

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017-2021

Progress Report 2017



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



United Nations
ALBANIA



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Progress Report

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ACRONYMS

ADISA	Agency for the Delivery of Integrated Services Albania	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	GEF	Global Environment Fund
ALL	Albanian Lek	GI	Geographic Indications
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance	GM	Gender Mainstreaming
AMUN	Albanian Model United Nations	GoA	Government of Albania
ANFI	Albanian National Forestry Inventory	GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
BKH	Byroja Kombëtare e Hetimit (National Investigation Bureau)	GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
CBS	Community-Based Scorecard	HDI	Human Development Index
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
CCR	Community Coordinated Response	HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	HRMIS	Human Resource Management Information System
CoE	Council of Europe	IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
CPD	Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination	ICD	International Classification of Diseases
CPI	Corruption Perceptions Index	ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
CPU	Child Protection Unit	ICT	Information and Communications Technology
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	IHR	International Health Regulation
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	ILO	International Labour Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	IMF	International Monetary Fund
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	INSTAT	National Institute of Statistics
DHS	Demographic Health Survey	IOM	International Organisation for Migration
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	IPARD	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development
EC	European Commission	IPH	Institute of Public Health
ELDS	Early Learning and Development Standards	IT	Information Technology
EPR	Environmental Performance Review	JWP	Joint Work Plan
EU	European Union	KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women	LGU	Local Government Unit
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	LINAC	Linear Accelerator
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	MIL	Media and Information Literacy
FLA	Free Legal Aid	MIS	Management Information System
GB–DV	Gender-Based and Domestic Violence	MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	MoARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
GCF	Green Climate Fund	MoESY	Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

MoFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
MoHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection	TB	Tuberculosis
MTBP	Mid-Term Budget Programme	TLAS	Tirana Legal Aid Society
MTH	Mother Theresa Hospital	UK	United Kingdom
NAVETQ	National Agency for Vocational Education, Training and Qualification	UN	United Nations
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
NCCPI	National Centre of Cultural Property Inventory	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
NDC	National Determined Contribution	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NEET	Not in Employment, Education and Training	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
NES	National Employment Service	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
NLC	National Licensing Centre	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
NSGE	National Strategy on Gender Equality	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
PHC	Primary Health Care	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
PoCSD	Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development	UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
RES	Renewable Energy Source	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
REVALB	Recording Violence in Albania	USA	United States of America
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal	USD	United States Dollar
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment	VAC	Violence Against Children
SHPP	Small Hydropower Plant	VAW	Violence Against Women
SIGMA	Support for Improvement in Governance and Management	VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
SIIG	Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group	VET	Vocational Education Training
SILC	Survey on Income and Living Conditions	VNR	Voluntary National Report
SLM	Sustainable Land Management	VSD	Vocational Skills Development
SPAK	Struktura e Posaçme kundër Korrupsionit dhe Krimet të Organizuar (Specialised Structure against Corruption and Organised Crime)	WB	World Bank
SPS	State Probation Service	WEAP	Water Evaluation and Assessment Planning
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health	WHO	World Health Organisation
		WISDOM	Wood-fuel Integrated Supply/Demand Overview Mapping

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS IN 2017

-  European Union
-  Government of Albania
-  Government of Austria
-  Government of Netherlands
-  Government of Italy
-  Government of Slovenia
-  Government of Switzerland
-  Government of Sweden
-  Government of Turkey
-  Government of United Kingdom
-  Government of United States of America
-  The Council of Europe Development Bank
-  Global Environment Fund
-  Climate Green Fund
-  Swedish National Committee for UNICEF
-  Global Thematic Fund for UNICEF
-  Global Fund to End Violence Against Children
-  The David Beckham UNICEF Fund
-  Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
-  Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Citta della Salute e della Scienza di Torino
-  Terre des hommes

FOREWORD



Senida Mesi
Deputy Prime
Minister

In our capacity as the Co-Chairs of the Government of Albania–UN Joint Executive Committee, we are pleased to present the 2017 Annual Progress Report for our *Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017–2021*. The Programme features four key pillars—Governance and Rule of Law, Social Cohesion, Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture, and Environment and Climate Change—with activities designed to promote European Union integration and accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The year 2017 was the first of the new five-year programme cycle and we adopted some innovative approaches. We elevated joint UN work-planning to a more strategic level, creating forums that bring together the involved line ministries into the same discussion, along with development partners and the relevant UN agencies, to discuss how we can best assist. The four joint UN work-plans are online¹ for all to see, highlighting our commitment to transparency.

This year we also ramped up our work on the Sustainable Development Goals. The government decreed an Inter-ministerial SDG Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and inclusive of civil society, the private sector and development partners, and committed itself to delivering a voluntary national report in July 2018 in New York. Parliament passed a unanimous resolution in support of the SDGs. Rectors of more than 25 universities signed a

declaration to support SDGs, and some of Tirana’s most well-known companies, including Sophie Café and Telekom mobile, led private sector advocacy and action.

Of course, the heart of the report describes concrete results of our cooperation across the four agreed Outcomes.

In the area of governance and rule of law, for example, the formulation of the Criminal Justice for Children Code, the issuance of a National Justice for Children Strategy 2017–2020, and the approval of the new law on Free Legal Aid were important steps for advancing human rights. Three additional ADISA Centres for Delivery of Integrated Services established in three regions of Albania further contributed to the transformational shift in the way the state serves its citizens. Meanwhile, a Local Governance Mapping assessment confirmed that the territorial-administrative reform that resulted in 61 new municipalities has taken root.

In the area of combating gender-based violence, the newly amended Criminal Procedure Code and the Free Legal Aid law include comprehensive provisions on the rights of victims of crimes, including victims of gender-based violence, sexual violence and human trafficking. The Albanian Parliament approved a resolution to condemn violence against women calling on responsible central and local authorities to take concrete actions in effectively implementing the legislation for prevention and elimination of violence.

A National Health Strategy 2016–2020 was developed, responding to the growing calls for strengthening of the health system in Albania. Implementation of Albania’s Demographic and Health Survey 2017–2018 has started, thus contributing to the EU accession requirements regarding provision of standardised and valid health information.

A new law on social housing, prepared in consultations with a large array of partners, aims to improve the living conditions and lives of Roma and other vulnerable groups in Albania. The 61 municipalities signed Social Pacts, committing themselves to implementing the law on social care services, which is vital for providing high quality social services that meet international human rights standards.

Several advances were made in the employment sector regulatory and policy framework, including preparation of an Albanian Labour Code Commentary as amended, submission of secondary labour legislation to the National Licensing Centre for adoption, as well as development of by-laws for the new Vocational Education Training law. The regulatory framework for women entrepreneurs in urban and rural areas advanced through a set of three legal and policy measures that promote, strengthen and create a friendly environment where women entrepreneurs have access to adequate resources. The design of an integrated service to farmers empowered a more inclusive and efficient government financial support programme.

Concerning the environment, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, established the Energy Efficiency Agency and Energy Efficiency Fund, in line with the EU require-

ments, to move Albania towards an increasingly sustainable energy future. Meanwhile, an important new programme was established to protect and develop sustainably the marine protected area around the Karaburun Peninsula.

These are just a few of the highlights of the present report, and we encourage you to browse through Chapter 2, which provides sector-specific details.

This year, the UN collectively delivered USD 21.8 million-worth of programmes, of which roughly two-thirds was financed through locally agreed partnerships. While we value every partner for their faith in the UN’s commitment to results, transparency and human rights, we would like to acknowledge in particular our five or six biggest donors—collectively amounting to 74 percent, or USD 11 million—namely the EU, Switzerland, Sweden, GEF, Government of Albania and Italy. Full financial details are reported in Chapter 3 of this report.

Ultimately more important than the financing, it is strategic partnerships that yield results. Without civil society, national NGOs, community organisations and committed activists, our work would be less effective and less sustainable. We are proud of efforts to date in this regard, and aspire to do more.

We hope you share with us the inspiration this report offers in that Albania can accelerate its progress towards the European Union and the achievement of Agenda 2030. We welcome any question or suggestion, as they will help us craft our ambitions for the years to come.



Brian J. Williams
Resident
Coordinator
United Nations in
Albania

1. <http://www.un.org.al/what-we-do/governance-and-rule-law/joint-work-plan-and-activities>
<http://www.un.org.al/what-we-do/social-cohesion/joint-work-plan-and-activities>
<http://www.un.org.al/what-we-do/economic-growth-labour-and-agriculture/joint-work-plan-and-activities>
<http://www.un.org.al/what-we-do/environment-and-climate-change/joint-work-plan-and-activities>



This United Nations Progress Report features four chapters providing information for the year 2017, prepared with contributions from 17 UN agencies.²

Chapter 1 presents the key development trends, with focus on European Union integration priority areas, highlighting political, social and economic conditions that could impact the implementation of development initiatives in the country. In addition to the overall trends presented in this chapter, each thematic (Output) section of Chapter 2 opens with a review of the relevant policy trends.

Chapter 2—the core of the report—presents UN Albania’s contribution and results for 2017, working with government, civil society and development partners for the development of four Outcome areas: 1) Governance and Rule of Law, 2) Social Cohesion, 3) Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture, and 4) Environment and Climate Change. These areas are the four Outcomes of the Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017–2021 (PoCSD) and support the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 (NSDI), including national EU integration goals.

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

The PoCSD, signed in October 2016, is the third five-year development framework agreed between the government and the UN since 2006 when Albania became a Delivering as One pilot country. **Chapter 3** details implementation of the Delivering as One Standard Operating Procedures, including the key aspects of *One Programme, One Fund, One Leader, Operating as One* and *Communicating as One*.

Sustainable development is everywhere now defined by Agenda 2030, a universal framework which all UN Member States have adopted. The Albanian government and its partners took many steps to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in Albania, highlighted in **Chapter 4**. These include the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and inclusive of development partners, civil society, the private sector and the UN. A review of policies as they relate to SDGs was produced, and the commitment was made to deliver a Voluntary National Report to the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2018.

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

* * *

Implementation in 2017 of PoCSD aimed for a budget of USD 21.8 million, with 70 per cent supported by government and development partners in the country, regionally and global. By end of year, the programme reached a delivery rate of 87 percent,³ with the balance carried over into 2018.

Outcome 1—Governance and Rule of Law: UNFPA and UN Women support to government for meeting its international human rights reporting obligations resulted in the submission of a national mid-term report on implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and establishment of an online monitoring platform for UPR and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Action Plan. Through this support, a national report was submitted to the Council of Europe (CoE)’s Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).⁴ UNICEF

supported the drafting of a road map for preparation of the report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for submission in 2018, and strengthened public accountability mechanisms of human rights institutions and parliament, increasing these institutions’ outreach to vulnerable people. For example, the People’s Advocate issued a thematic monitoring report on the conditions and treatment of children deprived of liberty,⁵ whose findings activated an Ombudsman-issued recommendation to close the juvenile section at Shen Koll detention facility in Lezha, while the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination issued an overview of judicial decisions in relation to children⁶ that contained several recommendations, particularly important for feeding into the Justice System Reform. Moreover, UNICEF played a key role in reconstituting the Friends of Children Parliamentary Group, advancing child rights and protection agenda in the country.

Equally importantly, UNICEF aided in the

3. Delivery of core funding amounted to 95 percentage and non-core funding to 84 percentage.

4. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx>; <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-first-baseline-report-on-albania/16807688a7>

5. With the Voice of Children Deprived of their Liberty – Monitoring Report of the conditions and treatment of children in the institutions of custody, pre-trial detention and prisons. http://observer.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Monitoring_report_jj_13March2017.pdf, People’s Advocate, with the support of UNICEF and Child Rights Observatory.

6. Access to Justice, Discrimination and Children – An overview of judicial decisions in relation to children from the point of view of discrimination and equality. https://www.unicef.org/albania/2016-Access_to_Justice.pdf, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, with the support of Albanian Centre for Rehabilitation from Trauma and Torture, and UNICEF.

5
employment
promotion measures
and mediation
services targeting
R/E individuals -
accessed by 361 R/E
individuals in 2017

200
children in distress
aided by National
Child Helpline ALO116

60.6%
of municipalities
have Community
Coordinated
Response
mechanisms

DETENTION FOR JUVENILES



adoption of the Criminal Justice for Children Code,⁷ in March 2017, which marked an unprecedented legal development and a philosophical shift in approaching children's treatment within the criminal justice system of Albania. Subsequently, UNICEF supported the establishment of an integrated electronic tracking system for the collection and reporting of data on children in conflict or contact with the law, to be fully owned by government in coming years. Similarly, a national Justice for Children Strategy 2017–2020⁸ was developed, marking the first policy document at the executive level in Albania dedicated to child-friendly justice. The rate of detention of juveniles is continuing to diminish, from 179 in 2014 to 114.3 in 2016, with this trend expected to continue in 2017 (data not yet available). Moreover, strong UNDP advocacy around the new Free Legal Aid Law⁹ (FLA, adopted in December 2017) resulted

in government commitment to an increased state budget¹⁰ for FLA services once this law enters into force in June 2018. This is important for adequate implementation of the law and for ensuring respect and fulfilment of people's rights in accessing justice. In 2017, UN Agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UN-HCR) supported more than 1,000 persons with free legal aid services¹¹ and laid the groundwork for institutionalisation of these services at the local level in line with the newly adopted FLA Law.

