

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017-2021

2021 Progress Report

IN-DEPTH RESULTS



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



UNITED NATIONS
ALBANIA





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IN-DEPTH

Delivering Results for Albania

By end-2021, a few flagship results were evidenced, as reported below, and supported by UN in Albania, for each of the four Outcomes. Reference is made to key SDG targets towards which these results contribute.





OUTCOME 1

Governance and Rule of Law

State and civil society organizations perform effectively and with accountability for consolidated democracy in line with international norms and standards



Alignment with SDGs

3 5 8 10 15 16 17



Alignment with National Development Goals

1 2



Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas

5 10 16 17 18 22 23 24

Outcome 1—Governance and Rule of Law—consists of six outputs focusing on 1) Human Rights, 2) Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law, 3) Local Governance, 4) Access to Justice, 5) Mainstreaming Gender and Gender-Responsive Budgeting, and 6) Migration and Asylum.

This outcome supports the Government of Albania in achieving two priorities of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2015–2020: 1) European Union (EU) membership, and 2) Consolidate good governance, democracy, and the rule of law. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 16 and 17, and EU integration chapters and priority areas 5, 10, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23 and 24.

The total budget available for implementation of Outcome 1 in 2021 was USD 9.8 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom (UK), and United States (US), as well as the EU, and other miscellaneous donors, and UN regional and global funds. The outcome delivery was 85 percent.

UN in Albania interventions were attributed to, or contributed to, achievement of more than 90 percent of the indicators under this outcome during PoCSD 2017–2021 implementation.



Indicators for Outcome 1

■ Baseline 2016-2017 ■ Status 2021

Indicator	Baseline 2016-2017	Status 2021
Percentage of women in government ministerial positions		
MPs	21%	34.28%
Municipal Councillors	35%	43.7%
Public Sector	44.6%	55%
Government ministerial positions	50%	70.58%
Perceptions of performance of public institutions		
Parliament	10%	24.2%
Government	14%	36.4%
Local Government	13%	41.6%
Rate of children in detention (per 100,000 population aged 14–17)	33.3	14
Out of all child-related valid complaints, proportion for which a remedial action was taken by the People's Advocate, annually	65% 65/100 cases	10% increase 125/226 cases
Existence of legislation that recognises a child's right to be heard in civil and administrative proceedings that affect them (in line with Article 12 of the CRC)	1 Law	4 Laws
Extent to which Asylum Procedures are compliant with international refugee law and the <i>EU acquis</i>	60%	70%
SOPs for case management of different categories of migrants and refugees within the management of mixed movements	0	3
No. Free Legal Aid Centers at District Court level to ensure equitable and unhindered access to justice to the most vulnerable persons	0	10
Extent of gender mainstreaming in the central budgeting process	24 MTBPs	45
No. GoA draft laws, policies, strategies and plans engendered	2	20
No. of fiscal laws, by-laws and policies reflecting compliance with gender-responsive budgeting	2	27
No. municipalities adopting and implementing gender responsive MTBP	3	54
Reception capacities at the border increased, with a differentiated approach for women and children at risk.	1 centre	3 centres
No. of measures of Action Plan of National Strategy on Migration Governance implemented	0	40 implemented and 55 on-going
No. of ADISA CSCs and LGU colocations for customer-care service delivery (cumulative)	1	23
No. LGUs operating OSS for service delivery	3	61
No of municipal action plans that have a budget line for youth, including education and SRH.	0	16
No. LGUs with a physical archiving system and increased capacities, legal knowledge and skills on physical archiving.	0	61
No. LGUs with web pages meeting transparency legal requirements	21	61 (13 from STAR)
No. LGUs implementing the transparency performance measurement system	0	61
No. LGUs publishing Council Decisions online	27	61
No. of Municipalities with Integrity Plans	6	12



OUTPUT 1.1 **HUMAN RIGHTS**

5.5, 16.2, 16.3, 16.6, 16.9, 16.10, 16.b, 17.18

Constitutional, ministerial and independent mechanisms are reinforced to identify and report human rights violations and enable evidence-based policy making and response



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, United States

Implementation Progress

Albania has ratified most of the international human rights (HR) instruments and stands committed to contributing to the international protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Albanian institutions continue to further improve legal, policy and institutional frameworks and mechanisms to ensure the protection of human rights.

In 2021, the Government of Albania strengthened the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, with UN Women support, through the preparation of the second National Action Plan to implement Resolution 1325.

The Law on Aliens was adopted in September 2021. UNHCR provided comments on the draft law to Parliament. Of several by-laws, the Instruction establishing a Statelessness Determination Procedure (SDP) is expected to reduce suffering of the people at risk of statelessness. In agreement with MoI, UNHCR and its partner TLAS provided technical support in the drafting of the SDP Instruction.

To strengthen the identification of persons at risk of statelessness, UNHCR and its partner continued to monitor implementation of the 2018 revised Law on Civil Status and its respective by-laws in order to identify any gaps and ensure proper referral mechanisms. UNHCR also maintained regular contacts with the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), providing technical advice, briefing and advocating that the recommendations and the methodology shared with INSTAT in 2020 be reflected in the questionnaires for the Census 2022, focused on statelessness persons and those at the risk of statelessness.



Albania-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-26:

UNHCR and TLAS provided practical legal support to persons at risk of statelessness in pursuit of acquisition or confirmation of nationality. In 2021, TLAS assisted and provided legal services to 280 individuals at risk of statelessness. Of these 280, 205 individual cases were solved through administrative acts and 75 through court decisions. To facilitate implementation of amendments to the 2018 Law on Civil Status, and the new Law on Citizenship and its by-law, TLAS organised eight online training sessions attended by 293 civil servants from the Civil Registry Offices.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection's [four-year implementation report of the National Action Plan for the Right of the Child 2016–2020](#) and the UNICEF Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents were timely finalised to inform the finalisation and approval of the [National Action Plan for Children 2021–2026](#).¹ Improvements in the child-focused statistics availability are marked with the launching of the [Visualisation Platform \(dashboard\) with 58 child-specific statistics](#) of the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection, and INSTAT's publication on [Children, Adolescents and Youth-Focused Well-being Indicators 2016–2019](#), enriching the previous publication with more official statistics.

The capacities of the Child Protection System were strengthened, supported by UNICEF, at various levels in the state structures to proac-

tively influence the identification, referring, support and follow-up of stateless children or at risk of statelessness. Some 60 professionals, representatives of police structures, social services, education, health, justice and non-profit organisations in four different regions of Albania were provided with dedicated training in the practical application of the amended legal framework to prevent and address statelessness.

UN Albania is a strong supporter of state institutions, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), parliamentary bodies, the Central Election Commission (CEC) and civil society organisations (CSOs) to monitor, report and advocate for implementation of national and international legal instruments, and also to collect data to provide evidence-based recommendations, perform core functions and increase outreach, including for child rights, access to territory and asylum, and improve gender-responsive electoral management.

In 2021, a keen focus, supported by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was given to increase the role of the People's Advocate (PA) and Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (CPD) to i) improve citizens' enjoyment of human rights, ii) ensure equal access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised women and men, and iii) strengthen PA and CPD's outreach to vulnerable women and men in the country by bringing the justice

1. The drafting has entailed a large consultation among all relevant governmental institutions, including the local government. It largely stands in alignment with the EU Strategy for Children and the priorities identified both in the [UNICEF Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents](#) (published in 2021) and UNICEF new Country Programme Framework.

system closer to especially vulnerable populations in remote areas. This support is contributing to the achievement of reduced inequalities (SDG 10, target 10.3) and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16, target 16.3).

Through a sharpened advocacy role, the PA mobilised the attention and support of the Albanian Parliament, line ministries, CSOs and development partners to enable initiation and finalisation of legislative processes leading to the adoption of the minimum subsistence as a legal instrument, where social protection for groups in need in Albania is built upon and guaranteed. The PA's stand on this issue is based on findings and recommendations from the study on minimum subsistence standard developed with UNDP support during 2021.

A stronger collaboration between PA and CPD safeguarded an adequate policy and legal framework implementation and upholding of HR standards to address social exclusion and discrimination and ensure equal and fair access to social assistance benefits and protection for families in need and women and men with special status. More concretely, these NHRIs conducted a draft study supported by UNDP on access to social protection schemes for vulnerable women and men that is expected to be finalised during 2022. Further, CPD developed a research study into Albanian jurisprudence on enforcement of the equality and non-discrimination principal in court rulings aiming at exposing the judicial legal opinion on unequal treatment and discriminatory cause

4 LAWS

in 2021 that recognise a child's right to be heard in civil and administrative proceedings that affect them



as a reason for an unreasonable violation of the rights. The main purpose of the analysis is to serve as a first instrument for law operators taking into account the School of Magistrates, judges, lawyers, prosecutors and interested departments of the public administration.

In 2021, UNDP in collaboration with PA and CPD reached 2,300 individuals in thirteen municipalities from north to south of Albania with information on free legal aid (FLA), HR and protective mechanisms through organisation of info sessions, street law activities, online training, meetings with both vulnerable communities and local state institutions. Worth noting is the production of several social posts, informative videos in different minority and sign languages and local and national TV interviews that proved to be effective in reaching out to marginalised communities and individuals.

With UNICEF support, the PA monitored the conditions and treatment of children deprived of liberty and issued official recommendations to law enforcement and justice institutions to address some situations that result in violations of child rights. During a round-table with stakeholders, representatives of Parlia-



Participants of the Academy of Human Rights 2021, visiting the “House of Leaves” Museum in Tirana

ment, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), General Department of Police (GDoP) and General Department of Prisons publicly committed to taking the recommendations on board or indicated actions taken to comply with them. In response to these recommendations, GDoP issued a circular to draw the attention of all police departments to full implementation of children’s procedural rights in criminal law processes, and Kavaja Juvenile Penitentiary re-instituted the in-person visits of family members to detained juveniles. Children residing in this institution had been unable to meet their parents and family members for more than 15 months due to social distancing measures imposed by government to counter Covid-19.

The PA also monitored the activities of municipalities and other public authorities at the local level on the offer of social care and protection of children, particularly those at risk, and also on the level of their preparedness in handling emergency situations and offering shock response. In December 2021, the PA officially launched the findings of this monitoring and recommendations, in the presence of several mayors and deputy mayors, the State Agency of Child Rights and the three deputy chairs of the Friends of Children Group of Parliamentarians. A positive reaction of various public authorities is a precondition for implementation of the Ombudsperson’s recommendations. As a result of open days activities with parents, children and teachers in schools, online dialogue

with children, and development of a caselaw book about cases of child rights violations handled by this ombudsperson's institution, the PA increased many-fold the number of complaints received directly from children, from 15 in 2020 to 102 in 2021. This result contributes to SDG 16, target 16.a, indicator 16.a.1.

The partnership between the PA and INSTAT has been strengthened with UNFPA support, and in 2021 two working group discussions took place for these institutions to collaborate better with each other. At the request of the PA, UNFPA agreed to support the development of a new Docu-live to ensure that it meets the needs of the institution to collect data, file reports and better monitor and report.

With support from UNHCR, the PA monitored the pre-screening exercise conducted by the Border and Migration Police (BMP) to safeguard the protection and human rights of the refugees and migrants arriving in Albania as part of mixed movements. The Advocate conducted profiling interviews with new arrivals and identified persons with specific needs, including Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC), women and girls at risk and persons who may be victims of human trafficking. UNHCR and partners gathered information and compiled reports on incidents where the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers were at risk. UNHCR also supported the PA in printing and disseminating information leaflets

related to its role in promoting and protecting refugees and migrants' human rights at the borders.

The CPD developed a child-friendly information brochure on the Law on Protection from Discrimination, with UNICEF support. This recently amended law (2020), protecting children from discrimination and information, is key to increasing their demand for redress offered by this HRI and promotes an overall non-discriminatory culture from an early age. This result contributes to SDG 16, target 16.b, indicator 16.b.1.

With UNICEF support and advocacy, the Friends of Children Parliamentary group successfully concluded its work in mid-2021. One of the most recent bills they supported—on a child's right to a family—for which UNICEF and its partners provided legal opinions and facts, helped Parliament take informed decisions with due account to the best interest of the child. With UNICEF advocacy and support, the new Friends of Children group was reconstituted in November, to mark the International Day of Children, with the participation of the Speaker of Parliament, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNICEF, as well as more than 50 Members of Parliament (MPs). To facilitate the transition between the former and the newly reconstituted Friends of Children group, UNICEF published a summary of relevant child rights resources along with summaries of the activities of the previous group. UNICEF advocated with

MPs and parliamentary structures with a view to ensuring some core membership of the group, which remained unchanged. UNICEF also supported Friends of Children to share regionally the achievements and challenges in advancing the legislative agenda for children. The results benefitted from the generous support of the Embassy of Norway through the SDG acceleration fund, contributing to SDG 16, target 16.7.

During 2021, UNICEF Albania further strengthened its efforts to combat statelessness. In partnership with Tirana Legal Aid Society (TLAS) 181 new court and administrative cases of children affected by statelessness and whose access to core services and rights have been jeopardised because of the pandemic were opened. UNICEF also strengthened efforts to successfully combat risk of statelessness for repatriated people. A total of 24 cases of children and their caregivers who were repatriated from war-affected zones, requiring longer-term settlement of their legal status in the country and the necessary paperwork to allow them to fully enjoy Albanian citizenship, was addressed, both through administrative and court proceedings addressing a complexity of parallel obstacles.

UNFPA continued its support to the Human Rights Academy, an annual activity of the Albanian Human Rights Group, which aims to train and prepare young people in the basics and practices of HR, thus developing youth activism and youth participation in HR and challenges in Albania.

Implementation Challenges

UNICEF has supported the PA with the provision of two additional staff in the Child Rights Section, enabling it to visibly increase both the number of child rights complaints received, including those directly put forward by children, and the number of remedial actions taken to address the complaints and child rights violations. A remaining challenge over which UNICEF is hoping to support the PA to address is making this causal effect between increased resources and better outcomes for children more visible for Parliament and other public decision makers, with a view to supporting the Advocate in successfully advocating for more resources and independence.

The justice system in Albania continues to be overloaded following the effects of the justice reform that started in 2016 and the consequences of pandemic restrictions. Due to the vetting process and the removal from office of many judges, many hearings were interrupted or delayed, some of which have been resumed. This continuous challenge has affected the timely closure and delay of statelessness cases represented in court.

Despite the progress made in addressing risks of statelessness, some challenges remain regarding confirmation of nationality due to the lengthy court procedures and ongoing vetting process.

OUTPUT 1.2 **ANTI-CORRUPTION AND RULE OF LAW**

3.5, 3.7, 8.7, 16.3, 16.4, 16.6, 16.9, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b

National public administration has greater capacity to improve access to information, address corruption and organised crime, and engage CSOs and media in efforts to strengthen monitoring of reform efforts



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC, IOM



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Austria, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Turkey, the EU

Implementation Progress

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Programme for South-eastern Europe (2020–2023) provides the framework for UNODC activities in the region. In 2021, the Agency continued to support the Government of Albania in UNODC-mandated areas and in support of the relevant SDGs.

- UNODC strengthened the country's capacity to address trafficking in persons (TIP) in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish TIP, Especially Women and Children, through the organisation of five multi-disciplinary Regional Expert Group Meetings (REGM) on TIP focusing on five thematic areas: 1) access to effective remedies to victims of TIP; 2) TIP for labour exploitation; 3) addressing the demand side of TIP; 4) TIP in children in particular for the purpose of forced crim-

inality organised in collaboration with the National Anti-trafficking Coordination Office within the Ministry of Interior (Moi); and 5) addressing TIP in prostitution through international cooperation. This work was done as part of the Regional Initiative on TIP funded by the governments of France and Sweden. It was developed by UNODC as a contingency plan to cover the period February–July 2021 using a combination of online meetings and increased physical presence in the region as an alternative delivery modality during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, in October 2021, UNODC initiated a regional project aimed at supporting the efforts in the area of criminal justice response on countering TIP in South-eastern Europe through fostering victim-centred and trauma-informed investigations and prosecutions entitled UN Locking Impunity of Traffickers and Supporting Justice for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in South-eastern Europe (2021–2024). The project is funded



A UNODC project on anti-corruption led to the development of a Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance (ACIF)

by US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat TIP.

Also, UNODC enhanced regional cooperation in South-eastern Europe through a REGM funded by the government of France on trends in migrant smuggling in the region. The aim is to identify and analyse challenges in addressing aggravated migrant smuggling with a particular focus on the exploitation of migrants both during and after a transnational smuggling operation and the interlinkages between smuggling of migrants, TIP, gender and HR. Findings of the most recent UNODC study entitled *Abused and Neglected – A Gender Perspective on Aggravated Mi-*

grant Smuggling Offences and Response were used as a basis for discussing the regional dimensions of aggravated smuggling in South-eastern Europe. This work contributes to SDG Targets 16.2, 16.4, 16A, 5.1 and 5.2.

- Albania was supported through multi-stakeholder workshops aimed at discussing strategic priorities to prevent and combat organised crime in line with UNTOC. Most importantly, UNODC has made available to the countries of the region, in all relevant languages, including Albanian, the *Organised Crime Strategy Toolkit for Developing High-Impact Strategies* developed in

response to the mandate conferred upon UNODC by resolution 10/4, entitled ‘Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the UNTOC and promoting its effective implementation,’ adopted by the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to UNTOC. The toolkit serves as a basis for assistance to countries in developing national strategies to prevent and counter organised crime. This work is funded by the UK government and contributes particularly to SDG Targets 16.4, 16.a, 1.5, 10.3, 5.1 and 5.2.

- In the area of anti-corruption and asset recovery, UNODC initiated two regional projects in South-eastern Europe, including Albania. The project on anti-corruption led to the development of a Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance (ACIF)² formally endorsed by the governments of the region in June 2021, with three goals agreed under the roadmap: preventing and countering corruption in public procurement, further strengthening conflict of interest and asset declaration systems, and creating a regional network of specialised prosecutors, law enforcement and financial intelligence units. The UNODC work on the roadmap was funded by the governments of the UK and Germany and contributes to SDG Targets 16.4, 16.5, 5.1, 5.5, 17.1 and 17.17.

Under the regional project From Illicit Financial Flows to Asset Recovery in South-eastern Europe, funded by the UK government, UNODC worked with relevant authorities in jointly developing a roadmap of programmatic interventions in Albania that would define the activities and actions on how to tackle and overcome existing challenges in effectively implementing the asset recovery process. This work contributes to SDG Targets 5.1, 5.5, 16.4, 16.5, 17.1 and 17.17.

- In the area of countering transnational organised crime, UNODC enhanced cooperation and partnership between the Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) at Tirana International Airport (TIA), established with the support of the UNODC–World Customs Organisation (WCO) Container Control Programme (CCP), and private business operators in Albania. The cooperation was developed through a workshop enabling networking among ACCU officers and business operators and the sharing of knowledge on the ACCU role in the context of improved controls, accountability and facilitation of legitimate trade. In addition, UNODC strengthened the ACCU officers’ knowledge of legal provisions of the Albanian Customs Code through a workshop that covered, inter alia, specific articles related to the arrival of goods on the customs territory of Albania, the obligations of fast mail operators, what should be declared

2. Through the Roadmap, UNODC will support the six Western Balkans jurisdictions, including Albania, in streamlining their anti-corruption and illicit finance obligations and the recommendations of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and its Review Mechanism, the European Commission progress reports, the Council of the Europe’s Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (Moneyval).



Albania was supported through multi-stakeholder workshops aimed at discussing strategic priorities to prevent and combat organised crime in line with UNTOC

and shared with the ACCU prior to the arrival of goods, when a customs declaration should be deposited, and how to legally handle the difficulties faced with some private operators of fast parcels. In addition, UNODC supported the ACCU officers during Covid-19 through a mission to encourage the mentoring habits of the officers, in particular from the perspective of the current global pandemic. The mentors provided a list of measures that ACCU and customs officers should implement to support the economy and sustain supply chain continuity. It was also recommended that the proposed measures within the customs administration, police and TIA be reviewed to enable their use as tools to support op-

erational work of the relevant law enforcement agencies.

Through an advanced training on Strategic Trade and Export Control (STEC), UNODC enhanced the ACCU officers' preventive and mitigation capacities and response to the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear materials and dual-use goods. UNODC also enhanced the risk profiling skills of the Port Control Unit (PCU) officers in Durres through a one-week online mentoring on monitoring of practices, including applied search techniques, creation of risk profiles, information on new trends of illicit trafficking and smuggling through container-

ised shipments, and use of open and confidential sources of information and the new innovative modus operandi used in cocaine smuggling.

In addition, UNODC supported the strengthening of cooperation between the PCU and the Hellenic Anti-Organised Crime Police in countering drug trafficking and smuggling of restricted and prohibited goods through an exchange study visit of the PCU officers and senior officials of the Albanian State Police and Customs to the Port of Piraeus. Furthermore, UNODC enhanced the ACCU's and PCU's investigative skills by joining efforts with OSCE in organising a joint training on Special Investigative Techniques (SIT) on a variety of topics including types of techniques, tactics of surveillance, practical application and value of evidence gathering, controlled delivery, undercover operations such as Security First, best examples of international cooperation in SIT, legal framework and the use of evidence in criminal proceedings. Finally, UNODC efforts in enhancing border security resulted in a number of seizures at the Durres PCU (Cocaine, 561.2kg; Heroin, 45.5kg) and TIA ACCU (GBP 89,620, EUR 46,800, USD 33,000, three fake IDs and 71 cloned credit and debit cards). CCP work in Albania is currently supported by the government of France. This work contributes to SDG Targets 15.7, 16.4 and 17.9.

- In 2021, UNODC strengthened Albania's capacity to counter the financing of terrorism

by delivering courses aimed at raising awareness of the different methods and practices used to evaluate and disrupt terrorist activity organised with the financial support of the US. This effort forms part of a comprehensive multi-annual training programme on countering the financing of terrorism, implemented jointly by OSCE and UNODC since 2018. The training programme is designed to support Albania to comply with international standards, in particular UN Security Council Resolutions, such as no. 2462 (2019), and Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering standards. This work contributes to SDG Targets 16.4 and 16.a.

- UNODC strengthened Albania's capacity to harmonise judicial practice in firearms trafficking cases with information exchange on criminal procedural law applicable in firearms investigations as part of the regional project Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking, funded by Germany, UK, Netherlands, Sweden, France and Norway through the UN's Western Balkans Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Control Roadmap Trust Fund and supported by the EU. The Agency supported the development of the first Firearms Case Law collection in Albania, resulting in the establishment of a baseline for harmonising court practices on firearms offences. In addition, UNODC produced a gap analysis that assessed the legal framework on firearms for compliance with the provisions of UNTOC and the firearms protocol and provided recommendations



UNODC strengthened Albania's capacity to counter the financing of terrorism by delivering courses aimed at raising awareness

for its harmonisation with these international instruments. This work resulted in the development by the MoJ of draft provisions on firearms offences in the new draft Criminal Code. UNODC also worked with criminal justice practitioners on developing guidelines on the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases. The cooperation with the Albanian Customs Administration (ACA) resulted in the development of a joint needs assessment, which included a gap analysis, a training need analysis and an equipment need analysis for detection of firearms, their parts, components and ammunition in fast and postal parcels. UNO-

DC also supported ACA in sharing at the regional level its experience and lessons learnt from participation in Operation Armstrong on the detection of firearms in fast and postal parcels. Implementation of the activities has assisted the national authorities in coming closer to achieving Goal 1 of the Regional Roadmap for SALW in the Western Balkans and their obligations under the review mechanism of the UNTOC and its protocols. This work contributes to SDG Target 16.4.

IOM's support in the area of Preventing and Combating Violent Extremism, in coordination with the Coordination Centre for Countering Violent Extremism (CCCVE), advanced implementation of the National Strategy with regard to providing assistance to citizens returned from conflict zones for their long-term repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration into community life. In a participatory approach through all the institutions involved, re-integration support was provided to five families in one municipality. On 1 August 2021, Albania repatriated 19 people from the Al-Hol camp in Syria, fourteen of whom were children and five, women. IOM provided support with humanitarian packages, psychological expertise and IT equipment to facilitate the multidisciplinary team case management at the reception centre.

IOM is supporting CCCVE with the establishment of a filing case management system for the registration and follow-up of all individual reintegration plans for resocialisation in the

community (e.g. in schools), prepared by several reintegration ad hoc multidisciplinary groups with a whole-of-society and inter-institutional approach.

Contributing to SDG target 16.6, UNDP, through the Consolidation of Service Delivery in Albania (CSDA), the project Consolidation of Citizen Centric Public Service Delivery in Albania, funded by the government of Austria, provided assistance for a comprehensive review of the strategic and regulatory framework for citizen-centric public service delivery and the identification of recommendations on areas to address. In supporting the newly-appointed Minister of State for Service Standards in September 2021, the project helped with the design and conducting of a snapshot assessment of the state of public service standards in Albania involving 119 public agencies.

The nationwide expansion of customer care standards was advanced in 2021 in close collaboration with the Agency for the Delivery of Integrated Services in Albania (ADISA) with the opening of two new modern joint centres of central and local government services for citizens and businesses in the municipalities of Tepelena (in June) and Himara (August). Work on such a centre in Permet continued with the signing of an ADISA–Municipality agreement in December. As a result, by the end of 2021, some 17,000 additional local residents outside of the capital had benefitted from being served with customer care standards when obtaining public services, giving a total of nearly 368,000

inhabitants in the thirteen municipalities where such joint centres are functioning in the country. In related developments, a new integrated citizen service centre for larger municipalities was inaugurated by ADISA in Kamez, bringing the number of such centres to ten, implementing the model designed with earlier UNDP-managed donor pool fund support.

To build institutional capacity in sustaining ongoing improvements in citizen-centric public service delivery by adopting internationally certified standards and best practices, the CSDA project aided the preparatory work for ADISA's certification for International Organisation for Standardisation, ISO, 9001:2015, quality management, and ISO 37001:2016, anti-bribery, the latter, a first such in Albania. The conducted audit was successful and formal certification award steps were in process by the end of December 2021. In addition, new training modules on customer care standards in public service delivery in Albania, with a focus on persons with disabilities (PwD), including for training of trainers (ToT), were developed and delivered in both classroom and online settings with the assistance of the project. This activity was carried out in close collaboration with the Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA), which was a recipient together with ADISA of all the developed content that may be useful for future training of public administration staff. A total of 69 participants received training certificates (>72% female, including 7 of the 8 in the ToT) of which two-thirds were from outside the capital.



The opening of two new modern joint centres of central and local government services for citizens and businesses in Tepelena and Himara

Findings of the Trust in Government (TiG) Opinion Poll on citizen perceptions on the performance of public institutions in 2020, funded in the framework of the CSDA project, were presented in June 2021. The fieldwork for the 9th annual edition of the 2021, based on a similar questionnaire and methodology with a nationally representative sample of 2,500 respondents distributed across all 61 municipalities of Albania, was carried out during 6–21 November 2021. The preparatory work included the customary annual review of the questionnaire by a panel of experts in the fields of good governance and social sciences to keep up with recent developments and trends in public discourse, and consultations conducted regularly with development and government partners.

