



# Annual Report

## 2024

**Mary Ward Loreto**

**Albanian Mission Against Human Trafficking**

# Message from Our Executive Director

*Dear friends, partners, and supporters,*

*At the heart of the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation there is a simple but powerful belief: that every person deserves to live free, with dignity and without fear of exploitation. As I reflect on this past year, I am grateful for the resilience of those we serve, for the dedication of our team, and for the unwavering support from people like you who believe in our mission.*

*Our team of social workers and psychologists provided hundreds of survivors with personalized, holistic care. We stood beside them through the most difficult moments, offering not just services, but consistent, compassionate presence. It is our privilege to walk alongside them as they reclaim their lives, their rights, and their futures. Survivors received immediate protection, trauma-informed counseling, legal support, medical care, and long-term reintegration services.*

*We deepened our commitment to collaboration, working closely with local institutions, businesses, and communities to break the cycle of modern slavery. Together, we offered holistic support—legal aid, psychosocial counseling, vocational training, and shelter to those most at risk, ensuring no one was left behind.*

*Our outreach in schools and communities helped raise awareness among hundreds of students, educators, and families, reinforcing the importance of human rights, gender equality, and prevention strategies that build resilience and break cycles of abuse before they begin.*

*Altogether, we directly supported over 450 individuals through our integrated services – each story a testament to what is possible when compassion meets action. And none of it would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners. You are the foundation beneath our mission.*

*Behind each statistic is a human story. Behind every success is a network of people: staff, volunteers, donors, and partners, who made it possible. To all of you, I extend my deepest thanks. Your compassion fuels our mission, and your belief in justice lights our path forward.*

*As we move into a new year, we remain steadfast in our purpose. There is still much work to do, but we continue with courage, inspired by those we serve and empowered by the strength of our community.*

*With gratitude and hope,*

**Redion Qirjazi**

Executive Director

Mary Ward Loreto Foundation

# Who We Are & Our Mission

The Mary Ward Loreto Foundation (MWL) is a values-based organization working at the intersection of human rights, community development, and social justice in Albania. Inspired by the life and vision of Mary Ward—a 17th-century advocate for women's education and equality—we are committed to building a world where every person can live with dignity and freedom.

MWL is driven by a commitment to combat human trafficking and support the most vulnerable members of society in Albania. MWL provides essential services, including victim rehabilitation, education, and community development, fostering resilience and opportunity in impoverished areas.

Our task at hand is clear: to fight human trafficking and exploitation by empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and promoting a culture rooted in justice and respect for human dignity. We do this by walking alongside the most vulnerable—young people, women, and marginalized groups—offering not just support, but real opportunities to build safer, more hopeful futures.

# Our Mission, Vision and Core Values



The mission of MWL is to protect victims of human trafficking, empower survivors to live fulfilling lives, and support communities and society to become resilient and prevent future exploitation.



Our vision is to build a just and inclusive society, free of exploitation and with dignity for all.



Our core values are the cornerstone of our mission, guiding our actions and decisions to ensure we remain true to our commitment to freedom, dignity, and justice. They shape the way we interact with the communities we serve, fostering trust and driving meaningful change.

# Our Mission, Vision and Core Values

## Truth – shedding light

We are committed to revealing the harsh realities of human trafficking, advocating for transparency to illuminate the shadows where injustice thrives, and empowering survivors through shared knowledge. Our commitment to honesty and transparency guides our actions and communication, ensuring that we foster trust within our community and uphold a culture of openness.

## Responsibility – owning the fight

We take ownership of our commitments and impact, empowering ourselves and others to make ethical decisions and take decisive action to protect the vulnerable and create lasting change in policies and communities

## Integrity – acting with purpose

We will always do right by those whom we serve. We consistently align our actions with our values, creating a strong foundation of trust and respect with survivors, allies, and the communities we serve.

Mary Ward Loreto

# Our Mission, Vision and Core Values

## **Courage – standing for freedom**

We stand boldly against injustices, standing up for what is right and challenging the status quo, to drive meaningful change, to liberate those trapped in modern slavery and advocating fearlessly for their rights and dignity.

## **Compassion – connecting to empower**

By actively listening and understanding the diverse experiences of our beneficiaries, we cultivate empathy and connection, fostering a supportive environment that can empower individuals in their journey towards freedom and healing.

# Our Approach

In response to changing social dynamics and the growing complexity of exploitation, we have adopted a strategic approach based on three core pillars:

- **Protection and Prevention** – through our Advice and Service Centres, community outreach, and awareness initiatives, we help prevent trafficking and support those most at risk.
- **Empowerment** – our training and job-readiness programs provide youth and women with the tools to become independent and resilient.
- **Systemic Change and Advocacy** – we work to address the root causes of trafficking through policy engagement, research, and public awareness campaigns.

*What makes our approach distinct is the deep connection we maintain with the communities we serve. Our team lives and works within these communities, building trust and understanding from the ground up. We are both locally embedded and globally connected—part of the wider Mary Ward international network—allowing us to bring a broader perspective while remaining fully rooted in the Albanian context.*

# Programs, Projects, and Services

*Throughout 2025, MWL has maintained a similar operating structure as in previous years.*

*We structure our work into Programs, Projects and Services. Our programs delineate our main approaches to tackling HT; they each serve a unique purpose.*

*Our projects and services, on the other hand, stand at the heart of our operations. They are the mechanism through which we execute our support for our beneficiaries, and as such, they are interconnected and cross-cutting between the different programs.*



# Programs, Projects, and Services

Programs	Projects
Civic Education	Rise Up club
	Broad Based Organizing
	Service Learning
Human Trafficking and Advice and Service Centers	SAFE project – Supporting and Acting For Empowerment
	Empowerfull
	Addressing human trafficking and exploitation of the Asian community in Albania
	A Breakthrough to Growth and Competence for MWL
Economic Empowerment	STEPS
	Safe Haven Western Balkans

# Our Programs

## 1. Human Trafficking Program

*Mary Ward Loreto (MWL) addresses human trafficking through a comprehensive and proactive strategy.*

