

# **Situational Analysis Report on Child Trafficking in Albania**

*Prepared by Sonila DANAJ*





# Abbreviations

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**ARSIS** - Association for the Social Support of Youth

**BKTF** - Together Against Child Trafficking

**CPU** - Child Protection Units

**IOM** - International Organization for Migration

**NRM** - National Referral Mechanism

**UNICEF** - United Nations Children's Fund

**CAAHT** - Coordinated Actions against Human Trafficking

**SHKEJ** - Shoqata Kombëtare Edukimi për Jetën (National Association Education for Life)

**FBSH** - Fëmijët e Botës Shqipëri (Children of the World – Albania)

**OSCE** - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**UNDP** - United Nations Development Program

**MoI** - Ministry of Interior

**TIMS** - Total Information Management System

**TACT Program** - Transnational Action against Child Trafficking

**MOLSAEO** - Ministry of Labor Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

**ILO** - International Labor Organization

**QSHPLI** - Qendra e Shërbimeve dhe Praktikave Ligjore të Integruara

**CILSP** - Center for Integrated Legal Services and Practices

**NPF** - Ndihmë për Fëmijët (Help for the Children )

**MES** - Ministry of Education and Sciences

**TLAS** - Tirana Legal Aid Society

**VoT** - Victim of Trafficking

**ME** - Ministry of Education

**MLSC** - Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

**MPO** - Ministry of Public Order

**NCOAT** - National Coordinators Office for Anti Trafficking

**IO** - International Organizations

**RCVT** - Regional Centers for Vocational Training

**NSC** - National Strategy for Children

# **I. What is the Situational Analysis Report**

The Situational Analysis is an assessment of the current child trafficking situation in Albania and the level of progress done by actors engaged in fighting the phenomenon. It is an initiative of the Coalition Together against Child Trafficking in Albania (BKTF), which is a coalition of nineteen non-profit organizations that deal with child trafficking in Albania. BKTF is active in the fight against child trafficking not only through its individual member organizations, but also as a coalition. The Coalition is deeply involved in lobbying and advocacy campaigns for children's rights with particular focus on the fight against child exploitation, abuse and trafficking. A concise presentation of the areas of intervention, activities and beneficiaries of the member organizations of BKTF is found in Appendix I of this report.

In line with BKTF objectives, the report you are reading aims at providing the non-profit organizations perspective on child trafficking in Albania. Taking the National Strategy for the Fight Against Child Trafficking and the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking (later referred to as the Strategy), and its Action Plan 2005-2007 as a baseline, the report will review all the available data and information to assess the current situation which reflects the stage of implementation of the strategy itself. Consequently, the findings are based on the review of all the available publications, as well as in-depth interviews with all the parties involved, i.e. state agencies, international community and non-governmental organizations, which are involved in the process of fighting child trafficking and the protection of child victims of trafficking.

## **2. The Purpose and Structure of the Report**

The purpose of the assessment conducted by the BKTF expert is to analyze the current situation, the trends, actions, and projects undertaken to reduce child trafficking and assist victims of trafficking, the effectiveness of responses of all parties involved. Apart from drawing conclusions on the state of child trafficking in Albania, the report will propose viable recommendations to all the actors who work in the field of Anti-trafficking, with particular focus on child trafficking in order to minimize child trafficking and improve children's chances of a better life.

The report is divided in two parts. The first part provides information on the current situation of child trafficking in Albania. The second part presents a rapid assessment of the national strategy for the fight against child trafficking and the protection of child victims of trafficking. Each Section of the Situational Analysis Report is accompanied by the recommendations of BKTF for the State and non-State Agencies that are involved in the fight against child trafficking in Albania, which come out of their experiences and best practices. Finally, we describe an operational scenario about the intervention of the agencies that operate against child trafficking in Albania.

## **3. Methodology**

The report is based on the literature review on child trafficking in the region, with particular focus on the Albanian experience. The literature includes books, reports and articles on child trafficking in Albania, which cover all the research, projects and activities conducted by the non-profit organizations against child trafficking compared with the attempts of the Albanian Government to

fight this phenomenon. Apart from the review, the report was based on the interviews conducted with representatives of the Anti-Trafficking Unit, the various representatives of the non-profit organizations, either national or international, involved in fighting child trafficking in Albania. The vast majority of these organizations are members of the Coalition Together against Child Trafficking in Albania (BKTF) or of its Advisory Board. The report aims at the collection of data on the current state of child trafficking in Albania, the implementation of the National Strategy, 2005-2007 and the formulation of concrete recommendations for the betterment of the protection services provided for children.

## **4.A Protection Approach to Manage Child Trafficking**

Child trafficking is one of the phenomena that have flourished in Albania with the change of the system. The phenomenon has developed both internationally and internally, and it is closely related to the un-safe environment in which Albanian children have been growing since early 1990. Considered as one of the worst form of child exploitation, it deprives the child victim from receiving or participating in a wide variety of rights, including the right to preserve one's identity, the right to education, the right to health care, the right to free time and recreational activities, the right not to be tortured, or suffer cruel inhuman or humiliating treatment and punishment, and not to be deprived of their rights illegally or arbitrarily (UNICEF, 2007: 17)

The problem has been addressed by both State and non-State actors. State agencies have been approaching the problem mostly by trying to prosecute traffickers. Meanwhile, civil society actors, involved in the process, while not ignoring the importance of prosecuting criminals, have been focusing on children's rights and best interest, thus, putting the child at the center of the anti-trafficking projects and activities. Such a focus has also been encouraged by UNICEF Guidelines, which emphasizes the rights of trafficked children or children at high risk of being trafficked should be at the center of the efforts to prevent child trafficking and provide trafficked children with protection, assistance and rehabilitation services (UNICEF, 2007: 11). It is important to emphasize that child trafficking cannot be addressed in isolation, as it is first and foremost closely linked to the more complex process of child protection.

The fall of the former 'communist' regime in Albania meant that the safety networks were also abolished with it. Moreover, the traditional perception of child protection considers parents the providers of child security and interests, and only in their absence are other measures taken. The same traditional attitude can also be understood that not only are parents responsible for their own children, but also that nobody should interfere in the way they raise and educate their children. In a way, parents "own" their children and have the right to act as they please while they raise them. The notion of 'ownership' has been translated into child abuse in various forms, including violence and exploitation. Along the same line of thought, we can explain the fact that many parents do not consider the negative consequences of their actions on their children, including the effects of child trafficking.

It is no surprise then, why State intervention has been minimal for a long period of time. However, we observe a change in the understanding and the attitude of State agencies towards child trafficking in the recent years. There have been concrete attempts to fight the phenomenon and the will of the institutions has been expressed in drafting and approving laws and strategies in favor of child

protection, among which we mention the Strategy for the Protection of Children, or the more specific Strategy against Child Trafficking and Its Action Plan 2005-2007. Initiatives of this kind have followed the signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights based conventions and charters by the Albanian government since the early 1990s. Despite the national legislation and the international ones approved, child protection is far from being secured. The child protection “safety net” that GOA with the assistance of the international community is currently designing is at its genesis. It will require significative, sustained and coordinated efforts for all the stakeholders to establish functional child protection mechanisms able to address child trafficking.

The protection needs of children are divided in 5 categories:

1. safety
2. physical and psychological health care
3. legal aid
4. welfare
5. education

So far, assistance is provided by various non-profit groups to children who have been victims of trafficking, at risk of being trafficked or those vulnerable to trafficking. However, individual attempts are weak compared to the needs of the whole country. In fact, the services needed to provide for the needs can only be guaranteed through a consolidated child protection network, which is currently missing in Albania. Such a child protection network should be built on three vital pillars:

1. the capacities and abilities of the people responsible
2. adequate legislation for the provision of child protection and related services
3. and finally, protection from damaging attitudes and traditions, like the one which considers children “property” of their parents and entitles the latter to do what they want with their children.

The members of BKTF have observed the needs and interest of the child, putting them at the center of their efforts to fight child trafficking. Their experience shows that children who are at risk of being trafficked and victims of trafficking have been deprived of their right to a decent life and at the same time exploited and abused. Consequently, all parties State and non-State, should work hard to help victims of trafficking re-establish their dignity and assist them to a better future.

## **Recommendations**

When speaking of child trafficking we should consider it into the wider context of child protection, which is still a major issue of concern in Albania. The problem needs to be approached having children’s rights and their interest as the center of the focus. In short, key principles on how to approach the problem should include: the child’s best interests should be at the center of the fight against trafficking; the child’s direct engagement in the process; non-discrimination; and the right of the child for privacy.

## 5. Measuring of the phenomenon at the current stage

### *Key Definitions*

There are clear definitions on trafficking and other related terms in the Palermo Protocol, which Albania has already signed. However, the concept of trafficking among state and non-profit organizations differs considerably, thus in order to continue the analysis as well as provide appropriate recommendations we need to clarify what trafficking means, as well as making a clear distinction between trafficking and illegal border trespassing or smuggling of human beings. Although the three of them are crimes, there are differences which make trafficking of human beings a primary issue of concern that parties need to deal with directly and efficiently.

Trafficking includes the movement or displacement of people, in order to exploit them for profit purposes, while illegal border trespassing happens when people cross the border illegally themselves, and smuggling is when a person pays someone else to help them cross a border illegally. It is enough that a person under the age of 18 has been recruited and displaced for exploitation purposes, that he or she to be considered a victim of trafficking. Thus, trafficking of children is clearly distinguished by the fact that they are moved from one place to another with the purposed of being exploited, whether they consent to it or not. Apart from this, if the recruitment or the transportation of the child, despite the final goal, includes one of the means used in the trafficking of adults, such as threats, violence, kidnapping or deceit, these cases will also be considered as trafficking. The individual responsible for these people's trafficking either adults and children, are referred to as traffickers.

Consequently, many cases of potential trafficked children might have been released on the assumption that they have been smuggled or illegal trespassers, without being given the opportunity to receive any of the services provided for them. Furthermore, we should bear in mind that the victims of trafficking start as smuggled migrants that have consented to cross the border illegally. When the relationship between the smuggler and the migrant does not end and the smuggler continues to exert control over the migrant forcing him/her to work for him/her in an exploitative manner, it is no longer a smuggling situation, but one of trafficking. At the same time, we should remember that smuggled migrants are at high risk of being trafficked due to their irregular stay in the host country (IOM Manual, 2007: 22).

Currently, the national referral mechanism defines victims of trafficking, child trafficking, child exploitation, legality of consent, age and unaccompanied children. Although later in the document (NRM), starting from Article 3, there is mention of the presumed and potential victims of trafficking, but the strategy nor the NRM define these categories. The lack of detailed and more complete definitions in the documents related to child trafficking, has resulted in conflicts between state agencies, in particular the State Police and the civil society organizations, which work with children at risk, presumed victims of trafficking and trafficked children. In fact, the different standards and definitions applied have not only served as a clashing point between state and NGOs, but it has also been an obstacle to the whole process of fighting child trafficking in Albania. In order to overcome this lack of understanding, BKTF, in collaboration with the National Coordinator's Office, has prepared a draft document on the working definitions (Table 1).

## Table I

### Standard Definitions for the Provision of Services to Victims of Trafficking

As agreed in the last meeting of the working group organized by BKTF on Data Standards, taking into account the definitions foreseen in the most binding and guiding legal instruments and documents, considering also the best practices and from the service providers, public and non-profit organizations, hereinafter there will be four categories classified with the following definitions:

**“Victim of trafficking”**—The person who has been recruited, transported, transferred, harbored or received by means of the threat or use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consents of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation, which shall include, at a minimum the exploitation of the prostitution of others, or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (Palermo Protocol, Albanian Criminal Code). Three elements are required: movement or transfer, lack of consent and exploitation.

In case the person is a child (under 18 years old) and the person has been moved or transferred for the purpose of exploitation, as above elaborated, the person is a victim of trafficking. In such cases thus, two elements are required: movement or transfer and exploitation. The existence or not of the consent of the child is irrelevant.

The involvement of the victim in judicial procedures is not a pre-condition to be classified as such.

**“Presumed victim of trafficking”**— the adult person being exploited and for whom there are reasonable suspicions that the other two elements have also occurred (movement or transfer and lack of consent).

The child, being exploited and for whom there are reasonable suspicions that the exploitation has resulted after the movement or transfer of the child. Exploitation refers to inter alia sexual exploitation and labor purposes. For children exploited through labor (incl. begging), the evidence of exploitation is sufficient to consider the case as a presumed trafficking case, without evidence that the exploitation counts to forced labor. (Once again the consent of the child is irrelevant.)

Explanations: Exploitation remains the crucial element of the crime of trafficking. Very often the exploitation is evidenced and the social services providers have suspicions but it is not within their mandate and it might be difficult for them to evidence whether there has been



consent or not. The process of movement and transfer is also difficult to be evidenced. These cases can be reported by the social service providers as presumed trafficking, and it is up to law enforcement authorities to conduct further investigations to evidence the other elements of the crime.

**“Person at high risk of trafficking”**—persons who are under pressure from a trafficker, when the pressure is put directly to the person concerned or indirectly to him/her through one member of the family;

or/and who have been trafficked and face substantial difficulties in reintegration as well as any person who is under serious exploitation, even though there is no suspicion on the presence of the other elements of the crime. (lack of consent and movement for adults, only movement for children)

**“Children vulnerable to trafficking”**—This category is thought as relevant only in cases of children. It refers to any child who lives in a hazardous environment, with limited entitlement and ability to access and join his/her rights, including one of the following situations:

- Children unaccompanied in migration and not meeting any other element of the previous definitions;
- Children on the street (namely child laborers, who even though work on the street are still in contact with the family and might thus access accommodation and food other than on the street);
- Children of the street (children who conduct their entire life in the street, where they find sheltering, food and a sense of family among companions
- Children who are neither in the custody of their parents nor have a legal guardian appointed (foster care, institution)
- Unregistered children;
- Children that have abandoned school;

**Explanation:** The above-mentioned definitions will be used by the service providers in Albania in order to standardize the terms and data during the gathering and reporting process. They will also facilitate the referral between the various stakeholders, since the referral as well will be based on these definitions.

The above-listed definitions are drawn from the Palermo Protocol and other related international documents, which Albania has already signed, which means that they are already part of the overall Albanian legislation. Yet, they would become operational only if included in documents such as the new strategy or as an amendment of the National Referral Mechanism. This way, they would also be part of the trainings of border police, anti-trafficking police and social workers, who will participate in the process, and thus, would be finally equally applied by both state and non-state agencies. Bearing in mind that they are the result of the working group within BKTF and are in the process of being approved by the representatives of the National Coordinator, the next step is their eventual insertion in the corresponding legal documents and agreements.

Yet, other concepts are important in this report. Among the most related ones are exploitation, coercion, prostitution, victim and vulnerability, which are explained in details in Appendix 2 of this report. Considering, however, that civil society dedicates a lot of energies on vulnerable groups and those at risk, the terms vulnerability and risk need to be defined. What these terms mean are children who are most likely to be trafficked. As such, this definition encourages further research to identify roots of vulnerability and risk, which Mike Dottridge divides into three main categories: immediate, underlying and structural/root causes. He also argues that vulnerabilities associated with trafficking cannot be seen in isolation from the risks associated with other forms of exploitation and violence. As a result, he concludes much could be learned from children who are not trafficked when others in their circumstances are (see Dottridge, 2006: 27).

The above detailed definitions are necessary because they provide the operational grounds to the anti-trafficking police and the social workers, as well as the non-State service providers, who will participate in the pre-screening of potential or identified victims of trafficking. Currently, the Anti-trafficking police officers use a penal approach to the issue, rather than a social approach, which means that if the police are going to look for undisputable facts of the crime of trafficking, they might and have already failed to identify the various categories of victims of trafficking. The penal approach also means that children are mostly considered as irregular migrants or as involved in criminal activity and the fact that they are minors and exploited, in other words, victims of trafficking, is ignored. Such an attitude does not encourage their collaboration on the contrary it makes them hide from authorities.

There are several reasons why this happens:

- a) unwillingness to declare one's position as a victim because of fear for one's life and a lack of trust of the police authorities, who are considered as "capturers" and not "saviors";
- b) unwillingness to declare one's position as a victim because the traffickers in many cases are their own parents or relatives of some sort;
- c) failure to understand one's position as a victim, thus ignoring their state as trafficked children;
- d) failure to accept one's position as a victim of some sort of exploitation or trafficking.

The above reasons mean that very often anti-trafficking police officers who conduct the pre-screening interview and who investigate cases will not get a confession or a statement from a victim of trafficking admitting that they are victims and requesting protection and assistance. Despite their lack of willingness to admit to being a victim of trafficking, it is the duty of these officers to refer presumed victims of trafficking to agencies which can provide them with protection and assistance, as well as deepen the screening process in order to clarify whether there has been a case of child trafficking or not, in order to take further action according to Albanian laws and anti-trafficking strategies.

