

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017-2021

Progress Report 2018



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PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017-2021

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACA	Albanian Competition Authority
ACCU	Air Cargo Control Unit
ADHS	Albania Demographic Health Survey
ADISA	Agency for the Delivery of Integrated Services Albania
AFMIS	Albanian Financial Management Information System
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AKCESK	<i>Autoriteti Kombëtar për Certifikimin Elektronik dhe Sigurinë Kibernetike</i> (State Cyber Security Agency)
ALL	Albanian Lek
ANFI	Albanian National Forestry Inventory
ASLG	Agency for Support of Local Governance
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
AWEN	Albanian Women Empowerment Network
BMP	Border Migration Police
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radioactive or Nuclear
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCP	Container Control Programme
CCR	Community Coordinated Response
CEC	Central Elections Commission
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
C4D	Communication for Development
CoE	Council of Europe
CPS	Child Protection System
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
DOCO	Development Operations Coordination Office
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
EDF	European Disability Forum
EIMMS	Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System
ELDS	Early Learning and Development Standards
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPR	Environmental Performance Review
EU	European Union
EVAC	Ending Violence against Children

EVAW	Elimination of Violence Against Women
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FLA	Free Legal Aid
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighter
GADS	Gender Alliance for Development Center
GB-DV	Gender-Based and Domestic Violence
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCED	Global Citizenship Education
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GI	Geographic Indications
GIS	Geographic Information System
GM	Gender Mainstreaming
GoA	Government of Albania
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
GREAT	Gender Equality in Rural Development and Tourism
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
HACT	Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
HR	Human Resources
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICCS	International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDD	Iodine Deficiency Disorders
IGE	Inter-governmental Group of Experts
IGME	Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INSTAT	National Institute of Statistics
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPARD	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development
IPH	Institute of Public Health
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IPSIS	Integrated Planning System Information System
ISARD	Inter-Sectoral Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
LGBTI	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex
LGU	Local Government Unit



LINAC	Linear Accelerator
LTA	Long-Term Agreement
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MDR-TB	Multi-drug-resistant-TB
MENA	Middle East, North Africa
MIL	Media and Information Literacy
MIS	Management Information System
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MoARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MoESY	Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth
MoFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
MoHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
MP	Member of Parliament
MRDC	Medical Response to Diplomatic Corps
MTBP	Mid-Term Budget Programme
MTH	Mother Theresa Hospital
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NAP	National Action Plan
NARU	Needs Assessment and Referral Unit
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NEET	Not in Employment, Education and Training
NES	National Employment Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NRA	Non-Resident Agency
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020
NSGE	National Strategy on Gender Equality
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONAC	Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator
OSS	One-Stop-Shop
PCU	Port Control Unit
PHC	Primary Health Care
PIA	Participatory Inclusive Assessment
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PoCSD	Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development
p.p.	Percentage point
R&E	Roma and Egyptian
REA	Regional Economic Area
REVALB	Recording Violence in Albania
RMSA	Refugee and Migrant Services in Albania
RYCO	Regional Youth Cooperation Office
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SARPC	State Agency for Child Rights and Protection
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SD4E	Skills Development for Employment

SEE	South Eastern Europe
SEK	Swedish Kronor
SFN	School Food and Nutrition
SIIG	Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group
SILC	Survey on Income and Living Conditions
SIPD	Social Inclusion Policy Document
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SWH	Solar Water Heating
TB	Tuberculosis
TDA	Trans-Boundary Diagnostic Analysis
TLAS	Tirana Legal Aid Society
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
USI	Universal Salt Iodisation
VAT	Value Added Tax
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VET	Vocational Education Training
VNR	Voluntary National Report
VoT	Victim of Trafficking
WB	Western Balkans
WCO	World Customs Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation
WISDOM	Wood-fuel Integrated Supply/Demand Overview Mapping





CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS IN 2018

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------|
|  | European Union |  | Government of Germany |
|  | Government of Albania |  | Government of France |
|  | Government of Austria |  | Government of Belgium |
|  | Government of Netherlands |  | Government of Luxembourg |
|  | Government of Italy |  | Government of Croatia |
|  | Government of Switzerland |  | Government of Norway |
|  | Government of Sweden |  | Government of Australia |
|  | Government of Turkey |  | Government of Kazakhstan |
|  | Government of United Kingdom |  | Sovereign Order of Malta |
|  | Government of United States of America |  | Government of South Korea |

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Global Environment Fund

Climate Green Fund

Global Fund to End Violence Against Children

Terre des hommes

UN Global Thematic Funds

The Slovenian NGO ITF Enhancing Human Security

Gilead Science Inc.

UN DOCO Delivering Together Facility





FOREWORD

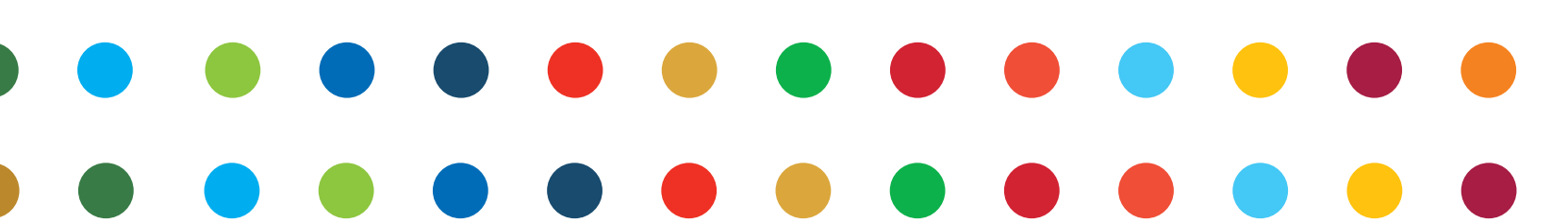
In our capacity as the Co-Chairs of the Government of Albania–United Nations Joint Executive Committee, we are pleased to present the Annual Progress Report of the second year of implementation of our Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017–2021. The report highlights the main contributions of the United Nations Country Team to Albania’s social and economic development in four key Outcome areas—Governance and Rule of Law, Social Cohesion, Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture, and Environment and Climate Change—underpinned by a commitment to human rights, especially gender equality and social inclusion. The results are credited to the effective collaboration among the UN, the Albanian government and partners, and the alignment of efforts in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the process of the country’s integration into the European Union.

This year, milestones in our work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include Albania delivering a Voluntary National Report in July 2018 at the High-Level Political Forum at the UN in New York, and the conducting of a Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support (MAPS) platform mission, highlighting three SDG accelerators for the country: i) governance and the rule of law, ii) an inclusive, green economy, and iii) investment in social and human cap-

ital. We also launched the Albanian SDG Acceleration Fund, which aims to finance actions that will further spur the country’s achievements. With the government’s leading contribution, more flexible matching funds are being sought from partners, while recognising the support provided from Sweden and Switzerland. For detailed actions and progress with the SDGs at the country level, we invite you to look through Chapter 2 of this report.

In Delivering as One in Albania, 16 UN agencies are supporting the country’s development priorities in close partnership with, and with the support of, government, development partners, private sector, civil society, academia and the country’s communities. The whole of the UN’s work is encapsulated in four workplans, one for each Outcome area, that are discussed publicly, bring together multiple line ministries, and are made fully public on the UN in Albania website. The present Annual Progress Report—also a comprehensive review of all UN action in the country in a single document—adds another instrument for the joint accountability of the organisation.

We would like to thank all our partners for their support and partnership, helping us to achieve concrete results. We encourage you to read the Executive Summary to see the highlights of the results that contribute to Albania’s priorities,



including the EU integration agenda and the 2030 Agenda. Full details are provided in Chapter 3. We are proud of efforts to date in this regard, and aspire to do more.

This year, the UN collectively delivered USD 20 million through its programmes, for which two-thirds was financed through agreed local, regional and global partnerships. A complete financial overview is reported in Chapter 4 of the present report. We express our gratitude to all our partners for the trust conferred in us to bring forward positive change in Albania.

On 1 January, 2019, the reform of the United Nations Development System went into effect worldwide, guided by resolution 72/279 (May 2018), which mandates changes to strengthen the UN's capabilities and coordination systems to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The reform creates a full-time UN Resident Coordinator, focused on coordination, advocacy and dialogue with partners, managed by the UN Secretariat in New York, while empowering UNDP with its own Resident Representative. Restructuring is just the first step, with the longer-term objective set on more efficient business operations and inter-operability, continuously improving coordination, whole-of-UN accountability to government and partners, increased use of pooled funding mechanisms and increased attention to regional links to sus-

tainable development, among other measures.

The leadership of the Government of Albania in its partnership with the United Nations Country Team has been instrumental in achieving the results detailed in the present report. Building on our joint achievements to date, and inspired by the aspirations of the people of Albania and their energetic contributions to their country's development, the UN in Albania is committed to doing more. We look forward to strengthening our collaboration with all partners to better shape our response to national development challenges to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

We hope you are inspired by this report and welcome any question or suggestion.



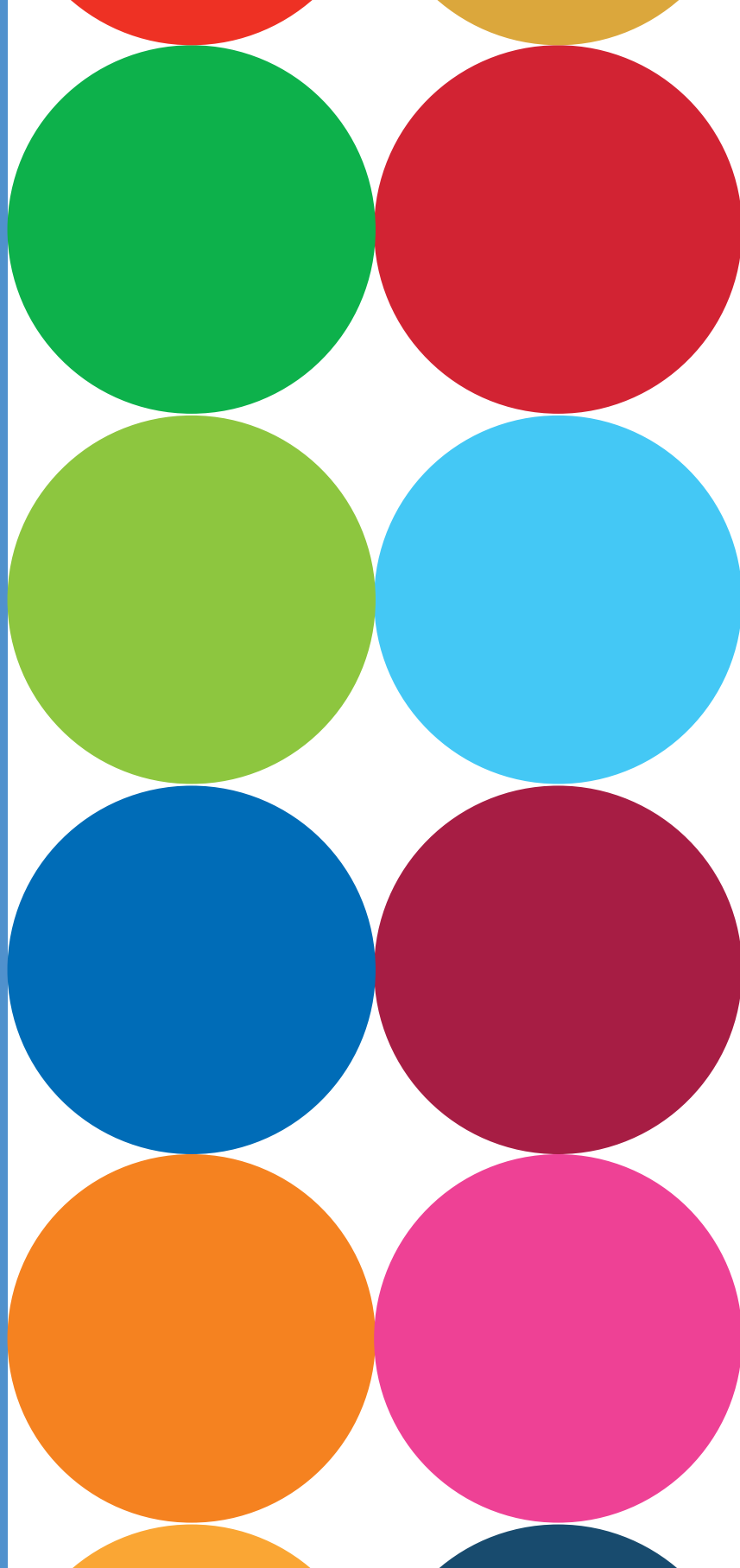
Erion Braçe
*Deputy Prime Minister
Government of Albania*



Brian J. Williams
*Resident Coordinator
United Nations in Albania*



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The present United Nations Progress Report features four chapters providing information for the year 2018, prepared with contributions from 16 UN agencies.¹

Chapter 1 reports the key development trends, with focus on European Union (EU) integration priority areas, highlighting the political, social and economic conditions that could impact the implementation of development initiatives in Albania.

Sustainable development is everywhere now defined by the 2030 Agenda, a universal framework that all UN member states have adopted. The Government of Albania and its partners have taken many steps to accelerate achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Albania, highlighted in **Chapter 2**.

Chapter 3—the core of the report—presents UN Albania's contribution and results for 2018, working with government, civil society and development partners for the development of four areas, as follows: 1) Governance and Rule of Law, 2) Social Cohesion, 3) Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture, and 4) Environment and Climate Change. These areas are the four Outcomes of the Government of Albania and United

Nations Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017–2021 (PoCSD) and support the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 (NSDI), including national EU integration goals and the 2030 Agenda. An account of the implementation progress of a recently launched joint UN–RYCO initiative 'Supporting the Western Balkan's collective leadership on reconciliation: building capacity and momentum for the Regional Youth Cooperation Office',² is also presented at the end of this chapter.

Chapter 4 covers implementation details, including financial reporting on expenditures and the organisation of the UN Country Team in Albania, and covers UN reform steps initiated as of 1 January, 2019, continuing with, now, standard practices under the Delivering as One Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Five annexes—including a financial summary—complement the findings of the present report.

Implementation of PoCSD in 2018 aimed at a budget of USD 22 million, with 75 percent supported by government and development partners in the country, and also regionally and global. By the end of the year, the programme achieved a delivery rate of 87.5 percent, with the balance carried over into 2019.

More specifically, the UN support, inclusive of the contribution of 16 UN agencies—eight resident and eight non-resident—built frameworks, mechanisms and systems and capacities at all levels and strengthened national ownership.

A few flagship results in each of the four Outcomes are provided below. For a comprehensive review, or to look up progress in a particular area, please refer to Chapter 3.

1. Resident Agencies: FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO; Non-resident Agencies: IAEA, ILO, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO and UNODC.

2. <https://www.rycowb.org/?p=5425>

Milestones from 2018

Outcome 1—Governance and Rule of Law

- Year 2018 was a critical preparatory one for Albania's four-year Universal Periodic Review, due in May 2019. The UN supported the government with technical assistance for its report, facilitated inputs from other partners, and submitted a separate UNCT report. The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs launched a web-platform³ to track human rights instruments and progress in the country. (Support from UNFPA and UN Women.)
- Albania prepared its CEDAW follow-up report, which concerns specific articles requested by the CEDAW Committee in its Concluding Observations on Albania (2016). (Support from UN Women.)
- Government submitted the national report to the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), while the National Council on Gender Equality approved an Action Plan to implement GREVIO's recommendations. (Support from UN Women.)
- Government developed its first Inter-Institutional Action Plan (NAP)⁴ for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325⁵ "On Women, Peace and Security" 2018-2020 - approved by DCoM No.524, date 11.9.2018 and launched on 31 October, 2018. (Support from UN Women.)
- The country completed its fifth State Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child⁶ for submission in 2019. (Support from UNICEF.)
- The Commission for Protection from Discrimination was able to install three new field offices, with guaranteed follow-on funding from the state.⁷ (Support from UNICEF.)
- The People's Advocate developed a new Strategic Plan for 2018–2022. (Support from the UN family.)
- The Free Legal Aid Law was supplemented with by-laws⁸ for implementation, and four municipal NGO-run Legal Aid Clinics were opened. (Support from UNDP.)

3. This platform will help Albania to conduct a comprehensive monitoring and reporting on human rights conventions recommendations. http://tedrejtatenjериut.punetijashtme.gov.al/WD220AWP/WD220Awp.exe/CONNECT/UN_System_en

4. The NAP development process entailed advocacy and lobbying with decision makers, Parliament and international partners, as well as mobilisation of CSOs at the national and local level and youth and media to build awareness and consensus on the importance of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and NAP. These efforts subsequently led to the establishment of a CSO coalition on Women, Peace and Security composed of 31 organisations that will play a key role in the implementation and monitoring of NAP.

5. <http://albania.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2018/10/from-where-i-stand-bajana-ceveli>

6. The report was one of the most comprehensive child rights-focused reviews prepared by government in recent years. The process provided an opportunity for (i) review of measures taken so far to harmonise national laws and policies with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), (ii) implementation of Concluding Observations and Recommendations, (iii) awareness and understanding of CRC among stakeholders, and (iv) responding to any shortcomings revealed by report review and analysis.

7. Given the structural expansion, the 2019 budget increased by 23.19% compared to 2018 (ALL 54,300,000 and ALL 41,708,400, respectively).

8. <http://www.qbz.gov.al/Botime/Akteindividuale/janar%202017/Fletore%20241/LIG%20nr.%20111-2017,%20date%2014.12.2017.pdf>



ALBANIA HAS REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY THE RISK OF STATELESSNESS BY **RESOLVING GAPS IN BIRTH REGISTRATION FOR 1,340 CHILDREN**

- By-laws were prepared for the Criminal Justice for Children Code and the Child Rights and Protection Law, while a multi-year National Justice for Children Strategy⁹ with a budgeted Action Plan was developed. (Support from UNICEF.)
- Albania has reduced significantly the risk of statelessness by amending the Law ‘On Civil Status’,¹⁰ resolving gaps in birth registration for 1,340 children (immediate). (Support from UNHCR, UNICEF.)
- National accountability on spending for the results of gender equality has increased, with 118 percent growth in the engendered annual state budget from 2018 to 2019.¹¹ (Support from UN Women.)
- ADISA One-Stop-Shops (OSSs) are set up in Fier, Gjirokaster, Kavaje and Kruje. A Baby Bonus life-event service package and Innovation Lab for hearing and sight impaired persons are now offered at these centres. (Support from UNDP.)
- Local government transparency and accountability improved through adoption of a standard model of municipal transparency plan, online publication of municipal council decisions (33 municipalities)¹² and deployment of a OSS system for delivery of municipal administrative services in 49 (80%) municipalities.¹³ (Support from UNDP.)
- Government developed a first national Strategy on Migration Governance (2019–2022)¹⁴ and Action Plan, as well as an Anti-Trafficking Action Plan 2018–2020.¹⁵ (Support from IOM.)
- Joint IOM and government efforts to boost engagement of the Albanian diaspora for the development of the country resulted in

9. Strategy is approved by DCoM No. 541, dt.19.9.2018 <http://80.78.70.231/pls/kuv/?p=201:Vendim%20i%20KM:541:19.09.2018>

10. The Law, approved by Parliament in October 2018, will enable immediately 1,340 children who are without legal documentation and at risk of becoming stateless to obtain identity documents and gain access to their basic rights to health, education and other social services.

11. The planned GRB budget fund for 2018 was ALL 15 billion (2.4% of the total budget), with ALL 32.7 billion (6.3% of the total budget) planned for 2019.

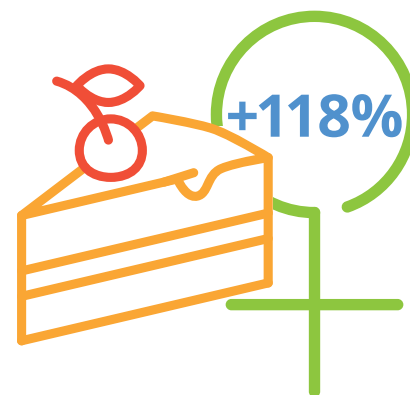
12. This fulfils the relevant legislative requirement and contributes to achievement of the first measure of Albania's Third Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership 2016–2018.

13. In 2018, municipal OSS piloted in Elbasan, Pogradec and Polican.

14. The drafting of the strategy is guided by the Ministry of Interior. It is currently pending Council of Minister's approval, expected within 2019Q2.

15. Approved on 26.12.2018 by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 770.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ON SPENDING FOR THE RESULTS OF GENDER EQUALITY HAS INCREASED, WITH 118 PERCENT GROWTH FROM 2018 TO 2019



- (i) development of mapping and profiling of the Albanian diaspora in Belgium, France and Italy, (ii) establishment of a fellowship scheme¹⁶ as a mechanism for skills transfer, and (iii) design of the Connect Albania investment boosting platform, based on the example of the Connect Ireland platform, one of the best practices globally.
- A joint assessment of the asylum and mixed migration situation in the country was developed to serve as a basis for joint action and resource mobilisation. (Support from the UN family.)
- The country's reception capacity doubled in 2018 and a database of asylum seekers was established in the Directorate for Asylum and Citizenship to improve procedure management, enhance coordination with other state institutions and improve access to services. (Support from UNHCR.)
- The UNODC–WCO Container Control Programme at the Port of Durres¹⁷ supported seizures of 613.35 kg of cocaine and 6.1 kg of *Cannabis sativa*. Furthermore, based on a technical needs assessment of Tirane International Airport Nene Tereza, activities to form an Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) are under way.
- Collaboration with and training of media and youth on the importance of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) increased. An online platform, www.jotabul.al,¹⁸ and a mobile application were developed to serve as an educational and informational tool for young people, and as a channel for raising awareness of SRH issues. (Support from UNFPA.)

16. The scheme consists of two mechanisms, to support institutions dealing with diaspora engagement and those dealing with territorial development.

17. For South Eastern Europe, the CCP is being delivered in the seaports of Durres (Albania) and Bar (Montenegro), as well as the dry port of Bijača (Bosnia and Herzegovina), where Port Control Units (PCUs) are established and are enhancing national capacities to interdict illicit trafficking in drugs, counterfeit goods and other commodities.

18. The application JoTabu contains sections that include a variety of important topics for young people, ranging from adolescence to reproductive health, risky behaviours and healthy lifestyles. The platform comprises two components: Ask the specialist, and Download the mobile application. The aim of the platform is to provide education on SRH. Jo Tabu offers the opportunity to ask questions on taboo subjects and discuss them without fear of being judged or prejudiced.

Outcome 2—Social Cohesion

- The country completed and launched the Albania Demographic Health Survey 2017–2018.¹⁹ (Support from UNFPA and UNICEF.)
- UN fact-finding missions²⁰ and various publications provided evidence-based findings and recommendations for further health sector improvement, including: (i) *Assessment of Primary Health Care in Albania*, (ii) *Assessment of Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health Services in the Context of Universal Health Coverage*, (iii) *Health as investment*, in the context of the Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Health 2020 documents, and (iv) a national Roadmap to deliver equitable maternal, new-born and child services, among others. (Support from UNICEF, WHO.)
- The national response to addressing SRH issues was strengthened through advocacy, trainings, guideline development and implementation of a community-based model for integrated SRH services.²¹ (Support from UNFPA.)
- A legislative and policy assessment²² for the preparation of a school food and nutrition programme was conducted, leading the way to piloting the initiative in 20 elementary schools in five municipalities (Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Tirane and Vlore) financed entirely from the state budget. (Support from FAO.)
- The national cancer screening programme benefited from a Linear Accelerator for cancer therapy, now operational at the University Mother Theresa Hospital Centre, reducing waiting times from two months to two to three weeks, and treating 1,350 patients annually. (Support from IAEA.)
- Government developed a roadmap for inclusive education in line with Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and initiated an assessment and evaluation of the education system to feed into formulation of the new sector strategy 2020–2025. More than 1,000 teachers, 30,000 children, 8,000 parents and 4,000 Roma and Egyptian community members benefited from accredited training programmes and the Communication for Development (C4D) #myschoolyourschool campaign.²³ (Support from UNICEF.)

19. <http://www.ishp.gov.al/studimi-i-dyte-demografik-dhe-shendetesor-shqiptar-2017-2018/nggallery/page/1>

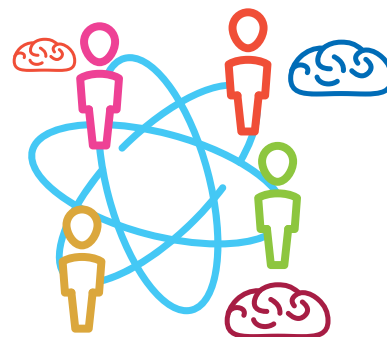
20. (i) Assessment of Primary Health Care in Albania, (ii) Measles—Strengthening Immunisation and Infection Prevention and Control Programme, (iii) TB Country Governance and Partnerships and Access to Diagnosis and Treatment of MDR–TB, (iv) Assessment of laboratory capacities for the surveillance of Leishmaniasis in Albania, (v) Assessment of the comprehensive package of interventions for key populations in Albania, with a focus on the prevention and testing for HIV and co-infections, (vi) TB Medicine Management for the Procurement and Supply Chain, (vii) National Action Plan for Health Security, (viii) Point Prevalence Survey of Healthcare Associated Infections, and (ix) Assessment of sexual, reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health services in the context of universal health coverage.

21. Lack of protocols and clinical guidelines creates confusion among health professionals and encourages subjective analysis and even resistance to learn and gain new skills and knowledge.

22. Assessment included (i) a review of global experiences with such programmes, (ii) an analysis of the feasibility for engagement of local small-scale and family producers as food suppliers, (iii) a nationwide survey to assess nutrition knowledge, attitudes and practices among schoolchildren, parents, teachers, and local authorities, and (iv) an assessment of nutrition levels of Albanian children based on anthropometric data.

23. The campaign contributed to an eleven percent improvement in Roma parents' awareness of their responsibility for enrolling children in school (from 36% to 46%) and 21 percent improvement in non-Roma parents who approve their children developing a friendship with Roma children (from 15% to 36%).

INCREASED KNOWLEDGE - OVER 5,000 VARIOUS PROFESSIONALS, 50,000 CHILDREN & YOUTH & ADULTS BENEFITED IN 2018



- The Law 'On Social Care Services' (2016) added by-laws for implementation, while government²⁴ identified an approach and implementation modalities for resourcing the Social Fund from the central budget, and eleven municipalities²⁵ can now implement the national vision of an integrated system of social care services through costed social care plans. (Support from UNICEF.)
- Secondary legislation is being drafted for the Law 'On Social Housing'. (Support from UNDP.)
- Legislation is in place concerning the financial framework for an efficient operation of social enterprises, including the Decision of the Council of Ministers 'On the forms of supporting social enterprises, through subventions'. (Support from UN Women.)
- INSTAT collected and processed for the first time EU-aligned Statistics on Income & Living Conditions (SILC) data and initiated consultations on the methodology of the Population and Housing Census 2020. (Support from UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF.)
- The social and economic inclusion of Roma and Egyptians advanced through the coaching of 200 officials and Roma focal points to implement and monitor the national Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians. Implementation took place of employment measures to break the cycle of poverty (with 359 employed or having started up businesses), while community upgrading infrastructure projects were undertaken to benefit more than 1,200 families. Access of R&E to local public services improved through preparing four R&E Local Action Plans and ensuring adoption by municipalities of Berat, Durres, Shkoder and Tirane. (Support from UNDP.)
- People with disabilities, including children, benefited from UNICEF's analysis *We all matter*, which reveals the most staggering violations of children's rights and UNDP-organised lobby and advocacy towards em-

24. Ministry of Finance and Economy, and Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

25. Durres, Korce, Librazhd, Malesi e Madhe, Maliq, Mallakaster, Sarande, Shijak, Shkoder, Tirane and Vlore. UNICEF provided support through (i) building capacities of local governments for planning and delivering social services by aiding them to understand, operationalize and integrate in their governance structures the new legal and policy provision for social protection and social care services, and (ii) providing local governments with models and standards on provision of quality services based upon innovative international best practice.

- powering PwDs to claim their rights and entitlements to social services (reaching 607 individuals).
- New SOPs²⁶ for protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking are approved to protect them from all types of domestic or international exploitation, and provide for specialised sectoral and cross-cutting, multi-disciplinary interventions to ensure their reintegration. (Support from IOM.)
 - Government initiated public consultations on the drafting of a Youth Law, and six municipalities²⁷ can plan and budget with focus on youth issues supported by established CSO platform Youth Voice and municipal Factsheets²⁸ developed to guide municipal actions and policies in addressing youth issues. (Support from UNFPA.)
 - The Ministry of Health and Social Protection prepared a one-year action plan (endorsed in 2018) to kick-start the process of the de-institutionalisation of 230 children. (Support from UNICEF.)
 - An in-depth understanding of the phenomenon of child marriage among both Roma and non-Roma communities is now available through the Albania Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions (KAP) qualitative study on child marriage. (Support from UNFPA, UNICEF.)
 - Protection and prevention measures and services for victims of violence have been improved. (Support from UNDP.)
 - ✓ amendments to the Law 'On Measures against Violence in Family Relations'²⁹
 - ✓ preparation of an action plan for implementation of GREVIO's urgent recommendations to Albania
 - ✓ development of a model of centres for management of emergency cases of sexual violence victims, through the pilot Liliu Centre established in Tirane³⁰
 - ✓ local-level multi-sectoral response to violence against women, with 39 CCRs established to date (4 new in 2018), covering 64 percent of Albania³¹
 - ✓ improvement of the national online tracking system REVALB for cases of domestic violence, with 668 cases recorded in 2018, up from 545 in 2015.

26. DCM, 29 August 2018.

27. Diber, Durres, Fier, Korçe, Lezhë and Permet.

28. <http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Fact-Sheet-Bashkia-Fier.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Fact-Sheet-Bashkia-Durr%C3%ABs.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Fact-Sheet-Bashkia-P%C3%ABrmet.pdf>
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<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Fact-Sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-Bashkise-se-Lezhes.pdf>
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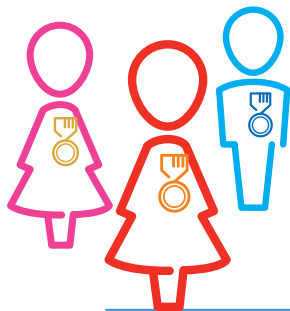
29. The amendments provide for improved legal definitions of domestic violence in line with the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW. Better protection for women and children in situations of immediate danger is ensured. The law also protects, for the first time, women and girls in intimate relationships but without having formal ties, such as marriage or cohabitation, with the perpetrator. In addition, the new changes ensure better services, not only for survivors of domestic violence but also for the provision of rehabilitation services for the perpetrators. For the first time, the Albanian legislation provides for the establishment of emergency crisis management centres for sexual violence victims in line with GREVIO urgent recommendation for provision of specialised services for such victims. The Law amendments benefited from the input of the Monitoring Network against Gender-Based Violence, a coalition of 15 CSOs, established with the support of UN Women.

30. Launched on 6 December by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Justice.

31. Establishment of four new CCR mechanisms in the municipalities of Himara, Klos, Mallakaster and Tepelene, and the strengthening of existing CCRs in 15 municipalities: Bulqizë, Burrel, Diber, Durres, Erseke, Fier, Gjirokaster, Kavajë, Krujë, Patos, Permet, Prrerjas, Roskovec, Sarandë and Tirane.

Outcome 3—Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture

- UNECE's Road Safety Performance Review of Albania³² noted progress towards the country's harmonisation of road safety legislation with the EU *acquis* and internationally recognised good practice.
- Government conducted a mid-term review of the National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014–2020. (Support from UNDP.)
- ILO, in cooperation with INSTAT and the National Employment Service, prepared a statistical profile of Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) youths in Albania.
- Governmental institutions and social partners implemented the occupational health and safety campaign in the construction sector. (Support from ILO.)
- UN Women and FAO supported the economic empowerment of women through development and secured resources for the project 'Gender Equality in Rural Development and Tourism' to empower and strengthen rural women's role in rural development, complementing the government's project '100 villages'.
- Employment and VET systems in Albania benefited from a rapid functional review, and the launch of the third round of UNDP's self-employment programme, with 43 (62% women) of 100 applicants opening a business. (Support from UNDP.)
- Parliament approved the Law 'On Quality', including GI and traditional products, while government initiated preparation of an action plan on an e-Agriculture strategy. (Support from FAO.)
- Contract farming models were prepared and included in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) programme for financial support through subsidy schemes. A feasibility study to support smallholders in the diversification of economic activities is in preparation. (Support from FAO.)
- Capacities of MoARD, INSTAT and other local institutions were strengthened on the monitoring of SDG indicators, focusing on SDGs 2, 5, 14 and 15. (Support from FAO.)
- A new Law on Cultural Heritage and Museums was adopted by Parliament in May 2018. (Support from UNESCO.)



LAUNCH OF THE THIRD ROUND OF UNDP'S SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME, **WITH 43 (62% WOMEN) OF 100 APPLICANTS OPENING A BUSINESS.**

32. https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2018/UNDA/Nov2018_session_3_RSPR_AL.pdf

Outcome 4—Environment and Climate Change

- Albania's third Environmental Performance Review³³ took stock of progress made in environment management and recommended³⁴ actions towards achievement of the SDGs. (Support from UNECE.)
- A national environmental monitoring and information system, improved infrastructure, and enforcement of the Law 'On protected areas' resulted in 63,300 tourists visiting the Karaburun–Sazan marine national park, more than triple the figures for 2017, and to savings of 70 percent of the energy used for hot water in 17 municipalities. (Support from UNDP.)
- Albanian authorities submitted to the World Heritage Centre a request for the extension of the World Heritage property to the Natural and Cultural heritage of Ohrid Region, to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019. (Support from UNESCO.)
- The Drin Basin Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis was finalised, providing a thorough assessment of pollution, biodiversity, hydrology and the Water–Food–Energy–Ecosystems nexus. A causal chain analysis was developed and adopted by the Drin Core Group.³⁵ The analysis findings will feed into the Drin Strategic Action Plan, yet to be developed and adopted by Drin Riparians.³⁶ (Support from UNDP.)
- Agro-processing lines identified for potential bio-energy production and a guidance prepared on how to develop quality infrastructure in support of the national renewable energy technology market. (Support from UNIDO.)
- UNEP started implementation of a new project in Albania 'Promoting Sustainable Land Management in Albania through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems'. Meanwhile, UNEP was selected by Albania as its delivery partner for the Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme.

**63,300 TOURISTS VISITING THE
KARABURUN–SAZAN MARINE
NATIONAL PARK, MORE THAN
TRIPLE THE FIGURES FOR 2017**



33. https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr_studies/Leaflet/Booklet_3rdEPRAlbania.pdf

34. <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-23/EPR.Albania.IP.3.e.pdf>

35. The DCG comprises representatives of the (i) competent ministries of the Riparians, (ii) the existing joint structures (Prespa Park Coordination Committee; Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee; Skadar/Shkoder Lake Management Commission), (iii) UNECE, (iv) GWP–Med (Global Water Partnership–Mediterranean), and (v) MIO–ECS–DE (Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development).

36. Albania, Republic of North Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro.



CHAPTER 1
KEY TRENDS



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Albania's path to European Union (EU) accession recorded a major milestone in June 2018 when the European Council agreed to set out the path towards opening accession negotiations in June 2019

.....

Albania continued to make progress with critical reforms in 2018, the first year of a new government structure developed after the elections of June 2017. Key developments were noted towards EU accession and judicial reform, while electoral reform remained obstructed by a polarized political atmosphere. Albania's path to European Union (EU) accession recorded a major milestone in June 2018 when the European Council agreed to set out the path towards opening accession negotiations, in line with the unconditional recommendation of the European Commission that accession negotiations be opened for the country.³⁷ This was the first time such a recommendation was made by the Commission, following the issuance of the EU's Strategy for the Western Balkans (WB).³⁸ While not agreeing to open negotiations immediately, the Council stated the possibility of opening negotiations in June 2019, conditioned on continued progress, especially in judicial reform and the fight against corruption and organised crime.

The judicial reform is considered as the government's flagship reform, highlighted also in the government's 2018 SDG Voluntary National Report.³⁹ The reform was centred during 2018 on re-evaluation of all judges and prosecutors (vetting process). By the end of 2018, more than half of the prosecutors and judges reviewed were dismissed as a result of the vetting, mostly on the grounds of being unable to justify their assets. A High Prosecutorial Council and a High Judicial Council were established, clearing the way for the creation of new structures, including a National Bureau of Investigation and a special Anti-corruption Prosecutors Office.

The government reform efforts on both corruption and organised crime resulted in the Council of Ministers' adoption of a new action plan for the Inter-sectoral Strategy against Corruption 2018–2020, establishment of an Inter-Institutional Anti-Corruption Task Force, and appointment of the Minister of Justice as the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator. In addition, a cross-institutional, central task force, entitled Operation Power of Law, established in 2017, is now operational, led by the Minister of Interior, and in charge of implementation of the action plan against organised crime.⁴⁰ Throughout 2018 an increased number of organised crime networks were investigated with some significant arrests made, even while a broad perception of significant corruption persists. The country has a long way to go to root out corruption: Albania is ranked 99th out of 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2018, with a score of 36 out of 100.

In December, university students organised multi-day protests, demanding lower university fees and a greater role in decision making. At the very end of the year, the prime minister shuffled his cabinet, changing several ministers—for Europe and Foreign Affairs, of Finance and Economy, of Infrastructure and Energy, of Education, Sports and Youth, and of Culture—as well as the deputy prime minister.

Albania's public administration reform remains a priority. Under the leadership of the deputy prime minister, the focus continues on reduc-

37. In its conclusions on enlargement and on the Stabilisation and Association Process, adopted on 26 June 2018 <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/35863/st10555-en18.pdf>

38. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/strategy-western-balkans-2018-feb-06_en, announced in February 2018, including an Action Plan with six concrete flagship initiatives targeting specific areas of common interest: rule of law, security and migration, socio-economic development, transport and energy connectivity, digital agenda, reconciliation and good neighbourly relations.

39. <http://www.un.org.al/publications/voluntary-national-review-sustainable-development-goals>

40. Albania Voluntary National Review on SDGs, July 2018 <http://www.un.org.al/publications/voluntary-national-review-sustainable-development-goals>

ing the administrative burden on citizens and businesses. Many efforts are under way including, among many, (i) alignment of the policy and legislative framework for implementation of the Code of Administrative Procedures and strengthening administrative capacities, (ii) preparation of Public Administration Integrity Plans, to be first piloted at the Ministry of Justice and then extended to the entire public administration, (iii) finalisation and full integration of the Integrated Planning System Information System, External Assistance Management Information System and the Albanian Financial Management Information System, (iv) extension of several strategic frameworks beyond 2020 and initiating preparations of new sector strategies, (v) an increase in the number of electronic services offered in the e-Albania government portal, and (vi) establishment of five Integrated Citizen Service Centres (Kavaje, Kruje, Fier, Gjirokaster and Tirane), three One-Stop-Shops (Elbasan, Lushnje and Shkoder) and a mobile service unit, piloted in Shkoder. Challenges include reporting of local administration vacancies and appointments, as well as local-level inspections related to appointments in accordance with the civil service law, establishment of a new structure for the Albanian School of Public Administration, along with consolidation of the legal framework and creation of relevant management information systems (MISs) and adoption of a strategy related to training and diversification at the central and local levels.

In 2018, the territorial reform advanced with preparation of a mid-term review of the National Cross-cutting Strategy on Decentralisation and Local Governance, adoption of a Decision

of the Council of Ministers (DCM) on levels of immovable property tax, expected to significantly increase local revenues, and commitment of central government to build a national platform for collection of property tax. In addition, increasing numbers of municipalities are drafting general local plans, the main tool for local territorial development. A new model Programme of Transparency for local governments⁴¹ was also promoted by the Commissioner on the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data.

Albania is a state party to all major UN human rights treaties. Whereas legal and institutional frameworks are in place and in line with European, as well as UN, standards, enforcement and monitoring remain to be strengthened. Albania will undergo its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle in 2019, while the government submitted its national report in February of this year. Civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and the UN Country Team (UNCT) Albania also contributed additional submissions. In the second half of 2018, government started preparations for the follow-up report to the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Concluding Observations, following up on four recommendations relating to ending violence against women and girls and discrimination against women (13/b, 13/d, 23/a, 23/d).⁴² Furthermore, government submitted the national report to the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), while the National Council on Gender Equality approved an Action Plan to implement GREVIO's recommendations. Furthermore, the Council of Ministers adopted an Action Plan

41. This model Programme of Transparency for local governments will serve as a unified standard reference for disclosure of public information by local governments and ensure higher levels of transparency and accountability to the public. With reference to transparency and accountability, all 61 municipalities across Albania are now regularly disclosing all the decisions of municipal councils on the online platform www.vendime.al and are equipped with web pages, creating a better environment for increased access of the public to information at the local level.

42. The preparatory process was led by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, supported by UN Women. The fifth CEDAW periodic report will be prepared in 2020. In addition, with UN Women support, shadow reports on the UPR (focused on gender equality and ending violence against women) and CEDAW follow-up report were prepared by the Monitoring Network against Gender-Based Violence composed of 48 organisations.

