

Quarterly newsletter

Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH

In focus:

- Creation of legislative framework regulating protection of local victims of trafficking underway
- Shelter assessment carried out by an independent consultant
- STAR initiates the RAMP project

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Drafting of legal document for Protection of Local Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

On December 18 and 19, Thematic Working group for Protection, which was established under the auspices of the State Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH, in cooperation with IOM, organised a round table in hotel 'Saraj' in Sarajevo, to present a draft version of the legal document for protection of local victims of human trafficking.

The round table was split around working groups in the areas of Prevention, Health Protection, Social Welfare and work of the Police and Prosecutors and gathered representatives from Minis-

try of Human Rights and Refugees, Ministry of Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Border Service, State Investigation and Protection Agency, prosecutors, entity ministries of interior, social and health care protection, partner international and non-governmental organisations.

With the steady increase of local victims of trafficking there was a need for creation of a legislative framework regulating protection of local victims, on a par with existing legislation for foreign victims.

Overall, the round table was received very well by the

participants as it fostered better communication and understanding of the roles of all the parties, who will eventually be expected to fulfil their obligations arising out of this document in the process of offering assistance and protection to the local victims.

As the next step, the Working Group for Protection will prepare a final version of the Draft document, incorporating comments from the round table and forward to relevant entity and Brčko District ministers for signature, after which it will be put up for adoption by the Council of Ministers.

Save the Children Norway co-hosts a Conference on Violence against Children

Save the Children Norway (South East Europe Regional Office), in cooperation with the Council for Children BiH, FBiH Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, SOS Kinderdorf International and UNICEF, organised the International Conference on Violence against Children with the goal of helping the creation of a state strategy for prevention of child abuse. The conference was held in Sarajevo in

the period between 3rd and 4th October 2006. Approximately 100 participants were

invited to attend the conference, out of which 10 percent were children.

Besides being a host, Save the Children Norway also organised one of the roundtables titled "Violence in the Community – Exploitation of Children". Five well-known speakers introduced key problems in the area of child exploitation, paving the way for a fruitful discussion among around 30 persons from local and international governmental and nongovernmental structures as well

as children.

This discussion resulted in concrete conclusions and recommendations on future strategic plans for combating violence against children in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Shelter Assessment conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The USAID Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina commissioned a country-wide assessment and analysis of the current status of existing shelters for victims of trafficking which was carried out by an independent consultant, Ms. Ruth Rosenberg, in the period between April and June 2006. The objective of the assessment was to provide recommendations for improving the assistance framework in the future.

The consultant found that that the assistance framework in BiH was designed primarily for foreign VoTs. The referral mechanism for foreign VoTs is effective and a basic assistance package of safe accommodation, food, clothing and medical care is

being provided by all shelters. In most of the shelters the assistance provided to Bosnian citizens is primarily the same as that provided to foreign victims, with the result that Bosnian victims are not being provided with the kinds of services needed for their successful reintegration. Some of the key findings and recommendations include:

- the capacity of the existing shelters exceeds the number of victims currently in need of the assistance
- more focus should be placed on reintegration of victims in various parts of the country
- there is a need to differentiate between open and closed types of shelters in order to allow for better reintegration

of victims requiring lower level of security and better protection for those with security concerns

- organisations should be encouraged to advocate for the State to develop a system for providing free medical services to VoTs
- opportunities for education and income generating projects in shelters should be developed
- shelters should be required to provide recreational activities for shelter residents
- a mechanism monitoring victim assistance network in order to evaluate the quality of the services being provided should be put in place.

Authorities from Sarajevo and Banja Luka Exchange Experience in Combating Child Begging

As part of its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organised a one-day roundtable which was held in Hotel Bosnia in Sarajevo on 14th of December 2006. Representatives of national actors involved in anti-trafficking activities gathered to address the issue of child begging. One of the aspects of trafficking in human beings involves the use of children by organised criminal groups for street begging. This proved to be a complex and multifaceted problem that requires

involvement of all relevant institutions dealing with this issue. Since the phenomenon affects many children in BiH, relevant actors, meaning police, social services, civil society and Roma representatives, used this opportunity to discuss the best ways of dealing with victims of this particular form of forced child labour.

The basis for the discussion was the Sarajevo Canton "Protocol on Cooperation for Prevention of Begging, Vagrancy, Illegal Street Sale", which was signed by relevant

cantonal and city authorities in 2004. This forum also enabled a very fruitful exchange of experiences between the relevant officials from Banja Luka and Canton Sarajevo, since the city of Banja Luka recently drafted a Protocol to address the same issue.

