
ANNUAL REPORT



2024



DIFFERENT & EQUAL
TE NDRYSHEM & TE BARABARTE

1 Projects implemented during the period January – December 2024

2 Program Beneficiaries

3 Activities/services/programs implmented

- 3.1 Direct reintegration services for victims/potential victims of trafficking**
- 3.2 Identification of victims/potential victims of trafficking through Mobile Units**
- 3.3 Raising community awareness on issues of trafficking, violence, and abuse**
- 3.4 Provision of economic reintegration programs for women survivors of violence, including women from vulnerable groups in the targeted municipalities in Albania**
- 3.5 Provision of alternative childcare services (morning and afternoon) for children of mothers who are rebuilding their lives**
- 3.6 Consolidation of Systems for the Empowerment of Victims in Albania @Shkoder (TVESA@Sh)**
- 3.7 'Fuqizojmë Komunitetin' (Empowering the Community) in the Municipality of Lezhe**
- 3.8 Survivors' Advocacy Package for improving the criminal justice response to new victims of sexual violence in Albania**
- 3.9 Empowerment of staff working with trafficking victims to prevent secondary trauma and professional burnout**
- 3.10 Improving access to free legal aid through online platforms for victims of crime and vulnerable groups in Shkoder**

4 Coordination with other anti-trafficking actors

5 Manuals, Guidelines, and Other Materials – Publications

PROGRAM

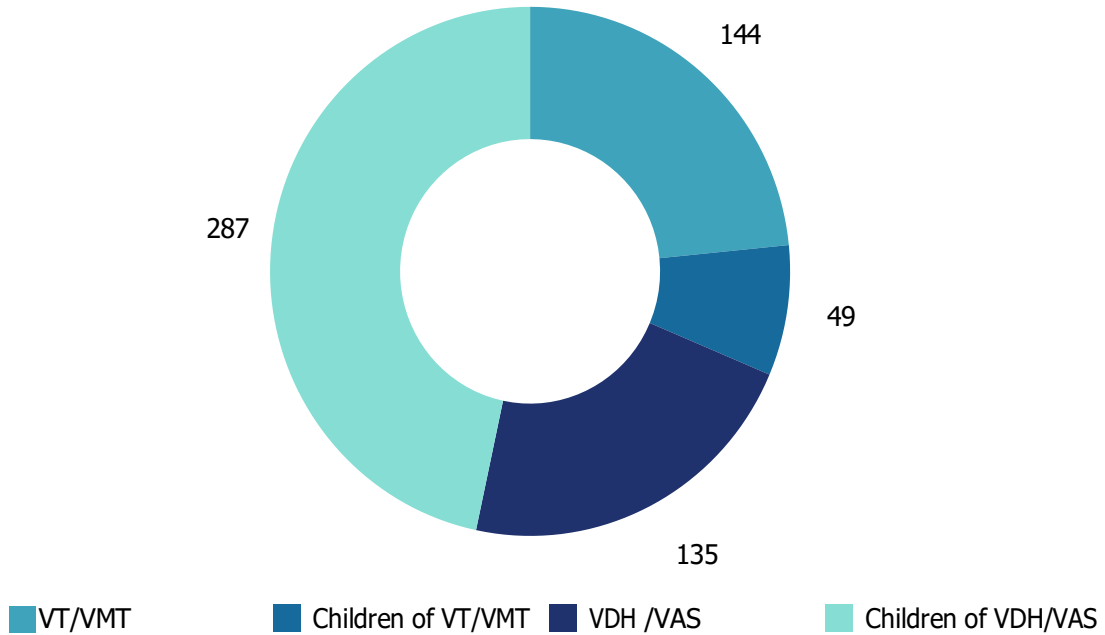
BENEFICIARIES

During the period **January – December 2024**, a total of **615 beneficiaries** were assisted through the organization's reintegration program, including:

144 cases of victims/potential victims of trafficking and **49** of their children
135 survivors of sexual violence and abuse and **287** of their children



