

ANNEX VI

INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Description

- 1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract: Forumi i Gruas Elbasan (FGE) **Woman Forum Elbasan**
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person: Shpresa Banja, Project Manager
- 1.3. Name of partners in the Action: NA
- 1.4. Title of the Action: **Addressing the needs of women victims of domestic violence in Elbasan Region**
- 1.5. Contract number: **2011/278-001**
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: February 6, 2012 up to February 06, 2013
- 1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s): **Elbasan Region**
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different) (including numbers of women and men):

Target groups:

Women victims of DV or vulnerable women(225), local government officials, whose duty is related to issues concerning violence against women(Municipalities Elbasan, Cerik, Belesh, Peqin, Gramsh, Librazhd, Prrenjas, Regional Education Department, The Attorney, Regional Police Department, Directory of Inspection for Standarts in Social Services, Regional Directory of Public Health), local communities (especially men and young adults), state and private employment offices, local women NPOs(Useful to Albanian Women Elbasan Branch, Another Vizion, World Vision, A2B), local media(visual media SKAMPA, EGNATIA, News 24, TV KOHA, Top News, written media INFO in Elbasan city)

Final beneficiaries:

Around 225 women victims of violence; 31 Law Enforcement Officers, Prosecutors, Victim Advocates, Judges, Social Workers and Public Health Workers; 1100 Local community members; 47 teachers and school psychologists; 381 students;

- 1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7): **Elbasan Region**

¹ “Target groups” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1. Executive summary of the Action

Woman Forum Elbasan consider the Action's implementation for the regarding period very sucefully. During this period of time there has been some progress regarding women's rights and gender equality, has started to implement the 2011-2015 national strategy on gender equality and the fight against domestic violence and gender-based violence. The network of full-time gender equality officers consists of 3 persons in municipalities Elbasan, Gramsh, Librazhd compares with 17 total in Albania. Amendments to the Criminal Code introducing sanctions of up to five years of imprisonment for the specific offence of domestic violence were adopted in March 2012. Awareness-raising has led to an increase in domestic violence cases reported to the police. The process of strengthening the network of National Referral Mechanism for victims of domestic violence is on-going in Librazhd municipality. Domestic violence still remains widespread and the need to strengthen the protection of women against all forms of violence remains.

The implementation of the Law on Free Legal Aid has been slow and neither the bylaws regarding the recruitment of free legal aid lawyers nor the procedures to request free legal aid are implemented effectively. The State Commission for Legal Aid has only handled a limited number of cases. Woman Forum Elbasan during this period of time has signed a MoU with this institution but it is not put in practice yet. Access to justice for vulnerable groups is impeded; especially by high judicial administration fees. The contribution of the project in this direction is very useful for the victims in Elbasan Region

2.2. Activities and results

Objective 1: *to provide crisis intervention, support, practical assistance and empowerment for women subjected to violence and abuse in relationships.*

Immediate expected results for all project:

- At least 400 women DV survivors assisted and empowered through our services.
- A referral system is established and is functional
- A data base of all related service providers is available
- Women Forum Elbasan increases its technical and management capacities in providing such services.

Achieved results during the first year

- 225 women DV survivors assisted and empowered through our services.
- A referral system is established and is functional
- A data base of all related service providers is available
- Women Forum Elbasan increased its technical and management capacities in providing such services

Activity 1.1 Free psychological and legal counselling to DV survivors. The Counselling Centre and Advocate Studio have provided free of charge services to women survivors of DV throughout of this period of implementation the project.

The awareness campaign, the regional network established in the early months of project implementation, the activities done for raising the awareness of local communities and the media coverage of the events has been the main ways to inform the women/girls and local communities about the availability of free services offered by the Counselling Centre, Advocate Studio and the Day Care Centre.

Activity 1.1.1 Counselling Centre: for women and girls, who are victims of violence and family problems, during the whole year of the project has offered free services from Monday to Friday, from 08.00 – 16.00. A considerable number of phone callers give information and receive services through phone line, where as the others come to the center and receive face-to-face services. A counsellor, a social worker, provides the required service according clients' needs; summons the other part-time counsellors or voluntaries who provided psychological, medical and social services. For each treated case, the counsellor has prepared the file for the clients who as called or the register book for the clients who have come directly for face to face counselling. Questionnaires are used all this time to measure the level of satisfaction of women and girls with regard to the services provided to them as well as to identify their further needs. These questionnaires made evident the needs that women had not only for psychological support but also for support by the state and its institutions. The questionnaire is filled by women/girls who have come for the first time in the counselling centre.

FACE-TO-FACE COUNSELING

During the period February 6, 2012 – January 31, 2013, **256 cases in total** have received services from the social workers. The Counselling Center services have also been offered to the clients that have come to the Center more than once (repeated cases) for a more full/complete qualitative service. We haven't taken into consideration the data of the repeated clients, but we have taken notes only for the services from Woman Forum Elbasan and, their referrals/references to public and non-public institutions based on their needs. This year also, we have had cases presented by males, referring cases, thus wanting to help the victims of violence.

❖ **Steps undertaken for the services towards the clients:**

1. Receiving the clients/clients reception

The social worker is the first person who receives and contacts every client coming to the Counseling Center. Than the social worker talked to the client, leaving the necessary space for the client to tell her story, till the social worker analyzed and evaluated/assessed the case as a **"violence victim in family"**.

While listening to various stories, we have noticed that the clients had a lot of embarrassment, concerns and difficulties in expressing themselves while telling their stories, their spoken language was often disorganized. They spoke in low and trembling voice, their eyes expressed fear, uncertainty for the life was very clear in their eyes, they burst into tears every time they mentioned the offensive words or when they recalled/remembered the moments of violence, they interrupted telling the story; so every now and then, the social worker tried to calm down the clients through emotional counseling using motivating words, having coffee/tea breaks, and leaving the needed time at their disposal. Based on the kind of clients' problem, on the cases of emotional and psychological counseling, more time than usual was needed, so the length of the counseling time varied from the minimum 30 minutes to the maximum 2 hours, sometimes the clients came again and again till they received full service and the required and needed information.

2. Continuing giving services from WFE

The social worker has helped emotionally all the girls and women who have been victims of violence. She has cooperated with the psychiatric doctor to overcome their negative and hopeless thoughts and impacts; to overcome their anxiety experiences and deep depression. This help consists of therapeutic sessions for the victim improvement and their socialization. Besides overcoming their serious psycho-emotional situation, the victims of violence have shown the need for their protection and their children from the violators, that is why they have been referred to Advocate/Lawyer office to get/receive the needed legal service. In extreme violence cases, when the life was threatened, and in cases when immediate protection was needed because of being safe, they were referred to shelter in the Day Care Center till the protection order was obtained/received.

3. Continuing receiving services outside the WFE

After receiving services offered by Woman Forum Elbasan, the victims have been referred to public and non-public institutions² that have in focus women's protection for problems and needs that are not in Woman Forum Elbasan competence. The cooperation has functioned till the client has received full services.

SERVICES THROUGH TELEPHONE LINE

During the period February 2012 – January 2013, **108³ telephone⁴ calls** have been received totally. The number of telephone calls was reduced during the first year of the project, because the clients decided to come to the Counseling Center **for face-to-face counseling** to make their problems and needs present in person. The social worker offered counseling through telephone line, which has been a good opportunity for those clients who did not want to come to the Center or had no possibility to come to the Center to receive the needed services, information and legal-psycho-emotional counseling. Some telephone calls are with incomplete personal information, because some called only for information about the Center, for the time-table, for the services, they also asked for legal-social information, some of them stressed that they would come to the Center to report about their problem and to present personal information. Most of the persons who called were persons that referred cases about violence and family problems, where as the other part where only asking for information.

❖ The phone callers are:

- Abused women/girls
- Ex-clients who have received our services
- NGO-s and Institutions representatives, which refer cases of this target group, who needed to receive services from the Counselling Center, from the Advocate/Lawyer Office and from the Day Care Center
- Persons who are interested and try their best to continue their mission to fulfill their clients' needs

QUESTIONNAIRES

During the period February 2012 – January 2013, **130 questionnaires⁵** have been completed. Based on the requirements of the project, each client, who came to the Center for the first and has profited from its services, has completed the questionnaire based on the needs, rating/listing their problems according to their importance.

The questionnaires have been of great importance because of priorities and needs highlighted, stressed by the clients themselves. The problems raised in the questionnaires have served for the thematic topics discussed at the end of each month in the empowering session. In these sessions the clients and the representatives of the institutions⁶ have also been present. These discussions have served to reduce the problems and to realize the clients needs. This is done through informing and activating the respective organs for the socialization and empowerment of the girls/women who have violence problems. The clients who have filled the questionnaire⁷ have been of different age-group, area, education, civil and social

² The institutions where the cases are referred are presented in ANNEX no.1. Activity 1.1.1, TABLE 16 for the referred cases at Counselling Center.

³ Number of total counselling cases through telephone, is not the same the real number, because some of them don't want to be identified.

⁴ Find all the statistics in the ANNEX no.1. Activity 1.1.1, TABLES 17- 28.

⁵ The format of the questionnaire is in ANNEX no.1 Activity 1.1.1, TABLE 29.

⁶ The institutions we cooperate are: representatives of the Municipalities, the Police, Directory for Employment/Work/Labour Office, NGO-s, Regional Education Directory, Qarku, Prefectura, Social Sector Elbasan Municipality, Administrative Units, Private Advocate and other actors.

⁷ The full questionnaire data of Counselling Center are presented in the respective ANNEX no. 1 Activity 1.1.1, TABLES 29- 39.

All the victims suffering domestic violence when they have overcome their serious emotional and psychological situation and after receiving the Woman Forum Elbasan services, they have had other needs that are in the focus of Woman Forum Elbasan. Having not solved their problems they have asked for further information, where to direct to, the Woman Forum Elbasan has given information when ever it has been asked for, and in Empowering Sessions as well.

As far as immediate problems are concerned (item 7 of question) during first period of implementing the project, the clients have listed the problems according to their importance from 1 – 5 as follows:

- The need to have access in family economy, in being economical, the need to be employed; having the opportunity to face their life and their children's lives has been one of the items/questions chosen by the clients; this is also noticed by the number of the cases
- Another problem is not having the necessary information and, not knowing the state/public institutions, they don't know where to present their problems, so, they don't know the right institution where to ask to receive services directly, within a certain time
- Immediate/urgent need of the clients to overcome the situation of violence exercised against them, comes as a result of awareness of this situation; and they do not accept domestic violence anymore; and they want to escape any possible risk/danger.
- The need to have a house/shelter; often the victims of violence after the divorce and after receiving the UM (Immediate Order) or UMM (Immediate Protection Order), they have nowhere to go, no shelter; this becomes the source of of the continuous conflicts; sometimes this is very dangerous as both parties stay in the same house
- The clients, not knowing the Albanian legislation, which ensures them the rights and the ways of solving their problem at the proper time and place, has caused a lot of problems to them; that is why this has been a very important point/issue chosen by them

A small number of the clients (as far as item/question 9 of the questionnaire is concerned), accept to have a face-to-face confrontation with their husbands to improve and strengthen their relationship; some have said that they are ready to try once more to be together with their husbands, to give them another possibility if it functions; most of the clients have said:

- Their husbands have no respect for them and for the children, sometimes they say, the men do not deserve them
- The clients do not want to see them anymore, because they think the husbands do not change, even you cannot talk about the improvement of their relations
- They have never get along well with them, but have not said anything for the sake of their children
- The husbands have tortured them all the time, since they were married, they do not want to be with them at all, no try
- Some of them were afraid of this relation, they didn't get along well even with their in-laws (husband's parents)
- Some do not agree to confront their husbands face-to-face, because they themselves have left the house, the family
- Some say that they have given to their husbands a lot of opportunities, but the reward has been only the repetition of the violence
- It didn't make any sense, no use to meet him, when everything was nul
- They could not talk with their husbands, they are very difficult to talk to them, they do not understand
- The clients have been violated physically/beaten everyday, so they can not tolerate them anymore

STUDENTS

During the period February 2012 – January 2013, **186 university** students altogether have become familiar with the services offered by *Woman Forum Elbasan*. Based on the institutional agreement with the University of Elbasan, the Counseling Center has cooperated with the Faculty of Education Sciences, especially with the Departments of Psychology-Sociology and that of Education⁸ according to the curricula for the professional practice of the students. Through this cooperation the professional formation of the students is aimed at, thus providing a combination of theoretical knowledge offered by the institutions mentioned above, with the practical experience/knowledge through understanding and observing the work done by the institutions that offer services. The university students have attended regularly various sessions and activities and they have received a lot of valuable information about the notion of domestic violence and at the same time they have become aware and conscious for the measures to fight against violence. The students have been informed by the social worker about the history of *Woman Forum Elbasan*, the projects in implementation, the free services offered by *Woman Forum Elbasan*, its 10-year work for the rights of the women against violence. The students have participated voluntarily in activities, meetings, manifestations, petitions, trainings, that *Woman Forum Elbasan* has organized.

