PSYCHO-SOCIAL CENTRE "VATRA"

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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# 2020

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# Introduction

2020 has been a challenging year globally due to COVID-19 Pandemic. COVID-19 virus was confirmed to have infected Albania on March 8, 2020, and since March 11, the government imposed isolation throughout the country.

The pandemic situation has given and is giving its effects not only on the social and economic life of the country and certainly on the situation of human trafficking and violence, especially against women, girls and children.

Regarding the situation of human trafficking in Albania, during the period of isolation but also throughout 2020, there was a decrease in the number of cases of victims of trafficking identified by the responsible state institutions. This is due not only to the rules for the movement restrictions but also because the responsible institutions, giving priority to the pandemic situation in the country, have not paid the necessary attention to the identification, referral and protection of victims / potential victims of trafficking.

During 2020, 84 victims / potential victims of trafficking were identified. Meanwhile, compared to 2019, 103 potential victims of trafficking were identified. Only 31% of cases were identified by state institutions, 56% by mobile units set up in 8 regions of the country [1]and 13% by non-profit organizations.

In contrast to trafficking, during the pandemic period, the cases of girls and women who reported domestic violence increased. Many girls and women experienced domestic violence due to isolation. Isolation made referral difficult, as well as denunciation and seeking help from the police. For 267 cases contacted by Vatra's specialists during 2020, specific measures were taken and support services were provided.

During 2020, regardless of the situation, Vatra continued with rehabilitation and reintegration services for victims of trafficking and victims of violence. During the period of isolation (March - May 2020), Vatra made available to the public the phone number of the Legal Clinic and that of the Counseling Office for the specialists to provide legal and psychological counseling. Psychological counseling was also provided online through the zoom platform or through social media.

On the other hand, shelter service continued to be provided not only for actual sheltered cases but also for cases referred by various sources in need of shelter. The shelter staff

[1] Vatra has set up 4 Mobile Units in Vlora, Berat, Durres and Dibra; Different and Equal in Shkodra and Tirana and Other Vision in Elbasan, in Kukes and Elbasan

has implemented the protocol[2] drafted by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, for which Vatra and its experts gave their contribution. This protocol was designed to implement anti-Covid measures by all shelters providing social, residential care services for victims of trafficking and violence. Despite the measures taken and the correct implementation of the protocol, Vatra faced the infection with Covid-19 of the beneficiaries of the shelter and the staff, a situation which was managed successfully.

As a result of the pandemic, many women and girls victims of trafficking and violence assisted by Vatra lost their jobs or worked part-time, creating a difficult economic situation for them. Under these conditions, in the framework of the projects implemented but also by applying to various donors for emergency funds, these cases were included for a second time in the program being supported with payment of rented apartments, food packages, medicines according to their needs, payment for crèche and kindergartens for their children etc. A total of 82 families of victims of trafficking and victims of violence were supported in this context.

The pandemic situation as a whole also affected the activities that Vatra carries out in the framework of prevention and capacity building for state institutions responsible for the protection of victims of human trafficking and violence. Awareness activities were initially conducted through social media and then in the field. In this context, about 200 youth from schools and 4000 members of the community participated in informative and awareness activities.

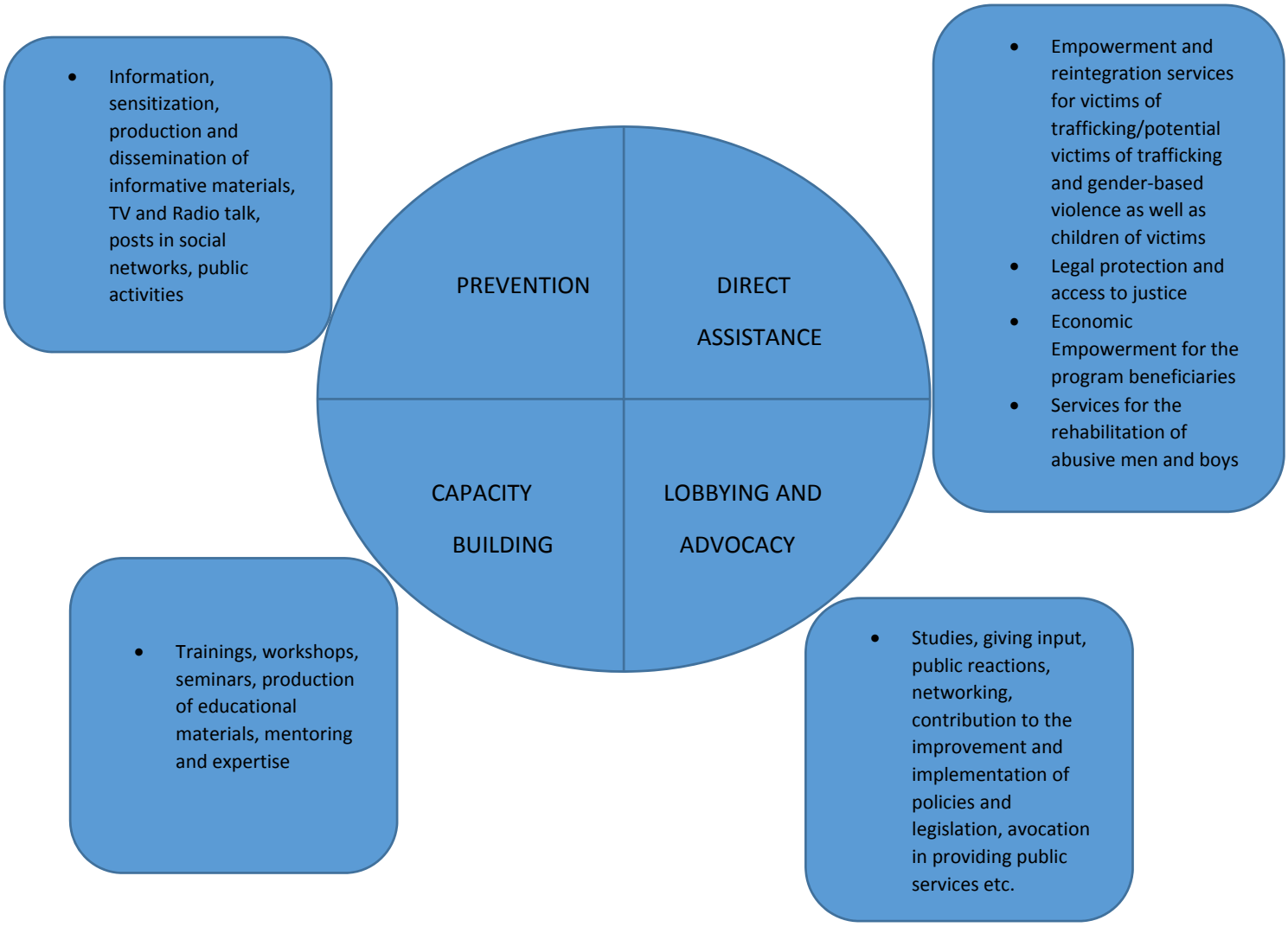
The activities regarding the increase of the capacities of the specialists were postponed to be conducted at the end of the year. With the aggravation of the measures even during December 2020, the trainings were conducted online. In total, during the period October - December 2020, 16 trainings were conducted with the participation of 275 employees of police, health, education, labor inspectorate, social services at regional and municipal level, etc.

In conclusion, although in difficult conditions, "Vatra" has not stopped its activity, provision of services and implementation of planned activities, although work was conducted in unusual conditions. For this reason, I thank the dedicated staff of Vatra, collaborators, national and international partners and donors who supported us and of course all the survivors who accepted and believed in the services that Vatra offers.

***Brikena Puka***
***Executive Director***

[2] On April 10, 2020, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection approved with order No. 254, the emergency protocol for COVID-19 for the shelters"

# The program of "Vatra" Psycho-Social Centre




## Supported Target Groups

During 2020, Vatra Center provided reintegration services to victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking, victims of sexual abuse, victims of gender-based violence and their children, as well as abusive men. To strengthen the protection system, Vatra has provided capacity-building training for local employees, responsible for providing services to target groups in all regions of the country.

## Empowerment and reintegration services of "Vatra" Center

1. Field identification of victims of trafficking/potential victims of human trafficking;
2. Needs assessment, drafting, assistance planning and case management;
3. Safe accommodation in the shelter of "Vatra";
4. Accommodation in rented apartments;
5. Psychological support;
6. Medical support;
7. Legal support;
8. Support in education/education;
9. Occupational/ recreational/ cultural and entertainment activities;
10. Activities to increase life skills;
11. Support for children of victims of trafficking and violence;
12. Support for strengthening relationships with family/relatives;
13. Counseling for employment;
14. Mediation and support for vocational training and on-the-job training;
15. Mediation for employment/self-employment;
16. Establishment of micro-businesses;
17. Long-term monitoring during the reintegration phase;
18. Counseling with abusive men.

## Preventive, educational and advocacy activities of "Vatra"

1. Informative sessions with youth from secondary schools and high schools;
2. Informative sessions with the community;
3. Forums with youth;
4. TV and radio talk;
5. Production and distribution of informative materials;
6. Public awareness activities;
7. Trainings with employees of state and non-state institutions;
8. Organization/participation in lobbying and advocacy activities;
9. Studies and research.

## Staff

"Vatra" Psycho-Social Center has a staff of 29 professionals in the social, legal, medical, financial field, etc., who have provided direct services and have implemented activities in the framework of the programs and projects that the organization has implemented in its structures:

1. Administrative offices, Vlora;
2. "Vatra" Shelter, Vlora;
3. Legal Clinic, Vlora;
4. Lobbying and advocacy office, Tirana.

# I.
# PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

**155** youth were informed on issues regarding trafficking, domestic violence and gender-based violence.

**121** community members were informed during face-to-face meetings on issues regarding trafficking, domestic violence and gender-based violence.

**3983** members of the community were informed through social networks (Facebook and Instagram) about the services of Vatra during the period of isolation and the ways to seek help.

**7710** community members, employees of state institutions, youth, and activists, were informed through the distribution of informative materials, public awareness activities, marches and protests.