*This approach includes local rescue operations, victim support, and community engagement via Advice and Service Centres.*

*MWL's efforts are aimed at identifying potential victims and facilitating their reintegration and rehabilitation. Prevention is a key aspect of their strategy, combining economic empowerment with civic education programs.*

*These programs impart essential knowledge on human rights, legal awareness, and personal safety, empowering individuals to make informed decisions and mitigate risks.*

*By addressing both immediate vulnerabilities and root causes, MWL ensures a holistic and effective protection and prevention strategy against human trafficking.*

# Our Programs

## 2. MWL's Civic Education and Community Empowerment Approach

*Mary Ward Loreto (MWL) implements a Civic Education approach to empower youth and women through Service Learning (SL) methodology. As a leader in SL methodology in Albania, MWL builds youth leadership, promotes volunteerism, and addresses community and school issues such as media literacy, internet safety, online child trafficking, and environmental awareness. Notable outcomes include the creation of a hub for children with different abilities in North Albania, ensuring inclusive engagement and play, and drafting of school regulations to address internet safety for children. An awareness video was created to promote local tourism, showcasing the beauty and cultural heritage of Albania.*

*Through civic engagement activities, students gain an understanding of governance, rights, and responsibilities. In 2024, seven initiatives were implemented, with three SL projects piloted with non-formal youth groups. Three projects reached the final, each receiving Honor Mentions at the Regional SL Award among seven Central and Eastern European countries. These projects demonstrated the effectiveness and impact of MWL's approach in empowering youth and creating lasting change in communities.*

# Our Programs

## 3. Economic Empowerment Programme

*The Economic Empowerment Programme aims to foster empowerment, reduce illegal migration, and bridge the gap between aspirations and opportunities for vulnerable youth and women. This program is instrumental in combating human trafficking, organized crime, and illegal migration through vocational training and labor market facilitation.*

*Targeting individuals aged 16 to 30, the initiative provides comprehensive vocational training, including soft skills, labor rights education, career orientation, and workplace ethics. The objective is to equip participants with job-specific skills and a holistic toolkit for personal and professional growth, ensuring they are well-prepared to transition into gainful employment and achieve a projected 70% employment rate among graduates.*

*The Labor Market Facilitation component connects trained individuals with meaningful employment opportunities and on-the-job training. By partnering with local labor offices, offering intermediary services, and providing start-up support, the program enhances employability and fosters entrepreneurship. Participants receive essential toolkits and financial aid to support small business initiatives, empowering them to thrive in their careers, contribute positively to society, and follow lawful migration pathways.*

# Our Projects

## STEPS Project

*The STEPS project was a three-year initiative designed to reduce youth vulnerability to human trafficking by addressing the social, economic, and political barriers that prevent young people from reaching their full potential. Through a combination of support from Advice and Service Centres, vocational training, and civic engagement opportunities, the project empowered young Albanians to build meaningful lives within their communities. As the project concluded in 2024, it left a legacy of youth who are better equipped to contribute to Albania's development and resist exploitation.*

## SAFE Project – Supporting and Acting for Empowerment

*Building on the foundation laid by STEPS, the SAFE project, launched in October 2024, focuses on deepening youth participation in governance while simultaneously enhancing the skills of public officials. The project expands civic education to include youth outside formal education systems and engages them in non-traditional spaces, including local government forums and grassroots youth structures. Alongside this, MWL has introduced a tailored capacity-building framework for local officials, ensuring that public service delivery is more inclusive, responsive, and attuned to the needs of young people and vulnerable communities.*

## Step up to Rise Up: Steps Towards Recovery (Lezha)

*This project was implemented in both urban and remote areas where Mary Ward Loreto operates, aiming to enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of 300 women and girls, especially victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), including domestic violence and human trafficking. The initiative developed a training program to help survivors achieve economic independence.*

*The same project was implemented locally in Lezha, the project "Steps Towards Recovery" was applied with the support of the Lezha Municipality to enhance services and the quality of life for GBV victims and survivors. This project targets primarily women and girls from administrative areas in Lezha, improving service quality through a coordinated response with the Municipality of Lezha's Social Services.*

# Our Projects

## Support for the Filipino & Asian Community in Albania

*The Support project for the Filipino Community in Albania addressed human trafficking and exploitation by conducting mapping research and delivering direct services to 26 individuals, including emergency support for victims. The project fostered recovery and safety through timely access to counseling and legal aid, collaboration with local NGOs, the police, and other service providers. Additionally, social gatherings and three training sessions educated 20 participants on migrant worker laws, the Albanian labor code, and residence permit procedures. This initiative empowered the Filipino community by raising awareness about safe employment and their rights, contributing to a more coordinated protection system for vulnerable migrants in Albania.*

## Breakthrough to Growth and Competence (MWL Staff)

*Recognizing that internal capacity is critical to external impact, this project focused on strengthening the skills, ethics, and mental well-being of MWL staff members. The initiative supported staff development through clinical supervision, training in Cognitive Behavioral Techniques (CBT), and participation in national and international anti-trafficking conferences. These efforts have enhanced MWL's delivery of services, ensuring that both beneficiaries and staff are supported within a healthy, professional, and resilient organizational culture.*

## Safe Haven

*The Safe Haven Western Balkans Project aims to create sustainable practices for providing shelters and services to victims of trafficking (VoTs) across the region. By using a multi-level and multi-country approach, it seeks to strengthen local, national, and regional systems to ensure long-term support for VoTs. The project has three main objectives: improving access to quality shelter services, securing sustainable funding for service providers, and enhancing regional cooperation. Implementing these objectives involves working with local and international partners, including World Vision Albania, to conduct mappings, develop manuals, deliver fundraising training, and formalize government engagement in funding shelters.*

# Our Projects

## Empowering Women Through Broad-Based Organizing

MWL uses *Broad-Based Organizing* to empower women's groups to tackle community challenges in collaboration with local institutions. This approach has achieved significant results, such as securing funding for vulnerable children's afterschool snacks, initially backed by the foundation and subsequently adopted by local authorities.