The roundtable resulted in concrete recommendations on how to improve the implementation of the Protocol, as well as a list of its strengths and weaknesses to serve as an example for other parts of the country when addressing the issue of child begging.

Integrating Gender Perspectives Into Anti-Trafficking Activities

On 15 December 2006, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina gathered representatives of the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH and the Agency for Gender Equality in BiH to discuss the best ways of developing strategies and spe-

cific activities to counteract human trafficking from a gender perspective. Several conclusions were reached during the roundtable, focusing mainly on improving cooperation between these two governmental institutions and inclusion of gender aspects into the activities of the Office of the State Coordinator.

In regards to prevention and combating of human trafficking, special emphasis was put on the obligations arising from the Gender Action Plan, both for gender institutional mechanisms and other actors, because the majority of victims of trafficking in human beings are women and girls.



STAR commences new Anti-Trafficking Mobilisation Projects

During the past quarter, the STAR Network of World Learning brought its BiH Anti-Trafficking Community Mobilisation (BATCOM) Project to a successful close. From 2002 to 2006 BATCOM supported 22 innovative projects, all implemented by local women's nongovernmental organisations, which paid special attention to Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country of origin of trafficking victims. Through various workshops, seminars and trainings STAR and its partners educated more than 5,000 people, while a BATCOM local partner organisation broadcasted about 70 hours of programs on anti-trafficking. Addition-

ally, within the framework of BATCOM project, three educational/informational/promotional publications were released while the electronic version was downloaded many times from STAR's website.

On the basis of the very successful results from cross-border cooperation and capacity-building workshops undertaken in priority areas in 2005-2006 in cooperation with the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH, State Border Service and the FBIH Office of the Prosecutor, the STAR Network of World Learning,

with the support of ZONTA International ZISVAW, continues to work on prevention of human trafficking through the Regional Anti-trafficking Mobilisation for Prevention (RAMP) project. In the context of this project, for period of 2006-2007 five small grants for cross-border cooperation in prevention of human trafficking were awarded to Udruga Žena Vukovar, MAJA Bratunac, Ključki Biseri Ključ, Udruženje Žena Derventa i Sigurna Ženska Kuća Podgorica. Currently underway are preparations for the STAR Network of World Learning Regional Conference that is to be held by end of May 2007.

Prevention of Human Trafficking among High-Risk Groups in Asylum Centers

In cooperation with UNHCR, NGO 'Ključ' from Slovenia and Red Cross-Croatia, BHWI Foundation implemented the first phase of project against trafficking and gender based violence, responding to the perceived need for informing asylum seekers about these issues. The main goal of this project was provision of information to asylum seekers through individual sessions and by use of a 'Dictionary'. 'Dictionary', in a form of a reference book, is printed in nine languages and consists of all essential information, such as information on SOS phone lines in BiH and Europe for assistance to vic-

tims of trafficking. This project included 103 asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of this number 46% of interview sessions was conducted with women and 54% with men. Implementation of the second phase of this project is expected in 2007.

Furthermore, besides dissemination of information to asylum seekers, at the beginning of November 2006, BHWI Foundation started the implementation of the second phase of the CRS project "Prevention of human trafficking among high-risk groups in Asylum Centers-Phase II". Planned activities

are focusing on prevention of human trafficking through various vocational, skilled training for asylum seekers as well as workshops on the subject of trafficking, developed by using the experience of the past project implemented in asylum centers. In the first phase of this project two workshops on prevention of human trafficking were organised for adults (men and women). Currently ongoing vocational/skilled training involve silk painting and 'BAGAT' tailoring course for 30 women from asylum centers. At the end of a three-month course training participants will receive certificate of completion.



New Projects announced at the last Referral Meeting

During the last referral meeting, convened by the State Coordinator, on 11th December 2006, the participants from partner non-governmental and international organisations had the opportunity to give comments on the draft version of the Operational Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration in BiH,

for 2007.

Additionally, besides regular updates on past and planned activities the participants had the opportunity to listen to presentation on shelter assessment report and hear particulars about the Programme to support the development of transnational referral mechanism for trafficked

persons in South-Eastern Europe that is being funded by USAID and implemented by ICMPD and prevention project aiming to reduce vulnerability of young girls through economic and social integration and empowerment, funded by Austrian Development Agency and implemented by Catholic Relief Services and partner NGOs.

Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health XY starts Green Light Project

At the beginning of June 2006, Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health XY, with financial support of International Planned Parenthood Federation–European Network (IPPF EN), started Green Light project with the goal to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights and empower people who are vulnerable to trafficking and those who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation in BiH.

The implementation timeline of Green Light Project runs from June 2006 to June 2009. In this timeframe, the goal of the project will be realised through different activities within the project and through cooperation with relevant nongovernmental organisations that work on prevention and anti-trafficking activities in BiH. Target groups of the project are: young people vulnerable to trafficking, persons currently trafficked and those who were trafficked, with special focus on women. Green Light Project will be

implemented on five locations divided into primary and secondary locations. Implementation of the project in the primary locations, meaning Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Bijeljina, already began in 2006, while the implementation in the secondary project locations, Bratunac and Srebrenica, will start in 2009.

Main project activities will include training regarding trafficking and sexual and reproductive health and rights for personnel of Association XY and representatives of main partner organisations in the project; research on link between trafficking for sexual exploitation and sexual and reproductive health; improvement of quality of peer education programmes implemented by Association XY through development of additional module for peer education on trafficking and gender; peer education presentations in high schools located in project locations and among vulnerable groups (representatives of Roma minority and chil-

dren without parental care); training for shelter personnel on basic concepts of sexual and reproductive health and rights; development of informational and educational materials and messages on prevention of trafficking and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights; implementation of public campaigns and media events and a conference regarding the results of the project at the country level.

Main partners involved in the project are the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking and Illegal Immigration in BiH and nongovernmental organisations Lara, Bijeljina, and Medica Zenica, and International Organisation for Migration – IOM because of their experience in prevention and fight against trafficking. Beside these organisations, Association XY will, in accordance with the needs of specific activities and target groups, cooperate with nongovernmental organisations that work on project locations.

Žena BiH undertakes education workshops in areas of prevention and protection

Within the PARC II (Prevention and Awareness Raising Campaign) project supported by IOM, ŽENA BiH has implemented educational workshops on the subject of „Trafficking in human beings“ in elementary and secondary schools with pupils, teachers and parents, workshops for special target groups as well as on the subject of assistance in return and reintegration of trafficking victims. Workshops are carried out in Mostar and Ljubuski. The goal of the project is to raise awareness regarding the trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina and reduction of vulnerability among risk groups (teenagers, underage persons, socially vulnerable pop-

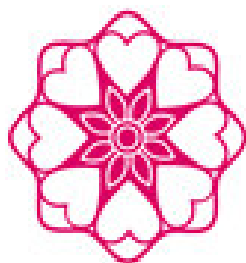
ulation, inhabitants from rural area).

Within the project “Improvement to system for protection of victims of trafficking accommodated in Safe Houses” supported by CRS, ŽENA BiH has conducted educational workshops for staff engaged in Safe House in order to provide trafficking victims with adequate assistance and support. The subjects elaborated during the workshops were violence, trafficking in human beings, preconditions for work with victims and communication with children. The goal of the project was improvement of the system for protection of trafficking victims having in mind the

specific needs of children, domestic and foreign victims of trafficking in human beings.

ŽENA BiH also continues to provide direct assistance to trafficking victims through its Safe House capacities.

ŽENA BiH is a member of ARIADNE – anti trafficking network in east and south-eastern Europe. They are currently implementing a joint project – a publication on the situation of human trafficking in twelve member countries of the network. The project is co-sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece (HELLENIC AID), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and the Embassy of Canada in Greece.



Udruženje • Association
ŽENA B&H WOMAN



Women's Association 'Maja' Works on Prevention of Human Trafficking

Women's Association "Maja", in accordance with its mission, focuses on activities aiming to increase public awareness on violence and trafficking in human beings in BiH. Therefore, as of November 2006, this association is implementing the project 'Partnership and mobilisation for human trafficking prevention' that is supported by STAR Network of World Learning. The main goals of the project include prevention of trafficking in human beings through educa-

tion on the issue and formulation of precise recommendations on how to improve prevention of human trafficking, training of staff from relevant NGO and state institutions as well as young women and girls seeking jobs in municipalities of Bratunac (BiH), Ljubovija and Bajina Basta (Serbia) and establishment of interstate communication on joint actions in the area of Drina border region. In order to realise the goals of the project, 'Maja' will establish

cooperation with the employment bureaux, social welfare centres, catering agencies and NGO's in the afore-mentioned municipalities as well as organise workshops and roundtables on trafficking protection mechanisms and legal regulations. The movie *Lyilya Forever* will be shown during the roundtables and workshops as well as in the classrooms of final grades of secondary schools in the targeted municipalities.

