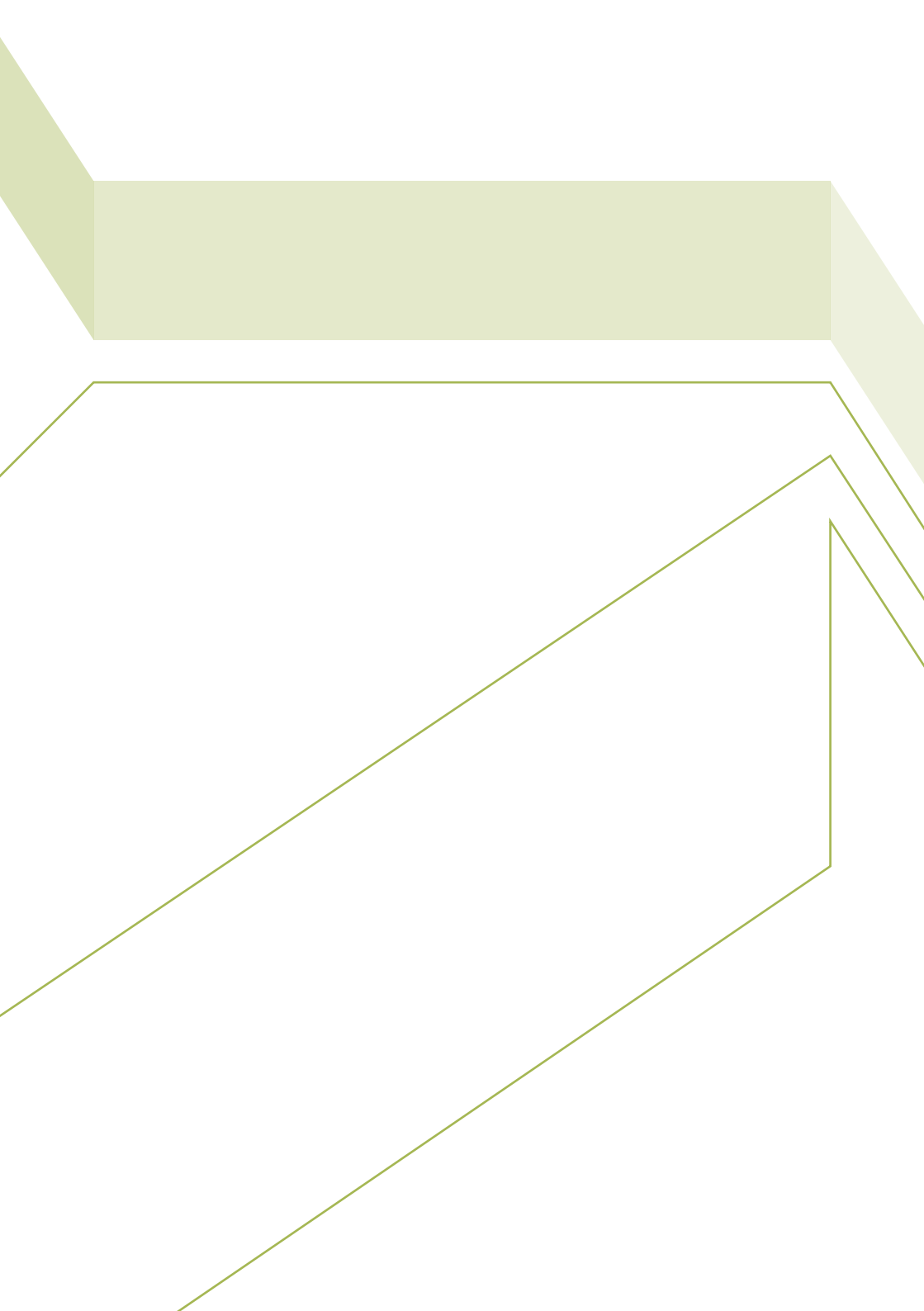




Albanian Mission Against Human Trafficking

Semi-annual Report

January 2023 – June 2023



Semi-annual Report

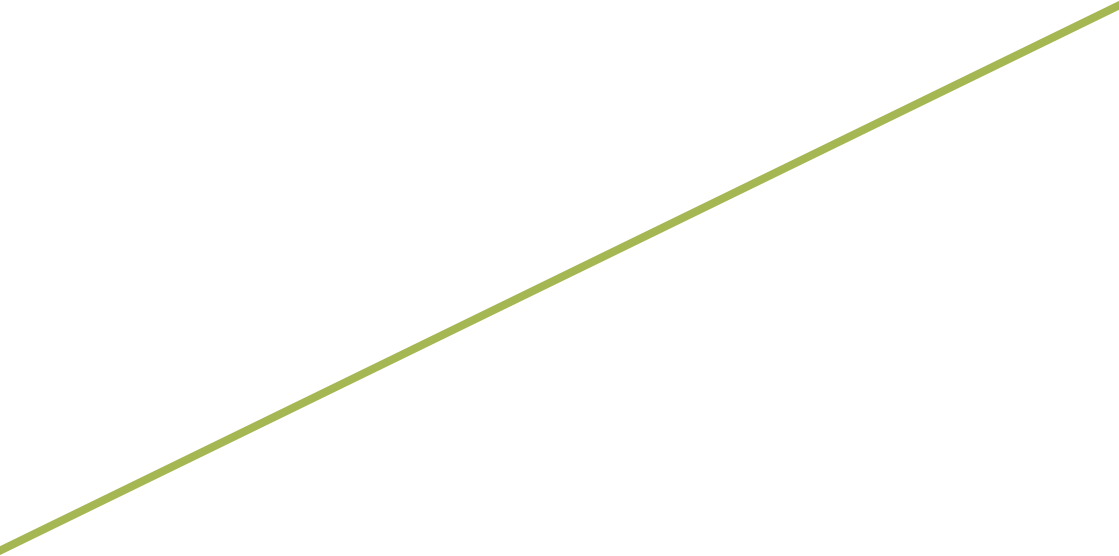
January 2023 – June 2023



Albanian Mission Against Human Trafficking

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▶ A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM OF MWL