Results of UNDP's 5th edition of the Trust in Governance survey highlighted growing trust in Parliament, education and health services, while it dropped for the police and stayed flat on judicial reform. UNDP's support to service delivery reform advanced the preparation of re-engineered time-saving workflow maps for all services of ten key central government institutions,¹² the

7. <http://www.eurailius.eu/index.php/en/albanian-legislation/send/109-criminal-code-for-children/226-criminal-code-for-children-en>

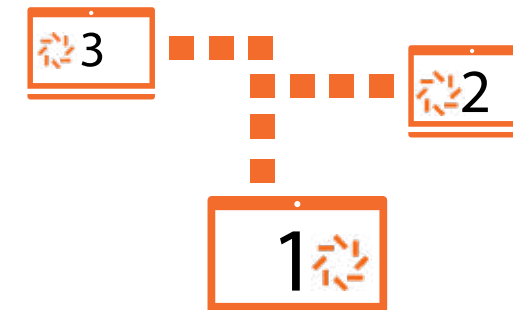
8. http://www.drejtesia.gov.al/files/userfiles/Drejtesia_per_te_mitur/02_Strategjia_e_Drejtises_per_te_Mitur_2017-2020_English.pdf

9. <http://www.eurailius.eu/index.php/en/albanian-legislation/send/21-legal-aid/60-law-on-legal-aid-en>

10. Ministry of Justice 2017 budget for FLA structures and services was 33,000,000 lek. For the second half of 2018, when the FLA law enters into force, the total state budget is approximately 30,000,000 lek.

11. Namely, family law, divorce and child custody, pension benefits, protection orders, among others.

12. Social Security Institute; Civil Registry General Directorate; Immovable Property Registration Office; Territory Development Agency; Central Technical Construction Archive; General Directorate of Road Transport; General Maritime Directorate; Ministry of Education and Sports; National Business Centre (formerly QKR and QKL); Compulsory Health Insurance Fund.



ESTABLISHMENT OF 3 ADISA CUSTOMER CARE CITIZEN SERVICE CENTERS IN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ALBANIA

setting up of three Agency for the Delivery of Integrated Services Albania (ADISA) customer-care citizen service centres in northern and southern Albania, and the establishment of a dedicated governmental innovation laboratory at ADISA, as well as the launch of e-Civil registry certificates. UNDP's Local Governance Mapping¹³ assessment of each of the 61 Municipalities confirmed that the territorial-administrative reform has taken root. Although service planning and delivery systems have begun to be addressed, the quality of some public services has not yet reached satisfactory levels, communication with citizens is assessed as average, and the level of citizen participation is low because of a lack of willingness, culture and opportunities from both sides.

UN Women support has been vital in improving gender equality in electoral processes and amplifying the voice of grassroots women and men on women's needs and priorities: 28 percent women representation was achieved in the June 2017 par-

liamentary elections; currently, nine out of 61 mayors and 35 percent of councillors are women; eight out of 15 Alliances of Women Councillors are established and empowered at the local level to translate higher women and community participation in local governance; six Community-Based Scorecards have been prepared, prioritising the needs of women and men in six municipalities¹⁴ and 16 administrative units, leading to more sensitive municipal decision making.

Gender equality is now a core principle in the Organic Budget Law (2016), enabling Albania to stand out among many European countries. A growing trend of public expenditures at the central level directed towards achieving gender equality is noted, from USD 61 million for 2016–2018 to USD 90 million for 2017–2019. The year 2017 saw inclusion of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) as a legal requirement in the local government financial management cycle, attributed to approval of Law no. 68/2017 'On Local Government Finances'.¹⁵ Moreover, property legislation is being

13. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/local-governance-mapping.html; <http://www.star2igm.com/en/>

14. Kukes, Lezha, Patos, Roskovec, Saranda and Vore.

15. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5fwsFpYvXrU2i6VEhhVTAzQXZxckFpZjEwdXg0b1BBbVZB/view>

engendered through fourteen legal changes, amendments and administrative acts.¹⁶ More than 500 professionals from line ministries and institutions were trained in gender-responsive planning and budgeting of central and local services and improved institutional response is noted in various sectors. High quality comparable and gender statistics are now available to address national data gaps and satisfy national reporting and requirements on gender equality. Evidence of these achievements is detailed in Chapter 2 of this report.

Border monitoring remained key to ensuring access to the territory for asylum seekers, with 354 border missions conducted by UNHCR, the People's Advocate and Caritas Albania collectively intercepting 1,049 persons (15% increase from 2016). Of those, 309 (27% increase from 2016) were referred to the asylum system. IOM activated support to government to develop a cross-cutting policy for migration governance and strengthen capacities to properly address both inward and outward migration, expected to be finalised in 2018. UNHCR and UNDP supported the doubling of the capacity of the National Asylum Centre, which can now accommodate 150 persons, while the Municipality Social Centre in Gjirokastra was renovated to be used as an emergency shelter for asylum seekers, and two interview rooms were renovated and furnished at the Border Police Directorates of

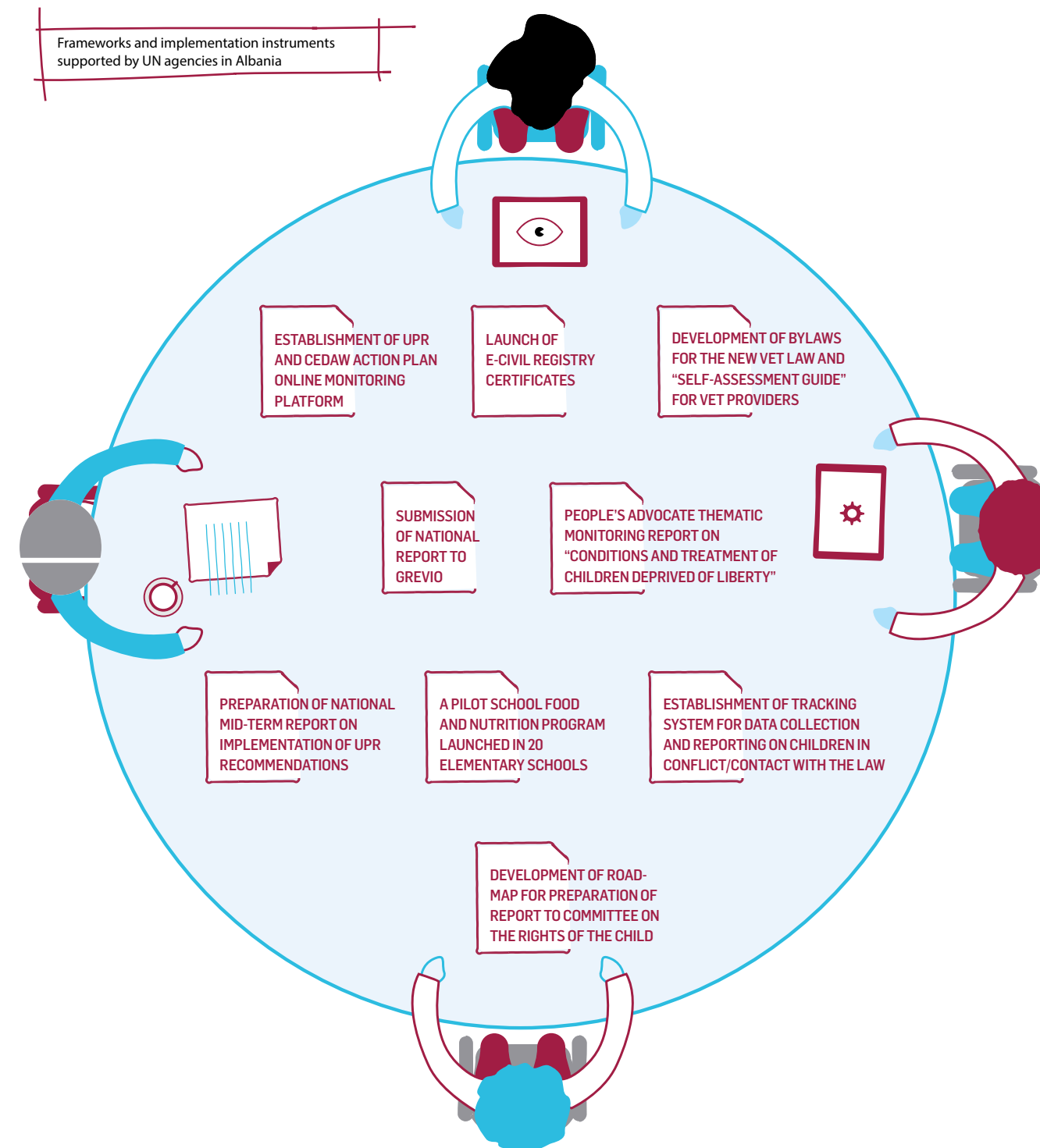
Shkodra and Kukes. Supported by UNODC, Albania's enforcement capacity to prevent drug trafficking and other illegal activity improved through stronger border controls. In 2017, seizures by the Control Unit at Durres Port comprised 4 kg of hash oil, 636 kg of cannabis herb, 711 kg of marijuana, 3.2 kg of hashish and 5 kg of heroin.

Outcome 2—Social Cohesion: The UN works with many partners (government, development partners, civil society) to increase access to quality health, education and social protection programmes and services, especially for inclusion of all disadvantaged groups. The UN has been a key contributor to the advancement of social reform and the strengthening of data (both production and usage) and professional capacities of relevant sectors.

In the health and education sectors, UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNPFA, UNAIDS, FAO and UNESCO) implementation progress in 2017 includes development or approval, or both, of (i) the National Health Strategy 2016–2020,¹⁷ (ii) National Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan 2017–2021, (iii) revised legislative framework for breastmilk substitutes marketing, (iv) revised national institutional and legal framework of school food and nutrition (prompting government to launch implementation of a pi-

16. Articles 231, 377 and 379 of the Civil Code; Articles 66, 115 and 164 of the Family Code; Articles 28, 43, 49 and 53/1 of Law 'On the notary'; Adding Article on the withdrawing right, legal reserve, receiving the acts of civil state by the notary and application through the system; Adding after Article 41/2, 54, of Law no. 33/2012 'On the registration of immovable properties'; Article 27, 30/1 of Law no. 9482, dated April 3, 2006, 'On legalisation, urbanisation and integration of buildings without permission'; Change to Article 5 of Law no. 8337, dated April 30, 1998, 'On passing on property of agricultural land, forests, meadows and pastures'; Adding or changes to Articles 6 and 25 of Law no. 10129, dated May 11, 2009, 'On civil state in the Republic of Albania'; Adding Article 1 of Order no. 356, dated September 4, 2013, 'On designation of detailed regulations for the national register of testaments and national register of inheritance testimony'; Drafting of Order of the Minister of Justice 'On the procedure of the registration of immovable properties gained during marriage'.

17. The strategy was consulted with partners at the event The Albanian National Health Strategy 2016–2020 through the lenses of Universal Health Coverage, held on Universal Health Coverage Day (December 12) by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in close cooperation with UN agencies.



**+1000
PERSONS**



OVER 1,000 PERSONS RECEIVED FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES AND GROUNDWORK IS LAID FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES AT LOCAL LEVEL

lot-school food and nutrition programme in 20 elementary schools in five municipalities¹⁸ and improve the primary education curriculum with a health and nutrition component), (v) national inclusive pre-school curricula framework, programme and standards for professional development of teachers, and (vi) a report¹⁹ on a review of the education policy providing a series of recommendations for improved forward policy making in this field.

Other highlights of progress from the efforts of these UN agencies include: the initiation of Albania's Demographic and Health Survey 2017–2018; the establishment of the Project Management Unit to manage the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria²⁰ grant; the confirmed planning of the updating from ICD9 to ICD10 along with preparation of a road map for ICD10 implementation, and national targets and means of verification produced for national

indicators related to SDG2 and SDG5. UN efforts towards making these sectors more inclusive to Albanians have resulted in an improved service delivery and increased confidence, while more than 500 health and education professionals have benefited from capacity development initiatives. In 2017, 22.4 percent of patients diagnosed with cancer were diagnosed using nuclear medicine imaging and treated with radiation therapy in public hospitals, supported by IAEA, compared to 20 percent in 2016. Among Roma children of age 3–6 years, 66 percent attended early learning in the academic year 2016–2017 compared to 23 percent in 2011.

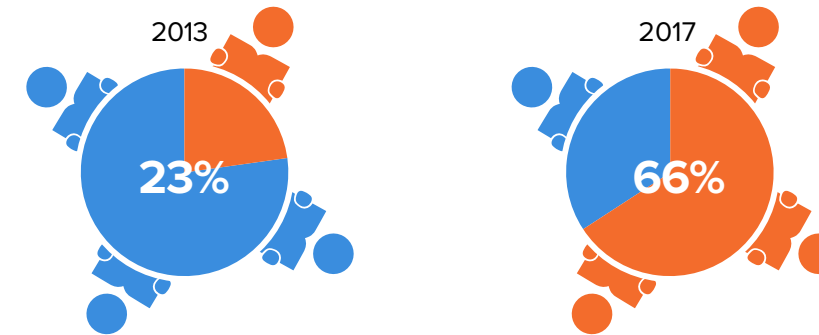
Tools to plan, budget, monitor and enforce social care service delivery are being developed in line with the sector's legislative framework, strengthening equity and vulnerability-focused targeting of social protection and inclusion interventions based on

18. Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Tirana and Vlore.

19. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002479/247993e.pdf>

20. Ministry of Health and Social Protection is the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) grant for implementing the programme 'Scaling up and ensuring sustainability of the national response to HIV/AIDS and TB among key populations'. The Global Fund programme will last until 31 December 2019 and has a value of USD 5.8 million. A project management unit has been established to coordinate and manage funds for the Global Fund grant.

EARLY LEARNING ATTENDANCE - ROMA CHILDREN (3-6 YEARS)



both 'cash' and 'care'. Through UNDP support, Roma and Egyptian (R&E) communities across the country will benefit from the new law and action plan on social housing,²¹ five employment promotion measures and mediation services targeting R&E community members (accessed by 361 individuals) and five employment mediators and coaches placed within the National Employment Services to support R&E individuals. Among the R&E community, 786 individuals enjoyed improved access to basic services, including civil registration, education, and health and social care through successful implementation of the pilot model integrated community-based social services.²² Meanwhile, the living conditions of more than 1,200 R&E families (approximately 6,000 individuals) were improved through community upgrading infrastructure projects.²³ Similarly,

four community centres²⁴ were established and operationalised, providing services to 100 children, 16 young people with disabilities and six children in need of after-school assistance, while having the capacity to host also other vulnerable groups, such as victims of domestic violence and families in an emergency. Another important accomplishment supported by UNICEF in this area is the Social Pact for ImPact campaign, where through the symbolic signing of Pacts,²⁵ 61 municipalities committed to implement the Law on Social Care Services and build necessary structures and systems according to the needs of various social categories.

UNICEF support to the preparation and finalisation of the Children's Agenda 2020 document and capacitating the Child Protection Workforce at the local level resulted in

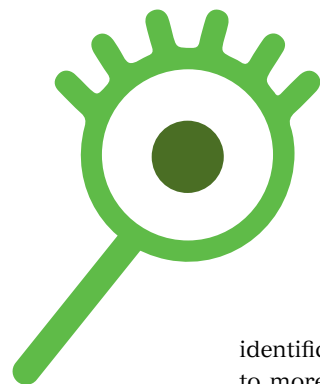
21. The law is a comprehensive attempt to address many of the shortcomings in the field of housing and forced evictions in Albania as identified by international bodies and to introduce several novel concepts including adequate housing and homelessness. The law is approved by the Council of Ministers and awaiting adoption by Parliament, expected within 2018.

22. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/integrated-community-based-social-services-in-albania-to-address.html>

23. Through, e.g., construction of sewage systems, water supply, lighting, reconstruction of kindergarten crèches, and other interventions in line with the needs and priorities of communities.

24. In the municipalities of Bulqize, Pogradec, Saranda and Shijak.

25. https://www.unicef.org/albania/Social_Pact_Report.pdf



OVER 800 CHILDREN AT IMMEDIATE/HIGH RISK OR AFFECTED BY SEVERE ABUSE, NEGLECT AND/OR VIOLENCE IDENTIFIED AND ASSISTED

identification and provision of assistance²⁶ to more than 800 children at immediate or high risk of, or already affected by, severe abuse, neglect or violence. Equally importantly, a unique day-care and emergency centre for vulnerable children and women, House of Colours, is operational and offers 24/7 support and, if needed, emergency response and shelter to survivors of violence (mainly children and women), with 201 children placed in the shelter and assisted in 2017. Throughout the year, the National Child Helpline ALO116 aided children in distress, with 34,654 calls recorded, with the majority being test calls or children requesting general information or guidance, though more than 200 calls were cases of child abuse and violence that were directly reported and followed up by the ALO116 team. Nearly 15,000 pupils and more than 500 teachers were reached countrywide by the team, who informed them of the importance of reporting child abuse and violence.

Central and local institutions continued

to strengthen their prevention of violence against women through UNDP support. An engendered review of eight codes and laws²⁷ was conducted, bringing them in full compliance with CEDAW and CoE's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Supported by UNDP and UN Women, Parliament passed a resolution²⁸ on violence against women, calling for establishment of a permanent parliamentary subcommittee—for Gender Equality and End of Violence against Women—of the Committee on Social Issues, and urgent action by government to implement several priority measures to address this phenomenon. To monitor and advocate for implementation of international human rights obligations²⁹ in the area of violence against women³⁰ a network of 41 civil society organisations was established, supported by UN Women. Attributed to collective efforts at the municipal level (60.6% of municipalities have established Community Coordinated Response (CCR) mechanisms)

26. Psycho-social, food, medical, personal hygiene, shower, laundry, non-formal education, school follow up, reinforcement classes, administrative and legal support, case management, child development such as sports, entertainment, citizenship education.

27. Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania; For the execution of Criminal Decisions as amended; Juvenile Justice Code; On the Probation Service; Civil Code of the Republic of Albania; Criminal Procedural Code of the Republic of Albania; On the rights and treatment of persons prisoners and detainees; On the prevention and combating of organised crime, trafficking and corruption through preventive measures against property.

28. <https://www.parliament.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/rezolute-kunder-dhunes-ne-familije-dt-4-12-2017.pdf>

29. Istanbul Convention, GREVIO recommendations, CEDAW Concluding Observations, UPR recommendations.

30. <https://rrjetikunderdhunesgjimore-monitorime.al/>

and UNDP support, there is an increased level of awareness of GB–DV victims, as suggested by an upward trend in cases reported to the state police: 4,537 in 2017 compared to 94 in 2005. Nearly 600 GB–DV cases were recorded in the national online tracking mechanism (REVALB) and handled by CCR members in 2017 compared to 545 in 2015. Several nationwide government-led campaigns and activities,³¹ supported by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA, increased knowledge among citizens on ending violence against women and reached more than 10,000 people in person and more than one million people through social and local media and the production of more than 1,000 awareness-raising materials and more than ten video reportages.

Outcome 3—Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture:

Several advances in the employment sector regulatory and policy framework were noted in 2017 supported by ILO. These include preparation of an Albanian Labour Code Commentary as amended, submission of secondary labour legislation³² to the National Licensing Centre for adoption, development of the strategic policy framework Key Business Constraints in Albania, offering key policy solutions to the identified gaps, translation of the results of a national enterprise survey on skills needs³³ and a draft report into concrete steps and action plan towards minimising labour market skills mismatches and short-

ages. The area of Vocational Education and Training (VET) benefited from UNDP's feasibility study into work-based learning models that identified and assessed the models introduced and implemented among the VET providers in the country over the last five years. A strong key message emerged: more meaningful and formalised engagement of the private sector, with at least 50 percent time allocation to practical learning in enterprise premises, as this would contribute to a better alignment of curricula with private sector needs, increase private sector trust in the VET system, and ultimately improve the employability of VET graduates. Other UNDP-supported achievements include the development of bylaws for the new VET law, consultation and finalisation of a Self-Assessment Guide for VET providers, and organisation of the Vocational School Fair, in April.

UN Women and FAO efforts to advance the regulatory framework for women entrepreneurs in urban and rural areas resulted in significant steps forward in supporting women's economic empowerment, including a set of three legal and policy measures³⁴ that promote, strengthen and create a friendly environment where women entrepreneurs have access to adequate resources and a cross-regional market and gender-sensitive value chain analysis³⁵ that identified key value chains³⁶ with high profitability and potential for women's empowerment, and provided recommendations for overcoming existing gender burdens in

31. Examples include the campaign under the slogan 'End violence against women and girls' in the frame of '16 Days of Activism against GBV'.

32. Two draft decisions on (1) Establishment of Regional Consultative Councils, and (2) Conciliation of Labour Disputes.

33. The survey covered a representative sample of 2,560 enterprises from all sectors of the economy except for agriculture. It provides detailed data disaggregated by development region, sector, ownership and size of enterprise.

34. Binding quotas; Entrepreneurial learning platforms; Access to credit.

35. FAO (2017) Market and value chain analysis of selected sectors for diversification of the rural economy and women's economic empowerment; <http://www.fao.org/3/i8909EN/i8909en.pdf>; <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/i8909EN>

36. Traditional food and gourmet production linked with agro-rural tourism, medicinal and aromatic plants and beekeeping.

these economic clusters. In the frame of the most recent government programme 100 Villages³⁷ this analysis will help to better strategize the work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development, UN agencies and NGOs in supporting rural women's entrepreneurship efforts.

UN Women supported capacity development of 150 extension specialists from nine Agriculture Information Centres³⁸ to reach out to rural women and offer gender-oriented services. Some 700 women farmers were equipped with practical knowledge and know-how in (i) accessing the market, credit and subsidy schemes, (ii) business management, and (iii) growth and moving up the value chain. More than 500 rural women and 100 relevant stakeholders became aware of rural women's unrecognised contribution to agriculture and the rural economy and how to promote their role. Given this enabling environment, 51 companies have voluntarily accepted to be part of UN Women capacity-building interventions for application of gender principles in their practices. The second edition of the self-employment scheme,³⁹ launched and implemented with UNDP support and focused on tourism, technology and innovation, agriculture, handicrafts, fishing, textiles and fashion, e-Commerce and services, resulted in the establishment of 85 businesses, of which 76 are currently up and running.

The design of an integrated service to farmers empowered a more inclusive and efficient government financial support programme. Credited to an improved farmers' application

system, supported by FAO, and a national budget increase, the number of beneficiaries is expected to increase by about 300 percent in 2018 compared to 2017. Equally importantly, implementation of a Territorial Employment Pact with Tirana Municipality in the rural unit of Baldushk, supported by UNDP, is ongoing with several actions under way, including the following: (i) preparation of a farmer's register for Baldushk that will help development of rural policies, and (ii) upgrading of rural enterprises in milk and vegetable production. In 2017, 15 farmers were selected as direct beneficiaries of grants to enlarge their greenhouses and productivity, and a family farm has been identified to be transformed into a demonstration farm.

Outcome 4—Environment and Climate Change: Joint efforts have led to the creation of an enabling environment for this sector by establishing legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and developing appropriate policies and practices. UNDP supported the establishment and operationalisation of the Energy Efficiency Agency and the Energy Efficiency Fund in line with EU requirements, and development of a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) at the policy level, capacitating government to integrate SEAs into energy and environmental decision making, as well as an inventory and initial assessment of mercury pollution in Albania. UNDP's support was key in the approval of a new legal framework for protected areas that establishes the legal context for declaration, conservation, administration, management and use of such areas.

UNECE organised Albania's Environmental Performance Review, covering issues related to legal and policy frameworks, greening the economy, air protection, water and waste management, biodiversity and protected areas, and examining the country's efforts to integrate environmental considerations into its policies in the transport sector.

UNIDO prepared an assessment of bio-energy potential for industrial uses, while WHO supported the formulation of national guidelines on water safety plans for small-scale water supply systems in Albania and a road map for their implementation.

FAO's support focused on development of methodologies and best practices for farm and ecosystems based upon Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation interventions to reduce natural hazards such as floods, droughts and landslides, as well as establishment of a national Geographic Information System (GIS) that integrates all available datasets and national systems already in place.

Moreover, a WISDOM model⁴⁰ (Wood-fuel Integrated Supply / Demand Overview Mapping) and forestry data (ANFI) system was established, including an Albanian National Forest Inventory and a new land cover and land use map.

In 2017, among many achievements supported by UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, UNIDO and UNICEF, the most tangible include 70 percent saving in energy used for hot water in thirteen municipalities⁴¹ (55 institutions) due to solar heating support, national capacities at central and local levels improved on adaptation to climate change, conservation agriculture, integrated pest management, bio-energy technology applications and environment education, reaching more than 1,200 stakeholders (government staff and farmers), a reinforced Trans-boundary Cooperation noted for the Drini River basin and the Lake Ohrid region, a direct contribution to implementation of SDGs 6, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17, while a sea-turtle rehabilitation centre became part of the Rradhima Information Centre, attracting university researchers and tourists.

37. Council of Ministers Decision no. 21, dated 12.1.2018 'On some additions to the Council of Ministers Decision No. 709', dated 29/10/2014, 'On approval of the cross-cutting strategy for rural and agricultural development 2014–2020'.

38. Devoll, Durres, Korca, Maliq, Pogradec, Puka, Shkodra, Tirana and Vau Dejës.

39. Potential applicants were invited to apply via the platform www.aftesi.info/vetepunesimi

40. <http://www.wisdomprojects.net/global/> https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/:u/g/personal/kitti_horvath_fao_org/EWR39JU7WhiEiGvkl4m0zYwB7z12VgeM3JrQN5RFyRQIBQ?e=Dzh6t3

41. Total installed cumulative area of solar panels for water heating 209,745 m², annual sales of 21,701 m² resulting in reduction of 1,160,452 tons of CO₂.

CHAPTER 1 KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS
IN ALBANIA—YEAR 2017 IN BRIEF



Throughout 2017, the Government of Albania continued to make progress in its reform programme dominated by the European Union’s five key priorities for the opening of accession negotiations: justice reform, fight against organised crime and against corruption, public administration reform and protection of human rights. Early in the year, the European Commission requested that free and fair parliamentary elections would take place before negotiations could begin to admit the country into the Union.

Parliamentary elections were held in June 2017. Pre-election tensions resulted in a partial cabinet reshuffle in March. In this initial change, key ministerial partners of the United Nations in Albania were replaced, including the Minister for Local Government, Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Minister of Interior Affairs and Minister of Health, impacting the pace of implementation of joint development work in the country.

