GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA & UNITED NATIONS

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017-2021

2019 Joint Work Plans - Mid Year Review

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Continuing on the 'Deliver as One' path, 8 resident and 8 non-resident agencies of UN Albania continue to combine their expertise and experience in support of Albania's development priorities, providing more coherence, better results and greater impacts in the country.

Outcome 1 – Governance and Rule of Law

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

National Development Goals: Accession to the European Union; Good Governance, Democracy and the Rule of Law
SDGs: 5, 10, 16, 17
EU Chapters: 5, 10,18, 22, 23, 24

OUTPUT 1.1 HUMAN RIGHTS
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OUTCOME CHAIRS

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE
UNDP REPRESENTATIVE

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC, IOM, UNESCO, UNHCR
MAIN IMPLEMENTING LINE MINISTRIES: MOI, MEFA, MOJ, MOHSP, MOFE, STATE MINISTER FOR DIASPORA

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: UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, UNODC
Contributing Partners: Governments of Luxemburg, France, Turkey, Germany and Russia

OUTPUT 1.1 HUMAN RIGHTS

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNFPA & MEFA

Priority Focus 2019

- **Improve Institutional Capacities:**
  - ✓ Develop capacities of state institutions, NHRI, Parliamentary bodies and CSOs to perform core functions and increase outreach, including access to territory and asylum - monitor, report and advocate for implementation of national and international legal instruments and collect data to provide evidence based recommendations
  - ✓ Enable Central Electoral Committee to improve gender responsive electoral management
- **Expand Data Collection:**
  - ✓ Conduct national assessment of the situation on violence against women in politics, develop capacities of women leaders, and undertake initiatives to increase community and civic understanding of GE and women's right to political participation
  - ✓ Establish data instruments that collect and report on children statistics and institute child participatory mechanisms at national/local level
- **Advance Legal Framework:**
  - ✓ Develop sub-legal acts on Law on Civil Registry accompanied with necessary training of civil registrars and pro bono lawyers to solve birth registration cases/confirmation of nationality

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Advance Frameworks

Following 2018 revision of Law on Civil Registration, four bylaws drafted and signed by respective Ministries, bringing to six the total number of bylaws approved for its implementation. Technical comments provided to the Ministry of Interior on the revised Law on Citizenship. (UNHCR)

- Tirana Legal Aid Society assisted 316 persons to confirm their nationality: 227 through administrative procedures; 89 through court procedures. 11 persons assisted with naturalization procedures. There are 10 pending cases of refugees and other persons granted protection.
- Eight Officials from the Albanian Embassy and Consulates in Greece (Athens, Ioannina and Thessaloniki) were trained on the changes of the Law on Civil Registration, as some of the provisions refer to registration of births of Albanian children in Consulates.

Coalition of CSOs on Women Peace and Security supported to develop joint national action plan (NAP) to implement the UN1325 Resolution. A working group is established, composed by Government institutions and CSOs, to monitor the NAP. (UN Women)

Improve Institutional Capacities

Capacities of 38 gov. representatives, NHRIs and women and youth rights organizations strengthened to report on and monitor human rights record in Albania under the UN Human Rights Council's UPR mechanism. The Monitoring Network Against Gender Based Violence prepared and presented a shadow report to the UPR Pre-Session (Geneva, May 2019) highlighting remaining challenges in effectively addressing violence against women and girls. MEFA supported to organize a side event on UPR and other HR Legal Instrument Monitoring Mechanism in Geneva prior to the State Delegation presenting UPR Report in May 2019. (UN Women/UNFPA)

UN Women engaged with MEFA/MoHSP to lead the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action +25 (BDPfA +25) National Review, which featured a participatory and inclusive process - 5 consultative meeting/73 participants. 4 members of Monitoring Network Against Gender Based Violence, with contributions from other 11 NGOs, prepared/ and submitted the Beijing+25 CSOs report. (UN Women)

Expand Data Collection & Reporting

In collaboration with CPD, a study "ratio of representation of women in the appointed local government bodies" conducted and launched, reflecting gender configuration in the composition of appointed local government bodies and providing recommendations for decision-making. The study will be followed by other comparative analyzes on same topic to be prepared by CPD. Study reveals: (i) 15% of Municipal Administrators are women; (ii) from 21 municipalities with only one deputy mayor in the structure, none are reported to be women; from 37 municipalities with 2+ deputy mayors, 30% are women in 15 of them; (iii) from 64 reported commercial companies, 9 are run by women. (UN Women)

Technical inputs provided to the People's Advocate Strategic Plan 2018-2022, the UN Reporting on the Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities, and UNCT report for CEDAW Committee on the implementation of four recommendations. (UN Women)

Friends of Children' Parliamentary Group supported to develop the Group's annual report to the Parliament and the parliamentary resolution related to advancement of child rights. A special high-level hearing of cabinet ministers, called by Speaker of Parliament, put into spotlight government 's efforts to fulfil rights of all children in Albania, based on data presented at draft 5th and 6th State Periodic Report to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. (UNICEF)

Members of Parliament were advised on child rights and gender equality aspects with a view to inform their dialogue with People's Advocate as pertains to the Annual Report of this NHRI to the Parliament. People's Advocate was assisted to better highlight the rights of the child in the report. (UNICEF/UN Women)

Draft Mid-Term Monitoring Report for the National Child Rights Agenda/Action Plan completed. (UNICEF)

State Agency for Child Rights and Protection supported to collect statistics from various governmental institutions to make operational the (2018) established child rights monitoring framework. (UNICEF)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Statelessness determination procedure is still not in place and shall be addressed through approval of the Law on Citizenship.
- The implementation of the revised Law on Civil Status by national and local authorities is adequate; implementation by courts and Albanian Embassies abroad is still uneven and challenging.
- The Law on Free Legal Aid has been recently amended in the framework of the justice reform process but its implementation is challenged by limited human and financial resources.

Funding Constraints:

Additional funding (approx. USD 500,000) is needed to conduct activities with focus on: developing data collection capacities; conducting relevant trainings; supporting NHRI and Parliament to perform core functions and outreach to vulnerable groups; engaging in quality monitoring and tracking implementation of international legal instruments recommendations (UPR, CEDAW, CRC etc.); other.

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.

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC, UNFPA, IOM
Contributing Partners: Governments of Austria, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the EU

OUTPUT 1.2 ANTI-CORRUPTION AND RULE OF LAW

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOI

Priority Focus 2019

- **Support for the citizen-centric public services reform in Albania through the UNDP-administered pool fund:**
  - ✓ Expand customer-care services through (i) central and local service windows co-location deployments; (ii) adoption of established standards in targeted municipalities
  - ✓ Increase access to services by piloting mobile facility with special reference to remote areas
  - ✓ Conduct performance oversight of central government institutional service providers through mystery shopping
  - ✓ Promote innovation for service delivery simplification and standardization
  - ✓ Strengthen citizen engagement through awareness building and opinion polls

- **Rule of Law**
  - ✓ Countering money laundering and financing the terrorism through building capacity in conducting financial investigations; countering trade-based money laundering and building capacity in cryptocurrencies investigations in Albania through specialized workshops for the law enforcement officers; countering organized crime by improving the knowledge about its trends and patterns in the Western Balkans, including Albania
  - ✓ Countering transnational organized crime through UNOD-World Customs Organization Container Control Programme aimed at preventing cross-border movement of illicit goods
  - ✓ Prevention of all forms of human trafficking, paying particular attention to unaccompanied children and child victims of trafficking, through awareness raising, education and improved coordinated actions between Police and Judiciary for the protection of vulnerable populations
  - ✓ Advance strategic planning, coordination and monitoring of C/PVE Strategies and Action Plans in Albania through available expertise, enhanced capacities and knowledge of the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism of the Government of Albania

- **Enhance capacities of Albanian Media Council, operationalize the SRH & Youth media platform and improve media reporting on SRH & Youth**

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Support for the "citizen-centric" public services reform in Albania (UNDP)

- Co-location of ADISA service windows in municipal one-stop-shops: Maliq (Nov. 2018), Patos (April 2019), Belsh (May 2019), Librazhd (July 2019). Planning for no less than 10 in place by end 2019
- ADISA's first mobile office operationalized, for piloting in Shkoder,Tirane counties in 2019
- The Mystery Shopper assessment of service delivery performance in central government institutions is being prepared and will include the Public Services Excellence Awards 2019 institutions. It will be completed by end 2019.
- The Baby Bonus, first innovative life event service package designed by ADISA Innovation Lab and piloted in Nov.2018, is being implemented in maternity hospitals all around Albania.
- ADISA Lab's prototyped solution for improved access to services for people with disabilities is fully deployed in the newest ADISA Centers in Shkoder (April 2019) and Kombinat Tirane (July 2019)
- A nation-wide public awareness campaign is under preparation, focusing on citizens' rights in public service delivery as embodied in Citizen Charter approved by Council of Ministers in October 2018.

Enhance capacities of Albanian Media Council, operationalize SRH & Youth media platform

SRH media platform expanded in 2 additional municipalities (Pogradec, Maliq) with 5 additional journalists and 3 local channels joining the platform. Online platform *JoTabu* has 95,000 visits/month and 2,119 followers on Facebook; 24 articles on successful young people's profiles reached ca. 18,000 people; 15 articles on sexual and reproductive health, human development, contraception, childbirth and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV reached 12,500 people. (UNFPA)

Albanian Media Council (established 2016) adjudicated its first complaints received from citizens about alleged violations of journalistic code of ethics by media outlets; monitored 40 online media on their ethical breaches of Code of Ethics; and organized media ethics training in selected media outlets. The Council also raised its visibility through awareness raising campaigns on social media and media. (UNESCO)

Rule of Law Efforts

A specialized Air Cargo Control Unit established at Tirana International Airport (first one in the region). First training conducted for customs and border control officers and civil aviation representatives. (UNODC)

A training on conducting financial investigations provided to officials from the State Police, Financial Intelligence Unit, Customs and Tax Authorities developing their knowledge on planning o FI, information sources, national cooperation in FIs; tools/techniques of financial data and its transformation into evidence; analysis/visualization of links, connections/ relationships; complex money laundering schemes; tax evasion; money laundering; legal and illegal use of legal structures. (UNODC)

A workshop on countering trade-based money laundering provided to law enforcement/ judiciary professionals with focus on improved collecting, collating, analysis of trade/ financial data. A training on countering money laundering and terrorism financing risks linked to cryptocurrencies provided to professionals of financial investigation unit, law enforcement agencies and financial supervisors– supporting the country in its efforts against these threats. (UNODC)

Targeted in-depth interviews conducted with prisoners convicted of crimes most often related to organized crime, victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants to obtain their personal and first-hand experience with organized crime to learn more about the modus operandi and structures of organized crime groups. Interviews held with expert practitioners from law enforcement, criminal justice system, academia and the civil society to get a better insight about OCGs and their functioning. (UNODC)

Durres PCU seized 2.16kg of heroin. Training on Strategic Trade and Export Control merged with a mentorship visit to Durres Port Control Unit enhanced PCU abilities in ensuring cross-border movements of goods in compliance with national laws and regulations. A study visit from Afghan Customs to Durres PCU contributed to exchange of experiences and best practices and an improved working relationships and regional/international cooperation. (UNODC)

A two-year study, prepared by University of Bedfordshire/IOM, examined dynamics and vulnerabilities to human trafficking as experienced by citizens of Albania, Viet Nam and Nigeria, and the support needs of people who survived trafficking and are now in United Kingdom – 25% of 6,993 people identified by UK's national referral Mechanism in 2018 as pVOTs were from Albania (947 people). (IOM)

Costing of Action Plans for Preventing Violent Extremism concluded for 6-line ministries along with M&E plan and list of indicators to measure implementation progress. (IOM)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- The pace of the implementation of co-location of central and local public services depends on one hand upon the will and collaboration of municipalities governed by the principle of local autonomy from central government, and ADISA's capacity to staff the co-located service windows.
- The impact of the online platform *JoTabu* is related to engaging more specialists to respond and provide accurate information on sexual and reproductive health. Lack of understanding by the journalists of ICPD/SRH issues, including terminology free of discrimination and hate speech, requires additional capacity development of national and local journalists that cover social chronicles. Hence, there is a need to allocate additional resources – human and financial - at local level.

