



Empowering through Justice, Freedom and Sincerity

MWL Annual Report

October 2015 – September 2016

01

Systemic Change



**Staff Development and
Appraisal of the Action**

02

03

Grass Roots Action



Implementation Programme

04

05

Communication



06

Logistic



Finance and Funding

07

Mary Ward Loreto: Open and Ready for mission!

CONTENTS

Introduction	5
Assist a shift in Values, Assumptions and Beliefs	6
Reflective and Skilled Staff Force	8
Democratically-Led, Values-Driven Process	11
Expressing in Action the Values and Goals of MWL	13
MWL Education Project.....	14
MWL Values Translated Into Multimedia Opportunity for Change	15
Benefit Outcomes for all MWL Work	17
Ensuring Best Practice Based on the Values of Freedom, Justice and Sincerity ...	19
The MWL Development Projects	21
- <i>Mary Ward Loreto Youth Project</i>	21
- <i>Mary Ward Loreto Women Project</i>	24
- <i>Mary Ward Loreto Men Project</i>	26
Conclusion	29
Acknowledgements	29

MWL Annual Report October 2015 – September 2016

INTRODUCTION

This report illustrates, with many different forms of graphics and words, the work, the breadth of vision, the focus and the action of Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, from October 2015 until September 2016. At the heart of this work is the goal to reduce the number of trafficked victims and to bring justice to the perpetrators through the work of systemic change and grass roots action. MWL has used modern means of communication, and has ensured best practice from MWL staff and partners, using correct procedures and hospitality for all of the work. MWL has shown respect and gratitude for our visitors, both cross border and in country in the development of the net-working process. Everything has been under-pinned with ethical finance accountability. The breadth of the work is seen clearly and includes work across borders, nationalities, faith traditions or none, embassies, NGOs, statutory systems, the ministry and the government, here in Albania and Internationally. The focus is the prevention of human trafficking in Albania, the rescue and reintegration work of the victims of trafficking, raising awareness against trafficking and finally campaigning, advocacy and lobbying against this heinous crime.

Empowering through Justice, Freedom and Sincerity

Assist a shift in Values, Assumptions and Beliefs

01

Systemic Change

- **US: Ant –Trafficking Liaison Work**
- **ICITAP: Police Liaison and Training**
- **UNWomen: Liaison re Systemic Change and Human Rights Work**
- **Statutory: Local: Municipality/ Employment office/Social Care**
- **National: Anti trafficking Minister, Education Minister**
- **ANDANTE: Human Rights for Women in Europe**
- **Work with three Journalists for anti Trafficking Work: St Bakhita Day**
- **NGOs in Albania: For Resources and for Networking: Peace Corps, Roma Organisation, YUNUS, Sue Ryder Foundation**
- **Norway and Denmark: Presidents work against trafficking with NGOs and grass roots workers**
- **Direct work with OSCE: opening doors – staff engaged in OSCE training in the Balkans**
- **In Rome for Development of 2nd Assembly of RENATE**
- **Work with Medaille Trust – our partners in the UK: Cross border trainings and meetings in Albania**
- **Involvement of MWL in Global Notice Board Development**

Over the last year we have been fortunate to develop a relationship with two of the embassies working in Albania. The Ambassador from the Australian Embassy and key workers have visited on several occasions in order to understand the work of the Foundation and share this with similar Foundations in Australia working against human trafficking. Consequent to these visits the Embassy is part funding the MWL youth project and in particular the work being accomplished in the very difficult region of Puke. The on-going meetings at the US Embassy have been with the Commission for Human Rights and in particular at the office and in regular communication with Geoff Parker who writes the document for the TIP report for the US bi-annual report. We also have an on-going relationship with one of the key workers of ICITAP, William Morrell, also a MWL Board member. Regular meetings have occurred and training with police officers have been led by MWL in the field of anti-trafficking. Our partners D&E and SHKEJ are co-trainers in this work. The human rights approach in the work at MWL involves the organisation in speaking out for justice in all aspects relating to poverty and the denial of dignity for any human being in Albania.

The meetings which have taken place during these six months with UNWomen, the deputy mayor of Tirana, the deputy minister of the Interior with the port-folio of Human trafficking, the deputy Education Minister, SOROS, the Media, ANDANTE, YUNUS and all organisations now working together in the network called URAT, have worked in collaboration to accomplish systemic change in Albania. This is the aim in campaigning against corruption, lack of ethic and all forms of the denial of human rights to the people whom we serve. Issues which have arisen are: huge unemployment in Albania, no freedom to develop craft markets at seasonal times, corruption and lack of ethic in the education system in Albania, the increase of human trafficking amongst children and minors, human rights for women in a patriarchal culture and the lack of an ethical health care system. Each step we take confronts us with many challenges but we are not daunted and go forward with more hope and determination to continue this work of justice and to obtain greater freedom in the society of Albania with a human rights and joined-up approach. During this reporting period new strong networks have been forged with OSCE. Through this new relationship, staff members are engaged in OSCE workshops across The Balkans, working together to look at new strategies and ways of working for the rescue, reintegration of victims and good policy making in the work against the trafficking in human persons.

Reflective and Skilled Staff Force

02

Staff Development and Appraisal of the Action

- **Staff Professional Development:**
ERSTE Courses, English Language and other crossborder trainings

Peer group training: feedback to staff of ERSTE Courses in house.