We are presenting the first-semester report for the year 2023 with a profound sense of gratitude and purpose as we gather to open the semester report of Mary Ward Loreto (MWL). It is our distinct honour to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you—your esteemed donors, partners, and supporters—who have made possible the impressive work of MWL.

This report chronicles a journey of reflection, celebration, and renewed commitment to our mission. The achievements recorded in it are a testament to the extraordinary impact we have made in addressing human trafficking, exploitation, and vulnerability.

In the first semester of this year's mission, MWL has undergone remarkable qualitative changes that underscore the transformative nature of our interventions. These changes go beyond statistics; they represent profound shifts in mindset, behaviours, and community dynamics.

Through your unwavering support, we have witnessed the following:

- Survivors of human trafficking, and vulnerable young people, have experienced a profound shift in their self-perception and confidence. Through vocational training, psychosocial support, and empowerment initiatives, individuals have emerged with a renewed sense of self-worth, a belief in their capabilities, and the confidence to take charge of their lives.
- Our awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts have fostered a significant change in community attitudes and perceptions. By engaging with influential individuals and stakeholders, we have successfully challenged stereotypes, dispelled misconceptions, and increased awareness about the issues of human trafficking and exploitation.
- Communities at risk have demonstrated enhanced resilience as a result of our interventions. By equipping community members with the knowledge to identify and respond to potential risks, we have empowered them to collectively protect themselves and their peers from exploitation and trafficking.
- Our collaboration with various stakeholders, including local authorities, civil society organizations, and community leaders, has resulted in strengthened partnerships that transcend project boundaries. These partnerships have demonstrated the potential for collective action and sustainable change beyond our project's lifespan.
- Through advocacy campaigns and engagement with influencers, we have instigated changes in policies and regulations that directly impact vulnerable individuals and survivors. This qualitative result signifies our ability to leverage advocacy efforts to bring about tangible improvements in the legal and social landscape.
- Survivors of human trafficking and vulnerable youth have been empowered to become advocates and leaders within their communities. This qualitative shift showcases our success in nurturing leadership skills, enabling beneficiaries to speak out

against exploitation, share their experiences, and inspire others to seek support.

- Beneficiaries now view a broader array of employment options, enabling them to aspire to professions that were once considered unattainable.
- Our project has fostered a culture of support, where survivors, vulnerable youth, and communities feel safe to share their experiences, seek assistance, and collaborate in combating exploitation.

These qualitative changes demonstrate the profound impact of our collective efforts. They remind us that by empowering individuals, raising awareness, advocating for change, and fostering collaboration, we have the power to effect lasting changes in the lives of those we serve.

We would also like to take this moment to express our deep appreciation to MWL UK for their exceptional dedication to fundraising and securing our mission in Albania. Moreover, our sincere thanks go to the many individual donors who have given generously to support our mission.

Your dedication to the cause of combating human trafficking and exploitation is a beacon of hope for those we serve. Together, we will continue our journey, creating lasting change, and making our world a safer and more equitable place for all.

Thank you, and let us proceed with the report, inspired by the impact we have already achieved and the transformative potential that lies ahead.

Thank you.

► MWL EXECUTIVE TEAM

Ana Stakaj – *CEO*

Artan Toska – *CFO*

Pjeter Tanushaj - *COO*



► KEY CHANGES ACHIEVED

During the first semester, MWL achieved several key qualitative changes that signify its substantial:

► ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Several factors have played a crucial role in enhancing the organization's skills, professionalism, and effectiveness in addressing human trafficking, exploitation, and vulnerability:

- ***Professional Supervision:*** The provision of professional supervision has been pivotal in supporting staff members dealing with complex and often emotionally challenging cases. Regular supervision sessions have not only ensured the well-being of staff but also equipped them with strategies to manage the emotional toll of their work, maintain boundaries, and provide quality support to beneficiaries.
- ***Strategic Planning:*** The project's emphasis on strategic planning has allowed the implementing organization to develop a clear roadmap for its interventions. This planning has fostered a more systematic and targeted approach, enabling the organization to allocate resources effectively and achieve specific outcomes.
- ***Communication Plan:*** The development and implementation of a comprehensive communication plan have improved the organization's ability to convey its mission, objectives, and impact to various stakeholders. This enhanced communication has not only strengthened the organization's reputation but also facilitated partnerships and collaborations.