The political crisis ended in May 2017 with a political agreement reached following EU–US-led mediation. The agreement facilitated the passing of legislation critical for the ongoing national judicial reform, including changes to the Criminal Code, the Law on Audio Visual Authority and the Law on Political Parties, and to increase electoral transparency and fairness of competition. The position of women advanced further with these elections. Of 2,666 candidates, 1,074 (40.3%) were women, and in the end Parliament has 28 percent female representation, the highest ever in Albania, compared to 18 percent in the 2013 elections. Nevertheless, the codified gender quota—whereby women must constitute a minimum of 30 percent of candidates and both genders should be reflected among the

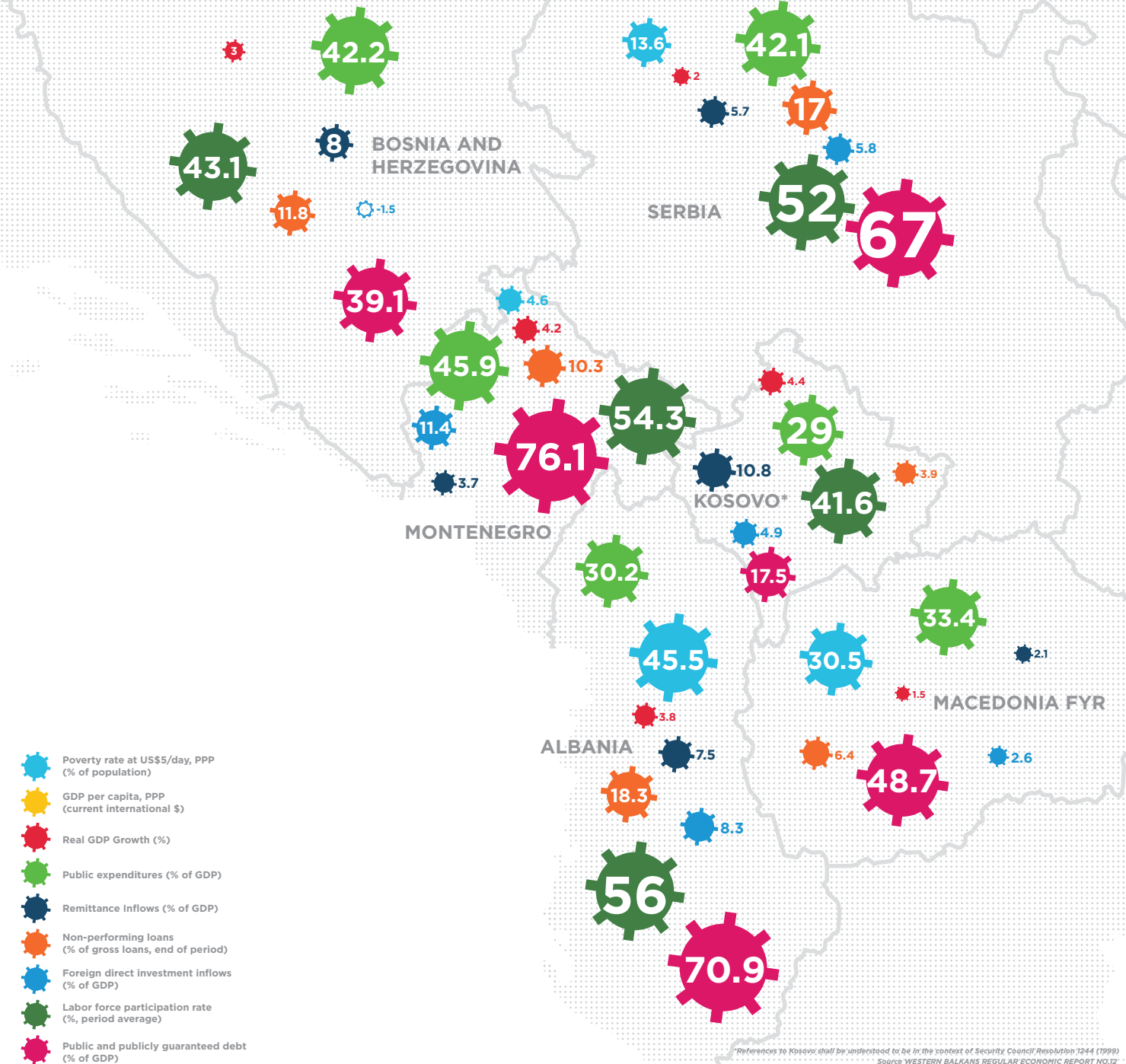
first three candidates on a country list—was not fully respected.⁴²

In September, the government initiated a major restructuring, creating a reduced number of ministries (11 plus 2 ministers of state, compared to 19 beforehand; gender parity has been achieved in this government, including a female deputy prime minister). The process of restructuring the new ministries and managing the transfer and re-assignment of staff continued until the end of 2017, further impacting the speed of project implementation.

Albania’s public administration system features an established institutional and legal framework for a professional civil service.⁴³ The Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS), however, is not fully functional, and corruption remains a challenge. As part of the government’s restructuring, the Minister of Justice was made the official Anti-Corruption Coordinator. Moreover, continuous noticeable improvements in several areas of service delivery have resulted in Albania achieving one of the highest levels of satisfaction with administrative services in the Western Balkans, with 41 percent of citizens, and 46 percent of businesses, satisfied or very satisfied.⁴⁴ Respective figures from other WB6 countries include Bosnia and Herzegovina 29 percent and 23 percent, Croatia 40 percent and 13 percent, Kosovo (Resolution 1244) 31 percent and 25 percent, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 41 percent and 43 percent, Montenegro 40 percent and 34 percent, Serbia 27 percent and 35 percent.

Governance and rule of law is an area in which Albania lags behind other countries, positioned 68th out of 113 countries in the 2017

Albania in the Region - Key Development Trends for 2017



42. National Democratic Institute for International Affairs Report, *Albania's June 2017 Parliamentary Elections*.

43. Law No. 152/2013 ON Civil Servants

44. SIGMA Monitoring Report, *The Principles of Public Administration, Albania 2017*

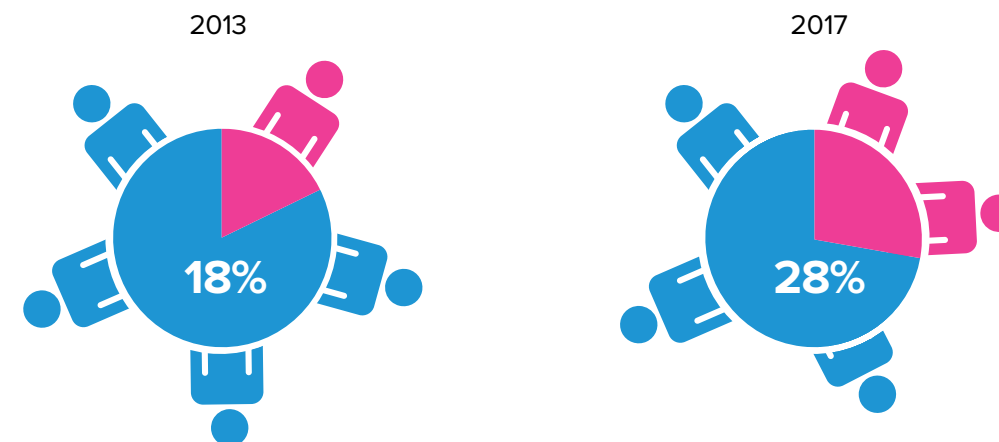
World Justice Project Rule of Law Index.⁴⁵ The government is actively engaged in many SDG16 topics, particularly those concerning accountable and responsive institutions. In terms of governance issues, Albania ranks 82nd out of 193 countries on the UN 2016 e-Government Development index,⁴⁶ indicating the need to strengthen efforts to address the digital divide, expand the knowledge economy, and quicken the pace of innovation. The country continues to build on its successful model of service delivery using one-stop shops to reduce bureaucracy, waiting times and opportunities for corruption. Moreover, strengthening the direct participation of citizens in policy making and the handling of complaints vis-à-vis public service delivery, the government has launched a new ‘co-governance’ initiative, enabling citizens to directly interact with the government by means of an electronic platform *Shqiperia që duam*.⁴⁷

Corruption and organised crime continue to be a major challenge for Albania, central to its bid for EU accession and cited often as hindering investment. Enforcement of existing laws is highly variable. Key problems include regular infighting between key judicial and law enforcement actors and political interference in the police force. Albania’s track record for punishing corruption, predominantly of low and medium-level offenders in the public sector, is low, while convictions among high-level officials are rare.⁴⁸ In 2017, record levels of cannabis were seized by the authorities. Perhaps as a result of these challenges, the country has declined eight positions in

Transparency International’s global Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2017 survey, to 91th position, on a par with Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 83th place in 2016.

The fight against corruption and organised crime is at the core of the justice reform package passed in 2016, and for which critical laws were passed as part of the 17 May pre-election political agreement. Nevertheless, 2017 progress on judicial reform was slower than generally expected. The key ‘vetting’ institutions—especially the High Prosecutorial and Judicial Councils, were not established, though limited preliminary progress was made. In 2017, the government launched a new initiative (Power of Law) to combat organised crime, with the subsequent reporting of a 150-fold reduction in the cultivation of cannabis. The country also established new institutions—Specialised Structure against Corruption and Organised Crime (SPAK) and National Investigation Bureau (BKH)—as the primary new mechanisms targeting economic and political corruption and the influence of organised crime in the judiciary and beyond.⁴⁹ UNDP Albania’s Trust in Governance report⁵⁰—the fifth annual version of a representatively sampled survey of perceptions—captures many of these trends. Medium-term trends show increasing trust in different areas of government, including Parliament and the health and education sectors. In 2017, however, trust in the judiciary stalled, perhaps as a result of slow progress in judicial reform in 2017; and trust in the police (previously one of the most trusted governmental institutions) dropped,

REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS



perhaps reflecting the cannabis crisis.

Albania has ratified most international human rights conventions and has a corresponding legal framework broadly in line with European standards. However, protection mechanisms remain to be strengthened. The concluding recommendations of July 2016 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remain to be implemented.⁵¹ In 2014, Albania completed its second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle and endorsed all but four of 168 recommendations.⁵² In 2017, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEFA) completed an action plan to implement the UPR recommendations, and submitted a mid-term report. Similarly, Albania submitted a national report to the Council of Europe (CoE)’s Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO). Moreover, MEFA established an online monitoring platform for UPR and the Convention on the Elimination

of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Action Plan. A road-map for preparation of a report (to be submitted in 2018) to the Committee on the Rights of the Child was drafted, identifying the key steps and activities, stakeholders and resources required for a participatory process.

Albania has a Paris-certified independent human rights institution, the People’s Advocate. As part of the May 17 pre-election agreement, a new Ombudsperson was agreed upon, outside of the standard procedures for selection. The UN has established a joint group to interact with the Ombudsperson, and for the last two years has co-organised the Ombudsperson’s annual conference, focused on SDGs and human rights. Following elections, the new Parliament has established a mechanism to interact with all 21 of Albania’s independent institutions, a step that brings with it the potential to enhance the accountability that these institutions offer.

CURRENT
GOVERNMENT
CONSISTS OF
50% WOMEN
MINISTERS AND
THE DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER

45. <http://data.worldjusticeproject.org/-/groups/ALB>

46. <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Data/Country-Information/id/2-Albania>

47. <https://www.shqiperiaqeduam.al>

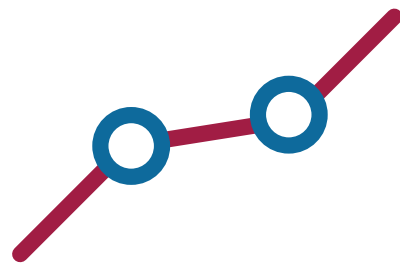
48. Transparency International Report, *Fighting corruption in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Priorities for Reform*.

49. Freedom House, 2017. *Nations in Transit*, April 2017 https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/NIT2017_Albania.pdf

50. <http://www.ai.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/02/09-findings-of-the-opinion-poll-trust-in-governance-2016-presented-in-tirana.html>

51. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fALB%2fCO%2f4&Lang=en

52. http://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/albania/session19_April2014/recommendations2014.pdf



ALBANIA GAINED 10 PLACES, RANKING 75TH OUT OF 188 COUNTRIES – 20% INCREASE IN HDI VALUE OVER PAST 25 YEARS, PLACING THE COUNTRY IN HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY, OUTPERFORMING SOME REGIONAL PEERS

UNDP 2016 HDI RANKING

Gender equality holds a prominent position in the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 (NSDI). Yet despite the progress made to establish a legal and policy framework for advancement of women's rights and gender equality, inequalities are still widespread. In terms of such inequality, reflected in reproductive health, education, empowerment and economic activity, Albania scored 0.728 in the global gender gap index of 2017, ranking 38th out of 144 countries. The conditions for women in the country are worse than they were ten years ago in some sectors (economic participation, 38th in 2006, 70th in 2017; education, 58th in 2006, 87th in 2017; health, 110th in 2006, 120th in 2017), though considerable progress is noted for political participation (105th in 2006, 31st in 2017). Sex selection at birth remains still an issue in Albania, something of a taboo mainly due to lack of awareness and proper information among some stakeholders and avoidance by some others. Figures from INSTAT on prenatal sex selection for the last three years—2015 (109.6 boys to 100 girls), 2016 (107 boys to 100 girls) and 2017 (110.6 boys to 100 girls)⁵³—show that the phenomenon remains. To improve this situation,

focus should be placed, instead of simply on gender mainstreaming, on a larger number of full-spectrum gender-focused initiatives, and on strengthening implementation, oversight and accountability mechanisms of the national gender machinery.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV, particularly against women and girls) is still prevalent in Albania.⁵⁴ Whereas response mechanisms have been established, they currently cover only about half of Albania's municipalities and are weak in holding perpetrators accountable. In general, the public has become more sensitive on the matter, and the number of cases reported to authorities has increased, with 4,543 cases reported to the police in 2017 compared to 3,725 the year earlier (and less than 10, ten years ago). The GREVIO assessment report⁵⁵ highlighted many remaining gaps and will serve as a roadmap for government to comply with international obligations. Child marriage remains a problem, affecting primarily girls from rural areas and Roma and Egyptian communities, with public policies to address the phenomenon largely missing.⁵⁶

53. http://databaza.instat.gov.al/pxweb/sq/DST/START__BD/BD0001/?rxid=46dbbab2-e5a2-4b00-acea-fa3057959c67

54. CEDAW. *Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Albania*, paras. 22–25; European Commission, *Albania 2016 Report* https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_albania.pdf, pp. 5, 21, 66.