Funding Constraints:

- The UNDP-managed pool fund STAR2 project in support of the citizen-centric service delivery reform will conclude in December 2019. To continue the assistance it requires $2,800,000 projected over a three-year span.
- Lack of funding limited the work towards increasing capacities of Office of National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator for evidence-based planning and reporting. (IOM)
- Operationalization and capacity building of the SRH & youth media platform requires additional resources (approx. USD 50,000)

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 Italy, Switzerland, the EU, UN Global Innovation Fund

OUTPUT 1.3 LOCAL GOVERNANCE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOI

Priority Focus 2019

- Strengthen local administrations' functionality and local service delivery systems and instruments for promoting local democracy and participation
  - ✓ Build capacities for administrative management, municipal leadership and management of local revenue and assets
  - ✓ Scale up One-Stop-Shop service delivery model in 25 LGUs
  - ✓ Developing innovative approaches to reorganization of local services and standards, leading to national benchmark of LGU data by end-2019.
- Continue to develop LGUs capacities on transparency, accountability, ethics and integrity
- Expand national advocacy platforms on reproductive services and rights in at least 15 municipalities
- Ensure youth education and SRH are budgeted for in at least 10 municipal Action Plans

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Consolidate Local Governance - Territorial Administrative Reform */STAR2 (UNDP)*

- One Stop Shop model scaled up and operational in 24 municipalities – 3 in 2018; 21 during first half 2019; planning 25 additional by end 2019;
- Standard Operational Procedures (Human Resource Management, Public Procurement and Finance and Budget) developed in 9 municipalities (Berat, Kucove, Skrapar, Shkoder, Lezhe, Fushë-Arrëz, Elbasan, Gramsh, Kruje) and the package is shared with all other LGU's;
- Municipal good "management" practices catalogued in a booklet, documentaries produced for the best 6 practices to share among LGUs;
- Capacities of 505 local officials from 61 municipalities strengthened on public engagement and consultation through (i) interactive workshops and (ii) participation in the process of the design of the toolkit on public consultations;
- Capacities of 114 tax management officials are improved through practical trainings. The manual on tax administration is finalized;
- Action and Monitoring Plans for Tax on Property, Tariff on Waste and Uncollected Taxes elaborated in 29 small/medium municipalities and approved by Mayors;
- Integrity Risk assessment methodology drafted in consultation with local government officials from 61 municipalities and risk assessment piloting is ongoing in 6 municipalities (Gjirokaster, Mat, Patos, Elbasan, Mallakaster, Shkoder).

Expand national advocacy platforms on reproductive services and rights

"Youth Voice" advocacy platform and ypeer introduced in 3 municipalities (Pogradec, Cerrik, Maliq) – covering 8 municipalities to date. (UNFPA)

- Cerrik - 32 young people (23 girls, 17 of whom from Roma community, and 9 boys) joined the network and 95 young people were reached.
- Pogradec - 24 young people joined the network and 100 young people reached of which 60 from rural areas.

Budget youth education and SRH in municipal Action Plans

Two capacity building workshops organized with 8 LGU staff (Maliq, Pogradec) responsible for social care services on youth planning and budgeting. Capacities of 65 young people strengthened on youth civic engagement and SRHR services & ASRH education skills. (UNFPA)

Two additional municipalities (Diber, Lezhe) included youth issues in their annual budget planning: (i) promotion of young people's participation in democratic processes and decision-making at local level through establishment of youth councils; (ii) promotion of youth employment at local level; (iii) promotion of young people's participation in environment protection and cultural activities in the city/town; (iv) promotion of young people's participation and crucial role on sexual and reproductive health education through ypeer education & youth friendly services; (v) engagement of young people in achieving SDGs. (UNFPA)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Lack of IT infrastructure is a challenge for the scale up and the operationalization of OSSH.
- The process of reintroducing the communication with the newly elected Mayors to ensure their support for the ongoing initiatives impacts the speed of implementation and achievement of results.

Funding Constraints:

Additional funding (approx. USD 100,000) is needed to conduct activities with focus on: (i) developing capacities of national advocacy platforms to monitor planning and implementation of reproductive services and rights of vulnerable groups and key populations in 15 municipalities; (ii) budgeting youth education and SRH in at least 6 municipal Action Plans.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR
Contributing Partners: Government of Norway

OUTPUT 1.4 ACCESS TO JUSTICE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNICEF & MOJ

Priority Focus 2019

Develop secondary legislation on Free Legal Aid, Criminal Justice for children and unaccompanied children on the move

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

National Justice for Children Strategy 2017-2020, first policy document to guide the reforms in the justice for children sector in Albania, published and distributed to all stakeholders. (UNICEF)

Five DCM adopted on the Criminal Justice for Children Code providing for: (i) establishment of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Centre; (ii) role of public authorities in implementation of justice for children court decisions; (iii) standards of education and rehabilitation for children with restricted liberty; (iv) Probation Service procedures in case of non-implementation of diversion measures by the juvenile; and (v) establishment of Integrated Data System for Children in the Criminal Justice. (UNICEF)

Eight key by-laws adopted (March 2019) by the Council of Ministers and Ministry of Justice, creating adequate pillars for an effective implementation of the Law on Free Legal Aid and a safer environment for vulnerable women and men to report to authorities. Two other by-laws are pending MoJ approval. (UNDP)

Free Legal Aid scheme scaled up in two district courts (Diber, Shkoder) - during first half 2019, 602 vulnerable women/men benefited from FLA services (260 women, 342 men) with 90% receiving primary legal aid, 10% secondary legal aid (court representation). Both FLA centers handle on average 92 cases monthly. FLA services are combined with awareness activities directed to vulnerable groups. (UNDP)

Rules and procedures on the return and repatriation of the child are stipulated in DCM “On the procedures and rules for return, and repatriation of the children“, which includes the category of the foreign unaccompanied children asylum seekers in Albania. (UNHCR)

Roadmap on inter-institutional/cross-disciplinary collaboration for handling justice for children cases is drafted. To support collaboration efforts, 4 brochures are developed on the role of psychologists in the criminal, family and civil law processes affecting children and distributed in every judicial district court and prosecution office. (UNICEF)

Municipality of Gjirokastra and Ministry of Justice signed in April a cooperation agreement to support annually with socio-economic support, rehabilitation, counselling, restorative justice service services over 50 children who are in conflict or in contact with the law. UNICEF will support implementation of this agreement for the first 18 months.

Credited to UNICEF’s advocacy, the High Council of Justice decentralized the court’s review of criminal justice for children cases. As a result, every judicial district court is required to determine at least 3 judges to specialize in justice for children (2018 Baseline: 6 district courts). This would benefit annually (i) over 500 children as it increases access to courts close to their residence; (ii) 1,500 children as it ensures availability of specialized staff for them.

Ministry of Justice supported with a senior advisor to guide establishment of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Centre in Albania. Two professionals from MoJ and Probation Service improved know-how on international models on restorative justice for children through (i) an international conference organized by EU/European Forum for Restorative Justice (Tbilisi, Georgia) and (ii) experience exchange with the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Centre and Probation Service of Georgia, which has a similar Juvenile Justice Code as Albania. (UNICEF)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- For the proper implementation of the Free Legal Aid Law, it is essential for (i) Government to allocate adequate financial and human resources; (ii) establishment of a well coordinated stakeholder lobby to ensure the new FLA Law guarantees equal and unhindered access to justice for the most marginalized populations; (iii) capacity building interventions to take place for the Law implementation at both national and local level.
- The proper implementation of the Decision of the Council of Ministers “On the procedures and rules for return, and repatriation of the children" requires an efficient coordination between the National Agency on Child Right and Child Protection, Child Protection Units at Municipal level, Border and Migration Police and NGOs working in child protection issues.
- Due to change in the administration of Gjirokastra and Berat municipalities, the new mayors and other agencies leading justice for children interventions will need to renew their commitment. Also, municipal commitment and local services to be provided to children should be supported by central government funds – delays in the approval of the DCM regarding the financing of these services impacts the implementation of the Code standards.
- The High Council of Prosecution needs to decentralize the handling of criminal justice for children cases to all judicial districts to ensure equitable access to justice for children - similar to the High Judiciary Council initiative.

Funding Constraints:

Approx. US$ 1.5 mln additional funds are needed to support the adequate implementation of the Criminal Justice for Children Code and FLA Law, consolidating and scaling-up pilot initiatives and reaching more professionals with capacity building interventions.

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, PBF, UN Women FGE

OUTPUT 1.5 MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS - UN WOMEN & MOHSP

Priority Focus 2019

- Increase technical capacities of state institutions to introduce a gender perspective in the programme budgeting, as part of the Public Finance Management Reform, and strengthen oversight role of state mechanisms and institutions to oversee, monitor and advocate for gender responsive policies and budgets, including improvement of gender statistic
- Upscale best practices of GRB interventions as a tool to enable local governments to recognize the value and potential for local development and inclusive growth
- Support INSTAT to monitor SDGs through better production and use of gender statistics in Albania
- Support Ministry of Health and Social Protection to mainstream gender equality elements into the certified training of health professionals
- Provide channels for adolescent girls and boys to participate in and influence public decision-making for various issues affecting their lives.

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Upright progress made in efforts to increase women's participation in governance systems and in strengthening accountability of national/local governments to gender equality. A series of 3 fiscal bylaws and policies are in place, prioritizing revenue and budgetary allocations in favor of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. (UN Women)

MoFE continues to engender MTBP 2020-2022. A gender analysis of 7 Line Ministries submissions (out of 11 LMs applying in 1st phase MTBP process) showed slight improvement of MTBP documents in terms of GRB. Nonetheless, not all recommendations have been considered from Line Ministries. Ministries of Infrastructure and Energy and Tourism and Environment have not engendered their MTBPs. The gender analysis is shared with MoFE and included in MoFE's official notes sent to LMs. (UN Women)

Department of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion at MoHSP supported in drafting a performance evaluation report on the implementation of Gender Equality Strategy for 2018. The report (i) provides information regarding a performance-based Audit being applied by the High Court of Audit to this Strategy; and (ii) explains GRB data from 2016-2017 (first years of MTBP 2016-2018 and MTBP 2017-2019). (UN Women)

INSTAT conducted the 3rd End Violence Against Women survey, providing for first-time data on incidence of dating violence, sexual harassment and stalking in Albania. INSTAT presented the relation between gender data/SDGs while launching EVAW survey. (UN Women, UNDP)

INSTAT is now adept to produce, without UN Women technical support, its annual Women and Men Publication.

10 representatives of Albanian Parliamentary sub-Committee on Gender Equality and the Prevention of Violence against Women and the National Alliance of Women's Local Councillors improved their knowledge on the use of GRB tools through exposure to best practice of the National Parliament of Austria - study visit (Vienna) focused on budgeting against violence at local and central level. As a result, the Parliamentary sub-Committee developed an action plan on concrete actions to undertake in 2019, including applying GRB to address violence against violence. (UN Women)

180 health care workers from 4 regions discussed about the impact of gender inequality on child and parental wellbeing and on ways of promoting the wellbeing and rights of both boys and girls in the practice of home visiting, during a 5 days accredited training on integrating health and social components in maternal and child health service delivery. (UNICEF)

U-report has become a dynamic platform for young boys and girls to speak up. During first half 2019 about 1,500 adolescent boys and girls expressed their views on public issues affecting their lives, such as online bullying, education system, intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding. (UNICEF)

The process of scaling up the Comprehensive Sexuality Education curricula included the development of an information package for teachers, which kept in focus both gender mainstreaming and addressing sexual violence in school settings. (UNFPA)

With a gender mainstreaming focus, UNFPA is supporting the Size Estimation of Key Population; conducted 5 awareness meetings on the issue of harmful practice of child marriage with 300 young people from 5 schools of Tirana; and supported by Media Network developed and broadcasted dedicated programmes on issues that relate directly with UNFPA mandate.

Preparations have started to advance men engagement to promote good parenting and healthy families - questionnaires developed for parents, communities, boys and girls in and out of school, aiming to reach 813 young people, 15-19 years of age. (UNFPA)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- 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) 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.
- Oversight institutions need guidance and coaching to be able to systematically monitor public expenditures with gender lenses.

Funding Constraints:

- Strengthen women's property rights - legislative/strategic framework; develop capacities of relevant state institutions; raise awareness, provide legal advice/assistance and initiate strategic litigation cases (USD 100,000)
- Enhance capacities of National Gender Mechanism, support Members of Parliament to take initiatives to monitor and advocate for gender responsive policies and budgets (USD 10,000)
- Technical Assistance to municipalities to analyze, plan and bring about budgetary decisions that respond to the needs of women and men (USD 20,000)
- Building strategic advocacy and establishing channels for bringing the voice of adolescent girls and boys to decision- and policy-makers (USD 60,000)

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF
Contributing Partners: Governments of USA, Italy, Germany, Norway, the EU, CEB

OUTPUT 1.6 MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – IOM, UNHCR & MOI

Priority Focus 2019

- Increase legal and technical capacities of the national agencies to introduce Advance Passenger Information (API) systems
- Align asylum procedures to international standards and EU asylum acquis

  In preparation for opening of EU Accession negotiations, Government decided to update its Asylum legislation transposing six EU Directives on asylum matters. Implementation of the new legislation will require continuous follow-up at political and technical level, adequate funding and human resources and increased coordination. Effective access to social and labor rights will need further attention to ensure adequate integration of refugees and other persons granted protection.

- Enhance capacities to ensure procedural safeguards are in place for persons in needs of international protection

  By end June 2019, 3,460 persons arrived to Albania as part of mixed movements of refugees and migrants, of which 2,561 requested asylum (24% increase of arrivals and 42% of asylum seekers from same period 2018). Among asylum-seekers, 227 were women, 458 children, of which 40 self-declared Unaccompanied/Separated minors.

- Capacity building of national stakeholders (central/municipal levels) to address emergency preparedness and response needs

  Arrival of refugees and migrants as part of mixed movements, continues to pose a challenge. Continuous rehabilitation of structures to temporarily accommodate asylum seekers close to border areas contributes to an adequate management of the situation. In follow-up to the UNCT Albania Joint Assessment on Asylum and Mixed Migration (Dec. 2019), UN Agencies led by UNHCR will seek to operationalize findings to address critical needs of vulnerable categories, which will require donor support.