Albania and EU integration processes

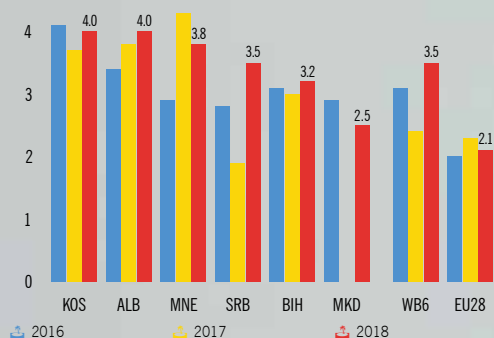
The processes governing the integration of Albania and other West Balkan countries into the European Union can be broken down into:

- ▶ formal accession processes, which revolve around the preparation and consummation of accession negotiations, and concern the transposition of the European legal and regulatory frameworks (the <<acquis communautaire>>); and
- ▶ other economic and political processes which also speak to important degrees of integration and policy alignment. These latter include especially Albania's deep economic integration with the EU, as evidenced by the facts that more than two thirds of Albania's foreign trade is conducted with EU countries, and that significant numbers of Albanian citizens work, live, or study in EU countries. (The close alignment of Albanian foreign policy with the EU in international fora also reflects this integration.)

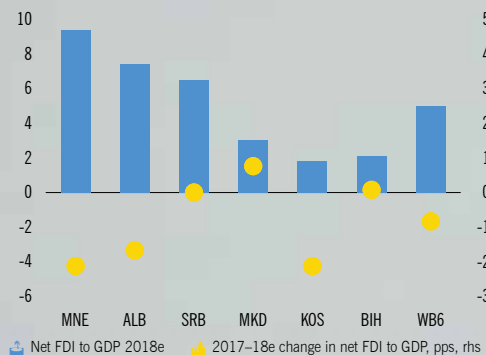
The formal process of Albania's EU integration can be shown by the below timeline:

- June 2004: The European Council adopts European partnership with Albania.
- May 2006: EU-Albania Readmission Agreement enters into force, paving the way for Albanian citizens' eventual visa-free travel to EU countries.
- June 2006: EU Stabilisation and Association Agreement signed.

Real GDP growth, percent



Net FDI to GDP, percent



Albania – 2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index

Overall Score	Regional Rank	Income Rank	Global Rank		
0.51	6/13	21/36	68/113		
Score Change	Rank Change				
0.00	4 ▲				
	Factor Trend	Factor Score	Regional Rank	Income Rank	Global Rank
Constraints on Government Powers	—	0.52	2/13	17/36	70/113
Absence of Corruption	—	0.35	9/13	34/36	94/113
Open Government	—	0.44	10/13	28/36	87/113
Fundamental Rights	—	0.63	1/13	9/36	41/113
Order and Security	—	0.77	8/13	10/36	43/113
Regulatory Enforcement	—	0.43	11/13	33/36	91/113
Civil Justice	—	0.45	12/13	31/36	87/113
Criminal Justice	—	0.47	5/13	17/36	57/113

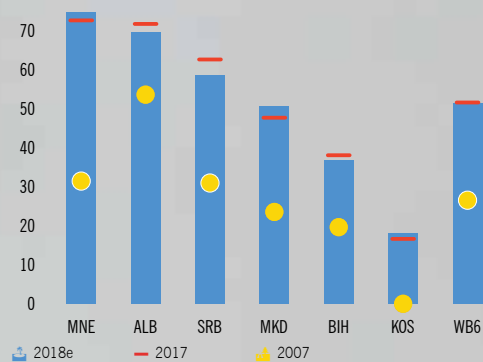
▲ Trending up ▼ Trending down ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High

Sources:

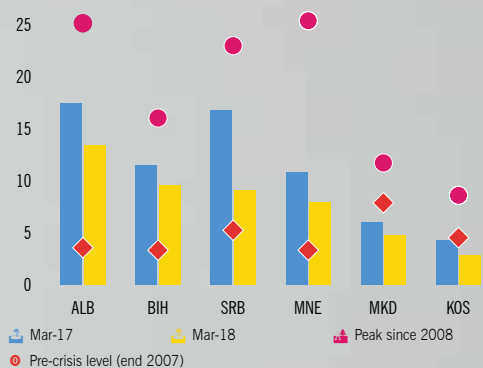
- https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/countries/detailed-country-information/albania_bg; Albania's 2018 EU annual report, page 3; and Enlargement and Stabilisation and Association Process (Council Conclusions), 26 June 2018).
- https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/near_factograph_albania.pdf

- January 2007: Instrument for Partnership and Accession (IPA) funding becomes available.
- January 2008: EU-Albania visa facilitation agreement enters into force.
- April 2009: Albania submits its application for EU membership.
- December 2010: Visa free travel in EU's Schengen area introduced for Albanian citizens with biometric passports.
- October 2012: The European Commission recommends that Albania be granted EU candidate status, subject to completion of key measures in certain areas.
- June 2014: The European Council grants candidate status to Albania.
- November 2016: The European Commission recommends the opening of accession negotiations "subject to credible and tangible progress in the implementation of the justice reform".
- April 2018: The European Commission's 2018 annual country report recommends to the European Council that Albania be permitted to begin accession negotiations.
- June 2018: The Council set out the path towards opening accession negotiations in June 2019. Accordingly, the Council underlined the critical need for concrete progress to continue in key areas, in particular judicial reform, the fight against corruption and organised crime, and maintaining and deepening the reform momentum.

Public and publicly guaranteed debt, percent of GDP

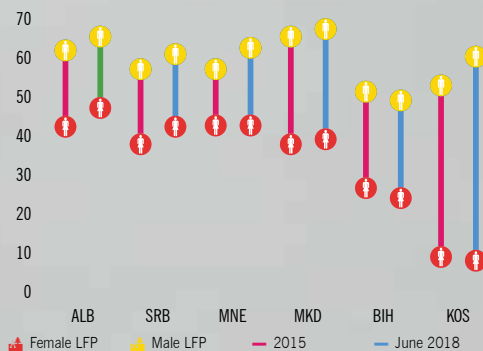


NPLs as percent of total loans

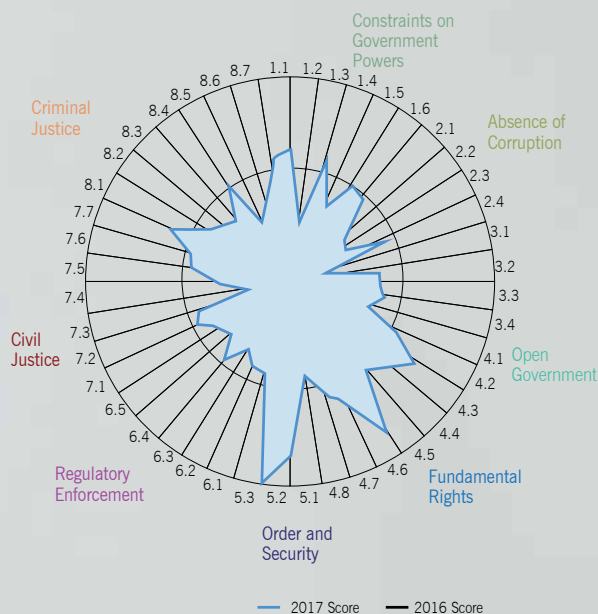


Source: IMF FSIs, National central banks.

Labor force participation, percent, 2015 and June 2018



Source: National statistics offices and World Bank staff estimates.



Western Balkans Regular Economic Report no. 14
<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/194301538650996304/rev2-WBRER14-WQ-web-ENG.pdf>

Albania Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals, 2018
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20257ALBANIA_VNR_2018_FINAL2.pdf

(2018–2020) on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Albania continues to make efforts with regard to vulnerable populations, including children, minorities, women in difficult circumstances, Roma and Egyptian (R&E) populations, people with disabilities, migrants and asylum seekers.

Steps taken in 2018 that enhance the protection of children include the entering into force of the Criminal Justice Code for Minors, and secondary legislation being finalised for the Child Rights and Protection Law and the Criminal Justice for Children Code, as well as a costed Justice for Children Strategy 2017–2020 being in place. Albania reduced risks of statelessness significantly this year by amending the country’s civil status law, removing barriers to birth registration, easing procedures and increasing the likelihood of registration of children born of Albanian parents outside the country, as well as for R&E children.⁴³

Other important steps to protect those at risk of being left behind include the parliamentary adoption of a Free Legal Aid (FLA) Law, secondary legislation being finalized on Social Care Services and Social Housing Laws, among others. Administrative and budgetary action is now required to follow up on this solid legal framework, for example by financing the Social Fund⁴⁴ to support municipalities in delivering services for vulnerable groups and hard-to-serve communities.

Gender equality improved in Albania during 2018.⁴⁵ Amendments to the Law ‘On measures against violence in family relations’ improved legal definitions of domestic violence in line with the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW. Political leadership on gender equality received a boost with the nomination of the deputy prime minister assigned in 2018 as the National Coordinator for Gender Equality. Albania also made outstanding advances in integrating gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) into the Medium-Term Budget Planning cycle. The Medium-Term Budget Plan (MTBP) 2019–2021 includes 33 programmes (28 in 2017) prepared in compliance with GRB. The 2018 Gender Gap Index value for Albania is 0.734, with the country ranked 34th out of 144 (up from 38th in 2017). The improvement is put down to the narrowing of the gender gap in labour force participation and the improved political empowerment of women, compensating for slower progress in areas such as health and economic development. Efforts to make gender equality an integral part of planning and budgeting at the local level benefited from the establishment of a gender-based violence (GBV) data collection system (Recording Violence in Albania, REVALB) and Community Coordinated Response Mechanisms (in 64% of municipalities) leading to an increased level of awareness and willingness of women to denounce violence and seek state support. Also, the first crisis management centre for treatment of cases of sexual violence was established in Albania in line with the Istanbul Convention.

43. Amendments followed a baseline study by UNHCR and its partner Tirana Legal Aid Society and a period of consultation at the parliamentary group Friends of Children. Preparation and approval of relevant by-laws for its implementation are envisaged by mid-January 2019, as decided by Parliament.
44. UNICEF is supporting the government in deciding upon the approach and implementation modalities of resourcing social funding from the central budget guided by the principles of solidarity and equity in line with the vision and principles of the Law on Social Care Services (2016) and the National Strategy for Social Protection 2015–2020. A clear proposal on how the central budget will be planned and allocated to LGUs in support of social care services is envisaged to be in place by 30 December 2018.
45. In 2018, women were equally represented in government (of 13 ministers, six are women, 46%). The proportion of women in Parliament increased from 16.7 percent in 2013 to 23 percent in 2015, reaching 29.3 percent in 2018, with 41 female MPs. The proportion of municipal council members who are women was above one-third, and 15 percent of Albania’s mayors are women. Meanwhile, the share of women ownership or administration of local businesses in Albania increased from 22.9 percent in 2005 to 31.3 percent in 2015.

The legal framework for migration and asylum is broadly in line with the EU *acquis* and UN norms, and, in 2018, government developed a National Strategy on Migration and Action Plan, addressing a major policy gap. Through a new decree, Albania enhanced regulation of private recruitment agencies to promote ethical standards in recruitment of immigrants. Some important migration legislation is being reviewed, namely the Law on Aliens, and the Law on Emigration of Albanian Citizens for Employment Purposes. Institutional capacity for border management and asylum and reception capacity to deal with mixed migration flows has increased. Finally, a new Strategy for the Diaspora and related Action Plan 2018–2024 has also been approved, to enhance connections between the diaspora and development efforts in Albania.

The maintenance of the country's strong economic growth is attributed largely to private investments, especially large Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects,⁴⁶ revival of the construction sector, and private consumption. In 2018, GDP growth increased to 4.06 percent (from 3.84% in 2017) mostly from a doubling in hydro-energy production thanks to high levels of rainfall, a solid tourism season that boosted services exports, and a pick-up in manufacturing.⁴⁷ Meanwhile, unemployment declined to 12.3 percent (from 13.4% in 2017). At 52 percent, the country has the highest employment rate in the Western Balkans and the lowest level of youth unemployment.⁴⁸ Nevertheless, the World Bank's 2018 Global Human Capital Index Report places Albania in 85th place among 157 countries, held back by high

unemployment and under-employment rates across all age groups, as well as critical gaps in the education system.

For private business, the World Bank *Doing Business Report 2019*⁴⁹ ranks Albania 63th out of 190 economies, with a score of 69.51 with regard to Ease of Doing Business (regional average, 72.34), underlining that the country has made enforcing contracts easier by amending the code of civil procedures to establish a simplified procedure for small claims and introduce time standards for certain court events. Meanwhile, the World Economic Forum *Global Competitiveness Report 2017–2018* ranks Albania 75th out of 137 countries, an improvement of five places over the previous report, and the highest position in the region. Based on the details provided by the report, the five most problematic factors for doing business in Albania are tax rates, corruption, access to financing, tax regulations, and inefficient government bureaucracy.⁵⁰

In the context of EU integration, Albania has achieved considerable progress in integration with other countries in the region. Albania is part of the Regional Economic Area (REA) for the Western Balkans, in the context of the Berlin Process and the Trieste Summit. In 2018, the Regional Youth Coordination Office—an initiative emanating from the Berlin Process—distributed its first grants to pairs of schools and youth organisations across the Western Balkans.

46. These include the construction of two hydro-power plants and a natural gas pipeline, Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), and hydro-power plant construction along the River Devoll cascade. IMF, Selected Issues paper on Albania. December 2017.

47. Western Balkans Regular Economic Report no. 14 <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/194301538650996304/rev2-WBRER14-WQ-web-ENG.pdf>

48. Ibid. no. 45.

49. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/977731541074411672/pdf/131600-WP-DB2019-PUBLIC-Albania.pdf>

50. <http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GCR2017-2018/05FullReport/TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2017%E2%80%932018.pdf>

CHAPTER 2

AGENDA 2030 EFFORTS IN ALBANIA





In 2018, Albania's deputy prime minister presented the country's Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals⁵¹ at the 2018 high-level political forum (HLPF) held in July under the theme 'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies'.⁵² The Review—benefiting from sub-national and civil society consultations—highlighted progress made, particularly in the areas of judicial reform, public administration reform, intensification of the fight against corruption, increasing the fight against organised crime, and ensuring of the protection of human rights, including property rights. At the same time, particularly from the perspective of Leave No One Behind, the Review noted that further progress was needed for social protection, inclusion of Roma and Balkan Egyptian communities, persons with disabilities, children, minorities and other excluded communities.⁵³ The national statistical office, INSTAT, prepared a statistical annex that accompanied the Review.

During the HLPF, the Albania Permanent Mission to the UN, UNDP and Switzerland co-organised a side-event that underscored the regional aspects of the 2030 Agenda and especially the value of the EU integration process as an accelerator for the SDGs. With the participation of Serbia and Montenegro alongside Albania, the three cases focused on common SDG challenges across the Western Balkans and how EU accession can accelerate achievements.

Earlier in the year, the UN, in collaboration with the government, undertook an SDG mission focused on Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support (MAPS), the first in the Western Balkans. The joint UN mission drew on a simultaneous deployment of experts from regional offices, in collaboration with the EU and the World Bank, and identified three main ac-

celerators of SDGs in Albania: i) governance and the rule of law, ii) investments in an inclusive, green economy, and iii) investment in social and human capital. The MAPS report⁵⁴ was launched officially by government on 19 September,⁵⁵ and at the same time the UN and the government announced the establishment of the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. The Albanian government has committed itself to an annual contribution to this fund of USD 2 million and, with this leading contribution, other, flexible, matching funds will be sought from partners. In 2018, Sweden and Switzerland supported the Fund with contributions for gender equality and social inclusion.

During 2018, the UN Country Team also undertook a budget analysis of SDG-related spending in Albania (2015–2017)⁵⁶ to build evidence for investment trends in the SDGs, and UNDP undertook a needs assessment of INSTAT capacities so that they can better monitor and report publicly on the Goals.

The UN also invested significantly in data. INSTAT intends to launch a dashboard with SDG data and publish the first publication on SDG statistical indicators during the first half of 2019, with the support of UNDP and inspired by discussions held during the MAPS mission. The joint UN-INSTAT Data Group (established in 2016) meets quarterly, and INSTAT was supported in preparation of a statistical annex that became part of Albania's VNR report for 2018, the Albania Demographic and Health Survey 2017–2018, a needs assessment of INSTAT capacities in the country, and the establishment and operationalisation of an SDG Unit at INSTAT, to name but a few. Joint efforts are progressing for preparation of the 2020 Albanian Population and Housing Census, and UN agencies are providing continuous support

51. <http://www.un.org.al/publications/voluntary-national-review-sustainable-development-goals> VNR included two annexes: SDG budget expenditures 2015–2017 and Statistical Annex with a set of 30 indicators monitoring Albania's progress towards the SDGs.

52. <http://www.un.org.al/news/albania-presents-voluntary-national-review-sustainable-development-goals-%E2%80%93-during-ecosoc-high>

53. <http://www.ambasadat.gov.al/united-nations/en/vice-prime-minister-mrs-senida-mesi-presents-voluntary-national-review-sustainable-development-goals>

54. <http://www.un.org.al/publications/mainstreaming-acceleration-and-policy-support-achieving-sustainable-development-goals>

55. <http://www.un.org.al/news/synergies-eu-accession-and-smart-investments-can-accelerate-achievement-agenda2030-albania>

56. http://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/Final%20Report_SDG_Budget%20Analysis_1.pdf

for capacity development of the institute, organisation of various statistical workshops in Albania, and participation of INSTAT staff in regional and global workshops, among other efforts. In addition to the support provided to INSTAT, UN agencies are assisting statistics development in various sectors and areas, including gender equality, gender-based violence, child protection, health, migration, social inclusion, education, environment, agriculture, rural development, human rights, and employment, with focus on vulnerable or marginalised groups. Details of this work is presented in Chapter 3 of the present report.

The UN Country Team also invested in raising awareness of the SDGs and outreaching to citizens and groups across the country. In partnership with relevant stakeholders, UNCT organised municipal events to draw attention to the SDGs. For example, during Global Goals Week,⁵⁷ a series of events by multiple UN entities in the city of Fier highlighted the interconnectedness of SDGs with school education, youth outreach and free legal aid. New partnerships were established and current partnerships strengthened with leading Albanian businesses Agna Group,⁵⁸ Telecom⁵⁹ and Sophie Caffè⁶⁰ to advocate among the public on the importance of Agenda 2030.

These efforts in 2018 built a solid commitment of the Government of Albania for the 2030 Agenda, which it rapidly endorsed, on 25 September 2015. An Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs,⁶¹ chaired by

the deputy prime minister and featuring membership of development partners, civil society, academia and the private sector, and an inter-institutional working group for achievement of the SDGs, have been operational since May 2017. In December 2017, Parliament unanimously approved a resolution⁶² committing to the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In parallel with this approval, 25 Albanian universities signed a Declaration of Commitment⁶³ to play an active role in advancing the Agenda, while the civil society council approved a declaration⁶⁴ in support of the Goals. Moreover, the SDGs are integrated into the NSDI⁶⁵ and the National Statistical Programme 2016–2020⁶⁶. Meanwhile, the Rapid Integration Assessment⁶⁷ tool of UNDP has been applied and a report on the Harmonisation of the SDGs with Existing Sectoral Policies,⁶⁸ finalised in 2017 and launched in February 2018, serves as a useful baseline.

Looking ahead to 2019, the UN plans to support the Albanian government through the establishment of interim targets for the SDGs, the drafting of a Vision 2030 document that lays out longer-term priorities, and the institutionalisation of monitoring and reporting alongside statistical capacity building. Nationwide awareness raising will continue, along with partnership building to deepen efforts, including through engagement with the private sector and the mobilisation of contributions to the SDG Acceleration Fund.

57. <http://www.un.org.al/news/albania-organizes-%E2%80%9Cglobal-goals-week%E2%80%9D>

58. <http://www.un.org.al/news/united-nations-and-agna-group-announce-partnership-raise-awareness-and-drive-actions-support>

59. <https://www.un.org.al/news/united-nations-and-telekom-announce-partnership-drive-global-goals-agenda-albania%20https://www.un.org.al/news/hundreds-people-night-run-support-sustainable-development-goals-albania-run4sdgs>

60. <https://www.un.org.al/news/sophie-caffe-chain-joins-un-campaign-raise-awareness-about-sustainable-development-goals>

61. <https://www.un.org.al/news/inter-ministerial-committee-sdgs-established>

62. <https://www.un.org.al/news/members-albanian-parliament-commit-play-active-role-support-implementation-agenda-2030-and>

63. <https://www.un.org.al/news/albanian-universities-sign-landmark-commitment-help-albana-achieve-global-goals>

64. <http://www.amshc.gov.al/kkshc/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018.06.22-Nr.-16-1-KKSHC-Deklarate-per-SDG-EN.pdf>

65. Whereas Albania's NSDI II is closely aligned with the SDGs at the target level, alignment at the indicator level is more modest. Less than one-third of the 232 global SDG indicators are used for tracking progress in NSDI implementation and other national development documents, out of more than a total of 1,200 indicators employed.

66. http://www.instat.gov.al/media/376765/programi_kombetar_i_statistikave_zyrtare_2017-2021.pdf

67. <https://un.org.al/sites/default/files/sdg%20NSDI%20report%20final%20draft%2028Final%29.pdf>

68. <https://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/Albania%20Report%20on%20the%20Harmonization.pdf>



CHAPTER 3
**DELIVERING
RESULTS FOR
ALBANIA**





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.

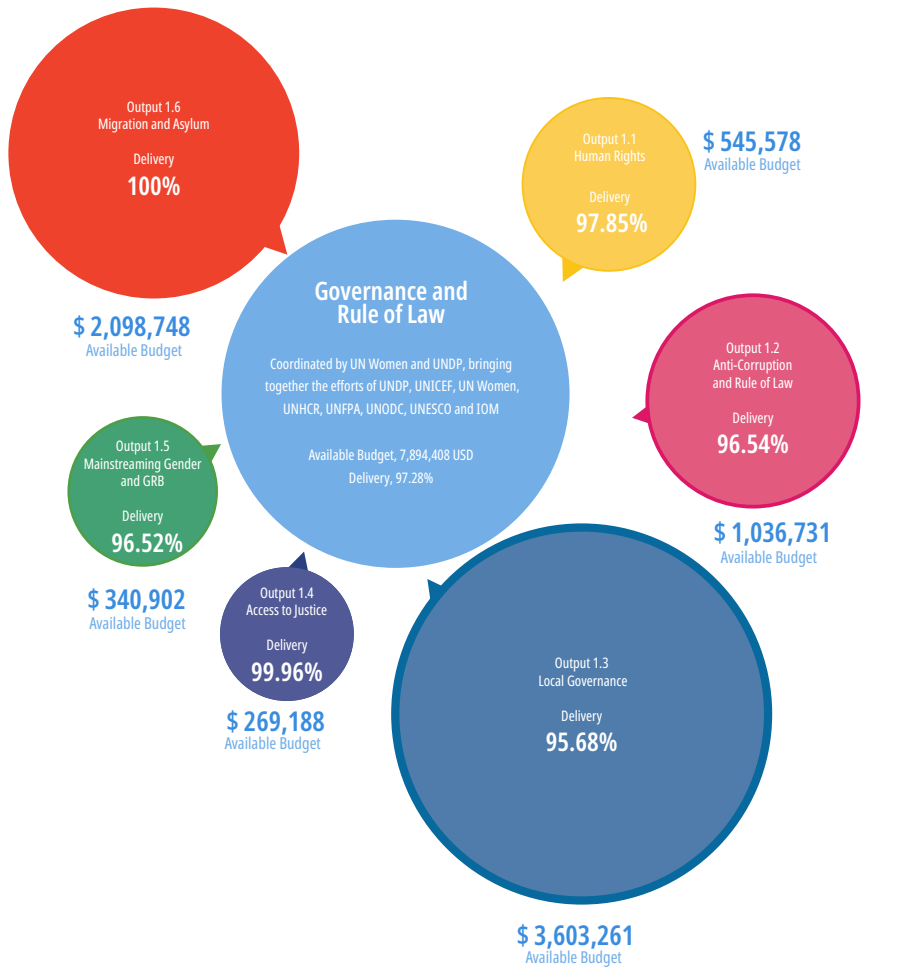


Group of Parliamentarians Friends of Children meeting

National Strategy for Development and Integration **1** **2**

SDGs **5** **10** **16**

EU integration chapters **5** **10** **18** **22** **23** **24**



Achievement of Outcome / Output Indicator



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

The total budget available for implementation of Outcome 1 in 2018 was USD 7.9 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA, the EU, and the UN Global Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) Delivering Together Facility. **The outcome delivery is 97%.**

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

Contributing UN Agencies
UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNODC, IOM

Contributing Partners
Governments of Albania, Luxemburg, Sweden

Implementing the latest (2016) Concluding Observations for Albania of the Committee for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), an online monitoring platform⁶⁹ of international human rights instruments is now operational, hosted by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.⁷⁰ Yet, rights-based monitoring, including on child rights, remains limited by the quality of information provided by line ministries and their subordinate institutions, while disaggregation of data has been rarely possible.

Whilst the Albanian Parliament has placed a stronger focus on its legislative role in addressing the intense rhythm of legal reforms driven by the EU integration agenda, its oversight role remains weak, and holding the executive to account is rare.⁷¹ Independent human rights institutions, including the People's Advocate and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, still need to be taken more fully into account by different branches of government, and stronger HR monitoring and reporting capacities need to be developed, including for mainstreaming gender equality and child rights. In 2018, the United Nations Country Team Albania supported the People's Advocate to

develop its Strategic Action Plan 2018–2022 in advancing human rights in the country. Although the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) has made significant progress in supporting improved equality in electoral processes, due in large part to support from UN Women, the same levels of women in leadership are, sadly, not reflected in senior civil service roles. Nevertheless, at the local level, the importance of women and community participation in local governance is increasingly being practised across the country, leading to more sensitive decision making by many municipalities. The Alliance of Women MPs is in place with larger membership, but yet, it is still challenged by weak organisational structures.

Regarding migration and asylum, Albania remains mostly a transit country for refugees and migrants, who generally seek to continue their onward movement to EU countries. Lack of effective documentation to enjoy the rights granted in the Albanian legislation to refugees and asylum seekers hampers local integration. Service providers and duty bearers at national and local levels have limited awareness of refugee rights. Most persons at risk of statelessness in Albania are, under the

69. This platform will help Albania to conduct a comprehensive monitoring and reporting on Human Rights Conventions recommendations. http://tedrejtatenjeriut.puneteshastme.gov.al/WD220AWP/WD220Awp.exe/CONNECT/UN_System_en
<https://www.un.org.al/news/albania-launches-platform-monitor-implementation-human-rights>

70. The design and development of this platform was supported by UNFPA and UN Women.

71. With minimal support, parliamentarians are poorly briefed on human rights issues, challenges or opportunities, including child rights, gender equality or other disparities. Parliamentarians need to develop a culture of demand for human rights, particularly child rights. The reconstitution of the parliamentary group Friends of Children and the Women MPs alliance, as well as the establishment of a mechanism to strengthen relations of Parliament with other public oversight mechanisms has opened new opportunities for absorbing UN support for human rights.



National Conference on Standards of Equal Representation and Participation in Politics—One Year from Local Elections

revised Law on Civil Status and the Law on Citizenship, entitled to nationality but nevertheless find difficulties in practice in having this confirmed. The main obstacle is access to registration of birth, hindered due to “costly and lengthy” administrative and judicial procedures. This affects particularly Roma and Egyptian (R&E) communities, as they are often socially and economically marginalised, but also Albanian returnees whose children have been born abroad. UNHCR and UNICEF have supported the amendments to the Law on Civil Status, addressing the shortcomings identified through a mapping exercise conducted in 2017 - 2018.

Considering Albania’s preparations for the third UPR review cycle in 2019, UN Women and UNFPA led the drafting of the UNCT report in 2018 as a component of the whole process and supported the preparatory process for the development of a national report for submission in February 2019 to the UN Human Rights Council. In addition, UN Women supported the preparation of Albania’s CEDAW follow-up report, concerning specific articles requested by the CEDAW Committee in its Concluding Observations on Albania (2016), development and adoption of the first Inter-Institutional Action Plan (NAP)⁷² for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325⁷³ (approved by DCoM No.524, date 11.9.2018 and launched on 31 October,

72. The NAP development process entailed advocacy and lobbying with decision makers, Parliament and international partners, and the mobilisation of civil society organisations (CSOs) at the national and the local level, as well as of youth and media to build awareness and consensus on the importance of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and NAP. Subsequently, these efforts led to the establishment of a CSO coalition of Women, Peace and Security composed of 31 organisations, which will play a key role in the implementation and monitoring of NAP.

73. <http://albania.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2018/10/from-where-i-stand-bajana-ceveli>

2018) and the establishment of a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) coalition on Women, Peace and Security, comprising 31 organisations that will play a key role in implementation and monitoring of NAP.

UNICEF contributed to Albania's completion of the fifth State Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child,⁷⁴ expected to be submitted in 2019, and introduced a statistical framework for child-rights monitoring in Albania, included in the 2018 DCM on child-targeted statistics.⁷⁵ This statistical framework, to be assembled by the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection (SARPC), comprises 58 indicators on a wide range of children's rights. Annual reporting on progress with these indicators will enable systematic monitoring of the situation of children in Albania and allow for better evidence-based policy making. In addition, UNICEF, in collaboration with INSTAT, developed a set of questions to measure and report on child material deprivation, included as part of the annual survey of the EU's Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), data for which is already collected and will be processed during 2019.⁷⁶ Furthermore, INSTAT's 2018 Crime Statistics Report⁷⁷ integrated official statistics on children in conflict with the law, as registered by the police, prosecution, courts and prisons.

The area of child rights benefited also from the re-establishment of the bipartisan caucus Friends of Children,⁷⁸ thanks to UNICEF's renewed partnership with Parliament (through a cooperation MoU signed in

January 2018), which was very vocal in 2018. The caucus organised a hearing with the Minister of Justice in December 2018⁷⁹ and speeded up legislative changes benefiting child victims of domestic violence and those at risk of statelessness (with amendments to the Law 'On Measures against Violence in Family Relations', and Law 'On Civil Status').⁸⁰ The revised Law 'On Civil Status' (approved by Parliament in October 2018), benefited from a mapping exercise on the risk of statelessness, conducted by UNHCR and its partner TLAS, as well as strong advocacy from UNHCR and UNICEF. This important law will solve gaps for birth registration for 1,340 children (immediate), whose parents lack documentation, and children of Albanian parents born abroad and are without legal documentation and at risk of becoming stateless, to obtain identity documents and gain access to their basic rights to health, education and other social services. Reduction of statelessness was also at the focus of ten UNHCR supported trainings conducted in Berat, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokastër, Korce, Lezhë, Shkodër, Tirane and Vlorë, benefiting 391 civil servants, six awareness campaigns with municipality's representatives in six regions⁸¹ in the country, and in administrative and court proceedings of 380 persons who were supported with legal representation resulting in the resolution of 256 cases.

The People's Advocate has similarly become distinctively vocal in addressing policies and processes that threaten children's well-being,⁸² in synergy with UNICEF's ad-

74. The report was one of the most comprehensive child rights-focused reviews prepared by the government in recent years. The process provided an opportunity for (i) review of measures taken so far to harmonise national laws and policies with CRC, (ii) implementation of Concluding Observations and Recommendations, (iii) awareness and understanding of CRC among stakeholders, and (iv) a response to any shortcomings revealed by report review and analysis.

75. [Decision of Council of Ministers Nr.636, date 26.10.2018 For Determining the Type, Exchange and Processing of Information and Statistical Data Required by the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection from the State Structures Responsible at the Central and Local Level](#)

76. UNICEF's work to introduce the module to INSTAT included also complex policy advocacy discussions with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection on sensitising senior policy makers on the potential policy implications of having national measurements of child poverty. INSTAT will keep the same module in 2019, allowing for comparative analysis, while the government has committed to publishing SILC data in 2019.

77. <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/4823/statistikat-e-krimeve-dhe-drejt%C3%ABsis%C3%AB-penale.pdf>

78. UNICEF supported the development of the Caucus' Strategic and bi-Action Plan and Annual report, and amendment of its Internal Regulation.

79. <http://www.parlament.al/News/Index/7086>; <https://www.facebook.com/unicefalbania/posts/2215207558732848>

80. Amendments to the Law 'On Civil Status' were drafted with UNICEF and UNHCR direct support and endorsed by the Albanian Parliament on 11 October 2018. This key development further strengthens prompt birth registration and reduces the risk of statelessness, which affects almost solely children, especially those born outside of Albania and those from the R&E communities. It is expected that at least 1,340 cases, identified through mapping of unregistered children, will find a swift solution.

81. Berat, Elbasan, Lezhë, Shkodër, Tirane and Ura Vajgurore.

82. <https://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/en/articles-layout-1/media/news/sh%C3%ABnohet-me-veprimtari-dita-nd%C3%ABrkomb%C3%ABtare-e-t%C3%AB-drejtave-t%C3%AB-f%C3%ABmij%C3%ABve-102/>

vocacy messages. In 2018, this institution addressed 57 percent of all child-related complaints (remedial action was taken for 68 complaint cases out of a total of 119). Moreover, following parliamentary approval in 2018, UNICEF's advocacy to increase the capacity of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination was successful, constituting a positive case to be replicated for other entities that struggle to fulfil their mandate due to limited human and financial resources. The institution's organisational structure expanded by at least three local staff and new offices in Korçe, Gjirokaster and Shkoder, and an increase in budget of 23 percent.⁸³

Advancing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) equality and inclusion is an integral part of UNDP's mandate for promotion of the rule of law and human rights. In this regard, UNDP in Albania, together with country offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia, undertook an intersex research study (launched in 2018)⁸⁴ to raise awareness and inform governments, key stakeholders and practitioners in Albania on the situation of intersex persons. In addition, UNFPA has been approached by MoHSP to provide capacity building for health-care providers with regard to LGBTI in 2019, through development of training manuals for health-care providers and their accreditation, as well as making the necessary provisions for extending the training at the national level.

Public oversight bodies, particularly Parliament, are more empowered to ensure that the national legislation, as a framework on the one hand and its implementation on the other, is in compliance with international commitments to gender equality and human rights. In this regard, UNDP provided to Parliament concrete recommendations for improvement of the Law 'On Measures

against Violence in Family Relations', which entered into force in mid-2018. Support was also provided to the parliamentary sub-committee on Gender Equality and against Gender-Based Violence, to lead parliamentary hearing sessions, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, on local measures⁸⁵ for implementation of gender-related legislation. In addition, UN Women engagement⁸⁶ with the empowerment of women as leaders at the national and local level, and public oversight institutions, mostly civil society, media and women beneficiaries, focused on developing capacities to monitor, report and advocate on gender equality commitments. In this regard, the National Alliance of Women Councillors was established and supported to develop its statute, common platform and workplan.⁸⁷ Women Councillor Alliances were established in five municipalities (Diber, Mallakaster, Patos, Permet and Roskovec), while a regional alliance for Elbasan County was established in 2018.

UNODC continued its efforts to strengthen container cargo controls at Durres Port and Morine Border Crossing Point (BCP) to prevent illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, firearms, chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear (CBRN) materials, intellectual property rights (IPR) goods, precursor chemicals, and other illicitly trafficked goods, such as protected wildlife and contraband. Ineffective security measures and illicit activity related to container cargo hamper legitimate trade. The reduction of such barriers adds overall value to the global economy, reducing costs and strengthening ties between global trading partners. Commerce flows faster when countries trust the practice, procedures, and professionalism exhibited by trade partners in trade and border management. (cross-referenced with output 1.2)

83. Given the structural expansion, the 2019 budget increased by 23.19% compared to 2018 (ALL 54,300,000, and ALL 41,708,400, respectively).

84. <http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/dam/rbec/docs/Intersex%20Research%20Study%20UNDP%202017.pdf>. The study was launched in 2018 with the participation of equality bodies, academia, students, NGOs and development partners. The study informs on current ethical and human rights developments, including current global good practices to protect and empower intersex people.

85. One parliamentary hearing session was dedicated to the functioning of the CCR mechanism that deals with referring and treating domestic violence cases at the municipal level.

86. This was done mainly through (i) raising awareness of political parties and citizens on standards to achieve gender equality, (ii) initiating discussions on how to ensure sustainability of results achieved, and (iii) creating an enabling and sustainable environment for women political participation at all levels.

87. The national alliance was also supported to prepare related recommendations to the ad hoc Committee on Electoral Reform, Political Parties and recommendations for local government self-organisation law improvements, among others.

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

Contributing UN Agencies

UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNODC, IOM

Contributing Partners

Governments of Austria, France, Italy, Luxemburg, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, the EU

The most significant reforms that the Government of Albania has undertaken since 2016 relate to the reorganisation of the justice system and the functionality of the rule of law, which are also key conditions for the country's EU accession. Albania is a candidate country for EU membership, aspiring for the opening of negotiations in June 2019, and the government is committed to pursuing the reform agenda in line with EU integration requirements, with particular focus on the five key priorities. The justice reform is slowly but steadily progressing, especially with respect to the process of vetting of judges, leading to the next step of establishment of the new justice institutions. Further steps and measures have been taken to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of the public administration reform, especially with regard to the application of the Civil Service Law at both governmental levels, as well as the service delivery reform. Likewise, for the monitoring of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption, a specific list of indicators was developed in early 2018. Increasing efforts are being made to fight corruptive cases and indict even high-level officials, as well as organised crime. To date, almost half of prosecutors and judges reviewed have been dismissed due to vetting, mostly on grounds of being unable to justify their assets. Nevertheless, results are still far from the expectations, while the public perception on the respect on the rule of law and the transparency of public offices remains low, and it is perceived that political influence effects greatly the functioning

and independence of governance powers.

UNDP works with central and local governments to improve the quality of governance and strengthen a functional democracy that upholds the rule of law and guarantees respect of human rights. At the central level, UNDP contributes to policy development and identification of good practices for reforming the central government service delivery, fundamental to good governance, effective functioning of the public administration and a powerful tool in the fight against corruption. In this regard, innovation-driven efforts by ADISA Lab resulted in the piloting in November of the implementation of the first life-event service packages—the Baby Bonus—with others in the works. In collaboration with ADISA, a first co-location of central and local service delivery at the municipal level was successfully realised in the municipality of Maliq, with plans for replication in other medium to small municipalities.

UNDP's work with the newly established local governments contributed, among others, to increasing local government transparency and accountability through standardisation and support for adoption by all municipalities of a unique model of municipal transparency plan, the support for the online publication of municipal council decision by 33 municipalities and the technical development and start of deployment of a one-stop-shop (OSS) system for the delivery of municipal administrative services to the benefit of 49 (80%)



Improving public access to Local Governments' decisions

Albanian municipalities.

In parallel, UNDP promotes evidence-based analysis for policy making by engaging in the design and implementation of different surveys, such as the Trust in Governance Opinion Poll and the Mystery Shopper. The Trust in Governance survey for 2017⁸⁸ was launched in early 2018 and the field work for the 2018 edition was completed by end of the same year. The results of this fifth edition survey highlighted growing trust in Parliament, education and health services, though it dropped for the police and stayed flat for judicial reform. In 2018, taking stock of the performance

monitoring results provided by the UNDP-supported Mystery Shopper survey, quick wins based on process standardisation and greater access to information on services were identified and followed up for implementation by 18 core central government agencies under the citizen-centric public services reform.

Albania is actively cooperating with UNODC⁸⁹ in the field of anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism under the UNODC regional project on financial investigations implemented with the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL). Following a Training Needs Assessment in

88. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/-_trust-in-governance-opinion-poll-20170.html

89. The UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2016–2019) provides a framework for the office's work in the region, with the objective of meeting specific country or territory needs, including those of Albania, while ensuring a coordinated and harmonised regional approach. It supports the UN's comprehensive goals in the fight against global crime, while reflecting the perspective of potential EU members in the region. By positioning its efforts to ensure maximum complementarity with EU priorities for South Eastern Europe, UNODC's efforts supports the Government of Albania, and ensures and improves effective regional and trans-regional interconnectivity, taking advantage of the agency's added value as a global actor with a strong and established presence in the region. Currently, the Regional Programme is being extended for the period 2020–2023.

2018, the first national course on financial investigations was developed to strengthen the national whole-of-government operational response to addressing threats posed by serious and organised crime, drug trafficking and money laundering activities through the application of proactive parallel financial investigations. 20 experts from the law enforcement sector and the judiciary were trained and a group of 10 national trainers on financial investigation has been established in Albania, which will be engaged in the development of the first national curriculum on financial investigations and teach some parts of this course to their peers in February 2019 with the UNODC assistance.

Albania is participating in the UNODC initiative "Measuring and assessing organised crime in the Western Balkans: supporting evidence-based policy making". A data availability assessment and a subsequent data collection tool were developed to gather all relevant criminal justice data from main institutions.⁹⁰ To complement the data collection, a full-scale qualitative survey is being deployed with victims of trafficking in persons, smuggled migrants, expert practitioners and prisoners who have committed crimes associated with organised crime to help understand the structures and ways these groups operate in the country, providing key information to guide policy implementation and deliver targeted solutions to fight against organised crime. A regional training was carried out to improve the quality and availability of administrative data to standardise it for comparability across the region, whereby 70 practitioners discussed the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes, a practice being implemented by Eurostat to improve the collection of data on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. In 2019, the project will produce a regional report on trends

and patterns of organised crime.

In 2018, UNODC supported Albanian prosecution in identification of measures on how to increase the number of prosecuted cases of firearms trafficking and thus contribute to reaching the goals established by the Roadmap for sustainable solution to the misuse and trafficking of firearms in the Western Balkans. The exchange of information supported closing gaps in international cooperation, including identifying experts to support ongoing anti-trafficking investigations. Albania participated in a UNODC regional meeting on firearms data collection and analysis in the framework of the project on 'Supporting Global Data Collection and Analysis on Firearms Trafficking and Fostering Cooperation and Information Sharing, in particular Among Countries Along Major Trafficking Routes to/from the EU' which assisted in identifying firearms data collection practices and challenges and fostered exchange of information and operational use of firearms data.