## Recommendations

Both State and non-State agencies should apply the same definitions on the various categories of victims of trafficking, in order to provide services for all children who have been trafficked, face the risk or are vulnerable to trafficking.

The anti-trafficking officers should refer to services all children who fall under one of the following categories: victims of trafficking, presumed victims of trafficking, persons at high risk of trafficking, and children vulnerable to trafficking.

## Legal Framework

There are several legal documents in the Albanian legislation that are designed to protect children. The Albanian Constitution of 1998, though not speaking strictly about children, provides for the protection of every citizen, be them adults or minors. Thus, Article 25 says that nobody may be subject to cruel, inhumane or degrading torture, punishment or treatment. Article 54, paragraph 1 states the right to special protection from the State, while paragraph 3 of the same article, underlines that every child has the right to be protected from violence, maltreatment, exploitation and their exploitation for work. The Family Code, the Law against Domestic Violence and the Criminal Law (Law No. 8733, Article 128/b “On Trafficking of Children”) are also in the legislation package that deals with child protection.

Apart from laws, there have been drafted and approved other documents that handle issues regarding child protection either as the main focus, or as part of a larger aim. Among the most important we can mention:

- The National Strategy for Children 2005-2010 and the National Action Plan;
- The National Strategy Against Child Trafficking and its Action Plan, 2005-2007;
- The National Referral Mechanism, July 2005;
- National Strategy for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Roma Community in Albania, 2003 - ongoing;
- The Agreement between the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Tourism and the OSCE Presence in Albania on the Promotion and the Implementation of Code of Behavior on the Prevention of Children’s Exploitation in Tourism, signed in 2007 by 22 tourist operators (OSCE, Annual Report 2007).

The National Strategy for Children and its National Action Plan are documents that define the strategic policy objectives of the Albanian government and include all the measures line ministries should take in order to realize the rights of children. The strategy focuses on four major objectives: the survival of the child; the protection of the child; the development of the child; and the participation of the child.

Though not speaking strictly of a situation of trafficking, the four objectives of this strategy are applicable to the prevention, protection and assistance of children in various situations of distress, including child trafficking. The State agencies responsible for the implementation of the

strategy and the guarantor of the above objectives are: the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior, as well as the Intra-ministerial Committee for the Rights of the Children and the Technical Secretariat of Children, under the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. There has been a lot of discussion about moving competences and funds to the regional and local level, where all the operations are conducted, yet the process of decentralization is far from complete. Finally, the Albanian Ombudsman's office monitors the work of the State agencies and the implementation of the strategy through the Subsection for the Rights of the Child.

Trends show that the most vulnerable children are those living in very poor conditions, in particular the Roma and the Balkan Egyptian children. Consequently, they have been included in the National Strategy for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Roma Community in Albania. The national strategy for the improvement of the conditions of the Roma community includes measures about children of the community, focusing on the strengthening of the efforts to reduce school drop-outs and encourage parents to send their children to school.

In order to enhance identification of and provide assistance to the different categories of victims of trafficking, the National Referral Mechanism was signed between the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Public Order (now Ministry of Interior), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Reception Center for Victims of Human Trafficking, "Vatra" non-profit organization in Vlora, "Tjetër Vizion" non-profit organization in Elbasan and the International Organization for Migration – Tirana in 2005. As mentioned above, working definitions in the NRM need to be revised, in order to guarantee assistance to those declared as victims of trafficking, and also presumed victims, those at risk and vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the experience since 2005 suggests that there is a need for improving the screening process that leads to the identification of those in need of assistance. At the same time, other service providers among the civil society, who are actively providing high quality services to the various categories of victims of trafficking should be included in the agreement and made signatory parties. Finally, the NRM needs to adjust and match a Transnational Referral Mechanism, which up-to-date is still a draft, in order to join forces in the fight against trafficking in general, and child trafficking in particular.

Apart from the national laws, Albania has also signed a number of international agreements and conventions, among which the most important is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed in 1992. In order to fulfill the prerogatives of the articles of this Convention, the Albanian legislative framework has been designed and amended. Among the most important articles that deal with child protection are 19 (protection from violence, injury, abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation), 24 (harmful practices), 32 (economic exploitation), 34 (sexual abuse and exploitation), 35 (abduction, sale or trafficking of children), 36 (other forms of exploitation), 39 (recovery and reintegration). Other articles which are not protection rights, but are important to securing their protection include Articles 5 (support for parents, extended family and community), 7 (birth registration and protection of identity), 18 (parental responsibility), 26 (social security), 27 (adequate standard of living and social protection), 28 and 29 (education), and 31 (play and leisure). All of these are based on Article 3, which states the best interest of the child.

## Recommendations

Albanian legislation needs to accurately respect the international conventions signed by Albanian governments. Furthermore, it needs to be updated according to the needs of the current situation of child trafficking in Albania.

- A) The National Referral Mechanism needs to be amended in the following aspects:
- B) Standard working definitions, which would include presumed victims, children at risk and vulnerable children;
- C) Identification through the interview needs to be improved;
- D) Other non-profit organizations that offer assistance to victims of trafficking should be made signatories of the agreement;
- E) There should be coordination between the National Referral Mechanism and the Transnational Referral Mechanism, in order to enhance the general fight against trafficking, with particular focus on child trafficking.

## Trends and patterns

Albania is still a country of origin, although it is no longer considered a country of transit or destination. The illegal routes of human trafficking are: Albania – FYROM – Greece – targeting other Western European countries; Albania – Montenegro – Serbia –Slovenia – Italy; Albania – Kosova – Croatia – Slovenia – final destination other Western European countries; Albania – Greece – Italy. Sea routes are no longer available since the Albanian government approved the moratorium against the use of speed boats, a major vehicle of human smuggling and trafficking, the green border remained the only route available. International trafficking is accompanied by internal trafficking, and data from previous years, e.g. 2003, show that 1/3 of those trafficked are, in fact, re-trafficked (IOM, 2007: 29).

All the parties involved speak of a decrease in the number of international trafficking compared to the 1990s and early 2001, but this is more related to the fact that illegal border trespassing and smuggling of human beings has decreased due to factors like the decrease of the general trend to migrate from Albania in large flows, legally and illegally, the enforcement of laws related to illegal migration and smuggling of human beings, and finally the strengthening of borders.

Yet, BKTF considers that since early 2003 trafficking trends have not decreased. They are believed to be more or less leveled. However, because of the lack of aggregated data with detailed information on the number of children trafficked, presumed victims of trafficking and children at high risk, it is still difficult to speak of numbers representing the whole country. What we can do is collect all the children who have been provided with services by the different agencies operating in the field, but we cannot confirm that the sum of these data represent the numbers at the national scale. The difficulty stems from the fact that not all children in need can, realistically, be assisted by NGOs, while it is frequent that some of them do benefit from services provided by multiple players and as a results are double counted.

However, it is worth pointing out the large gap of numbers between cases identified by the non-profit organizations (for example, only Terre des hommes and ARSIS report more than 740 presumed victims of trafficking in Albania and Greece) and those identified by the Anti-Trafficking police (which amount to 32 in 2007). The huge difference between numbers draws attention to the different operating definitions and standards. BKTF considers that the small numbers identified by the anti-trafficking officers do not come as a result of the decrease of the phenomenon, but of their failure to identify them appropriately. The situation asks for the adoption of standard definitions, better identification procedures and more training for the anti-trafficking police.

Apart from international trafficking, there is an increase in the internal trafficking phenomenon. Currently, internal trafficking is not covered as an issue by State institutions and agencies. Non-profit organizations are the ones who have been intervening against internal trafficking and it is them who inform us on the trends and patterns of this phenomenon. Thus, we know that internal trafficking is either permanent or seasonal in nature. Permanent trafficking is mostly related to street children, who are exploited for child labor, begging and child prostitution. Seasonal trafficking means that children are exploited by parents or other traffickers only during summer, when the weather is warm and there are more people in the streets, who respond positively to begging, as well as tourism prostitution, which some say has developed a lot underground in organized networks of hotels and motels around the country. The number of internal trafficked children is also difficult to calculate. There are several categories, and not all of them are offered services by the NPOs. The concern for overlapping is also present in the case of internal trafficked minors, as it is for internationally trafficked ones. A third reason identified by ARSIS is the volatility of the children themselves: many of them work/beg during certain seasons, which means that when the season is over they move to their home town or village and it is very difficult to follow them wherever they go.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the fact that the whole anti-trafficking movement in which the State agencies as well as international and local non-governmental organizations are involved has influenced the pattern of the phenomenon itself. Law enforcement against traffickers, the strengthening of borders, anti-trafficking campaigns such as “You are not on sale” or the most recent “Begging handicaps my future”, as well as the direct informative campaigns in schools have all increased the awareness of the population and the responsible institutions against trafficking. Consequently, it is not easy to traffic children or women for that matter openly without suffering major consequences in the form of legal prosecution. Though, the movement has helped prevent and diminish the phenomenon, it still has at the same time made it more hidden in the eyes of the authorities. The same has been concluded by CARPO 2006 Report, which underlines that trafficking of human beings has become “less visible” (CARPO, 2006: 41). IOM reports a similar thing: “trafficking is on the increase, but has become less visible as criminal organizations have changed their methods of operation. In the case of sexual exploitation, trafficking has moved into private apartments, more use is made of Internet or telephone communications. A more subtle exploitation through small payments to the victims to avoid denunciation and the participation of women as traffickers and pimps also contribute to making this crime less visible” (IOM). Thus, it is currently more difficult to identify victims of trafficking, as methods of disguise have become more sophisticated.

## Recommendations

Figures are important to measure the seriousness of the trafficking phenomenon. However, official small numbers do not necessarily mean a decreased trend in child trafficking, but a failure to identify cases. Standard definitions and better screening are necessary.

More attention should be paid to internal migration. The phenomenon has been increasing considerably and needs to be addressed by the relevant institutions, through policy and direct intervention. The assistance of the non-profit organizations already operating in the field must be used to draft appropriate strategies for the fight against internal migration.

## Roots and causes of the phenomenon

Child trafficking generates large profits and is therefore in the hands of organized criminals and consequently expanding dramatically. Trafficking of children stands for commercial sexual exploitation of children including child pornography, as well as other forms of commercial exploitation of children by forcing them to steal, to beg and it stands for children working in conditions of forced or bonded labor. However, this is not only an Albanian phenomenon, as regional studies state that children account for a considerable share of the victims and in some countries of South-Eastern Europe, 50 per cent of victims or more are reportedly below the age of 18, meaning they are children. This number is expected to grow even further since traffickers and their accomplices are increasingly targeting ever younger victims, in part prompted by the fear of HIV and AIDS (OSCE, 2005).

Most trafficked human beings are acting in line with the well-known “Push & Pull Factors” which matches also the phenomenon of illegal migration. The reasons encouraging people to leave one area for another are known as ‘Push Factors’, in which are included phenomena such as high unemployment, labor market not open to women and sex discrimination, poverty, lack of opportunity to improve quality of life, sexual or ethnic discrimination, escaping persecution, violence, abuse or human rights violations or other social and environmental) (ibid). Research conducted by Terre des hommes shows that among those trafficked or at high risk of being trafficked, 80% point out the socio-economic problems as the reason behind trafficking. They also underline that many children live in families with several members/children, who are either living in one single room or are homeless and the problem is particularly serious in Korça (Terre des hommes, 2004: 10-12).

According to UNICEF (2006: 22) there are immediate, underlying and structural or root causes behind trafficking. They have been closely linked to poverty, unemployment, inequality, marginalization, gender and so on. (Report on the Campaign against begging: 6). However, research proves that there is no explicit link between children who live in situations of social and economic poverty and trafficking (Save the Children, SEE 2007: 21). Consequently, we should not consider poverty as the major causality of trafficking, but as one of the conditions which combined with others like inequality, discrimination, history of violence and abuse in the family and the community creates a situation of vulnerability of being trafficked.

On the other hand the reasons attracting people to a particular area are known as 'Pull Factors' (such as demand for workers within the sex industry, demand by a multitude of wealthy customers looking for commercial sex, demand for organs and adoptions, better employment opportunities, higher salaries and better working conditions or improved standard and quality of life) (CARPO, 2006; Save the Children, 2007: 4, 8). Children have declared that traffickers offer some children attention, recreation, entertainment, material goods, employment, migration opportunities, marriage, education (or a chance to leave school), friendship, complements and care. They say that traffickers target specific children who desire these items or activities (Save the Children, SEE, 2007: 192).

Trafficking in children is also done in order to use them for begging, prostitution, theft and other street crimes or more clandestine purposes such as illegal adoption or organ harvesting. Females are trafficked more for commercial sex, while males for working, begging or petty crime. Among the most vulnerable children are Balkan Egyptians and, particularly, Roma children, who are a target for sexual exploitation, begging and adoption (CARPO, 2006: 41). This community is significantly marginalized in terms of discrimination and racism that is directed towards them: the lack of opportunities to alleviate poverty, and the dearth of social support that could be made available to mitigate the impact of these factors are at the family level (Save the Children, Albania, 2007: 13). Furthermore, UNDP research (2005) shows that some 64% of Roma and 24% of Balkan Egyptians aged 7 to 20 years old are illiterate (World Vision, 2007: 8).

However, push and pull factors are applicable to the case of children above the age of seven, who can be approached and "seduced" by traffickers and in the case of relatives exploited directly. Thus, it is important to mention, that there are many cases of children 0-6 years old, who are exploited by parents, relatives or others, either abroad or in the country. We see them on the street, most of the time apparently sleeping, but most probably drugged, begging, and sometimes selling things on the street or around restaurants and cafes. These children are too young to go to school or to ask for help, and their situation is more difficult not only because of their very young age, but also because of the higher rate of vulnerability and helplessness.

As already mentioned begging is either permanent or seasonal. It is considered a means of economic survival for parents and children. However, if we remove the profit element from the equation, then parents will start to consider other alternatives. When asked why they don't try to find a job, the frequent answer is that they make enough out of begging, so there is no need (the average target of a child begging in Tirana is 1500 leke per day). In these cases, if begging is not a lucrative activity any more, then parents will start looking for a job. If we add to that the awareness process going on through different agencies about the importance of education, we might as it has already happened achieve partial and full success. Partial success means that parents agree to send their children to school during the day, and "work" at different times of the day. In other cases, children are totally removed from the streets and are not exploited any more.

In summary, in the case of Albania, poverty, high unemployment rates, high level of illiteracy, internal migration, the collapse of the State social protection systems, increasing inequality of income distribution and the breakdown of the existing social networks within the family and the community, and the opening of borders (Save the Children, 2007: 4), as well as racial discrimination have encouraged trafficking of children out of the country. Internal migration and internal mobility



have, on the other hand, influenced the structure of Albanian communities, which means that community members are no longer familiar faces and known people you could trust and rely on. The move and internal migration of Albanian communities to towns, in particular the capital, has helped to break down the community safety networks and if you add to that the disbandment of the protection systems of the previous regime, there has been an increase in the vulnerability of internal migrant communities, in particular their children. Internal migration is accompanied by other phenomena, which add to the vulnerability of these people, such as:

- absence of residence permit/registration
- absence of registration of adults and new-born children
- lack of education, and
- lack of social security provision.

As a result, these people are invisible to the system and a target for traffickers and other exploiters.

## **What are the target countries?**

Neighboring countries like Greece, FYROM and Kosova are among those with the highest number of cases of trafficked Albanian minors, as they share land borders (the so-called green line) with Albania, which are considered to be easier to cross irregularly. Italy is also another country with a high presence of trafficked Albanian children. Though it is bordered by sea, it is very close to Albania and a country with considerable Albanian criminal networks. Kosova, on the other hand, is a peculiar case because of the large number of internationals currently working in the country, which provides a suitable market for lucrative begging and high demand for commercial sex demand.

Meanwhile, internal trafficking has also a map of its own. It targets different sites in Albania, in particular the capital Tirana, larger cities, tourist sights, border points, ports and the airport, and holy sights. Tirana, larger cities and towns and border points, including the ports and the airport, are permanent “working” sites for children, because of the large number of people present in the cities, and the frequent movement in and out of the country at the border points. Tourist sites are a market for seasonal trafficking, namely the tourist season, and holy places are targeted on a short-term basis. The logic for these sites is the large number of people gathered in one place, which in the case of holy sites is also translated as a charity action, which might be considered as actions of redemption or of goodness, which will be paid back eventually.

## **Who are the targets?**

Targets are mostly excluded children and members of other vulnerable groups. Children often suffer from a double exclusion – because they are children and because they are members of specific, excluded social groups, such as minority ethnic groups (Crawford, 2001: 534). Targets include children from poor families, unregistered children, children whose families live in informal areas, children who have lost one or both parents, abandoned children and children with very old legal representatives (grandparents raising children alone), children from divorced families,

children with disabilities, children from families with problems like drugs or alcohol, children with a migrant parent, children that do not go to school, and street children.