55. <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-cop-albania/1680783ffa>

56. CEDAW. *Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Albania*, paras. 20, 21, 41 and 42; CRC. *Concluding observations, the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Albania*, adopted by the Committee at its 61st session, paras 35, 47 and 48.

WORLD COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2017 RANKED ALBANIA 75TH OUT OF 137 COUNTRIES, 5 PLACES IMPROVEMENT TO 2016 REPORT, MARKING A POSITIVE TREND IN MACROECONOMIC STABILITY AND LABOUR MARKET EFFICIENCY

Albania is characterised by large migrant flows considered as intensive, irregular and continually evolving because of the combined action of economic and political push factors. From the nineties to the present, there has been a consistent flow of emigrants to EU countries⁵⁷ as well as to the USA and Canada. For example, Eurostat's 2017 data shows a total of 26,075 asylum applications in EU countries⁵⁸ from Albania, while Canada immigration data show a total of 156 applications. Moreover, Germany granted 2,800 work visas for Albanian citizens in 2017. Meanwhile, immigration into Albania is small when compared to either the resident or the emigrant population. During the last decade, the total number of legal immigrants residing in Albania has remained approximately at 0.3 percent of the local population, with little change among the countries of origin. Nevertheless, Albania remains a transit country for refugees and migrants. With limited access to documentation and socio-economic integration these people move on, to EU countries. In 2017, 1,049 foreigners were intercepted on the Albanian borders, an increase of 15 percent on the figures for 2016. Meanwhile, the number of asylum requests has increased, by 27 percent in 2017, with 309 applications.

Additionally, Albania has received a group of 2,791 Iranians relocated from Iraq between 2013 and 2016 and hosted on a humanitarian basis.

With regard to the country's economy, in line with a three-year agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Albania has, since 2014, been carrying out a programme of structural reforms. These include modernisation of the administration, justice and energy sectors, fighting corruption, organised crime and the underground economy, boosting strategic investments, and improving respect for property rights, bankruptcy law, and financial information. The business regulatory environment and ease of doing business here has improved. The World Bank *Doing Business Report 2018* ranks Albania 65th out of 190 economies, underlining strengthened access to credit, amended legislation to reduce the maximum number of hours of work in a week, mandating that women and men be given equal remuneration for work of equal value. Meanwhile, the *World Competitiveness Report 2017* ranks Albania 75th out of 137 countries, an improvement of five places over the previous report, marking a positive trend for some indicators (macroeconomic stability,

57. Eurostat's 2017 EU composition—25,590 asylum applicants from Albania.

58. Flows from highest to lowest recipient countries: France (12,130 applicants), Germany (6,090), Greece (2,450), UK (1,715), Belgium (880), Sweden (755) and Italy (470), Netherlands (375), Ireland (280), Iceland (260), Luxembourg (140), Switzerland (135), Finland (100), Norway (85), Denmark (70), Spain (55), Austria (50), and 5 applicants in Estonia, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia, and Liechtenstein.



ALBANIA HAS ACHIEVED ONE OF THE **HIGHEST LEVELS OF SATISFACTION WITH ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS - 41% OF CITIZENS AND 46% OF BUSINESSES SATISFIED OR VERY SATISFIED**

2017 SIGMA MONITORING REPORT

4.3 in 2016, to 4.6 in 2017; labour market efficiency, 3.9 in 2016, to 4.0 in 2017).

Informality continues to be a major block to economic growth, competitiveness and public finances. Formalising the informal economy is a serious issue that the country needs to solve to reduce fiscal evasion and promote voluntary tax compliance. To this end, implementation of the Anti-Informality Action Plan (approved on 20 December 2016) began on 1 November 2017. Meanwhile, risk management is being implemented for debt collection to increase the efficiency of human resources and tax liability collection.⁵⁹

Strong growth in Albania is largely attributed to private investments, especially large Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects,⁶⁰ revival of the construction sector, and private consumption. In 2017, Gross Domestic Prod-

uct (GDP) growth increased to 3.84 percent,⁶¹ while unemployment declined to 13.4 percent, attributed to a pick-up in labour intensive sectors such as textiles, construction and tourism. Despite such improvements, Albania still faces significant challenges in terms of ensuring secure and productive employment for its population, especially the poor, women and youths. The official male and female unemployment rate is 14.1 percent and 13 percent⁶² respectively, with young people (15–29 years) the most disadvantaged, with an overall unemployment rate of 24.6 percent, while Roma people experience extremely high levels of unemployment, estimated at around 71 percent compared to the 14.8 percent of the population as a whole.⁶³

Fiscal consolidation continued in 2017, leading to a slight decline in the public debt to GDP ratio. FDI into Albania has been rising

59. Government of Albania Economic Reform Programme, 2018–2020.

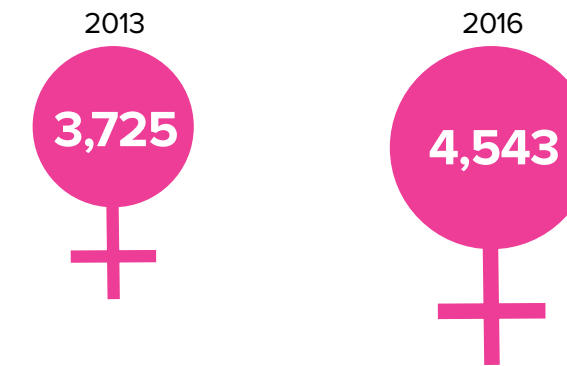
60. The projects include the construction of two hydropower plants and a natural gas pipeline. IMF, *Selected Issues paper on Albania*. December 2017.

61. <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/3908/gdp-q4-2017.pdf>

62. The unemployment rate for women in Albania is lower than for men, because men are more active in the labour market, looking for a job or trying to raise any business activity. Women on the other hand are more likely to take on family care responsibilities, hence being in the non-active part of the working age population.

63. INSTAT, *Quarterly Labour Force Survey*. Q42017.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED TO AUTHORITIES



steadily since the early 2000s. Today, FDI stock has reached nearly 50 percent of the country's GDP, focused on oil, metal ores, infrastructure, construction and telecommunications. Remittances, a significant catalyst for economic growth, declined to 7–8 percent of GDP, from 12–15 percent prior to the financial crisis of 2008.

Several important sectors in the economy, including agriculture, energy and tourism, are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Over the past decade, almost yearly, different regions of Albania have been affected by flooding. Priority actions are required on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction as they have a direct impact upon the country's economy, ecosystems and population.

Albania continues to advocate for increased regional trade, as well as for increased foreign investment. In the framework of the Berlin Process, the Western Balkans leaders' joint initiative to accelerate regional economic cooperation and develop a Regional Economic Area, based on CEFTA and EU rules and principles as reflected in Stabilisation and

Association Agreements, will progressively allow an increased free movement of goods, services, investment and skilled workers, in full coherence with each country's path.⁶⁴ The Western Balkans Six (WB6) met in Albania on 26 August 2017 and agreed on implementation of a Regional Economic Area Plan that includes an exchange of goods, services, capital and qualified workers to boost the regional economy. Moreover, WB6 countries have agreed on the establishment of a Regional Youth Coordination Office with the secretariat hosted in Tirana. The Western Balkans Fund, another initiative financed by the WB6 governments, was inaugurated in September 2017, along with its secretariat in Tirana.

The near-term economic outlook for Albania is positive, though growth is projected to moderate to an average of 3.6 percent in 2018 and 2019 with completion of the two large energy projects and no other large projects planned. Over the medium term, growth will rely on private consumption, supported by labour market improvements and export growth in response to greater demand in the EU.⁶⁵

64. <https://europa.rs/trieste-western-balkans-summit-2017-declaration-by-the-italian-chair/?lang=en>

65. World Bank Group, *Western Balkans Regular Economic Report 12*. Fall 2017.



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.

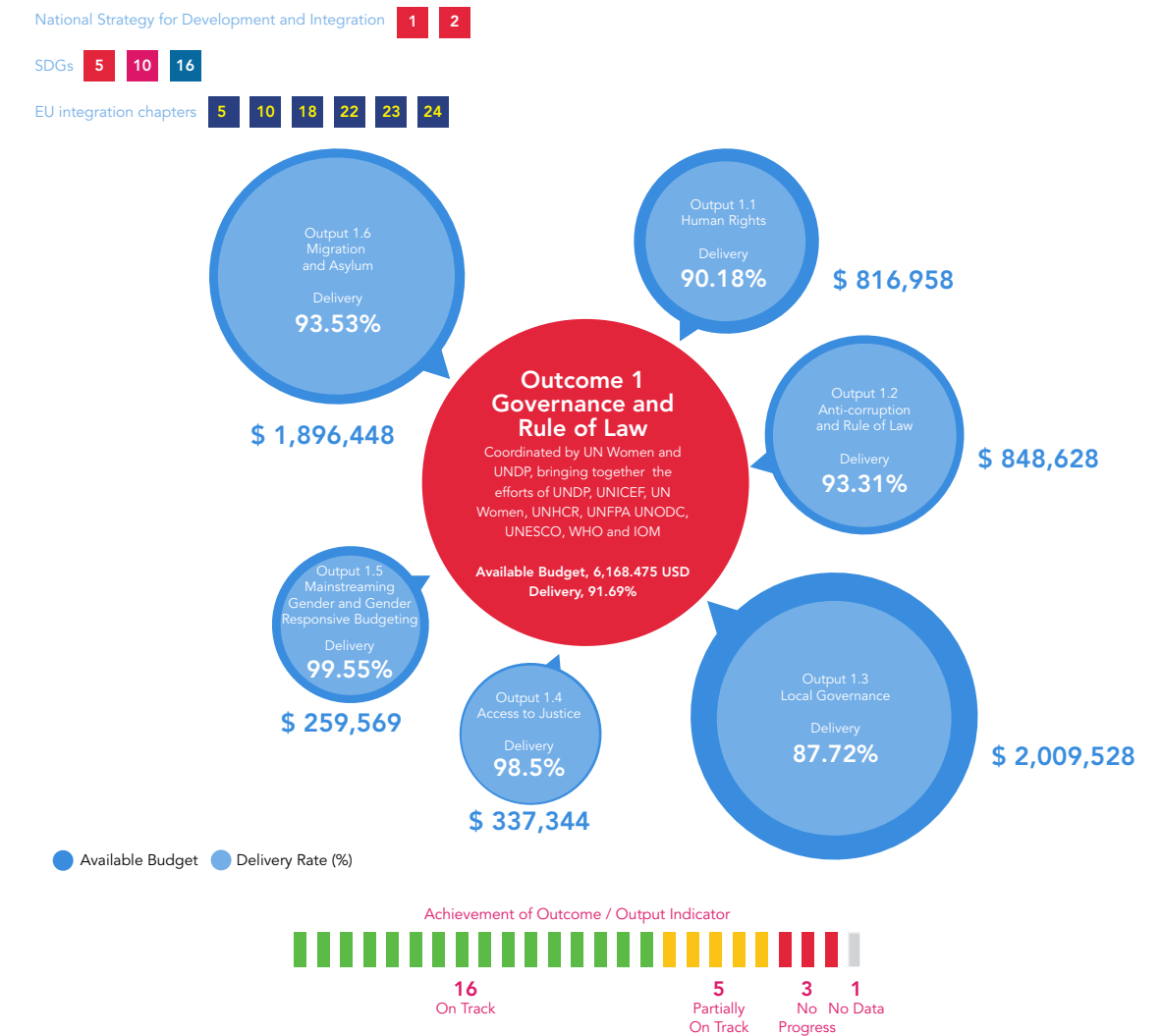


Awarding women, "Silent heroes of Albania" during the UN Day.