Implementation Challenges

The interim period until the swearing-in of the new government in September following the April general elections, and the discussions on its priorities, including a focus on digital transformation and public services provided online, as well as on associated proposed institutional changes, led to a slowing of activity implementation, especially in the public service delivery support area. This deceleration was mitigated by close engagement with the new Minister of State for Service Standards, reconfirming shared objectives and starting of discussions on realignment at the activity level based on priority interventions identified by government.

OUTPUT 1.3 **LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

3.7, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10

Local Government Units (LGUs) are able to deliver equitable, quality services and strengthen influence of citizens in decision making



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES
UNDP, UNFPA



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS
Governments of Sweden, Switzerland, the EU

Implementation Progress

UNDP's focus during 2021 was placed on sustaining and advancing local governance reforms. The STAR 3 project, in line with the local governance reform priorities, has contributed and set foundations for the achievement of important priorities of the National Cross-cutting Strategy on Decentralisation and Local Government Action Plan. Six additional municipalities (Belsh, Berat, Lezha, Permet, Pogradec and Tirana) drafted their integrity plans, which will be approved by the respective municipal council in 2022. The One-Stop Shop Information System (OSSIS) was made operational in two further municipalities (Has and Pustec), bringing the total number of municipalities with operational One-Stop Shops (OSSs) to 50. In those municipalities a total of 32,506 applications were recorded in 2021. Usage of OSSs was further consolidated through the support provided to the municipalities during June–December 2021. Some 697

support requests were addressed and 1,245 workflows updated during the reporting period as part of the support service. Meanwhile, 1,485 employees in the 50 municipalities and their AUs have benefitted from on-the-job training, and the business intelligence of OSSs has been improved with features and reports. While preparing the massive OSSIS roll-out in the Administrative Units (AUs) the project expanded the system in Lunxheri (Gjirokaster), bringing the total number of AUs with functional OSSs to thirteen. Two collocated municipal–ADISA offices were inaugurated during 2021 (in Tepelena and Himara), while a third office in Permet is planned to be opened by Q2 2022.

UNFPA supported 16 municipalities in establishing and expanding national advocacy platforms, monitoring planning and implementation of reproductive services and rights and youth budgeting. These focused on young people, vulnerable groups and young key popula-

tions at the municipal level by evaluating results, identifying best practices and lessons learnt, and developing a consensual new phase of assistance to more municipalities on youth budgeting and advocacy platforms, anticipating and articulating future activities and building necessary partnerships for implementation of the next phase.

The Youth Voice platform was established in four further municipalities, bringing the total number to 16. The Youth Voice Media Platform was established in one more municipality, bringing the total to ten municipalities. Media reporting on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and youth improved in 2021, doubling the number of published articles compared with the same period last year (from 60 to 126). Youth education and SRH was budgeted in six additional municipalities, bringing the overall number also to 16. [JoTabu](#) portal and apps and Facebook page reached a total of 300,000 people.

Implementation Challenges

Implementation of the OSSIS encountered a degree of resistance from local administrations to shift from traditional paper-based work. The leadership of mayors is definitely a game-changer, in most cases, for the implementation to overcome technical issues and increase the overall absorption of the assistance provided by partners. STAR 3 built on this situation by formalising commitment and cooperation into signed agreements.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between UNDP and each municipality on implementation of the assistance for OSSIS, including shared contributions for the equipping of the AUs with the necessary IT infrastructure. Cooperation agreements were signed also for implementation of the assistance for integrity plans. The pandemic provided another challenge to implementation of the planned activities. The physical contact and travel restrictions influenced the pace of implementation. Anti-covid measures tended to impact the result achieved. For instance, the first part of 2021 recorded fewer applications and reduced overall performance of LGUs using OSSIS than with the activation of support services and intensification of field visits and communication during the second part of the year.

The delay in the engagement of funding impacted the ability of the project to implement planned activities until mid-year. Following the signature of financing agreements with Swiss Development Cooperation and SIDA in autumn 2020, enabling continuity of STAR 3, the agreement with the biggest funding partner—the EU Delegation, which contributes 66 percent of the total amount—was signed in July 2021. Formal funding engagement from partners for implementation of the project is the main achievement, enabling the project to move forward with full speed in the field by July 2021. The total amount of funding partially covered the initial priorities included in the initial project document. However, the targets need to be revised.

OUTPUT 1.4 **ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

5.8, 5.a, 16.2, 16.3

Children and vulnerable adults and groups have equitable access to a friendlier justice system, and juvenile justice is administered to international standards



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UN Women



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Austria, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom

Implementation Progress

Children's access to justice is constrained by the fact that the justice system is not yet friendly to and accessible by all children and adolescents, even though yearly around 17,500 children interact with the justice system. There are gaps in the capacities of professionals working in justice and law enforcement, as well as others involved in legal processes affecting children. Accountability for ensuring child-friendly justice is weak and the administrative data system is inadequate, leaving many children invisible. There is a lack of proper budgeting for children's access to justice, the inter-institutional coordination mechanisms for managing child protection cases require significant strengthening and the participation of the justice sector needs to be seriously improved. Finally, there is a lack of awareness of justice mechanisms (including alternative dispute resolution mechanisms) and supporting institutions.

To support the country in reducing the number of children in detention (pre- and post-trial) and improve their access to justice (SDG 16, target

16.3, indicators 16.3.1 and 16.3.2) UNICEF, with the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and the UK government delivered the following:

- Safeguarded children's right to justice in a less traumatic way, fully furnished and equipped the child-friendly interview units of seven police departments, and enabled the Gjirokaster police force to use the child-friendly interview unit through organising a workshop with twelve police officers tasked to handle cases of children, from five local police stations.
- Supported the Magistrates' School to produce six educational mock court videos with elements of judicial determination of the best interest of the child. The videos became part of the online learning platform for magistrates.
- Ensured children are also seen by the justice system, in addition to being heard. Upon establishment of the online Integrated Data System on Criminal Justice for Chil-



Supporting the Magistrates' School to produce six educational mock court videos with elements of judicial determination

dren, a user's manual was developed, a ToT (12 persons; 10 female) completed and training (and when necessary, retraining) of 91 end-users conducted (72 female). As a result, police recorded 247 cases, probation 146 and the prosecution 143 in the system by December 2021. Data entry for 2021 is ongoing.

- Supported INSTAT to finalise the mapping of Albania's legislation against the International Classification of Crime Statistics (ICCS) and prepare a plan for its adoption and adaptation for administrative data.
- Government established a Juvenile Criminality Prevention Centre (JCPC), recruited

its staff, offered induction training to 15 of them (12 female) and established a website for this new institution.

- Supported children's right to informed participation in legal processes. MoJ developed a communication plan to accompany the National Justice for Children Strategy and its staff (10 persons; 9 female) and 24 (20 female) from the community of practitioners in Berat and Gjirokaster received training in its implementation. From these two municipalities 50 students (27 female) and seven teachers (all female) participated and contributed to awareness activities on the new approaches of justice for chil-

dren legislation. A poster, three leaflets and two informative videos on the rights of child victims, witnesses and offenders were made available to children and families in all police departments, district prosecution offices and on the JCPC website. Facebook posts with this information had a reach of more than 45,000 users.

- Contributed towards prevention of and effective response to the phenomenon of TIP, and kick-started the inter-disciplinary practice of managing cases of children in conflict and contact with the law in Puka and Shkodra.

UNHCR organised a training on Child Protection with staff from the National Centre for Asylum and staff of national NGOs with the aim of strengthening their understanding on relevant UN guidelines, principles and SOPs, with particular focus on refugee and asylum-seeking children arriving in mixed movements, including UASC.

In the context of the justice reform, as a key requirement for the country's EU accession, in June 2018, a new law on State Guaranteed Legal Aid was adopted and entered into force with UN and EU technical support, and was further completed with the sub-legislation in 2020. However, its implementation in practice is far from meeting the needs of its beneficiaries.

With Austrian Development Agency (ADA) funds, UNDP supported the Directorate of Free Legal Aid (DoFLA) and the MoJ, as leading state structures for administering the FLA system to expand services in eight regions of the country and deliver FLA services to vulnerable individuals and groups. By the end of 2021, eight FLA centres were operational and functioning in Durres, Fier, Gjirokaster, Lezha, Peshkopi, Pogradec, Shkodra and Vlora. A total of 2,242³ vulnerable individuals, of whom 1,138 were women, received primary and secondary FLA services in these judiciary regions in an non-disruptive, inclusive and equal manner considering also the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The top cases demanding FLA were divorce, protection orders, birth registrations, alimony benefits, pension benefits, work compensation, social benefits, inheritance cases and property disputes.

Furthermore, FLA legal aid service providers (both jurists and lawyers) strengthened their knowledge on enforcing the FLA legal framework and other domestic laws alleviating discrimination, poverty and exclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups. The National Chamber of Advocacy of Albania (NCHA) signed an MoU with UNDP on enhancing the capacities of lawyers from the list of secondary legal aid service providers guaranteed by the state. More concretely, through joint efforts made in collaboration with UNDP, NCHA and DoFLA a specific training module (online content and

3. The category that has benefitted the most persons (1,172) is that of those with low or no income, followed by the elderly (598), PwD (236), members of the R&E communities (211), victims of GBV (120) and members of LGBTI+ (23). Out of 2,242 FLA beneficiaries, 2,198 have received the primary legal aid service, thus benefitting women and men almost equally (1,138 and 1,104, respectively).



Offering access to free legal aid for marginalized members of society

adapting to the Covid-19 situation) on secondary legal aid was developed and a customised online training was delivered to 70 pro bono lawyers providing secondary FLA services. In addition, with UNDP support, ASPA, in partnership with DoFLA, developed a specific training module on primary FLA for public officials, 24 of whom were trained in Primary Legal Aid and procedures for benefitting from FLA services.

By ensuring the availability of legal services in areas where there are no FLA centres, particularly relying on the positive experiences of partnerships with specialised CSOs and NHRIs, and by empowering vulnerable groups, access to justice can be sufficiently improved in the local context. Furthermore, cooperation with

CSOs and NHRIs was strengthened in thirteen municipalities through organisation of joint activities, reaching around 2,300 vulnerable women and men with information and knowledge in HR and their protection mechanisms, as well as on the FLA system overall. In 2021, 254 junior lawyers, local service providers and Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) representatives were trained in issues of FLA, gender-based violence (GBV) and property-rights-related legislation.

The free-of-charge public system for mediation and conciliation of labour disputes deals exclusively with collective disputes. Individual disputes are mainly channelled to the courts and especially vulnerable workers have limited



Albanian judges use International Labour Standards in court decisions

access to mediation or reconciliation as either they are not protected by collective agreements, or they cannot afford the costs involved. Aiming to increase access to justice in labour disputes for all, the project Access to Justice in Labour Disputes through Mediation and Conciliation, implemented in Albania by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) with the financial support of the government of Sweden, in cooperation with the ILO International Training Centre and the Albanian School of Magistrates, trained 50 Albanian judges and candidate magistrates (31 women and 19 men) in International Labour Standards (ILS) and fundamental principles and rights at work, including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, equality and non-discrimination in employment and occupation, elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work, protection against unfair termination of employment, and occupational safety and health. Judges were capacitated to use ILS as a valuable labour law source and a guide to interpret labour law, strengthen court

decisions and settle labour disputes. Albanian judges and candidate magistrates joined the on-line Community of Practice enabling them to access useful information, such as publications, global legal and case law databases.

Implementation Challenges

Establishment of child-friendly interview units represents a considerable investment both for infrastructure and equipment, and capacity building for police workers. Frequent and confident use of these premises remains a challenge. UNICEF will continue supporting with capacity building and mentoring for these police units during 2022.

Full functionality of the Integrated Data System on Justice for Children will be ensured only with the successful engagement of the judiciary, in addition to the authorities from the executive and prosecution. The regularity and quality of the data entered into the system is the main challenge for the next programme cycle. UNICEF will strengthen its partnership with High Judicial Council and the MoJ Juvenile Criminality Prevention Centre to continue supporting their respective roles as user and supervisor of the system.

Inter-institutional collaboration on Justice for Children issues, as well as efficient donor and implementing stakeholders, remains a challenge. UNICEF will continue to advocate with the responsible authorities during the



Managing cases of children in conflict and contact with the law in Puka

next programme cycle with a view to further strengthening the collaboration. Lessons learned from the local level in pilot areas will be used to advise the authorities to apply the lessons accordingly at the central level and to expand the collaboration to jurisdictions beyond the pilot areas.

The government's investment in both human and financial resources to sustain existing FLA services and further develop the FLA system and its management institutions overall remains a challenge. To address this, UNDP, together with MoJ and DoFLA, have agreed on a sustainability and phasing-out plan to ensure uninterrupted delivery of the services upon MoJ and DoFLA's

commitment to gradually take under its administration as part of DoFLA's structure all FLA centres supported by UNDP with ADA funds.

Another challenge is the provision of unhindered, timely and affordable access to FLA for vulnerable groups in the frame of the proposed new judicial map of the country. All existing centres were opened in key regions covering a large territory of Albania following thorough consultations with the MoJ leadership. The locations of these centres are on the premises of the district court, the municipality or ADISA regional offices, as key public service institutions ensuring access of vulnerable people to information and support.

OUTPUT 1.5 MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

5.1, 5.4, 5.c, 17.18

State institutions have capacities and mechanisms to mainstream gender in policy-making and planning processes



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Austria, Sweden, the EU

Implementation Progress

The government of Albania has made national and international commitments to advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) by adopting sound policies and laws that integrate the principle of gender equality (GE). Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) has been included as a legal requirement in the Organic Budget Law (2016) and the Law on Local Finances (2017), which regulate the application of GRB in the medium term and annual budget planning, as well as the monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes of the institutions. GRB is continually annexed to the annual Standards Budget Preparation Instructions and represents an important tool for advancing GE in key national strategic documents. Government recognises GE as one of the principles of its planning and budgeting process, which, over the years, has resulted in an increase in budget allocations for GE results. GRB elements constituted nine percent of the total planned annual budget in 2021, compared to just one percent in 2015.

However, gaps remain to ensure systematic application of GRB across all sectors of government planning and budgeting, through improved gender statistics and analysis, and with more effective application of budget performance monitoring systems. While Albania has exhibited good practices in mainstreaming gender and application of GRB in the budget-planning phase, it now needs to move ahead and advance the monitoring and measuring of the impact of GRB by increasing capacities and know-how on oversight and monitoring processes and continued expert mentoring to support GRB uptake by the national partners.

Through UN support, 2021 saw significant progress made towards gender-mainstreaming in legal and policy frameworks at the central and local level in line with international and national GE commitments including the EU GE *acquis*.

At the national level, two strategic documents were reviewed from a gender perspective (the government's Strategic Response to Instrument

for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) III; Business and Investment Development Strategy 2021–2027), five EU IPA III 2022 action documents (Good Governance and Public Administration; EU Integration Facility; Social Inclusion; Health; and Water) integrate GE goals and gender-responsive measures and indicators, and nine IPA Unit officials in the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) were familiarised with gender mainstreaming approaches. In addition, regional cross-learning experiences were exchanged at a UN Women's Gender Equality Facility meeting of practitioners in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The new National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE) 2021–2030, developed and approved in 2021 with UN agency (UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA) support and technical advice, contains an analysis, as well as outcomes, outputs and activities, that view GE not as a women's issue but as a societal issue. From this perspective, the new strategy also contains interventions to combat gender stereotypes and norms to bring about a transformative change in society's mentality. In addition, MoHSP was assisted in detailing the costing of the Action Plan for implementation of NSGE, as an important exercise to support more effective and efficient planning and allocation of resources.

At the local level, Gramsh Municipality signed the European Charter for Equality, 63 local officials in Elbasan, Gramsh, Gjirokaster and Tirana were familiarised with European Charter Guide-



2021 saw significant progress made towards gender-mainstreaming

lines on how to draft a Local Gender Action Plan and four such draft plans were developed.

A Youth Needs Analysis was conducted, supported by UNFPA, in the administrative units of Berzhite, Bulgarec, Kodovjat, Lunxheri, Shirgjan and Velipoja to support awareness raising, information sharing and capacity building of young boys and girls on GE issues includ-

ing harmful practices that undermine GE. Five consultation meetings with the municipalities of Elbasan, Gramsh, Gjirokaster, Korca and Tirana took place to agree on the partnership between UNFPA and the respective municipalities and to mobilise the working group on gender-responsive youth development and youth-centred outreach at the local level.

UNFPA's work on engaging the private sector to implement family-friendly policies resulted in six private companies signing MoUs with UNFPA to invest in such policies and a seventh MoU was signed between UNFPA and the Women's Economic Chamber at an event that brought together the Minister of Finance and Economy, the chair of the Parliamentary Commission for Economy and Enterprise and the Ambassador of Austria to congratulate and appreciate this important partnership. UNFPA also initiated the advocacy work with a media company in identifying role models among male employees in the private sector who wish to share and advocate positive parenting and fatherhood. In addition, following the successful *Analysis on Parenting Norms and Traditions in Albania*, which UNFPA carried out in 2021, a manual for capacity building of providers working with families and parents to support and develop positive parenting was developed.

Progress was made in improving the production, availability and use of gender statistics, with the support of UN Women. The capacities of 44 Civil Society Organisation (CSO) representatives and experts (43 women) on gender

statistics and analyses were increased, the new NSGE 2021–2030 was developed with a comprehensive performance monitoring framework, with indicators aligned to SDGs and key international and national GE obligations, INSTAT representatives benefitted from UN Women's technical support in a gender section in the PC-axis, developing the new five-year statistical programme and preparing the new *Women and Men* publication, for 2021.

The accountability of governance systems improved, supported by UN Women, towards GE commitments at both the central and local level, evident in the strategic, policy, legal and programmatic framework developed during the year, but also in the overall public finance management, which continued to apply GE principles, and in the increased women's participation in decision-making and budgeting processes, which should contribute to strengthening the agency in the longer term.

Work to improve the budgeting system and financial reporting included the following:

- Budget policies prioritise revenue and budgetary allocations for GEWE are engendered. For the 2022–2024 Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP) these comprise 45 budgetary programmes (60.8% of all budgetary programmes), and the amount of funds addressing GE issues is approximately USD 490 million (9% of the total budget). Moreover, analysis of the major financial changes caused by Covid-19, and possible

implications in terms of gender, is finalised.

- Some 563 government officials have increased knowledge on GRB integration into the MTBP 2022–2024 and gender statistics due to intensive capacity building efforts through ten trainings for eleven line ministries. Meanwhile, 20 GE employees from all line ministries, INSTAT and state police have improved knowledge on GRB, gender statistics and gender analysis.
- For the first time, gender expenditures can be tracked, and the impact measured from an improved and engendered Albanian Finance Management Information System. With data from the system, the first Gender Expenditure Monitoring Report 2021 was issued.
- The 2022 budget is open and transparent to citizens and oversight mechanisms due to the Gender Sensitive Citizen's Budget, published annually by MoFE.
- Oversight bodies are more proactive in demanding accountability of public institutions on budget allocations and application of GRB. New partnerships are established between the institutions of the Supreme Audit, Ombudsperson and Anti-discrimination Commissioner, increasing their knowledge of GE and GRB and committed to co-drafting thematic reports on such budgeting monitoring in public finances.
- A total of 20 municipalities have strength-

ened capacities to apply GRB within local budgets with a focus on gender mainstreaming in policies and related budgets associated with municipal services. Some 203 municipal staff (60 men and 143 women) have improved skills and know-how on gender analysis and GRB application at the local level. Eight concrete initiatives were budgeted and undertaken by municipalities as a direct result of GRB training and mentoring processes in 2021. Through cooperation with ASPA, two standardised training modules for LGUs on gender responsive planning and budgeting including in the context of the pandemic and the post-recovery period were developed and delivered. These modules will be used by ASPA in the future to train local public administrations in GRB.

- A total of ten economics journalists are more knowledgeable on how to report on GE financing due to first-of-its kind training received from UN Women on GRB and its importance in reporting.

Implementation Challenges

Constitution of the new government following the parliamentary elections of April 2021 postponed the processes for the drafting of NSDI III. New legislative and parliamentary composition in September 2021 put on hold work with Parliament, while the pandemic applied less priority to work on gender and more on health.

OUTPUT 1.6 **MIGRATION AND ASYLUM**

5.2, 8.7, 10.7, 10.b, 16.2, 16.3, 17.16, 17.18

Government authorities have strengthened capacities to enhance effective migration and asylum management



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Austria, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Germany, United States, the EU

Implementation Progress

Since the beginning of 2018, Albania has been a larger transit route for refugees and migrants heading towards the EU. The increased and more complex mixed movements have placed additional pressure on the already strained capacities of migration and asylum management authorities to effectively manage their borders and address border security issues that arise. There is a need to step from the current processing into more differentiated approaches in managing mixed movement flows, combined with expansion of the current reception capacities, also to better address vulnerabilities. The absence of a high-level coordination mechanism on migration and asylum governance has limited the Albanian government's capacity to address migration and asylum-related issues with a holistic approach and provide strategic guidance in all future challenges with respect to migration and asylum. A differentiated approach and pathways for arrivals and effective readmission policies, in full respect of international law and standards, have become

central aspects of migration and asylum management that addresses mixed movements in a way that helps discourage people from risking their lives in undertaking dangerous migration.

According to UNHCR and partners' data, during the period January–December 2021, a total of 10,102 first-time arrival refugees and migrants were intercepted in Albania. While more than 80 percent of the arrivals were self-reportedly from countries with high protection recognition rates, including 52 percent from Syria and fourteen percent from Afghanistan, only 85 individuals were referred to the asylum procedure. Assurances by authorities that referrals to the procedure by persons requesting asylum in the country would regularise had not fully materialised by the end of 2021. Women and children constituted 19 percent of arrivals in 2021, including 210 self-declared UASC. During interviews with UNHCR and partners, many of the arrivals highlighted that they were fleeing violence and persecution in their country of origin. De facto returns to Greece took place in the absence of implementation of

the EU–Albania Readmission Agreement with that country. Given the shortened pre-screening procedure applied at borders, it was observed that a due assessment of international protection needs may not have been conducted in all cases.

In this respect, Mol, UNHCR and IOM are engaged in advancing towards differentiated, higher-quality pathways and procedures to address mixed movements. Such a differentiated approach will require increased reception capacity and services at borders, specialised services in-country and would streamline pathways—including accelerated procedures—on the basis of expressed protection needs or migration profile, vulnerability and intention to remain in the country, with a focus on the integration of refugees and migrants. A joint concept note developed on the issue by UNHCR and IOM has been endorsed by Mol.

UNHCR staff, in cooperation with implementing partners (Caritas and PA), assisted new arrivals with humanitarian assistance, including provision of food for 15,931 persons, non-food items for 1,782 persons and information leaflets for 16,079 persons. UNHCR through its partner RMSA continued to ensure that asylum-seekers and refugees had access to free legal representation during the RSD procedure or before the courts, or both, as needed. Throughout the year, UNHCR's partner conducted 32 informative sessions on asylum procedures and legal counselling to asylum-seekers accommodated at the Reception Centre for Asylum (RCA). Some 3,950 information leaflets regarding asylum procedures in Ara-

bic, Farsi, Pashtu and English were disseminated at the RCA, border facilities and Tirana Regional Directorate for Border and Migration Police.

Children and families trying to enter Albania, and those who manage to gain entry, including asylum seekers, refugees, UASC face multiple deprivation and challenges with the fulfilment of their basic rights. Despite some recent positive developments, the overall national systems of health, education and protection are not fully fit to attend the needs nor to deliver quality and tailored services for people on the move. The situation of UASC in 2021 remained concerning due to their inability to access core services in Albania.

The new Law on Asylum was approved by Parliament in February 2021. UNHCR supported Mol in the drafting process. The law had incorporated several comments from UNHCR and the EU. Notably, it includes provisions for introducing an accelerated asylum procedure, a key aspect of ongoing discussions on improvements to the management of mixed movements. Fifteen by-laws are envisaged to accompany the law, detailing its implementation. By the end of 2021, eleven by-laws had been passed. Of these, UNHCR reviewed and submitted comments on one: concerning registration at the civil registry by refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection. UNHCR also reviewed and commented on the by-law relating to an accelerated procedure, and which remains in the drafting process.

UNHCR's partner RMSA cooperated closely with the Directorate for Asylum, Foreigners

and Citizenship (DfAFC) regarding the decision-making process and emerging issues, advocating for respect of legal timeframes in lodging and processing asylum applications. Regionally, UNHCR engaged in the first phase of implementation of the IPAI-funded regional Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) and respective tools to improve the capacity of authorities to conduct refugee status determination. UNHCR organised consultations with DfAFC to progress on the baseline for QAI. UNHCR and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO, currently EUAA) coordinated capacity building efforts seeking synergies between UNHCR's QAI and EASO's Roadmap.

In 2021, Mol began piloting the issuance of ID numbers and cards for refugees in line with a Council of Ministers Decision (DCM) from spring 2019, with the overall aim of facilitating greater access to public services. At the end of 2021, a DCM to allow for the issuance of ID cards was being finalised.

Furthermore, in 2021, UNHCR reached a partnership agreement with ILO and worked together for realisation of local integration potentials and improvement of self-reliance and livelihoods. UNHCR and ILO undertook an extensive legal analysis to facilitate access to the labour market for asylum seekers, as well as a Legal and Governance Solution Document. This exercise rendered an information kit for refugees and asylum seekers on access to Albania's labour market. The information kit has been published by ILO in Albanian, English, Farsi, Arabic and Persian.





UNHCR and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO, currently EUAA) coordinated capacity building efforts seeking synergies between UNHCR's QAI and EASO's Roadmap

ILO also made a thorough analysis and developed a feasibility study 'A skills and attitudinal testing system in the Albanian garment sector,' which will be a starting point for employment opportunities of our Persons of Concern. ILO also produced 'Guidelines for the Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Provision of Active Labour Market Programmes,' which was used as a guidance for the training sessions organised at central and local levels.

UNHCR and IOM successfully advocated for the inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers (and migrants) in the Covid-19 national vaccination programme, with a positive governmental response. The UN Migration Network was established in April 2021. Co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM, and with the membership of UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, UN Women and WHO, the network aims to contribute to leveraging the Global Compact for Migration implementation for achievement of the SDGs.

Mol established and operationalised the Coordination and Monitoring mechanism of the National Strategy on Migration (NSM) and Action Plan (AP) (2019–2022), with IOM support. The scoping study on NSM and AP implementation was completed and the NSM mid-term review conducted with IOM support. Out of 127 measures contained in the AP, for the period June 2019–June 2021 (report for June–December 2021 in development), 40 measures were implemented, 25 were not implemented in the

foreseen time, and 55 measures are ongoing. An in-depth assessment of institutional capacities on migration governance was carried out by IOM and recommendations provided to boost the NSM and AP implementation. IOM supported the development of a migration governance training module, including a ToT module, in cooperation with the ASPA, with eleven trainers and 35 officials from various institutions trained.