While most of categories above are vulnerable to trafficking, street children fall under the three categories, either vulnerable, at high risk and already trafficked. However, should be noted that street children are not all abandoned children. There are in fact three categories identified: “full-time” street children abandoned by their families or communities; “full-time” children who have themselves abandoned their families, often due to abuse of one kind or the other; and “part-time” street children, who are children who stay in the streets to beg or do other activities, but return home to their families every day (the reported majority). Child prostitutes are also often put under the category of abandoned children (see Crawford, 2001: 536-7). Trafficking is also gender biased, i.e. there are more females trafficked than males (IOM, 2003: 5).

## **Who is behind it?**

Traffickers, usually members of a criminal trafficking network, allure children’s parents or children themselves with the promise of a better future, good jobs, economic benefits and so on. In other cases, children are bought or rented from their parents, and there are also cases when parents are threatened or their children are kidnapped. Children are recruited when they are still living with their parents, when they have abandoned their homes or legal guardians and when they are already abroad (UNICEF, 2007: 29)

Most recruitment is done by persons of the same nationality of the victim, after which the victim can be trafficked to foreign markets and foreign handlers. It seems, however, that there are some changes to the recruitment methods. Although recruitment still relies on the well-known established methods, recruitment by women, who were most often victims of trafficking themselves, is also observed. This kind of recruitment relies on a more subtle means of influence via a shared knowledge of the victim’s situation and experiences. In comparison to previous years, victims assisted by IOM, for example, indicated a growing awareness of the possibility of being trafficked but were willing to take a risk in order to leave their country of origin. In addition to violence, intimidation and psychological pressures on the victims, corruption and collusion appear to be widespread tools for facilitating trafficking and protecting the business. Trafficking in human beings requires that public officials close their eyes to the problem or that they actively cooperate (ranging from political levels and persons of influence to visa officers, immigration officials, embassy staff, customs, police, local officials issuing working permits, criminal justice officials, and others) (Council of Europe, 2002).

Yet, in the Albanian case, in particular with regard to internal migration, it is parents or other relatives who traffic children for the above reasons. Not only, as mentioned above, does that make it more difficult to identify traffickers and victims of trafficking, but also hinders prosecuting traffickers and assisting victims.

Thus, traffickers are often either members of a criminal group, people who were trafficked themselves, or members of the child’s family. However, there are others who help or serve as intermediaries to the process, most of whom are conscious about the fact that they are participating in a criminal act. Among them are:

- police who do nothing to stop the traffickers
- people who transport children from one country to another or from one place to another;
- people who forge documents for traffickers and the children they exploit;
- border officers who issue visas or allow children to cross borders without the necessary documents;
- border officers who are unable to identify a trafficked child or those at high risk of being trafficked.

During interviews, several victims have declared that police officers have liberated them in exchange for recompense from the victims themselves or their traffickers. Lawyers and judges have declared traffickers innocent even when evidence against them is undisputable. Members of the public administration or even police officers conceal the identity of traffickers through forged certificates, issuing them passports and so on (Vatra, 2005: 10).

## Recommendations

Trafficking is a crime. It involves families and criminals as well as people working for state agencies. In order to fight trafficking effectively, Albania should tackle the wider problems of corruption in addition to building human capacities and skills to fight child trafficking directly. These aspects need to be tackled at the same time, so as to force a change in action, motivation and behavior and increase protection for children.

## Consequences on returned children of child trafficking

Trafficked children who return home face many difficulties. Often they return to the same environment from where they were trafficked in the first place, with conditions there unchanged. Some of the external difficulties they face are: an abusive home environment, endemic poverty, social discrimination and marginalization, lack of job opportunities, limited access to education, little or no social welfare support mechanisms, and traffickers at large. If we add to these the trauma and other negative consequences children suffer after the experience of trafficking, their return home puts them in a situation of vulnerability and need (Save the Children, 2004: 16).

Trafficked children suffer multiple consequences, which influence negatively their present and future behavior and life in general. Some of the main consequences are:

- health problems related to malnutrition, maltreatment, hard work, physical abuse, torture, hazardous working conditions and sexual abuse;
- problems with time, memory and focusing;
- mental problems accompanied by anxiety, fear, loss of hope, depression, traumatic amnesia, post traumatic stress disorder and so on;
- low self-esteem, anger, self-hate, poor social communication skills, inability to trust others, engagement in inappropriate sexual behavior, guilt, shame, feeling different and excluded, isolation, use of drugs, self-damaging and suicidal feelings.

These consequences both influence the way these children see themselves and the way the rest of the community sees them. Most of them are long-term and sometimes permanent, requiring

special care and the support not only of specialized people, but also the efforts of the community. In order to reintegrate and regain the hope of living their childhood and adult life appropriately, they need significant professional and community support.

## **Has trafficking decreased?**

As previously discussed in the subchapter about trends and patterns, there has been a decrease in the rate of international trafficking compared to the 1990s, but the rate is believed to have remained constant since the early 2000s. Contrary to international trafficking, there has been an increase in internal trafficking, which primarily involves children being used for begging and commercial sex. As most of the national reports are fragmentary, real figures are unknown. However, figures are unclear, differ between sources and even within replies given by one source, inadequate and, in sum, questionable (CARPO, 2006: 41-3).

However, all the non-profit organizations that work with children declare that trafficking is far from decreasing; it has merely become more hidden. There are cases when police officers either help or are directly involved in the trafficking and exploitation of the minors, internal migration has increased dramatically, and the vulnerability of children remains a serious concern, in particular for minority children, like Balkan Egyptians and Roma children.

## **State Agencies Involved in Child Anti-Trafficking**

Child protection is a multi-sector problem. In order to address it, different State agencies need to be built and collaborate with the non-profit sector operating in the field. Currently, the following bodies are responsible for child protection and anti-trafficking:

- Inter-ministerial Committee on Children's Rights
- The Technical Secretariat for Children
- The National Coordinator for the Combat of Human Trafficking/Deputy Minister of Interior
- The Anti-trafficking Unit in the Ministry of Interior
- The Responsible Authority for the National Referral Mechanism
- The Sector for the Combat of Illegitimate Trafficking in the Directorate for Border and Migration Police
- The National Reception Center for Victims of Human Trafficking
- Subsection for Children's Rights in People's Ombudsman
- Regional Anti-trafficking Committees

The Regional Anti-trafficking Committees were established on the 19.06.2006 by the Order of the Prime Minister, No. 139. The Regional Anti-trafficking Committees and Technical Working Tables are constituted in all 12 qarqe (regions). However, the CAAHT's Technical Needs Assessment Report showed that "it is not clear yet to Committee Members, how to accomplish their responsibilities". Some respondents have reported work done on anti-trafficking, which demonstrates that the very establishment of the Committees is an important step forward. And yet, there is disconnection between structures in the Regional Anti-trafficking Committees, which means that while political will is crucial to ensure success of anti-trafficking efforts in each district, it must be associated with concrete plans and actions. Overall, there are insufficient human and financial resources

available to enable the Committees and Technical Working Tables to undertake their required tasks and responsibilities, which means that there is a need for training and capacity building for local government structures. (CAAHT, 2007: 2-3; 12).

It is true that Regional Committees have been in place for little more than a year, however, even during this time they have not been very effective. For the members of these committees, membership in it is just another task they have to do, which shows that they haven't been prepared to do their task appropriately. Yet, some of them have been approached or on personal initiative have invited international and national non-profit organizations to assist and collaborate with them in matters of counter-trafficking (CAAHT, USAID, 2007: 5-6). Furthermore, it has been observed that although regional committees, they tend to focus their work and efforts in the major town center of the region, and little or nothing is done in the other towns and the communes.

The list shows that almost all agencies involved in the process are at the policy level, and there is an immediate need for units at the operational level. Fighting child trafficking implies to go into field work, identify cases, evaluate them, offer assistance according to needs and follow the case until there is evidential proof of permanent and sustainable positive change. The example of the pilot Child Protection Units created in several municipalities demonstrates that results are possible, especially when State and non-State organizations collaborate and coordinate their efforts.

As already mentioned, there have been some pilot initiatives like the Child Rights Protection Specialist and Child Protection Units. The first one are supported by UNICEF and have already been established in four different regions, i.e. Kukës, Vlorë, Elbasan, and Korçë. Meanwhile, as part of the UNICEF and TACT\* programs 7 pilot Child Protection Units (CPU) have been established in the municipalities of Korçë, Elbasan, Fier, Progradec, Durrës, Kukës and Gjirokastrë. Recognizing the importance of permanent child protection services in local level, other players in Albania have shown interest to support the child protection unit initiative. Thus, with the support of Save the Children, a child protection unit is opened in Kuçova in 2007; and with the support of World Vision two child protection units will be opened in two communes of Lezhë. To date, including the Child Protection Unit of Kukës and Tirana, established by UNICEF, there is a total of 9 Child Protection Units.

There is one person in the CPU's organogram, whose title is "specialist for children", and they are part of the social services staff in the municipalities. The organizations, such as Terre des hommes, have been involved in the whole process of creating the CPU, drafting the Terms of Reference, recruiting the specialists, who are either experienced in school education or with a relevant degree, the staff's training and the implementation of the CPU's terms of reference. The first ones have officially started to be operational in May-June 2006, and the last one is in Durrës in January 2008. The CPUs' personnel is responsible for the identification of the vulnerable children, the identification of the problems children in their community face, the proposal for intervention and providing services according to needs. The target group are children who have been abused, either trafficked or at risk, exploited and neglected.

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\* Transnational Action against Child Trafficking – a transnational project fighting Child trafficking between Albania and Greece, implemented by Terre des hommes and Arsis and funded by USAID, Hellenic Aid, ADA, Norwegian MFA, UNICEF and the Oak foundation.

In the whole process, from identification, evaluation of the case, needs assessment and provision of the services and/or referral, the specialists have been accompanied or have collaborated with the specialists of the non-profit organization that supports them. Services are provided not only for children, but also for their parents, when intervention is necessary. Although the specialist does not offer all services, but refers them, as well, he or she monitors each case through the different stages, and re-evaluates the situation accordingly, until positive sustainable change is observed. Terre des hommes provides financial support, in terms of partial payment of the specialist, which by the third year the salary becomes the complete responsibility of the municipality, as well as technical support and expertise.

As a result, the pilot CPUs have achieved several successes. Firstly, they have become legitimate, which means that the community acknowledged their authority and supports them, i.e. other actors such as schools, health and social services, police and the non-profit organizations recognize their status and are collaborating regularly. Secondly, protection is provided for the various categories of children mentioned above, and many have been prevented from being trafficked or the risk of trafficking. Thirdly, the CPU is able to manage the case of a child in need through utilizing standardized tools such as case evaluation and follow up and multidisciplinary decision making on the case. Furthermore, the CPU has access to IT facilities which enable them to communicate with other CPUs in the country and also with organizations/authorities across the border should the need arise. And finally, the child protection network has been created and it has become functional, thus filling a hole in the larger context of child protection.

According to Terre des hommes Annual Report 2007, the 6 CPUs they support have achieved the following results during the period of June 01, 2006-January 31, 2008:

- Identification of **265** children 'at risk' and suspected victims of trafficking;
- Referrals of **100** detected children to various institutions such as schools, kindergartens, vocational trainings, daily centers and residential centers;
- Assistance to **12** children for birth registration through court procedure in collaboration with TACT
- Supply of **40** children from poor and marginalized families with pedagogical materials for the commencement of the school year
- In-kind assistance to **21** families (mainly food supply)
- Referral of **17** families to benefit from services provided at local level such as involvement in the "Family Protection Scheme", Disability scheme, legal counseling for various legal issues through Ombudsman's Office etc;
- Regular follow-up of the families of detected children through **860** family visits;
- Conducting **58** psycho-social, preventive, sensitization and recreational activities;
- Participation in **3** anti-trafficking technical round tables and referral of **3** cases to these structures.

These results have also faced challenges, such as the lack of qualified and trained social workers that have the capacity and the inclination to do the job properly, which could be overcome if staff is trained regularly and if the child protection network is reinforced in terms of exchange of experiences

among the different CPUs. Secondly, though the local government has demonstrated its good will to collaborate, they are still reluctant to allocate funds to this initiative, which would then strengthen their position within the structure of the municipality and make the impact of the CPU sustainable.

## **Recommendations**

There is an immediate need for operational units to intervene to prevent child trafficking.

There is a need for further engagement and acquisition of responsibility in the management of cases, also in concert with the other actors involved in the process.

Actors should coordinate and inform each-other on their work at the national policy level, the regional and the local level.

The people who work in the anti-trafficking and child protection entities should be trained accordingly to meet the needs of children.

Regional Anti-trafficking committees need to improve their understanding of their responsibilities and build capacities. Concrete action plans and terms of reference for those involved are necessary.

CPUs are still pilot initiatives. Best practices and lessons learnt from these experiences should be used to initiate other units in the rest of the country. Their range of operation should be extended to the commune level.

CPUs remain an option depending on the good will and capacities of each municipality. They should be institutionalized in the national legislation and become compulsory structures. The central government should be allocated appropriate resources. Their monitoring by the State social services should also be strengthened in order to guarantee quality control and transparency.

CPUs and other institutions that work with child victims of trafficking should exchange information, expertise and experience on regular basis, so that they create a functional nationwide protection network.

## **6. Rapid Assessment of the Strategy against Child Trafficking and its Action Plan, 2005-2007**

The assessment chapter presents the evaluation of the implementation of the measures planned in the Action Plan of the Strategy against Child Trafficking for the period 2005-2007. It is a result of the confrontation between these measures with the actions of the government for the past two years. It examines first whether the measures have been applied, and if so, the quality of such applications. Data were taken from other partial reports and an analysis of the strategy conducted by various organizations, as well as from an internal evaluation conducted by the Ministry of Interior. Furthermore, interviews were conducted with representatives of the state agencies and their

partners. The results show that the prevention of child trafficking is part of the governmental agenda; however, the implementation of the measures of the Action Plan is not satisfying. The analysis of the Action Plan of the Strategy against Child Trafficking for the period 2005-2007 is compared and contrasted with the activity of the BKTF's member organizations contribution to the fight against child trafficking, in order to prove that despite the results of the work of state agencies, progress can be achieved and has already been achieved by BKTF members.

### **A. Prosecution**

Considerable attention is given to investigation and prosecution of child traffickers in the Strategy and the Action Plan of 2005-2007. However, most of the activities listed in the Action Plan have not been realized. Legislation has improved, but implementation is far from complete. Some concrete attempts to prosecute traffickers have been made.

There have been some amendments of the Criminal Code (Kodi Penal), which is aimed at the protection of children, in particular Law No. 9859 approved on 21 January 2008. Article 124/b "On the maltreatment of children" punishes the exploitation of children for forced labor and begging; Article 117 "On Pornography" now addresses child pornography; Article 128/b "On Child Trafficking" now includes the selling of a child as a punishable crime. It is still too early to speak of the implementation of these laws and amendments. However, the legal framework makes the fight against child trafficking more concrete.

According to official data, during 2007 alone the Prosecution of Serious/Heavy Crimes in collaboration with the Mol has verified and documented the illegal activity of 2 criminal organized groups. Police officers were members of these groups. A criminal group of 9 people, among whom 4 were police officers, were arrested in June 2007 for trafficking of human beings to Greece. Further investigation showed that there were 35 people involved in this network, among whom 15 were police officers. In July, another group of 11 people was arrested and in this group 6 people were also police officers. However, the same official data speak of 14 cases of child trafficking, more specifically 7 in 2005, 4 in 2006 and 3 in 2007. In terms of prosecution and conviction there were 3 people sentenced in 2005, 6 in 2006, and 3 in 2007 (only the first 9 months) (Mol, 2008). These data are alarming because first they speak of a disturbing participation of police officers in human trafficking. The involvement of police officers makes the vigor of investigation and prosecution suspect. The identification of these criminal members of the State police speaks of the awareness and the engagement of the State in fighting internal corruption. However, more needs to be done in order to minimize the possibilities of police and other state employees being involved in illegal activities, particularly those that have negative consequences for children and vulnerable adults.