United Nations in Albania interventions at the local level aim towards effective, gender-responsive, fiscally sustainable and accountable delivery of public services. For a quick look at our presence in all Albanian Municipalities, [Please click here](#)

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

The total budget available for implementation of Outcome 1 in 2017 was USD 6 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Austria, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA, the EU, the Swedish National Committee for United Nations Children’s Fund, UNICEF’s Global Thematic Fund and the Council of Europe Development Bank. **The outcome delivery is 91.69%.**



Output 1.1 Human Rights

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ National Mid-Term report prepared on implementation of UPR recommendations
- ✓ UPR and CEDAW Action Plan online monitoring platform established
- ✓ National report submitted to GREVIO
- ✓ Road-map developed for preparation of Report to Committee on the Rights of the Child
- ✓ People's Advocate issued thematic monitoring report on "conditions and treatment of children deprived of liberty"
- ✓ 8 out of 15 Alliances of Women Councillors established and empowered at the local level for more sensitive municipal decision making
- ✓ Parliamentary Group "Friends of Children" reconstituted, focusing on challenges affecting Albanian children
- ✓ A child-focused module of indicators designed as a component of INSTAT's overall system of data reporting
- ✓ UNHCR and People's Advocate border monitoring intercepted 1,049 persons, 309 of whom were referred to the asylum system

Albania has ratified most international human rights conventions, and the legal framework for the protection of human rights is broadly in line with European standards. However, enforcement of human rights legislation and protection mechanisms remains to be strengthened. Rights-based monitoring and reporting faces serious bottlenecks, spanning from lack of coordination mechanisms, limited resources, weak capacities and instruments to generate, analyse and publish reliable and frequently generated data. Whilst the Albanian Parliament has placed a stronger focus than previously on its legislative role in addressing the intense rhythm of legal reforms driven by the EU integration agenda, its oversight remains weak; holding the executive to account is rare. With minimal support, parliamentarians are poorly briefed on human rights issues, challenges or opportunities, including child rights, gender equality or other disparities. Independent human rights institutions, including the Ombudsman and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (CPD), with a relatively recent establishment, are still to be taken more fully into account by different branches of government. Human rights reporting capacities of these institutions remain weak, and their responsibility for key issues—such as mainstreaming gender equality and child rights issues—remains unclear.

66. Established in Berat, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Korca, Lushnja, Prrenjas and Tirana.

67. The 15 Alliances of Women Councillors (AWCs) are established in 25 percent of the country's municipalities and cover 55 percent of the population. Women, members of AWCs represent 40 percent of all women councillors of Albania.

The Central Electoral Commission has, in recent years, made significant progress in supporting improved equality in electoral processes. The year 2015 saw the first nationwide elections conducted with fully disaggregated data, and the 2017 elections provided a further opportunity to improve first-time voter and women-voter engagement in elections and the availability of disaggregated data. The role and importance of mayors has increased substantially, and currently nine out of 61 mayors are women, and 35 percent of councillors are women. Eight⁶⁶ out of 15 Alliances of Women Councillors⁶⁷ established at the local level have been empowered with UN Women support, translating into greater women and community participation in local governance and leading to more sensitive municipal decision making.

UN in Albania continued its support for government to meet its international human rights reporting obligations, mainly through developing tools and monitoring methodologies to assess effectiveness. In 2017, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs submitted a mid-term report on implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, supported by UN Women. With UNFPA and UN Women support the ministry subsequently established an online monitor-



School children in Elbasan learn about SDGs through the World's Largest Lesson.

ing platform for UPR and the CEDAW Action Plan, ensuring the reporting and monitoring of international human rights obligations by line ministries and human rights institutions in the country. Moreover, through this support, government prepared and submitted the **national report to GREVIO**.⁶⁸ Equally importantly, the road map for preparation of the report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, drafted by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) in close cooperation with UNICEF for submission in 2018, identified the key steps and activities, stakeholders and resources required for a participatory process.

The People's Advocate issued in 2017 a **thematic monitoring report on the conditions and treatment of children deprived of liberty**,⁶⁹ supported by UNICEF and whose findings activated an Ombudsman-issued recommendation to close the juvenile section at Shen Koll detention facility in Lezha. The People's Advocate 2017 Conference on Human Rights, supported by UN agencies, anchored into the Agenda Leaving No One Behind with focus on the rights of children, women and people on the move. This conference served also as an opportunity to promote the recently published national report to GREVIO. Similarly, the CPD issued an **overview of judicial decisions in**

68. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx> <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-first-baseline-report-on-albania/16807688a7>

69. With the Voice of Children Deprived of their Liberty – Monitoring report of the conditions and treatment of children in the institutions of custody, pre-trial detention and prisons. http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Monitoring_report_jj_13March2017.pdf, People's Advocate, with the support of UNICEF and Child Rights Observatory.

relation to children,⁷⁰ which contained several recommendations, particularly with regard to the Justice System Reform. UNICEF continued advocacy with parliamentarians for the advancement of child rights and protection agenda resulted in the reconstitution (in November 2017) of the Parliamentary Group Friends of Children as a cross-party caucus to focus on various challenges affecting Albanian children.

INSTAT has been capacitated in the designing and planning of the Multiple Cluster Indicators Survey and the Demographic Health Survey (DHS),⁷¹ through a regional workshop on this theme organised by UNICEF, proving to be timely and beneficial for Albania's planning and implementation of DHS 2017–2018. Recognising DHS as a source of statistically sound and internationally comparable data on issues that directly affect the lives of women and children, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women supported financially the procurement of various measurement equipment for DHS data collection and contributed technically to the DHS preparations. UNICEF and INSTAT engaged in assessing⁷² and documenting data management systems and processes on children's access to justice of several line ministries and subordinate agencies, and of Albania's independent human rights institutions. The assessment informed in-depth discussions with relevant stakeholders, aiming to ultimately improve the overall quality of data, as well as equip INSTAT with essential knowledge in producing good quality official data in this area. Additionally, UNICEF supported improvements in child

rights data reporting, by (i) enriching INSTAT's annual publication *Women and Men in Albania 2017*⁷³ with 15 supplementary child-specific indicators in the areas of demographics, health, justice, education and labour, and (ii) designing and drafting a child-focused module of indicators as a component of INSTAT's overall system of data reporting, to be finalised in 2018.

UN Women interventions focused on improving equality in electoral processes through supporting women candidates, women voters and first-time voters, as well as increasing the voice of grassroots women and men on women's needs and priorities. For the first time, 59 women political candidates from across the whole political spectrum benefited from engagement with voters in twelve public forums organised countrywide. These forums reached almost 41,000 women, informing them on, among other things, equal representation, gender quota and free participation in elections, and resulted in 36 first-time voters becoming Gender Equality Advocates in six municipalities. Moreover, UN Women supported a workshop bringing together all the 15 established Alliances of Women Councillors in the country, aimed towards building a national agenda of the National Network of Women Councillors. Building on the good example of the Tirana Alliance of Women Councillors, the Elbasan Alliance established a Gender Equality Commission within the municipality responsible for reviewing all council decisions.

The presence and monitoring of UNHCR at Albania's borders remained key to ensuring ac-



Working to leave no one behind in Albania

cess to the territory and asylum. UNHCR and the People's Advocate formalised cooperation on border monitoring,⁷⁴ deploying one delegate to the border with Greece, with 114 border missions conducted by UNHCR and the People's Advocate delegate, and 240 missions by Caritas Albania. As a result, 1,049 persons were intercepted, of whom 309 were referred to the asylum system. While access to information on asylum and the availability of interpreters was guaranteed in most cases, 36 persons were returned to Greece without access to pre-screening procedures.

UNHCR produced one annual border monitoring report identifying figures and trends, routes, level of access to asylum and territory, and providing recommendations to government on improvements that can be made with regard to pre-screening procedures. Out of 119 refugees currently residing in Albania, five persons were supported with the issuance of biometric IDs for refugees, 20 persons with a one-year work permit⁷⁵ by the National Employment Office, two persons with the procedures to become legally married in Albania, and 17 persons with naturalisation procedures.

70. Access to Justice, Discrimination and Children - An overview of judicial decisions in relation to children from the point of view of discrimination and equality. https://www.unicef.org/albania/2016-Access_to_Justice.pdf, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, with the support of Albanian Centre for Rehabilitation from Trauma and Torture and UNICEF.

71. A workshop was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 1–7 February 2017, with the participation of two technical staff from INSTAT. <http://mics.unicef.org/workshops>

72. The innovative approach of the assessment consisted in reviewing non-traditional metrics, linking welfare and well-being indicators with the traditional juvenile justice's statistics.

73. http://www.instat.gov.al/media/393214/burrat_dhe_grat_ne_shqiperi_2017_libri.pdf

74. The focus of the monitoring has remained at the border with Greece, where push backs have been recorded. UNHCR and the People's Advocate have been granted regular access to pre-screening procedures, particularly during the second half of 2017.

75. UNHCR and partners conducted 7 advocacy interventions linked to documentation, which included meetings with the Directorate for Asylum, Border and Migration Police, and Civil Status Office, as well as a bilateral discussion between the Director of Social Policies and the Director for Asylum regarding issuance of work permits for asylum seekers.

Output 1.2 Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ 3 ADISA customer care citizen service centers established in Albania
- ✓ E-civil registry certificates launched
- ✓ Pre-feasibility study prepared on broadband development in Albania
- ✓ Governmental Innovation Lab established at ADISA, first such lab in Western Balkans
- ✓ Annual "Trust in Governance" survey launched
- ✓ National consultations initiated on National Media and Information Literacy Policies and Strategies

Albania held parliamentary elections in June 2017. The pre- and post-election governments emphasised modernisation of service delivery as a priority, based on innovation and information technology, and reiterated its commitment to advancing ongoing reforms, with particular focus on implementation of the conditions for opening negotiations for EU integration in mid-2018. In this regard, the key triggers remain the undertaking of concrete steps in implementation of the justice reform, the fight against corruption and organised crime, strengthening of the rule of law, balanced social and economic development, and improvement in public administration performance and effectiveness. As noted in the **2017 SIGMA Monitoring Report The Principles of Public Administration Albania**,⁷⁶ noticeable improvements in the Albanian Agency for the Delivery of Integrated Services (ADISA)⁷⁷ front-office services and in other service delivery areas resulted in Albania registering one of the highest levels of satisfaction with administrative services in the Western Balkans, with 41 percent of citizens and 46 percent of businesses satisfied or very satisfied, as captured by the **Balkan Barometer**⁷⁸ annual survey conducted by the Re-

gional Cooperation Council. In the fight against corruption and the strengthening of the rule of law, leveraged by efforts to implement the justice reform, the number of cases related to seizure of illegal substances, detection of corrupt practices and the fight against organised crime have been increasing.

UNDP supported key developments in Albania's service delivery reform, including completion of the design of re-engineered time-saving workflow maps for all services of ten key central government institutions,⁷⁹ setting up of three ADISA customer care citizen service centres in northern and southern Albania, and the launch of e-Civil registry certificates. Through **Innovation against Corruption: Building a Citizen Centric Service Delivery Model in Albania (ISDA)** support for the donor pool fund project,⁸⁰ UNDP enabled preparation of a pre-feasibility study on broadband development in Albania as an indispensable instrument for promoting online service access, and supported the government's strategic investment plan on the digital integration pillar of the Western Balkans' regional economic area. UNDP was instrumen-

76. <http://www.sigmaweb.org/publications/Monitoring-Report-2017-Albania.pdf>

77. The public agency responsible for ensuring customer care standard in the delivery of public services in Albania.

78. Balkan Barometer, annual survey conducted by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), <http://www.rcc.int/seeds/results/2/balkan-opinion-barometer>, <http://www.rcc.int/seeds/results/3/balkan-businessbarometer>

79. Social Security Institute; Civil Registry General Directorate; Immovable Property Registration Office; Territory Development Agency; Central Technical Construction Archive; General Directorate of Road Transport; General Maritime Directorate; Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth; National Business Centre (formerly QKR and QKL); Compulsory Health Insurance Fund.

80. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/operations/projects/democratic_governance/support-for-innovation-against-corruption--building-a-citizen-ce.html



tal in assisting mainstream innovation in service delivery reform through the setting up of a dedicated governmental Innovation Laboratory at ADISA, the first such lab. in the Western Balkans, and provided change management and communication expertise.

Moreover, UNDP continued its support for the annual **Trust in Governance survey**⁸¹ carried out by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation, providing a broader perspective of citizen perceptions of the general performance of public institutions. Medium-term trends show increasing trust in different areas of governance, including Parliament and the health and education

sectors. In 2017, however, trust in the judiciary stalled, perhaps as a result of slow progress in judicial reform in 2017, while trust in the police force (previously one of the most trusted governmental institutions) dropped, perhaps reflecting the cannabis crisis.

WHO contributed to the strengthening of the capacities and accountability of health institutions to prevent corruption, therefore improving service delivery, through (1) preparation of the Albanian National Health Strategy 2016–2020,⁸² including a monitoring and evaluation component, (2) introducing and applying tools such as **Innov8 Approach**⁸³ for operationalisation of the

81. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/opinion-poll--trust-in-governance-2016--html

82. The strategy was officially approved by the Council of Ministers on 17 May 2017.

83. The Innov8 review process resulted in recommendations for specific entry points and actions to make the health programme more equity-oriented, rights-based and gender responsive, while addressing critical social determinants of health influencing programme effectiveness and outcomes <http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/albania/news/news/2017/03/viewing-the-albanian-national-health-strategy-through-the-lens-of-who-instruments-and-tools-for-health-policy-making>

UNESCO supported enhancement of mechanisms to fight the illicit trafficking of cultural properties through its project 'Enhancing capacities to fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property and to establish a digitized inventory of cultural property'



SDGs and the progressive realisation of universal health coverage and the right to health, and (3) strengthening of the health information system in the country, mainly by mounting the know-how on International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10, including the road map for its implementation.