During this period the clients **have had a lot of needs for:**

- Economic/financial aid/help to afford daily expenses, clothes, school equipments for their children, food for children
- Free medical services for women with violence problems
- Shelter/housing for the clients and their children
- Various information
- Employment opportunity and attending courses for professional development/qualification
- Mediating on the part of WFE for other services and facilitating opportunities⁹ from other institutions that cover the clients needs.

The **social worker of the Counseling Center** has been responsible for:

- **Receiving** the girls/ women, who are victims of violence and who are with family problems
- Giving the necessary immediate **psycho-social services**, assistance and psychological treatment
- Filling and completing the needed **documentation** (as: clients forms, questionnaire, declarations¹⁰, certificates¹¹), the clients and activities lists for each month
- **Preparation of evidence** sheets of the municipality, every four months
- Finding the **clients with problematic issues** to address their needs to technical tables and regional networks
- **Notifying** the clients for the monthly empowering sessions
- **Referring to other institutions** supporting violence victims for psycho-emotional, legal and economic/financial-social counseling; for medical counseling; appropriate assistance; for housing and rehabilitation

⁸ Respective courses/branches are: Civic Education, Social Worker, Psychology, Philosophy, with the students of I, II, and III grades. Part of the professional practice have been also the students of Professional Master Program, Social Worker with Children and Families.

⁹ Reference letters for benefiting economic/financial aid/help, for benefiting **Kemp-it** (medical records to get assistance or medical assistance).

¹⁰ In cases of divorce, a document (DECLARATION) signed by the client is attached to the Client's Form, which contains: (general personal information); Identification Card Number; the signature of the person telling the story (here it is included detailed information about the history told and the type of violence exercised against the target group defined in the project). See ANNEX no.1. Activity 1.1.1, TABLE 40.

¹¹ For the first time CERTIFICATES issued by the Counseling Center as a necessary proof to certify violence against the clients: as expert evaluation for violence cases from NGOs based on the violence law; as a report for referring the cases in other public and non-public institutions and centers which offer services. See ANNEX no.1 Activity 1.1.1, TABLE 41.

- **Cooperation among the staff** for undertaking and implementing each possible/potential /eventual activity.

During this year, on behalf of *Woman Forum Elbasan*, the social worker has attended the meetings with the community to monitor them; to moderate the Empowering Sessions where the clients and representatives of institutions are present; to be present in the Open Lecture with the students of “A. Xhuvani” University; in radio for the services offered by the Counseling Center. The social worker has been part of various and important events, held in Albania and abroad, for building up capacities, for cooperations and sharing experiences.

Results

All the activities planned by the Counseling Center are realized according to the requirements of the project.

<i>February 2012 – February 2013</i>	<i>Counseling Center</i>			
<i>Service</i>	<i>Phone calls</i>	<i>Face to Face</i>	<i>Questionnaires</i>	<i>Students</i>
<i>Total</i>	108	256	130	186

During the period February 2012 – February 2013, the social worker of the Counselling Center has realized all the objectives and activities foreseen in the project, which are listed below.

The women, victims of violence and abuse in family relations have been helped and supported in cases of crisis. They received counseling through telephone line, 108 cases in total, and face-to-face counseling, 256 cases in total, thus ensuring the necessary services for psychological support and their empowerment (changing the social/economic/financial status).

The social worker has reached successful results addressing the clients’ needs to every technical table, organized every three months, considering the cases that need support from government and non-government institutions (state and non-state institutions). Such ***mediations and referrals*** have reached the aim of receiving psycho-emotional, social, legal services and the economic/ financial empowerment of the victims of violence, supporting them economically or *employing*¹² some of them ***(5 in total)***. A considerable number of clients are *attending courses for professional formation*¹³ ***(39altogether)***. The social worker of the Counseling Center in ***cooperation*** with the services offered by *Woman Forum Elbasan* (Advocate Studio and Day Care Center) and other governmental and non-governmental institutions, has supported/ helped has risen awareness and has empowered the women/girls, victims of violence.

Counselling Center for each month have been prepared lists with all clients, *182 have been new clients*, out of which *176 were females* and *6 males* coming for the first time, after needs identification from the questionnaires of each client.

They have been notified by the social worker personally, when they came to the Center, or through telephone line (some days before face-to-face counseling session) for the importance and the great role of the **empowerment sessions**, facing the professionals of respective institutions based on the clients’ needs.

¹² The clients are employed from: Private Businesses; Employment Office.

¹³ The most preferred course by the clients are: Tailoring; Hair Dresser; Cooking; Computer; Foreign Languages; Babysiter; Secretary.

Immediate expected results

- Receiving services from the Counselling Center for those women surviving violence
- The functioning of the referring system for the cases and addressing their needs through mediating
- Creating a detailed database with the data/personal information of the Counselling Center clients
- Realizing empowerment sessions with the participation of a good number of clients and representatives of the institutions
- Realizing two Open Lectures with the students of “A. Xhuvani” University. These lectures influenced in raising awareness about the law and protection measures; and they also helped in educating people for preventing cases of Violence in Family (Domestic Violence) and the desire to change the reality

Quantitative indicators

- ✓ The number of face-to-face clients has been **256 cases**, out of which **182** were new clients (**176 females** and **6 males**).
- ✓ The number of **telephone calls** was **108**, out of which **91 were female clients**; **17 were males**; **45 were abused women** or with violence problems; **63 were persons who wanted to help violence victims**.
- ✓ **130 questionnaires** were completed, where evidence is given for the clients needs, and upon these needs empowering sessions were held.
- ✓ **186 university students** received information and became aware about domestic violence, its effects. The students were also part of the fight/struggle against violence in the activities organized by WFE. They also took part in meetings, and paid homage for the 16 days of the activation of violence. **152** were university student **females**, **34 males**.

Qualitative indicators

- ✓ The clients trust the Counselling Centre, this is expressed by them themselves; they express this in every psychological-emotional counselling, and during the meetings in Empowering Sessions
- ✓ Accepting the Certificates issued, as a proof for certifying violence against the clients
- ✓ The readiness of the clients to fill the questionnaires, which were considered as hope for the future, especially for those initiatives which offered employment and professional courses.
- ✓ Fruitful cooperation with public and non-public institutions even from other districts which have referred cases to WFE to receive services from Counseling Center, Advocate Studio, and Day Care Center.
- ✓ Referrals from the Counseling Center to other institutions for fulfilling the needs of the clients.
- ✓ Giving a lot of social information.
- ✓ Giving a lot of information to the clients.

Evaluation of the questionnaire

Immediate/urgent problems of the clients are listed according to importance and their choice from 1-5, as follows:

- ✓ The need to have **economic** access and the need to be employed (**113 cases altogether**)
- ✓ Not knowing the **state/public institutions** where to present their problems, was one of the main problems of the clients (**86 cases altogether**)
- ✓ Immediate/urgent need of the clients to come out of the situation of **violence** exercised against them (**78 cases altogether**)
- ✓ The need of the clients to stay or to be accommodated, to have a **house/shelter** (**68 cases altogether**)

- ✓ Not knowing the Albanian **legislation** on the part of the clients has been a very important point/issue, too (**63 case altogether**)

Quality indicators

- ✓ The acceptance of the issued certificates, as a necessary proof for certifying violence against the clients
- ✓ The clients' readiness to complete the questionnaire; they considered it as hope for the future, especially those initiatives for offering employment and the possibility to attend professional courses for free.
- ✓ The fruitful cooperation/collaboration with public and non-public institutions even from other regions, which have referred cases to WFE for receiving services from QK, SA, and QDK.
- ✓ Referrals/references from Counselling Center to other institutions for fulfilling the clients' needs.
- ✓ Giving a lot of social information
- ✓ A lot of information for the clients

Victims of domestic violence express satisfaction and thankfulness/gratitude after every service (information or counselling) given to them. This is also noticed in Empowering Sessions too, in facing the clients with the representatives of the institutions as far as receiving the services from *Woman Forum Elbasan* is concerned, and at the same time for the opportunity given to them in realizing the intermediation from other institutions. They have expressed the idea that they have received clear information and knowledge to face their problems and address their needs to respective organs, attending professional courses to change their economic status. All these have become possible due to *Woman Forum Elbasan* efforts and its cooperation/collaboration with other institutions that protect women/girls with domestic violence problems

Negative results:

- Often the clients are accompanied by other persons, who they claim are their relatives or parents, this might cause a deviation from their true story.
- The clients, though they might know about the services of *Woman Forum Elbasan*, they ask for help that is not in the focus of the services offered by *Woman Forum Elbasan*.
- The clients present, besides the exercised violence, their serious economic/financial and the difficult situation of their relatives and immediate family; the clients want to help them; thus their needs go beyond psycho-emotional help.
- Not all the clients come to the Center for the empowering sessions on the appointed day or right time, giving various causes/excuses for the delay or for not showing off.
- Some clients are not educated, some are illiterate and can not write.
- Being not able to fill in the questionnaire, the area where they come from does not favor them, they are economically conditioned, they are in charge of and responsible for the children and old people.
- In cases after the divorce, and even when the victims have Immediate Protection Order or Protection Order and the violence victims decide to return to their husbands/wives or ex-husbands/ex-wives, hoping that everything would be different as the abuser promise.

Activity 1.1.2 Advocate Studio (A.S.):

A.S. has continued to provide free legal services for the target group of women threatened by domestic violence and economic difficulties. The Advocate Studio has assisted the clients at the Elbasan Regional Court. During the period, we had not any appeal case to the Durres Court of Appeal, because the cases closed with the final decision of the First Level Court. The advocate and lawyer provided the free legal services. The obligations they perform are: (i) preparing documents for legal processes and for other institutions (ii) Legal counselling and (iii) legal representation before the court. Women fill evaluations Forms form after receiving the services of the Advocate Studio in order to see their opinion regarding the offering of services. The aim is to evaluate and improve the services of the Studio.

(i) Preparing 129 documents, out of which 98 for legal processes and 31 for other institutions

The advocate/defender and the lawyer have represented the clients in 133 court sessions/judicial hearings.

(ii) Legal counseling, 260 in total

This kind of counseling is offered to the clients who wanted to have only legal information. According to stastics¹⁴:

Women and girls came for the first time were (136); Repeated (110); referred from institutions (14) This offered help is reflected in the standard format designed especially for this kind of help. The legal basis of these counselings offered, has been various from: Family Law, Civil Law, Mandatory Institution of the Civil Law; Penal Law; and other laws as well

(iii) Legal representation before the court

The free legal protection work has been done through full service offered to women, surviving domestic violence.

The work done for free legal protection consisted of the following steps:

First step → Listening to the problem; taking into consideration the evaluation of the case from the Counselling Center (CC) and Day Care Center (DCC); legal counseling for solving the problem; communication of the probable legal consequences after the end of the judicial process

Second step → search of necessary documents to open the legal file in order to start the judicial process, when the client is determined to continue the solution of the problem in judicial route. At the same time the advocate/lawyer analyzes the economic/financial situation presented by the girls and women, who require economic support for paying the judicial costs and referring these cases to the project manager for evaluation/assessment.

Third step → continuing counseling while the judicial process is going on (344 judicial counselling before and after the process hearings), or leaving the file without action, when uncertainty is seen on the part of the client, or there might be serious possible problems after the judicial process)¹⁵. The advocate and the lawyer of Advocate Studio take care of the completion of the legal file, drafting and composing the juridical acts, necessary for the process and they also work for the preparation of the client defence and protection.