Through leadership training, education on legal rights, child protection, and gender-based issues, women are empowered to engage with governance structures, advocate for improved services, and identify cultural, social, and economic barriers. This initiative connects women with key stakeholders, enabling them to confidently fight for their rights, their children's welfare, and their community's well-being.

## Rise Up Club

The *Rise Up Club* project, funded by Lezha Municipality, successfully supported 156 beneficiaries, including 40 women through various essential services such as psychological support, health care, food and hygiene items, and professional tools. Women in need benefited from emergency accommodation, individual and group therapy, and vocational training. Notably, ten women trained as hairdressers received professional tools to help them practice their new skills. The project concluded with a powerful community event focusing on women's employment, particularly for survivors of domestic violence and single mothers, advocating for flexible working hours to support childcare responsibilities. This initiative demonstrated a strong commitment to empowering women and fostering resilience within the community.

## Service Learning

Service learning is a transformative educational approach that integrates meaningful community engagement with academic learning, fostering both personal and social development. At MWL we apply service learning in the context of human rights and anti-trafficking work. Service learning has become a powerful tool for community empowerment in all of our areas of operation. Through guided, reflective engagement with vulnerable groups—especially women and youth in schools—students co-create solutions that address exploitation, inequality, and marginalization. These projects not only benefit communities but also build the resilience, leadership, and critical awareness of all participants. By merging theory with action, service learning cultivates a shared commitment to social justice and long-term systemic change.



# DIRECT SERVICES

*At the heart of Mary Ward Loreto's mission is a commitment to healing and restoring dignity to survivors of human trafficking and gender-based violence. Every service is delivered with empathy, professionalism, and a belief in each person's capacity for recovery and renewal. Survivors are supported not as cases, but as individuals on a path to healing, reintegration, and empowerment.*

## Advice and Service Centres: One-Stop Services for Vulnerable Individuals

In 2024, MWL operated a program designed to address the systemic gaps in human trafficking interventions and victim protection in Albania, in Rreshe, Lezha, Tirana, Lushnja, and Saranda. Despite existing legislation, victims often face difficulties accessing their rights due to poor implementation and deficiencies in victim identification and support systems. This left them vulnerable to re-trafficking and hindered efforts to reduce human trafficking overall. The ASC centers offer a coordinated, holistic response, collaborating with stakeholders to support vulnerable populations and aid in their reintegration into society.

To tackle these issues, MWL's Advice and Service Centers (ASC) across five regions of Albania (Rreshen, Lezha, Tirana, Saranda, Lushnja) provide a range of critical services:

1. **Advice and Referral:** The ASC team guides victims of human trafficking and gender based violence, and vulnerable individuals through legal procedures, offering referrals to authorities and service providers for issues such as human trafficking, domestic violence, unemployment, and homelessness.
2. **Direct Services:** Clients at ASC receive housing solutions, health support, training, and assistance in entering the labor market, empowering them toward sustainable futures.
3. **Counselling and Psychotherapy:** Free counseling and therapy are offered to both potential and actual victims of trafficking and gender-based violence, addressing trauma and fostering healthy coping mechanisms. An online platform was also developed in collaboration with UK-based survivors to ensure ongoing support.
4. **Legal Aid:** Legal assistance is provided to victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and abuse, ensuring they had the necessary resources and guidance to navigate legal processes.
5. **Holistic Capacity Enhancement:** Statutory service providers were trained in culturally sensitive approaches, trauma-informed care, and effective communication techniques to better serve vulnerable populations.
6. **Strengthening Protection Protocols:** The program emphasized creating robust safeguarding mechanisms to prevent exploitation, abuse, and neglect, equipping providers to identify red flags and collaborate with relevant agencies.



# DIRECT SERVICES

## Social and community services

1. **The Empowerfull Clubs and Community Healing.** MWL implemented the Empowerfull Programme, which focuses on empowering survivors of human trafficking and domestic abuse, supporting their journey toward holistic reintegration. By blending human and economic empowerment strategies, the program equipped survivors with tools, skills, and mindsets to rebuild their lives with dignity and courage. It aimed not only to help survivors overcome past traumas but also to foster self-sufficiency and a prosperous future, embodying resilience and renewed hope.
2. **Capacity Building for Statutory Services: Enhancing Service Delivery in Albania.** MWL's comprehensive capacity-building program aimed to improve service delivery standards and protection mechanisms for vulnerable communities in Albania. By developing a standardized curriculum for public officials, the initiative sought to enhance skills and effectiveness in addressing the unique challenges faced by these communities. Key components of the program included:
3. **Collaboration and Cross-Sector Engagement:** MWL facilitated networking, knowledge-sharing, and partnerships with local NGOs and community leaders to foster a cohesive, united approach to addressing vulnerabilities.
4. **The capacity-building initiative** aimed to create a more resilient and empowered society in Albania, where every individual receives the care and support they deserve.
5. **Vocational training orientation and support.** Our vocational training programs target individuals aged 16 to 30 and aim to equip them with job-specific skills and essential soft skills. The core components include:
  - *Soft Skills Training: Enhancing communication, teamwork, time management, and problem-solving.*
  - *Labour Rights Education: Educating participants on labor laws and fair treatment.*
  - *Career Orientation: Guiding informed career choices.*

# DIRECT SERVICES

## Social and community services

- *Ethics Training: Promoting integrity and responsible behavior.*
- *Youth Group and Employment Office Collaboration: Organizing recruitment events.*
- *Proactive Participants Guidance: Directing participants to vocational training events.*
- *Diverse Training Provider Network: Sourcing additional providers for quality and relevance.*

**6. Labour market facilitation and job intermediation.** Our Labour Market Facilitation program connects trained individuals to employment opportunities through:

- *Intermediary Services and On-the-Job Training: Facilitating practical exposure and employment placements.*
- *Collaboration with Local Labor Offices: Leveraging expertise and network.*
- *Equipment with Tool Kits: We provide trainees with essential tools needed for their profession to help them start their careers. For example, plumbers receive a tool kit, and seamstresses get a sewing machine.*
- *Start-up Support: We offer financial aid up to 500 euros to help small businesses with equipment purchases or rent subsidies.*