Albania is an active member of the UNODC Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe (2016–2019), including its priority area of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing, and two UNODC regional initiatives that address the challenge of foreign terrorists. The country is a participant in the UNODC project 'Measuring and assessing organised crime in the Western Balkans: supporting evidence-based policy making', contributing to the drafting of the *Crime Statistics Availability Country Report for Albania* with inputs from various law enforcement agencies. Moreover, through the Container Control Programme, UNODC assisted government in improving its enforcement capacity,⁸⁴ thereby reducing drug trafficking and other illegal activity, while facilitating legitimate trade. Securing strong border controls and increasing the number of seizures have been important steps in curbing illegal drug trade from Albania to the EU. Seizures in 2017 by the Control Unit at Durres Port include 4 kg of hash oil, 636 kg of cannabis herb, 711 kg of marijuana, 3.2 kg of hashish and 5 kg of heroin.⁸⁵

UNESCO supported enhancement of mechanisms to fight the illicit trafficking of cultural properties through its project 'Enhancing capacities to fight against illicit trafficking of

cultural property and to establish a digitised inventory of cultural property', in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the National Centre of Cultural Property Inventory (NCCPI), in full compliance with the objectives of the national action plan for fighting the illicit trafficking of cultural property. As a first step in such protection, NCCPI, through the work of selected experts, raised awareness of relevant institutions (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Interior, state border police and judges and prosecutors) on the movement of cultural goods and the fight against illegal trafficking during the year. Moreover, 30 relevant government staff from the aforementioned institutions were capacitated on the methods used in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, the relevant legal framework and modalities of inventorying cultural properties according to international standards.

UNFPA engaged with local journalists to capacitate the **media platform**⁸⁶ on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) to write about social issues, focusing on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and SDGs, with 25 media platform members (press and online media) capacitated through two trainings held in 2017. Similarly, within the overall framework of the EU-funded project 'Building trust in media in South-East Europe and Turkey', UNESCO initiated national consultations over national Media and Information Literacy (MIL) policies and strategies, resulting in empowered media users through an MIL-related social media campaign and awareness raising.

84. By strengthening profiling, targeting, and detection of illicitly transported drugs in and out of Albania. The Container Control Programme also aimed at enhancing exchange of information and undertaking of joint operations at the regional and global level.

85. 2016 seizures: 1 kg 124 gr of cocaine, 1,385 kg cannabis herb, 140 kg of marijuana, 35.4 kg of heroin, and Euro 20,000 of counterfeit goods.

86. <http://infiniteplusi.com/edukimi-dhe-informimi-i-te-rinjve-rreth-shendetit-seksual-permes-nje-platfome-meditike-2/>

Output 1.3 Local Governance

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Local Governance Mapping rated citizens' perceptions versus their respective local governments two years after initiation of Administrative - Territorial reform
- ✓ 6 new CBS prepared with engagement of 572 persons, prioritizing needs of women and men in 6 municipalities and 16 administrative units
- ✓ 12 municipalities committed to support local CSOs through transparent granting schemes
- ✓ Platform "CSOs national advocacy" established, including "Youth voice" network, and piloted in 3 municipalities
- ✓ Strategic Plan 2017-2020 developed for the "Youth Voice" network
- ✓ A 'Young people services model document' prepared based on Shkodra municipality good model of integration of services & activities for young people

Local government remains a central piece of the government's Territorial-Administrative Reform agenda, guided by the National Cross-cutting Strategy for Decentralisation and Local Governance 2015–2020. Key 2017 reform milestones include adoption of Law no. 68/2017 'On the Finances of Local Self-Governance', establishment of a consultative council to link central and local governments, improvement of fiscal and operational transparency of local administrations, and development of a series of sub-legal acts related to new transferred functions. Preparation for Local Government Units (LGUs) to engage in medium-term budgeting was tested in nine municipalities⁸⁷ in 2017, with the expectation of nationwide implementation in 2018.

Further strengthening of local capacities for strategic planning and preparation of medium-term budgets as well as transparent and effective financial management for the latter is a key challenge. Moreover, several other challenges include (i) correct implementation of the Law 'On the Civil Servant' at the local level, especially with regard to further improvement of the merit-based recruitment and filling of high number of vacancies, (ii) reduction of inherited debt levels, (iii) improved capacities for implementation of local

functions, including quality of services, and their monitoring, (iv) strengthening of accountability and transparency of municipal operations, and (v) establishment of effective communication with local constituencies.

The post-election government transferred institutional responsibility for local government to the Ministry of Interior. UNDP leads the largest development assistance in this sector focusing on institutional capacity building, service delivery innovation and modernisation, and promotion of local democracy and participation. During 2017, UNDP undertook nationwide **Local Governance Mapping**,⁸⁸ rating citizens' perceptions against those of their respective local governments two years after the initiation of the Territorial-Administrative Reform. This unique exercise provided some **public metrics** on the quality of local governance and local democracy across the country, as well as recommendations to address issues in several areas. The assessment confirmed that, overall, the reform has taken root, but also that, although service planning and delivery systems have begun to be addressed, the quality of some public services has not yet reached satisfactory levels, communication with citizens is estimated as average and the level of citizen participation is low because of lack of willingness, culture

and opportunities from both sides. UNDP is dedicated to building local capacities for the application of national standards for local government archives, as well as establishing a local-level one-stop-shop system benefitting 85 percent of Albania's LGUs. Additionally, several other capacity building initiatives on transparency, accountability and application of legislation (Code of Administrative Procedures; Right to Information Law) are ongoing and will be completed by 2019, benefitting all the municipalities.

A Community-Based Scorecard (CBS) has been prepared in each of six municipalities—Kukes, Lezha, Patos, Roskovec, Saranda and Vora—by a network of CSOs and Citizen Advisory Panels, with the support of UN Women and USAID, engaging 569 persons (281 men and boys, and 288 women and girls). A national forum on the CBS results was organised on 30 June 2017 and resulted in government commitment to include CBS findings in the plans of ministries for future interventions.

Moreover, UNDP support to local participatory democracy processes led to the formalisation of partnerships with twelve municipalities, committed to supporting local CSOs through transparent grant schemes. Similarly, UNFPA supported establishment of the CSO national advocacy platform in 2017, including the Youth Voice network within this platform,

composed of 20 NGOs and youth clubs specialised especially in sexual and reproductive health, but also other social issues, with marginalised and most vulnerable groups. The platform was piloted in three selected municipalities:⁸⁹ Belsh, Roskovec and Shkodra. The strategic plan of the Youth Voice network was designed for the coming three years (2018–2020) based on the best models of network functioning and operating in four priority programme areas: (i) raising awareness and activating the community in issues related to reproductive health, education and gender equality, including the fight against GBV, (ii) increasing participation in decision making, (iii) education and training to provide skills and empower young people, and (iv) care and protection for the most vulnerable and marginalised, including young people without parental care. Furthermore, a young-people services model document was prepared based on the **positive model**⁹⁰ of Shkodra Municipality, and will be shared as one of the good examples of how services and activities for young people are integrated at the municipal level. Additionally, a **survey report**⁹¹ on perceptions and knowledge of young people on SDGs, SRH and municipal services offered for young people was developed with a sample of 100 young people (16–22 years) from Shkodra Municipality. The survey found that 1 in 17 young people in Shkodra knew about SDGs from the Internet and their school as the main sources of information.

87. Durres, Shijak, Malesi e Madhe, Tropoje, Lezha, Shkodra, Vau i Dejes, Diber, Kukes.

88. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/local-governance-mapping.html <http://www.star2lgm.com/en/>

89. Shkodra Municipality was selected as it: a) provides a good model of services, programmes and activities towards young people; b) is the biggest municipality in the north of Albania; c) ranked top, with the highest score, in the Regional Local Democracy Programme; d) scored 'good' in the STAR 2 Local Governance Mapping; e) is part of a county (Shkodra) with a large number of resident youth (Census 2011: 7.7% of youth 10–29 years of age resident in the county). Roskovec Municipality was selected as it: a) is located in the south; b) ranked 8th, a good score, in the Regional Local Democracy Programme; c) scored 'good' in the STAR 2 Local Governance Mapping; d) is part of Fier County with a large number of resident youth (Census 2011: 10.3% of youth 10–29 years of age resident in the county). Belsh Municipality was selected as it: a) is located in the centre of Albania; b) scored 'average' in the STAR 2 Local Governance Mapping; c) has a considerable number of young people living in the area; d) is part of Elbasan County with a large number of resident youth (Census 2011: 11.1% of youth 10–29 years of age resident in the county).

90. <http://jotabu.al/fuqizimi-i-rrjetit-zeri-i-te-rinjve-bashkia-shkoder-histori-suksesi/>

91. <http://jotabu.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Factsheet-Bashkia-Shkoder-Dhjetor-2017.pdf>



Output 1.4 Access to Justice

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ A new Free Legal Aid Law adopted by Parliament
- ✓ Government committed to an increased state budget for FLA services once FLA Law enters into force
- ✓ 4 capacitated CSOs legal aid providers handled 33 cases/month, indicating necessity to scale up services to all district courts in Albania
- ✓ More than 1,000 persons supported with free legal aid services and groundwork laid for service institutionalisation at the local level
- ✓ Criminal Justice for Children Code adopted by Parliament
- ✓ National Justice for Children Strategy 2017-2020 developed and costed
- ✓ Tracking system established for data collection and reporting on children in conflict/contact with law

The importance of ensuring equal access to all rights holders as individuals (i.e. all men, women, boys and girls) is fundamental, but still far from the case in Albania. According to the recent UNDP survey on **Access to Justice in Albania 2017**,⁹² three key factors contribute to a fragile framework for access to justice in the country: 1) low levels of legal literacy, 2) dubious attitudes on what is just, and 3) lack of trust in the justice system. The Free Legal Aid (FLA) scheme covers only a fraction of the needs of low-income and other disadvantaged groups. Similarly, the UNICEF study *Children's Equitable Access to Justice, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia*⁹³ indicates that children face a multitude of challenges in the justice system over violations of own rights—procedural, economic and conceptual—and stretch over all determinants of an enabling environment, supply, quality and demand. Although, the criminal justice system in Albania displays a punitive approach to juveniles and guarantees for the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime, it is still inadequate. Government and partners are committed to reforming the legislative and policy framework to ensure a justice system that is friendlier to, and more accessible by, children, as well as vulnerable men and women.

UNICEF and UNDP support in this area has ad-

ressed gaps in the regulatory framework, while also attending to vulnerable groups' demands to remedy violations of their rights. The new **FLA law**⁹⁴ was adopted by Parliament in December 2017, supported by UNDP, providing increased access to justice to vulnerable and poor people, including women, victims of domestic and sexual violence, trafficked women, persons with disabilities and beneficiaries of social protection schemes. The drafting of the FLA law benefited from findings and recommendations of the recent UNDP survey on *Access to Justice in Albania 2017*, UNICEF technical advice on ensuring more equitable access for children to legal aid, as well as joint advocacy and inputs from a range of actors, including CSOs, state and judiciary institutions and development partners active in this area, gathered in a consultative round table under the moderation of UNDP and the European Union Delegation. Advocacy on the FLA law resulted in government commitment to increasing the state budget⁹⁵ for FLA services once the law enters into force in June 2018, important for adequate implementation of this law and for ensuring respect and fulfilment of people's rights in accessing justice.

Throughout 2017, UNDP capacitated four CSO legal aid providers⁹⁶ in four pilot FLA centres in

district court premises (Durrës, Fier, Lezha and Tirana) to respond to the increased demand for quality and effective FLA services (namely family law, divorce and child custody, pension benefits, protection orders) to the most marginalised populations: women victims of domestic violence, rural women, Roma and Egyptians, and people with disabilities. These centres handled an average of 33 cases per month, indicating the necessity to scale up such services to all district courts in the country. This initiative helped lay the groundwork for institutionalisation of FLA services at the local level in line with the newly adopted law.

The Code of Criminal Justice for Children⁹⁷ was adopted by Parliament in March 2017, through UNICEF's technical and financial support, marking an unprecedented legal development and a philosophical shift in approaching children's treatment within the country's criminal justice system. For the first time in Albania's legislative system, children in contact with the law are not treated as adults and alignment is ensured with international standards on juvenile justice and on children victims and witnesses of crime. Equally importantly, the Code's request for law enforcement and justice system operators to use an integrated electronic tracking system for the collection and reporting of data on children in conflict or contact with the law was addressed by UNICEF in 2016 with the establishment of a tracking system. With the adoption of the Code, full government ownership of this system should be realised in the next couple of years.

UNICEF's overall support to aligning the national legislation to the best international standards of child rights yielded further strengthening of the right of the child to be heard, extending to every judicial and administrative process. Additionally, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice in

developing and costing a national **Justice for Children Strategy 2017–2020**,⁹⁸ the first policy document at the executive level in the country dedicated to child-friendly justice. The document is currently undergoing public consultations, for adoption in 2018.

The State Probation Service (SPS) testing of the mechanism of sub-contracting non-governmental service providers for socio-economic reintegration and restorative justice services to children, initiated in 2016, yielded several important results during 2017: (i) 200 children were assisted with services to ease their peaceful and effective reintegration into the community, (ii) a strengthened collaboration of the SPS with local government and stakeholders positioned the service more strongly among authorities that help reintegration of children and their removal from the entrapment of crime, (iii) probation officers' efforts, complemented by other professionals, ensured a multi-disciplinary approach to juvenile case management, (iv) restorative justice techniques and practices were promoted at the local level, and (v) SPS capacities to administer resources and sub-contract services were strengthened, crucial for implementation of the new Code.

