Agriculture) cooperated with Another Vision to extend these services and programs to the underserved region of Gramshi. 2,876 individuals were reached through prevention activities and 36 victims of trafficking were assisted by Tjeter Vizion during the implementation of this project. [This project mainly contributed to implementation of the NRM agreement and also to CT NAP: activity 2 at specific objective 3; activities 4, 5 and 7 at specific objective 5 under Prevention.]



Summer camps organized by Tjeter Vizion help vulnerable children build skills, make friends and find hope for their futures.

Vlora Women's Hearth (Vatra) Until the creation of the NCRVT and Different & Equal, this NGO provided the main shelter facility in Albania, which it continues to run. Vatra cooperates with these other shelters and provides statistical analysis, conducts local public awareness campaigns, and chairs the southern regional NGO coalition RILAT. Vatra implemented a project funded by the CAAHT grant program for sensitizing young people of high schools in the towns of Vlora, Fieri,

including their outlying areas of Roskovec, Patos, Novosele and Levan about the risk of trafficking in persons and educating them about ways to protect themselves. This project extended trafficking prevention and awareness raising programs to new target areas. Project activities included 377 training sessions for youth and women and 6 seminars with community with a total of 1890 participants, radio talks, leaflet distribution, newsletters, interviewing, counseling, judicial assistance, health assistance, etc. Vatra has also supplemented its shelter and reintegration services for trafficked girls and women, with interviewing and counseling sessions aimed at identifying those who can further reintegrate and providing them with new opportunities for their growth and development. Under a second CAAHT grant, VATRA implemented the project "Accommodation, rehabilitation and reintegration shelter for trafficked and at -

risk girls and women" Project objectives were accomplished through a combination of activities and services including: identification of trafficked women, referrals, accommodation, rehabilitation, psycho-social and medical assistance, legal assistance, vocational training, etc. 66 girls and women benefited from the services in the shelter. Social workers worked with the families of the victims to support reintegration and help prevent them being recycled into further trafficking. [This project added on initiatives envisaged in NAP 2005-7, CT NAP and NRM. CT NAP: activity 1 at specific objective 3; activity 9 at specific objective 5 under Prevention; activities 6 and 9 at specific objective 1 under Protection; NAP 2005-7: activity 1 at strategic Aim 1/specific objective B under Prevention; activity 6 at Strategic Aim 1/specific objective B under Protection.]

Murialdo Social Center provided vocational training for minors especially vulnerable to trafficking, particularly from the Roma community. Through street and family outreach, the project staff identified minors who were especially vulnerable to trafficking because they live in situations of economic hardship and social marginalization, particularly minors from the Roma community. Through individual counseling support and participation in school or vocational training (depending on the age and previous education of the minor) the project provided these children with new perspectives on their situation that helped them strengthen their ties with their families and the society at large. Activities in groups helped them to integrate themselves at school, acquire



Anti-trafficking awareness raising outreach conducted by the VATRA for impoverished communities helps women learn how to protect their families and themselves.

vocational skills, work more efficiently and develop personal skills that help them protect themselves from being trafficked. 1,271 children participated in these activities and 7 benefited from the assistance and reintegration activities provided by Murialdo. [This project complemented activities under CT NAP: activities 5, 10 and 11 at specific objective 5 under Prevention.]

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Over the past several years, the Young Women's Christian Association of Albania (YWCA) has built a strong relationship with residents and leaders in the suburban areas of Tirana where the Roma community has the biggest concentration. Working with local community leaders and NGOs, the YWCA project supported by the CAAHT grant program raised awareness and informed a total of 1,091 women, girls and children of these communities about trafficking in persons. The trainings educated the women and girls about the dangers and mechanisms of trafficking, improved their self-esteem, and helped them develop personal skills by which they may protect themselves and their children. [This project supported initiatives envisaged in NAP 2005-7 and CT NAP. NAP 2005-7: activity 1 at Strategic Aim 1/specific objective A under Prevention; CT NAT: activity 1 at specific objective 3; activities 1 and 10 at specific objective 5 under Prevention.]

