



FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS!

THE TRAFFICKING
OF MEN AND BOYS
IN ALBANIA

TIRANA, 2015



Falling through the cracks! The trafficking of men and boys in Albania

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Mariana Meshi
Executive Director
Organization "Different & Equal"

2. Acronyms

| | |
|--------|--|
| AHC | Albanian Helsinki Committee |
| ARSIS | Association for the Social Support of Youth |
| ASP | Albanian State Police |
| D&E | Different and Equal |
| FBSH | Children of World Albania |
| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit |
| GRETA | Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings |
| KBF | King Baudouin Foundation |
| ILO | International Labor Organization |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| MU | Mobile Units |
| NATC | National Anti-trafficking Coordinator |
| NCATS | National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters |
| PVT | Potential Victims of Trafficking |
| RA | Responsible Authority |
| SHKEJ | National Organization of Life Education |
| SLI | State Labour Inspectorate |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedures |
| SSS | State Social Service |
| TVRP | Trafficking Victims Reintegration Program |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| VoT | Victims of Trafficking |

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3. Executive Summary

This study was conducted in the framework of the project “Enhancing the reintegration efforts for victims of trafficking in Albania”, supported through KBF’s Trafficking Victims Re/integration Programme (TVRP) in the Balkans.

This study tries to shed light on a topic rarely studied and assessed in Albania or in the region: the trafficking of males. The sources of information for this study include the D&E experience accumulated during two years in identifying and assisting male victims of trafficking; analyses of the case files of 23 male victims of trafficking assisted in the reintegration program; 16 interviews conducted in the border crossing points of Kapshtica (Korça) and Rinas (Tirana) with irregular migrant males; interviews with stakeholders in Albania and a survey completed by agencies and professionals; and the desk review.

The assessment try to explore and analyze in depth the situation of trafficking of males in Albania, highlighting the barriers and the difficulties faced because of gender biases and cultural taboos regarding the trafficking of males.

The study will explore more in depth the experience of D&E and its Coalition partners during these two years of assisting male victims of trafficking. The analyses of the case files of the 23 assisted persons and the three interviews conducted, point out two general trends of identification of males as VoT, based on the experience of assisting males in Albania. The first group is composed of young males of ages between 16-23 who before falling into the exploitation process used to live in a street situation or in families with enormous social-economic problems. The other group (smaller than the first group) is a different category and is composed of adult males who, in search for a better life, end up in an exploitation situation.

Of crucial importance for this study are the interviews conducted in two border crossing points with Albanian deported migrants. Irregular migration has been linked to trafficking and the trends of irregular migration have been consistently high in Albania, due to the long transition of the society. Even though none of them has been identified as formal victim of trafficking, many have lived and worked in very difficult situations, far from the minimum standards of living and working. Another important part of this assessment is the exploration of the existing literature regarding male trafficking in Albania.

Introduction

Trafficking in persons has been acknowledged as a pressing human rights issue in Albania for many years. Even though it is still considered a country of origin for men, women and children trafficked into sexual exploitation and forced labor, both the government and civil society organizations have made substantial efforts and realized substantial success in addressing this serious crime and human rights violation. The Government of Albania has, for example, established a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for improving identification and assistance to victims of trafficking and has approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the identification and referral of victims of trafficking and presumed victims of trafficking, including male victims. In addition, the Helpline 116006 has been established and the application “Report! Save!” offer the public a quick and simple way to report cases of trafficking or suspected cases of trafficking.

Notwithstanding successes, gaps and issues remain in terms of the identification and assistance of trafficked persons in the country. One glaring example **is the lack of identification of and assistance to male trafficking victims**, trafficked from, to or within the country. The general assumption in Albania about human trafficking is that the victims are primarily women and girls trafficked into sexual exploitation. And yet men and boys have been increasingly identified as trafficking victims in the country and as victims of not only labor trafficking, but also other forms of exploitation. While the number of men and boys identified to date is small in number, there is reason to believe that the issue is much bigger, with some men and boys not being formally identified by authorities, in spite of the official NRM and SOPs that are in place.

This study explores the trafficking of men and boys to and from Albania. It is intended to shed light on this, to date, under-considered aspect of human trafficking in the country. A better understanding of this form of trafficking in the country should in turn lead to enhanced identification of men and boys as well as contribute to the design and delivery of formal assistance to victims of trafficking.

4. Research methodology and limitations

This study draws on a number of different data sources including both primary and secondary data. Data collection took place between March 2012 and January 2015.

Analyses of case files and interviews with trafficked males

Case files of 23 trafficked males assisted by D&E between March 2012 and January 2015 form the foundation of this study. The research team analyzed these case files with specific attention to the men and boys' personal backgrounds, recruitment process, experiences of exploitation, how they left their trafficking situation and their assistance needs. In addition, three interviews were completed, two with trafficked boys between 16-18 years old and one adult male.

Interviews with service providers working with trafficked males

Interviews were conducted with four social workers from NGOs working to assist trafficking victims – i.e. D&E, Other Vision and Psycho-Social Centre Vatra. Social workers were interviewed about their experience in assisting male trafficking victims as well as the gaps and issues they faced in their work.

In depth Interviews with returned male migrants

Sixteen interviews were conducted with male migrants returning from Greece at the border points of Kapshtica (Korça) and Rinas Airport (Tirana). Interviews were facilitated by the Border and Migration Department in ASP. These locations were chosen to screen returning male migrants for possible indicators of trafficking for forced labor or other forms of exploitation. Male migrants were provided with details of the study and questions to be asked. The focus of the interviews was the experience of migration, concentrated mostly on the work conditions and the difficulties faced during migration. In total, 16 male migrants consented to the interview – ten in Rinas Airport/ Tirana and six in Kapshtica/ Korça.

Semi-structured interviews/ questionnaires

Initial stakeholder interviews were conducted with agencies that have responsibilities for (or demonstrated a commitment to) the identification, referral and assistance of trafficked persons, returned migrants and immigrants. In turn, these agencies

identified other relevant agencies in the labor and migration and anti-trafficking fields, who were then contacted for interviews. A total of ten face-to-face interviews were conducted with stakeholders/agencies, including with representatives from the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator (1); Albanian State Police Anti –trafficking section and Border & Migration Section (2); MOLSAEO (1); National Employment Office (1); State Labor Inspectorate (1); and NGOs (4). The interviews were conducted at the initial phases of the study in order to explore experiences of different stakeholders in Albania regarding trafficking of males. Each respondent was asked for consent for interview after being provided information about the goals of the project and the study, topics of the interview, and explanations on how information obtained during the interview would be used.¹

Survey/questionnaire

A questionnaire was designed to collect information on migration in general of Albanian migrants and agency/institution experiences with returned migrants in Albania. The questionnaire sought opinions and recommendations for enhancing the identification, referral and assistance to male victims of trafficking. Questionnaires were sent via e-mail to different agencies and institutions working on labor, migration and anti-trafficking issues across the country. The questionnaire was distributed electronically in order to reach institutions and agencies that were not able to participate in the rounds of stakeholder interviews due to logistic and financial limitations. Five agencies responded to the questionnaire: two from England, one from Greece, and two from Albania.

Desk review

This study also draws on information and data from various reports, manuals and relevant documents collected through internet research, from labor & migration and anti-trafficking agencies as well as utilizing resources that stakeholders recommended in interviews. The desk review sought to include relevant and new information and to enable comparisons with other countries or other aspects and profiles of trafficking and labor migration.²

Methodological limitations and considerations

While this study provides important information and calls attention to an under-considered issue in Albania, there are limitations that must be considered. This study is based on a small number of trafficked males – 23 in total. Moreover, all of the

¹ Guaranteeing that the report would not give identifiable information about informants. When information from interviews is cited in this report, only the category of the agency that the interviewee belonged to and the date of the interview is provided.

² Please refer to Annex I, “References”

men and boys were assisted by D&E over the past two years. Assisted trafficked victims may be a particular subset of trafficking victims; many trafficked persons are unidentified and unassisted. The experiences of these men and boys cannot, therefore, be understood as representative of the broader population of trafficked males to and from the country.³ Instead, these cases are intended as an initial exploration of this phenomenon of the trafficking in males from and to Albania and must be read in this context.

³ See, for example, Surtees, Rebecca (2014) 'Another side of the story. Challenges in research with unidentified and unassisted trafficking victims', in Yea, Sallie (Ed.) *Human Trafficking in Asia: Forcing Issues*, Routledge; Brunovskis, Anette & Rebecca Surtees (2010) 'Untold Stories: Biases and Selection Effects in Research with Victims of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation', *International Migration Special Issue on Human Trafficking*, 48(4), 1-37; and Surtees, Rebecca & Sarah Craggs (2010) *Beneath the surface. Methodological issues in research and data collection with assisted trafficking victims*, IOM and NEXUS Institute.

5. Trafficked males: their lives and trafficking experiences

Between March 2012 and January 2015, D&E assisted 23 males who were trafficked to, from or within Albania. This chapter shares the background and trafficking experiences of these men and boys as well as their identification and assistance afterward.

Personal background and characteristics of trafficked men and boys

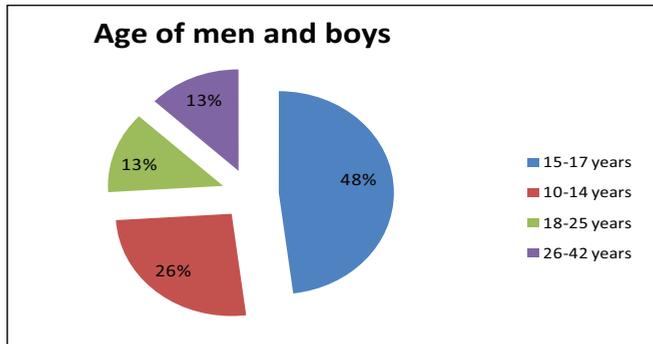
A noteworthy number of males identified and assisted through D&E's assistance program were children (i.e. under 18 years of age) when they were trafficked. Some were still children when assisted, while others were only identified and assisted later on in life (for example, when they were between 18 and 21 years of age). This is important not only in terms of highlighting that Albanian boys are at risk of trafficking, but also in terms of delays in receiving assistance.

Going unassisted for a number of years extended the period of exploitation and further compromised the boy's well-being. It also arguably compromised their reintegration process; the longer it takes for assistance to be received, the more difficult is the process of reintegration.

Table 1.1 Age of males when trafficked

| Age | 10-14years | 15-17 year | 18-25years | 26-42 years | Total |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| No. of men or boys | 6 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 23 |
| Percentage | 26% | 44% | 18% | 13% | 100% |

Graph 1.1 Age of men and boys when trafficked

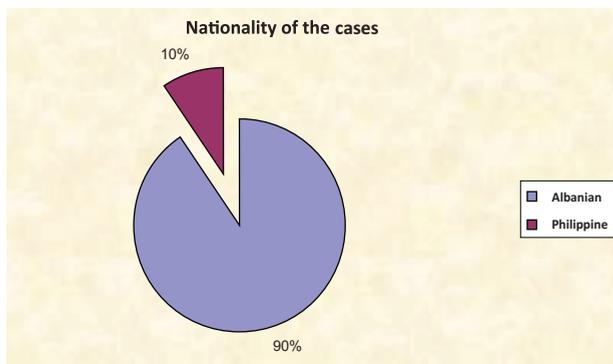


In the three cases of the 18-25 years old age group⁴, they had almost the same background as minor boys, who were trafficked. They were in a street situation permanently (1 case), or temporary (1 case), while another was living in a very dysfunctional and violent family. That being said, adult men were also trafficked to and from Albania. Two foreign nationals from Philippines were trafficked to Albania to work as cooks; they were adults at the time of exploitation (27 and 31 years of age). In addition, one adult male was trafficked to Africa for labor, at the age of 40.

Country and place of origin

The majority of the trafficked men and boys (21 of 23 or 91%) were from Albania. Two males, both adults, were trafficked to Albania from the Philippines.

Graph 1.2 Nationality of trafficked males in Albania

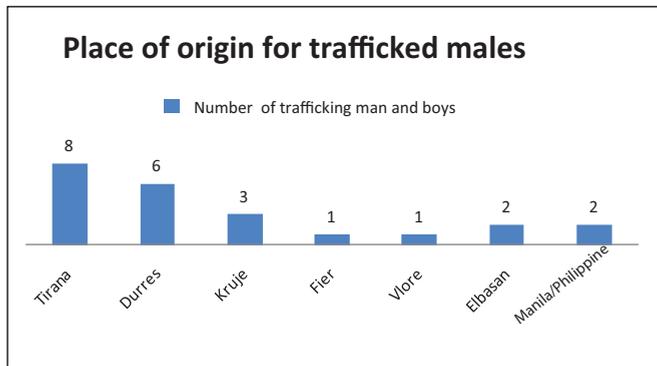


⁴ Respectively - one 18 years old, another 20 years old and one 24 years old.

Albanian men and boys originated from different parts of the country. Of the twenty one Albanian boys and men assisted, 8 of them were from Tirana, 6 were from Durrës, 3 from Kruja, 2 from Elbasan, 1 from Fier and 1 from Vlora.