Categories of Assisted Beneficiaries in the Program

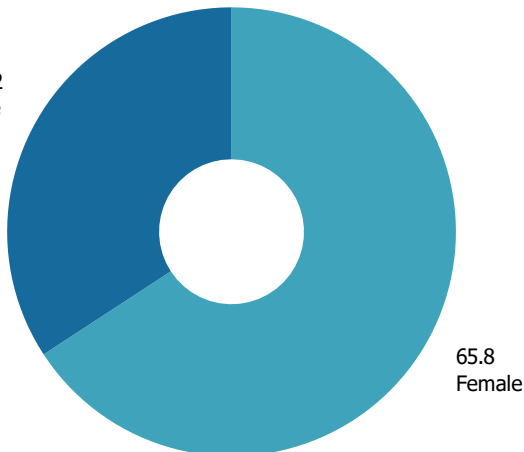


Profile of Cases: Victims / Potential Victims of Trafficking

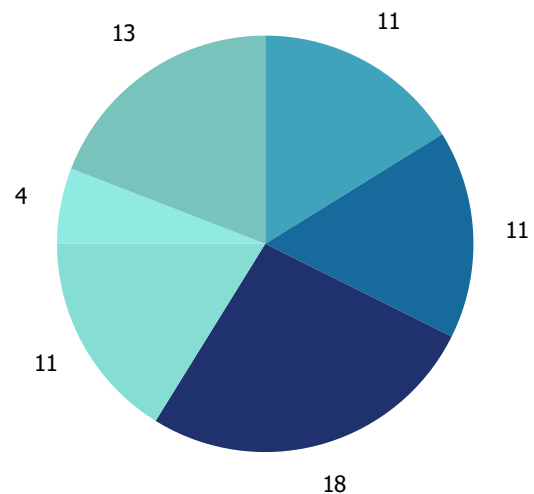


Gender

34.2
Male



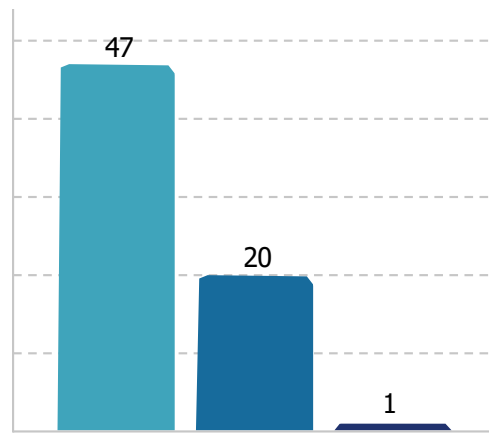
Age Groups



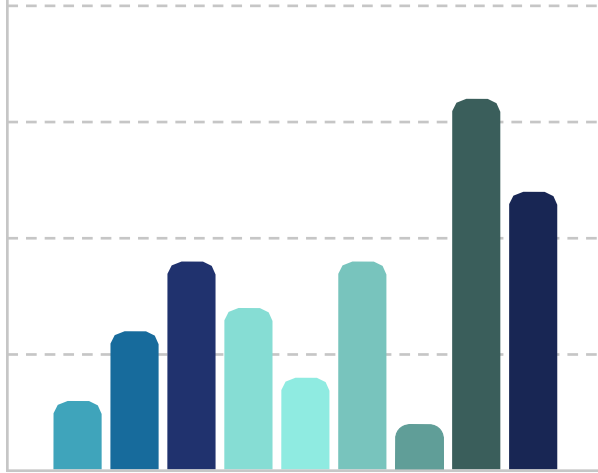


Nationality

Albanian Foreign Stateless



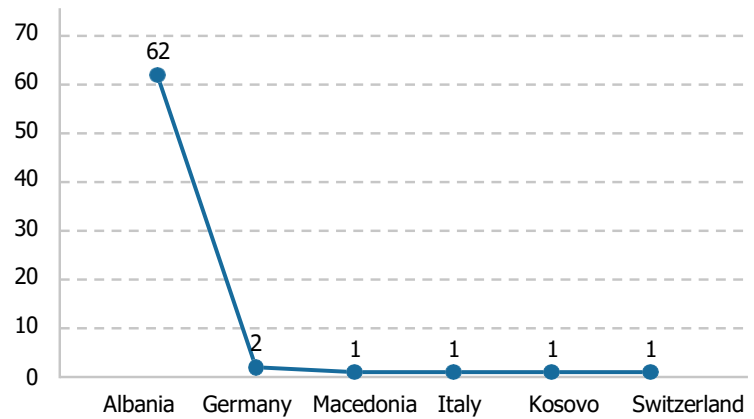
Means of Recruitment



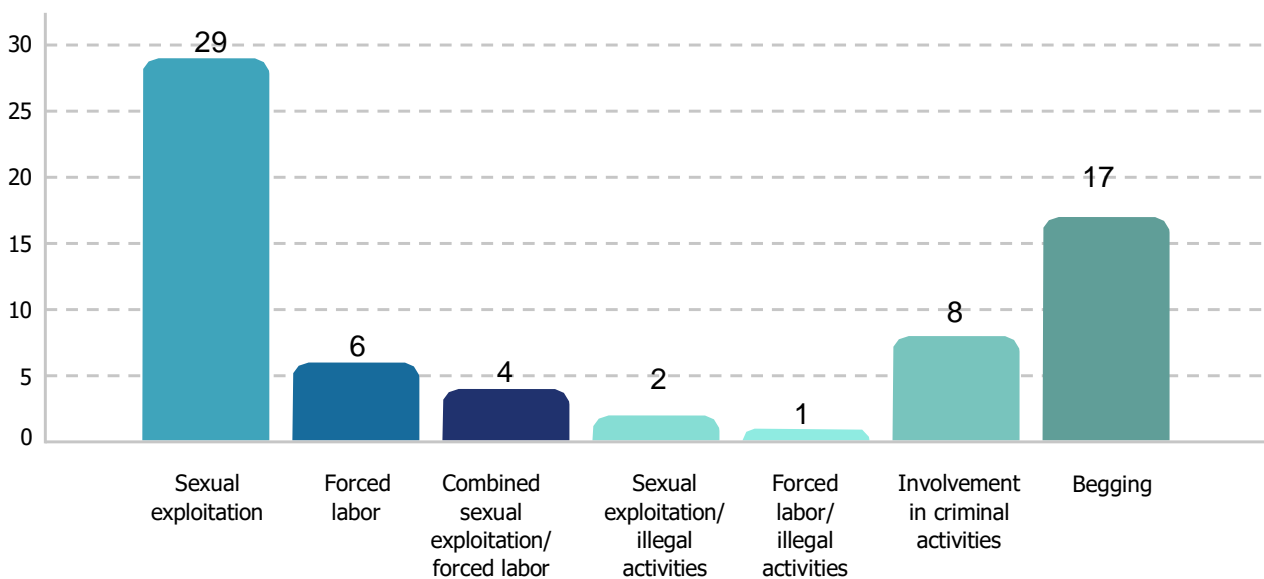
- Promise of marriage (3)
- Promise of employment (6)
- Exploited by boyfriend/cohabitant/spouse (9)
- Peer group influence (7)
- Lured by large sums of money (4)
- Taking advantage of a vulnerable situation (9)
- Promise via social media (2)
- Exploited by family members (16)
- Brought from another country for financial gain (12)



Countries of Trafficking

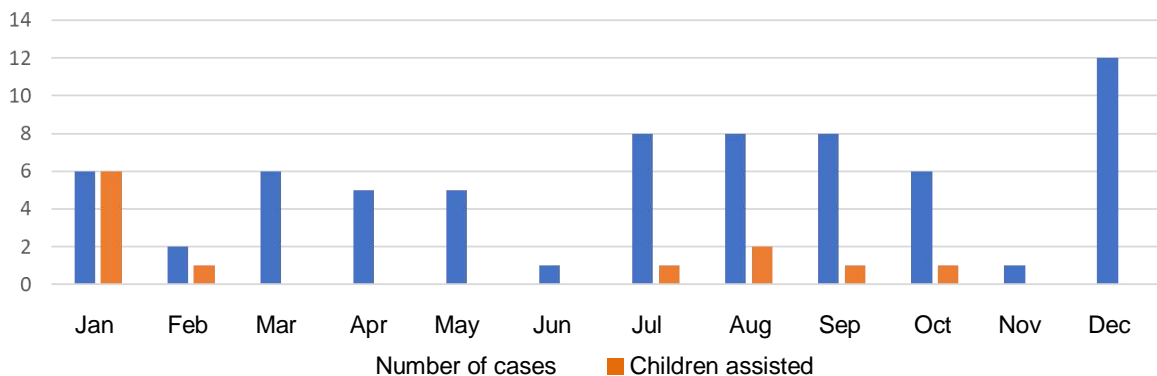


Forms of exploitation

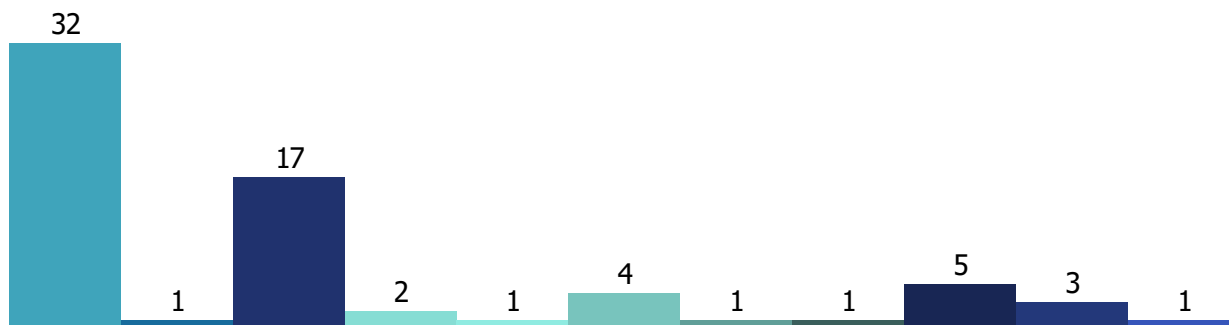




Referral of Cases by Month



Referral Sources for New Cases Assisted during January – December 2024



- Mobile Units in Tirana & Shkodër
- Elbasan Women's Forum
- Local Police Directorates in Tirana, Durrës, Shkodër
- Municipality of Berat & PMF Berat
- Municipality of Korça & PMF Korça
- Municipalities of Elbasan, Kamëz, Krujë, Berat
- QKPVDHF (Center for Protection of Victims of Domestic and Family Violence)
- PMF 7, 5, Bathore
- QKPVT (Center for Protection of Victims of Trafficking)
- Children's Home (ages 16–18), Shkodër
- IOM

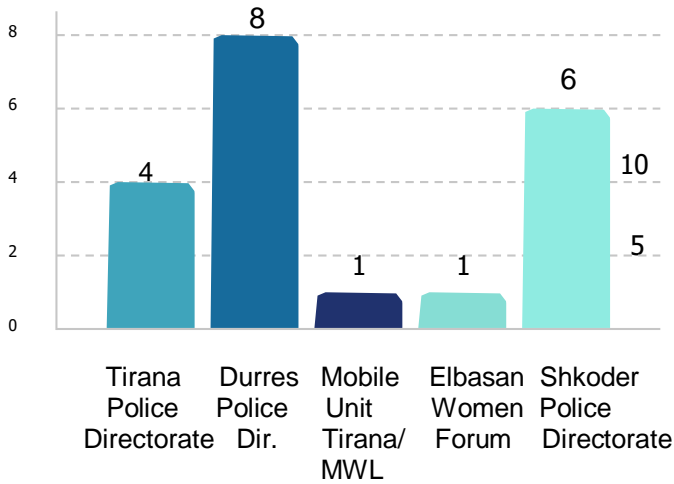
FOREIGN CASES

During the period January – December 2024, **20 foreign cases** were referred. All individuals were exploited within Albania, and **1 case** was also exploited in Germany. All foreign cases involved adults: 19 women and 1 man, with 1 stateless person.

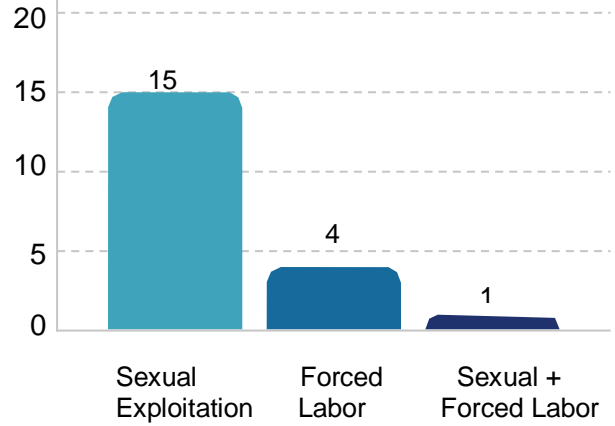


- Colombia 2
- Thailand 2
- Venezuela 4
- Morocco 1
- Cameroon 1
- Kosovo 1
- China 5
- Brazil 2
- Peru 2

