

# Trafficking Prevention Project in Ukraine

## Project Activities and Accomplishments 1998-2004

Funded by USAID  
Implemented by Winrock International

# A Success Story - Natalia



Called hotline for advice  
on working abroad

Came to a WfW Center

- for a legal consultation  
and to attend job skills  
training

Now has a full-time job  
and plans to open her  
own business in  
Ukraine

# Trafficking Prevention Project

- Project activities are grounded on the assumptions that in order to improve trafficking prevention efforts in Ukraine:
  - Women in the at-risk group need to be trained in recognizing and creating viable economic opportunities for themselves
  - Increased crisis prevention and intervention services for at-risk women need to be established
- Strengthening the capacity and mobilizing the efforts of NGOs and the community to increase awareness of and response to the problem of human trafficking

# Trafficking Prevention Project

- Contributes to SO 5: Improved social conditions and health status
  - IR 5.2: Conditions for targeted vulnerable groups are improved
- Also contributes to:
  - SO 2, IR 2.2: Enhanced management of SMEs and agriculture
  - SO 3, IR 3.1: Availability of quality information increased, and IR 3.2: Effectiveness of civil society organizations increased
  - SO 4, IR 4.2.3: Increased access and feedback of citizens to legislative process

# Project Components

- Seven “Women for Women” Trafficking Prevention Centers provide:
  - Job Skills Training and Services
  - Crisis Prevention Services
  - Information Hotlines
  - Pro-Bono Legal Consultations
- Regional Trainings on Trafficking Prevention
- Grant Program for NGOs
- Public Awareness and Information Dissemination
- Work with Youth
- Victim Assistance
- NGO and Government Collaboration

# WfW Center Client Profile

- Age – 50% of clients are 18-28 yrs old
- Education – 50% have secondary or professional-technical degrees; 30% have higher educ. degrees
- Employment – 60% are unemployed
- Economic status – 20% don't have enough \$ to buy food; 36% just enough \$ to buy food & basic necessities; 20% enough for living

# Job Skills Training Program

- Basic job skills and entrepreneurship training seminars – including mobile training teams
- Resume writing, job search and interviewing advice
  -
- ICT, administrative, bookkeeping and other courses
- Placement in mentoring and internship programs
- Employment listings and referrals to government and other NGO career centers

# Job Skills Training Program Accomplishments

- Over 35,000 women trained in basic employment and life skills
- Over 4,600 women have started re-qualification or continuing education programs
- Over 5,000 women have found new jobs

# Success Stories

## Kateryna

- Unemployed 5 years
- High school diploma
- Wanted to find a job or go abroad
- Attended trainings and courses
- Opened a business selling flowers

## Liliya

- No money to pay University tuition
- Wanted to go abroad to work but needed money for passport
- Attended training and skills course
- Applied and was accepted at another university, tuition-free
- Found a part-time job

# Crisis Prevention Program

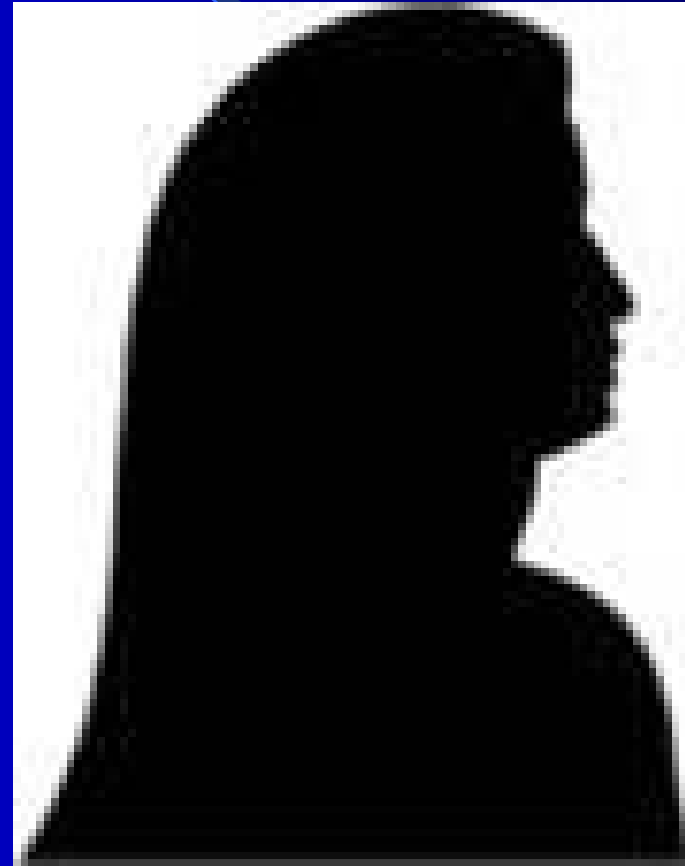
- Walk-in consultations
- Referral services for psychological and medical assistance
- Services available anonymously through telephone support lines
- Self-help groups for women suffering from domestic violence and trafficking
- Training on prevention of trafficking to raise awareness of at-risk women – including mobile training teams