Supported by IOM and UNHCR, Mol also updated and costed the Contingency Plan for Massive Influx of Migrants and Asylum Seekers to Albania and drafted the new law 'On Aliens', adopted in September 2021. By year's end, the contingency plan was with the Council of Ministers, for approval.

Conditions for children, women and girls in a vulnerable situation improved, with IOM support, at the temporary reception facilities at Kapshtica, Korce, and in Gjirokaster (specifically at Gerhot and Kakavija Border Crossing Point). The intervention enabled the BMP to conduct interviews in a warm and welcoming environment guaranteeing confidentiality, helping in the identification of the vulnerabilities of new arrivals. At the same time, support was provided to ensure availability and access to sanitary services in the context of the Covid-19 situation. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was donated to the Albanian State Police in 2021 based on their identified needs to ensure safe continuity of border and migration management activities.



IOM supported the development of a migration governance training module

UN Women in partnership with Caritas Albania supported 286 migrant women and girls to access counselling sessions, 91 women and girls to access medical services, and 383 women and girls in separate interviews with police officers in the presence of a woman translator. At the policy level, the legal framework on migrants and asylum seekers was improved to include the fundamental rights of women and girls.

With the aim of building capacity and enhancing coordination among service provider officials at the borders, UNHCR led a joint initiative, along with IOM, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFA and WHO, with a (Norwegian) contribution from

the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. Relevant SOPs were developed by the participating agencies in 2021 and UNHCR supported the process with a mapping of existing laws, by-laws and SOPs. Within the scope of this joint initiative, UNHCR and EASO jointly facilitated two round-tables on 'Access to the asylum procedure and identification and referral of persons with specific needs', targeting first-contact officials of BMP and local service providers. A high-level discussion was subsequently held, marking the end of the UN agency joint initiative, and gathering all relevant stakeholders in Albania.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) counselling was provided by IOM to 2,924 irregular migrants including one Nigerian and one Algerian during 2021.

As part of the above-mentioned SDG Acceleration Fund project aiming to strengthen capacities in managing mixed migration flows by addressing the situation of the most vulnerable, UNFPA in partnership with UN Women provided trainings on referral mechanisms, SOPs and Pre-Screening Instruction implementation procedures for identification and case management of vulnerable individuals to the BMP and local government stakeholders (service providers) at the two main entry border areas, in the areas of Korca and Gjirokastra. To ensure sustainability, these trainings were followed up with technical support and the distribution of toolkits and manuals. Capacity building support was provided also to health and social care service providers on SOPs on GBV in emergencies and for health and psycho-social care, provision of essential medical and psycho-social services to migrant women and girls, and for increasing the understanding of BMP and local institutions on best practices to identify and refer cases of migrant women and girls at high risk of violence.

UNICEF work in 2021 included drafting a technical legal analysis around the regulatory framework on UASC and providing government with a clear set of recommendations on the necessary changes. The case management SOP for UASC was also revised in consultation with the UN agencies and core stakeholders.

In parallel, active capacity building in the southern border municipalities supported 30 front-line professionals with a dedicated case management skillset, while 60 technical interdisciplinary group members were introduced to core concepts on the identification and provision of child protection services for UASC, and the respective pathways. Among other things, the targeted professionals were equipped with the necessary learning skills to proactively identify among UASC, children affected by statelessness or at risk, and effectively activate referral and case management mechanisms. As a result, 199 UASC received child-friendly assessments in 2021, seven of which were supported with emergency sheltering and basic services, as well as psycho-social assistance through UNICEF supported programmes.

Further to an MoI rehabilitation of damaged structures in the National Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers, UNHCR provided necessary furniture to the RCA in Babrru, Tirana. The accommodation capacity for asylum seekers was thus increased, from 28 to 250. UNHCR also supported the centre with IT equipment, wheelchairs for PwD and appliances necessary for the running of the centre.

Assessments of the current legal framework and IT infrastructure for the introduction of Advance Passenger Information was completed and endorsed, ready for implementation. IOM developed an online training on Covid-19, in both English and Albanian, for border police at the points of entry. IT equipment was donated to BMP to equip training conference rooms in the regional directorates to facilitate attendance. Online ToT was conducted

and online roll-out of the training was successfully concluded by December 2021.

Through the IOM programme 'Engage the Albanian Diaspora in the Social and Economic Development of Albania', 38 highly skilled diaspora members were engaged in policy support, with fellowships on EU approximation and investments, and mapping of the diaspora, including with sex-disaggregated data. Diaspora mechanisms for skills transfer and investment boosting are in place, capacity building was provided to diaspora engagement institutions and policy support provided for the revision of the National Strategy on Diaspora and Action Plan 2021–2025.

Implementation Challenges

The effective lack of access to the asylum procedure was compounded in 2021 by several inter-related factors. First, authorities consider, given previous practice until mid-2020, that arrivals do not intend to remain in Albania and have requested asylum only to then abscond and leave the country. The trend was observed by UNHCR and partners. Second, the EU–Albania Readmission Agreement with Greece is not being implemented for third-country nationals, resulting in returns taking place outside this legal framework. UNHCR understands that Albania proposed to Greece an implementation protocol, as it has with other EU Member States for operation of the agreement, which is pending assessment. Third, the lack of re-

pairs and maintenance of the National Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers, and its over-use by persons not intending to remain in Albania, left the country without an operating centre to shelter asylum seekers. Its above-mentioned repair and rehabilitation by MoI, supported with refurbishment by UNHCR, put the centre back in operation by the end of the reporting period.

Additionally, UNHCR continued to observe that the pre-screening procedure for refugees and migrants was often shortened, raising concerns with regard to access to asylum, as well as on the identification of persons with specific needs, including PVoT. UNHCR further understands that most arrivals in 2021 de facto returned to Greece, further to the issuance of return orders and in the absence of implementation of the above-mentioned Readmission Agreement. This understanding generally aligns with a trend noted since the reopening of land borders in June 2020, whereby there have been only 85 referrals for asylum from among the total of 10,102 arrivals in 2021 (including USAC, families, women-at-risk, etc.).

The law on social care services still creates a barrier for foreign USAC accessing social care services. The new laws on asylum and on foreigners do not include provisions for woman and girl survivors (or at higher risk of becoming victims) of violence or trafficking, or both. The pre-screening questionnaires do not include questions to help identify victims of violence. Meanwhile, sustainability remains a challenge, particularly for diaspora engagement actions, due to pending institutional restructuring.

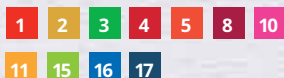
OUTCOME 2

Social Cohesion

All women, men, girls and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights; and more effective and efficient investments in human and financial resources are being made at central and local levels to ensure social inclusion and cohesion.



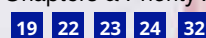
Alignment with SDGs



Alignment with National Development Goals



Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas



Outcome 2—Social Cohesion—consists of five outputs focusing on: 1) Health, 2) Education, 3) Social Inclusion and Protection, 4) Child Protection, and 5) Gender-Based Violence.

This outcome supports the Government of Albania in achieving three priorities of NSDI 2015–2020: 1) EU membership, 2) Consolidate good governance, democracy, and the rule of law, and 3) Investing in people and social cohesion. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 17, and EU integration chapters and priority areas 19, 23, 24 and 32.

The total available budget for implementation of Outcome 2 in 2021 was USD 13 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, Austria, Canada, Germany, Netherland,

Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and the US, as well as the EU, Global Partnership to end Violence against Children, PBF, other miscellaneous donors, and UN regional and global funds (Joint SDG Fund, UNICEF Global Thematic Funds). The outcome delivery was 97 per cent.

UN in Albania interventions were attributed to, or contributed to, achievement of more than 90 percent of the indicators under this outcome during PoCSD 2017–2021 implementation.



Indicators for Outcome 2

■ Baseline 2016-2017 ■ Status 2021

Indicator	Baseline 2016-2017	Status 2021
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	26	9
Schoolchildren's learning outcomes (as measured by PISA)		
Reading	394	405
Math	394	437
Science	397	417
Rate of children (age 0–17 years) in residential (public and non-public) care per 100,000 child population	84	80
No. instruments facilitating implementation of legal framework for Child Protection is in place	0	At least 17
No. of national mechanisms collecting evidence and addressing violence against children	4: police, CPUs, schools, helpline	At least 6: police, CPUs, schools, helpline, health centres, online and web-based platform
% of Child Protection Units that perform case management of children at risk and need for protection	26%	87%
No. of health-care institutions that have conducted self-assessment on compliance with approved Quality of Care Standards	5 hospitals	At least 12 hospitals and hospital services, 6 PHC Centers, 4 non-public clinics
Presence of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in all schools at all levels, private and public including 10-18 years of age	20%	75%
No. of sector-specific policies with explicit social inclusion targets	4	47
No. Roma and Egyptian women and men with improved access to basic social protection services is increased.	357	At least 10,000
Coordination mechanisms for social protection systems established countrywide	0	6
% Women who have experienced physical violence during their lives	23.7%	18%
No. municipalities with functional CRMs	27	61
No. cases of gender-based violence addressed through CRMs	312	Over 4,000
No. of GBV-related laws and by-laws adopted or amended to align with international and regional standards	2 laws 0 by-laws	At least 3 laws, 3 policies, 13 by-laws, protocols, guidelines and 1 global Convention ratified/ admitted
Existence of improved knowledge on child marriage	No	Yes
Proportion of population covered by social protection floors or systems, by sex, gender, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, R&E, PWD, migrants, refugees, pregnant women, new-born, work-injury victims and poor and vulnerable	N/A	70%

OUTPUT 2.1 **HEALTH**

2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 8.2, 11.6, 16.5, 17.18

There is increased access to quality, inclusive, equitable and affordable health-care services, and community demand is increased



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, IAEA, FAO



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Austria, Germany, Netherland, Switzerland, United States, United Kingdom, UN regional and global funds, other miscellaneous donors

Implementation Progress

Moving towards Universal Health Coverage is a high priority for Albania. The health system faces challenges related to ensuring universal access to high quality health care services, integrating services in primary health care, generating data for planning and reporting, monitoring the quality of care, and strengthening skills of health personnel to implement health programmes and clinical guidelines and protocols at every level.

In 2021, UN agencies collectively provided support to the government along four tracks: (i) support the country response for Covid-19, (ii) support the continuity of essential health services, including equal access to services, (iii) support the strengthening of the health system, focusing on resilience, and (iv) advocacy and partnerships on the rights to health and reduced inequalities.

As of 31 December 2021, Albania had received 1,164,700 Pfizer doses, 538,400 AstraZeneca doses, 1,000,000 Coronavac doses and 60,000 Sputnik V doses, a total of 2,763,100 doses, while 143,400 doses were shipped through Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX). Since the start of nationwide vaccination, a total of 1,212,288 doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered, and 40 per cent of people older than 18 years have received two doses of vaccine.

Support for the Covid-19 response was delivered by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA across multiple pillars, among which the key ones are described below:

➤ *Leadership, coordination, planning, financing and monitoring* were supported by the contribution of WHO. MoHSP developed two strategies and plans for the response to Covid-19, updated the Emergency Op-



Since the start of nationwide vaccination, a total of 1,212,288 doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered

eration Plan, set up the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre, updated the Emergency Operation Plan of Infection Disease Hospital (1 Covid-19 hospital), developed the Emergency Operation Plan of the National Medical Emergency Centre, established the Incident Management System of the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre, to name a few.

- *Risk communication, community engagement and infodemic management* were supported by WHO, including MoHSP training in infodemic management, a communication campaign for Covid-19 vaccination, and the league of health journalists

to increase understanding and promotion of the process of Covid-19 vaccination through responsible journalism, among others. UNICEF partnered with MoHSP, the Institute of Public Health (IPH), Regional Health and Education departments and schools, to disseminate health education messages, raise awareness about Covid-19, and promote hygiene behaviours that protect against infection. The campaign #TheCareProtects was implemented in seven cities of Albania. Twelve video spots (with sign language interpretation) were produced and published on YouTube and the Facebook and Instagram pages of UNICEF Albania. Seven live events

with Muppet characters were arranged to ensure the engagement of children, teachers and parents in 313 schools around the country. Muppet Show Events entertained children who met their beloved characters, played games with them and asked questions about #COVID19. Around 100,000 children were reached through communication activities in the 313 schools.

- *Surveillance and outbreak investigation* were supported by WHO with logistics (vehicles and fuel) for twelve MoHSP investigation teams to reach better remote communities, training of medical and nursing staff (7,054 participants) of university, regional and municipality hospitals on surveillance and control measures, establishment of an electronic information system, training of health care service operator staff (98 participants) involved in emergency management, development of a strategy and the setting up surveillance of health-care-associated infections, among others.
- *Points of entry, travel, transport and gatherings* were supported by WHO for assessment of the priority needed of Albanian points of entry (PoE: airports, ports, ground crossing points) in the context of Covid-19, a training workshop on Covid-19 PoE preparedness and response, assessment of core capacity requirements at Tirana International Airport and development of a Plan of Action to address the identified gaps.



Superheronjtë mbajnë maska - UNICEF campaign

- *Laboratories and diagnostics* received WHO support with the assessment of the diagnostic capacities of the Virology laboratory in IPH (1 Covid-19 laboratory), assessment of Covid-19 laboratory capacities to upscale their diagnostics capacities, laboratory workshops on the pooling of samples, biosafety measures related to Covid-19 testing, SARS-CoV-2 molecular point-of-care diagnostics landscape, SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence, serological testing strategies, a training mission to Albania to strengthen Covid-19 diagnostic capacities of the Covid laboratories in Albania (at IPH, Mother Teresa University Hospital, Shefqet Ndroqi University Hospital), on-the-job training in laboratory biosafety for newly engaged staff in the SARS-CoV-2 testing microbiology laboratory at Mother Teresa University Hospital, and the procurement of reagents, kits and diagnostic equipment for Covid laboratories 1, 2 and 3. With UNICEF support, medical equipment (10 incubators, 10 resuscitation

tables, 10 phototherapy units, 12 warmer systems for the newborn) were delivered to the Intensive Care Units in both maternity hospitals in Tirana to strengthen the capacities of the health sector to deal with challenges posed by the pandemic and ensure continuity of maternal and child health services. Around 7,000 newborn benefited from improved quality of neonatal care in these maternity hospitals, including 40 Covid-19-positive newborn hospitalised during the reporting period.

➤ *Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)* received support from WHO for assessment of the training needs at Mother Tereza University Hospital (1 Covid-19 hospital) and the training of more than 20,000 health staff and volunteers in IPC, rapid assessment of IPC practice in selected wards at Mother Tereza University Hospital, Regional Hospital Durres and Primary Health Care Centres in Tirana, revision and strengthening of the national IPC programmes, and updating of the national IPC manual, with prioritisation of the development of IPC guidelines tailored to national needs. UNICEF interventions, in partnership with the University of Medicine and with coordination from MoHSP, combined support for regulatory framework and enforcement, capacity development of health professionals and provision of disinfectant supplies to help in enforcement of IPC standards in health facilities. The capacity building interventions reached more than 1,900 health pro-

professionals in 370 health centres and nine maternity hospitals, using IPC protocols developed through the UNICEF and University of Medicine partnership and officially endorsed by the MoHSP by Minister Order no. 156, dated 10.3.2021. Monitoring tools were developed to ensure sustained improvement of knowledge and practices of health personnel in IPC, including a questionnaire for self-assessment of IPC practices launched on an online platform, and checklists for supportive supervision used during visits to health facilities. Fifteen health facilities were supported for the development of workplans for implementation of IPC standards. Around 10,000 health-care workers in all 412 primary health care centres in Albania were reached with PPE supplies to support health personnel in their daily work to implement IPC standards recommended by national health authorities.

➤ *Operational support and logistics* received support from WHO for procurement concerning diagnosis of Covid-19, IPC, case management, laboratory equipment, kits, reagents, materials, IT equipment, vaccines cold chain equipment, vehicles, PPE, and Covid-19 Ag rapid tests. Meanwhile, UNICEF supported the printing of vaccination cards, communication materials and other documents required in the process of Covid-19 vaccination. Some 75 health professionals from all regions of Albania attended three ToT sessions, to support capacity development of health personnel

for microplanning in immunisation at the sub-national level. Moreover, 36 tables and 20 computers and printers were provided to strengthen recording and reporting of the vaccination process. Support was provided to IPH and the Central Operator of Health Services for capacity development of health professionals in microplanning for immunisation, training in vaccine administration and communication for Covid-19 vaccine uptake. A knowledge, attitude, practices survey for Covid-19 vaccine uptake was implemented and the results will be used to adjust the communication strategy. Procurement services were provided for COVAX facility vaccines. UNOPS provided critical testing and treatment equipment - 20 ambulances to the National Center for Medical Emergencies, 3 GeneXperts for rapid lab-diagnostic testing capacity to the Public Health Institute, in addition to an open PCR system which has been provided to increase both research and diagnostic testing capacity. To enhance medical infrastructure, detailed design of the national Infectious Disease Clinic has been finalized and is nearing start of works, while the master plan of Public Health Institute and designs and equipment procurement for 14 radiology imaging rooms that will be equipped with testing equipment around Albania are under development.

➤ *Strengthening essential health services and systems* was supported by WHO with

regard to the integrated national pulse survey on the continuity of essential health services during the Covid-19 pandemic that was conducted during the 1st and 2nd waves, a rapid assessment of Tuberculosis (TB) maintenance services in the context of the pandemic and a second nationwide rapid assessment of HIV maintenance services, again in the context of Covid-19, introducing the WHO recommendations and proposed solutions. With UNFPA support, the national response to address SRH issues in emergency situations (Minimum Initial Service Package, MISP, implementation) was strengthened. Under the leadership of MoHSP and the coordination of the Health Care Operator a MISP readiness assessment was conducted, a National Action Plan based on the key findings of the assessment was developed and consulted with key stakeholders in the country, four one-day training sessions were organised in Durres, Shkodra, Tirana and Vlora with the participation of 65 primary health care providers and a round-table with the participation of all key national actors was organised in the capital city to discuss key findings and recommendations of the MISP readiness assessment and to finalise the national action plan for MISP implementation.

➤ *Vaccination* was facilitated by WHO through technical support provided to the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) for formulation of evi-



WHO supported the National Conference on Diabetes Care that was held in Tirana

dence-based recommendations, tailored to the situation in the country, for development of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for Covid-19 vaccines, and for the legal aspects of COVAX. WHO provided logistical support (2 rented vehicles and fuel) for the distribution of Covid vaccines from the central warehouse at IPH to the districts and supported seven mobile COVID vaccination units, SOPs, seven rented vehicles and fuel, and fourteen cold boxes for vaccine transportation and storage, among others.

- *WASH*, with UNICEF support, reached out to 5,063 adults (2,393 male, 2,670 fe-

male, including 206 PwD) and 5,791 children (2,883 boys, 2,908 girls, including 105 PwD) with personal and family hygiene supplies to ensure key recommended hygiene practices were implemented at the family and community level in the context of Covid-19.

Supporting the continuity of essential health services, including equal access to services, UNICEF, in close collaboration with MoHSP, Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (MoESY) and IPH supported the implementation of the national iodine survey among school-age children, providing significant improvement of the iodine nutrition status for children. Addi-

obtained knowledge on healthy nutrition and prevention of obesity and being overweight using accredited training modules, while 16,200 children benefitted from school-based interventions and were reached with communication messages for prevention of obesity and being overweight.

FAO supported the development of a concept note on school food nutrition and a feasibility study on school milk, the recommendations from which for follow-up actions will be shared with respective stakeholders. Farmers were also enabled to improve the food safety and quality of milk through capacity building and small-scale milking sets provided. Nutrition guides and education materials for teachers to educate different age groups were prepared and the capacities of schoolteachers and students were developed on nutrition and food safety aspects. A feasibility assessment for a Sustainable School Milk Programme in Albania was prepared based on several consultative meetings with representatives from government institutions at central and local level, private sector and from selected school administration.

UNICEF supported Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services in four regions to implement Universal Progressive Home Visiting integrating health and social services and focusing on the most vulnerable children and families. A total of 165 health personnel were trained in childcare, parental well-being, child protection from abuse and neglect, children with different abilities, gender dynamics in the fam-

ily, and cross sectoral cooperation. Supportive supervision and coaching provided continued support to all trained health personnel and collaboration platforms were established with social and child protection services in the four target regions. In all, 1,425 families were reached with home visiting services. UNICEF continued to provide support to government for procurement services for childhood vaccines and antiretroviral treatment.

UNFPA supported implementation of the cervical cancer screening programme (contributing to SDG target 3.4) through which 9,000 women were reached via Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing at the national level during the reporting year, two MoUs were signed between IPH and two university hospitals (Koco Gliozheni and Queen Geraldine) of gynaecology and obstetrics to set up an information system and a dedicated registry for women testing positive for HPV in primary screening, while a new case-based hospital registry was established to allow information exchange among gynaecological hospitals performing colposcopy and IPH, the programme national coordinating centre. Thanks to IAEA support, 1,560 patients received radiotherapy treatment (with Linear Accelerators and a Therapax Orthovoltage machine), including 326 cases of breast cancer, and 2,159 patients were diagnosed or treated using nuclear medicine. The first long-term fellowship training for a medical physicist in brachytherapy started in August 2021 for three months in Turkey. WHO supported the conducting of the Global Youth Tobacco Sur-

vey and the tobacco control round-table on policies on taxation.

Aiming to strengthen the National Family Planning Programme (contributing to SDG target 3.7), UNFPA supported implementation of a Virtual Learning Platform on Family Planning for which 147 health-care providers were enrolled.

Supporting the strengthening of the health system, focusing on resilience, WHO's technical support enabled the development of the National Health Strategy 2021–2030, including the Action Plan and Budget, and the development of by-laws pursuant to amendments of the Law 'On Mental Health'. It also facilitated implementation of the National Guidelines on Water Safety Plans (WSPs) in Small-Scale Water Supply Systems in Vjosa Valley–Zagori. In addition, WHO strengthened the capacities of the National Centre for Quality, Safety and Accreditation of Health Care Institutions (NCQSA) for implementing Revised Standards of Integrated Health and Social Services. UNFPA's efforts focused on advancing policy and advocacy around Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and resulted in the strengthening of the National Reproductive Health Committee, and drafting of the new Reproductive Health Law and new Action Plans on SRH, on Health Promotion and on Contraceptive Security.

Supporting advocacy and partnerships on the rights to health and reduces inequalities, WHO supported the National Conference on Diabetes Care that was held in Tirana in December

2021, facilitation of the work for development of an evidence brief on salt reduction and development of a methodology for reimbursement of medical devices. UNFPA conducted a survey on cervical cancer prevention policies and practices in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and an International Sexual and Reproductive Health Survey (I-SHARE) during Covid-19.

Implementation Challenges

The 'normal' MCH service delivery systems continued to be heavily tested. Training sessions continued to be conducted partly online, though in-person supervision in smaller teams was possible to follow up with the trained health personnel, while some of the trainings were conducted in person, respecting anti-Covid measures.

In the Covid-19 emergency, following a request from the national and regional authorities, supply assistance formed a considerable part of UNICEF support. The agency was mindful of the need to combine capacity development with health information system strengthening to ensure it contributed towards health system strengthening and resilience to emergencies.

Health sector equipment that is donated is not exempt from VAT (at 20%) when it enters the country. Thus, government counterparts need to explore opportunities to achieve VAT exemption for UN donations.

OUTPUT 2.2 **EDUCATION**

4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7

Education policies, mechanisms, community partnerships and actions are strengthened for quality inclusive education



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO, UNDP



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway and United Kingdom, UN regional and global funds, PBF, the EU

Implementation Progress

Over the last decade, Albania has embarked on a set of ambitious reforms in education that have brought about several improvements. To name a few, access to all levels of education has steadily increased, learning outcomes consistently improved, school governance strengthened, and education responsibilities decentralised, which have brought about a competency-based curriculum across the country's public education system, contributing to significant improvements in key education indicators. In addition, in combination with other socio-economic reforms, the government has improved instruction quality, textbooks, school buildings and infrastructure throughout Albania.

Nevertheless, despite consistent improvements in learning outcomes, the country started from a relatively low base and still lags behind the EU average. For student learning outcomes to improve, the capacities of frontline actors—teachers and school leaders—need to be improved. Recently implemented measures to strengthen recruit-

ment practices and entry into teaching studies and improve teachers' salaries have made the teaching profession more attractive.

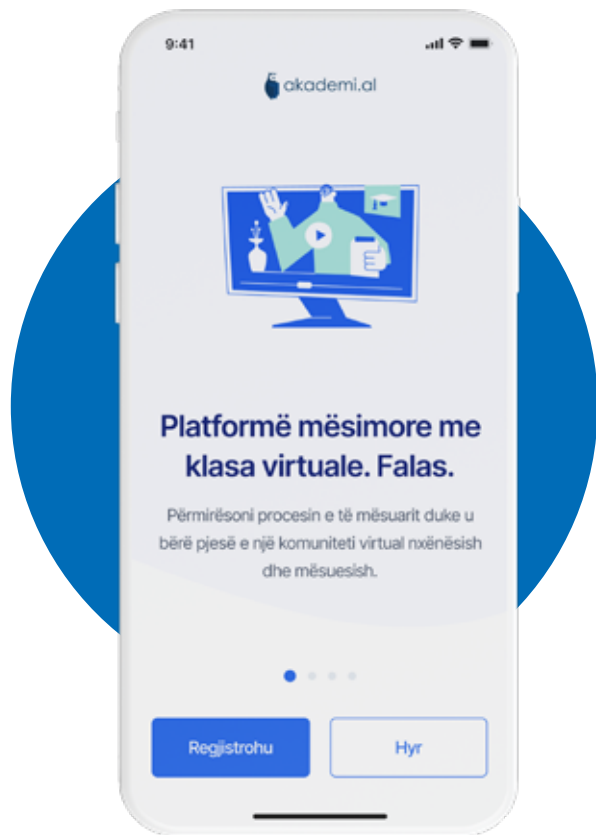
The encouraging reform to introduce a new competency-based curriculum requires a substantial shift in how teachers impart knowledge and support and assess students' development. Yet, opportunities for professional development and training remain limited. Moreover, the Albania education sector was hit by two major shocks, the earthquake of 2019 and Covid-19, both impacting heavily education processes and school infrastructure (the earthquake damaged 24% of the educational facilities). While the system has been agile in responding and adapting to the shocks, it is inevitable in Albania as in other countries to have a learning loss especially for the most vulnerable children. Lack of enhanced teacher skills in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and blended approaches, lack of computers and other devices, adequate Internet connectivity and inadequate financing are some of the challenges the system is trying to cope with.

Drawing on the rapid appraisal of the Albania Education Policy Review carried out in 2017, a strategic direction was also drafted, with UNESCO support, that defines further policy priorities (such as learning outcomes, curricula) to advance SDG 4 in the country.

The continuation of the learning process has been enabled, with UNICEF support, through strengthening of the online platform [Akademi.al](https://akademi.al) with focus on the most vulnerable children. During 2021, 402,849 children, teachers and parents used the platform, 200,000 virtual classes took place, 20,127 video lessons were developed and made available online, including 1,000 videos prepared for children with hearing and visual difficulties, while new interactive and high-quality pre-school content is being added to the platform.