¹⁴ For more information on the open file see ANNEX no. 1 Activity 1.1.2 **tables 5-6-7-8-10** interpreting the clients data of the Legal Aid Studio (6 February 2012- 6 february 2013)

¹⁵ The case V.P. 18 years old, mother of a 2-year old child, left the husband's house in Greece without the child 6 months ago because of psychological violence exercised on her from the husband's family members. V.P. requires starting the procedures for divorce and leaving the child to be grown up and educated. On one side, the husband was a devoted father. Facing this situation, analysing this case concluded that the client was a victim of psychological violence, and the abusers were the husband's family members. On the other side, her actions may consider from the court as psychological violence on the child. Leaving the child and not caring for the child during a certain period, considered a form of violence and negligence towards the child. The divorce was not a complete/full solution of this legal problem, as the client might loose the right to bring up and educate the child. The file was going to be without action until she would decide to face the consequences.

Advocate Studio worked with 100 files, out of which 97 files¹⁶ were opened during the first year of the project, where as 3 were from the previous year 2011), out of which 70 are completed, 30 are still open during the second year. The monthly avarage indicator shows approximately 8 files started per month, working with about 16-17 files per month, and giving juridical information. 53 files open, belong to clients who asked for legal protection for the first time, 43 were clients who have received free legal help before; 1 file belongs to the institution” Missionary Sisters of Mother Theresa”.

According to legal object/subject¹⁷ of these cases, we may list → 49 cases are opened one is from the previous year , out of which 32 are completed/finished and 17 are still open for “Marriage dissolution/divorce”; 15 files are opened, out of which 13 are completed and 2 are still open for “Issuing Executive Order; 22 files are open and 21 of them completed/finished for ‘Issuing Immediate Protection Order/Issuing Protection Order, the other one is still open; 1 file was open and completed for “Changing Decision of Protect Order”; 3 files have been opened, 1 is finished, 2 are still open for “Evidence/testimony heritage”; only one file was opened and resulted finished for “Custodian substitution/replacement”; 2 files are opened and not yet finished for “Custody/foster placement”; 2 files are opened and only 1 is completed for “Food Pesion Assignment”; one file open and completed for “Denial Means for Living”; one file open and not yet completed for “Correction of the act of Civil State”.

Describing 70 Evaluation Forms, filled in by the clients

The clients’ general evaluation was positive. The clients are welcomed by advocate and lawyer of LAS and the social workers of the Counseling Center. They are not prejudiced and feel well when they come to receive services from WFE. They ask for continuous mediation on the part of WFE to have other services and facilitating possibilities to face the family crisis. They think that WFE has given them a great possibility during empowering sessions to receive detailed information and the need to be heard and listened to from representatives of public institutions, and other NGO-s as well. Even though some of the clients have resigned from the legal procedures, they accept/admit that they have felt well after the training organized by: social worker, neuro-psychiatric doctor, advocate and lawyer. They were referred, calmed down and well-informed about legal side of the case, about the presentation of their economic/financial situation, after finishing such processes, that have no connection with property regulation.

<u>Evaluation Form</u>				
1. Are women satisfied from the service provided by the social worker				
Not at all (-)	Few (-)	Somehow (-)	Very much (70)	100%
2. Are women satisfied from the readiness of the social worker and the directions given by her to solve problems				
Not at all (-)	Few (-)	Somehow (-)	Very much (70)	100%
3. Are women satisfied by the attitude of the advocate and lawyer in solving problems?				
Not at all (-)	Few (-)	Somehow (-)	Very much (70)	100%
4. Are women satisfied with the solution way to the problem offered by the advocate?				
Not at all (-)	Few (-)	Somehow (-)	Very much (70)	100%
5. Are women optimistic for the cases solved by Advocate Studio?				

¹⁶ For more information on the open file see the **table 2** the clients data of the Legal Aid Studio (6 February 2012- 6 February 2013) in ANNEX no.1 Activityn 1.1.2.

¹⁷ For more information on the way of closure of file see the **tables 3, 4** interpreting the clients data of the Legal Aid Studio (6 February 2012- 6 February 2013) in ANNEX no. 1 Activity 1.1.2,

Not won (-) 0% Solved with an agreement (5) 7.14% partly won (2) 2.86% completely won (63) 90%

6. **Will women refer** again to the Advocate Studio?

Never (-) 0% Maybe (-) 0% Always (70) 100%

7. **Will women refer again** to Advocate Studio if the services weren't free and they had the possibility to pay

Never (-) 0% Perhaps (14) 20% Always (56) 80%

8. **Suggestions**

Further requests are:

1. Concrete/practical services: mediating for employment; sheltering/housing through social houses; professional qualification courses another possibility; more information for understanding women's rights; more national and local policies for women employment; establishing rehabilitation centers for old people/third age; rehabilitation centers for abusing men/husbands.
2. Economic/financial help: The exclusion of domestic violence victims (with Protection Orders) from court taxes in Divorce processes and others; increase in value of economic/financial help for persons who are receivers of economic assistance schema; free medical examinations
3. Raising awareness in various fields: Property right; family right; women rights in job market; women rights and health
4. Mediation: Tracking job vacancies in informal job market for women with violence and economic/financial problems; giving referrals, recommendations and certificates for women with violence and economic/financial problems; Referring the economic/financial problems to receive food packages offered by the municipality or various foundations operating in Elbasan.

Other...

Legal Aid Studio staff also has been part of other activities organized by *Woman Forum Elbasan*:

- ✓ The moderation role in the first and second open lecture at University; in the Empowerment sessions; in the Regional Network.
- ✓ The provision of ideas about the most favorable methodology for successfully and effectively other activities planned in the Action Plan of *Woman Forum Elbasan*.
- ✓ The broker role and contribution in direct meetings with representatives of local government in order to gain the right to legal assistance based on DCM. 787 dt. 14.12.2005 "On determining the criteria, procedures and the amount of aid," as amended and Article 18/2 of it is defined precisely: "The amount of economic aid for victims of Domestic Violence, 3000 (three thousand) money per month. This economic help acquired during the period of validity of a protection order or emergency protection order, as determined by the court".
- ✓ The catalyst role in the conflicts that arise after Marriage dissolution Processes, through continuous contacts with the parties with the aim of their awareness about parental responsibility and over all having the aim on "the highest interest for an well growth after the divorce through the better education of their children " (consider as success case because of the agreement reachment agreement of the former spouses through the awareness on the improvement of relations between them in order to put before everything (previous fights; revenge possible) the high interest of the child in order to increase the communication cautious and education possible

under the constant care of both. The achievement → The legal obstacle was eliminated through convincing the former spouse of client AJ¹⁸

The results of this activity

Immediate expected results or short-term results

- ✓ Women, surviving from domestic violence were supported with legal help and were invited to be engaged in other empowering activities implemented by WFE
- ✓ A detailed database was created for the data/personal information of the surviving women from domestic violence. Detailed in SAG, which makes SAG work more functional
- ✓ The advocate and the lawyer have increased their capacities continuously, taking part in other activities in the country and abroad.

Long-term results

- ✓ Two open lectures delivered by the lawyer with the students of “A. Xhuvani” University, influenced a lot for raising awareness on Law 9669, on June, 18, 2006; and understanding the National Referral Mechanism of domestic violence no. 334 date 17.02.2011, receiving a better education aiming at preventing domestic violence and taking initiatives in the future.
- ✓ The data, the results and the lessons/things learned, while the Advocate Studio activity was being implemented, helped a lot in improving the work. Advocate Studio work is positively self-evaluated. This is due to positive indicators
- ✓ The processed statistics, during this period, gave a detailed information as an achievement indicator for the result.

Quantitative indicators¹⁹

- ✓ Total number of DV survivors (189) that benefited free legal aid of Advocate Studio.
- ✓ Total number of open files (97), out of which (53) for new clients; (43) repeated; (1) institution
- ✓ Total number of legal counselling offered 260, out of which (136) new clients; (110) repeated clients; (14) other institutions; legal counseling.

Qualitative indicators

- ✓ The fact that the final decisions are not appealed in the Court of Appeal Durres considered positive indicators, persuasive legal battles profit as a result of achieving legal problem solving in the Court of First Instance.
- ✓ The termination of judicial proceedings for further continuance (case examples, with the object of law or family law code 9669 dt. 18.12.2006 as amended "On measures against violence in family relations." The reason is: the improvement of family relations during the period of judicial processes, as a result of ongoing counseling of the social worker and lawyers that they given to them, during the process).
- ✓ The increased fear of punishment to perpetrators if he violate the Decision of Protection Order, or when the violator committe a penal deed he has to be prosecuted (foreseen in the article 137/a of Penal Code of Republic of Albania). This provides safety and facilities for survivors of domestic violence (concrete examples: The punishment of imprisonment of two offenders protection order decisions are example to verify the effects).
- ✓ Another indicator that shows success is accepting the request of the claimer and other requests directed to the court to start judicial processes or directed to various institutions to ensure proofs for processes or support through other services from these institutions
- ✓ Other clients who have received services before refer other clients; various public institutions, as: the Court, Police, Bailiff Office, municipality with its communs, private advocate/lawyer,

¹⁸ Woman story → A.J. was legally protected in court in the judicial process with the object “Marriage Dissolution” in 2012. The reason of divorce searched by her, was the violence exercised on her. The court decision let the minor for growth and education to the mother. The Couple's child suffers a kind of illness of bones disease. With the help of nuns, A.J. was sent to specialized medical visits in Italy. The desire to be near his son created legal obstacle to term the permit from the father. This brought obstacle for issuing residence permit for A.J. and their son in Italy. After the Marriage Dissolution the Parental relationship between father and son is continuing to be good. The obstacle was passed through the mediation of the staff of A.S. The father gave the attorney authorisation to leave the country with the child, too.

¹⁹ For more information on the way of closure of file see the **tables 9.1-9.2** interpreting the client’s data of the Advocate/Lawyer Studio, ANNEX no.1 Activity 1.1.2.

various NGO-s, all these are positive indicators, which are closely connected with reliability, seriousness and responsibility at work, created by various services carried out from *Woman Forum Elbasan* and other project activities implemented by *Woman Forum Elbasan*.

- ✓ Coordinating work of Advocate Studio with Counselling Center and Day Care Center has been a great success and has brought efficacy in the organized activities
- ✓ Cooperating with police forces and public institutions is another positive indicator that increases feasibility of WFE, considering it as the main important actor for preventing crime in the family

Activity 1.1.3 the Day Care Centre has assisted women victims until they have received the Immediate Protection Order and are received in the shelter. The Day Care Centre has functioned as an in-between centre providing lodging from a few hours to 2-3 days for the cases presented to the counselling centre and other institutions. Upon approval of the Immediate Protection Order the women had moved to the shelter (In Tirana private one case and National another case) For the time required for receiving the Immediate Protection Order, which minimally takes 48 hours (according to the law 9669) the woman and her children have stayed at the Day Care Centre. During this time, the women together with their children have taken the psycho-social, medical and legal counselling, except normal living conditions offered like; food, clothes, as well as sleeping facilities. Since the first week of project implementation the project coordinator worked to prepare the necessary infrastructure and the procedures for the Day Care Centre staff recruitment. The staff of the Center had also followed all the necessary procedures for the Immediate Protection Order.

All the activity of the Day Care Center, during the period being reported, is being done conform the above mentioned aims and objectives.

At the beginning it was worked for the preparation of infrastructure for the Day Care Center (DCC), starting with:

- The preparation of the documentation for an abused woman coming to the center, in accordance with the Social Services Standards in Albania, taken from, “Legislation summary for economic/financial help and Social Services”, a publication of MPCSSHB, Tirana 2007, pages 127 – 143; VKM (Council of Ministers Decision), no. 505, on July 13, 2011 for “Standards of Social Care Services for Victims of Domestic Violence” in public and non-public Residential Centers. Practical and concrete work done for shelters was reflected in this documentation. These shelters were managed by “Other Vision” Association, “Wilhelm Aid”, Elbasan and the Shelters for Abused/Violated Women, Tirana (All the documentation prepared for a woman who would be sheltered in Day Care Center till receiving Immediate Protection Order, is attached/enclosed to this report.
- Equipping the Day Care Center with the necessary equipment for the bedroom, living room, kitchen utensils, electric kitchen equipments, were on the focus of our work. This equipment was based on the Albanian legislation, within March. (We have the inventory list of the equipments for each room in the Day Care Center).

