

Zrenjanin Educational Center – Annual Report for 2007

PROJECT: Warning Serbian Children About the Lures of Human Traffickers

FUNDER: Geneva Global Inc.

TOTAL GRANT: \$29,090 (22,370€)

DISBURSED TO DATE: \$29,090

GRANT DATE: September 22, 2006

PROJECT FINISHED: September 30, 2007

REPORT DUE DATE: October 31, 2007

OVERVIEW: Facing bleak economic prospects in Serbia, many women and girls are lured into hard labor and sex slavery with false promises of glamorous and well-paid jobs abroad. ZEC curbs human trafficking in high-risk communities through media campaigns and school-based prevention programs. In this project, students, teachers, nongovernmental organization (NGO) staff and the public learn about the risks and consequences of human trafficking and how to educate others about the dangers traffickers pose. In addition women receive employment training to boost their economic independence.

Actual Results

- 926 students ages 12 to 15 were trained to work with their peers on problem of trafficking. The number was measured by post-workshops questionnaires. The final scope of this year campaign was measured by post-workshops questionnaires our young educators collected. They work with 4971 students and the total number is 5897 students.

- 363 took part in our workshops, as measured by follow-up questionnaires. The actual number was lower than we expected. Cause for this lies in two main reasons. The first one is that the most of these schools are small, and have a small number of teachers, some of them even work in few schools, and the second, and more disturbing reason is that the teachers does not understand the seriousness of the problem.

- There were 31 representatives of the NGOs and schools, 13 in Pancevo and 18 in Kikinda. Number in Pancevo was lower than the expected because we have some problems with local organization. There were representatives from five schools in Kikinda and two schools in Pancevo. They informed us about their work with students. Both in Kikinda and Pancevo representatives of Roma's associations were present. We also track the media coverage in these two towns. There were five stories in local media in Pancevo there was one newspaper article, radio report and TV report, and in Kikinda there were two newspaper articles and one TV report.

Conclusion:

We have good cooperation with local institutions in general and especially Police Department in Zrenjanin. Schools were open for cooperation too. We have a problem with local organization in Pancevo, next time we need to check twice if people are well informed. We need to develop our partnership with institutions in the future and work on development of the joint strategy on prevention the trafficking. The motivation of school teachers was lower than expected, and we need to work on there further motivation.

OUTLOOK

Plans to sustain follow up or expand achievements and plans to address areas for improvement.

It is obvious that there is a constant need for educational and preventive work with children in order to stamping out the trafficking. The sporadic actions of NGO's are not sufficient enough if we don't work with institutions. There is a need to work on advocacy in changing the policy of institutional approach to the problem. One-sided approach is not efficient enough there is a need for strategic and multi-agency approach to this problem, and Ministry of Education need to include this problem in educational programs. Schools must take leading role in prevention of trafficking in children. In the future ZEC will work on deepening and widening the network of cooperation in preventive work against trafficking in human being.

PROJECT: From Good Idea to Successful Business

FUNDER: Democracy commission Small Grants Program –US Embassy, Belgrade

TOTAL GRANT: \$20,376 (15,673€)

GRANT DATE: March 15, 2007

PROJECT FINISHED: December, 2007

REPORT DUE DATE: April 30, 2008

OVERVIEW: In the period of economic crises women stays without job more often than a man and have more difficulties to find a new one. Trough the years of our work on improvement the social position of women we made a conclusion that economic and social problems of women are closely connected. One of the main reasons way women suffer violence and stay with abusers lays in there economic dependence of their partners. That is way we develop programs of economic strengthening of women and support to development of women's entrepreneurship.

Actual Results:

-14 weekend seminars for 7 group of women in rural settlements in four municipalities of Banat: Zrenjanin, Secanj, Zitiste i Novi Becej.

- 111 women took part in our seminars. We worked on economic strengthening of women. Women learned how to make a successful business from the very first steps – how to become self confident, how to make business and financial plan, how to apply for credit and finally, how to run up business.

During the “16 Days of Activism against Violence of Women” 2007, we focus our activities on violence against “invisible women” – Roman women and women with disabilities. We printed and distributed leaflets, and we organized TV broadcast on local TV station with representatives from these two groups of women. Activities were funded by Municipalities of Zrenjanin.

Zrenjanin
January 15, 2008

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