Albania is participant to the UNODC Global Initiative on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) in the Middle East, North Africa and South Eastern Europe, which allows senior-level criminal justice officials, judges, prosecutors and other stakeholders exchange experiences, challenges, lessons learned and good practices on strengthening international and regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, with a focus on FTFs. The second activity for Albania under this project will be the UNODC national workshop on assessing risks related to FTF returnees and relocators, profiling and identification techniques, as well as cooperation and information exchange with other countries.

Albania's active involvement with the UNODC-

90. Prosecution, prisons and specialised agencies dedicated to countering specific crimes, such as human trafficking, and financial intelligence units.

WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) at the Port of Durres⁹¹ has resulted in the conducting and reporting of seizures on an ongoing basis, with 613.35 kg of cocaine seized in February,⁹² and 6.1 kg of *Cannabis sativa* in August, 2018. Furthermore, based on a technical needs' assessment of Tirane International Airport Nene Tereza, activities to form an Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) are under way.

In the framework of the IOM's regional Project 'Enhancing Capacities and Mechanisms to Identify and Protect Vulnerable Migrants in the Western Balkans,' Phase II and Phase III, funded by the US State Department Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration, capacities of various structures of the border police, prosecutors and judges were strengthened to work with and consider cases of smuggling of migrants and on cultural competency. In addition, IOM supported government and ONAC in the process of preparing and consulting the Anti-Trafficking Action Plan 2018–2020 for Albania, approved on 26 December 2018 by DCM no. 770. UNESCO also supported ONAC to improve evidence-based planning and reporting and raise awareness on prevention of trafficking of cultural objects through designing a national data base.

In addition, UNESCO's work in the country for the establishment of a Media Council, strengthening of media ethics and self-regulation, and promotion of formal and informal Media and Information Literacy (MIL) resulted in the Council's establishment in 2017 and operationalisation in 2018, along with a constituted board and an office with a secretariat. A website was launched, a new code of ethics presented to the media community, and an android application developed instructing the younger population on how to file an online complaint.

A Position Paper on MIL Policy and Strategy in Albania has been developed, serving as a basis for government institutions to start a national debate on MIL policies and strategies.



Container Control Programme in Albania

Collaboration with and training of media on the importance of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) was part of the focus of UNFPA's work in 2018. An online platform, www.jotabul.al,⁹³ and the respective mobile application were developed and introduced and maintained by the Youth Voice network of organisations with the engagement of national and local journalists. The platform will serve as an educational and informational tool for young people, and as a channel for raising awareness of SRH issues. In this context, three media briefs were prepared with journalists in Tirane, on World Population Day 2018, State of the World Population, 2018, and the launch of the Albania Demographic and Health Survey (ADHS) 2017–2018. Also, three trainings were held with the participation of journalists from Durres, Fier and Lezhe to introduce them to the portal JoTabu, the media platform for issues of Family Planning and SRH. In 2018, JoTabu received 50,000 visitors and 1,872 followers on Facebook, with more than 2,000 clicks and 10,000 posts placed on the JoTabu fan page.

91. For South Eastern Europe, the CCP is being delivered in the seaports of Durres (Albania) and Bar (Montenegro), and the dry port of Bijača (Bosnia and Herzegovina) where Port Control Units (PCUs) are established and are enhancing national capacities to interdict illicit trafficking in drugs, counterfeit goods and other commodities.

92. PCU in coordination with other agencies at Durres Port conducted the largest seizure in Albanian history and the most successful operation to date of the Durres PCU.

93. The application JoTabu contains sections that include a variety of important topics for young people, ranging from adolescence to reproductive health, risky behaviours and healthy lifestyles. The platform comprises two components: Ask the specialist, and Download the mobile application. The aim of the platform is to provide education on SRH. Jo Tabu offers the opportunity to ask questions on taboo subjects and discuss them without fear of being judged or prejudiced.

Output 1.3 Local Governance

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 Albania, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, the EU, the UN DOCO Delivering Together Facility

The local government reform is advancing, guided by the Strategy on Local Governance and Decentralisation and the relevant regulatory framework, including for managing functions and budgets. As of January 2018, the Agency for Implementation of Territorial Reform was re-branded into the Agency for Support for Local Governance (ASLG) to include key functions⁹⁴ related to the decentralisation processes and inter-governmental relations. The Consultative Council has established a positive tradition of regular dialogue between central and local government on areas where improvements can be made. A Mid-Term Review of the Strategy on Local Governance and Decentralisation and its Action Plan,⁹⁵ conducted in the second half of 2018, concluded that the Strategy remains relevant and valid to the needs of all stakeholders involved. While it notes the important progress achieved so far, it states that it is still too early to evaluate the impact on citizens. An important conclusion of the MTR is the need to revise the implementation of the Strategy's action plan and improve its monitoring framework for the key government tasks for 2019.

Albanian municipalities benefited from UNDP's assistance focused on improving the internal

processes and functionality of local governments, modernising service delivery and promoting local democracy, transparency and dialogue with citizens. The support tailored capacity building and identification of best practices followed by promotional activities and exchange of best practices amongst the 61 municipalities. Around 1,000 local officials were trained on the Code of Administrative Procedures, asset and land management, finance, audit, procurement, financial and revenue management, State Supreme Audit requirements, archiving and inventory management. Related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were prepared and adopted accompanied with on-the-job assistance in nine selected municipalities.⁹⁶ Six consultative round tables to discuss local governance challenges in Albania were conducted, with the participation of all Albanian mayors and findings presented to the Consultative Council on 20 April 2018. Fifty-nine municipalities concluded the archive inventory process for the year 2017 in conformity with the legal requirements of the archives in the Republic of Albania. Some 122 local officials were trained in adopting and implementing a new transparency plan, whose model was adopted in 2018 by the Commissioner on the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data,

94. Including: a) coordination of the decentralisation process, b) monitoring of action plan of the decentralisation strategy, c) providing advice and support to local governments, and d) performing the functions of the secretariat to the Consultative Council.

95. The MTR aimed to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the Strategy, the relevance of the objectives and activities of the decentralisation reform, the performance and efficiency of the management of the new functions, and the efficiency of the management structures for the decentralisation reform.

96. Berat, Elbasan, Fushe Arrez, Gramsh, Kruje, Kucove, Lezhe, Skrapar and Shkoder.

making it mandatory for the 61 municipalities, by an order issued in September. UNDP also aided 33 municipalities in publishing online their municipal council decisions, thus completing the map of all 61 municipalities, which have made their decisions available to the public since 2015. This fulfils the relevant legislative requirement and contributes to achievement of the first measure of Albania's Third Action Plan for Open Government Partnership 2016–2018.⁹⁷

In the area of service delivery, UNDP supported the development, testing and piloting of a standard municipal One-Stop-Shop Information System for administrative services. In 2018, the system was piloted and went live in the municipalities of Elbasan, Pogradec and Polican, where testing, validation and configuration of more than 70 local administrative services were standardised and made functional. This phase paved the way for a massive rollout of the system in 45 additional municipalities in Albania in 2019.

Throughout 2018, UNFPA focused on strengthening the capacities of coalitions (youth advocacy CSO platforms) at the municipal level on SRH and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH), cross-referenced with output 2.3—Social Inclusion and Protection. Key results include (i) establishment of the CSO platform Youth Voice in six new municipalities (Diber, Durres, Fier, Korce, Lezhe and Permet);

(ii) preparation of six Factsheets⁹⁸ (one per municipality), serving as a baseline instrument to guide municipal actions and policies in addressing youth issues; (iii) signed MoUs between the Youth Voice network of organisations and the six municipalities to assist their respective municipalities plan and budget locally for youth issues, including ASRH, education, gender, social protection and inclusion at the local level; (iv) preparation of key documents on 'Budgeting for young people in Durres, Fier, Korce and Permet municipalities',⁹⁹ giving concrete suggestions on the initiatives and programmes that need



▶ One-Stop-Shop Information System

to be led by the municipality in accordance with the Local Governance Law, National Action Plan for Young People, Local Action Plan for Gender Equality of the municipality, and 'Young people services model document for Shkoder Municipality',¹⁰⁰ serving as good examples of how services and activities for young people are integrated at the municipal level.

97. https://www.opengovpartnership.org/sites/default/files/Albania_NAP3_ENG.pdf

98. <http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Fact-Sheet-Bashkia-Fier.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Fact-Sheet-Bashkia-Durr%C3%ABs.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Fact-Sheet-Bashkia-P%C3%ABrmet.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Fact-Sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-Bashkise-se-Korces.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Fact-Sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-Bashkise-se-Dibres.pdf>
<http://jotabu.al/fact-sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-bashkise-se-dibres/>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Fact-Sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-Bashkise-se-Lezhes.pdf>
<http://jotabu.al/fact-sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-bashkise-se-lezhes/>

99. <http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Analiza-e-buxhetimit-per-rinine-ne-Bashkine-Fier.pdf>
http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Buxhetimi-per-rinine-Durres_12Dhjetor2018.doc.pdf
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Analiza-e-buxhetimit-per-rinine-ne-Bashkine-e-Permetit-Dhjetor-2018.pdf>

100. <http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Analiza-e-Buxhetimit-p%C3%ABr-rinin%C3%AB-nga-Bashkia-e-Shkodr%C3%ABs.pdf>

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

Contributing UN Agencies
UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR

Contributing Partners
Government of Italy

The importance of ensuring equal access to all rights holders is fundamental, but still far from the case in Albania. Three key factors contribute to a fragile framework for access to justice in the country, namely, low levels of legal literacy, uncertainty about the extent of legal rights, and a lack of trust in the justice system. The ongoing judicial reform is central to Albania's long-term sustainable development, and critical for equal access to, and fairness of, justice. Regarding children's access to justice, the new legislation adopted in 2017 (Criminal Justice for Children Code and the Child Rights and Protection Law) has provided the foundation for a more enabling environment for all children, offering avenues for enhanced access to justice including for asylum seeking and migrant children. Yet, there is a strong need to complete the legal and policy framework, strengthen institutional management and coordination, advocate for the adoption of the draft Justice for Children Strategy and its appropriate implementation, as well as promotion of community-based practices for children in conflict and contact with the law.

Additionally, there is an urgent need to address weaknesses identified in the free legal aid (FLA) system and the lack of equality in access to justice. According to UNDP's Access to Justice Survey 2017,¹⁰¹ almost half of the interviewed

population had experienced legal problems in the previous five years and nearly three-quarters believed the national justice system did not protect their rights adequately. The FLA scheme covered only a fraction of the needs of low-income and other disadvantaged groups. The adoption of the Law on Free Legal Aid (2017)¹⁰² provided timely momentum for the building of a modern and comprehensive FLA scheme.

Throughout 2018, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Justice and various stakeholders to develop the secondary legislation required for efficient application of the new approaches introduced by the Criminal Justice for Children Code. Of twelve draft sub-legal acts developed, five were approved in 2018, while seven are undergoing review by the Council of Ministers. With full adoption of all sub-legal acts (expected in early 2019), Albania will reach a fair level of legal recognition of the child's right to be heard. This secondary legislation further details the actions that justice for children professionals, as well as those from other sectors, need to take to ensure the rights and protection of the child. In addition, UNICEF supported the development of (i) eleven sub-legal acts of the Child Rights and Protection Law that guarantee the right of the child to be heard in processes affecting them, and (ii) a multi-year National Justice for Children

101. http://www.al.undp.org/content/dam/albania/docs/FINAL_DRAFT_SURVEY_EN.pdf

102. Entered into force in June 2018



Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice reporting on a parliamentary hearing session on criminal justice for children and equitable access to justice

Strategy with a budgeted Action Plan, endorsed by government in 2018.

Credited to UNICEF's advocacy, three MoUs were signed between the Ministry of Justice and the municipalities of Berat, Puke and Tirane to address justice for children cases. Given that municipalities view juveniles as an issue for the justice system, UNICEF's advocacy and broker role between the central and local governments is helping to break this misconception. Through this collaboration, juveniles will have a diverse circle of professionals to assist their rehabilitation. Furthermore, UNICEF in collaboration with other development partners supported the Academy of Security at the Ministry of Interior to advance the specialisation of police forces around the handling of cases of children,

through a training of trainers, resulting in the training of 180 police officers across the country. Owing to UNICEF's advocacy efforts with INSTAT, the 2018 Crime Statistics Report now publishes official statistics on children in conflict with the law (as registered by the police, prosecution, courts and prisons).

UNICEF's continued to be also a convener and promoter of South-South cooperation on issues of justice for children. In this regard, the tenth international conference of the European Forum of Restorative Justice was organised in Albania (14-16 June 2018)¹⁰³ bringing together professionals from 47 countries, serving as a learning, networking and advocacy opportunity for 60 Albanian professionals.

103. <http://www.euforumrj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FINAL-BOOKLET-MERGED-ONLINE1.pdf>

In parallel with the operational response at borders and in territory, UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF, contributed to the drafting of by-laws to the Law on Child Rights and Protection, drafting of a DCM on Foreign Unaccompanied Children and fostered a review of the pre-screening instructions to address shortcomings. In the field, encouraging progress has been noted in involving local child protection units (CPUs) with the issue of an increase in the number of identified unaccompanied children, mainly in Tirane (from 26 in 2017, to 155 in 2018). To strengthen collaboration with stakeholders and actors, UNHCR supported the organisation of 70 coordination meetings with the Border Migration Police (BMP) and local organisations to discuss and find solutions to inter alia child protection issues, especially identification and referral of unaccompanied or separated children. Similarly, it met and coordinated with social service providers, such as health institutions, labour offices and education directorates, to enhance cooperation to comprehensively strengthen the protection of children asylum seekers in Albania.

In connection with the requirements of the newly approved Law on Free Legal Aid,¹⁰⁴ UNDP contributed to the development of by-laws and ensuring of an inclusive consultation process with CSOs and judiciary representatives. Three draft CDMs and a set of by-laws were developed in 2018 and are awaiting approval in 2019. With the view of introducing a sustainable model, UNDP supported the FLA centres established in four district courts—in Durres, Fier, Lezhe and Tirane—in their provision of free, quality, equitable and unhindered legal aid services to some 1,500 individuals (53% female) from the most marginalised populations. Of these people, 1,235 beneficiaries (85%) received primary legal

aid, and an impressive 223 (15%) received secondary legal aid (court representation). A significant number of vulnerable persons and communities benefited also from FLA services,¹⁰⁵ including 80 victims of domestic violence and other gender-based abuses, 154 members (10.5%) of the R&E minority, 110 persons with disabilities and 138 pensioners (9.4%). Aiming at reaching out to vulnerable persons especially in rural areas, UNDP, in close partnership with specialised CSOs, set up two additional FLA centres in two district courts in northern and eastern Albania, in Shkoder and Diber, respectively.



Tepele Camp—Testimonies of Survivors, Volume I

UNDP, in partnership with other actors continued its support to the Authority on Access to Information on the Former State Security to become an independent institution in documenting the crimes of communism, including contributing to justice. Building an oral testimonies platform to give more voice and space to the evidence of survivors of communist crimes, a team of researchers and communication experts worked to record the testimonies of 38 persons with evidence of their own or their family members, who suffered in the former Tepelena internment camp. The work to docu-

104. <http://www.qbz.gov.al/Botime/Akteindividuale/Janar%202017/Fletore%20241/LIG%20nr.%20111-2017,%20date%2014.12.2017.pdf>

105. Data show that the area most in demand concerns family law disputes, including divorce, protection orders, child custody and related matters, followed by cases related to pensions and other social benefits, and then property cases.



Lek Pervizi, one of the survivors from Tepelena Camp

ment such testimonies resulted in the publication *Tepelena Camp—Testimonies of Survivors, Volume I*, consisting of a summary of testimonies from twelve survivors.¹⁰⁶ An artistic installation ‘Even walls have ears’ was used as a large-scale awareness campaign¹⁰⁷ on the communists’ crimes to commemorate the collective memory of those who were imprisoned, who lost their liberty or lives in the dictatorship prisons and camps. Research was produced on important concepts such as the use of forced labour during the regime and its impact on the lives of children, women and men.¹⁰⁸ The first international conference ‘Out-

cast from power: prisons, the internment–deportation system and forced labour in Albania during 1945–1990’, held in October 2018,¹⁰⁹ placed for the first time the internment–deportation system in Albania at the centre of research in which the forced labour was viewed from a historical and juridical perspective. In addition, as a result of UNDP support to set up a memorial site for the Tepelene Forced Labour Camp, the Authority on Access to Information on the Former State Security aims to establish a model¹¹⁰ for all forced labour camps in Albania, so that the past serves self-reflection and prevention.

106. http://www.al.undp.org/content/dam/albania/docs/STORIES_TP_FINAL_web.pdf

107. These include dialogue with universities, academics, local communities, communist dictatorship crimes survivors and their family members, media and the wider public.

108. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/dam/albania/img/Publications/Framework%20Study%20for%20web.pdf>

109. With the participation of 37 local and foreign researchers ensuring a wide variety of perspectives on the topic.

110. To serve this purpose, on the European Day of Commemoration of Totalitarian System Victims, the Authority on Access to Information on the Former State Security, in cooperation with Tepelene Municipality, survivors, institutions and active CSOs organised a Tepelene Museum Day, or memorial day, supported by UNDP and other development partners and donors.

Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender-Responsive Budgeting

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 UNICEF's Global Thematic Fund, the UN DOCO Delivering Together Facility

Gender equality, a core principle of the Organic Budget Law, enables Albania to stand out among many European countries. The Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) guides the application of GRB and provides requirements for gender-sensitive reporting. Year 2017 saw the inclusion of GRB as a legal requirement in the Local Government Financial Management cycle, attributed to approval of the Law 'On the Finances of Local Self-Governance'.¹¹¹ Significant progress was noted in 2018 with many fiscal laws and policies prioritising revenue and budgetary allocations in favour of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. GRB was introduced as a transformative mechanism, linking gender-equality policy objectives with the necessary resource allocation for their implementation in the Standard Budget Preparation Instruction of February 2018. This consolidated application of GRB into the Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP) by MoFE at both the central level and local level enables planned expenditures to be linked with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This approach enables better analysis of the impact of engendered budgets in the lives of women and men in Albania. Although it is still too early to analyse such impact, we can see the first spill-over effects at the central and local levels. GRB is influencing the lives of women and men in several sectors, including agriculture,

education, health, art and science. In addition, municipalities have endorsed GRB and carried forward the application of engendered budgets even beyond the support of development partners (e.g. UN Women), emphasising the echoes of GRB in local life.



- Issues of discrimination and gender-based violence in property relations discussed among CSOs, lawyers, and state institutions during the 16 days against violence campaign

National accountability on spending for gender-equality results has increased, with a growth of 118 percent in the engendered annual state budget to specifically close gender gaps or advance gender equality from 2018 to 2019.¹¹² UN Women led the process of engendering the Albanian Financial Management

111. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5fwsFpPYvXrU2l6VEhhVTazQXZxckFpZjEwdXg0b1BBbVZB/view>

112. ALL 32.7 billion (6.3% of the total budget) are the planned GRB budget funds for 2019, and ALL 15 billion (2.4% of the total budget) in 2018. In the Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP) 2019–2021, 33 budget programmes, 50 percent of all the budget programmes of the line ministries, are compliant with a Gender Results Budgeting review process, compared to 28 (35%) of the MTBP 2018–2020.



CSOs emphasized their determination to make public institutions accountable for their obligation toward gender equality. Pogradec training season with Watchdog CSOs on gender budget monitoring

Information System (AFMIS), which will be effective from June 2019 to link strategic policy planning more broadly with budget planning and public financial management. The software will provide a tracking tool for GRB and include gender KPIs as a mandatory requirement, as stated in the New Budget Preparation Instruction of the Minister of Finance and Economy (February 2018), Annex 5 'Gender Responsive Budgeting'.

Capacity development has been the focus of UN Women interventions throughout this gender mainstreaming process, mentoring and training staff from MoFE, line ministries, CSOs and Members of Parliament to understanding, applying in budgets, institutionalising and im-

proving relevant legal and operational frameworks related to GRB. In this regard, 150 officials from the Finance and Budget Departments at the central level, 200 at the local level, and twelve gender-equality employees from all the line ministries were trained in the new methodology of budgeting and the best ways to successfully integrate GRB into the MTBP through gender-specific goals, objectives, targets and outputs. Some 75 budgetary experts from institutions other than line ministries were informed for the first time on how to include KPIs in their MTBPs, with special focus on gender-related indicators. Meanwhile, some 20 Albanian CSOs developed capacities to serve as gender budget watchdogs,¹¹³ the first five reports of which have been produced in the country by

113. <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/07/csos-in-albania-to-serve-as-watchdogs-on-gender-budgeting>



Launch of Women and Men in Albania Publication - Over 30% of decisions in Albania are taken by women

CSOs. Also, thirteen Members of Parliament and the parliamentary sub-commission on gender equality have been informed on GRB in MTBP 2019–2021, and have used the analysis from the process in parliamentary commission hearings during annual budget discussions. Similarly, UNICEF’s advocacy and support to MoHSP for the development of a gender-aware costing analysis and a budgeting tool for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health services, resulted in the preparation of MoHSP’s Medium-Term Budget Framework (2018–2020) that links the ministry budget with results for children and women.

In collaboration with INSTAT, UN Women supported the finalisation and launch of the publication *Women and Men 2018*¹¹⁴ including the production of an online platform providing ac-

cess to the data and a video on the publication. The document includes a long list of gender indicators harmonised with related gender indicators for the SDGs, NSDI II 2015–2020 and the monitoring framework for the National Gender Strategy 2016–2020. As a result of this comprehensive statistical document, Albania’s key gender policy areas and international progress monitoring obligations on gender equality and women’s empowerment are consistently reflected across the sectors. In addition, following a request from the Prime Minister’s Office in Albania, UN Women supported MoHSP over the preparation of a document that maps sector strategies with SDG 5 that will feed into the Integrated Planning System Information System (IPSIS). Similarly, UNICEF and UNFPA supported INSTAT and the Institute of Public Health (IPH)

114. <http://www.instat.gov.al/publikimi>

in conducting the ADHS, disaggregated by gender and highlighting various aspects of gender inequalities, to enable policy makers to better target interventions aiming at narrowing the gap between men and women, and between boys and girls.

UNICEF's 2018 support to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (MoESY; see progress detailed for Output 2.2 Education) resulted in the development and approval by the ministry of a series of regulatory documents and review and analysis¹¹⁵ that include elements of educating children with concepts of human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination, aiding MoESY to turn the education curriculum into an intentional mechanism to promote a culture of non-discrimination and equality between boys and girls. In addition, UNICEF's launching of the U-report, recognised by partners in Albania as a main tool for youth civic engagement in the country, with engagement of about 4,900 U-reporters,¹¹⁶ served as a consultancy tool during the drafting of the national Law on Youth by MoESY.¹¹⁷

UNDP supported the LGUs of Patos, Roskovec and Sarande in introducing women's economic empowerment schemes and ensuring that gender mainstreaming initiatives are included in the annual municipal plans. For example, Sarande Municipality promoted women's self-employment initiatives and a model on how to increase the role of the municipality in this direction. Around 100 women were informed through specific meetings on the importance of undertaking new initiatives for their self-employment, while



Young people joining U-Report launching ceremony in Tirana

the wider community was informed on municipal support for all innovative business ideas. As a result, four women benefited directly from the support provided by the municipality and had the opportunity to implement their business ideas in 2018. With increased awareness and capacities for mainstreaming gender in the local decision-making processes, Patos and Roskovec municipalities introduced affirmative actions, such as using social housing for accommodating vulnerable women and girls, subsidising urban transport for women heads of households, among others. Incidentally, through UNICEF support, four municipalities (Durrës, Korce, Tirane and Vlore) mainstreamed gender in their approved, budgeted and partially financed, social care plans, while two other municipal plans (of Librazhd and Shkoder) were finalised and are currently in the process of approval.¹¹⁸

115. Including a Curricula Programme for children of age 4–5 years, Pre-school Teacher Standards, a Framework for Pre-school Assessment and a review of the competency-based curriculum for grades 1–9.

116. 20 percent adolescents with almost equal representation of boys and girls.

117. About 990 young people participated in each of the polls and supported the public consultation process of the Youth Law on important issues such as the age group to be covered, youth volunteerism and financing of youth groups and organisations.

118. UNICEF engaged with eleven municipalities (Durrës, Korce, Librazhd, Malesia e Madhe, Maliq, Mallakaster, Sarande, Shijak, Shkoder, Tirane and Vlore) to build the capacities of 130 officials in planning and delivering social services with adequate attention paid to the gender-equality challenges and gendered needs of men, women, boys and girls.

Output 1.6 Migration and Asylum

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

Contributing UN Agencies
UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF

Contributing Partners
Governments of Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, United States, United Kingdom, the EU

Migration has played a crucial part in Albania's social and economic development, given on the one hand the large proportion of Albanian citizens who have emigrated (approximately one third of its population) and on the other, significant remittances. The country is also gradually becoming a country of destination for immigrants, mainly for employment purposes, but also for studies and other purposes. Addressing these issues, in 2019 a policy gap was filled with the elaboration of a new National Strategy on Migration Governance (2019–2022) and Action Plan. Current assessments show that no serious issues exist for migrants who reside in Albania exercising their right. However, regular monitoring does not take place by the respective institutions. Albania is experiencing increasing flows of asylum seekers and economic migrants and remains an important 'contingency' country. A significant increase in arrivals (5,730 people, or more than 5-fold) and asylum requests (4,378, > 14-fold) in 2018 put significant strain upon the response to mixed flows,¹¹⁹ both at the borders and in-country, including the reception capacity. To this end, reception capacity and specialised government services needed to be further prepared, even though the flow remains mostly one of transit, with an estimated one percent willing to remain in

the country. At the political and operational levels, Albania's response to mixed movements remains a rights-based one. The prime minister has, on several occasions, stressed that Albania will keep an open door and that, while it is ready to take on its share of responsibility within European responses, it will not receive people that other countries do not want.

IOM's support to address migration-related challenges and enhance the development impact of migration included the drafting of the National Strategy on Migration Governance (2019–2022) and its Action Plan, with endorsement expected in 2019Q2, preparation of a needs analysis on Advanced Passenger Information (API)¹²⁰ and establishment of a working group¹²¹ in this area. Joint IOM and government efforts to boost the engagement of the Albanian diaspora for the development of the country continued in 2018 for (i) development of mapping and profiling of the Albanian diaspora in Belgium, France and Italy; (ii) establishment of a fellowship scheme¹²² as a mechanism for skills transfer; and (iii) design of the Connect Albania investment boosting platform, based on the example of the Connect Ireland platform, one of the best practices globally.

119. Two-thirds of arrivals and asylum seekers are from countries suffering turmoil and conflict, with Syrians broadly accounting for half of arrivals and of asylum requests. More women, girls and boys are arriving (18%: 9% children and 9% women) and their humanitarian and protection needs are being addressed to the extent possible. A total of 155 children were identified as travelling unaccompanied, mostly self-identified as there is no age determination system in Albania. A total of 49 asylum applications were formalised by the Asylum Office. Such a low number results from a number of factors, including the departure of asylum seekers and the lack of sufficient staffing to cope with the increased number of requests. In 2018, 36 decisions were taken, with 28 remaining pending at the end of the year.

120. API systems became mandatory for all 192 International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) member states on 23 February 2018. This means that all such states must be able to collect data on passengers and crew members prior to arrival, making travel easier for all and improving border controls.

121. The working group is composed of mainly border police, customs and civil aviation. The Commissioner for Data Protection is also invited to the WG meetings, but is not a member.

122. The scheme consists of two mechanisms, to support institutions dealing with diaspora engagement, and those dealing with territorial development.

UNHCR interventions in Albania in 2018 focused on promotion of access to territory and asylum, identification and referral of women and children at risk, improvement of reception conditions, enhancement of asylum procedures, increase in local integration prospects, and improvement of the existing legal framework. More than 90 percent of arrivals were given access to asylum and the territory due to continuous dialogue and review of challenges among UNHCR, BMP and the independent protection border monitoring mechanism of Caritas and the Ombudsperson. Access to the territory and asylum was supported by Caritas through (i) provision of interpretation services at the borders (benefiting 2,194 individuals); (ii) distribution of asylum information (5,535 individuals); (iii) material assistance (3,471 individuals); (iv) food packages and hot meals (3,511 individuals); (v) medical services (101 individuals); (vi) temporary accommodation (1,535 individuals); and (vii) transport from border points to the Reception Centre in Tirane (3,640 individuals).

The findings of border monitoring (from 516 missions) by Caritas, the Ombudsperson and UNHCR were addressed by BMP and mainstreamed in the ongoing review of the pre-screening instructions. UNHCR contributed to a draft DCM on foreign unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and fostered a review of the pre-screening instructions to address shortcomings. UNHCR and several UN Agencies (IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO) developed a joint assessment of the asylum and mixed migration situation in Albania (December 2018), shared by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) with the Minister of Interior, that will serve as basis for joint action and resource mobilisation. Moreover, UNHCR supported the Directorate for Asylum and Citizenship in establishing a database for asylum seekers to improve procedure management, enhance coordination with other state institutions and improve access to services.

To accommodate an increased number of arrivals

and mitigate concern among key stakeholders, the existing reception capacity was doubled, in 2018, to some 200 places, with notably a Caritas facility (120 persons), the facility in Gjirokastra upgraded for longer stay (60 persons) and the Kapshtica Border Point rehabilitated (13 persons). Additional space was also provided in the Tirane Reception Centre, which accommodated 4,378 persons in 2018, while UNHCR's partner Refugee and Migrant Services in Albania (RMSA) provided psychological support (87 individuals), assistance and referral of medical cases (120), information group sessions (83), legal counselling (891), and support during appeals (11). Profiling interviews by UNHCR (882), including with women, provided information on trends and vulnerability. Local integration was supported by RMSA, with the provision of cash-based intervention assistance (52 individuals), labour coaching (7) vocational courses (10) and job placement (13).

Given the under-developed status of the child protection system for foreign children in Albania, coordination with the CPUs in border areas was improved. However, UNHCR, jointly with UNICEF, has identified substantive shortcomings hampering the protection of children, particularly those that are unaccompanied or separated. Development of a specific SOP to address and accommodate case management of UASC was postponed because a more comprehensive process took place in 2018. Deriving from the 2017 Law on the Rights and Protection of the Child, a dedicated DCM on unaccompanied minors has been drafted. The DCM, expected to be approved in the first half of 2019, will guide the development of further administrative tools. Significant advocacy interventions were undertaken to improve the existing legal framework to enhance local integration prospects in Albania. Two key DCMs—to improve access to work permits, and to allow for issuance of valid ID cards—were prepared in coordination with MoI and MoHSP. The basis for systematic work on integration was set with the MoHSP through a specific working group.



Challenges **Output 1.1 Human Rights**

Key challenges related to the 2018 UN programme implementation in the area of human rights include: (i) insufficient human resources for the People's Advocate to ensure strong outreach, increase promotion of citizens' demands for their rights and the handling of cases of violations of human rights, (ii) need for the parliamentary group Friends of Children to hold continuous meetings to build ownership across the political spectrum, and (iii) need for development of by-laws, a normative framework and training of appropriate civil servants to implement the legal amendments addressing the causes of child statelessness.

Output 1.2 Anti-Corruption and the Rule of Law

Despite government commitment for advancement in this area, anti-corruption and rule of law need to have adequate capacities in place, both at the central and the local level, as well as stronger coordination among national partners to ensure effective implementation. Key challenges noted throughout 2018 include insufficient local-level expertise, lack of a culture of evidence-informed policy making, fragmented accountability and insufficient capacities in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), along with absence of an adequate legal framework to effectively fight illicit trafficking of cultural property and still weak cross-sectoral cooperation. As detailed in the section below on the way ahead, UN support to this sector for an overhauling reform will focus on improving governance, strengthening institutions and reducing vulnerability to corruption, considering the specific needs of women, children and people who may be subject to marginalisation and discrimination.

Output 1.3 Local Governance

The high turnover of human resources at the municipal level presents a challenge, hampering the sustainability of interventions, while the low level of municipal financial autonomy diminishes local ownership and initiative. Municipalities have demonstrated low absorption capacities, and therefore a slow pace of internalising newly introduced practices. Moreover, to expand the CSO platform Youth Voice locally, there is a need to develop a standardised package of services for young people at the municipal level and, for all CSOs, a transparent model for financing with local level and public funds.

Challenges

Output 1.4 Access to Justice

While the vetting process, part of the Justice System Reform, is an important positive development for the country, it has temporarily caused significant backlogs that might impact the outcome indicator of the proportion of children in detention. It is crucial that the processes of appointment of new magistrates and establishment of a new judicial map are carried out without delay. Expansion of the number of justice authorities handling child cases (beyond the existing 6 judicial and prosecution districts) and the prioritisation of such cases would be positive actions that would maximise and sustain the gains in justice for children. Also, child protection specialists generally lack knowledge of the legislation and their role in relation to refugee and migrant children, in particular UASC. Lack of comprehensive assessments, case management and referral mechanisms, also means that children have not had access to the services, such as psycho-social support, that they might need.

Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Although the legal and policy framework on gender equality has been strengthened, the main challenge lies in its implementation and appropriate budgeting at national and local levels. A key requirement for gender mainstreaming (GM), which is being advocated and strongly supported by UN agencies in Albania, is a robust and stable national gender machinery, an administration with specific GM skills, and an integrated process of GM in all elements of governance reinforced repeatedly so that it becomes routine in policy making and implementation across the country. Meanwhile, institutions continue to require further guidance and coaching to be able to systematically and practically apply GRB in the entire planning and budgeting process. Also, more time is needed to achieve full implementation in terms of complete integration of GRB in all stages of the budget cycle, and at all levels of national planning, calling for ensuring options for longer-term GRB programming.

Output 1.6 Migration and Asylum

The comprehensive government reform of late 2017 resulted in some areas of the administration being only partially operational during the first months of 2018. Coupled with a rotation of civil servants, this delayed implementation of some government plans, which in the case of asylum presented a challenge. While the basis for improved prospects of societal integration has been set, refugees and other persons granted protection still require significant assistance in this area. Other challenges include preparatory work on a review of pre-screening instructions, the process for which could not be finalised within 2018 as feedback from relevant stakeholders took longer than foreseen. Also, strengthening competences of specialists from the Directorate of Asylum and Citizenship and of staff at the National Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers is needed. The presence of government officials at the centre to interview new arrivals, lodge asylum applications and identify specific needs should be explored.



The Way Ahead

Output 1.1 Human Rights

In collaboration with CSOs and National Human Rights Mechanisms, UNFPA and UN Women will support the follow up of the recommendations from international standards on women's rights, including those of CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention and UPR Committee observations. UNFPA will support capacity building of line ministries through simulated sessions in partnership with MEFA, as well as information and awareness sessions with the media network and the CSO network Youth Voice. UN Women will focus on the national review process of Beijing+25,¹²³ engagement of the national gender equality mechanism in the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and on women empowerment as leaders at the national and the local level. As justice sector reform is among the key political criteria for EU accession, UNDP will support local HR institutions in reaching out to under-served populations and women in this largely political reform process. With the completion of the fifth Periodical Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF will continue its advocacy work towards building momentum and visibility around child rights issues, inter-linked with the monitoring of the Agenda for Child Rights and its action plan revision for the upcoming years (2019–2020). It will also continue to support both the legislative and the public oversight role of Parliament with regard to child rights, and in particular the group of parliamentarians Friends of Children in implementing its Strategic and Action Plan. To ensure the full implementation of the amended Law on Civil Status and reduce the risk of statelessness, UNHCR will support the drafting process and approval of its six by-laws. UNHCR will work closely with the Ministry of Interior so that the new Law on Citizenship adheres to international law, notably to reduce the risk of statelessness. UNHCR will advocate that Determination of the Status of Statelessness is included in this law or alternatively in the review of the Law on Asylum. UNHCR through its partners will continue providing support to persons at risk of statelessness to register births, notably among the Roma and Egyptian communities and the Albanian diaspora. UNODC will continue to strengthen container cargo controls at Durres Port and Morine BCP as a means to preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, firearms and CBRN materials, IPR goods, precursor chemicals, and other illicitly trafficked goods, such as protected wildlife and contraband.

Output 1.2 Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law

UNDP will continue supporting the reform of citizen-centric service delivery, with a focus on (i) expanding ADISA customer-care services through supporting co-location deployments and adoption of established standards in targeted municipalities, with the objective of establishing at least ten co-located offices by the end of 2019, (ii) piloting innovative service delivery channels through a mobile facility with special reference to remote areas, (iii) implementing service delivery policy and standards through engagement of relevant national institutions, (iv) enabling civil society performance oversight, and (v) supporting know-how transfer and quality certification for ADISA. At the local level, UNDP will introduce a practical methodology for municipal risk-assessment and piloting of up to six municipal integrity plans. Several additional instruments, developed or to be developed by early 2019 through UNDP's local government assistance, will contribute to enhanced transparency and accountability of

123. In 2020, the global community will mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).

Way Ahead

local administrations and, subsequently, to increased public access and pressure for mitigating attempts at corruption, and strengthening the rule of law. UNDP will continue to deliver assistance modules on public participation and consultation instruments, on adopting SOPs for internal municipal processes, and on developing a national municipal benchmarking system to monitor the performance of local administrations vis-à-vis good governance and the principles of local democracy. Expansion of the one-stop-shop service delivery philosophy and practice will benefit about 85 percent of Albanian municipalities where the system is planned to be introduced by the end of 2019.

UNFPA will promote the online platform JoTabu (app and website) among young people through visits to various schools, with the aim of reaching the most vulnerable groups, as well as involving parents and teachers in activities related to youth education on healthy behaviours, including around SRH. UNODC will continue to implement projects focused on working in the areas of anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism, measuring and assessing organised crime, addressing firearms trafficking, strengthening the legal regime against FTFs, and enhancing border controls, especially at seaports and airports. IOM will contribute to the efforts of civil society and central and local authorities in the Western Balkans to prevent radicalisation, recruitment and inspiration of individuals to violent extremist ideologies and groups. Work will be focused on reinforcing and supporting implementation of broader strategies for countering terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism. IOM will contribute also to increased regional cooperation among countries in the Western Balkans and enhance the capacities of law enforcement authorities and the judiciary to apprehend, investigate and prosecute cases of smuggling of migrants, and protect vulnerable migrants along the Western Balkans coastal route.

Output 1.3 Local Governance

After successfully piloting a municipal OSS system for service delivery in late 2018, one of UNDP's major areas of assistance to Albania's local governments in 2019 will be the massive rollout of the system in 45 other municipalities. During this intervention, possibilities for the co-location of local OSSs with ADISA front desks in single municipal offices will be assessed and put in place whenever possible. A second angle of UNDP's assistance will be to support further work on the standard municipal Transparency Plan, developed in late 2018 and adopted as the monitoring instrument by the Commissioner on the Right to Information, starting from January 2019. UNDP will continue to work on the development of standard public consultation instruments and the relevant monitoring tools that would benefit all municipalities. Some 180 municipal SOPs will be developed and adopted in line with the Code of Administrative Procedures thus improving the operational efficiency and transparency of activities of local administrations. Local Integrity Plans will be piloted in six municipalities with the potential for replication. Some 30 municipalities will be supported to improve local revenue planning and management, including budget transparency. A third component of UNDP's support to local governance relates to know-how exchange among municipalities, involving mayors and experiences both before and after the local elections of June 2019, aiming to benefit also the new local leadership of the next local government mandate. UNDP will also carry out two major national assessments in 2019, the first being a technical assessment of municipal service delivery challenges and the



The Way Ahead

second, a second round of local governance mapping, a citizens' perception on the level and quality of transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of local governance, with the two assessments aiming to inform areas for further assistance and support.

Focusing on service quality, UNFPA support will aim to (i) strengthen municipal capacities (in at least 10 municipalities) to provide equal access to quality integrated SRH services and improve performance monitoring, (ii) promote mechanisms to enhance participation of young people in policy and decision making related to SRH, including HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and (iii) increase monitoring capacity for budget allocations and engagement with clients to not only expand access but also encourage a higher level of government investment.

Output 1.4 Access to Justice

UNICEF will support government and the judiciary in implementing the Justice for Children normative framework, particularly in terms of institutional building (establishment of a Centre for Juvenile Delinquency Prevention); capacity development (for justice, law enforcement and other professionals involved in justice for children processes); establishment and improvement of information management systems in the area of child rights; and local government and local professionals in two or three municipalities to model the functioning of the processes of justice for children, through supporting establishment of diversion practices, promoting restorative justice, supporting community-based rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, and promoting establishment of a coordinated and inter-disciplinary mechanism to address cases of children in conflict and contact with the law.

UNHCR and UNICEF will assist national partners in developing SOPs for identification, referral (including repatriation to Albania) and protection of unaccompanied children in Albania, which inter alia involves the appointment of legal guardians and determination of the best interests of the child. The development of a specific response mechanism to the situation of UASC, and other children at risk, is increasingly a priority in view of the rising number of unaccompanied foreign children, while a specialised reception facility should be part of the state's response. UNHCR's advocacy along with SARPC, UNICEF and other stakeholders will likely result in approval of three DCMs on child protection, including procedures and a regulation for the return and repatriation of unaccompanied children. Thus, in 2019, a SOP on case management of children at risk needs to be developed, along with establishment of referral mechanisms. Advocacy will also target potential establishment of a residential shelter for children at risk.