Referral Source

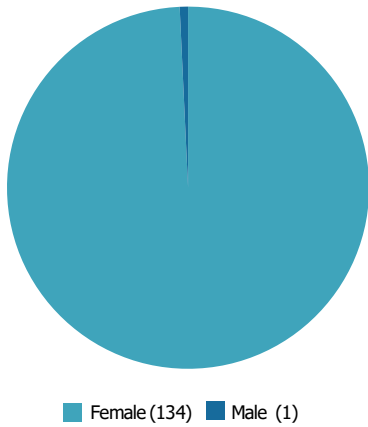


Type of Exploitation

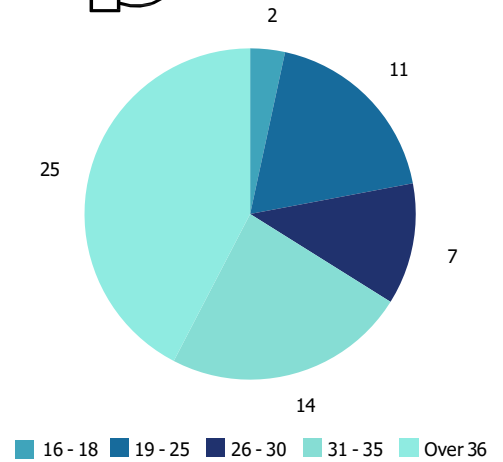


PROFILE OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

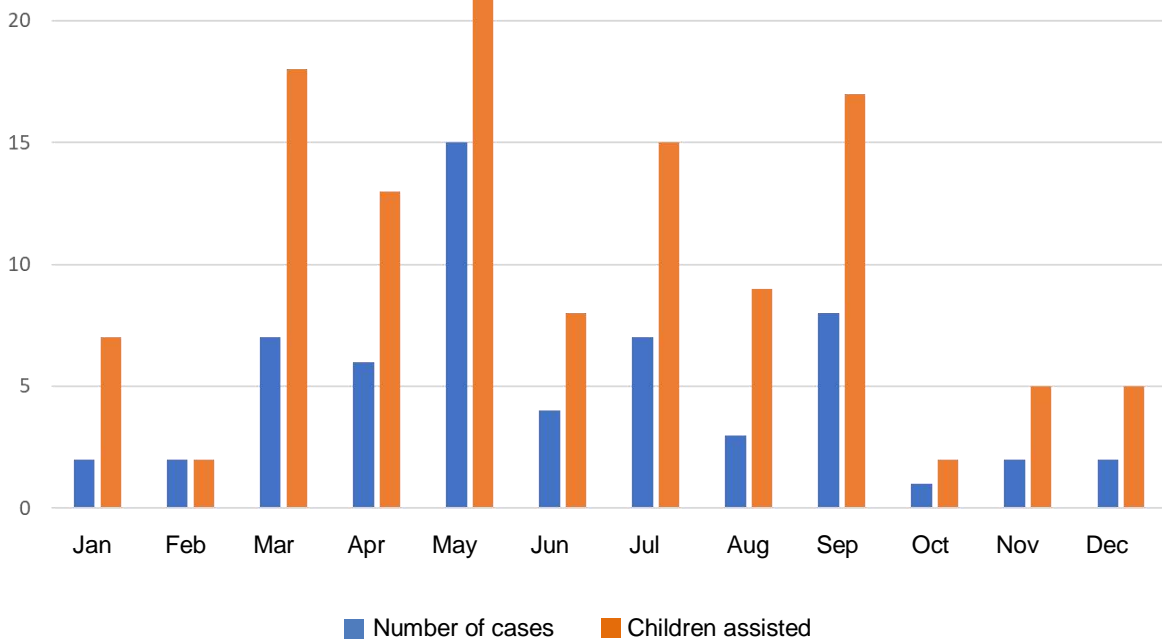
Gender



Group of Age



Case referrals by month





REFERRAL SOURCES FOR NEW CASES ASSISTED

1 MUNICIPALITIES



Municipality of Kamëz	4 cases
Municipality of Shkodër	9 cases
Municipality of Malësi e madhe	1 case
Units 4 / 8 / KVDH Tirana / Unit 3	5 cases
Municipality of Lezhe	3 cases
Unit 3 Tirana	5 cases
Municipality of Korça	1 case
Social Services in Lezhë	2 cases
State Social Services	2 cases

2 ORGANIZATIONS



UN Women	1 case
Solwod	2 cases
Gender Alliance for Development	1 case
Një dobi të gruas (In the Interest of Women)	1 case
Sisters of Mother Teresa	1 cases
Streha Center	2 cases
Human Rights in Democracy	1 case
Women's Forum	1 case
"Papa Giovanni XXIII"	3 cases
Vatra	1 case
Community Center for "Family" – No. 2 Shkoder	1 case
IOM Switzerland	1 case
MU Tirana / MU Lezha	4 cases

3 OTHER SOURCES



Self-referred	2 cases
Other	6 cases

ACTIVITIES

2

IMPLEMENTED

DIRECT REINTEGRATION SERVICES FOR VICTIMS / POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

**D&E provided reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking
across three main phases:**

Phase 1: Crisis intervention and accommodation

Phase 2: Transitional phase, involving semi-independent living

Phase 3: Full reintegration and social inclusion

A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF REINTEGRATION SERVICES WAS OFFERED TO BENEFICIARIES OF D&E'S REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

This included:

- Shelter, security, and reintegration planning
- Immediate medical assistance
- Negotiation/mediation with family members
- Psychological assessments and counseling
- Legal support and assistance
- Support with enrollment and continuity in the education system
- Vocational training
- Social activities
- Mentorship
- Employment counseling and support
- Financial support for housing
- Information about existing community services and contact points/service maps
- Income-generating work programs
- Assistance and support for the children of trafficking victims
- Continuous monitoring and follow-up with beneficiaries

In addition to direct assistance for beneficiaries, D&E also supported the families of victims—for example: support for the victim's children, assistance to a parent of a minor to find employment, a Family counseling, and more.

SERVICE PACKAGE

DURING THE 3
PROGRAM PHASES



Between January and December 2024, beneficiaries received psychosocial counseling from the organization's psychologist and case managers. Psychosocial counseling sessions were conducted by the case managers. The main topics addressed during these sessions included employment, interpersonal relationships, family mediation, empowerment, time and income management, decision-making and life choices, parenting, education, self-care, and independent living.

373 individual counseling sessions were delivered by the D&E psychologist to beneficiaries across the three phases of the program. Additionally, 2 140 individual psychosocial counseling sessions were conducted by the case managers.

PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELING



ART THERAPY

Art therapy consistently had a positive impact on beneficiaries, serving as both a liberating and relaxing activity. During the reporting period, 15 art therapy sessions were organized with the participation of 15 beneficiaries. Techniques used included crafting and decorating for the 7–8 March celebrations and Valentine's Day, personalized jewelry making, painting/portraiture, event and birthday decorations, relaxation through free-form art therapy, and the "Perfect Day" activity.





MEDICAL SERVICES

D&E's medical professional conducted health assessments for all new cases entering the program and addressed the medical needs of all beneficiaries and their children. Routine medical tests were performed for each new case, including complete blood count, biochemical panel, abdominal ultrasound, X-rays, and other specific examinations. Cases presenting medical issues were referred to appropriate specialists and treated with prescribed medication.

The most common health issues identified among beneficiaries included infectious diseases (viral, bacterial, and fungal), dermatological conditions, eye disorders, dental issues, gynecological problems, seasonal viruses, and chronic conditions.

10 children residing in the shelter were regularly followed up at the local health center for vaccinations and pediatric care.

1 case was monitored throughout pregnancy and delivery at the maternity hospital.

10 cases involving mental health concerns received psychiatric care and appropriate treatment.

D&E collaborated with several healthcare institutions, including Aldent University (which provided free dental services for beneficiaries), Polyclinic No. 9, the Public Health Institute, the Institute of Hygiene, the QSUT Emergency Department, and the Psychiatric Hospital.

All program beneficiaries were registered with a Health Card at Polyclinic No. 9 and received the necessary medical services.



The D&E lawyer conducted legal needs assessments for all new cases admitted into the program and provided support with both civil and criminal legal processes, including court representation.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

*From January to December 2024, a total of **142 cases (92 new and 50 ongoing)** received primary legal assistance.*

*From January to December 2024, **38 cases (19 new and 19 ongoing)** received secondary legal assistance.*

33

victims or potential victims of trafficking



Primary Legal Assistance

Services included:

- Information on the Law on the Rights of the Child
- Guidance on divorce procedures
- Parental responsibility
- Child registration in civil status
- Housing rent subsidies
- Change of residence
- Residency permits
- Work permits

Secondary Legal Assistance

New cases

1 potential trafficking victim was issued a protection order
 3 potential trafficking victims were granted one-year residency permits

Carried over cases

1 trafficking victim and 3 potential victims were represented in divorce proceedings
 1 trafficking victim was represented as a victim in a case of "Exploitation of child prostitution in collaboration"
 1 minor potential victim of trafficking was represented in a criminal proceeding for "Theft"

57

Beneficiaries were victims of domestic violence

Primary Legal Assistance

Victims were informed about: divorce procedures, protection orders, access to economic assistance, failure to provide means of subsistence, victims' rights in criminal proceedings, parental responsibility, enforcement of alimony, housing rent subsidy, change of residence etc.