# Crisis Prevention Program Accomplishments

- Over 26,000 women trained on prevention of trafficking
- Over 27,000 women using the CPP walk-in services ■
- Over 67,000 calls to the information hotlines
  - 75% of calls are from first-time callers
  - 15-20% of calls are related to trafficking issues

# Olena

- Trafficking survivor released by captors after 2 years in Germany because she had contracted TB
- Called hotline for help ■
- Received information on free medical services and emotional support
- Received information on other WfW Center services



# Pro-Bono Legal Assistance Program

- Legal consultations related to:
  - Employment issues
  - Trafficking and work abroad
  - Domestic violence advocacy
  - Victim protection ■
- Legal briefing papers that explain laws relating to work abroad, laws governing employer-employee relations, and how to register business in Ukraine.

# Pro-Bono Legal Assistance Program Accomplishments

- Over 11,000 women have received legal consultations
- Over 1,200 cases have been taken to court
- 130 legal publications/brochures on issues of importance to women

# Anna



- Legal consultation on contract to work abroad
- Canada Caregiver Program
- Lawyers researched program
- Many inconsistencies found
- Anna decided to look for work in Ukraine

# Regional Training Program

- Reaching underserved and rural areas
  - Conducted in over 200 cities throughout Ukraine
- Topics
  - Women's Leadership (1 day)
  - Gender Equality (1 day)
  - Trafficking Prevention (1 day)
  - Violence Prevention (1 day)
  - Finding a Job (2 days)
  - Entrepreneurship (2 days)
  - Interactive discussion in schools (3 hrs)

# Grants Program for NGOs

In collaboration with the International Renaissance Foundation, Winrock International has awarded over 50 grants to Ukrainian NGOs in 27 cities, towns and villages for activities focused on:

- Increasing **economic opportunities** for women
- Decreasing **violence against women**
- Increasing public **awareness** of trafficking in women
- Increasing the capacity of **rural women's** NGOs to provide services for women

# Public Awareness and Information Dissemination

- Project publications
  - I am a Successful Woman
  - You are Not Alone
  - Work Abroad: Myths and Realities
- Work with the Mass Media
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence
- Improving Women's Access to Information
  - Over 4,200 public forums held
  - Nearly 75,000 women have received informational/legal materials

# Work with Youth

- Target - young women who are studying at various educational establishments (including orphanages), and who are about to enter the job market for the first time.
- Training for educators & administrators
- Age-appropriate trainings in schools & orphanages
- Distributing information to school libraries and youth organizations

# Victim Assistance

- Assistance provided to 222 trafficking victims
  - 72% are between the ages of 18 and 28
  - 50% are from urban areas, 30% from oblast centers
    -
  - 63% have higher education degrees
  - 47% were unemployed prior to going abroad
  - Of those employed, 36% were in the private sector, 28% worked for the government
  - 78% earned an average monthly salary of 200 UAH

# Victim Assistance

- Motivations for going abroad:
  - 48% wanted to earn money for basic needs
  - 12% wanted to earn money to buy/renovate apartment
  - 10% to pay off debt
- 83% of victims left Ukraine with legal tourist visas
- In 88% of cases, there was no signed contract

# NGO and Gov't Collaboration

- At the national level, WI works with the Ombudsman Office, State Committee for Family & Youth, MIA
  - Implementation of National Action Plan
  - Amendments to Criminal Code (Art. 149), ratification of UN Palermo Convention
- At the local level, WfW Centers actively collaborate with:
  - State Employment Agencies
  - Departments of Family & Youth
  - Social Services for Youth
  - Departments of Education
  - Anti-Trafficking Departments, Border Officials, Prosecutors, Judges

# Linkages to other USG projects

- Women's Economic Empowerment Project
- AED – Training Program, Summer Camps
- ABA/CEELI
  -
- Internews/IREX – media program
- CURE – press clubs
- IREX IATP – online discussions
- AIHA – Women's Wellness Centers

# Overall Achievements

- Over 17,000 women who have participated in trainings or used the Centers report they are no longer looking for work abroad
- Conservatively estimate that every one client goes on to tell another three women
  - Over 44,000 direct beneficiaries at the WfW Centers
  - Over 132,000 indirect beneficiaries

# Conclusions: Lessons Learned

- Partnering with Local NGOs and grants to NGOs
- 
- Combining Economic Empowerment Services with Crisis Prevention Services
- Coordination and Networking with other Trafficking Prevention Programs

# Conclusions: Lessons Learned

- Networking with NGOs and Assistance Providers in transit and destination countries
- Integrating Services for At-risk Women with Community Advocacy
- Considering Regional Specifics – between countries but also within a country