Men and boys from Tirana (8) included those who were from Tirana originally as well as those who had come to Tirana at a young age, through internal migration. In these latter instances, the boys typically came to Tirana with their families in search of better work and opportunities, but the families lived in miserable conditions and some boys ended up as homeless, with no one to care for them. Two boys ran away from their families because of neglect – their parents were unable to care for them – and migrated to Tirana on their own, ending up in the street.

Graph 1.3 Place of origin for trafficked males by number of cases



Family situation and background

Of the 20 boys⁵ that were trafficked, 19 originated from family environments that could be described as abusive, neglecting or unsuitable to meet their needs. The environment in which these boys were raised was characterized by verbal and physical abuse. For example, one boy, trafficked for forced labor, described a very fraught relationship with his mother, who often neglected him. Her ambivalence toward him was exemplified by her response when he threatened to jump from the stairs because she was not paying enough attention to him. She said simply: “You can jump”.

In some cases, parents had divorced or one of the parents was dead and the other parent was unable to care properly due to economic factors.

⁵ In this document the term boy has been used for the age category 18-25 years old.

Some boys were abandoned by one or both parents. One boy exploited for forced criminality, had a particularly harrowing experience when, at nine years old, his parents split up and his mother abandoned the family. He then followed his mother to another city with the hope that he would live with her. When he arrived at the home where his mother was living, his “stepfather” didn’t allow him to enter. Instead he was left, at nine years old, to survive on the street, facing freezing temperatures over the winter, sleeping only under a piece of plastic sheet.

Relations within families were sometimes unstable and characterized by continuous conflict. In some cases, those responsible for the care of the boys (e.g. parents and/or step-parents) exhibited problematic behaviors, such as addiction to alcohol, gambling, and adultery.

Some boys, forced by abuse and extreme neglect, left home and ended up living on the streets. This was the case for 14 of the boys assisted. Some were as young as nine years old when they ended up being homeless; others were older teens (16-17 years). It was, in 10 cases, the boy’s homelessness that led quite directly to being trafficked. That is, while boys were living on the street, they were specifically targeted by adults who used their total vulnerability, by seducing them and entering them especially into forced criminality or sexual exploitation. To some of them was offered shelter, to some others food and to some a little money as ways of ensuring their consent

In two instances, the boys’ fathers directly exploited their children for labor. One boy was forced to work selling fish and another boy was forced to work as a waiter. In both cases the fathers threatened their son with physical abuse and forced the child to leave school in order to work.

One of them has been in an institution, since he was born, while four others have been institutionalized as a result of the abuse suffered in the family (one of the boys), of the death of a parent (two of the boys) or as a result of not being able to care by the single parent (one boy). In one case, the process of trafficking began when the case was in institution. In the other cases, the process of trafficking started after leaving the institution, usually falling in a street situation. In these cases, the situation is impacted by lack of clear child protection practices. Thus, even though the conditions were not in place for the boys to be deinstitutionalized, they were still sent back to their broken families and later ended up again in a street situation.

The family situation of the three adult men exploited for forced labor was quite different compared with trafficked boys. Two of the men (one Albanian, one Filipino) came from stable marriages and had children, with whom they had a strong relationship. It was indeed these relationships and the desire to better support their families that led them to migrate for work, which in turn led to their trafficking situation. Indeed, one of the men described his deep sadness of being unable to carry his daughter after his return home due to injuries suffered while trafficked. This man was violently attacked by his employer's bodyguard and suffered damage to the tendons in his arm and was not able to carry heavy weight. This impeded him to work again in his profession. And it was the desire to return immediately to their families that led one foreign victim from the Philippines to return home.

The other man from the Philippines, who was exploited in Albania and Kosovo, had some disagreement with his relatives since he planned to migrate to Kosovo. He felt a little anxious and doubtful about going back to the Philippines, especially after the hard experience and the fact that he had not earned any money at all after around six months of staying in Albania and Kosovo.

Economic situation

Trafficked boys came from quite impoverished families, sometimes from extreme poverty and homeless situations. Oftentimes, boys lived in substandard housing before being trafficked and a noteworthy number of boys (eleven boys) were literally homeless and living on the street at the time of trafficking. Overall, the boys' families were poor and without the means to adequately support their children. This situation has led some parents to encourage their children to leave school and work, which in some cases led to them being trafficked.

By contrast, the economic situation of the three adult males exploited for forced labor was better. The men had an average economic situation and a stable profession. The Filipino males exploited for forced labor were professional chefs and migrated to Kosovo and Albania in the hope of better work conditions and higher salaries than in their home country. Equally, the Albanian man trafficked for forced labor in Africa was a qualified and experienced construction worker, who was working at the time of recruitment, but accepted this work given the high salary promised by his employer (only promised, not given entirely).

Education

The educational background of trafficked men and boys differed substantially.

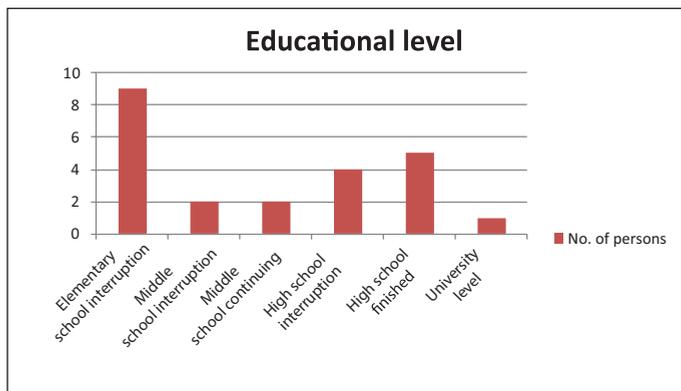
Most trafficked boys abandoned school at a very young age and have only very limited education. They often left school because they were obliged to beg on the streets, to help support the family or simply forced to do so. Nine of 20 boys abandoned elementary school, meaning they have typically only completed a few years of education. For many of these nine, this meant being illiterate or having only very basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Two of the twenty boys interrupted their education in middle school, which meant the sixth and the eighth class and four boys interrupted their education in high school, meaning having completed nine classes (three of them) and ten classes (one of them).

That being said, two boys have completed high school and two others are still continuing their education, currently in the ninth class. Moreover, one boy (young man) is currently enrolled at the university,

Education levels amongst the adult males were generally higher with all three having completed high school education and having received professional training as chefs in two instances and construction work in one case

Graph 1.4 Educational level of trafficked males (boys and men) by percentage



Trafficked boys have a much lower education level than is typical in Albania. The average number of years of school in Albania is 11.9 years⁶. By contrast, the average number of years of school amongst trafficked boys is only 5.5 years, putting them at a decided disadvantage as job seekers or in setting up a small business, which requires adequate levels of literacy and numeracy. For example, two boys found it difficult even to write their names; six boys were not able to read and write fluently in Albanian and struggled to complete simple multiplication or division.

While leaving school may increase an individual's risk of trafficking, in most cases leaving school or interrupting education is a consequence of the already existing situation that the individual is in – extreme poverty, lack of family stability, early engagement into child work, etc. For example, the majority of street-involved children abandons school early or is never able to attend. According to a study of street-involved children by UNICEF, ARSISS, SHKEJ, and FBSH⁷, around 41% of the children interviewed that were found in a street situation had abandoned school, while 21% of them had never been to school and only 38% were still in school.

By contrast, the adult males had an average number of 11.6 years of education, which is consistent with the national average. Moreover, each has completed vocational training as part of their education and has a profession of work.

Table 1.2. Average number of years of schooling for trafficked male

| Category of trafficked male | Average number of years of schooling |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Boys | 5.5 years |
| Adult male | 11.6 years |

Ethnicity

Of the 21 Albanian men and boys, twelve were ethnic Albanian and nine were of Roma or Egyptian ethnicity.⁸ This ethnic composition has changed over time, with the majority of male trafficking victims, who were first identified coming from

⁶ National Strategy for pre-university education – Ministry of Education and Science, July 2009.

⁷ National Study for Children in Street Situation – ARSIS, GFK

⁸ Census 2011 - INSTAT Albania <http://www.instat.gov.al/en/census/census-2011/census-2011-prefectures.aspx>. The majority of people (82.5%) in Albania identify as ethnic Albanian. Albania recognizes three national minorities (Greeks, Macedonians and Montenegrins) and two cultural minorities (Aromanians and Romani people). Balkan Egyptians also comprise an ethnic minority in the country. The most recent census (2011) to include information on ethnic groups and nationalities clarified the population of Albania by ethnic group as follows: Greeks .87%; Macedonians .2%; Montenegrins .01%; Balkan Egyptians .12%; Romani .3%; and Aromanians .3%. At the 2011 census, 14% of the population did not declare their nationality.

Roma and Egyptian ethnicity, because the major part of the street kids belongs to this community. More recently though, ethnic Albanian males have been increasingly identified as trafficked cases. This shift may be due to the increased number of agencies and NGOs that take part in the process of referral, having a more comprehensive coverage of identification of diverse groups. As a result, the identification process is moving toward a more holistic and, arguably, more 'astute'. Identification is now moving beyond the most obvious trafficking cases (e.g. street involved Roman children) to include the more opaque situations of trafficking (e.g. young men and boys generally, including ethnic Albanians).

Two of the men were from the Philippines; their specific ethnicity was not documented and is not known.

Table 1.3. Ethnic composition of Albanian trafficking victims

| Ethnicity of Albanian VoT | Number of victims |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Roma/Egyptian | 9 |
| Albanian Majority | 12 |
| Ethnicity of Foreigner VoT | Number of victims |
| Filipino (ethnicity not known) | 2 |

Recruitment

Recruitment happened in different ways depending on the form of trafficking.

Some young boys were engaged in begging, criminal activity and sexual exploitation, forced by the abuse and extreme neglect by their family members, left home in a very young age and found themselves homeless since they were 9-12 years old some of them, while others when they were 16-17 years old. Some of them got involved in begging and early forced labor (collecting irons and different recyclable materials), since in their early childhood as a need to be sheltered somewhere. This situation was used by third persons, who in exchange of housing or some economic profits (as much as to buy some food) exploited them for criminal activities, for example drug distribution, begging or even sexual exploitation. In some cases, begging is a form of exploitation that had begun earlier in the family. In the begging cases, they have started to beg first pushed or forced by their family members. Finding himself in street most of the day, one of the boys got in touch with people, who moved him across Albania to beg. In other situations, exploitation for begging was organized directly by the family.

“M. is a thirty years old male with moderate developmental delay. He was moved to Kosovo by his brother, who forced M. to begin the streets of Prishtina. M. was found by the police of Prishtina. His brother was arrested for trafficking and M. was send to the Albanian border by the Kosovo police.”

Also, some of the minors were used to distribute drugs, or to steal. While in a street situation, they were recruited by adults at the age of 12-13 years old. One of the boys tells that he filled his school bag with narcotics when he was only eleven and transported it to different areas of Tirana, surveyed by his recruiters.

Also in some cases, falling into exploitation is a direct consequence of a broken family. Due to the lack of support in the family, some minors established relationships with dangerous people, who took advantage of their vulnerability.

As previously noted, in at least two cases, family members were directly responsible for the recruitment and exploitation of male trafficking victims. Two boys interviewed for the study had been exploited for labor by their fathers. These men forced their sons to leave school to work, and confiscated their earnings.

Case study # 1

“L. is 19 years old. He was grown in a dysfunctional family, where his mother and his father had continuous quarrels between them. They used to split up and reunite many times. After some time, his mother abandoned the family definitely. L. tried to follow his mother in another city of Albania, where she was living with her boyfriend, but her boyfriend didn’t allow L. to live with them. So L. ended in a street situation, facing the cold winter of this city when he was only 9-years old. He used to stay for a long period in a street situation. This vulnerable situation of L. was used by others, who pushed L. to distribute drugs when he was only 12-13 years old.”

Recruitment of adult males exploited for labor was more formal. Each of the men sought to migrate abroad for work and they were indeed actively seeking these opportunities. For example, the two Filipinos were looking for a job and contacted a Filipino girl, who was working in Kosovo. The girl gave them the address of her employer and then they contacted this person in Kosovo via e-mail, with the hope

to be employed as professional cooks for EUR 1,000 per month. But, what was promised and their expectation did not materialize. On the contrary, they got paid less, did not get the payment on regularly basis, worked more than provided in the contract, their passports were taken and could not move freely.

Similarly, an Albanian male was trafficked for forced labor in Africa. A construction company contacted different persons that worked in the field of construction and they found friends and co-workers with the aim of working together abroad. First, they were told that they were going to work in Dubai but eventually ended up in Africa. They were promised good work conditions and were shown photos of the place where they were going to stay. All the workers were searching for higher salaries and better job opportunities comparing to what they earned in Albania; but, they ended up working in extremely bad conditions, their passports were taken, were told to work even during the night and, when they opposed orders, they got beaten.

Countries of exploitation

The majority of men and boys (21) were exploited within Albania. This includes 19 boys and men trafficked internally for different forms of exploitation – sexual exploitation (5), begging (2), criminal activity (4), forced labor (2), multiple forms of trafficking (6).