The analysis of the Action Plan, 2005-2007 demonstrates that most activities have not been realized, and when realized, results have been rather poor. Attempts to combat child trafficking have not been child-rights centered. Police and other officers have been involved in the trafficking of children. Media representatives also declare that during prosecution investigation children are either intimidated or deceived to collaborate with the authorities and there have been cases of leaking confidential information, which means that the data on the children involved have not been scrupulously protected. In more details, we observe that:



Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
<p>Establish cooperation at national and local levels between social services, law enforcement, prosecution structures and specialized NGOs to exchange information about suspected cases of trafficking and/or illegal migration, and about children at risk.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>BKTF members have been collaborating with police and prosecution, and report cases of trafficking. Yet, there are concerns about several cases when police and prosecution officers are presumably involved in trafficking. Attempts to follow the cases have been unsuccessful and BKTF members do not know what has happened.</p>
<p>Select and train cadres of specialized police officers, prosecutors and judges to deal with child trafficking investigations and prosecutions.</p>	<p>Up to September 2005 and ongoing</p>	<p>Not realized completely. The small number of those prosecuted and sentenced for child trafficking related crimes shows that such cadres are not operating in concert to achieve better results.</p>
<p>Implement a dedicated approach to witness protection for child trafficking victims, through amended criminal justice legislation, specifically designed to recognize the rights and vulnerability of a child witness during police and judicial investigations, establish corresponding police and prosecution questioning and court procedures, and take steps to protect child victim/witnesses from direct contact with suspected offenders before or during trial hearings, as well as from subsequent retaliation.</p>	<p>December 2005 and ongoing</p>	<p>Although legislation is in place, it has not been observed and children's rights are not respected in this regard.</p>
<p>Ensure that the provision of assistance to child victims of trafficking is not made conditional on the child's willingness to testify against his/her traffickers.</p>	<p>Ongoing, case by case</p>	<p>Despite legislation, the child's collaboration to convict their traffickers has been used as a condition to receive assistance.</p>
<p>Ensure the confidentiality of information about a child victim so as not to endanger the child or the child's family members.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Not realized. There have been cases of leaked information where children have been endangered.</p>

A full account of the level of progress of the prosecution activities in the Action Plan can be found in Appendix 3 of this report. However, it is important to emphasize that victims of trafficking are

encouraged by police officers to denounce their traffickers. Law No. 9205, date 15.03.2004 “On the Protection of Witnesses and Collaborators of Justice” provides the frame for the protection of children who decide to collaborate with the prosecutor’s office to convict their exploiters. Since April 2005, when the law came into force, there has been only one case of witness protection, and it involved a woman (Mol, 2008). This demonstrates that despite the law, state institutions have not been able to gain the confidence of the presumed victims of trafficking to denounce their traffickers. The lack of confidence comes from the fact that in various situations, police and prosecution officers are involved or assist traffickers. In the case of internally trafficked children, when they are caught committing petty crimes, the police tend to treat them like criminals rather than victims of trafficking. Consequently, there have been cases when police officers have reportedly deceived children by saying they are social workers, and after taking their confession presented it as evidence against them in the court of justice. Without discussing whether such episodes are real (it is the word of the children in question against that of the police officers), it shows that the reputation of state officers is far from trustworthy and as such, there have been very few cases of children collaborating with the authorities in order to prosecute traffickers.

The database is another issue related to prosecution. TIMS database, which serves to collect all the data for those who enter and leave Albania, is operational in many border points. However, though it was supposed to be completed in 2007, it is not installed in the whole country yet. Furthermore, the additional database which will collect information on the victims of trafficking is still at the working group stage according to the evaluation report of the Mol (March, 2008). The database is very important not only because the Albanian government will gain an in-depth perspective on the seriousness of the problem of child trafficking, but also because it will facilitate the whole process of protection and assistance for these children. It is important to underline at this phase the issue of data protection. While it is crucial to have detailed data on trafficked children and presumed victims of trafficking, there should be special care guaranteed, technical as well as legal training, so that it is certain the children’s data are protected.

Several reasons make the prosecution of traffickers more difficult, since in order to prosecute traffickers, they should either be caught in the act, or in the case of the identification of presumed victims of trafficking, the latter should collaborate with authorities and denounce their traffickers. Despite the attempts of the government, this is not such an easy task. Previously mentioned reasons include victims’ lack of trust in the authorities, the fear of being prosecuted because they are themselves involved in the criminal activity, the fear due to many forms of coercion listed above, as well as the fact that relatives are the traffickers.

In such difficult situations, many actions should be taken by a variety of actors. The State agencies should first and foremost not put pressure on the children to collaborate, by threats of losing protection and assistance or any other means. The protection network should be functional and provide assistance and services for the children in need. Authorities should do their job in order to gain the trust of the victims, but not deceive them in order to force a “confession”. The children should not be considered criminals, but rather victims and treated with due respect. Their lives and those of their family should be protected when there is danger. Finally, a functional network of child guardianship should be available as an alternative to their parents, when the latter are involved in trafficking. (This issue will be fully considered under the protection chapter.)

## Recommendations

Prosecution is an important step in the fight against child trafficking. In order to prevent trafficking the actors involved should deal with both traffickers and the trafficked persons. In terms of the traffickers, the State should intervene by stopping their criminal deeds through arrests, prosecutions and convictions. Law enforcement will then serve as a clear threat to all those who are or want to be engaged in trafficking of human beings, and children in particular.

Traffickers should be prosecuted according to the law. However, the legislation should predict cases when children cannot testify against their traffickers. Children's rights should be protected. And in the case, when parents are involved in the trafficking, legal measures should be taken so that children's interests are served first. Foster care or other forms of guardianship should be taken into consideration to guarantee that children are not left without parents and abandoned by the State at the same time. Special attention should be paid to ameliorating the judiciary system and training judges and prosecutors to be able to rapidly take protection decisions concerning children's safety, such as temporary removal of guardianship from parent/ caretaker abuser.

An already established child protection network would provide all the necessary services for the children, so that children suffer as little as possible from the dramatic experience of trafficking and/or home removal.

### **B. Trafficking Prevention**

Prosecution is an effective way to demonstrate to traffickers that such practices are not legal and that people who engage in them will be duly prosecuted and convicted. However, prevention is also important for the process. During 2005-2007, state agencies have been more involved in the process of prevention. In particular the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Labor Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and of course the Ministry of Interior. For a longer period of time, prevention has been on the agenda of many non-profit organizations, which through different approaches have already tried to minimize the phenomenon.

The Ministry of Education and Science in collaboration with IOM, UNICEF and Terre des hommes (within the TACT Programme) have organized several projects involving schools focused on awareness raising against child trafficking, but also on other related phenomena like violence and abuse, and irregular migration. The activities organized range from inserting these topics in the school curricula and particular school subjects, to having individual sessions or trainings on specific topics related to trafficking, to teacher training on handling situations of presumed victims of violence and trafficking, to integrated classes for school drop-outs or students with difficulties. Apart from schools, radio and TV programs, as well as whole media campaigns have been conducted against irregular migration, trafficking and begging in the streets. Furthermore, there has been established a free national help line (0800 12 12), which receives allegations and reports on cases of different felonies including child trafficking. Finally, MOLSAEO has organized vocational trainings for victims of trafficking or presumed victims of trafficking, as well as vulnerable groups. Organizations like ILO and OSCE in collaboration

with the Besa Foundation have given small loans to returnees who want to reintegrate into Albanian society. As we can observe, these attempts have not targeted only children in a trafficking situation, but also their families and other vulnerable people (Mol, 2008).

However, going through the various activities of the Action Plan against Child Trafficking, 2005-2007, we notice that activities have either not been realized, or have been partially realized. In terms of campaigns against child trafficking, only the campaign against begging has targeted children in particular, while the rest of the public awareness activities have been focusing on trafficking and irregular migration. For example, in the measure about designing targeted public awareness measures in cooperation with media, government and non-government structures, the results have been:

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Conduct public awareness campaigns warning of the dangers and penalties associated with child trafficking, using television and radio spots and programs, posters, leaflets, etc: provide information about child trafficking and its consequences in school curricula: promote cultural and educational activities focusing on child trafficking: organize dedicated prevention campaigns targeting children in high risk communities and vulnerable groups	Up to September 2005	Partially realized. However, awareness campaigns need to be ongoing. A larger emphasis on child trafficking and exploitation needs to be maintained.
Provide information and training on child trafficking issues to target groups of officials, such as border and anti-trafficking police, Customs officers, education and social services personnel, and prosecutors.	Up to December 2005	There have been several trainings conducted by various organizations in Albania. However, because of the reform in the police and the reshuffling of the officers, sustainability has not been realized.
Continue to implement the joint program of the Ministry of Education and Science and IOM for the training of teachers on child trafficking and its consequences.	Ongoing	It is ongoing and other actors from civil society have been involved in the process.

Other measures related to prevention of school abandonment and child labor have also not been satisfactory. In more details:

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Increase public awareness about compulsory education and the penalties for parents who do not send their children to school.	Ongoing	Not realized.
Instruct government authorities on the need to identify children who do not attend compulsory education, and establish, at the Prefecture level, the necessary administrative structures and enforcement measures for the implementation of the law.	Up to September 2005	Not realized.
Establish a unit in the General Prosecutor's Office, in cooperation with MES, MoLSAEO and MoPO, for the investigation and prosecution of child truancy cases.	Up to September 2005	Not realized.
Organize special educational activities for children of divorced or one parent families who face socio-economic problems in their homes.	Up to December 2005	Not realized.
Organize integrated classes, with specially designed education curricula, for children who have abandoned or do not attend school, especially focusing in children from the Roma community and "street children".	Up to September 2005	Not realized at the national level. Integrated classes are offered only in specific schools thanks to the intervention of organizations such as FBSH, TdH, etc.
Take steps to encourage participation in middle school education by girls and female adolescents, especially in rural areas.	2005 and ongoing	Not realized.
Provide professional / vocational training for adolescents who live in poor economic conditions, and especially victims of trafficking, and orphans and girls who have not attended schools, to make them future competitors in the labor market, using the model of vocational training centers already established in Tirana, Fier and Elbasan.	Up to December 2005	Partially realized with the intervention and mediation of non-profit organizations, who have managed the cases of children of these categories.  Vocational training should be an ongoing activity.

Establish, in cooperation with specialized NGOs and national and IO partners and donors, an employment information system to provide information on preparing business projects, and on the financial and technical resources available for promoting the employment of adolescents.	Up to September 2005	Not realized.
Improve the economic level of children from marginalized groups, especially the Roma community, by including them in employment incentive programs, and by providing material, financial and human resources, as well as for the development of those businesses whose objectives are the production of the traditional handicraft.	2005 and ongoing	Not realized. NGOs have intervened in various communities through individual projects and not in concert.
Promote and support the establishment of day centers and community services for the integration of Roma children in education and in trafficking prevention programs.	2005 and ongoing	Not realized. Day centers and community services are provided by organizations such as Save the Children, "Tjetër Vizion", SHKEJ, FBSH, ARSIS and Terre des hommes.
Instruct the State Inspectorate of Labor to exercise control over the illegal/"black" labor of children, especially Roma children, and take appropriate measures to prevent it.	2005 and ongoing	Not realized.
Develop methodological guidelines and organize trainings for public social service workers on the protection of children in care, and on the social, educational and professional integration needs of children in child care institutions.	Up to June 2005	Not realized. Training of the public social service should be ongoing.

For a more detailed account of the level of progress of the implementation of the Action Plan on Trafficking Prevention refer to Appendix 4 of this report.

On the other hand, civil society in general, and BKTF member organizations in particular, have actively been involved in preventing child trafficking. They have applied and are still applying two complementary approaches.

One is the holistic approach carried out by organizations like World Vision, who intervene in a community through projects of economic and social development. This development helps

prevent poverty and thus has an impact on the reduction for the potential for children from those communities being trafficked. Other examples of the holistic approach focus on the establishment of a comprehensive child protection and early detection “safety net” involving schools, community and social services, as piloted by Terre des hommes and Arsis (TACT).

Many organizations, CILSP (QSHPLI), FBSH, NPF, Terre des hommes, ARSIS, SHKEJ, TLAS, and “Tjetër Vizion” (which are also members of BKTF), work directly with target groups, i.e. all kinds of children that are exposed to trafficking. The children they work with are victims of trafficking, presumed victims and children at high risk of being trafficked. The victims of trafficking are partially referred by State agencies, but the rest are identified by street or community agents, who go into the field and talk to children themselves. There have been cases when children themselves approach NGOs to ask for assistance or to be involved in their activities. As the services are provided for all categories of child, the activities listed below could be listed under prevention, as well as protection and reintegration.

Thus, children are included in educational, social, and recreational activities. Some of them are offered social and psychological counseling, and when necessary legal counseling and representation. They are also educated about and supported in obtaining any economic assistance for which they are eligible, including the preparation of documentation, the registration in the civil registry or their transfer from their place of birth to their place of residence. Day centers and community centers, planned in the Action Plan, are currently created and supervised by various non-profit organizations such as ARSIS, FBSH, Save the Children, SHKEJ, Terre des hommes and “Tjetër Vizion”. These centers provide most of or all the services described as follows.

Educational activities include preparation classes and trainings for children who have never been to school and for those who have abandoned school. In both cases they are prepared to re-enter the system, while the organization also mediates with schools to accept them in the coming academic year. However, for minors for whom reentry is not possible, because they are approaching the end of the mandatory school age, vocational training is offered in order to give them skills to enter the labor market and provide for themselves and/or their families. These activities were also listed in the Action Plan 2005-2007, but they have not been implemented by the State Agencies, only with the intervention of various NPOs on a case by case basis.

Schools are important for education and socialization purposes, as they are the place where the child understands and becomes part of the community. Moreover, schools are a place for early identifying and referring young victims of domestic violence and abuse, factors related to child trafficking. That is why, responding to the Action Plan of the Strategy against Child Trafficking 2005-2007, several actors, among which the Ministry of Education and Science, Terre des hommes, UNICEF and other partner organizations, emphasize in their work the schooling of all children at the early stage. An operational child protection safety network within schools is needed to connect the education system, at-risk communities, and social services. The school environment is a central structure in the protection of children and the education system plays a critical role in the detection, protection, and reintegration of vulnerable children.

Some of the actions taken are human rights education and training of school psychologists who will turn into child protection specialists. Terre des hommes, which is monitoring child protection mechanisms in 128 schools, has also developed with them a Child Protection Tool Kit and a Child

Protection Training Handbook to be used by school psychologists. The psychologist is in a strategic position regarding child protection issues within schools. They will serve as reference points for the educational staff, parents, and pupils as well as other public and private child protection stakeholders to assure a well-coordinated child protection response.

Furthermore, human rights education is already included in school programs. Training is provided and there are already several schools in the country (42 as of July 2007) which have piloted and applied this new approach with human rights incorporated into different subjects. In addition, there are 1 or 2 classes of social issues discussion per week in the schools (Albanian Children's Alliance, 2006: 38). At the same time MES and IOM are implementing a project for raising awareness against trafficking in schools through the inclusion of the related topics in different subjects. The project started in July 2007 and will be implemented in 100 public schools in the district of Tirana, which comprises 5.3% of the number of public schools in Albania. The project's other phases will include more schools in other regions (CAAHT, USAID, 2007: 7). Despite the fact that this activity was not completed in the timeline foreseen in the Action Plan, it is important that schools are involved in the process of trafficking prevention, and the extension of this sort of activity improves the community's chances to diminish the phenomenon.

Meanwhile, several social activities have been conducted by various non-profit organizations, among which we include raising awareness in the form of information sessions, round tables, local and national campaigns, class meetings, and meetings with families. Different organizations--which in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sciences, the Educational Directorates and school headmasters--have organized trainings of teachers and activities with students, where topics like migration, trafficking and domestic violence have been discussed. In other cases--including the centers in Kuçova and Cerrik supported by Save the Children and other activities by FBSH, Terre des hommes and others--it is the minors themselves who, under the monitoring of a social worker, organize such activities in order to inform their peers of the risks they face.

Psychosocial activities, on the other hand, are designed to deter victims of trafficking, presumed victims and children at high risk of being trafficked from being excluded from the rest of the community. The very fact that they are often excluded enhances their potential of being trafficked or re-trafficked. Consequently, psychosocial activities help not only the children feel better, but also encourage the reintegration of children into their community. They play with their peers, get away from the streets and enjoy their life as children. In order to smooth the process of reintegration, there are organizations like "Tjetër Vizion" and many others who invite non-trafficked children in their activities. The main reason is to avoid further segregation by putting all these children in a group separated from the rest of the children of their age. Recreational activities make the reintegration process more organic.

Legal assistance is provided by several organizations, in particular TLAS and the Center for Integrated Legal Service and Practices (through the project Legal Clinic for Minors). They assist children in need of legal representation and document compilation. A great step in the prevention of trafficking is the registration of all children, and the simplification of the registration method. The drafting of a law, which will help vulnerable groups to register their children without having to go through complicated and expensive procedures, would be helpful. When children are legally registered it makes it more difficult for traffickers to exploit them.