Secondary Legal Assistance

New cases

- 8 cases were supported with divorce lawsuits
- 3 beneficiaries received assistance for protection orders
- 2 cases involved appeals to the Court of Appeals regarding protection orders
- 1 beneficiary was represented as a victim of domestic violence in a criminal proceeding

Carried over cases

- 1 beneficiary requested a temporary protection measure
- 4 cases were represented in court for divorce
- 1 case was represented in the Court of Appeals for the recognition of a foreign court decision
- 4 beneficiaries were represented as victims of domestic violence in criminal proceedings
- 2 authorizations were issued for children to travel abroad



Beneficiaries were Victims of Sexual Abuse

Primary Legal Assistance

Beneficiaries were informed about their rights as victims of sexual abuse in criminal proceedings.

Secondary Legal Assistance

- One beneficiary was represented in the First Instance Court of General Jurisdiction of Saranda and the Court of Appeals as a victim of the criminal offense "Sexual or homosexual relations with persons in care or custody"
- Two beneficiaries were represented in criminal proceedings as victims of domestic violence

Carried over cases



During this period, **70 beneficiaries and 146 of their children** were supported and enrolled in various levels of education (**59 victims or potential victims of trafficking and 20 of their children; 11 victims of domestic violence and 126 of their children**). Cooperation was established with Regional Education Directorates and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth to facilitate school enrollment. All beneficiaries were provided with schoolbooks and educational supplies.

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLING

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

D&E has supported program beneficiaries in their efforts to enter the formal labor market. The D&E team continuously guides beneficiaries to choose professions in demand, tailored to their personal skills. They are trained on how to present themselves to potential employers, engage in effective communication, perform well in the workplace, and prepare a CV and cover letter. All new cases in the program were accompanied by the economic empowerment coordinator to register as unemployed jobseekers at the Employment Offices and to receive offers for vocational training or employment opportunities.



40 beneficiaries attended various vocational training courses, including: culinary courses, English language courses, manicure/pedicure, soap and shampoo production, jewelry making, self-care, traditional handcrafting, and a sports course (boxing).



5 beneficiaries attended culinary training at QEK and QFP 1;
4 beneficiaries attended English courses (at the Qatar Center);
1 beneficiaries attended a manicure/pedicure course at QFP 1;
9 beneficiaries attended soap and shampoo production courses in collaboration with Mary Ward Loreto and GADC;
9 beneficiaries attended jewelry-making courses at the D&E Social Club;
7 beneficiaries attended self-care training at the D&E Social Club;
4 beneficiaries attended handcrafting courses at GADC;
1 beneficiaries attended a boxing course.

107 Beneficiaries were engaged in employment

Among them, **36 victims or potential victims of trafficking** (24 girls/women and 12 boys/men) were employed in various sectors such as: kitchen assistants in restaurants and pastry shops, bartenders, waitstaff, dishwashers, call center operators, telecommunications staff, cleaners, delivery personnel, supermarket workers, factory/fashion industry workers, security staff, furniture production workers, etc. An additional **15 cases** received employment counseling.

71 victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse were employed, while **31 others** received employment counseling..

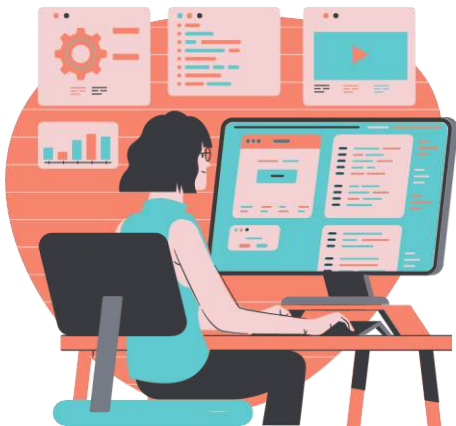


ACTIVITIES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE SHELTER

Group discussions were held on various topics, along with the celebration of different holidays and the birthdays of beneficiaries. Culinary workshops were organized through which beneficiaries learned to cook different recipes. A variety of recreational and energizing games were also held, as well as musical evenings organized every Saturday. Beneficiaries engaged in reading various books from the D&E library, and participated in fitness, gym sessions, yoga, meditation, and coffee gatherings in the courtyard, among other activities etc

A series of activities were also organized outside the shelter, serving both recreational and informative purposes. These included: celebrations of Valentine’s Day and International Women’s Day; Catholic and Orthodox Easter; Eid celebrations; Halloween; and the Independence and Liberation Day. Recreational outings included visits to the Latitude play center, indoor playgrounds for children, walks, shopping trips, beach visits, a tour of the Kruja Castle, an activity on Dajti Mountain, and a visit to the Zoological Garden.





241 cases and **340 of their children** are assisted in rented apartments and with families. Of these cases, **109 are victims of trafficking and violence**, and 55 of their children; **134 are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse**, and 285 of their children.

CASE MONITORING IN APARTMENTS AND FAMILIES

Beneficiaries in the second and third phases of the D&E program have been supported with all community services based on their needs. The monitoring of beneficiaries has been conducted through direct meetings and phone contacts. Regular counseling sessions have been offered by the D&E psychologist to the beneficiaries currently in the second phase of reintegration. Regular contact is also maintained with the case managers for the beneficiaries in the second phase of the reintegration program. During this period, the staff has monitored and held direct meetings with beneficiaries living in their home cities such as Shkodra, Fier, Durrës, Elbasan, Korça, Berat, Kukës, and Dibra.



3.2 INCREASED EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING VICTIMS THROUGH MOBILE UNITS

40 cases and 1 of their children have been identified as potential trafficking victims and have been referred to the responsible Authority

Throughout this year, D&E has continued its efforts to identify potential trafficking victims through fieldwork. The two Mobile Units in Tirana and Shkodër, each composed of two individuals, have actively worked in this area, directly contacting individuals at risk of trafficking and exploitation in the community. The teams of the Mobile Units have directly contacted families, mediated with various services, and assessed potential trafficking and exploitation risks using relevant indicators. During this period, the Mobile Units have directly engaged with **1,185 people** from vulnerable families or groups, who have been referred for various services such as medical care, assistance in finding a job, or completing documents for rent bonuses, economic assistance, or obtaining social housing.

Other activities carried out by the Mobile Units include organizing focus groups with community members to discuss issues related to trafficking and exploitation, with the goal of raising awareness and identifying potential victims of trafficking. The Mobile Units have also cooperated with other organizations and institutions in their work and have contacted and met with **150 professionals**.

During this period, D&E staff participated in meetings of intersectoral technical groups organized by the Administrative Units and Child Protection Workers. These meetings focused on cases that required support.



3.3 INCREASED COMMUNITY AWARENESS ON TRAFFICKING, VIOLENCE, AND ABUSE

MEETINGS / FOCUS GROUPS WITH PROFESSIONALS



- The Mobile Unit of Tirana organized a meeting on **January 17, 2024**, with 23 community policing staff at Police Station No. 1 in Tirana. The purpose of this meeting was to increase cooperation for proactive identification and referral of trafficking victims and potential victims.
- **On July 9**, the Mobile Unit of Tirana organized a meeting with 13 participants, including students from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Social Work Department, the staff of the Mobile Unit of Tirana, and school staff. The meeting focused on the exchange of information related to trafficking, referral, and victim protection. It also covered the role of the Mobile Unit and its activities. This focus group took place at the organization's social club.
- The Mobile Unit of Shkodër conducted a Focus Group on **February 27, 2024**, aimed at preventing trafficking and providing services at the Professional Training Center in Shkodër.
- **On July 8 and 15**, two focus groups were held with the staff of Health Centers No. 2 and No. 1 in Shkodër to prevent human trafficking. These focus groups had 13 participants.
- **On July 28**, a focus group with businesses, the community, and the hospitality/tourism sector was held with 20 participants
- **On July 30**, a focus group with police staff at the Muriqan border checkpoint was held. The goal of this meeting was to increase cooperation for proactive identification and referral of trafficking victims and potential victims. This focus group had 40 participants.