In addition, two cases were trafficked from the Philippines, first to Kosovo and then to Albania, where they were forced to work as cooks.

Two Albanian males were trafficked abroad – to Kosovo for forced begging and to Africa for labor in construction. One man (30 years old now but trafficking experience has begun earlier) was exploited in Kosovo for forced begging. He has a moderate developmental disability and was forced by his brother to beg in the streets of Prishtina.

Interestingly, all the identified adult males who suffered forced labor were exploited outside of their country. This may be related to the fact that they were searching for better and well-paid jobs. Usually they try to realize this through migration working in other countries because of the higher salaries and the high expectations for better job opportunities.

Table 1.4 Countries where exploited

| Countries | Albania | Kosovo & Albania | Kosovo | Africa |
|-------------------------------|---------|------------------|--------|--------|
| No. Of men and boys exploited | 19 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

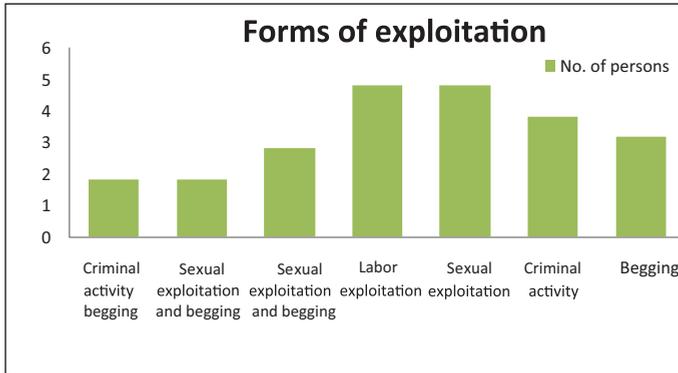
Type of trafficking; forms of exploitation suffered

Trafficked men and boys were exploited for different forms of trafficking. While it is commonly assumed that males are primarily exploited for labor, the experiences of these men and boys reveal very diverse trafficking experiences. That is, in addition to five instances of labor trafficking, men and boys were also trafficked for sexual exploitation (5), criminal activity (4) and begging (3). Of note, more than a quarter of trafficked males (6) suffered more than one type of exploitation. In three instances (13%), boys were exploited for sexual purposes as well as begging; two (9%) exploited for begging and criminal activity at the same time, and 1 (4%) for sexual purposes and criminal activity (distributing drugs). Table 1.5 details the different forms of exploitation suffered.

Table 1.5 Forms of exploitation

| Forms of exploitation | No. of persons | Percentage |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Criminal activity and begging | 2 | 9% |
| Sexual exploitation and criminal activity | 1 | 4% |
| Sexual exploitation and begging | 3 | 13% |
| Labor exploitation | 5 | 22% |
| Sexual exploitation | 5 | 22% |
| Criminal activity | 4 | 17% |
| Begging | 3 | 13% |
| Total | 23 | 100% |

Graph 1.5 Forms of exploitation



To some extent, there is a correlation between the age of the men or boys being trafficked and the form of exploitation. For example, three men trafficked for labor were adult males, who migrated for work but were trafficked instead. By contrast, those trafficked into begging, criminal activity and sexual exploitation were more commonly boys, who were exposed to exploitation as a consequence of their vulnerable situation, including 9 cases living on the streets.

Trafficked for labor

A total of 5 men and boys were trafficked for different forms of labor.

Two boys were trafficked one for selling fish and the other to work as a waiter. They were forced to work by their fathers, who used violence toward them and took all the money earned.

Two men were trafficked from the Philippines to Kosovo and subsequently Albania as cooks. The case study below illustrates their experience.

Case study #2. Forced labor of men in Albania

D. was born in the Philippines. He is a chef by profession. With the mediation of a Filipino who worked in Kosovo, he contacted an employer there in the hope to find a suitable job in Kosovo. Three years ago, he went to Kosovo for the first time by plane, after the agreement made with the employer. He had a friend from the Philippines as well that worked in Kosovo. Upon arrival in Kosovo, he met the person who had sent him the invitation. After some days, D. started working in a restaurant there but never received the salary he was promised; instead, he got nearly half of it.

His passport was taken by his employer and he never gave it back to him while he was in Kosovo. D had limited freedom of movement and was always kept under control. Together with his friend, they travelled to Albania and were always accompanied by the people of the employer. They were hidden at the rear part of the buss and the police border failed to see them passing the border.

One man was trafficked to Africa, together with a group other Albanian men, where he was exploited for forced labor.

They were contracted to work as construction workers in some of the hotels that were being built in Africa. Eventually, they were infected with malaria and lived and worked in dehumanizing conditions, in some barracks'. According to him, 'the business that promised them the job, didn't tell them the exact working place, and deceived them about the salary and working conditions'. At the beginning, the representative of the company told the jobseekers that the destination place would be Qatar, but then changed the destination many times. Even though, the wage was promised 100000 Albanian Lek per month, in the contract the monthly wage was only 25 000 lek. They also signed the contract with the understanding that there was also a return plane ticket. When still in Albania, by the representatives of the company showed them pictures of places where they were going to stay. In the photos, the conditions looked were very good, but when they eventually went to Africa, they found nothing similar to the photos. In fact, they lived in very poor and damaging condition. Immediately upon arrival, their passports were taken by the employers with the justification that they need them to obtain the visas. Even when they asked for the passports to be handed back, they did not get them and in some cases they were even violated by the bodyguards of the employer. They had no access to medical care. The person tells "... we saw every day employees falling down, because they were sick, but no one cared, and the ambulance was never called... I understood that I was sick because my immunity was down and my temperature was 41° C. No one cared about that. I was in the hands of God".

Of note is that this man was trafficked alongside other Albanian males, suggesting that the exploitation of adult men for labor is far more prolific than indicated by patterns of identification and numbers of assisted victims.

The likelihood of a higher rate of exploitation of adult males for labor is also signaled by interviews with returned or deported Albanian migrants in 2012. Three returned migrants, for example, described working and living conditions in Greece

as exploitative, the information provided suggests that some of these cases may also be trafficking in human beings. One returned migrant explained his situation as such:

They paid us 500 euros a month, as a shepherd. This is a very low wage comparing to the standard of Greece. I worked all the daylong until dark, 7 days a week. Started at 7 in the morning and worked until 8 am. I slept in a small house that the landlord had built specifically for us. I did not have any insurance as I did not have any papers.

Another interviewee informed that he had worked up in the mountains of Greece, as a woodcutter. The working conditions were very bad; he lived in a shack with the others. The employer did not treat them bad, but it was the nature of the work that has hazardous. He worked 7 days a week for 30 Euros a day. No one could even speak about contract and insurance- he said- as they were working and staying without legal documents.

A third one, who had been working also as a woodcutter, informed that he had worked for 6 months and recently had problems with the employer “landlord” as he had not paid him for the job and owed him 1700 euros for the last three months. The employer had said that he would pay him when they the product was sold, and that was the reason that he stayed and didn’t looked for another job.

Forced begging

A total of 3 boys were trafficked for forced begging. Usually, and unfortunately, the process of exploitation has started since they were children in their families. Usually, they are children of parents, who also begged when they were children. The process started by their parents was continued by other people, who used the vulnerable situation of the minor, like for example in the situation explained below.

Case study #3

A. is nineteen years old. He was born in a family where his father was violent toward him and all the other members of the family. A. was forced to beg by his father since he was a young child. All the money earned was forcibly taken by his father, who used it to gamble and drink. He remembers that once, after he had been begging all day, he was resting and eating something for lunch. His father came suddenly and hit him, because he was eating lunch and not begging. Besides this, he has been found begging in different cities of Albania since he was 11 years old, but he refused to tell who transported him in these places and to whom he gave the money earned by begging.

In some cases, boys who were forced to beg on the street were also sold for prostitution. They were used to have sexual relations with adults. According to the information from the case files, usually the perpetrators were pedophiles aged 30-50 years old.

Other boys were simultaneously exploited for other forms of trafficking as well as begging. Three boys were exploited for sexual exploitation as well as begging when they were minors. Because of running away from their home, staying in street situation for a long time, and the inability of the child protection system in Albania to find suitable and sustainable solutions for them, they were in contacts with different adult people who exploited them sexually, offering them food or shelter, or some money. Later, the boys were introduced to other people who buy sex and the mediator gets his part in this affair.

One of the boys was exploited for both begging and criminal activity. In addition to begging on the street, he was forced as a drug courier, transporting drugs from one point of the city to another. When is asked about his exploiters, he refused to talk about them.

Sexual Exploitation

Five boys and minors were exploited for sexual purposes while 4 others suffered sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation such as forced criminality (1) and begging(3).

Sexual exploitation usually began when the boys were 13 to 14 years old. There were some cases exploited by pedophiles who then found other clients and most of the money were taken by the exploiters. In some cases, there were well-organized groups who transported the minors to different coastal cities of Albania, and operated with tourist clients, using hotels and motels in the suburban areas of the cities.

In some cases sexual exploitation was a direct consequence of being in a street situation, with no one to care and not being able to fulfill even some of the most basic needs. Their exploiters used the fulfilling of these basic needs such as food, or shelter to gain profits from them. This is often a dark experience for the boys, something to feel ashamed of and that should never be told to anyone, even to their case manager.

In addition, some of the boys were also exploited for other forms of exploitation in addition to sexual exploitation. This included 3 boys who were exploited also in begging and 1 boy who was also forced to distribute drugs, while being sexually exploited.

Case study #4

E. is 15-years old. His relationship with the family is not good at all. E. was grown up in a care institution since he was a child. He returned home when he was 14, but because of the difficult relationship with his father, he left home and ended up in a street situation. After ending up in a street situation, he got in touch with an adult person who used the vulnerable position of the boy to exploit him sexually or even use him for drug distribution in 2 cities. He was sent in a coastal city of Albania, and was sexually exploited together with other minors of ages 14-18, in a motel in the suburbs of the city.

Criminal activity

Four males were exploited for criminal activity including drug distribution (2 cases), plantation of cannabis (1 case) and stealing (1 case). In all these cases the vulnerable situation of the minor was used to force them in these activities. Two of the boys that were exploited for drug distribution, were in a street situation and were recruited by gangs who took advantage of their early age (13 and 14 years old) and their situation to exploit them. The boy who was exploited for stealing was part of a broken family.

‘H. was a 14 years old boy, raised in an abusive family. He was early engaged in petty crimes, like for example in thievery, pushed by adults who used his vulnerable situation. The major part of his earnings was given back to the adults, who controlled him by deceiving him and telling him that they had to pay some debts and they need some money’.

Patterns of identification amongst Albanian males

The identification of trafficked males in Albania is currently very limited. Most trafficking victims identified in the country are women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation. That being said, the identification of trafficked males is on the increase compared with previous years. The US TIP report reported no cases of trafficked males amongst the number of identified trafficking victims before 2012. However, in 2012, 11 of 92 trafficking victims (or 12% of identified cases) were males⁹. Further, in 2013, 15 of 95 (that is, 14%). identified trafficking victims noted in the US TIP report were males. Similarly, between 2012 and 2015, D&E assisted 23 trafficked males identified in Albania including two male foreign victims of trafficking.

⁹ U.S. Department of State (2013) *Trafficking in Persons Report*, United States Department of State.

6. Identification of trafficked males in Albania – patterns and barriers

Moreover, when males were identified in the past, they were initially identified only as victims of labor exploitation and forced begging (not as victims of sexual exploitation). For example, from 2000 to 2004, 156 cases of trafficking for labor, begging and delinquency were identified in Albania, of whom most were boys (between 69.2% and 79.3% each year)¹⁰. No cases of boys being sexually exploited were documented and neither was it common to document sexual abuse of boys amongst these children trafficked on the street, in spite of significant overlaps between the different types of exploitation. However, between 2012 and 2015, D&E has identified and assisted 5 boys who were trafficked for sexual exploitation and 4 boys who suffered sexual exploitation alongside other forms of abuse.

Different agencies and institutions are involved in identification. Most trafficked boys were initially identified and referred by NGOs or international organizations.

The first cases of young boys VoT were identified and referred by organizations that work in assisting children and youth in need. According to the analyses of the cases data, the process of exploitation for these persons started early in their life, but they were not identified as victims of trafficking cases until lately, when they were referred for assistance to D&E. They were in a vulnerable situation when they entered in the D&E reintegration program. Many minors from this category may have gone unnoticed or un-helped because of the lack of appropriate services in Albania.

Some boys were identified by the Mobile Unit, which is a recently established mechanism to enhance the proactive identification of trafficking victims. The Mobile Unit worked not only in the practical identification of victims but also in raising capacities for identification amongst different agencies and NGOs with which they collaborated. This latter component was vital as, even amongst professionals and social workers, the concept of male trafficking was new or under-considered. To date, the Mobile Unit has identified four young minor boys and one adult male.

¹⁰ Surtees, R. (2005) Second Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, Regional Clearing Point, International Organization for Migration, p. 78.