There is a major concern about the activities listed above: sustainability. All of the services are provided by external donors and NGOs. Though they might be here for an extended time and are providing those in need with appropriate services, they are not locally run and supported. At a certain point they will no longer be funded, and consequently valuable services will not longer be available. An example is the closing of the daily shelter in Gramsh because of lack of funding; there are many other projects that will end by 2009. The closing of successful projects raises two challenges. The first is the loss of the service. The second is the reemergence of the need. Even when projects are effectively run by NGOs, there are often issues with overlap with multiple organizations, and gaps where no organization is active. For these reasons, there is a need for the government to step in and take ownership, as a warrant of the continuous and sustainable protection of the rights and the provision of the services to meet the needs of its citizens. What we are suggesting is a greater involvement of the state agencies in providing services. In order to check and balance state intervention, some services could and should be provided by NGOs as well. This arrangement will make it possible for the state to build capacities to provide services, and at the same time fund projects and programs already operating for vulnerable groups.

Media campaigns and other activities are implemented by different actors in order to inform the public about the risks of trafficking, and at the same time prevent the phenomenon. A study conducted by Gedeshi and Sokoli shows that information about trafficking comes through the following channels: 72.3% take information from mass media, 4.7% from friends, 5.6% from family, and 17.4% from school teachers (IOM, 2006: 64). A recent campaign was against forced begging, which has resulted in the reduction of the earnings of children who beg in the street. The evaluation of the campaign shows the reduction is up to 2-300 leke less per day. At first it might seem that what has happened is just reducing the means of survival for many street children in the country. However, reducing the demand for this activity leads to a reduction of the numbers of those exploited. This chain of consequences needs to be explained to the public.

## **Recommendations**

The fight against child trafficking should also focus on those who might become victims of trafficking. Communities must become aware of the dangers of trafficking and receive information on the consequences of exploitation and abuse. This information should reach the children and parents and measures should be taken so that risks to the vulnerable are minimized.

Children and their families should be informed about projects and activities which will aid them in minimizing the risk of being trafficked.

Preventing child trafficking and minimizing the vulnerability of children should be accomplished through the secure means of tackling root causes. This can be done through the improvement of the socio-economic situation, as well as the construction of a functional child protection network embedded in laws, state structures both educational and social, and in the mentality of the community. Prevention intervention can target children directly, as well as their families, through the various ways currently practiced mentioned above.

Special targets for raising awareness in matters of child trafficking should be community officers, including police, prosecutors, judges, teachers, local government officers and health personnel. Their acknowledgement of the problem should be accompanied with human and child rights training, which would then create the setting for child trafficking prevention in the smaller and larger communities.

The most vulnerable communities, particularly Roma and Egyptian community members, should also be mobilized to promote children's rights and education, and encouraged to refer cases of abuses.

### **C. Protection of victims of trafficking**

There is still a lack of a conceptual frame in Albania for the "protection of children". Child Protection goes beyond the National Strategy against Child Trafficking and is entrenched with other legal documents, among which the most important is the National Strategy for Children. The Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities himself has said, in a conference on child protection organized by UNICEF, that despite the reform in the social protection system, social aid and services, poverty reduction and ensuring social inclusion, there is still a big gap between the objectives set in the Intersectorial Strategy for Children and the capacity and endeavors on the part of each individual ministry and the responsible structures at the central and local level to meet these objectives. Improvements are essential, particularly on issues related to the establishment of a national referral system; the establishment of the structures and definition of responsibilities; the exchange of information and the coordination among all these activities and institutions. Despite the introduction of community services and the involvement of the local government and civil society, services do not meet the required standards to protect children effectively (Barka in UNICEF, 2007: 16).

It is widely accepted that the phenomenon of social exclusion of children is under-recognized in Albanian society, and the current system of social protection is not focused towards providing social care in compliance with various groups of excluded children (Albanian Children's Alliance, 2006: 16). Institutions have made no efforts to develop policies that would coordinate educational and social policies in order to reintegrate children in need of special protection, above all the trafficked children who are more at risk (ibid: 24). Furthermore, there are shortcomings in the current data collection system, which is not producing a clear picture of the status of children's rights (ibid: 61).

The National Strategy for Children has the following measurements listed, none of which have been realized:

- Establishing a referral system for trafficked and unescorted children .
- Establishing a child-dedicated structure at the Prosecutor's office to investigate missing children assisted by ME, MLSA and MPO.
- Returning trafficked and vulnerable children to school if they have not completed compulsory education; enhancing opportunities for professional training of children and youth (ibid: 26).

Currently, it is the NGOs who identify school drop-outs and offer them catch-up classes and mediate their return to school. Furthermore, they offer vocational training or mediate with the Regional

Centers for Vocational Training to provide youth with professional skills. In both cases, public schools and RCVTs react to the NGOs appeal and the result is mostly based on the will of the individuals in charge. However, there is no interest by schools to increase attendance. They are already facing large numbers of students in class, they have limited control over their budgets, and no incentives in improving the situation by preventing drop-outs or increasing registration. The system is centralized and every action must be approved beforehand. Such a system discourages pro-active initiatives in public schools.

Furthermore, the NSC is not all-inclusive. It excludes children from very low income families, children isolated because of blood feuds, Roma and Balkan-Egyptian children and children who are not registered at the civil registrar. Services are not child-oriented. There is a lack of information on the most endangered categories and the legal framework concerned with the danger of child maltreatment and abuse (Albanian Children's Alliance, 2006: 28-9).

However, the concern about protection policies is followed by the major issue of the implementation of strategies such as the National Strategy for Children and the National Strategy against Child Trafficking. Despite the fact that they were drafted and approved in the same year (2005), they are not harmonized. Yet, it is worth mentioning that the involvement of the State and its institutions on the policy level is quite satisfactory and the national coordinator is seen to participate in civil society initiatives, as well as include the latter in their own initiatives in order to achieve better conjoint results.

When it comes to the implementation of the strategy and the national referral mechanism, it is considered very difficult to apply standards in relation to pre-screening and victim identification due to the lack of capacities on the side of the police. This deficiency is not because of the absence of trainings--they have been provided by several actors local and international, as it was planned in the Action Plan of the Strategy--, but because of the structure of the state police and the reforms it has undergone recently. Police officers are removed from their positions with the explanation of avoiding corruptive behavior, and also as a result of a reform, which has decreased the number of police considerably. As a result, we find untrained, overloaded people working at the counters of border crossing points. Furthermore, in order to provide appropriate services, there should be a female police officer at the border, as well as a social worker. While female police officers are present at some of the borders, social workers are not always present when needed. In terms of the quality of the implementation of the strategy, there is a lot more to be done.

One of the major issues is identification; identifying a victim of trafficking can prove to be a very difficult task. Officers involved should have the best interest of the child at the center of their attention. Identification is firstly done to save the child from a situation of exploitation. Only when the child is secured and provided with all necessary services should State agencies work with him or her to investigate their traffickers and exploiters. Physical protection of the child and of their families should be provided prior to any legal prosecution. Physical protection should be followed by data protection, an important element for guaranteeing physical protection of victims of trafficking and witnesses. It is important to provide protection during trial proceedings, but also afterwards when necessary. Identification should be based on standard definitions and clear referral channels. Agencies that provide these services should be identified, contacted and contracted beforehand, so that referral is immediate without losing valuable time.

Apart from the poor capacity of the police to identify the various categories of victims of trafficking, a major issue is the practice of the police waiting for a victim to declare him or herself. The implications of this passive approach were detailed above, but it is worth reiterating that children might lose their opportunity of receiving appropriate services. As a result, we underline once again the need for standard definitions of the categories of trafficked children along with active identification of those vulnerable and their needs for assistance.

Furthermore, experts have identified another problem. Training provided does not always meet the needs of the Albanian police force. In order to meet the needs of the officers, trainings should be provided by the state police itself, and it would be best to provide training to the students of the police school. Only when officers are fully trained, skilled professionals who are aware of human rights and international procedures on trafficking will Albania be able to provide appropriate services.

Care and protection follows identification. Children must be provided a secure residence, food, medical assistance, psychological help, legal and social services, and education. Assistance should be in accordance with their culture, age and gender. Furthermore, children with special needs should also be provided with aids and equipment to support their abilities. All the work should be conducted with specialized personnel capable of dealing with children who have undergone a trafficking situation. Legal guardians, in collaboration with authorities and non-profit organizations, should to define, document and meet the specific needs of each child. All services should be offered both for victims of trafficking and presumed victims of trafficking.

As in the case of the NSC, several activities included in the Action Plan of the Strategy against Child Trafficking have not been realized. As the table below illustrates, the National Referral Mechanism--signed in 2005--has not been implemented very successfully. Despite the need for dedicated areas with the necessary infrastructure at the border crossing points for the reception and accommodation of child victims of trafficking, these areas have not been constructed at every border crossing point. Reviewing the Action Plan activities on protection, we see that the level of progress has not been satisfactory either (A complete account is found in Appendix 5).

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Draft regulations on the requirements and procedures for receiving and processing child victims of trafficking at border crossing points and elsewhere, in the case of arrests or repatriation.	Up to June 2005	The NRM is in place, but it needs to be amended.
Establish dedicated areas with the necessary infrastructure at border crossing points for the reception and accommodation of child trafficking victims, prior to referral to families, social services or shelters.	Up to September 2005	Not available in every border crossing point.

Establish standards for the initial handling of child victims of trafficking, to be implemented by public and private social care institutions, other child protection structures, and criminal justice and law enforcement authorities, based on the best interest of the child.	Up to June 2005	Not completed.
Draft regulations for the unification and implementation of procedures for initial reception, interviewing, and confidentiality of information related to child trafficking victims, in accordance with the proposed witness protection program and the multi-functional role of the National Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking.	Up to June 2005	There is the NRM and also Order no. 871, 27. 12. 2007 of the General Directorate of the Police regarding the interviewing of Albanian and foreign citizens returned at the border.
Promote and support temporary and permanent foster care services for repatriated child victims of trafficking, children at risk of trafficking or re-trafficking, and those whose parental custody has been removed on a temporary or permanent basis.	June 2005 and ongoing	Not realized.
Promote, support and standardize foster care services, based on models proposed by IOs and NGOs for these services.	Up to September 2005	Not realized.
Conclude cooperation agreements and contracts with specialized NGOs offering foster care services.	Up to September 2005	Partially realized.
Take all necessary measures to protect the privacy of children, including any information that could lead to the identification of the child or other family members.	Ongoing	Not realized.

There is no clear understanding of what happens to children when parents are involved in their trafficking. For the moment, they can be sent to residential centers. The non-profit organizations are very skeptical about this solution due to the fact that placing a child within residential centers is contrary to the best interest of the child as well as the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. According to several depositions of children treated in shelters and residential centers, these places are considered to be unsafe. The staff are unable to protect children sheltered there from traffickers, with recruiters on many occasions found within these centers, and some children are abused and their rights violated regularly. The literature also considers residential centers as negative for the child, and all parties suggest alternative ways of providing guardianship for children whose parents are prosecuted for trafficking. Some of the alternatives are having other relatives be the guardians, at least temporarily, or foster homes. Both these options provide the child with a home environment. Yet, social and other services should be provided regularly to these children in order to assist them in overcoming the trauma of trafficking.

There have already been some attempts to address this issue, such as the “home household” services provided in Shkodra and Durrës in 2007 and a “foster care strategy” drafted as an alternative to the existing residential centers (Barka, 2007: 17). However, these solutions are still at the piloting phase and their function and impact on child protection needs to be assessed.

Other problems identified by the Technical Secretariat include:

- Health and education employees working at the local level do not have the proper training, nor do they have the administrative responsibility to identify and refer children at risk;
- Reporting mechanisms in cases of abuse has been well defined in the police and health structures, but there is no clear reporting mechanism in the social and education service sectors;
- There are no clearly defined procedures as to how coordination and cross-sectorial referral mechanisms will work;
- People working with children are not aware of the structure they will have to refer the children who need protection to and of the structure that is responsible for protecting the child and of the circumstances when the child will be referred to other institutions (Lazareni in UNICEF, 2007: 59-60).

Such problems would also have been overcome if the activities of the Protection pillar in the Action Plan (see Appendix 5) were implemented. Their existence once again shows that the “child protection” network is dysfunctional in Albania. Individual attempts by the various ministries and the civil society actors will not have long-term and sustainable results if they do not collaborate closely with each other in order to have a shared concept of what child protection is and what needs to be done in order to reach the aspired results.

## **Recommendations**

In order to protect children against the threat of trafficking and exploitation, the protection measures should be provided at the pre-trafficking phase, trafficking phase, exploitation phase and the phase of withdrawal and reintegration, which is also the phase of potential re-trafficking. It is necessary to intervene in each phase because the risk of being trafficked is always present for vulnerable children.

Structures and procedures should be created for the support, care and protection of the children in all phases, and they should be referred to the most suitable community-based family environment that meets the children’s assessed needs. Any form of residential or reception centre should be used as the last resort and then only for a very limited time. In case the State cannot provide such services, civil society assistance should be sought through agreements signed between the State and the other parties.

Foster care should be regulated and child guardianship used carefully in cases when parents are involved in the trafficking of their children, or in trafficking in general.

There should be created a special witness protection system and data protection system for child victims of trafficking.

#### **D. Reintegration: Assisting Victims of trafficking**

In order to make sure that victims of trafficking are not re-trafficked, several actions have to be taken. Reintegration programs target both victims of trafficking and socially excluded children. Consequently, prevention projects and activities are applied to victims of trafficking, too. Civil society actors insist on including children of different groups and categories in order to facilitate their integration and reintegration into the children's community, as well as the larger community. However, considering the quality of the assistance offered to victims of trafficking, presumed victims and children at high risk in Section B of this chapter, it should be noted that there are many cases when victims decline assistance.

There are several reasons, identified by Brunovskis and Surtees, why victims refuse assistance. Victims do not obtain assistance because:

- they lack information on services;
- they come from a traumatic experience, which blurs their ability to understand what assistance is available and what the services offer them;
- accepting assistance means accepting they are victims of trafficking, which might restrict their opportunities to migrate again;
- they do not trust anybody, including border police, anti-trafficking officers and social services because of their experience of exploitation;
- they wish to avoid stigma, as accepting assistance means accepting that they have been trafficked (2007: 7-10).

Trafficked females include both women and girls under 18 years old who are exploited for commercial sex or prostitution. While this group is the source of the reasons for refusing assistance above, the reasons are also applicable to the case of many trafficked children. The authors also underline the fact that some of the returnees simply do not need assistance. However, this conclusion is still very difficult to understand considering the many effects trafficking has upon people during their developmental period.

There are two major concerns related to referral which were included in the measures of the Action Plan 2005-2007 but were not realized: privacy and stigmatization. Privacy is not seriously respected in Albania. State officers and the media violate it. The former violate privacy because they think that publicity will scare and intimidate traffickers and sometimes they do it for pure profit reasons (through bribes) or incompetence. The media, on the other hand, looks for scoops everywhere. Many journalists also lack professional ethics in relation to the rights of a child and making their details public. In order to avoid unethical behavior, the data collection and database should be totally confidential, possibly through an electronic security system, in which the identity of the victims remains absolutely protected.

Stigmatization is related to the prejudice children suffer because of their involvement in criminal activity and the cultural understanding of trafficking. Despite the fact that they are victims, the authorities fail to see them as such. Also, they usually come from vulnerable groups of poor, rural and minority communities. These factors lead to a higher level of discrimination with additional negative consequences. Stigmatization affects the way these children are treated from the first moment they are stopped by the authorities, during the pre-identification interview, and during

the process of assistance and rehabilitation. You cannot assist children appropriately if they are considered as criminals or inferior. In other words, the attitude and levels of understanding of professionals needs to be changed first, with community comprehension following.

## **Recommendations**

In order to prevent child trafficking and re-trafficking, measures should be taken that those who have been trafficked, are at high risk of being trafficked or are vulnerable are invited to participate in integration and reintegration activities, such as the ones performed by non-profit organizations as described in the section on prevention in this chapter.

Privacy should be guaranteed and provided for by State officers and the media, in complete accordance with the laws. Awareness about the importance of protecting the privacy of children needs to be built up among the aforementioned persons.

Service providers should always respect the children and their rights, because children in need cannot be helped if those involved in working with them have prejudices about their involvement in criminal acts.

Any representative of the authorities should consider the child as a victim of abuse and exploitation, unless it has been proven otherwise.

### ***E. Collaboration and Coordination between actors***

It is a challenge for the National Coordinators Office (ZKKAT or NCOAT) to coordinate the work because of the minimal involvement of the line ministries. All processes are accompanied by delays and the absence of practical actions. The Responsible Authority is not yet completely functional and its mechanisms or the structures that support it either have not been created or are not fully operational. The implementation of the NRM has also been slow. The staff at the border is not well-trained and the consular officers are not trained at all in terms of identification and referral procedures. Neither party is clear on its share of responsibility and standard procedures to be followed (CAAHT/USAID, 2007: 3).