11 cases of abused women (3 of them repeated cases) and 16 children, from age 01 to 17, are accommodated in the center for few hours up to 2-5 days (though they in the project were foreseen to stay in the center 2-3 days). During the time they stayed at the center, they continued to receive psycho-social, medical and legal counselling. In each case accommodated, normal living conditions, food, clothes and sleeping conditions were provided to the abused women and their children, depending on each special case.

Their data and personal information are as follows:

Xh. I, 29 years old, with two children, one is 4 years old the other 3.5 months. This case is referred by the police, abused by her husband. She was accommodated in DCC, on June 24, 2012, where she

received legal, medical and psycho-social services. The Advocate Studio of WFE on June 26, 2012, got UMM with a Civil Decision no. 30 from the Court of Judicial District, Elbasan. The client chose to return to her living place, not to the shelter suggested, because the abuser (her husband) was arrested by the Police.

This case was referred to the Social Service Department in the Municipality of Elbasan, in order to get economic/financial help for the period that Immediate Protection Order was valid. The full documentation of this client is in file no. 1.

Y.M. 28 years old married and has a daughter 10 years old. She was referred by a citizen and the police. She was abused by her husband for almost 10 years. She was accommodated in DCC on November 01, 2012, where she received together with her daughter, legal, medical and psycho-social services. She stayed there till November 05, 2012, when she received Immediate Protection Order with the Civil Decision no. 58, on November 04, 2012, from the Court of the Judicial District, Elbasan. Because of high risk and danger, she was been referred to the Abused Women Shelter, Tirana, where she is still staying there.

In cooperation with the Shelter in Tirana, we realized the transfer of her daughter MM, from 9-year school "Qamil Guranjaku", Elbasan, to the 9-year school "Edith Durham", Tirana. We cooperated with the Social Services Department in the Municipality Elbasan and Regional Employment Office in Elbasan, to make it possible for her to be included in the economic/financial scheme. This was made in conformity with the legislation in power.

Y.M. is been accommodated several times in Day Care Center, (November 19, 2012, from 09.00 until 13.30; January 14, 2013, from 08.00 until 10.40). She is treating with legal support from the Advocate Studio of Woman Forum Elbasan, in the process of Marriage Solution/Divorce.

Being in a very serious and dangerous case, the Police Patrol, Elbasan, has accompanied her in all her movements in Elbasan. All the documentation of this case is in files no. 2, 5, and 9/1, 2, 3(the last one is for divorce procedure).

P.S. 42 years old, divorced with two children, 13 and 5 years old, referred from the Police, abused by her ex-husband. She was accommodated in Day Care Center on November 02, 2012, where she, together with her children, received legal, medical, and psychosocial services. She stayed in Day Care Center till November 07, 2012, when she received Immediate Protection Order., with the Civil Decision, no. 59, on November, 07, 2012, from the Court of Judicial District, Elbasan. When she received Immediate Protection Order., she asked to return to her dwelling place. The full documentation is in file no. 3.

F.H. 38 years old, married, with three children, 13, 11, and 1.5 years old, referred from Peqin Police, was abused by her husband for many years. Day Care Center staff sent the minibus to Vashaj village, Gjocaj Commune, Peqin, to take the abused woman and her children. She, together with her children was accommodated in Day Care Center on November 11, 2012, where she, together with her children, received legal, medical and psycho-social services. She stayed in Day Care Center till November, 16, 2012, when she received Immediate Protection Order from Civil Decision, no. 63, on November 15, 2012, from the Court of Judicial District, Elbasan. Upon her request dhe returned to her dwelling place/house. (WFE paid the expenses for her travelling). The full documentation is in file no. 4.

M.K. 24 years old, (from Roma community), married, with two children, 10 and 4 years old, came to the Center accompanied by a policeman and her mother. She came to the Center on December, 14, 2012, at 9 o'clock. She was abused by her husband for several years, she was even threatened for her life, but she hesitated to ask for Immediate Protection Order. The cause was, as the client said, that the house where she, her husband and her children lived was built on the property of her parents, and she didn't want aggravate the conflict further. After facing the problem with the Police officer and after receiving legal, medical and psycho-social service, the woman left the Center at 13.30. The full documentation is at file no. 6.

E.Z., 23 years old, single, from Plashnik village, Kutalli Commune, Berat, came to Day Care Center on December 17, 2012, at 8 o'clock in the morning, referred by the Police. Her family had abandoned her. She has been a trafficking victim and had received services from two other associations a year ago. This was proved by the social worker of "Tjeter Vizion" ("Other Vision") Association, who talked to the client based on our request. After visit of the Psychiatric Doctor of Woman Forum Elbasan and after the psycho-social and medical counselling, it resulted that the client presented mental problems. For this reason, with the mediation of Woman Forum Elbasan, the client had to undergo a medical check up by the neurology specialist doctor in the community center. There again she resulted with mental problems. Using the police car and accompanied by the social worker of the Center, the client was hospitalized for specialized treatment. She left the Center at 15.00. Then she was contacted by police officer of violence sector in the Police Station/Department of Elbasan Region/County, to make the announcement to her family and local government in Kutalli Commune, for the location of the citizen E.Z.

We have communicated with the psychologist of the Neuro-psychiatric hospital, to get information about her medical and health condition. She still continues to be in hospital, having the same problems. This case was also assisted by the coordinator of violence in Elbasan municipality. The full documentation is in file no. 7

V.B., 56 years old, married, with two children, comes to the Center accompanied by a police officer because of the denunciation/denouncement done. She came to the Center on January 08, 2013 to get Immediate Protection Order. She was abused for several years physically and psychologically, she was threatened for life too, by her husband, who had mental problems, and he was hospitalized for this every now and then. Communicating with the psychologist of the neuro-psychiatric hospital, she said the client's husband was still in the hospital, isolated there. Under these circumstances, it was not possible to ask for Immediate Protection Order. During her stay in Day Care Center, the client's 24-year son comes, supporting his mother. She left the Center at 13.00. The full documentation is in file no. 8.

P.S., 45 years old, married, with three children, 17, 16 and 12 years old, was referred by the Police. At the same time she had deposited a request for Immediate Protection Order in the Court. She, together with her three children was accommodated in Day Care Center on January 17, 2013, at 10.00 o'clock. She and her two daughters were treated with psycho-social service by the social worker of the Counselling Center and Day Care Center. She and her daughters received psychological and medical counselling by the doctor, who is part of the expertise attached to the Women Forum. The client was offered legal counselling by the lawyer of Advocate Studio. In order to reduce the conflict, her uncles and some relatives came to the Day Care Center, who asked for help to turn to normality the family relations. They contacted the project manager. Taking into consideration this situation, during counselling and talk an alternative was given to the woman and her daughters, to consider the conflicts calmly, to think about her family and her future. She stayed at the Center till January 11, 2013, till she got Immediate Protection Order with the Civil Decision, no. 4, on January 21, 2013, of the Court of Judicial District, Elbasan.

We stress that all the women sheltered, during their stay at the Center, have continued to receive legal, medical, psycho-social counselling. In each case, normal living conditions; food, clothes were offered to the woman and the children. Some times linens and beddings were offered for accommodation, in accordance with the project objectives.

We would like to mention as a positive thing the very good cooperation of the District Police Department, for their readiness. The accommodated women in the Center have had the support of police officers, who upon the request of the Day Care Center staff, have accompanied the clients when they were transferred to the court or to their houses/living places or to the shelters where they were referred to.

In March, an abused woman was referred by the Police. She had violence problems and was supported by Advocate Studio of Women Forum, in the judicial process to receive Immediate Protection Order. She got the Immediate Protection Order, but as the tender/bid procedures for the needed equipment for the Day Care Center, was not completed, this case was referred to the National Center of Abused Woman in Tirana.

During this period, it was referred by the Municipality of Gramsh, the case of an abused woman, married, with two children, 8 and 6 years old. She was abused physically, emotionally and economically by her husband. The project manager offered readiness and help to assist, accommodating them in the Day Care Center and the staff was ready to work for the case. The project manager communicated with the representative of the Municipality of Gramsh, who referred the case, because the woman didn't want to come to Elbasan and was accommodated in a house, whose rent was paid by Gramsh Municipality²⁰.

Activity 1.1.4 Referral and mediation is also performed by the centre with the aim of meeting the needs of women survivors of DV. In collaboration with the Regional Network (see activity 2.1) the staff of the centre has build a referral system to address the needs of the women victims to domestic violence to the state and non-state institutions, with the aim of meeting their needs on case by case basis. Mediation efforts are done with the aim especially at empowering economically women DV survivors. The Centre has mediated on case by case basis with the governmental structures (local government, employment and vocational offices) or with private businesses to make possible employment or vocational training or economic support for DV women survivors.

Please, find some cases of interfering as the positive achieved results

R.M., abused victim, with 4 children, 7-14 years old, loses her job and was left without any income. We prepared a formal/official request for Elbasan Municipality and Education Department, Elbasan. Elbasan Municipality being not able to find a job for her included her in economic/financial help schema.

World Vision prepared a package of 30 000 lek for this victim (pillow, blankets, shoes for children, school bags for them,) based on our request, etc.

A2B Association considers this family in their monthly food packages, with a cost 3000 lek per month, for a period of about 5 months.

Woman Forum Elbasan organised a press conference with all media in Elbasan with this client, to present this case. The journalist F. P. Wrote a report in 'Gazeta Shqiptare' and later based on this article, there was a request for 'News 24' TV, for the program 'With open heart' (Me zemër të hapur), on May 14, 2012

A business in Elbasan, not able to employ this client full-time, employs her every now and then, when they do need someone to work.

Ms. V.H. with the order no. 37, on June 29, 2012, of City Council, Librazhd, starts working full-time as sanitarian/cleaner/janitor in Librazhd Cultural Center.

Ms. R.R. was employed full-time at Victoria International Company due to our request.

Ms. M. T. divorced because of violence exercised against her, being unemployed and homeless, lives at her married daughter's. The client was employed by private business due to Woman Forum Elbasan care.

Ms. A.J. was legally protected in court in the judicial process with the object "Marriage Dissolution" in 2012. The reason of divorce searched by her, was the violence exercised. The court decision let the minor for growth and education to the mother. The Couple's child suffers a kind of illness of bones

²⁰ See ANNEX no. 1 Activity 1.1.3, client data for Day Care Center

disease. With the help of nuns, A.J. was sent to specialized medical visits in Italy. The desire to be near his son created legal obstacle to term the permit from the father. This brought obstacle for issuing residence permit for A.J. and their son in Italy. After the Marriage Dissolution the Parental relationship between father and son is continuing to be good. The obstacle was passed through the mediation of the staff of A.S. The father gave the attorney authorisation to leave the country with the child, too. This client was employed to a private business in Elbasan before living

Ms. M.M. She is living in Shirgjan Commune, she is 22 years old, without children. WFE asked World Vision to accept M.M. to attend a free professional course. The village Shirgjan is within the area where World Vision operates.

Ms. E.C, divorced, with 5 children, 5 Maji Quarter was unemployed. Her ex-husband pays nothing (especially food supplies) for her children. She was referred to Center of Children Protection (CPU), Elbasan Municipality, and A2B Association, to treat her with food supplies (packages) and school equipment for the children. Elbasan Municipality included her in the Economic Help Scheme

Ms.V.S. is divorced, with three children, unemployed, lives in Skenderbej Quarter, Elbasan. During Empowering session, the representatives of A2B Association present in this session, promised that they would donate school books for the three children.

Ms.V.Q. lives in Gostime Commune. She is divorced, with two children. Her little daughter has medical problems. Due to the request of WFE, the World Vision is supporting the little girl paying the batteries for her hearing device/apparatus.