Table 1.6. Institutions and agencies involved in identification of trafficked males

| Identifying agency or institution | Number of males identified |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Child protection NGOs | 14 |
| Mobile team | 5 |
| Police | 2 |
| IOM | 2 |
| Total | 23 |

Other agencies included in the process of identification have been LGBT organizations and organizations that work with minors in conflict with law. The LGBT community faces problems of discrimination and is often excluded by the communities where they live. This has made them vulnerable to trafficking in many cases. Also for minors in conflict with law the system has lack of qualitative and sustainable services.

Only two of twenty boys were referred by the police. This happened because police has considered these cases as problematic cases, and have not explored more their situation in order to find out their real situation and to find out elements of exploitation.

In the case of the Filipino males, they were in an urgent situation and called the Filipino Embassy in Rome and IOM in Philippine, and then the IOM Philippine called the IOM Albania and they were rescued.

In the case of the Albanian male trafficked for forced labor in Africa, he denounced in TV and after many attempts was contacted by the Mobile Unit of Tirana.

That being said, while trafficked males are increasingly being identified as such, still lagging is the formal identification procedure. That is, in Albania, trafficking victims must be formally identified by the officer of the Anti-trafficking police and the social worker from the regional office of the State Social Service, who then entitles them to “victim of trafficking”. However, to date only 4 of 23 males have been formally identified; the rest have been designated as “potential victims”. This was the case even in very clear cut cases of trafficking.

Some positive progress has been made since 2012 in the identification of the cases of foreign victims of trafficking. In its report on implementation of the National Anti-trafficking Strategy during 2012, the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator (NAC) reported two cases of foreign males victims of trafficking being formally identified as victims of trafficking: “These were two foreign male citizens from the Philippines,

trafficked to Kosovo and later to Albania, with the purpose of exploitation of their labor in restaurants as cooks.”¹¹

Both cases were formally identified as Victims of trafficking in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures.

¹¹ ONAC (2012) *Report on Implementation of the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy, Republic of Albania*, Ministry of Interior, Office of the National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Persons.

7. Barriers in the identification of trafficked males in Albania

Laws and regulations for human trafficking in Albania

Prior to the establishment of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), trafficking articles of the Criminal Code have been the only reference points for the identification of trafficking. These articles were introduced very early after the signing of the Palermo Protocol, in 2001, and until 2013¹², reflecting the concern of the Palermo Protocol for trafficking of women and children, the age, gender, and type of exploitation were specified. So, there was one article on trafficking of persons (110/a), one article on trafficking of females for prostitution (114/b) and one article on trafficking of children (128/b).¹³ The law has been inclusive of men because article 110/a does not distinguish, but the fact that there were two separate articles for females and children influenced in the orientation of the professionals to focus on this category.

Recent amendments to the Criminal Code by Law 144/2013¹⁴, are expected to help in the identification of victims of trafficking, males and those trafficked within the country by law enforcement – police and prosecutors in addition to increasing the punishments for the trafficking crime. They included the abrogation of trafficking of the females for prostitution article and included internal trafficking, which will help in improving the identification of male trafficking because: before these amendments were approved, the presence of a special article for the trafficking of females for prostitution was influencing somehow the law enforcement agencies to see that they have legal bases only for trafficked females.

Secondly, including in these amendments the article for internal trafficking improved the identification of trafficked males, because from the experience of assisting male victims of trafficking in Albania, the major part of young boys were exploited internally.

¹² Law 144/2013 “On some additions and amendments to Law No. 7895, dated 27.1.1995” Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania

¹³ Law No. 8733, date 24.01.2001 “PËR DISA SHITESA DHE NDRYSHIME NË LIGJIN NR.7895, DATË 27.1.1995 “KODI PENAL I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË” “On some additions and amendments to Law No. 7895, dated 27.1.1995” Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania

¹⁴ Law 144/ 2013 “On some additions and amendments to Law No. 7895, dated 27.1.1995” Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania

So, the amendment to the article can help during the process of recognizing formally men victims of trafficking.

This can be as a result of the fact that in many legislations trafficking is related strictly to sexual exploitation, and less to other forms of exploitation such as forced labor. Surtees cited in her study¹⁵, how the legislation of countries such as the Netherlands, India or South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) have given more focus to trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation or have extended only recently the focus of trafficking. The legislations of the countries exclude the identification of males by focusing only on sexual exploitation and leaving apart other equally-harmful forms of exploitation, such as labor exploitation. In the same study, Surtees cited “failing to expand the application of anti-trafficking efforts beyond that of sexual exploitation effectively denies the harm done to persons trafficked for other purposes, many of whom may be men.”

Institutional framework and response for identification in Albania

In July 2005, the Albanian government established the first National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for improving identification of and assistance to victims of trafficking. An interview format/structure was attached to the NRM, guiding determination on the cases of female and minor victims situated at border crossing points and making no reference to male cases. It means that in this period of time trafficking was seen as a phenomenon that affected only females and identification tools were built only for this category.

In July 2011, the Council of Ministers approved the “Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking / Presumed victims of trafficking“. As stated in the SOPs document, the purpose of the contributing actors was to identify and refer at the appropriate time and manner all victims of trafficking, adults or children, for all kinds of exploitation, domestic or international trafficking, related or not to organized crime¹⁶, including male victims of trafficking; however, only a few agencies put this into practice. Mostly because, like we will explain below, trafficking was always related to women and children.

The document lists a number of agencies responsible for the identification in the territory, expanding the network with those that have the potential to contact

15 Surtees, Rebecca (2008) ‘Trafficked Men as Unwilling Victims’, *St Antony’s International Review*, 4(1)..

16 Decision of the Council of Ministers nr.582, dated 27.7.2011 “On the adoption of standard operating procedures for the identification and referral of possible victims/victims of trafficking”.

victims of trafficking with State Labor Inspectorate, public health clinics, schools, public residences for children, child protection units, etc.

A monitoring body for the National Referral Mechanism composed of representatives from each signatory member has not convened yet to identify issues and guide solutions for proper implementation of SOPs.

In June 2012, the NRM was renewed and new signatories, state agencies and one international organization joined it. Actually after the review of NRM, the signatories bound by this agreement are the General Directorate of State Police, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (State Social Services), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Consular Directorate), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, the National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Tirana, “Different & Equal” organization, “Vatra” Psycho social Centre in Vlora, “Another Vision” in Elbasan, ARSIS, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tirana.

No progress could be made in 2012 for the identification of cases of internal trafficking from the state authorities. In the same report for 2012, ONAC informs that for the period January –December 2012 there have not been any cases of internal trafficking and this situation is a consequence of the interpretation of the Unifying Decision No. 3, date 24.01 2011 of the Supreme Court, which does not accept the concept of “ internal trafficking”. During 2013, the article regarding trafficking was amended ending the conflict between the international trafficking and internal trafficking.

Also in July 2013, three Mobile Units were established to work on identifying victims of trafficking through proactive field work. The Mobile Unit was a team composed of two social workers with the aim of identifying potential victims of trafficking proactively. The methodology of the Mobile Unit was based on contacting directly vulnerable communities as well as increasing other agencies capacities in identifying PVOT thru trainings and jointly identifying VoTs in their communities. During 2013, 38 potential victims of trafficking were identified by the three Mobile Units in Vlora, Tirana and Elbasan. Meanwhile, during January 2014 – October 2014 the Mobile Units identified 41 potential victims of trafficking. Some of the cases were also male teenagers or young adults exploited for different purposes like sexual exploitation or criminal activity.

Labor inspectors

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) gave a prominent role to State Labor Inspectors in the early identification of victims of trafficking. As a result, their work was expected to contribute to the identification of forced labor or services – consequently, a better identification of male victims of trafficking. Up to date, although training has been delivered to State Labor Inspectorate (SLI) staff on the application of the SOPs, no cases of child or adult trafficking have been identified by the SLI.

The understanding of forced labor is informed to be an important hinder for the identification and especially for the recognition of the trafficking and exploitation of males. Indeed, the problem of the understanding of forced labor appears on ILO report in 2005: “Since the last Global Report on the subject, there has been greater realization that forced labor in its different forms can pervade all societies, whether in developing or industrialized countries, and is by no means limited to a few pockets around the globe. Yet, the very concept of forced labor, as set out in the ILO standards on the subject, is still not well understood. In many quarters, the term continues to be associated mainly with the forced labor practices of totalitarian regimes: the flagrant abuses of Hitler’s Germany, Stalin’s Soviet Union or Pol Pot’s Cambodia. At the other end of the spectrum, such terms as “modern slavery”, “slavery-like practices” and “forced labor” can be used rather loosely to refer to poor and insalubrious working conditions, including very low wages.¹⁷

Another reason informed is that there are no specific guidelines of communication and no substantial contact with the employees. A Ministerial Order “On defining special behavior rules for labor inspectors and labor controllers”¹⁸ focuses on giving guidelines of communication of the labor inspectors with employers, not with the employees. As informed by the interview, most of the time of the inspectors and controllers is used with instructing the employers on papers and documentation and contact is limited with either the business owners or the business administrators. Although the official website of the SLI provides a window for online complaints and reporting, the specific services page is provided to employers but not to employees.¹⁹

Labor inspection is informed as either not understood or considered as less important than other inspections. Most of the sources inform that businesses do not

17 ILO, *A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor, Global Report under the Follow-up to the ILO declaration on Fundamental Principles and rights at Work, 2005*

18 Order of the Minister No 1014, dated 30.5.2007 “Special rules on labor inspectors and controllers” accessed at: sli.gov.al

19 Official website of the State Labor Inspectorate www.sli.gov.al

understand the role of labor inspectors; they identify them with health inspectors or other inspectors mainly with taxation inspectors. Anecdotes circulate on the relief of business people/ employers when they get to know the inspectors are not from taxation offices.

Human resources to conduct inspections are also informed to be limited. In an interview given for the TV Station “Vizion Plus” the director of Security and Health in Work, informed the TV reporter that while there are 80000 licensed businesses over the country, the number of labor inspectors is only 121. Each labor inspector should conduct 15 inspections a month, which means that during a year only around 22000 formal businesses could be inspected, a little more than one fourth of the formal businesses.

In the meantime, the State Labor Inspectorate does not have a mandate for inspecting informal employment, which is rather high in Albania. According to the UNDP, the unemployment rate among the young people aged 15–29 years is 24.3 per cent, and up to 70 per cent of youths take on informal employment.²⁰

Finally an agreement was signed on 21 October 2014 between the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator, the Director General of State Labor Inspectorate and the Director General of State Police, “On the procedures of cooperation for the identification of forced labor cases and trafficking for labor exploitation cases.” The signing of this important agreement and the establishment of joint working groups is expected to increase the proactive identification of the cases of forced labor and trafficking.

This is expected to increase the role of labor inspectors in the identification of the VoTs trafficked for forced labor, as a result the number of VoT males identified.

Lack of knowledge by professionals on other forms of trafficking

The focus and attention of most of identification in Albania is on trafficked women and children, primarily for sexual exploitation. There is a limited capacity amongst different professionals and agencies in Albania including police, social services, school psychologist, health staff, and labor inspectors.

²⁰ Supporting Decent Work Opportunities for Young Albanians <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/successstories/supporting-decent-work-opportunities-for-young-albanians/>

In addition, not considering trafficking in men as an equal concern comparing to trafficking in women and children has led agencies to conduct less training regarding trafficked males, reducing the capacities of identification of males by agencies, which may be in contact with them.

The social workers of the Mobile Unit of Tirana tell that in the trainings conducted for different NGO-s that work with vulnerable groups, trafficking most of the time was related with exploitation for sexual purposes and with begging of children. Forced labor of adults was named rarely by social workers.

In some cases, there were difficulties even by the police to consider forced labor as related to trafficking. The same applies to the female victim who has been exploited on forced labor. One woman was referred to the police by the Mobile Unit. According to the MU, and based on the SOPs, this woman was a victim of forced labor, but for the police she was not a victim of human trafficking. At the end, even though she gave a formal interview and report to the police, she was not identified as a VoT and, as a result, was not considered as a trafficking case.

Perceptions of vulnerability

Failure to identify men as VoTs is likely also linked to social norms of vulnerability – that men are strong and cannot be victims. The case managers interviewed for this study tell that even in some of the cases assisted some resistance is noted in accepting the fact that they are victims of trafficking or exploitation. This is one of the reasons why the boys refuse to be recognized as formal victims of trafficking. One of the interviewed case managers tells about one of the boys exploited for sexual purposes when he was only 14. After telling his story, the case manager asked him if he wanted to report his traffickers to the police. He responded ‘absolutely no, I would feel ashamed if the policeman learned that I’ve been sexually exploited, and even if one day I will decide to tell my story to the police, I want the police officer to be a woman’.