**Projects in the field of prevention**

1. "Strengthening the mechanism of protection of victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence in the community of administrative units of the Municipality of Vlora, Orikum, Vlora Center, Vlora, Novosela and Shushica" supported by: FCG Sweden;
2. "Transformation of the National Response to Trafficking in Human Beings in and from Albania" implemented by UNICEF Albania and supported by the Government of the United Kingdom;
3. "Identification and education for the effective prevention of trafficking in persons in Albania" supported by: U.S Embassy in Tirana.
4. "Women's March, Women's Year, Women's Life" supported by American Bank of Investments in Tirana

Awareness activities were also carried out in the framework of the cooperation with national and local actors in anti-trafficking and anti-violence, during awareness campaigns such as National Anti-Trafficking Month (October 2020), 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (November 25 - December 10, 2020), International Day Against Trafficking in Human Beings (30 July 2020), International Women's Day (8 March 2020), International Children's Day (20 November 2020), etc.

## 1.1 Informative sessions with youth in secondary schools and high schools

3 informative sessions with 60 students of secondary schools and high schools in the municipalities of Mat, Bulqiza and Peshkopi, Dibra District;
1 informative session with 45 students of X, XI and XII grades of "Muhamerr Janina" school in Berat;
3 informative sessions with 54 students from "Jani Minga", "Halim Xhelo" and "Ali Demi" high schools in the District of Vlora.

Photos from informative sessions in schools

## 1.2. Information of the community

Photos from informative sessions with the community

2 meetings with 36 community members in Shushica Administrative Unit, Vlora municipality.

6 activities with the participation of 75 community members in the areas of Peshkopi, Bulqiza, Burrel, Kastriot and Luzni Administrative Units in Dibra district.

**1 public awareness activity in the framework of the European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings**, during which girls, women, boys and men were provided with informative brochures, bags with slogans, pens and notebooks with awareness messages.

In the framework of the ***International Day of Saint Bakhita, February 8***, Vatra contributed and participated in the awareness activity "Together against trafficking in human beings", organized by URAT Network.

In the framework of the ***International Women's Day, March 8***, "Vatra" Center in cooperation with local partners organized the public awareness activity "End violence and exploitation of girls and women!". As part of the activity, awareness materials were produced and distributed, such as T-shirts, bags, bracelets and leaflets in order to promote gender equality and give messages against violence and exploitation. This activity was financially supported by the American Bank of Investments (ABI Bank).

Vatra also participated in the civil society awareness march for women's rights, organized by AWEN and other organizations in Tirana.

Based on the events made public on the sexual abuse of a minor girl, Vatra supported and participated in the marches ***"You are not alone" and "Break the Silence"*** in Tirana and Vlora, in order to raise awareness of institutions and the community to say no to abuse. The marches were marked by vast participation of the community, youth, students, parents, teachers, civil society organizations and local media in support of victims of sexual violence.

Photos from the activity “Break the silence” and “You are not alone”

In support of the fight against trafficking in human beings, for the fifth year in a row, ***UN GIFT BOX*** installation was set up in Shkodra and Korça, where citizens of these communities signed a petition in the fight against the phenomenon. "Vatra" Center was engaged as part of URAT Network " United Response Against Trafficking ".

Photos from UN Gift Box, Shkodra

A meeting on the topic: ***"Men and boys talk!"*** conducted with boys and men in order to discuss issues regarding women's rights and gender equality. The event was part of the global campaign "Global Guy Talk!"

## 1.3 Production and distribution of informative materials

In order to inform youth in schools and community members, awareness materials have been produced and distributed as follows:

- 500 copies of the Manual for the education of students 14-18 age group "Recognition and prevention of trafficking in human beings" which was distributed in schools and universities through the Regional Education Office of Vlora;

- Banner with awareness message against exploitation and violence against women and girls;
- 70 T-shirts with gender equality messages;
- 70 bags with messages against gender-based violence;
- 70 bracelets with slogans against gender-based violence.

Photos from informative materials produced during the year

## 1.4 Television/Radio talk

*"Referral and management of victims of violence and rehabilitation of abusive boys and men*, was the topic addressed in the TV talk on OneTv Vlora. Vatra's specialists informed the public about existing services for victims of gender-based violence/domestic violence and issues related to the protection and access to justice for the victims.

Photo from the TV talk

# II.
# DIRECT ASSISTANCE

**96** **survivors of trafficking in persons were supported with reintegration services**

**53** **children of former victims have been supported with direct services.**

**277** **survivors of domestic/gender-based violence were supported with empowerment services.**

**Projects in the field of direct assistance**

1. "Continuous provision of sustainable reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking, domestic violence and sexual abuse in Albania". Supported by: Albanian Women Empowerment Network - AWEN with SIDA funds.
2. "Providing direct assistance for the social and economic empowerment of victims/potential victims of trafficking and victims of violence in the District of Vlora" Supported by: Ministry of Health and Social Protection through Vlora Regional Council and Vlora municipality.
3. "Transformation of the National Response to Trafficking in Human Beings in and from Albania" Supported by UNICEFAlbania with UK government funds.
4. "Enhancing anti-trafficking protection system effectiveness for better response to the rights of victims of trafficking in Albania Supported by: Porticus Vienna
5. "Providing sustainable assistance for the reintegration of victims/potential victims of trafficking and children of victims, in Albania" Supported by World Vision Albania
6. "Women and men free from violence in Albania" Supported by Centro Informazione ed Educazione allo Sviluppo Onlus.
7. "Providing sustainable assistance for the reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Albania" Supported by UNVTF/UNODC.

## 2.1 Direct assistance for victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking

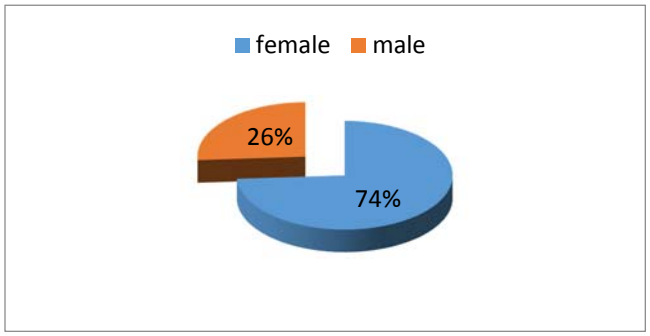
149 beneficiaries of which 96 former victims/potential victims of trafficking and 53 children of the victims were supported during 2020 with reintegration programs.

39 victims/potential victims of trafficking and 17 children of the victims were supported for the first time by Vatra program.

### PROFILE OF THE CASES SUPPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING 2020

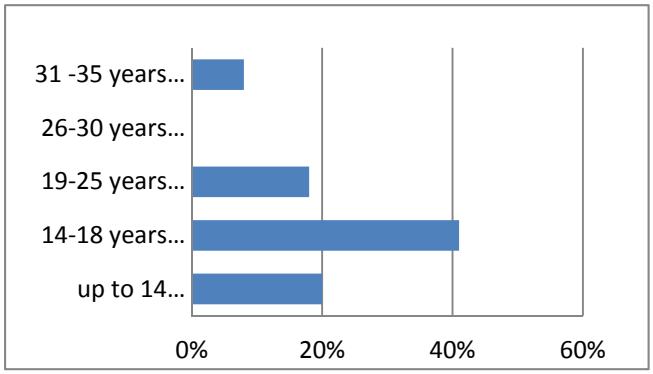
#### Gender

From the 39 cases assisted for the first time during 2020, 74% were girls and women and 26% were boys, mostly minors. Compared to 2019 and 2018, there was a significant increase in the number of male beneficiaries, potential victims of trafficking identified and assisted.



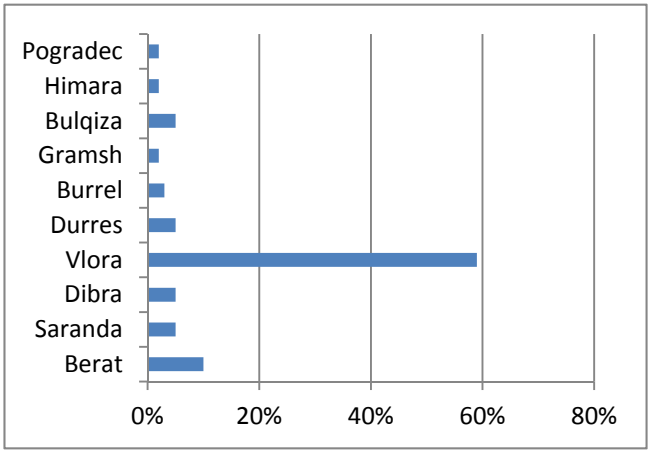

#### Age

Referring to the graph, 20% of the beneficiaries belong to the category up to 14 years old while 41% of them were 14-17 years old. Compared to 2019, there is an increase in the number of minor beneficiaries. Beneficiaries of the age-groups 19 - 25, 31 - 35 and over 36 years old make up 39% of the cases.



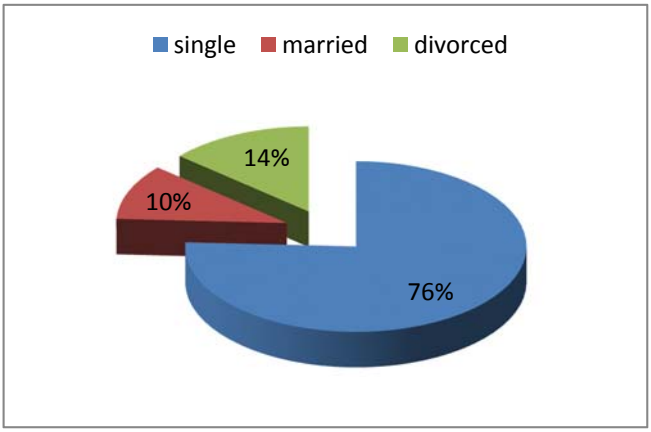
## Origin

About 79% of the cases assisted during 2020 come from urban areas. *In terms of ethnicity*, about 40% of them belong to the Roma and Egyptian communities, exploited mainly for sexual purposes, begging and committing minor crimes. Compared to recent years, there is an increase in the number of beneficiaries belonging to minorities.