Activity 1.2. Empowering sessions for women subject of DV. 12 sessions are held up to now. 166²¹ women DV survivors have attended these sessions, out of 225 announced/reported. Thus DV survivors are empowered to break the chain of violence and to reintegrate in society. The questionnaires filled out by women who have received free services from the Counselling centre have been a tool for identification of the needs of the women survivors of violence during empowering sessions. The staffs of the Counselling Centre, Advocate Studio and Day Care Centre directly has been involved in preparing and holding this sessions asking the collaboration with the regional network, or with other local actors, with the aim of fulfilling the objective of empowering women survivors. The sessions have started in the first month of project implementation and will continue till the end of the implementation period.

HOW TO →Empowering sessions²²:

The first step → every month, the receivers of Woman Forum Elbasan services are informed by the staff about the activities carried out by the Empowering Session. After completing the questionnaires by the women, DV survivors, a tool used by Counselling Center for the identification of the needs and the level of the problem; we explain to the women the purpose/the aim of the activity, and the opportunities that Woman Forum Elbasan gives to these women to present their problems, and ask for direct help from the representatives invited in the activity, to receive other possible services.

The second step → after analysing the questionnaires, in the third week of the month, highlighting the needs of the women and DV survivors, the evaluation of the needs and their classification according to the requests is done. Based on this evaluation, which is done by project staff, the local actors are invited in the activity, which may send to the activity the right responsible persons

The third step → it is very important too, re-notification/re-announcement of the clients for the date, time and location of the activity, through calling or other ways of communication, when there is no opportunity for calling.

The fourth step → during the activity the women, DV survivors, is given the opportunity to explain their problems to the representatives of local government actors. It is noticed that organising these

²¹See the data in the ANNEX no.1 Activity no. 1.2

²² The principle of confidentiality of clients, the reports and the photos you can find in Woman Forum Elbasan files.

activities **has brought raising awareness and sensibility of local government actors**. This can be seen through their taking engagement to solving women problems, based on the legislation in power. Meanwhile, the women is given the opportunity to get detailed information about the offered services by the local actors, and in the mean time they get the necessary documentation that they should bring/hand over as requestor of these services.

The fifth step → the information from Empowering Sessions, are documented in written form, accompanied by photos from the activity. Commitments and engagements of the invited people in these sessions, the representatives of the local actors have always been the object of the Woman Forum Elbasan discussions during the activity

Objective 2: to promote networking and partnership amongst regional stakeholders and increase their capacities to provide responsive services and implement sensitive policies for women victims of DV or in risk.

Immediate expected results:

- The partnership between all local actors is established and a better coordination of their efforts made possible better quality services to the women subject to violence and the fight against DV is made more effective.
- 30 Law Enforcement Officers, Prosecutors, Victim Advocates, Judges, Social Workers and Public Health Workers increased their capacities on how to better assist victims of domestic violence, how to reduce DV homicide with effective early intervention.
- Women victims of DV or vulnerable women are better assisted and supported.

Achieved results:

- The partnership between all local actors is established and a better coordination of their efforts is making possible better quality services to the women subject to violence and the fight against DV, making the coordination more effective.
- 31 representatives from: Municipalities of Elbasan, Prrenjas, Cerrik, Gramsh, Belesh; Regional State Police Directory; Region Council Elbasan; Regional directorate of Public Health of Elbasan; University Aleksander Xhuvani/ Faculty of Education Sciences Elbasan; Regional Education Directory Elbasan, Advocate room, Business, World Vision, Another Vizion,etc
- Women victims of DV or vulnerable women are better assisted and supported.

Activity2.1. Regional network means combined efforts of all local governmental and nongovernmental actors to fight domestic violence and support its survivors. A proper combination between social services (mostly provided by NPO), economic services (provided by governmental institutions) etc is necessary, consequently, the establishment of a network with the representation of all relevant stakeholders in order to coordinate the attempts and appropriately address the needs of women subject to violence and vulnerable women is made possible since the early months of project implementation. The communication between local stakeholders will be of vital importance and instrumental to the project goals. On the one hand, the communication has been instrumental in addressing the needs of women DV survivors and on the other hand has been also instrumental in the efforts to improve the actions of local stakeholders towards addressing the needs of women DV survivors and preventing the phenomena. The regional network has brought together relevant local stakeholders to share expertise, information, good practices and joining the efforts in better addressing the needs of the victims and preventing DV. Members of this network have been from seven municipal representatives, the region, the police, public health, educational directorate, prosecutor's office, the court, and the state social services. Our organisation has already signed MoU with Elbasan Municipality; Region Council Elbasan; Regional directorate of Public Health of Elbasan; The Directorate for Monitoring the Standards of Social Services; University Aleksander Xhuvani/ Faculty of Education Sciences Elbasan; Regional Education Directory Elbasan, etc.

Since the first month of project implementation the project manager met all targeted local stakeholders for setting up the Regional Network. Starting from the second month of project implementation the established network is met at every three months to evaluate the progress as well as to coordinate the actions for the coming months. The network will also contributed in the referral of cases by the Woman Forum Elbasan, consultation for specific cases, etc.

Regional Network is gathered together in these dates:

On March 21, 2012 the first workshop was organised with the Regional Network, its product was the designing of the Work Plan Activities for domestic violence in Elbasan Region (Please find attached/enclosed a copy of this plan to the Narrative Report). This prepared plan was sent via-email to other institutions which were not represented to make suggestions. With the request of the District Prosecutor we prepared and sent an official document for the Republic Head Prosecutor, with the aim that a prosecutor from Elbasan Prosecutor Office to attend Regional Network activity.

The second meeting of the Regional Network was held on June 21, 2012. The Local Activity Plan for domestic violence in Elbasan Region was introduced first in this meeting. Then, the concrete cases for three-month period were presented, paying more attention to those cases that needed the continuous help of the local actors. After the meeting the whole material was sent electronically to all actors. Immediate was the reaction of Librazhd Municipality. Though they were not in the Regional Network meeting, with the order no. 37, on June 29, 2012, they employed Ms. V.H., a client of Woman Forum Elbasan, full time as a sanitor/cleaner in the Cultural Center of Librazhd.

The third Regional Network meeting was held on September, 2012. Social workers from Shirgjan and Gostima comunnes were invited in this meeting, as there were serious cases in these comunnes, and we would like their involvement in solving problems. In order to raise more awareness for violence problems, representatives of media were invited. In this meeting the Police was asked to give official information for the work done in reducing domestic violence. The representative of the police informed but she didn't leave any written material.

The fourth Regional Network meeting was organized on December 21, 2012. There were, besides us, 10 representatives from public institutions. This was a very important meeting, because there we would work together to decide the practical procedures of receiving economic/financial help for a victim who has got a Protection Order or Immediate Protection Order. The meeting reached its aim, as the representatives of Elbasan and Peqin Municipalities defined the documents that any violence victim should hand over. We had asked from the Directory of Inspection for Standarts in Social Services, a more correct interpretation, with the aim that the victim would not wander, but with the documents required by the Decision of the Ministers' Council to get the payment as established. It happened, that representative of the Directory of Inspection for Standarts in Social Services do not come at all at the meeting, because they had other engagements.

Difficulties

The Court in Elbasan has not attended any of the meetings of Regional Network. We have lobbied several times, but they excuse for not coming because of the court sessions/trials they have. They prefer to be announced many days before to plan the trials before hand. For this reason, the head of the Court, after some discussion with him, appointed the chancellor Ms. Merita to track the Regional Network on behalf of Elbasan Court of the first level.

The results

- Product designed of the Work Plan Activities for domestic violence in Elbasan Region paying more attention to those cases that needed the continuous help of the local actors.
- Defined documents by the representatives of Elbasan and Peqin Municipalities that any violence victim should hand over

- Immediate reaction from Librazhd Municipality, one DV survivor employed.
- The payment gotten from DV survivors as it is established in the Decision of the Ministers' Council.

Activity 2.2 a workshop is prepared and held under the auspices of the regional network. It was held during the first year and resulted in an **action plan** with the aim at improving the situation of DV survivors and to fight DV. The implementation of the action plan is monitored by the project manager and the conclusions are reported to the regional network in its meeting. The second workshop will be held during the second year of the implementation of this project and it will analyse the achievements of the action plan, identify the lessons learned, the problems encountered and will conclude with another action plan. The action plan had positively affect the situation of DV, creating a new model of cooperation amongst local stakeholders based on concrete and measurable obligations²³



Photo from the Workshop, March 21, 2012

Activity 2.3. Domestic Violence training²⁴ for 31 Law Enforcement Officers, Prosecutors, Victim Advocates, Judges, Social Workers and Public Health Workers. This capacity building activity took into consideration the role that health care professionals, prosecutors, police, judges, social and welfare workers of local government can play to support the survivors of domestic violence and to improve the service they provide to them. The training increased their capacities on how to better assist victims of domestic violence, how to reduce DV homicide with effective early intervention. The training is done during the first year of the implementation of this project, and concretely on March 5 and 6, 2012. The project manager cooperated with the regional network members to make possible the identification of the participants of the training. Women's Forum Elbasan chose two experts from the "Center for Legal and Civic Initiatives in Tirana", based trainer application.



Photo, training of the professionals

²³ See as attached a copy of these materials in ANNEX no.2 Activity 2.2, agenda of the workshop , Action Plan, and evaluation of the workshop

²⁴ See attached as ANNEX no. 2 Activity 2.3: the list of the participants; the agenda, a and the power point presentation

Objective 3: *to expand awareness, alert and educate local communities, men and young on DV, its causes and the need for prevention.*

Immediate expected results for all project:

- At least 1680 Local community members (men, young men and women) have a better understanding on common warning signs and dangers of domestic violence, and get involved in the fight against DV;
- 45 teachers and school psychologists trained and increased capacities to further and better educate the students on DV and gender equality issues;
- At least 200 students have a better understanding on DV, its effects and involved in the fight against DV.
- 2000 copies of leaflets, 500 copies of posters, the local audience of two TV programs and three Radio Programs on Domestic Violence, the local media coverage of all the events organized in the framework of this project, raised the information and public awareness with regard to domestic violence, its consequences and the need to participate in actions that contribute towards stopping the phenomenon.
- Gender equality and equal opportunities are further promoted to local communities.

Achieved results for one year

- 1100 Local community members (511 men, young men and 590 women) have a better understanding on common warning signs and dangers of domestic violence, and get involved in the fight against DV;
- 47 teachers and school psychologists trained and increased capacities to further and better educate the students on DV and gender equality issues;
- 381 students have a better understanding on DV, its effects and involved in the fight against DV, (186 who have been informed during the year in the Counselling Centre and 195 during the two open lectures)
- 1700 copies of leaflets, 300 copies of posters, the local audience of one TV program and one Radio Program on Domestic Violence, the local media coverage for some the events organized up to now in the framework of this project, raised the information and public awareness with regard to domestic violence, its consequences and the need to participate in actions that contribute towards stopping the phenomenon.
- Gender equality and equal opportunities are further promoted to local communities.

Activity 3.1. Community-based DV reduction efforts²⁵. Prevention of DV is the main aim of this activity. 28 Community Forums are foreseen to be organized during the project period with at least 1680 parents, men and boys, victims, police and advocates will discuss some of the common warning signs and dangers of DV, what is the invisible abuse, talk openly about a healthy relationship and how they can help in giving an end to domestic violence. The project manager and local coordinators were responsible in successfully implementing this activity, and 12 Forums will be organised during the second year or during 2013 year. The forums are headed by 2 people, 1 moderator (expert not from the Woman Forum Elbasan staff) and 1 facilitator (member of the community). Also the forums were followed by the person engaged from Woman Forum Elbasan as a monitoring person. During preparation phase for the forums, they are consulted with the women survivors in order to find the most appropriate way to communicate with local communities. The Woman Forum Elbasan local coordinators have identified influential individuals within the local communities (teachers, doctors, municipal councillors, etc) and asked for their collaboration to ensure the intended participation of the respective community in the forum. They also have met directly community members (especially men and boys) and invited them to the Forums. During the forums, the participants are encouraged to talk presenting the prepared questions on Power-Point, accompanied with concrete data of Woman Forum Elbasan -s concerning domestic violence. Participants are encouraged to discuss and give their

²⁵ See in ANNEX no.3, Activity 3.1 the CD the list of participants and photo from every meetings organised

own opinions concerning the real situation in their neighbourhoods and villages. Opinions and suggestions received concerning the improvement of the situation focusing on the state-organ obligations and responsibilities in conformity with the law on violence and the national strategy specifically related to violence. Community discussions are also be used to address women's human rights concepts and instruments in relation to family code, education and property, participation in public and political life. Recommendations resulting from these Forums are presented to the regional network meeting in order to foster their actions against DV.