In efforts to reduce the digital divide UNICEF supported expansion of the lessons provided on Albanian public television through the dedicated programme 'RTSH Shkolla' (on *Radio Televizioni Shqiptar*), aiming to reach children who do not have access to devices and the Internet. To date, more than 100,000 children have been reached.

In addition, 22 TechHubs have been set up, supported by UNICEF, in compulsory schools affected by the earthquake, benefitting 8,000 students. Schools were provided with 1,840 tablets and 24 smart boards. As part of the TechHubs initiative, UNICEF and ASCAP prepared a methodology for [teacher training in ICT](#) to pro-



UNICEF has supported the online platform Akademi.al

vide teachers with the knowledge and skills to use technology as a means to improve children learning outcomes. To date, 2,362 teachers have been trained, while 14,000 teachers benefitted from peer learning experiences. UNICEF also supported ASCAP to develop ICT standards for teachers, currently approved by MoESY. UNICEF also developed a state-of-the-art platform for teachers in the Western Balkans as part of a joint UN project funded by the PBF, to use developed and tested peace building methodology.

As part of the interventions to reduce drop-out, UNICEF [supported directly 530 students in](#)

schools affected by the earthquake with foundational skills and after-class remedial learning lessons in mathematics, early literacy and socio-emotional skills. To date, 950 teachers and 465 schools have been reached through teacher professional networks on the Early Warning System for school drop-out including socio-emotional training.

Through UNICEF's 'Gender-sensitive education at pre-university level' programme, training modules were prepared and 600 school psychologists and 205 school councils' students trained. Moreover, 458 psychologists were assigned as gender focal points in schools.

UNICEF's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme covered 23 schools in Albania with teacher training, benefitting 230 teachers and 600 school psychologists, peer support and sharing of experiences among teachers and schools, small grants to schools for addressing their recovery needs and a cutting-edge mobile app. on DRR preparedness and policy recommendations to MoESY.

UNICEF designed and implemented a professional development programme for school staff in inclusive education, reaching 582 pre-school teachers and 891 primary and upper secondary teachers, developed standards for pre-school directors, and is co-developing with MoESY a methodology for implementing the new pre-school curriculum. The competency-based training curriculum was developed through combining international expertise with local partners,

leading to 780 teachers being trained.

UNICEF also engaged with MoESY to adopt a non-formal learning programme for more than 600 Afghan children, starting with pre-school education to upper secondary education, by introducing mathematics, literacy, social emotional learning and life skills.

UNFPA supported the Quality Assurance Agency for Pre-University Education (QAAPE) to provide technical expertise and coordinate the expansion of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme in fourteen local education offices, while developing capacities of 448 teachers and 56 school directors from those local education offices. Moreover, 56 schools were monitored and 12,000 students informed on CSE in 2021. Training modules and teaching materials were developed with a focus on sexual abuse and capacity building conducted at the local level, in nine local educational offices⁴ and in all regional pre-university educational directorates, and for national trainers, benefitting 300 teachers and directors, 150 psychologists, social workers and security staff. Some 12,000 parents and 6,000 students were informed on sexual abuse through promotional materials.

ILO supported the introduction of Education for Prevention and Resolution of Disputes in the Workplace as a new optional subject or module in general high school. The curriculum and teaching manual were developed and printed in cooperation with QAAPE. A total of 380 high school teachers (85% female) from ten regions were

4. Belsh, Bilisht, Burrel, Cerrik, Gramsh, Patos, Peqin, Roskovec and Ura Vajgurorë.

trained (in person) in the effective use of education for prevention and resolution of disputes in the workplace, and 34 local high school teachers are currently delivering this optional subject to 2,040 pupils who selected it in the academic year 2021–2022.

Within the overall scope of activities under the project ‘Building Trust in Media in South-east Europe and Turkey’, Phase 2 aims to enhance youth Media and Information Literacy (MIL) skills through introduction of the subject in the formal educational system in Albania. UNESCO supported a number of activities to advance the inclusion of MIL into the formal education process. The MIL curriculum was designed and adapted by ASCAP for the Albanian context and implemented in ten selected pilot, primary and secondary schools, in Durres, Elbasan, Lezha and Tirana. The teacher training modules on MIL⁵ were designed and 3,000 copies published. The whole process was implemented in consultation with teachers and curricula development experts. Capacities of ten mentors were developed to supervise and lead teachers in the MIL curriculum piloting process while 120 teachers from ten primary and secondary schools in Durres, Elbasan, Lezha and Tirana increased their capacities in MIL by taking part in the teacher training process, and through mentoring process provided by ASCAP experts. Two schools—a primary and a high school—benefitted from the direct support scheme that equipped them with necessary equipment (projector, computers, flipchart) to make the learning and teaching

process interactive. An MIL website in Albanian was designed and is ready for use.

Supported by UNFPA, Y-PEER Albania worked with young people from marginalised and hard-to-reach groups. To strengthen the Peer Educators network, the ‘SafePeer’ initiative focused its work in Durres, Fier, Kamez, Korca, Lezhe, Pogradec, Tirana and Ura Vajgurore, where twelve Peer-to-Peer workshops were held, reaching 130 young people, 61 of whom were from the Roma and Egyptian community. The Perfect Winter Schools Online Peer-to-Peer Programme was conducted on Youth Engagement in SRH and GBV.

Implementation Challenges

Planning for education interventions has been challenging following the Covid-19 curve of infections and measures in place, switching from online events to face-to-face or vice versa, with activities requiring increased efforts. Implementing partners suffered from stress, fatigue and, frequently, sickness from Covid, which very often caused delays or changes in plans and additional motivational efforts.

The UN agencies have delivered results in education for the most marginalised children against the backdrop of an underfunded education sector and are continuously advocating for an uninterrupted learning process and for more investments to be made in education to catch up for the learning loss with a focus on the most vulnerable children.

5. The MIL teacher training modules have been sent to MoESY for accreditation. The accreditation lasts 5 years and creates sustainability of the intervention since more teachers can be trained for the MIL modules in addition to those that were part of the piloting process.

OUTPUT 2.3 **SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PROTECTION**

1.3, 3.7, 4.1, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 10.2, 11.10, 16.6

Social protection measures and mechanisms at national and local levels are strengthened with budgets and clear targets that reflect equity and social inclusion standards



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, ILO, WHO



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Government of Switzerland, UN regional and global funds (Joint SDG Fund)

Implementation Progress

The impact of poverty and social exclusion can be minimised, if not neutralised, with adequate and appropriate social protection and social inclusion policies. The government has undertaken three ambitious vertical reforms, of disability, cash assistance and social care services, but there is still need for measures, tools and standards for national and sub-national authorities to deliver integrated social protection that addresses the needs of men, women, boys and girls in Albania. National policies on social protection are not driven by periodic, nationally approved measurements of household or child poverty, while evidence of material and non-material deprivation does not feed directly into the design of any social protection measures and national social protection policies do not include national poverty reduction targets in line with the SDGs. A comprehensive social protection system is still being developed. Whereas national policies do outline a vision for an integrated social protection system, the system is still fragmented by other sectors (health, education, nutrition) and the vision is not backed up by adequately fi-

nanced measures to enable implementation of the vision and address the gender-based and social determinants of poverty and social exclusion. The national information system for social protection still lags behind and is not a unified database collecting information on children who are beneficiaries of social protection programming. Spending on social protection is low, on cash benefits for families and children and particularly on social care services, and all national and local institutions dealing with social protection lack adequate resources. Pressure for fiscal discipline and reducing public debt has become an obstacle to identifying fiscal space for appropriate social protection budgets and financing a social protection floor.

Throughout 2021, UN in Albania promoted and supported a social protection system that works for all, especially those most at risk and hard to reach through implementation of three joint programmes: Leave no One Behind, financed by the government of Switzerland, and Improving Municipal Social Protection Service Delivery, and SDG Financing, financed by the UN Joint SDG Fund.



Throughout 2021, UN in Albania promoted and supported a social protection system that works for all

Through the Leave No One Behind (LNB) joint programme, UN agencies complemented the government's efforts to roll-out the social protection reform by adopting a holistic and reinforcing approach to support comprising technical assistance, capacity building, advocacy, research and grant funding.

Empowerment of vulnerable groups at the community level to demand responsive and inclusive social care services

Vulnerable groups particularly Roma and Egyptians (R&E), PwD, youth and women and

their CSOs are empowered with information, knowledge and advocacy skills on their rights and entitlements to social services and are actively engaged at the local and national level in advocacy forums and public consultation mechanisms⁶ to demand their rights and influence policy planning and decision making. This engagement resulted in improved and inclusive local policies (inclusive local social care plans, establishment of new social care services) responsive to the needs of the vulnerable communities. Supported by UNDP, more than 1,800 R&E (371 families) benefitted from implementation of integrated social services in Fier, Kruja and Lezha, four

6. Forums of PwD, Participatory Gender-Budgeting Network, Local Partnership Models on SRH and Rights, Local Social Dialogue Groups, National Advocacy Platform-Youth Voice Network.

community centres for children with disabilities (Korca, Puka, Roskovec and Shkodra) become operational, and staff from thirteen community centres strengthened their capacity building through online training and exchange visits, six organisations of PwD implemented small grant projects and strengthened their capacities for advocacy and networking and voicing the rights of their constituencies involving more than 400 PwD.

With the support of UN Women, more than 1,200 women and men in twelve municipalities raised their voice and participated in budgeting processes, 840 vulnerable women and girls, including youth, older women, rural women, women with disabilities and unemployed women, benefitted from training and awareness events and voiced their needs. About 20 percent of concerns raised were discussed with municipalities and will become priorities in the subsequent budget. In addition, capacities of local CSOs and LGUs were strengthened to activate, engage the community and women of all groups into participatory budgeting processes, 35 LGUs representatives from twelve target municipalities were involved in elaboration of local priorities for public consultation with women, and 30 representatives of local NGOs and activists and Prisma members were engaged in participatory budgeting.

Strengthening capacities of local governments in planning and budgeting and delivering adequate social care services, including innovative services at the local government level

7. Delvina, Devoll, Gramsh, Himara, Klos, Kolonje, Pustec, Selenica, Tepelena, Vau i Dejes, etc.

8. Korca, Permet, Tirana, Vau i Dejes and Vlora.



'Leave No One Behind' in Albania
Results achieved during phase 1 of implementation (2017-2021)

All municipalities developed and costed social care plans, 36 of which (60%) were supported by LNB. In all, 25 municipalities (40%) implemented several innovative services for vulnerable groups with the potential of scaling up in other municipalities, enabling access to quality social care services to more than 17,000 R&E, PwD, women, youth and children (UNDP). Eleven municipalities⁷ were assisted to develop and approve social care plans, fully costed and with clear targets to reach at least 60 percent of all children in poverty or a vulnerable situation in the municipality, and budget briefs that served to inform the decision making on the planning of expenditures for the financing of social care plan and social care services. All 61 municipalities have been supported through training and mentoring to populate and use the MIS for social care services (UNICEF). Five municipalities⁸ were assisted to develop through consultative process five-year local social housing plans allowing them to assess and

address the social housing needs of the most vulnerable in their territory (UNDP). Tirana Municipality is assisted to develop a Plan of Action for PwD, and one for R&E, that will form an integral part of the new Local Social Care Plan 2021–2025, which is also in development (UNDP). Seventeen municipalities were supported in implementing a social fund through grants allocated for innovative community-based social care services. In addition, protocols were developed for municipal social care service staff during Covid-19 and similar pandemics (UNDP). Working together with the welfare staff of the municipalities of Shkodra and Tirana, clear and practical work protocols for NARUs and social workers were developed, so that the municipalities can offer quality family assessment and counselling even in a crisis such as Covid-19. The standards are being used to train the staff of other municipalities (UNDP and UNICEF).

Further elaboration of policy and legal framework on social protection and social inclusion supported with establishment of public funding mechanisms at the national level

National institutions⁹ advanced their cross-sectoral cooperation in consolidation and further development of the legal and regulatory policy framework on social inclusion and social care reforms in Albania, the design and use of the standardised data collection systems and data sharing protocols for monitoring and analysis of national social inclusion policies and strategies. Recognising that the achievement of social inclusion and social protection requires concerted and

well-targeted financial investments in the social sector over the longer-term, the LNB programme has provided valuable technical support and advice to the government linked to its development of state funding mechanisms for social inclusion. This includes support to MoHSP for monitoring of social inclusion indicators (Social Inclusion Policy Document, SIPD) and the writing of an evaluation report with conclusions and recommendations (UNDP); support to MoFE for: (1) completion of the social housing secondary legislation; (2) monitoring of the Social Housing Strategy (SHS) and development of the new action plan of SHS for the period 2021–2025; (3) development of guidelines for the development of local housing plans (UNDP); provision of technical assistance to the State Social Service for the mapping of social care services nationwide with the aim of supporting the latter and other concerned government institutions to identify gaps in the area of social care services, as well as to inform LNB's internal planning of activities for further support to institutions providing social services for vulnerable groups at the sub-national level. The mapping results are expected to serve as a good basis for government policy dialogue and for civil society engagement (UNDP).

Other support provided by UNDP included strengthening of the partnership with academia and with QAAPE to (1) strengthen professional capacities of 1,000 assistant teachers for children with disabilities and encourage their cooperation with community-based centres and families and provision of integrated support services, and (2) documentation and sharing of good practices

9. MoHSP, MeFE, MoESY, INSTAT.

on cooperation of assistant teachers with families and social care service providers in supporting the development of children with disabilities.

In partnership with the Faculty of Social Sciences, UNICEF contributed to strengthening the social protection workforce through pre- and in-service curricula for social workers. The curriculum of three social work programmes in Elbasan, Shkodra and Tirana has been reviewed and revised to ensure that it reflects the social service legal framework, the new legal and professional requirement for the different types of social protection workforce working either in the municipalities or through direct service provision. About 600 social work students graduating with a bachelor degree will benefit from the new curricula during 2022–2024 and about 330 practising social workers have benefitted from the training programmes.

With UN Women support, the results of social exclusion, vulnerabilities and gender-based discrimination at the local level in 15 municipalities can finally be measured using the EU–INSTAT Survey on Income and Living Conditions as a baseline. INSTAT finalised gender-responsive mapping of links between social inclusion and vulnerabilities. The report is a key resource for future policy makers in the field of social protection, highlighting the peculiarities of women's poverty in Albania in 15 municipalities and providing evidence that income-based poverty measures, complemented with material deprivation and social exclusion, in-

crease gender inequality.

Through the SDG Municipal Social Protection joint programme, a new model of cash plus has been piloted, with UNICEF support, in three municipalities (Berat, Durres and Lezha). More than 600 families with children that receive cash assistance were supported with information and referral to other support services that address their multiple material deprivations. The model was replicated in the last quarter of 2021 and used for Covid-19-related risk communication. Additionally, it supported the www.sociale.al innovative knowledge hub to bring together institutions, service providers and professionals from the public and private sectors of social services, enrich student education in social work and connect students to social work practice.

UN Women supported preparation of an expenditures and fiscal space analysis, including gender and child sensitive budgeting in Albania, which will be shared with government to inform decision making on gender-centred poverty and vulnerability. The agency strengthened the capacities of six municipalities¹⁰ to apply GRB within local budgets, with 118 municipal staff (96 female; 23 male) and 27 municipal council members (21 female; 6 male) trained in GRB as a tool to address the needs of women and girls, with a specific focus on socially excluded groups, incorporated into local social protection policies and related budgets. The support enabled ten grassroots CSOs to demand accountability of GE and related

10. Fushe-Arrez, Pogradec, Polican, Puke, Rogozhine and Skrapar.



UNDP and UNICEF have undertaken an assessment to document the extent to which Covid-19 has challenged and impacted the rights of families and children to social inclusion and social protection

allocated resources through six watchdog reports on integrated social care services, expenditure monitoring and accountability.¹¹

UNDP and UNICEF have undertaken an assessment to document the extent to which Covid-19 has challenged and impacted the rights of families and children to social inclusion and social protection.¹² The aim is to turn the knowledge into concrete policy, programmatic and operational recommendations to strengthen the social protection systems and national capacities on the ground to respond effectively and adequately

to the pandemic and similar shocks. UNICEF trained all (70) social administrators in the three municipalities of Berat, Durrës and Lezha in Covid-19 risks, vaccine benefits and, most importantly, how to inform poor families on those risks. By end-2021, more than 260 families (730 individuals) had received proper information on being protected from Covid-19, and where to get and how to contact the health provider for the vaccine in their locality. In addition, with UNICEF support, the National Association of Social Workers provided support to about 500 municipal social workers through online mentoring and coaching

11. Twelve meetings in 6 municipalities were conducted, 6 local workshops on watchdog report topics in target municipalities finalised, 6 advocacy plans finalised, 6 gender budget watchdog reports finalised, 6 local dialogue events organised in the targeted municipalities to share the findings of the reports, and 1 national workshop carried out with key policy and local stakeholders.

12. The adequacy and relevance of social protection and social inclusions to effectively respond to the Covid-19 pandemic has been assessed, knowledge has been generated on the challenges and gaps in the local level service delivery due to Covid-19, with a particular focus on the access of vulnerable groups to such services, and researchers have worked to compile assumptions and interpretations on vulnerability post-Covid.

to support them deal with the challenges caused by Covid-19. Social workers were provided with tips on how to be protected, information on the vaccines, and how to better connect with children and adults in need in the circumstances of the pandemic.

With UNDP support, MoHSP developed a 'Framework on integrated health and social services' and is administrating its innovative service delivery in the municipalities of Devoll, Kamza, Pogradec, Puka, Rrogozhina and Tirana. These municipalities also benefitted from the development and testing of a methodology for monitoring and evaluation of local social care plan implementation. They were also supported to establish adequate processes, workflows, protocols and effective mechanisms to ensure administration of integrated health and social care services, and revise and update terms of reference, job descriptions and responsibilities of the teams and officials for social care services planning and management. During 2021, UNDP supported the measurement for the first time of SDG indicator 1.3.1 and adoption of the National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians in Albania (2021–2025). The agency enabled seven NGOs, through small grants, to deliver integrated social and health care services, and, through municipal and NGO-run services, provided improved social protection services to 2,166 beneficiaries (907 female; 994 male; 265 LGBTI).

UNPFA prepared an in-depth analysis of the social plans at the municipal level to identify the po-

sition and social needs of older persons, as well as an analysis of the situation of older persons (through evaluation techniques of service providers and beneficiaries). It supported the dissemination of the National Action Plan for Older Persons and awareness raising on the responsibilities at the LGU level. The agency informed and raised awareness of the decision-making and executive structures of social and health protection policies in the municipality, regarding the most recent developments on 'Aging policies' and the ways in which society has to deal with aging, to protect and include the elderly in social life. As a result, needs for investment to build a comprehensive and relevant system of integrated services was identified, the need for capacity building acknowledged and specific plans of actions were prepared and agreed with local officials.

UNICEF made public data on how many children live in monetary poverty and suffer material deprivation, and led advocacy and ensured the development of a roadmap for developing the EU child deprivation index in Albania.

Through the SDG Financing joint programme, UN Women supported an impact analysis of public investment in childcare and child and family allowance on poverty reduction, human development and GE, including costing and financing options for social protection benefits in Albania. UN Women and UNICEF will share findings of the study with key government counterparts and open dialogue on universal childcare in the country. UNPFA finalised the Older Persons and Loneliness Survey in cooperation with INSTAT

and made public several reports with MoHSP and LGUs: on analysis of the social plans at the municipal level and how older persons are positioned, the integrated health and social care instrument, and budgeting for integrated services for older persons in the social plans. A draft manual of services is also being finalised and will be shared with all 61 municipalities in January 2022, with piloting to follow in selected municipalities in February 2022 and beyond.

MoHSP developed, with UNICEF support, the 2020 annual progress report for the National Social Protection Strategy outlining the progress, delays and challenges of implementation of key reforms in social protection and, more importantly, its financing, including social protection budgetary allocations to address the impact of Covid-19.

Implementation Challenges

The capacities and resources of the public administration responsible for social protection and social services remain limited at all levels, both in terms of the number of staff, technical capacity and financial allocations. This was particularly striking during Covid-19 lockdown, where the public administration at the central, but particularly the local, level showed weak disaster management capacities to identify vulnerable segments and respond to their needs quickly. An unclear division of roles was noted between national and local government that are a prerequisite for a well-coordinated and targeted response in

emergency situations. The lack of clarity created difficulties in transferring the integration social service model to targeted municipalities, which faced increased demands from the R&E communities for a broad range of social services: health, education, social and economic. UN agencies maintained persistent communication and coordination with beneficiary municipalities to ensure that those most in need received adequate support.

The pandemic expanded the typology of vulnerable groups beyond the R&E communities, with the elderly, particularly those living alone, people with chronic disease, women victims of GBV, unemployed persons, people suffering from mental health and depression, and rural youth, and widened the existing gaps and inequalities. The municipal social care services lacked any additional financing to cope with the pandemic and increase their outreach and had to re-orient their approach by coordinating with service providers from the civil society sector and international donors to respond to the demands of multiple vulnerable groups. The municipalities were mentored to adjust to the new reality and were supported with participatory tools for ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable were accounted for in the response measures.

The Covid-19 pandemic presented serious challenges for the budgetary allocations as LGUs had to respond to the financial and health crisis burden on social spending and social protection budgets, so that gender budgeting became even more challenging to address.

OUTPUT 2.4 **CHILD PROTECTION**

1.3, 1.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 8.7, 10.2, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.9, 16.10, 16.a, 17.6, 17.9, 17.17, 17.18

Child protection systems are strengthened to prevent and respond to cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children, with a particular focus on vulnerable children and families



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNICEF, ILO, ITU



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Albania, United Kingdom, Ending Violence against Children (EVAC) Fund, UN regional and global funds

Implementation Progress

Abuse of children occurs in all settings in Albania, including the home, school and community, and is rapidly growing on the Internet. Police administrative data for 2017 show that 61 percent of all sexual abuse cases in Albania were committed against children.¹³ One in ten children reported at least one unwanted sexual experience through the Internet, many of which were initiated by someone the child already knew.¹⁴ Lack of awareness of online safety issues, education (parents and children) and parental controls have been highlighted as the most common challenges in Albania. Positive steps have been taken to improve the legal framework and to set the common responsibilities for children's rights protection by public institutions, CSOs, teachers, parents, media and the communication industry. Child online protection in Albania would benefit from

greater involvement of industry stakeholders, ranging from mobile and Internet providers to general Internet technology companies, which need guidance on how to increase the level of active support for child safety activities and advancements. Education and training of professionals working with children should be a more important part of stakeholder activities to mitigate the risks and educate children, parents, teachers and the public.

The child protection system is insufficiently resourced and prepared to address the diverse manifestation of violence against children in Albania. The normative framework has been improved but is still characterised by gaps in legislation, weak referral pathways and unclear responsibilities. The workforce that should be in the forefront of child protection is under-resourced and often falls victim to established harmful worldviews that influence their judge-

13. INSTAT. 2018. Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics 2016–2017. Available at: <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/4824/crime-and-criminal-justice-statistics.pdf>

14. One Click Away: Children's Experiences of Internet Use in Albania, UNICEF, 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/albania/documents/one-click-away>

ment but not in favour of the child's best interests. Availability of and accessibility to child protection services is limited, and there is no single-entry point for specialised multiple services to child survivors of severe forms of violence and abuse. Front line professionals (including health staff, police, teachers and other public employees) rarely are able to proactively identify risks of violence, or refer or deal with it when it occurs. Thus, there is an absence of a continuum of child protection services, from early identification to rehabilitation. Relevant institutions do collect scattered data on violence, but no unified data collection exists to inform comprehensive analysis. The same goes for cases of hazardous child labour, which are barely monitored and need to be frontally addressed by the relevant institutions at the central and local levels.

In 2021, UNICEF increased its attention to deteriorating domestic violence, risks of child exploitation and institutionalisation, and worsening overall mental health and psychological well-being of children and adults. The National Child Helpline ALO116 was supported with the introduction of the *Raporto Tani* web-based reporting platform and mobile application in addition to the traditional phone line.

In combination with the helpline, the active fieldwork utilisation of the online counselling platform www.nukjevetem.al jointly reached 5,080 (1,926 female) beneficiaries, who received complex protection response services and referrals. Meanwhile, 4,108 (2,057 females) ac-

cessed quality Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS). Some 1,576 mothers, fathers and caregivers (1,081 females) received support through parenting programmes, contributing to reducing domestic, gender-based and severe violence against children. Both intervention streams contributed directly to acceleration of the results towards SDG targets 5.2 and 16.2.

Thanks to high-level technical support and active fieldwork facilitated by UNICEF, the National De-Institutionalisation Action Plan 2020–2022 has delivered some noteworthy results. The three proposed models prepared by UNICEF and its partners—(i) a model for a Child and Family Support Hub, (ii) model guidelines for child-family reunification, and (iii) a model for an alternative professional Foster Care Service—were approved by the National De-Institutionalisation Steering Committee. Furthermore, through the Social Fund, central government allocated a financial package of around USD 120,000 to each of the two pilot municipalities of Korca and Vlora, recognising their efforts and helping to advance the development of alternative childcare services. UNICEF's support was also used to directly support 113 children (30 separated from family and 83 at risk of separation) and 59 families to prevent their family separation and support their successful reunification. This support was provided through a system strengthening parallel efforts of the on-the-job coaching of 94 childcare professionals (71 female). These results contribute directly to achievement of SDG targets 1.3, 1.4, 8.7 and 16.2.

A total of 150 statutory Child Protection Workers, 60 professionals dealing with child statelessness, 30 frontline professionals dealing with UASC case management, nine online psycho-social counsellors, 28 NGO staff serving community centres, 16 mental health professionals and 24 child protection practitioners managing cases of children in contact or conflict with the law in Berat and Gjirokaster municipalities received hands-on field coaching in case management, contributing directly to achievement of SDG targets 16.1, 16.2, 16.9, 16.10, 16.a and 17.9.

The successful implementation of the national anti-trafficking programme in 2021 received due recognition from the government counterparts and the UK government (donor) and an excellent boost in terms of additional financial resources (GBP 1.3 million). In addition to the most important milestone—the formal endorsement of the new National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking 2021–2023—to which UNICEF directly contributed, 539 victims of trafficking (VoT) or potential victims of trafficking (PVoT) received a multiple service package that facilitated their rehabilitation and reintegration process. As an Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder country, Albania high-level representatives contributed to most of the international events organised by ILO and UNICEF to mark 2021, the Year against Hazardous Child Labour. These results contribute directly to achievement of SDG targets 1.3, 1.4, 8.7 and 16.2.

UNICEF continued direct support to the repatriation of children and mothers from the Syria refugee camp of Al-Hol, marking the first step in the difficult road of further repatriations. By December 2021, 18 children (15 girls and 3 boys) and their mothers (6) had been repatriated by the Albanian government from Syria refugee camps. UNICEF provided food, drinking water, hygiene packages, clothing, psychological counselling and day-to-day psycho-social and educational activities in dedicated child-friendly spaces. In addition, all children and their caregivers received administrative and legal support. In December, government moved all families and children to community-based accommodation (mainly in the capital city) and UNICEF was requested to follow up with the community reintegration support of some of these children. This result contributes directly to SDG target 16.2.