# Our Achievements This Year

*In 2024, Mary Ward Loreto reached hundreds of vulnerable individuals across Albania through direct services, training, advocacy, and protection programs. The charts below highlights our measurable impact this year:*

## 1.Human Trafficking Program

Total number of beneficiaries



Adults



Minors



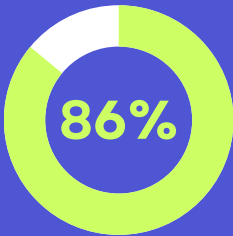
Women



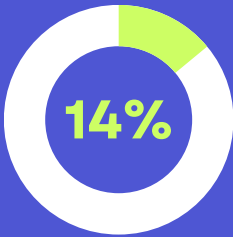
Men



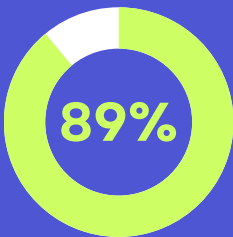
Adults



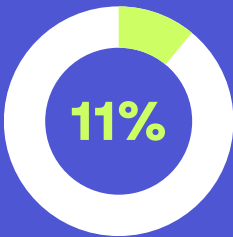
Minors



Women



Men



# Our Achievements This Year

*In 2024, Mary Ward Loreto (MWL) provided support to a total of 415 beneficiaries, offering a comprehensive range of services including advice, needs assessments, referrals to appropriate services, accompaniment to those services, emergency assistance, and direct support.*

NATIONALITY OF ASC BENEFICIARIES	Total	Women	Men	Minors
ALBANIAN NATIONALITY	<b>387</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>
Albanians inside the country	380	313	35	32
Albanians in the UK (through Medaille Trust):	7	7	0	0
OTHER NATIONALITIES	<b>64</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>32</b>
Philippines:	26	20	6	0
Cameroon	2	1	1	0
Afghanistan	17	0	0	17
Gaza	2	0	0	2
Egypt	9	0	0	9
Ukraine	8	2	2	4

Possible / Victims of Domestic Violence, Gender Based Violence, Human Trafficking	
Targeted Group	<b>336</b>
Victims of Domestic and Gender Based Violence (VDV / VGBV)	211
Potential / Victims of Human Trafficking (VOT)	36
Exposed (Potential) to Patterns or Early Signs OF DV/GBV (PVDV / PVGBV)	89
Identification Source	<b>247</b>
VDV / VGBV / VOT Identified at MWL ASCs	86
VDV / VGBV Identified by other entities	73
PVDV / PVGBV Identified at ASCs	88
Migrants & Refugees	<b>64</b>
People in need / poverty	<b>390</b>
Individuals with disabilities	<b>67</b>

# Our Achievements This Year

Support & Services Accessed by Beneficiaries	By MWL Projects	By other entities / through Referral & Coordinated Intervention
Advice and Referral	451	232
Emergency Assistance	115	69
Sheltering & Accommodation	47	29
Legal & Psychological Aid	62	34
Health Care Support	21	25

## 1. **Coordinated Response with Local Mechanisms**

*MWL has played a pivotal role in fostering a secure and compassionate environment for those in need, highlighting the transformative power of strategic and well-coordinated efforts such as:*

- Enhanced Protection for Victims: Successfully extended the stay of a trafficking victim in Albania, preventing forced return to their country of origin.*
- Strategic Partnerships: Strengthened collaborations with local authorities, including immigration and police services, to create a supportive environment for vulnerable individuals.*
- Effective Intervention: Facilitated critical support mechanisms through MWL's coordinated efforts, ensuring comprehensive protection and assistance for asylum seekers and trafficking victims.*

# Our Achievements This Year

## **2. Rise UP & EmpowerFull Clubs**

*The "Rise Up" clubs, integral to the EmpowerFull program, have demonstrated significant success across Lushnja, Lezha, and Rreshen. With 49 survivors enrolled, these clubs have delivered pivotal training on women's rights, life skills, and soft skills, shifting participants from a victim narrative to a goal-oriented mindset. This transformative impact empowers survivors to develop essential skills, enabling their independence and fostering stronger community bonds. The program's achievements are evident in the heightened awareness of women's challenges and the substantial progress made toward their empowerment.*

## **3. Strengthening Local Capacities**

*MWL's initiatives have markedly enhanced local capacities by training 108 local officials, which has resulted in improved service delivery. These efforts have led to more effective identification, protection, and support via better-coordinated local and national referral mechanisms. In Saranda, a key worker has been instrumental in mentoring and coaching new staff in child protection units and supporting border police with interviews and needs assessments for 34 detained refugees. These efforts have substantially strengthened local systems, ensuring comprehensive support for vulnerable populations, including minors and refugees, and significantly improving regional response to protection needs.*

# Our Achievements This Year

## 4. Awareness Raising Campaigns

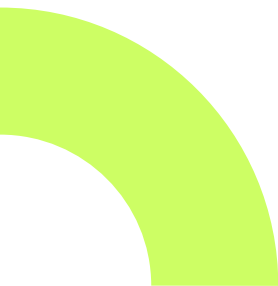
*MWL's active engagement in 2024 has raised significant awareness about human trafficking and exploitation, reaching over 600 individuals through targeted campaigns, focus groups, and public events. During EU Anti-Trafficking Month in October, MWL organized eight sessions in Rreshen, educating 331 young people, including 156 professional school students. This resulted in 11 additional cybersecurity sessions. MWL identified and assisted a minor returnee from Greece in the civil registration process. In Lezha, five more sessions reached 170 people, with a dedicated session for Roma and Egyptian communities. MWL also participated in national events during the European Day Against Trafficking in Persons on October 18 and organized a campaign in Rreshen and Rubik on July 30, reaching 230 children. On International Women's Day, awareness sessions focused on women's rights were conducted in Lezha, Rreshen, and Saranda. These campaigns have significantly impacted community engagement, driving proactive actions to prevent trafficking and support victims.*