- ***ERSTE Foundation Trainings:*** Participation in ERSTE Foundation trainings has provided staff with valuable skills in areas such as project management, advocacy, and leadership. These trainings have empowered staff members to take on greater responsibilities, contribute to strategic decision-making, and drive positive change within the organization.
- ***Understanding Behavioral Patterns:*** The project's approach to understanding the behavioural patterns of victims and survivors has equipped staff with insights into the mindset and experiences of those they serve. This understanding enables staff to provide more empathetic and effective support, building trust and rapport with beneficiaries.
- ***Coping Strategies for Challenging Environments:*** Training staff to manage the effects of working in challenging and sometimes corrupt environments has been crucial. The organization has invested in building staff resilience, teaching coping mechanisms, and providing tools to navigate ethical dilemmas while maintaining their commitment to values and ethics.
- ***Relevance of Staff Behavior:*** By emphasizing that staff behavior should mirror the respectful and empathetic approach they advocate for beneficiaries, the organization has ensured that its staff embody the values they promote. This consistency between message and action enhances the organization's credibility and effectiveness.

- ***Ethics in a Corrupt Society:*** The project's focus on ethics in the context of a corrupt society has enabled staff to navigate challenges with integrity. Training staff to uphold ethical standards even in challenging environments reinforces the organization's commitment to its mission and enhances its reputation.
- ***Ongoing Learning and Adaptation:*** The organization's commitment to continuous learning and adaptation has fostered a culture of growth. Regular feedback loops, evaluations, and capacity-building initiatives ensure that staff members are equipped to address emerging challenges and seize new opportunities.

In summary, the project's comprehensive approach to capacity building has not only enhanced the skills and professionalism of the implementing organization but also equipped staff members to navigate complex situations, maintain ethical standards, and deliver impactful support. The combination of supervision, training, strategic planning, and fostering an organizational culture that aligns with the project's values has empowered the organization to thrive in its mission to combat human trafficking and exploitation.

► PROGRAMME DELIVERY

A. ADVICE AND SERVICE CENTRES PROGRAMME:

Service provision for vulnerable young people and families, in the form of social, psychological, legal and economic advice, and referral and accompaniment to existing services in the country.

Mary Ward Loreto (MWL) diligently carries forward its mission to implement **holistic interventions designed to combat human trafficking and facilitate the reintegration of survivors**. This work is enhanced by well-planned collaboration within strategic partnerships and networks, ensuring that vulnerable individuals and families, particularly beneficiaries of the ASC centres, receive comprehensive and integrated services. While the ASC centres are strategically dispersed across six regions within Albania, they extend their reach to encompass remote beneficiaries via telephone communication, and offer facilitated transportation for access to services. MWL's dynamic network extends to areas where formal and private services are scarce, thereby addressing critical gaps in support structures.

A central tenet of our approach is the reduction of vulnerability to trafficking, domestic violence (DV), and gender-based violence (GBV). This is achieved through multifaceted strategies encompassing aid, support, and empowerment of survivors. Heightened awareness campaigns, the refinement of institutional practices, and the harmonisation of coordinated responses within both local and national networks collectively contribute to the overarching goal of minimizing vulnerabilities.

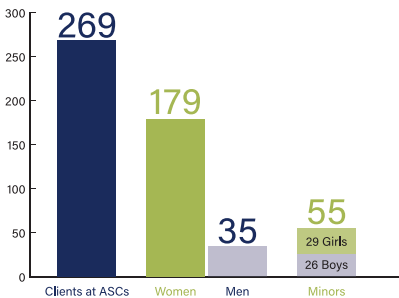
MWL remains committed to its mission of providing comprehensive and sustained support to individuals at risk and those affected by these pressing issues. Through the continued implementation of STEPS, we foster resilient communities and contribute to the broader efforts to combat human trafficking and its associated challenges.

Client Support and Referral Services

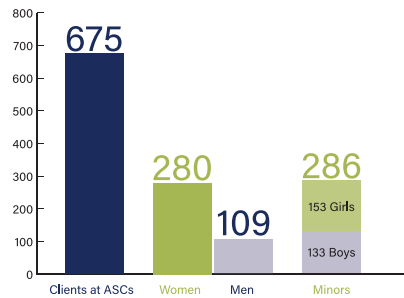
During the reporting period, 944 beneficiaries accessed the services offered by MWL's Advice and Service Centres (ASCs). With a meticulous victim-centred focus, the MWL ASCs delivered comprehensive advice, referral, and support. This service provision is tailored to individual needs, as determined by thorough needs assessments. A hallmark of our approach is seamless coordination with pertinent stakeholders to ensure a robust and coordinated response.

For the first semester of the year 2023, the following services were provided by the ASC programme:

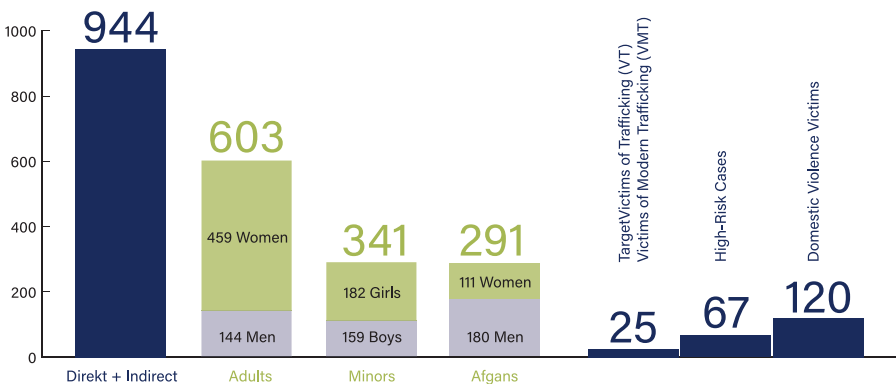
Direct Beneficiaries



Indirect Beneficiaries



Total Beneficiaries



Issues Addressed Multiple Times = 1061

Services Provided	1418
977 direct services from MWL + 441 services through referrals from partners	
Advice, Referral, Accompaniment to Services 977	Psychological Support 44 clients