Staff Care Week – Film Making

- **Training of Staff in Broad Based Organising and Transformation for Change**
- **Training of Staff in Fund Raising: Global Impact**
- **Staff Appraisals and Renewal of Contracts, two new full time workers.**
- **Induction Week for New Staff**
- **Evaluation of Action with Partner Organisations: RENATE, D&E and SHKEJ**
- **UK Trainer: Micro Business Development Training**
- **Training in Web and Marketing/ Webinar**
- **Development of URAT Network Against**
- **Trafficking: Involvement of MWL**
- **Reports: Evaluation Regularly**

The challenge and the human psychological and physical strength needed to achieve systemic change demands great wisdom of approach and the mental ability and skills to work step by step in the field. Therefore this work is not just at central level but also in the empowerment of all beneficiaries so that they participate in this work for justice where they live. To work with such wisdom in the field means MWL has to ensure that all MWL staff has the professional development and the human support to face the challenges and to make decisions with beneficiaries which will accomplish this goal. During this year, the main donors of MWL enabled some of the staff to benefit from courses run by ERSTE in Europe. The following topics were covered: Public Speaking and the Media, Simplifying EU Funding, and a longer course on Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Micro Businesses. Two staff also followed a course for one week in the UK on tackling human trafficking. Three members of RENATE on the MWL staff, participated in the training in Hungary on Campaigning, Lobbying and Advocacy and two members benefited from the RENATE training on Transformation for Change. Trainings on-line in fund raising, for nine members of staff and for three months, was led by Global Impact a Foundation in USA.

In Albania MWL organised in-house training on Broad-Base organising, public speaking and for working with the web and the media. Two members participated in the OSCE workshop for Balkan members on Human Trafficking during August. These skills development abroad and at home were accompanied by on-going staff appraisal and project appraisal on a monthly basis. This also included the mentoring of our key workers in partner organisations funded by our main donors who have a similar goal of working to combat human trafficking at grass roots level and for systemic change. External non-managerial supervision is another means for accomplishing this goal and to ensure that MWL staff is able to forward the work with greater clarity and freedom.



The in-house development of the Network called URAT has also been a challenge and achievement during this year. It is a network against human trafficking which has brought together six congregations, Peace Corps, D&E, SHKEJ, the National Roma Organisation and MWL. Over this time the network has developed into a working group with the common goal of reducing human trafficking in Albania.

The main work has been in developing the UNGift box campaign. We have been on a learning curve working across border to accomplish this goal with ethical proceedings. It has been a massive task. It is remarkable to see the fruits of this work as staff, partners and beneficiaries alike become empowered step by step to tackle this challenging work. They have achieved much in the midst of the corporate struggle to break down the many chains which trap the victims facing such injustice in Albania. Now as we approach October the UNGift box events have taken place in Durres, Saranda and Tirana.



The events have been a huge success and nearly 6,000 persons have had their awareness raised regarding the ways of human trafficking, the rescue process and the emergency ways in which local people can make a difference. A film has been made of these events which has been shown to the public as another conscious way of preventing trafficking in human persons.

This film festival also showed a film made by four of the MWL staff during the staff care week in May when all staff became involved in learning the art of film making. Four films were produced one regarding trafficking and safe migration, called 'The Passport', and shown at the film festival, the other three were related to poverty and unemployment in Albania and the issues around this, gender inequality and the fourth was a film made to highlight the working together of the staff of MWL. Staff training has continued throughout the year in house and have included, First Aid, Radicalisation of the Moslem youth of Albania, log Frames and strategic planning, business management, and staff feed-back from all of the ERSTE courses.



FESTIVAL OF FILMS

Invitation

Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE) and United Response Against Trafficking (URAT), is pleased to welcome all in this festival of films, on 17th of October, at the Cultural Centre of Orthodox Church, at 19.00-21.00 p.m.

Four films will be shown during the evening, they will be focused on the work against human trafficking. We hope you will be free to attend this event and join us in the reflection we will have on our work together against this heinous crime against humanity.

