



Međunarodna mreža pomoći I.A.N. International Aid Network

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

Project Name:	Early identification and proper assistance to torture victims among refugees from Middle East and North Africa
Donors:	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture UNVFVT
Contact person and email:	Jelena Lončarević jbakalic@ian.org.rs
<p>Short project description: This project is continuation of the project from previous year, funded by UNVFVT.</p> <p>The project seeks to improve health status and overall well-being of torture victims and their family members among refugees from Middle East and Africa currently residing in Serbia, through provision of comprehensive rehabilitation assistance including psychological, psychiatric and medical services. In close collaboration with relevant stakeholders (OHCHR, UNHCR, SCRM, Ministry of health, Ombudsperson's office, Asylum centers, international and national NGOs) IAN provides adequate and timely referrals to other needed services, such as legal, accommodation, asylum procedure, social services, etc. Holistic, victim-oriented approach in provision of rehabilitation services is essential first step in victims' recovery process. Psychological assistance includes psychological first aid, individual and group psychotherapy and psycho-education. Medical assistance includes first medical check-up and assistance, general and specialized diagnostic and therapy, including psychiatric interventions, and provision of pharmacotherapy. Assistance is provided through visits to asylum and refugee centers and at IAN's premises in Belgrade.</p> <p>Project duration: January 2021 – December 2021.</p>	
<p>Results in 2021: During the project lifetime, IAN provided support to 229 project beneficiaries – victims of torture among asylum seekers accommodated in asylum centers in Krnjaca, Bogovadja, Banja Koviljaca and Tutin, and in private accommodation in Belgrade. Some of the project beneficiaries were granted refugee status and some were still in the asylum process. Beneficiaries were mainly from Afghanistan, Burundi, Iraq and Iran, but also from other African and Middle East countries. Support was provided through 815 interventions that included group and individual psychotherapeutic and psychological support, psychiatric interventions and group educational workshops. Medical assistance included basic and specialized examinations, diagnostic and laboratory tests, and medicines. All beneficiaries were also provided with regular follow up on their physical mental health status. Moreover, IAN team provided beneficiaries with the information regarding asylum procedure and basic information regarding life in Serbia relevant to their integration. Beneficiaries provided feedback regarding assistance received from IAN, and expressed their gratitude for the intervention. They pointed out the usefulness and significance of such assistance, and especially of the working etic among IAN staff in particular the atmosphere of confidentiality, respect and professionalism, which brought</p>	

them back the human dignity after the ordeals they survived. In 2021 new group of beneficiaries appeared from Burundi. They fled from persecution in their country of origin, they are persecuted by their government based on their nationalities and political affiliation. They were brutally tortured, psychologically, physically and sexually. They were imprisoned by Government officials, took to so called Documentation and tortured for days, beaten, raped, humiliated, forced to be naked in the public, starved, thrusted, survived multiple sexual harassments by groups of perpetrators, threatened to beneficiary or their family etc.



Project Name:	<i>Community-based support in integration</i>
Donors:	UNHCR
Contact person and email:	Biljana Petrovic bpetrovic@ian.org.rs
Short project description: Project duration: January 2021 – December 2021	
Short project description: Project main objective was to strengthen integration capacities of asylum seekers through improvement and stabilization of their mental health condition and provision of specific psychosocial support and community-based trainings focusing on obtaining knowledge about relevant psychosocial and life skills needed for integration.	
Main Results: During the project lifetime, IAN provided support to 229 project beneficiaries - asylum seekers accommodated in asylum centers in Krnjaca, Bogovadja, Banja Koviljaca and Tutin, and in private accommodation in Belgrade. Beneficiaries were mainly from Afghanistan, Burundi, Iraq and Iran, but also from other African and Middle East countries. Support was provided through 815 interventions that included psychiatric interventions, group and individual psychotherapeutic and psychological support, and group community -based educational workshops.	
IAN collaborated with the group of artists on the organization of workshops for refugees and asylum seekers from AC Krnjaca. The workshops, using social-drama theatre methodology were aiming at greater social inclusion of the community members, combating and prevention of racism, xenophobia and intolerance in the public sphere. The outcomes of these workshops – handicrafts and theatre play were used for the UNHCR	

campaign for June 20th, the World refugee day.