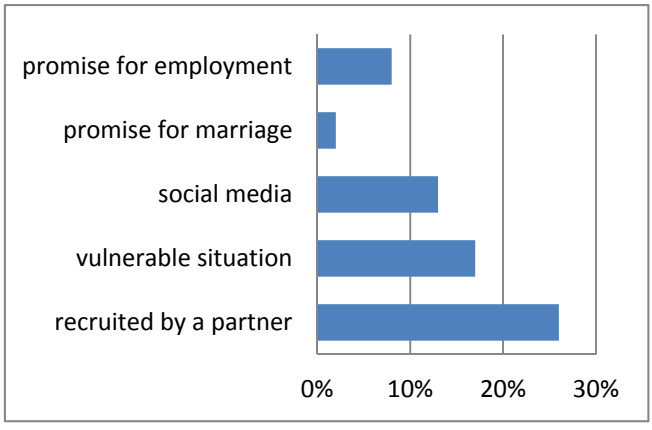

## Civil Status

76% of assisted cases were single and 10% were married (generally accompanied by children). Compared to 2020, there is an increase in married beneficiaries who have been exploited by their spouses.

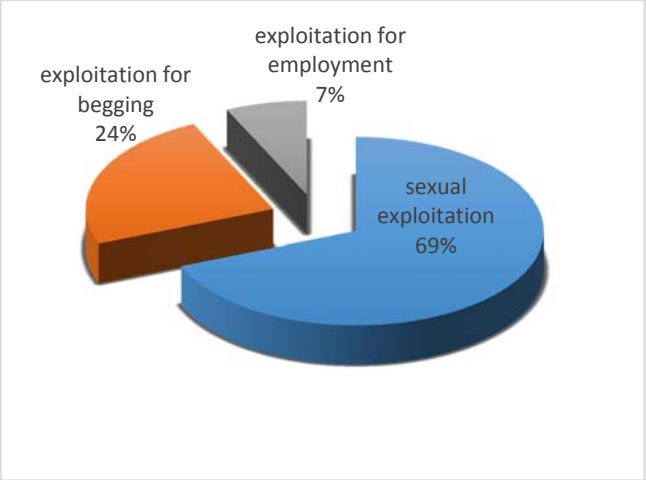



## Ways of recruitment and types of exploitation

Among the 39 cases assisted for the first time during 2020, the majority of victims (23%) have been recruited by their partners. The victim's vulnerable situation and social media continue to be the main ways of recruiting victims.



Regarding the **types of exploitation**, 69% of the beneficiaries have been exploited sexually, 7% have been exploited for work and 24% have been exploited for begging. Of the 27 sexually have been exploited beneficiaries, 92% have been exploited within the country and 8% abroad (Switzerland and Serbia). Compared to 2019, there is a significant increase in the number of victims, mainly minors exploited for begging within the country.




### 2.1.1 Identification and referral

The identification of victims/potential victims of trafficking was carried out in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking. During 2020, **39 Victims/Potencial Victims of Trafficing (VoT/PVoT) and 17 children of VoT/PVoT** were referred for services to "Vatra" Center **for the first time**. The Responsible Authority at the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator at the Ministry of Interior has been notified for each case.

### Mobile Units

During 2020, in addition to the continuation of work of Vlora Mobile Unit, Vatra set up 3 Mobile Units in the district of Dibra[3] and in the district of Berat and Durres[4]. The working methodology of these units is based on a proactive identification in public places, schools, administrative areas known for the high degree of socio-economic vulnerability, in cooperation with the local police institution and Child Protection Unit and other service providers. During 2020, the Mobile Units have identified and referred 22 victims/potential victims of trafficking for services to Vatra. Regarding the cases identified by the Mobile Unit, 54% of them were girls and women and 46% were boys. 45% of them were exploited for begging, 41% exploited for sexual purposes and 14% exploited for work and committing criminal offenses.

The mobile units remain the main source for the referral of cases for services (50% of cases). 20% of cases have been referred by state institutions, 30% of them have been referred by Vatra partners and organizations working against trafficking in human beings.

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[3] *This Mobile Unit was established in April in the framework of the project "Transformation of the National Response to Human Trafficking in and from Albania" supported by UNICEF with the support of the Embassy of the United Kingdom.*

*4 The two mobile units Berat and Durres were set up in the framework of the project "Identification and education for the effective prevention of human trafficking in Albania" with the support of the U.S Embassy, Small Grants program.*

*Table 1. Sources of reference and identification*

| Referral source | Number of beneficiaries supported for the first time | Identification Agency |
|---|---|---|
| Vlora Regional Police Directorate | 7 | "Vatra" Centre and Police |
| Vlora Local Police Directorate | 1 | "Vatra" Centre |
| Berat Regional Social Service | 1 | Berat Police |
| Local coordinator against domestic violence, Vlora municipality | 1 | "Vatra" Centre |
| Child Protection Unit, Shkodra municipality | 1 | CPU Shkodra |
| National Center for the Treatment of Victims of Violence | 1 | Tirana Police, Vlora and Berat SSS |
| "Woman Forum" Elbasan | 1 | "Vatra" Centre |
| IOM/RA | 2 | IOM/RA |
| Vlora Nun Church | 1 | Police and Mary Ward Loreto |
| Vlora, Berat dhe Dibra Mobile Units | 22 | Mobile Units in cooperation with representatives of the municipalities and police |
| Self-referred | 1 | "Vatra" Centre |
| **Total** | **39 primary beneficiaries and 17 children of beneficiaries** | |

### 2.1.2 Assisted return of victims/potential victims of trafficking

Two victims of trafficking have been supported during 2020 on assisted return from Serbia and Switzerland to Albania. Former victims of trafficking have been identified and referred for support with reintegration services to Vatra by IOM and the Responsible Authority.

The survivors belong to the age-group 35 - 40 years. They have been supported with residential services, basic needs and community services (accommodation in shelter,

support for rented apartment, legal support, meeting needs for food, medical support, employment mediation, psychological counseling, etc.).

### 2.1.3 Needs assessment, design, assistance planning and case management

The professionals of the multidisciplinary group of the center have completed the needs assessment of the beneficiaries within 2 weeks after the referral and inclusion in the program, such as: the need for long-term housing, psycho-social support, medical and legal assistance, family mediation, professional training, mediation for employment, education, etc. Individual assessments and intervention planning were carried out for the 39 survivors and 17 children survivors assisted for the first time in the program, as well as the plan for 24 beneficiaries of the program was re-evaluated and revised/followed for the beneficiaries supported in the second phase and third of the program. Every 3 months a progress report is made for each of the cases included in the reintegration program.

Counseling and informative sessions were provided by case managers, at every step of the implementation of the aid plan, mainly for environmental adaptation, information on shelter regulations, emotional stabilization, relationships with family and other beneficiaries, school performance, employment, plans for the future, independent living, etc. Twice a month, meetings of the multidisciplinary group for case evaluation and management have been conducted.

Specialists of the Center have participated in 7 Meetings of the Inter-Sectoral Technical Group for the needs assessment of 9 beneficiaries in order to protect children in the municipalities of Vlora, Berat and Tirana.

### 1.1.4 Accommodation/Housing

**Sheltering for victims/potential victims of trafficking is provided in the shelter of Vatra and in rented apartments.**

#### Shelter

**25 primary beneficiaries, women, girls and 9 children of the beneficiaries have been accommodated during 2020, in the shelter of "Vatra".**

Beneficiaries have benefited from safe housing service with 24-hour shelter protection, food, clothing and the full package of rehabilitation and reintegration services. The beneficiaries supported in the shelter have received safe accommodation, basic living

services (food, clothing, hygienic-sanitary materials), health, psycho-social services and counseling, educational and school services, legal services and counseling, mediation and strengthening of relations with family, life and occupational skills, recreational activities, services for the children of survivors, vocational support and support for the economic empowerment, such as: mentored employment leadership, vocational training, on-the-job training, mediation for employment. In addition to the above services, the beneficiaries of the shelter and their children, have received weekly and monthly cash payments, to meet their special needs, which do not constitute the fulfillment of basic needs.

### Rented Apartments

**27 beneficiaries and 22 children have been supported with community housing services**. Housing is provided in rented apartments and in addition to the payment for the apartment, financial support has been provided to meet basic needs (food, clothing and hygienic-sanitary materials). Also, beneficiaries in rented apartment have received health, psychological, legal services, support for school and vocational support, mediation for vocational training and employment, support for their children, support for family members, mediation and information to benefit from community services in the countries where they live, etc.

Apartments for rent, paid by the program of Vatra, are provided depending on the needs of the beneficiaries, from 3 to 12 months.

Photos from the distribution of food packages and hygienic-sanitary materials in the community / rented apartments

In the framework of the project *"Arise's COVID-19 Emergency Fund", financially supported by Arise Foundation*, during April - May, "Vatra" Center supported with food packages and hygienic-sanitary materials 20 families of beneficiaries, victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking. In total, **58 members of these families were supported (families of 20 girls and women victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and 38 children of beneficiaries).**

### 2.1.5 Medical assistance

**730** medical visits were performed by the medical staff of the center for the provision of health services for **51** beneficiaries of the program who have manifested physical and mental health problems. Beneficiaries of the program were supported with medications, medications and specialized visits; have been accompanied for periodic visits and analyses at health care institutions, such as the Regional Directorate of Health Care, Health Centers, Vlora Regional Hospital, "Aulona" Center, etc.

For **19 beneficiaries** of the program who have manifested mental health problems of different levels, Vatra staff has cooperated with mental health specialists, at "Ali Mihali" Psychiatric Hospital in Vlora, Community Mental Health Center, Vlora, as well as the Hospital of Children and Adolescents at University Hospital Center in Tirana.

The center's doctor and nurse also provided health counseling and addressed health-related topics to the beneficiaries of the program.

Photo from the nursing environment inside the shelter

The table below presents in detail the problems related to physical and mental health problems, as well as their treatment:

*Table 2. Data on health issues and support*

| Physical health problems | Number of cases | Treatment |
|---|---|---|
| Gynecological problems | 36 | Medical examinations and visits at "Aulona" Center. Medication treatment |
| Digestive problems (stomach, kidneys, colitis, etc.) | 17 | Cooperation with the Regional Hospital. Medication treatment |
| Dental problems | 43 | Medical examinations and visits in the dental clinic. Medication treatment |
| Seasonal virus | 37 | Cooperation with Vlora Regional Hospital. Medication treatment |
| COVID 19 | 10 | Protocol treatment against COVID 19 / tests and medications |
| Headache | 34 | Medication treatment |
| Children's health problems | 4 | Cooperation with Vlora Regional Hospital and pediatrician. Medication treatment |
| Hospitalizations for various diseases | 3 | Cooperation with the Regional Hospital for hospital treatment |
| | | |
| Mental health problems | Number of cases | Treatment |
| Post-traumatic stress disorder | 2 | Counselling |
| Depressive state | 12 | Medication counseling and treatment |
| Mood swing | 4 | Specialized counseling / medication treatment |
| Bipolar problems | 1 | Specialized counseling / medication treatment |
| Border problems | 1 | Specialized counseling / medication treatment / collaboration with the Community Mental Health Center |

### 2.1.6 Psychological assistance

614 individual counseling sessions and 29 group therapies were conducted by the psychologist of the center for psycho-emotional support for 82 program beneficiaries and 31 children of beneficiaries.