- Assist government to develop SOPs for identification, reception and protection of unaccompanied children in Albania
- Enhance development impact of migration through engagement with Albanian diaspora
- Contribute to improvement of Albania's migration data to be used for evidence-based policy development and implementation

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Legal/policy framework Advancement

Support activated for implementation of National Strategy on Migration (2019-2022) and Action Plan. National Strategy of Diaspora & Action Plan 2018-2024 revised. Assessment report on API for Albania finalized/shared with stakeholders. (IOM)

TLAS availed 2 legal experts to support drafting of new Law on Asylum. (UNHCR)

Approval of DCM "On some amendments and additions to DCM No. 827, date 11.12.2003 "on the method of coding and the structure of the identity number of citizens" will allow for valid ID cards to be issued to refugees, other persons granted international protection, foreigners in general. (UNHCR)

MoI, UNHCR and OSCE, collaborating with IOM and partners, are advancing in the review of Pre-Screening Instruction for Mixed-Movements to Albania.

Data improvement & Build up national systems of preparedness and response

Household Migration Survey is underway with field data collection completed. (IOM/INSTAT)

Data collection completed on mix migration flows to Albania in the entry/exit land border. Assessments of situation of mixed movements at border continuously conducted - 494 visits and interventions carried out (IOM/UNHCR/).

Establishment of a Registration and Temporary Accommodation Centre for irregular migrants in Kapshtica, Korçë (60 persons capacity) is being supported. (IOM)

MoI's contingency preparedness in case of sudden increase of arrivals is being supported and international partners were briefed on UNCT Joint Assessment on Asylum and Mixed Migration. (UNHCR/IOM)

Humanitarian assistance and services at borders delivered to new arrivals - food (4,200 persons); referral to medical services (116), temporary accommodation (728); interpretation (1,586); clothes and hygienic kits (1,221); transportation to NRC (2,515). (UNHCR/Caritas)

Capacity Development

74 (42M/32F) law enforcement and judiciary officials in Albania increased their knowledge about smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons within mixed migration flows, including measures to protect and assist victims and how to use information and communications technology tools for more effective investigation and prosecution. (IOM)

34 (17M/17 F) public officials and NGO representatives from Albania trained on mechanisms and procedures for screening, identification, referral and assistance of P/VOT within the refugee and migrant population. (IOM)

Support for Migrants mobile application has been recognized as useful tool to receive reliable information on services available to refugees and migrants. The app is also a valuable awareness raising tool. (IOM)

State Agency for Child Rights and Protection supported to provide dedicated orientation workshops to all key professionals dealing with unaccompanied, stateless and migrant children, in at least 4 localities adjacent to border crossing points in Albania - pursuant of DCM No. 111 (06.03.2019). With improved knowledge, child protection professionals will be able to better support around 500 children annually. (UNICEF/UNHCR)

National Reception Center sustained with psychosocial support, nurse and doctor, night shift, and information and legal counselling on asylum. (UNHCR/RMSA)

Enhanced Diaspora engagement for development of Albania

Fellowships launched for engagement of Diaspora professionals to territorial development in Albania and institutional support initiated for implementation of National Strategy for Diaspora. Diaspora engagement mapping and profiling launched. Institutional support and capacity building continued to SMD, MOFE, MEFA, others through deployment of seconded experts, office infrastructure, website development, study visit, summit. (IOM)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- While the mixed movements of refugees and migrants at the border has stabilised, returns to the border countries from which these persons arrive to Albania, in absence of full implementation of the EU-Albania Readmission Agreement, are carried out with procedures different to those established in the said Agreement. In this context, reports of push-backs indicate that some 150 persons may have been affected.
- The turnaround of asylum seekers at the National Reception Centre continues to be a challenge, as the vast majority of persons leave after a few days. Therefore, identification and provision of services to persons with specific needs is difficult, if not impossible. There have been instances of violence among residents and in one case this has affected a worker of UNHCR's partner. Services were suspended, pending a joint safety assessment by UNDSS and the Albanian Police. Material conditions at the Centre are also being affected.
- It is challenging to undertake the asylum procedure, as most asylum seekers leave before their applications can be lodged. Delays with asylum-seekers who have expressed a clear intention of remaining in Albania have been observed and should be addressed.

Funding Constraints:

- Increasing reception capacities and conducting procedures close to border areas are two priorities being discussed with MoI/stakeholders, which would require additional funding.
- Priorities identified by UN Agencies in the UNCT Joint Assessment on Asylum and Mixed Migration require funding to adequately address critical protection needs of children, women and girls, health services and reception capacity.
- Additional resources (approx. USD 600,000) are needed for the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration and its Action Plan as well as for building capacities of local stakeholders for the implementation of the SoPs for the protection of VoTs/PVoTs.

Outcome 2 – Social Inclusion

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
SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16
EU Chapters: 19, 23, 24, 32

OUTPUT 2.1 HEALTH
OUTPUT 2.2 EDUCATION
OUTPUT 2.3 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
OUTPUT 2.4 CHILD PROTECTION
OUTPUT 2.5 GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

OUTCOME CHAIRS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE
WHO REPRESENTATIVE

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, UNESCO, UNDP, UNWOMEN, FAO, IAEA, ILO
MAIN IMPLEMENTING LINE MINISTRIES: MOHSP, MOESY, MOI

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

Contributing UN agencies: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, IAEA, IOM
Contributing Partners: Governments of Albania, Switzerland, Austria, USA, UNICEF Global Thematic Fund, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

OUTPUT 2.1 HEALTH

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – WHO & MOHSP

Priority Focus 2019

- Scale up and ensure sustainability of national response to HIV & TB - Global Fund Programme Framework in Albania
- Advocate for and support Health System Strengthening with focus on Primary Health Care
- Improve prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer
- Strengthen emergency preparedness and response & develop capacities required under International Health Regulations
- Child Nutrition – nutrition of school age children, assess iodine nutrition status among pregnant, lactating women and school age children

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

HIV/TB - (WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA)
An assessment of HIV&TB central/regional laboratories conducted (UNICEF); 7 guidelines on HIV&TB care and ToT developed; Expertise and training provided on Management of TB medicines and diagnostics in Albania (2 ToT) (WHO); Protocol developed on "Estimating the size of key populations at risk to HIV in Albania" (UNFPA)

Cancer control – (UNFPA/IAEA/WHO)
2 IPH experts received a specialized Cancer training at International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France. (WHO) Inter-institutional boards established to overview and coordinate implementation of Cervical Cancer Screening programme at local level and operating procedures disseminated in 10 regions of Albania. (UNFPA) One of the two LINACs upgraded to Volumetric modulated arctherapy (VMAT), the currently non-functioning HDR brachytherapy machine upgraded, pediatric immobilization equipment purchased, radioisotopes and cold kits for nuclear medicine supplied to 2 hospitals in Tirana, trainings conducted for selected staff in the radiotherapy and nuclear medicine department in Mother Teresa Hospital. (IAEA)

Nutrition – (UNICEF/FAO)
344 health personnel from all regions benefitted from quality assurance tools and mechanisms for strengthening web-based data collection system for monitoring child growth and infant and young child feeding practices. A national report on child nutrition was developed. (UNICEF)

15 technical staff (MoARD, National Food Authority, central/local veterinary service, Municipality of Tirana, private sector) developed capacities to implement a multi-sectoral national School Food and Nutrition Programme. A pilot SFN project is designed for implementation in Tirana Municipality within 2019. (FAO)

Health advocacy conducted on World Health Day, World TB Day, No Tobacco Day, Blood Donation Day, Immunization Week; other health-related days; Support provided for development of an analysis of Measles situation in Albania; Contribution provided to conduct national forum on Child Health and Nutrition and NCDs, National Forum on Health Screening at Primary Care. (WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA)

Health System strengthening with focus on Primary Health Care (PHC)

PHC Strategy (draft) developed and PHC Standards revised. (WHO)

180 health care workers in 4 regions (Tirana, Korca, Elbasan, Vlora) have acquired knowledge and skills to employ a holistic approach of child care focusing on most vulnerable. Platforms for intersectoral collaboration developed in these regions following wide consultations with health, social care, child protection and local government representatives. (UNICEF)

Community health promotion model established in districts of Puke and Malesi e Madhe and expanded in regions of Berat and Korce. Training on integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Services at PHC level implemented in districts of Puke (5 doctors, 19 nurses, 1 social worker) and Malesi e Madhe (4 doctors, 20 nurses). (UNFPA)

Emergency preparedness and response (WHO/UNFPA):

- WHO/EURO Regional Training Workshop on "Use of the Assessment Tool for Core Capacity Requirements at Designated Airports, Ports and Ground Crossing" (53 participants/15 countries) - (WHO)
- Tabletop Exercise on Flash Floods Scenario (35 participants from various institutions - MoHSP, IPH, GDOHS, NCEM, NHI, FSVI, MoARD) - (WHO)
- Orientation Workshop for Development of "Health Sector Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan" (multisectorial – 30 participants) – (WHO)
- Orientation Workshop & Development of "Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) of Infection Disease Hospital (interinstitutional – 30 participants) – (WHO)
- In the framework of MISP implementation, guideline on specification of kits which may be provided to women or service providers in case of emergency, developed. (UNFPA)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Differences between the middle upper income country status and actual county needs for support in specific areas - lagging behind the SDG and other important international targets.
- Competing priority needs - partners' requests for support are ad-hoc and not always in concordance with the joint programme of work.
- Limited pool of local experts in public health.
- Donated equipment in the health sector is not exempt of VAT (20%) when entering the country. The Mother Teresa Hospital should ensure for a self-sustainable generator supply once the IAEA support ends in 2020.

Funding Constraints:

- Limited funding (approx. USD 200,000) for conducting joint inter-agency projects in Health with focus on (i) School Health and Nutrition; (ii) Piloting of integrated models of service delivery in Primary Health Care.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, IOM
Contributing Partners: Government of Austria, PBF, UNICEF Global Funds/Committees

OUTPUT 2.2 EDUCATION

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNICEF & MOESY

Priority Focus 2019

- **Inform policies through data and research**
  - ✓ support appraisal and development of the new education sector strategy
  - ✓ develop a study on the assessment and evaluation system in Albania with OECD

- **Advance agenda on education equity**
  - ✓ establish early warning system in 4 municipalities to reduce drop-out
  - ✓ establish systems for tracking and supporting Out- of- School children through multisectoral coordination

- **Improve school practices**
  - ✓ implement programs aiming at: improving life skills and citizenship, sexual education curricula, inclusive education, reduce drop out, anti-trafficking awareness, promoting intercultural understanding and dialogue in Albania and in the region, combatting violence in schools, preschool child centered methodologies; developing capacities of teachers and assistant teachers

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Inform policies through data and research

MoESY is being supported to develop the new Education Strategy. The new strategy will draw from findings of (i) appraisal of current Education Strategy 2014-2021; (ii) study on Albania's assessment and evaluation system with OECD and (ii) situation analysis on SDG-4 in Albania (2018). (UNICEF/UNESCO)

A study on the Intersection between SDG-4 (Quality Education) and SDG-5 (Gender Equality) in South-East Europe developed, addressing issues that relate to the intersection of education and gender, including in Albania. (UNESCO) Link: The intersection of Gender equality and Education in South-East Europe: a regional situation analysis of the Nexus between SDG4 (quality Education) and SDG5 (Gender equality)

Advance agenda on education equity

Drop-out prevention efforts continued and baseline and end-line results showed major improvements: reinforced capacities of 600 teachers in 4 Municipalities (Durres, Korce, Berat, Tirane); 11% of at risk students improved their school performance; 32% improved behavior; 46% improved school attendance. Number of students at high risk of school dropout has been reduced with 37% and number of students with moderate risk of school dropout has been reduced with 16%. (UNICEF)

UNICEF efforts to identify and integrate Out of school children resulted in:

- Joint Order nr. 292, date 28.05.2019 "For identification and registration in schools for all compulsory school age children" signed by MoESY, MoI, MoHSP, outlining roles and responsibilities of education local offices, schools and local government stakeholders (Civil Registry Office, Child Protection Units, Police Commissariats, Health Centers).
- Draft DCM on "awarding financial support for children who are out of school or at risk of dropping out", supporting financially 600 -800 children during 2019-2020 academic year.

Improve school practices

350 specialists from regional education directorates and teachers trained in new forms of disciplining and to conduct school activities aiming at reducing violence against children in schools. As part of a *communication for behavior change campaign* targeting parents, students and public at large, work is ongoing in 20 schools to use positive behaviors as a new form of disciplining. (UNICEF)

Inclusive education practices reached 158 teachers in 4 Municipalities (Durres, Korce, Berat, Tirane). A new methodology for assistant teachers developed and TOT with the professional networks of teachers' assistant is being developed. (UNICEF)

400 teachers and school headmasters trained in Korce, Lezhe, Berat. Tirane Lushnje on implementation of the new preschool curricula based on an reflective methodology for preschool teacher training. The tool for monitoring/assessing preschool education developed and piloting awaiting approval from MOESY. (UNICEF)

UNFPA efforts in scaling up and implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education at pre-university level resulted in:

- CSE scaled up in 7 qarks – Tirane, Elbasan, Korce, Vlore, Gjirokaster, Durres, Berat
- Improved monitoring/data collection on CSE implementation through consolidation of data base.
- Strengthened advocacy efforts to include CSE in teacher training universities curriculum through organization of advocacy round table and technical meetings among key stakeholders.
- 56% of teachers are trained on CSE. 70% aim by end 2019
- Package of informative materials/ guidelines for teachers, parents and students on sexual abuse is drafted.