In Albania, social understandings of “manhood” and the traditional roles of men affect understandings of “victimhood” and perceptions of vulnerability. Because men are understood to be able to take care of themselves (whereas women are considered to be more vulnerable), according to the social schemas men “cannot” be victims, because the concept of “victimhood” refers to someone who cannot defend himself. The dominant standpoint, common in traditional societies such as Albania’s, is that men “cannot” be powerless. According to Surtees, “this is consistent with masculinity in the Western Balkans, where the ideal man was

expected to protect his family; have strength of character; be successful; not be womanly, weak, or gay; and be physically strong.”²¹ Therefore, male victims of trafficking find themselves in an ambiguous situation: “the term ‘victim’ is, on the one hand, important in terms of recognizing the crime or violation to which the individual has been subjected. In the area of human rights and protection, the term ‘victim’ is used to refer to someone experiencing injustice for which the perpetrator is responsible and for which the victimized person has the right to protection, assistance, and reparation. On the other hand, to be a victim arguably implies a powerlessness and fragility, which may not sit well with many trafficked persons.”²²

This position has two consequences: one is the prevention of identification of male victims of trafficking by professionals that can get in touch with them, and the other is the impediment for men to ask for help or to consider themselves as ‘victims of trafficking’. This is noticed also in the experience of service providers:²³ there are young boys who find it difficult to accept the fact that they have been victims of trafficking. For example, one of the young boys found it difficult to consider himself a victim even though he had been deceived by older adults who used him for stealing; he ended up being condemned for stealing. Still according to Surtees, one of the ways to justify the process of exploitation for male victims of trafficking is the possibility to help economically their families throughout the process, even though in the best of the possibilities they get just a small amount of money from all this process.

Many males do not see themselves as trafficking victims and may refuse to be formally identified as such

There are many specific reasons behind the lack of will of males to be identified and especially to be identified formally as victims of trafficking. Some of the males said that they did not consider themselves as victims. They said that everything they did was for their families or in order to survive themselves. Some of them were unable to consider themselves as exploited by someone, because they gained some income from their activities, even though the major part of the money was given to their exploiters.

Also the term ‘being exploited’ does not fit very well with the classical stereotype of the ‘typical male’, who cannot be a victim and cannot be exploited, if he is brave enough. “Further, the terminology of ‘trafficking victim’ and the social construction

21 Surtees, Rebecca (2008) ‘Trafficked Men as Unwilling Victims’, *St Antony’s International Review*, 4(1), p. 24

22 Surtees, Rebecca (2008) ‘Trafficked Men as Unwilling Victims’, *St Antony’s International Review*, 4(1), p. 25

23 Interviews with case managers.

of 'victimhood' may be problematic for some men to accept and apply to their situation. As such, it is not only about what services and interventions are developed but also how these interventions are framed and offered to trafficked males."²⁴

This has been noted in other contexts in the trafficking field, with men more likely to be perceived as failed migrants and women as victims of trafficking.²⁵ That is:

In human trafficking discourse and practice, these assumptions about gender, migration and vulnerability seem to have been emphasized such that female migrants subject to exploitation are often conceptualized as trafficked, while male migrants facing the same violations and abuse are seen more commonly as irregular migrants²⁶.

This is consistent with a finding from one study in Europe and Eurasia where researchers in Serbia found that men and women facing the same situation were treated quite differently: for men and women identified in the same group and under the same circumstances, "the men [were] charged with immigration violations while the women were not only not charged with such violations, but were also given temporary residence permits".²⁷

According to an informant from the UK, "Albania is often considered as a problem in relation to trafficking and other crime; however, in truth, they do not represent a major number of those committing crime in London". Identification of Albanian male victims is considered to be impeded by the not necessarily fact-based suspicion on criminality of Albanian migrants. This shows that, in many cases, the Albanian males are not only perceived as not vulnerable, but when migrants abroad they are also often perceived as criminal perpetrators – whether due to their irregular migration or assumptions about Albanian criminality.

Blurring of irregular migration and trafficking

Another important challenge faced during the process of identification of male victims of trafficking is that in many cases of forced labor, the trafficking victims or the potential trafficking victims are considered as irregular migrants and are

24 IOM, IOM Migration research series, No 36, "Trafficking of men – a trend less considered The case of Belarus and Ukraine", Rebecca Surtees, www.iom.int

25 Surtees, Rebecca (2008) 'Trafficked Men as Unwilling Victims', *St Antony's International Review*, 4(1).

26 Surtees, Rebecca (2008) 'Trafficked Men as Unwilling Victims', *St Antony's International Review*, 4(1), p. 24

27 Rosenberg, Ruth (2010) *Trafficking of Adult Men in the Europe and Eurasia Region: Final Report*, USAID and Creative Associates International, pp. 6-7.

deported without taking into consideration the possibility that they might have been exploited. **Rosenberg** mentioned “...most men are trafficked for the purpose of labor and persons trafficked for labor, especially those who entered and work in the country illegally, are considered first and foremost as irregular migrants and are punished and deported for this without any consideration of their potential status as trafficked persons”.²⁸ Also **Surtees** cited that the bad experiences of exploitation are often reframed not as trafficking situations by the victim, but as unsuccessful migration experiences, “... their exploitation is commonly seen as a normative aspect of migrant labor, or as ‘bad luck’ rather than serious human rights violations.”²⁹

One frequently informed difficulty for the identification of trafficking cases, males included, is that the traffickers apply more complex and “invisible” methods of coercion that give the impression that trafficked persons are free and willing complicit in crimes and transgressions. In the case of male victims of trafficking this stereotype is supported by other stereotypes because for example males, unlike women and children, could not be victims of exploitations, since they could defend themselves.

Another difficulty is to understand the abuse of vulnerability, especially drug and alcohol dependence. One of the assessment informants considered that it is difficult to recognize a victim in a man that is alcohol dependent.

Another challenge for identification of male victims of trafficking was lack of information accompanying the forced return.

The Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) informed in 2009 that “Despite the progress made, one of the problems encountered by AHC during its monitoring activities was the non-application of the provisions of the readmission agreements in relation to people returned to Albania by other countries. The return of illegal migrants from other countries is done without preliminary notification and without the necessary documents translated in both languages – procedures that are necessary to guarantee the rights of returnees.”³⁰ If the procedures were respected, the situation of irregular migrants would be screened better.

Lack of trust; refuse to be identified

Another barrier to identification is lack of trust in authorities. In Albania, formal identification as a victim of trafficking requires a formal interview with the police

28 Rosenberg, Ruth (2010) *Trafficking of Adult Men in the Europe and Eurasia Region: Final Report*, USAID and Creative Associates International, p. 20.

29 Surtees, Rebecca (2008) ‘Trafficked Men as Unwilling Victims’, *St Antony’s International Review*, 4(1), p. 24.

30 Ersida Sefa : Albanian Helsinki Committee, The rights of Albanian Emigrants and Returnees in Albania <http://www.socialwatch.eu/2009/documents/Albania.pdf>

(by an officer from the anti-trafficking unit) together with a social worker from the State Social Service.³¹ Many of the males interviewed for this study had a negative perception of the police. The majority of the boys interviewed were street-involved children and because of their street situation they were usually the first to be accompanied or interrogated by the police when something was stolen in their neighborhoods or if the police needed to ask for any information. This caused them to develop a sense of fear and mistrust toward the police.

Stigma of trafficking for sexual exploitation

Those who were sexually exploited are not ready to talk openly to police about their trafficking experience. Some of them fear the prejudices and stigma that may accompany this process, the fear that somebody from their family may come in contact with what has happened and the fear that they may know their different sexual orientation in some cases.

Also, the topic of abuse or sexual exploitation of boys is considered as a cultural taboo for many societies, and for the boys it is extremely difficult to share this painful experience. In many cases, they decide to remain silent and to consider this trauma as a dark and unexplored part of their past.

Self-blame amongst the boys: According to the experience of the service providers, there are many boys that blame themselves for what has happened to them. In addition, we should take into consideration the assumptions about homosexuality when involved in prostitution (confusion amongst boys).

Fear of traffickers

The fear of possible consequences is another reason why they, in some cases, deny having been exploited or refuse to give the name of their exploiter.

One of the boys did not denounce his trafficker. He believed that the trafficker has dangerous collaborators and even though he would be incarcerated, he could still use his collaborators to threaten him or his family.

Interviews with the case managers show that even when they denounced the traffickers, they still felt threatened.

³¹ Albania Council of Ministers (2011) *Decision No. 582* 'On the adoption of standard operating procedures for the identification and referral of possible victims/victims of trafficking', Council of Ministers 27.7.2011.

Screening the migrants – returned or foreigners

As one migration expert says³², from a human rights perspective, migration is an inherently risky activity and, despite the potential rewards and benefits, switching the familiar for the new, and the status of a national for that of a non-national or alien in a world in which the state is still the prime guarantor of rights, entails material, social, and psychological challenges. These risks are heightened when combined with an irregular status.

In the majority of the interviews made for this study, in the border crossing point of Kapshtica with deported migrants that had worked in agriculture in Greece, elements of extremely inadequate housing and working conditions were noted. For example, a big group of people staying in a hut and working for 12-13 hours as shepherds or woodcutters, with no access to medical care, or insurance and for a low payment having in consideration the long hours and quantity of work during the day.

The analyses of the interviews made for the study tell that in many cases, there are clear indicators of labor exploitation as for example, harmful work conditions, not having access to medical care, not respecting the prior agreement regarding payment and work conditions, and in most of the cases lack of legal documents like residence permit which increased their vulnerability.

Desk review and interviews coincide in a number of difficulties for border authorities, the main one being the big fluxes of deportation.

The government expected a high number of returnees at least until 2015. One of the measures foreseen in the National Action Plan of the Strategy for Reintegration of the Albanian Returnees is ensuring the transportation of the returnees from the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) to the closest urban centers and in the case of the vulnerable groups, to the urban centers closest to their place of residence. The government expects that the returns would be at a rate of 150 returnees a day in three main BCPs with a total expected number of 60000 a year³³

A large number of deportees are as they call them at BCP-s “recessives”; they travel back and forth several times during the year. Many of them were minors. Three out of six returnees interviewed in Kapshtica (returning from Greece) informed that they were minors when they migrated the first time. One of the returnees interviewed gave this story:

32 Jacqueline Bhabha “Trafficking, Smuggling, and Human Rights”<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=294>

33 <http://www.asp.gov.al/images/pdf/plani-veprimit-shtetasit-kthyer.pdf>

“I went to Greece when I had just turned 16. Stayed there three years and returned to Albania. Stayed 1 month in Albania and went to Greece again. Very soon it will be two years that I am in Greece. The first time I went over through mountain paths. I worked as an electrician. Stayed at my brother’s, he was living there.”

Another migrant when asked how often he goes to Greece, he replied: *“It depends, my cousins in Greece have papers and they call me to tell me when there is work”*. Frequent movement is informed to increase the overload of the BCPs staff, and diminish the vigilance over the different experiences that they have had each time.

The conditions in which the persons were deported have been informed to challenge the resources of the Albanian Border Police. In many cases, the returnees have been kept in detention centers for days, and travelled long hours to arrive

With the visa liberalization, the number of those attempting to cross the border illegally has dropped significantly. According to ONAC³⁴, during the period January –December 2012, the authorities have intercepted 351³⁵ persons trying to cross the border illegally. According to the same report, 1025 persons were intercepted at the border during the 2013.

A new difficulty has emerged though: Identification of potential victims of trafficking amongst the individuals exiting the country legally is informed to be difficult and holds the risk of breaching the rights of the Albanian citizens³⁶.

Foreigners in Albania is another group for which limited data were gathered during this survey. Screening of irregular migrants entering Albania has been framed early. A preliminary screening (pre-screening) procedure was formalized in February 2001 in an agreement between the Albanian Minister of Public Order, UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The goal of the procedure was to address the need to identify foreigners in need of assistance and aimed to reduce the chance of persons being removed unlawfully, from Albania. In 2004, the Albanian Authorities on refugees and asylum considered that *“Albania is not necessarily a transit point to Western Europe, and the main interest of an asylum seeker or refugee is to escape persecution in the home country, no matter if the host country is in poor or rich conditions.*

34 Report for 2012

35 Out of this number, 16 were females

36 Interview with Border Police

*And we are here to ensure that protection is given to genuine asylum seekers.*³⁷In March 2006, with the signing of the MoU, the international partners handed over to the Albanian Ministry of Interior.³⁸

In 2012, there were 7351 foreign citizens residing legally in Albania, of which, 2861 for working reasons. Number of those coming for this motive continues to increase: Only in 2012 the Albanian Authorities issued work permit for 2679 foreign citizens, out of which 2679 work permits were issued for the first time. Due to crises, a change has been noticed during 2012: more and more, the foreign citizens seek to come to Albania to be employees rather than employers or investors.