INFORMATION SESSIONS IN SCHOOLS

- An informative session was held with 9th-grade students at “Pjetër Budi” school in Tirana, with the participation of 32 students, the school's psycho-social staff, and the Child Protection Worker (CPW)
- On **February 7, 2024**, an informative session was conducted at “Hamdi Bushati” school in Shkodër, with the participation of 30 students.
- On **February 19, 2024**, another informative session was held at “Jordan Misja” school in Shkodër, with 27 students in attendance, along with the psycho-social staff and the CPW.
- On **February 28, 2024**, an awareness-raising activity was organized for 9th-grade students at “Pjetër Budi” nine-year school, Administrative Unit no. 7, Tirana. The activity was attended by 37 students, the Child Protection Worker, staff from the Municipal Unit Tirana, and the school’s psycho-social staff.
- On **October 1, 2024**, two awareness-raising activities were conducted at “Andon Zako Çajupi” high school and “Avni Rustemi” school in Tirana. 65 students participated, along with the Child Protection Worker, staff from the Municipal Unit Tirana, and the school’s psycho-social staff.
- On **October 2, 2024**, an awareness-raising activity was held at “Avni Rustemi” nine-year school, Administrative Unit no. 10, Tirana, with the participation of 26 students, the Child Protection Worker, staff from the Municipal Unit Tirana, and the school’s psycho-social staff.
- On **October 8, 2024**, an awareness-raising activity was organized at “Sadik Stavaleci” high school, Administrative Unit Kashar, Tirana. The activity included 23 students, the Child Protection Worker, the school’s psycho-social staff, and the school security officer.
- On **October 9, 2024**, an awareness-raising activity took place at “Klodian Tanushi” nine-year school, Administrative Unit no. 12, Tirana, attended by 31 students, the Child Protection Worker, the psycho-social staff, and the school security officer.
- On **October 16, 2024**, an awareness-raising activity was held at “Lasgush Poradeci” nine-year school, Administrative Unit no. 6, Tirana, with 33 students, the Child Protection Worker, the psycho-social staff, and the school security officer in attendance.
- On **October 17, 2024**, an awareness-raising activity took place at “Kongresi i Manastirit” nine-year school, Administrative Unit no. 6, Tirana, with the participation of 52 students, the Child Protection Worker, the psycho-social staff, and the school security officer.
- On **October 22, 2024**, an awareness-raising activity was conducted at “Xhon Kenedi” high school, Administrative Unit no. 11, Tirana. The activity included 46 students, the Child Protection Worker, the school’s psycho-social staff, and the school security officer.
- On **October 28, 2024**, an awareness-raising activity was organized at “Sulejman Elezi” high school, Administrative Unit no. 2, Municipality of Kamëz. The activity involved 48 students, the Child Protection Worker, the school’s psycho-social staff, and the school security officer.

- **October 31, 2024** – Two awareness-raising activities were held at “Drita Pelinku” nine-year school, Administrative Unit no. 7, and at “Hillary Clinton” nine-year school, Administrative Unit no. 2, Municipality of Kamëz. Approximately 60 students participated in these activities, along with the Child Protection Worker, the school’s psycho-social staff, and the school security officer.
- **November 7, 2024** – An awareness-raising activity was held at the Artistic High School “Jordan Misja”, Administrative Unit no. 2, Tirana. The activity was organized in cooperation between the organization “Different & Equal”, the school’s psycho-social staff, and the Child Protection Unit. The topics addressed included: what child trafficking is, how it occurs, and where to seek help in cases of risk of trafficking or exploitation.



FOCUS GROUPS

During the period of **June – July 2024**, the Mobile Unit of Shkodër organized two focus groups with children, parents, and marginalized communities. These were held at the Community Center “Për Familjen”, the Multifunctional Community Center “Xixëllonjat”, and in Social Housing facilities.

- **January 31, 2024** – A focus group was held with the participation of 20 parents, aimed at informing them about juvenile justice and raising their awareness of the phenomenon of trafficking. The session was conducted at “Isa Boletini” school premises in Vorë.
- **August 19, 2024** – The Mobile Unit of Shkodër held a meeting with the staff of the “one-stop” center at the Children’s Hospital in Shkodër. The focus of the meeting was the services available to victims of sexual exploitation.
- **August 23, 2024** – A follow-up meeting was held with the emergency unit staff. A total of 17 hospital staff members participated in these two meetings.
- **September 16, 2024** – The Mobile Unit of Shkodër organized a focus group with youth from the “16–18 Children’s Home” center in Shkodër. The aim was to provide information, ensure protection, and facilitate access to services.
- **May 10, 2024** – A focus group was held with women and girls from vulnerable groups in the Municipality of Vorë. The activity was organized in cooperation between the Municipal Unit of Tirana and the Local Coordinator Against Domestic Violence in Vorë Municipality. The topics discussed included reporting violence, addressing related issues, and where to seek help.
- **October 3, 2024** – A focus group was held with community members of the Municipality of Vorë. Fourteen community members participated, along with the Child Protection Worker, the unit’s social services staff, community policing officers, and the Local Coordinator Against Domestic Violence in the Municipality of Vorë. The topics discussed included: what trafficking is, how it occurs, high-risk groups and individuals, how to address related issues, and where to seek support.
- **October 7, 2024** – A focus group was held with members of the community in the Administrative Unit of Bërshull, Municipality of Vorë, on the topic “The Fight Against Human Trafficking.” The activity involved 18 community members, the Child Protection Worker, local social services staff, community policing officers, and the Local Coordinator Against Domestic Violence in the Municipality of Vorë.

3.4 PROVISION OF ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE, INCLUDING WOMEN FROM VULNERABLE GROUPS IN TARGETED MUNICIPALITIES IN ALBANIA

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of local authorities in the municipalities of Kamëz, Krujë, Cërrik, Gramsh, Vlorë, Fier, and Lushnje, as well as of other CSOs, to adopt and implement effective models for the socio-economic integration of survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). The project directly contributes to the improvement of the protection system for GBV survivors. D&E is collaborating with three partner organizations: “Tjeter Vision” association in Elbasan, the psycho-social center “Vatra” in Vlorë, and the association “Gender, Peace, Security” in Durrës.

The activities organized during project implementation include:

Provision of individualized support and reintegration services for GBV victims—comprehensive, long-term, and tailored to their needs and reintegration plans. These services include:

- Psycho-social counseling
- Medical assistance
- Legal aid and support
- Education and vocational training
- Social activities
- Support with school registration and attendance
- Employment counseling and support
- Housing assistance, including rent subsidies and long-term housing support through inclusion in the social housing program
- Information on existing municipal services and relevant contact points
- Income-generating work programs
- Assistance and support for the children of violence survivors
- Continuous monitoring and follow-up of program beneficiaries



As part of the project, **392** survivors of gender-based violence and **469** of their children have received support based on their individual needs and tailored reintegration plans (as of December 2024).

D&E, in collaboration with the municipalities of Kamëz, Krujë, Cërrik, Gramsh, Vlorë, Fier, and Lushnje, has organized **five training sessions** with the participation of **87 professionals**, including local-level stakeholders and civil society organizations. The purpose of these trainings was to enhance their capacities in supporting the reintegration of GBV survivors and in addressing their needs during the implementation of their socio-economic reintegration plans.

TRAININGS ORGANIZED

21

March 2024 in Gramsh, with the participation of **15 professionals** representing state and non-state institutions from the municipalities of Gramsh and Cërrik;



19

April 2024 in Vlorë, with the participation of **20 professionals** from the Vlorë Municipality;

17

May 2024 in Fier, with the participation of **16 professionals** representing state and non-state institutions from the municipalities of Fier and Lushnje;



21

June 2024 in Kamëz, with the participation of **16 professionals** from the Kamëz Municipality;



27

June 2024 in Krujë, with **20 participants**, representing state and non-state institutions from the Krujë Municipality.



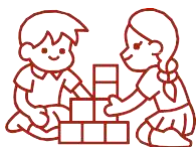
Support of Municipalities in Developing Socio-Economic Integration Plans for Women Survivors of Domestic and Other Forms of Violence

Support has been provided to municipalities for the development of socio-economic integration plans tailored for women survivors of domestic and all other forms of violence. These plans have been developed individually for each municipality.

Awareness-raising activities have been organized with women and girls—especially survivors of violence from rural and remote areas—to inform them about the available reintegration programs. In collaboration with local partners and members of the local coordination mechanisms, D&E has used various tools such as brochures, posters, leaflets, and awareness-raising messages to conduct informative sessions, community focus groups, and direct meetings. These initiatives aim to raise awareness and provide information on the services available to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), as well as how to seek help and access the appropriate contacts. These activities culminated during the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, D&E contributed to the development of recommendations for expanding and implementing this initiative in other municipalities across Albania. The Ministry expressed interest in the “**Guidelines for the Reintegration of Gender-Based Violence Survivors**.” Through the drafting of these Guidelines, D&E joins the Ministry in supporting municipalities to design and implement community-wide integration plans.

The Guidelines outline the steps that municipalities should take to conduct needs assessments and offer direct support that is multi-dimensional and inclusive for both individuals and the broader community. They envision long-term, structured, and comprehensive services for GBV survivors and promote approaches that ensure reintegration and prevent further abuse. The Guidelines assist municipalities in building and implementing effective reintegration service plans for survivors of GBV.