The National Authority on Electronic Certification and Cybersecurity (NAECCS) of Albania raised its hand to become a pilot country for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) global project [Creating a safe and empowering digital environment for children](#), which benefits from funds from the National Cybersecurity Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Within this context, ITU is supporting NAECCS in rolling out the [ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines](#) in [Albanian language](#) at the national level that were officially launched at an event organised by NAECCS and co-organised by ITU on the occasion of International Safer Internet Day

on 9 February 2021,¹⁵ in this way contributing to achievement of SDGs 4.4 and 16.2.

In continuing to address timely the identification, disclosure and reporting of child sexual abuse cases, the TeBesoj Campaign of UNICEF travelled to eleven main cities in Albania (Berat, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Korça, Lezha, Pogradec, Shkodra, Tirana and Vlore) and reached an estimated one million people through online media and in-the-field activities. The campaign was echoed by the distinct messages of nine mayors, three prefects, the ambassadors of the EU, Sweden, Spain and the Netherlands, and the UN Resident Coordinator, who pledged their support to put an end to this horrific crime. Additionally, at least 20 national and local media outlets became accompanying partners of the #TeBesoj campaign, while thousands were reached through social media providing their encouraging messages and support for putting an end to child sexual abuse.

Supported by contributions from the UK government, UNICEF expanded the BiblioTechs initiative, where libraries are turned into tech hubs, benefitting 6,300 children and adults in learning about digital safety in six public libraries in Korça, Shkodra and Tirana. In addition, it

supported the expansion of the 'Friendly Wi-Fi' initiative with 53 additional access points, reaching a total of 100 Friendly Wi-Fi access points in three big cities of the country, helping to protect children from accidental exposure to child sexual abuse and pornographic Internet content. In 2021, Friendly Wi-Fi managed to block around 560,200 Internet requests to access blacklisted websites.

Implementation Challenges

The Child Protection System in Albania is not sufficiently resourced or strong enough to respond to any foreseeable abuse of children in the context of an emergency, whether a natural disaster, pandemic or migration. Hence, the heavy load of providing required resources sits with the ability of development partners and NGOs to mobilise manpower and services. As a result, many children in a situation risky to their health and well-being may be unaccounted for. This situation urged UNICEF to invest in contingency planning together with the core state institutions and through mobilisation of non-state actors. The child protection in emergencies draft mitigation plan is developed with the leadership of the State Agency for Child Right and Protection.

15. The project follows the objective to foster a culture of child online protection with all relevant stakeholders through knowledge sharing and digital skills development. Implementation of the project in Albania was announced at the event Promoting Implementation of COPs in Albania, which was organized by NAECCS on 29 September, and is planned to be rolled out until March 2023, with activities starting in 2022. The project seeks to equip national stakeholders with further support and guidance on the importance of child online protection in Albania and enhance coordination among all key players around safety for children and youth online. It will educate and train educators, parents and children themselves on child online protection, ensuring mitigation of the risks on child online safety, and will provide industry stakeholders, ranging from mobile and Internet providers to general Internet technology companies, guidance on how to increase the level of active support for child safety activities and advancements.

OUTPUT 2.5 **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

1.3, 1.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 8.7, 10.2, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.9, 16.10, 16.a, 17.6, 17.9, 17.17, 17.18

Capacity of institutions and service providers to implement legislation and normative standards on Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) and other forms of discrimination is strengthened



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, ILO, WHO



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Sweden, United Kingdom, the EU

Implementation Progress

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) continues to be one of the most pervasive forms of violence in Albania, exacerbated by traditional perceptions of gender roles and patriarchal values. The 2019 VAWG Survey by INSTAT, UNDP and UN Women found that one in three women of age 18–74 years (36.6%) recently experienced one or more of five forms of violence (intimate partner violence, dating violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment or stalking), while one in two (52.9%) had experienced it during their lifetime. The situation of women and girls, victims of gender-based and domestic violence (GB–DV) has worsened even more due to Covid-19 isolation, with limited access to specialised support services. The increasing trend of reported DV cases to the Albanian State Police reaffirms that such violence remains a persistent phenomenon in the country.

Progress has been achieved regarding the legal, normative and policy framework, especially in the area of domestic violence in line with international standards and the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) recommendations to Albania. Nevertheless, there are no legal provisions, nor a normative and policy framework for protecting victims of crimes such as stalking, harassment or sexual assault or violence outside family relations. Positive steps have been taken to further consolidate the multi-sectoral response to violence in family relations at the local level through Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRMs), covering 100 percent of the territory, and the recording and tracking DV cases system (Recording Violence in Albania, REVALB). However, the CRMs, especially those established recently, need consolidation. Offering services to victims of violence remains challenging. Women from disadvantaged groups face additional barriers to access these



Progress has been achieved regarding the legal, normative and policy framework, especially in the area of domestic violence

services. With the establishment of the first pilot centre for providing emergency multi-disciplinary specialised support services to sexual violence victims, much needs to be done to consolidate this type of service and scale up the referral centres in other regions in the country.

The UN Joint Programme on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Albania (EVAWIA), funded by the government of Sweden and implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA, as well as the Regional Programme on Ending Violence Against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey 'Implementing Norms, Changing Minds', funded by the EU, supported MoHSP, women's CSOs and responsible state institutions to achieve the following tangible results:

➤ **Improved sub-legal DV framework, tailored to Covid-19 pandemic situation**

i) with UNDP support in partnership with MoHSP a new DCM no. 327/2021 was developed and adopted on 2 June 2021 based on revision of DCM no. 334/2011 on CRM functionality in line with the 2018 and 2020 DV Law amendments, the Istanbul Convention requirements and GREVIO recommendations. This DCM strengthens the sustainability of the Local DV Coordinator at the municipal level, provides for better cross-sectoral coordination among CRM members, provides for periodic monitoring of police officers by local DV coordinator and obliges municipalities to provide for

budgeted basic specialised support services to GB-DV victims to mention a few; ii) with UNDP support in partnership with MoHSP a standardised protocol for CRMs members and professionals was developed and adopted to manage sexual violence cases at the local level through a coordinated multisectoral approach disseminated to all 61 municipalities; iii) the PA and Department of Public Administration with UNDP support developed and adopted a unified guideline to prevent and handle violence in the workplace; iv) state police with UNDP support developed a guide for police officer members of CRMs at the local level providing useful and practical steps on the management of domestic violence cases in accordance with the DV law amendments of 2018 and 2020; v) MoHSP with UN Women support finalised, and the Council of Ministers approved, the NSGE 2021–2030, its action plan, passport of indicators and costing according to Integrated Planning System Information System standards; vi) MoHSP in collaboration with UNDP developed a Commentary on the implementation of Law no. 9669/2016 ‘On measures against Domestic Violence’ (amended), while recommendations issued by UN Women to protect victims of GBV were reflected in the approved law ‘On the Status of Foreigners’. Additionally, with UN Women support, the Albanian State Police developed an e-Learning Course on the

Policy against Harassment, including Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. In November 2021, the Government of Albania approved the National Action Plan on LGBTI+ persons (2021-2027) with the technical support of UN Women and the Council of Europe¹⁶.

➤ **Enhanced and improved national response to gender based and domestic violence and harassment in the workplace (national and local level)**

i) A total of 45 local institutional response mechanisms (CRMs) were, with UNDP and UN Women support, further strengthened to prevent and effectively address DV at the local level through a multi-disciplinary and coordinated approach and 1,463 GB–DV cases recorded in the REVALB system as cases managed by CRM members; ii) 29 survivors of sexual violence (5 women, 21 girls, 3 boys) were provided with integrated support services by the multi-sectoral socio-medical staff at LILIUM Centre, under the leadership of MoHSP with UNDP support; and iii) ILO Convention 190 on ‘Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the Workplace’ was endorsed by the government of Albania and submitted for ratification to Parliament in early 2022.

16. Measures on the elimination of violence against LGBTI+ people are crosscutting in the Action Plan as well as the obligations of authorities to report on cases of violence and monitor protection measures.

➤ Improved law implementation capacities of local actors and law enforcement agencies

With UNDP support and in close partnership with MoHSP 20 Local Coordinators of Domestic Violence (LCDV) and more than 1,093 service providers at the local level were provided with training during the Covid-19 pandemic on three approved protocols in managing DV and sexual cases at the municipal level and recent DV law amendments. Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Armed Forces Academy, in collaboration with UNDP, trained 19 academic staff from the academy and 40 young students, women and men from the academy in the 'Policy and Procedures against Harassment and Sexual Harassment' aiming at building a safe environment free from all forms of violence harassment and sexual harassment. Furthermore, to ensure sustainability of future capacity building, 24 senior officials of the Albanian Armed Forces were trained through ToT on this policy and procedures. In partnership with the School of Magistrates and ASPA, supported by UNDP, 17 judges, prosecutors and 50 LCDV and municipal local staff from 36 municipalities and AUs were introduced for the first time to the Commentary on the Law 'On Measures against Violence in Family Relations'. In partnership with MoHSP and in collaboration with UNDP, 56 LCDV were trained in the newly approved DCM no. 327/2021 on the functioning of CRMs. Furthermore, with



My body is my own! Young people in Albania give strong messages through their artwork

UNDP support, LCDV in 20 municipalities were trained in coordination and documentation of DV cases in the REVALB system.

In addition, through UN Women support, a total of 342 professionals from police, health care and social services in 15 municipalities are now better equipped to address GB-DV and provide support to survivors based on the national legal and policy framework. As a result of capacity building efforts of state and non-state service providers, a total of 1,637 women (and children) survivors of GB-DV, including more than 100 Roma women, women with disabilities and women from LGBTIQ+, benefitted from a host of specialized and coordinated services to escape a violence situation including psycho-social counselling, FLA, representation in court, obtaining I/POs and socio-economic reintegration services. In two municipalities - Kruje and Tropoje there was a 65% increase in cases reported to the referral mechanisms as a direct result of the support provided to the CRMs.

UNFPA continued to build capacities of health-care and psycho-social care providers in implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Multi-Sectoral Response to GBV. Eleven training workshops were delivered across the country improving knowledge and capacities of more than 200 health and social care workers on Violence Against Women (VAW)–DV, legislation, SOPs implementation, specialist support services, CRMs in their municipalities, addressing more effectively VAW–DV cases, and on health issues in civil emergencies. In addition, two round-tables with 40 women municipal councillors from Shkodra and Vloja municipalities were organised on the topic ‘The extended Alliance of Women Municipal Council Members in dialogue with Civil Society to fight GBV’, attended by representatives of civil society and local media. Ideas and initiatives will be addressed by both municipal councils in the 2022 budget to better serve the survivors of GBV and domestic violence and to prevent the phenomena in advance.

➤ **Challenged gender stereotypes and family power roles**

During 16 Days of Activism MoHSP supported by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA, and in close partnership with CRMs, mu-

nicipalities, CSOs and local communities, reached out to women and men, boys and girls from all walks of life through multiple online activities. They raised awareness of GB–DV, challenged gender and power roles through a diversity of tools in social and traditional media, such as books, videos, street theatres and flash mobs. CRMs in a considerable number of municipalities¹⁷ in partnership with thirteen CSOs¹⁸ and with the support of UNDP were actively engaging girls and boys against VAWG, using art to change gender stereotypes and gender roles in families. In 2021, a keen focus was given to challenge traditional gender roles and encourage GE understanding from an early age through re-writing famous Albanian legends and tales through a gender lens. As a result, with UNDP support, a children book¹⁹ and a video²⁰ animation ‘Doruntina’s Besa’ were developed and widely shared with girls and boys in kindergartens and schools, as well as the community of parents and teachers. Building on this good practice, girls and boys across the country, with UNDP support in partnership with TUMO Tirana, engaged in developing a children book *They lived as they wished happily ever after*,²¹ launched with an introductory video²² animation featuring nine stories of famous legends and fairy-tales re-written through a gender lens and some other

17. <https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/videos/300008698719305/>

18. <https://www.facebook.com/grtekqr/photos/10159871507023679>

19. https://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/womens_empowerment/doruntina-s-besa.html

20. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9JjDgkxjLL>

21. <https://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/they-lived-as-they-wished-happily-ever-after.html>

22. <https://www.facebook.com/PNUDSHQIPERI/videos/3096892117259003>

brand new stories that bring new perspectives to the public, challenge gender stereotypes and smash patriarchy. In addition, 314 university and high-school students (228 girls, 86 boys) from the region of Elbasan were equipped with the tools to identify and combat harassment, digital violence and challenging traditional norms through a series of online and offline workshops as well as identification and mentoring of students to lead by example with their peers.

UNFPA's work with youth on GE and GBV focused on the engagement of men through the 'Be a Man Club' initiative. The guiding philosophy of the Be a Man Club is that young men should not be seen as an obstacle to peace and GE, but as key allies in promoting non-violent and healthy communities and relationships. Some 223 sessions organised with 474 young people and members of 'Be a Man Club' in Berat, Diber, Gjirokaster, Korca, Kruja, Kukes, Lezhe, Puke and Shkodra discussed issues of equality and gender, SRH and other topics of their interest. They also actively engaged in organising awareness campaigns, distributing leaflets during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, coordinating a donation campaign for people in need and being part of a humanitarian action in their communities. Moreover, UNFPA in partnership with UN Women organised a touring exhibition focusing on bodily autonomy engaging 20 young people through competitive participation. The exhi-



My body is my own!

bition was shown in public spaces in Korca, Shkodra and Tirana and more than two million viewers were reached through social media, such as Facebook.

In addition, in the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UNFPA organised a roundtable (25 November) to present the work in 2021 and discuss the role of the religious communities in preventing VAW, better helping the victims and survivors,

and stopping the pandemic of silence surrounding this phenomenon.²³ At the round-table, the national campaign 'Most active spiritual leader of the 2022 year in protecting families, gender inequalities and women's rights' was launched, serving to encourage community leaders to become more involved in media and social media to prevent and fight GBV. Nominations will be collected from the five religious communities in October 2022, and the prizes will be announced at the next round-table planned to be held on 25 November 2022. The event was echoed on regional TV channel 6+1 Vlora, which transmitted the awareness messages of all participants.²⁴

Within the 16 Days of Activism campaign against GBV, UN Women²⁵ continued two fruitful and innovative partnerships with AI-KIDO Albania and Anabel Online Magazine to tackle GE, GBV and social norms, where

around 720 women and girls, high-school students, CSO representatives and teachers were taught self-defence mechanisms to address violence and harassment and build self-confidence, piloted in ten high schools with a view to make it part of the national curriculum. UN Women partnered with the Albanian Football Federation and Albanian Post Office, with 600 posters providing information on reporting VAW distributed to 580 post offices around the country, with raising-awareness videos displayed in these offices.

Furthermore, with UNICEF advocacy and technical support, the government of Albania for the first time prioritised addressing child marriage and early union in its budgeted national policy framework. Both the National Gender Equality Strategy²⁶ and the National Agenda for Child Rights approved in 2021²⁷ contain objectives and measures to combat this harmful practice. This is a first step towards addressing repeated

23. The round-table brought together 20 representatives from all religious communities in Vlora Municipality (heads of the Muslims, Catholics, Orthodox Church, Baptists, Evangelical Church, Vlora Church of Christ, and a representative of Bektashi community) and members of the Referral Mechanism Against Gender-Based Violence. The Coordinator against GBV in Vlora Municipality gave a presentation to showcase the achievements and challenges with regard to GBV during 2021.

24. <https://fb.watch/9T62479X6D/> at the minute 23.30; https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=442091064080771&id=102866881336526; Leaflets: https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aq_kc8kSGtBBgv1aUdZykzz6l6AGcw?e=jj0suP; T-shirt and bags: https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aq_kc8kSGtBBgv1bDEl-5suHuTAYbQ?e=6Qvp0a

25. See articles on 16 days campaign:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=518308702554229>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/%EF%B8%8F-ndricuam-ne-portokalli-muzeun-kombetar-ne-diten-nderkombetare-per-eliminimin-e/389269512982567>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/-ashtu-sikurse-dhe-sot-neser-do-te-jete-nje-dite-shume-e-bukur-me-diell-ju-ftojm/665490221486012>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/leksion-interaktiv-per-16diteteaktivizmit/3120449924945163>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/bejebotenportokalli/1074203290049577>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/per-nje-jave-qendruam-ne-qytetin-e-shkodres-me-nje-ekspozite-levizese-nga-fotogr/1037865270387280>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/ekspozita-e-artisteve-te-rinj-ne-korce/283142127050122>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/disa-momente-nga-workshopi-me-fotografet-qe-i-jane-bashkuar-nismes-tone-trupiime/2894938680629989>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/stronger-together/518924879227228>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/ndryshojmerolet/2209222892547241>

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomentalbania/videos/forumi-gruas-elbasan/268712711278340>

26. Strategjia-Kombetare-per-Barazine-Gjinore-2021-2030.docx (live.com).

27. Agjenda Kombetare për të Drejtat e Femijëve 2021–2026, UNICEF, Albania.

observations from Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Albania, asking the state to tackle and reduce the phenomenon.

The Monitoring Network Against Gender-Based Violence, a platform of 50 CSOs, supported by UN Women, submitted a [CEDAW shadow report](#) and a shadow report on implementation of GREVIO recommendations to the Committee of the Parties of the Istanbul Convention. Similarly, during Q4 2021, UNFPA initiated preparatory work for the CSOs and CEDAW shadow report with a focus on SRH-related issues.

In addition, UN Women continued its work on addressing violence against women in politics (VAWP) in the context of the national 2021 elections through collection of evidence and data on the scale and forms of VAWP, which is often manifested in, or influenced by, media. The report on “Violence against women during elections and gender bias in the media coverage of the 2021 elections in Albania” was finalized, focusing on monitoring of media content (printed, online and social media) in the pre-and-post election period (including formation of the new Cabinet of Ministers), which will be used to improve the national legal framework.

To support empowerment of girls, UNICEF Albania marked the International Day of the Girl with the publication of two open letters to girls. In keeping with this year’s theme of girl’s en-

couragement to embrace Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) streams of education and professional life, two Albanian (female) engineers who are successfully building a career in Canada, wrote an open letter to Albanian girls about to make education or future career choices. These two letters concluded the one-year campaign ‘Write a letter to a girl’, initiated in October 2020 by UNICEF and UNFPA Albania, with a view to showing messages of support and encouragement to Albanian girls towards self-fulfilment and away from child marriage and early union.

Implementation Challenges

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to affect the support provided to all GB–DV cases reported at the local level. The parliamentary elections held on April 25, 2021 impacted the availability and cooperation of main governmental counterparts at the central and local level with a slow-down of activities. Being aware of the risks, UN agencies in partnership with MoHSP used a twin track approach to reach both central and local governmental authorities responsible for coordination and provision of specialised support services to GB–DV victims. UN agencies intensified partnerships with media outlets especially during the 16 Days of Activism campaign and beyond to maximise reaching out to the public. After the elections, the UN agencies continued to maintain a sharp focus at the local level ensuring that planned activities are delivered accordingly.

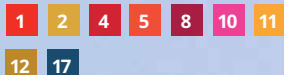
OUTCOME 3

Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture

Economic growth priorities, policies, and programs of the GoA are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development.



Alignment with SDGs



Alignment with National Development Goals



Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas



Outcome 3—Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture—consists of four outputs focusing on 1) Economic Development, 2) Labour, 3) Agriculture and Rural Development, and 4) Culture.

This outcome supports the government of Albania in achieving four priorities of NSDI 2015–2020: 1) EU membership, 2) Growth through increased competitiveness, 3) Investing in people and social cohesion, and 4) Growth through sustainable resources and territorial development. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 17, and EU integration chapters and priority areas

8, 11, 13, 18, 19, 20 and 26.

In 2021, the total available budget for implementation of Outcome 3 was USD 3.7 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Hungary, as well as the EU. The outcome delivery was 93 percent.

UN in Albania interventions were attributed to, or contributed to, achievement of more than 90 percent of the indicators under this outcome during PoCSD 2017–2021 implementation.



Indicators for Outcome 3

■ Baseline 2016-2017 ■ Status 2021

Indicator	Baseline 2016-2017	Status 2021
Ease of Doing Business (score)	60.5	67.7
No. new businesses established	16,731	17,319
Youth unemployment rate		
Total	34.2%	19.9%
Female	35.9%	20.7%
Male	33.3%	19.3%
Growth of agriculture sector 2016 - 2020	2.25%	4.3%
% of regional strategies and action plans inclusive of reintegration schemes for VoT	25%	100% All Prefectures and Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees have incorporated reintegration schemes for VoT in their regional action plans. Action Plans of the 12 regions of Albania prepared by Regional Anti Trafficking Committees include specific measures referenced to reintegration of VoTs focusing on employment.
Inter-institutional mechanisms in place for cultural and natural heritage management, including for sustainable tourism	No mechanism in place	Mechanism in place. Nomination file for extension of WH property Natural and Cultural heritage of Lake Ohrid Region submitted to World Heritage Centre (2018) and extension inscribed by WH Committee (2019).
Culture mainstreamed within development programmes at all levels, by means of providing an evidence base on impact of culture for development and implementing a national strategy for culture	No	Approval of Law 27/2018 'On Cultural Heritage and Museums' (May 17, 2018) Adoption of national Strategy for Culture 2019–2023 and Action Plan (May 2019) Preparation of SERP for Culture Sector Preparation of Culture Sector PDNA CDIS report is being completed



OUTPUT 3.1 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

1.3, 1.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 8.7, 10.2, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.9, 16.10, 16.a, 17.6, 17.9, 17.17, 17.18

Central and local governments are able to deliver effective economic support services and implement urban development policies that promote gender equality, the green economy and inclusive and sustainable industrial development



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNCTAD, UNECE, ITU

Implementation Progress

Efficient and innovative digitalised customs operations are leading to better regional and international trade integration and increased trade opportunities for Albanian entrepreneurs with a concordant generation of incomes. As the situation is developing into a new normal where 'digital' is not only a solution to an emergency but a long-term investment against risk, it is necessary to unravel the various dimensions of digital development in different countries as ICT becomes increasingly important for the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

For several years now, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) have focused on the development of innovative customs and trade facilitation operations to enable competitive participation of SMEs in the regional and international value chains with process digitalisation in line with international standards, developed by the WCO and EU.

In line with SDG 9 (to build resilient infrastructure and foster innovation), in 2021, UNCTAD developed the capacities of ACA to become more competitive. Activities were particularly focused on SDG 9 targets 9.1, 9.3 and 9.c. The use of UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) by the Albanian customs is providing tailored support to supporting economic growth through better ICT infrastructure, improved customs processes, sustainable modernisation and automation initiatives. With modernised customs operations, UNCTAD is addressing international market barriers to entry and supporting Albanian SMEs competitiveness with better cross-border infrastructure and better market access, notably at the regional level.

In 2021, ACA benefitted from an ASYCUDA developed in line with the provisions of the WCO and EU standards and best practices. UNCTAD developed a new combined nomenclature to be introduced in 2022 with focus on the integration of new Free Trade Agreements and enhancement of an Albania–Kosovo Com-

mon Transit system. UNCTAD also prepared an upgrade for the ASYCUDA world system to the latest version (scheduled for end of January 2022), and piloting of an e-Commerce solution for pre-arrival processing of express consignments (scheduled for February–March 2022) and exchange of information on the ASYCUDA customs system and Durres Container Terminal system.

The ITU Office for Europe developed a Digital Development Country Profile for Albania, as part of a series providing a comparative analysis of priority countries for the European region, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine. The country profile seeks to build a reference for discussions on digital development at the country level (to be published in the first quarter of 2022). The research analyses digital transformation from a variety of perspectives—meaningful connectivity as a foundation for digital development and transformation, people, government and sector-centric digital transformation, and digital-centric innovation ecosystem—enabling an understanding of how the various dimensions of digital development interact at the country level. As ICT becomes increasingly important for achievement of all the SDGs by 2030, the reports aim to satisfy the need for provision of a summary and narrative on the countries' capacity to digitally transform, for more effective cooperation within the UNCT and with national stakeholders.

In addition, with the aim of identifying gaps and areas of intervention at the national level, ITU is also carrying out a regional macro-assessment of the national approaches for digital skills development in nine countries, including those mentioned above and Turkey. The assessment builds upon the framework of the ITU Digital Skills Assessment Guidebook.

Following this, at the request of Albania, ITU launched a digital skills assessment technical assistance in 2021, which has led to a fully-fledged national digital skills assessment and will lead to elaboration of a national strategy on digital skills development. The six-month-process consists of several phases, including, among others, a series of interviews, national workshops, assessments and public queries. The assessment focuses on the private sector, academia and the general public and is foreseen to be completed and launched in the first quarter of 2022. The recommendations derived from the assessment focus on the role of central government in providing policy direction, national focus and leadership, roles of employers, the role of the education sector and local government and agencies in delivering solutions that address the digital skills gaps in Albania. This work supports the country in achievement of SDG Target 4.4, in particular indicator 4.4.1: Proportion of youth and adults with ICT skills, by type of skill.

OUTPUT 3.2 **LABOUR**

2.3, 2.4, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.b, 4.c, 5.5, 5.b, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 9.3, 9.b, 9.c, 10.1, 10.2, 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16.b, 17.3, 17.8

Labour market governance, tripartite dialogue and collective bargaining are strengthened and reduce informal employment, improve occupational health and safety, and enhance the employability of youth, women and other vulnerable groups



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES
UNDP, ILO, IOM



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS
Governments of Albania, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, the EU

Implementation Progress

The legal framework of the Vocational and Education Training (VET) sector was further developed, with UNDP support, with some crucial by-laws adopted, including one on the organisation and functioning of VET providers, procedures and criteria for inspection of the providers, and a by-law on recognition of prior learning.

Approval of the criteria, standards and procedures for accreditation of public and private VET providers was another milestone towards achieving an integrated Quality Assurance Framework in the Albanian VET system. A total of 38 external evaluators and four National Agency for Vocational Education and Qualifications (NAVETQ) staff were trained in the entire accreditation model, and 44 public VET providers implemented the third round of

self-assessment, a crucial dimension of quality assurance. The implementation was supported by the recently launched self-assessment online platform www.scvet.al.²⁸ Two private providers became part of the self-assessment process. The Albanian Qualifications Framework was referenced against the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) on 27 October 2021, representing a milestone for the entire education system reform in Albania, including the VET system, allowing all qualifications acquired in Albania to bear a reference to the corresponding EQF level, valid and understood in all EU member states.

The ILO International Training Centre in Turin put together and conducted an online training on developing e-Learning modules with VET teachers and instructors, agriculture university professors and agricultural extension specialists

28. To respond to the needs of institutions to carry on with the activities foreseen in their work plans, despite the social distancing policies put in place during Covid-19, UNDP supported NAVETQ with the development of a digital tool that would aid implementation of the self-assessment process.