Psychological disturbances were of emotional, cognitive and behavioral nature listed as follows: elements of post-traumatic stress disorder, emotional fluctuations, feelings of guilt and shame, feelings of abandonment, anxiety, deep pessimism, elements of trauma and loss, developmental problems (developmental delay), irrational thinking, maladaptation, extreme fear, self-harm, lack of empathy, behavioral problems, nutritional problems, sleep problems and dreams. 56 group meetings were conducted, of which 30 topics of psychological nature and 26 psychological group sessions.

Even during the period of social isolation, the psychological service in the shelter was not interrupted. Special emphasis was placed on topics related to the management of anxiety and stress caused due to isolation.

### 2.1.7 Mediation and strengthening of relations with families

In order to strengthen the beneficiaries' relations with families and relatives, about 5100 phone conversations were conducted. 480 phone consultations and 78 direct meetings were conducted with the families of 39 beneficiaries. Establishing contacts with family members is done with the beneficiaries will.

This service is provided through ongoing assessment of the families of program beneficiaries. Vatra specialists have assessed whether or not returning to the family of origin poses a risk to the beneficiaries. As a result of the strengthening of family relations, 19 beneficiaries and 6 children of the beneficiaries have returned to their family of origin. Beneficiaries have continued to be supported with reintegration services by "Vatra" Centre even after leaving the shelter, in cooperation with local actors and other organizations operating in the countries where they have returned.

*Accommodation options out of the shelter* remains a challenge for some categories of juvenile or cases with mental health problems, whose family members have either abandoned, abused them or have been involved in trafficking, or the family refuses to support them due to economic and social issues. These cases have continued to remain in the shelter for a longer period of time than that foreseen in the individual assistance plans.

### 2.1.8 Legal assistance

- information on legal rights;

- individual legal advice;

- support and accompaniment of beneficiaries at law institutions, such as the Police, Prosecution, Court, during the criminal / civil process initiated by them against traffickers;

- counseling and information on the progress of the criminal / civil process;

- provision with means of identification and registration of children of beneficiaries in the Civil Registry;

- provision with the necessary documentation for initiating court cases, both criminal and civil.

The center's lawyers have supported with legal advice **52** beneficiaries and legal assistance to justice and administrative institutions for 18 cases. In the prosecutions and courts of different districts of the country such as Vlora, Durres, Saranda, Kruja, Tirana, Berat, Fier, etc., **9** survivors of trafficking who have reported traffickers/smugglers or for other civil cases have been supported with legal assistance.

### Types of criminal cases:

- 2 cases were mediated and assisted in the Prosecutions of the Judicial District of Kruja and Vlora in cases with the object "*Trafficking of minors*";

- 1 case was mediated and assisted in the Prosecution Offices of Vlora District Court in cases with the object "*Trafficking of adults*", provided by Article 128/b and 2 of the Criminal Code;

- 1 case was mediated in the Prosecutor's Office of Saranda Judicial District and represented in Saranda District Court for criminal offense "*Sexual Harassment*", provided by Article 108/a, paragraph 2 of the CC, as well as civil lawsuit in criminal proceedings "*Sexual relations or homosexual relations with minors*";

- 1 case was mediated by the lawyer during the investigation process at the Prosecutor's Office of Vlora District Court for the criminal offense "*Exploitation for prostitution*", provided by Article 114 of the Criminal Code.

- 1 case was represented in Vlora District Court in the case with the object "Issuance of Immediate Protection Order" provided by Law No. 9669 "*On measures against domestic violence*" and was provided with Immediate Protection Order.

### Types of civil cases:

- 1 case was assisted by Berat District Court for the case with the object "*Divorce*" and "*Leaving the children for upbringing and education*"

- 1 case was represented in Fier District Court in the case with the object "*Issuance of authorization to cross the border together with a minor child*";

- 1 case was mediated in Vlora District Court in the case with the object "*Recognition in Albania of the decision of divorce in a foreign country*".

### 2.1.9 Education assistance/education

32 beneficiaries and 28 children of beneficiaries have received education services in Vlora, Fier, Berat, Durres and Tirana. In the realization of this service, the staff of Vatra has cooperated with the Regional Directorates, the relevant Education Offices and the schools where the beneficiaries of the program have been reintegrated. The shelter teacher who is in charge of this service has attended:

- registration of beneficiaries in school or registration of their children in kindergartens and crèche,
- school attendance by the beneficiaries,
- their progress in the teaching process in school,
- study of school subjects, etc.

Part of the assistance for education are also occupational activities inside the shelter such as English language courses, courses and exercise of knowledge of computer programs, reading and discussion of art books, various occupational games, etc.

Photos from school kits for the beneficiaries of the program

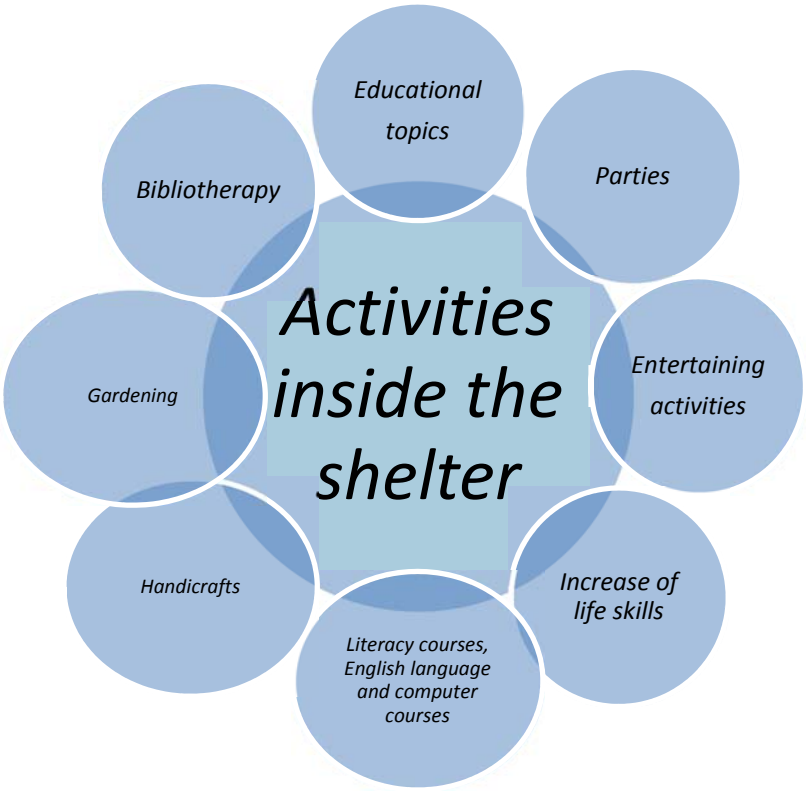
### 2.1.10 Support for children of victims of trafficking

53 children of the beneficiaries were assisted with support services (accommodation and basic services, psychological service, health service, educational assistance, legal assistance, etc.), of which 9 children in the shelter and 44 children in the community. For

the psychological well-being of children, the psychologist and other specialists have organized 24 group conversations and special games. Mothers were counseled and supported to increase their skills in caring for and raising children.

### 2.1.11 Educational and socio - cultural activities inside and outside the shelter

**Activities inside the shelter**




**Increasing life skills.** In order to increase life skills, the beneficiaries have developed activities such as: meal planning, consultation for the weekly menu and shopping, exercise of skills in the kitchen, tips for home maintenance, hygiene, etc. In the shelter, there are practicing corners for professional skills in tailoring, hairdressing, aesthetics, where the beneficiaries of the shelter may practice the knowledge gained in vocational training courses.

**Educational topics.** 132 topics and 127 group conversations were organized by social workers during the year. The topics have been selected depending on the problems encountered in management, beneficiaries will, holidays and international days, etc.

**Gardening.** Gardening serves to increase life skills, education and entertainment of the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries carry out activities in the garden of the shelter continuously.

**Bibliotherapy.** In addition to individual readings, the beneficiaries are organized in groups for the realization of bibliotherapy. They have also realized artistic recreation, poetry and essays which have been presented in monthly artistic activities organized in the shelter.

**Literacy courses, English language courses and computer courses.** Twice a week beneficiaries are involved in English language courses; computer literacy courses and literacy courses for illiterate and disadvantaged beneficiaries.

**Home cinema, birthday parties and national holidays.** Vatra organizes home cinema nights during which the beneficiaries enjoy watching a movie and every weekend for the beneficiaries in the shelter, the staff organizes games, evenings with music and dancing.

**Painting and creativity time.** Paintings and handicrafts (works with recyclable materials, knitting, embroidery, bracelets, beaded pendants) are creative, occupational and desirable activities by the beneficiaries in the shelter. All the necessary materials for their realization are purchased from the program funds.

Photos from some of the activities organized inside the shelter

### Activities outside the shelter

Activities carried out outside the shelter are planned for the purpose of social and emotional development of the beneficiaries.

In order to entertain the beneficiaries and strengthen group relations, during the year they have conducted 4 excursions outside the shelter (Llogara Tourist Park, Old Orik, Old Amantia, Kanina).

During the months of July and August, the beneficiaries of the shelter have gone to the beach for 15 days.

### 2.1.12 Long-term monitoring

During 2020, 25 beneficiaries and 16 children of the beneficiaries were monitored and supported during the third phase of the program. The monitoring was carried out in cooperation with other organizations and the State Social Service in Albania, as well as Child Protection Unit in the municipalities where the victims come from.

In the conditions of the pandemic and isolation that the country suffered in the first 6 months of 2020, the monitoring was carried out through regular phone contacts and social networks in order to support them with referral/mediation services.

The main challenges faced by the beneficiaries assisted in the community were mainly related to the lack of long-term housing, lack of a stable or suitable job (part-time), lack of financial and emotional support of some of the beneficiaries from the family of origin, economic difficulty to pay kindergarten fees for children and the purchase of textbooks, etc.