# Our Achievements This Year

## 2.Economic Empowerment

*The Economic Empowerment program has significantly transformed the lives of many individuals by providing essential job coaching, vocational training, and employment opportunities. Through tailored support and practical training sessions, participants have gained critical skills and knowledge that enable them to achieve economic independence and stability. The program's holistic approach not only fosters personal growth and professional development but also strengthens community resilience by creating a more skilled and self-reliant workforce. These efforts have had a profound and lasting impact on individuals, empowering them to build a better future for themselves and their families. These are some of our numbers and figures:*

Support & Services Accessed by Beneficiaries	By MWL Projects	By other entities / through Referral & Coordinated Intervention
Advice and Referral	451	232
Emergency Assistance	115	69
Sheltering & Accommodation	47	29
Legal & Psychological Aid	62	34
Health Care Support	21	25





# Our Achievements This Year

## Economic Empowerment

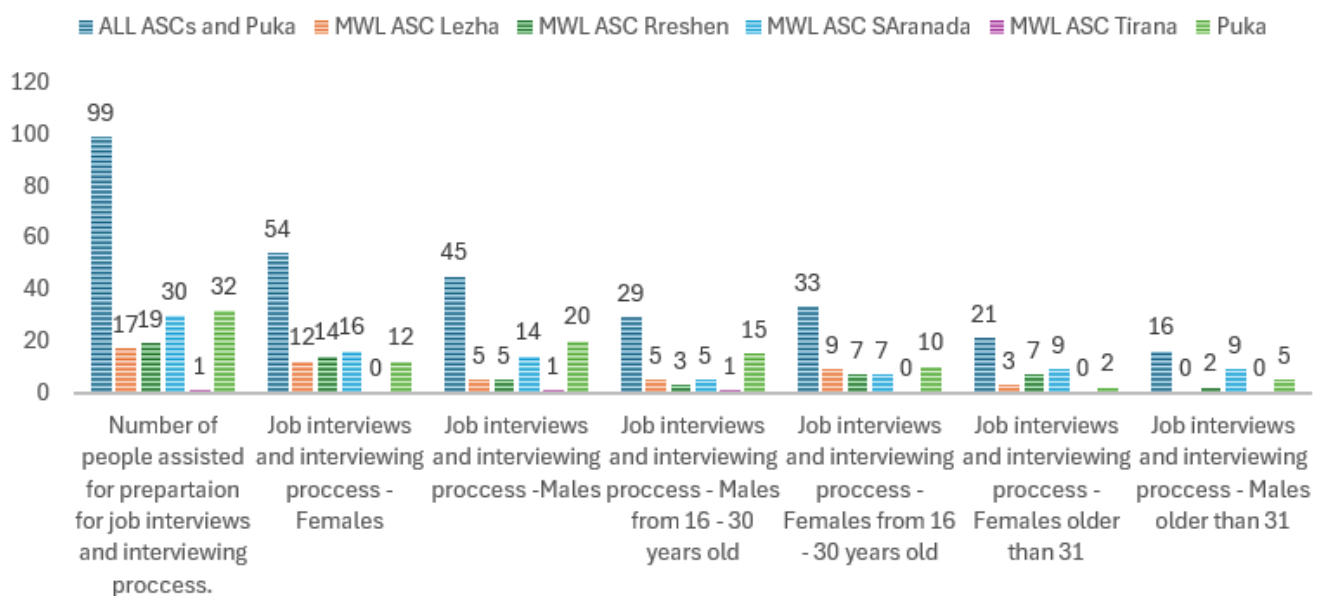
### NUMBER OF START-UPS DISTRIBUTED IN EACH WORKING AREA



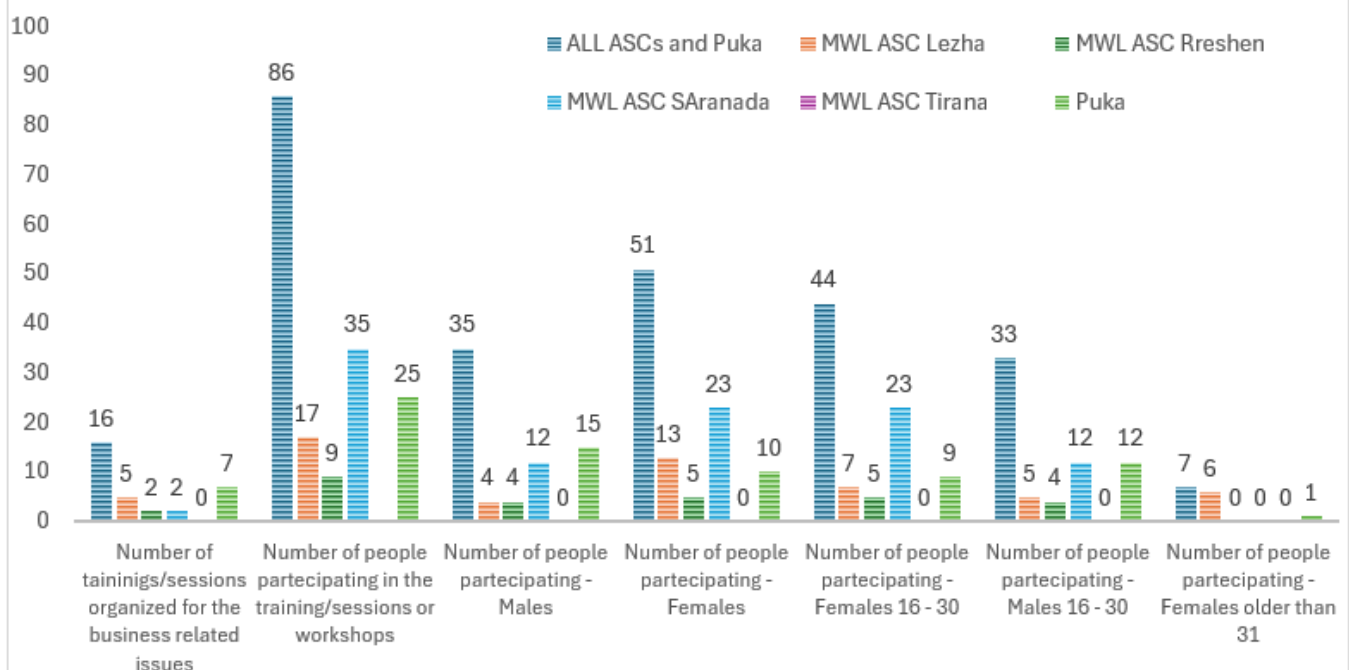
# Our Achievements This Year

## Economic Empowerment

### ASSISTANCE WITH JOB INTERVIEWS



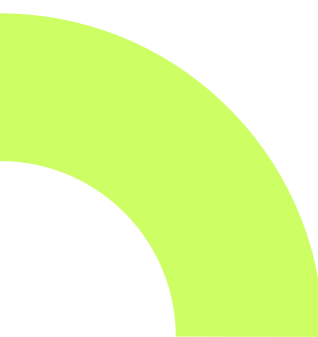
### TRAINING ON SOFT SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT



# Our Achievements This Year

## 3.Civic Education Program

*The Civic Education Program has had a profound impact on various districts, fostering youth leadership, internet safety, and community involvement through a series of targeted training sessions. By engaging hundreds of participants including students, teachers, and parents, the program has successfully promoted active citizenship, leadership