An Evening with the Friends of Vaša Prava BiH

During the evening with the Friends of Vaša prava BiH, in Sarajevo on the 7th of December 2006, letters of thanks were awarded to all present donors of the Association Vaša prava BiH. The Executive Director of the Association, M.A. Asja Rokša-Zubčević handed the letters of thanks to the representatives of the donors: UNHCR, Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, USAID, German Embassy, Swiss Embassy, Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights - SHC, Canadian International Development Agency, Justice Sector Development Project - JSDP, Open Society Fund BH, Ministry for Human Rights

and Refugees BiH and Ministry of Security BiH. By supporting the Association Vaša prava BiH and free legal aid program, 400.000 beneficiaries throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina received legal assistance.



Besides gratitude to all friends of the Association that supported and followed its work, M.A. Rokša-Zubčević in her speech pointed out that: "The assistance to Vaša

prava BiH is direct assistance to the most vulnerable population in Bosnia and Herzegovina!"

On behalf of BiH Ministry of Security Mr. Marijan Baotić, thanked the Association for the award which was a pleasant surprise and expressed hope that they will continue to successfully cooperate in the future. In July 2004 Vaša prava BiH signed a Protocol on Free Legal Aid Provision to asylum seekers, victims of trafficking and persons under international protection. Based on this Protocol these two institutions have established over the past three years fruitful cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings.

La Strada hosts a regional conference

La Strada BiH organised a regional conference entitled "Harmonising the work of Governmental organisations and NGO sector of BiH in the field of Anti-trafficking - lessons learnt".

The Conference took place in Sarajevo in the period between 2-4 November, 2006 and was attended by representatives of foreign embassies to BiH, governmental institutions (Ministry of Interior, Office of the State Coordinator for Combating

Trafficking in Human Beings, State Border Service of BiH, Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia, La Strada Macedonia, La Strada Poland, Office of the Public Prosecutor of BiH/FBiH/RS, State Investigation and Protection Agency, NGOs, IOs (OSCE, IOM, EUPM, OHCHR, EUFOR), media representatives, etc.).

Conclusions from the conference include *inter alia*:

- improving the cooperation between governmental institutions and NGOs with

the aim to avoid negative consequences for victims, such as leaking of sensitive information, legality of evidence and accountability of relevant officials.

- lobbying for equal standards of protection through the legislative framework for both local and foreign victims of trafficking

- lobbying for simplifying of provisions regulating seizure of assets of traffickers with the aim of establishing victim support funds.



Vijeće ministara

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Current and upcoming events:

- 1 February 2007 — Meeting of Heads of Working Groups on Prevention, Protection and Prosecution with IOM, Sarajevo
- 4–6 February 2007 — Training for police, health and social workers in Brcko (Save the Children Norway/Working Group on Protection)
- February/March 2007 (TBC) — Seminar on Shelter Assessment (USAID, IOM, Office of the State Coordinator)

Other news in brief:

- In the framework of IOM's Public Awareness Raising Campaign (PARC), Fondacija lokalne demokratije, as the implementing partner, organised workshops entitled 'Violence and human trafficking with special focus on violence against children' in Sarajevo, Novo Sarajevo and Ilijaš, known as risk municipalities when it comes to trafficking and domestic violence. Response from parents, teachers and pupils was very positive and workshops were regarded as very successful. Workshops are also planned for East Sarajevo and Hadžići in February and March next year.
- Catholic Relief Services announced a new project Empowerment for Prevention of Trafficking (EPT), supported by Austrian Development Agency. The project will be implemented in BiH and Moldova, in the period between December 2006 and December 2008. Implementing partners in BiH are Caritas BiH, La Strada BiH and BHWI. Direct beneficiaries of the project will be young girls and women between 16 and 25 years old, in particularly vulnerable situations (socially endangered categories, from rural areas, internally displaced persons or economic migrants from rural areas to bigger cities, women without parental care, girls from dysfunctional families, those belonging to minority groups (asylum seekers, urban refugees...). Expected results, *inter alia*, include education of private sector towards creation of employment opportunities, creation of employment opportunities for 80 girls/women, education and mobilisation of all sectors with the aim of social and economic integration of the vulnerable population and development of regional network for exchange of information, experiences and joint capacity building.