Another issue of concern is the fact that collaboration is based on personalities and individuals. Many of the service providers speak of the problem of restarting negotiation on various agreements when school headmasters, municipality officers and officers at the central level are replaced or changed. Such renegotiations take time, and starting the process all over again breaches the continuity of the efforts with the community and the vulnerable children. Once again, sustainability, continuity and coherence is essential.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan is based on the contribution of international organizations or donors' initiatives, such as CAAHT and TACT funded by USAID, and have been conditioned by the competence, expertise and the priorities of these international actors. Even though millions of dollars have been spent on these projects, they cannot be funded by external donors endlessly. The Albanian government should take ownership and finance the measures defined in the Strategy and its Action Plan of implementation.



A final important aspect of the fight against trafficking is the agreements between countries. So far, Albania has a bilateral agreement with Greece, signed on the 27 February 2006. However, this agreement has yet to be applied. There is no protocol of implementation; the agreement remains just a piece of paper. Several IOs are mediating to make this agreement functional, as many trafficked children are returned from Greece, but the process has not yet been facilitated and children and other victims of trafficking are brought back to Albania as irregular migrants. Their identification and the initiation of the anti-trafficking process in Greece would guarantee that they are treated as victims of trafficking in Albania, too, which would eventually minimize their chances of being re-trafficked. Meanwhile, other agreements are at the negotiation phase. This means that meetings about cross-border collaboration between Albania and FYROM, Kosovo and Montenegro are still not concluded, and the agreements foreseen in the Action Plan are still not signed.

## **Recommendations**

The National Coordinator should be vested with appropriate authority to direct, control and monitor the efforts of the various State and non-State actors working to prevent child trafficking in Albania.

Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding need to be signed as a guarantee that actors will coordinate their efforts and collaborate to unite their forces against child trafficking. Cross-border agreements between State institutions and non-profit organizations who deal with child victims of trafficking need to be signed and implemented in order to approach the problem not only from the specific Albanian perspective, but also fight it as a regional and international crime affecting the lives of people in each country.

Information, experiences and best practices should be shared across borders, as only concerted joint actions will work against child trafficking as a phenomenon.

### ***F. General Recommendations: Operational Scenarios***

BKTF is interested in the improvement of the quality of the services provided for children who are victims of trafficking, at high risk of being trafficked and those vulnerable to trafficking. The primary recommendation of the coalition is the creation of a child protection network which would serve to prevent, protect and integrate children who are at risk or are involved in trafficking. In order for the network to be functional, all parties must firstly respect their terms of reference, secondly coordinate their efforts, and finally collaborate with each other. Communication and execution will lead to optimal results against child trafficking.

In order to fight child trafficking, operational units, such as CPUs, should be created in every municipality, and child protection specialists should be employed in communes, as well. Their first task is to be field agents, i.e. they should go into the streets and identify children who are exploited and abused. In the case of children 0-6 years old, only child protection workers, such as social workers, psychologists or other CPU employees, can identify them, as they are too young to go to school, or to be noticed by any institutions. Thus, it should be state or local authority employees, who identify and, in collaboration with other professionals and civil society personnel,

assist the child and his or her family to prevent the child being trafficked and exploited. Young children are usually on the streets lying down alone or accompanied by an older sibling or a parent begging. Street agents, police officers or social workers from the Child Protection and Violence in the Family Sector in the State Police can identify them and could talk to them to assess where their parents, family or caregivers are. The state police or CPU representatives should then report their concerns to the CPUs for further follow up and action. The cases will then be investigated, to see whether the parents are aware that there are risks to the child's welfare and development by being involved in street work or begging. Once the child's situation has been assessed, the CPU and other professionals involved in the child's situation can make recommendations as to the best way to support the child and his or her family and ensure the child's safety. At the same time, children could be offered medical care, legal aid (in the case of unregistered children), and psychosocial support if this is needed.

The custody of the child might become part of the process, especially when a child's parents are involved in trafficking or exploitation. However, individualized solutions should be found for every child considering his or her best interest, the will of the child and the opinion of the parents. Foster care is not yet an option for children in Albania. Foster care should be encouraged as a solution and a means for placing the child in cases when staying with the parent or the legal guardian is putting him or her at risk. However, it is the role of law enforcement authorities to bring forward such acts.

When trafficked children are older than 6, they are either school drop-outs with poor attendance or have never attended school. They are frequently forced into child labor and sexual exploitation. In these cases, school teachers or psychologists, the Labor Inspectorate specialists or even those in the tourism industry\* can be involved in the identification process along with the above mentioned Child Protection Workers. When any professional or member of the public has reason to suspect a child is at risk of being trafficked, exploited or abused, they should refer them to the CPUs. The Child Protection Worker will coordinate the process to ensure the child's protection. Children of school age where possible should be assisted to reintegrate into school or to receive other classes enabling them to catch up on their education. Children deemed too old to be integrated into formal education should be offered vocational training courses. This training will encourage them to learn useful skills which will enable them to find a job and provide for themselves when they are adults.

In the case when parents or close family members are involved in the trafficking of the child, the child needs to be protected whilst the Child Protection Worker undertakes an assessment of the situation. Once a full assessment has been completed the multi-disciplinary group will make recommendations as to the best place for the child to live. All decisions should be made with the best interest of the child as the primary consideration. Each case is considered on an individual basis under the coordination of the CPU specialist. Individual action plans will be devised for each child and family and will be followed up and monitored by the Child Protection Worker. Considering that many of these families are poor, or have complex social problems, the CPU specialist assists and refers the children, as well as parents, to institutions that can assist them

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\* Employees in hotels or travel agencies who are often faced with potential victims of trafficking

to resolve their particular problems. For many families this requires the collaboration and joint working of local government and civil society organizations. The same process can be followed in the cases of presumed victims of trafficking, those at high risk of being trafficked and other vulnerable children. Intervention should be initiated as soon as concerns are identified, because this will increase the likelihood of better outcomes for the child.

Child protection services can be provided by State and non-state organization and agencies. What is important is the creation of a national and locally administered child protection system, in which parties know and acknowledge the capacities, skills and roles of all involved and accept responsibility for their participation in the process. The crucial point is for the State to take a leading role in the whole process of fighting child trafficking and child protection. However, considering that the State is currently unable to provide all the assistance and support that trafficked children require, they should develop coordinated and structured services with civil society organizations, such as BKTF members, who have extensive experience working on all aspects of child trafficking.

Memorandums of Understanding should be signed as the first step towards acknowledged and sustainable collaboration. In this way, State institutions will gain the capacities that will later enable them to take ownership of the services necessary to protect, support and assist victims of child trafficking in Albania. Work in concert is the only way we can fight child trafficking and minimize it permanently.

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# Interviews

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Blerta Petrela (World Vision)

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Juliana Rexha (OSCE)

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Klara Simoni (FBSH)

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Valbona Lenja (IOM)

interview with Sonila Danaj in Tirana on 20 February 2008.

Vasilika Laçi (Terre des hommes)

interview with Sonila Danaj in Tirana on 20 February 2008.

# Appendix I

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## The Areas of Intervention, the Activities and the Beneficiaries of BKTF Members

**ORGANIZATION:** AKSION PLUS

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** Prevention-education-communication-peer education from social workers and psychologists to youngsters in high school concerning HIV/AIDS/drugs / reproductive health.

Also raising the awareness of general public for these problems (Social Youth Center and other branches of Aksion Plus in other towns of Albania).

Service and treatment for vulnerable groups – implementing a holistic program in order to reduce harms that are related to drug use, prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs among the injecting drug users and other consequences, both individual and social.

**ACTIVITIES:** **1.** Peer education is one of the most important tools we use to build life skills/ capacities, and to modify the risky sexual behaviors. **2.** (training, peer education protection of human rights referral to other services etc). **3.** individual and group counseling, condom distribution, advocacy, **4.** outreach in the drug scene, research

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ► Youth in high schools, ► Vulnerable groups (drug users, sex workers, Roma individuals), ► Health care professionals, ► Social workers, ► Teachers, ► parents.

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**ORGANIZATION:** THE ALBANIAN ROMA UNION “AMARO-DROM”.

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** Protection of the Identity and Rights of Roma community in Albania. Promotion of the training and education level of Roma community. Improvement of social and economic conditions. Integration of the community especially new generation in the Albanian society.

**ACTIVITIES:** **1.** Albanian Roma UNION and Terre des hommes. On going Project (June 2006-June 2009). Protection of Roma Children in Albania from trafficking phenomenon. **2.** Albanian Roma UNION “Amaro-Drom” and UNICEF. On going project “Enhancing early child development opportunities for Roma communities of Albania” **3.** Albanian Roma UNION “Amaro-Drom” and HEIFER Albania. (Cow National Project)

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ► Roma Minority; children, youth, women etc. ► Improvement of social and economic conditions. Improvement of the educational level of Roma community.

**ORGANIZATION:** CENTRE OF INTEGRATED LEGAL SERVICES AND PRACTICES

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** Minors In Conflict with the Law, Trafficked Minors/ in Risk of Being Trafficked, Unregistered Minors, Custody cases.

**ACTIVITIES:** 1. Pro-bono Legal Assistance to the Minors in Civil and Penal Cases 2. Pro-bono Psychological Assistance to the Minors in Conflict with the Law and Trafficked/In risk 3. Drafting of Handbooks to Guide the Attorneys-at-Law, Judges, Prosecutors, Police Officers and Psychologists during the implementation of the legislation related to the Minor 4. Organization of Trainings for Police Officers (approximately 210), Judges (approximately 40), Prosecutors(approximately 40), Psychologists and Social Workers (approximately 15), Attorneys-at- Law (approximately 15), Students of the Magistrates School (approximately 30), on the drafted handbooks 5. Pro-bono Psychological Assistance to the Parents of the Minors in Conflict with the Law

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ► Approximately 200 minors per year, ► Approximately 70 minors' parents per year

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**ORGANIZATION:** WORLD VISION World Vision International is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization founded in 1950. The organization is dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. World Vision works in 100 countries around the world, serving all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

World Vision Albania started working in Albania in 1999, in response to the Kosovar crisis World Vision worked in Tirana, Saranda, Elbasan and Vlora. Today, World Vision Albania assists children, families and their communities through development programs in Lezhë, Vlorë, Elbasan (two programs), Kurbin, Librazhd, Tirana, Shkodra, Korçë and Dibër, as well as Building the Future(which is a microfinance institution)

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** World Vision Albania as part of World Vision International is committed to protection of all children without discrimination as stated in the World Vision International Child Protection policy and UN CRC World Vision Albania acknowledges the ultimate duty to care for children and be responsible for keeping children safe in both development and relief situations. World Vision Albania partners with communities to improve the quality of life for families affected by poverty and injustice, with a special focus on women and children. Children are at the heart of the World Vision Albania program and we are committed to challenge unjust structures and advocate for the cause of the children.

To realize its purpose, World Vision Albania has given priority to seven main sectors: Protection of Children, Civil Society, Education, Health, Christian Devotion, Economic Development and Responding to Emergencies.

World Vision Albania national strategy defines Child Protection as one of the key strategic focus for the future programming in the areas where World Vision Albania works.

The main goal of the Child Protection Program is to influence and foster an environment where all children are protected from violence, abuse and discrimination and their rights are respected. Child Protection projects/ programmes aim to develop processes that equip children, families and the community with knowledge and skills to identify the risks and be protected from abuse, exploitation, violence and discrimination in a manner that is in the best interest of the child.

**ACTIVITIES:** Key directions of the approach in child Protection are: **1. Creating Safer Environment for Children through Child Protection Units** – a pilot project in collaboration with Local Government and communities which aims to promote the establishment of Child Protection Units and capacity building of community groups to protect and develop all potentials of children, promote positive parenting, develop good models and tools in collaboration with communities to protect children. **2. Strengthening Local Capacity through increased knowledge and practical skills to better protect children** A project for World Vision Albania staff and local stakeholders with whom World Vision Albania works with (teachers; parents; health workers; local government representatives; children; local organizations and faith based organizations working in the grassroots level) **3. Children in decision making** – Promoting participation of children in decision making in the local level (across all programs). World Vision Albania has established good models and practices in participation of all children in each step of the program and ensure that the children’s voice is heard **4. Empowering communities to prevent and combat trafficking of children and women** (Vlora and Elbasan area) **5. Protection of Children who live in Crisis situations** - focuses on street working children (Bregu i Lumit area target group: Roma and Albanian experiencing life crisis in the streets of Tirana **6. Promotion of schools “free from Violence” for all children** - focuses in promoting good models of schools which help and enable the development of potentials of children, establishment of standards for the school community for protection of children in the school environment and promotion of child rights education within the school.

**OUTCOMES:** In Albania only during 2007, World Vision has served to approximately 70,000 people, in the communities of 91 villages in the whole country.

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**ORGANIZATION:** CIES (CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION AND EDUCATION) was legally constituted in 1983 as a non-profit association, by a group of educators and development co-operation operators, engaged at national and international level in anti racism and solidarity initiatives.

#### **Italy:**

Immigration, inter-cultural activities, education on globalisation: CIES is working in these fields thanks to its work in schools, its collaboration with local institutions and authorities, the organisation of cultural events and training courses for foreigners, who live and work in Italy; CIES’s documentation centre contains more than 8,000 publications, from all over the world.

#### **World Countries:**

CIES fully cooperates with local NGOs and institutions located in Latin America, Africa and

Eastern Europe and develops educational, communication projects, as well as vocational training and (women's) micro-entrepreneurial activity projects, social assistance and healthcare.

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** Local development in Elbasan (Grant Contract ONG-PVD/2006/118-898) – 2007 – 2009 (ongoing) The action is implemented in the Municipality of Elbasan.

The action aims at improving life conditions of disadvantaged women and youth, supporting their integration in the labour market and in the social life as part of an active citizenship, and to increase the empowerment and networking between local institutions, civil society and private enterprises.

Italy, Albania and Greece against trafficking of women and minors (Grant Contract MIGR/2007/130-158(22) 2008-2010 (ongoing) Cies, together with Italian and Albanian Ministries of Interior, and two specialized local partners (Tjeter Vizion and FBSH) is implementing (1/2008 – 6/2010) a new regional intervention, including actions in three countries involved in the trafficking phenomenon: Albania, Greece and Italy.

**ACTIVITIES:** 1. Services delivery for labor market integration 2. Social support for women and young people 3. Networking 4. Regional dialogue and exchange of experiences on trafficking 5. Training of social operators 6. Information and public awareness

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ▶ 300 women and youth with the job orientation service, ▶ 400 women and youth with vocational training and training on the job, ▶ 10 women and youth awarded subsidies for housing, ▶ 400 women benefiting from counselling, information and recreational activities, ▶ 200 women informed about trafficking, familiar planning, ▶ 500 young people involved in the Youth Centre activities, ▶ 10 agreements with whom training on the job are implemented, ▶ 4 initiatives organised on gender issues, 100 micro-entrepreneurs, informed on law, tax issues and sensitized on gender, ▶ 1 web site updated regularly, ▶ 4 International meetings organized, ▶ 3 Regional meetings organized, ▶ 60 operators involved in international seminars, ▶ 60 operators involved in regional meetings, ▶ 60 local operators working with the target groups trained, ▶ 10 local operators trained as actors/animators, ▶ 800 children and women at risk, involved in discussion groups/didactic workshops, ▶ 10 Tirana schools involved, ▶ 1600 school pupils involved, ▶ 500 students of Social Work University of Elbasan involved, ▶ About 10.000 people visiting the exhibition.

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**ORGANIZATION:** FEMIJET E BOTES DHE TE SHQIPERISE –TE DREJTAT E NJERIUT  
FBSH-DN (CHILDREN OF THE WORLD AND OF ALBANIA – HUMAN RIGHTS)

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** FBSH-DN's mission is to fight against all forms of violations of Children's Rights and specifically support the problematic children and their families, in educational, cultural and economical integration. Areas of intervention are: 1. Prevention of Child trafficking School drop out Street children phenomenon 2. Reintegration in mainstream and social life

**ACTIVITIES:** 1. Preparatory class provides basic education for children who have dropped out or have never been to school with the aim to integrate them into the mainstream education system. 2. Literacy class conduct with illiterate youth to provide them with basic literacy skills and general knowledge to facilitate their integration in vocational training. 3. Learning support class provide extra our of school support to help children in regular school system prepare homework. 4. Recreational clubs at public schools will aim at enabling pupils from the socially excluded families to participate in different social activities and thus stimulate their talents and promote their cultural values, 5. Reception and counseling consists of receiving and greeting people who need, listening to their problems, assessing their needs, giving information, registering the cases, and following up the case through referral. 6. visits in the families and follow up 7. child registration. 8. finding possibilities for vocational training. 9. training and informative meetings for women. 10. training with teachers from public schools 11. anti trafficking or child protection campaign in public schools and community.

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** Children and families in need in Kinostudio area ► children at risk, including trafficked children, street children, children who are unregistered, out of school, socially excluded, abused, and/or abandoned, victims of exploitation both boys and girls, aged 0-16. ► children from public schools B. Curri, Gj. Buzuku ► women from community, young mothers belonging to early marriages teachers from public schools.