The social group that conducts case monitoring has addressed the relevant issues as needed.

## 2.2 Direct assistance for victims of violence and abuse

### Projects

"Continuous provision of sustainable reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking, domestic violence and sexual abuse in Albania"
Funded by: Women's Empowerment Network in Albania - AWEN, funded by SIDA

"Women and men free from violence in Albania"
Funded by Centro Informazione ed Educazione allo Sviluppo Onlus

"Support to municipalities in analyzing and approving new models / schemes for socio-economic integration for survivors of gender-based violence"
Funded by UN Women Albania and implemented in partnership with "Different and Equal"

"Reintegration program for returned migrants in Albania"
Funded by GIZ and implemented in partnership with "Different and Equal"

The Legal Clinic of "Vatra" Center provides legal and psychological community services for victims of domestic violence, gender-based violence, abuse and counseling services for abusive men and boys.

**301** beneficiaries were supported with legal, psychological and psycho-social services by Vatra's lawyers, psychologist and social worker.

- **277 victims of violence**

Photos from the Legal Clinic of Vatra

During the period March-May, when Albania was in quarantine, the psychological service was provided online, through phone calls and social networks, according to the needs of the beneficiaries. 17 beneficiaries victims of domestic violence were supported with online legal and psychological counseling. Their problems were closely related to the exercise of violence and its aggravation during the period of isolation.

### Referral of new cases at the Lecal Clinic

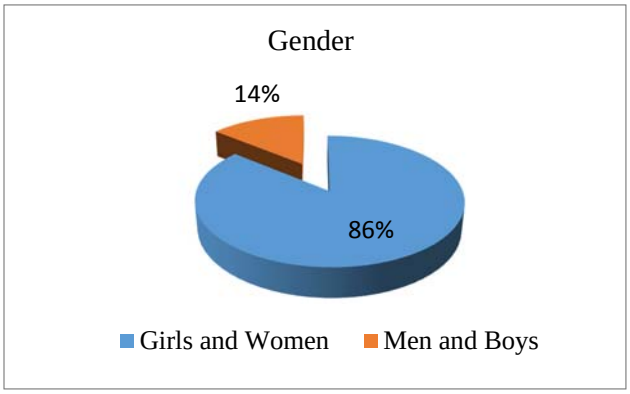
| Referral sources | Number of cases |
|---|---|
| Community | 149 |
| Vlora Regional Police Directorate | 19 |
| Local Coordinator against Domestic Violence | 6 |
| Vlora Court | 39 |
| Administrative Units | 14 |
| Bailiff's office | 2 |
| Child Protection Unit, Vlora Municipality | 3 |
| Self-referred (social networks) | 14 |
| **Total** | **246** |

## Profile of victims of violence supported for the first time during 2020

246 victims of violence have received legal and psychological services for the first time at the Legal Clinic.

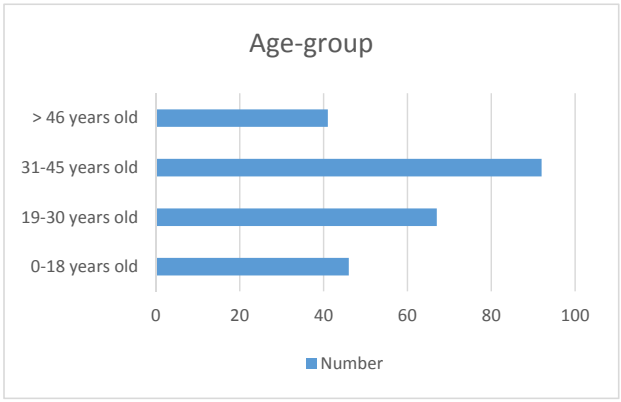
### Gender

206 cases (86%) of victims of violence who have received services from the Legal Clinic were female and 40 of them (14%) were men and boys.



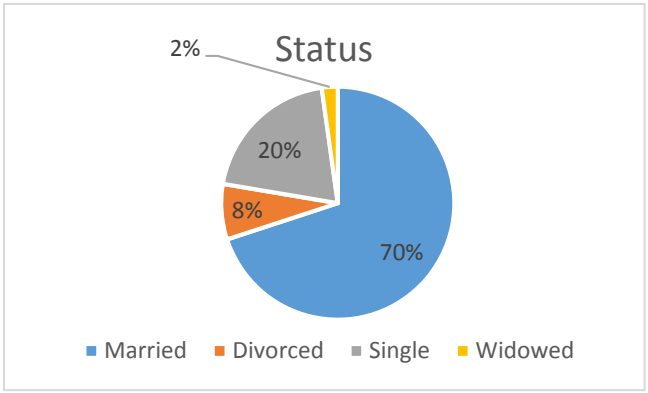

### Age

The age-group 31- 45 years (37.4%) remains the most affected age-group by violence. Compared to previous years, there is an increase in the number of cases belonging to the age-group 31-45 years, given that in previous years the number of cases over 45 years has been higher. 18.7% of cases were minors.



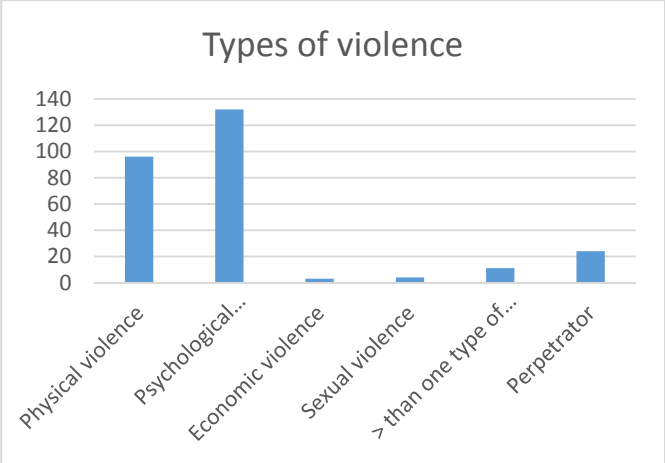

### Civil Status

70% of the cases that have received service at Vatra center have "married" civil status. Based on the table, it turns out that domestic violence is even more prevalent. Only 30% of cases reported being single/divorced/widowed.



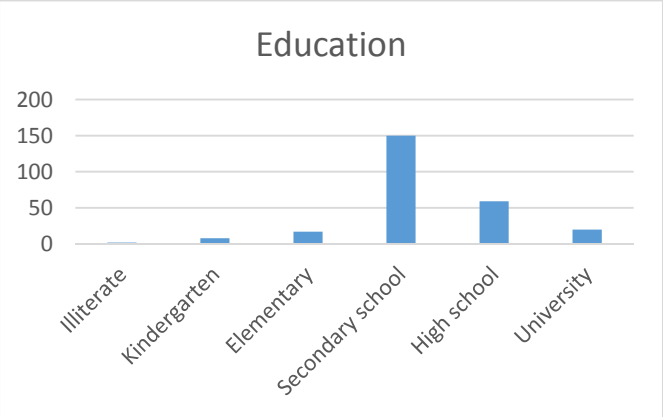
### Types of violence

132 cases reported being subject to psychological violence, without the presence of physical violence, followed by 96 cases that reported physical violence. Although 11 cases have reported more than one type of violence, it is worth noting that all types of violence are associated with psychological consequences.



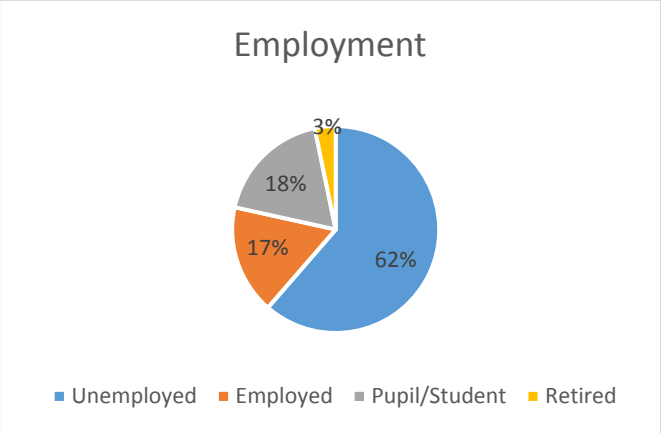

### Education

61% of victims of violence have followed secondary school (150 of them). Among them, 10 cases still continue secondary school as they are minors and 140 cases were adults. Only 2 of the beneficiaries reported being illiterate and never going to school and 20 of them reported having higher education.



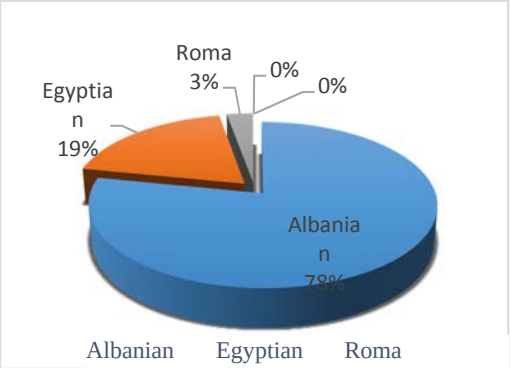

### Employment

Employment continues to be an issue as it directly affects their distancing from the cycle of violence. 151 cases reported that they were not employed and only 42 cases report that they were employed by tailors or other private businesses. Also, due to the age, 45 of the cases were still in school.



**Ethnicity**

193 of the cases belong to the Albanian ethnicity, a considerable figure. Only 46 of them belong to the Egyptian ethnicity and 7 of them belong to the Roma ethnicity. Due to cultural differences, Egyptian and Roma ethnicities require fewer services, despite the fact that the phenomenon of violence among them is very widespread.




### 2.2.1 Legal assistance

**173** survivors of violence have benefited from legal services provided by the lawyers of the Legal Clinic, of which 124 were new cases and 49 ongoing. 74 survivors of violence have received legal counseling and 99 cases have received legal assistance.

The cases for which legal support was provided were cases of criminal and civil nature in Vlora and Fier District Court, Vlora Court of Appeal, the Prosecution, the Police, the Registry Office, the Regional Directorate of State Social Service, the Directorate of Social Services and Economic Assistance in the municipality, etc.