Also in the local media INFO every Saturday is written detailed information about the activity with the aim of those INFO newspaper readers to be informed for the activity, for the discussed problems by raising in this way the awareness to the other part of the community



Cerrik



Shirgjan

Please see below detailed data about these Forums

Nr	Place	Date	Participants	Women
1	Region Nr 4 Elbasan	02.03.2012	54	15
2	Region Nr 1 Elbasan	05.03.2012	66	46
3	Shushicë Commune	06.03.2012	79	49
4	Cerrik Municipality	09.03.2012	69	39
5	Shirgjan Commune	12.03.2012	71	47
6	Paper Commune	16.03.2012	62	43
7	Gjergjan Commune	19.03.2012	66	35
8	Region Nr 5 Elbasan	20.03.2012	70	15
9	Gjinar Commune	22.03.2012	71	37
10	Labinot-Fushe Commune	28.03.2012	84	48
11	Bradashesh Commune	29.03.2012	84	50
12	Region Nr 3 Elbasan	30.03.2012	64	45
13	Region Nr 6 Elbasan	05.04.2012	74	26
14	Gostime Commune	07.04.2012	71	27
15	Mollas Commune	14.04.2012	73	38
16	Region Nr 2 Elbasan	25.01.2013	43	30
Total			1100	590
	Total Objective → 960			

The objective was 60 persons in each meeting or 960 participants for 16 meetings organized

Some of the problems discussed in the meetings (for illustration, we are going to make present two meetings, in Region Nr 5 Elbasan Municipality and Bradashesh Commune :

Administrative Unite 5

The forum meeting was held on 20 March 2012. The activity began at the agreed time

From 5:00 till 6:45 pm in the local Bar near the Offices of the Administrative Unit 5 (Region Nr 5) of Elbasan Municipality.

Based on the statistics:

Administrative Unite 5	Inhabitants	Divided in	
		Male	Female
	13128	6755	6373

Prevention of DV through the education of the community was the main aim of this activity.

The methodology used:

Firstly it was made present the project, through the moderator of the forum. It was explained the overall and specific objectives; the activities of the action plan; the terms of the implementation of the action. It was made present the EU founder and the KtK cofounder of the project.

The visibility of action was presented through the banner and the distribution of leaflets.

Secondly it was seen by the community a movie which lasted just 1 minute, titled “the children see, the children do”.

After that was discussed by the community the message of the movie gave to us: “Give your best influence”.

Why the forum did begin with this movie? To show to all that we as the parents of our future society have to give the best example to our children. The alert and the education of the children and young people is the security of the peace in our families and our community too.

Thirdly it was been presented:

- The three services of Woman Forum Elbasan, which offer support to the DV survivors:
- The place and the role taken by the Woman Forum Elbasan in the long cord of the Domestic Violence Mechanism.
- The collaboration of Woman Forum Elbasan with the other actors carried by the Law 9669 to prevent the DV; The successes and the challenges of the women supported by Woman Forum Elbasan, victims of DV etc.

Fourthly it was finalised with an action performed by 6 representatives of the community, through the execution of the orders given by the moderator with closed eyes. The conclusion of the action was: “The orders of Laws are the same for all of us, but the understanding and the execution of them is not the same for all”.

Conclusions

The participants` number was satisfactory but it would be better if the Police inspector of the area, the Labour Office`s representatives, the family doctor were part of the forum, it would have made this forum more comprehensive.

Opinions and suggestions received from the community participants for improving the situation were important. The community concerns will be made present during the regional network meeting in order to foster their actions against DV with the aim of the improvement of the situation focusing on the state-organ obligations and responsibilities in conformity with the law on the violence and the national strategy specifically related to violence.

The community suggestions and recommendations²⁶:

26 See in ANNEX no.3 Activity 3.1, the prepared material in power point, the movie “Children see, children do”

1. Action plan and local strategy by all local actors (Municipality, Private Business, Labour Office, and NGO) for reducing the poverty through opening free work places, facilitating the Private Business with the employment procedures of the unemployed registered in the Labour Office.
2. Good collaboration between all actors addressing the cases diverse actors to offer them the most of the services.
3. The Continuing of alert of the community with the Laws with a good interpretation of those by legal experts.
4. The Continuing awareness for improving the sensibility of the community on the reasons and consequences of the DV
5. The offering of education methodology to the parents, teachers, to the children.
6. Opening the centres of rehabilitation for the abusers, forcing them to do compulsory work.
7. To be employed the professional and trained employee in the institution which offers services to the community.

Achieved immediate expected results²⁷:

- 85 Local community members (men, young men and women) had a better understanding on common warning signs and dangers of domestic violence, and get involved in the fight against DV. In fact there were over 85 participants, but only 70 of them signed the name on the list presence. Although the facilitator explained to the participants the importance of this list, it was impossible to convince them. There were 12 women and 58 men (11 young people, 59 parents, the representative of the local government, the administrator of the economic help for this neighbourhood, the beneficiaries of the WFE`s services etc).
- Based on the group age, 53 of the participants were of group-age 35-62 years, 6 of the participants were of group-age 25-35 years, 11 of the participants were of the group-age 15-25 years.

Achieved immediate expected results:

- 85 Local community members (men, young men and women) had a better understanding on common warning signs and dangers of domestic violence, and get involved in the fight against DV; As it was foreseen the community members (men, women, youth were presented). The number of the participants was over passed from 60 to 70 signed.
- The aim of the action was fulfilled²⁸. The participants were alert and educated on the information of DV prevention.

The assessment of the Action results was done by the WFE staff member Teuta Hoxha who was engaged to observe the performance of the activity, the achievement of outputs, outcomes and impact in relation to specific and overall objectives, and whether the Action has had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

The Facilitator (Local Coordinator) Engjëllushe Zeneli was engaged to collaborate with the local administration of the Administrative Unite (Region) 5 of the Elbasan Municipality. The local coordinator has collaborated in the past with WFE including in implemented activities of it. The local coordinator was well informed on the project activity, the aim of it and the indicators for the invitation of the community represent.

Conducting the forum with a consideration number of participants (over 60), was a doubt of the moderator for not achieving the foreseen results by the activity (the rumour, the diverse participants with diverse education level, abuser participants etc).

But, the movie gave its impact. The attention of all participants was increased.

“We have to accept, - said one of the participants, - that most of parents consider their children as the most important people of their lives, but they have to accept the perception how to be a good parent. We have to consider the child as a new tree which has to be feed, cured with full love and

²⁷ See in ANNEX no.3 Activity 3.1 the list presence with the database of the participants, some of the photos which reflect some moments of this activity.

²⁸ To see all information about these Forums please visit our web: www.forumigruaselbasan.org or our facebook: Forumi Gruas Elbasan

attention, and educated with rules of the moral and the community. The result will be guaranteed. We will have a good family, a good society, a secured future full of peace.”

“Considering the woman as the person who gives life from her life will be a good reason not to exercise violence on her,- said another participants (men),- A woman is a wife of one husband, a sister of one brother, a daughter of one father. This is important to help her by giving support to her if she is an abused one. Well knowing the institutions which have the responsibilities to offer help for preventing the crime inside family is another help for her in such violent moments of her life. Opening her eyes for alerting her to be the owner of her life is the way which can save the woman life, the girl’s life who will be a woman in the future”

The visibility of the action was given by the banner and the distribution of leaflets, since in the beginning of the action. The participation of some abusers in the Forum was the potential risk. 5 from the participants wanted to leave community forum. They accepted sotto voices that were DV abusers. But the local coordinator pleased them to stay at least the first 10 minutes If you want to have information from each meeting organised please don’t hesitate to ask them.

Bradashesh Commune

According to the participants among other factors that cause domestic violence is marriages in which spouses have educational gap. Today’s youth should know each other better before deciding to spend the lifetime together. **Divorces** are happening in couples that have 1-3 years of marriage. A lot of families are being destroyed because girls having a University diploma are marrying boys having 8 years School. Girls are tempted by the luxury cars, lunches, coffees that boys offer, they think that life is beautiful and they marry without counselling with parents. Once such marriage is being done, it begin indeed the offences among the spouses, because a boy having 8 years school can’t understand a lot of things, conflicts emerge and a violated woman violates her children, sometimes even the in-laws. Thus, violence generates violence. This argument was opposed from other participants who argued that this depends from the individual, the person, the family in which people grow up; **family education** has a big impact on people’s character. A woman participant stated that I am with University and my husband with the high school, we have a happy marriage and sometimes my husband is more tolerant than me, more understanding, he takes care of the children, helps me with the housework etc. It happens that women have low self-esteem, feel insecure and do not communicate with their husbands. The wife must educate her children, her husband and **communication among the spouses** should never lack. She must be tolerant, shouldn’t see what does her neighbour or gossip. There are also women who verbally violate their husbands and when the husband comes at home they say: “Where have you been, why you are drunk?”

There were strong debates, discussions among men and women during the meeting.

Other factors that cause violence according to the participants are: **Unemployment.**

Poverty in rural areas is very deep; there is no employment, no investments. The state should be more interested for the village and not only asphalt the roads of the city. The majority of boys go to the **emigration**, some of them waste the money on pleasures, drink alcohol while, some women do not administrate properly the money that the husband brings from emigration and such situations cause conflicts. The wives doubt what does the husband do in emigration and they call at any minute by causing psychological violence at the husband. The spouses should be loyal to each other when one of them is in emigration. Women should pay more attention to the education of children because outside the household men are more powerful, but inside the household women are more powerful being the administrators of the house.

Divorces are now very frequent. A woman participant shared her case by explaining the causes that lead to two divorces. According to her the first divorce happened because the husband did not work and abused her physically while the second divorce happened due to the emigration because the husband created another family abroad.

Jealousy of husbands often causes domestic violence because women feel they are controlled. There should be tolerance from both spouses although we should admit that violence happens at all ages, education-economic levels, but in general women are violated more frequently than men. Abused women often negate the violence and continue to live in abusive relationships because they are economically dependent on husbands.

Mentality is another reason that causes violence, people do not have employment and they gossip, they see what neighbours do. In the discussions men were more active arguing that in these times women want to be superior to men. The 50% representation in parliament that women aim will never be achieved. I don't know any woman that wanted to be engaged in politics but was not allowed by the husband, women are stupid, do not have qualifications, are not as clever as men and do not deserve to be in politics.

Some solutions to improve the situation suggested by participants could be:

- We should have understanding, tolerance in couple,
- We need employment in order to improve the economic situation of our families since this is the main reason that causes violence,
- We should free ourselves from some old ideas that still exist in rural areas and discriminate women,
- In the couple we should respect obligations and the rights,
- The marriages should be on the love-basis,
- We must educate the children with the new mentality and free them from some stereotypes, prejudices.

Activity 3.2. Educate young people (boys and girls) to prevent DV. Young adults, males in particular, need more information on violence and its consequences. Their present well-education is an important prerequisite for eradicating the phenomenon in the future. Since teachers are a very important group concerning their education, first were three trainings with the participation of regional high-school civic education teachers and psychologists. 45 teachers and school psychologists increased their capacities to further and better train on violence and gender equality issues. Their training makes it possible for them to share this knowledge with their high school students on their respective classes (civic education) and their work as psychologists. The trainings with the high school teachers have been in coordination between the project manager and the staff of the Educational Directorate. The trainings were held during March 2012.



Right after the trainings the staff of the project in consultation with teachers and pedagogues started the preparation for **Open lectures** with university students. The open lectures are organised as an one-to two hour debate to give them a clear understanding of domestic violence, the root causes, the need to fight the phenomena and involve them in discussion on what should be done to change the reality of DV. There are done two open lectures, at the end of the first year project, the first one date December 18, 2012 the second one date 15, January 2013. The two other one will be during the second year of the implementation of the project (see the information on facebook: Forumi Gruas Elbasan).