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- The restructuring of the entire Pre-University education system has affected the MoESY, ASCAP and local departments of Education, which has proven a challenge to implement the Joint work plan as turnover of staff and allocation of human resources following the new organization of the sector is requiring extra efforts.
- Non-sufficient or incomplete data seriously affects the quality of policy design in Albania including the work of UN agencies working in education policy. Considerable efforts are required to establish a fully-fledged and efficient EMIS. The OECD/UNICEF review observed that some data is available to the public but most of it is not available in a way that can be easily downloaded and used in different ways (OECD, forthcoming)

Funding Constraints:

Funding constrains (approx. USD 400,000) are focused mostly on work related to (i) Appraisal of the Education sector strategy; (ii) Inclusive education; (iii) Competency based curriculum implementation; (iv) Preschool education; (v) Technology in education; (vi) Expansion of CSE nation-wide.

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, UNFPA, UN Women, IOM, UNHCR
Contributing Partners: Government of Switzerland, EU

OUTPUT 2.3 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP, UNICEF & MOHSP

Priority Focus 2019

- Support implementation of Social Inclusion Policy Document 2016-2020, Social Care Reform Programme and the Law on Social Care Services, National Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020 and National Action Plan on Roma and Egyptians 2016-2020 and develop national benchmarks, standards and capacities for social care delivery.
- Establish new municipal social services and approaches for vulnerable people and capacitate LGUs to develop, implement and monitor social care plans and establish the social fund.
- Support MoHSP to create an enabling environment for development of Social Enterprises.
- Conduct mapping on social vulnerabilities in 16 municipalities to influence design and implementation of gender sensitive services and investments. Couple results with direct support to 6 municipalities to conduct participatory practices for gender responsive budgeting and promotion of good governance.
- Develop capacities of State structures responsible to grant access to rights by persons at risk of social exclusion among refugees, other person granted protection, and asylum seekers.

  The approval of DCM "On some amendments and additions to the Decision No. 827, date 11.12.2003 of the Council of Ministers, "on the method of coding and the structure of the identity number of citizens", will allow for valid ID cards to be issued and thereby facilitate access to and enjoyment of rights.

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

***Demand for* and *delivery of* adequate social services to vulnerable groups** increased in 28 municipalities (UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA)

- 190 public officials capacitated on implementation of NAP on Roma and Egyptians, usage of its monitoring ROMALB electronic system, and development of 3rd progress report for 2018.
- 578 R/E supported through integrated community based social services; 209 adult R/E employed through start ups; 2 community infrastructure upgrading projects improved living conditions of over 1,000 R/E; 15 Roma youth activism initiatives implemented; 3 models mainstreamed for inclusive education and desegregation in 4 municipalities benefiting over 2,800 R/E students to improve education outcome.
- 240 teachers & school physiologists in 4 municipalities capacitated in setting up a system for early identification & referral to school of children at compulsory school age.
- 68 health education teams (3,500 doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, community mediators, activists) set up and supported to increase demand for Sexual Reproductive Health services by young disadvantaged groups; 438 youngsters informed, tested and counselled on SRH diseases.
- Over 650 municipal staff capacitated on (i) delivering quality services to vulnerable groups; (ii) developing and costing social care plans - 9 municipalities have developed fully costed social care plans; (iii) implementation of tools and guidelines to support Needs Assessment and Referral Units; (iv) using MIS for social care services - MIS is currently operational.
- 11 Municipalities developed a fully costed social care plan, reflecting needs of most vulnerable children/families. 7 plans are approved and ready to be implemented.
- 583 PwDs, 109 deaf women, their family and community members in 3 municipalities equipped with information and knowledge on their rights and entitlements.
- Four community-based social care centres (Diber, Ura Vajgurore, Përmet, Kruje), designed for PwDs/other vulnerable groups, were rehabilitated and equipped with furniture.
- 20 professional staff of 5 Tirana municipal centers trained on ABA therapies for PwDs.

A (first) call for Community-based Social Services Grant scheme launched and 91 municipal staff from 49 municipalities trained on project proposal writing. 8 from 17 project-proposals received for innovative social care services are to be funded. (UNDP)

Refugees and asylum seekers at risk of social exclusion supported to facilitate their integration in Albania, pending their full access to State social services and assistance: Shelter to 72 asylum seekers out of NRC; Medical assistance to145 asylum seekers and refugees; Albanian Language courses for 41 asylum seekers and refugees; Financial assistance to 56 vulnerable refugees. (UNHCR)

Advancing Social Inclusion & Protection Setting

Update of National Social Protection Action Plan 2015-2020 is ongoing; Mid-term review of Social Protection Strategy 2015-2020 is ongoing; Mid-term Monitoring Report of National Action Plan for Children is finalized; 14 DCMs of Law on Social Housing developed (8 consulted/3 approved); 1 DCM of Law on Social Care Services on Social Fund modalities & resourcing approved; draft Youth Law finalized. (UNDP/UNICEF/UN Women/UNFPA)

Roadmap approved for integration of health and social services in the work of maternal and child health consulting services; 180 health personnel trained on standardized universal progressive home visiting.(UNICEF)

International Good Practices in integrated social services for children and families shared with 60 municipal staff of 8 municipalities through training, workshops and study visit. (UNICEF)

3 LGUs (Tirane, Shkoder, Korce) conducted participatory practices for GRB and promotion of good governance. 3 monitoring processes took place to assess: nr. of women participating in town hall meetings; nr of issues/concerns raised by women; % of their integration to final MTPBs 2019-2020. (UN Women)

Environment for social enterprises development strengthened: (i) a financial framework designed and endorsed on the forms of supporting social enterprises through subventions; (ii) the Fund for Social Enterprises established at 249,760,000 ALL for 2019-2021 to subsidize Social Enterprises activity (new job positions enabled for employment of disadvantaged groups; social and health securities of disadvantaged groups employed in Social Enterprises). (UN Women)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Formalization of Roma mediators trained by ESERE project within the National Employment Service is challenged by the lack of vacant positions within this institution.
- Long term unemployment and exclusion of Roma and Egyptians hampers their accommodation and sustainable integration in the labour market.
- Scrutinizing MTBPs at local level requires budget literacy and being acquainted with public finance management. The scarce capacities of CSOs, in their role as watchdogs of budgets, have rendered difficult to deeply review municipal budget allocations in the MTBPs and provide recommendations. UN Women is using in-house expertise to support partners involved in the participatory budgeting process in target municipalities to analyze local budgets and their allocation in MTBPS, in order to provide a clear picture of what percentage of women's issues raised in participatory processes was actually reflected in the final local MTBPs.
- Delays in inputting and processing SILC data.
- Dedicated mechanism to monitor implementation of SIPD is not yet operational.
- Limited capacities at Municipalities to build structures and systems in implementation of the Law of Social Services
- Heated political climate and engagement in electoral campaigning has caused delays in starting of operations in community centers delivering Social Services
- Lack of valid ID cards for refugees and other persons granted protection at risk of social exclusion, limits, hampers and in some cases impedes access to State Services and Assistance. Contradictory legislation regarding some of these services and social rights needs to be solved.

Funding Constraints:

This complex output requires additional funding (over USD 1million) mainly to (i) support implementation of Social Inclusion Policy Document 2016-2020, Social Care Reform Programme, National Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020, National Action Plan on Roma and Egyptians 2016-2020 and develop national benchmarks, standards and capacities for social care delivery; (ii) establish new municipal social services and approaches for vulnerable people and capacitate LGUs to develop, implement and monitor social care plans and establish the social fund.

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, ILO
Contributing Partners: Government of United Kingdom, Global Partnership to end Violence against Children

OUTPUT 2.4 CHILD PROTECTION

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNICEF & MOHSP

Priority Focus 2019

Advancing National Child Protection System

- ✓ Deliver skills training and coaching to CPUs to increase their ability to manage cases in line with the new legal requirement and case management procedures - In 2018 only 26% of all CPUs were able to do so; the target is to reach at least 40% in 2019
- ✓ Provide the law enforcement units (mainly within the State Police) with the digital forensic techniques and investigative skills needed to handle cases of child sexual abuse online
- ✓ Support gradual absorption of National Child Helpline ALO116 within the State Child Protection system and piloting cost-effective and tailored counselling services for children and youth at risk or survivors of abuse and violence
- ✓ Support MoHSP with the finalization and the start of the implementation of the National Action Plan on Children Economic Exploitation 2020-2022

Progressing on De-Institutionalization of Children

- ✓ Implement individual development plans for 230 children currently residing in public residential institutions, with the ultimate aim of their placement back to biological family or alternative family type environment
- ✓ Prepare a model of transformation (piloting may start in 2020) of the existing 9 public residential institutions into family strengthening centers
- ✓ Deliver on-the-job coaching and training to around 100 social service workers associated with the 9 public residential institutions on child case management and new child protection framework

Keeping children safe online

- ✓ Release the results and recommendations of the two recent studies on the risks children face online and the existing legal and system response gaps to address them
- ✓ Roll-out “Friendly Wi-Fi” model - a certification standard that confirms internet is filtered from illegal and child abuse materials – in at least 3 large public areas in Tirana
- ✓ Roll-out peer-to-peer education program among the school children on online safety – reaching at least 1,500 children and teachers by end of 2019

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Advancing National Child Protection System

First National Conference for Child Protection Workers (Tirane, 25 April), with participation of 150 CPWs and representatives of social protection directorates from Municipalities, mapped out key challenges and gaps in case management. State Agency for Child Rights and Protection committed to address them in coming years, with a dedicated mobile team of experts. (UNICEF)

State Agency for Child Rights and Protection is being supported, technically and guided on-the-job, by a mobile team of 4 professionals to address the under-performing (low-reporting) child protection units and workers. (UNICEF)

Comprehensive in-service training curricula for child protection workers has been fully revised in line with the newly adopted legal framework; new stand-alone modules are added for its more flexible utilization by all interested partners. (UNICEF)

For the first time, state financial support is granted to ALO116 National Helpline to cater for the 24/7 child helpline service they operate. (UNICEF)

Web-based platform http://www.nukjevetem.al/ is operational and provides professional medical counselling to children and youth affected by violence, suffering from stigma, anxiety and other mental health related issues. During March-May 2019, the number of unique visitors of the webpage grew from 120 to 800 per day, with average 10-12 specific questions asked from the counsellors' team. (UNICEF)

MoHSP supported to prepare Albania's contribution to WHO Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children. Albanian experts will be engaged in the preparation of the forthcoming WHO guidelines on health sector response to child maltreatment. (WHO)

The Alliance 8.7 national strategic workshop, held by MoHSP and several line ministries (April), identified national priorities to combat the hazardous child labour in the country. Albania joined the Alliance 8.7 in July 2018, which intends to zero the child labour by 2025. (ILO)

Progressing on De-Institutionalization of Children

Over 230 children currently residing in 9 public residential care institutions are fully assessed; their individual developmental plans are in place and their possible reintegration back to family (environment) plans are being finalized in close collaboration with MoHSP and LGUs. (UNICEF)

An outline of a model to transform the existing 9 public residential institutions into family strengthening centers is developed and is being consulted with key stakeholders for subsequent piloting in 1 or 2 Municipalities. (UNICEF)

Keeping children safe online

Detailed capacity gaps assessment was conducted for three Police departments (Cyber Crime, Forensic Laboratory and Domestic Violence & Minors) responsible for investigation of crimes against children online. The assessment findings form a dedicated skills training program, which will be delivered by the lead specialist from the UK Police forces. (UNICEF)

Three large IST companies partnered (AlbTelecom; AbCom and Tring) to roll-out Friendly Wi-Fi initiative in Tirana, while the first zone is already operational at Tirana Artificial Lake. (UNICEF)

Peer-to-peer manual and a dedicated online game on online safety for children is available for public use and is being rolled-out across public schools in Albania - already reaching 1,200 children and 312 peer educators in 46 schools. (UNICEF)

Study on Albanian Children's Experiences Online and Assessment of Legal Gaps and System Response to Children's Protection from Online Harm are finalized – to be released in Fall 2019. (UNICEF)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Active engagement with the Prosecution and Judiciary, important institutions for the provision of a comprehensive child protection response, proved challenging due to the vetting process resulting in a limited number of available professionals to work with.
- Reporting of cases of violence from the health and education sectors to child protection units is very low and requires urgent attention to better understand the limitations and barriers.
- Legal inconsistencies that exist between the newly adopted legal framework and the existing one on child protection need to be analyzed and addressed.
- The delays in the finalization of the (draft) National Action Plan (2020-2022) of Children in Economic Exploitation Situations, elaborated by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection with OSCE support, may eventually affect the start of its implementation.

Funding Constraints:

Approx. USD 1 million additional resources are needed to address the DI process comprehensively.