UNDP's focus will be to ensure adequate implementation of the Free Legal Aid Law, advance professional capacities of assigned state structures on provision and monitoring of FLA, consolidate two FLA centres in Diber and Shkoder and upscale those in other municipalities to ensure unhindered and equitable access to their services for the most vulnerable populations.

Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender-Responsive Budgeting

UN Women will continue to build towards improved gender statistics, strengthened capacities of institutions leading public finance management and integration of gender equality to effectively close any gender gaps. At the local level, UN Women will emphasise policies and budgets to improve the life of women and men from the most vulnerable

Way Ahead

groups, particularly by upscaling proven approaches and good practices identified in previous GRB interventions. Use of GRB as a tool to enable local governments to recognise the value and potential for local development and inclusive growth by investing in gender-responsive services and gender inclusive processes will be promoted. CSO networking and advocacy efforts will be supported to enable structured and continued oversight and analysis of budgetary allocation and spending from a gender perspective, and to generate missing watchdog evidence and expert policy recommendations.

UNDP will focus on GM in local and central policy and decision-making processes, ensuring all interventions involve LGUs and local representation of women in local councils. UNICEF will support MoHSP in mainstreaming gender into the training programme of health workers and MoESY in conducting sectoral analysis with a gender lens, and in informing the process of pre-university education strategy development. UNICEF will also create channels to bring the voice of adolescent girls and boys, particularly as identified in the U-report platform, to decision makers and policy makers and influence public policies and decisions from the perspectives of these girls and boys. UNFPA will strengthen its work with young people and raise awareness of gender equality, especially among out-of-school young people and the key population.

Output 1.6 Migration and Asylum

UNHCR and IOM will strengthen the protection monitoring system with a focus on access to territory and asylum for refugees and migrants, enhancement of pre-screening tools in the border areas and promotion of non-discriminatory practices for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Furthermore, UNHCR will support the review of the Law on Asylum in line with relevant EU Directives and –in collaboration with OSCE and other actors- assist the MoI and MHSP to undertake a review of the pre-screening instruction. UNHCR will further conduct training with OSCE for Border and Migration Police and the Directorate for Asylum and Citizenship at the MoI, on the new pre-screening instruction combined with trainings on SGBV and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. UNHCR will further continue its support to the Border and Migration Police with interpreters and with food and non-food items for newly arrived asylum seekers in need. More generally, and in agreement with the said Police, it will continue supporting the Border Police in implementing asylum-sensitive border procedures through pre-screening. UNHCR will further strengthen its cooperation with Border Police and officials of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to identify vulnerable persons –notably unaccompanied children and women at risk- and refer them to the existing and nascent protection systems. Support to the national reception facilities for asylum seekers will focus on services for vulnerable categories. Technical cooperation with the Directorate for Asylum and Citizenship will continue to improve the asylum procedure in coordination with specialised EU partners.

IOM will support government in (i) implementing the National Strategy on Migration Governance and its Action Plan and migration management in general, (ii) boosting diaspora engagement for the development of the country, through capacitating relevant officials to gain the knowledge, resources and tools to implement diaspora engagement initiatives and know-how transfer through mapping and profiling of the diaspora in Belgium, France and Italy, (iii) improving further the reception capacity for irregular third country nationals and specialised government services, and (iv) supporting INSTAT in conducting a migration household survey, contributing thus to the improvement of migration data in Albania.



OUTCOME 2

Social Cohesion

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; 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.

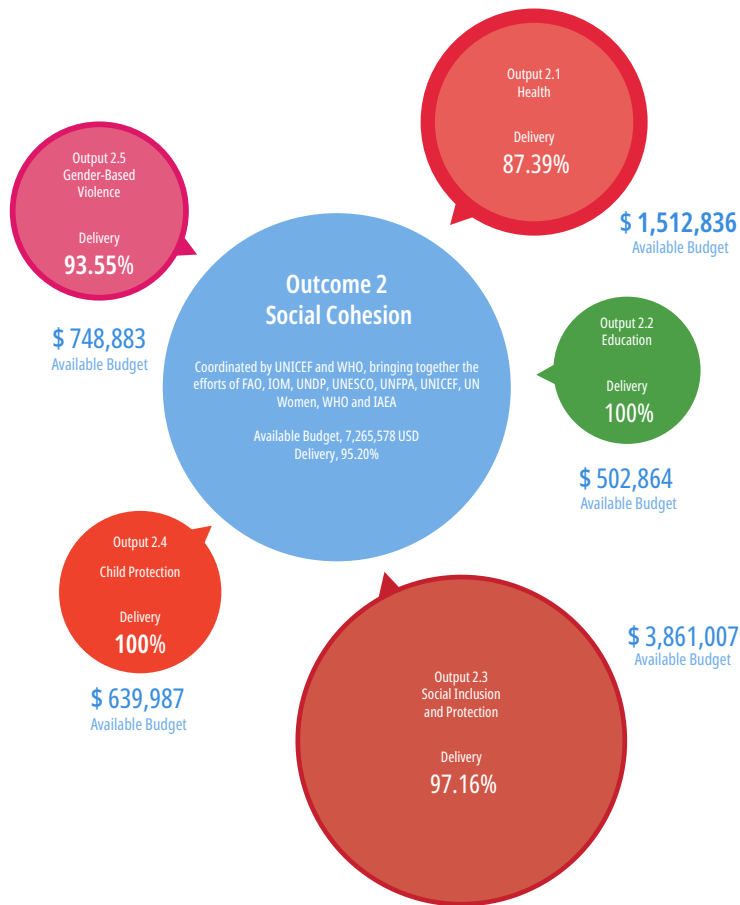


Children in Albania lead the Internet Safety Awareness Campaign

National Strategy for Development and Integration 1 2 3

SDGs 1 3 4 5 10 16

EU integration chapters 19 23 24 32



Achievement of Outcome / Output Indicator



This outcome supports the Government of Albania in achieving three priorities of NSDI 2015–2020: 1) EU membership, 2) Consolidating 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, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16, and EU integration chapters and priority areas 19, 23, 24 and 32.

The total available budget for implementation of Outcome 2 in 2018 was USD 7.3 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, Australia, France, Germany, South Korea, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the Sovereign Order of Malta, United Kingdom, and USA, as well as the EU, UNICEF global thematic funds, Swedish National Committee for UNICEF, Global Fund to End Violence Against Children, Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Terre des hommes and Gilead Science Inc. **The outcome delivery is 95 percent.**

Output 2.1 Health

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

Contributing UN Agencies
WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IAEA, FAO, IOM

Contributing Partners
Governments of Albania, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, the Sovereign Order of Malta, Switzerland, the UNICEF global thematic funds, the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Terre des hommes, Gilead Science Inc.

The Government of Albania continues to implement the approach of Universal Health Coverage. Yet, disparities and inequalities persist among some groups of the population, notably among R&E, and between urban and rural areas. Spending on health care is still below three percent of GDP and ten percent of the national budget.¹²⁴ In line with the overall increase in life expectancy, there is evidence of decrease in the infant mortality rate in Albania over the past five years (8 per 1,000 live births in 2017, UN-IGME, 2018). Similarly, 0–5-year mortality rate in Albania has declined to nine per 1,000 live births. The adolescent birth rate is 17.5 births per 1,000 (2016, INSTAT). The findings of ADHS indicate that, although stunting prevalence has decreased from 19 percent in 2008 to eleven percent in 2018, such reduced growth remains a public health concern for Albanian children of age 6–59 months. Interventions aiming at improvement of the nutrition status of children should consider that the country still faces the double burden of malnutrition (11% stunting, and 16% overweight).¹²⁵ Micronutrient deficiencies are still present among Albanian children, while one in four (25%) children of age 6–49 months are anaemic, and only 65 percent of households use adequately iodised salt. Another

issue of concern is the low prevalence of modern contraceptive methods, with the second lowest rate in the South East European region. Hence, only 10.6 percent of Albanian women report having a need for family planning satisfied with modern methods, while 15 percent of currently married women, and eleven percent of all Albanian women, have an unmet need for family planning (ADHS 2017–18).

Even though Albania reports a high level of immunisation coverage (>95%), the country experienced a measles outbreak at the end of 2017 and during the first half of 2018. Cancer—the second leading cause of death (16.4%/2017) after cardiovascular diseases—continues to be a major public health problem in Albania, with about 7,000 new cancer cases estimated yearly, and more than half of the patients needing radiotherapy as part of their treatment. The University Hospital Centre Mother Theresa in Tirane is the only public centre providing radiotherapy, supported by IAEA.¹²⁶ Regarding the burden of disease (mortality and disability combined), non-communicable diseases account for 84 percent of all disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), particularly through high blood pressure, nutritional related risks, smoking, be-

124. <http://apps.who.int/nha/database/ViewData/Indicators/en>

125. One in three (38%) children born in the 2 years before the survey were exclusively breastfed, and 59 percent continued breastfeeding at one year. Some 57 percent were breastfed within one hour of birth. Only 29 percent of children of age 6–23 months living with their mothers were fed a minimum acceptable diet in the 24 hours prior to the survey.

126. With a population of 3.3 million, Albania currently has six high-energy radiotherapy machines (one cobalt-60 teletherapy machine and five LINACs). However, there is still a long waiting list for patients. In recent years, MoHSP has prepared a national cancer control programme and an action plan covering each area of activity (prevention, early detection, treatment and palliative care), calling for an increased number of radiotherapy treatment machines. IAEA supports GoA in improving the prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer to achieve better overall survival and quality of life through technical cooperation projects.



Awariness for Breast Cancer



▶ Improving cancer treatment in Albania

ing overweight, obesity, high plasma sugar levels and physical inactivity. Overall, the health system in Albania suffers from a shortage of health professionals, with the number of medical personnel per 1,000 citizens at 1.2 for doctors, and 3.6 for midwives and nurses.

Several UN agencies supported the health sector development in 2018 through provision of expertise for advancing the policy and legislative environment, capacity development of health professionals on various health-related areas, as well as improvements in health facilities. WHO reports produced in 2018, following several WHO fact-finding missions in the country, provided evidence-based findings and recommendations for further sector improvement. The reports include: (i) *Assessment of Primary Health Care in Albania*, (ii) *Measles—Strengthening Immunisation and Infection Prevention and Control Programme*,

(iii) *TB Country Governance and Partnerships and Access to Diagnosis and Treatment of MDR-TB*, (iv) *Assessment of Laboratory Capacities for the Surveillance of Leishmaniosis in Albania*, (v) *Assessment of the Comprehensive Package of Interventions for Key Populations in Albania*, with the focus on prevention and testing for HIV and co-infections, (vi) *TB Medicine Management for the Procurement and Supply Chain*, (vii) *National Action Plan for Health Security*, (viii) *Point Prevalence Survey of Healthcare Associated Infections*, and (ix) *Assessment of Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health Services in the Context of Universal Health Coverage*. Moreover, WHO developed the report *Health as investment, in the context of the Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Health 2020 documents*, and contributed substantially for the preparation of the health section in the report *Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for Achieving the*

Sustainable Development Goals in Albania.

A significant milestone in terms of health and population data was the launch of the Albania Demographic Health Survey 2017–2018¹²⁷ with standardised internationally comparable data, including on child health, at both the national and regional level. The ADHS received significant support from UNFPA and UNICEF. The child-related component of the health sector benefited also from (i) revision of the child mortality estimates, bringing them in line with the administrative data, as a result of UNICEF's advocacy and facilitator role with key government institutions (IN-STAT and IPH) and the UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, (ii) inclusion of specific results and indicator targets in respect to women and child health consulting services (*Konsultoret e Nënës dhe Femijës*) in the MTBP 2018–2020 of MoHSP to help monitor the delivery of services, (iii) development of a national Roadmap¹²⁸ to deliver equitable maternal, new-born and child services, (iv) establishment of a new multi-sectoral Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Committee¹²⁹ to coordinate and advise on iodine optimum nutrition for mothers and children, (v) revision of the Universal Salt Iodisation (USI) Law¹³⁰ and submission of proposed legislative changes to the Council of Ministers for approval within 2019, (vi) improvement in the web-based data collection system of IPH for monitoring child growth and infant and young child feeding practices, and capacity development of health professionals in



National workshop on child nutrition monitoring system



Immunization week activities with partners

data collection for 140 statistics, and reporting on child growth and IYCF practices across Albania, and (vii) provision of procurement services to government for supplying childhood vaccines and anti-retroviral medicines benefiting around 200,000 children of age 0–6 years and 558 individuals living with HIV/AIDS (16 children and 542 adults). Complementing health efforts, FAO conducted a legislative and policy assessment¹³¹

127. <http://www.ishp.gov.al/studimi-i-dyte-demografik-dhe-shendetesor-shqiptar-2017-2018/nggallery/page/1>

128. The document was prepared by the Albanian team (MoHSP, IPH and other health institutions) that participated at the Sub-Regional Health System Strengthening Workshop (Tirane, March 2018). The document was further developed and officially approved by the Minister of Health and Social Protection in late 2018. <https://www.unicef.org/albania/press-releases/friendly-health-system-human-right>

129. The National IDD Committee was established by Order of the Minister of Health and Social Protection no. 279, dated 03.04.2018, to coordinate action and advise the minister on interventions aiming at achieving sustainable optimal iodine nutrition for mothers and children. Members of the National IDD Committee, besides representatives from MoHSP and its subordinate institutions, include representatives from MoESY, MoFE, the General Directorate of Customs, and the Agriculture Consumer Association. The Committee is chaired by the deputy minister of MoHSP.

130. <https://shendetesia.gov.al/6-konsultime-mbi-projektligje/>

131. Assessment included (i) a review of global experiences with such programmes, (ii) an analysis of the feasibility for engagement of local small-scale and family producers as food suppliers, (iii) a nationwide survey to assess nutrition knowledge, attitudes and practices among schoolchildren, parents, teachers, and local authorities, and (iv) an assessment of nutrition levels of Albanian children based on anthropometric data.

for the preparation of a school food and nutrition programme, piloted in 20 elementary schools in five municipalities (Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Tirane and Vlore).

For preparedness and response to health emergencies, WHO supported the organisation of several multi-sectoral workshops (Gjirokaster, Korce, Shkoder and Tirane) on public health issues related to migrants and other vulnerable groups with the participation of health representatives from human health (public health, epidemiology, infectious diseases and microbiology) and animal health (epidemiology, veterinary and microbiology). UNFPA strengthened the national response to address SRH issues in emergency situations (Minimum Initial Service Package, MISP, implementation) through trainings, advocacy events and close monitoring of local action plans reaching 70 health-care professionals in Fier, Lezhe and Pogradec.

The sixth International Public Health Conference ‘Evidence and good practices in mental health services’ (8 May 2018, Tirane), supported by UN agencies in Albania, addressed the main issues related to mental health in transitional societies of the Western Balkans and in other countries of the European region serving to evidence needs in this area for the countries to act upon. In addition, WHO trained staff of the two Mental Health Residential Centres and one Community Mental Health Centre in Vlore. Furthermore, UNFPA strengthened national capacities on (i) clinical guidelines¹³² development with engagement of 35 clinicians from the maternity hospitals of Tirane and Vlore, (ii) ‘Helping Mothers Survive Post-partum Haemorrhage’, ‘Essential Care for Every Baby’ and ‘Essential Care for Small Babies’ with training provided to 75 health-care experts, and (iii) family planning (including through the Virtual Learning Platform) with trainings provided to 54

Public Health Care (PHC) providers from Elbasan and Fier, and 101 health-care professionals from various districts of Albania who enrolled in the online platform for family planning. WHO supported the establishment of seven working groups for the development of guidelines and protocols on HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) care and management.

A community-based model for integrated SRH services was established in Shkoder and three existing ones were strengthened in Berat, Elbasan and Korce through UNFPA support in 2018, reaching more than 3,000 people. More specifically, some 31 health-care givers and eight volunteers received trainings on SRH and their rights, eight health education teams are established in five rural and three urban areas of the country, 68 health education teams are active in the counties of Berat, Elbasan, Korce and Shkoder, with 155 activities and awareness sessions organised on SRH issues, mainly with vulnerable and marginalised women and young people, with a total of 3,082 people reached of whom 1,933 are females and 1,149 males. Meanwhile, 24 on-the-job trainings were organised in 21 health centres by trained health-care providers in Berat, Elbasan, Korce and Shkoder. The main challenge for expansion of this model to other remote areas of the country remains the lack of resources from government and partners to train health education teams (composed of primary health-care providers and community volunteers), organise community-based activities and develop informative materials around SRH priority areas to educate community members.

Following the delivery in 2017 of the Linear Accelerator (LINAC) for cancer therapy to the Department of Oncology in the Mother Theresa Hospital (MTH) Centre in Tirane, purchased with IAEA support, the installation was completed in

132. Lack of protocols and clinical guidelines creates confusion among health professionals and leaves space for subjective analysis and even resistance to learning and gaining new skills and knowledge.



World Health Day 2018 in Albania - Promoting a healthy lifestyle access to Universal Health Coverage

January with operationalisation in May, 2018. IAEA also supported the hospital by engaging experts who independently verified the commissioning process, to ensure safe and effective treatment. Since then the machine has been treating patients. In parallel, IAEA supported the long-term training, in hospitals in countries that have similar equipment already in operation, of seven MTH staff (physicians, medical physicists and radiation therapists) to carry out the treatment. Additional radiotherapy and nuclear-medicine-related equipment for the hospital will be purchased, currently being processed, including the upgrading of a currently non-functioning high dose rate brachytherapy machine (the only one in the country) with a new radioactive source. IAEA will provide continuous support to MTH and the nuclear medicine department at the Shefqet Ndroqi University Hospital in Tirane with bi-week-

ly delivery of radioisotopes and cold kits for nuclear medicine. In addition, UNFPA prepared the standards and algorithms for the national cervical cancer-screening programme, based on a primary screening test for the high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV). The implementation of this programme at a national scale, at the focus of UNFPA work in 2019, will require the following: (i) identification of a few joint actions by all stakeholders in informing and training primary health-care providers to implement a cervical cancer screening programme based on the HPV test, (ii) development and implementation of a communication strategy for women who will be invited to this national programme (target age group 40–49 years), (iii) effective referral system for positive cases (i.e. colposcopy service), (iv) integration of this programme into the check-up programme, and (v) reporting.

Output 2.2 Education

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

Contributing UN Agencies
UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, IOM

Contributing Partners
UNICEF Global Thematic Funds

Albania's expenditure on education as a share of GDP remains low, at 3.4 percent (11% of public expenditures) compared with the EU average of five percent. Over time, the country's legal and policy framework and practices have become more and more aligned with EU standards, with the intention of improving quality, increasing school autonomy, improving the quality of students entering the country's education faculties, and incrementally increasing the children's entitlements: e.g. free text books for all in grade 1–4 and for Roma at all stages of pre-university education. Albania has also enhanced the coverage and quality of early childhood education and care. Advancing education inclusiveness is one of the main goals of the country's education sector strategy, and access to pre-primary education has substantially increased, from 58 percent in 2007 to 83 percent in 2017. Albanian children outperform their peers in many countries of the region (see PISA 2015 results¹³³), and in addition to their academic achievements, PISA comparative analysis highlights that their sense of community belonging, well-being and resilience ranks highly and comparable with OECD countries. The World Bank's 2018 Human Capital Index reports that children in Albania are expected to complete thirteen years of pre-primary, primary and secondary school by age 18.

However, when years of schooling are adjusted for quality of learning, this figure is equivalent to only 8.9 years, a learning gap of 4.1 years, with enhanced inequalities in learning outcomes for rural children and boys. Differences in learning outcomes and access to education apply also to Roma children, though improvements are reported by MoESY for the academic year 2017–2018.

To address the various challenges in the sector, UN agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, IOM)¹³⁴ in Albania continue to support MoESY to bridge the gaps and contribute to reducing disparities in education for ensuring a more inclusive, equitable and quality education system. These collective efforts will feed into the evaluation of the current Pre-University Education Development Strategy and enable a closer alignment of the subsequent sector strategy with SDG 4: Education 2030.

The education sector policy framework and institutional mechanisms for inclusive education have advanced, supported by UNICEF, with the development of a roadmap in line with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' general comment on inclusive education. UNICEF has also played a role in convening local

133. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/581881485943732892/pdf/112352-BRI-PISAAlbania-PUBLIC.pdf>

134. UN efforts to support education reform have been guided by SDG 4—Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, and the Pre-University Education Development Strategy 2014–2020, with focus on combining a series of roles such as technical assistance, data and evidence for improving policy making, as well as hands on experience in improvement of school practices.



▶ Every child in school campaign spot

and central governmental officials and raising their awareness of the importance of the issue of out-of-school children and strengthening their capacities to overcome this problem. An MoU signed by MoESY, the Ministry of Interior, and MoHSP in November 2018, assigns duties and responsibilities for each actor at the local and the central level with regard to the issue of out-of-school children with the aim of identifying and enrolling all children of compulsory school age. Furthermore, a new instruction on how schools should be reporting on dropping out, developed with UNICEF assistance, was circulated to all schools at the start of the academic new year. In 2018, 2,000 service providers from health, education, police, social services, and CPUs, among others, were reached with awareness-raising messages on implementation of the mechanism for out-of-school chil-

dren. In parallel, the increasing demand from communities and parents on participation in education was addressed through conducting an awareness campaign on the procedures for enrolling children in school, providing information to 15,000 parents and working directly with those in vulnerable groups (760 parents).

Furthermore, a Communication for Development (C4D) #myschoolyourschool campaign against discriminatory social norms towards Roma and Egyptian children in Berat, Durrës, Korce and Shkoder was implemented by UNICEF in collaboration with MoESY, regional departments of education and CSOs working for Roma inclusion. The campaign contributed to an eleven percent improvement (from 36% to 46%) in the awareness among Roma parents of their responsibility for enrolling children in

school and 21 percent improvement in non-Roma parents who approve that their children develop a friendship with Roma children (from 15% to 36%). The initiative reached 4,000 children, 8,000 parents, 400 teachers and 4,000 community members in the four target counties.

UNICEF's technical expertise on pre-school education has led to the development and approval by MoESY of a series of regulatory documents, including a Curricula Programme for children of age 4–5 years, Pre-school Teacher Standards and a Framework for Pre-school Assessment (developed, pending approval). The approved documents are already part of the national pre-school system quality framework and, as such, have a national reach and contribute directly towards improved national pre-school quality. Furthermore, UNICEF also supported MoESY in conducting a review of the competency-based curricula for grades 1–9, aiming at addressing challenges and drawbacks of the current curricula and their implementation. Also, in partnership with OECD, UNICEF and the Government of Albania initiated an assessment and evaluation of the education system in 2018. Together with the review of the current sector strategy, the knowledge generated will better inform and support the development of the new sector strategy 2020–2025.

The education sector's evidence base was further enriched through several UNESCO-prepared studies and analysis including (i) a *Situation Analysis of Education in Albania*, feeding into Albania's *Voluntary National Report* presented at a 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, convened in July under the

auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, and Albania's MAPS mission report (conducted during 16–21 April in Tirane); (ii) the report *Mapping the Availability of Data to Monitor Progress toward SDG 4 in South-East Europe*; (iii) Concept Note on Global Citizenship Education (GCED) prepared to contribute to integration of multiple dimensions of GCED in SEE to ensure outcomes for SDG 4.7; and (iv) *Regional (SEE) Situation Analysis of the Nexus between SDG 4 and SDG 5*, including in Albania, addressing specifically gender equality in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Acknowledging that a skilled teaching workforce is essential for safe, inclusive and supportive learning environments, UNICEF developed training programmes, accredited by MoESY, that are now part of the government's professional development programme. With a cohort of 675 teachers trained in 2018, some 25,000 children from four counties of Albania (Berat, Durres, Korce and Tirane) benefited from improved child-centred teaching methodologies on inclusive learning, drop-out prevention and disaster risk reduction. Correspondingly, UNFPA focused on strengthening the Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) curriculum at the national level through further piloting, continuous advocacy and development of teacher standards, as well as working with teacher training universities to improve pre-service curricula for preparing teachers and expanding their training at all levels of pre-university education. As a result, 811 primary school teachers (436 biology teachers, 156 civic education teachers, 429 physical education teachers) were trained in 2018.



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

Contributing UN Agencies

UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, IOM

Contributing Partners

Government of Switzerland, the EU, the UNICEF Global Thematic Fund

Advancing social inclusion and protection remains a necessity for Albania to comply with EU accession requirements, especially *acquis* chapter 23 covering human rights. Like other ECA countries, Albania has in place a relatively well-established social protection system. Yet, current investments in social protection are low and awareness of the role that the social protection system plays in the overall national development is missing. The 2018 EU Progress Report considers Albania as a policy-rich but implementation-poor country.¹³⁵ There is an increased government commitment to review and expand the vision on social protection and establish the policy framework for financing social care service to achieving a visible impact on the extent of coverage for vulnerable populations.

UN support is focused therefore not only on integrated policy advice, but support for Albania's roll-out of reforms. In the framework of UN Albania's joint programme Leave no One Behind,¹³⁶ UN agencies in Albania (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women) continue to actively support the articulation of the national policy and vision for the social sector, as well as the design and implementation of concrete social inclusion measures, especially targeting R&E people and

people with disabilities, working closely with municipalities and relevant line ministries, under the leadership of MoHSP. Government has paid special attention to building capacity and transferring knowledge from the UN agencies to the municipalities and the national institutions involved. Concrete results from joint UN-government efforts are presented below.

The landmark Law on Social Care Services (2016) received continued attention in 2018, with secondary legislation approved to provide guidance to local authorities on planning and delivery of social care services. Further to the support provided for the by-laws, UNICEF also supported the government¹³⁷ in identifying the implementation modalities of resourcing the social fund from the central budget, guided by the UN principles of solidarity and equity. In addition, UNICEF is helping eleven municipalities¹³⁸ to implement the national vision of an integrated system of social care services, through (i) building capacities of local governments for planning and delivering social services by aiding them understand, operationalize and integrate into their governance structures the new legal and policy provision for social protection and social care services, and (ii) providing local

135. 2018 EU Progress Report for Albania, p. 78 <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20180417-albania-report.pdf>

136. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/leave-no-one-behind.html>

137. MoFE and MoHSP.

138. Durrës, Korce, Librazhd, Malesi e Madhe, Maliq, Mallakaster, Sarandë, Shijak, Shkoder, Tirane and Vlore.



Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Albania

governments with models and standards on provision of quality services based on innovative international best practices. As a result of UNICEF's collaboration with local governments, by the end of 2018, seven LGUs had in place costed social care plans, while four LGUs had social care plans approved, budgeted and partially financed locally. Also, more than 200 local officials involved in social protection are knowledgeable of the new legislation on social care services, and about 130 officials are fully skilled and equipped with all the necessary tools to develop a social care plan. In addition, tools and instruments are developed to train municipal staff in using the MIS for social care services, as part of the national social protection MIS; the training will be rolled out in 2019.

In 2018, a critical step was taken with the passage of the Law on Social Housing (2018), with continued support from UNDP for the drafting

of by-laws, expected to be completed, consulted and approved during 2019. UNDP's support to government has also focused on advancing the social and economic inclusion of Roma and Egyptians through (i) ensuring the functionality of the Romalb system; (ii) coaching 200 public officials and Roma focal points to implement and report progress on the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians; (iii) implementing integrated employment measures to break the cycle of poverty for R&E, with 359 individuals employed or starting up their own businesses in 2018 in the municipalities of Berat, Durrës, Shkoder and Tirane; (iv) improving access of R&E to local public services through preparing four R&E Local Action Plans and ensuring adoption by the above-mentioned municipalities; (v) improving the education outcomes of more than 2,400 R&E students in the above-mentioned municipalities through mainstreaming two models for inclusive education



PLAY VIDEO



PLAY VIDEO



PLAY VIDEO

into the public education system; (vi) ensuring government endorsement of the basic literacy and life skills curricula, enabling 181 pupils in 2018 to attend the course in Berat, Durres, Shkoder and Tirane; (vii) enabling 664 R&E to enjoy improved access to services of civil registration, education, health and social care provided through a pilot model of integrated community-based social services in the four municipalities; (viii) improving the living conditions

of more than 1,200 R&E families (approximately 6,000 inhabitants) through community upgrading in Berat, Durres, Shkoder and Tirane of a wide variety of infrastructure projects (e.g. construction of sewage systems, water supply, lighting, reconstruction of kindergarten crèches, as well as other interventions in line with the needs and priorities of communities); and (ix) enabling 20 R&E CSOs to implement individual projects financed by the project grant scheme. In addition, integrated service delivery models for R&E families in the municipalities of Fier, Fushe Kruje and Lezhe were operationalized (300 children benefited from quality education and school integration, 196 families from referral and access to social services, 11 adult R&E employed, and 21 R&E families strengthened economically), capacities of 124 municipal staff were further developed in inclusive service delivery and monitoring, and costed and responsive social care plans were prepared. Furthermore, concrete results have been achieved for enabling an increased demand for adequate social services for vulnerable groups, including 607 people with disabilities who are empowered to claim their rights and entitlements to social services, mainly through UNDP's organised lobbying and advocacy.

As a result of the support of UN Women, the environment for the development of social enterprises as a growth sector has been strengthened and agents for positive change in the lives of women and girls have been defined by their social missions. In this regard, legislation is in place with regard to the financial framework for the efficient operation of social enterprises, with relevant by-laws, as well as the DCM 'On the forms of supporting social enterprises, through subventions'. Also, through organisation of the awareness campaign NIS—Work and Hope,¹³⁹ three municipalities (Korce, Shkoder and Tirane) have been informed on social re-integration, social inclusion and gender equality through promotion of social enter-

139. <https://un.org.al/news/advancing-social-entrepreneurship-and-green-economy-albania>



Social Entrepreneurship and Green Economy Conference

prises. These municipalities, as well as Fier and Permet, were also supported during the budget preparation process to raise awareness and ensure that municipal plans and budgets respond to gender equality and women's empowerment issues. Some 60 trainings and awareness meetings were conducted in these municipalities, reaching 500 women who were also engaged in the municipal participatory budgeting processes facilitated by UN Women. Being continuously engaged with the municipalities, UN Women has noticed that women and young girls now have a better understanding of Gender-Responsive Budgeting and are able to define lists of selected gender-responsive priorities for voicing their needs in the participatory planning and budgeting processes.

Throughout 2018, UNFPA focused on strengthening the capacities of coalitions (CSO and youth

advocacy platforms) at the municipal level around SRH, including ASRH. In this regard, the Youth Voice CSO platform was introduced into six other municipalities (Diber, Durres, Fier, Korce, Lezhe and Permet), fitting in with the pilot expansion criteria of (i) good model municipalities that have programmes and activities dedicated to young people, and (ii) willingness of the municipalities to take real actions, investments and raise the voice for issues that concern youth. Moreover, 600 young people (100 from each of these municipalities, selected by location and gender to include the most vulnerable groups in the sample) were surveyed to measure the perceptions and knowledge among young people of the SDGs, SRH and the services offered for young people by these municipalities. Completed questionnaires, the respective databases and a report on the survey fed into the preparation of six

Factsheets¹⁴⁰ (one for each of these municipalities), describing some of the most interesting findings. These Factsheets have been shared with the respective municipalities and published online to serve as a baseline instrument to guide municipal actions and policies in addressing youth issues.

MoUs have been signed between Youth Voice and the six municipalities to assist the respective municipalities plan and budget locally for youth issues, including for adolescent SRH, education, gender, social protection and inclusion at the local level. Other finalised documents include *Budgeting for young people—Fier, Durres, Permet, Korce Municipality*,¹⁴¹ which gives concrete suggestions on the initiatives and programmes that need to be led by the municipality in accordance with the Local Governance Law, National Action Plan for Young People, and the Local Action Plan for Gender Equality of the municipality, and *Young people services model document—Shkodra Municipality*,¹⁴² a good example of how services and activities for young people are integrated at the municipal level.

In addition, UNFPA supported key stakeholders, such as IPH, with the National HIV Programme, the Directorates of Public Health, and CSOs, with inclusive programmes to prevent HIV and AIDS and to reach out to vulnerable groups, including drug users, men having sex with men, and commercial sex workers. As a result, 573 drug users have been informed, tested for HIV/Hep B and received pre- and post-counselling sessions, 660 young people from key populations have received counselling and other services provided in the

Aksion + and STOP AIDS centres, and 25 young people from key populations have been trained as Peer Educators. Equally importantly, a community-based model for integrated SRH services is now established in ten districts (Berat, Devoll, Erseke, Gramsh, Korce, Kucove, Librazhd, Pogradec, Skrapar and Shkoder), with 68 Health Education Teams active in Berat, Elbasan, Korce and Shkoder, and 155 activities or awareness sessions organised on ASRH issues, mainly with vulnerable and marginalised women and young people, reaching 3,082 people (of whom 1,933 are female and 1,149 male). Furthermore, UNFPA supported MoESY to initiate public consultations in the country's twelve counties on the drafting of a Youth Law, expected to be finalised in 2019.

Ensuring that the recently developed policies and legislation are properly implemented and can be capitalised by all vulnerable groups, UNDP and UNICEF are supporting INSTAT with the collection and processes of the EU-aligned Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) data for the first time, including the Eurostat child-deprivation module in the SILC national survey for 2018. This is the first time that government has collected specific data on child non-monetary poverty, and creates the grounds to advocate for regular reporting on child poverty and deprivation. Moreover, in 2018, INSTAT was supported by UNFPA to consult with interest groups and other relevant stakeholders over the methodology of the Population and Housing Census 2020, especially for data collection and analysis of those on disabilities and minorities, including R&E, and gender bias.

140. <http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Fact-Sheet-Bashkia-Fier.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Fact-Sheet-Bashkia-Durr%C3%ABs.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Fact-Sheet-Bashkia-P%C3%ABrmet.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Fact-Sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-Bashkise-se-Korces.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Fact-Sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-Bashkise-se-Dibres.pdf>
<http://jotabu.al/fact-sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-bashkise-se-dibres/>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Fact-Sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-Bashkise-se-Lezhes.pdf>
<http://jotabu.al/fact-sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-bashkise-se-lezhes/>

141. <http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Analiza-e-buxhetimit-per-rinine-ne-Bashkine-Fier.pdf>
http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Buxhetimi-per-rinine-Durres_12Dhjetor2018.doc.pdf
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Analiza-e-buxhetimit-per-rinine-ne-Bashkine-e-Permetit-Dhjetor-2018.pdf>

142. <http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Analiza-e-Buxhetimit-p%C3%ABr-rinin%C3%AB-nga-Bashkia-e-Shkodr%C3%ABs.pdf>



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

Contributing UN Agencies
UNICEF, WHO, IOM

Contributing Partners
EU, Ending Violence against Children (EVAC) Fund

Children in Albania face a range of types of violence, abuse and exploitation at home, at school, and in the community, although some progress has been observed in the last couple of years. For example, ADHS revealed that 37 percent of children (2–14 years of age) have experienced non-violent methods of discipline, compared to 22 percent in 2009, and 48 percent of children have been subject to at least one form of psychological or physical aggression, down from the 75 percent recorded in 2009. Nonetheless, according to INSTAT 2017 data, children constitute 7.0 percent of all crime victims in the country.¹⁴³ In addition, children's safety and well-being online is emerging as a growing concern. Preliminary analysis of the 2018 UNICEF study (to be published in 2019) on children's experiences of the Internet indicated that one in five children have seen violent content online, one in four have interacted with someone they have not met before, and one in six have met someone in person whom they first met on the Internet. Moreover, one in ten children reported at least one unwanted sexual experience over the Internet. This situation is of grave concern, especially in the absence of a comprehensive national child

protection system (CPS), a critical mechanism. The current system struggles to care for around 2,500 children in a street situation,¹⁴⁴ let alone covering other forms of abuse and exploitation, including on the Internet.

The 2018 focus of several UN agencies (UNICEF, WHO, IOM) was on advancing the conducive legal and policy environment, developing capacities of the child protection workforce and generating needed data and knowledge across the range of priority areas of the national child protection programme. Because of these combined efforts, 23 by-laws have been drafted, deriving from the Law on the Rights and Protection of the Child and the Criminal Justice for Children Code, and submitted to relevant ministries.¹⁴⁵ Moreover, WHO supported Albania's first Global Status Report *On Preventing Violence against children*,¹⁴⁶ planned for publication in 2019, and which calls on governments to set targets for ending violence against children and to develop and implement plans for attaining those targets. It also aided the preparation of Albania's 2016 Global Plan of Action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national

143. INSTAT (2018) Crime and Justice Statistics <http://www.instat.gov.al/en/publications/books/2018/crime-and-criminal-and-justice-statistics-2018/>

144. UNICEF and Save the Children, National Study on Children in Street Situation in Albania (2014).

145. MoHSP and Ministry of Justice.

146. The Global status report on violence prevention evaluates the extent to which countries have been implementing the recommendations called for in WHA Resolution 56.24, 'Implementing the recommendations of the World report on violence and health'. WHO supported the preparation process, which consisted of training a National Data Coordinator, identification and orientation of stakeholders in the country, inventory of country's legislative materials and violence prevention action plan, coaching of the completion of the questionnaires by each stakeholder, consensus meeting with responsible institutions, and provision of supporting documentation.



Video on reporting Violence

multi-sectoral response to addressing interpersonal violence, in particular against women and children, endorsed by resolution WHA69.5 in 2016. New SOPs for protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking were developed and approved by a DCM on 29 August 2018, outlining the role of SARPC in identifying cases.

The joint work with Parliament advanced greatly towards addressing the legal barriers that contribute to the phenomenon of statelessness. Amendments to the Law 'On Civil Status' were drafted with UNICEF and UNHCR support and endorsed by the Albanian Parliament on 11 October 2018. This key development further strengthens prompt birth registration and re-

duces the risk of statelessness, which affects almost solely children, especially those born outside of the country, and children of the R&E communities. It is expected that the cases of at least 1,340 unregistered children identified through mapping¹⁴⁷ will find swift solution.

Children with disabilities in Albania need greater attention and response from policy makers. UNICEF's 2018 study *We all matter*¹⁴⁸ includes a comprehensive situation analysis on children with disabilities, revealing the most staggering violations of children's rights and the difficulties they face on a daily basis. The study's preparatory process benefited greatly from collaboration with the European Disability Forum (EDF),

147. Mapping of Statelessness in Albania <https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/statelessness-mapping-study-in-albania-a-new-advocacy-tool-for-the-coalition-and-partners/>

148. <https://www.unicef.org/albania/reports/we-all-matter>



A different childhood - Addressing child neglect and abuse in Albania

allowing not only lessons to be learned from their vast advocacy work, but also to elevate the issue of disability in Albania to the EU level. The process established an invaluable network of Disabled Persons Organisations, NGOs, parents' groups and local champions who work with people with disabilities, including children, that could be used to advance jointly further the work in this area. Furthermore, to address the gap in strategic coordination around developing the child protection system, UNICEF initiated a process that successfully brings together under a child protection coalition five major international organisations.¹⁴⁹ The core objectives and functions of the coalition have been outlined in a letter of cooperation and signed off by all parties. A dedicated technical team of this coalition holds regular meetings, plans and prioritises annual joint actions and provides direct support to SARPC.

The year 2018 was marked by a significant breakthrough with regard to the de-institutionalisation of children removed from public residential care, a process dragging on for many years without tangible steps being taken by the state authorities. Credited to UNICEF advocacy, MoHSP officially endorsed a one-year action plan to kick-start the process of the gradual removal of children from institutions, and their reunification with their biological families or placement in an alternative care system. In line with the action plan, an assessment will be made of all 230 children residing in nine public residential care institutions in Albania, and their individual development plans drafted, expected to be finalised within 2019. In this process, WHO supported the preparation of the report *Situation Analysis on the Prevention of Child Maltreatment in Alba-*

*nia*¹⁵⁰ to better inform effective implementation of the National Action Plan for Child and Family Social Services and strengthen coordination with all key stakeholders.

UNICEF's child protection's work around one of its flagship components—Ending Violence against Children—has witnessed noticeable progress in 2018. Joint work with the National Child Helpline ALO 116 and the Ministry of Interior and Child Protection Workers resulted in a gradual increase of annual reporting of cases of violence against children, with 2,269 cases reported in 2018 compared to 2,123 in 2017. Moreover, UNICEF, in collaboration with the State Cyber Security Agency (AKCESK) and MoESY, developed a peer-to-peer manual¹⁵¹ on online safety, and trained 300 children from public schools across the country as peer educators. The importance of this intervention rests in its sustainability and peer-to-peer driven model. Also, UNICEF organised and hosted a first event of its kind, VIRTUALSummit, in Tirane on 26 November.¹⁵² The meeting gathered more than 250 participants to exchange best international practices on the benefits and risks children may encounter when using the Internet and how government and the private sector (ICT Industry) in Albania have to forge a new partnership for providing solutions to risks faced by children when online. The event received very high political and public recognition and culminated in the announcement of UNICEF's next initiative to create 'child- and family-friendly' free Wi-fi zones in the capital, in cooperation with the Municipality of Tirane.

149. OSCE, Save the Children, World Vision, Terre des hommes, UNICEF and Council of Europe, which started attending the meetings at a later stage.

150. The report aims at presenting the scale of the problem of child maltreatment in Albania including identification of gap areas and feasible prevention programmes with a view to related evidence-based practices.