With thanks,
Mary Ward Loreto Foundation

**CALLLED TO GIVE VOICE
TO THE VOICELESS**

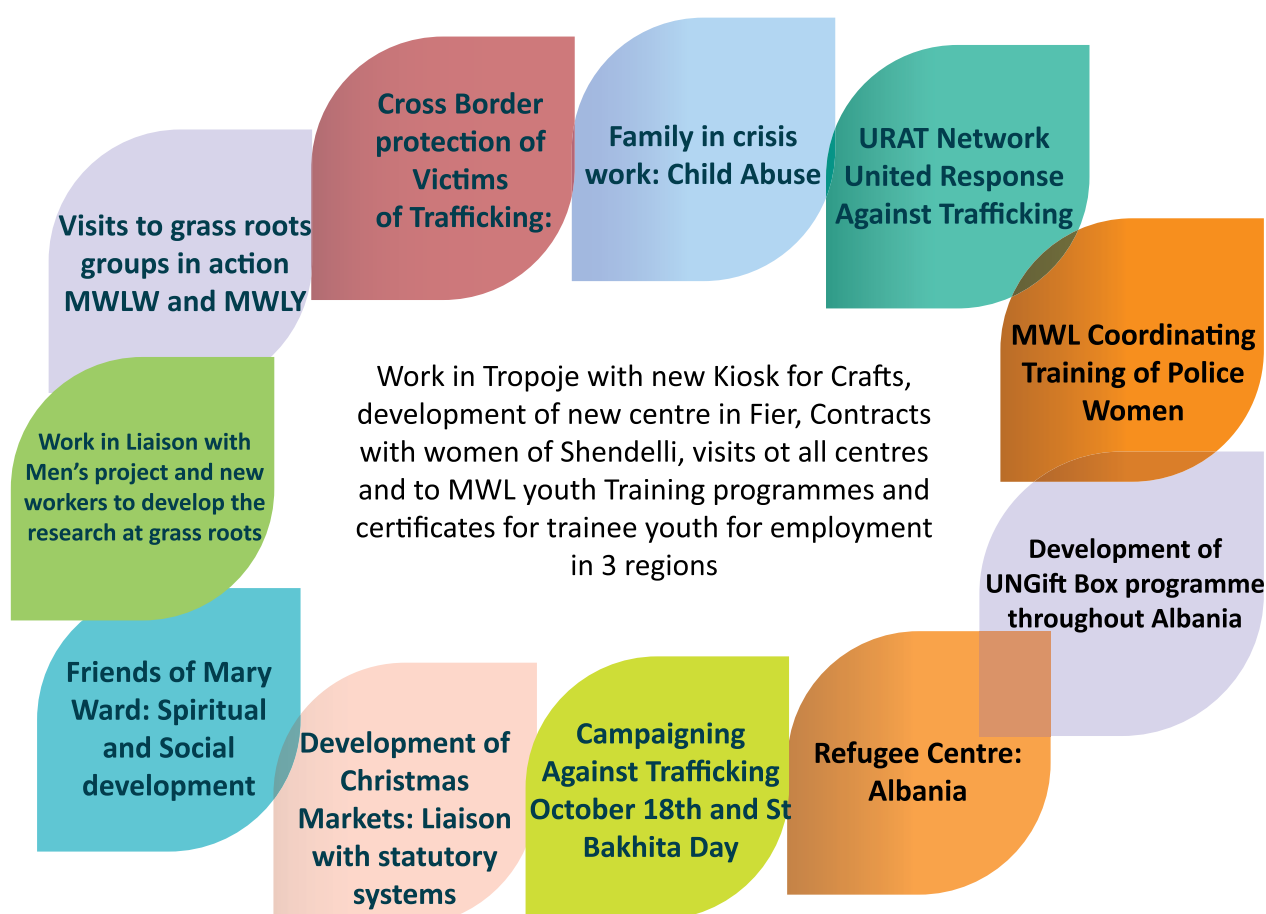
Venue: at the Cultural Centre of Orthodox Church in the center of Tirana.
Date: October 17th, 2016
Time: 19.00-21.00



Democratically-Led, Values-Driven Process

03

Grass Roots Action



This work of accomplishing systemic change through a human rights approach is achieved in liaison with all key MWL workers in the field. Regular visits are made by MWL umbrella staff to support the work and to aid understanding of the issues being confronted by all key workers and beneficiaries. The work of ensuring a sound basis for the establishment of the MWL Men's project has been part of the work at grass roots, over the last three months of this reporting period. The stories which arise from this grass roots work gives credibility to the lobbying and campaigning taking place at national and international level and led by MWL. The stories of the victim and the reality of the beneficiaries are to be told and are the basis for effecting change. Stories are also part of the work which comes to MWL through the emails received from the back of the Albaniahope website or more directly with requests, cross border, to support the trafficked victims either returning to Albania or who need support abroad. This work is usually very clandestine and needs a prudent approach which both protects the victim and the MWL staff. One member of staff is supported in her work of cross border counselling of victims one day a

week. This work is vital for the human release of many Albanian victims trapped in situations abroad and who are struggling to get their voice heard. Situations arise which also have to be treated with great confidentiality. This rescue work has been taking place across border during this reporting time with our colleagues in England, Germany, Italy and Latvia. MWL has been requested by the church to support cases of dire poverty or girl victims of child abuse. Cases have arisen during these six months which have taken time and huge compassion to free these vulnerable people from the horror of such abuse.

This work also includes the support of developing the market in Tirana for crafts sales and the huge issues which arise at statutory level to achieve the goal of developing these micro businesses. Through the working together as part of the URAT network, visits have been made to the main refugee centre outside Tirana and clothes and needy items have been donated to the refugees who receive little funding from the government but who have good conditions for living and for rehabilitation purposes. The refugees have less than 2\$ a day for basic needs and food. MWL has been pro-active in campaigning for human rights and against trafficking in Albania. Events have been organised from the central office at the time of October 18th, the European day against Trafficking and on Bakhita day, February 8th, the International day of prayer against trafficking. It has been heartening to have the support of Bishop George Frenco OP on the latter occasion, who led a moving liturgy against trafficking at the Cathedral in Tirana on February 8th.