skills, and awareness about human trafficking and online security. These efforts have not only empowered the young generation with crucial life skills but also strengthened the community's resilience against exploitation and risks associated with modern-day challenges. The program's emphasis on inclusive and practical education has resulted in a well-rounded development of individuals, preparing them to contribute positively to society. These are some of our numbers:*



# Our Achievements This Year

## Civic Education Program

No	District	Training Topic	Number of participants	Teachers/ Partners
1	Lezha	SL methodology	30 pupils	20 Teachers
2		Youth leadership	25	5
3		Internet safety tools	30	18 teachers/ parents
4		Internet safety through art /drama	35	8
5		Positive parenting	18	20
6		SL celebration event	110	45
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>110</b>

No	District	Training Topic	Number of participants	Teachers/Partners
1	Rreshen	Youth leadership	39	3
2		Active citizenship / Voluntarism	39	3
3		Online security for the children and teenagers	39	3
4		Different but equal in school and society	62	7
5		Human trafficking risks, and how to protect ourselves	39	3
6		Celebration event	120	15
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>34</b>

# Our Achievements This Year

## Civic Education Program

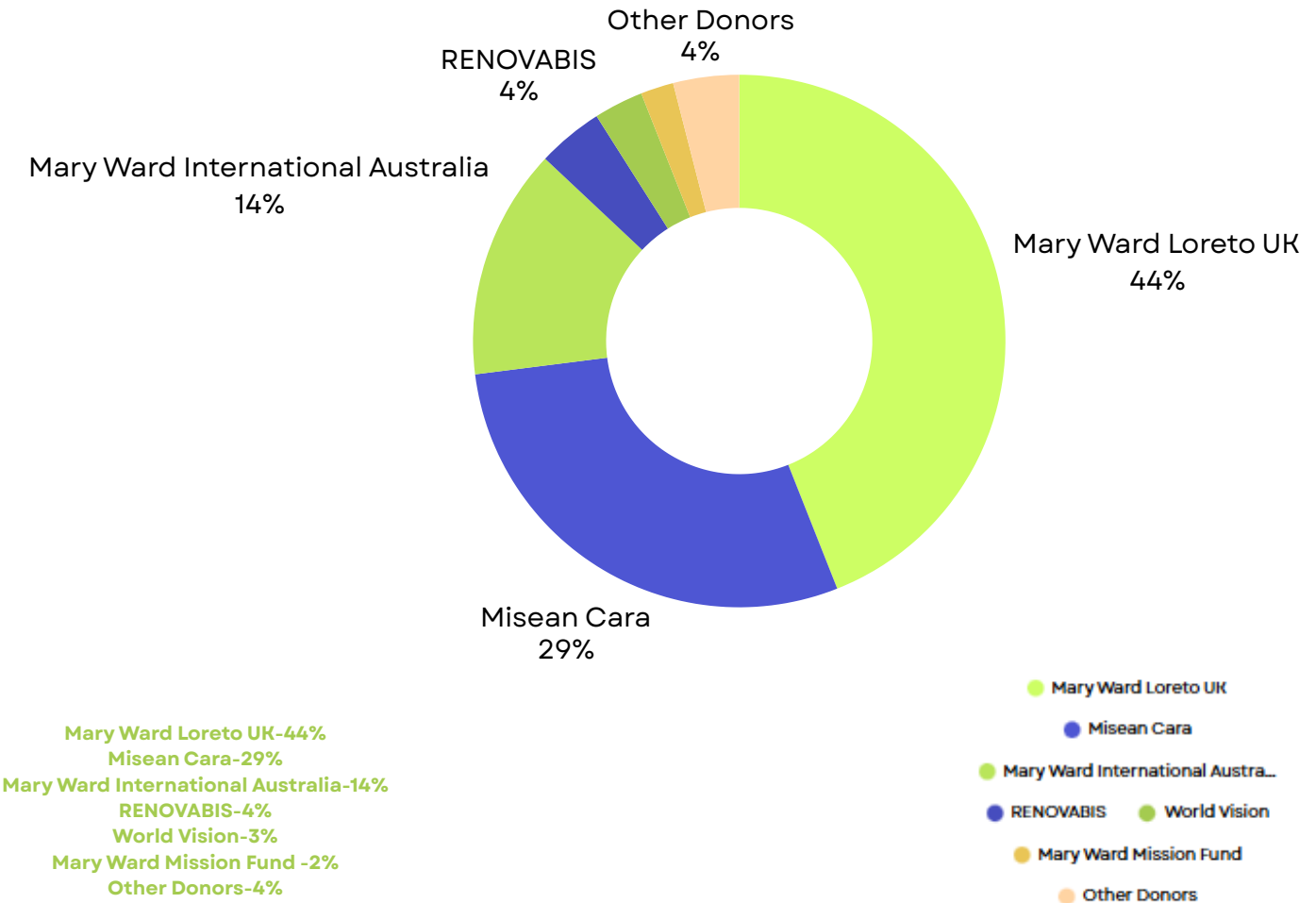
Nr	District	Training Topic	Number of participants	Teacher/Partners
1	Saranda	Service-Learning Methodology	78	8
2		Training how to promote the local tourism through photography	18	3
3		How to prepare a video	16	3
4		Social media and its influence	22	3
5		Celebration event	75	15
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>32</b>
Nr	District	Training Topic	Number of participants	Teacher/Partners
1	<u>Tropoja</u>	Supported a Summer Camp focused on developing youth leadership	300	15