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, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, IOM
Contributing Partners: Governments of Australia, Sweden, South Korea, the EU

OUTPUT 2.5 GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOHSP

Priority Focus 2019

- Develop capacities of key actors (Ministries, LGUs, media, CSOs) to regularly review, reform and efficiently implement legislation, international normative standards and policies on EVAW (especially CEDAW, UPR, Istanbul Convention, Beijing+25), including victims of trafficking and harmful practices
- Improve systems/capacities for national/local data collection, documentation, monitoring, knowledge sharing on EVAW among duty-bearers
- Strengthen institutional response mechanisms through establishment of new CCRs and consolidating existing ones. Ensure accountability and enhanced performance of CCR mechanisms at the local level, through monitoring and capacity building.
- Consolidate and expand services of emergency support of GB&DV victims with a keen focus on sexual violence victims. Support CSOs in their efforts to fight against gender-based violence through monitoring, advocacy, capacity building and awareness work.
- Challenge social norms pertaining to VAWG (incl. child marriage) at state, community, individual level - keen focus on most vulnerable women/girls - through awareness raising and information sharing

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Develop capacities of actors to regularly review, reform and efficiently implement legislation

An inclusive dialogue started with all relevant stakeholders for improving national laws and policies related to VAW and their alignment with international human rights and practices (CEDAW and Istanbul Convention), including drafting of a comprehensive law on violence against women. 10 by-laws are approved in the domestic violence and free legal aid area and several are in drafting process. Capacities of staff in law enforcement agencies (MoI, General Directorate of State Police, Local Coordinators of DV) strengthened in adequately implementing VAW related laws and policies. (UNDP). SoPs and Essential Guidelines on GBV reviewed and consulted. (UNFPA)

Capacities of 38 governmental and non-governmental actors (NHRIs, Women & Youth Organisations) improved to report/monitor on BDPfA +25 process, UPR, CEDAW recommendations. A considerable number of recommendations provided relate to elimination of GBV and serve as important advocacy tools for the work of CSOs and other stakeholders to increase government's accountability in this area. (UN Women/UNFPA/UNCT)

Oversight capacities and role of the Parliamentary sub-Committee on Gender Equality and GB-VAW increased through i) exposure to international best practices on mechanisms and instruments of Gender Responsive Budgeting; ii) monitoring field visit on the effective functioning of Coordinated Community Response Mechanisms that prevent and treat DV cases at municipal level. (UNDP/UN Women)

Consolidate and expand services of emergency support

8 Referral Mechanisms at local level (Tirana, Durres, Shkoder, Elbasan, Korce, Vlore, Kamez, Lezhe) trained on inter-institutional coordination and collaboration and the importance of integrated policies in offering services to survivors of VAWG– benefiting over 230 professionals; 6 Referral Mechanisms (Tirane, Durres, Shkoder, Elbasan, Korce, Vlore) monitored (for 2017/2018; 2019 monitoring is ongoing) on their obligations to address cases of violence against women and girls, which has shown tangible results in improvement of response mechanisms in targeted municipalities. (UN Women)

The first piloted centre "LILIUM" is operational for providing specialized multi-sectorial services to survivors of sexual violence, and awareness raised on its services at central and local level actors. 14 survivors of sexual violence are supported with a range of specialized integrated support services. (UNDP)

Improve systems/capacities for data collection, monitoring, knowledge sharing

Evidence-based knowledge and data generated on (i) prevalence of various forms of violence against women through National Population Based Survey on Violence against Women and Girls in 2018 and establishing baselines for monitoring and reporting, including SDG indicator 5 (5.1, 5.2, 5.3); (ii) current functioning of CCRs in 39 municipalities and tailored support provided in establishing new CCRs and consolidating existing CCRs. (UNDP/UN Women)

The report "Sexual Harassment and other forms of Gender Based Violence in Urban Spaces in Albania - for Korca and Shkodra Municipalities" was finalized and findings validated. Comparative data of both municipalities show that the most common issues which contribute to feeling unsafe in the neighborhoods are related to a) lack of effective and visible Police, b) groups of men hanging around the streets engaging with substance abuse, c) lack of public transportation. (UN Women)

The results of 3rd national VAW prevalence survey report, conducted by INSTAT, launched (24 May) revealing that 52.9% of women age 18-74 'ever' experienced one or more of the five different types of violence during their lifetime. (UN Women/UNDP)

Challenge social norms

The first ever "Women International Film Festival" (Albania, 8-11 March) commemorated International Women's Day, with the theme "gender-based violence". The festival featured several documentaries and long and short movies by various international and national filmmakers and was attended by 500 participants. (UN Women)

Awareness raised on GBV, LGBTI community, child marriage issue among youth, men and boys and society at large and public discussions encouraged through art-based activities and promotional materials in partnership with CSOs. (UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF)

Around 1,500 citizens in targeted communities reached out to challenge existing gender norms and stereotypes. (UN Women)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Outputs and related activities under Outcome 2 "Women survivors safely access adequate and appropriate support services (economic, medical, psychosocial, security, shelter)" are envisaged to take place at local government level actively involving LGUs. With the local government elections scheduled on 30 June 2019, UN Agencies refrained from engaging in activities that required the commitment of LGUs prior to the elections. The risk of change of the political representation in the leadership of the LGUs and respective municipal councils would have undermined the actions taken pursuant to the planned activities of this Outcome. The risk was mitigated through planning and carrying out activities that did not depend on mayors and municipal councils.
- The coordination work on the Beijing +25 review process represented a challenge with a related risk of dispersing efforts, energies and widening the scope of the exercise. The risk was mitigated by accurate planning, clear division of tasks and a roadmap accessible to all stakeholders involved (UN, Government and Civil Society representatives).
- Dedicated governmental resources to services for survivors of VAWG are lacking. While CSOs carry the majority of the burden in service provision, efforts are not equally matched by public institutions, which need to provide financial and human resources (for instance through outsourcing to CSOs).
- Not all forms of violence are clearly addressed in legislation and in practice. While efforts are being made to address sexual harassment, reporting is still at low levels and more awareness is needed to challenge the perceptions that these are taboo issues.
- Recent reports about VAWG cases highlight the fact that patriarchal attitudes are still rampant and more efforts are needed for a societal shift, especially on how women's roles within the family are perceived.
- Strengthening of CCR mechanism is essential. While there are a few good examples and improvements, not all municipalities have mechanisms, despite legal provisions, and existing ones would benefit from substantial improvements in efficiency and case management.

Funding Constraints:

Additional fundraising efforts (approx. USD 1,092,000) are needed to support increasing the awareness and involvement of women and men, and communities in combating VAW; scaling up specialised support services for sexual violence victims including rehabilitation services; developing state capacities (central/local) to efficiently implement legislation related to VoT and harmful practices.

Outcome 3 – Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture

Economic growth priorities, policies, and programmes 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
SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12
EU Chapters : 8, 11, 13, 18, 19, 20, 26

OUTPUT 3.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OUTPUT 3.2 LABOUR
OUTPUT 3.3 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
OUTPUT 3.4 CULTURE

OUTCOME CHAIRS

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY
UN WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE
FAO ASSISTANT REPRESENTATIVE

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: UNWOMEN, UNDP, FAO, IOM, UNECE, UNESCO, UNCTAD, ILO
MAIN IMPLEMENTING LINE MINISTRIES: MOFE, MOARD, MOC

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: UNECE, UNCTAD
Contributing Partners: Governments of Switzerland, Sweden, the EU

OUTPUT 3.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOFE

Priority Focus 2019

- Review the Albanian national legislation on competition-consumer protection, including governing credit for consumers and unfair practices, to align with European Union's legislation on consumer protection
- Foster a better understanding of Albanian consumer rights in the financial and digital markets following the surge of e-commerce activities
- Provide expertise for reviewing conglomerate mergers and related conditional clearance/ remedies; conducting economic analyses of important and sensitive markets/sectors of the economy (regulated or not)

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

UNCTAD supported the establishment of an interdependent nature of consumer and competition policy and promoted synergies in application through enhancing institutional links between the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Albanian Competition Authority.

In the context of Albania's participation in the regional Sofia Competition Forum, established in 2012 by UNCTAD and the Bulgarian Competition Authority as a platform for cooperation among Balkan Competition Authorities, UNCTAD supported:

- development of relevant trainings for the judicial system to deal with evaluation of proofs;
- equipment of national judges with a good understanding of basic economic concepts of competition law and with the tools to assess economic evidence;
- enforcement of public and private know-how with concrete cases (including study visits) at the European Court of Justice

National Workshop "Evidence-based policies to achieve SDGs: sustainable housing and urban development in Albania" (2-3 May 2019, Tirana, Albania) discussed the role of evidence in crafting sustainable housing and urban development policies in Albania with focus on the approaches to data collection and management in the context of the SDG11. The workshop aimed to assist the governments in the collection and analysis of the national data on housing and urban development for the development of policies in these sectors. (UNECE) Link - http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51162

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, UN Women, ILO, IOM, FAO
Contributing Partners: Governments of Austria, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the EU

OUTPUT 3.2 LABOUR

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – ILO & MOFE

Priority Focus 2019

- Approval of the new Law on Promotion of Employment
- Restructuring of the National Agency for Employment and Skills
- Preparation of the Action Plan for the Employment and Skills Strategy
- Initial steps towards the establishment of the Social Employment Fund for people with disabilities
- Preparation of modules for the training of producers/processors on food safety and quality, GI, organic, and traditional products
- Consolidation of the Amicable Labour Dispute Resolution system in Albania
- Enhancing the effectiveness of the social dialogue platforms - National Labour Council
- Improving the performance of the labor-related law enforcement institutions - State Labor Inspectorate - especially on Occupational Safety and Health at workplace

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

The new Law on Employment Promotion (nr.15/2019) approved (March 2019). (UNDP)

The Action Plan for the National Employment and Skills Strategy revised and is currently awaiting for MoFE's endorsement. The annual report (2018) on the implementation of NESS completed and presented at the IPMG Employment and Skills. (UNDP)

The functional assessment of National Employment Service conducted; MoFE and NES led consultations to develop the organizational and functional arrangements of the newly established National Agency for Employment and Skills; relevant by-law drafted and approved. (UNDP)

An expert team has initiated the work on the establishment of the Social Employment Fund, which will provide employment and training opportunities to people with disabilities. (UNDP)

The fourth round of self-employment programme for young people launched in the northern municipalities (Shkoder, Kukes, Durres) - 20 business ideas were selected and supported. (UNDP)

Ministry of Finance and Economy supported on aligning the DCM "The Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety for workers with a fixed Duration or Temporary Employment Relationship/ Contract" and "The Minimum Requirements for Health, Safety and Medical Treatment in the Fishing Vessels" with the ILO standards and the respective EU Council Directives 91/383/EEC and 92/29/EEC. (ILO)

State Labour Inspectorate supported on upgrading "On line Transparency Platform" to enhance the efficiency of the SLI performance. (ILO)

Work has initiated for drafting of a joint-program (UN Women, ILO) on accelerating Transition to Inclusive and Green Economy with gender lenses, focused on development of social enterprises as means to social innovation. The expected programme amount is USD 1.5M and implementation to potentially start in 2020.

Modules prepared on the training of producers/processors on food safety and quality, GI, organic, and traditional products. (FAO)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Progress is dependent on the timely approval of the full legislative framework for the implementation of the new Law on Employment promotion.
- With the establishment of the National Agency for Employment and Skills, the vocational schools would transfer under the management of the agency. Necessary measures have to be in place for a smooth start (September) of the new academic year 2019-2020.

Funding Constraints:

- Additional funding (approx. USD 200,000) is needed to provide (i) potential Victims of Trafficking with access to employment programs; and (ii) labour migration opportunities
- Additional funding (approx. USD 700,000) for access to Justice in Labor Disputes through Mediation and Conciliation, and to implement activities related to law enforcement labor-related institutions (approx. USD 50,000)

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.

Contributing UN agencies: UN Women, FAO

OUTPUT 3.3 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – FAO & MOARD

Priority Focus 2019

- Income opportunities for smallholders and rural women's economic empowerment
- Access to finance, land, advisory services, ICT sevices for smallholders with focus on rural women and youth
- Technical negotiations with the EU Ch.11, statistics and economic analyses
- Regulatory framework on product quality certification (GI, traditional products)
- Cooperation in agri-food chains and upgrade food quality and safety standards
- Design and implement measures for food loss and waste reduction
- Risk prevention and mitigation practices on transboundary animal diseases

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Smallholders

Feasibility study and project proposal developed to increase income opportunities for smallholders and accelerate rural women's economic empowerment. (FAO)

Rural women's economic empowerment (GREAT project)

The revised project document and budget are expected to be endorsed in September 2019. (FAO/UN Women)

EU integration

12 technical staff from MoARD trained on statistics and policy formulation on EU integration; 20 technical staff from INSTAT, MoARD trained on monitoring of indicators for SDG 2, 5, 13, 14, 15. (FAO)

The regulatory framework on product quality certification, including GI, organic and traditional products developed and training provided to 6 MoARD's staff. (FAO)

Food quality and safety

Knowledge and capacities of public and private chain actors on food quality and safety standards are upgraded through training of 20 technical staff. (FAO)

Food loss and waste (FLW)

Country study prepared for the formulation of the national FLW strategy, and training provided to 30 stakeholders from public, CSO, and private actors in food value chain. (FAO)

Transboundary animal diseases

Risk prevention and mitigation practices on transboundary animal diseases, including the Lumpy Skin (LSD) and African Swine Fever (ASF) diseases, developed and disseminated in the public and private veterinary service in the whole national territory (respectively 110 copies of LSD guides and 200 copies of ASF guides). (FAO)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Low absorption of subsidies – weak financial and advisory services at local level
- Lack of data to monitor and evaluate progress for economic and policy analyses
- Low capacity/knowledge to adapt food safety and quality standards

Funding Constraints:

This output faces substantial funding constraints for implementation of work given the delay in the endorsement of GREAT project and uncertainty of state budget allocations for 2019 national subsidies.