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**ORGANIZATION:** “HELP FOR CHILDREN” FOUNDATION

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** “Help for Children” Foundation works for ongoing improvement of the quality of life of children through educational programs, vocational education, protection and social inclusion.

**ACTIVITIES:** 1. Education and vocational formation of Roma and Egyptian children in the public schools 2. Gender awareness raising in schools and families 3. Keep children away from street life 4. Prevention of child trafficking/support for school integration

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ► Children aged 6 – 18 of different ethnic backgrounds and their families. *Locations:* Korca, Elbasan, Berati and Tirana

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**ORGANIZATION:** NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** 1. Gender 2. Health

**ACTIVITIES:** 1. Training of Trainers 2. Studies & publication 3. Wearnes campaign

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ► 99 interviews performed ► 45 PLWHA identified, ► 22 health care providers ► 15 decision makers ► 15 social workers, Report is in process: ► 75 social workers and community representative identified and selected (15 participants from each

city) ▶75 community representative identified and selected (15 participants from Comments and feedback regarding the education and awareness program within elementary each city) school  
▶The delay regarding medicines for PLWHIV

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## **ORGANIZATION: PARTNERË PËR FËMIJËT - PARTNERS FOR CHILDREN**

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** 1. Awareness on Child Rights 2. Early Years 3. Education 4. Child Protection

**ACTIVITIES:** *Awareness on Child Rights:* 1. Advocacy 2. Designing and publishing awareness materials 3. Birth registration activities Capacity building for child focused NGOs. *Early Years:* 1. Enhancement of alternative early childhood care and education in 3 Districts of north east Albania by setting up and/or supporting 34 Garden of Mothers and Children Centers. 2. Community mobilization 3. Training of mothers and young women 4. Health information and check ups for women and children *Education:* 1. Work with district and regional directorates of education. 2. Blood feud project to bring peer activities and at home education to children affected by blood feud and unable to attend school. 3. Promotion and support of education for children particularly Balkan Egyptians in the Districts of Tropoje, Kukes and Diber to enroll and remain in school. 4. Literacy, numeracy and photographic classes for children to promote an interest in education and cultural integration. *Awareness on Child Rights:* 1. Raising awareness in rural communities and communes about the risks to children of unaccompanied migration 2. Development of Community Core Groups to address issues of children at risk.

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ▶Approximately 1039 children have been registered in Diber, Has, Kukes and Tropoje Districts through project activities and awareness raising. ▶Approximately 12 NGOs (approximately 40 staff) will be trained to apply child rights in their practice. ▶Approximately 900 children aged 3 to 6 years old. ▶Parents, grandparents and young girls also benefit from informal training and information on early childhood development and preschool education. ▶Bi-monthly provision of health services to approximately 300 children 0 to 3 and 900 aged 3 to 6 years old and mothers in 34 Gardens of Mothers and Children Centers and other isolated children and mothers. ▶Approximately 371 children aged 5-6 years old prepared for entry into elementary school. Integration of ethnic minority children into schools in north east districts of Albania. ▶Reduction in the number of school drop outs and approximately 200 children returned to school after intervention to support children and families in Diber District. ▶Approximately 120 isolated children, (affected by blood feuds) socialized and assisted with their education. ▶Awareness of the negative effects on children of blood feuds through a TV spot that was seen by approximately ▶Approximately 793 ethnic minority children enrolled in elementary schools. ▶Approximately 80 children in Diber and Kukes districts engaged in photography courses. ▶Approximately 163 children participated in literacy and numeracy classes. ▶Communities, parents, teachers, health professionals of Diber, Has, Kukes and Tropoje trained on risks of child trafficking. ▶Close to 20 local government personnel trained on database entry for children at risk.



**ORGANIZATION:** RROMANI BAXT ALBANIA RBA

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** Education, formation, integration, preservation and contemporary development of the ethno-cultural traditions of the Roma minority. The prevention of the involvement of the Roma children in the networks of trafficking, forced begging, and informal labor market. The support of integrated learning process through additional classes for Roma students attending the 9th year education or middle school for the most difficult subjects. Teaching speaking and writing the Standard Romani Language. The encouragement and awareness campaigns on the areas mentioned above in order to inform and protect children's rights through publications and other audio-visual means of distribution.

**ACTIVITIES:** **1.** The humanitarian pre-school kindergarden, licensed by MESC for the Roma children of Allias and Kinostudio in Tirana, the capacity of 30-40 children per day. **2.** Summer camps for Roma pupils of the age 6-15. Psychosocial services for Roma children to inform and protect them from trafficking networks, to prevent their involvement in forced begging, other informal labor market jobs, which might turn them into victims of trafficking during the summer months. **3.** The preservation of the musical tradition of the Roma folklore through the organization of festivals and other ethno-cultural activities in the community and other performance stages, in which children perform. **4.** Romani language courses, in which the Roma teacher Luljeta Sherifi teaches children using audio-visual and interactive methods of teaching. **5.** The publication of the informative, educative, cultural, integrating bilingual journal "The Cohabitation House". **6.** The production of audio-visual products with sensibilization messages as a means of fighting and preventing negative phenomena that might affect the Roma children and young people such as drugs, prostitution and trafficking.

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** The preparation of the Roma children to go from pre-schooling to elementary schools. Prevented child trafficking, forced begging, and gives the opportunity to the parents of the children who go the kindergarden to find a job and maintain their families. The additional classes in difficult subjects help Roma pupils to attend school regularly, minimize school drop-outs and lead them towards graduation. Creates the core of the new generation of educated Roma, prepared to integrate in the contemporary democratic society, in the labor market, in the active participation of the Roma elite in the policy-making and executive institutions in order to defend the rights and liberties of the Roma minority. The Journal and the other audio-visual documents serve as a voice and information sources for the Roma community. Beneficiaries include: ► Children aged 4-6 ► Roma parents ► Roma pupils that attend public schools from 1st to 9th grade ► Public schools ► The Roma community

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**ORGANIZATION:** SAVE THE CHILDREN, ALBANIA PROGRAMME

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** Prevention and Protection, Advocacy

**ACTIVITIES:** **1.** Youth centres in Kuçove and Cërrik **2.** Support to FBSH 'Children of the world and of Albania' **3.** Child Protection Units (one followed in Kuçove; capacity building of all 9 already created by TdH, SCiA and WV) **4.** Advocacy work through BKTF (financial support to BKTF secretariat)

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ▶ Children and youth 10 – 18 years old. An estimation of 800 youngsters every year, 5 facilitators and local level representatives. ▶ An estimation of 250 (boys and girls) per year 6 – 18 years old. ▶ An estimation of 300 families from roma and Egyptian community in Kinostudio every year. ▶ An estimation of 50 boys and girls every year. 300 other children from other 6 CPU\* in the country. ▶ Not estimated

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**ORGANIZATION:** SHOQATA KOMBETARE EDUKIM PER JETEN – SHKEJ (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION EDUCATION FOR LIFE)

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** The main activities that SHKEJ has been carrying out are: **1.** Support, integration, rehabilitation of minors in difficulties. **2.** Creation of social services net in favor of this target. **3.** Recovery, promotion of scholastic education and vocational training for minors. **4.** Creation of community centers and appropriate environment for children in difficulties.

**ACTIVITIES:** **1.** Program of integrated social interventions for Albanian Children in Tirana” - Daily Centre Eden. **2.** Opening of integrated classes for the children and adolescents who have dropped out the school and are at risk to drop out the school. **3.** Social integrated services to promote the children and youth at risk in Kasalla area” – Social Centre Kasalla. **4.** Support for Social Integration of Roma Community in Train Station Area- Tirana

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ▶ 50 children attending the Daily Centre and 80 supported by Street team. ▶ 60 children attending the integrated classes. ▶ 30 Children attending the kindergarten activities 150 Children attending the education- cultural and sport activities. ▶ 41 children supported by Daily center and Street team.

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**ORGANIZATION:** TERRE DES HOMES is a Swiss Organization based in Lausanne whose vocation is the promotion of child’s rights worldwide.

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** Since 2003, Terre des hommes, Mission in Albania, is implementing a project called TACT (Transnational Actions against Child Trafficking) with primary geographic orientation in Albania and Greece. From street work to the ministry levels, TACT addresses the phenomenon of child trafficking, abuse and exploitation at all its stages: **1.** Prevention **2.** Protection **3.** Assisted Voluntary return **4.** Reintegration of victims **5.** Coordination and Advocacy. In this phase, TACT aims to reinforce a comprehensive and inclusive child protection system where all public and non-public responsible stakeholders are efficiently engaged to provide sustainable solutions in fighting against child trafficking.

**ACTIVITIES:** **1.** Capacity building of local public and non-public structures: a) to establish an efficient and institutionalized child protection mechanism for detection and protection of victims

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<sup>3</sup> While we are directly supporting the work of CPU in Kuçova, we also are training specialists from other 6 CPU supported by TdH

of trafficking and exploitation at municipal level; b) to strengthen and sustain the role of the school in prevention, identification and referral of children 'at risk' of trafficking to the local network; c) to strengthen the role of civil society and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in preventing the phenomenon of child trafficking, abuse and exploitation. **2.** Street and community work to identify children 'at risk' of trafficking and suspected victims of trafficking. **3.** Protection of children, suspected victims of trafficking, through provision of various protection services in collaboration with local stakeholders. **4.** Psycho-social support of the children 'at risk' of trafficking and suspected victims of trafficking through regular family visits. **5.** Legal assistance for birth registration through court procedure and legal advice for various child protection issues, **6.** Reintegration of children through their referral in various reintegration services such as school, kindergarten, vocational training. **7.** Assisted Voluntary Return to promote the implementation of standards for the best interest of the child. **8.** Direct assistance (food, medicine, pedagogical materials, etc) to the families of children 'at risk' of trafficking and suspected victims of trafficking. **9.** Empowerment of the families through supporting their involvement in income generating activities. **10.** Advocacy to promote the institutionalization of child protection system and monitor the implementation of child protection policy (through BKTF coalition).

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** TACT intervention has targeted: ▶ Albanian and Greek States. Child Protection Units. ▶ Anti-trafficking police unit. ▶ School Psychologist. ▶ NGOs (through BKTF coalition), ▶ CBOs, especially from Roma and Egyptian communities. ▶ Children 'at risk' of trafficking and suspected victims of trafficking along with their families.

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**ORGANIZATION:** THE TIRANA LEGAL AID SERVICE (TLAS) commenced its activities in January 1999. The mission of TLAS is offering legal aid services to needy individuals and groups. TLAS also works to raise awareness on legal and human rights in the community, and is involved in efforts to improve the legal system.

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** TLAS offers full legal services for civil, administrative, family and work related matters as well as in connection with human rights violations.

**ACTIVITIES:** **1.** Legal Services. **2.** Paralegal service: Paralegal service consists in finding solutions to a client's case by administrative means. **3.** Legal service: The legal assistance service consists in reaching a resolution of a case by legal means through the judicial system. **4.** Hotline/lawline is a telephone number for legal assistance on line. **5.** Mobile legal services are offered by TLAS to individuals who live in remote neighborhoods and are not able or do not have the means to travel and have access to the legal aid clinic. **6.** Street Law activities are carried out by students who do their training under the supervision of TLAS staff. **7.** Legal assistance for strengthening of associations of TLAS target groups through incorporation of local associations and trainings. **8.** Monitoring activities in the legal systems. **9.** Advocacy and Lobbying activities for initiatives to improve and reform legislation. **10.** Students Internship Program for Law Faculty & Social Work Faculty students.

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** TLAS target recipients of legal aid are: ▶ Unemployed persons and persons receiving economic assistance from the state. ▶ Orphans and old people

without income or with insufficient income ▶ The incapacitated by injury or illness, the disabled and persons who cannot work ▶ Retirees with low pension income and without additional income ▶ Large families with insufficient income.\*

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**ORGANIZATION:** VIS – ALBANIA VOLONTARIATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO – INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARISM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

**AREA OF INTERVENTION:** Outskirts of Tirana: Breglumasi area, Lapraka, Kasalla village

**ACTIVITIES:** 1. A daily center for children at risk (Roma children) providing scholastic support and social reintegration for children at risk living in Breglumasi area 2. Kindergarten for pre-scholastic activities 3. Youth Aggregation Center 4. Social operators and educators continuous training

**INDICATORS/BENEFICIARIES:** ▶ 25 children at risk aged 6-14 years (most of them belonging to Roma community) or living in difficult economic conditions. ▶ 100 children attending the kindergarten activities. ▶ 150 children and youth attending the afternoon activities (sports, cultural and recreational ones) in the Youth Aggregation Centre

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\*The criteria refer to the minimum survival level as calculated by the Statistics Institute of Albania (INSTAT) as well as minimum wages set by the Ministry of Finance.

# Appendix 2

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## Definitions related to Child Trafficking

**Exploitation** forms related to child trafficking include:

- commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution and pornography)
- illegal adoption
- servants in private households, a kind of modern “slavery”
- begging for a “controller” who collects the money
- illegal and criminal activities, including theft and other petty crimes
- organ removal
- other forms of child labor.

**Coercion**, on the other hand, happens in several ways, among which the most distinct are:

- sexual violence and abuse
- beating and slapping
- threats to physical abuse
- threats to inform one’s family about their activity  
(in the case of those exploited for commercial sex)
- threats against their relatives
- leaving them without food to suffer famine
- forced use of alcohol and drugs
- the injection of sedatives
- verbal abuse
- seclusion in a closed space
- the keeping of the person’s passport followed by the threat to denounce them (UNICEF, 2007: 29-30).

**Prostitution** is also a phenomenon which is related to trafficking, and in the case of young women also mistakenly considered as the criminal activity as opposed to the more serious one of trafficking. As a result, it is important to clarify here the difference between prostitution and trafficking. Prostitution means that the person involved in the exchange of sexual favors can detach him or herself at will, as they work for themselves. In a trafficking situation, the trafficker controls the activity of the person, and when that person is a child we have a case of sexual abuse against a minor, whether he/she consents to the sexual act or not.

The term **victim**, on the other hand, is defined in the Declaration of the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crimes and Power Abuse\* and it means:

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\* Adopted by General Assembly resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985.

*Persons that individually or collectively have suffered damage, including mental or physical damage, emotional suffering, economic loss or grave violation of their basic rights, through actions or lack of actions that are against the laws of the Member Countries, including those laws that prevent criminal abuse of power.*

This definition includes trafficked people, as they usually suffer all the abovementioned consequences.

# Appendix 3

## Investigation and Prosecution of Traffickers

Improve the procedures for the detection and interdiction of child trafficking, and the prosecution and punishment of offenders.

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
<p>Establish cooperation at national and local levels between social services, law enforcement, prosecution structures and specialized NGOs to exchange information about suspected cases of trafficking and/or illegal migration, and about children at risk.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>BKTF members have been collaborating with police and prosecution, and report cases of trafficking. Yet, there are concerns about several cases when police and prosecution officers are presumably involved in trafficking. Attempts to follow the cases have been unsuccessful and BKTF members do not know what has happened.</p>
<p>Select and train cadres of specialized police officers, prosecutors and judges to deal with child trafficking investigations and prosecutions.</p>	<p>Up to September 2005 and ongoing</p>	<p>Not realized completely. The small number of those prosecuted and sentenced for child trafficking related crimes shows that such cadres are not operating in concert to achieve better results.</p>
<p>Establish and operate juvenile sectors at the District Courts, and establish special sectors for juvenile investigations at the Investigation Directorate and Prosecution Control Directorate of the Prosecution Offices.</p>	<p>September 2005</p>	<p>Not realized.</p>
<p>Implement a dedicated approach to witness protection for child trafficking victims, through amended criminal justice legislation, specifically designed to recognize the rights and vulnerability of a child witness during police and judicial investigations, establish corresponding police and prosecution questioning and court procedures, and take steps to protect child victim/witnesses from direct contact with suspected offenders before or during trial hearings, as well as from subsequent retaliation.</p>	<p>December 2005 and ongoing</p>	<p>Although legislation is in place, it has not been observed and children's rights are not respected in this regard.</p>

Ensure that law enforcement and prosecution services have full information on child victims, taking into account their levels of maturity, about their rights in accordance with the domestic legislation and international instruments, prior to their deciding whether to testify against persons suspected of involvement in their trafficking or exploitation.	Ongoing, case by case	Not realized.
Ensure that the provision of assistance to child victims of trafficking is not made conditional on the child's willingness to testify against his/her traffickers.	Case by case	Despite legislation, the child's collaboration to convict their traffickers has been used as a condition to receive assistance.
Ensure the right of children to return to their families, shelter accommodation or foster homes, after questioning by judicial police authorities.	Ongoing	Data not available.
Ensure the confidentiality of information about a child victim so as not to endanger the child or the child's family members.	Ongoing	Not realized. There have been cases of leaked information, where children have been endangered.
Establish a National Register of Crimes against Children to register all persons who have been convicted of offences against children, including child trafficking, in order to avoid their future employment in public or private education or childcare institutions.	Up to December 2005	Not realized



# Appendix 4

## Prevention

Assess the adequacy of current border control measures as regards children, whether or not accompanied by family members, and improve, through training and other measures, the capacity of border control personnel to detect and interdict potentially trafficked children and their traffickers, and offer appropriate initial protection to the child.