3.5 PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE (MORNING AND AFTERNOON) CHILDCARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN OF MOTHERS REBUILDING THEIR LIVES

Supported by GIZ, UNICEF, and Other Donors

“Shtëpia e Gjyshes/ Shtëpia Tjetër” (**Grandma’s House / My Other Home**) is a community-based service that provides care for children of victims of trafficking and domestic violence. The service ensures that children receive appropriate care in the afternoon, allowing them to grow up in a calm, safe, and nurturing environment—just like other children. It operates beyond the regular hours of public nurseries, kindergartens, and schools (from Monday to Saturday).

https://differentandequal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/E-fundit-Grandma%E2%80%99s-Home-or-My-Other-Home_book_english_ok.pdf

Impact and Reach of the Alternative Childcare Services



- Care and supervision
- Hygiene and health care
- Food and nutrition
- Support with schoolwork/homework
- Emotional support and development of positive social behavior
- Games
- Informing the mother and consulting on child care
- Observation of the child's behavior and reporting of neglect, abuse, or signs of violence
- Evaluation and provision of psychological/medical support
- Assessment of needs and planning of care
- Transportation
- Outings
- Referral of mothers and children for further assessment and necessary treatment
- Parenting support for mothers

During this year, 70 children (27 boys and 43 girls) and 50 single-parent families/mothers have benefited from this childcare service:

- **Shkozë Alternative Childcare Center:** Attended by 13 children (5 boys and 8 girls). 8 mothers were supported to engage in full-time employment.
- **Shkodër Alternative Childcare Center:** Attended by 15 children (6 boys and 9 girls). 8 mothers were supported to engage in full-time employment.
- **Dajç Alternative Childcare Center:** Attended by 20 children (7 boys and 13 girls). 12 mothers were supported to engage in full-time employment.
- **Lezhë Alternative Childcare Center:** Attended by 22 children (9 boys and 13 girls). 22 single mothers were supported.

Children attending these services have shown significant and sustained improvement in their emotional and psychological well-being, learning process, and academic performance. The service has been established and operates in collaboration with local government units. The Municipalities of Tirana and Shkodër provide a portion of the operational costs and premises, while the remaining expenses are covered through the financial support of donors.

3.5 CONSOLIDATION OF SYSTEMS FOR EMPOWERING VICTIMS IN ALBANIA @ SHKODËR (TVESA@SH). EUROPEAN UNION UNDER THE "EU SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ALBANIA" PROGRAM

The project aims to improve social services for survivors of gender-based violence in the Municipality of Shkodër, in line with their needs, and to support the development of policies that impact their lives. The project contributes to the expansion of existing models of social care services in Shkodër Municipality, including childcare services, while also supporting survivors of gender-based violence to access vocational training, find employment, and establish their own social enterprises.

From the beginning of the project in **May 2022 until December 2024**, a total of **85 cases** (74 girls/women and 11 boys) and **140 children and their family members** have been supported with comprehensive reintegration services. The project team provides continuous support to the program's beneficiaries in their efforts to access the formal labor market and guides them in selecting professions that are in demand, tailored to their individual skills and abilities. Beneficiaries receive training on how to present themselves to employers, how to communicate effectively, succeed at work, write a CV, a motivation letter, and more. All cases are accompanied by the Economic Empowerment Coordinator to register at the Employment Office as unemployed job seekers and to assist them in finding a job or enrolling in vocational courses.

Joint Reflection on Lessons Learned and Recommendations

This activity involves regular meetings between partner organizations and municipal staff regarding:

- a. The modalities for establishing and the necessary adjustments for the **Social Cause Club** in Dajç;
- b. Experience sharing;
- c. The upcoming programmatic period.

This activity has taken place throughout the project. In these meetings, partners have reflected on their work, shared lessons learned, and provided recommendations for the next programming period.

Support Between Professionals from Partner Organizations and Municipal Staff

Professionals from the partner organizations and municipal staff have collaborated on a daily basis to coordinate/manage gender-based violence cases and the reintegration process in the Municipality of Shkodër. Organization professionals have regularly participated in the **intersectoral technical groups** organized by the municipality alongside local service providers for the referral and management of cases.

Establishment and Support of Victims' Businesses in Shkodër

Three survivors of gender-based violence were selected, assessed, and empowered to open new businesses in Shkodër. The businesses launched include a handicraft workshop, a hair salon, and a photography studio. All three cases received support in developing business plans and marketing strategies.

On *January 23 & 30, 2024*, a two-day training on business management and finance was held at the premises of Shkodër Municipality, targeting social workers and case managers from the Municipality of Shkodër and D&E. The training program offered participants a foundational understanding of traditional social enterprise models and equipped them with essential financial management skills. Participants were trained in how to develop and analyze business plans, emphasizing the vital connection between strategic planning and financial success, both in traditional business environments and socially-driven enterprises. Key outcomes included the development of a comprehensive training program tailored to the needs of social workers involved in supporting victims. The curriculum covered essential aspects of business administration needed to guide beneficiaries in their entrepreneurial efforts. The training session received positive feedback from participants, highlighting the importance of the program and its potential impact on their professional roles. A total of 29 professionals participated in the two-day training (25 women and 4 men), including 23 professionals from the municipality and 6 from the D&E organization.

Awareness Activities on the Occasion of International Women's Day – March 8, 2024

Activity 1: "A Strong Woman"

Organized at the Social Club in Dajç, this activity gathered girls and women from the area. The goal was to engage participants in community cooperation, form volunteer groups, offer psycho-emotional support when needed, reintegrate beneficiaries into their communities, and ensure support for their economic empowerment.

20 girls and women participated in this event.



Activity 2: "A Strong Woman"

Held at Shkodër Municipality, this event focused on survivors of gender-based violence living in Shkodër. Its purpose was to promote the role of women in society, support women's empowerment, and raise awareness about gender inequality and discrimination.

The activity was attended by 25 girls and women, all survivors of gender-based violence.

Social Cause Club in Dajç

Throughout this period, 95 awareness-raising/sensitization activities have been carried out, covering a variety of themes. These activities were organized with new participants, including students from primary and secondary schools as well as community members. Some of these meetings were conducted in cooperation with school staff, while others were held with the health center, involving parents, children, youth, and staff from schools and health centers.

A total of 14 training sessions were held at the Social Club premises, with the participation of health center staff, students, and young people from local schools.

At the sewing club, 14 sessions were held, involving local women who worked on various handicrafts and crochet work.

At the film club, 4 children's films were screened during this period to provide entertainment for children.

At the self-care club, 14 sessions were held, where women and girls participated in hairdressing and beauty courses.

The drawing club hosted 8 activities, where children created drawings or paintings on various themes.



At the yoga club, 11 sessions were conducted with the aim of promoting physical well-being.

The English club attracted children and youth from the community, who showed high interest in attending regularly.

A total of 8 activities were conducted outside the Social Club, involving students, youth, school staff, parents, and health center staff.

Visitors at the Social Club: During the day, the center is mainly frequented by parents of children in alternative care, girls and women, students, and health center staff.

In addition, visitors from various organizations from other regions or countries have also visited the club.

Participation in Fairs: The club participated in several fairs, such as the local flower fair, the Europe Day fair in Shirokë, alongside other local organizations operating in Shkodër.

The Social Club showcased traditional local products, including:

- Handmade crafts by women
- Artistic works
- Decorative plants
- Paintings created by young people

3.5 EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY IN LEZHË MUNICIPALITY

The "Empower the Community" Center in Lezhë is one of three such centers in Albania, established with the support of UNDP and funded by USAID. For the functioning of the center, the Municipality of Lezhë is cooperating with the organization "Different & Equal".

The "**Empower the Community**" Center in the Municipality of Lezhë is dedicated to serving:



Beneficiaries of the Center:

- Victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Persons with Disabilities (PWD)
- Children and youth
- Parents and alternative caregivers
- Evacuated Afghan individuals
- Individuals from the Roma and Egyptian communities
- Other individuals from vulnerable groups



Services Offered by the Center

SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- a. Psychosocial services
- b. Legal counseling
- c. Referral of cases to receive services based on individual needs
- d. Support for children when needed

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS IN NEED, BOTH IN-PERSON AND REMOTE

SPECIALIZED SERVICES AT THE CENTER AND MOBILE SERVICES

- a. Physiotherapy and speech therapy for persons with disabilities (PWDs)
- b. Psychological services as needed

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

- a. Tutoring for subjects children struggle with in school
- b. Physical activities, interactive and recreational games
- c. Educational programs

IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, ABUSE, AND VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AT RISK THROUGH THE MOBILE UNIT

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

- a. Summer camp
- b. Intensive training programs (Boot camp)
- c. Sports, arts, and exercise activities

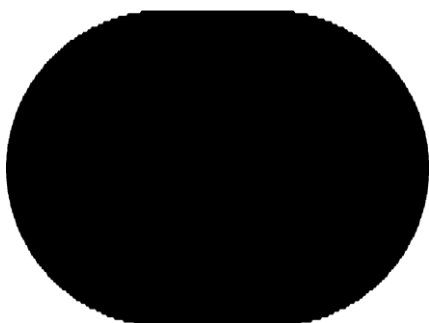


ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- a. Support in attending vocational trainings, counseling, and employment assistance
- b. Promotion of employment/self-employment for victims of domestic violence
- c. Empowerment and job-readiness training for women and men in need

AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

- a. Empowering youth and equipping them with life skills
- b. Positive parenting and fostering healthy family relationships
- c. Awareness-raising and advocacy to address community issues, including gender-based violence



AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY



ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

During this year, the following activities have been developed and offered:

- ✓ Needs assessment report and development of existing services.
- ✓ Design model for the center and service package for the vulnerable population.
- ✓ The "Empowering the Community" Center in Lezhë was reconstructed and furnished, creating suitable environments for service delivery.
- ✓ The center was opened and began operations on February 12, 2024.
- ✓ Protocols and operating regulations for the center were developed, including the staffing structure.
- ✓ 15 professional staff members were recruited.
- ✓ The RC staff was trained on approach, protocols, policies, and flexibility regulations. Services were provided for the vulnerable population.
- ✓ Awareness-raising of individuals in Lezhë Municipality through organized awareness activities.
- ✓ Six agreements were signed with three state institutions in Lezhë Municipality.