Online Counselling for Albanian Victims sheltered at Medaille Trust Shelters	6
Reports & Support Letters Written for court proceedings for Albanian survivors	3
Health Care and Medical Support	53
Legal Aid	42
Emergency Response, Sheltering, and Housing	66
Food and Hygiene Sets	169
Job Search and Employment Intermediation	37
Personal and Economic Empowerment Programs	30

Key Highlights of the programme:

- A.** The comprehensive array of services underscores our commitment to not only addressing immediate needs but also contributing to the long-term well-being and safety of the most vulnerable within our communities. By engaging in meticulous identification, targeted advice, and strategic referrals, we endeavour to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.
- B.** Our commitment to psychological counselling and legal aid reflects our holistic approach to addressing vulnerabilities and empowering survivors. These efforts embody our dedication to fostering resilience and equipping individuals with the tools they need to navigate their paths towards safety, recovery, and self-sufficiency.
- C.** Our Emergency Response and Sheltering Program epitomizes MWL's unwavering commitment to immediate action and holistic care. Through our concerted efforts, we aim to provide a lifeline to those facing distressing circumstances, ensuring their safety, well-being, and access to essential services. As we continue to respond to emergencies and support survivors, we remain dedicated to our mission of promoting resilience, recovery, and empowerment. The Emergency Food and Medicines Packages initiative exemplifies MWL's commitment to immediate action and comprehensive support. Through our collective efforts, we can provide essential relief to families grappling with challenging circumstances, serving as a beacon of hope in times of adversity. As we continue this vital work, we remain steadfast in our mission to foster resilience, alleviate suffering, and empower individuals and families in their journey towards brighter horizons.
- D.** In conclusion, the group sessions conducted at ASCs underscore MWL's multifaceted approach to empowerment and gender equality. By fostering knowledge-sharing, awareness-raising, and active participation, we strive to empower women to be agents of change within their communities. Through collaboration, advocacy, and the amplification of women's voices, we are taking significant strides towards a more inclusive, equitable, and resilient society.

► EMPOWERING AFGHANI ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT:

Mary Ward Loreto (MWL) extended this year its commitment to providing essential support to Afghani asylum seekers. This section of the report details the continuous efforts undertaken during the initial half of the project year to engage, assist, and empower this vulnerable demographic.

MWL's dedication to working with Afghani asylum seekers has persisted throughout the initial phase of the project year. Amidst the challenges and uncertainties faced by this community, MWL's unwavering commitment shines through.

Reaching Out to the Vulnerable: Of the 900 refugees sheltered in the camps in Golem and Shengjin, MWL has successfully reached 291 individuals. These engagements have gone beyond mere interactions; they have encompassed needs assessments and the provision of direct services that address critical needs and challenges faced by Afghani asylum seekers. To this end, we have established five focus groups, consisting of 74 men and 42 women, totaling 116 participants. Within these groups, five informative sessions have been meticulously designed to highlight the risks associated with human trafficking. By equipping asylum seekers with awareness and understanding, we empower them to navigate challenges more effectively. This project was funded by the Vatra Psycho-social Centre.



Immediate Support: In Saranda, MWL's commitment to immediate assistance manifested in the provision of psychological support to 12 Afghani minors. These young individuals, detained by the border police during their crossing from Greece to Albania, received crucial psychological assistance. This intervention underscores MWL's holistic approach to caring for the mental and emotional well-being of vulnerable individuals.

In conclusion, the work with Afghani asylum seekers is an eloquent expression of MWL's ethos of compassion, engagement, and empowerment. By extending our support through needs assessments, information sessions, and psychological assistance, we strive to make a tangible difference in the lives of those seeking refuge. We remain dedicated to creating pathways of resilience and empowerment for Afghani asylum seekers, fostering a brighter future amid challenges.

B. THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT APPROACH:

One of the cornerstones of our mission is to cultivate economic empowerment and entrepreneurial spirit among young people. Through tailored vocational training and the support of youth-owned businesses, we endeavor to not only equip young individuals with essential skills but also provide them with the means to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Our approach is two-fold: first, by offering specialized vocational training aligned with market demands, we ensure that our youth are well-prepared to enter the workforce. Second, we go beyond employability by fostering a culture of entrepreneurship. We actively encourage and support the establishment of youth-led businesses that cater to community needs, thereby transforming these young individuals into contributors to their local economies. This strategic activity, driven by a vision of sustainable economic growth and empowerment, serves as a powerful entry-point towards a future where our youth are not only job-ready but also poised to shape their own destinies as thriving entrepreneurs.

A. Provide tailored vocational training and support the development of youth-owned businesses which offer these services for the communities.