151. <https://www.unicef.org/albania/reports/peer-educators-online-safety>

152. <https://www.unicef.org/albania/stories/albania-committed-make-safe-internet-every-child>

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

Contributing UN Agencies
UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, IOM, WHO

Contributing Partners
Governments of Australia, South Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, EU

The prevalence of GBV in Albania is high (59.4% in 2013),¹⁵³ though only 15 percent of survivors report seeking help from institutions, with a majority of women seeking protection from their family networks. The costs and consequences of domestic and other forms of violence against women and children are significant and cut across all socio-economic groups and educational strata. Nearly 62 percent of children report having experienced at least one form of psychological violence, and nearly 70 percent report having experienced at least one form of psychological violence during the past year. Many gaps remain with regard to the setting up of protection and prevention measures and provision of services for victims of violence. Yet, the progress achieved in this area, supported mainly by UN in Albania, has contributed to an increased level of awareness of GBV victims on their rights and protecting mechanisms. In this regard, statistics indicate an upward trend, of 4,951 reported cases to police in 2018¹⁵⁴

compared to 3,866 cases in 2015, and an increase in the use of protection orders, to 3,037 cases compared to 2,174 in 2015.

Progress has been achieved with the introduction of new legislation against gender-based violence. In this regard, UNDP supported MoHSP in amending the Law 'On measures against violence in family relations'¹⁵⁵ and in drafting, consulting and finalising the required by-laws¹⁵⁶ in 2018. It also facilitated the necessary dialogue between central and local government bodies on the need to make the necessary legal and policy amendments to institutionalise specialised support services for sexual violence victims through a coordinated multi-sectoral approach.

Responding to the 2017 Council of Europe Group of Experts on action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) baseline report and recommendations for Albania,

153. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/gender-equality/in-depth.html>

154. Source of data is Albanian State Police.

155. The amendments provide for improved legal definitions of domestic violence in line with the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW. Better protection for women and children in situations of immediate danger is ensured. The law also protects, for the first time, women and girls in intimate relationships but without formal ties, such as marriage or cohabitation, to the perpetrator. In addition, the new changes ensure better services not only for survivors of domestic violence but also for the provision of rehabilitation services for the perpetrators. For the first time, the Albanian legislation provides for the establishment of emergency crisis management centres for sexual violence victims in line with the urgent recommendation of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) for provision of specialised services to sexual violence victims. The Law amendments benefited from the input of the Monitoring Network against Gender-Based Violence, a coalition of 15 CSOs, established with support of UN Women.

156. Such as the standards of services for crisis management centres for sexual violence victims; procedures and the model of the order for the preliminary measures of immediate protection for DV victims; and procedures and the model of risk assessment for DV cases. Furthermore, MoHSP in close cooperation with CCR mechanisms and supported by UNDP prepared a regulatory framework that defines standards of services to be provided by the emergency municipal facilities for GB-DV victims, ensuring adequate monitoring and evaluation for CCR-provided specialised services to GB-DV survivors. All these by-laws were subject to wider consultation with relevant state and non-state stakeholders during 2018.



A group of students performing during Europe Day 2018 to raise awareness on gender-based violence

an Action Plan on implementation of the most urgent recommendations was developed with UN Women support and approved by the National Council on Gender Equality. Moreover, MoHSP developed a model of centres for management of emergency cases of victims of sexual violence, through UNDP and UN Women support. This resulted, in 2018, in the establishment of the first pilot centre, Liliu,¹⁵⁷ in a hospital setting, in Tirane,¹⁵⁸ offering 24/7 emergency socio-medical support to all victims of sexual violence, irrespective of age, gender or sexual orientation. With UNDP support, MoHSP approved standards of services to be provided at the crisis management centres for sexual violence

victims. MoHSP is the custodian of the centre and has made available one dedicated full-time manager and five nurses on call.

New SOPs¹⁵⁹ for protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking, developed with IOM support, are approved to protect them from all types of domestic or international exploitation and provide for specialised sectoral and cross-cutting, multi-disciplinary interventions to ensure their reintegration. Also, in the framework of a partnership between the University of Bedfordshire and IOM, a research study¹⁶⁰ was conducted in Albania, Nigeria and Vietnam, aiming to improve understanding of the causes,

157. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/presscenter/articles/2018/albania-sets-up-the-first-center-to-support-victims-of-sexual-vi.html>

158. Launched on 6 December by MoHSP in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice.

159. DCM, 29 August 2018.

160. Final report will be available at: <https://www.beds.ac.uk/trafficking/albania> end of March 2019.

determinants and vulnerability to human trafficking, and the support needs identified for people from these countries who have experienced trafficking into the UK.

Year 2018 marked progress, supported by UNDP, with further consolidation of the multi-sectoral response (Community Coordinated Response, CCR) to violence against women at the local level,¹⁶¹ adoption and dissemination of SOPs for such response, and improvement of the national online tracking system—REVALB—for DV cases, adapted to the new territorial division, as well as issuance of updated guidelines of tasks for DV local coordinators to the CCRs. As a result, by the end of 2018 39 CCRs were active across 61 municipalities (64% country coverage), with 668 GB-DV cases recorded in REVALB¹⁶² compared to 545 in 2015. As the CCRs operate to varying degrees of effectiveness, UNDP provided capacity development to 55 local GB-DV coordinators for a) learning from best practices of experienced CCRs, b) effectively tracking cases through the REVALB system, and c) effective financial management for supporting social programmes at the municipal level. UN Women also supported the capacity development of CCR members¹⁶³ (334 providers of service) in the municipalities of Kamez and Lezhe to implement their obligations under the DV law, and developed six guides informing communities and service providers in these municipalities of the various forms of violence and available service provision. Positive changes were noticed in 2018 in Kamez and Lezhe because of these initiatives, as follows: i) a 50 percent increase in the number of cases of violence reported to Kamez police in 2018Q4,

compared to the number in 2018Q1, ii) Tirane District Court, which has jurisdiction over Kamez Municipality, granted protection orders for 60 percent of reported cases in 2018Q2, compared to 29 percent in 2018Q1, and iii) for the first time, the health care centres in Kamez issued five medical reports for cases of domestic violence, used by respective petitioners as evidence of being granted protection orders by the Court. The local mechanisms for referral and treatment of domestic violence cases have been reactivated in both municipalities, and are holding regular meetings. UN Women also supported the capacity development of 60 middle-ranking police officers in Tirane on the treatment of harassment and sexual harassment cases in police forces.

UN Women interventions¹⁶⁴ to address GBV resulted in the capacity development of more than 200 professionals¹⁶⁵ in Bilisht, Korce, Malesi e Madhe, Maliq, Pogradec, Shkoder and Tirane, aiming at a more effective and unified institutional response regarding women's property rights, especially for cases of domestic violence. In addition, 49 citizens (45 women and 4 men) benefited from the FLA service, with improved access to courts and administration institutions to resolve property issues in cases of domestic violence.

UNICEF and UNFPA supported the finalisation and launching of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions (KAP) qualitative study on child marriage in Albania, enabling an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon among both Roma and non-Roma communities, revealing the deeply rooted so-

161. In 2018, four new CCR mechanisms were established in the municipalities of Himare, Klos, Mallakaster and Tepelene, and existing CCRs were strengthened in 15 municipalities: Bulqize, Burrel, Diber, Durrës, Erseke, Fier, Gjirokaster, Kavaje, Kruje, Patos, Permet, Prrenjas, Roskovec, Sarandë and Tirane.

162. Data cover the period 1 January–11 December 2018.

163. From the police, municipal units, health, and education sectors.

164. Related to increasing women's access to property rights, information, awareness raising and legal education, and provision of free legal aid, as well as tailored training for notaries and other professionals.

165. From the notary service, Immoveable Property Registration Office, Agency for the Legalisation, Urbanisation and Integration of Informal Areas and Buildings, lawyers and municipalities)



The first service center for victims of sexual violence in Albania that was launched during the 16 days of activism

cial norms and harmful traditional practices. This study complements the quantitative data that emerged from the ADHS indicating that, in less than a decade, child marriage grew from nine percent to eleven percent among girls and from one percent to two percent among boys. Most importantly, it has raised the attention of high-level policymakers at the national level concerned with the health and education of adolescent girls and removing barriers to their public participation.

Other studies conducted in 2018 include the report 'Violence against women and girls from disadvantaged communities—An overview of the phenomenon of violence against women and girls

from Roma, LGBT and disabled communities', and the study 'On safety of women and girls in public spaces in the municipalities of Tirane, Durres and Fier',¹⁶⁶ conducted by UN Women, bringing particular issues for women into the spotlight.

An empowered civil society is necessary to advocate for and monitor policy change. CSOs supported by UN Women are playing an increasingly important role in bringing to the attention of authorities at both national and local levels the need for improvements and effective implementation of the legislation in accordance with the Istanbul Convention, as well as failures to fulfil the obligations. The monitoring network of GBV

166. The overall findings of this study indicate that women and girls in public spaces of all selected areas in these three municipalities in Albania face numerous forms of, especially verbal, harassment, such as, but not limited to, "whistled after them (or honk from a car) or called their names, unwanted sexual comments or comments on their appearance" or "watching or staring at them." Other operational definitions of sexual violence used in the study included: "address them with nationally, ethnically, racially or religiously offensive comments", "follow them", "deliberately block their path", "attack them physically (pushing, slapping)", "attack them sexually" or "threaten to harm them" are also happening, though not as often according to the majority of respondents.

has become the leading monitoring and advocacy platform that conveys in a coordinated and coherent way the voice of civil society against the phenomenon in Albania. Three public statements were issued by the network in 2018 addressed to high-level authorities and the public at large on the urgent measures needed to address various forms of sexual and domestic violence,¹⁶⁷ resulting in the deputy speaker of the Albanian Parliament requesting the Ministry of Justice consider legal initiatives for bringing the relevant Albanian legislation into conformity with the Istanbul Convention. Furthermore, credited to the network's monitoring and advocacy work, the Director of the Service of Internal Affairs and Complaints at the Ministry of Interior adopted a six-month inspection plan to monitor the procedures of police officers when dealing with cases of domestic violence. The other work of CSOs includes the development of a shadow report for the third UPR cycle focused on the issues of gender equality and ending violence against women. GADS and AWEN developed a monitoring methodology for the National Strategy on Gender Equality at the local level in six municipalities (Durrës, Elbasan, Korce, Shkoder, Tirane and Vlore) and finalised monitoring reports for 2017 for each municipality with key findings and recommendations¹⁶⁸ to be used as advocacy tools by CSOs to increase government accountability at both central and local levels in relation to their obligations on promoting those issues.

Awareness-raising campaigns have taken place all over the country to challenge gender stereotypes that perpetuate violence and inform women about available services, reaching more than 100,000 people, either in person or through the

social media. UN Women supported data collection from 1,260 interviewees in Durrës, Elbasan, Kamez, Korce, Shkoder, Tirane and Vlore, and conducted 18 in-depth interviews with key institutions on awareness-raising initiatives that have taken place over the last five years to challenge gender stereotypes and traditional gender-discriminatory norms and beliefs that justify violence against women. The report provides information on current and dominant public attitudes, perceptions, opinions and beliefs regarding these issues in Albania, and will serve as a basis for implementation of a GenderLab activity expected to be initiated in 2019. UNDP contributed to the conducting by several LGUs of local campaigns to increase citizens knowledge on ending violence against women, involving all relevant central and local actors and media. Four success stories¹⁶⁹ were produced with UNDP support, through short films show-casing central and local institutions and actors acting together, coordinating and responding to violence against women (VAW), and supporting victims to survive violence. The ORANGE YOUR WORLD #HearMeToo UN Secretary General's campaign, supported by UN Agencies in Albania in close partnership with MoHSP, enabled several municipalities (Berat, Durrës, Korce, Roskovec and Tirane) to shine a light on orange local landmarks and mobilise boys and girls, and men and women, to convey messages of gender equality, elimination of GBV and harmful practices such as child marriage. All the awareness-raising activities targeted vulnerable groups who face multiple forms of violence, discrimination and stereotypes and provided clear messages to encourage them, their family members and community members to report violence and seek institutional help, giving them an opportunity to rehabilitate and reintegrate.

167. <https://rrjetikunderdhunesgjimore-monitorime.al/2018/01/25/statement/>; <https://rrjetikunderdhunesgjimore-monitorime.al/2018/05/14/333/#more-333>

168. The reports pointed out several challenges affecting local referral mechanisms in charge of dealing with domestic violence, including lack of regular meetings of the members, lack of proper enforcement by bailiffs of emergency barring orders and protection orders, inadequate responses from the courts' system and an insufficient implication of health-care professionals, including forensic experts. Furthermore, these mechanisms deal primarily with cases of domestic violence, as there is no legal framework for their involvement and management of cases of women and girls experiencing other forms of violence.

169. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFIGU6Gvso4>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBqvOO-mfL8>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeXNbcu2-ws>; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_ygaMirv3Q



Municipality of Durrës lighted in orange at the launch of the 16 days campaign against gender-based violence

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Challenges **Output 2.1 Health**

There are several challenges to building a comprehensive health system that delivers equitable, efficient, accessible and affordable services for all, including: i) a lack of implementation tools for all policies and concrete models for effective inter-sectoral collaboration, ii) a need for supervision and follow-up on capacity development interventions to adapt to institutional change and ensure sustainability, and iii) weak government capacities to deal with financial management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and strategies, as well as adequate budget allocations for the marginalised. Financing of health care should be significantly increased (at least doubled) if it is to come in line with EU practice, and requires a serious plan to forecast the scaling up of investment.

Output 2.2 Education

Translating policies and legislative reforms into improved classroom practices remains a challenge in the education sector. UN agencies have been engaged in working at the policy level, and also at the classroom level, in improving inclusive practices in schools. One main barrier for further implementation of the sector reform is a mismatch between policy priorities and a corresponding (sufficient) allocation of public investment. UN agencies have continuously undertaken studies and advocated for the need for increased allocations in education as a human right but also as an investment for the country. Yet, because of diminished resources (UN agencies individual funds and those mobilised from local and global partners), implementation and scaling up of interventions supported by the agencies also remains a challenge. UN agencies are planning and coordinating closely with MoESY to ensure that strategic and evaluated initiatives are part of the objectives of the current and subsequent sector strategy and financial planning of the ministry. Other important challenges include a weak data collection system, as the Education Management Information System (EMIS) is still not active, having implications for monitoring of the situation and gaps in access to and quality of education. UN agencies have both supported MoESY efforts to improve the system and conducted studies and assessments to enrich the sector's data and evidence.

Output 2.3 Social Inclusion and Protection

A major challenge faced at the policy level is the lack of institutional mechanisms to monitor and implement social inclusion. The mechanism dedicated to the monitoring and implementation of SIPD (2016–2020) is not yet operational. The process of processing, consulting and presenting SILC 2016 data was postponed by INSTAT until spring 2019, and possibly even later, impacting the pace of implementation of the UN Albania Leave No One Behind programme.¹⁷⁰ At the local level, munic-

170. SILC is an important mechanism for guiding the programme implementation and coordinating efforts with the government for targeting joint interventions. It is also instrumental in measuring the indicators of socio-economic development and, as such, is crucial for the functioning of SIIG and for measuring the impact of the combined government and UN interventions.

Challenges

ipalities lack the leadership and capacities to build the structures and systems necessary to enable delivery of integrated social services as foreseen by the Law on Social Services. In addition, the lack of professional staff (the social worker is a key figure in the system of social care services), weak Needs Assessment and Referral Units (NARU) structures for case management, lack of adequate funding from municipal budgets, from central government and other sources, and of knowledge of the social inclusion legislation and the policy framework in other related areas (education, employment, vocational education and training (VET), health, housing) render difficult the implementation of social care plans designed by municipalities with UN support.

Output 2.4 Child Protection

The further expanded requirements from the child protection system and its workforce, envisaged in the recently updated relevant legal framework,¹⁷¹ require well-defined accountabilities at the central and the local level, clarity of roles across sectors and alignment of the key reform processes in health, education, social protection, and justice, among others. To address these challenges, closer and regular coordination efforts (as described in the progress narrative of this output) have been introduced with all key stakeholders of the child protection sector. Moreover, direct institutional, instead of project-based, support has been prioritised as a modality of work plan implementation.

Output 2.5 Gender-Based Violence

Whereas substantial UN support has been provided towards improving the legal framework, there remains a pressing need for the country's legislation to ensure protection measures for women victims of all forms of violence, in accordance with the Istanbul Convention. Scaling up and consolidating CCR mechanisms for GBV victims is imperative for government and all LGUs, as these need to allocate funds for this intervention, and for national government to prioritise the scaling up of the referral mechanisms. Gaps in coordination between various service providers impact the management of GBV cases, with continuous capacity building support needed for service providers across sectors. The level of awareness at the community level regarding all forms of violence remains low and patriarchal norms, particularly in rural areas, are very common. Therefore, increasing awareness of GBV remains a priority for the UN. There is a need for consistency and recurrence in awareness raising activities, and service providers from all sectors need to be consistently informed about developments in the legislation and their relevant obligations, including the legal responsibilities they will face in the case of non-compliance.

171. Two key legislations, on Child Rights and Protection, and the Criminal Justice for Children Code, were adopted in 2017.

The Way Ahead

Output 2.1 Health

Priority interventions of UN agencies (FAO, IAEA, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO) in 2019 include: (i) capacity strengthening of health professionals to better generate, collect and process health data, including analysis of ADHS, and to better use M&E frameworks; (ii) revitalisation of the process of 'baby friendly' hospitals and school nutrition; (iii) advocacy for health system strengthening for health financing, equitable access to health services, the role of PHC and MCH care, and enforcement mechanisms and compliance to use health-care protocols at all levels; (iv) strengthening of emergency preparedness and response and capacity development required under the International Health Regulation of 2005, including development of a National Health Security Action Plan, and training of health-care professionals in migrant care and delivery of SRH services in a humanitarian crisis or emergency; (v) scaling up and ensuring sustainability of the national response to HIV/AIDS and TB, in the framework of the Global Fund programme in Albania; (vi) development of a Child and Adolescent Health Strategy and provision of support to screening and prevention of mental health disorders in the school setting; and (vii) improvement of the prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer with the goal of a better overall survival and quality of life, with continued human resource capacity building, and upgrading and improving utilisation of existing medical equipment

Output 2.2 Education

UNICEF's interventions will aim at strengthening inclusive education practices in schools, guided by the vision of a transformed education system that responds to the diversity of learners (including children with disabilities, both boys and girls) by enhancing the quality of education. This approach will be embedded into a framework for inclusive education to be embraced by Albania in line with General Comment No. 4, Article 24, on inclusive Education, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNICEF will also support (i) improvement of systems at national and local levels for identification and integration of out-of-school children and reduction of dropping out by boys and girls in four counties in Albania (the initiative School as Community Centre), (ii) implementation of a teacher-driven scheme for professional development in pre-school and development of a tool for monitoring and assessing pre-school education, (iii) investing in teacher training and communication for behaviour change for a non-violent school (Zero Violence initiative), and (iv) a national assessment of the evaluation and assessment system of the country. UNICEF will also engage in adolescents and second decade learning through promotion of intercultural dialogue and peace-building jointly with UNDP and UNFPA, as well as piloting the use of technology and innovation to improve learning outcomes and expand access to learning.

UNESCO will collaborate with UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women to provide policy advice on design-

Way Ahead

ing a new Education Sector Strategy 2020–2025. Albania will be a part of UNESCO’s sub-regional activities for SDG 4 with regard to comparative research studies and capacity development. UNFPA will support completion of teacher standards on CSE, expanding the curriculum into five districts with awareness for out-of-school youth, advocating for CSE to be included in the curriculum of VET schools and teacher training faculties, as well as strengthening the monitoring and information system in accordance with the latest (2017) UNFPA policy brief.

Output 2.3 Social Inclusion and Protection

UNDP will continue to assist MoHSP in strengthening its monitoring of SIPD 2016–2020 implementation and cooperation with other responsible government agencies through (i) establishing an inter-ministerial mechanism with clear impact monitoring and social inclusion data reporting roles, (ii) enabling LGUs to provide specific social inclusion measures and social care services that benefit the most vulnerable people, particularly those with disabilities, and R&E, (iii) capacitating local organisations of people with disabilities and R&E to better demand the services to which they are entitled.

UNICEF will focus on ensuring (i) establishment of proper mechanisms for coordination between cash assistance and social care services, for poor and vulnerable families to receive social protection entitlements, (ii) availability of tools to plan, budget, monitor and enforce social protection service delivery through development of secondary legislation for the Law on Social Care Services and development of proper standards and protocols for community care services, (iii) development and implementation of innovative approaches to capacity building for local authorities to be equipped with the necessary tools and skills, and (iv) strengthening of the national social protection management information system (MIS) to regularly collect disaggregated data on children and families, particularly those in vulnerable situations, including data on access to social care services for the first time.

UN Women will focus on creating an enabling environment for development of social enterprises aiming at the social and economic reintegration of vulnerable categories, including women and girls, through (i) information and knowledge sharing on social enterprises in six new municipalities, (ii) conducting of social impact assessments in selected municipalities to influence the design and implementation of gender sensitive services and investments, (iii) engagement of six municipalities in participatory practices for GRB, and (iv) the promotion of good governance through improved participatory planning and budgeting among municipal authorities, CSOs and citizens.

UNFPA will continue to provide support to (i) strengthening the capacities of CSOs and youth coalitions and advocacy platforms on SRH and ASRH at the municipal level, (ii) developing the capacities of selected LGUs to operationalize their functions related to SRH, education, gender and social pro-



The Way Ahead

tection and inclusion, and to monitor them, (iii) building programmatic and operational capacities of NGOs working with the most vulnerable and young key populations to be stronger advocates for investments to achieve International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)-based SDGs (with focus on SRH and reproductive rights), (iv) increasing the demand of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups for quality integrated SRH services through information and engagement in health education and promotion activities, and (v) improving the capacities of government institutions and INSTAT to collect and disseminate data on the most vulnerable groups of the population.

Output 2.4 Child Protection

UNICEF's support to government and SARPC will focus on strengthening a revised architecture for the national child protection system, with well-defined accountabilities at central and local levels, ensuring clarity of roles across all sectors and alignment with reforms in the sectors of health, education, social protection and justice. Decentralised elements of the system will be sustained and expanded, optimising the experience of community-based child protection units and workers and ensuring that municipalities are equipped to deliver on their child protection responsibilities. The child's right to a caring and supportive family environment will be addressed along with facilitation of the reunification of children living in residential state institutions with their biological families, as well as increased access to alternative, family-based, care services. Separate attention will be given to the protection of children from online sexual exploitation, abuse and violence, as this is a new and rapidly emerging threat. Overall capacity strengthening of the child protection work force will remain at the centre of UNICEF's 2019 programmatic interventions. Strengthening administrative data gathering and its management through establishment of a dedicated MIS for child protection is yet another priority, along with addressing children's online safety in Albania. WHO will contribute to the preparation of evidence-based policy briefs and to the policy dialogue on child maltreatment in the country, while ILO will provide technical support to MoHSP in the framework of the global partnership Alliance 8.7 intending to eliminate child labour by 2025.

Way Ahead

Output 2.5 Gender-Based Violence

UN agencies (IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women) will aim to contribute to the overall goal of eliminating violence against women, girls and children through supporting the adoption, reform and implementation of laws, by-laws, policies and strategies to respond to and prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) and children, including victims of trafficking. Specific output level results will be: (1) a strengthened normative and accountability framework related to VAWG, including harmful practices, (2) improved institutional practices, services and coordination for survivors of VAWG, and (3) challenged norms pertaining to VAWG, including child marriage, at the state, community and individual levels with a keen focus on the most vulnerable women and girls. All major interventions will be guided by existing evidence, along with relevant knowledge generation exercises, and contribute to implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and its Action Plan (2016–2020), as well as all other relevant strategies targeting vulnerable women and girls.



OUTCOME 3

Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture

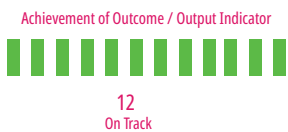
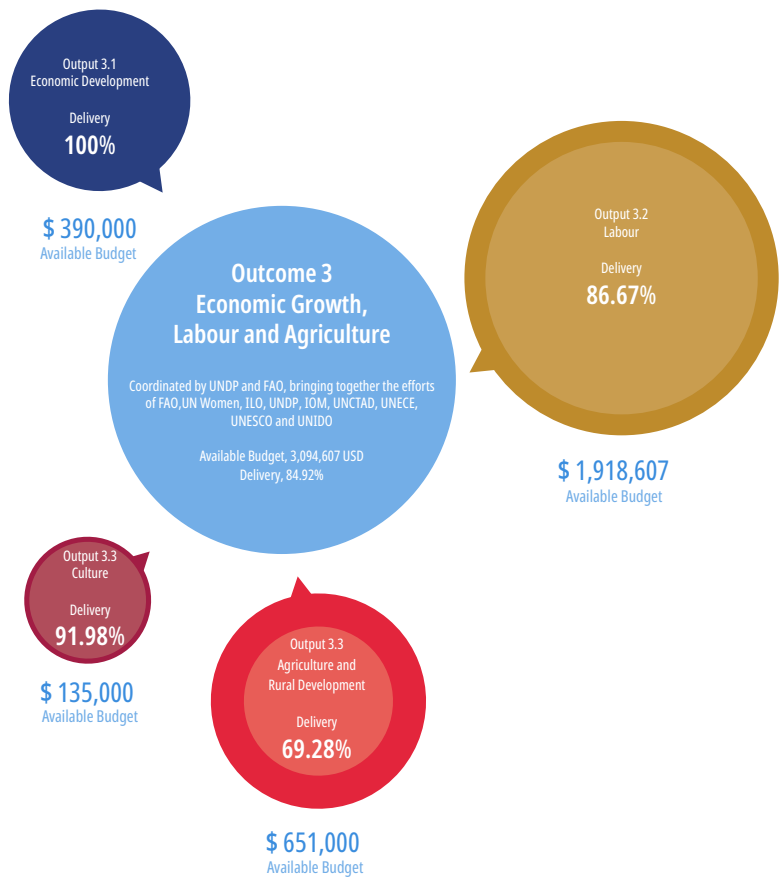
Economic growth priorities, policies, and programmes of the Government of Albania are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development.



National Strategy for Development and Integration 1 2 3 4

SDGs 1 2 5 8 9 11 12

EU integration chapters 8 11 13 18 19 20 26



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, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12, and EU integration chapters and priority areas 8, 11, 13, 18, 19, 20 and 26.

In 2018, the total available budget for implementation of Outcome 3 was USD 3 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the EU and the EBRD. **The outcome delivery was 85 percent.**

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

Contributing UN Agencies
UNCTAD, UNECE

Contributing Partners
Governments of Sweden, Switzerland, the EU

Albania's economy could benefit from competition and consumer protection given their direct and important role in promoting economic growth and reducing poverty. Empowered consumers, who know and enforce their rights, are subject to fewer abuses. Over the years, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recommendations on competition policies have contributed to improving the overall welfare of consumers and to creating a level playing field for businesses, which must apply a common set of standards, supporting competition. Competition creates possibilities for small- and medium-sized enterprises, removes barriers that protect entrenched elites and reduces opportunities for corruption. During the year 2018, the capacities of the senior staff of the Albanian Competition Authority (ACA) increased, through UNCTAD support, mainly towards promoting regional and international cooperation and exchange of experiences, especially among the countries of the Balkans. Within the framework of the Sofia Competition Forum,¹⁷² established in 2012 by UNCTAD and the Bulgarian competition authority as a platform for cooperation among Balkan competition authorities, the ACA staff participated in the European Competi-

tion Day (Sofia, Bulgaria) held on 31 May 2018.¹⁷³ In addition, support was provided for the head of ACA to attend various events organised within the framework of the Inter-governmental Group of Experts (IGE) in Geneva, from 11 to 13 July 2018.¹⁷⁴

The development and modernisation of Albania's transport infrastructure, one of the top priorities of the government, aims to i) create the preconditions for the development of other sectors of the economy, ii) increase the accessibility of freight and passengers for trade and service delivery, and iii) significantly contribute to overall economic growth and development of the economy. Yet, erratic urbanisation, increased motorisation and a low-level culture of road safety have all contributed to a large number of road accidents (2,778 in 2016).¹⁷⁵ A road safety management system is vital to bringing about improvements in road safety. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has been working on the road safety issue being addressed by the country through the project 'Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition' (2014–2018). Following the project's completion in 2018, UNECE published a Road Safety Perform-

172. <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/CompetitionLaw/ccpb-PubsPage08.aspx>

173. <https://eu2018bg.bg/en/events/629s>

174. <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1675>

175. The Road Safety Performance Review of Albania, UNECE, pg. 15–17 <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49598>

mance Review of Albania,¹⁷⁶ including an analysis of the legal and administrative framework. Although the review noted the country's considerable progress towards harmonising its road safety legislation with the EU *acquis* and internationally recognised good practices, it emphasised the importance of efficient implementation of key UN road-safety related legal instruments as an effective means for improving road safety management at the national level. The main conclusions of the review include there is (i) lack of efficient transport infrastructure and integrated plans for urban development and traffic management in bigger cities to keep up with the pace of the population growth and the increase in the number of private cars, (ii) lack of streets with adequate capacity for traffic, hindering the operation of public transport and accessibility to many areas of the city and sometimes a potential cause of road accidents, (iii) occupation of roadsides, one of the major causes of traffic jams with a reduced level of service and slowing traffic flows, and (iv) a majority of new constructions in Albania over the past two decades having been built without car parking facilities, resulting in cars being parked on the streets, creating traffic congestion.

Pedestrians are the road users who suffer most in the present situation. The review considers that road safety education is essential for im-

proving road safety in Albania, and indicates the efforts that should be made to improving the driving school system in accordance with EU directives. Much remains to be done to (i) improve Albania's road safety culture, (ii) use the data on accidents for regular monitoring of the Albanian National Road Safety Strategy 2010–2020 and conducting research in support of evidence-based policies, and (iii) strengthen road safety management by consolidating coordination among road safety stakeholders and experts at the national and local levels. Hence, several actions are recommended for the government's consideration: (i) increase local capacities to address road safety responsibilities at the local government level, (ii) advance legal and regulatory reform focusing on the local level, (iii) provide technical assistance and capacity building and training for local authorities, (iv) increase the ownership of local stakeholders and participation of the local community in developing and implementing local road safety measures, (v) strengthen capacities and cooperation among all local stakeholders and hold public consultations with residents, (vi) make use of studies and analysis already conducted on the needs of different road-user groups, especially pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists, as inputs to development of local road safety plans. The review will feed into the preparation of a Road Safety Strategy and the drive forward future actions and interventions.

176. The Road Safety Performance Review of Albania, UNECE, pp. 15–17 <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49598>

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

Contributing UN Agencies

UNDP, ILO, IOM

Contributing Partners

Governments of Albania, Austria, Turkey, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the EU

Albania's efforts to foster national competitiveness and achieve greater integration into global value chains has trade at the centre, with (i) support for the consolidation of new growth poles that would allow the achievement of growth with equity through greater specialisation in dynamic products with high value added, and (ii) removal of regulatory and procedural trade barriers that have been undermining employment generation and overall competitiveness in domestic and global markets. Labour market data in Albania suggest that economic growth has not been translated into the creation of decent jobs. Youths Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) in Albania comprise 29.7 percent of all youths in the country, almost double the SEE average (16%: 17% young women, and 14% young men).¹⁷⁷ Skills mismatch in the labour market remains a priority to resolve. Meanwhile, the minimum wage has increased, from ALL 22,000 to ALL 26,000, following tripartite negotiations.

In 2018, ILO provided technical support to government institutions and social partners in the (i) implementation of an occupational health and safety campaign in the construction sector, in cooperation with the State Labour and Social Services Inspectorate, (ii) preparation of a report on the statistical profile of youth NEETs, in cooperation with INSTAT and the National

Employment Service, (iii) production and broadcasting of an awareness-raising campaign on the State Labour Disputes Mediation and Conciliation Network, (iv) development of an Industrial Relations Information System, consisting of a database on social partner memberships, collective agreements and strikes, and (v) development of a case management system for collective labour disputes, prepared in a tripartite way.

UNDP continued to support the promotion of youth employment and development of the capacities of national institutions through implementation of the Swiss-funded Skills Development for Employment project.¹⁷⁸ In collaboration with ILO, UNDP supported a rapid functional review of employment and VET systems in Albania with the narrow focus on assessing the alignment of the organisational structure of responsible institutions with the newly assumed competences. This work was followed by the conducting of a mid-term review of the National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014–2020, providing technical assistance in work-based learning, establishing a system of quality assurance of VET providers, and incorporating the findings of a Skills Needs Analysis into the work of institutions under MoFE. In addition, UNDP launched a third round of the self-employment programme, resulting in some 100 young wom-

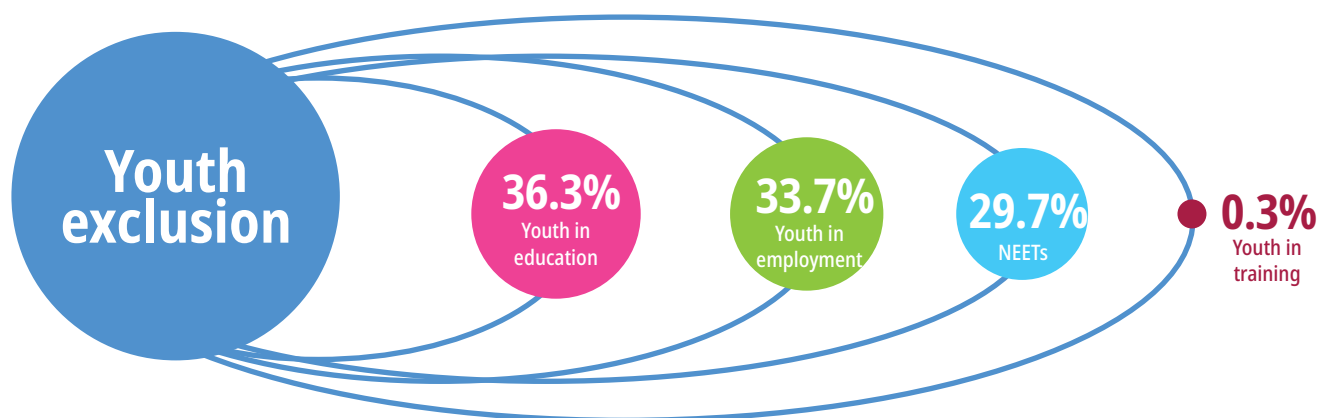
177. https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/maps-and-charts/enhanced/WCMS_598674/lang--en/index.htm

178. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/operations/projects/poverty_reduction1/skills-development-for-employment-.html

Understanding exclusion:

Youth not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Headline unemployment rates are often inaccurate indicators of labour market health, and over-reliance upon them can lead to inadequate policy decisions. For example, decisions by young workers to leave the labour market—either to emigrate or to rely passively on social assistance) can reduce unemployment rates, offering policy makers an excessively optimistic picture of labour market trends. In response, the “NEET” indicator (young people “not in employment, education, or training”) has been gaining traction as a measure of the labour market challenges facing young people, both globally—SDG indicator 8.6.1 (Tier I) calls for the monitoring of the shares “of youth (aged 15–29 years) not in education, employment or training”—and within the EU



en and men trained in entrepreneurial skills, with 43 of them (62% women) opening their own business through the grant they received.

In August 2018, UNDP launched a new employment initiative¹⁷⁹ supporting, especially, youths vulnerable to migration and to organised crime in northern Albania. In only four months, this intervention managed to train 70 young entrepreneurs in business skills, supporting 15 of them (47% women) in opening a business. The abiding commitment of UNDP towards innovation continued with the organisation of

a bootcamp¹⁸⁰ engaging 46 youngsters (52% women) from the rural parts of Diber County. At the end of three days of design-thinking, human-centred activities aimed at identifying the potential for employment generation in the region, two prototypes were selected to receive financial support. The first winning prototype ‘Handmade in Diber’ aims to create a market for handmade products of Diber artisans through showrooms and experience workshops. The second prototype ‘Uskania’ aims to raise awareness, and teach young women and men the value, of recycling.

179. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/support-to-employment-and-social-services-for-vulnerable-youth-a/>

180. <https://medium.com/@albania.undp/madeindibra-bootcamp-46-youth-from-dibra-3-days-8-groups-8-prototypes-and-2-winners-6576cd7be4b4>

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

**Contributing
UN Agencies**
FAO, UN Women

**Contributing
Partners**
EBRD

The agriculture sector is still one of the most important of the Albanian economy. Nearly 46 percent of the population lives in rural areas where the main activity is agriculture, the main employment. Agriculture contributes about 19 percent of GDP and some of it is exported. The mean annual growth rate in the sector over the last five years is estimated at 3–3.5 percent.¹⁸¹ Nevertheless, its development is below the national average and well below its potential, mostly as a result of problems in the sector as a result of rural exodus, the small size of the farms, land ownership, marketing of agricultural produce, irrigation and drainage, low level of technologies employed, weak organisation of farmers and the low level of development of the agro-food industry. Ever since it obtained EU candidate status, Albania has emphasised agriculture and rural development reform as a means to maintain competitiveness while the country opens up gradually to the EU and the rest of the Western Balkans. In January 2018, the government endorsed the priorities in the field of agriculture and rural development for the period 2018–2020 with focus on increasing rural income through diversification and rural tourism activities.

For strengthening rural women’s capacity to access grants and subsidies, FAO and UN Women

developed in 2018 the project Gender Equality in Rural Development and Tourism (GREAT) to empower and strengthen the role of rural women in rural development as one of the targets of the 2030 Agenda. The GREAT project will complement the government’s “100 villages programme”. The project, endorsed by MoARD and awaiting the financial support of the Italian government, will start to be implemented in 2019.

Rural women and girls were at the centre of attention in 2018. The 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women focused on ‘Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls’. For International Women’s Day, 8 March, the theme was ‘The Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives’. In this frame, UN agencies in Albania organised several activities in Gjinjar, promoting rural women of the town and their products, and raising awareness about the challenges they face.

School nutrition, and it’s connection to Albanian agriculture, also received attention in 2018. FAO supported MoARD in the development of a conceptual approach for a sustainable national school food and nutrition programme. In collaboration with the Albanian Center for

181. Albania’s Economic Reform Programme 2019–2021 <https://www.financa.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Economic-Reform-Programme-2019-2021.pdf>

Economic Research, FAO completed an analysis of Albania's current legislative and policy framework for food security, nutrition and social protection in support of school nutrition. Proposals for amendments to the legislative framework have been developed. This work makes it possible to define institutional responsibilities and plan practical next steps. In 2018, the school and food nutrition programme was piloted in 20 elementary schools in five municipalities (Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Tirane and Vlore), financed entirely through the state budget.

Several structural factors—the small size of farms combined with high levels of land fragmentation, unsettled land ownership titles, informality in the sector, insufficient knowledge of modern agricultural practices, lack of access to qualified advice, land and finance, and lack of enforcement of minimum standards by the state and farmers—hamper the competitiveness of Albania's farmers. In addition, the sector, as in all Western Balkan countries, is facing challenges with the digital transformation, with the sector dominated by small and very small family farms with unequal access to knowledge, markets, conditions and opportunities for innovation. Focus was placed in 2018 on addressing several of these issues through joint FAO–MoARD efforts. In this regard, contract farming models were prepared and included in the ministry's programme for financial support through subsidy schemes for 2018, the Law on Quality, including GI and traditional products, was approved by Parliament, and an action plan on an e-Agriculture strategy was prepared and submitted for governmental review and approval, expected in 2019. Work is ongoing for preparation of a feasibility study to support smallholders, focused on rural women and youth, in the diversification

of economic activities. Following the finalisation of this study in 2019Q1, a project proposal will be developed for financial support from FAO and other donors.

Regarding approximation of the national legislation and policy instruments to the EU *acquis* and further development of the institutions for its enforcement, FAO has supported the development of MoARD's administrative capacities to implement the Inter-Sectoral Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (ISARD) 2014–2020, and to prepare the EU approximation process in agriculture and rural development. Furthermore, MoARD's capacities were strengthened in the areas of statistical reporting, economic analysis and the conducting of technical negotiations with the EU on agriculture and trade. In 2018, MoARD prepared three internal statistical quarterly reports, as well as the Agriculture Annual Report, establishing a reporting process that will continue in 2019 and beyond.

Concerning attainment of the 2030 Agenda in the area of agriculture and rural development, FAO provided capacity building support to MoARD, INSTAT and other local institutions on the monitoring of SDG indicators, focusing on SDGs 2, 5, 14 and 15. FAO also supported preparation of a baseline report to assess where MoARD stands with implementation of the SDGs that was also integrated into the national baseline *Report on the Harmonization of Sustainable Development Goals with Existing Sectoral Policies*.¹⁸² Furthermore, an SDG awareness-raising workshop was carried out jointly with MoARD to promote cross-sectoral dialogue and identify opportunities to work constructively on solutions with various stakeholders, at the political and technical levels, from line ministries, NGOs, CSOs, academia and the private sector.

182. <https://www.un.org/al/news/sdg-baseline-report-albania-issues-report-harmonization-sustainable-development-goals-existing>

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

**Contributing
UN Agencies**
UNESCO

**Contributing
Partners**
Government of
Albania

In the last couple years, Albanian institutions have increased their ability to monitor, safeguard, preserve, restore and protect the country's rich cultural heritage as a means for promoting sustainable development and economic growth. These principles are especially true for a country such as Albania, with its rich cultural heritage and untapped potential for cultural creativity and innovation, providing opportunities to stimulate growth, integrate more quickly with the EU and enhance its international image.