It is not clear how many of the foreign citizens work without work permit. The Profile of Migration informs that in 2010, an inspection of 14642 subjects/ businesses, showed that 1254 foreign/ non-national employees were registered in total, of whom 210 without work permit.³⁹

The level of remittances sent from Albania is considered as an indicator of positive treatment and prosperity of foreigners in Albania. In 2011, remittances from Albania to countries of origin amounted to around EUR 50 million, out of which, approximately 87% or EUR 43.8 million were remittances of Greek citizens working in Albania.⁴⁰

In 2009, NATO was informed that Albania has become a major transit point for Western European bound migrants originating from Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan⁴¹

ONAC reports for 2012, 2013 informs on considerable increase of number of foreign citizens from Northern Africa or Asia trying to enter Albania to transit to European developed countries. The report does not give a number for them but informs that *“although these cases do not result as trafficking cases, the Border Police takes a special care during their interviewing”*.⁴²

37 Pre-screening in Albania helps identify new arrivals in need of protection News Stories, 6 August 2004 <http://www.unhcr.org/41137b194.html>

38 http://www.iomtirana.org.al/index.php?faq=comp_project26

39 Profile of Migration in Albania

40 <http://www.lajm-shqip.com/2013/04/shtohet-numri-i-te-huajve-te-punesuar-ne-shqiperi-ja-shifrat-burimi-ikub-al-www-ikub-al/>

41 ANTONIO CABRAS (ITALY) – RAPPOREUR to NATO Parliamentary Assembly, 100 GSM 09 E rev I - MIGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND CHALLENGES <http://www.nato-pa.int/default.asp?SHORTCUT=1858>

42 ONAC Report 2012

Inadequate identification from the destination countries

The information in hand shows that migration of Albanians to EU countries for work reasons will continue and identification and protection of Albanian victims will, at large, depend on the system of identification and protection in countries of destination.

A study conducted in 2010 by the World Bank and ETF showed that the majority of Albanians (65.8%) aiming to migrate would do that for economic reasons. Out of the 65.8 %, around 36.7%intended to improve the standard of living, 19.7% because had no job/could not find a job, 9.3% because the nature of work was unsatisfactory , 0.1% to repay debts, to earn higher salary or because of inadequate social security system. It further informs that sectors where Albanians intend to migrate again and are expected to work are the domestic service, hospitality, and construction⁴³

Circular migration is expected to be on the increase in the context of the crisis. The networks of Albanian migrants with local labor markets in Greece, the proximity with Albania and the visa free regime are additional factors corroborating this argument⁴⁴

With the evidence of high Albanian irregular migration flows to Italy and Greece, much of the identification responsibility is related with the potential and willingness of these destination countries to identify the victims. There is common understanding among informants in Albania that trafficking victims could be identified by better screening amongst the irregular migrants in Greece and Italy *”There must be cases of trafficking amongst the returnees, most of them were illegal, therefore, there are possibilities that they have been trafficked”*⁴⁵

Interviews in Albania suggested that male migrating groups or individuals that need to be reached to and carefully assessed are those in arranged seasonal work such as harvesting tobacco in Italy (*worst than mines-* said the interviewee *and there is a co-national that takes over the work and organizes the recruitment of other workers*), harvesting olives in Greece, and those working in fruit and vegetable markets in Macedonia. Shepherding is another type of work where exploitation takes form-

43 The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank 2010, World Bank, ETF , Jesús Alquézar Sabadie, Johanna Avato, Ummuhan Bardak, Francesco Panzica, and Natalia Popova , Migration and Skills *The Experience of Migrant Workers from Albania, Egypt, Moldova, and Tunisia*

44 Anna Triandafyllidou , Metoikos Project, Circular Migration and Integration A Short Guide for Policy Makers accessed at <http://www.eui.eu/Projects/METOIKOS/Documents/GuidePolicyMakers/METOIKOSGuideforPolicyMakers.pdf>

45 Interview with MOLSAEO

16 years old Albanian children in Gostivar look after the sheep during summer, to collect money enough to buy what they need for school and then return to Albania in September.

Movement of children through Albania – Kosovo borders. A recent description of Albanian children in street situation in Kosovo suggests that children migrating with their families to Kosovo mainly for begging or collecting metals are also likely to be exposed to the risk of exploitation by organized crime circles for sexual and forced labor purposes⁴⁶

The minors in conflict with law

Another group, whose situation should be assessed in depth, is the minors that are in law conflict or convicted for forced criminal activity, for example, stealing. According to the interviews with the prosecutors that deal with minors, there are no cases recognized officially as minors' exploitation for criminal activity, but they do not exclude the fact that many minors may carry out their criminal acts pushed by adults. One of the prosecutors says "...how can three 15-16 year old boys, who are from small cities of northern Albania, come to Tirana, live in a rented flat and steal things without someone guiding them?..." According to the prosecutors, a more careful work should be done by the police when investigating about the case. Based on the experience of service providers, there are many cases of male victims of trafficking, aged 11-16 years old, pushed by their exploiters to commit criminal activities like stealing or distributing narcotics.

Unfortunately in some cases, there have been even judicial punishments against male victims of trafficking.

"D. is a sixteen years old boy. He has been institutionalized since he was a child. Later, when he was in institutions, he got in touch with some adults who abused and exploited him sexually, benefiting from his mild developmental delay and his early but untreated complex traumas. One of the perpetrators was condemned, while the other was released, serving only some months of detention. Once released, he got in touch with the boy influencing him and pushing him in committing thievery. So, the boy was sentenced for community services"

46 Protect children on the move, December 2010, OBSERVATION REPORT: EXPLOITATION OF ALBANIAN CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATION IN KOSOVO http://s3.amazonaws.com/rcpp/assets/attachments/1197_Observation_Report_Exploitation_of_Albanian_Children_in_Street_Situation_in_Kosova_original.pdf

This is just one of the cases that have been going through penitential sentences. In another case, one of the boys was exploited for thievery, but the judicial system sentenced him to jail.

According to an interview with one of the social workers of Vatra Psycho-Social Center, similar problems were also noted. She cited the case of a boy, when she used to work in the penitential system as an educational staff some years ago. The boy was around 16 years old and was sexually exploited in the suburbs of a coastal city in southern Albania. Later, he was condemned for thievery. When he ended up in prison, he told about his exploitation. Even though the police was contacted, still they said that there are not enough evidences.

Also according to one of the prosecutors, focused on juvenile cases, interviewed for this study, in the practice of his work there have been many suspicious cases when *'young boys, aged 14, 15 and 16 years old, come to Tirana, get rent apartments and steal'*. According to the prosecutor, these were strange situations and the police should investigate more in depth in order to see if there are indicators of exploitation for criminal activity by adults, who control these minors groups.

The annual report of ONAC⁴⁷ mentions the fact that *"the Code of Criminal Procedure does not stipulate provisions that protect and defend the positions of victims of crime in general and victims of trafficking in particular, during the criminal proceedings"*

From the point of view of Human Rights, the criminalization of victims is a double violation of human rights. Firstly, the system of protection, including Social Services, Child Protection Units, Police, NGO-s etc, fail to provide protection and prevent the victimization of the person, and secondly, not only do they fail in the protection of the victim but they also punish the victim.

⁴⁷ "Report on the implementation of the action plan against trafficking in persons January December (ONAC).

8. Assistance to male victims of trafficking –needs and barriers

Trafficked men and boys have a myriad assistance needs once they leave their situation of exploitation and try to rebuild and move on with their lives. Some are emergency needs in the initial crisis period and others are longer term assistance needs.

8.1 Shelter and accommodation

Housing was an urgent need for many of the trafficked men and boys assisted in Albania. In some cases, like those of the Philippines, this was a need due to the fact of being exploited in a destination country and the men required emergency temporary accommodation. While they were being assisted in Albania, their documents were processed and arrangements for their return were made.

In other cases though, there was a need to identify and provide long-term accommodation to trafficked men and boys, some of whom were homeless prior to being trafficked.

In most of the cases, the most basic need for boys, victims of trafficking assisted by D&E, is housing. For at least 18 out of the 20 young boys assisted, housing was their most basic need at the beginning of the process. This is understandable when considering that most of the cases assisted have been in a street situation, without a stable residence, or came from institutions, before they started the re-integration process. Also, their families in most of the cases did not own a property, lived in rent houses or in inadequate places. The local and governmental policies regarding housing for vulnerable groups in Albania are still so irrelevant. In these conditions, the need for shelter is foreseen to be a continuous basic need for Albanian boys, victim of trafficking and a threat for the success of the re-integration process, if this need is not fulfilled.

Despite this, there is a big gap in the social services system for minors in Albania. Besides some efforts by NGO-s, the foster care system that can help in the case of runaway minors or children being in neglected and abusive families is not yet consolidated.

In the case of men trafficked for forced labor, they have their own properties in their hometown, so after the experience of trafficking they have returned to their home. However, in the case of the foreign victims, housing was an emergency need, until they decided to return to their country.

8.2 Security

According to the case managers of D&E, at least four of the assisted cases faced security problems. Two of them, feared that their exploiters could revenge. For two others, the situation was much more complicated, because they were minors and even though they were in the assisting program, they still had contacts with their exploiters. The case managers informed that the police was alerted about these cases. But, they find difficulties to intervene quickly, because, according to them, they should first investigate. In fact, there is a lack in the legislation regarding the protection of minors, because the police may intervene only when there are clear evidences that a minor is being exploited or abused.

In the case of adult males VoT, there are two important situations that should be taken in to consideration during the assistance process: security and compensation. The three adult males feared that something may happen to them or to their families because although they denounced the case, the traffickers were free.

8.3 Psychological assistance

Trafficked men and boys are often traumatized as a consequence of their trafficking experience.

Moreover, many trafficked boys are traumatized as a consequence of their life before trafficking, including family abuse and violence, alcoholism within the home, poverty, neglect, abandonment, death of a parent, etc.

Overlapping childhood traumas, pre-existing family issues and exploitation translated into certain issues and patterns of behavior including:

- Low self-esteem, lack of assertive skills, insecurity, symptoms of anxiety and depression or even self-harming thoughts;
- Difficulties in managing anger, impulsiveness and aggressive behaviors;
- Lack of stability (poor and difficult relationships, difficulty to build clear plans and to follow them until to the end)

Such dysfunction and vulnerability impacted the boys not only in their childhood but equally limited their ability in adulthood to cope with challenges.

As a consequence one of the most important parts of the reintegration process for trafficked boys in Albania is the provision of psychological assistance.

Psychotherapy is not yet a profession regulated by law and is too costly, because it is offered only within the private sector of services. The community centers of mental health show low standard and offer mostly psychiatric services only for severe psychological problems, like schizophrenia or high developmental disabilities. Still, the heaviest burden of services related to victims of trafficking is held by NGO-s that work with victims of trafficking.

One of the interviewed professionals says that during the counseling sessions, they appear avoidant, hyper aroused and sometimes dissociated. It seems difficult for them to come to counseling and ask for help. The cases who have been assisted with counseling sessions are resistant. They forget about the session's days, they show up late in the session or come up with excuses in order to skip the session.

One professional said that: "When one of the assisted cases, who had been abused in his early childhood, was asked about the period when it was supposed that he was abused, he refused to speak about the experience and did not return for at least three weeks".

When is to talk about sexual exploitation, it is a very difficult topic to speak out, and even when they decide to tell their exploitation experiences still they should be reassured many times that this will not be discussed with anyone.

Beyond the psychological difficulties from the exploitation experience, there are also other cultural issues, which lead to such resistances. Topics like shame and stigma of being a victim, males being in a position of a victim are issues that affect the way the boys see themselves and their current position.

Other issues noted during psychological counseling sessions are linked with difficulties of the cases in getting in touch with their emotions, especially negative emotions. For example, some of the boys (especially those who have been living in a street situation for a long time) tell about very traumatic events of their life, laughing or in a neutral mood condition. This may be as a result of the traumas suffered.

The case manager at D&E says: “One of the cases, who was talking about a traumatic event in his life and the loss of a parent, had the same smiley face during the whole session, from the beginning till the end.”

“During the initial interview with one of the boys, he was laughing and telling about how his father hit him with the belt continuously. When he was asked how he was feeling while telling this thing, he got silent and changed the topic of discussion.”

Also the cases that have been raised in institutions present some specific symptoms, of which the most obvious is the need for attention and dependency.

“A boy raised in an institution had a various dysfunctional dependent relationships with his peers and relatives. He needed physical contact with friends by staying too close to them, touching and hugging them. He was also talking about problems in his interpersonal relationships and inability to leave these relationships, when needed.”

In the case of adult males, the psychological difficulties are mostly related to the traumas suffered during trafficking and to the disappointment from not fulfilling their expectations regarding the emigration or work experience.

“One of the males exploited for forced labor in Africa, says that for two entire years, he was cured with anti-depressants.”

Another sign of psychological damage in adult males has been the fear that the exploiters can harm them or their families. The two foreign cases assisted showed signs of great fears during the stay in Albania. They usually stayed in their apartment, and did not like to move across Tirana because they were afraid that their exploiters could find them. Also, the Albanian male that was trafficked for forced labor, said that he feared continually that something bad would happen to him, or to his family.

Another difficulty faced by the adult males is the disappointment faced when they return to their family. One of them said:

“It was really difficult when I returned from there. I had no money, I was sick with malaria and I sent my wife to her parents, because I couldn’t afford the costs of living. But, one of the most difficult things was when my daughter asked me to cuddle her and I couldn’t because of my injuries in the tendon.”

Also one of the foreign victims was in doubt if he should return to his home country, because he felt ashamed of his family, due to the unsuccessful story of migration and the fact that he did not earn enough to send to his family.

8.4 Medical assistance

Medical assistance is also of great value in helping especially during the rehabilitation phase.