Project Name:	Support to sustainable reintegration of returnees in Serbia
Donors:	German Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, and GIZ-Germany International Cooperation Organization.
Contact person and email:	Sanja Djurica sdjurica@ian.org.rs
<p>Short project description: Since the signing of the Readmission agreement between the Republic of Serbia and the European Community, a large number of people was voluntarily or forcibly deported to their country of origin, Republic of Serbia. Over 20000 Serbian citizens were deported from EU, out of which 75% is Roma population.</p> <p>Project objective is to improve mental health and reintegration/integration capacities of returnees and refugees/migrants/asylum seekers in Serbia. IAN achieved this objective through two sets of project activities that included provision of direct psychosocial support and mental health assistance to project beneficiaries, and building capacities of volunteers – students of social work and field workers that provided prompt and adequate reintegration support and referrals.</p> <p>Project duration: December 2020 – February 2023</p>	
<p>Main results:</p> <p>During the project implementation IAN provided its services to 139 beneficiaries (93 returnees, 10 locals and 36 refugees/asylum seekers).</p> <p>Beneficiaries referred to IAN services were usually extremely vulnerable on multiple levels: single parents, SGBV survivors, serious health (mental, physical or both) conditions, more than four minor children, low educational level, low employability, not regulated personal documentation – no access to public services (social assistance, health services, national employment service, education, etc.), living in unhygienic informal settlements. Utilizing case management approach and individually tailored intervention, IAN continued to provide comprehensive support in reintegration to project beneficiaries.</p> <p>During February and March 2021, IAN held three capacity building trainings for total 32 volunteers and field workers.</p> <p>Trainings covered several topics related to Mental health status of returnees, refugees/migrants/asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups, including traumatic experience</p>	

and the consequences it leaves on life, burn out, stress and stressor analysis, setting boundaries, psychosocial work practice, field experiences and challenges, situations of the first interview with beneficiaries. The knowledge IAN experts shared with trainees was mostly related to understanding of the psychological processes that characterize the relationship between beneficiaries and helpers, and to development of healthy strengths that will enable helpers to be at the same time empathetic and operational, warm and determined, committed and temperate in reactions.

Psychological support and psychiatric support were provided by IAN psychologists, psychiatrists, trained psychotherapist, experienced in working with highly traumatized persons. 60 project beneficiaries benefited from specialized individual, group psychotherapy, psychological support and psychiatric assistance.

Medical assistance was provided through private health clinic only to beneficiaries who were not able to access the public health system (lack of health insurance, urgency of health status, unavailability of timely access to specialist examinations, etc.). During project period medical assistance was provided to 25 beneficiaries.

Psychosocial support was provided through a network of volunteers – students of social work at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade. During the reporting period intensive support cycle was completed with 23 families. Focus of this activity remained on single mothers and families with a large number of children. Each family had assigned volunteer as a case manager who, together with the rest of the project team, program manager, social worker, psychologist and specific experts (psychiatrist, medical doctors), provided specific psychosocial support in reintegration focusing on specific individual needs of each family and its members.

Regular **supervision** for IAN project staff and volunteers was organized throughout the project period. 24 supervisions were held for groups of active volunteers. Additionally, all project staff and volunteers were provided individual supervision when needed. Group supervision sessions were used to discuss current cases, challenges they encountered in working with beneficiaries as well as with relevant institutions while providing support to beneficiaries in exercising their rights to social assistance, health services, education, employment, personal documents and residence.



Project Name:	Holistic Action against Torture
Donors:	European Commission – European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
Contact person and email:	Jelena Lončarević jbakalic@ian.org.rs
<p>Short project description: Project objective is to contribute to effective prevention of torture, fight against impunity and healing from consequences of torture in the Balkans. The objective of the action will be achieved through a model encompassing three interrelated and interacting domains of activity clusters—prevention, accountability and rehabilitation cluster.</p> <p>Prevention activities include: advocacy for implementation of UN CAT recommendations; advocating through Shadow report before UN CAT; Trainings for police staff; Providing support to NPM; Commemoration of UN Day in Support to Torture Victims; Raising awareness on importance of early identification of torture victims among refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>Accountability activities include: Provision of legal support and forensic examinations and Trainings on Istanbul protocol and UN Convention against Torture for legal and medical staff.</p> <p>Rehabilitation activities include: Establishment of the Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims in North Macedonia; Holistic rehabilitation of torture victims; Capacity building of women torture survivors and women members of their families; and Research on mental status and early identification of torture victims among refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>Project is implemented in partnership with Centre for human Rights Nis and Centre for Civic Initiatives, Prilep, FYROM.</p> <p>Project duration: January 2018 – April 2021.</p>	
<p>Results in 2021:</p> <p>Project was extended for four more months and lasted until end of April 2021. During that period IAN provided psychological/psychiatric assistance to 35 asylum seekers, victims of torture. Two focus groups were organized for the purpose of a research called “Game” with minors settled in reception centres. During this period of project implementation IAN published research results and disseminated publications to partners and all other interested parties.</p>	
<p>Link to publication: https://ian.org.rs/the-game-2/</p>	