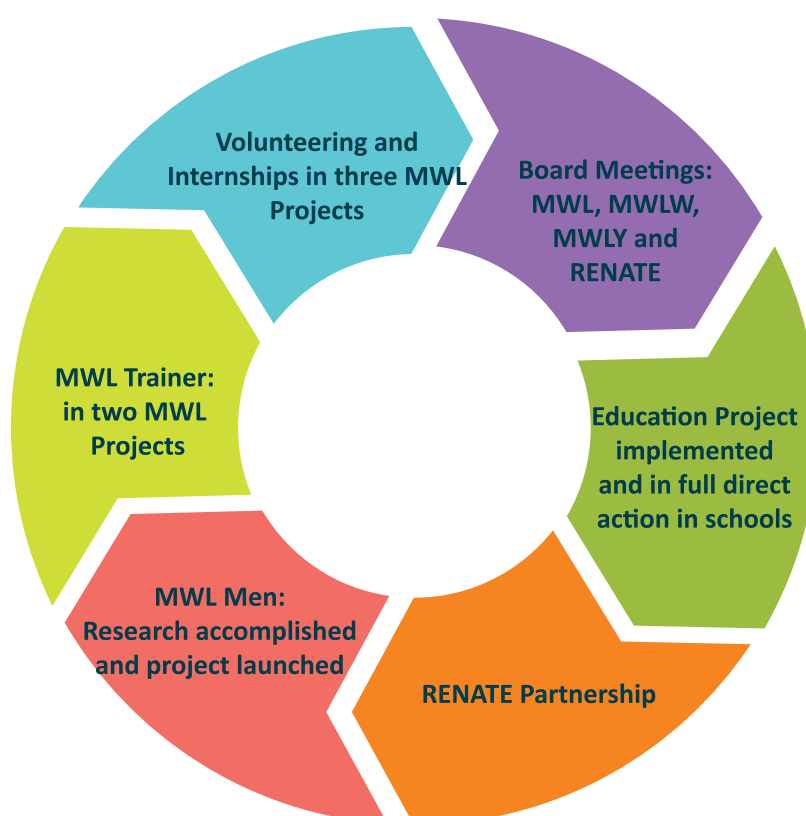
ICITAP, a Foundation within the American Embassy, requested for a third time this year, that MWL coordinate the training of Police women who are in process of being promoted to higher office within the police force. This training took place at the offices of MWL in May and all our partners from D&E and SHKEJ participated in this training as well as the managers of projects from the MWL staff. Fourteen policewomen were trained at this time in the work against trafficking and the direct work with the victims of trafficking.



A new venture has been the on-going work for three months in the building and opening of a kiosk for selling crafts in the tourist Tropoja region in the north, called the Valbona Valley. The venture has been a great success and other MWL centres are sending their crafts from the MWL Women groups to be sold in this Kiosk. A new centre has also been opened in Fier and new developments are taking place there for the opening of a market in the tourist region of Apollonia. Visits take place throughout the year to all of the MWL Women centres and also to support the developments of the newly launched Youth project in the three focus groups area and in the trainings taking place throughout the year in this project.

Expressing in Action the Values and Goals of MWL

04 Implementation Programme



During this reporting period MWL launched new initiatives and has re-orientated some of the existing staff. To implement the action at MWL we realise the need to be flexible and available for best practice. The goals and objectives of the Foundation are forever in mind and the purpose is the alleviation of poverty effected by a constant focus on systemic change and empowerment of all beneficiaries. With this aim and after much reflection one of the key psychologists for MWLW has moved from her position as social/psychologist in Shendelli. The work in this place, which is now centred on micro business development, has been passed on to one of the women leaders in the group in Shendelli. This woman is receiving on-going leadership training by the MWLW managers. Meantime the social/psychologist, who has a particular forte in training and research is now a MWL worker available to all projects. She has moved to Tirana. Now her work is focused on training programmes for MWLY and for MWLW. She is also conducting a research into the standards and purpose of all NGOS in Tirana in preparation for the opening of an advice centre for women in the next financial year.

Volunteers play an important role in the implementation of the work at MWL. MWLY has been particularly innovative in the development and training of volunteers and interns for the work. Likewise MWL men could not have accomplished the work without the help of exceptional volunteers and interns from the University of Tirana.

The head of two departments at Tirana university are interested in extending this involvement of interns with the MWL Foundation. The conscientisation of staff and students at these universities will enable MWL to influence and strengthen the work for systemic change, from a human rights approach and we are happy for these opportunities.

MWL Education Project

It is very pleasing to announce that after much challenge and particularly with the pressures and prevarication of the ministry of Education, the MWL Education Project is now in full process of being implemented and in full direct action in schools. This did not actually begin until beyond the reporting period, in October, 2016 but all strategies were in full play to realise this throughout the month of September.

Towards a more ethical and higher standard of education for all Research project:



In order to contribute to systemic change in the Education System in Albania, Mary Ward Loreto is focused on issues of values and beliefs by addressing issues of ethical behaviour, tackling weaknesses, and exploring opportunities to strengthen selected aspects of the education system. For this purpose, a study has been designed that will analyse the perceptions and attitudes of pupils, students, teachers, parents, and lecturers, on their perception of ethics in education and the reasons for unethical behaviour, the types of its

occurrence, and of corruption cases. This scaled-up study will present some policy recommendations in order to overcome the identified problems. It is because of the utmost importance placed on values development, by Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, that it has been decided by the Foundation to forward the research in the field of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in Albania, as a focus to work for systemic change.

Objectives

The main objectives of this study are to describe unethical behaviors in all levels of education and to provide recommendations for the development of national programs and policies for ethic progress in the Albanian Education System. For this, a mixed-methods sequential explanatory design will be employed to measure ethic level in the Albanian Education System. The mixed-methods sequential explanatory design consists of two distinct phases: quantitative followed by qualitative. In this design, first we will collect and analyse the quantitative (numeric) data. The qualitative (text) data will be used to help explain, or elaborate on, the quantitative results obtained in the first phase.

Target group

The whole public education system will be included, starting from Kindergarten until Masters' level at the University (from 3 year olds until 25 year olds) nationwide. Teachers, parents and children nationwide will be included based on the above-explained methodology. The results will be then shared widely, so that we can encourage systemic change in all levels of education. The Action Plan is now being fully implemented for this project.