Christian Children's Fund (CCF) – In the summer of 2005, the CAAHT grant program funded CCF to conduct a rapid qualitative assessment to capture, document, analyze, and report on the phenomenon of trafficking of children and young women in the northeast Albanian districts of Tropojë, Kukësi, Has and Dibra. The assessment provided a better understanding of the presence of the phenomenon of trafficking vis-à-vis smuggling or voluntary migration. Data from the survey was used to enable CCF to design programs to help create communities that do not tolerate trafficking and establish mechanisms to integrate marginalized children and youth to protect them from becoming victims of trafficking. through a second grant from the CAAHT program CCF implemented a larger project that addressed migration of unaccompanied minors and created communities that discourage child trafficking. This objective targeted 7,717 beneficiaries and was accomplished through workshops educating the community on the risks associated with trafficking, devising a local tracking system for vulnerable/at risk minors (institutional collaboration and outreach), and sharing of experience with key actors at the local



At the YWCA center, a child and his teacher use his drawings to explain to his peers how children can be threatened by traffickers but helped by the police.

level. [Both projects complemented efforts to identify existing gaps in marginalized and vulnerable areas and corresponds particularly with activities envisaged in CT NAP: activity 2 at specific objective 3; activity 1 at specific objective 4 under Prevention; and also NAP 2005-7 activity 1 at Strategic Aim 1/specific objective A; activity 2 at Strategic Aim 1/specific objective B under Prevention.]



CCF's trafficking prevention message: Attention! Every child who emigrates illegally can be trafficked!

After completing grant awards in the first and second phases of the CAAHT grant program, it became evident that the majority of applicant NGOs based outside the capital (Tirana) was substantially less capacitated to manage CAAHT grant funds and implement anti-trafficking projects. Since the CAAHT program has a specific objective of supporting broader geographic distribution of, and beneficiary

access to, NGO anti-trafficking programs and services, the third and final phase of the CAAHT grant program was targeted specifically to NGOs with main and/or field offices in the qarkus of Dibra, Kukësi, Shkodra, Berati, Gjirokastra and Korça. In order to enable less experienced NGOs to achieve more successful project implementation, one grant was awarded to an NGO with technical expertise in NGO management and capacity building. This NGO is, in turn, focused on training and supporting the less experienced CAAHT grantees as well as providing targeted capacity building for other NGOs supported with CAAHT funds. Eleven grants were awarded in the third and final phase of the CAAHT grant program. One (CCF) has already been described. The remaining nine programs are briefly described below (one is not listed because it was terminated mid-project).

Albanian Foundation for Conflict Mediation and Reconciliation (AFCR)

conducted a project to increase capacities on conflict resolution, reconciliation and mediation for 180 representatives from civil society organizations and local government institutions involved in anti-trafficking networks in Dibra, Shkodra, Berati, Kukësi, Gjirokastra, and Korça. Staff members from the AFCR local offices in those locations have also directly assisted in mediation of existing conflict cases, especially with a focus on mediation between victim and family. Project staff has assisted 13 cases of victims of trafficking during project implementation. This project served three major aims. Firstly, it increased the capacity of these structures to deal

better with conflict cases between family and victims of trafficking; secondly, it increased the training capacities of the involved actors by creating a sustainable structure; and thirdly, it offered reconciliation and mediation for concrete cases between victims and their families or other parties. The philosophy behind this project was that the most important step towards reintegration in the society is the reconciliation with the family and being accepted and not stigmatized. This process will in the long run decrease the stigma towards the victims and will make the society more open to acceptance of such human suffering. [This project contributed to the re-integration efforts underlined in both NAPs for human rights oriented approach towards victims of trafficking, understanding and acceptance and social inclusion.]