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Train border control personnel in procedures for the detection and prevention of child trafficking, and in the implementation of relevant international conventions and agreements signed and ratified by the Republic of Albania for dealing with child victims.	Up to December 2005	There have been several training conducted by various organization in Albania. However, because of the reform in the police and the reshuffling of the officers, sustainability has not been realized.
Establish a dedicated database at border crossing points and centrally on children entering or leaving the country, whether or not accompanied by family members.	Up to December 2005	TIMS is the system established at the border crossing points that collects data on all Albanian citizens entering or leaving the country. TIMS is not installed in all border points, and there is no child specific category.

Initiate formal and ad hoc cooperation between neighboring country law enforcement agencies, and between national child protection structures, IOs and NGOs in these countries.

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Review relevant bilateral law enforcement agreements between Albania and countries in the region, with particular reference to cooperation on child trafficking prevention.	Up to December 2005	Not realized, apart from the Agreement with Greece, which has not been ratified by Greece yet.

Negotiate new cooperation agreements where they do not exist with neighboring countries, focusing on cooperation to detect trafficked and exploited children, the systematic collection and sharing of data on child trafficking, suspected authors and the methods and routes used, and the coordination of responses, including regulated and agreed border repatriation and processing procedures.	Up to June 2006	Not realized. Negotiations with countries of the region are either not completed or at the initial phase.
Intensify ad hoc cross-border cooperation with neighboring border police to regularly exchange information on child trafficking and prevention.	Up to September 2005	Not completed.
Organize seminars, workshops and visits to exchange experiences with law enforcement officials of other countries involved in the fight against child trafficking.	Up to December 2005	Realized beyond the timeline. However, exchange and training need to be ongoing in order to guarantee sustainability.
Establish analogous contacts between national child protection structures in the non-law enforcement area and corresponding government structures, international organizations and NGOs in countries of destination, especially those where there are considerable numbers of trafficked children.	Up to December 2005	Not realized

Design targeted public awareness measures in cooperation with media, government and non-government structures.

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Conduct public awareness campaigns warning of the dangers and penalties associated with child trafficking, using television and radio spots and programs, posters, leaflets, etc: provide information about child trafficking and its consequences in school curricula: promote cultural and educational activities focusing on child trafficking: organization of dedicated prevention campaigns targeting children in high risk communities and vulnerable groups	Up to September 2005	Partially realized. However, awareness campaigns need to be ongoing. A larger emphasis on child trafficking and exploitation.

Provide information and training on child trafficking issues to target groups of officials, such as border and anti-trafficking police, Customs officers, education and social services personnel, and prosecutors.	Up to December 2005	There have been several training conducted by various organizations in Albania. However, because of the reform in the police and the reshuffling of the officers, sustainability has not been realized.
Continue to implement the joint program of the Ministry of Education and Science and IOM for the training of teachers on child trafficking and its consequences.	Ongoing	It is ongoing and other actors from civil society have been involved in the process.

Design targeted public awareness measures in cooperation with media, government and non-government structures.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Level of progress</b>
Conduct public awareness campaigns warning of the dangers and penalties associated with child trafficking, using television and radio spots and programs, posters, leaflets, etc: provide information about child trafficking and its consequences in school curricula: promote cultural and educational activities focusing on child trafficking: organization of dedicated prevention campaigns targeting children in high risk communities and vulnerable groups	Up to September 2005	Partially realized. However, awareness campaigns need to be ongoing.  A larger emphasis on child trafficking and exploitation.
Establish a dedicated database at border crossing points and centrally on children entering or leaving the country, whether or not accompanied by family members.	Up to September 2005	There have been several training conducted by various organizations in Albania. However, because of the reform in the police and the reshuffling of the officers, sustainability has not been realized.
Continue to implement the joint program of the Ministry of Education and Science and IOM for the training of teachers on child trafficking and its consequences.	Ongoing	It is ongoing and other actors from civil society have been involved in the process.

Instruct and train at local level, police, education, welfare personnel, prosecutors and specialized NGOs in child trafficking prevention:

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Organize seminars for the above groups at local level on detecting missing and potentially trafficked children, minors at risk, and at-risk families, and methods for reporting on and dealing with such cases	Up to December 3005	Not realized, apart from the training provided by various non-profit organizations to CPUs or school psychologists.
Establish working groups, at local level, with the participation of police, education, social welfare personnel, prosecutors, civil registry officers, and NGOs, for the preparation of targeted public awareness programs and prevention measures for at-risk children.	Up to December 2005	Not realized

Take concerted official action to investigate and prevent child abandonment of education, and set up procedures for the academic reintegration and/or vocational training of children in care, and children who have a record of not attending school and are at greater risk of being trafficked.

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Increase public awareness about compulsory education and the penalties for parents who do not send their children to school.	Ongoing	Not realized.
Instruct government authorities on the need to identify children who do not attend compulsory education, and establish, at the Prefecture level, the necessary administrative structures and enforcement measures for the implementation of the law.	Up to September 2005	Not realized
Establish a unit in the General Prosecutor's Office, in cooperation with MES, MoLSA(EO) and MoPO, for the investigation and prosecution of child truancy cases.	Up to September 2005	Not realized
Organize special educational activities for children of divorced or one parent families who face socio-economic problems in their homes.	Up to December 2005	Not realized.

Organize integrated classes, with specially designed education curricula, for children who have abandoned or do not attend school, especially focusing in children from the Roma community and “street children”.	Up to September 2005	Not realized at the national level. Integrated classes are offered only in specific schools thanks to the intervention of organizations such as FBSH, TdH etc.
Take steps to encourage participation in middle school education by girls and female adolescents, especially in rural areas.	2005 and ongoing	Not realized.
Provide professional/vocational training for adolescents who live in poor economic conditions, and especially victims of trafficking, and orphans and girls who have not attended school education, to make them future competitors in the labor market, using the model of vocational training centers already established in Tirana, Fier and Elbasan.	Up to December 2005	Partially realized with the intervention and mediation of non-profit organizations, who have managed the cases of children of these categories.  Vocational training should be an ongoing activity.
Establish, in cooperation with specialized NGOs and national and IO partners and donors, an employment information system to provide information on preparing business projects, and on the financial and technical resources available for promoting the employment of adolescents.	Up to September 2005	Not realized.
Seek international NGO and IO financing for home-based employment projects, on the model of initiatives and projects already undertaken by International Social Service (ISS), supported in Albania by the Italian Social Service.	Up to December 2005	Not realized.
Improve the economic level of children from marginalized groups, especially the Roma community, by including them in employment incentive programs, and by providing material, financial and human resources, as well as premises for their employment in traditional handicraft production.	2005 and ongoing	Not realized. NGOs have intervened in various communities through individual projects and not in concert.

Promote and support the establishment of day centers and community services for the integration of Roma children in education and in trafficking prevention programs.	2005 and ongoing	Not realized. Day centers and community services are provided by organizations such as Save the Children, "Tjetër Vizion", SHKEJ, FBSH, ARSIS and Terre des hommes.
Instruct the State Inspectorate of Labor to exercise control over the illegal/"black" labor of children, especially Roma children, and take appropriate measures to prevent it.	2005 and ongoing	Not realized.
Improve conditions in public and non-public child care institutions, including conditions for the personal well-being, education, and social integration of child victims of trafficking, and reflect the new requirements in the regulations of these institutions.	Up to September 2005	Conditions have not been improved considerably.
Develop methodological guidelines and organize trainings for public social service workers on the protection of children in care, and on the social, educational and professional integration needs of children in child care institutions.	Up to June 2005	Not realized. Training of the public social service should be ongoing.

# Appendix 5

## Protection of Victims

Provide appropriate shelter accommodation for the initial referral of child victims of trafficking and those detected in the process of being trafficked, to prepare them for an orderly return to their families or to alternative protected environments, if return to families is not appropriate or possible.

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Draft regulations on the requirements and procedures for receiving and processing child victims of trafficking at border crossing points and elsewhere, in the case of arrests or repatriation.	Up to June 2005	The NRM is in place, but it needs to be amended.
Establish dedicated areas with the necessary infrastructure at border crossing points for the reception and accommodation of child trafficking victims, prior to referral to families, social services or shelters.	Up to September 2005	Not available in every border crossing points.
Establish standards for the initial handling of child victims of trafficking, to be implemented by public and private social care institutions, other child protection structures, and criminal justice and law enforcement authorities, based on the best interest of the child.	Up to June 2005	Not completed.
Improve the capacity of the National Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking to receive and accommodate child victims of trafficking.	Up to June 2005	Not completed.
Establish dedicated multidisciplinary teams and special environments appropriate to the age and gender of child victims within the National Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking.	Up to September 2005	In process.

Improve the professional level of social welfare staff responsible for the initial reception of child trafficking victims, through profession development and training on the assistance and treatment of traumatized children, as well as on guardianship, adoption, fostering procedures.	Up to June 2005	Not realized.
Draft regulations for the unification and implementation of procedures for initial reception, interviewing, and confidentiality of information related to child trafficking victims, in accordance with the proposed witness protection program and the multi-functional role of the National Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking.	Up to June 2005	There is the NRM and also the Order no. 871, 27. 12. 2007 of the General Directorate of the Police, regarding the interviewing of Albanian and Foreign citizens returned at the border.
Negotiate and sign appropriate agreements between government child protection structures, including the National Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking, and IOs and domestic NGOs, (including "Vatra", "Terre des hommes", IOM, UNICEF, ILO and other members of BKTF ("Together against Child Trafficking" Coalition), for the unified implementation of reception, protection and integration procedures for child victims of trafficking.	Up to June 2005	Partially realized.
Devise dedicated integration and reintegration programs for children who stay on a long-term basis in shelters.	Up to June 2005	Realized by Tjeter Vizion, and other organizations that have shelters.
Promote and support temporary and permanent foster care services for repatriated child victims of trafficking, children at risk of trafficking or re-trafficking, and those whose parental custody has been removed on a temporary or permanent basis.	June 2005 and ongoing	Not realized.
Promote, support and standardize foster care services, based on models proposed by IOs and NGOs for these services.	Up to September 2005	Not realized.
Conclude cooperation agreements and contracts with specialized NGOs offering foster care services.	Up to September 2005	Partially realized.



Take all necessary measures to protect the privacy of children, including any information that could lead to the identification of the child or other family members.	Ongoing	Not realized.
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Development of protection and reintegration models for actual or intended victims of child trafficking who are orphaned or cannot for other reasons return to their families.

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Review the regulations for institutions for children under guardianship, and establish the necessary responsibilities for the implementation of foster care services and adoption procedures.	Up to September 2005	Measures taken date late 2007 and early 2008, and not completed.
Devise special protection and re-integration procedures for trafficked or at risk orphan children, in accordance with their rights and specific needs.	Up to June 2005	Not realized.

Provide training for child care officials in central and local government, as well as for workers in public and private institutions involved in the protection and reintegration of trafficked or at risk children, in relevant domestic and international legislation and instruments, UNICEF Guidelines, and other recognized codes of conduct on child care, adoption, fostering and rehabilitation.

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Design and implement vocational training courses for the medium to long-term formation of a cadre of care workers capable of sustaining the specialized child care functions envisaged in the actions outlined above, and for central and local structures dealing with such issues.	September 2005 and ongoing.	Realized partially in those local structures, where there is a CPU.

Provide new services for the protection and reintegration of current and intended victims of trafficking by public and private social care institutions, with the assistance of NGOs, IOs and donors.

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
Establish at central and prefecture levels Mobile Help Teams of law enforcement, NGOs, social welfare and health personnel to assist in initial referral and shelter of child trafficking victims.	Up to September 2005	
Establish child protection structures in communes and municipalities consisting of education, health and social services, law enforcement, prosecution and local government officials, as well as relevant non government actors, responsible for coordinating and implementing child protection and trafficking prevention activities and policies.	Up to December 2005	The Regional Anti-trafficking Committees have been created along with their Working Tables. However, these structures have not been functional.
Provide training for the above mentioned structures at central and prefecture levels.	Up to June 2006	Partially done.
Take steps to monitor adoption, foster care and reintegration cases.	Ongoing, case by case	Not realized.
Provide financial and other forms of assistance to foster and real families, particularly in cases where the latter were not involved in trafficking and their children denounce their traffickers.	Ongoing case by case	Not realized.

# Appendix 6

## Assisted Voluntary Return of Child Victims

Regulate and fund Assisted Voluntary Return procedures for Child Trafficking Victims

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
<p>Negotiate new or amended bilateral agreements with neighboring and other European destination or transit countries, particularly Greece and Italy, for the mutual notification, secure accommodation, and orderly and coordinated voluntary return of child trafficking victims, through processes respecting the rights and interests of the child, and their prospects for social reintegration.</p>	<p>September 2005 and ongoing</p>	<p>The agreement with Greece has been signed, but not ratified by the Greek party.</p>
<p>Draft procedures for the assisted voluntary return of child victims of trafficking, based on the principle of the best interest of the child, the right of a child to decide whether or not to return to his/her family or country of origin; and in accordance with established international standards for repatriation procedures.</p>	<p>Up to September 2005</p>	<p>Assisted Voluntary Return has been conducted by IOM only.</p>
<p>Establish a structure at central government level with responsibility for overseeing the problems of protection and assisted voluntary return of child trafficking victims or at risk of being trafficked, and the coordination of procedures with domestic partners and corresponding government structures, NGOs and IOs in the main countries of destination, particularly Italy and Greece.</p>	<p>Up to June 2005</p>	<p>Readmission Agreement structures are the only ones operating.</p>
<p>Continue to implement current programs for the identification and assisted voluntary return of unaccompanied children from Italy and Greece, and use the experience gained from these programs in implementing the above initiatives.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Not realized by Albanian State agencies.</p>

<p>Prepare and distribute, with assistance and advice from national and international NGOs, leaflets/brochures targeting child victims of trafficking inside and outside the country, with information on their status, rights and services offered for return to their families and the repatriation process.</p>	<p>Up to September 2005</p>	<p>Partially realized.</p>
<p>Instruct consular staff at Albanian diplomatic missions on the verification of data and timely processing of travel and other documents for children who wish to be repatriated.</p>	<p>Up to September 2005</p>	<p>Not realized.</p>
<p>Instruct and train Albanian consular personnel in applying internationally recognized protection and referral to competent authorities' procedures for Albanian children who have been trafficked or at risk of being otherwise exploited in host countries.</p>	<p>Up to September 2005</p>	<p>Not realized.</p>
<p>Provide information and training for personnel in local Civil Status Offices on the procedures for providing information required about a child.</p>	<p>Up to September 2005.</p>	<p>Not realized.</p>

# Appendix 7

## Coordination of Child Anti-Trafficking Partners

Activities	Timeline	Level of progress
<p>Establish a dedicated national child protection structure operating at central and prefecture level to coordinate and supervise the national and local activities of education, health and social services, law enforcement, prosecution and local government structures, and to cooperate with relevant IOs and NGOs and local level partnerships for the implementation of the strategies and actions contained in this Action Plan.</p>	<p>Up to September 2005</p>	<p>The National Coordinator and the Responsible Authority are in place. Regional Anti-trafficking Committees are created.</p> <p>The RA and the RAC are not functioning properly.</p>
<p>Create a network of anti-child trafficking partnerships at local/municipal level, consisting of NGOs and representatives of local social welfare, medical, education, police and prosecution services, to advise and assist victims and families, and liaise with central government structures, as well as with corresponding international organizations, shelters and other protection structures.</p>	<p>Up to December 2005</p>	<p>Working Tables associated to the RAT are created, but they do not perform their tasks appropriately.</p>
<p>Negotiate Memorandums of Understanding between ministries and other state institutions involved in child trafficking prevention and protection and national and local NGOs and IOs, to regulate the respective rights and responsibilities of the parties, in the interests of transparency and the mutual legal protection of victims and those assisting them.</p>	<p>Up to June 2005</p>	<p>Realized in 9 municipalities, where the CPU have been created.</p>
<p>Take steps to develop trans-boundary and international coordination between child trafficking NGOs, reception centers, “hotlines” and related entities in Albania and their counterparts in neighboring and other destination countries, to enhance implementation of the policies and actions outlined above, particularly as regards assisted voluntary return.</p>	<p>Up to December 2005</p>	<p>Not realized.</p>

Devise a comprehensive and coordinated system for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data on child trafficking, based on a methodology agreed by all partners, official, NGO and IO.	Up to September 2005.	Not realized.
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