The interviews with the professionals show that many of the cases have medical needs in the beginning of the re-integration process. This is as a consequence of the trafficking process; also many of the victims of trafficking come from poor families and had no or minimal access in the health services before as a result of many reasons. In Albania, the public health sector is not easy accessible, especially when you are originally from one region and live in another region. Also, there is no full reimbursement of the medications, even when you are included in the social protection schemas. This has made the fulfillment of the boys' medical needs difficult, before entering in the reintegration program. Another main reason is that they come from low-income families, where health needs have unfortunately been neglected, because of prioritizing the survival needs. According to the case managers, many of the boys' parents or siblings suffer from different medical illness such as hypertension, heart illness, asthma, major depression, lungs illness (tuberculosis, bronchopneumonia) even though in a very young age. This role model has been transmitted in many cases to the boys, who also neglect medical needs and take care of them only after the illness advances and interferes in their everyday living.

Another reason that impedes medical care is the high level of prejudice and discrimination suffered by certain communities such as the Roma and Egyptian community. One of the case managers informs that once when he accompanied one of the boys of the Roma and Egyptian community because of some injuries suffered after an incident with the bicycle, the doctor resisted to visit him, saying that he was dirty.

A part of those who have been sexually exploited, face problems of sexual infections that should be treated quickly in order to prevent long-term complications. It is very difficult for the boys to ask for help regarding the abuse. One boy who had been exploited for sexual purposes but was resistant to talk about his sexual exploitation wanted to do the HIV AIDS analysis and was anxious about the results. When he was asked in which way he could have been infected by AIDS, he talked about the

fear of getting AIDS when he was by the dentist or when he was in a hospital curing a medical problem.

In other cases, boys have asked for medical help only after having shared the experience of sexual exploitation.

Other forms of medical symptoms manifested during the process of re-integration are low immunity (because of the inappropriate conditions in which they had lived before), chronic headache, urine infection, dental problems and ophthalmologic problems.

One of the cases interviewed for this study, mentioned many situations of physical violence as a method of maintaining under control those who work in construction and so on, even physical consequences as a result of direct violence toward them. In his case, as a result of direct violence from the bodyguard of the employer, his tendon of the shoulder was injured and he suffers the consequences even today, two years after the occurrence.

8.5 Legal assistance

There are a lot of issues related to legal assistance. First of all, they need a legal assessment regarding possible legal issues that should be followed. The major part of the boys need to be helped immediately once in the assistance program regarding ID and other basic documents that they lack.

Some boys face issues related to their traffickers and the exploitation process. In some cases, they need legal help for non-punishment for the crimes that they were forced by the exploiters to commit. Unfortunately, two of them who were exploited for forced criminality were convicted.

The analyses of D&E case show that three cases needed order of protection from their parents.

8.6 Education, schooling and vocational training

Many of the boys assisted through the process of re-integration have left school at an early age. On the other hand, the situation is different for the adults trafficked for forced labor; they usually have a higher education level, and the last years of their education has concentrated on vocational education.

Boys that have been in a street situation, in most of the cases see school as something that belongs to the past, or as something definitely lost. There are many barriers that contribute to their difficulties to return to school. In some cases, illiteracy keeps them from returning to the schooling system. In other cases, the actual programs of academic recovery seem inappropriate for them, because they require a merge between persons with high discrepancy of ages, for example an eleven year old kid with a nineteen years old young person sitting in the same classroom.

The interviewed case managers report that when they can indeed continue school or return to school, they experience a positive impact on them. **One of the boys was repeating the last class of the middle school for the second time, because he had left school due to ending in a street situation. When he eventually graduated, he felt satisfied and more confident.**

Lack of literacy and numeracy skills narrow their possibilities to find suitable and adequately paid jobs. For some of them, it is difficult to follow vocational trainings. They may start a professional course that at the beginning is of interest to them but after a while they quit. Some of the usual reasons for quitting are difficulties to get along with the peers in the course because of the high stigma, especially when the boys come from the Roma and Egyptian community. Difficulties in literacy or complete lack of literacy are other important factors that make the continuation of the course difficult. They usually feel ashamed when the instructor or the course mates discover this. **One of the boys left the vocational training for carpentry, two weeks after he had started, because he felt embarrassed when the instructor asked him to write something and he did not know to write.**” - D&E case manager

Also difficulties in following plans until the end (will be explained in the section of life skills) is another reason that pushes them to quit the courses.

As explained above, in the case of adult males exploited for forced labor the level of education is much higher comparing to boys VoT. In addition, they have some vocational qualification.

8.7 Employment assistance

The interviewed professionals express that one of the most challenging, at the same time one of the most important parts in the reintegration process is mediation and assistance for employment. Stable employment can help the process of reintegration and is essential to prevent re-victimization.

The service providers say that the difficulties noted during this process can be grouped in external factors and internal factors.

Regarding the external factors, we can say that the Albanian job market does not offer much possibility. Many young people are unable to find a job; even when they find it, in most cases it is not suitable to their expectations. The market is still highly informal and the minimal salaries are very low and in some cases insufficient to afford monthly costs of living. One case says: “The employment office usually is not a place where you can find solutions, if you need a job”.

Despite some efforts, there are no clear and practical governmental policies to encourage the involvement in the job market of the vulnerable target groups, for example, human trafficking victims.

Besides this, the cases themselves have personal internal difficulties regarding employment. According to one of the case managers, it is noted that, especially at the beginning of the process, they have large plans, unclear ideas or unrealistic expectations about which may be their future profession. This is a result of the fact that when they begin the re-integration process they have not previously been engaged in regular job market, because of the exploitation situation.

Even when they start a job, it is not easy for some cases to maintain their jobs for a long time. This is due to many factors. Some of them have difficulties to maintain stable relationship with their colleagues or their superiors. Others that have lived in a street situation for a long time find difficulties to get used to work routines, schedules, etc. This is understandable having into consideration the fact that they have lived for 15-16 years without a clear structure in their lives.

Despite the difficulties, service providers have made huge efforts to include men and boys victims of trafficking in the formal job market.

In the case of adult males victims of trafficking the employment situation is different. One of the trafficked males could not work anymore as a construction worker because of the injury in his tendon. He felt bad about this. This is a classic example of what trafficking experiences can cause.

However, considering that the adult male cases were skilled professionals, they were trying to find better opportunities than the ones offered in the home country. Nowadays, in Albania there are not so many job offers for this category and also the actual employment policies in Albania do not include specifically this category.

Of 19 boys and men in age and conditions of work, 12 are now working and 4 others have tried different types of jobs and are still searching for the right kind of job.

8.8 Enhancing life skills and meeting social needs

In the case of trafficked boys that have been in a street situation for a long time, there are many issues related to life skills. In some of the cases that have been in a homeless situation for a long time, some difficulties are noticed related to self-care issues. Being in extreme disadvantageous situations and environments has rendered survival skills very important, and the self-care skills like personal hygiene, and appearance, less relevant. Loving themselves, caring for themselves and finding meaning in what they do is a topic of primary importance through the re-integration process.

Practical life skills

Some of the things that should be addressed are what we can call **practical living skills**. An important issue, where many of boy victims of trafficking find difficulties, is budgeting skills. This is mainly due to the lack of efficient pattern models regarding money management; in many cases their family lives under the average economic level and in some cases their parents were facing issues of addictions from alcohol or gambling. Also, budgeting requires long-term planning, which is not easy for boys who have been learning (by their story), how to survive today and not what to expect for tomorrow.

The lack of numeracy in some cases impacts even the budgeting skills. One of the boys tells that ***“Once I was discussing with an employer to get a job in construction. He said that he is going to pay me 15.000 lek per month, and I asked him ‘can you tell me, how much I will earn per day, because I can’t understand when you speak about monthly salary’”***.

Most of the cases have very good negotiating skills and they can find very practical and creative solutions for the problems, but sometimes they find it difficult to be consistent until finishing something planned.

Self-concept

Another important part of the life skills is their self-concept. As we mentioned above in their perception of themselves, a lot of factors have played an important role. Often, in the cases that have been exploited for sexual purposes in an early age and have been previously in a street situation, their self-concept is impacted by the experience of abuse and exploitation and by the primary relationships with their caregivers. One boy that was abandoned by his parents believes that everybody in the end will abandon him and has an extended need to be accepted and approved by others. Often sexual exploitation induces in them feelings of guilt, because they believe that they were responsible for being exploited sexually, even though they were in a street situation or in a very vulnerable situation when the exploitation occurred. In some cases, they are tormented by the fear that they are gay, or that someone may come to know that they have been sexually abused.

Social relationships

The interviewed professionals inform that also the social relationships are very important to them. The children that have been in a street situation for a long time prefer to be socialized with the same peer group. They are very supportive and loyal to each other. They tell stories when they were in a street situation and divided even a loaf of bread with peers that were in the same situation. For them friendship is important and they find value in this.

Even for young boys that have been institutionalized, friendship is an important value. Often in their case, this need for friends is associated with feelings of envy, when they perceive that friends are getting more attention, support, or services by professionals. This may be related to the conditional warmth and support that they have received in institutions, and to the fact that they had to compete to get the attention of the limited numbers of caregivers, which means they had to compete for the same limited sources of attention, warmth and support. At the same time, their deepest wishes and dreams show that they are very interested in helping others, especially children in the same situation. According to one of the case managers of D&E, one of the boys' dreams was to become rich and help children abandoned in institutions or in a street situation. He himself has been in a street situation and in institution for almost his eighteen years. These fantasies are often found in children that have been in a street situation or institutionalized.

Meeting social needs

The experience of the service providers shows that **meeting social needs** of trafficked boys is crucial. Among concrete possibilities that help in meeting these

needs are different courses focusing on their hobbies (not necessarily vocational trainings). From the experience of the service providers, this is particularly important for the target group of boys aged 16-18 years old, since such activities are very likeable for them, enhance their self-esteem, and social skills. They also serve as a healthy versus unhealthy time-consuming activities learned during the time when they have been in street situation or in the exploitation process, such as playing uncontrolled gambling, smoking or using other drugs, and attending harmful social circles.

8.9 Family mediation and intervention

As noted in the paragraphs above, in many cases, families of male victims of trafficking are dysfunctional and often dealing with issues of violence and abuse. Still, from the experience of the interviewed case managers, working with the family (when this is possible) can be of great help for the re-integration process of the survivor.

According to their experience, the re-integration process for those who were able to reconcile with their families was easier and more effective, comparing to those who were assisted without the collaboration of the family. The family support seemed to contribute to, a faster and stable process and helped the males to recuperate in different aspects of life.

The interviewed case managers suggest that, especially when the trafficked victims are minors, working with the victim and working with the family should be done in an undivided form. So, if the focus is only on the survivor, it is insufficient to bring about change; the intervention should include the structures of the family. Sometimes, there are deep structures of the family that are difficult to be changed. In many cases, there are trans-generational traumas and dysfunctions, which need to be addressed and worked through. For example, the families of those who suffered exploitation for begging have also other members who are engaged in begging.

Thus, there is a need to break the cycle of abuse and dysfunction and to promote empowerment through services offered. The focus of the case management should, therefore, be not only on the victim of trafficking, but also on the family, as an entire structure. Service providers state that mediation for employment, psycho-social counseling, and referral to different services has been some of the common services for the family of male victims of trafficking. Families are also considered as secondary beneficiaries, as the families wellness had directly affected the males overall wellness.

According to D&E case manager, five boys were firstly assisted in rented apartments, and then in their families after negotiating with the families. Even in those cases, the second phase of the intervention was more effective.

Something noteworthy is that in most cases, trafficking experiences are not known by the other members of the family. This is primarily because the survivors choose not to talk about their experience, considering it as something to feel ashamed of, or something that can worsen the relationship with the family members. They have the fear of rejection and refusal by their families.

As a conclusion, working with and empowering the structures of the family is a helpful tool for reintegration and also for preventing re-victimization, when it's possible and when the family is not the direct cause of the trafficking process.

8.10 Assistance for the children of VoT and their siblings

Most of the cases assisted have been young males and did not have children, but in the cases assisted it has been important to prevent and break the chain of abuse, neglect and exploitation. In many cases, some forms of exploitation, for example begging, has been going on for two or three generations. Thus, it is very important to have in focus also the children of victims of trafficking, as a way to prevent the risk of exploitation in the future.

Another important issue is the help provided to the brothers and sisters of the boys' victims of trafficking. As explained above, many of the children and boys who have been trafficked have lived in a poor or dysfunctional family, where abuse and neglect have been present. In this way, not only those who have been trafficked, but also the sisters and brothers have suffered the same family and social conditions. In the case of adults' males' victims of trafficking, the relationship with their children has great importance to them. In order to be fully supported by the services providers, their children need to be assisted as well.

9. Barriers in assistance to the males victims of trafficking

According to the interviews and the experience of the service providers, some of the barriers faced in giving assistance to male victims of trafficking include:

- Discrepancy between needs of VoTs and services offered by social services;
- Re-integration programs designed and structured for female and children VoTs, but not for male VoTs;
- Overlapping between trafficking of minors and child protection issues;
- Difficulties by male victims of trafficking to ask for help due to their history and personal issues;
- Difficulties in finding accommodation for males in an emergency need.