Dorcas Aid International Albania (and partners) Dorcas Aid International Albania has a strong record of practical assistance to impoverished families and communities in Korça municipality and nearby communes. The project supported by CAAHT targeted Gypsy and Roma communities in the municipality of Korça. Project staff coordinated with government social services and other NGO providers in the area to identify families at-risk of trafficking or with trafficked family members and provided them education, vocational skills and social support. Direct assistance was provided, as needed, in the form of food, clothing, medicines and school materials 514 beneficiaries. [This project supported activities in the NAP: activity 1 at strategic Aim 1/specific objective A under Prevention; activity 1 at

strategic Aim 1/specific objective B under Prevention; and activities in CT NAP: activity 1 at specific objective 3 under Prevention; activity 7 at specific objective 5 under Prevention.]

Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center (ANTTARC)

implemented a capacity building project for all CAAHT grantees. This capacity building program provided extensive training and technical assistance to the board and staff members of the seven organizations listed below as well as offered targeted capacity building to some of the other NGOs noted above. This technical assistance was intended to strengthen the institutional capacity and, therefore, enhance sustainability of the participant NGOs and helping to ensure that their projects supported with CAAHT funds would achieve their goals and objectives. As an Albanian organization committed to realization of civil society's role, ANTTARC contributed from its own resources to this important program initiative. The project included three main components: training and technical assistance to Phase 3 grantees; customized technical assistance to Phase 1 and 2 grantees; and an exchange of experience workshop. [This project supported activities under both NAPs and NRM. NAP 2005-7: Strategic Aim 1 - specific objective B i.e. activities under NRM approach; activity 1 at strategic Aim 1/specific objective A under Prevention; and CT NAP : activities 3, 6, 8, at specific objective 1 under Protection activities 1 and 2 at specific objective 3 and activity 1 at specific objective 4 under Prevention.]



Staff of CAAHT grantee organizations learn about Project Management at an ANTTARC capacity building workshop funded by USAID/CAAHT.

Community Center of Gjirokastra

implemented a project on prevention and assistance and reintegration of the victims through a transit sheltering facility in the Qarku of Gjirokastra. 2976 beneficiaries were reached through prevention activities included training of teachers and social workers, and public awareness activities targeting vulnerable communities, and also vocational training for girls and women who are at-risk of being trafficked. The transit shelter “Life and Hope” established by Gjirokastra Community Center was developed to serve victims of trafficking identified at the Kakavija and Tre Urat border crossing points, assist the Gjirokastra police who do not have the ability to provide such services, and to compliment and cooperate with the established long-term shelters: National Reception Center, Different and Equal, “Vatra” and Tjeter Vision. The center provided 105 of girls and women with short term services. [This project supported activities under both NAPs and NRM. NAP 2005-7: Strategic Aim I - specific objective B i.e. activities under

NRM approach; activity 1 at strategic Aim I/specific objective A under Prevention; and CT NAP : activities 3, 6, 8, at specific objective 1 under Protection activities 1 and 2 at specific objective 3 and activity 1 at specific objective 4 under Prevention.]

VMA Kukësi This project built on a project funded by Unicef during 2004. It provided follow up activities to train and empower local structures (i.e. front line workers: police, teachers, health workers, social administrators, etc) to improve and fully take over themselves the provision of social services regarding trafficking issues. VMA Kukësi closely worked with government officials and taught them how to provide social services to their communities and helped local social Administrators to identify take up their responsibilities. They were assisted to learn the techniques and methodology of detection/tracking of vulnerable and trafficked children. A series of trainings were conducted with local authorities to familiarize them to the framework of National Strategy for Social Services. Local structures were assisted and trained to design job description and terms of reference of social administrators of targeted communes in cooperation with the Department of National Social Services of Kukësi. A coordination Steering Committee (a Prefect led Anti-trafficking Working Group) and networking between targeted communes were established based on the example of Municipality. A Referral mechanism for all communes was established to help communal social administrators address the issues of trafficking in an effective manner. 6,015 individuals from the project areas

benefited from the activities conducted by VMA. [This project supported activities under both NAPs. NAP 2005-7: activity 5 under Strategic Aim I - specific objective B under Protection; activity 1 at strategic Aim I/specific objective A under Prevention; and CT NAP: activity 1 and 2 at specific objective 3 under Prevention.]