The Economic Empowerment approach implemented from January to June 2023 has yielded significant progress and impact across multiple fronts. Through tailored vocational training initiatives, we have empowered individuals in various regions, enabling them to pursue careers in fields such as hospitality, organic farming, and culinary arts. In parallel, our support for youth-owned businesses has led to the establishment of 22 new enterprises, coupled with financial stimulus for eight of them, facilitating essential growth. Furthermore, we have bridged the gap between skilled youth and employment opportunities by assisting 10 individuals in securing jobs and fostering productive dialogues between young people and businesses. We have also equipped individuals with knowledge of their contractual rights. Despite these accomplishments, challenges persist for women who, while benefiting from MWL services, face obstacles entering the job market due to childcare responsibilities. We remain dedicated to addressing these challenges, ensuring economic empowerment reaches even those facing unique hurdles, and facilitating positive change in our communities.

The approach encompasses three primary interventions:

1. Tailored Vocational Training:

Lezha: Over the course of these six months, six women have been referred and are currently attending courses in cooking and tourist hospitality skills.

Rreshen: Twelve individuals have received advice and guidance to pursue vocational training and further their studies at the Professional High School of Rreshen, facilitated by the MWL ASC Rreshen worker.

Lushnja: A group of ten young people have received advice and guidance, with seven of them actively engaged in vocational training courses in Fier and Lushnja.

Puka: Twenty young individuals have received advice and orientation towards vocational training, with ten of them set to receive transport reimbursement and essential toolkits upon successful completion of their vocational training.

Saranda: In collaboration with schoolteachers and Employment Office staff in Saranda, career orientation sessions have been organized for 64 students at Hasan Tahsini School.

2. Support for Youth-Owned Businesses:

- Twenty-two businesses recently established by young entrepreneurs have been identified in the five areas. Tailored question-and-answer sessions will be organized in each region to provide personalized assistance, responding to their unique needs.
- Eight businesses have been selected and financially supported by the project, with a minimum sum of 500 euros provided. This financial boost has enabled them to purchase necessary equipment or cover essential costs.
- Two women's cooperative groups are receiving support, including training and ongoing assistance, along with materials to enhance their income.
- Four training sessions on entrepreneurship were conducted in Rreshen and Saranda, involving 18 established youth businesses and four startup ideas. Expert guidance is available to them for three months to address real issues and challenges.
- Twenty young people and 12 women have been trained in the use of social media for impactful marketing in Saranda and Puka.



3. Bridging Youth and Employment Opportunities:

- Ten individuals in Lezha, Saranda, Rreshen, Lushnja, and Puka have received assistance in job search and employment intermediation, resulting in five of them securing employment.
- A round-table discussion was held in Lezha, where 34 young people and four businesses engaged in fruitful discussions, ultimately leading to job offers and realistic requirements from youth.
- Ongoing collaboration with employment offices, local partners and businesses ensures access to existing services for MWL service recipients.
- Four training sessions on contractual rights were developed, involving 45 individuals in Lezha.
- A Work and Study fair was co-organized, allowing 122 young people to participate in collaboration with schools in Saranda, Delvina, Konispol, and the Saranda Employment Office.

Tailored Vocational Training

Lezha

6 *Women* attending cooking and hospitality courses.

Rreshen

12 *Individuals* were advised about vocational training and further studies.

Lushnja

10 *Young people* engaged in vocational training courses.

Puka

20 *Young individuals* were advised about vocational training, with 10 set to receive support upon completion.

Saranda

64 *Students* participated in career orientation sessions at Hasan Tahsini School.

Support for Youth-Owned Businesses:

22 recently established businesses were identified.

8 businesses are financially supported with a minimum of 500 euros each.

2 women's cooperative groups are receiving support.

4 training sessions on entrepreneurship were conducted.

20 young people and **12** women were trained in social media marketing.

Bridging Youth and Employment Opportunities:

10 individuals assisted in job search and employment intermediation.

A round-table discussion in Lezha involving **34 young people** and **4 businesses**.

Collaboration with employment offices and local partners.

4 training sessions on contractual rights with **45 participants**.

A Work and Study fair involving **122 young people**.

B. "Empowering Survivors: The Rise Up Club Initiative"

The "Rise Up" Clubs have been successfully established in Lezha, Rreshen, Tirana, and Saranda, each comprising 30 survivors who are referred to as club members. These clubs are rooted in the EmpowerFull program, aimed at fostering economic empowerment through a series of self-growth and self-confidence-building training sessions tailored to enhance employability.

A standardized training module has been developed to cater to the needs of these four distinct groups, with ASC leaders customizing topics and techniques to align with each group's specific circumstances. Club members were individually introduced to the program at ASCs, where 15 interactive training sessions were conducted—six in Lezha, four in Rreshen, four in Tirana, and one in Saranda.

In Lezha, club members concurrently engaged in a dressmaking course, with training sessions aligning with their vocational skill development. To provide additional motivation and insights, external speakers, including experienced psychologists and healthcare professionals, were occasionally invited to share their experiences and inspire the women while also working to reshape their narrative from victimhood to empowerment.

One noteworthy achievement of the project is the establishment of a trust-based relationship with the women involved. They now feel comfortable seeking support and expressing their needs, and the project staff proactively refer cases for follow-up, employment help, or other assistance as needed.