MWL Values Translated Into Multimedia Opportunity for Change

05

Communication



The website and all forms of communication used by MWL and implemented by the MWL website officer and secretary have been pivotal in the developments and new initiatives taking place during this time. The work in implementing the goals have a powerful tool in the dynamic use of the internet and social media. We are very happy to have as an expert, the MWL worker who develops all of this work. Cf www.albaniahope.com and FB Mary Ward Loreto. The work of advocacy and campaigning against trafficking through the MWL projects and for influence internationally, have this tool as an ally and a powerful weapon against this crime of human trafficking.

Mary Ward Loreto Website: www.albaniahope.com

LOCATIONS OF THE PROJECTS
WE ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED



SEE PICTURES OF THE PROJECTS
WE ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN



READ OUR THOUGHT FOR THE DAY AND
WATCH THE FLOWER BLOSSOM



Benefit Outcomes for all MWL Work

06

Logistic

1	Coordination and line manager of Drivers for MWL. Accountability for MWL Vehicles
2	Coordination of all staff each month for daily needs of transport for the mission of MWL
3	Preparation, in liaison with other drivers, for logistics of training programmes realised by MWL working at grass roots
4	Logistics for staff training days and Staff Care week
5	Booking of accommodation for all over- night training and work of staff at MWL. Booking of accommodation and liaison with hotels for staff care week and for Project conferences.
6	Line manager for the cleaner and cook for MWL. Coordination of all needs re the kitchen and MWL offices
7	Coordination of all work relating to the needs of the MWL Offices and MWLW centres in five regions of Albania. Regular updating of Inventory for MWL
8	Coordination of the building of the UNGift box in preparation for anti trafficking campaign: Albania, June – October 2016.
9	Logistics for all meetings of visitors and Board meetings at MWL

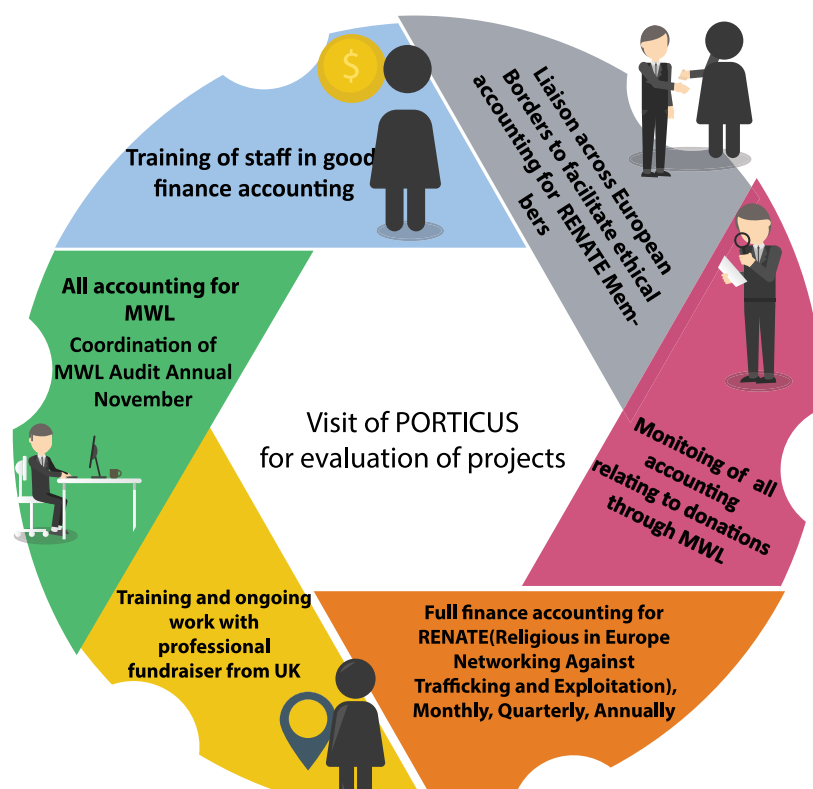
The hub of Communications, Finance and Logistics, working with energy and intelligence, lies at the heart of the good practice of MWL. Work programmes are devised monthly by all 17 members of the MWL staff. These programmes are carefully coordinated by the logistics team regarding the need for cars, drivers, materials for training programmes, conferences, travel and accommodation for grass roots workers. The work also includes care of all buildings including the six MWLW centres and the offices in Tirana, plus a newly established centre in Tirana which is about to open as an advice centre for the local women. It is no mean feat to achieve these many tasks but it is vital work for ensuring the smooth running of the work to implement the action in the field and to ensure all guests coming to MWL are received with graciousness and hospitality. This excellent team also includes the cleaner and cook who services the needs of visitors and produces a nutritional, light lunch each day for the staff present in Tirana.



Ensuring Best Practice Based on the Values of Freedom, Justice and Sincerity

07

Finance



All finance accounting and the stewardship of finances, donated for the implementation of the action, is a major concern for MWL. The Finance Manager, employed by MWL, oversees this work and ensures ethical accounting of all monies which pass through the MWL bank accounts. We are happy that such good work is achieved. The work is not only in accounting but also involves the training of staff in finance management. Emphasis is laid on good stewardship of all the funds received by those to whom it is donated and that the beneficiaries receive the full benefits from this funding. Fund raising and fund saving are seen as an integral part of this finance accounting. This work is assessed by all regularly, to ensure we proceed ethically.



Ensuring Best Practice Based on the Values of Freedom, Justice and Sincerity

07

Funding



During the year our main donors have been to visit to assess, monitor and support us in the development of our work. We are grateful to Markus Janzen for his tireless support of this work of MWL in Albania and of our partner organisations.