A total of 251 unemployed jobseekers benefitted from the the Self-Employment Programme and the Community Employment Programme in 2021

to facilitate their work with their beneficiaries, especially in times such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

The work of the Sectors Skills Committees at NAVETQ will be supported by two studies conducted, with ILO support, in view of anticipation of skills in: (a) wine production value chain, and (b) dairy value chain.

The National Agency for Employment and Skills (NAES) was capacitated to implement the novel and newly approved Employment Promotion Programmes—the Self-Employment Programme and the Community Employment Programme—supported by UNDP. A total of 251 unemployed jobseekers benefitted from the two programmes in 2021.

In addition, around 100 specialists from NAES, asylum seeker admission centres and tripartite constituents were trained in the legal framework on access of foreign workers to the Albanian labour market and how to facilitate access. ILO–UNHCR prepared an information package on the Albanian labour market and the relevant institutions and services that was published in five languages, of the asylum seekers' origin, and distributed to relevant institutions.

IOM started an assessment of the needs in the main countries of destination of Albanian emigrants, which will also include the impact of Covid-19 upon labour migration dynamics, given the importance and the likelihood that it will shape migration dynamics to and from Albania



ILO also conducted a survey of around 100 garment and footwear companies on solutions to working force skills testing and hiring

in the near future. A study on the impact of migration on the available labour resources and the volume and structure of the national labour force is in preparation, including labour market needs in sectors experiencing the highest outflow of professionals and with a need for labour force training. The ethical recruitment practices for migrant workers were promoted in cooperation with the private sector. The diagnostic survey was drafted following consultation with main government and private sector stakeholders.

The Employment and Skills Integrated Policy Management Group (IPMG) and the respective thematic groups significantly improved their ac-

tivity, with the support of UNDP, especially in endorsing and monitoring the strategic framework development and implementation in the employment and skills, social protection, and education sector. MoFE, other public authorities and the donor community benefitted from up-to-date and concise analysis of key labour market indicators, which fed their policy design, with three additional Active Labour Market Programmes designed and discussed with MoFE and aiming at people recently laid-off as a result of Covid-19 with a specific programme designed for people that were in informal work.

The State Labour and Social Services Inspectorate (SLSSI) was supported by ILO in the de-

sign of a risk assessment tool to tackle informality in the labour market by being able to identify undeclared and under-declared work. SLSSI has been actively involved in a peer review process of business practices of the labour inspection agencies in the Western Balkans in view of pairing, sharing and upgrading their performance. SLSSI has reviewed its peer in Serbia, and has been reviewed by its peers in Kosovo and North Macedonia.

ILO also conducted a survey of around 100 garment and footwear companies on solutions to working force skills testing and hiring. In addition, it supported footwear and garment companies with implementation of the red protocols imposed by the government of Albania and Covid-19 standards recommended by ILO to ensure workforce retention and continuity of business operations.²⁹

The Secretariat of the National Labour Council and the tripartite representatives were engaged in the design of the Council's performance indicators in the WB6 against which they will be measured.

Implementation Challenges

Social distance measures in the frame of the Covid-19 pandemic remained a key implementation challenge during 2021. Capacity building activities to NAES and employment offices were provided online, through one-to-one mentoring or in small groups (regional approach).

A crucial challenge to the implementation of the reformed Active Labour Market Programmes based on the needs of the individual jobseeker was the hesitation and lack of companies complying with the criteria for participation in these programmes. Dedicated training actions and communication with NAES and employment offices were carried out to help the employment specialists improve their understanding of the new approach and communication with employers.

Another challenge for the state institutions was to understand the labour market performance during the pandemic and to address its impacts on employment and skills development. While it continued to provide regular updates and analysis, UNDP engaged in analysing and exploring the potential for a flexible skills development offer in Albania, including post-secondary and higher vocational and education training.

Difficulties in identifying professional expertise in the field of migration data and labour migration, combined with the Covid-19 restrictions and related negative effects were noted.

29. ILO and the government of Sweden support textile and footwear companies to establish healthy and safe conditions in the workplace: <https://albania.un.org/en/126324-ilo-and-government-sweden-support-textile-and-footwear-companies-establish-healthy-and-safe>. ILO, with the support of the government of Sweden, provides cash transfers for laid-off women workers in the textile and footwear sectors: <https://albania.un.org/en/116536-international-labour-organization-ilo-support-government-sweden-provides-cash-transfers-laid>

OUTPUT 3.3 **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 5.a, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 12.1, 12.2

There is increased capacity to design and implement policies and strategies for sustainable rural development and modernisation of the agricultural sector that are gender sensitive and empower rural women



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

FAO, UN Women, ILO

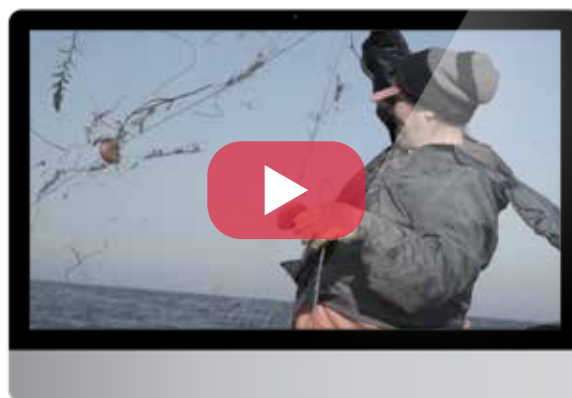


CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Albania, Hungary, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey

Implementation Progress

Women's contribution to agriculture in Albania is significant, with 54 percent of employed women working in the sector. However, the contribution in many cases remains invisible because of the high levels of informality.³⁰ Women are negatively affected by the existing gender pay gap in agriculture, their over-representation as unpaid family workers, limited access to agricultural inputs, and limited off-farm opportunities compared to their male counterparts.³¹ The challenges that women face when it comes to increasing their role in agri-food value chains and establishing off-farm activities are related to a lack of financial support, weak access to secure land rights, a limited understanding of which businesses are profitable, a limited labour force availability due to disproportionate engagement in unpaid activities and a high dependence from family members.³² Economic



International Day of Rural Women in Albania

empowerment of rural women is critical for the continued improvement of agriculture and further development of the rural sector. The economic empowerment of rural women is also key for improved food security, nutrition and sustainable livelihoods.

In 2021, rural women in Albania benefitted from the media campaign launched on 15 October on the occasion of the International Day of Rural

30. FAO. 2016. Gender, agriculture and rural development in Albania. Country gender assessment series. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5413e.pdf>

31. Ibid.

32. UN Women. 2016. National Study on Rural Women and Economic diversification in rural areas. Tirana, UN Women.



In 2021, rural women in Albania benefitted from the media campaign launched on 15 October on the occasion of the International Day of Rural Women

Women, targeting harmful gender-based stereotypes. The campaign delivered key messages on the economic and social contribution of rural women and girls to Albanian society through a television spot broadcast on national TV stations and social media, an op-ed published in both Albanian and English printed media, and through a public event organised by MoARD. The campaign was part of the Gender Rural Equality and Tourism project, funded by the government of Italy and implemented by UN Women and FAO.

Through the same initiative and in partnership with MoARD the engendering of the new Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development (2021–2027) is close to completion, using both international and national expertise. Rural

women will significantly benefit from the new engendered strategy through greater access to rural services and increased ownership of productive assets, identified as a major bottleneck for achieving gender equality in SDG 5.a.

In addition, 45 representatives and teachers from vocational schools, agricultural extension offices and the Agriculture University were trained, through ILO support, in developing online learning modules in agriculture. The last were uploaded on the www.mesovet.com platform for easy access for relevant users. In addition, around 100 livestock farmers increased their knowledge in the use of digital skills in their daily work and the use of the ABA platform (www.abaonline.al).



Rural income diversification and innovative short food value chains are supported by FAO and promoted through small-scale investments, capacity building, and awareness raising campaign. FAO joined forces with national authorities and local government units of Elbasan, Erseke, and Puke to identify potential incubators and select potential value chains where rural women are engaged to improve their skills, productive capacities, and managerial competencies to compete in the market. In addition, in collaboration with ILO, FAO contributed to developing skills on E-agriculture, digital technologies, and innova-

tions in the selected value chains in three regions of Albania - Malesi e Madhe, Belsh and Korçe.

Implementation Challenges

There is a lack of potential buildings to host agri-business incubators to empower rural women in highly disadvantaged areas with limited resources and the loss of social services. Collaboration with representatives of LGUs is ongoing to identify appropriate buildings and develop incubators that can address challeng-



Economic empowerment of rural women is critical for the continued improvement of agriculture and further development of the rural sector

es faced by rural women in becoming involved in gender-sensitive value chains and improving their family income

Lack of gender-responsive rural advisory services is another challenge. An assessment of the existing bottlenecks of gender-responsive rural advisory services has been conducted and a training module will be developed to address them.

There is a lack of monitoring and reporting on SDGs 5.a.1 and 5.a.2. An assessment of the existing bottlenecks in such reporting is in prepara-

tion and a concrete activity plan will be developed to raise the capacities of officials and identified stakeholders to monitor and report them.

April 2021 parliamentary elections impacted implementation of project activities in terms of availability of government (local and central level) staff and their rate of response. Covid-19 restrictions, related to travel and organisation of meetings, impacted implementation of planned activities, though the situation has been moderately mitigated by switching to online solutions where possible.

OUTPUT 3.4 **CULTURE**

11.4, 13.3, 14.2, 14.5, 15.9, 16.6, 17.7

State institutions have inclusive and equitable policies to foster cultural and creative resources, improve access to cultural markets, improve gender balance in the tourism workforce, protect cultural diversity, and improve the management of cultural heritage as drivers and enablers for sustainable development



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES
UNESCO



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS
Government of Switzerland

Implementation Progress

In the last couple years, progress has been made in the sector of culture. Efforts made by government and supported by UNESCO ensured further enhancement of the capacities of responsible institutions to monitor more adequately, safeguard, preserve, restore and protect the country's rich cultural heritage as a means for promoting sustainable development and economic growth and further promoting culture as a driver of development.

The sector is especially important for a country such as Albania, whose extremely rich and diverse cultural heritage, combined with its huge—and still largely untapped—potential in terms of cultural creativity and innovation, provide a formidable leverage for its sustainable development, as well as for furthering its process of European integration and improving the country's international image and status.

Following the catastrophic earthquake of November 2019, and based on the findings of the PDNA,

the government of Switzerland ensured funding for implementation of the project 'Digitisation of the archive of the National Institute for Cultural Heritage and the establishment of a protocol for emergency evacuation of the archive'. By the end of 2021, the following results were achieved: creation of a digital archive and preservation of documentation against possible disasters, as well as creation of a digital database for all cultural monuments; improvement of the infrastructure of the internal network of the Institute, as well as protecting information and documents from computer malfunction; establishment of procedures and responsibilities of the Institute's staff, to enable continuous updating of information at the projected initial level; specialists at the National Institute for Cultural Heritage, as well as other stakeholders, can consult documents without necessarily having to be physically present on the archive premises and without interacting with the original documents, which are thus further protected from degradation and physical damage.

A rich archive will be safeguarded for future generations and knowledge and appreciation of the



A rich archive will be safeguarded for future generations, including 4,100 technical dossiers of various monuments and sites

collection will be supported through facilitated access of 4,100 technical dossiers of various monuments and sites, 47,700 negatives of films and microfilms, 256,000 photographs in colour and black and white, and 28,500 items in a range of formats, and in colour and black and white.

UNESCO also provided support for the completion of Culture Development Indicators (CDIs), which are providing valuable inputs for new policies and strategies for culture. The results and data collected are contributing directly to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNESCO will continue providing support targeting inclusive policies to foster cultural and creative industries, improve access to cultural markets, protect cultural diversity, improve the management of cultural heritage as drivers and enablers for sustainable development and support promo-

tion reporting on the role of culture within the 2030 Agenda.

Implementation Challenges

The management of culture in Albania is weak. The main challenge has been the absence of a national Culture Strategy, essential for addressing existing challenges and providing a mid-term perception and outlook, and of adequate implementation of the existing legal framework ensuring the best appropriate management of the sector and the country's cultural archive.

A need to ensure further capacity development actions is being recognised in the Cultural Heritage Preservation sector and to address emerging issues in the preservation of Albania's rich cultural heritage.

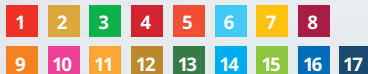
OUTCOME 4

Environment and Climate Change

Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.



Alignment with SDGs



Alignment with National Development Goals



Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas



Outcome 4—Environment and Climate Change—consists of three outputs focusing on 1) DRR and Climate Change, 2) Natural Resources, and 3) Earthquake Recovery.

This outcome supports the government in achieving four priorities of NSDI 2015–2020: 1) EU membership, 2) Growth through sustainable resources and territorial development, 3) Investing in people and social cohesion, and 4) Consolidate good governance, democracy and rule of law. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve SDGs 1–17, and EU integration chapters and priority areas 15 and 27.

The total available budget for implementation of Outcome 4 in 2021 was USD 38 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Romania and the United Kingdom, as well as the EU, GEF and GCF. The outcome delivery was 59 percent.

UN in Albania interventions were attributed to, or contributed to, achievement of more than 90 percent of the indicators under this outcome during PoCSD 2017–2021 implementation.

Indicators for Outcome 3

■ Baseline 2016-2017 ■ Status 2021

Indicator	Baseline 2016-2017	Status 2021
Extent to which comprehensive measures - plans, strategies, policies, programmes and budgets - are being implemented to achieve low-emission and/or climate-resilient development objectives	34.22% RES in energy portfolio	36%
% of farmers accessing disaster early warning system	0%	5% Female, 30 %
Number of hectares of land that are managed sustainably as protected areas under a conservation, sustainable use or access- and benefits-sharing regime	9,424 ha	Total 76,284 ha - Butrint 9,424 ha, Prespa 27,750 ha, Divjaka 22,230 ha, Dajti 3,300 ha, Llogara 1,010 ha, Karanburun - Sazan 12,570 ha
Nº of sites, including World Heritage sites, with costed DRR plans/ interventions, that are gender-sensitive	0 (UNESCO) sites	1
Categories of Protected areas and Biosphere reserves with working, sustainable financial and legal mechanisms	0	3
Presence and quality of the First Biennial Update Report of Albania to the UNFCCC that is gender sensitive.	0	Revised NDC and BUR submitted to UNFCCC
Number of financial mechanisms and 'pipelines' developed to access climate finance, including GCF	0	National GCF country programme developed, identifying 6 pipeline programs
No of targeted children and parents/care givers benefiting from child protection in emergency services.	500	At least 5,000 (children 75%)
No of targeted child protection professionals capacitated to deliver quality protection services in emergency settings	0	At least 450
Number of teachers skilled in Disaster Risk reduction strategies and other inclusive methodologies	500	At least 1,200
Number of children (boys and girls) accessing online learning (in schools or via other distant learning opportunities)	300,000 children of all ages and cycles of pre-university education.	At least 350,000 children
No. of households restoring agriculture production and dependent livelihoods	0	35
No. of households supported through guarantees and microfinance credit lines	0	30
No. of schools, community infrastructure facilities revitalized and refurbished	0	19 education facilities are repaired/re-constructed
No. of earthquake affected cultural heritage properties are rehabilitated and revitalized, incl. gender sensitive infrastructure/design and socio-economic measures	0	1 - Rubik Monastery Church rehabilitated/revitalized 6 sites are in ongoing work, 2 sites in solicitation phase, and the designs for 6 sites is completed and await final certification allowing for works to begin.

OUTPUT 4.1 **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

11.4, 13.3, 14.2, 14.5, 15.9, 16.6, 17.7

Scaled-up action on DRR, and climate change mitigation and adaptation across sectors



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES
UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, UNESCO



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS
Governments of Albania and Sweden,
the GEF and GCF

Implementation Progress

Albania is a disaster-prone country, with the main hazards comprising earthquakes, floods, forest fires, landslides and medical and health consequences of pandemics and epidemiological emergencies.

As part of the Climate Promise with UNDP in the lead of the multistakeholder forum, Albania submitted a more ambitious and robust National Determined Contribution (NDC) than previously, with an Action Plan of interventions aiming to achieve a near-doubled target of 20.9 percent by 2030. FAO's support to the NDC revision process focused on the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector, ensuring that the revised NDC expands the scope compared to the initial NDC to include, apart from the agriculture and forestry sectors, livestock, lagoons and wetlands, and fisheries and aquaculture as well as adaptation measures. The NDC is also informing the Integrated Plan of Energy and Climate with consideration of climate change adaptation where, with UNDP support, a Climate Change Adaptation Plan-



UN Albania Country Team Messages on World Environment Day 2021

ning initiative has been launched to provide for sectoral and local level interventions to increase resilience and sustain livelihoods.

UNDP-supported fishes under the government's Blue Economy Programme are supporting the diversification of the tourism offer through the use and optimisation of untapped tourism potentials, such as maritime and nautical tourism. Linking the Adriatic and Ionian seas with the central Mediterranean Sea positions Albania with an important role for the development of maritime activities.



A rich archive will be safeguarded for future generations, including 4,100 technical dossiers of various monuments and sites

Flood risk management-related activities and non-structural and structural activities in the Drin River Basin are at the feasibility assessment phase. Strengthening the political and technical dimensions of cooperation among Drin riparians and enhancing national capacities to support the joint efforts in line with the commitments already undertaken through the Strategic Action Plan were the main directions of UNDP's work in this area in 2021. Results achieved include establishment of a sustainable joint coordination body in the form of the current institutional arrangement or an evolved one and building the capacity of institutions for informed decision making for the management of the shared resources, servicing multiple socio-economic sectors and environmental man-

agement, by supporting enhanced knowledge and understanding of the (i) hydrological and hydrogeological conditions including interaction with the receiving sea, incorporating climate change projections, (ii) ecological flows, (iii) climate-related vulnerability for nature and socio-economy, (iv) status and trends in biodiversity, and (v) sediment balance, pressures that lead to river basin disturbance and its relation to riverbed and coastal erosion. Other important results include supporting the development of river basin management planning of the Drin and management planning and measures for improved and coordinated management among the riparians for flooding (i.e. for Kosovo) and drought risk management, and their reduction to the maximum extent possible, implementation of

regional, riparian and local solutions to promote sustainable water use and ensure ecosystem functioning and resilience, and enabling green growth in ecologically sensitive areas through activities that will foster economic development while ensuring the health of ecosystems and of the services they provide.

An analysis of Albania's Disaster Risk Management (DRM) governance structure was undertaken, with UNESCO support, with feedback on how to improve it discussed with responsible authorities for cultural heritage protection in the country as a result of the online participation of six experts in the SHELTER H2020 National Workshop held in May 2021 on the governance structure of the planning and emergency management caused by floods. This effort contributed to achievement of SDG targets 6.5, 6.6, 13.1 and 13.3.

Capacities of 35 technical staff from the Directorate of Civil Emergencies, MoARD, extension service, MoTE, Mol, Prefectures and Municipalities of Tirane, Shkoder and Berat, State Authority for Geospatial Information, and the National Institute of Statistics were strengthened in the assessment of damages and losses in the agriculture sector, as well as for coping with the climate change impact on agriculture and disaster events, including Post Disaster Needs Assessment, Climate Smart Agriculture and Integrated Pest Management.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) finalised implementation of the GEF

project Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Albania through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems. The key achievements for the year include 21,288 ha benefitting from application of SLM approaches, local stakeholders in Kolonja Municipality benefitting from SLM workshops, information dissemination, capacity building and awareness-raising events organised, and mapping and prioritisation of degradation in Albania's forests and pastureland. Fifty forestry and pastureland owners and users participated in trainings and rehabilitation activities on-site, rehabilitation plans for 120 ha of the most degraded land were developed, and rehabilitation actions took place in selected sites in Kabash and Varishte. The project contributed to SDG indicator 15.2.1: Progress towards sustainable forest management.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) finalised implementation of a GEF project on demonstrating the use of biomass for energy production in the olive oil industry in Albania, targeting and engaging SMEs in initiatives that promote the use of innovative and environmentally friendly energy technologies. The main achievement for the year was the installation of three bio-energy technology demonstrations in two pilot enterprises in Lushnja and Qeparo, aiming to make biomass energy projects economically feasible to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions, and contributing to achievement of SDGs 7, 9 and 13.



A rich archive will be safeguarded for future generations, including 4,100 technical dossiers of various monuments and sites

Implementation Challenges

The process of NDC and the respective Action Plan development was impacted by the Covid situation in Albania, especially during the first six months of the year and by the parliamentary elections of April 2020. Most of the consultations and trainings benefitted from online platforms coordinated and supported by UNDP. The earthquake and the global pandemic are factors that have slowed the shift to sustainable and green growth. Yet, the period of overall slowdown in normal economic activity provide an opportunity for building a strong, resilient, green and inclusive recovery from the consecutive crises. Aligning the objectives and reform measures more closely with the 2030 Agenda

and SDGs is also in line with the Economic and Investment Plan and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, focusing on decarbonisation, air pollution, water and soil, circular economy, agriculture and protecting biodiversity.

Due to Covid-19 it was very difficult to prioritise and further engage MoHSP to progress with the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan. The Albania focal point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) benefitted from capacity building processes and involvement in various forums, and contributed at different stages during formulation and assessment studies that fed into the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan and the NDC formulation process.

OUTPUT 4.2 **NATURAL RESOURCES**

3.9, 3.d, 6.1, 12.1, 12.4, 13.1, 13.2, 14.5, 14.a, 15.1, 15.3, 15.5, 17.9, 17.14, 17.19

Central and local institutions and communities are strengthened to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNDP, UNESCO, WHO, UNECE, UN Women



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Italy and Norway, the GEF

Implementation Progress

Albania is one of the most biodiverse countries in Europe. The country has made significant progress in raising the total coverage of its protected area system by 18 percent. However, several threats to biodiversity remain, including habitat loss, fragmentation and reduction in species number. Fragmentation, reduction and loss of natural habitats have been the result of demographic developments and the process of urbanisation. These threats arise from three main identified barriers: 1, Limited national and local systemic, institutional and individual capacity to effectively establish a landscape scale and complex national park; 2, An absence of practical experience and know-how to manage and sustainably finance landscape-scale conservation and multi-land-use protected areas; and 3, Limited awareness of the socio-economic benefits and importance of sustainably managed protected areas at the national and local scale.

Albania endorsed and is part of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, which among others commits to a circular economy model where value

and resources are maintained in the economy for as long as possible and waste generation is minimised, reducing pressures on natural resources while boosting sustainable growth and jobs creation. In line with the connectivity agenda, management of transboundary natural resources, in particular shared water systems, becomes vital.

For the first time Albania has a special fund³³ for protected areas supported by UNDP that will preserve the natural assets and strengthen monitoring in 18 percent of Albanian territory. Investments in Protected Areas and National Parks have improved the conservation status through controlled access. New information centres in four main national parks in Albania are now functioning and youth involvement through seasonal internship and job schemes has been promoted. Increased revenues from individual protected areas based on initiatives from four targeted national parks—Divjaka–Karavasta, Karaburun–Sazan, Llogara and Dajti—provide further capitalisation on the management efforts. Due to improved trails infrastructure, smart parking and other activities revenue generation increased by 30 percent in 2021. Some 90 staff

33. DCM no. 19, dated 20.01.2021 'On the extent of the special fund for the environmental protected areas, on the sources of its creation, and the rules for its use'.

from the National Agency of Protected Areas have been trained in financial scorecards and the management effectiveness tracking tool became an online learning module on the Agency webpage. Pesca-tourism was a breakthrough, guidelines for customers and security and safety and marketing protocols were prepared and consulted widely. Assessment of a shipwreck's status and relevance to the development of submarine tourism led to an interactive virtual tour—iVRT—as a digital archive presenting the main coastal and marine habitats. This innovative tool represents the future system of promotion, instilling a sense of civic responsibility towards the environment. A total of 266 people (49% women) benefitted from activities focused on the identification and implementation of solutions to valorise tourism and protect environmental resources in the Vjosa area, which includes one of the wildest rivers remaining in Europe.

UNESCO regularly assisted the authorities to improve the management of World Heritage (WH) properties, and especially in supporting enhancement of cooperation with the Republic of North Macedonia regarding the joint management of a WH property through the project 'Natural and cultural heritage of Ohrid Region', contributing to achievement of SDG targets 13.2 and 13.3.

Inputs into the best way forward to manage water resources in UNESCO sites, to improve the convergence of the networks of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme communities, and possibilities for joint projects and establishing new cooperation based on the expertise of the

programmes in order to promote a more sustainable and equitable development within sites were provided during the MAB-IHP regional symposium 'Managing Water Resources in Biosphere Reserves in South East Europe and the Mediterranean' held in Venice on 16 and 17 December 2021 at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. One expert from the Albanian Water Resources Management Agency and one from Korca Regional Agency on the Protected Area Prespa-Ohrid Biosphere Reserve attended and gave presentations on the national status of water and the biosphere reserve, contributing to achievement of SDG targets 13.2 and 13.3, and all targets in SDG 15.

Within the UNECE project 'Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe 2017–2021' the following policy packages were developed: draft guidelines to establish rules and procedures for the functioning of the Cross-Cutting Committee for Chemical Safety and on the environmental monitoring programme of a plan or programme after issuance of the relevant environmental declaration on Strategic Environmental Assessment; a programme for the training of Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) staff on how to apply a fully-fledged Regulatory Impact Assessment; identification and mapping of deposit sites (dumpsites), landfills and incinerators, including collection of technical and legal documentation related to the approval of waste; identification of best practices in the treatment of waste during the Covid-19 pandemic in other developing countries; ranking dumpsites

based on a unified form and upon technical, legal and health protection criteria.

The sub-regional workshop on land use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) held in Belgrade on 27–29 October 2021 allowed for exchange of experiences, good practices and challenges in coordinating land use planning and industrial safety procedures and enhancing cooperation and coordination between relevant experts, both within and across borders

Other UNECE supported efforts include the customisation of the Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in Albania in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment and conducting of an online training workshop. The study on financing and investment opportunities in renewable energy in selected UNECE countries (Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Serbia) helped mapping financing and investment opportunities and actors, which would include investigating key stakeholders, challenges and misconceptions involved in influencing finance and investment decisions for renewable energy. A study on energy transition and post-Covid-19 socio-economic recovery—the role of women and impact on them (Albania, Belarus, Ukraine and Uzbekistan)—focused on the impact of the energy transition and the post-Covid-19 socio-economic recovery on women and their role in these processes. The study will include case studies from several countries to highlight success stories, good practices and challenges and provide a summary of policy imperatives and

insights that will be useful for UNECE member states in their decision making. Drafting of economic recovery and resilience strategies for Tirana will help the city recover from the Covid crisis and implementation will be undertaken of the Covid-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the Western Balkans (through online training workshop).

UN Women supported the development of social enterprises, with focus on the green economy and increased competitiveness through the provision of business support services in the upper basin of the Vjosa River, in partnership with MoHSP, for the following: i) 26 entrepreneurs (15 women) gained the knowledge and skills to establish and develop their own social businesses, ii) preparation of five business plans for possible women-led social enterprises, and iii) a key-stakeholders event held on the role of social enterprises in supporting women's empowerment in the upper Vjosa river basin.