Difficulties in training

Despite the willingness of the Regional Elbasan Education Department again about representation had some difficulties Woman Forum Elbasan wanted to have decision- making on the training, but because of the commitments that the institution had in this period was not realized Not all psychologists / social workers Elbasan Region were involved in the training. We had cases when followed training others such as mathematics teacher

Activity 3.3 Awareness raising campaign will last throughout project implementation. It started with the preparation of the informative materials such as: leaflets and posters with the aim to inform local people on the need to prevent DV and the availability of services for the survivors. The drafts are prepared by relevant experts, but the content is consulted with women DV survivors, members of the regional network and after these consultations it is produced. The project coordinator prepared a specific plan for their distribution to the target groups in the area covered by the project.

Media is an important way to deliver messages as well as to educate people, thus a media plan is prepared since the early months of the project implementation. This plan included: media and targeted programmes as a tool to convey the messages to the public, the foreseen events in the project to be held with the participation of the media, etc. Part of this plan is the three Local Radio Programs and two TV programs to be broadcasted focusing on the fight against DV. Up to now we have done two Radio Programs and one TV program. The topics of each of the programs is decided in consultation with women DV survivors, experts involved in the implementation of different actions foreseen by the project as well as regional network members. Three programmes were broadcasted in the first year of the project. Those have been focused on domestic violence, but they also have informed the public about the achievement of the project itself.

- The first program in radio is done March 31, 2012
- The first TV program is done January 16, 2013
- The second program in Radio is done January 24, 2013

The third programme in Radio and second program in TV will be held during the second year of project implementation.

2.3. Please list activities that were planned and that you were not able to implement, explaining the reasons for these.

The 10-th Empowering Session planned to be done on November 29, 2012, was postponed on December 7, 2012. The cause of this was due to many activities organised on the occasion of 100 Anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence

The 11-th Empowering session planned to be done on December 29, 2012 was not done as it was close to New Year Eve and the people are distracted by the activities on this event. Everyone was busy thinking oh how to celebrate the night of New Year. Usually we have planned to organize the Empowering Sessions on the 29-th of every month. The 29-th of December, 2012 was Saturday, as a rule when the 29-th is Saturday, we postpone it for the coming Monday, so this time it was December 31-st, exactly the New Year's Eve, the last day of the year. We were sure that most of the clients would be absent because of not the appropriate day. Another reason was that the representatives of the institutions would not come due to their reporting engagements in their work in these last days of the year, as well. For these reasons we decided to postpone the activity for the January 2013.

- 2.4. What is your assessment of the results of the Action so far? Include observations on the performance and the achievement of outputs, outcomes and impact in relation to specific and overall objectives, and whether the Action has had any unforeseen positive or negative results (please quantify where possible; refer to Logframe Indicators).

Woman Forum Elbasan assessment of the results of the Action up to now is –successful

Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Sources and means of verification
<p>1.2.Number of services provided to the DV survivors by Counseling Center (3 services through: (i) medical-social service; (ii) different information and mediation; (iii) assistance and psychological assistance) Advocate Studio(3 services through (i) Preparation of document,</p>	<p>1.1. monthly reports (12) of the staff, prepared based on the file for calling clients, the register book for clients who ask for face to face counselling, the files for clients of the Advocate studio and DCC (they are in our files in Albania and English); 1.2. The results of the evaluation</p>

<p>(ii) <i>Legal counseling</i>, (iii) <i>Legal help before the court</i>) and DCC (3 services: (i) <i>1-3 day shelter</i>; (ii) <i>psycho-social, medical and legal counselling</i>; (iii) <i>and mediation</i>); 1.2. Satisfaction level of women receiving services by the centers and advocate studio (<i>positiv</i>); 1.3. Number of DV survivors that benefits free psychological, legal counselling and assisted in the DCC; 1.4. Number of the empowering sessions held (12); Number of women participating in the empowering sessions (166); 1.6. Number of cases referred or mediated (115); 1.7. Number of women benefiting from mediation efforts (42).</p>	<p>forms (70) and questionnaires (130) of each woman received the service; 1.3. 12 monthly reports of the staff; 1.4. Number of the signed sheets and photos (12, photos for anonymity are in our files); 1.5. The signed sheets of participants in each session (please see them on the CD as part of the reporting); 1.6. Monthly reports of the staff; 1.7. Monthly reports of the staff;</p>
<p>2.1. Number of local stakeholders involved with members in the Regional Network (15); 2.2. Number of meetings of the Regional network (4); 2.3. Number of women DV survivors improved situation because coordination efforts (76); 2.4. Number of initiatives and action taken to fight DV and lessen the situation of DV survivors (4)</p>	<p>2.1. The signed sheets of participants in each meeting and the institution they represent (you will find them on the CD); 2.2. Number of the signed sheets and the minutes of each meeting (they are on our files); 2.3. Minutes of the meetings and monthly reports of the staff (they are on our files); 2.4. Minutes of the meetings (they are on our files)</p>
<p>3.1. Number of workshops held (1); 3.2. Number of action plans drafted (1); 3.3. Number of action implemented (29); 3.4. Number of people benefited from the implemented action (Elbasan region inhabitants)</p>	<p>3.1. The sign sheet of participants, photos (on CD) and minutes (attached as Annex nr 3); 3.2. The document of the action plan formulated (attached as Annex nr); 3.3 The yearly Report of the Regional Network; Evaluation report (this report is going to prepare from 23 March up tp March 31, 2013); 3.4. The yearly Report of the Regional Network; Evaluation report (this report is going to prepare from 23 March up tp March 31, 2013).</p>
<p>4.1. Number of the participants in the professionals training (31); 4.2. Proportion of targeted professionals participants in the training (35, 3% men/66, 7% women); 4.3. Increased level of knowledge and skills of the participants Professional better assist victims of DV (mark 4);</p>	<p>4.1. The signed sheets of participants and photos (on the CD); 4.2. The signed sheet of participants indicating their position (on the CD); 4.3. Reports of the trainers indicating their level of knowledge prior and after the training; evaluation forms of the participants (on the CD); Evaluation report (on the CD)</p>
<p>5.1. Number of Forums organized (16); 5.2. Number of people participating in the Forums (1101); 5.3. Proportion of men and boys participating in the Forums (511); 5.4. Increased level of knowledge of participants with regard to DV (16 reports prepared); 5.5. Number of ideas or proposal coming from participants to fight DV(16 minutes of the forums)</p>	<p>5.1. Signed sheets of participants, photos and minutes of the forums organised (on the CD, the minutes on the narrative report); 5.2. Signed sheets of participants, photos (on the CD); 5.3. Signed sheets of the participants (on the CD); 5.4. Report prepared for each forum, the evaluation report based on the canvassed samples of the participants (two example on the narrative report the others in our files); 5.5. Minutes of the Forums (they are on our files in Albania).</p>

<p>6.1. Number of the trainings (3); 6.2. Number of participants in the training (47); 6.3. Proportion of targeted professionals participating in the training (99, 8% women /0.2 % men); 6.4. Increased level of knowledge and skills of the participants (mark 5); 6.5. Number of plans drafted by participants consisting of plan of lectures and other related school activities (three); 6.6. Number of lectures and school activities organized by the participants after the training (2).</p>	<p>6.1. The signed sheets of participants and photos (on the CD); 6.2. The signed sheets of participants and photos (on the CD); 6.3. The signed sheets of participants indicating their position (on CD); 6.4. Reports of the trainers indicating their level of knowledge prior and after the training, evaluation forms of the participants (on the CD); 6.5. Report of the trainers (part of the narrative report); 6.6. Evaluation report based on feedback forms filled by participants at the end of the project implementation period (to be prepared at the end of the project)</p>
<p>7.1. Number of Open lectures organized (2); 7.2. Number of participants (195); 7.3. Proportion of girls (81%) and boys (19%) participating; 7.4. Number of ideas or proposals coming from participants to fight DV (see report on facebook: Forumi Gruas Elbasan); 7.5. Increased level of knowledge of participants with regard to DV (see report on facebook: Forumi Gruas Elbasan).</p>	<p>7.1. Photos and minutes of the lectures (photos on CD, minutes in our files in Albania); 7.2. Photos (on CD); 7.3. Reports prepared at the end of each lecture (part of the narrative report as Annex....); 7.4. Minutes prepared at the end of each lecture (they are on our files in Albania); 7.5. The evaluation report based on the canvassed samples of participants (part of the narrative report as ANNEX....).</p>
<p>8.1. Number of leaflets and posters published (2000 leaflets and 500 posters); 8.2. Number of institutions (200 leaflets); and individuals that receive leaflets (1500 leaflets); 8.3. The number of Radio (2), TV programs (1) and articles that report on issues addressed by the project (12); 8.4. Proportion of individuals who report they saw or heard a mass media message on issues related to DV in targeted areas (70%).</p>	<p>8.1. Copies of the leaflets and posters published (three for each attached the narrative report); 8.2. The poster delivery plan (police 30, health department 50, attorney 10, municipalities 50, prefecture 10, region 10, public places 50, others); 8.3. Press relases copy of articles (16) registered TV (1, CD and facebook: Forumi Gruas Elbasan) and radio program (1²⁹ in CD and in facebook: Forumi Gruas Elbasan), media monitoring report (facebook); 8.4. Evaluation report based on the canvassed samples of community members</p>

We think that the project has reached all the foreseen objectives. Positive results are a great many in number. We stress that a lot of problems we have faced with, we have tried to solve them in close cooperation with Mr. MANZANO BARRAGAN IVAN directly. For example, we hadn't planned correctly the payment for the victims in the court, because of budget at our disposal. In a case, according to tariffs of the court, the claim/request costs 9200 lek and the psychologist should be paid 15.000 lek. We noticed this since the very first months of the project. In order to compensate this gap EU through its own representatives approved an emergency fund of 2156 Euro to face this situation and to help as much as possible women/girls with violence problems.

In the application we had declared to support abused women/girls in DCC, only from Elbasan District. Being the only Center of this kind, other regions wanted to bring their clients to our DCC. According to the standards, the National Shelter and any other shelter do not accept victims without UM or UMM. Here again we faced another problem, we hadn't planned transport for transferring victims to DCC, or from DCC to Shelters. Again, Mr. Ivan was ready to help and immediately approved a fund of 540 Euro, from 1.1.1.1 Project Manager to 6.2.1 Local transportation for DCC.

²⁹ Note* the second radio program is not saved because of the break out.

Woman Forum Elbasan consider a very important outcome the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention "On preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence", from the Albania Parliament on 8 November 2012. We are the second country in the Balkans after Turkey to ratify this very usefull Convention. Woman Forum Elbasan has been very important actor in all activities organized on the national level up to this event. During the 2012 year have been organized many national conferences on the situation of domestic violence and measures to be taken.

Another positive thing to be appreciated during the year was the adoption of the new Criminal Code on 1 March 2012 related to the provision of domestic violence as a criminal offense, which convicts rapists up to five years imprisonment. This change occurred due to constant lobbying associations defending the rights of women in parliamentary committees.

As impact Woman Forum Elbasan consider seting up the Leading Commtity in Librazhd Municipality based on Government Decision no 334 date 17.02.2011 National Refferal mechanism. In Regional Meetings organized Woman Forum Elbasan has asked from all municipalities to build this mechanism

Please list potential risks that may have jeopardized the realisation of some activities and explain how they have been tackled. Refer to logframe indicators.