The following are types of legal issues in which beneficiaries are represented and assisted:

| Frequently Asked Questions: | Other issues: |
|---|---|
| Divorce - 72 cases | Moral and material compensation for two minor children - 1 case |
| Divorce, IPO dhe PO - 6 cases | Division of marital property -1 case |
| IPO - 5 cases | Persecution - 1 case |
| IPO and PO - 5 cases | Relative invalidity in personal data - 1 case |
| Juvenile custody - 3 cases | Restoration in time of the right to the lawsuit "Objection to presumed paternity" - 1 case |
| Correction of the court decision - 2 cases | Leaving the child for upbringing and education - 1 case |

### 2.2.2 Psychological assistance

The psychologist of the center has provided psychological services for **131** cases, of which 112 new cases and 19 ongoing cases, among which 99 cases of victims of violence

and abuse and 13 perpetrators. Among these cases, 19 of them have received both types of services, psychological and legal.

The psychological service is divided as follows:

- **Psychological counseling:** 66 cases of victims of violence
- **Psychological assistance:** (to the Police, Court and Prosecutor): 6 cases of victims of violence
- **Psychological assessments:** 59 cases (46 cases of victims of violence)

The cases were referred by Vlora Judicial District Court, Vlora Police, the Child Protection Unit, other NGOs, the community, Vlora Prosecution Office, Vlora Bailiff's Office as well as social networks.

The main reasons for seeking psychological service are closely related to the physical, psychological, economic, and sexual violence that has been exercised toward the beneficiaries. Their main problems have been emotional, cognitive, and behavioral.

**At the request of institutions, a total of 59 beneficiaries were evaluated for the following issues:**

- Marriage dissolution, leaving the child for upbringing and education - 51 cases (39 victims of violence and 12 perpetrators)

- Protection Order - 3 cases of victims of violence

- Implementation of the decision of the Court in Vlora Bailiff's Office - 3 cases (2 victims of violence and 1 perpetrator)

- Assessments at the request of Vlora Orphanage - 2 juvenile cases

## 2.3 Counseling for abusive men and boys

The Legal Clinic offers counseling services for abusive men and boys. This service is offered to all men and boys who have exercised physical, psychological or sexual violence in the family.
The purpose of the service is to explore new behaviors that dissociate the abuser from domestic violence, with the ultimate goal of creating a non-violent environment in families where people live, with a special focus on creating safe environment for victims of violence.
The social worker for abusive men and boys assisted through psycho-social counseling **24** boys and men who have had problems with violence and aggression.

During this year, the service for abusive men and boys has managed to build bridges of cooperation with the main institutions of Vlora.

1. Cooperation agreement with Vlora District Court

2. Cooperation agreement with Vlora Local Police Directorate
3. Cooperation agreement with Vlora Probation Service

The cooperation is also extended with other institutions of the city such as the local coordinator of violence in the municipality of Vlora and Himara, and this service was presented to the main institutions of the city such as administrative units, social service of Vlora Municipality, Aulona Center and CPU of the city.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed *a significant challenge* to the counseling service for violent men and boys. Being in an emergency situation and quarantine, services for men started to be provided online or by phone, as a consequence of the need and emergency that brought on family situations and the stress added to them.

## 2.4 Assistance for the economic empowerment of victims of trafficking, violence, and abuse

### Counseling cycle for employment

In order to successfully reintegrate women and girls victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking and violence, Vatra Center pursues a specific program for their economic empowerment which includes: coaching for employment, vocational training, on-the-job training, mediation for employment and financial and logistical support for the establishment of micro-business.

The counseling cycle was attended by 25 women and girls victims of violence, trafficking and abuse.

The counseling cycle, built in the form of group training and individual counseling, began with an assessment of each participant's potential and will. Afterwards, through group training and individual counseling (work with personal insecurities, anxieties about work or vocational training, etc.) it was intended that based on the individuality of each to increase their skills and potential for more sustainable employment and better quality of life.

During this cycle the trainer focused on: explaining the key competencies, how to distinguish the skills everyone has and how to improve them in order to use them in your advantage, group work so that the participants could cycle with the rights and duties within a certain group, methods of how to explore the world of work, working with objectives, preparing a CV according to the market demands. etc.

**Vocational training.** Vatra staff, in cooperation with Vlora Directorate for Vocational Training, has facilitated the registration and has monitored the attendance of vocational courses and professional development for 8 beneficiaries victims of trafficking and violence. Beneficiaries have attended vocational training courses in aesthetics, hairdressing, bakery and tailoring/embroidery. Upon completion of the professional course, all beneficiaries were supported with basic tool kits for practicing the profession.

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the Directorate of Vocational Training suspended the provision of vocational courses for the period March - December 2020. For this purpose, Vatra cooperated with businesses in the city of Vlora for the realization of these courses and specifically supported the eight beneficiaries for preparation in the respective courses.

**On-the-job training (Internship).** Vatra has followed and financially supported with on-the-job training 13 beneficiaries victims of violence, trafficking and abuse. The trainings were conducted in the kitchen / fast food, aesthetics, bakery, coffee bar, tailoring/embroidery, professional massages and logistics assistants. For 8 of the beneficiaries who were supported with on-the-job training, their employment was achieved in the private entity where they followed this process.

**Mediation for employment and employment.** In cooperation with Vlora Labor Office and private entities, Vatra staff mediated for the employment of 81 beneficiaries, and employment and monitoring were achieved for 39 beneficiaries in tailoring, restaurant, call center, confectionery, hairdressing, aesthetic center, hotel reception, mosaic enterprises, etc. Sustainable employment remains one of the main challenges in the process of reintegration of victims of trafficking.

**Support for micro-business establishment.**

In the framework of the project "Transformation of the National Response to Trafficking in Human Beings in and from Albania", Vatra has supported the empowerment and establishment of micro-businesses in order to strengthen the socio-economic empowerment of women and girls victims of violence and trafficking, 4 micro-businesses, respectively 3 aesthetics and hairdressing and 1 tailoring/atelier.

After an assessment of the needs of women and their social and economic situation, four micro-businesses were selected.

Beneficiaries were supported with the full package for the establishment of business, starting with drafting the business plan, the complete equipment package, business management training, consulting, and orientation aiming the maximization of income and monitoring.

Supported micro-businesses have not only been new micro-businesses but also existing micro-businesses have been supported by working to empower them. In this context, micro-businesses have been supported by Vatra to increase the range of their activities

and have provided support by improving their physical condition for more satisfied clients with the variety of services and the provision of an environment as convenient and comfortable for them. As a criterion for all businesses was the possession of an active license to operate according to the rules.

# III.

# STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR EMPLOYEES OF STATE STRUCTURES AND NGOs

Capacity building of employees of local state structures and NGOs is one of the important programs of Vatra activity, because the continuous qualification of the staff of institutions that are responsible for identifying, protecting, and providing services to victims of trafficking and violence, directly affects the safe and long-term reintegration of these victims into the community.

**Capacity-building projects:**

- "Increasing the effectiveness of the protection system for a better response to victims of trafficking in Albania", implemented by "Vatra" Center;

- "Identification and education for the effective prevention of trafficking in persons in Albania" supported by the U.S Embassy in Tirana.

## 3.1 Trainings

**February 2020**: Training on domestic violence issues and legal amendments to the law "On measures against domestic violence" with the multidisciplinary technical group on domestic violence of the municipality of Vlora and representatives of the administrative units Orikum, Center Vlora and Novosela.

The training was attended by **30 participants from Police institutions, Administrative Units,** Regional Employment Directorate, State Social Service, Reginal Education Office, Directorate of Public Health and local organizations member of the Local Referral Mechanism for cases of domestic violence, Vlora.

Photos from trainings, February 2020

**October - December 2020:** In cooperation with the Ministry of Interior/Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Vatra conducted 16 trainings with structures of local institutions responsible for anti-trafficking in the regions of Shkodra, Dibra, Fier, Kukes, Vlora and Durres, which will continue to be implemented also during 2021. In total, 49 trainings are planned to be conducted in 12 regions of Albania.

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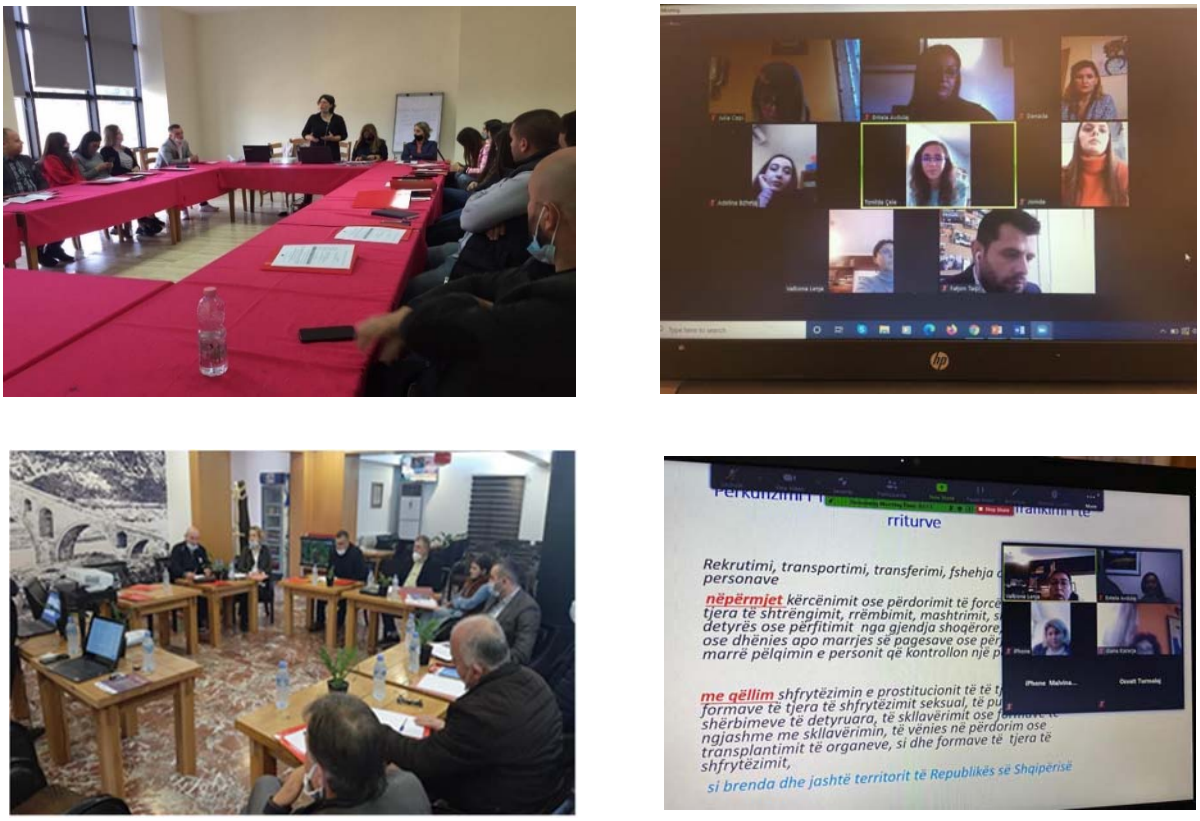
The trainings focused on the topic *"Recognition and implementation of the rights of victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking, their identification, and protection by anti-trafficking actors"*, focusing on strengthening the capacity of employees of responsible anti-trafficking structures in order to inform and get acquainted with the Standard Operating Procedures for the protection of Victims/Potential Victims of Trafficking approved by decision no. 499, dated 29.09.2018 and their effective implementation in practice.