During the summer months opportunities were taken to fund raise in the UK in the parishes and with friends and local communities. Successful outcomes resulted from these efforts and the work in these small ways is always on-going. Two meetings took place in August with

two separate potential funding bodies in London, one in relationship to building the hub of all websites working against trafficking european wide and then gloabally and the involvement and participation of MWL and RENATE in the global notice board managed by the same Foundation, Anchor Housing Trust.



The second meeting was with the CEO of the organisation called ARISE which is newly founded but is working to fund grass roots projects working against trafficking. MWL has put in three funding bids to this Foundation. MWL lives in hope that all the dreams will be realised, little by little.

From July through to September MWL has ventured into new work of fund-raising with Andrew Harston from the UK who has his own philanthropic Foundation called St Michael's. Andrew is also the development officer for Durham university. Andrew came to Albania in September and gave an initial formation on how we could work together in this massive task of fund-raising and in making MWL sustainable. We learned many new skills which could immediately be made effective. We are hoping for better results from our work in this field over the next financial year.



MWL Projects Development

It is important to express in some small way the amazing work being accomplished by the MWL projects, MWL Women, MWL Youth, MWL Men, and MWL Education. The latter has been fully reported in an earlier section and there will be a more comprehensive report on the outcome of this project in the next financial reporting year. The MWL Men's project began in January and through this reporting period and since January, the task now accomplished has been to produce a research of 1,000 + men in Albania to understand the issues around patriarchy, the known culture of Albania and the needs of men in relationship to their presenting problems. The research has been concluded and presented at a well-supported men's conference in September and from this research, to date, a concept note and action plan for the upcoming year has been written. We are very proud of the great work undertaken by the newly appointed project manager and the ad hoc staff and volunteers who realised the goals during this time.

The MWL Youth Project:

The MWL Youth Project has just completed its' first pilot year in the action. According to policymakers, youth employment is "the key" to a nation's steady socio-economic development. Young qualified people who are capable of securing decent job placements make an invaluable contribution to a nation's total economic productivity. Beyond their role as representatives of the most vital part of the labour force, the youth also possess the ability to enhance society and to enable a nation to produce at both the technical and manual level to the highest capacity. In order to achieve high youth employment there must be close collaboration amongst all of the major stakeholders. Universities, businesses, governmental institutions, investors and especially the government itself must cooperate in order to create all the necessary provision, at the highest standard, to ensure a market and youth trained for the market. Statistics reveal that Albania is currently facing a severe youth unemployment crisis. The present-day youth employment rates fell approximately 20% below the national average.



We congratulate the manger and staff of this project for a successful first year, despite all the many challenges which they have faced. Throughout this reporting period one of the concerns of the MWL Youth project has been the human and economic empowerment of 38 youth in focus groups also a training programme in human development anti trafficking and conflict resolution in 10 regions of Albania. The outcome of all of this excellent work is recorded below:

- 87 Group sessions realized in the 3 focus group areas and at least 7 individual meetings realized for each young person from each focus group.
- 3 Voluntary activities led by the focus groups were realized in Puka and Lushnja with youth and adults with special needs.
- 10 young people from Lushnja concluded a course on Entrepreneurships entitled: "Mëso të ndërmarrësh" in Murialdo Social Centre.

- 28 tool kits were purchased for 28 young people from the three focus groups. 7 other tool kits will be provided for young people of the Puka Focus Group. 3 others will not be purchased because one young boy from Lushnja didn't finish his vocational course. Another boy from Tirana dropped out before finishing the vocational course. The third was a young girl who was abroad while we were purchasing the tool kits for the youth in Tirana.
- 38 young people followed the vocational training they chose.
- 36 of 38 finished the vocational training course.
- 32 of 38 young people who finished the vocational training had a work experience.
- 19 young people are employed.
- 21 businesses collaborated in the training and work experience of youth.
- 13 institutions collaborated for the development of the project, including the 3 parishes of Puka, Lushnja and Tirana, the labour employment offices and the vocational schools in these regions

6 Trainings were offered for the youth of the 3 Focus Groups:

- *Job Search Training*
- *Human Anti-Trafficking Awareness Raising*
- *Self-Awareness Training*
- *Conflict Resolution Training*
- *Different and Equal*
- *Learn Entrepreneurship*

- 3 Ceremonies awarding MWL Certificates were held in Lushnja, Puka and Tirana for the youth of the Focus groups. Collaborators from different institutions were present at the events.
- 36 MWL Certificates were given to the youth to congratulate them on their commitment.
- 10 young people from Lushnja and Tirana were volunteers for the UN Gift Box Campaign in Albania in Durres and Tirana.
- 386 young people participated in the Human Development Training programme.
- 44 professionals participated in the Human Anti-trafficking training. 22 of them were nurses and health workers in the Reshen hospital. The other 22 were: Police Officers, medical staff, teachers and students, people from the government, sisters from the Catholic Community, psychologists and social workers.
- 3 trainings of volunteers took place in Durres, Saranda and Tirana, to prepare young people to offer their service in the development of the UN GIFT Box Campaign in Albania. These trainings were organized by the MWL Youth Trainer in collaboration with the Social Worker of the D&E NGO.
- 2 Launch events of the UN Gift Box Campaign in Albania were organized.
- 11 URAT Network meetings were held.



The challenges faced in accomplishing this great success were many. They included the fact that it was really challenging to work with three different groups with specific local issues and at the same time to have individual answers for each participant.

It was challenging also to plan and calculate the starting of the Vocational Training Courses, because of delays from the Centers in opening those courses. The starting of one course depends on the demand that there is for it, there are no fixed dates for official beginnings laid down by the ministry.