The experience of D&E in giving assistance to trafficked males in Albania since 2012 shows that the needs for assistance to trafficked males are: psycho-social counseling, legal assistance; medical assistance; support for finding a job, financial support for the payment of rented apartment; training to increase life skills; information and mediation services provided by different service providers in the community, monitoring and follow up, etc.

Assistance of victims of trafficking is one of the most meaningful and important parts of anti-trafficking efforts. Besides supporting in the recovery and reintegration of the victims of trafficking, it can help in having justice and restore the trust of the victim in the system and the society. It is also the best way to prevent the re-victimization of the survivors.

Desk review and interviews inform that progress has been made in terms of assistance for victims of trafficking, including establishment of shelters, standards of residential care, legal framework, legal assistance, social welfare, etc. Still, the contribution by state has been minimal; the burden of assistance is on the civil society and donors' shoulders and the risk of discontinuation is always pending.

As explained above, **the social welfare system in Albania has many gaps** and cannot find sustainable solutions for some of the basic needs of male victims

of trafficking. For example, as cited in the identification and assistance paragraphs, minors and youngsters in a street situation is often a precondition of falling later in an exploitative situation.

In many cases, service providers (predominantly NGO-s) find themselves alone or not fully supported in their efforts to give reintegration assistance to male victims of trafficking. It is difficult for victims of trafficking to find jobs through the employment offices, or to benefit from the system of social housing. Providing rented apartments is a good temporary service, but does not fulfill the need for long-term accommodation.

Vocational trainings are not always suitable for male victims of trafficking that find practical learning easier than theoretical learning. The job market is very limited, especially for boys of aged 18-30 years old and the social responsibility of the business is not yet a regulated policy for the companies.

Despite some efforts, **the medical care system does not yet ensure gratis medical help for victims of trafficking**, and the medical assistance regarding male victims of trafficking is too costly, having into consideration the health consequences of the exploitation and the previous disadvantaged environments where they have lived.

Besides the challenges faced in the general practice of working with victims of trafficking, about men trafficking victims there are other specific barriers, related to both the males themselves and the gaps in the system.

In many cases, trafficked boys and men find it difficult to trust other people, including service provider in some situations, due to their negative experiences with giving trust, believing or being deceived. According to one of the case managers of D&E, **one of the boys refused to sign the documents needed for entering in the assistance program, because, according to him, he had been cheated many times, and he did not want to make the same mistake again.** At least three meetings were needed with him in order to build trust and begin the process of assistance. Even more difficult is building trust with boys who have been raised in abusive or exploitative families. It takes time, patience, and a lot of empathy in order to build a trusting relationship.

One of the case managers says that because of the social schemas, sometimes it is **difficult for males to accept being vulnerable, needing help and assistance.** It is difficult, for example, for boys and male victims of trafficking to have counseling sessions, even when they are struggling with serious psychological issues.

Another challenge is the difficulty in planning. Due to the disadvantaged environment where they grew up and because of the traumas associated with the trafficking process, boys victims of trafficking find difficulties in building clear and realistic plans and following them through the end. In most of the cases they have large and unrealistic plans and they find difficulties when patience and stress tolerance is needed. This makes their relationships difficult, especially finding stability in their workplace.

When it comes to adult male victims of trafficking, with only three persons identified, the central issue remains the lack of identification by the agencies.

Another issue may be the difficulties for the persons themselves to ask for help and consider themselves as people whose human rights are violated. As explained in the previous chapters, this difficulty may be related to the perception of vulnerability in manhood schemas.

Another major barrier in helping male victims is related to the fact that assistance is largely designed for trafficked women and girls, which means some forms of assistance – e.g. temporary shelter or long-term accommodation – is not available for men and boys.

According to one informant from Albania with experience in dealing with male and female children victims of trafficking, *“the Albanian legislation has naturally given priority to women and children, as these two categories are in most of the cases in lower physical and social position than adult males and hence more exposed to trafficking; also, the physical, psychological and social consequences from trafficking of children and women are more severe in short, medium or long term”*.

10. Conclusion and recommendations

This study highlights the pattern of trafficking in men and boys and, in so doing, identified a group of persons who are currently under-considered and unassisted or under-assisted. In line with international standards and CoE it is critical that more attention be paid to understanding and addressing the needs of trafficked men and boys in, to and through Albania. The following recommendations are made in the interest of moving forward in terms of a more effective response and assistance to male victims of trafficking in Albania.

10.1 Identification

- Building proactive identification structures, similar to the Mobile Units. This approach has a double advantage: firstly, service providers in terms of identification, move from a reactive to a proactive position; secondly, this proactive approach can increase the capacities of identification in micro-communities ensuring stable structures of identification even when the proactive structures will no longer exist in that community;
- Further training for border crossing points staff, focused on trafficking of males for forced labor or criminal activity;
- Research to understand better male vulnerability and forms of expression of this vulnerability
- Better screening of irregular migrants to assess whether there are trafficked cases;
- Deconstructing the images and the cultural perception of boys and men as unaffected by vulnerabilities
- Further involvement of labor inspectors on proactive identification of potential VoTs, especially in the construction and farming sectors;
- Training of employment office staff and NGO-s that work with returned migrants, to evaluate whether there are indicators of exploitation or trafficking among returned migrants;
- Training of child protection units, school psychologists, anti-trafficking and police officers of the sector for minors, and other structures that work

- with minors in vulnerable situations, in order to identify possible situations of sexual exploitation, forced begging or exploitation for criminal activity;
- Awareness raising activities, especially for target groups in *risk of exploitation and trafficking*, like poor families, Roma and Egyptian community or workers in difficult working conditions. This approach not only can help the process of identification and referral of cases, but also can increase the community awareness about exploitation and trafficking indicators, preventing similar situations.
 - Researches with the main focus on trafficking of males or related fields such as, young males in street situation, migrants with irregular or unsuccessful stories of migration, juvenile criminality, conditions of work in construction or agriculture;
 - Social campaigns that target the general public through media or social media, in an attempt to change the stereotypes of the society and acknowledging that men can be victims of trafficking too; more importantly, to inform on the rights of the victims and that this is not something to be ashamed of.

10.2 Assistance

- **Embed the assistance needs of boys and men:** the cultural perception that boys and men are able to take care of themselves affect not only the lack of identification, but also the assistance process.
- **Long-term assistance:** This study confirms the fact that the re-integration process is a long road with a non-linear trajectory. The recommendation is that any service provider should take into consideration the long time needed for the reintegration of trafficked men and boys and, as a result, plan and mobilize the needed recourses for this.
- **Individualize the assistance based on survivors needs:** This is very important. Service providers, donors, state institutions should keep in consideration that the assistance process should be tailored to individual needs, and service providers should be able to offer a multitude of services for male victims of trafficking. The interviews with professional show that, generally, the needs of young minor boys trafficked differ, to some extent, from the range of needs of adult men trafficked.
- **Family based interventions:** Interviews of the professional involved on assistance to trafficked males the analyses of the case files, and previous researches, shows that the re-integration process tends to be more effective

when case managing interventions include the family system and not just the survivor, especially in terms of counseling and economic empowerment;

- **Community-based support:** Extending community-based assistance is seen as very important when assisting adult males, especially when they have a family.
- **Empowerment approach:** It is crucial to highlight the importance of a full-service package, and underline the important balance between providing service and encouraging independence and empowerment.
- **Social welfare system should include services like housing that can protect and prevent the exploitation of vulnerable people, as well as help the sustainability of reintegration process of the trafficked males.**

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12. Annexes

Project “Enhancing the reintegration efforts for victims of trafficking in Albania”

Interview Format

Name of the Agency interviewed :

Contact:

Date of the Interview:.....Time of the Interview:.....

Category of people assisting/ focused on:.....

Services offered:

Number of people assisted/ served:

Number of migrants amongst them: Irregular migrants?

Regular migrants?

Data on their profile: Age, education, family background?

Numbers/estimation of those found in exploitative situation:

Type of exploitative situation:

Cases of trafficked males amongst the assisted/served: (recruited, transported, received for exploitation)

Indicators/ instruments used to identify trafficked males:

Places of Origin of those in exploitative situations and/or trafficking?

Destination Countries?

Type of employment/ exploitation?

Type of exit from exploitation?

Special services offered by the agency to exploited and or trafficked males?

Referrals made by the agency for exploited/ trafficked males?

Reference to the legislation regarding trafficked victims?

Challenges in assisting exploited/ trafficked males?

Recommendations in identifying and referring trafficked males?

Recommendations in assisting/ serving trafficked males?

Recommendations on other sources of pertinent information?

Any specific case of victim of trafficking you want to refer to D&E

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Thank you for your time and efforts spent in accepting this questionnaire. We assure you that your identity or the identity of your organization will not be revealed in the survey report unless you specifically request to be included. While we hope to receive responses for all of our questions/inquiries, we also recognize that for some lines of inquiry you may not have information or an opinion. Therefore we very much appreciate your taking time to complete those questions which you find relevant and return it back without totally dismissing it.

Name of the organization

Address:

Field of work:

Beneficiaries:

Name and position of the person filling out the questionnaire

1. Do you think that the previous legislation in your country has given more importance to trafficking of women and children and less to trafficking of youth and adult ⁴⁸ males? If so, what do you think were the reasons?
2. Do you think that the current legislation in your country gives more importance to trafficking of women and children and less so to trafficking of youth and adult males? If so, what do you think are the reasons?
3. What instruments/tools of identification of trafficking victim have you been using
 - a. before 2011?
 - b. 2011 and after?
4. What source of information have you been referring to in regard to monitoring the identification of trafficking victims in your country?
 - a. In the past (before 2011)
 - b. now (2011 and after)
5. What do you know about the number of victims of trafficking before 2011?
 - a. In Albania (Albanian and foreign victims of trafficking)
 - b. Albanian victims of trafficking abroad/ in your country.
6. What do you know about the recent (2011 and after), number of victims of trafficking in Albania? If you can, please use the table below⁴⁹:

⁴⁸ 15 and above. Unless otherwise specified, whenever we use males here, we are referring to males of age 15 and above

⁴⁹ Please write N/A if you do not have information

| Victims in Albania | Number of Albanian victims of trafficking | Source of your information | Number of foreigners | Source of your information |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Female children: years 0 - 10 (yrs) | Source of your information | Number of foreigners | | |
| Male children: 0- 10 yrs. | Source of your information | | | |
| Female children 11- 14 yrs. | | | | |
| Male children 1- 14 yrs | | | | |
| Female children 15- 18 yrs | | | | |
| Male children 15- 18 yrs | | | | |
| Female Adults | | | | |
| Male Adults | | | | |
| Total⁵⁰ | | | | |

7. What do you know about the recent (2011 and after) number of Albanian victims of trafficking in abroad/ in your country? If possible, please use the table below⁵¹;

| Victims abroad | Number of victims (for year 2012) | Source of your information | Exploitation place (destination or transit) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Source of information | Exploitation place (destination or transit) | |
| Female children: 0- 10 yrs. | | | |
| Male children: 0- 10 yrs. | | | |
| Female children 11- 14 yrs. | | | |
| Male children 1- 14 yrs | | | |
| Female children 15- 18 yrs | | | |
| Male children 15- 18 yrs | | | |
| Female Adults | | | |
| Male Adults | | | |
| Total⁵² | | | |

50 Please write N/A if you do not have information

51 Please write N/A if you do not have information

52 Please write N/A if you do not have information

8. What do you think are the reasons that male victims of trafficking (Albanian or foreign) are not identified in Albania?
9. In your experience, what elements should one look for to identify a trafficked male person?
10. In your experience, which categories (strata, group) should one focus in to identify a trafficked male person?
11. If you know cases of trafficked Albanian males, can you describe the circumstances/ methods of recruitment used?
12. If you know of cases of trafficked males, can you describe the types of exploitative situation, exploitative work or services they have been in?
- a. Albanian males in Albania
 - b. Foreign males in Albania
 - c. Albanian males abroad
13. Do you know of cases of punishment of traffickers of Albanian males?
14. If you do not know cases of trafficked males in Albania, do you know how males find work
- a. in Albania (Albanian or foreign males)?
 - b. abroad (Albanian males)
15. Do you know cases in which the Albanian state has protected / assisted Albanian migrants in vulnerable or exploitative situations abroad? If yes, what type of protection/ assistance have the Albanian diplomatic missions provided?
16. What do you think about the stand of destination countries regarding Albanian migrants?
17. Do you think that the stand has facilitated or impeded the identification of male victims of trafficking?
18. Have you ever assisted male victims of trafficking, Albanian or foreign, and if yes in what form?
19. Do you know cases of provision of specific rehabilitation and re/integration for male victims of trafficking? Can you please describe them briefly?
20. What recommendations do you have for assisting male victims of trafficking?
21. If you are concerned for or assisting Albanian male victims of trafficking or foreign male victims in Albania, or Albanians abroad, how can our organization "Different & Equal" and our partners in Albania, support your efforts?⁵³
22. Please provide here any information on trafficking of males you consider relevant for our study, which we have not tackled in the questions above.

WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR WORK!

⁵³ If you need any support please contact D E or send a message to our address.