Results	Potential risks foreseen before the beginning of the project	The explaintation on the way how the activities have been tackled
1	Women survivors asking for services to be provided to them	During the first year of the project, all activities implemented affected in the realization of the objective no.1. The real number of the women survivors asking for services to be provided to them was 225 out of 200 foreseen
	Local stake holder's readiness to react when cases are referred or mediated by the project team in particular and in all empowered efforts in general	<p>1. The signing of cooperation memorandums between WFE and local stake holders, before the start of the project; 2. Full participation of all the guests (local actors) in the first activity of the project, kick-off created fertile ground for the realization of the objectives, because the local actors realized the importance of the project and its effect on the prevention of domestic violence.</p> <p>Commitment undertaken by the local stakeholders was: to participate in the activities organized by Woman Forum Elbasan. The invitations to take part in the empowering sessions addressed to the representatives of public and private institutions based on the classification problem defined in completing the questionnaires from women survivors of domestic violence. Generaly was answered to the invitation to participate by all local actors. But there have been times that due to other commitments in their work, to have as response "Impossible to be part".</p>
2	The targeted local stakeholders not only involved in the regional network but also active and willing to undertake initiatives to fight DV and lessen the situation of DV survivors.	During 2012, were taken commitments and the new initiatives with regard to the prevention of domestic violence: 1. With the initiative of the Municipality of Elbasan rose interdisciplinary technical team, which meets monthly to discuss specific cases of domestic violence; 2. With the initiative of the Municipality of Elbasan were nrit and function steering committee "Against Domestic Violence," directed by Mayor of Elbasan; 3. Librazhd Municipality raised the steering committee based on Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 334 dated 17.02. 2011 (Women Forum Elbasan provided technical assistance in the establishment of this committee); 3. State Police cooperated closely with other

		local actors, through very good functioning of the system of mutual reference.
3	The successful workshops ask for the participation of a number of local stakeholders. We need to arrange date and time taking into consideration the availability of all important stakeholders in order to meet our objective.	Woman Forum Elbasan arranged date and time taken into consideration the availability of all important stakeholders in order to meet our objective sending the invitations 10 days before the date of the activity to the local stakeholders, in order their commitments to be organised.
4	The training module should design in accordance to the level of the knowledge and skills of participants before starting the training; in arranging location, time and date of training participants availability should be also taken into consideration	Firstly to the trainers were given prior data on the potential participants in the training (social worker; psychologist etc.). Preliminary data on the level of knowledge of participants, served for an enjoyable training module (the level of satisfaction of participants was satisfied). Trainings are conducted in the premises of the Women's Forum Elbasan; predetermined time and date in the activity enabled the timely notification of superiors of participants in training.
5	The willingness of local communities to participate in the Forums is very important. Thus local coordinators will not only create direct contacts with community members (especially men and boys) and invite them to participate but will also identify influential individuals within the local communities (teachers, doctors, municipal councilors, etc) and ask for their collaboration to ensure the intended participation of community members.	Involvement in the organization of the event as a local coordinator with influence, who has direct contact with the community, made that the interest to participate to be in high level. (1100 participant from 960 foreseen in the project) but it would be better if all the local public actors were part of the forum communities; it would have made this forum more comprehensive.
6	The training module should be designed in accordance to the level of knowledge and skills of participants before starting the training; in arranging location, time and date of training the participants' availability should be also taken into consideration	Firstly to the trainers were given prior data on the potential participants in the training (social worker; psychologist etc.). Preliminary data on the level of knowledge of participants, served for an enjoyable training module (the level of satisfaction of participants was satisfied). Trainings are conducted in the premises of the Woman Forum Elbasan; predetermined time and date in the activity enabled the timely notification of superiors of participants in training. → It was not risk because the module was designed in accordance

		the the level of knowledge and skills of participants.
7	The willingness of students to participate in the Open lectures (especially boys) is very important. Thus project coordinator will closely cooperate with professors or the trained teachers	→195 students (19% boys)
8	Local journalists and their chief in editors should understand the importance of addressing DV issues in their programs, thus since the early months of implementation the project coordinator will meet with the targeted local media representatives to explain the situation on DV in Elbasan region and the project objectives	→It have not been risk, we had their support during all the year

External conditions:

1. Women survivors asking for services to be provided to them;
2. Local stakeholder’s readiness to react when cases are referred or mediated and in all empowered efforts;
3. The targeted local stakeholders not only involved in the regional network but also active and willing full to undertake initiatives to fight DV and lessen the situation of DV survivors;
4. The willingness of local communities to participate in the Forums is very important.
5. The willingness of students to participate in the Open lectures (especially boys) is very important;
6. Local journalists and their chief in editors should understand the importance of addressing DV issues in their programs.

Risks to be taken into consideration:

1. It is possible that a little part of women from the rural areas to require psychological and social counseling;
2. A number of women do not denounce violence due to their economic dependence on their husbands
3. Possible changes to the staffs of the institutions involved in the regional network may lead to changes with the built network.
4. The trainings require the inclusion of those individuals whose duties and responsibilities are directly related to DV.
5. There is the risk for men and boys to be unwilling to participate in the forums.

Nuk mund të themi që kemi patur rreziqe potenciale për asnjë aktivitet. Ndonese shërbimet tona i kryejmë në mënyrë të mirë të mundshme na është dashur shumë të punojmë me qëllim që një viktime dhune të përfitojë nga strukturat e pushtetit lokal çdo gjë që ligji i garanton. Shumë jemi marrë dhe vazhdojmë të merremi në lidhje me përfitimin ndihmes në vlerën 3000 lek për një viktime dhune e cila ka marrë një UM apo UMM. Në takimin rajonal i kemi përcaktuar conform VKM dokumentat që duhet të dorëzojë një viktime dhune. Në terren në nivel njesie administrative, punonjësit social kërkojnë për të qene në rregull shumë letra. Deri në zgjidhjen përfundimtare jemi duke e shoqëruar vetë viktimen në njësi administrative të ndryshme duke i ballafaquar ato me legjislacionin në fuqi dhe duke përshejtuar kohën e përfitimit të kesaj ndihme

If relevant, submit a revised logframe, highlighting the changes.

Please see it attached the narrative report

Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above 10.000€ awarded for the implementation of the action during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the award procedure followed and the name of the contractor.NA

2.5. Please provide an updated action plan ³⁰

Year 2													
Activity	Semester 1						Semester 2						Implementing body
	Month 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Execution Activity 1.1 Free psychological and legal counselling to DV survivors ³¹													The staff of the Counselling Centre, Advocate Studio ³² and Day Care Centre
Preparation activity 1.2 Identification of the needs of the participants and preparation of the expert for leading the Empowering sessions for women subject of DV													The staff of the Counselling Centre, Advocate Studio and Day Care Centre
Execution Activity 1.2 Empowering sessions for women subject of DV													The staff of the Counselling Center, Advocate Studio and Day Care Center
Execution Activity 2.1 Regional network meetings													Project Manager

³⁰ This plan will cover the financial period between the interim report and the next report.

³¹ The services of the Day Care Centre will be offered starting from the third month, since there is the need to establish the centre and select its staff.

³² Note* Advocate Staff composed by the advocate and the lawyer is

Preparation activity 2.1 Getting prepared for the second workshop														Project Manager and Regional Network
Execution Activity 2.2 The second workshop														Project Manager and Regional Network
Preparation Activity 3.1. Getting prepared for the community forums in the frame of Community-based DV reduction efforts.														Project Manager and local coordinators
Execution Activity 3.1. Community-based DV reduction efforts : Community forums														Local Coordinators and experts
Preparation Activity 3.2 Getting prepared for the Open lectures														Project Manager and experts
Execution Activity 3.2 Open Lecture														The experts
Preparation activity 3.3. Awareness raising campaign: Preparation for local radio and TV program														Project Manager, regional network and experts
Execution activity 3.3. Awareness raising campaign- Local radio and TV program														The staff, members of the regional network and experts
Monitoring and Evaluation Reports														Project Manager and M&E team

3. Partners and other Co-operation

3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the formal partners of this Action (i.e. those partners which have signed a partnership statement)? Please provide specific information for each partner organisation. NA

3.2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

- It was very surprising the speech of the Prefect Mr. Z. Shefqet Deliallisi, who spoke specifically for the project, analysing the three objectives, one by one, stressing their importance. The WFE had sent the project electronically to the Prefect, Head of the Reion/district, and the Mayor, to get to know it in details. The Prefect, not only had read the project, but analysed it in details, and

thanked us for this very important project for Elbasan District, and more, and at the same time thanking our donators for the financial support.

- The Mayor of Elbasan, in his speech mentioned that WFE has done very good things for a long time, something that the local government is in need a lot. He stressed that other NGO-s work and organise trainings, they are important too, but what WFE does is something more concrete. For example, if we have a victim of violence, we immediately direct her to WFE.
- The Mayor of Cerrik, who had attended the Awareness Forum that we organised on the framework of the project in Cerrik town. He spoke about the importance of organising such kinds of activities in the community for raising their awareness step by step, to say 'no' to domestic violence. He said that in that activity there were 69 men and women, young boys and girls. It was the first time tha a meeting of this kind was organised, for such issues that for a long time were 'tabu', as they were considered family issues. He also said that there were a lot of discussions in that activity.

3.3. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

- Associate(s) (if any)
- Sub-contractor(s) (if any)
- Final Beneficiaries and Target groups
- Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc)

3.4. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

3.5. If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).

This is the first Grant from EU. We have opened the Counseling Center for abused women and girls, in October, 1999, with financial support from NPA (Norwegian People Aid). In 2002 we opened the Advocate Studio with the financial support of OSBE and from the year 2002 till December 31, 2011, we were supported by Kvinna till Kvinna/SIDA from Swedish Governments Funds.

4. Visibility

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

All the awareness raising materials prepared on the framework of this project made it visible EU contribution.

All the official documents used have as a footer the logo, financed by EU, and co-financed by Kvinna till Kvinna, implemented by WFE (logo) (A sample document is attached to the narrative report, [Annex no....](#))

In the leaflet prepared in 2000 copies, not only in the first page but also in the last page you can see clearly that the project is financed by EU (logo) and co-financed by KtK (logo). The model of the leaflet is done in accordance with EU requirements. At the very beginning, the model was prepared by us and then it was sent to MANZANO BARRAGAN Ivan for approval. In all the meetings and activities we have organised in the community, every participant who wanted to have a copy, took it,

thus making EU financing visible even at the community for common/ordinary people. WFE prepared two types of leaflets, one in size XY in 2000 copies, and the other in size XY in 50 copies to give one copy to all public institutions that have responsibility by law for domestic violence (Please find attached to the narrative report some copies of the prepared leaflets)

The poster prepared conform EU model has EU and logo in a very visible place. We have put this poster in every state institution, in every commune where we have organised meetings and activities, in every health center, etc. The Regional Network has given a very positive contribution in this direction, as every member of this network has taken a considerable number of posters and has put them in the respective institutions, in Police Station, District Prosecutor Office, in the Court, in the Town Halls of Peqin, Cerrik, Prrenjas, Librazhd, Gramsh, Belesh, Elbasan, etc. The students who are doing their professional practice in WFE put these posters in the main streets of the town. (Please find attached to the Narrative Report some copies of the poster)

In the Flyers/Volante sheets, one can easily see that financing is done by EU. On them it is written: This project is financed by EU (logo) (Please find attached to the Narrative Report copies of flyers/volante sheets.

The invitation for Kick off

On its first page it is very visible, clearly seen that the project is financed by EU, co-financed by KtK and implemented by WFE (Please find attached to the Narrative Report a copy of the invitation in Albanian and English)

The prepared banner with the project title “Addressing the needs of women victims of domestic violence in Elbasan Region”, there, it is clearly seen the EU financing with the logo. In every activity organised by us, the banner was put in a visible place. The media, while filming the activities have put the banner in an obvious, clearly seen position in their chronicals.

Kick off was organised on March 23, 2012. The meeting hall was full and there the banner was put in that way that EU financing with logo, KtK co-financing with the logo, and WFE implementing was clearly seen. In the entrance hall we had put all awareness raising materials, prepared on the framework of the project, where every participant got a copy. The main banner was put in front of the meeting hall, where the activity was organised. The Prefect of the Prefecture, Elbasan, Mr. Shefqet Deliallisi, the Mayor of Elbasan, Mr. Qazim Sejдини, the Mayor of Cerrik, Mr. Servet Duzha, and other institutions were represented by deputy heads or heads of various departments, were present at this activity.

The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here.

It will be ok being published, may be only the part of the report who speak for concrete cases for the vitims not be be public

Name of the contact person for the Action: Shpresa BANJA

Signature:

Location: Elbasan

Date report due:30.01.2013

Date report sent: 31.01.2013

January 2012

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