During the period October - December 2020, **Vatra conducted 16 trainings with 275 specialists** in the following structures:

- **6 trainings with 109 state police and border police** - anti-trafficking police officers, border police officers, different crimes, judicial police officers;
- **3 trainings with 50 participants** of the state social service/child protection employees / social administrators / labor inspectorate - social worker, psychologist, social administrator, etc.
- **3 trainings with 53 specialists of health structures** and the directorate of public health - doctors, nurses, social workers

- **4 trainings with 63 specialists of educational institutions** - (teachers, psychologists and social workers of schools)

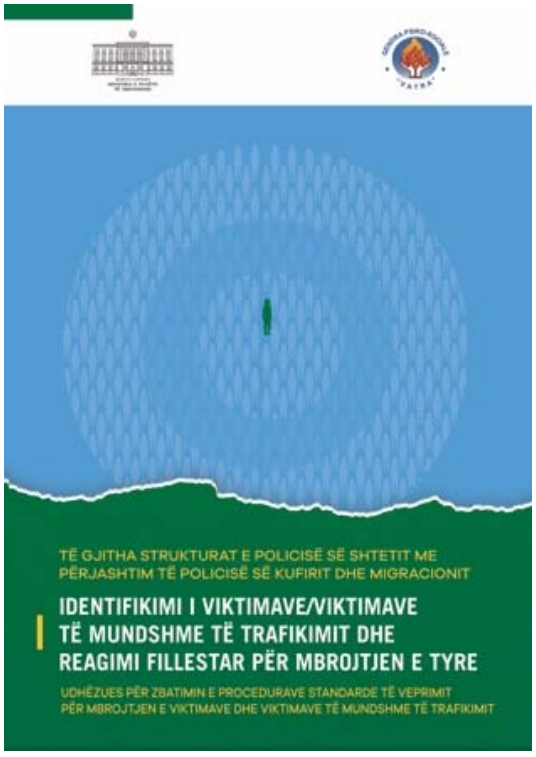



Photos from trainings with anti-trafficking structures

In support of capacity building of employees responsible for the identification and provision with services to victims/potential victims of trafficking, Vatra prepared and published 7 Guidelines[5] for the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures for the Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking. These guidelines were prepared for the structures of the State Police, border police, health workers, education workers, state social service, child protection units, labor inspectorate. The guidelines were prepared based on the Standard Operating Procedures for the Protection of Victims/Potential Victims of Trafficking including sections on indicators for minors and adults, victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking, steps that each institution should take for the identification and protection of victims of trafficking/potential victims of trafficking, initial and formal identification of victims, etc.

[5] http://www.qendravatra.org.al/

The guides were printed in 7000 copies (1000 copies each) and distributed and they will continue to be distributed specifically for each institution in the 12 districts of the country.



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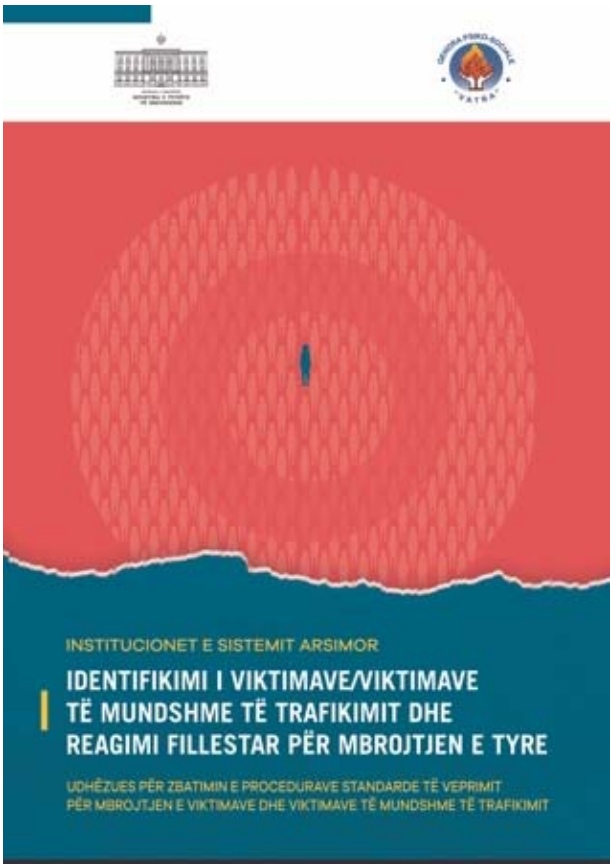
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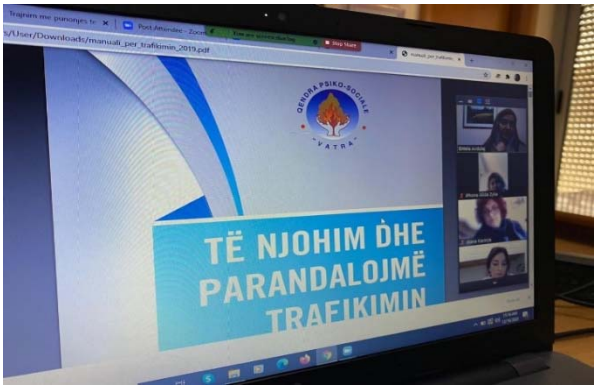
## 3.2 Workshop

Vatra conducted 2 workshops with **38** teachers and school psychologists in Vlora and Durres. During the activities was presented the "Manual on trafficking in persons for young people 14-18 years old", a publication by "Vatra" Center for the teachers, psychologists and other specialists working with this age group.




Photos from workshops with teachers and psychologists

## 3.3 Capacity building of Vatra Center staff

Throughout the year, psycho-social staff has been trained and participated in workshops related to human trafficking issues, protection of victims' rights, recognition and implementation of New Operating Procedures for the protection of victims of trafficking. and potential victims of trafficking, recognition of child protection policies, recognition and implementation of the shelter's internal regulations, recognition and implementation of Albanian and international human rights legislation, etc.

# IV.

# LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY IN THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN, GIRLS AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, ABUSE AND VIOLENCE.

One of Vatra's areas of activity is lobbying and advocating for the rights of victims of trafficking, sexual abuse, victims of domestic violence and children in vulnerable situations. In this context, Vatra has taken initiatives or collaborated with other organizations or networks at local, national and international levels.

**At local level,** with the support of AWEN, every year work is done to strengthen the Women's Alliances of Vlora, Selenica and Himara Municipal Councils. In the meetings with these structures, special importance was given to informing the members about the situation of women and girls victims of trafficking, sexual abuse and violence (based on Vatra's experience in working directly with these target groups), advocating for prioritization by City councils of women and girls victims of violence and trafficking to be included in the social bonus scheme for housing rent.

Work has been done especially with the Alliance, to extend the hours of kindergartens and crèche (until 17.00), which was successfully achieved in 2020. Another success has been that during 2020 are excluded from the payment of kindergarten and crèche 19 children of women victims of domestic violence in difficult economic conditions.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Vatra held a meeting with representatives of the Alliance of Women Councilors of Vlora Municipal Council. During the meeting, the Alliance was informed about the challenges and difficulties faced by victims of gender-based violence in the District of Vlora, even in the conditions of the global pandemic.

As a member of the *Anti-Trafficking Regional Committee and the Coordinated Mechanism for Referral of Cases of Domestic Violence*, Vatra has participated in every meeting organized and has carried out advocacy work with other members of these structures. Vatra has made presentations of the situation, difficulties and challenges faced by the target groups it

assists and based on them has given recommendations to other members of RATC and NRM in order to improve their social, economic and health status.

At the national level, "Vatra" Center has lobbied and contributed with recommendations during the drafting of important legislative documents such as: National Anti-Trafficking Action Plans, National Plan 2019-2021 for the Protection of Children from Economic Exploitation, amending law no. 9669, dated 18/12/2006 "On measures against domestic violence", amendments to the laws "On social services" and "Social housing", etc.

In recent years, as a member of the coalitions of which Vatra is member, the organization has been part of public reactions as a result of the violation of the rights of women, victims of trafficking, abuse, violence and children. Among them we can single out the reactions as part of Albanian Women Empowerment Network (AWEN), the Coalition "Justice for All", NCATS, the Network for Monitoring Against Gender-Based Violence.

As a member of the National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters, representatives of Vatra participated in and contributed to the "International Visitor Leadership Program" supported by the U.S Department of State. In the framework of the program, a meeting was organized with representatives of the U.S Department of State in Washington DC, where information was shared regarding the situation of trafficking in human beings in Albania, achievements and challenges in the fight against this phenomenon.

In October, Vatra joined a national initiative to collect the signatures of 20,000 citizens in order to draft a National Register of Sexual Offenses. Over the course of 3 days, at a stand located on the main street of the city, 700 signatures of citizens were gathered to support the initiative.

Photos from the campaign for collecting citizens' signatures

**At the international level,** for more than 10 years, Vatra has participated in direct consultative meetings in Brussels with high-level representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and members of the European Parliament. In these meetings, Vatra has given input on the situation of human trafficking in Albania, issues related to the rights of victims, and recommendations for the improvement of Albanian anti-trafficking policies and legislation. The data are presented every year not only to the European Commission in Brussels but also to the Delegation of the European Union in Albania. At the same time, Vatra provided input to the Report of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which monitors the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by state parties.