The implementation of "Rise Up Clubs" based on the EmpowerFull Model stands as a resounding success story. These clubs have effectively restored dignity and value to their members, recognizing them as individuals with immense potential rather than individuals solely in need of basic support. This paradigm shift has not only transformed how service providers view these women but has also altered the self-perception of the club members themselves. For many, it was their first

opportunity to focus on themselves, away from traumatic experiences such as divorce and violence. The clubs have also fostered therapeutic elements, including the recognition of shared challenges, altruism, healthy emotional expression, and the cultivation of hope.

Strikingly, in Rreshen and Lezha, there has been a surge of interest among women in the community to participate in the program, prompting local structures to request its expansion due to its remarkable success. This program marks a significant milestone in Rreshen, serving as the first-ever initiative for women who have experienced gender-based violence and human trafficking in the area.



Key Highlights from the Economic Empowerment Approaches implemented by MWL during this semester:

- ***Empowering Survivors:*** The initiative has successfully empowered survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking, transforming them from victims to individuals with vast potential.
- ***Customized Training:*** Tailored vocational training has equipped survivors with essential skills for the labour market, with specialized modules adapted to the particular needs of different survivor groups.
- ***Supportive Environment:*** The project has fostered a supportive environment where survivors feel comfortable seeking help and support, bridging the gap between their needs and available resources.
- ***Expert Guidance:*** External speakers, including experienced psychologists and healthcare professionals, have provided valuable insights and motivation to club members, contributing to their personal growth.
- ***Community Engagement:*** Increased interest and requests for program expansion from local communities highlight the positive impact and recognition of the success of this initiative.
- ***Mindset Transformation:*** Through therapeutic factors, survivors have shifted their self-perception, focusing on their skills and abilities, which has been especially transformative for individuals coming from traumatic backgrounds.
- ***Dignity and Value:*** The project has not only restored dignity and value to survivors but has also influenced service providers to view them as individuals with significant potential.
- ***First in the Region:*** The program stands as a pioneering effort in Rreshen, offering crucial support and resources to women victims and survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking.
- ***Holistic Empowerment:*** The initiative encompasses economic empowerment, personal growth, self-confidence building, and emotional well-being, providing survivors with a comprehensive path to recovery and self-sufficiency.



C. THE CIVIC EDUCATION APPROACH

MWL's Civic Education approach is designed to foster transformation and empower individuals to become active, engaged, and informed citizens. This approach encompasses a range of topics, including Leadership, Community Activism and Volunteerism, Healthy Relationships, Self-Realization, and E-learning methods. It also addresses special topics tailored to the needs and interests of young individuals, such as media literacy and environmental awareness.

Through this approach, MWL engages students who are actively participating in various projects, providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective leaders and advocates within their communities. By promoting civic education, MWL aims to instill a sense of responsibility, active participation, and a commitment to positive change among young individuals, preparing them to contribute positively to society and address the unique challenges of their communities.

C.1. Service-Learning Initiatives: Empowering Youth for Positive Change

As a fundamental activity for our semester report, we proudly present our Service-Learning (SL) initiatives, an educational approach that seamlessly blends learning objectives with community service, creating a dynamic and practical learning experience while simultaneously addressing vital societal needs. These initiatives have been thoughtfully implemented across four project areas, strategically aligned with the specific needs of both schools and communities.

Our approach involves engaging with the young people in our youth clubs, empowering them to identify pressing issues and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to address these concerns effectively.

The topics covered include voluntarism, values, and leadership, with a focus on nurturing the growth of ethical, empathetic, and socially conscious young leaders.

Through SL methodology, our dedicated youth have spearheaded and sustained four impactful initiatives, each following a structured process of planning, reflection, implementation, follow-up, and celebration. These stages not only facilitate the acquisition of essential life skills but also nurture critical thinking and community engagement.

The transformative impact of these initiatives lies in their hands-on nature, enabling youth to learn by doing—a proven and effective approach to education. The young people themselves have identified issues within their schools and have taken proactive steps to address them. They have actively participated in drafting policies and regulations relevant to their age group and have been instrumental in training their peers on these new guidelines, which have been implemented by school management.

Collaboration has been at the heart of our SL approach. We have worked closely with reliable community partners who share our commitment to promoting values and integrity. As a result, 457 children have directly benefited from these SL projects, while 147 teachers, parents, and local partners have contributed to their success.

Our efforts have led to confident and empowered young individuals taking control of their lives, actively participating in their communities, and demonstrating leadership in solving real-world problems. These initiatives are now poised to compete for the 4th Regional Service-Learning Award, scheduled for October 2023, where they will vie for recognition among over 100 schools from Central and Eastern Europe. These projects serve as a testament to the transformative power of youth engagement, service-learning, and community collaboration.



No	District	Training Topic	Number of participants/ beneficiaries students	Teachers/ Partners
1	Lezha	SL methodology	25	4 teachers
2		Youth leadership	24	
3		Students - teachers relations	7	15 teachers/ parents
4		Art, handcrafts, local culture	17	2
5		Study visit	12	2
4		SL celebration event	22	14
		TOTAL		107
No	District	Training Topic	Number of participants/ beneficiaries students	Teachers/ Partners
1	RRESHEN	SL methodology	42	8 teachers and 30 parents
2		Online safety	42	2
3		Active citizenship / Voluntarism	42	7 teachers/ parents
4		Celebration event	120	25 teachers and 30 parents
		TOTAL		252
Nr	District	Training Topic	Number of participant	Teacher/ Partners
1	SARANDA	Service Learning Methodology	16	4
2		Building the framework of Youth Council	23	1
3		Project writing skills	11	2
4		Youth and community leadership	16	3
5		Service Learning methodology	12	3
6		Social Media and its influence	20	6
	TOTAL		98	10