# Financial Transparency

*At Mary Ward Loreto, we believe that transparency builds trust. Every contribution we receive is treated with care and responsibility, ensuring that donor support results in real, lasting impact. Here's how we steward the resources entrusted to us.*

## Where Our Funding Comes From

Our funding model is diverse, giving us the stability needed to carry out our mission even in uncertain times. This broad base of support allows us to remain flexible and responsive, especially as the needs of the communities we serve continue to evolve. The chart below outlines our primary income sources:

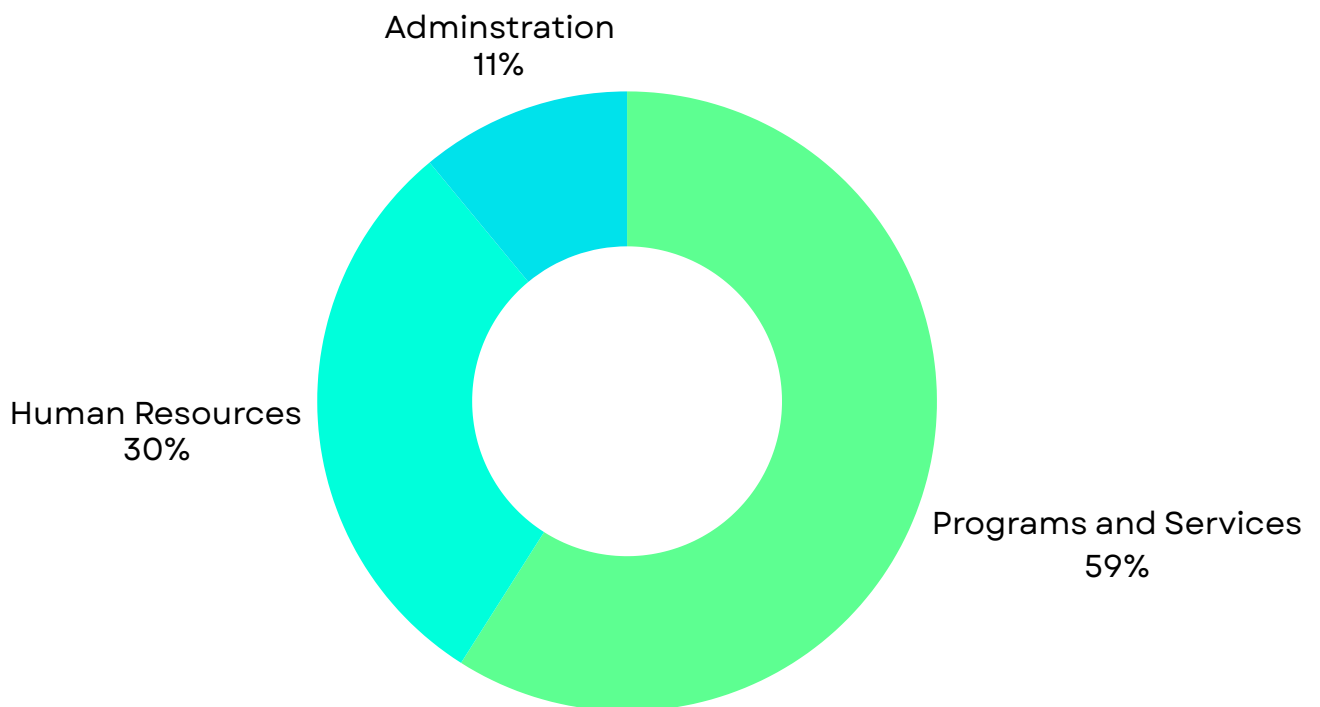


# Financial Transparency

## Using Funds Efficiently

*We allocate funds purposefully, with 59% supporting those impacted by trafficking through education, protection, and empowerment programs. Human resources receive 30%, ensuring skilled professionals deliver these programs effectively, while administrative costs are kept lean at 11%. Regular audits and transparent reporting maintain accountability and donor confidence, ensuring each donation has the maximum impact.*

### ***How We Use Donations***



# Financial Transparency

## Looking Ahead

***Our financial integrity is more than a policy — it's a promise.***

*As we continue to grow, we will maintain this commitment to transparency, guided by our mission and accountable to every supporter. Despite financial pressures this year — including growing demand for services and limited funding pools — we remained committed to efficiency and strategic use of resources.*

*We responded to those challenges by:*

- *Strengthening our fundraising efforts to reach new donors.*
- *Pursuing alternative grants and partnership opportunities.*
- *Increasing cost-efficiency while maintaining high program standards.*



# Lessons Learned and Future Responsibility

*At Mary Ward Loreto, every program, project, and partnership is an opportunity to listen, learn, and adapt. The past year has reinforced the importance of flexibility, local leadership, and survivor-centered strategies in our fight against trafficking and exploitation. Here's what we've learned — and how we're moving forward.*