WHO facilitated implementation of the National Guideline on Water Safety Plans in Small-Scale Water Supply Systems in Vjosa Valley–Zagori, namely in Kutal, Permet and Riban, Kelcyre.

FAO organised a series of capacity building workshops involving farmers, extension service and local government in various administrative units of Permet. More than 100 participants took part in the trainings related to PDNA, climate smart agriculture, integrated pest management and training on sustainable soil management and land use including the introduction of best practices for proper sustainable soil management and land use, agro-environment and water use. Demon-



For the first time Albania has a special fund for protected areas supported by UNDP that will preserve the natural assets

stration fields were established to introduce good agricultural practices on soil management compared to current land use practices and the land erosion situation to promote enhanced soil management.

Also, an assessment was conducted of land use, water and agro-ecological situation in the Permet (Vjosa Valley–Zagori) region and development of a digital soil map to enhance the availability of updated information on the status of the soil to support evidence-based decision making in sustainable soil management. Various digital maps were created for the first time as administrative, soil types, agro-ecological areas, irrigation and drainage schemes, flooding risk, actual and potential erosion, total available water, watershed, agriculture zoning and land use, heavy metals and relief maps.

Another important achievement was the identification of 15 local products in support of agro-tourism with potential to become geographical indicators and in this context a brochure was published on the local typical products of Permet. FAO, in collaboration with Permet Municipality, organised a one-day event to promote the traditional products of region, with the participation of 60 farmers and farming families who presented their typical products for interested visitors.

Implementation Challenges

The Covid-19 pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in the social, political and economic sphere, especially for women and girls who have been most affected.

OUTPUT 4.3 EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 2.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.a, 4.c, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.a, 5.b, 5.c, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.9, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5, 9.b, 10.2, 10.4, 11.4, 13.1, 16.2, 17.3

Self-resilience of earthquake affected vulnerable communities is fostered, and livelihoods rebuilt through implementation of post-earthquake recovery measures, guided by Albania's Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)



CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES

UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNOPS, FAO



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Governments of Denmark, Luxembourg, Sweden, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, Poland, Norway, Finland and Romania, the EU

The early days of 2020 found Albania mobilising efforts to recover from the devastating November 2019 earthquake (6.3 on the Richter Scale), from which 51 people died, more than 900 were injured, some 17,000 temporarily displaced, with more than 200,000 (7% of the population) in eleven municipalities³⁴ affected, and thousands of buildings destroyed or seriously damaged, including public and private infrastructure, homes, schools and health-care facilities. The government, with rapid support from the international community, undertook immediate search and rescue operations quickly followed by short-term life-saving assistance for those displaced.

Government received immediate emergency

support from UN agencies in Albania (UNDP, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF; see publication *UN support for Albania earthquake recovery*).³⁵ A UN Disaster Assistance Coordination team organised by the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was attached to the support provided by the EU-led Civil Protection Team. Moreover, following the prime minister's request, the EU, UN and World Bank undertook a PDNA,³⁶ released on 5 February 2020 to support preparations for the Together for Albania Donor Conference,³⁷ which resulted in pledges to an amount of EUR 1.15 billion. The UN received a medal of honour from the prime minister of Albania in appreciation of the organisation's rapid support during the immediate response phase.³⁸

34. Durres, Kamza, Kavaja, Kruja, Kurbin, Lezha, Mirdita, Rogozhina, Shijak, Tirana and Vora.

35. https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/un_support_to_albania_earthquake_recovery.pdf

36. Assessing the impact of the earthquake on affected sectors and populations, and studying the socio-economic development of affected districts and at a wider national level. It defined a recovery strategy with short-, medium- and long-term needs, priority actions and costing, as well as an intervention framework. The PDNA identified a total need of EUR 1.076 billion.

37. https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/international-donors-conference-albania-earthquake_en

38. The certificate reads: "In recognition of the work of the Search and Rescue unit of the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team for extraordinary dedication in the search and rescue of lives of those affected by the earthquake, and for selflessness shown by all members of the unit in professionally helping the people in need, in extreme conditions."



EUR 40 million provided to the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for rehabilitation of cultural heritage sites affected by the earthquake

Aligned to PDNA and in collaboration with government to support the reconstruction and recovery efforts to Build Back Better,³⁹ successful resource mobilisation efforts resulted in EUR 11.69 million unearmarked contributions to the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund from the governments of Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Romania and the UK to support national earthquake efforts in the areas of (i) education, (ii) economic recovery and resilience, (iii) agriculture, (iv) community infrastructure, (v) social protection, (vi) child protection, (vii) gender equality, and (viii) DRM.

Besides the allocation to the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund, direct funding was provided by the EU as follows:

➤ EUR 75 million provided to UNDP for 63

school reconstructions and refurbishment in the eleven municipalities impacted,⁴⁰ affecting the life of 1,087,897 people and benefiting 1,372 teachers and 23,157 children and students;

➤ EUR 40 million provided to the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for rehabilitation of cultural heritage sites affected by the earthquake.

Implementation Progress

UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, FAO, UNOPS) supported government in identifying and addressing areas of emergency support and immediate need, aiming to reduce the impact on the poorest, and other vulnerable groups.

39. All construction will follow the Build Back Better (BBB) principle, applying sustainable building norms and providing an opportunity to sustainably reduce future risk. BBB will guide rebuilding stronger, safer and more disaster-resilient infrastructure and systems. This agenda will also contribute to building sustainable infrastructure. In terms of environmental sustainability considerations, the special measure will bring improvements to energy efficiency, which will be pursued through the reconstruction and rebuilding process of public buildings and at cultural heritage sites. This will help manage the carbon footprint for the buildings and sites and reduce cost for the beneficiaries.

40. Dures, Kamza, Kavaja, Kruja, Kurbin, Lezha, Mirdita, Rrogozhina, Shijak, Tirana and Vora.

EDUCATION

with financial contribution from the governments of Netherlands and Romania, and the EU

Planning for education interventions has been challenging following the Covid-19 curve of infections and measures in place, switching from online events to face-to-face or vice versa, requiring increased efforts.

Continuation of the learning process has been enabled through strengthening of the online platform [Akademi.al](#) with focus on the most vulnerable children. Some 450,000 children, teachers and parents have used the platform, 200,000 virtual classes have taken place, 20,127 video lessons have been developed and made available online, including 1,000 videos prepared for children with hearing and vision difficulties while new interactive and high-quality pre-school content is being added to the platform.

In efforts to reduce the digital divide, UNICEF supported expansion of the lessons provided on Albanian public television through the dedicated programme 'RTSH Shkolla', aiming to reach children who do not have access to devices and the Internet. To date, more than 100,000 children have been reached.

A total of 22 TechHubs have been set up in compulsory schools affected by the earthquake, benefitting 8,000 students. Schools were provided with 1,840 tablets and 24 smart boards. As part of the TechHubs initiative, UNICEF and ASCAP prepared a methodology for [teach-](#)

[er training in ICT](#) to provide teachers with the knowledge and skills to use technology as a means to improve children learning outcomes. To date, 2,362 teachers have been trained, and 14,000 teachers have benefitted from peer learning experiences. UNICEF also supported ASCAP to develop ICT standards for teachers and that are approved by MoESY.

Competency-based training curricula were developed through combining international expertise with local partners, leading to 780 teachers trained.

As part of the interventions in reducing drop-out, UNICEF [supported directly 530 students in schools](#) affected by the earthquake with foundational skills and after-class remedial learning lessons in mathematics, early literacy and socio-emotional skills. To date, 950 teachers and 465 schools have been reached through teacher professional networks on the Early Warning System for school drop-out, including socio-emotional training.

Through the programme 'Gender sensitive education at the pre-university level' training modules have been prepared, 600 school psychologists and 205 school councils' students have been trained and 458 psychologists have been assigned as gender focal points in the schools. The DRR programme covered 23 schools in Albania with teacher training (230 teachers, 600 school psychologists), peer support and sharing of experiences among teachers and schools, small grants to schools for addressing their recovery needs and a cutting-edge mobile app on DRR prepared-



Continuation of the learning process has been enabled through strengthening of the online platform Akademi.al with focus on the most vulnerable children

ness and policy recommendations to MoESY.

The 'EU4Schools' programme, funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP in cooperation with the Albanian government, supports national and local governments in reducing further social and economic losses and accelerating the recovery process through 58 educational facility repairs and reconstruction, after the earthquake, in eleven affected municipalities: Durres, Kamez, Kavaja, Kruje, Kurbin, Lezhe, Mirdite, Rogozhina, Shijak, Tirana and Vora. In this context, the 'Build Back Better' and 'Build Back Together' approaches are twinned within each locality, foreseeing the cooperation of local government, communities and responsible authorities in designing and implementing recovery activities rapidly through transparent systems.

Partnership with eleven partner municipalities is

established through an MoU defining roles and responsibilities for parties. Local authorities are involved in almost all phases of the programme implementation, aiming to increase ownership as final beneficiaries.

By end-2021, 19 new education facilities were repaired or reconstructed, offering services to around 7,000 children and teachers in kindergartens, nine-year schools, joint schools and high schools, in five of the eleven municipalities affected by the earthquake.

To increase transparency and accountability, an online publicly accessible Business Intelligence dashboard <http://eu4schoolsportal.al/> was established in January 2021, since when 9,160 visitors have visited it, browsing 24,539 pages. This portal represents the EU4Schools gate for transparency and communication with the public.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE (ERR)

- with financial contributions from the governments of Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and the UK

The ERR programme is supporting the private sector in Albania through implementation of two successfully tested methodologies: In Motion, and Supplier Development.

Following the training and qualification of 15 local consultants in the In Motion methodology, 36 micro-enterprises in Tirana are being supported with personalised assistance, trainings to improve their managerial skills, design support in improving the business image and grants for equipment and machinery.

With the support of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and its experts, knowledge on the Supplier Development Methodology—an internationally tried and tested approach aiming to strengthen local value chains—has been transferred to UNDP Albania and to a team of local business consultants. The local team and eleven business consultants were trained in this methodology by a team of international experts with more than 20 years of experience in implementing it, over a period of six months (90 hours of face-to-face training, 180 hours of online training and practical application of the methodology in a real company).

Eleven companies have indirectly benefitted from partial implementation of the Supplier

Development Methodology as part of the Supplier Development Programme consultants' six-month training process, enabling them to increase capacities and, in some cases, improve their business performance.

AGRICULTURE

- with financial contributions from the governments of Netherlands and the UK

The agriculture extension service increased skills and knowledge on the grant application procedures, with 48 farmers and entities trained to prepare and submit an application for the grant component, supported by FAO. In total, 44 prospected beneficiaries applied for grants (40 farmers and 4 agri-businesses), from among whom FAO signed a grant agreement with 34 beneficiaries. FAO is procuring pregnant heifers, construction of two cow barns and one piece of milking equipment to support four beneficiaries affected by the earthquake who could not access the grant programme due to their situation.

To improve farmers' access to formal financing sources, FAO examined both the demand and supply of the financial sector and identified related gaps between farmers and financial institutions. The report was shared with MoARD and relevant donors, and 30 farmers and extension service staff developed skills in financial literacy and micro-finance.



The agriculture extension service increased skills and knowledge on the grant application procedures

Technical capacities were strengthened, supported by FAO, for 20 professional staff, from the MoD Directorate of Civil Emergencies in Sendai framework implementation, and MoARD and INSTAT and relevant agencies in assessment of damages and losses caused by natural hazards and disasters in the agriculture sector.

The FAO methodology to assess damage and loss in the agriculture sector, in line with indicator C2 of the Sendai Framework and SDG Indicators 1.5.2 and 11.5.2 of DRR, will be institutionalised in close collaboration with the MoD (Civil Emergency), INSTAT and in coordination with other related line ministries. Consultation and capacity building was conducted for 35 technical staff from the Directorate of Civil Emergencies, MoARD, MoTE, Mol, prefectures,

municipalities (Berat, Shkodra and Tirana), the State Authority for Geospatial Information and INSTAT who were involved in the assessment of damages and losses in the agriculture sector.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- with financial contributions from the governments of Denmark and the UK

The project 'Community Infrastructure Support (CIS)', which commenced on 1 December, 2021, will address the education sector recovery process after the earthquake. It aims to support Albanian citizens in Durres Municipality to improve their education outcomes, contributing

to achievement of the targets of SDGs 4, 10 and 17.

After several rounds of consultation with national and local authorities in 2021, agreement was reached on the targeted facilities: namely three education facilities in Durres Municipality, two schools to be retrofitted and repaired and one kindergarten to be newly built, with strong emphasis on sustainability, inclusiveness, vulnerable groups and environmental protection. During the first month of implementation (December) the initial technical assessment of the targeted facilities was complete, enabling the preparations of the Terms of Reference for launching a request for proposal for identifying the design and supervision company.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

↳ with financial contributions from the governments of Finland, Norway and the UK

The project 'Strengthening the social protection response after the earthquake in Albania (Earthquake Social Protection Response, ESPR)' addresses social inclusion, protection and the needs of the most vulnerable groups impacted by the November 2019 earthquake. The project aims to increase social and economic resilience of earthquake-affected communities in Durres, Kruja and Shijak. Social protection services delivered by the project integrate measures that aim for community resilience and increased

transparency and voices. The government and local authorities have been supported to develop strategies and action plans to respond to social issues in emergencies, and people and families impacted by the earthquake, those living in poverty, PwD, children, women, elderly, youth, ethnic minorities, people in rural areas and other vulnerable categories are empowered and supported through integrated social and employment services and transparency mechanisms.

UN efforts contribute to the achievement of SDGs 1, 5, 10 and 16. For SDG 1—No poverty—the project is supporting implementation of nationally and locally appropriate post-disaster social protection floors for all, including the poor and vulnerable groups. For SDG 5—Gender Equality—the project is providing support to earthquake-affected women and men, girls and boys through provision of integrated social protection services. For SDG 10—Reduced inequalities—the project is empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. For SDG 16—Peace, justice and accountable institutions—the project is supporting the municipalities of Durres, Kruja and Shijak to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels responding to the needs of households effected by the earthquake.

By end-2021, the project had supported more than 150 households with basic social services, provided psycho-social support for more



In 2021, UNICEF delivered vital protection services to 1,423 children and 600 adults severely affected by the November 2019 earthquake

than 300 children and their families, delivered training for 21 municipal officials in addressing needs for responding to emergency situations, supported three community initiatives to voice the issues of post-earthquake reconstruction and supported the preparation of protocols for social service providers at the municipal level.

CHILD PROTECTION

↳ with financial contribution from the governments of Luxembourg and Sweden; and USAID

Even two years after the earthquake, some of the affected families still reside in temporary shelters or homes. Their overall socio-economic

situation has not improved, while the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic has worsened their child-care and protection ability. Unsurprisingly, the incidence of children's early school drop-out, exposure to violence, trafficking, economic exploitation, and many other forms of abuse has increased. Against this backdrop, a weak protection system and a statutory child protection workforce shortage created a fertile ground for child abuse to grow undetected and unattended. UNICEF's intervention provided needed assistance to people affected by the emergency and the respective national protection system. Such an approach enabled people in urgent need to be helped while strengthening the statutory workforce's overall higher level of professional preparedness and response abilities.

In 2021, UNICEF delivered vital protection services to 1,423 children and 600 adults severely affected by the November 2019 earthquake, many still residing in temporary shelters and housing. This support consisted of community-based mental health and psycho-social counselling, edutainment, referral to needed social and health services, school catch-up classes, and delivery of teaching materials. Additionally, 223 children and 30 adults, who needed more in-depth psychological support, were assisted through dedicated counselling sessions.

A total of 6,000 books for children 'Trinka and Sam: The day the Earth Shook,' specially designed to facilitate children–parents discussion about the earthquake, fears, anxiety, and how to cope with them, were distributed and used as a tool to strengthen parenting skills.

UNICEF also provided on-the-job coaching in case management to 193 statutory child protection workers, strengthening the existing system workforce and allowing them to manage 256 cases of children (40 with disabilities) at medium to high risk of abuse and exploitation or violence. These efforts covered 20 administrative units and 40 geographic locations across the country. These results contributed directly to achievement of SDG target 16.2.

Due to the worsening situation with domestic violence and mental health, UNICEF initiated, together with the National Child Helpline ALO 116, *Raporto Tani*, a web-based reporting and help-seeking tool and mobile application in ad-

dition to the existing traditional phone line. As a result, ALO116 registered 32,116 calls and dealt with 1,055 cases from which 887 required child protection services and follow-up referrals. Both intervention streams contributed directly to acceleration of results towards SDGs 5.2 and 16.2.

GENDER EQUALITY

↳ with financial contributions from the government of Sweden

Women's resilience in eleven municipalities was supported and strengthened, and institutional capacities were built across these municipalities, contributing to SDG targets 5.1 and 11.b.2. More specifically:

- Partnerships have been established at the central and local levels, including contact points responsible for DRR-related interventions in eleven targeted municipalities and at the central level through MoD and the National Agency for Civil Protection.
- A total of 264 women and activists have engaged in four targeted municipalities in participatory local planning and budgeting processes, identifying GE-oriented needs and priorities for reconstruction efforts in eleven municipalities, including through budget planning and approval process at the local level.



Women's resilience in eleven municipalities was supported and strengthened, and institutional capacities were built across these municipalities

- Women's needs related to property rights in the eleven target municipalities were addressed, as part of the reconstruction and construction efforts through legal information and concrete legal support. Fourteen awareness-raising activities targeting 225 beneficiaries were organised during 2021. Besides, 68 women and girls affected by the earthquake benefitted from free legal counselling and assistance with their property rights.
- More than 160 women have been assisted with psycho-social and primary legal aid services in the targeted municipalities. This was possible by offering direct psycho-social and legal services to women survivors, as well as a result of the efforts to strengthen the capacities of at least 454 service providers to address cases of GBV, including their capacity to provide information and support services to women survivors of GBV in all eleven affected communities. This significantly strengthened a coordinated response to address GBV cases, especially in emergencies, including Covid-19 and post-disaster situations.
- Significant results were also achieved in raising awareness and implementing behavioural change techniques on GBV using Empowerment through Self Defence (ESD) in several municipalities of Albania, including schools in areas affected by the

2019 earthquake. The capacities of 30 teachers were built during a seven-day ToT on ESD, organised after endorsement from MoESY. Besides, during the 16 Days of Activism, 493 girls and young women in twelve municipalities took part in the ESD bus-tour training and awareness campaign.

- A total of 20 local development practitioners from earthquake-affected municipalities have deepened their knowledge and understanding on gender-sensitive value chain analysis, as a result of a one-week training, aiming at strengthening local capacities and increasing the economic resilience of women and girls. The value chain analysis was prepared by UN Women for ten earthquake-damaged municipalities to strengthen women's economic empowerment. It aimed at identifying opportunities for employment, self-employment, expansion of productive activities and market access for vulnerable women and is orienting the next phase of direct support to at least seven value chains (2 ongoing in Kamza Municipality) of women beneficiaries in at least six municipalities. In Kamza, around 30 women are benefiting from the value chain interventions, while another 200 women are expected to benefit from the upcoming value chain interventions in 2022 in the other five municipalities. Another 20 women from Kamza have been empowered (ongoing) through a small business programme intervention.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM)

↳ with financial contribution from the government of Poland

Interventions of the project 'Strengthening Capacities of Albanian Fire Protection and Rescue Service (AFPRS)' are fully in line with the national action for enhancing the effectiveness and performance of the decentralised firefighting service. The objective of the project is strengthening, modernising, increasing the standards, operational and response capacities of AFPRS through support to ten targeted municipal fire protection and rescue services, contributing to SDG 11.

By the end of 2021, partnerships were established at the central and local level, including contact points responsible for the Fire Protection and Rescue Service in ten targeted municipalities and at the central level for Mol, General Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue Service (GDFPRS), and National Agency for Civil Protection. Logistical support (169 PPE for 8 municipalities, 3 fire trucks and 3 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) containers for 3 municipalities) is in the process of procurement. Three construction sites for building fire stations to improve the work condition and operativity of AFPRS have been selected and the process for the design project has started. Several training modules have been prepared for basic firefighter training and USAR trainings, and the modules sent to GDFPRS for comments and improvement.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

↳ with financial contribution from the EU

Under the EU4Culture project 2020–2024,⁴¹ signed between the EU and UNOPS in September 2020, the earthquake-affected cultural heritage sites in Albania will be revitalised with a focus on boosting tourism and local economic development.⁴² The project is being implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture (MoC) and the wider cultural heritage community, including local institutions through grants. The project's Build Back Better approach⁴³ will be beneficial to local small and medium-sized enterprises in the tourism sector, and its awareness-raising initiatives will emphasise to the Albanian public the importance of cultural heritage in the country's economic progress.

By the end of 2021, the project marked its first year of implementation with the inauguration of the first completed site: Rubik Monastery Church. In the meantime, interventions are ongoing for fourteen other sites, which are at various stages in the process: six sites⁴⁴ have work ongoing, two⁴⁵ are undergoing solicitation, and the designs for six sites⁴⁶ have been completed and await final certification to allow works to begin.

A major milestone aiming to strengthen the capacity of institutions and site managers in securing a better, more sustainable conservation planning, management and financial viability of cultural heritage sites was reached in 2021. Drafting of cultural heritage management and business plans for the sites is ongoing with accompanying capacity building activities planned for 2022. The grant mechanism strategy, which will make available to local communities the resources to boost the cultural and creative sector around the sites and create new income and employment opportunities has been developed, with the first call to be launched in early 2022.

41. The project will work towards achieving three main results following good governance and inclusive principles as a cross-cutting aspect: (i) Significant cultural heritage monuments and other cultural buildings or sites will be physically rehabilitated, improving the cultural and economic wellbeing of Albanian society, (ii) Economic and local development will be supported through cultural heritage revitalisation and valorisation, and improved capacities for its safeguarding, management, and promotion, and (iii) Improved awareness on the role of natural and cultural heritage in building a better future for Albania, through measuring and communicating the impact of culture for sustainable development.

42. https://fb.watch/3h9cad_sgY/

43. Ensuring all repair work and any new infrastructure is constructed to International Standards in the selected sites.

44. Church of St Anthony Rodon, Venetian Tower and Hammam in Durres; National History Museum, Tirana, facade and roof; Bridge of Kurcuj, Kruja; Ethnographic Museum, Kavaja.

45. Ethnographic Museum, Kruja and National Puppet Theatre.

46. Castle of Bashtova and Archaeological Museum in Durres, Castle of Ishmi and the building next to the fortification in Durres, Ruins of Church of St Mary in Kurbin, Former Archbishopric in Delbnisht, and Building of the Institution of the Formerly Persecuted in Tirana.

Implementation Challenges

The process of adoption of the National Platform for DRR and a National DRR Strategy and its Action Plan, which are the main entry points for engendering DRR in Albania, were delayed as a result of the June 2021 elections and the formation of a new government in September 2021. There have been ongoing high-level discussions about the re-configuration of the current National Civic Emergency Agency, which may have impacted its staff's full commitment in taking forward the commitments related to the National Strategy on DRR. Meanwhile, adoption of local DRR plans is dependent on the National Strategy, so work is expected to start during 2022. To strategically address this component of the intervention, a CSO with experience in supporting national authorities at the central and local levels in gender and the area of DRR, environment and climate change, including gender mainstreaming in relevant policies and programmes, will be contracted to implement this component during 2022.

Cultural heritage, being a niche area in the market, is often faced with limited availability of resources and suitable companies to undertake services and works on the sites. UNOPS has continued to take a proactive role in expanding both capacity and opportunities in the market in the field of cultural heritage

by including this year evaluation criteria in its procurement cases advantaging companies that engage young professionals. This is a first step in efforts for creating opportunities for young professionals to establish themselves and build their capacity in the field of cultural heritage.

Lack of institutional experience regarding key processes in restoration of specific institutions has been a particular challenge for interventions in museums, involving processes beyond infrastructural interventions and requiring specific skillsets and tools. UNOPS continually facilitates coordination among various relevant institutions, organising detailed plans of needed steps starting from development of procedures to implementation in the field.

Sensitivity of the subject matter and complexity in planning for cultural heritage interventions has required regular consultations, with a common understanding reached on the complexity of the works and its impact on implementation timelines. The level of partnership built with MoC and other governing bodies of cultural heritage sites in Albania has allowed for close collaboration in the taking of joint decisions in resolving issues arising.

Annexes



Annex A: Progress against PoCSD results framework

■ ON TRACK
 ■ NO PROGRESS
 ■ PARTIALLY ON TRACK

OUTCOME 1—GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW					
State and civil society organisations perform effectively and with accountability for consolidated democracy in line with international norms and standards					
National Development Goals: Accession to the European Union; Good Governance, Democracy and the Rule of Law					
EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas: 5, 10, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24					
SDGs: 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17					
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNFPA UN Women UNICEF UNDP UNODC IOM UNHCR UNESCO	% women in government ministerial positions	MPs, 21% Municipal councillors, 35% Public sector, 44.6%	MPs, 30% Municipal councillors, 50% Public sector, no less than 30%	Parliament Central Elections Commission (CEC) INSTAT <i>Women and Men</i> annual publication	MPs, 34.28% (following 2021 elections; source, CEC) Government ministerial positions, 70.58% (following 2021 elections; source, PMO) Mayors, 13.1% (following 2019 elections; source, <i>Women and Men</i> , 2021) Municipal councillors, 43.7% (following 2019 elections; source, <i>Women and Men</i> , 2021) Public Sector (specialist and above), 55% (2018 figure; source, <i>Women and Men</i> , 2019)
	Annual rating of democratic change in Albania (composite)	4.14/7	3.9	https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit	3.75
	Perceptions of performance of public institutions	CEC, 8% Parliament, 10% Government, 14% Local government, 13%	CEC, 20% Parliament, 25% Government, 35% Local government, 50%	Periodic citizen survey undertaken in framework of Open Government Partnership	2021 TiG report is in preparation
	Rate of children in detention (per 100,000 population of age 14–17 years)	33.3	20	INSTAT	14
	Out of all child-related valid complaints, proportion for which a remedial action was taken by the People's Advocate, annually	65% (2014): 65 out of 100 cases	5% increase, annually	PA Office records	55.3% (125 of 226 cases)

Output 1.1 Human Rights—Constitutional, ministerial and independent mechanisms are reinforced to identify and report human rights violations and enable evidence-based policy making and response

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNFPA UN Women UNICEF UNDP UNODC UNHCR IOM	No. of networks of CSOs that monitor and prepare shadow reports or submissions on implementation of international instruments on women's rights and GBV	0	1	Stakeholder reports	CEDAW shadow report by CSOs has been initiated
	No. of monitoring reports on refugee and migrant rights situation in the country	0	2	Physical monitoring	Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Albania
	No. of national reports monitoring implementation of international instruments with GE indicators, age and sex-disaggregated data and analyses	0	At least 2	National government institutions' websites	5 th and 6 th State Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2019)
	Percentage of population who believe women are capable political leaders	46% of population (31% women, 58% men) believe that women do not compare favourably with men for leadership qualities	65% of population believe that women are capable political leaders	Project data, surveys Reports produced by Ombudsman Office, Mol, MoHSP	
	No. of border monitoring reports	1	6	Project data	3
	Amendments to the legal and administrative framework linked to statelessness	0	6	Project data	0
	No. of civil registrars and pro-bono lawyers trained in prevention and reduction of statelessness	143	150	Project data	60 child protection workers and members of Interdisciplinary technical groups trained in practical application of the amended legal framework to prevent and address statelessness. TLAS (UNHCR partner) trained 293 civil registry officials on stateless issues and reduction of stateless.