State institutions have 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.

Contributing UN agencies: UNESCO

OUTPUT 3.4 CULTURE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNESCO & MOC

Priority Focus & Main Undertakings 2019

- Enhance management and safeguarding of Albania's cultural heritage
- Improve capacities of the national institutions in management of cultural heritage
- Mainstream culture within Albania's development policies
- Support implementation of the new Law 27/2018 "For Cultural heritage and Museums" and develop required sub laws

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

The joint EU-UNESCO Transboundary Project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region” supported inscription of the Albanian part of the Ohrid Lake region to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

While the project will conclude in 2019, negotiations with the EU are ongoing for a second phase of the project.

Continuation of the implementation of Culture for development Indicators, as a tool for enhancement of enabling role of culture for development with 2030 Agenda.

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Although the management of culture in Albania seems to be adequate, the main challenge remains the absence of (i) a national Culture Strategy - essential to address existing challenges as well as provide mid-term perception/outlook; and (ii) adequate legal framework ensuring the most appropriate management of the cultural sector – Law on “Cultural Heritage and Museums" adopted but without the development of the required sub-laws, it could create some issues in the implementation of future UNESCO activities in Albania.

- The Cultural Heritage Preservation sector has recognized the need for further capacity development actions to address emerging issues in the preservation of Albania’s rich cultural heritage.

Funding Constraints:

The negotiations with the EU are ongoing for a second phase of the project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region” to further enhance cross-border cooperation of joint management of valuable cultural resources of Ohrid Region, by Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.

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)
SDGs: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
EU Chapters: 15, 27

OUTPUT 4.1 DRR AND CLIMATE CHANGE
OUTPUT 4.2 NATURAL RESOURCES

OUTCOME CHAIRS

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT
UNDP REPRESENTATIVE
FAO ASSISTANT REPRESENTATIVE

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: FAO, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, WHO
MAIN IMPLEMENTING LINE MINISTRIES: MOTE, MOARD, MOIE, MOESY

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, WHO
Contributing Partners: Governments of Italy, Germany, the Global Environment Fund

OUTPUT 4.1 DRR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOTE, MOIE

Priority Focus 2019

- Implement the national road map for the Paris Agreement, including NDC, NEEAP, NREAP and climate financing, including through Albania's participation in regional fora
- Promote investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, develop capacities of national and local agencies/associations for policy making, and assist in the assessment of resources and creation of a data base inside INSTAT, including the assessment of the GHG generated/avoided
- Evaluate needs and support capacity and institutional development for risk reduction, resilience (incl. PDNA) and climate change adaptation at community, local and central government level, with a special focus on Vjosa river and Drini from transboundary perspective
- Improve DRR for UNESCO designated sites in Albania

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

Albania's First Biennial Update Report to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is under preparation. Government is being assisted to effectively participate to the Climate Action Summit 2019: A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win. (UNDP)

Strategy on Climate Change (CCS) and related Action Plans on Mitigation and Adaptation endorsed (July) - first country in the region with an endorsed CCS; frame legislation on "Climate Change" planned for endorsement in September 2019, including MRV system on climate change (Monitoring, Reporting, Verification); policy recommendations are being prepared to provide for the domestic MRV system (GHG inventory and national policies to mitigate climate change). (UNDP)

GHG inventory assessment, from all economic sectors for the time series 2010-2016, is under preparation with a new methodology (2006 IPPC Guidelines). Meanwhile, the years 2005 and 2009 will be updated. (UNDP)

Capacity building/training conducted on the GHG emissions inventory in cooperation with Polytechnic University as per the MoU between UNDP, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Polytechnic University and Gjirokaster University on Environmental Protection and Climate Change. (UNDP)

More than 5 olive oil enterprises supported with grant and expertise, to prepare feasibility study and business plan, to make biomass energy projects economically feasible. Other enterprises are being evaluated for support. A report was produced on the prospect of bio-energy use, policy and support measures of the industries for bio-energy production in Albania. (UNIDO)

Tabletop Exercise conducted on Flash Floods Scenario with participation of 35 professionals from MoHSP, MoARD, IPH, GDOHS, NCEM, NHI, FSVI. (WHO)

Needs of relevant institutions and stakeholders on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions are evaluated, especially related to support of smallholders and rural women on diversification activities. Based on identified needs, awareness material and trainings, promoting the adaptation of the agriculture sector to the effects of the climate change, will be produced and implemented starting from 2019Q4. (FAO)

Three workshops organized on (i) Development of the Health Sector Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan; (ii) Emergency Operation Plan of Infection Disease Hospital; and (iii) Rapid Risk Assessment of Acute Public Health Events to inform and increase know-how of 80 health sector professionals. (WHO)

150 school staff (25 schools), who had received training on DRR, trained and engaged (i) to raise awareness of the schools and communities to reduce the risk of natural disasters and other factors that affect school security; (ii) to develop the school safety plans, focusing on protection from earthquakes, floods, fire etc. Activities were developed under the leadership of the school commissions (25) with involvement of all stakeholders and school partners in the process. (UNICEF)

The Management plan for the WH property "Natural Heritage and Cultural heritage of Ohrid region" developed within joint EU-UNESCO Transboundary Project "Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region" that supported inscription of the Albanian part of the Ohrid Lake region to the UNESCO World Heritage List. (UNESCO)

Sustainable Land Management approaches mainstreamed into revised legal framework and land management planning processes through (i) assessment of relevant SLM legislation and (ii) identification and development of most adequate legal and economic instruments for stimulating investments in land productivity. Capacities for sustainable land management strengthened through (i) conducting an assessment of institutional capacities at national/local level to identify needs and challenges of all relevant stakeholders and (ii) delivery of training to build institutional capacities and facilitate knowledge and technology transfer, with focus on public participation, monitoring, assessment and knowledge management, etc. (UNEP)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Given that many of the designations in Albania are of mix natural cultural character, more synergy among relevant institutions is needed to improver overall management.
- Lack of financial instruments to boost Energy efficiency and Renewable Energy and comply with country's obligations under the NDC and national EE and RES actions plans.
- Coordination and planning on climate change issues needs a sectoral approach. Currently, there is a need for the Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change to become operational.
- Lack of capacities (human and technical) within Ministry of Tourism and Environment and National Environmental Agency to address climate related issues on a daily basis.

Funding Constraints:

- Additional funding is needed to (i) upscale of EE solution in public buildings of all municipalities; (ii) mainstream Climate Change in key sectors (water resources, infrastructure, transport, tourism, agriculture, forestry, etc.); and (iii) Water Safety initiatives.
- The negotiations with the EU are ongoing for a second phase of the project "Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region" to further enhance cross-border cooperation of joint management of valuable cultural resources of Ohrid Region, by Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNECE, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNESCO, FAO, WHO
Contributing Partners: Governments of Croatia, Italy, Norway, the Global Environment Fund

OUTPUT 4.2 NATURAL RESOURCES

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOTE, MOIE

Priority Focus 2019

- Improve capacities in administering a shared environment MIS for an evidence-based decision-making process
- Support central and decentralized planning, management and financial sustainability of parks, marine and costal protected areas (nation-wide), linking efforts to government' territorial plans
  - ✓ Develop assessment tool for marine habitats and their management and pilot the interpretative MSFD toolkit for the marine park
  - ✓ Prepare Tourism Code of Conduct and promote best practices on sustainable tourism in Vlora bay to mitigate the pressure on marine park
  - ✓ Develop baseline assessment on the institutional management and financial analyses of the General Maritime Directorate; develop an institutional framework providing for best practices and options on financial sustainability
  - ✓ Develop the Drini Strategic Action Plan based on transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
  - ✓ Enhance integration of Albanian Maritime Standards in line with EU requirements, and improve capacities in the field of preparedness, risk assessment and response.
- Provide training and raise awareness on the indicators of SDG 13 – Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts
- Develop and implement water safety action plans for urban and rural water facilities

JWP Strategic Deliverables
Main Undertakings 2019

UNDP, MoTE and National Environment Agency are working on a process to improve Albania's current environmental governance system - better policy implementation and performance through applied system thinking. A systems approach is being undertaken to map the interrelated elements that influence Albania's ability to preserve (and enhance) its natural environmental – environmental impact assessment, permitting process and compliance monitoring.

A review of implementation of recommendations stemming from Albania Environmental Performance Review vis-à-vis SDGs and targets and need assessments prepared within the project "Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe". (UNECE)

Protected Areas: Business plan for National Parks of Llogara and Divjaka developed, focusing on human activities and resources exploitations/use, land use and local economies, economic activities, etc.; study finalized on the national strategy and financial planning of protected areas, potential contribution of private actors in PAs governance and management policies at municipal level. (UNDP)

Maritime pollution: Table Top Exercise on response measures and management of oil clean up operation at sea organized (Durres, January); Assessment report of the risk of pollution from marine oil and HNS spills in Albanian ports and sea waters developed. (UNDP)

Transboundary Drini: For the first time ever, the Drin Water Budget is generated, including flows and discharges in each one of the water bodies of the Drin Basin, supporting policy making and other actions in the area - development of a river basin management plan, other; Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for Drini is being finalized and the initial draft of Strategic Action Plan was discussed in 6 stakeholders working group meetings. (UNDP)

25 technical staff of relevant central institutions trained and increased awareness on the indicators of SDG 13 as well as on the Climate Change Convention and other relevant conventions. (FAO)

A regional workshop organized on agro-ecology, Climate Smart Agriculture concept and relevant agricultural and landscape interventions (Conservation Agriculture, ecosystem-based services, flood and drought management) benefited 31 professionals, from MoARD and MoTE, extension service agronomists, NGOs, organic agriculture associations, to increase their know-how on Agroecology practices and challenges as well as opportunities to develop Agroecology. Awareness was raised. Action Plan and priority actions at national level were defined. (FAO)

UNICEF, together with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and development partners in Albania, supported a national wide campaign "Smile", aiming at a clean and protected environment in Albania. 500,000 people have been reached from the campaign activities and promotional materials produced/shared, focused at reinforcing children's role as agents of change to protect the environment.

Advocacy activities conducted for the use of WHO methodology on the implementation of water safety action plans for urban and rural water facilities. (WHO)

Implementation Challenges & Funding Constraints 2019

Implementation Challenges:

- Insufficient awareness on climate change and lack of coordination among public institutions to provide for sound and timely data on GHG emissions inventory.
- Applied system thinking in environmental permits and EIAs requires a set of associated innovative approaches including legislative and operational.

Funding Constraints:

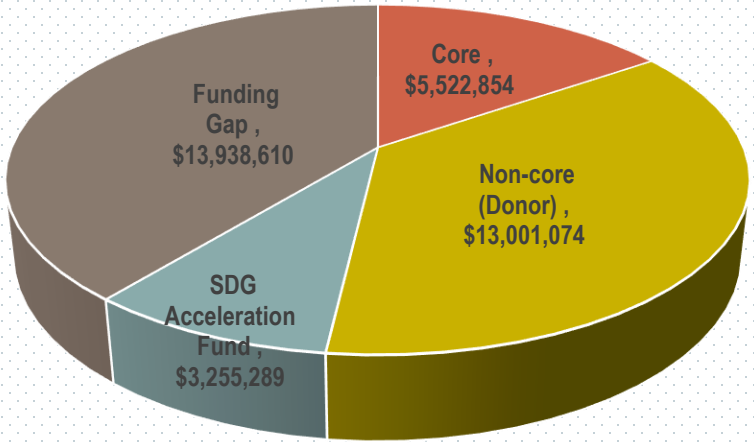
Additional funding (approx. USD 350,000) is needed to mainstreaming Climate Change in key sectors.