In support of Albania's ability to manage its cultural heritage, UNESCO provided technical assistance for finalisation of the new Law on Cultural Heritage and Museums, adopted by Parliament in May 2018. Furthermore, all efforts and actions taken by the government, specifically the Ministry of Culture, with the support of UNESCO, in this area are supporting achievement of the 2030 Agenda, particularly in reaching the targets of SDGs 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

In addition, under the EU-UNESCO project 'Towards strengthened governance of the shared trans-boundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region',¹⁸³ the greatest achievement in 2018 includes the preparation and official submission to the World Heritage Centre in February 2018 of a request from the authorities of the Republic of Albania for extension of the World Heritage property to the natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid region. The World Heritage Committee will examine the nomination file for extension of the property 'Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region' to the Albanian part of the lake at its 43rd session in 2019.

183. The project focuses on enhancement of the safeguarding and sustainable development of the Lake Ohrid region by further strengthening cooperation between Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia over the region's shared cultural and natural heritage. All activities implemented in 2018 supported protection of the lake's trans-boundary region, which includes one of the world's oldest lakes and which is one of the largest centres of endemism in Europe, by addressing threats against the natural and cultural heritage of the region, such as unplanned urban development, waste management issues, habitat alteration, lack of effective management, and destruction and depletion of natural resources. One of the prerequisites for the success of this project was the trans-boundary cooperation and exchange of knowledge among the countries involved. Trans-boundary platform meetings brought together the relevant stakeholders in order to draw the main principles and strategies for joint management of the region.



Challenges **Output 3.1 Economic Development**

From the perspective of entry into the European common market, informality, despite continuous government action, is still of major concern to economic growth, competitiveness and public finances, and negatively affects new investments in the country. Increased technical assistance to the Albanian Competitiveness Authority in the areas of competition and consumer protection can play an important role.

Output 3.2 Labour

Government restructuring in 2017, followed by a change of staff of several line ministries, has impacted the pace of implementation of activities. Recent labour market data indicate that a skills mismatch in the labour market, and the associated inefficiencies of Albania's education model, has emerged as a priority for the government and its development partners. Discussions for elaboration of interventions addressing the sector's emerging issues are ongoing with government representatives.

Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development

Restructuring of public institutions has hampered the pace of implementation of activities. MoARD's capacities need to be further developed to adequately deal with the EU negotiations process, more specifically with preparations for Chapter 11, the EU approximation plan and renewal of ISARD 2014–2020. Moreover, this lack of capacity will be a challenge for absorption of national and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development (IPARD) funds, especially as smallholders remain the stratum marginalised from benefiting from the funds.

Increased collaboration between central and local governments and the private sector, development partners, banking institutions, academia and CSOs is needed to raise the resources required for proper implementation of the integrated service to farmers programme, as well as to strengthen public-private dialogue and the relationship to improve productivity and access to markets. Economic strengthening of rural women is facing difficulties in terms of property ownership, rights to resources, and access to financial and advisory services.

Output 3.4 Culture

Although progress has been made, Albania still lacks a national culture strategy, essential for providing a mid-term view and the designing of an adequate legal framework. Moreover, there is a need to ensure further capacity development actions to address emerging issues in the preservation of Albania's rich cultural heritage.

Challenges

The Way Ahead

Output 3. 1 Economic Development

UNECE's future support programmes will focus on bolstering government capacities for policy development and implementation in the areas of housing and urban development, and strengthening national road safety management. UNCTAD efforts will focus on (i) establishing the inter-dependent nature of consumer and competition policy and promoting the synergies of application through enhancement of institutional links between MoFE and ACA, (ii) reviewing the national legislation governing credit for consumers, bank loans and unfair practices with a view to alignment with the EU's legislation on consumer protection, (iii) fostering a better understanding of consumer rights in the financial and digital markets following an upsurge in e-Commerce activities, and (iv) developing trainings for the judicial system on dealing with the evaluation of evidence.

Output 3.2 Labour

UNDP and ILO will focus on employment and skills development and decent work with interventions targeting market integration including the employability and self-employment of youth, women, disabled job seekers, R&E and other vulnerable groups. These agencies will also support national policies and regulatory frameworks on employment paying special attention to quality assurance and market needs, and labour market governance policies, including labour industrial relations, social dialogue and social partners. The Amicable Labour Disputes Resolution system, established in 2018, will need further consolidation that ILO aims to support.

Increased attention will be paid to the reintegration of returning migrants with better access to employment and VET, improved capacities of the migrations counters and the promotion of ethical recruitment standards for the employment of migrant workers in Albania (ILO, IOM).

Statistical profiling of youth NEETs has been elaborated and a participatory inclusive assessment (PIA) methodology elaborated by the National Employment Service (NES) with ILO support. Future work will be oriented towards expansion of active labour market measures and their reach, strengthening of the VET reform and the transformation of NES into the National Agency for Employment and Skills. New lines of work, such as the care economy, will be analysed for the identification of entry points for intervention.

UNDP will continue with consolidation of the programme Skills Development for Employment (SD4E) placing emphasis on a coherent system and considerations for sustainability. The development of an integrated approach for social, employment and legal services delivery for the most vulnerable strata of society will be pursued at the local level in northern Albania.



The Way Ahead

UN Women and ILO aim to support Social and Green entrepreneurship development in Albania, enabling green and inclusive business opportunities fostering the economic empowerment and social (re)integration of vulnerable groups, including women and youth, and contributing to sustainable development in the country. This will be achieved by supporting and connecting key stakeholders, such as policy makers, CSOs, green and inclusive entrepreneurs, corporations, and investors, committed to moving the Social Enterprise and Green Economy agenda in Albania forwards.

Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development

FAO's focus in 2019 will be towards (i) increasing rural income through support provided to smallholders and family farms, focused on rural women and youth, in the diversification of economic activities; (ii) increasing absorption capacities of smallholders for national and IPARD funding; (iii) strengthening legal and institutional frameworks for agri-food production and climate change resilience for increased competitiveness and sustainability of the agriculture sector; (iv) developing MoARD capacities for the agriculture statistics, data collection, reporting, economic and policy analysis necessary to conduct technical negotiations in agriculture and trade with the EU; (v) preparing a regulatory framework for GI and traditional products, and promoting Albanian traditional products; (vi) providing policy and technical assistance to MoARD to prepare for EU approximation (Chapter 11); and (vii) starting preparatory work for the new ISARD 2021–2027. UN Women will focus on the development of gender equitable and sustainable rural development and poverty reduction strategies, and value chains, including awareness raising and recognition of women's pivotal role in the rural economy and agriculture.

Output 3.4 Culture

UNESCO support will target inclusive policies to foster cultural and creative industries, improve access to cultural markets, protect cultural diversity, and improve the management of cultural heritage as drivers and enablers for sustainable development that ensure equal participation, access and contribution to the cultural life of all people, including vulnerable groups and regardless of gender. It will also support reporting on the role of culture as the enabler for all people to develop to their full potential within the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

Way Ahead

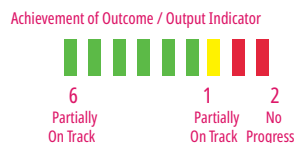
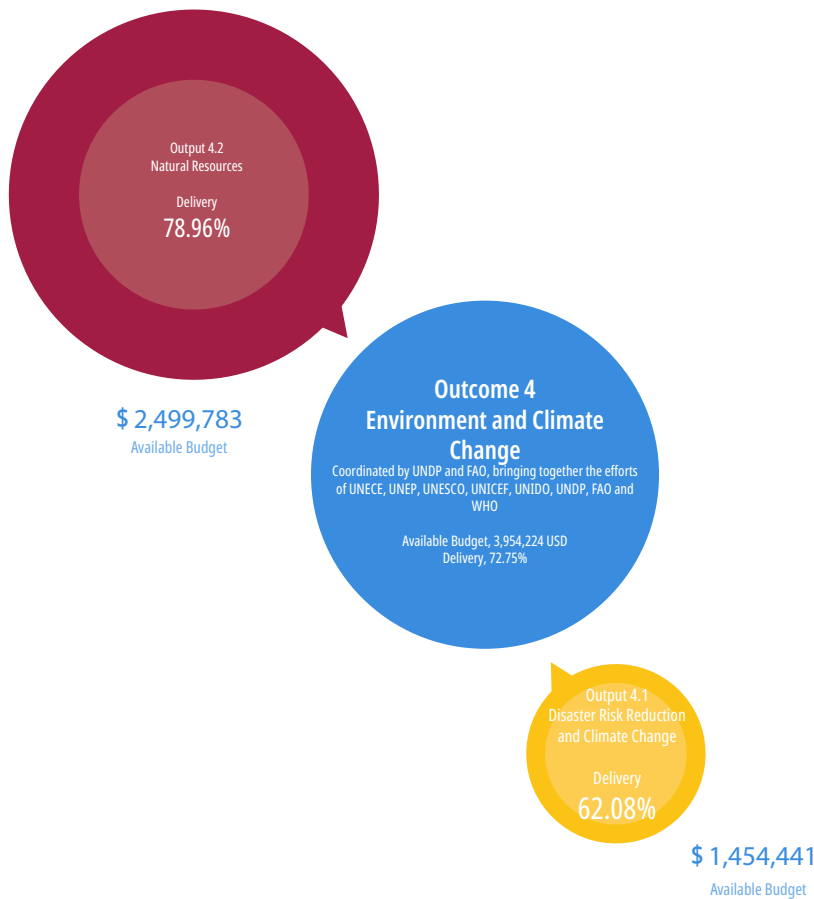


OUTCOME 4

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.





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) Good governance, democracy and rule of law. It also contributes to government efforts to achieving SDGs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, and EU integration chapters and priority areas 15 and 27.

The total available budget for implementation of Outcome 4 in 2018 was USD 4 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, Croatia, Germany, Italy, the EU, Climate Green Fund, Global Environment Facility, and the Slovenian NGO ITF Enhancing Human Security. The outcome delivery was 73 percent.

The outcome delivery was 73 percent.

Output 4.1 Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

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

Contributing UN Agencies

UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, WHO, UNECE

Contributing Partners

Governments of Albania, Germany, Croatia, Italy, Norway, the EU, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Slovenian NGO ITF Enhancing Human Security

The protection of Albania's environment has not kept pace with the country's economic growth. Increased demand for natural resources and uncontrolled exploitation has caused significant damage to the environment. Some 36 percent of Albania's territory is forested and fourteen percent comprises pastures, providing significant livelihood resources. Yet these are in decline due to clearance for agriculture, overgrazing, and woodcutting for fuel and building. Until 2015, the forestry sector was under the administration of the then Ministry of Environment. Now, as a result of decentralisation, the municipalities manage 85 percent of the forestry sector, providing local incentives to improving management and protection of forests, land and water resources.¹⁸⁴

Water plays a critical role in Albania's economy. More than 90 percent of the country's electricity production is from hydropower, while agriculture is also critically dependent upon irrigation, which along with energy production and industrial activities, places serious strains on the country's water resources. The pollution of freshwater and the marine environment is a serious problem, mainly due to insufficient wastewater collection and treatment, leaking

Output 4.2 Natural Resources

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

sewers and waste dumps. Risks and costs of water pollution on health and nutrition are not addressed, nor factored into disaster preparedness planning. Municipal waste management continues to be a major source of pollution due to poor planning and budgeting, inadequate taxation for waste management services at the local level, weak attempts to implement the national waste strategy, illegal dumpsites, and a very low level of recycling.

Regarding vulnerability and adaptation, Albania's coastal zones are likely to become warmer over time from climate change, while the Adriatic Sea has already experienced an average sea level rise of about 15 cm over the last century, leading to retreat of the shoreline.

The Albanian government took several critical initiatives in 2018: (i) development and approval by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of a policy document for forests for the period 2019–2030 (DCM no. 814, dated 31.12.2018) guiding the political decision making and the sector for the next decade,¹⁸⁵ (ii) amendments for packaging and its waste (DCM no. 232, dated 26.4.2018) aiming to protect, preserve and

184. Third Environmental Performance Review of Albania (September 2018) <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49675>

185. Setting four national priorities, as follows: (i) clarity on the rights and obligation of each actor in the sector, (ii) functional sector reorganisation (from ministry to local communities), (iii) sustainable forestry use for energy and industry, and (iv) protection of forests (from fire, illegal logging and natural pests).



improve the quality of the environment and public health,¹⁸⁶ and (iii) reduction of air pollution (DCM no. 633, dated 26.10.2018) through setting new standards for motor vehicle emissions and discharges. In the last couple of years, the energy efficiency domain has recorded progress with adoption of the Law ‘On Energy Performance in Buildings’ and the establishment of the Energy Efficiency Agency as the key implementing body, while the process of establishing a fund for it is ongoing. Meanwhile, the country is running late in the adoption of secondary legislation to implement the legislation in force, and especially in

the adoption of the second and third energy efficiency action plans. All the above-mentioned initiatives are aligned with, and contribute to, the country’s commitment to the ratified Paris Agreement and the National Determined Contribution (NDC).

UNECE’s third Environmental Performance Review (EPR)¹⁸⁷ of Albania takes stock of the progress made in the management of the environment of the country since the second review in 2012. The review covers legal and policy frameworks, greening of the economy, environmental monitoring, public participation and educa-

186. By a) preventing negative impact from packaging and waste, b) preventing the production of waste from packaging by increasing its reuse, and by recycling and other forms of waste reclamation from packaging, and c) reducing the quantities of such waste that are ultimately destroyed.

187. https://www.uncece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr_studies/Leaflet/Booklet_3rdEPRAlbania.pdf

tion for sustainable development. Furthermore, it addresses issues of specific importance with regard to air protection, biodiversity and protected areas, as well as water, waste and chemicals management. It also examines the efforts of Albania to integrate environmental considerations into its policies in the transport, energy and industry sectors, and provides a substantive and policy analysis of the country's climate change adaptation, mitigation measures and its participation in international mechanisms. Albania is encouraged to use the recommendations of the third EPR of Albania,¹⁸⁸ in support of national efforts towards achievement and monitoring of the SDGs.

With UNDP support a national environmental monitoring and information system is now in place, providing for integrated and transparent information on the environment that is open to the public and supports decision making. SDG indicators are piloted in the system along with other core indicators in line with the requirements of EU and multilateral agreements. Moreover, UNDP-supported marine ecosystem management actions are integrated with sustainable ecotourism approaches through impact mitigation upon the ecosystem, applying and supporting waste recycling of used cooking oil and plastics, and assessing and introducing the approaches of tourism certification. Thus, by the end of 2018, 24 tons of used cooking oil had been collected in Vlore, with 1.8 tons collected every four months from two restaurants that were part of UNDP's pilot initiative, and shipped to specialised recycling facilities abroad for the production of biodiesel. Meanwhile, Albania's Karaburun-Sazan marine national park received 63,300 tourists, more than triple the number of 2017. Overall, UNDP notes that improved infrastructure and enforcement

of the law on protected areas, accompanied with advocacy and awareness raising, marked a positive shift in sustainable tourism activities, showing a two-fold increase in the number of tourists in Protected Areas during the 2018 summer season compared to 2017.

Furthermore, UNDP supported 17 municipalities, through the provision of technical assistance and demonstration projects, to justify the solar obligation ordinances in new and under-renovation public buildings and solar water heating systems in 69 public buildings. At the end of the year, the annual sales of such heating systems was recorded at 21,668 m², with more than 132 GWh produced by the solar systems and a reduction of 1,278,209 tCO₂, saving approximately 70 percent of the energy used for hot water. A Solar Testing Facility is hosted on the premises of Tirane Polytechnic University as part of the Laboratory of Heating, Cooling and Ventilation at the Faculty of Environmental Engineering. Support is also provided to conducting analysis for the introduction of new technical specifications for solar water heater systems, as part of the green procuring of public goods, and for new concept ideas in support of the National Renewable Energy Action Plan, which focuses on the Residential Sector.

UNDP also assisted the finalisation of the Drin Basin Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis, providing a thorough assessment of pollution, biodiversity, hydrology and the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems nexus. The causal chain analysis was developed and adopted by the Drin Core Group.¹⁸⁹ The analysis findings will feed into the Drin Strategic Action Plan, yet to be developed and adopted by Drin Riparians.¹⁹⁰ Apart from the overall coordination and cooperation at the Drin

188. <http://www.unecce.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-23/EPR.Albania.IP.3.e.pdf>

189. The DCG comprises of representatives of the (i) competent ministries of the Riparians, (ii) the existing joint structures (Prespa Park Coordination Committee; Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee; Skadar/Shkoder Lake Management Commission), (iii) UNECE, (iv) GWP-Med (Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean), and (v) MIO-ECSDE (Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development)

190. Albania, Republic of North Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro.

basin level, coordination between Drin Riparians at the sub-basin level has provided an additional means of strengthening the integrated management of joint water resources. In this regard, several activities to facilitate coordination between Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia for the management of Lake Ohrid were undertaken, while three other pilots are in progress. UNESCO also contributed towards enhancing the safeguarding and sustainable development of the Lake Ohrid region¹⁹¹ by strengthening cooperation between the two countries over the region's shared cultural and natural heritage (cross-reference with outcome 3, output 3.4).

More than 200 central and municipal institutional staff, as well as farmers and extension services staff, were capacitated with FAO support in adaptations to climate change, conservation agriculture and integrated pest management. As a result, a national damage and loss assessment methodology was developed in 2018 by MoARD in line with international post-disaster needs assessment standards. Furthermore, FAO supported the setting up of the national Geographic Information System (GIS), the integration of all datasets available on wood renewable energy, and the finalisation of the Wood-fuel Integrated Supply/Demand Overview Mapping (WISDOM) model and Albanian National Forestry Inventory (ANFI) data system.

Several advancements made in the renewable energy sector, supported by UNIDO, include the identification of agro-processing lines for potential bio-energy production and development of 15 case studies, best practice procedures and guidebooks for policy makers, project owners, suppliers, installers and investors in the techniques for planning, designing, installing and operating biomass technologies for different sectors. Moreover, it prepared guidance on how to develop quality infrastructure in support of a national renewable energy technology market, while na-

tional capacities were strengthened by integrating quality assurance standards and instruments to support renewable deployment.

UNEP began implementation of a new project 'Promoting Sustainable Land Management in Albania through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems' during the second half of 2018 and organised capacity building activities with key staff from the Ministry of Tourism and Environment on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) policies. World Environment Day (WED) celebrations served to advocate for environmental issues with local stakeholders, communities, the media, NGOs and central and local authorities. In addition, UNEP has been selected by Albania as its delivery partner for the Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for the Republic of Albania. In 2018, preparatory work focused on conducting an assessment of the current situation in Albania, establishing and strengthening National Designated Authorities or Focal Points, and developing draft strategic frameworks for engagement with the GCF, among others.

UNICEF addressed environmental awareness and protection in schools, capitalising on previous successes where environmental education became part of the school curricula and environmental competence was included as one of the seven key competences for schoolchildren, under those for life, entrepreneurship and the environment. Albania's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and pre-school curriculum are also explicitly sensitive to making young children aware of environmental considerations and the challenge of sustainability. In this regard, in 2018, UNICEF's successful Smile campaign reached more than 8,000 children with hands-on information on how to protect the environment, and conducted awareness-raising activities with 500 youth volunteers promoting similar messages.

191. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/lake-ohrid-region>

Challenges The key challenge affecting the sector in 2018 concerns the re-engineering of the line ministries and agencies, as well as their structures at the local level, as this has slowed the pace of work on the development priorities, necessitating tailored support from UN agencies to ensure that sustainability of the environment and the public good remain at the core of the country's development. Ongoing challenges with regard to the environment include lack of financial resources, low management capacity of LGUs, weak legal enforcement, shortage of qualified scientific staff and lack of data and analysis of trends concerning protected species, as well as poor community involvement in protection, and lack of trust in the local administration. In the mid to long term the lack of financing might risk Albania's opportunity to boost energy efficiency and renewable energy and to comply with obligations under the NDC and national energy efficiency and renewable energy source action plans. In addition, coordination and planning on climate change issues requires a sectoral approach and a functional inter-ministerial committee on climate change. Other challenges relate to (i) an unclear division of responsibilities among institutions on the security and safety of drinking water, coupled with insufficient know-how and laboratory capacities for assessing the quality of drinking water, and no clear strategy on water and sanitation, with target setting under the Water Protocol still pending, and (ii) insufficient awareness of the issues among teachers, children and the community at large, impeding them from acting to protect the environment.

Challenges

Way Ahead

The Way Ahead UN agencies will focus on building the institutional capacity of the country, including for data provision and knowledge to integrate the environment and climate considerations more fully into the national regulatory framework, and to develop new capacities and systems for implementation and compliance monitoring across the major sectors. Key activities include (i) support for development of LGU capacities for environmental protection planning and budgeting, (ii) assistance for the formulation of action plans regarding land degradation, forestation and deforestation, (iii) promotion of innovative technologies for renewable energy and the application of energy efficient solutions, (iv) provision of support schemes to ensure a sustainable expansion of bio-energy technologies, (v) assistance for the relevant institutions and provision of recommendations for improving the renewable energy quality infrastructure, (vi) enhancement of local capacities for sustainable forest management, with consideration of the needs of poor households regarding bio-fuels, (vii) enhancement of the integration of Albanian Maritime Standards in line with the EU requirements, and improvement of the capacities in the field of preparedness, risk assessment and response, (viii) strengthening of the capacities in administering the environmental management and monitoring system (EIMMS) aligned with the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreement international reporting obligations and enhancing the role of information centres to improve the transparency of the process, and (ix) supporting government in the ratification of the Minamata Convention and relevant actions in the management of chemicals.

***Supporting the
Western Balkans'
collective leadership on
reconciliation: building
capacity and momentum
for the Regional Youth
Cooperation Office
(RYCO)¹⁹²***

According to the EU's 2018 Western Balkans Strategy for European Integration, rule of law, security and migration, socio-economic development, transport and energy connectivity, digital agenda, reconciliation and good neighbourly relations remain the most pressing issues for the Western Balkans 6 (WB6).¹⁹³ Young people in the Western Balkans live with the pressures and influences of a social and political narrative distorted by prejudice, denial, revisionism and nationalism. Some challenges facing the WB6 concern the growth of radical youth political groups, an increase in hate speech among young people and in exposure of youth to discrimination in schools, higher education, the work place, and employment, among others. Also, across the region, the participation of youth in public and civic activities and decision-making processes is weak.

During the Berlin Process (political dialogue led by several EU member states engaging all WB6 entities) it was agreed in 2016 to create a Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), inspired in part by post-World War II youth exchange between France and Germany. RYCO's vision is to support a diverse region in which young people—the group with the most interest in investing in the future—have an awareness of the past and play an active role in building a more prosperous future for their societies. However, these positive political processes need support and follow-up with concrete actions at the com-

192. <https://www.rycowb.org/?p=5425>

193. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-561_en.htm

munity level for building a balance in favour of sustainable peace and cooperation. A key aspect of this process is reconciliation among groups, increased trust and decreased negative stereotypes. The role of young people in this process is critical. Exposure across group lines, improved education on social cohesion, cooperation over historical and cultural exchange and increased volunteerism in the region will all help. The development of alternative educational material for the teaching of history in South-east Europe is an ambitious and challenging venture given that the interpretation of the collective past and the content of history, as taught in schools, cause heated disputes, not only between neighbouring countries in WB6 but also within each country.

Public policies across the WB6 that support youth-friendly educational and social services should be designed to better engage hard-to-reach groups, such as those in remote areas, the marginalised (such as Roma), members of poor neighbourhoods and out-of-school children, empowering them to engage positively in the construction of a peaceful region. Young individuals and youth organisations with enhanced skills and exposure will be better able to voice their needs and promote solutions. They will then be in a better position to contribute to, and benefit from, an enabling environment with reduced prejudice and discrimination, and from the creation of communities resilient to the destructiveness of instrumental nationalism. Meanwhile, Youth2030, a global strategy syn-

chronised with the 2030 Agenda and launched at the General Assembly in New York, recognises that youth need to be more engaged, and now, if they are to play the constructive role we all count on for the management of the planet.

To address the above challenges, the Western Balkans RYCO and UN Albania have launched a new partnership and joint project amounting to USD 2.1 million, supported by the UN Peace Building Fund. This partnership is focused upon (i) enhancing reconciliation in the WB6, as measured by increasing embracing of diversity, reduced prejudice and discrimination of youth, through RYCO's active engagement in supporting peace-building, youth activism, mobility and exchange, and social inclusion, and (ii) strengthening RYCO's institutional capacities in promoting reconciliation, with a focus on stronger cooperation in the region through youth exchange programmes. The project will be implemented by the UN, through UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF and their offices across the Western Balkans, over a period of 18 months.

Implementation of this joint programme began in 2018Q4, with an intense period of preparation and coordination among UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) and RYCO across the WB6. Expected results in 2019 include establishment of stronger M&E systems by RYCO, better applications from more varied schools across boundaries to jointly apply for RYCO grants, and increased engagement of diverse youth organisations in applying for RYCO grants.



CHAPTER 4

THE UN DELIVERING AS ONE IN ALBANIA IN 2018





One Programme and a Common Budgetary Framework, or One Fund

Throughout the year, the Albanian government and the UN employed joint mechanisms at the strategic and technical level to guide UN assistance. The Joint Executive Committee—co-chaired by the deputy prime minister and the Resident Coordinator, and including key line ministries and UN agencies—met in December 2018. The four Result (Outcome) Groups, aligned with the government’s coordination structure and inclusive of development partners, had, earlier in the year, approved the rolling Joint Workplans for 2018–2019. The following plans are published online: Governance and Rule of Law,¹⁹⁴ Social Cohesion,¹⁹⁵ Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture,¹⁹⁶ and Environment and Climate Change.¹⁹⁷ The UN supplemented these formal governance structures with standing UN coordination groups to interact with INSTAT and independent human rights institutions (e.g. People’s Advocate). A briefing by UNCT with the prime minister was held in November.

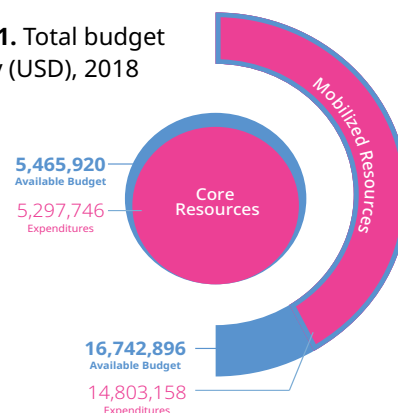
The UN entities responsible for leading each Outcome are UNDP and UNHCR for Outcome 1—Governance and Rule of Law, UNICEF and WHO for Outcome 2—Social Cohesion, FAO and UN Women for Outcome 3—Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture, and FAO and UNDP for Outcome 4—Environment and Climate Change. In 2018, 90 percent of the Programme Results Framework was on track. Progress was captured formally in a mid-year review in September,¹⁹⁸ as well as through a widely distributed newsletter (3 issues in 2018).

The UN Albania costed results are presented in one financial framework. Twice a year, at mid and end of

year, UNCT Albania and implementing government partners provide information on progress made against the planned results and actual expenditures. The PoCSD for 2018 had an available budget of USD 22.2 million (Figure 1), with core resources of USD 5.5 million (25%) and mobilised resources of USD 16.7 million (75%). The large proportion of the non-core resources highlights the importance of local resource mobilisation. By year end, the programme had reached a delivery rate of 87.5 percent, with the balance carried over into 2019. For a financial overview of the 2018 total budget, including all sources of funding, see Annex C.

Core resources are critical to UN efforts in Albania. As highlighted also in the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (A/RES/72/279) on 31 May 2018¹⁹⁹, core resources are central to ensuring the United Nations development system’s independence, neutrality and role as a trusted partner in a rapidly changing development cooperation landscape. (detailed Member State contributions to core resources, are provided in each UN agencies’ website – web addresses in Annex D)

Figure 1. Total budget delivery (USD), 2018



194. <http://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/Outcome%201%20-%20Governance%20and%20Rule%20of%20Law%20JWP%202018-2019.pdf>

195. <http://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/Outcome%202%20-%20Social%20Cohesion%20JWP%202018-2019.pdf>

196. <http://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/Joint%20Work%20Plan%202018-2019%20-%20Outcome%203%20Economic%20Growth%20Labour%20and%20Agriculture.pdf>

197. <http://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/Outcome%204%20-%20Environment%20and%20Climate%20Change%20JWP%202018-2019.pdf>

198. Latest PoCSD Mid-Year Review 2018 <https://www.un.org.al/publications/government-albania-unit-ed-nations-programme-cooperation-sustainable-development-2017>

199. <https://undocs.org/a/res/72/279>

Sixteen UN agencies, eight resident and eight non-resident agencies (NRAs), contributed to PoCSD implementation in 2018. The available budget of the resident agencies (Figure 2—Social Cohesion (33%), Outcome 4—DRR and Climate Change (18%) and Outcome 3—Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture (14%).

At the Outcome level (Figure 3), Outcome 1—Governance and Rule of Law had the highest available budget (36%), followed by Outcome 2—Social Cohesion (33%), Outcome 4—DRR and Climate Change (18%) and Outcome 3—Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture (14%).

Figure 2. UN agencies available budget (USD), 2018

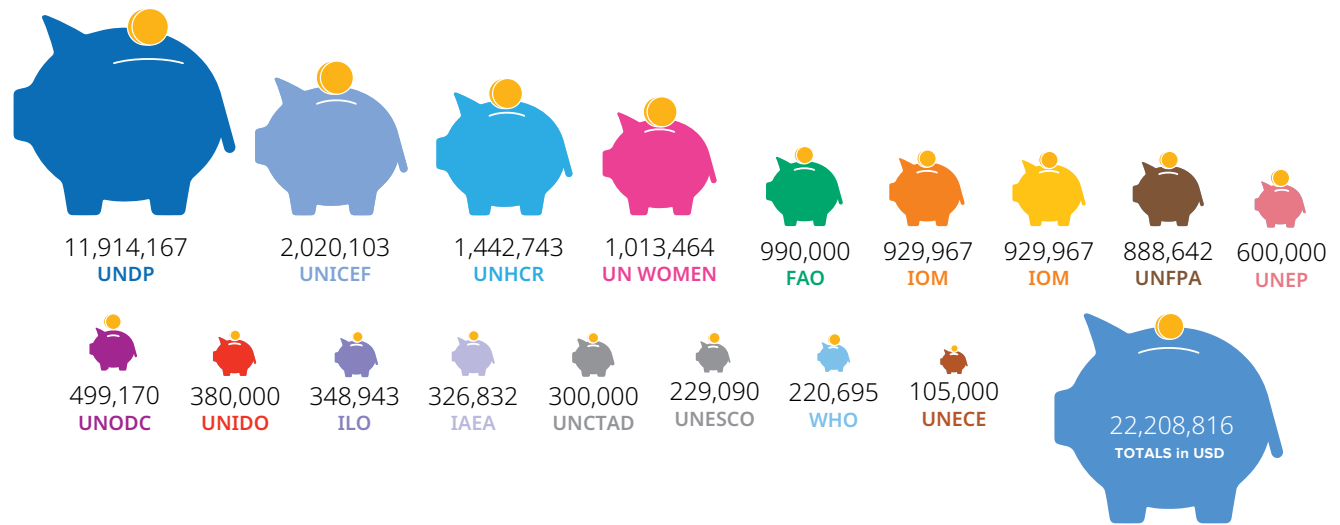


Figure 3. Outcome delivery (USD), 2018

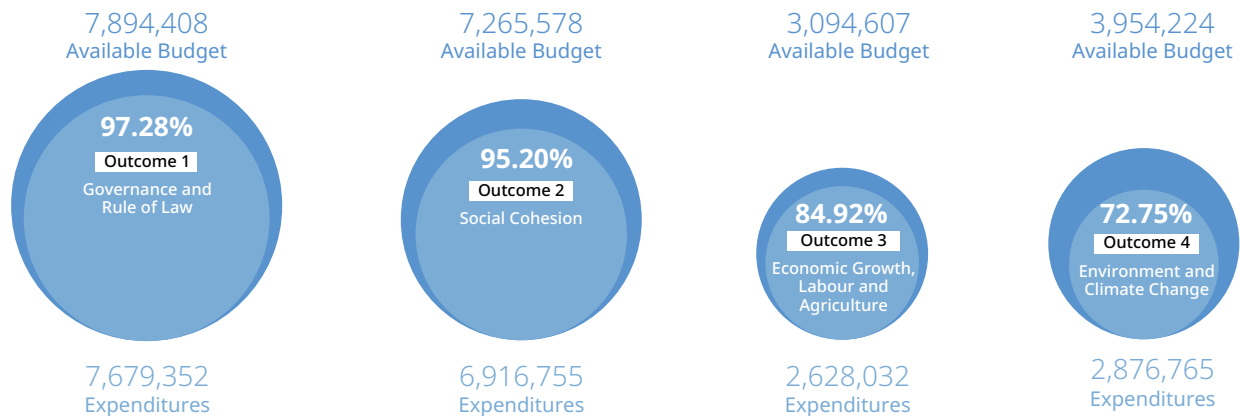
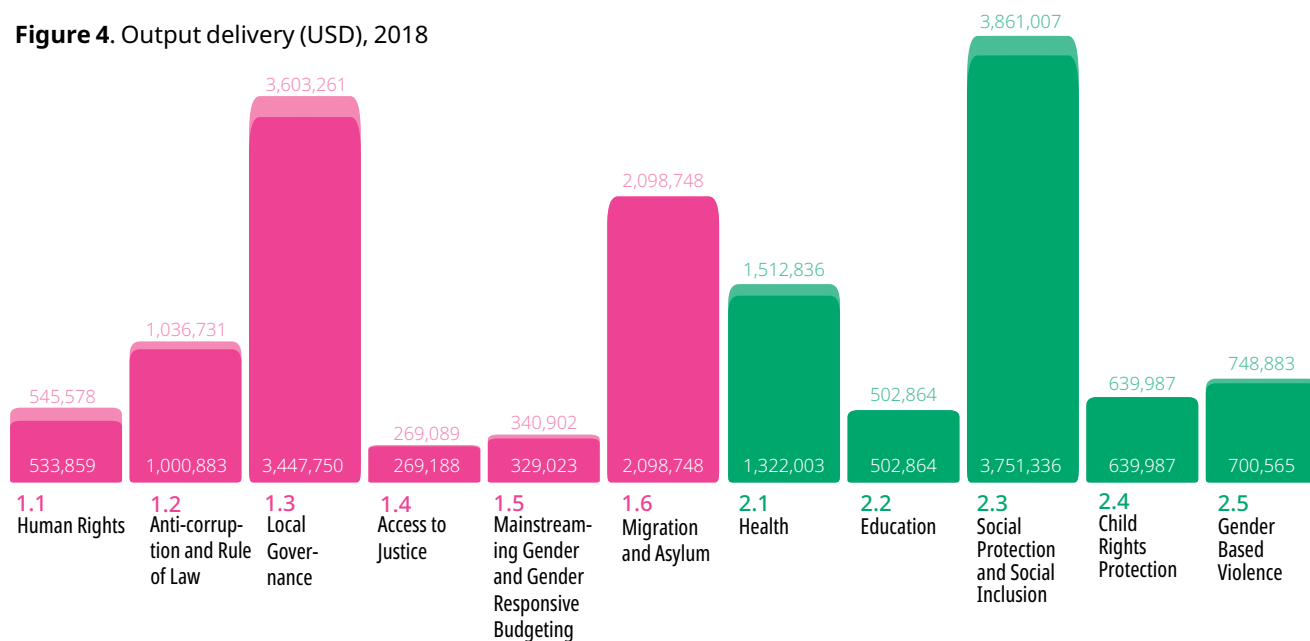


Figure 4. Output delivery (USD), 2018



A closer look at the budget, at the output level (Figure 4), shows the substantial work of the UN agencies in the areas of Local Governance (output 1.3), Migration and Asylum (output 1.6) and Anti-corruption and Rule of Law (output 1.2), comprising 85 percent of the Outcome 1 budget and 30 percent of the total UN Albania budget for 2018. Meanwhile, Social Protection and Inclusion (output 2.3) and Health (output 2.1) comprise 73 percent of the Outcome 2 budget, and 24 percent of the total UN Albania budget for 2018, while Employment comprises 61 percent of the Outcome 3 budget and nine percent of the total UN Albania budget for 2018.

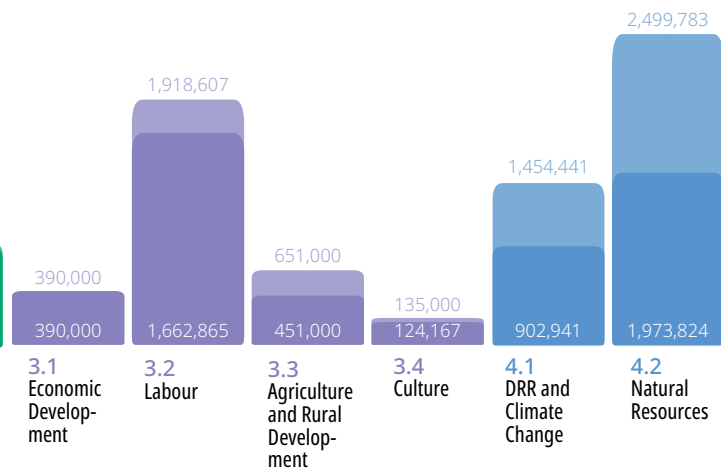
The UN Albania joint One Fund is an important element of the mobilised resources (non-core) and contributes to greater UN coherence and efficiency. In 2018, the Albanian government and the UN re-launched the fund as the Albania SDG Acceler-

ation Fund (Figure 5).²⁰⁰ In 2018, this fund received contributions²⁰¹ from four sources, comprising 20 percent of the UN Albania available budget for 2018, and commitments for 2019 and beyond from the governments of Albania and Italy, as follows:

- USD 2.2 million was allocated from the Swiss Confederation in support of the efforts of UN agencies UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women towards social inclusion and protection needs and priorities in line with the project 'Leave no One Behind'. The Swiss contribution is part of a four-year commitment, 2017–2020, of approximately USD 8 million.
- USD 2 million was allocated from the Embassy of Sweden in support of efforts of UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women towards gender needs and priorities of the country in line with the UN Joint Programme to End Violence

200. <https://www.un.org/al/news/government-albania-and-un-launch-sustainable-development-goals-acceleration-fund>

201. Distributed based on the decision of the PoCSD Joint Executive Committee meetings of 28 July 2017 and 17 December 2018.



against Women in Albania. The Swedish contribution comes from a finalised long-term support, 2019–2021, for gender work under PoCSD 2017–2021 to an amount of SEK 32 million (USD 3.5 million), materialised with the signing of a Standard Administrative Arrangement in November 2018.

- USD 153,747.5 was allocated to UN agencies UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF in line with the Standard Administrative Arrangement signed by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and UNDP on the implementation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Albania.
- Commitment was successfully obtained from Italy to support a joint UN Women–FAO project for the period 2019–2021 to an amount of USD 1.35 million, with the focus on rural women’s capacity building to engage in tourist business development (GREAT programme).