Intellectual Women of Pogradeci (and partners) “Stop child trafficking in Pogradeci area” was a joint effort of three NGOs in the district of Pogradeci, in cooperation with the local government, for the prevention of child trafficking and for the reintegration of trafficked children. The project goal was the reduction of the number of trafficked children through raising community’s awareness and providing specific services and activities for special groups that are at risk of trafficking. 400 individuals were targeted through these activities and project staff assisted two cases of victims of trafficking. [This project supported activities under CT

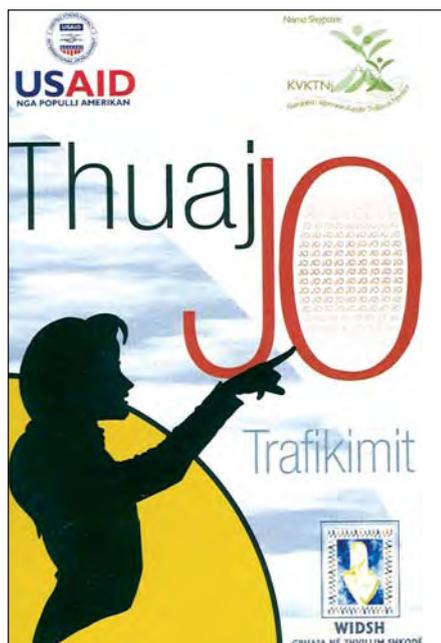
NAP: activity 1 and 2 at specific objective 3 under Prevention; activities 1 and 4 at specific objective 5 under Prevention; and under NAP activity 2 at Strategic Aim I - specific objective C under Prevention.]

In Help of Northern Women of Puka

The “Step by Step” project aimed at preventing “at risk” populations in Puka from being trafficked. The project had two components: 1) awareness raising and 2) vocational education. The awareness raising activities included anti-trafficking educational sessions, visits to families of children who have abandoned school, local TV debates, publishing and distributing leaflets and posters. The tailoring and computer vocational training courses served 41 young women and girls from Puka and neighboring underdeveloped areas,. [This project supported activities under CT NAP: activity 1 and 2 at specific objective 3 under Prevention; and NAP: activity 1 at Strategic Aim I - specific objective B under Prevention]



Frontline workers study anti-trafficking training materials at an awareness raising workshop by VMA Kukësi



WID's anti-trafficking prevention message: Say NO to trafficking!

Women in Development, Shkodra

The CAAHT-funded project "Say No to Trafficking" intended to stimulate thought-provoking debate within local institutions and society to increase awareness, educate and systemize the prevention and denouncement of human trafficking in Shkodra, Puka and Malësi e Madhe and targeted 2,124 individuals. In particular, successful efforts were made to extend these awareness raising efforts to rural areas where there is a lack of interventions and potentially greater risk to trafficking. The messages emphasized respecting and protecting the rights of the individual as a way to help in the prevention of violence and trafficking. Some of activities included: public awareness through electronic and written media, leaflets and posters; preparation of the module for the trainers training on anti-trafficking; training of trainers, community based discussions and public awareness campaigns performed by

the persons trained during seminars and round tables. [This project supported activities under NAP: activity 1 at Strategic Aim I-specific objective A under Prevention.]