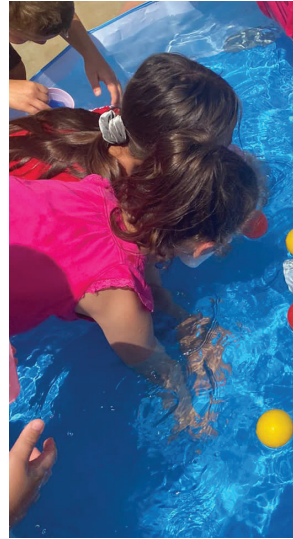
C.2. Broad-Based Organizing: Empowering Youth through Collaborative Initiatives

At MWL, we have successfully embraced and consistently applied the Broad-Based Organizing methodology with confidence. Through this strategic approach, our dedicated staff has facilitated the formation of a youth group within a vocational high school. This group identified a pressing need: the absence of a comprehensive code of conduct addressing child protection and youth security issues among school students.

Taking proactive steps, they not only developed a program tailored to their specific needs but also sought official permission to address and oversee these issues. Additionally, they approached the authorities for essential support. Extensive training sessions focusing on leadership skills, child protection policies, gender-based issues, and a Code of Ethics for Pre-University Education were integral components of this transformative journey.

The culmination of their efforts resulted in the creation of a comprehensive manual that serves not only their school but is also available for sharing with other educational institutions. This manual aims to enhance child safety from every perspective, including addressing the increasing challenges posed by online exploitation of children, cyberbullying, and various emerging phenomena, particularly in the post-COVID-19 era marked by widespread internet use among young people.

At MWL, we place great emphasis on collaborative partnerships, and we often play a pivotal role within the communities we serve. In collaboration with local church partners, we have initiated and supported summer camps catering for children aged 7 to 15. Recognizing the scarcity of opportunities for children during the summer months in these communities, we organized three summer camps in remote





areas. These camps provided valuable education on environmental conservation, instilled empathy, and engaged children in enriching and enjoyable activities. Importantly, they offered a lifeline to many vulnerable children from disadvantaged families, granting them access to a nurturing and educational environment during the summer break.

BROAD-BASED ORGANISING

No	District	Training Topic	Number of participants/ beneficiaries students	Teachers/ Partners
1	Lezha	BBO METHODOLOGY	15	1
2		GENDER EQUALITY	20	
3		ETHICS CODE OF CONDUCT	37	2
4		LOBYING	14	2
5		LEADERSHIP	26	
6		STUDY VISIT IN Tirana safe-guarding policies for youth	14	4
7		Presentation of students with new code of conduct	102	5
8		Presentation of code of ethics and code of conduct for the students	28	16
		TOTAL	300	30

BROAD BASED ORGANISING

No	District	Training Topic	Number of participants/ beneficiaries parents, women and men	Teachers/ Partners
1	Rreshen	BBO METHODOLOGY		18
2		March on women's rights	25	5
3		Organization of summer camp with children	300	15
		TOTAL	300	20

SUMMER CAMPS

No	District	Training Topic	Number of participants/ beneficiaries parents, women and men	Teachers/ Partners. volunteers
1	LEZHE	Human values, empathy	300	15
2	TROPOJE		150	7
		TOTAL	450	17

C.3. ASC-Y Project: Empowering Youth for Civic Engagement in Saranda

The ASC-Y project is dedicated to the establishment of the Local Youth Council in Saranda, aiming to assemble a group of at least 15 dynamic individuals, comprising 7 young men and 8 young women. This council is envisioned as the vanguard of a sustained initiative within the Municipality of Saranda, aligning with the provisions of Law number 75/2019, aptly titled "for Youth."



The Youth members of the Local Youth Council will assume a pivotal role in shaping policies and serving as an advisory body for all matters related to Youth within the Mayor's Council. Moreover, they will act as catalysts for civic education and community-driven initiatives, extending their influence on peers through the consultation of Youth Action Plan priorities, Service-Learning projects, and various training programs and activities.

To ensure the success of this initiative, the project will offer comprehensive support, encompassing diverse approaches, training modules, coaching, mentoring, and budgetary assistance. Our objective is to establish a structure that is not only functional but also thriving and dynamic.

MWL will play an instrumental role in supporting the formation of the Local Youth Council by equipping selected young leaders with the skills needed to draft, implement, and monitor policies undertaken by the municipality. These policies are designed to foster a safer and more opportunity-rich future, with a strong emphasis on promoting democratic practices, particularly among the youth. Our overarching aim is to empower young individuals to actively participate in policies and decision-making processes at all levels of government, thus contributing to a more inclusive and vibrant community.

Civic Education Approach Highlights:

- **Comprehensive Learning:** Our Civic Education approach offers a holistic learning experience, covering various critical topics such as Leadership, Community Activism, Volunteerism, Healthy Relationships, and Self-Realization.
- **Youth-Centred:** The approach actively engages young people within our youth clubs, allowing them to take ownership of identifying and addressing societal issues that matter most to them.
- **Specialized Topics:** Beyond standard topics, we empower youth to explore specialized areas, including media literacy and environmental awareness, adapting to their unique project needs.
- **Structured Methodology:** Through the Service Learning (SL) methodology, we guide young people in planning, implementing, and reflecting on projects, fostering crucial life skills and critical thinking.
- **Youth-Led Initiatives:** Young people have taken charge by identifying problems and leading projects aimed at changing fundamental aspects of their schools, including the drafting of policies and regulations relevant to their age group.