Figure 5. SDG Acceleration Fund (USD), 2007–2018

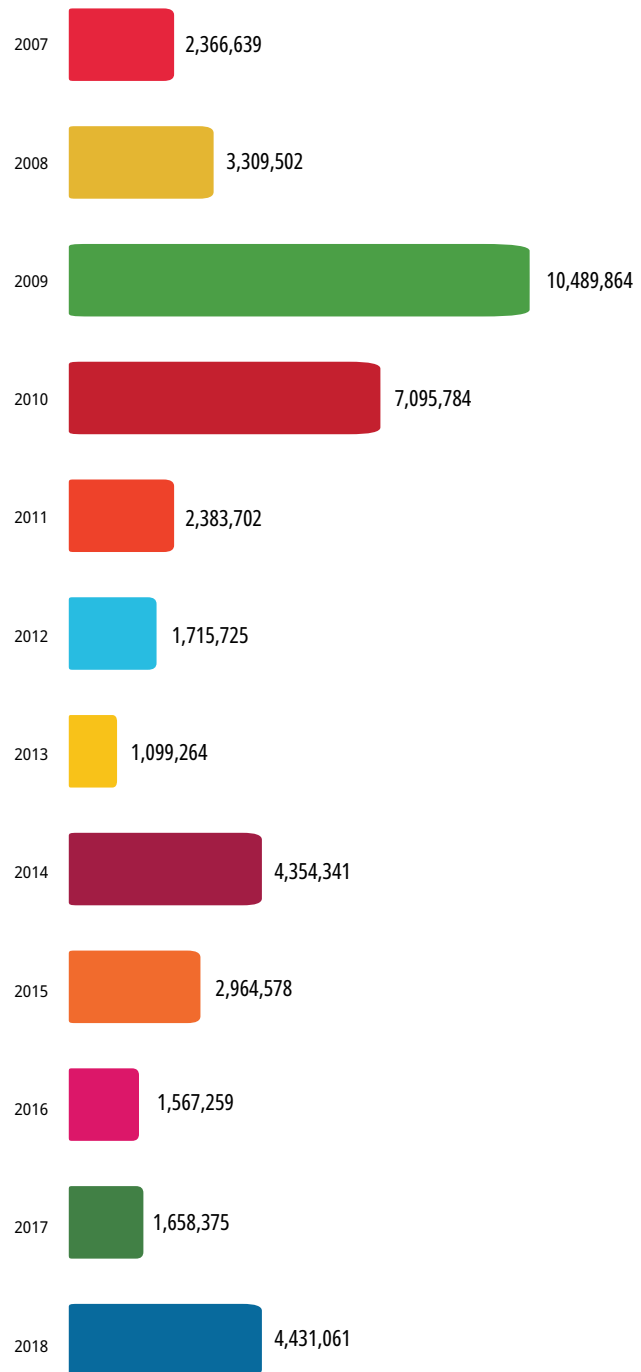
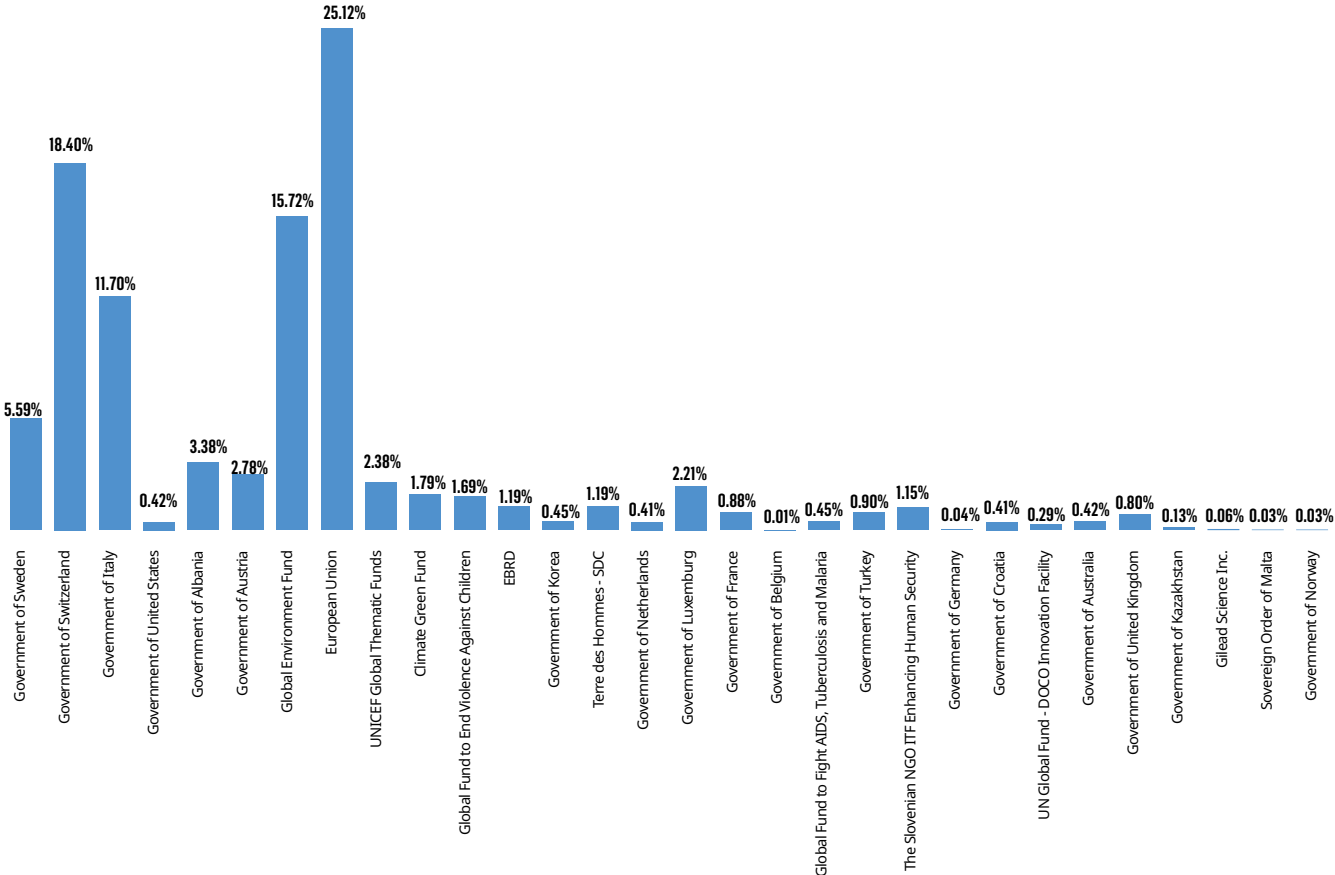


Figure 6. Contributions from all partner donors (Percentage)



In addition to the SDG Acceleration Fund, by the end of 2018, individual UN agencies had raised USD 12 million from 26 contributing partners (Figure 6) at the country level, and regionally and globally. The largest six donors are the EU, the Government of Switzerland, GEF, and the governments of Albania, Italy and Sweden.

Coordinating UN Assistance and UN Reform

On 1 January, 2019, the reform of the United Nations Development System goes into effect worldwide. The reform is guided by resolution 72/279, dated May 2018, mandating the system to strengthen its capabilities and coordination systems to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustain-

able Development. The resolution restructures the UN development system by creation of a full-time UN Resident Coordinator focused on coordination, advocacy and dialogue with partners, managed by the UN Secretariat in New York, while empowering UNDP with its own Resident Representative. Restructuring is just the first step, with the longer-term objective set on more efficient business operations and inter-operability, continuously improving coordination, whole-of-UN accountability to government and partners, increased use of pooled funding mechanisms and increased attention to regional links for sustainable development, among other measures.

As a Delivering-as-One pilot country since 2007, the UN in Albania is already implementing many of the ideas that the reform now seeks to emulate around the world. Examples include the use of pooled funding and joint programmes, the production of a single annual progress report, comprehensive, public joint workplans, and a clear UN in Albania brand and communications, to cite the most important.

Furthermore, UN Albania used the donor coordination fora, Donor Technical Secretariat, development and integration partners, as well bilateral engagement with the EU Delegation and EU member states to articulate common positioning on the synergies established between the EU and SDG agendas. The UNCT annual retreat increased the interaction with various partners on EU integration and the SDGs, with engagement in a strategic conversation structured around the three identified broad policy and programming platforms (Accelerators) for accelerating progress towards EU accession and achievement of SDGs articulated in the MAPS report. Identified forward actions will feed into 2019 work planning and resource mobilisation efforts. In parallel, UN continued active engagement and leadership of the thematic and sector working groups (i.e. agriculture, health, social inclusion).

Operating as One

The UN Operations Management Group continues to demonstrate readiness towards achieving higher-level milestones in respect to harmonised business practices—common procurement, services, recruitments, ICT, among others—and to search for efficiencies through economies of scale and collective bargaining on behalf of all participating UN agencies and revisiting long-term agreements (LTAs), to explore further possibilities of cost optimisation. To increase cost effectiveness and efficiency of common premises, six UN agencies (ILO, UNDP, UNDSS, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNODC) residing in UN House signed an MoU on common premises, while an online booking system has been created for the conference rooms on the second floor in UN House. UNICEF and WHO are based in the same building, with separate leases and sharing some costs, though they have not signed a formal MoU. The UN agencies residing entirely outside of UN House are IOM and UN Women.

Due consideration is given to the safety of the premises, access to security and the environment. Pro-environmental efforts include LED lighting, paper recycling, energy consumption monitoring, office bicycles and increasing UN staff awareness.

For effective delivery of UN programmes, the (interim) Business Operating Strategy²⁰² was adopted by UNCT Albania in May 2018, headed by the Operations Management Team. The team led several reviews in 2018, including on DSA, consultants' rates, place to place survey, reasonable maximum rent level in Albania, and a comprehensive salary survey (initiated). A common Internet provider and use of UN Web page for advertising solicitation processes is in place. Furthermore, in response to some lack of clarity in relation to the VAT status and obligations of NGOs in Albania, fol-

202. In 2018, UNCT Albania adopted an interim Business Operating Strategy, a transition document until receipt of new UN reform operational guidelines.

lowing consultations with different UN agencies present in the country, a consultant tax expert contracted by UNDP has prepared a manual on the legislation and issues concerning application of VAT in Albania.

To explore further possibilities of cost optimisation, new LTAs were signed for the following services: travel, event management, logistics, communication and Internet. By the end of 2018, the UN agencies in Albania were benefiting from 19 LTAs covering twelve areas of service. The total joint amount of disbursement through these agreements during 2018 was USD 1.3 million, and the estimated savings from their use was about USD 71,000, due to reduced transaction costs, staff time and prices from economies of scale (bigger procurement volumes).

The Memorandum of Agreement for the Medical Response to Diplomatic Corps (MRDC) was extended by six months to enable the continuation and facilitation of health services to all UN staff members and their recognised dependents. A UN Medical Division mission, charged with assessing the health sector and dispensary service provided in Albania, was scheduled to take place during the reporting year. Despite efforts made, this mission did not materialise due to the unavailability of officials from New York.

The UN in Albania is determined to comply fully with the requirements of the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework, with increased focus on risk management and capacity building, as well as costing for joint assurance activities to serve as a benchmark in measuring efficiency gains in HACT implementation. Implementation of the framework was guided by a joint HACT working group, established in 2018 with staff from UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women.

Communicating as One

Speaking as One for Development: Results for People

Conveying the PoCSD results and the way they affect people's lives across the country, advocating for issues of concern to Albania and raising awareness about the UN's contributions to assist the country achieve the SDGs were the key objectives driving the joint Communications work in 2018.

The UN's key audiences gained insight into the UN's results through several communication tools. Four editions of *Delivering for Development* newsletters were electronically distributed. Heads of UN agencies were featured over a period of six weeks in a series of episodes of the TV programme *Passport*. To call on society at large to empower women and girls in rural areas, heads of UN agencies featured in a video spot conveying the message of the vital need to support these groups of females. In 2018, social media were used extensively as a vital communications channel. A new Instagram account for UN Albania was activated, while Facebook posts on UN Albania social media accounts reached some 400,000 people, and Twitter posts made 364,800 impressions.

Partnership with the media remained a priority throughout the year. More than 150 media reports were generated from a combination of 'meet the press' events and media field trips to programme sites, while media attendance of UN-related events strengthened the image of the organisation as being results-focused. Media stories also generated visibility for our development partners.

The theme of the UN day—It's Youth Time—organised in partnership with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, was dedicated to young people at the local level.²⁰³ UN honoured five youths making tangible contributions to their communities as a survivor of gender-based violence turned gender champion'.

203. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/presscenter/articles/2018/it_s-youth-time--five-young-people-honored-on-un-day.html



SDG WEEK 2018

Human Rights Work Stands in Our DNA

In partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the Global Free and Equal campaign has been implemented in Albania for the past three consecutive years. The campaign is being implemented in a complicated social context in which alarmingly large numbers of people reject equality for LGBTI people, including their parents, with up to 42 percent of Albanian parents trying to change their child's sexual orientation if it emerged they were gay, lesbian or bisexual, and up to twelve percent halting communications with them. Parents and communities of LGBTI people were therefore the primary target audience of Free & Equal Albania's ongoing 'I Am Your Child' campaign. Events included information meetings for parents and friends of LGBTI people in conservative parts of Albania, in collaboration with

the CSO Open Mind Spectrum Albania (OMSA), an organisation that works on LGBTI equality. The meetings were turned into a forum where people asked all the questions they have been afraid to ask, and support each other in the face of strong social stigma. I Am Your Child also involved social media outreach to the public and training of journalists to ensure that reporting on this community is free from stigmatising language and negative stereotypes. Some 40 journalists from conservative parts of Albania have so far taken part in those training sessions.

A first ever UN Albania brochure dedicated to human rights was developed featuring beneficiaries of the UN programme interventions showing how the organisation has helped advance human rights in concrete ways. #Stand-Up4HumanRights earned some 30,000 impressions.

Meanwhile, '16 Days of Activism' continued to be an important platform to advocate strongly for a society that respects women's human rights and empowers them to be equal members enjoying equal opportunities. Five landmark buildings in five cities went orange in support of the call to Orange the World. In response to the call, Intesa Sanpaolo Bank illuminated its offices orange, while its ATMs displayed messages in support of ending violence against women.

Sustainable Development Goals: Good Life Goals for Everyone

The UN's work is aligned well with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, which continue to guide the UN work to help Albania achieve these 17 tangible and measurable goals by 2030. As such, the SDGs have been the key message in all public communications in 2018. Through targeted communications, the Albanian public have come to understand how SDG achievements will impact their lives in concrete ways. Since the SDGs and European integration are mutually reinforcing agendas, this element has been very strongly brought up in the public communications. The campaign has aimed to create a sense of ownership of the SDGs and how people's daily actions can contribute to their achievement.

United Nations agencies in Albania celebrated the third anniversary of the adoption of the SDGs through a week of awareness-raising activities that took place in several cities across the country. With the motto Fier 2030, a town hall meeting brought together the mayor, members of municipal council and representatives from civil society, and served as a platform to exchange ideas, establish partnerships, engage communities, foster public support and promote actions for achievement of the Goals at the local level. Meanwhile, more school pupils were introduced to the Goals through the 'World's Largest Lesson'.

Due to partnership with the Embassy of Greece in Albania and the Office of the Prime Minister, the SDGs

were also brought closer to the Albanian public in a unique way through an exhibition entitled 'Myrtis: face to face with the past', which featured the reconstructed face of an eleven-year-old Athenian girl who was, along with Pericles, one of the tens of thousands of victims of typhoid fever in the year 430 BC. Eight years ago, Myrtis became a 'Friend of the UN' and returned in 2018 to become a powerful spokesperson for preventable childhood diseases. More than 3,000 people, especially students, visited the month-long exhibition that assisted education on SDG 3.

SDGs and the Private Sector

Year 2018 saw the realisation of a ground-breaking partnership with one of Albania's leading companies in the consumer goods sector and a member of the UN Global Compact since 2004: the AGNA Group. The UN and the AGNA group worked to bring the SDGs closer to every home through their Spring water distributed all across the country. Some 20 million water bottles were labelled with the SDG 3 icon. The message on the label calls on Albanian people to live healthy lives, and promotes well-being for all in society. The new label takes the consumer to the UN Albania website, where those interested can learn more about the Global Goals. The campaign ran for a period of six months.

The partnership with Telekom Albania continued in 2018. A new campaign—It's Up to you—worked to raise the profile of the SDGs and, more importantly, called on society to take daily actions that can advance progress towards the Goals. Some 17 short videos were produced, reaching some 350,000 people on UN and Telekom social media platforms, while #EkeTineDore made some 64,000 impressions on the UN FB alone while more than 200,000 people were reached through the Telekom social media platforms.

On 8 March, Telekom sent a message tailored around SDG 5 to all its 1.4 million subscribers, calling on them to empower women and girls.

BOX 1 DOCO Innovations support for youth – 2018 Albania Achievements

Supported by the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO), a joint initiative of FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women began implementation, with USD 150,000 to be spent in 2018–2019, with the aim of demonstrating how data can be used to enable youth to take control of their own and their community's future, especially in remote parts of municipalities that are under-served in Albania.

The country has the youngest population in Europe, with a median age of 36.2 years. Despite a deepening European integration and relatively stable economic growth over the past two decades, the gaps remain evident: socio-economic convergence has been slow, and inequalities, especially at the local level, remain high. Some 40 percent of Albania's population has emigrated, the second highest proportion in the region. Data show that Albania's population declined by some 1.5 percent annually over the period 2011–2017 due to emigration, and migration continues to provide the brain drain of skilled professionals and young people, many of whom despair of finding appropriate education, jobs and future prospects at home.

MAPS Report²⁰⁴ and Concerning Data on Youth

- Almost 30 percent of 15–29-year-old Albanians (200,000 young people) can be classified as Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET), raising serious questions about this generation's future prospects.

- Youth is the population group that feels most the challenges of employment, reflected particularly in a significantly high unemployment rate for the age group 24–29 years, at 27.4 percent, nearly double the national average.
- Youth potential continues to be used sub-optimally, as is apparent in low levels of employment and labour force participation (especially for women and youth, and in rural areas), as well as in the high rates of labour migration.

Speaking with the SDGs Dictionary

The UN Secretary General launched Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy during the 73rd session of UN General Assembly on September 24, 2018. Promoting youth employment is the top priority of the Government of Albania and is linked strongly with the EU integration and SDG agenda. Building on the UN's previous innovation experiences with the use of open data to promote public participation in the decision-making processes, in 2018, UN Albania launched a project encouraging the use by youth of data of all forms to drive accountability, design, deliver and monitor public service programmes drawing on collective intelligence, and improve the impact of public programmes through behavioural insights. This project links with SDGs 1, 5 and 8.

Addressing various implementation challeng-

204. <https://www.un.org.al/publications/mainstreaming-acceleration-and-policy-support-achieving-sustainable-development-goals>

es, for example capturing the voice of the most vulnerable out-of-reach young people through paying special attention to location, gender and the various economic, social, ethnic and religious backgrounds, we can present several important results:

- Surveys among young people in Fier and Korce municipalities, evaluating their knowledge and perceptions on SRH, SDGs and the existing municipal programmes, have guided municipal authorities to prepare adequate action plans for youth. The Youth Voice advocacy platform was established in these municipalities and a cross-sectoral MoU has been signed between the municipalities, Regional Education Directories and the Regional Health Directories to foster collaboration.
- Fier and Shkoder municipal capacities have been strengthened to provide equal access to quality integrated SRH services, improve performance monitoring for young people, include youth programmes and activities, take real actions, make investments and raise the voice on youth issues.
- Three documents have been developed and published: *Budgeting for young people in Fier Municipality* and *Budgeting for young people in Korce Municipality*, which give concrete suggestions on initiatives and programmes that need to be led by young people and supported by the mu-

nicipality, and *Young people services model document in Shkodra Municipality* provides a good example of how services and activities for young people are integrated at the municipal level.

- *Open Data Goldbook*, a publication of the European Data Portal, has been made available in the Albanian language for Korce Municipality, adapted according to the principles of a local context and local contribution.
- U-Report has teamed up with the National Youth Service in the consultation process for a youth law that Albania will adopt. U-Report polled²⁰⁵ and aggregated opinions of young people expressed online through Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp and Viber. Currently, some 6,000 persons have signed up as U-reporters in Albania.

More Work Lies Ahead of Us

In partnership with municipal governance and based on findings from our project, five key ideas will be identified and further elaborated into a full business concept note and plan for establishing start-ups, with six start-ups in five municipalities. Moreover, five project proposals from the Youth Voice network that promote youth engagement in decision making and increased public service accountability will be rewarded.

205. 40% of the young people surveyed think that the age definition for young people in Albania should be 15 – 30 years old, and about 25 % think that it should include a younger group 13 – 24 years old, while half of young people believe that the national Youth Service and councils should be established and should operate at both central and local level.

BOX 2 – Examples of UN agency regional and cross-border programming

UN-RYCO initiative *Supporting the Western Balkan's collective leadership on reconciliation: building capacity and momentum for the Regional Youth Cooperation Office*:²⁰⁶ Overall, UN support (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF) will contribute to improved social cohesion and reconciliation across the Western Balkans. The UN project will support RYCO to work in partnership with civil society, education systems and schools, grass roots, youth institutions and youth in general for the consolidation of the office as a regionally owned mechanism with the capacity to promote reconciliation, mobility, diversity, democratic values, participation, active citizenship and intercultural learning.

EU-funded UNODC initiative *Measuring and assessing organised crime in the Western Balkans: supporting evidence-based policy making*:²⁰⁷ The overall objective of this action is to contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law through the fight against organised crime in the beneficiary countries and territories by improving knowledge about trends and patterns of the phenomenon. The specific objective of the action is to develop and implement a framework for quantifying and analysing organised crime in the Western Balkans and to establish mechanisms for monitoring and producing an evidence-based analytical report on the phenomenon. The statistical framework on organised crime will include various components, such as criminal activities and criminal offences perpetrated

by organised crime groups, the response by the criminal justice system and the ways in which organised crime operates. The action will be located in the WB6: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

EU-funded UNODC project on *Supporting Global Data Collection and Analysis of Firearms Trafficking and Fostering Cooperation and Information Sharing, in particular Among Countries Along Major Trafficking Routes to and from the EU*:²⁰⁸ The objective of this project is to support data collection and analysis on illicit firearms trafficking at national, regional and global levels with a view to monitoring and mapping trafficking flows, fostering effective international cooperation in tracing and information sharing, and combating illicit trafficking and related crimes. It also seeks to establish a regular data collection mechanism of statistics and information on firearms seizures and trafficking based on an internationally agreed methodology and best practices, including the 2015 UNODC Firearms Study. The project will contribute to the collection and production of statistical data to monitor Target 16.4 of the SDGs.

EU-funded UNODC global initiative on *Strengthening the Legal Regime against Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) in the Middle East, North Africa (MENA) and South Eastern Europe (SEE)*:²⁰⁹ The

206. <https://www.rycowb.org/?p=5425>

207. <https://www.unodc.org/brussels/en/organised-crime-western-balkans.html>

208. <https://www.unodc.org/brussels/en/firearms-project.html>

209. https://www.unodc.org/brussels/en/mena_ftf.html

overall objective of this action is to prevent and counter terrorist recruitment, including of FTFs, in MENA and the Balkan countries in compliance with UN General Assembly resolution 68/276 and relevant security council resolutions, including 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). Its specific objective is to enhance implementation of a criminal justice response to FTFs that fully incorporates the rule of law and the approach of respect for human rights.

*IOM project Enhancing Capacities and Mechanisms to Identify and Protect Vulnerable Migrants in the Western Balkans, with Phase II and Phase III funded by the US State Department Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration:*²¹⁰ This project is focused on developing capacities of different structures of the border police, prosecutors and judges to work with and consider cases of smuggling of migrants and on cultural competency, and supporting regional and inter-agency coordination.

*Sofia Competition Forum:*²¹¹ This platform was established in 2012 by UNCTAD and the Bulgarian competition authority as a means for cooperation among Balkan competition authorities. Albanian Competition Authority staff participated in the European Competition Day (Sofia, Bulgaria) held on 31 May 2018.

*EU-UNESCO project Towards strengthened governance of the shared trans-boundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region:*²¹² This project is focused on enhancement of the safeguarding and sustainable development of the Lake Ohrid region by further strengthening the

cooperation between Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia over the region's shared cultural and natural heritage.

*UNDP project Regional Local Democracy Programme (ReLOaD):*²¹³ This project is a regional initiative financed by the EU and implemented by UNDP in the WB6. The programme aims to strengthen participatory democracies and the EU integration process in the Western Balkans by empowering civil society to actively take part in decision making and by stimulating an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society and a pluralistic media. Its objective is to strengthen partnerships between local governments and civil society in the Western Balkans by scaling up a successful model of transparent and project-based CSOs with funding from local government budgets towards greater civic engagement in decision making and improvement of local service delivery.

*UNDP project South East Europe Urban Resilience Building Action Network:*²¹⁴ An important contribution to reducing disaster risk can be played by the local platforms for the exchange of information on best practices, lessons learned, policies, plans and measures for DRR. This project will support further decentralisation of disaster governance mechanisms and make them more transparent and accessible at the local level. The Regional SEE Urban project is being implemented in seven countries of South East Europe: WB6 and Croatia.

UNDP project Enabling Trans-boundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Manage-

210. <http://www.un.org.al/projects/enhancing-capacities-and-mechanisms-identify-and-protect-vulnerable-migrants-western>

211. <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/CompetitionLaw/ccpb-PubsPage08.aspx>

212. <https://www.iucn.org/regions/eastern-europe-and-central-asia/projects/completed-projects/towards-strengthened-governance-shared-transboundary-natural-and-cultural-heritage-lake-ohrid-region>

213. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/operations/projects/poverty_reduction/regional-local-democracy-programme.html

214. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/operations/projects/democratic_governance/south-east-europe-urban-resilience-building-action-network.html

ment in the extended Drin River Basin:²¹⁵ This project aims to promote joint management of the shared water resources of the trans-boundary Drin River Basin, including coordination mechanisms among the various sub-basin joint commissions and committees. UNDP project *Strengthening Human Resources, Legal Framework, and Institutional Capacities to Implement the Nagoya Project*:²¹⁶ The main objective of the ABS Global Project, is to assist countries such as Albania develop and strengthen their national ABS framework, human resources and administrative capabilities to implement the Nagoya Protocol. The project aims to remove the barriers preventing this from happening through in-country and regional and global level activities.

UNDP and ILO joint programme *Promoting Inclusive Labour Markets in the Western Balkans*:²¹⁷ This is a joint programme to help put more people into the marketplace. The initiative provides a combination of well-aligned employment and social welfare services, tailor-made to the specific individual needs of the unemployed. By identifying effective solutions to labour issues, UNDP and ILO can introduce and expand the methods to other countries in the region.

BOX 3 - Unlocking the UN development system's full potential - a funding compact²¹⁸ to deliver better results on the ground

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals calls for the breadth of presence, partnerships and capacities that the entire UN can offer. Significant changes in behaviour and funding are imperative. Through this Compact, governments commit to providing more of the type of funding that allows the UN to deliver results. The UN entities commit to providing greater clarity and accountability on what they do, how they use resources, and the results they achieve on the ground. The Compact is an affirmation that multilateralism and cooperation at global and local levels does work and can work even better.

The Funding Compact underscores the “*new primacy*” of the UNDAF process and framework at the country level, with UNDAF outcomes as shared UN country team (UNCT) results, to which individual UNSDG entities contribute. Strategic plans at the global level and UNDAFs at the country level are to articulate funding requirements more clearly, including by type of funding, and, the text notes, *funding dialogues must be strengthened*”.

215. <http://drincorda.iwlearn.org/gef-supported-drin-project>; <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/press-center/articles/2015/12/18/strengthening-partnerships-for-the-management-of-the-drin-basin.html>

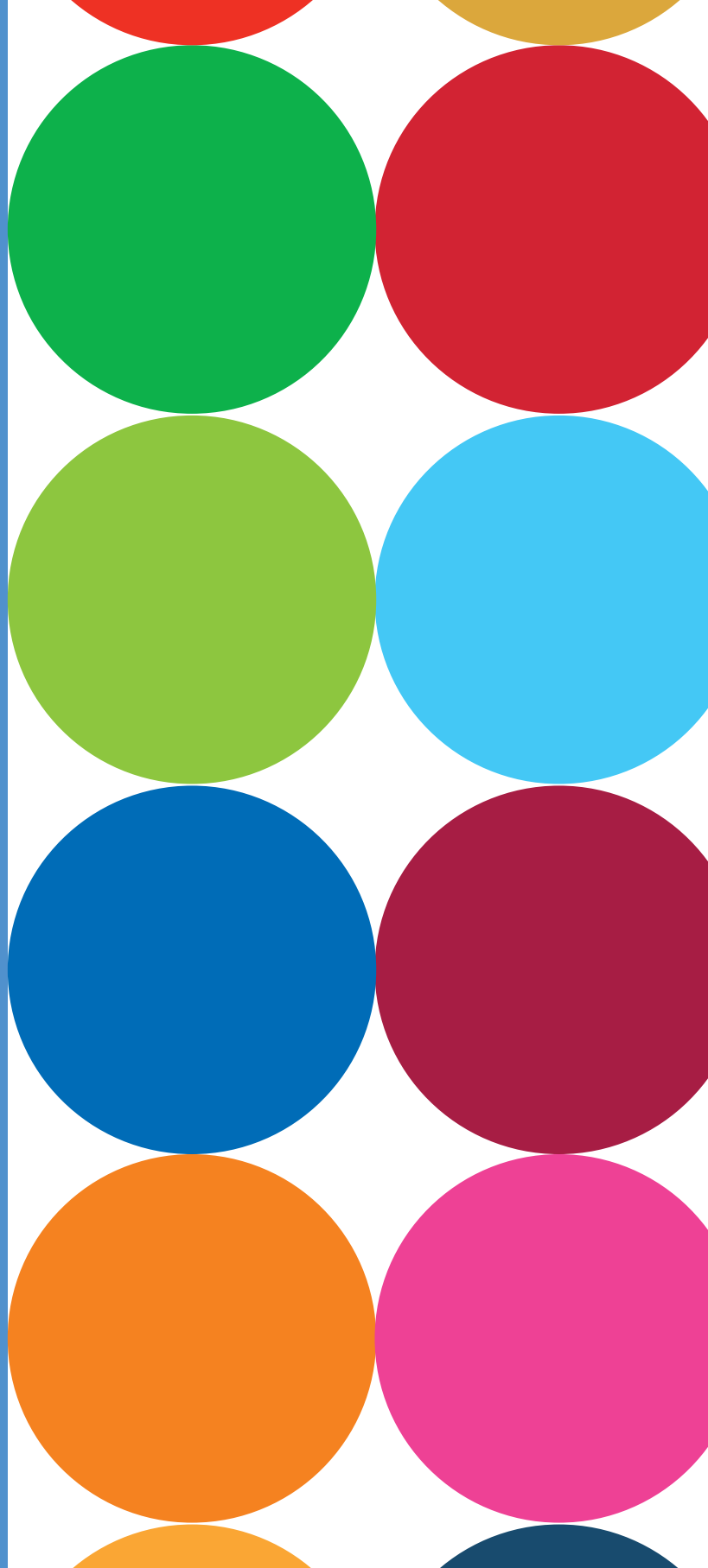
216. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/strengthening-human-resources--legal-framework--and-institutiona.html>

217. <http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/sustainable-development/Inclusive-and-sustainable-growth/Western-balkans-labour-markets.html>

218. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/governments-un-finalize-funding-compact-for-sdgs/>

UNCT Albania Comments to several Funding Compact proposed commitments		
UNSDG entities commitments	Indicators	UNCT Albania Comments
Accelerating results on the ground		
1 - To enhance cooperation for results at the country level	QCPR - Percentage of Resident Coordinators that state that at least 75% of country programme documents are aligned to the UNDAF in their country Baseline (2017): tbd Target (2021): 100%	UNCT CPDs are fully aligned to the Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021.
Improving transparency and accountability		
4 - To improve reporting on results to host governments	QCPR - Programme Country feedback on UNCT annual reports Baseline (2017): see annex 1 Target (2021): 90% for all criteria	UNCT Albania prepares annually the joint Progress Report with inputs from all contributing UN agencies. The report is structured around PoCSD outcomes linked to national development results and includes results of the whole UNCT Albania and comprehensive financial data (disaggregated by type/source). The document is shared and includes feedback from government, development partners and UNCT. Final document is shared with MPTF office as well as published in the UN Albania website. A communication campaign on results follows the release of the report.
	DCO - Number of programme countries with UN INFO operational; Baseline (2018): 32 Target (2021): 100	UNCT Albania has volunteered to obtain the UN INFO and make it operational in Albania within 2019.
5 - To present clear funding frameworks for each UNDAF, with levels and types of funding required	DCO - Fraction of new UNDAFs designed each year that include funding frameworks disaggregated by funding type/source; Baseline (2018): n/a Target (2020 onward): 100%	The Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 is currently in its third year of implementation. This framework includes a five-year funding framework disaggregated by funding type/source. It is operationalized through outcome level biennial joint work plans, prepared and signed by Government and Heads of contributing UN agencies, which present a funding framework disaggregated by funding type/source per each output and outcome.
6 - To strengthen the clarity of entity specific strategic plans and integrated results and resource frameworks and their annual reporting on results against expenditures	QCPR - Fraction of UNSDG entities that in their respective governing bodies held structured dialogues in the past year on how to finance the development results agreed in the new strategic planning cycle; Baseline (2017): 17/27 or 62% Target (2021): 100%	UNCT Albania held consultative meetings with all partners in the country when preparing the PoCSD 2017-2021 with focus also on how to mobilize resources to finance the development results. Also, UNCT is currently in the process of preparing the UNCT Albania Resource Mobilization Strategy to accompany the PoCSD, which will be developed in close dialogue with partners and relevant stakeholders on how to finance development results.
	DCO - Centralized, consolidated and user-friendly online platform with disaggregated data on funding flows at entity and system-wide level in place (Y/N); Baseline (2018): n/a Target (2020): Y	UNCT Albania has volunteered to obtain the UN INFO and make it operational in Albania within 2019. Currently, UN RCO is aggregating UN agencies data on funding flows and presenting results in the UNCT Mid-Year Review and Annual Progress Reports.
7 - To strengthen entity and system-wide transparency and reporting, linking resources to SDG results	QCPR - Fraction of UNDS entities that report on expenditures disaggregated by SDG; Baseline (2017): 6/29 entities or 20% Target (2021): 100%	UNCT Albania outcome level biennial joint work plans and PoCSD reports present UN agencies' efforts at the outcome level towards SDGs, but no breakdown of expenditures by SDGs.
	QCPR - Fraction of UNCTs that have conducted a gender scorecard exercise in the past four years, and met or exceeded requirements in at least half of the performance indicators; Baseline (2017): 9/35 or 26% Target (2020 onwards): 75%	UNCT Albania has conducted a gender scorecard exercise in the past four years (2014).
8 - To improve the quality and utility of UNDAF evaluations	DCO - % of UNDAF evaluations that contain all the following: actionable recommendations, with a clear target audience and timeframe for implementation, and a management response; Baseline (2016): 10/36 or 28% (23/62 for management response) Target (2021): 100%	As part of the preparation cycle of the PoCSD 2017-2021, in 2015 UNCT Albania conducted an evaluation of the previous UNDAF (Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016), including actionable recommendations, with a clear target audience and timeframe for implementation, and a management response.
10 - To increase visibility of results from contributors of voluntary core resources, pooled and thematic funds and for program country contributions	Entity specific - Specific mention of voluntary core fund contributors pooled and thematic fund contributors, and program country contributions in UNCT annual results reporting and entity specific country and global reporting (Y/N); Baseline (2018): n/a Target (2020): Y	The UNCT Albania Mid-Year Review and Annual Progress Report present contributors (core, non-core and voluntary) for the implementation of the PoCSD.
Increasing efficiencies		
11 - To implement the Secretary-General's goals on operational consolidation for efficiency gains	QCPR - Consolidation of common premises; Baseline (2017): 430 common premises (or 17% of all premises); Target (2021): 1,000 common premises (or 50% of all premises)	UNCT Albania has established the common premises as designated by the UN Secretary General as UN House on 25 November 2013. UN House contributes towards an increased level of UN cohesiveness in programme implementation and operations practices and procedures, including the introduction of more efficient common services. By being close physically and functionally, the UN Common House has allowed UNCT in Albania to enhance collaboration, present a unified image in the country and achieve greater economies of scale.
	QCPR - Percentage of UN Country Teams that have an approved business operations strategy in place, to enable common back offices where appropriate; Baseline (2017): 20% Target (2021): 100%	For effective delivery of UN programmes, (interim) Business Operating Strategy was adopted by UNCT Albania in May 2018, headed by Operations Management Team.
14 - To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of development related inter-agency pooled funds	FMOG - Common management features across all inter-agency pooled funds (Y/N); Baseline (2018): n/a Target (2021): Y	The PoCSD 2017-2021 features a section on Management and Accountability which presents the governance architecture of the execution of this framework, including specific roles and responsibilities of the different groups (UNCT, Steering Committee, Result Groups, other)

ANNEXES



ANNEX A: PROGRESS AGAINST POCSO RESULTS FRAMEWORK

■ ON TRACK
 ■ PARTIALLY ON TRACK
 ■ NO PROGRESS
 ■ NO DATA

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

National Development Goals: Accession to the European Union; Good Governance, Democracy and the Rule of Law

EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas: 5, 10, 18, 22, 23, 24

SDGs: 5, 10, 16, 17

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2016	Outcome Target (2021) Output Target (2018)	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2018
UNFPA UNWOMEN UNICEF UNDP UNODC IOM UNHCR UNESCO	% MPs, municipal councillors, and senior positions in the public sector held by women	MPs 21% Municipal Councillors, 35% Public Sector, 44.6%	MPs, 30% Municipal Councillors, 50% Public Sector, no less than 30%	Parliament Central Elections Commission Department of Public Administration	MPs – 29% (2017) Municipal Councillors – 37% (2017) Public Sector – 44.6%
	Annual rating of democratic change in Albania (composite)	4.14/7	3.9	Albania Democratic Governance Country Report , Freedom House	4.11 (2018)
	Perceptions of performance of public institutions	CEC, 8% Parliament, 10% Government, 14% Local Government, 13%	CEC, 20% Parliament 25% Government 35% Local Government 50%	MOV: Periodic citizen survey undertaken in the framework of Open Government Partnership	No longer measured 2017 latest information: CEC 20% Parliament 13% Government 28% Local Government 32%
	Rate of children in detention (per 100,000 population aged 14–17)	179	105	Ministry of Justice Records	108
	Out of all child-related valid complaints, proportion of complaints for which a remedial action was taken by the People's Advocate, annually	65% (2014) - 65 out of 100 cases	5% p.p increase, annually	People's Advocate Office records	57% (68 out of 119 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.

UNFPA UNICEF UNDP UNODC UNHCR UNWOMEN IOM	Number of networks of CSOs that monitor and prepare shadow reports/submission on the implementation of international instruments on women's rights and gender-based violence	0	1	Stakeholder reports	The Monitoring Network against Gender-Based Violence, a coalition of 15 CSOs, established with support of UN Women. GADS and AWEN developed the monitoring methodology of the National Strategy on Gender Equality at the local level in six municipalities (Durrës, Elbasan, Korce, Shkoder, Tirane and Vlore) and finalised six monitoring reports for 2017 for each municipality with key findings and recommendations ²⁰²⁻²⁰ to be used as advocacy tools by CSOs to increase government accountability at both central and local levels in relation to their obligations on promoting gender equality and ending violence against women.
	Number of monitoring reports on migrant rights situation in the country	0	2	Physical monitoring	No report published for 2018
	Number of national reports monitoring the implementation of international instruments with gender equality indicators, age and sex-disaggregated data and analyses	0	At least 1 (CRC); At least 1 (UPR); At least 2 (UPR and CEDAW mid-term review)	National Gov. Institutions' websites	UNCT Albania report to UPR; 5th periodic report of the Republic of Albania to the Committee on the Rights of the Child has been compiled by government (with UNICEF support). Report will be officially submitted to CRC Committee in 2019. UN Women supported government to prepare CEDAW mid-term review.
	Percentage of population who believe women are capable political leaders	46% of population believe that women don't compare to men on leadership qualities (31% women, 58% men)	65% of population believe that women are capable political leaders	Project data/surveys	Results of the Freedom of Vote and Family Voting survey 2017 (UN Women, IDRA) 80% of respondents agree with the statement that "women and young women have the required capacities to decide on political issues" 47% of respondents (55% of men and 40% of women) 'strongly' or 'somewhat' agree that men are better political leaders than women.
	Number of border monitoring reports	1	1	Project data	2: Yearly UNHCR standard report; UN Assessment on the asylum and mixed migration situation in Albania (December 2018 by UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UN Women)
	Gap analysis of the legal framework linked to statelessness	0	1	Project data	Mapping of persons at risk of statelessness report (launched June 2018); Law 'On Civil Status' approved by Albanian Parliament on October 11, 2018 and decreed by President of Albania with decree No. 10916, October 19, 2018
	Number of civil registrars and pro-bono lawyers trained on prevention and reduction of statelessness	143	400	Project data	UNHCR in collaboration with General Directorate of Civil Status Office conducted 10 trainings in Berat, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Korce, Lezha, Shkoder, Tirane and Vlore to empower the Civil Status officials and other local actors, benefitting 391 persons.

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

UNDP UNESCO UNODC IOM UNFPA	Improved sex disaggregated database on potential victims of trafficking (PVoTs) and collection of sex disaggregated data with regards to victims of trafficking.	existing VoTs database	Database populated and sex-disaggregated data available	Annual report of ONAC	Country database is operational and populated. 2018 official statistics: 2 victims of trafficking (VoT); 92 potential victims of trafficking (PVoT); 26 adults and 68 children; 59 female and 35 males; 93 Albanians and 1 foreigner.
	Number of ADISA CSCs and LGU colocations for customer-care service delivery (cumulative)	1	10	Physical, MIPA/ADISA	5
	No. of legal and policy measures and operational tools defined and activated against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects	0	4:database, new law, bilateral agreements, national platform	UN and partners reports; project data	4: database, new law, bilateral agreements, national platform Achievement of target is in process and expected to be reached fully by 2021
	Number of events and activities to strengthen media accountability and MIL in Albania.	N/A	At least 3 events/ activities	Platforms establishment documents; UN & platform reports	3 events: capacity building activities, activities with media and journalists on ICPD, SRH, youth issues
	No. of seizures by PCU increased	60%	80%	Report on seizures produced	In February 2018, 613.35 kg of cocaine were seized by the PCU, in coordination with other agencies, at the Port of Durres. This is the largest seizure in Albanian history and the most successful operation to date of the Durres PCU. Additionally, in August 2018, Durres PCU seized 6.1 kg of Cannabis sativa. The PCU continues to conduct and report seizures on an ongoing basis.

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

UNDP UNFPA	No. LGUs operating OSS for service delivery	3	16	Physical, LGUs, MSLI	15 (2018)
	Benchmarking System established at national level and 61 Municipalities use it.	System Not in Place/ 0 Municipalities using it	System in Place / 0 Municipalities using it	Local Governance Mapping LGUs Project data	0 (2018)
	No of municipal action plans that have a budget line for youth, including education and SRH.	0	12	LGUs	6 LGUs
	61 Municipalities have in place a physical archiving system and have increased their capacities, legal knowledge and skills on physical archiving.	0	61	Project report & data General Directorate of Archives LGUs	61 (2018)
	Number of municipalities with web pages meeting transparency legal requirements	21	32	Commissioner for the Right to Information Platform establishment documents	48 (2018)
	Number of municipalities implementing the transparency performance measurement system	0	20	Data from online platform vendime.al Project assessment reports	0 (2018)
	Number of municipalities publishing Council Decisions on line	27	47	Data from online platform vendime.al Project assessment reports	61 (2018)

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

UNICEF UNDP UNHCR	Existence of legislation that recognizes children's right to be heard in civil and administrative proceedings that affect them (in line with Article 12 of the CRC)	1 Law (Family Code)	2 Laws (Family Code; Child Rights and Protection Law) - Secondary legislation on the basis and for the implementation of the Child Rights and Protection Law (guaranteeing the right of the child to be heard) is drafted.	Parliament website; Official Gazette	3 laws: (Family Code, Child Rights and Protection Law and the Criminal Justice for Children Code) – Sub-legislation of the Child Rights and Protection Law and the Criminal Justice for Children Code drafted, consulted and partially adopted. The remaining part is scheduled for adoption in 2019.
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Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and GRB - State institutions have capacities and mechanisms to mainstream gender in policy-making and planning processes.