Data on the situation of human trafficking in the country as well as recommendations were given together with other members of the National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters at the Embassy of the United States of America, Tirana in the framework of drafting the Report on Trafficking in Persons (TIP Report 2020) from the US Department of State.

In July, the Ambassador of the U.S Embassy in Tirana, Mrs. Yuri Kim organized a meeting with representatives of civil society organizations in the city of Vlora. Vatra during the meeting shared information on the situation of human trafficking in the country, achievements, challenges and objectives for the future to contribute to the prevention of human trafficking, protection of victims and respect for their rights.

During July, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Albania, Mr. Duncan Norman visited Vatra Center. The meeting took place in the framework of the implementation of the project "*Transformation of the national response to human trafficking in and from Albania*". The exchange of information on the situation of trafficking in Albania, the work and challenges encountered in identifying and protecting victims of trafficking were the focus of this meeting.

# COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

For the realization of the activities undertaken and the services it offers in the framework of the projects implemented by Vatra, there is a wide network of local, national and international cooperation. The following table gives a picture of the associates and partners of "Vatra" Psycho-Social Center.

| ASSOCIATES | PURPOSE OF THE COLLABORATION |
|---|---|
| **Ministry of Interior / Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator** | Strengthening the referral system and managing of cases of victims of trafficking; exchange of information, organization of joint anti-trafficking activities, case reporting to the Responsible Authority, etc. |
| **Regional Police Directorates** | Referral of cases for assistance; providing security during the accompaniment of victims to law enforcement institutions when they have reported traffickers, reporting, etc. |
| **Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP)** | Joint activities, financing of food for the beneficiaries in the shelter, financing of the salaries of the specialized staff of the rehabilitation program, referral of cases for assistance, inspection of services, support for solving the problems of cases with special health needs, referral of cases. |
| **State Social Service (SSS) at central and regional level in the districts; Labor Inspectorate** | Joint activities, inspection of shelter services, referral of cases for assistance, reporting, etc. |
| **Regional Employment Directorates** | Referral of cases for assistance, referral of cases for mediation for employment and involvement in employment promotion programs, joint awareness activities, etc. |
| **Directorate of Public Health, Vlora Regional Hospital, "Ali Mihali" Hospital Vlora** | Health assistance, referral of mutual cases for assistance. |
| **Ministry of Education; Regional Education Directorates Vlora, Fier, Berat, Gjirokastra; School directorates in districts.** | Joint activities, facilitation by the Ministry and RED in the districts for the realization of awareness-raising activities in schools, referral of cases for assistance, etc. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Municipalities and Administrative Units of the whole country** | Referral of cases for assistance; cooperation in the organization and development of awareness activities |
| **National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters NCATS, AWEN, URAT, WAVE etc.** | Mutual referral of cases for assistance; lobbying and advocacy for the protection of the rights of victims of crime, joint activities at national and international level etc. |
| **Prosecution and District Court of Vlora, Saranda, Berat, Gjirokastra etc.** | Referral of cases for assistance; joint activities. |
| **Vlora Municipality, Directorate of Social Services and Economic Assistance, Local Coordinator against Violence, Child Protection Unit** | Funding for operational costs for Vatra Counseling Center, referral and case management, field identification of cases of children in street situation, joint awareness activities, etc. |
| **Vlora Regional Council** | Mediation for financing from MHSP funds for the salaries of rehabilitation program specialists, case referral, joint activities, etc. |
| **IOM** | Referral of cases for assistance, and support of repatriated victims of trafficking. |
| **"AULONA" Center** | Referral of cases for assistance; case support with medical services for women. |
| **Woman Forum Elbasan** | Referral of cases for assistance, monitoring of cases in the community, in the district of Elbasan |
| **Center for Civic Legal Initiatives Tirana** | Referral of cases for assistance |
| **"Jona" Center, Saranda** | Referral of cases for assistance, monitoring of cases in the community in Saranda district |
| **Counseling Center for Women and Girls, Durres** | Referral of cases for assistance, monitoring of cases in the community in Durres region |
| **Network of Women's Organizations in the Western Balkans, supported by Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation** | Advocacy and lobbying at the European Commission, Brussels for women's rights; joint activities. |

# ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report 2020
PROJECTS, DONORS, YEARLY INCOMES AND EXPENDITURES
REPORT CURRENCY EUR

| Nr | Project | Donor | Project Period | Total Budget | Remained from 2019 | Incomes during 2020 | Total incomes during 2020 | Expenditure 2020 | Difference from exchange rate | Situation from 31 December 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Women and men free from violence in Albania (3-year project) | C.I.E.S ONLUS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs , Italy | 1 Oct 2019 - 30 Sep 2022 | 141,446.50 | 5,428.62 | 26,950.00 | 32,378.62 | 25,319.30 | 30.00 | 6,787.46 |
| 2 | Transforming National Response to Human Trafficking in and from Albania | Unicef Albania with funds from the British Embassy | 1 Feb 2020 -30 April 2021 | 146,139.25 | 0.00 | 116,911.40 | 116,911.40 | 107,155.44 | 0.00 | 9,755.96 |
| 3 | Providing sustainable reintegration assistance to former victims of trafficking in Albania | PORTICUS, Vienna | 1 Jan 2019 -30 April 2020 | 170,000.00 | 8,772.49 | 10,000.00 | 18,772.49 | 18,772.59 | 0.15 | 0.43 |
| 4 | Enhancing anti-trafficking protection system effectiveness for better response to the rights of victims of trafficking in Albania | PORTICUS, Vienna | 1 Jan 2020 - 31 Dec 2021 | 200,000.00 | 0.00 | 190,000.00 | 190,000.00 | 37,635.33 | 0.19 | 152,364.86 |
| 5 | Strengthening the victim protection mechanism for the protection of victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence in the community of administrative units of Vlora Municipality, in Orikum, Qender Vlora, Nevosel and Shushice | FCG Swedish Development AB/PMT | 1 May 2019 - 31 March 2020 | 9,400.00 | -573.04 | 4,694.60 | 4,121.56 | 4097.93 | 0.00 | 0.90 |
| 6 | Implementation of monitoring tools to build on effective advocacy for protection and reintegration of former victims in Albania | Centre for Civic and Legal Initiatives, Tirana | 31 July 2019 - 31 Dec 2019 | 5,000.00 | (498.55) | 500.00 | 1.45 | - | - | 1.45 |
| 7 | Providing sustainable reintegration assistance to former victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual abuse in Albania | AWEN with SIDA funds | 1 Jan 2020 - 31 Dec 2020 | 28,260.00 | 3,019.97 | 32,530.00 | 35,549.97 | 24,935.75 | -0.03 | 10,614.19 |
| 8 | Technical Assistance for the drafting of the Startegic Plan 2021-2023 and Organizational Development | AWEN with SIDA funds | 1 Dec - 31 Dec 2020 | 1,200.00 | 0.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,196.91 | 0.00 | 3.09 |
| 9 | Providing sustainable reintegration assistance for Victims/Potential victims of Trafficking and their children, in Albania | World Vision, Albania | 1 Jan 2020 - 31 Dec 2020 | 8,730.80 | 0.00 | 5,914.79 | 5,914.79 | 8,730.43 | 0.00 | -2,815.63 |
| 10 | Support municipalities in analyzing and adopting new models/schemes for socio-economic integration for GB-VAW survivors” | Different & Equal with UN Women funds | 15 Sep 2020- 15 Dec 2021 | 16,168.15 | 0.00 | 2,263.54 | 2,263.54 | 2,255.86 | 0.00 | 7.68 |
| 11 | Awareness activity "Women's March, women's year, women's life" | Abi Bank | March 2020 | 893.28 | 0.00 | 893.27 | 893.27 | 893.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 12 | Emergency response in support of Vatra Center and its beneficiaries, during the pandemic in Albania | ERSTE foundation | 1 June – 30 Sep 2020 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 4987.36 | 0.00 | 12.64 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | Emerging Covid-19 Fund for the support of victims/potential victims of trafficking | ARISE Fondation | 01 April 2020 - 31 May 2020 | 4,252.22 | 0.00 | 4,252.22 | 4,252.22 | 4251.58 | 0.00 | 0.65 |
| 14 | Providing sustainable reintegration assistance to former victims of trafficking in Albania | Partners Albania, with funds from the Norwegian Embassy in Pristina | 01 Jan 2019 - 30 Sep 2020 | 40,000.00 | 3,111.14 | 24,650.00 | 27,761.14 | 27761.39 | -0.88 | 0.63 |
| 15 | Identification and education for an effective prevention against Trafficking in Persons in Albania | U.S Embassy, Tirana (Democracy Commission Small Grants Program) | 1 Sep 2020 - 31 Aug 2021 | 17,934.36 | 0.00 | 8,967.18 | 8,967.18 | 1,263.08 | 0.00 | 7,704.09 |
| 16 | Providing sustainable reintegration assistance for vicims of trafficking in Albania | United Nations represented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) | Sep 2020 - Nov 2022 | 48,911.88 | 0.00 | 24,489.28 | 24,489.28 | 48.90 | 0.00 | 24,440.38 |
| 17 | Support for food for victims/potential victims of trafficking, victims of violence and their children in the shelter of "Vatra". | Ministry of Health and Social Protection through Vlora Municipality | 1 Jan- 31 Dec 2020 | 18,648.34 | 0.00 | 13,643.95 | 13,643.95 | 13,644.10 | 0.00 | -0.15 |
| 18 | Financial support for operational costs for the counceling offices of "Vatra". | Vlora Municipality | 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2020 | 5,173.81 | 7,177.53 | 8,923.78 | 16,101.31 | 5,088.59 | -242.97 | 11,255.69 |
| 19 | Vatra solidarity contribution | Saving Account for solidarity contribution | 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2020 | 0.00 | 11,202.99 | 3,922.36 | 15,125.35 | 2,595.08 | -244.53 | 12,774.79 |
| | **TOTAL** | | | | **37,641.15** | **485,706.38** | **523,347.53** | **290,632.90** | **-458.07** | **232,909.11** |

*Donors have funded in different currencies: EUR, USD, LEK. To facilitate the reporting process it is used the Albanian Bank official exchange rate of EUR on 31st December 2020*

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|---|---|
| *Exchange rate LEK- EUR* | ***123.70*** |
| *Exchange rate LEK-USD* | ***100.84*** |
| *Exchange rate USD - EUR* | ***0.82*** |