- **Community Collaboration:** We actively collaborate with trusted community partners who share our commitment to promoting values and integrity.
- **Positive Impact:** Our initiatives have directly engaged 457 students, 147 parents, and teachers, ensuring the broader community is involved in the learning process.
- **Transformational Change:** By focusing on experiential learning and community engagement, our approach empowers confident and active young leaders capable of solving real-world problems.
- **Regional Recognition:** These projects are preparing to compete for the 4th Regional Service-Learning Award, a testament to their transformative power and impact within Central and Eastern Europe.



► MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Mary Ward Loreto's commitment to maintaining exemplary standards is evidenced through the establishment of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework for this project. To facilitate effective monitoring, a series of actions were taken.

Regular monitoring visits were conducted in project areas where MWL operates, enabling firsthand assessment of project activities, beneficiary engagement, and progress evaluation. Biannual narrative reports were diligently prepared to provide comprehensive insights into project accomplishments, challenges, and outcomes. A centralized database was created to streamline data collection and management from advice and service centres across the four regions. Tailored monitoring and evaluation tools were designed to gather relevant data points specific to the project's unique aspects. The executive team actively monitored project implementation, ensuring alignment with established standards. Quarterly evaluation meetings are convened to assess progress and address evolving needs and challenges. Finally, annual reporting encompassed narrative, financial, and M&E reporting, promoting transparency and accountability to project stakeholders and donors. This vigilant monitoring and evaluation framework reflects MWL's dedication to upholding project excellence, fostering continuous improvement, and achieving impactful outcomes.

► SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES: ENSURING LASTING IMPACT

In view of the program's impressive implementation and achievements, a comprehensive set of sustainability measures has been carefully devised to secure the enduring impact and effectiveness of the project. These measures are designed to empower the program's beneficiaries, strengthen partnerships, and cultivate a self-sustaining ecosystem.

Skills Enhancement and Entrepreneurship: Central to sustained economic empowerment is a focus on skills enhancement and entrepreneurship. The program will provide advanced training and mentorship aligned with local market demands, equipping beneficiaries with market-relevant skills to establish businesses, contribute to the local economy, and serve as inspirational models for others.

Strengthening Local Partnerships: Collaborative partnerships with local government agencies, private sector entities, and community organizations are pivotal for long-term sustainability. These partnerships will tap into existing resources, networks, and expertise, ensuring a more efficient and sustainable delivery of services.

Integration with Existing Systems: Integrating the program's initiatives with existing social and economic systems is paramount for longevity. Alignment with national and regional development strategies, policies, and frameworks will institutionalize program interventions and secure ongoing support from relevant authorities.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer: Building the capacity of local stakeholders, including community leaders, educators, and government officials, is an important strategy for sustainability. By imparting skills and knowledge, the program will foster a culture of empowerment, ensuring that the community continues to benefit post-program.

Peer Learning and Community Networks: Establishing peer learning networks among beneficiaries creates a support system extending beyond the program's timeline. Encouraging beneficiaries to mentor and guide each other fosters a sense of belonging and ensures knowledge and empowerment continue to circulate within the community.

Financial Literacy and Inclusion: Equipping beneficiaries with financial literacy skills and facilitating their access to financial services promotes sustainable economic growth. Understanding financial management empowers beneficiaries to make informed decisions about their businesses and personal finances, contributing to long-term financial independence.

Monitoring and Evaluation for Impact: Implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to measure outcomes and impact provides evidence of the program's success. Demonstrating tangible results attracts continued support from donors, stakeholders, and partners, ensuring the sustainability of funding and resources.

Empowerment of Local Leadership: Empowering local leaders and community members to take ownership of program initiatives is essential. Nurturing local leadership allows the program to transition smoothly into a locally driven endeavour, ensuring sustainability even in the absence of external support.

Incorporating these sustainability measures into the program's design and implementation not only amplifies its impact but also establishes the foundation for enduring positive change. By fostering self-reliance, community engagement, and lasting partnerships, the program becomes a catalyst for long-term transformation and empowerment.

► CONCLUSION

This report has delivered an account of the profound impact that MWL and its dedicated supporters have made in the fight against human trafficking, exploitation, and vulnerability. The qualitative changes we have witnessed underscore the transformative nature of our interventions and affirm our commitment to creating lasting change.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our invaluable donors, partners, and supporters, whose steady belief in our mission has fueled our progress. Your generosity has not only empowered individuals but has also inspired entire communities to stand against exploitation and embrace a future filled with hope and opportunity.

As we move forward, let us carry with us the stories of enhanced self-empowerment, shifted mindsets, collective resilience, strengthened partnerships, advocacy-led policy changes, nurtured leadership, transformed career opportunities, and a culture of support. These stories are a reminder of what is possible when we unite in our mission.

MWL is deeply grateful to each and every one of you for your dedication, compassion, and unwavering support. Together, we will continue to transform lives, challenge injustice, and build a world where every individual is empowered to thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey, and we look forward to the countless positive changes that lie ahead.

Semi-annual Report

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