Keeping these young people motivated and involved in a project is challenging because they wish to always find immediate solutions. Sometimes, even encouraging them to participate in different activities can be hard, because they might not be aware of the benefits of these voluntary activities.

Another challenge is to find collaboration with enterprises that are willing to accept young people for working experience. Lots of businesses claim that they have not much work to offer. Others pretend to get paid for accepting them as interns.

Regarding challenges faced during Human Development Trainings, the closed minds of many of the population, especially adults, can sometimes become a barrier for discussing freely such topics as human trafficking with young people.

The launching of the project in this new financial year is well on the way with new topics for training but which include topics related to human empowerment, development and anti-human trafficking. The focus groups are being chosen in one new area called Durres and a decision has been made to train entrepreneurial leaders in the region of Durres during this upcoming year. We wish the staff and volunteers great success in this enterprise.

MWL Women's Project



The MWL Women's project now in its forth year, grows from strength to strength. It is just remarkable to see so many women who were bent down, covered and in depression, unable to come out of their houses or indeed not allowed to come out of their houses, now standing tall and showing a wonderful capacity for entrepreneurship and leadership. Young girls are not being forced to marry and many are staying on at school and with their parents blessing. The project has indeed been highly successful and a role model for work with women in these rural and in the unique experience of suppression which was the outcome of such a brutal communist regime here in Albania. The outcome of this project over the reporting period says much about the success of the work.

Measured results:

- 2,213 women and 103 men were involved in the "building actors for change" programme
- 88 women attended the vocational trainings
- 13, 843 euro were made as income from 50 women engaged in economic activities
- 14 police women were co-trained with other staff and partners from MWL on the aspects of human trafficking and in the ways in which this criminal phenomena is being tackled in the communities.
- 21 women have been employed after finishing the vocational trainings
- 14 women entrepreneurs have presented their business plan and 10 of them have started their business and the other 4 are in the process of implementing their ideas. These include the selling of crafts in the Kiosk in Valbona, a bee business, goats and cows business, many carfts making and the development of a tailoring factory in Kallmet.
- MWL has engaged their staff in capacity building and has provided supervision to enhance staff skills and work effectiveness
- Clients and partner relations have been established to sell the women's goods
- Acts of Agreement are signed and formalized with the Public institutions to partner with MWL for the Women's project

- Broad-based organizing has been initiated in Lezha, Fier, Shendelli and Shkodra according to the action plan and the first action in Tropoja had a successful outcome
- Counselling has taken place with 17 women to help them deal with everyday stress, depression, and trauma from past life events and domestic violence
- Online counselling is being provided to four Albanian girls, sheltered in the UK, who are victims of human trafficking
- Three women in extreme life situations were supported: one has been rescued from being trafficked; one woman has had her legal issue brought to the attention of the police; one Albanian victim of human trafficking in the UK has been provided with documentary evidence which would help her gain asylum
- 222 women have been supported in preventative health care and four of them cured of cancer.
- Training in Transformation for Change and Broad-Based Organizing with seven MWL Women has been effected and the work in implementation of this approach is in process.
- Twelve women leaders and seven team members were trained in entrepreneurship with Dr. Elizabeth Walmsley.

The challenges in this successful outcome have been difficult to face but have not daunted the staff in working to achieve their goals.

Challenges faced:

- Albania is a corrupt country at every level of society. People even though proclaiming they are against it, still practice it, thus continuing to deepen its infection of the norms and values of society.
- Institutions demonstrate their willingness to collaborate, yet still struggle to get things done.
- The biggest challenge is related to the formation of groups of stakeholders. The identification of the number of adequate members takes time, because there is a lot of competition between NGOs and stakeholders themselves and these issues delay the process.
- Another challenge had to do with the finalization of the list of leaders attending the training in Durres. Even though they confirmed their participation, changes of plans prevented many of them from attending.
- It was a challenge dealing with a police officer during the declaration made against an aggressor. The police officer refused to take the declaration since he thought there was not enough evidence to proceed with the investigation. The MWLW assistant manager claimed her right to declare a crime that she thought was committed, and that if she could not get support at the police station, it would go straight to the prosecution.
- Invitations for events by partners usually came one or two days before the event, making it impossible to alter the programme, thus losing the opportunity to increase attendance.
- Strengthening the women's groups and making them feel independent is a challenge in itself. They lack self-esteem since their role in the family and even in the community is not yet appreciated as it should be. The lack of self-esteem among women needs to be addressed in order that they appreciate who they are, what they do and what they offer to their families and their community. Further training with the women and supporting them to become more independent economically and socially will strengthen the women's role in the family and in the community.
- Bureaucracy among state institutions decelerates the progress of the project. Challenges have been faced during the opening of a seasonal market for women's handcraft products in the National Park of Apollonia. Challenges emerged as a result of the system of bureaucracy, and have been faced while inviting a network of public and non-public institutions to join the UN Gift campaign.
- The biggest challenge is related to the formation of groups of stakeholders. The identification of the number of adequate members takes time, because there is a lot of competition between NGOs and stakeholders themselves and these issues delay the process. There is a misperception by professionals of the volunteering role they have inside a BBO group, considering it as an extended work which must be paid.

The MWL Women's manager, who has successfully been the leader and guide for the project, feels that it is still important to continue this work to provide a foundation for the good work already achieved and to turn these communities around in a sustainable way. Access to clean water, the repair or construction of the sewage system, the improvement of statutory services is still crucial for this community's development. Businesses have a need to be made strong and sustainable. We believe that the eradication of poverty and the building of strong and healthy families is essential to ensure that the community becomes fearless in facing the risk of human trafficking and exploitation.