Indicators January - December 2024

Type of Service	LEZHE				
	Lezfia	G	B	W	M
Individuals in need supported through integrated social care services according to their needs	Lezfia	G	B	W	M
Services tailored for PWD such as physiotherapy, speech therapy, and psychosocial support for them and their parents.	74	25	26	20	3
Children (girls and boys) benefiting from after-school programs	22	13	9		
Boys and girls trained in life skills (training, bootcamp, informational sessions)	229	125	104		
Individuals supported with online psychosocial counseling services	36	1		33	2
Number of adults supported with life skills activities	181			133	48
Number of parents supported with the family development program	89			80	9
Total number of children	293	154	139		
Total number of women and men	328			266	62
Total individuals supported	621	154	139	266	62
Cases of GBV (Gender-Based Violence) supported with integrated social services (health counseling, legal, psychosocial, accommodation, etc.)	32			30	2
TOTAL (1)	653	154	139	296	64

Number of people who participated in events, training, or activities						
Youth from vulnerable communities engaged in empowerment activities (summer camp)	40	20	20			
Number of multisectoral professionals at the local level with increased capacities and training on standards and case management protocols	22			19	3	
Campaigns/Events (International Days, March 8, 16 Days of Activism) Awareness-raising of individuals benefiting from the activities	763	139	122	235	267	
TOTAL (2)	825	159	142	254	270	

Currently, the “Empowering the Community” Center in Lezhë is a center that provides a multidisciplinary team of various professionals to support individuals and families through assessment, facilitation, and the provision of services based on their needs and those of their children, with the goal of empowering them. The “Empowering the Community” Center now functions as a home where children, youth, parents, and even grandparents can find support in the often challenging situations and realities of life.

During this period, the “Empowering the Community” Center has become the most frequented center by the community, where individuals, youth, children, women, men, pregnant women, parents, and families have had access to information, services, and various activities aimed at enhancing their skills and empowering the family.

The center has gained wider recognition from local institutions and NGOs operating in Lezhë Municipality for its services and engagement, through meetings held with both governmental and non-governmental institutions. As a result, the number of cases referred by these institutions has increased.

The “Empowering the Community” Center continues to collaborate closely with the Directorate of Social Services in Lezhë Municipality to organize joint activities and to refer, assess, and provide services for cases. The services offered at the center are coordinated with each other to provide a comprehensive approach that is focused on empowerment.



3.6 ADVOCACY PACKAGE FOR SURVIVORS TO IMPROVE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO NEW VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA

The advocacy package for survivors is a set of actions tested by the organization “Different and Equal” through previous initiatives to bring the voices and perspectives of survivors into the criminal justice system and activate resources to support victims. The organization “Different & Equal” has elevated the participation of survivors, in collaboration with the Ombudsman and the Survivors' Advisory Panel. The advocacy package will expand the work of the Survivors' Panel and strengthen its position among contributors to criminal justice.



A total of 17 informational sessions were organized with vulnerable youth living in different regions of Albania, in both rural and urban areas. The campaign with the youth was also conducted through social media platforms.

The youth group was prepared to respond to reports from victims of sexual violence. During the informational sessions (in the first phase of the project, several youth reported having experienced sexual abuse—further work will be done with the advisory youth group on how to respond to such situations).

In *May 2024*, a workshop titled “**Improving the Treatment of Victims of Sexual Violence by Law Enforcement Institutions**” was organized, with 40 participants from law enforcement institutions.



- 3 community forums were organized with at-risk groups and individuals.
- 3 meetings were held with police officers to inform them about sexual violence and improving the response to it.
- 5 court decisions regarding sexual violence victims were monitored. A monitoring report with findings and recommendations was prepared.
- Several leaflets, posters, and a video on sexual violence were prepared.

3.7 EMPOWERMENT OF STAFF WORKING WITH TRAFFICKING VICTIMS TO PREVENT SECONDARY TRAUMA AND PROFESSIONAL BURNOUT

The organization "Different and Equal" has implemented the project "Empowering Staff Working with Victims of Trafficking to Prevent Secondary Trauma and Professional Burnout," funded by the U.S. Embassy in Tirana, Albania, for a 13-month period from September 2023 to September 2024.

The aim of the project was to support shelter staff in coping with the challenges of working with trafficking victims and dealing with secondary trauma as a result of daily work with traumatized individuals. Project activities focused on seminars, training, supervision, experience exchange, and the preparation and publication of a guide to help staff overcome these challenges.

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

1. Preparation of a Guide for Preventing Secondary Trauma and Professional Burnout for Professionals

D&E contracted an expert to prepare the Guide "Self-Care and Protection from Secondary Trauma and Burnout in the Workplace." This guide offers practical information for professionals working with trafficking victims to prevent secondary trauma and burnout in the workplace.

The guide explores the nature of challenges and their causes but also offers strategies and resources for professionals in the field to maintain their well-being while passionately pursuing their work. In preparing the guide, the expert primarily based the content on supervision meetings conducted with a large group of professionals working with trafficking victims from 4 member centers of KKSAT, as well as reviewing relevant literature. Focus groups were also organized to better understand the fulfillment of needs and specifics of supportive strategies.

The guide offers self-exploration exercises, experimental activities, inclusive, interactive, and practical approaches. It is enriched with real-life cases from field experience, connections, tools, self-assessments, and therapeutic instruments.

The document has been published and is available for use by other professionals in both public and non-governmental institutions working with various vulnerable individuals and communities, with the goal of preventing secondary trauma and burnout, and ensuring their well-being.

2. Organization of 2 Workshops on Preventing Secondary Trauma and Professional Burnout



Two workshops were organized focusing on preventing secondary trauma and professional burnout for professionals working with trafficking victims. These workshops aimed to provide strategies for self-care, maintaining mental well-being, and coping with the emotional challenges of working in this field.

3. Organization of Supervision Sessions for KKSAT Staff

D&E contracted a professional supervisor with more than 20 years of experience to provide individual clinical supervision sessions for staff working directly with trafficking victims at the National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters (KKSAT). The expert conducted individual supervision sessions with the staff based on a mutually agreed schedule.



Self-Care Guide – Protection from Secondary Trauma

From September 2023 to September 2024, regular individual supervision meetings were organized for the staff of the following centers: "Different & Equal", the psycho-social center "Vatra", "Another Vision", and the QKPVT. These meetings were held according to a regular monthly schedule. A total of 40 professionals received individual supervision sessions through 80 sessions.

Supervision for the staff of QKPVT and D&E was provided in Tirana, while for the staff of the psycho-social center "Vatra" and Another Vision, sessions were held in Vlorë and Elbasan.

Identified Challenges During Supervision:

1. *Secondary Trauma and Burnout:* The stress and emotional exhaustion experienced by staff due to continuous exposure to traumatic situations.
2. *Need for Technical Support:* Some participants expressed a need for more time and resources to conduct effective supervision sessions.
3. *Setting Boundaries:* The importance of establishing clear boundaries between professional and personal life was highlighted as crucial to avoid mental exhaustion.
4. *Improvement of Emotional Support:* Staff expressed the need for additional emotional support to cope with the psychological challenges related to the nature of their work.

Key Recommendations Focus On:

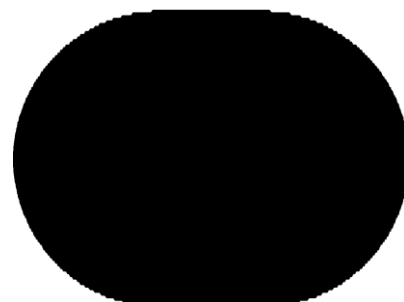
- Ensuring both technical and emotional support.
- Organizing activities aimed at reducing stress.
- Establishing healthy boundaries between personal and professional life.
- Improving group interactions and communication.

Supervision sessions greatly assisted shelter staff in dealing with the challenges of working with trafficking victims, especially in improving their psychological well-being.