2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
"January - June"

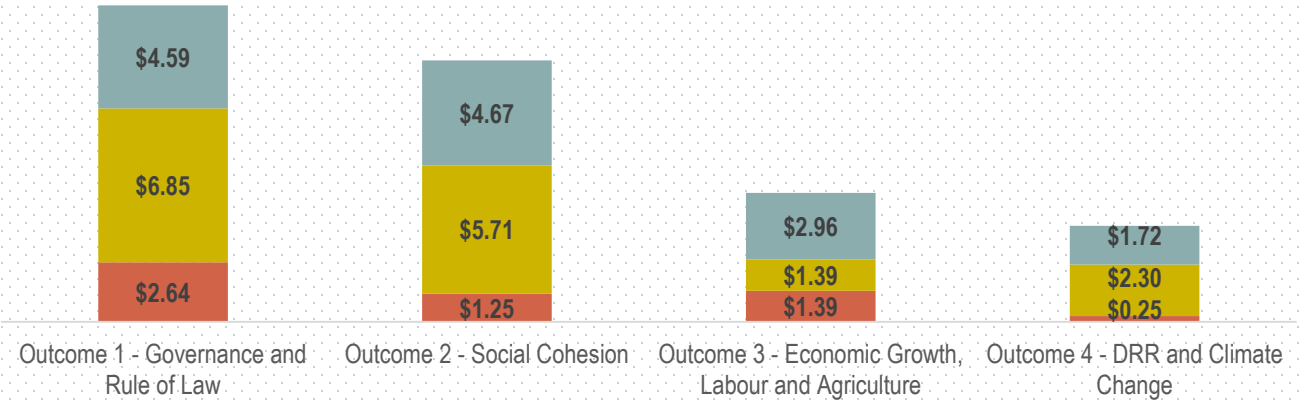
Total 2018 Budget $35.7M
- ✓ Available Budget $21.7M
- ✓ Funding Gap $14M

Total Expenditures (1 Jan.-30 June) $9.4M

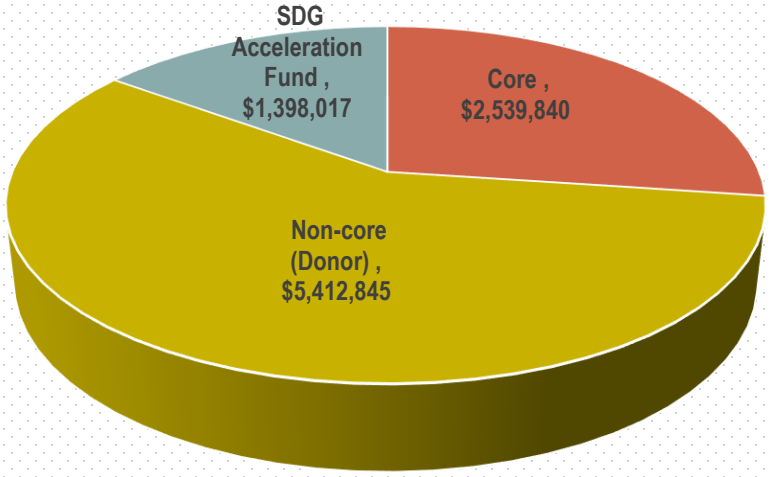
Total Budget 2019



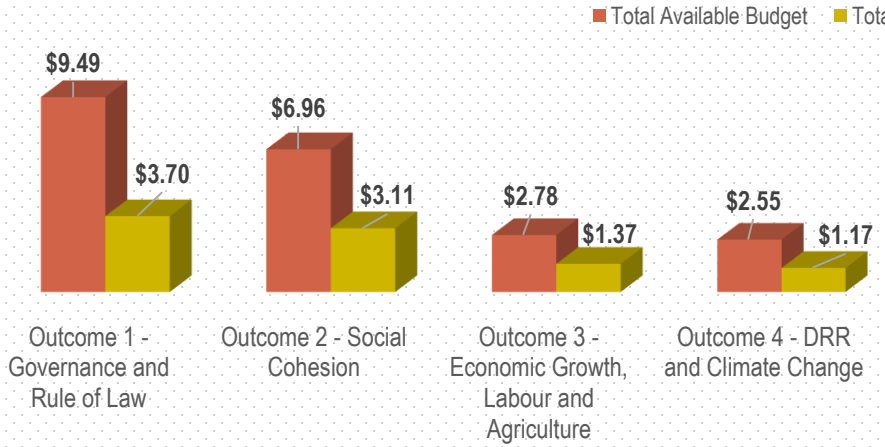
2019 Total Budget per Outcome



Expenditures Jan. - June 2019

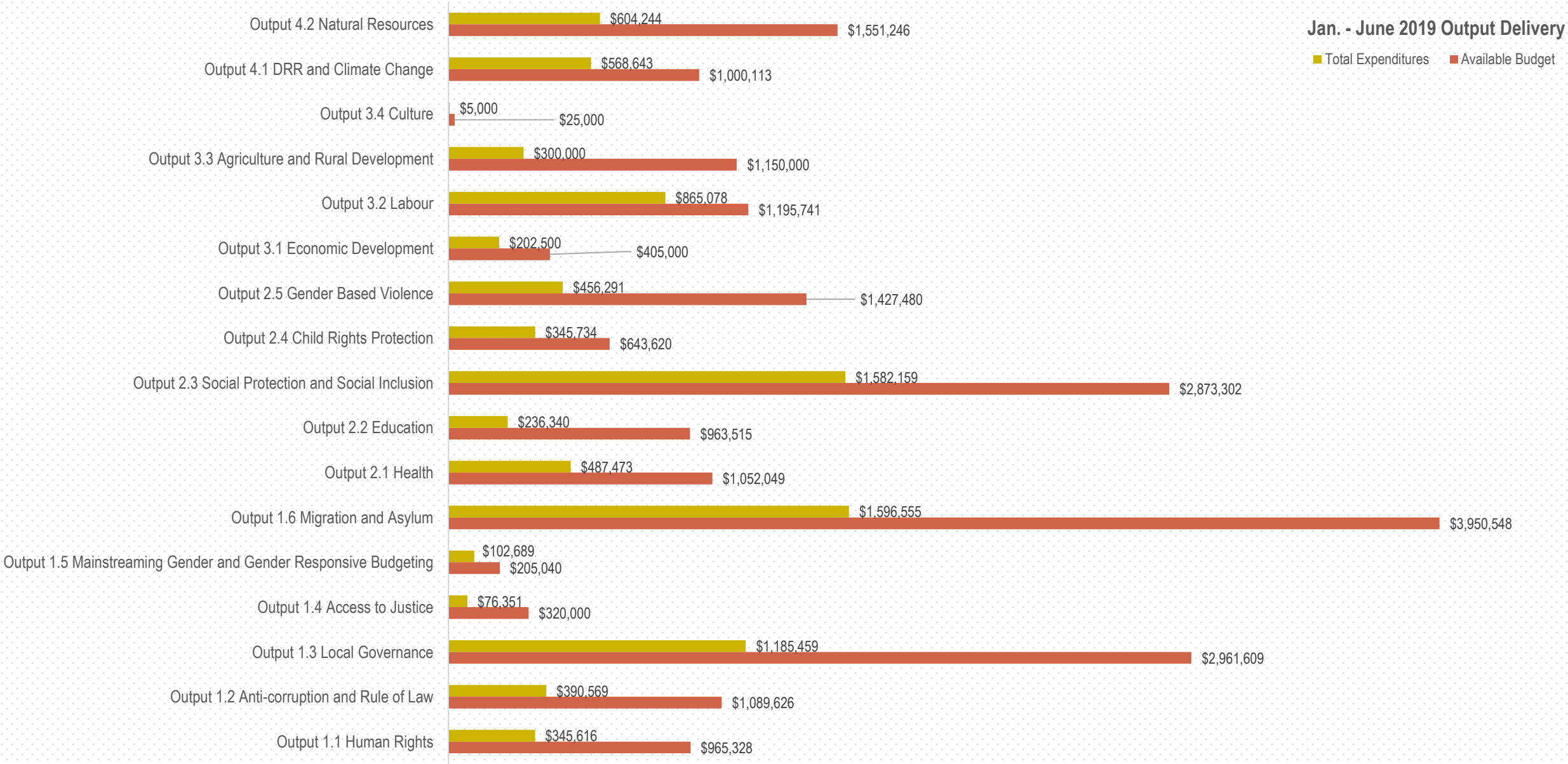


Outcome Delivery Jan. - June 2019



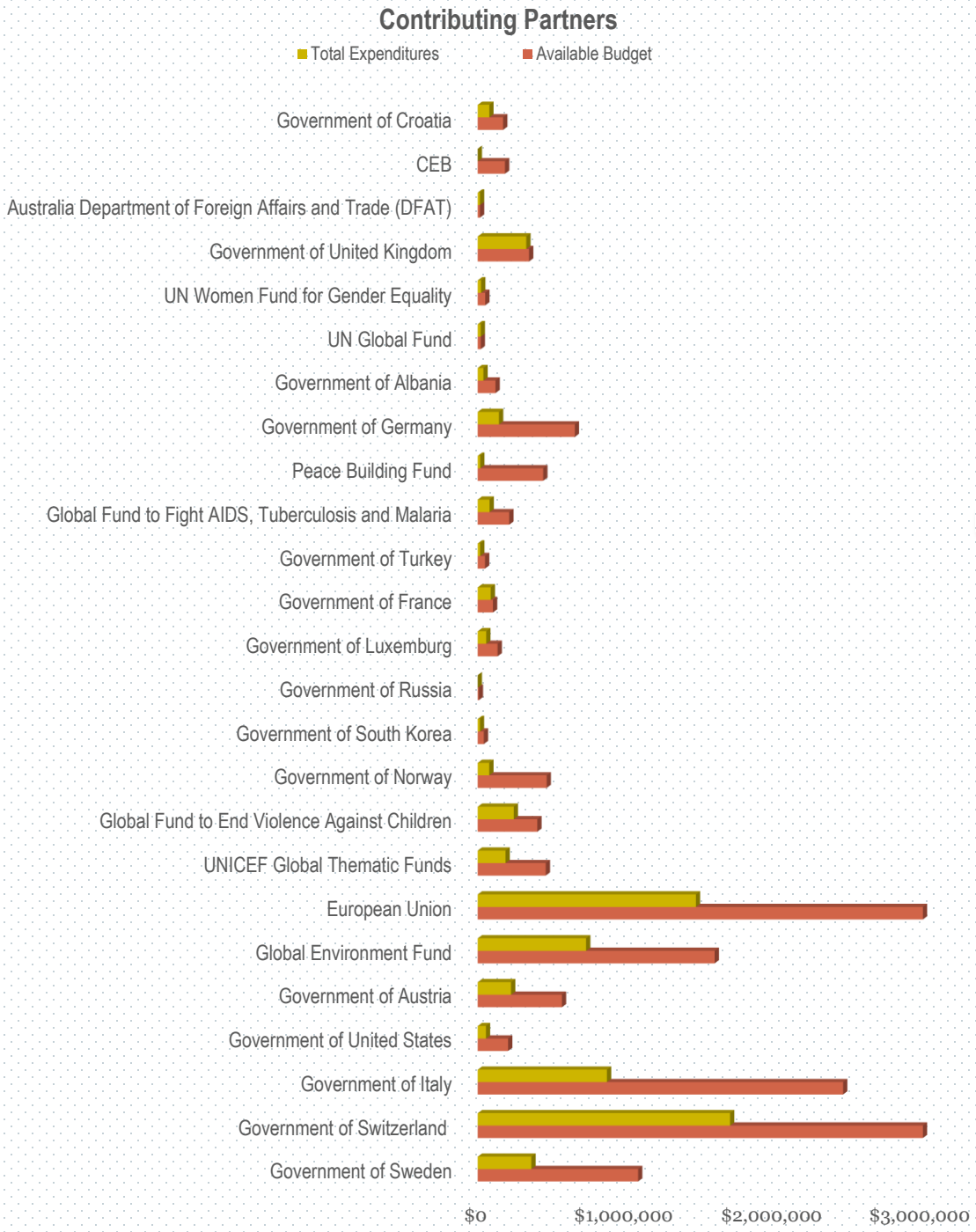
2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

"Outputs"

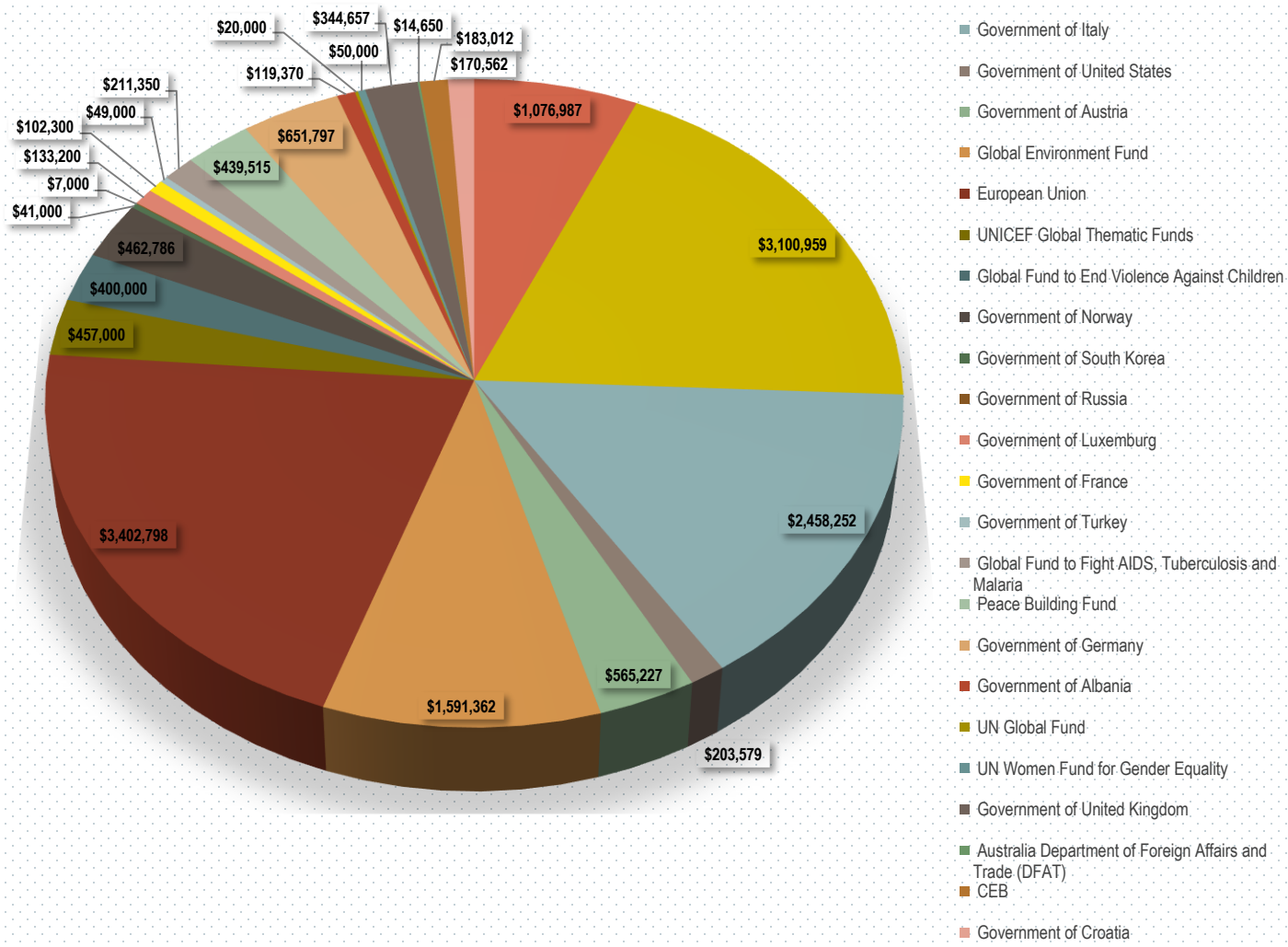


2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

"Contributing Partners"