## **Challenges identified**

- 1.Lack of Awareness and Social Stigma.** *In many communities, human trafficking is still misunderstood or denied altogether. Victims are often judged or blamed, which discourages them from coming forward. This stigma creates a heavy silence that our team has worked hard to break through, one conversation and awareness session at a time.*
- 2.Hidden Networks and Local Pressures.** *In small communities, traffickers may be socially or politically connected, which leads to indirect pressure on organizations not to intervene. Despite this, our local teams continue to act with courage and discretion, working alongside community leaders and institutions where possible.*
- 3.Identifying Victims.** *Trafficking cases often remain hidden due to psychological manipulation and fear. Victims may not report abuse because they fear retaliation against themselves or their families. Our strategy has focused on building trust — through safe spaces, empathetic staff, and consistent presence on the ground.*
- 4.Cultural and Patriarchal Barriers.** *In more traditional areas, especially in northern Albania, gender roles and family honor can make it hard for women and girls to speak out. We've learned that culturally sensitive engagement is crucial. Our local staff — often from the same communities — have been instrumental in shifting these dynamics through respectful dialogue and education.*

# Lessons Learned and Future Responsibility

## *What we've learned*

- 1. Adaptation and Flexibility:** Success demands agility. We must constantly evolve our strategies to address changing tactics and emerging trends, ensuring we never repeat past mistakes.
- 2. Continuous Education and Training:** Equipping youth, staff, and partners with specialized, up-to-date training is essential. This ongoing education prepares them to face and overcome field challenges effectively.
- 3. Building Trust and Supporting Victims:** Establishing a safe and supportive environment is paramount. By demonstrating sensitivity and providing psychological and social support, we strengthen victims' trust in our system.
- 4. Improving Communication:** Clear, effective communication among all stakeholder organizations, victims, authorities, and the community—minimizes misunderstandings and enhances collaborative efforts.
- 5. Increasing Awareness:** Over time, educational and awareness campaigns can reach a higher level within communities, reducing stigma and encouraging more collaboration from community members.
- 6. More Effective Collaboration with Institutions:** Investments in training and professional development for local authorities (police, social services) can strengthen cooperation, making interventions more coordinated and successful.
- 7. Innovation and Use of Technology:** The use of technological tools for identifying and monitoring trafficking cases can help in gathering evidence and ensuring faster case tracking.

# Lessons Learned and Future Responsibility

## *What we've learned*

**8. Change Requires Community, Not Just Services.** One of the clearest lessons from 2024 is that long-term change happens when communities are part of the solution. Awareness campaigns, civic education, and empowerment clubs have shown us that prevention is most effective when the message comes from within — from teachers, youth, and community leaders, not just service providers.

**9. Vulnerability Is Not Always Visible.** Through our Advice and Service Centres, we've seen how easily victims fall through the cracks — especially migrants, returnees, and minors without documentation. Many cases involved people who were not officially identified as at risk but clearly needed protection. This reinforced our need for sharper identification tools and partnerships with frontline agencies who know how to spot early warning signs.

**10. Internal Strength Enables External Impact.** Investing in staff training and well-being has proven essential. The Breakthrough to Growth and Competence initiative helped our team gain new skills in trauma-informed care and strengthened the quality and ethics of our service delivery. A supported team is a sustainable team.

**11. Legal Frameworks Are Only as Strong as Their Implementation.** While Albania has made progress in drafting laws against trafficking and GBV, gaps remain in how these laws are applied. Our advocacy efforts and legal aid programs must continue pushing for both implementation and accountability

# Lessons Learned and Future Responsibility

## *What's Next for Mary Ward Loreto*

***As we look to the future, we do so with hope and ambition, rooted in the lessons we've learned. Our intent is to :***

- 1. Deepening Awareness.*** Our long-term goal is to see trafficking awareness embedded in everyday conversations, in schools, families, and institutions. Future campaigns will build on the progress we've made, with a focus on youth and community-driven education.
- 2. Strengthening Institutional Collaboration.*** We aim to expand training programs for police, social workers, and local authorities, making sure all frontline actors are equipped to respond quickly and compassionately. Stronger coordination will mean faster interventions and better support for survivors.
- 3. Embracing Innovation.*** Technology has untapped potential in identifying, tracking, and reporting trafficking cases. We plan to pilot new digital tools and case management systems that will help us stay ahead of emerging trends and document cases more effectively.
- 4. Expanding Services.*** We are exploring new partnerships and opportunities to scale our Advice and Service Centres to helping foreign nationals who are victims of trafficking in Albania.

# How You Can Help?

*Every act of support brings us one step closer to a safer, more just society. Whether you're an individual, a business, or part of a community group – you have the power to make a difference. Your financial contribution helps us provide shelter, counseling, job training, and legal aid to those in need.*

➔ [Donate now at www.marywardloreto.org/donate](http://www.marywardloreto.org/donate)

## 🙌 Volunteer or Advocate

- *Share your time or skills through local initiatives and awareness events.*
- *Become a voice for change by raising awareness in your school, workplace, or community.*
- *Invite MWL to speak or partner with your organization.*

*Together, we can break the cycle of exploitation and build a future where every person lives with dignity and hope.*

*Get involved today – because change starts with you.*

# Acknowledgments & Thanks

*As we close another year of impactful work, I extend my deepest gratitude to the many individuals and institutions who make our mission possible. The progress we have made in 2024 is a testament to the generosity, dedication, and belief that our supporters place in us every day.*

*To our donors, including Mary Ward Loreto UK, Miseen Cara, Mary Ward International Australia, RENOVABIS, World Vision, and the Mary Ward Mission Fund, thank you for your steadfast commitment to social justice. Your contributions empower us to reach the most vulnerable, innovate boldly, and build lasting change.*

*To our partners in Albania and abroad, especially those in the URAT Network, local municipalities, schools, and frontline agencies, we are stronger because of your collaboration, wisdom, and shared vision.*

*To our dedicated staff and volunteers, your compassion and professionalism drive everything we do. You go beyond tasks and numbers; you restore hope, rebuild lives, and lead with heart.*

*To our board members in Albania and the United Kingdom, your strategic guidance and unwavering support are the backbone of our organization.*

*A special note of appreciation goes to our community members, the survivors, youth, and families who walk this journey with us. Your courage inspires our every step forward.*

*Together, we continue to build a future rooted in dignity, freedom, and opportunity.*

*Faleminderit from all of us at Mary Ward Loreto.*

*Redion Qirjazi,  
Executive Director*