4. Organization of 2 Experience Exchange Activities Between KKSAT Center Staff

On May 24 and September 24, two experience exchange activities were organized, focusing on the management of cases of trafficking victims or potential victims between the staff of the four centers. These exchange sessions facilitated the sharing of valuable knowledge and strengthened the capacity of staff to manage cases more effectively. The topics discussed during the exchanges included:

- Presentation of work practices in the case management process.
- Key elements/steps of the case management process.
- Reintegration programs applied within the case management approach.
- Basic concepts, references, and actions involved at each step.
- Support provided in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- The multidisciplinary model of work.
- Challenges and difficulties encountered while working with victims.
- Capacity building and continuous training for staff.



5. Organization of 2 Trainings for Handling Difficult Cases in Shelters

Two trainings were organized with the staff of the KKSAT centers on September 19 and 23, with the topics:

1. *"Mental Health Issues, Early Traumas, Complex Traumas, and Their Consequences for Victims of Trafficking"*
2. *"Behavioral, Psychological, and Developmental Issues of Adolescent Victims of Trafficking"*

These trainings were conducted by an expert contracted by D&E, who provided knowledge and techniques for addressing mental health problems and complex traumas faced by trafficking victims, as well as approaches to dealing with adolescent victims, including aspects of their emotional and psychological behavior and development.



Training 1: "Mental Health Issues, Early Trauma, Complex Trauma, and Their Consequences for Trafficking Victims"

This training, held on September 19, focused on the following issues:

- Mental health issues
- Early trauma
- Complex trauma
- Consequences of trauma
- Guidelines on managing situations involving various cases with mental health problems



Training 2: "Behavioral, Psychological, and Developmental Issues of Adolescent Victims of Trafficking"

This training, held on September 23, focused on the following issues:

- Emotional problems and behavior patterns
- Self-harm and managing situations
- How to handle an adolescent when they exhibit violent behavior

Both trainings were led by an expert contracted by D&E, aimed at strengthening the staff's ability to handle the psychological and behavioral challenges faced by trafficking victims, particularly adolescents. **A total of 40 professionals participated in both training sessions.**

3.7 IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO FREE LEGAL AID THROUGH ONLINE PLATFORMS FOR CRIME VICTIMS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS IN SHKODËR

During the period of April-December 2024, D&E developed a series of activities aimed at increasing access to free legal aid for crime victims and vulnerable groups in the Shkodër district. These activities were carried out under the project **"Improving Access to Free Legal Aid through Online Platforms for Crime Victims and Vulnerable Groups in Shkodër"**, as part of the project **"Advancing Electronic Justice Services for Legal Empowerment and Improved Access to Justice for Women and Men in Albania"**, which is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, with financial support from UNDP.

Organizing 10 Meetings with the Community in the Shkodër District (all municipalities)

During the period of June - December 2024, a total of 10 meetings were held with the community, primarily with the participation of vulnerable groups, including staff from the Municipalities of Shkodër, Pukë, Malësi e Madhe, and Vau Dejës. In the meetings, participants were introduced to the right to free legal aid, the beneficiaries of free legal aid, and the forms of free legal aid, as well as the opportunity to benefit through online mechanisms, including the use of the e-Albania platform. In the informational sessions, participants first completed the "Base Survey Questionnaire on Legal Knowledge and Digital Awareness." The following meetings were held during the project implementation period:

- On **June 20, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the Administrative Unit "Social Club" Dajç, Municipality of Shkodër, with 10 participants;
 - On **June 20, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the "Community Center for Family No. 3", Municipality of Shkodër, with 15 participants;
 - On **June 26, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the Municipality of Pukë, with 17 participants;
 - On **July 4, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the Administrative Unit "Rrethinat", Municipality of Shkodër, with 7 participants;
 - On **July 8, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the Municipality of Malësi e Madhe, with 12 participants;
 - On **July 9, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the Municipality of Pukë, with 12 participants;
- 
- On **September 19, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the "Community Center for Family No. 3", Municipality of Shkodër, with 18 participants;
 - On **September 27, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the Administrative Unit Gruemirë, Municipality of Malësi e Madhe, with 17 participants;
 - On **October 11, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the "Community Center Guri i Zi", Municipality of Shkodër, with 14 participants;
 - On **October 25, 2024**, an informational meeting at the premises of the Administrative Unit Bushat, Municipality of Vau Dejës, with 15 participants.
- 

Organizing 2 Roundtable Discussions with Institutions



D&E organized a roundtable in Shkodër on the topic "Free Legal Aid for Vulnerable Groups – Challenges and Opportunities, as well as Mechanisms for Accessing Online Services." This roundtable was attended by 11 lawyers, as well as representatives from independent institutions and local NGOs.



D&E also organized a second roundtable in Shkodër with the topic "Free Legal Aid for Vulnerable Groups – Challenges and Opportunities, as well as Mechanisms for Accessing Online Services." This event was attended by 23 representatives from various institutions providing services to vulnerable groups, including representatives from the Municipalities of Shkodër, Malësi e Madhe, and Vau Dejës, as well as representatives from other institutions and local NGOs.

Organization of 4 Open Days for Free Legal Aid with Vulnerable Groups

During the period of **June – December 2024**, 4 open days were held to provide free legal aid and facilitate the use of public and legal online services through digital platforms. During these open days, various citizens, including individuals from vulnerable groups, were informed about free legal aid and access to online legal services. The open days took place on the following dates:



At the Municipality of Shkodër



At the Municipality of Malesi e Madhe



At the Municipality of Pukë



At the Municipality of Vau Dejës

Provision of Free Legal Aid for Crime Victims and Vulnerable Groups

From **April to December 2024**, D&E continued providing free legal aid for all cases referred for assistance, totaling 177 cases, including 39 cases from the Shkodër district. The free legal aid services included a comprehensive package based on the beneficiaries' needs, covering information about their legal rights, facilitating access and use of online mechanisms, especially the e-Albania platform, assessment of needs for legal assistance, preparation of documentation for various judicial procedures (criminal, civil, and administrative matters), legal help in applications and requests for various services, including representation in Courts and Justice Institutions.

Legal Aid has also been provided through the advisory hotline, which during the period of **April – December 2024, was used in a total of 257 cases, averaging 30 cases per month (some beneficiaries have used it more than once)**. The table below shows the number of advisory hotline cases used by month for the period of April – December 2024:

<i>Month</i>	The number of beneficiaries who have received services.
<i>April</i>	30
<i>May</i>	12
<i>June</i>	25
<i>July</i>	15
<i>September</i>	30
<i>October</i>	38
<i>November</i>	28
<i>December</i>	15
Total	257

Provision of Free Legal Aid for Crime Victims and Vulnerable Groups

On **December 2, 2024**, D&E held a workshop in Shkodër titled "Improving Access to Free Legal Aid for Victims of Gender-Based Violence through Online Platforms," as part of the campaign for the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence," focusing on the legal protection of women and girls as one of the most vulnerable groups in society. This event was attended by 56 representatives from various institutions, lawyers, legal professionals providing free legal aid, other professionals offering services to vulnerable groups, students from the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, as well as representatives of local NGOs active in the Shkodër district. During the activity, suggestions were made for improvements and increasing the effectiveness of free legal aid provision.

4. Coordination and Cooperation with Other Actors in the Anti-Trafficking Field

D&E has continued its cooperation and coordination with all institutions, agencies, and NGOs active in the fight against human trafficking, particularly in protecting trafficking victims. During this period, D&E has participated in several activities (trainings, conferences, roundtables, seminars, and information sessions). Moreover, D&E's activities have aimed at ensuring inclusive participation, considering these activities as a valuable tool to consolidate the network of collaborators and improve their interaction for a more coordinated response.

D&E has participated in meetings organized for the functioning of the National Referral Mechanism organized by the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator with the participation of the members of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). D&E has participated in meetings organized by the Responsible Authority. D&E has participated in meetings of the Regional Anti-Trafficking Committee organized by the Prefect of the Tirana District.

5. Manuals, Guides, and Other Materials – Publications



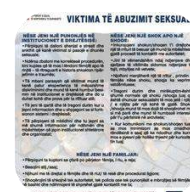
- Report on the monitoring of judicial decisions: <https://differentandequal.org/en/raport-i-monitorimi-t-te-vendimeve-gjyqesore-per-raste-te-dhunes-seksuale/>



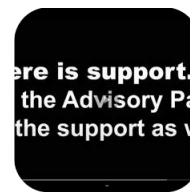
- Guide "Self-care and protection from secondary trauma and burnout in the workplace": <https://differentandequal.org/en/guideline-self-care-and-protection-from-secondary-trauma-and-burnout-in-the-workplace/>



- Brochure – Advocacy Package Project: <https://differentandequal.org/en/keshilla-per-te-ndihmuar-viktimat-e-abuzimit-seksual/>



- Poster – Advocacy Package Project: <https://differentandequal.org/en/keshilla/>



- Video – Advocacy Package Project: <https://youtu.be/dkVXmRt9pFI>



- Brochure: "Empowering the Community" Center – Lezhë.

D&E

Tirana, 2024

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