UNWOMEN UNDP UNICEF UNFPA	No. GoA draft policies, strategies and plans engendered	2 (NSDI, NSGE)	2	Annual reports	2: NSDI, NSGE (both approved)
	Extent of gender mainstreaming in the central budgeting process (MTBP)	24 MTBPs	30 MTBPs	Policy document Action plans	33 MTBs or 50% of all budget programmes of line ministries, are compliant with a Gender Results Budgeting review process
	No. of fiscal laws, by-laws and policies reflecting compliance with gender-responsive budgeting.	2 OBL, GEL	2	Draft laws By-laws	Annual Budget Instruction for central level Annual Budget Instruction for local level Instruction for Monitoring of Budget at local level Instruction for Monitoring of Budget at central level
	A consolidated monitoring system for data collection & dissemination for service delivery.	Existence of an unconsolidated monitoring system	Consolidated monitoring system in place (1 monitoring framework of NSGE; 2 Templates of onset data collection)	National statistical reports and bulletins	Publication Women and Men 2018 has been finalised; includes all indicators reflected on Albanian national monitoring frameworks and international reporting obligations on gender equality and status of women. Document includes long list of gender indicators harmonised with related gender indicators of SDGs, Gender indicators proposed to NSDI II 2015–2020, gender indicators of monitoring framework of National Gender Strategy 2016–2020. Statistical framework on Child Rights and Protection developed, consulted and approved through DCM. In parallel an online platform (http://www.instat.gov.al/publikimi) and video on the publication produced and launched.

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

IOM UNHCR UNICEF	Migration Governance Policy available and endorsed, including gender-specific provisions	No	Yes	DCM on endorsement of the policy	Yes. National Strategy on Migration Governance developed. Endorsement expected within 2019Q2.
	Extent to which Asylum Procedures are compliant with international refugee law and the EU acquis	60%	65%	Gap analysis (legal/institutional/practice) Systematic border monitoring, Monitoring of RSD procedures	65%; as Albania is still perceived as a transit country, the vast majority of persons seeking asylum abandon procedures even before their application is formally lodged. Capacity building for the caseworkers and specialists of Directorate for Asylum and Citizenship is needed during 2019. A permanent presence of governmental officials at the centre to interview new arrivals both identifying specific needs, and providing sufficient information for the analysis of their asylum claim, needs to be explored
	Reception capacities at the border increased, with a differentiated approach for women and children at risk.	Capacity 90 persons/ 1 centre for women and children at risk (15 persons)	capacity 150 persons / 2 centres for women and children at risk (30 persons)	Ministry of Internal Affairs reports Monitoring of border situation	Increased capacity with 200 notably the Caritas reception facility in Shkodra for 120 persons, now managed under an agreement with UNHCR, rehabilitated facilities at Kapshtica Border Crossing Point (Korce) to enable temporary accommodation of 13 persons. In addition, through its partner RMSA, rehabilitation of the Border and Migration Police facilities in Tirane was completed to enable an adequate interviewing space.
	Assessments of the current legal framework and IT infrastructure for the introduction of API	no	yes	DCM on endorsement of the Policy	Yes. Assessment concluded and validated.
	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	Mapping methodology and tools under development.
	Diaspora mechanisms for skills transfer and investment boosting in place	no	yes	Ministry of Interior reports Monitoring of border situation Systematic monitoring of National Centre for Asylum seekers and closed centre for irregular migrants	Yes. Fellowship mechanism for skills transfer developed. Implementation expected during 2019–2020. Investment boosting mechanism is in development. Implementation expected during 2019–2020.
	SOPs for case management of unaccompanied refugee and migrant children developed	0	1	ONAC reports	Notable progress has been recorded with the development of draft decision of Council of Ministers, on 'Foreign unaccompanied children in Albania'. The aim of this draft decision is to improve case management procedures for foreign unaccompanied children who arrive in Albania.

Outcome 2— Social cohesion: Health, education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence

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.

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

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

SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2016	Outcome Target (2021) Output Target (2018)	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2018
WHO UNICEF UNFPA IOM UNESCO UNDP UNWOMEN FAO IAEA	Private household out-of-pocket expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure	55%	40%	World Bank reports INSTAT	55%
	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 IGME https://data.unicef.org/resources/ www.unicef.org/child-mortality/	IMR 8 per 1,000 live births U5MR 9 per 1,000 births https://childmortality.org/reports
	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 deliveries)	29 (UN IGME) 32 (2016 INSTAT)	20 (30% reduction)	UN IGME	9.7 (2018 INSTAT)
	Net enrolment rates	<u>Pre-Primary</u> Total 81.34% Girls 80.6% Boys 82% Roma Children 55% <u>Primary 2013</u> Total 95.92% Girls 94.8% Boys 96.2% Roma Children 61.4% <u>Children with Disabilities Basic Education 2014</u> 3,201 students	<u>Pre-Primary:</u> Total: 98% Girls: 98% Boys: 98% Roma: 75% <u>Primary 2021</u> Total: 100% Girls: 100% Boys: 100% Roma: 80% <u>Children with Disabilities Basic Education 2020:</u> 25% increase	MoE reports INSTAT UNESCO Institute for Statistics UNHCR Annual Reports OECD Biannual report of MoSWY	<u>Pre-Primary</u> n/a <u>Primary (latest 2017)</u> Total 96.9% Girls 96.2% Boys 97.5% Roma children: n/a <u>Children with disabilities (latest 2017) basic education</u> 3,252 students (16% increase)
	Schoolchildren's learning outcomes (as measured by PISA)	Reading 394 Math 394 Science 397	Reading 494 Math 496 Science 501	OECD Biannual report of MoSWY	Reading 405 Maths 413 Science 427
	Number of sector-specific policies with explicit social inclusion targets	4	24	INSTAT Biannual report of MoSWY Line ministries policy documents, NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring framework	21 out of 24
	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) ²⁹⁻⁰³	UN, EU and stakeholders' qualitative assessment(s), sector and country progress reports MoSWY and SSS records	Rated 3 (rating of 0 to 5)
	Rate of children (age 0-17) in residential (public and non-public) care per 100,000 child population	84	42	UN, EU and stakeholders' qualitative assessment(s), sector and country progress reports MoSWY and SSS records	83 (2017)
	Number of national mechanisms collecting evidence and addressing violence against children	4 (police, Child Protection Units (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	At least 6: police, CPUs, schools, helpline, health centres, online and web-based platform
	% Women who have experienced physical violence during their lives	23.7%	21%	INSTAT	47%

Output 2.1 Health - There is increased access to quality, inclusive, equitable, and affordable health care services and community demand is increased.					
UNFPA UNICEF WHO IAEA FAO IOM	Monitoring and evaluation reports on comprehensive national health policies/ action plans on UHC, NCD control, RH, HIV and TB	1	3	Reports produced by MoHSP	Comprehensive Assessment of PHC in Albania; Mapping evidence for the implementation of Albanian national Health Strategy 2016-2020; Assessment of Sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent (SRMNCA) health services in the context of universal health coverage
	No. of health care institutions that have conducted self-assessment on the compliance to the approved Quality of Care Standards	5 hospitals	12 hospitals and 20 Primary Health Care Centres	Reports produced by the National Centre for the Quality, Safety and Accreditation of Health Institutions	11 Regional Hospitals, 4 University Hospitals, 3 Services at Mother Theresa University Hospital Centre, 10 Primary Health Care Centres in Tirana; 5 Primary Health Care Centres in Durres
	N° 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; 1302 (Cobalt and Therapax) of which 225 breast cases	Reports produced by the University Hospital Centre "Mother Theresa".	+17%
	No. of health professionals with capacity to identify and refer potential victims of trafficking (PV/VoT)	0		Yearly reports produced by MoI, ONAC	70 health professionals from 12 counties of Albania have been capacitated in implementation of indicators to identify and refer victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking
Output 2.2 Education - Education policies, mechanisms, community partnerships and actions are strengthened for quality, inclusive education					
UNICEF UNESCO UNFPA IOM	Availability of inclusive mechanisms for prevention and response towards out of schoolchildren and children at risk of drop out for all relevant actors.	Mechanism for preventing drop-out developed	Mechanism for prevention of school drop-out enter into force and used in at least three regions in Albania.	MoES policy documents Approval letter from Minister of Education, MOE reports	Mechanism in place, approved by MoESY and in use in 10 schools in four counties of Albania
	Presence of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in all schools at all levels, private and public including 10-18 years of age	20%	50%	MOES policy documents Approval letter from Minister of Education, MOE reports	30%
	No. of schools and children reached with Trafficking in human beings' prevention and education interventions	not available from statistics	12 schools *100 children/ each= 1200	Agreements, report from the project and MoES	6 schools, 180 teachers, 200 students reached
	Extent to which Global Citizenship Education (GCED) is mainstreamed in the national education policy, curricula, teacher education and student assessment"	GCED not mainstreamed in curricula	GCED part of the curricula	Reports for project, MoES etc.	Pilot project on testing new curriculum related to Global Citizenship Education implemented in 20 schools Indicator target will be reached by 2021
	Situation analysis report of the implementation of SDG4 in Albania, based on documentary analysis and available data (including data disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, etc.).	Education Policy Review completed and recommendations presented.	Situation analysis used to inform the VNR process and reflections on the alignment of the education strategy with SDG4.	Reports for project, MoES etc.	Situation Analysis of Education in Albania prepared, feeding to Albania's Voluntary National Report presented in 2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, convened in July under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, and Albania's MAPS mission report (conducted during 16-21 April in Tirane)

Output 2.3 Social Inclusion & Social 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

UNDP UNFPA UNICEF UNWOMEN IOM	Inter-sectoral monitoring and coordination mechanism established and performing per its mandate/TOR	0	1 (SIIG)	GoA / MoSWY Social Inclusion annual reports	Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group (SIIG) established in co-operation with line ministries to ensure alignment and integrity of data for measuring, monitoring and reporting on national policies and programmes outlined in the Social Inclusion Policy Document
	Policy and/or budgetary framework that explicitly addresses child poverty and disparities available	No	Yes	NSDI implementation report	Work is under way with INSTAT to introduce new ways of measuring and reporting on child poverty. UNICEF supported INSTAT to collect data in 2018 as per the EUROSTAT child deprivation module.
	Coordination mechanisms for social protection systems established countrywide	0	7 municipalities	GoA / MoSWY Social Inclusion annual reports	7 municipalities have in place costed social care plans and clear guidelines and workflows on how the social welfare departments will implement social protection policies effectively to harmonize cash and care. The secondary legislation is also in place.
	The number of Roma and Egyptian women and men with improved access to basic social protection services is increased.	357 R/E benefited from integrated community based social services; 112 R/Es included in reintegration programmes; 184 R/Es benefited from employment measures	450 R/E benefited from integrated community based social services; 150 R/Es included in reintegration programmes; 250 R/Es benefited from employment measures	GoA / MoSWY Social Inclusion annual reports	664 R/E benefited from integrated community based social services; 609 R/Es included in reintegration programmes; 359 R/Es benefited from employment and income generation measures.
	Number of municipalities with improved capacities, organisation development and quality management of service providers, and effective planning and budgeting.	Five municipal public service providers	8 Municipalities	Record of participatory planning and budgeting of services at local levels	3 Municipalities

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.

UNICEF WHO IOM	No. of instruments facilitating implementation of legal framework for Child Protection is in place	0	10 DCMs	Parliament records Council of Ministers' records	Target fully achieved: 5 DCMs, 5 instructions and 1 order drafted and submitted by 2018.
	% of Child Protection Units that perform case management of children at risk and need for protection	26%	40%	State Agency on Child Rights and Protection annual report	26% (2016) 35% (2017) 2018 Data from the State Agency on Child Rights and Protection will be available in the second half 2019
	A National Action Plan for Child and Family Social Services (De-institutionalisation Plan) available in the country	Policy drafted	policy reviewed and costed	Parliament records	One-year action plan of is enacted, covering the full assessment of 9 public child care institutions.
	No. of (potential) Victims of Trafficking identified by Child Protection Units	26	36	Yearly reports produced by Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (ONAC)	36

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.

UNDP UNWOMEN UNFPA WHO UNICEF IOM	No. of laws and by-laws adopted/ amended related to GBV to align with the international and regional standards	2	3	Parliament website CM Website	4 (DV Law and three by-laws)
	No. Municipalities with functional CCR	27	39	Yearly reports produced by MoIA, ONAC	39
	No of cases of gender based violence addressed through CCR	312	450	MoSWY report REVALB, MoSWY	668
	Existence of improved knowledge on child marriage	No	Yes	UNICEF reports	Yes

Outcome 3— 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.

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, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2016	Outcome Target (2021) Output Target (2018)	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2018
UNDP UNWOMEN	Ease of Doing Business distance to frontier (score)	60.5	72.13	World Bank: Doing Business Report	68.7
FAO UNECE UNCTAD ILO	N ^a new businesses established by sex of owner	Total 16,731 Female 1,947 Male 14,784	Annual 10% increase	National Registration Centre – Annual reports	Total: 19,041 Female: 11,021 Male: 8,020
UNESCO IOM UNIDO	Youth unemployment rate (young men and women (15 – 29) who are: without work; available for work; and seeking work)	Total 34.2% Female 35.9% Male 33.3%	Total 20.5% Female 21% Male 20%	INSTAT Labour Force Survey	Unemployment rate for 15+ is 12.2 % or 1.4 % points lower than in the third quarter of 2017. Employment rate for 15 - 64 is 59.7 % or 2.3 % higher than in the same quarter of 2017: male - 67.3 % (2.6%p increase), female - 52.1 % (1.6% points increase). Youth unemployment rate declined to 22.3 % or 2.3 % points lower than in 2017 Youth employment rate is 40.8 % Minimum wage increased from 22,000ALL to 26,000 ALL
	Growth of agriculture sector 2016 - 2020	2.25%	5%	INSTAT	3.15%
	Agriculture Export – Import ratio in 2020	1:4.5	1:3	INSTAT	1:4.1
	Global Innovation Index Rank	87	75	MoV: (Cornell, INSEAD, WIPO) www.globalinnovationindex.org/	83
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.					
UNDP UNWOMEN FAO UNECE UNCTAD	Number of Corporations that endorse Women Empowerment Principles	2	5	Tirana Municipality, UN Women CO annual reports	11

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.

UNDP UNWOMEN ILO IOM FAO	Number of trainings for MC staff	1	3	MoSWY reports	2
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Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development - There is increased capacity to design and implement policies and strategies for sustainable rural development and modernization of the agricultural sector that are gender sensitive and empower rural women.

FAO UNWOMEN UNDP UNIDO	Number of actions that raise awareness on rural women role and rights in agriculture and rural economy	1	One nationwide implemented campaign in rural areas that disseminate information on rural women's.	Source: UN Women CO Annual Report	At least 2 nationwide campaigns implemented in rural areas that disseminate information on rural women's rights
	Women's share among beneficiaries of agriculture extension service	11%	13%	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	28%

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

UNESCO	Inter-institutional mechanisms in place for cultural and natural heritage management, including for sustainable tourism	No mechanism in place	Mechanism in place	Laws adopted, reports on implementation of conventions, decisions of the government	Inter – institutional mechanism created within the Ohrid project, with the involvement of main governmental stakeholders, as well as local communities and CSOs sector. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Agriculture, NAPA, Municipality of Pogradec), Nomination file for the extension of the WH property Natural and Cultural heritage of Ohrid Region submitted to the World Heritage Centre.
	Culture mainstreamed within development programmes at all levels, by means of providing an evidence base on the impact of culture for development and implementing a national strategy for culture	No	Yes	Laws adopted, reports on implementation of conventions, decisions of the government	The New Law on Cultural Heritage and Museums is adopted by the parliament.

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 & 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: 6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2016	Outcome Target (2021) Output Target (2018)	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2018
UNDP UNICEF UNEP UNESCO FAO WHO UNECE UNIDO	Extent to which comprehensive measures - plans, strategies, policies, programmes and budgets - are being implemented to achieve low-emission and/or climate-resilient development objectives	Current RES in energy portfolio (34.22%)	38% RES in energy mix (Energy Community Treaty Target)	EU report, National communication to UNFCCC, MoE State of Environment report, GEF tracking tool	34.9% share of energy from RES, above the third indicative trajectory of 34.3%
	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	73,219 ha	National Agency for Protected Areas, local environmental inspectorates and agencies, environmental departments in local government units. CBD reports	9,424 ha.
	Number of farmers accessing disaster early warning system	0% Female 30%	20% 2018	MOARD - Early Warning Platform to be established during 2016	10% Female 30%
	Gender action plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation prepared	No plan	Action plan prepared	Ministry of Environment reporting	Albania Third National Communication to UNFCCC provides for gender mainstreaming in climate change from the policy perspective
Output 4.1 DRR and Climate Change - Scaled up action on DRR and climate change²⁰⁴ mitigation and adaptation across sectors					
UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UNEP UNESCO FAO WHO	Nº of sites, including World Heritage sites, with costed DRR plans/ interventions, that are gender-sensitive	0 (UNESCO) sites	3 (UNESCO) sites	Ministry of the Interior report World Heritage management plans	0
	Nº Financial mechanisms and 'pipelines' developed to access climate finance, including GCF	0	3	Quantitative information from Ministry of Environment EPR report	0
	Number of partnerships at local level for improved energy efficiency and/or sustainable energy solutions, including businesses, targeting also underserved communities/groups and women	5 partnerships 11 factories No related CO2 emissions	10 partnerships 15 demonstration plants 53,000 tCO2eq direct Emissions	Ministry of Energy reports, Min of Local Government reports, Project documents EPR report	13 partnerships for solar water heating application. Total installed cumulative area of solar panels for water heating 209,745 m2, annual sales 21,701 m2 resulting in 1,160,452 tCO2 reduction
Output 4.2 Natural Resources - Central and local institutions and communities are strengthened to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources					
UNECE UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UNESCO FAO WHO	Categories of Protected areas and Biosphere reserves with working, sustainable financial and legal mechanisms	0	2 plus Prespa Lakes Zone	NAPA, CBD. UNECE Committee on Housing, Land Management & Population. Ministry of Urban Development. Joint Commission for the protection and rational use of water resources. Ministry of Agriculture, water basins commissions	Nomination file for the extension of the WH property Natural and Cultural heritage of Ohrid Region submitted to the World Heritage Centre
	Public school grades implementing the new curriculum on environmental education and sustainable development	Implemented in Grades 1 and 5	Implemented in other Grades	Reports from Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Implemented in Grades 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8

ANNEX B: ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FINANCIAL REPORT ON ALBANIA SDG ACCELERATION FUND FOR 2018

INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and SAAs with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to contributors.

2018 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December **2018** and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the **Albania SDG Acceleration Fund**. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>).

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2018, 12 contributors deposited US\$ **43,436,093** in contributions and US\$ **413,888** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **43,849,980**

Of this amount, US\$ **41,154,993** has been net funded to **17** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **39,240,242** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **434,360**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Albania SDG Acceleration Fund** as of 31 December 2018.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2017	Annual 2018	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	1,658,375	4,431,061	43,436,093
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	3,915	11,579	292,900
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	1,323	273	120,987
Total: Sources of Funds	1,663,612	4,442,913	43,849,980
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	2,240,810	2,208,835	44,036,431
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	(11,040)	(53,714)	(2,881,438)
Net Funded Amount	2,229,770	2,155,121	41,154,993
Administrative Agent Fees	16,584	44,311	434,360
Bank Charges	8	3	812
Total: Uses of Funds	2,246,361	2,199,435	41,590,164
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	(582,749)	2,243,478	2,259,816
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	599,087	16,338	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	16,338	2,259,816	2,259,816
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	2,229,770	2,155,121	41,154,993
Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	2,230,325	2,112,025	39,240,242
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations			1,914,751

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December **2018**.

The **Albania SDG Acceleration Fund** is currently being financed by **12** contributors, as listed in the table below. The table below includes commitments made up to **31 December 2018** through signed Standard Administrative Agreements, and deposits made through **2018**. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2018**.

Table 2. Contributors' Commitments and Deposits, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2018 Deposits	Total Deposits
Albania	153,747	-	153,747	153,747
Austria	1,214,737	1,214,737	-	1,214,737
Delivering Results Together	3,116,750	3,116,750	-	3,116,750
European Union	3,474,781	3,474,781	-	3,474,781
Expanded DaO Funding Window	3,825,000	3,825,000	-	3,825,000
Finland	394,240	394,240	-	394,240
Netherlands	3,845,700	3,845,700	-	3,845,700
Norway	3,338,389	3,338,389	-	3,338,389
Spain	4,000,000	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
Sweden	10,742,908	8,741,849	2,001,059	10,742,908
Switzerland	9,329,841	7,053,586	2,276,255	9,329,841
Grand Total	43,436,093	39,005,032	4,431,061	43,436,093

3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways:

- 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and
- 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December **2018**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **292,900**.

Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ **120,987**, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ **413,888**.

Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017	Current Year Jan-Dec-2018	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	281,321	11,579	292,900
Total: Fund Earned Interest	281,321	11,579	292,900
Participating Organization			
UNECE	49		49
FAO	595		595
UNDP	84,070		84,070
UNESCO	2,310		2,310
UNFPA	22,154		22,154
UNIDO	4,654	273	4,926
UNODC	104		104
UNWOMEN	6,780		6,780
Total: Agency earned interest	120,715	273	120,987
Grand Total	402,036	11,852	413,888

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2018**, the AA has transferred US\$ **44,036,431** to **17** Participating Organizations (see list below).

4.1 TRANSFER BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 4 Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017			Current Year Jan-Dec-2018			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNECE	79,500	(9,575)	69,925				79,500	(9,575)	69,925
FAO	315,300	(36,811)	278,489				315,300	(36,811)	278,489
IAEA	94,461		94,461				94,461		94,461
ILO	75,000	(2,921)	72,079				75,000	(2,921)	72,079
IOM	334,996		334,996				334,996		334,996
ITC	30,000	(1,999)	28,001				30,000	(1,999)	28,001
UNAIDS	185,815		185,815		(661)	(661)	185,815	(661)	185,154
UNCTAD	178,500		178,500				178,500		178,500
UNDP	19,025,621	(1,974,979)	17,050,641	1,515,482		1,515,482	20,541,103	(1,974,979)	18,566,123
UNEP	439,244		439,244				439,244		439,244
UNESCO	934,118	(126,001)	808,118				934,118	(126,001)	808,118
UNFPA	5,007,293	(32,896)	4,974,397	105,803	(8,448)	97,355	5,113,096	(41,344)	5,071,752
UNICEF	8,937,416	(365,384)	8,572,032	420,562		420,562	9,357,978	(365,384)	8,992,594
UNIDO	665,848	(143,671)	522,177		(38,362)	(38,362)	665,848	(182,033)	483,815
UNODC	388,315		388,315				388,315		388,315
UNWOMEN	4,245,632	(42,803)	4,202,829	166,988	(6,243)	160,745	4,412,620	(49,046)	4,363,574
WHO	890,536	(90,684)	799,852				890,536	(90,684)	799,852
Grand Total	41,827,596	(2,827,724)	38,999,872	2,208,835	(53,714)	2,155,121	44,036,431	(2,881,438)	41,154,993

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year **2018** were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The **2018** expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>.

5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

In 2018, US\$ **2,155,121** was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ **2,112,025** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **41,154,993** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ **39,240,242**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 95 percent.

Table 5 Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017	Expenditure		Delivery Rate %
				Current Year Jan-Dec-2018	Cumulative	
UNECE	79,500	69,925	69,925		69,925	100.00
FAO	315,300	278,489	278,489	0	278,489	100.00
IAEA	94,461	94,461	94,461		94,461	100.00
ILO	75,000	72,079	72,079		72,079	100.00
IOM	334,996	334,996	316,358	18,638	334,996	100.00
ITC	30,000	28,001	28,001		28,001	100.00
UNAIDS	185,815	185,154	185,152	(233)	184,919	99.87
UNCTAD	178,500	178,500	162,472	13,544	176,016	98.61
UNDP	20,541,103	18,566,123	15,876,545	1,419,723	17,296,268	93.16
UNEP	439,244	439,244	430,224		430,224	97.95
UNESCO	934,118	808,118	803,129	4,660	807,789	99.96
UNFPA	5,113,096	5,071,752	4,888,680	110,871	4,999,551	98.58
UNICEF	9,357,978	8,992,594	8,252,138	309,253	8,561,391	95.20
UNIDO	665,946	483,815	483,893	(78)	483,815	100.00
UNODC	388,315	388,315	379,255	(276)	378,979	97.60
UNWOMEN	4,412,621	4,363,574	4,007,565	235,922	4,243,487	97.25
WHO	890,536	799,852	799,852		799,852	100.00
Grand Total	44,036,529	41,154,993	37,128,218	2,112,025	39,240,242	95.35

5.2 EXPENDITURE BY UNDAF OUTCOME

Table 6 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures incurred and the financial delivery rates by UNDAF Outcome.

Table 6 Expenditure by UNDAF Outcome, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Country/Sector	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017		Current Year Jan-Dec-2018		Total		Delivery Rate %
	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	
Albania							
ALB 2012 P1 Governance	7,293,095	7,148,965	(11,422)	64,110	7,281,673	7,213,074	99.06
ALB 2012 P2 Economy and Environment	1,369,829	1,318,734	(38,362)	2,117	1,331,467	1,320,852	99.20
ALB 2012 P3 Regional and Local Development	1,447,181	1,432,157		14,713	1,447,181	1,446,871	99.98
ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	7,198,682	7,169,578	(3,930)	5,640	7,194,753	7,175,217	99.73
Basic Services	7,322,092	7,322,092			7,322,092	7,322,092	100.00
Environment	1,387,150	1,386,650		(77)	1,387,150	1,386,572	99.96
Governance	8,070,310	8,023,704		856	8,070,310	8,024,560	99.43
Governance and Rule of Law	255,053	137,748		115,721	255,053	253,469	99.38
Participation	2,189,722	2,134,686			2,189,722	2,134,686	97.49
Regional Development	481,000	480,716		284	481,000	481,000	100.00
Social Cohesion	1,985,757	573,189	2,208,835	1,908,661	4,194,592	2,481,850	59.17
GRAND Total:	38,999,872	37,128,218	2,155,121	2,112,025	41,154,993	39,240,242	95.35

5.3 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditure incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditure are reported in the new eight categories. See table below.

2012 CEB Expense Categories

1. Staff and personnel costs
2. Supplies, commodities and materials
3. Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation
4. Contractual services
5. Travel
6. Transfers and grants
7. General operating expenses
8. Indirect costs

2006 UNDG Expense Categories

1. Supplies, commodities, equipment & transport
2. Personnel
3. Training counterparts
4. Contracts
5. Other direct costs
6. Indirect costs

Table 7 Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Category	Expenditure			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017	Current Year Jan-Dec-2018	Total	
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	1,836,091	-	1,836,091	5.01
Personnel (Old)	6,223,909	-	6,223,909	16.97
Training of Counterparts (Old)	371,723	-	371,723	1.01
Contracts (Old)	8,276,599	-	8,276,599	22.57
Other direct costs (Old)	1,217,459	-	1,217,459	3.32
Staff & Personnel Cost (New)	1,694,487	135,786	1,830,273	4.99
Supplies, Commodities and Materials (New)	249,848	51,817	301,665	0.82
Equipment, Vehicles, Furniture, Depreciation (New)	467,013	21,662	488,675	1.33
Contractual Services (New)	8,485,310	1,185,388	9,670,698	26.37
Travel (New)	946,671	49,144	995,815	2.72
Transfers and Grants (New)	2,418,020	276,349	2,694,369	7.35
General Operating (New)	2,505,691	255,860	2,761,551	7.53
Programme Costs Total	34,692,820	1,976,005	36,668,825	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	2,435,398	136,019	2,571,418	7.01
Total	37,128,218	2,112,025	39,240,242	

1. **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2018, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ **44,311** was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2018, US\$ **434,360** has been charged in AA-fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ **136,019** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **2,571,418** as of 31 December 2018.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

DEFINITIONS

Allocation

Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

Approved Project/Programme

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

Contributor Commitment

Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

Contributor Deposit

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

Delivery Rate

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the 'net funded amount'.

Indirect Support Costs

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs.

Net Funded Amount

Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

Participating Organization

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

Project Expenditure

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

Project Financial Closure

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

Project Operational Closure

A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

Project Start Date

Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTF Office to the Participating Organization.

Total Approved Budget

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

US Dollar Amount

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.



ANNEX C: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2018 TOTAL BUDGET INCLUDING ALL SOURCES OF FUNDING

Outcomes	Available Budget		Total Available Budget	Total Funding Gap	Expenditures		Total Expenditures	Delivery rate in %
	Core/Regular	Non-Core/Other			Core/Regular	Non-Core/Other		
Outcome 1 - Governance and Rule of Law	2,355,393	5,539,015	7,894,408	4,203,560	2,354,762	5,324,590	7,679,352	97.28%
Outcome 2 - Social Cohesion	1,811,518	5,454,060	7,265,578	3,357,073	1,766,404	5,150,351	6,916,755	95.20%
Outcome 3 - Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture	1,067,000	2,027,607	3,094,607	4,109,000	1,065,037	1,562,995	2,628,032	84.92%
Outcome 4 - DRR and Climate Change	232,010	3,722,214	3,954,224	3,138,000	111,543	2,765,222	2,876,765	72.75%
Programme of Cooperation: TOTAL in USD	5,465,920	16,742,896	22,208,816	14,807,633	5,297,746	14,803,158	20,100,904	87.54%

Outcomes/Outputs	Available Budget	Total Expenditures	Delivery Rate (%)
Output 1.1 Human Rights	545,578	533,859	97.85%
Output 1.2 Anti-corruption and Rule of Law	1,036,731	1,000,883	96.54%
Output 1.3 Local Governance	3,603,261	3,447,750	95.68%
Output 1.4 Access to Justice	269,188	269,089	99.96%
Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender Responsive Budgeting	340,902	329,023	96.52%
Output 1.6 Migration and Asylum	2,098,748	2,098,748	100.00%
Outcome 1 Governance and Rule of Law	7,894,408	7,679,352	97.28%
Output 2.1 Health	1,512,836	1,322,003	87.39%
Output 2.2 Education	502,864	502,864	100.00%
Output 2.3 Social Protection and Social Inclusion	3,861,007	3,751,336	97.16%
Output 2.4 Child Rights Protection	639,987	639,987	100.00%
Output 2.5 Gender Based Violence	748,883	700,565	93.55%
Outcome 2 Social Cohesion	7,265,578	6,916,755	95.20%
Output 3.1 Economic Development	390,000	390,000	100.00%
Output 3.2 Labour	1,918,607	1,662,865	86.67%
Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development	651,000	451,000	69.28%
Output 3.4 Culture	135,000	124,167	91.98%
Outcome 3 Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture	3,094,607	2,628,032	84.92%
Output 4.1 DRR and Climate Change	1,454,441	902,941	62.08%
Output 4.2 Natural Resources	2,499,783	1,973,824	78.96%
Outcome 4 DRR and Climate Change	3,954,224	2,876,765	72.75%
TOTAL	22,208,816	20,100,904	87.54%

ANNEX D: NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS, PARTICIPATING UN ORGANISATIONS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES, AND THEIR ACRONYMS AND WEBSITES

KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Central Election Commission	www.cec.org.al
Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination	www.kmd.al
Department for Development and Good Governance	www.kryeministria.al
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	www.bujqesia.gov.al
Ministry of Culture	www.kultura.gov.al
Ministry of Defence	www.mod.gov.al
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth	www.arsimi.gov.al
Ministry for Europe and of Foreign Affairs	www.mfa.gov.al
Ministry of Finance and Economy	www.financa.gov.al
Ministry of Health and Social Protection	www.shendetesia.gov.al
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy	www.energija.gov.al
Ministry of Interior	www.punetebrendshme.gov.al
Ministry of Justice	www.drejtesia.gov.al
Ministry of Tourism and Environment	www.mjedisi.gov.al
National Institute of Statistics	www.instat.gov.al
People's Advocate	www.avokatipopullit.gov.al

PARTICIPATING UN ORGANISATIONS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United States	www.fao.org
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	www.iaea.org
ILO	International Labour Organisation	www.ilo.org
IOM	International Organisation for Migration	www.iom.int
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	www.unctad.org
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	www.undp.org
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	www.unece.org
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	www.unep.org
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	www.unesco.org
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	www.unfpa.org
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	www.unhcr.org
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	www.unicef.org
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation	www.unido.org
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	www.unodc.org
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	www.unwomen.org
WHO	World Health Organisation	www.who.int

ANNEX E: UN ORGANISATIONS PUBLICATIONS IN 2018

- Road Safety National Performance Review (UNECE)
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/roadsafe/unda/AL_RSPR_WEB_e.pdf
- Smallholders and Family Farms in Albania – Country Study Report (FAO)
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/reu/europe/documents/events2018/SFF/6.pdf
- Manual of African swine fever: Detection and Diagnosis (FAO)
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7228e.pdf>
- Peer-to-peer manual on children's safety online (UNICEF)
<https://www.unicef.org/albania/reports/peer-educators-online-safety>
- Situation analysis of children with disabilities in Albania (UNICEF)
<https://www.unicef.org/albania/reports/we-all-matter>
- Child Marriage - Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceptions among affected communities in Albania (UNICEF)
<https://www.unicef.org/albania/reports/child-marriage>
- Leave No One Behind Programme: Progress Report (June 2017- May 2018) & Semi-Annual Progress Report (June -November 2018)
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/progress-report--leave-no-one-behind.html>
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/leave-no-one-behind--semi-annual-progress-report.html>
- Quick Facts and Data from a Financial Review of Local Budget Spending on Social Care Services Albania 2018 (UNDP)
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/-quick-facts-and-data-from-a-financial-review-of-local-budget-sp.html>
- Brief: Leave No One Behind – Programme at a Glance (UNDP)
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/brief--leave-no-one-behind.html>
- Brochure: Leave No One behind -Programme to Date (UNDP)
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/brochure--leave-no-one-behind.html>
- A Satisfaction survey on social services received - July 2018 (UNDP)
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/a-satisfaction-survey-on-social-services-/>
- A Review of Local Budget Spending on Social Care Services - July 2018 (UNDP)
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/a-review-of-local-budget-spending-on-social-care-services/>
- Capacity and Training Needs Assessment for CSOs Working in the Area of Disabilities -July 2018 (UNDP)
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/capacity-and-training-needs-assessment-for-csos-working-in-the-a/>
- Factsheet on young people in Durrës Municipality – June 2018 (UNFPA)
<https://albania.unfpa.org/en/publications/factsheet-young-people-durr%C3%ABs-municipality>
- Factsheet on young people in Përmet Municipality – June 2018 (UNFPA)
<https://albania.unfpa.org/en/publications/factsheet-young-people-p%C3%ABrmet-municipality>
- Factsheet on young people in Fier Municipality – June 2018 (UNFPA)
<https://albania.unfpa.org/en/publications/factsheet-young-people-fier-municipality>
- A Guidance Package on Laws and Policies on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNDP)
<https://wecando.wordpress.com/research-reports-papers-statistics/>

- Fact Sheets on the findings of the survey on SDGs knowledge with Durres/Fier/Permet/ and Korca youth (UNFPA)
https://albania.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Annex-4.Fact-Sheet-Durr%C3%ABsi_0.pdf
<https://albania.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Annex-5.Fact-Sheet-P%C3%ABrmeti.pdf>
<https://albania.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Annex-3.Fact-Sheet-Fieri.pdf>
<http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Fact-Sheet-me-gjetjet-e-anketimit-me-te-rinjte-e-Bashkise-se-Korces.pdf>
- Sub-legal acts of the Criminal Justice for Children Code
<https://drejtesia.gov.al/drejtesia-per-te-mitur/>
- Justice for Children Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2021)
https://drejtesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Strategjia-e-Drejtesise-per-te-Mitur-PV_2018-2021_miratar_VKM_nr.541_dt.19.9.2018.pdf
<https://www.unicef.org/albania/reports/national-justice-children-strategy>
- Child-Friendly Legal Aid Guidelines
<https://www.unicef.org/eca/sites/unicef.org/eca/files/2018-11/Guidelines%20on%20Child-Friendly%20Legal%20Aid%20UNICEF%20ECARO%202018.pdf>
- Testimonies of Tepelena Camp Survivors
http://www.al.undp.org/content/dam/albania/docs/STORIES_TP_FINAL_web.pdf
- Free Legal Aid Law
<http://www.qbz.gov.al/Botime/Akteindividuale/Janar%202017/Fletore%20241/LIGJ%20nr.%20111-2017,%20date%2014.12.2017.pdf>
- Child marriage Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceptions among affected communities in Albania (UNICEF, UNFPA)
<https://www.unicef.org/albania/reports/child-marriage>
- Albania Demographic and Health Survey report 2017-2018 (UNICEF, UNFPA)
<http://www.ishp.gov.al/studimi-i-dyte-demografik-dhe-shendetesor-shqiptar-2017-2018/nggallery/page/1>
- Revised USI law (public consultation for law 9942, 26.06.2008) - UNICEF
<https://shendetesia.gov.al/6-konsultime-mbi-projektligje/>
- World Drug Report 2018 (UNODC)
<https://www.unodc.org/wdr2018/index.html>
- Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants (UNODC)
https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glosom/GLOSOM_2018_web_small.pdf
- Global Study on Homicide - Gender related killing of women and girls (UNODC)
https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/GSH2018/GSH18_Gender-related_killing_of_women_and_girls.pdf
- Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018 (UNODC)
https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTIP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf
- National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN SCR1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UN Women)
<http://www.qbz.gov.al/Botime/Akteindividuale/Janar%202018/Fletore%20134/VKM%20nr.%20524,%20date%2011.9.2018.pdf>
- Obstacles to Women's Participation in Elections in Albania PoPE Index (UN Women)
http://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/PoPE%20National%20Index%20ENG-AL_1.PDF
- Standards of representation in political parties (UN Women)
<http://isp.com.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/STANDARDS-OF-REPRESENTATION-IN-POLITICAL-PARTIES.pdf>
- CEC report for 2017 elections (CEC with UN Women support)
- Freedom of Vote and family voting in Albania – national survey (UN Women)
- Working documents: Salt Situation Analysis 2017 (UNICEF)

- Sofia Competition Forum Newsletter, Issue 3. Albania Competition Policies and Insurance Market (UNCTAD)
- Agriculture Annual Report, 2018 (MoARD with FAO support)
- Assessment of the situation of the Peaceful Labour Disputes Resolution System in Albania (ILO)
- Statistical profiling of youth NEETs (Not in Employment, Education and Training) (ILO)
- Information package for stranded migrants willing to integrate the labour market in Albania (ILO)
- Report on the Most appropriate model for the setup of service centres for victims/survivors of sexual harassment, abuse and violence in Albania (UN Women with funding from Sweden)
- Sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence in public spaces in Albania (Safe City study in Municipalities of Tirana, Fier and Durres), IDRA Research with the support of UN Women with funding from Sweden
http://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/Sexual%20HarassmentGBV-%202018%20ENG_1.pdf
- Assessment report on violence against women from disadvantaged communities (an overview on violence against women and girls from Roma community, LGBTI and women with disabilities in the Municipalities of Elbasan, Vlore, Shkoder, Tirane), prepared by ADRF with the support of UN Women and funding from EU
- UPR Shadow Report for Albania, prepared by The Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) in collaboration with the Network of Monitoring against Gender-based Violence, with the support of UN Women and funding from EU
- Manual for Monitoring of the Strategic Objective 3 and the Action Plan of the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2016-2020 – prepared by GADC and AWEN with support of UN Women and funding from EU
- Annual monitoring reports on the implementation of the action plan for Strategic Objective 3 of the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2016-2020, on “Reduction of domestic violence and gender-based violence” (Tirane, Durres, Elbasan, Vlore, Korce, Shkoder) – prepared by GADC and AWEN with support of UN Women and funding from EU
- Guide on violence against women and girls from disadvantaged groups (women and girls with disabilities, from LGBTI community and Roma and Egyptian community), produced by ADRF with the support of UN Women and funding from EU
- Manual on participation of NGOs in monitoring processes on the implementation of CEDAW and Istanbul Convention as well as reporting to CEDAW, UPR and GREVIO – prepared by CLCI with support of UN Women and funding from EU
- Manual on the Participation of the Ombudsman Office in the Monitoring Process of CEDAW and Reporting to CEDAW Committee – prepared by CLCI with support of UN Women and funding from EU
- Baseline report on “Current and dominant public attitudes, perceptions, opinions and beliefs regarding gender equality and violence against women” – Albania country report, prepared by Observatory of Children and Youth Rights with support of UN Women and funding from EU



OFFICE OF THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR - ALBANIA
"Skënderbej Street", Gurten Building, 2nd floor, Tirana

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