Protection of Urban and Rural Women, Berati

"Awareness raising for the prevention of human trafficking and trafficking of women and girls in the region of Berati" was a six-month project to help prevent trafficking of women and girls in the Qarku of Berati and to provide protection and reintegration assistance and also free psycho-social and legal support. Through informative sessions with students and women, trainings and house-to-house visits this project reached an audience over 1,193 persons. [This project supported activities NAP 2005-7: Strategic Aim I - specific objective B i.e. activities under NRM approach; activity 1 at strategic Aim I/specific objective A under Prevention; and CT NAP : activities 3, 6, 8, at specific objective 1 under Protection activities 1 and 2 at specific objective 3 and activity 1 at specific objective 4 under Prevention.]



High school students in Kuçova created a play to educate their peers about the risks of trafficking

OTHER NGO AND COALITION EFFORTS

The principle of “Civil society participation” requires that both the development and the implementation of programs and measures against trafficking are not only carried out by government authorities, but that they also involve stakeholders who are independent from the state and outside the government and public administration. To involve them in the national anti-trafficking response not only means allowing them to take part in meetings, working groups, etc., but also giving them an active role in decision-making so that their views and opinions are reflected adequately in the design and implementation of the anti-trafficking response.

The involvement of NGOs is important, because based on their concrete experience, they are able to represent the victim’s perspective and complement the support provided by the state. Their inclusion in a national strategy helps to balance law enforcement needs with a victim-centered, human rights-based approach, as NGOs can not only ensure adequate assistance to victims, but also render prosecutions more effective, if the victim’s willingness to cooperate with law enforcement improves with better attention to his or her needs.

Prior to the approval of the National Strategy and Action Plan 2001-4, government had refused to take responsibility for tackling the problem of trafficking in persons, and most of the anti-trafficking response was from NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. Both the previous and new Governments have recognized in principle the need to

improve the balance, connection and coordination of government and NGO efforts, though the result of these commitments is still not clear in practice.

Currently NGOs’ activity is mainly directed towards the areas of protection, rehabilitation, legal and psychological assistance, voluntary return, reintegration, vocational training, and public awareness. The following is a summary of some of the most important NGO and intergovernmental organizations activities in these areas, in addition to those NGOs already noted as supported through the CAAHT grant program.

BKTF In 2002, several leading NGOs working on the issue of child trafficking, together with representatives of the government and international organizations formed an Albanian inter-NGO coalition against trafficking in persons called All Together Against Child Trafficking (BKTF). This coalition was created to coordinate NGOs actions to combat child trafficking, as well as to advocate and cooperate with the Albanian government in the efforts for tackling this phenomenon. BKTF’s role is to act as an advisor for NGOs and the



Representatives from the Korça offices of Terre des hommes, NPF and the Legal Clinic for Minors have been active participants in the Eastern CAAHT RCG.

government on the basis of the following axes: prevention, protection, assisted voluntary repatriation, and rehabilitation. An important element of BKTF's activity is cooperation with governmental structures. Particularly important was its involvement to assist in highlighting child trafficking issues. Its contribution was indispensable in drafting the CT NAP and Child Trafficking Cooperation Agreement with Greece. Representatives of this organization have participated regularly in CAAHT Regional Cluster Groups and other CAAHT events.

Transnational Action Against Child Trafficking (TACT) This multi donor – funded bilateral initiative on reducing trafficking of Albanian Children to Greece and Kosovo is being implemented by Terre des Hommes (Switzerland, Tdh) and Arsis (Greece), in cooperation with BKTF members. This project, which is co-funded by USAID through 2009, is developed within Albania through five axes of intervention, i.e. prevention, protection, assisted voluntary return, reintegration, and coordination. Besides improving awareness and information about trafficking and its dangers, the TACT project ensures protection and assistance to victims, families and witnesses in Albania, Greece and Kosovo, in conformity with the local legislation. The project invests also in building-up local capacities and in creating sustainable child protection mechanisms involving municipalities, schools and community members. Representatives of this organization have participated regularly in CAAHT Regional Cluster Groups and other CAAHT events.