MWL Men's Project

The project MWL Men was founded in response and from lessons learned through the work done in previous years of other projects of Mary Ward Loreto, especially the project of Women. This project has already gained a national network of supporters and partners who anticipate further steps being made in new projects in the spirit and good example of the present Mary Ward Loreto projects. Through working with men, MWL Men's project aims to facilitate the process of regional development through interactive engagement and exchange with other projects of the organization and beyond. Moreover, this project will strengthen the links between all stakeholders and influencers of projects and partnerships that have common goals in the interests of the development of men in need. Now after research with over 1.000 men successfully accomplished and presented at a conference in Tirana, this project is launched, the action plan is written and the work in the field begins in November 2016.



Mary Ward Loreto is aware of the fact that this project and its purpose is unique for Albania and elsewhere, and that the involvement of men in preventing violence and promoting gender equality is a challenge which requires extra effort, good strategy and planning. On the other hand, Mary Ward Loreto is ready to move initiate this MWL Men's project and promote the long-awaited change through freedom, justice and sincerity.

Goal

Strengthening the role of men in gender equality problems, abuse and violence, and promoting progress toward the economic independence and welfare of men as a whole. This in itself will contribute to the development of a better society in Albania.

Objectives of the project

Through community-based activities, the project aims to:

- Raise awareness in preventing human trafficking and promote safe migration.
- Raise awareness and promote the benefits for men of gender equality;
- Promote the need for changed behavior of men in relation to family and society;
- Raise awareness of men in the respective communities for representation and greater collaboration with local government representatives;
- Increase the intellectual and professional potential of men through vocational training programs and courses;
- Involve men in jobs that have a positive and transformative impact on their lives and promote enterprise;
- Support sound economic initiatives that are helpful to men and women in need, and having a positive impact on the communities concerned;
- Support through specialized techniques specific groups of men who live in Prison;

Project strategy

- Through training programs and awareness raising begin to change behavior relating to the role of gender in a manner that is understandable and appropriate for men. Encouraging men to develop relationships based not on superiority but on respect of equality. This will be seen as one of the most effective ways to prevent violence against women.
- Promotion of community forums in which to transmit to the authorities, or people responsible for issues of common interest, the problems facing men in the community and to provide this possibility for dialogue and careful listening leading to an understanding of required solutions.
- In cooperation with state and private institutions to make it possible to identify the needs of men and to organize vocational training which will promote employment and cover the gaps that are present regarding the professional services needed by men in the community.
- Through concrete initiatives to preserve and develop local resources and assets relevant to this men's project which have a cultural or historical material, in order to increase the level of optimism for the men in the community and strengthen their community identity in terms of values.
- Support the creation of successful models for men in the community, in order to create a domino effect as an engine of social and economic change.
- Comprehensive regular assessment process relating to men's continuous improvement in the country. The project will be implemented in an objective and non-judgmental contexts fostering high ethics and values for men in the community.
- The project is structured on the basis of a commitment to human rights and social justice, and will be in accordance with all codes of conduct of Mary Ward Loreto.

Challenges of the project

- Participation and cooperation of men in groups and forums;
- To find the best local trainers for specific topics;
- Draw attention, interest and cooperation with local institutions;
- Keeping the progressive increase of project development and keep the men's interest throughout;
- The risk of overloading the men, who may become overwhelmed because of learnt behaviour from living in different cultures for decades;
- Keeping expectations at reasonable levels for the beneficiaries;
- Employment of staff, appropriate to the type of project and who are able to face the challenges of the Project.
- Funding

We hope that in the next MWL report we will be able to tell you the stories, the measured results and further challenges which we have faced in implementing this special project.



Picture taken during the MWL Men's conference

We hope that this short illustration of the outcomes, the challenges and the present status of the MWL projects encourages you to read their full reports posted on the MWL website: www.albaniahope.com

Conclusion

This annual report aims to illustrate, to the full extent, the work of the MWL Foundation in Albania. Change is part of the dynamic and this report is illustrating something about the ability we have to effect change for the good. "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." George Bernard Shaw. We journey forward with a constant uncertainty as to the outcome but this is acceptable. This means that no one person has control but together we can walk into the mist knowing that we are in safe hands and with corporate leadership. Individually we take the leadership role for the particular field in which we are responsible, this ensures that corporately the Foundation works together for the greater good with best practice and with an ability to stay hopeful even when the challenges can seem insurmountable. Mary Ward Loreto has learnt through all of this experience that it is not knowing all the answers which makes us able to move forward but the ability to know the right questions.

Acknowledgements

- Our primary donors from a family foundation in Europe.
- Mary Ward International Spain.
- The Australian Embassy.
- Conrad Hilton Foundation for Religious.
- Medaille Trust.
- Uk, Parishes and private donors from the UK.

Special thanks also to Dr Elizabeth Walmesly and Mr Andrew Harston from the UK, for their work with us for the development of our staff and beneficiaries. Also special thanks to Mr Denald Grecka for his tireless support of MWL in filmmaking our various events.

MWL Board

Thank you to all Board members of MWL especially the MWL Board, the MWL Women's Board and the MWL Youth Board. Their advice and wisdom shared, has been invaluable during this reporting period.



Imelda Poole – President, Mary Ward Loreto

Mary Ward Loreto Foundation

Website: www.albaniahope.com

Email: info@marywardloreto.net

FB: MaryWardLoreto

Address: Rr. Skenderbej, Pall. 8, Shk. 2, Ap. 5

Tel: +355 44 500 388