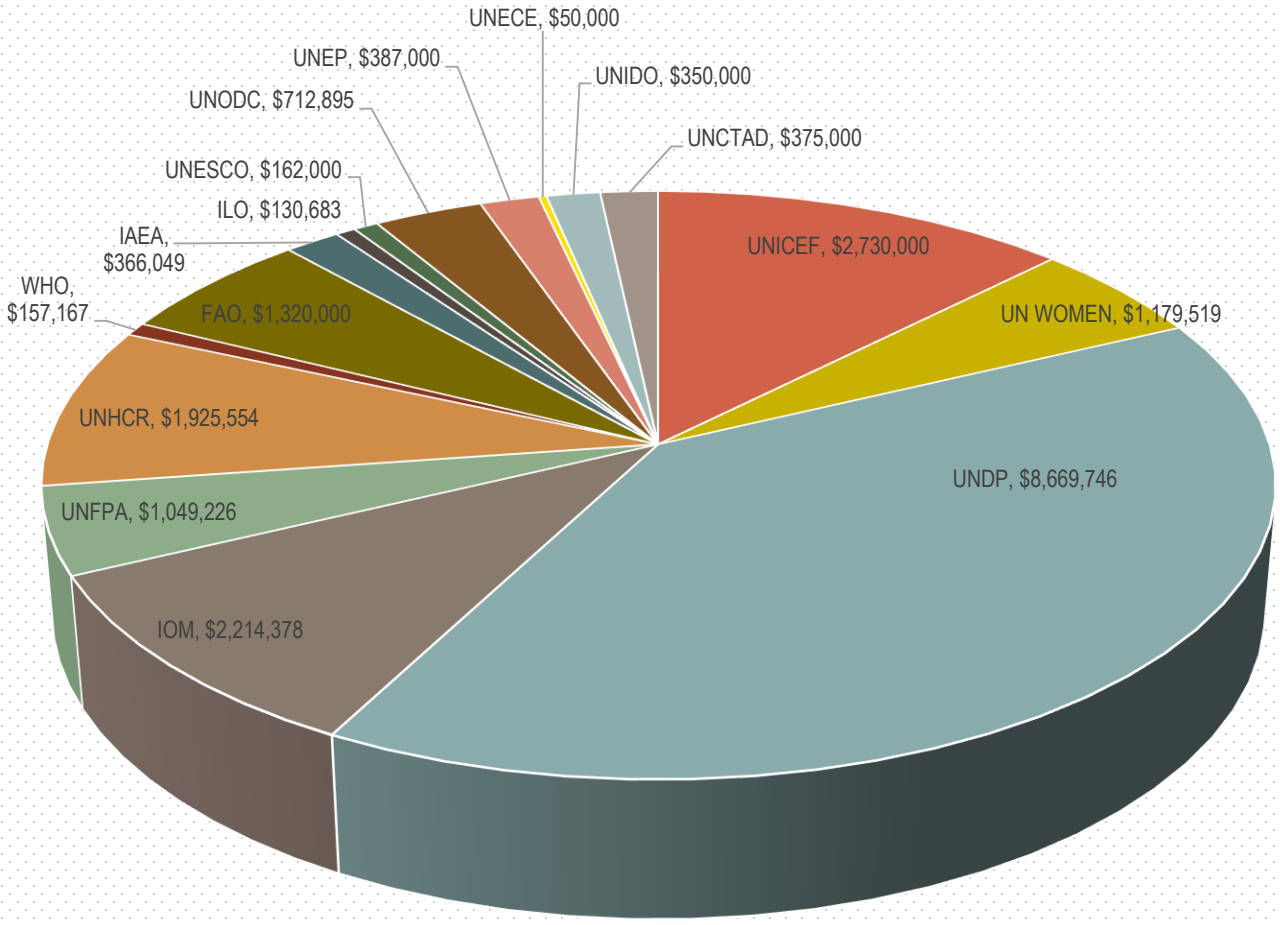
25 Contributing Partners - $16.2M
75% of the available budget



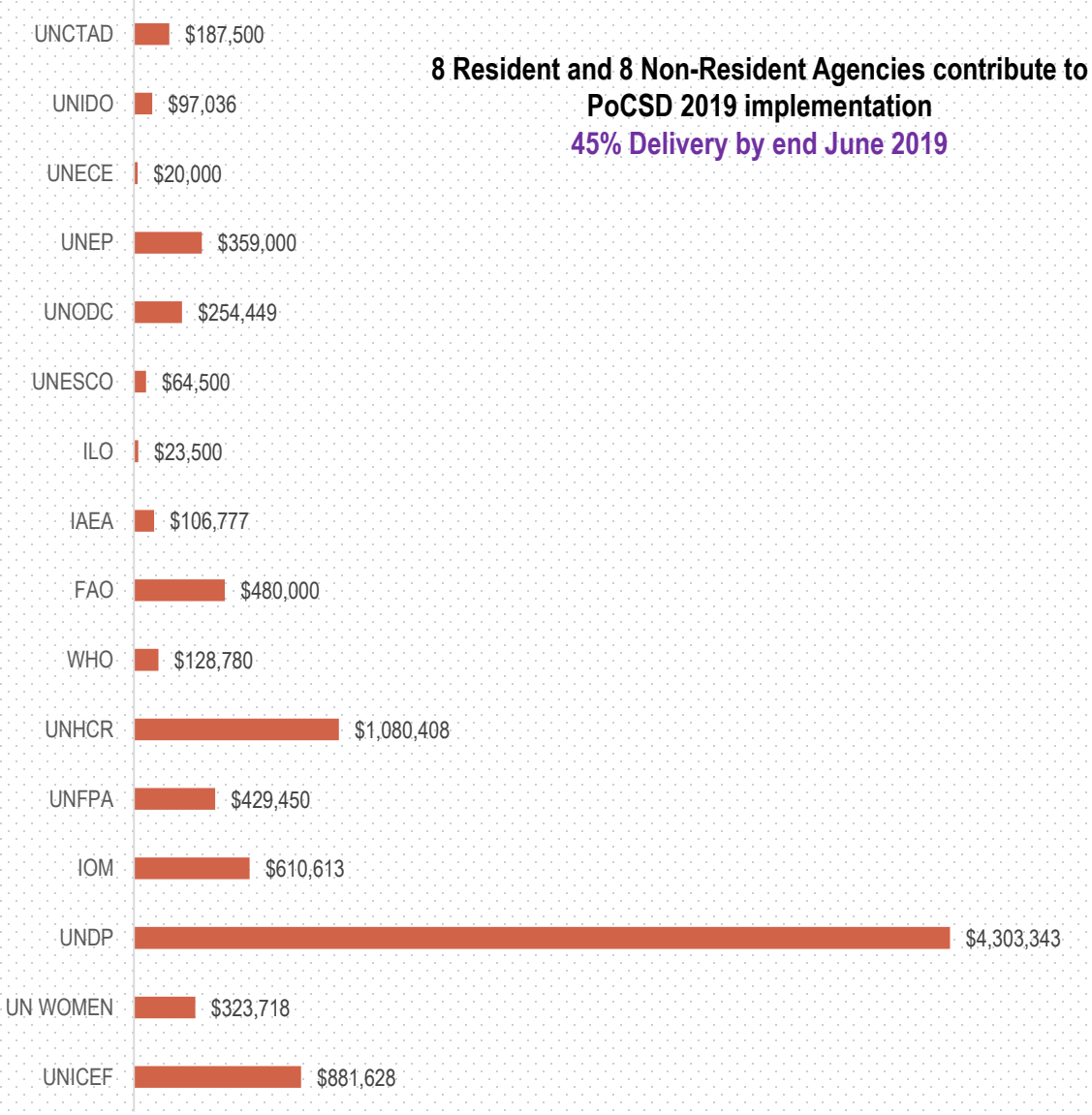
2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

"Contributing UN Agencies Available Budget 2019"

UN Agencies Available Budget 2019



Total Expenditures Jan. - June 2019



8 Resident and 8 Non-Resident Agencies contribute to PoCSD 2019 implementation

45% Delivery by end June 2019

COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY

- A Social media campaign highlighting UN Albania Results in the country as evidenced in the Government of Albania – United Nations Progress Report 2018, was implemented. The hashtag #UNProgressReport2018 earned 87,3 K impressions.
- Two editions of the UN newsletter “Delivering for Development in Albania”, presenting UN Agencies work in the country, were developed and widely shared with UN key partners in Albania and abroad.
- Facebook posts featuring issue related to the rights of the LGBTI community, Leave None Behind interventions etc, reached around +90.000 people
- 4 SDG video spots were produced and shared widely on social media raising awareness about SDGs and underlying UN’s interventions helping Albania achieve the Goals.
- The UNRC featured in two exclusive interviews, helped raise awareness on UN’s interventions and impact in Albania.
- UN’s social media platforms especially Twitter saw an increase by 15 % in the number of followers. A ne Instagram account was activated for UN Albania, thus helping maximize UN’s reach.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On September 2015, Republic of Albania, along with other 192 members of the UN, committed to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by adopting the Declaration of the Summit on Sustainable Development, held in NYC.

2019

UN is supporting government to establish SDG interim targets, draft Vision 2030 document that lays out longer-term priorities, and develop NSDI 2020-2024 aligned to SDGs. 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.

2018

Albania's deputy prime minister presented the Voluntary National Review of SDGs at the 2018 HLPF held under theme 'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

UN, in collaboration with government, undertook an SDG mission focused on Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support (MAPS), the first in the Western Balkans. The MAPS report was launched officially by government (19 Sept.).

UN and the government announced establishment of Albania SDG Acceleration Fund (April). Government committed $500,000 in 2019 and $2M annually until 2021.

2015-2017 Public Expenditure Review to SDGs in Albania informed on GoA spending on each SDG, serving to design specific/focused programmes to reach the marginalized.

Report on the Harmonisation of SDGs with Existing Sectoral Policies, launched in February 2018, serves as a useful national baseline report.

2017

Prime Minister decreed the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial SDG Committee, Chaired by Deputy PM, and Inter-Institutional Working Group in May 2017. Both structures have held meetings twice a year.

Albanian Parliament unanimously passed a Resolution and 25 universities signed a Declaration of Commitment, pledging to promotion, implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030 and SDGs, through inclusive and broad-based development processes, in line with Albania's development priorities and EU integration.

The SDGs are integrated into NSDI 2015-2020 and National Statistical Programme 2016–2020.

2015-2016

PMO implemented, with UNDP support, a pilot project to develop and test SDG16 targets and indicators prior to adoption of Agenda2030. As a result, a set of 21 governance indicators, along with targets, baseline data and sources of data, were integrated into the NSDI II pillars.

Using UN Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) tool, the level of integration was assessed of SDG goals and targets into NSDI II and sectoral programmes.

September 2015 - 17 SDGs of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders, including Albania, at an historic UN summit.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADISA	Agency for the Delivery of Integrated Services Albania
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
AWEN	Albanian Women Empowerment Network
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCP	Container Control Programme
CCR	Community Coordinated Response
CPD	Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
C4D	Communication for Development
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
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
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
FLA	Free Legal Aid
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
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
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICCS	International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IPARD	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development
IPH	Institute of Public Health
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ISARD	Inter-Sectoral Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
LGU	Local Government Unit
LINAC	Linear Accelerator
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
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
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
NES	National Employment Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NSGE	National Strategy on Gender Equality
ONAC	Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator
OSS	One-Stop-Shop
PCU	Port Control Unit
PHC	Primary Health Care
PoCSD	Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development
R&E	Roma and Egyptian
REVALB	Recording Violence in Albania
RMSA	Refugee and Migrant Services in Albania
SARPC	State Agency for Child Rights and Protection
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
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
SMD	State Minister for Diaspora
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
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USI	Universal Salt Iodisation
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VET	Vocational Education Training
VoT	Victim of Trafficking
WCO	World Customs Organisation

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As a family of specialized agencies, the UN in Albania works closely with the Government and other partners including civil society, academia and the private sector, to fight poverty, strengthen the rule of law, promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, protect the environment and support economic and social reforms.

Through a coherent country programme, the UN fully supports and works towards the complementary agendas of: Albania's goal of European Union integration, national priorities expressed in the National Strategy for Development and Integration and the Integrated Planning System, as well as harmonization and aid effectiveness. This includes Albania's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).