International Social Service - Albania (ISS) provides psycho-social services for vulnerable, disadvantaged children and families facing issues of child trafficking and exploitation. Forced child labor, illegal immigration and repatriation have been the primary focus of ISS intervention and

assistance through both in-country and inter-country coordination of case follow-up through a referral network. The Director of ISS was recently elected as the President of BKTF.

Citizens' Advocacy Office (CAO) provides legal services to the victims of trafficking as well as legal education to citizens and local governments. CAO is currently running a project to assist government efforts to determine budgetary requirements for the implementation of its anti-trafficking action plans.

Children's Human Rights Center of Albania (CRCA) advised the inter-ministerial working group on child trafficking about specific issues related to elimination of child labor and child trafficking for exploitation. CRCA has published several national reports on child labor and child trafficking in Albania, among which are included: ALBANIA: Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes, and Child Labor and Street Children in Albania. Since 2005 CRCA has focused its work against child labor and child trafficking on lobby and advocacy, capacity building and awareness.

Save the Children - Albania Program This joint program of Save the Children Norway, UK, US, Italy and Sweden works with and through partners and implemented field programs providing training or education on child rights. Building on its first Regional Child Trafficking Response Program begun in 2002, Save the Children began a second phase of the regional project in 2005 involving a combination of research, direct interventions, capacity building, coordination and advocacy in Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Romania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Bulgaria. This second phase is designed to prevent

trafficking of children and advocate for positive changes in policies and actions of key anti-trafficking actors in Albania. It is being carried out in cooperation with municipalities of Cerrik and Kuçova and the Tirana based NGO "Children of the World and of Albania". The major activities include: support for two youth – run centers in Cerrik and Kuçova and a socio-educative centre for reintegration, in Kinostudio/Tirana. Other activities include research on risk/resiliency factors for child trafficking which will be completed within 2006 and ongoing advocacy work through participation in the coalition "All together against child trafficking".

NGO Refleksione works to protect women rights against all forms of violence and discrimination, including sheltering for victims of domestic violence, and promoting social-economic integration of women. Furthermore through their "Women Employment Centers" in Tirana, Shkodra and Pogradeci they have contributed to poverty and unemployment reduction.

Several other NGOs that deal with women, children or legal assistance issues have made modest, but meaningful, contributions to combating trafficking of women and children either in prevention or assistance and reintegration, or both.

The **Women and Girls Counseling Centers** in Tirana, Shkodra, Pogradeci and Berati have assisted vulnerable women with psychological and social counseling and have mediated with families or referred women at risk or returned victims to other anti-trafficking institutions.

Human Dimension in Shkodra has implemented vocational education for vulnerable women coming from the poor suburb zones of the city. This organization also organized a cross border anti-trafficking seminar where participants

discussed anti-trafficking issues in Montenegro and Albania and identified ways of cooperation across the two sides of the border. Recently they have implemented a project supported by the Norwegian Embassy, which provided psychological help to victims of trafficking, and potential victims of trafficking, both women and children, as well as awareness among groups at risk. Representatives of this organization have participated in CAAHT Regional Cluster Groups and other CAAHT events.

Korça Women in Korça has provided vocational education to vulnerable women from rural areas and to those recommended by the regional anti-trafficking police office in Korça. Representatives of this organization have participated regularly in CAAHT Regional Cluster Groups and other CAAHT events.

Council of Social Services

Associations (CSSA) in Durrësi has complemented in its own way the anti - trafficking efforts especially in the areas of Kënetë and Porto Romano which are inhabited by immigrant population from northern areas of the country. CSSA has implemented prevention awareness raising campaigns, vocational education courses, psychological and social counseling and has referred returned victims or girls at risk to other institutions.

Centre for Civic Legal Initiatives (ex-Women Advocacy Center), in Tirana, advocates for greater access of citizens, especially of women and girls in the legal system. It offers free legal support and psychological and social assistance to victims of domestic violence and trafficking and to poor women. The centre provides legal information and legal education to increase awareness of the public about their rights and how to efficiently use such rights in their interests.