Output 1.2 Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law—National public administration has greater capacity to improve access to information, address corruption and organised crime, and engage CSOs and media in efforts to strengthen monitoring of reform efforts

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNDP UNESCO UNODC IOM UNFPA	Improved sex-disaggregated database on potential victims of trafficking (PVoT) and collection of sex-disaggregated data with regards to VoT	Existing VoT database	Database populated, and sex-disaggregated data available	Annual report of Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (ONAC)	Based on data received from Mol database as of 31 Dec 2021, a total of 159 VoT/PVoT were identified and assisted during 2021 5 VoT and 154 PVoT 47 adults and 112 children 60 male and 99 female and 156 Albanian and 3 foreign
	No. of ADISA CSCs and LGU colocations for customer-care service delivery (cumulative)	1	31	Physical, MIPA-ADISA Project data	23
	No. of seizures by PCU	60%	80%	Report on seizures produced	PCU at Durres Port: Cocaine, 561.2kg; Heroin, 45.5kg TIA ACCU: GBP 89,620; EUR 46,800; USD 33,000; 3 fake IDs; 71 cloned credit and debit cards

Output 1.3 Local Governance—Local Government Units (LGUs) are able to deliver equitable, quality services and strengthen influence of citizens in decision making

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNDP UNFPA	No. of LGUs operating OSSs for service delivery	3	2017, 12 2018, 15 2019, 45 2020–2021, 61	Physical, LGUs; Project reports	61
	Benchmarking System established at national level and 61 municipalities use it	System not in place 0 municipalities using system	System in place 61 municipalities using system	Project data	0
	No. of municipal action plans that have a budget line for youth, including education and SRH	0	15	Project data	16
	61 municipalities have in place a physical archiving system and have increased their capacities, legal knowledge and skills in physical archiving	0	61	Project report and data General Directorate of Archives LGUs	61
	No. of municipalities with webpages meeting transparency legal requirements	21	32	Commissioner for the Right to Information Platform established documents	61 (13 from STAR 3)
	No. of municipalities publishing Council Decisions online	27	61	Data from online platform vendime.al Project assessment reports	61
	No. of municipalities with Integrity Plans	6	12		12

Output 1.4 Access to Justice—Children and vulnerable adults and groups have equitable access to a friendlier justice system, and juvenile justice is administered to international standards

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNICEF UNDP UNHCR	Existence of legislation that recognises a child's right to be heard in civil and administrative proceedings that affect them (in line with Article 12 of CRC)	1 Law (Family Code)	2 Laws ((Family Code; Child Rights and Protection Law) and secondary legislation approved	Parliament website Official Gazette MoJ website (Justice for Children rubric)	4 Laws (Family Code; Child Rights and Protection Law; Criminal Justice for Children Code; Anti-discrimination Law (revised), and related sub legislation)
	Establishing FLA Centres at District Court level to ensure equitable and unhindered access to justice for the most vulnerable persons	0	11	MoJ annual report	10

Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender-Responsive Budgeting—State institutions have capacities and mechanisms to mainstream gender in policy-making and planning processes

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UN Women UNDP UNICEF UNFPA	No. of GoA draft laws, policies, strategies and plans engendered	2	4	Annual reports	20 ¹
	Extent of gender mainstreaming in the central budgeting process (MTBP)	24 MTBPs	40 MTBPs	Policy document Action Plans	45 MTBPs
	No. of fiscal laws, by-laws and policies reflecting compliance with GRB	2	4	Draft laws By-laws	27
	Consolidated monitoring system for data collection and dissemination for service delivery	Existence of unconsolidated monitoring system	Consolidated monitoring system in place 1 monitoring framework of NSGE 2 templates of onset data collection	National statistical reports and bulletins	Consolidated monitoring system in place 14 reports, surveys, assessments, publications, others produced
	No. of selected municipalities adopting and implementing gender-responsive MTBP	3	5	Annual reports	54

1. Revised Law 'On Protection from Discrimination,' no. 124/2020; Amendments to the Law 'On measures against violence in family relations,' no. 9669, dated 18.12.2006; Law 'On Social Housing,' no. 44/2018, adopted by the Albanian Parliament on 4 May, 2018; Social Inclusion Policy document; National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021–2030, National Strategy on Gender Equality and Action Plan 2016–2020; Strategy for Legal Education of the Community 2019–2023; Strategy of Security in Communities 2021–2026; National Strategy for Development Integration (NSDI) II 2015–2020 (4 gender-sensitive objectives all under the GE section) & NSDI Monitoring framework; National Strategy on Social Protection 2019–2022; Public Finance Management Strategy 2019–2022; National Plan for Roma and Egyptian Minorities 2021–2025, National Plan for LGBTI 2021–2027; National Action Plan for Implementation of UNSCR 1325 (adopted by government on 11/09/2018); GoA strategic response to IPA III, 5 EU IPA III 2022 Action documents (Good Governance & Public Administration, EU Integration Facility, Social Inclusion, Health and Water), National Programme of Official Statistics 2022–2026; Local Gender Action Plans in 5 municipalities: Durres, Elbasan Korca, Shkodra and Tirana.

Output 1.6 Migration and Asylum—Government authorities have strengthened capacities to enhance effective migration and asylum management

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNHCR IOM UNICEF	No. of measures of Action Plan of National Strategy on Migration Governance implemented	0	20	Stakeholder reports	40 measures were implemented and 55 measures are ongoing
	Extent to which asylum procedures are compliant with international refugee law and the EU <i>acquis</i>	60%	65%	Gap analysis (legal, institutional, practice) Systematic border monitoring Monitoring of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures	70%
	Reception capacities at borders increased, with a differentiated approach for at-risk women and children	1 centre for women and children at risk (15 persons)	2 centres for women and children at risk (at least 15 persons)	Mol reports Monitoring of border situation	3: Temporary Reception Facilities at Gjirokaster, Kapshtica and Korce
	Assessments of current legal framework and IT infrastructure for introduction of Advance Passenger Information	No	Yes	DCM on endorsement of policy	Yes
	Mapping of Albanian diaspora, including sex-disaggregated data	0	3 (Italy and two other countries)	Gap analysis (legal, institutional, practice) Systematic border monitoring Monitoring of RSD procedures	3: Italy, France and Belgium
	Diaspora mechanisms for skills transfer and investment boosting in place	No	Yes	Mol reports Monitoring of border situation Systematic monitoring of National Centre for Asylum seekers and closed centre for irregular migrants	Yes
	SOPs for case management of unaccompanied refugee and migrant children developed	0	4	ONAC reports	1: dedicated SOPs for the case management of UASC
	Set of migration data is available	No	Yes	Migration survey report	Yes

OUTCOME 2—SOCIAL COHESION: HEALTH, EDUCATION, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PROTECTION, CHILD PROTECTION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

All women, men, girls and boys, especially those from marginalised and vulnerable groups, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights, while more effective and efficient investments in human and financial resources are being made at central and local levels to ensure social inclusion and cohesion

National Development Goals: Accession to the European Union; Good Governance, Democracy and the Rule of Law; Investing in People and Social Cohesion

EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas: 19, 23, 24, 32

SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
WHO UNICEF UNFPA UNAIDS	Private household out-of-pocket expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure	55%	40%	World Bank reports INSTAT	55% (2018)
IOM ILO UNESCO UNDP UN Women FAO IAEA	Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	Total, 26 Female, 12 Male, 14	Total, 9 (30% reduction) Female, 8.5 (30% reduction) Male, 10 (30% reduction)	UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation https://data.unicef.org/resources/levels-trends-child-mortality/	9 per 1,000 live births
	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 deliveries)	3.2	30% reduction	INSTAT	3.6
	Net enrolment rates	<u>Pre-Primary</u> Total, 81.34% Girls, 80.6% Boys, 82% <u>Primary 2013</u> Total, 95.92% Girls, 94.8% Boys, 96.2%	<u>Pre-Primary</u> Total, 98% Girls, 98% Boys, 98% <u>Primary</u> Total, 100% Girls, 100% Boys, 100%	MoESY reports INSTAT UNESCO INSTAT UNHCR annual reports OECD Biannual report of MoHSP	Albanian earthquake (Nov. 2019) and Covid-19 (2020) substantially affected the education sector. <u>Pre-Primary</u> Total, 72.9% Girls, 71.4% Boys, 74.3% <u>Primary</u> Total, 93% Girls, 90.7% Boys, 95.2
	Schoolchildren's learning outcomes (as measured by Programme for International Student Assessment, PISA)	Reading, 394 Maths, 394 Science, 397	Reading, 494 Maths, 496 Science, 501	OECD Biannual report of MoHSP	Maths, 437 Reading, 405 Science, 417
	No. of sector-specific policies with explicit social inclusion targets	4	24	INSTAT Biannual report of MoHSP Line ministry policy documents NSDI 2015–2020 monitoring framework	47

Level of implementation of National Action Plan on Roma and Egyptian Integration	Rated 2	Rated at least 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 5) ²	UN, EU and stakeholders' qualitative assessments, sector and country progress reports MoHSP and State Social Service (SSS) records	Rated 3
Rate of children (age 0–17 years) in residential (public and non-public) care per 100,000 child population	84	42	UN, EU and stakeholders' qualitative assessments, sector and country progress reports MoHSP and SSS records	80
No. of national mechanisms collecting evidence and addressing violence against children	4: police, CPUs, schools, helpline	At least 6: police, CPUs, schools, helpline, health centres, online and web-based platform	State Agency for Child Rights Protection annual reports	6
% women who have experienced physical violence during their life	23.7%	21%	INSTAT	18%

Output 2.1 Health

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNFPA UNICEF WHO IAEA FAO IOM	Monitoring and evaluation reports on comprehensive national health policies and action plans on Universal Health Coverage, Non-communicable Disease (NCD) control, Reproductive Health (RH), HIV and TB	1	5	Reports produced by MoHSP	7: Health Strategy, RH Policy Review, Cancer Control Policy Review, NCD Policy Review, Health Promotion Policy Review, GAP Report Albania, WB Health Analysis
	No. of health-care institutions that have conducted self-assessment on compliance with approved Quality of Care Standards	5 hospitals	12 hospitals and 50 Primary Health Care Centres	Reports produced by the National Centre for the Quality, Safety and Accreditation of Health Institutions	Health Care institutions that completed the accreditation process during 2021: Memorial Regional Hospital, Fier; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026) Health Centre no. 7, Durres; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026) Health Centre no. 8, Tirana; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026) Venus Medical Centre, Tirana; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026) Neostyle Medical Centre, Tirana; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026) Matrix Medical Centre, Tirana; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026)

2. 1, no progress or steps towards achieving the target has been made; 2, some limited or fragmented measures towards achieving the target have been taken; 3, regular progress has been made at a systems level towards achieving the target; 4, advanced progress has been made at a systems level towards achieving the target; and 5, critical systemic changes are in place to ensure the target will be met.

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNFPA UNICEF WHO IAEA FAO IOM					<p>Endomedica Medical Centre, Tirana; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026)</p> <p>European Eye Clinic, Tirana; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026)</p> <p>UFO Dental Clinic, Tirana; 3-year accreditation (2021–2024)</p> <p>New Salus Hospital; 5-year accreditation (2015–2020, and 2021–2026)</p> <p>Hamdi Sulcebe Clinic, Albiomed shpk; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026)</p> <p>Klinika e Syrit Vision Medical Clinic; 5-year accreditation (2021–2026)</p> <p>Public Health Care Institutions that are in the process of accreditation:</p> <p>1, SUOGJ Koco Gliozheni University Hospital</p> <p>2, SR Korçë, SR Fier, SR Shkodër, SR Kukës, SR Berat, SR Dibër, SR Gjirokastrë</p> <p>3, All municipal hospitals except Puka</p> <p>4, other</p>
	No. of patients diagnosed with cancer using imaging nuclear medicine techniques and treated with radiation therapy in public hospitals	20%	+40% by 2021 ; Therapy +40% by 2021 ; 1,302 (Cobalt and Therapax) of which 225 breast cases	Reports produced by Mother Theresa University Hospital	1,560 patients treated with radiotherapy (with Linear Accelerators and the Therapax Orthovoltage machine; Co-60 is being decommissioned) of which, 326 were cases of breast cancer 2,159 patients were diagnosed or treated using nuclear medicine

Output 2.2 Education—Education policies, mechanisms, community partnerships and actions are strengthened for quality inclusive education

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNICEF UNESCO UNFPA IOM ILO	Availability of inclusive mechanisms for prevention and response towards out-of-school children and children at risk of drop-out for all relevant actors	Mechanism for preventing drop-out developed	i) No. of teachers trained in inclusive education methodologies and preventive methodologies against drop-out ii) No. of municipalities taking action to integrate out-of-school children iii) New strategy of education sets targets on inclusiveness and drop-out prevention	MoESY policy documents, reports, Minister approval letter	950 teachers and 465 schools have been reached through teachers' professional networks on Early Warning System for school drop-out, including socio-emotional training
	Presence of CSE in all schools at all levels, private and public, for children of age 10–18 years	20%	80%	MoESY policy documents, reports, Minister approval letter	70–75%
	No. of schools and children reached with prevention against trafficking in human beings and education interventions	1,200	2,500	Agreements, report from project and MoESY	At least 2,500

Output 2.3 Social Inclusion and Protection—Social protection measures and mechanisms at national and local levels are strengthened with budgets and clear targets that reflect equity and social inclusion standards

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNDP UNFPA UNICEF UN Women IOM ILO	Inter-sectoral monitoring and coordination mechanism established and performing according to its mandate or Terms of Reference	0	1 (Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group, SIIG)	GoA and MoHSP Social Inclusion annual reports	1 (SIIG) MoHSP conduct monitoring and reporting with Social Inclusion indicators as outlined in the SIPD
	Policy or budgetary framework that explicitly addresses child poverty and disparities available	No	Yes	Quality assessment measured against EU and international standards SIIG reports NSDI implementation report	Yes
	Coordination mechanisms for social protection systems established countrywide	0	7 municipalities	GoA and MoHSP annual reports	Annual progress report of national Social Protection Strategy indicated that all municipalities have a social care plan in place and commit to implementing social protection policies by establishing proper mechanisms at local level; financial and human resources at local level are scarce; Covid-19 added additional burden 6 municipalities ³
	No. of R&E women and men with improved access to basic social protection services	357 R&E benefitted from integrated community-based social services 112 R&E included in reintegration programmes 184 R&E benefitted from employment measures	500 R&E benefitted from integrated community-based social services 150 R&E included in reintegration programmes 200 R&E benefitted from employment measures	Government progress report on implementation of NAPIRE ESERE project progress report	371 R&E families or more than 1,850 R&E individuals in municipalities of Fier, Kruje and Lezhe benefitted from integrated social services. > 1,855 individuals received social services; 350 R&E children benefitted from inclusive education support and 24 youth were enrolled in high school; 132 youngsters enrolled in VET courses and 68 began internships; 332 individuals supported through income generation schemes; 13 with start-ups as formal businesses; 140 with job referrals; 163 with counselling on labour market inclusion and assisted through the process of completing an application as a job seeker; 2,166 beneficiaries (907 female; 994 male; 265 LGBTI).

3. Devoll, Kamza, Pogradec, Puka, Rogozhina and Tirana.

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
	No. of municipalities with improved capacities, organisation development and quality management of service providers, and effective planning and budgeting	5 municipal public service providers	10 municipal service providers 3 new municipalities include GRB in MTBP	Record of participatory planning and budgeting of services at local levels	Operationalisation of 4 community centres for children with disabilities (Korca, Puka, Roskovec and Shkodra) bringing the number of community services for PwD and other vulnerable people to 17 and capacity building for community centre staff through online training, and exchange visits 6 municipalities ⁴ with improved capacities and quality administration of integrated social services
	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors or systems, by sex, gender, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, R&E, PwD, migrants, refugees, pregnant women, newborn, work-injury victims and poor and vulnerable	N/A	62%	IMSPSD JP Report	70% ⁵

4. Devoll, Kamza, Pogradec, Puka, Rogozhina and Tirana.

5. National Monitoring of the SDG Indicator 1.3.1 | UNDP in Albania.

Output 2.4 Child Protection—Child protection systems are strengthened to prevent and respond to cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children, with a particular focus on vulnerable children and families

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNICEF WHO IOM ILO	No. of instruments facilitating implementation of legal framework for child protection in place	0	5	Parliament records Council of Ministers records	17
	% of CPUs that perform case management of at-risk children in need of protection	26%	85%	State Agency on Child Rights and Protection annual report	87%
	National Action Plan for Child and Family Social Services (De-institutionalisation Plan) available in the country	Policy drafted	Children in 9 public residential care institutions assessed 9 public residential care institutions have endorsed plan for complete transformation into community centres or similar At least 2 institutions transformed into family support centres	State Agency on Child Rights and Protection annual report	De-institutionalisation Plan National Action Plan is in place, endorsed and in process of implementation by government
	No. of (potential) VoT identified by CPUs	26	70	Yearly reports produced by ONAC	112

Output 2.5 Gender-Based Violence—Capacity of institutions and service providers to implement legislation and normative standards on Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) and other forms of discrimination is strengthened

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNDP UN Women UNFPA WHO UNICEF IOM	No. of GBV-related laws and by-laws adopted or amended to align with international and regional standards	2 laws 0 by-laws	2 laws and policies 20 by-laws	Parliament website Council of Ministers website Line ministries	1 revised law and 3 policies 13 by-laws, protocols, guidelines 1 global Convention ratified or admitted
	No. of municipalities with functional CRMs	27	61	Yearly reports produced by MoHSP	61
	No. of cases of GBV addressed through CRMs	312	450	MoHSP reports REVALB, MoHSP	1,463
	Existence of improved knowledge on child marriage	No	Yes	UNFPA and UNICEF reports	Yes

OUTCOME 3—ECONOMIC GROWTH, LABOUR AND AGRICULTURE

Economic growth priorities, policies, and programmes of the Government of Albania are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development

National Development Goals: Accession to the European Union; Growth Through Increased Competitiveness; Investing in People and Social Cohesion; Growth Through Sustainable Resources & Territorial Development

EU Integration Chapters and Priority Areas: 8, 11, 13, 18, 19, 20, 26

SDGs: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNDP UN Women	Ease of Doing Business (score)	60.5	72.13	World Bank <i>Doing Business</i> Report	67.7 (Score-Ranking (doingbusiness.org))
FAO UNECE UNCTAD ILO UNESCO IOM	No. of new businesses established, by sex of owner	Total, 16,731 Female, 1,947 Male, 14,784	Annual 10% increase	National Registration Centre Annual reports	17,319
	Youth unemployment rate (young men and women of age 15–29 years who are without, available for, and seeking work)	Total, 34.2% Female, 35.9% Male, 33.3%	Total, 20.5% Female, 21% Male, 20%	INSTAT Labour Force Survey	Total, 19.9% (Q3 2021) Female, 20.7% (Q3 2021) Male, 19.3% (Q3 2021)
	Agriculture export: import ratio	1:4	1:3	INSTAT	1:2.9
	Global Innovation Index rank	87	75	Cornell University, INSEAD, WIPO: www.globalinnovationindex.org/	84

Output 3.1 Economic Development—Central and local governments are able to deliver effective economic support services and implement urban development policies that promote gender equality, the green economy and inclusive and sustainable industrial development

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNECE UNCTAD	No. of capacity building exercises for Competition and Consumer Protection staff and other officials	2	2	Project report	2
	Development of online tools on Trade Facilitation and Customs operations for building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation	3	7	Project report	5

Output 3.2 Labour—Labour market governance, tripartite dialogue and collective bargaining are strengthened and reduce informal employment, improve occupational health and safety, and enhance the employability of youth, women and other vulnerable groups

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNDP UN Women	No. of trainings for MCH staff	1	5	MoFE–National Employment and Skills reports	5
ILO IOM FAO	% of regional strategies and action plans inclusive of reintegration schemes for VoT	25%	50%	Regional Strategies and Action Plans	100%: all Prefectures and Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees have incorporated reintegration schemes for VoT into their regional action plans Action Plans of the 12 regions of Albania prepared by Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees include specific measures referenced to reintegration of VoTs focusing on employment

Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development—There is increased capacity to design and implement policies and strategies for sustainable rural development and modernisation of the agricultural sector that are gender sensitive and empower rural women

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
FAO UN Women	No. of actions that raise awareness of rural women's role and rights in agriculture and rural economy	0	At least 5 nationwide campaigns implemented in rural areas that disseminate information on rural women's rights	UN Women CO Annual Report	2
	Women's share among beneficiaries of agriculture extension service	11%	15%	MoARD, MoHSP	7,300 women farmers contacted and offered extension services, or 11% of the total number of farmers

Output 3.4 Culture—State institutions have inclusive and equitable policies to foster cultural and creative resources, improve access to cultural markets, improve gender balance in the tourism workforce, protect cultural diversity, and improve the management of cultural heritage as drivers and enablers for sustainable development

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNESCO	Inter-institutional mechanisms in place for cultural and natural heritage management, including for sustainable tourism	No mechanism in place	Mechanism in place (new law adopted) and required sub-laws elaborated and adopted	Laws adopted Reports on implementation of conventions Decisions of government	Inter-institutional mechanism created within Ohrid project, with involvement of main governmental stakeholders, as well as local communities and CSO sector Nomination file for extension of WH property Natural and Cultural heritage of Lake Ohrid Region submitted to WH Centre (2018) and extension inscribed by WH Committee (2019)
	Culture mainstreamed within development programmes at all levels, by means of providing an evidence base on impact of culture for development and implementing a national strategy for culture	No	Yes, regular reporting ensured	Laws adopted Reports on implementation of conventions Decisions of government	Approval of Law 27/2018 'On Cultural Heritage and Museums' (17 May 2018) Adoption of National Strategy for Culture 2019–2023 and Action Plan (May 2019) Preparation of Socio-Economic Recovery and Response Plan for Culture Sector Preparation of Culture Sector PDNA CDI report is being completed

OUTCOME 4—ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction

National Development Goals: Accession to the European Union; Growth Through Sustainable Resources and Territorial Development; Investing in People and Social Cohesion; Good Governance, Democracy and the Rule of Law (Strengthening Public Order and Emergency Preparedness)

EU Integration Chapters and Priority Areas: 15, 27

SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNDP UNICEF UNEP UNESCO FAO WHO	Extent to which comprehensive measures (plans, strategies, policies, programmes and budgets) are being implemented to achieve low-emission and climate-resilient development objectives	Current Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in energy portfolio, 34.22%	38% RES in energy mix (Energy Community Treaty Target)	EU report National communication to UNFCCC MoTE: State of Environment report GEF tracking tool	36%
UNECE UNIDO ILO UN Women	No. of hectares of land that are managed sustainably as protected areas under a conservation, sustainable use or access- and benefits-sharing regime	9,424 ha	73,219 ha	National Agency for Protected Areas, local environmental inspectors and agencies, LGU environment departments Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) reports	Total, 76,284 ha: Butrint, 9,424 ha; Prespa, 27,750 ha; Divjaka, 22,230 ha; Dajti, 3,300 ha; Llogara, 1,010 ha; Karanburun-Sazan, 12,570 ha
	% of farmers accessing disaster early warning system	0% Female, 30%	10% Female, 30%	MoARD; Early Warning Platform to be established during 2016	5% Female, 30%
Output 4.1 Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change—Scaled-up action on DRR and climate change⁶ mitigation and adaptation across sectors					
UNDP UNICEF UNIDO	No. of sites, including WH sites, with costed DRR plans or interventions that are gender sensitive	0 (UNESCO) sites	3 (UNESCO) sites	Mol report WH management plans	1
UNEP UNESCO FAO WHO	No. of financial mechanisms and pipelines developed to access climate finance, including Green Climate Fund (GCF)	0	3	Quantitative information from MoTE Environmental Performance Review report	1: programme document for Albania to access GCF

6. As defined under the UNFCCC.

Output 4.2 Natural Resources—Central and local institutions and communities are strengthened to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNECE UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UNEP UNESCO FAO WHO ILO	Categories of Protected areas and Biosphere reserves with working, sustainable financial and legal mechanisms	0	2 plus Prespa Lakes Zone	National Agency for Protected Areas, CBD UNECE Committee on Housing, Land Management and Population Ministry of Urban Development Joint Commission for the Protection and Rational Use of Water Resources MoARD, water basins commissions	3
UN Women	Presence and quality of first, and gender sensitive, Biennial Update Report (BUR) of Albania to UNFCCC	No BUR 3rd UNFCCC report in place	First BUR finalised Initiation of 4th UNFCCC, which is gender sensitive	National Reports to UNCCD	Revised NDC submitted to UNFCCC; BUR submitted to UNFCCC

Output 4.3 Earthquake Response; Self-resilience of earthquake affected vulnerable communities is fostered, and livelihoods rebuilt through implementation of post-earthquake recovery measures, guided by Albania's Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline, 2016	Outcome Target, 2021 Output Target, 2021	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2021
UNDP UNOPS UNICEF UN Women FAO	No. of targeted children and parents or care givers benefiting from child protection in emergency services	500	2,000	MoHSP–State Agency for Child Rights and Protection (SACRP) records Project reports	3,163 (1,646 children and 630 adults + 887 referrals of children)
	No. of targeted child protection professionals capacitated to deliver quality protection services in emergency settings	0	200	MoHSP–SACRP records Project reports	193
	No. of teachers skilled in DRR strategies and other inclusive methodologies	500	1,500	MoESY records ASCAP records Project records	23 schools in Albania covered with teacher training 230 teachers and 600 school psychologists trained
	No. of children (boys and girls) accessing online learning (in school or via other distant learning opportunities)	300,000 children of all ages and cycles of pre-university education	460,000 children	MoESY records Surveys Online platform records	At least 450,000 children
	No. of households restoring agriculture production and dependent livelihoods	0	60	Project reports	35
	No. of households supported through guarantees and micro-finance credit lines	0	100	Project reports	30
	No. of schools, community infrastructure facilities rehabilitated, revitalised and refurbished	0	30	MoESY–MoHSP records Surveys Online platform records	19 education facilities are repaired or reconstructed
	Frameworks and protocols for vulnerable groups and communities in place and utilised by municipalities, including formalisation of gender issues and women's roles	0	5	MoESY–MoHSP records Surveys Online platform records	In preparation protocols for social service providers at municipal level to respond to disasters
	No. of earthquake affected cultural heritage properties rehabilitated and revitalised, including gender sensitive infrastructure or design and socio-economic measures	0	30	MoC Records Surveys Online platform records	1: Rubik Monastery Church rehabilitated and revitalised 6 sites have work ongoing, 2 sites in solicitation phase, and designs for 6 sites are complete and awaiting final certification, allowing works to begin



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