UNICEF's continuous advocacy with relevant partners⁹⁹ in the advancement of the legislative and policy framework in this area, as well as the promotion of integration and restorative justice practices at the local level, resulted in convincing law enforcement and justice system operators that detaining children is a violation of the principles contained in international instruments and is not a solution for reducing juvenile delinquency. Credited to these efforts, the rate of detention among juveniles has been reduced, from 179 in 2014 to 114.3 in 2016 in a trend that is expected to continue.

92. UNDP Publication, Survey on Access to Justice in Albania, 2017 <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/survey-on-access-to-justice-in-albania.html>

93. Regional Office for Children's Equitable Access to Justice, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEE/CIS), UNICEF, Geneva, 2015.

94. <http://www.eurallius.eu/index.php/en/albanian-legislation/send/21-legal-aid/60-law-on-legal-aid-en>

95. Ministry of Justice 2017 budget for FLA structures and services was 33,000,000 lek. Whereas, for only the first half of 2018, when the FLA Law enters into force, the total state budget is approximately 30,000,000 lek.

96. ADRF, CLCI, Republika and TLAS provided FLA primary and secondary services.

97. <http://www.eurallius.eu/index.php/en/albanian-legislation/send/109-criminal-code-for-children/226-criminal-code-for-children-en>

98. http://www.drejtesia.gov.al/files/userfiles/Drejtesia_per_te_mitur/02_Strategjia_e_Drejtisesise_per_te_Mitur_2017-2020_English.pdf

99. Parliament, the Ministry of Justice and its subordinate bodies, justice for children professionals, civil society and other relevant partners.

local services, focused on addressing the needs of vulnerable women and girls, through a consultative process that engaged many citizens and municipal authorities in a constructive dialogue.

Throughout 2017, UN agencies engaged in various initiatives that supported gender equality in the country. Through several trainings, UN Women supported capacity development and responsiveness building from a gender perspective in the justice system institutions, including the Ministry of Justice, Chamber of Notaries, Chamber of Advocacy, National Chamber of Bailiffs, and the Immoveable Property Registration Office, with 282 professionals capacitated in Berat, Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Kukes, Lushnje, Pogradec, Saranda and Tirana, and fourteen legal changes, amendments and administrative acts¹⁰¹ drafted that integrate the gender perspective into the property legislation. Moreover, UN Women provided free legal assistance to 150 vulnerable women from remote areas, who had limited access to information and the justice system. UN Women awareness outreach efforts on beneficiary women's access to property entitlements, information and legal counselling resulted in 74 cases of vulnerable women receiving legal counselling, act preparation, court representation, increased knowledge and information. These efforts serve to change positively young women and men's attitudes towards women's property entitlements and decision making over property.

INSTAT was supported by UN Women in drafting the 2018 edition of its annual statistical

101. Articles 231, 377 and 379 of the Civil Code; Articles 66, 115 and 164 of the Family Code; Articles 28, 43, 49 and 53/1 of the Law 'On the notary'; Adding article on the withdrawing right, legal reserve, receiving the acts of civil state by the notary and application through the system; Adding after Articles 41/2 and 54 of Law 33/2012, 'On the registration of immovable properties'; Articles 27 and 30/1 of Law no. 9482, dated April 3, 2006, 'On the legalisation, urbanisation and integration of buildings without permission'; Change to Article 5 of Law no. 8337, dated April 30, 1998, 'On the passing of property of agricultural land, forests, meadows and pastures'; Adding or changes to Articles 6 and 25 of Law no. 10129, dated May 11, 2009, 'On civil state in the Republic of Albania'; Adding in Article 1 of Order no. 356, dated September 4, 2013, 'On designation of detailed regulations for the national register of testaments and national register of the inheritance testimony'; Drafting of an Order of the Minister of Justice 'On the procedure of the registration of immovable properties gained during marriage'.

publication *Women and Men*, which includes detailed information on Albania's gender equality and the status of women monitoring frameworks and international reporting obligations. The document includes a large list of gender indicators harmonised with related gender indicators of SDGs, NSDI 2015–2020 and the National Gender Strategy 2016–2020, as well as feed into the calculations of the Gender Equality Index. Additionally, UN Women provided inputs to the DHS, enriching the draft list of key indicators with information on women's property rights and prevalence of domestic violence. The DHS report will be released in October 2018.



A UNDP-supported NGO, **Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives**, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Tirana First Instance Court, successfully managed to break new ground in jurisprudence through establishment of a new precedent on cross-border execution of final court decisions in compliance with The Hague Convention. This practice and five successfully litigated cases on child alimony will enable many women undergoing



Providing legal aid services to those who need it most

divorce to benefit. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice has received a complete package with recommendations on relevant codes and laws¹⁰² aiming at bringing them in line with The Hague Convention with direct positive impact on women's economic rights.

UNODC, in implementation of its Container Control Programme, in collaboration with the gender focal points within the Customs and Police structures, paid attention to the large gender disparities encountered in the law enforcement profession and the challenges faced by female officers. UNODC assisted authorities to incorporate gender mainstreaming strategies into their operations by drafting a *Manual on Gender Mainstreaming* into the Container Control and Maritime Areas.

Empowerment of girls and women and capacity development of the national and local governments to mainstream gender has been systematically promoted in all UNICEF-supported interventions, reported accordingly under the relevant outputs, with access to, and decision making on: social protection benefits (output 2.3); monitoring of the rights of boys and girls (output 2.4); judicial procedures affecting boys and girls and addressing family roles and stereotypes and parenting practices, particularly for children in contact with the law, and by enabling home-visit trainers (health workers) to build knowledge on gender issues in early childhood and parenting (output 1.4); protection from GBV (output 2.5); revision of pre-school education curriculum and capacity building programmes for school head teachers from the gender equality perspective (output 2.2).

102. Family Code, Civil Procedural Code, Criminal Code and the Law on the Execution of Criminal Decisions.

Output 1.6 Migration and Asylum

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ IOM activated the support to GoA to develop a cross-cutting policy to migration governance
- ✓ Gap analysis drafted of the asylum system in Albania
- ✓ 60% Asylum Procedures compliance with international refugee law and EU *acquis* (50% in 2016)
- ✓ Registration and Temporary Accommodation Centre established in Gërhot, Gjirokastër to host 60 irregular migrants
- ✓ Extension of National Asylum Centre completed, able to accommodate 150 persons
- ✓ Gjirokastra Municipality Social Centre renovated to be used as emergency shelter for asylum seekers

Migration is a crucial element in Albania's social and economic development, given the large proportion of Albanian citizens who live abroad (one-third of the population) and the strong dependency on migrant remittances. Albania currently lacks a coherent migration policy to guide government since both the National Strategy on Migration and the National Strategy on the Reintegration of Returned Albanian Citizens ended in 2010 and 2015, respectively. This is of major concern at a time when improved effective migration management and an efficient response to migration-related challenges is greater than ever. Albania has not been affected by the Mediterranean migration flows as have some of its Western Balkans neighbours. Nevertheless, reception capacity and specialised government services need to be enhanced in case of increased flows, a real possibility. The 2014 Law 'On Asylum' generally aligns to the EU asylum *acquis* and international standards. Nonetheless, by-laws, policies and procedures need to be reviewed to guarantee access to effective protection for refugees. Interception of migrants and refugees in Albania increased 15 percent in 2017, reaching 1,049 people, while asylum requests increased by 27 percent to 309 people. Although current assessments show there are no serious issues with the exercising of migrants' rights, regular monitoring does not take place by the relevant institutions.

Addressing migration challenges, as well as enhancing the development impact of migration, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) activated support to government for devel-

oping a cross-cutting policy for migration governance and strengthening capacities to properly address both immigration and emigration, expected to be finalised in 2018. UNHCR drafted and validated a gap analysis of the asylum system in Albania, including legislation, administrative procedures, institutional capacity and practice, that was validated by the former Ministry of Internal Affairs, former Ministry of Health, former Ministry of Youth and Social Welfare and former Ministry of Labour, as well as by NGOs working on asylum-related matters. UNHCR has also advocated the use of the analysis as a baseline report for the drafting of the National Action Plan on Migration Governance. The extent to which asylum procedures are compliant with international refugee law and the EU *acquis* have increased, from 50 percent in 2016, to 60 percent in 2017. Additionally, IOM supported the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator in the process of preparing an Anti-Trafficking Action Plan 2018–2020 and improving evidence-based planning and reporting. According to the National Anti-Trafficking Office, four trafficking cases were prosecuted in 2017.

Aiming towards improved processing of mixed migration flows at the southern border with Greece, IOM supported establishment of a registration and temporary accommodation centre in Gërhot, Gjirokaster, to host 60 irregular migrants and the provision of four mini-vans to facilitate the transfer of migrants to and from the centre and for other services. Fifty-seven staff from border management and related agencies from central and local levels were capacitated in hu-



Refugee kids bring great drawings at home

manitarian border management in times of mass influx, including: (i) countering the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of human beings in times of crisis, (ii) enhancement of the registration process and identification and referral of vulnerabilities by creating linkages between interviewing and processing of migrants and refugees, and (iii) migration crisis management.

UNHCR and UNDP completed the extension of the National Asylum Centre, doubled in capacity and able to accommodate 150 persons, as well as provide food, non-food and hygiene items, interpreters, psycho-social support and guidance to staff on individual case management. Three hundred and nine asylum seekers benefited from the centre's services in 2017, assisted by UNHCR through information sessions and FLA services. Similarly, Gjirokaster Municipality Social Centre was renovated with UNHCR support for use as an emergency shelter for asylum seekers, with thirteen persons accommodated since the centre

became operational in August 2017. Additionally, two interview rooms were renovated and furnished at the Border Police Directorates of Shkodra and Kukes.

The workshop for inter-country lessons learned entitled 'Migrant health services along European migration routes' provided a unique opportunity for information exchange among all major actors involved in the provision of health services along the migration route to Europe, and prompted the establishment of an inter-country task force on migration and health. The workshop took place in Belgrade, Serbia, with participation of representatives of the ministries of health from thirteen countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey), as well as representatives of international organisations and NGOs involved in the provision of health care to refugees and migrants.

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Challenges

Challenges **Output 1.1 Human Rights**

While government is engaged in implanting a culture of evidence-based and target-oriented planning for NSDI 2015–2020 and all sector-specific strategies, this is a process that will take many years. Key challenges related to the 2017 elections include the ability of the country to maintain the achieved level of women representation, and mitigate disruptions caused by transferring of staff. The re-shuffling of Border and Migration Police Directors in the border areas, for example, is sometimes detrimental to the understanding of how pre-screening should be conducted. The identity document for refugees is issued by the Civil Status Office and has a unique identifier that is incompatible with information management systems of line ministries, including MoHSP, and MoFE. As a result, refugees need support to access services and face continuous obstacles to become self-reliant. UN agencies are working to fill the gaps in terms of capacity development, supply of sector-focused data, and frameworks and mechanisms.

Output 1.2 Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law

Despite government commitment for advancement in this area, anti-corruption and rule of law needs adequate capacities in place, both at the central and the local level, and stronger coordination among national partners to ensure effective implementation. Key challenges noted throughout 2017 include (i) impact of leadership change as a result of parliamentary elections, (ii) insufficient local expertise, (iii) lack of a culture of evidence-informed policy making, fragmented accountability and insufficient capacities in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and (iv) absence of an adequate legal framework to effectively fight illicit trafficking of cultural property and still weak cross-sectoral cooperation. As detailed in the way forward section below, UN support to this sector for an overhauling reform will focus on improving governance, strengthening institutions and reducing vulnerability to corruption, considering the specific needs of women, children and people who may be subject to marginalisation and discrimination.

Output 1.3 Local Governance

The roll out of the local one-stop shops could be jeopardised by lack of availability and suitability of necessary minimal information technology (IT) hardware at the municipal level, following a comprehensive assessment and scope carried out in all municipalities. Pledged assistance for developing a benchmark system for local governments as an instrument for comparing municipalities against standardised indicators that would generate general conclusions and inform decision making is challenged by a generalised lack of local data, or the existence of data of different quality, accuracy and standards in different municipalities. For this reason, the initial idea of building a benchmark system remains valid and in demand. Furthermore, while the overall policy and legal framework for Albania's system of reformed social care services has been developed successfully, substantial capacity gaps are observed in LGUs, posing enormous obstacles to implementation. Such capacity gaps are present in many other locally mandated areas as well.

Output 1.4 Access to Justice

Changes to the leadership of the Ministry of Justice in 2017, attributable to the country's disputed political situation during the first half of the year, impacted the speed and effectiveness of implementation of UN support in this area. Under such circumstances, UN agencies worked mainly with Parliament, at the technical level of Ministry of Justice and with subordinate bodies and NGOs. The last quarter of 2017 saw joint work re-energised with the new Ministry of Justice leadership and full commitment to equitable access to justice.

Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Although the legal and policy framework on gender equality has been strengthened, the main challenge lies in its implementation and appropriate budgeting at national and local levels. A key requirement for gender mainstreaming (GM), which is being advocated and strongly supported by UN agencies in Albania, is a robust and stable national gender machinery, an administration with specific GM skills, and an integrated process of GM in all elements of governance reinforced repeatedly such that it becomes routine in policy making and implementation across the country.

Output 1.6 Migration and Asylum

The pace of development of the new migration governance policy was slowed due to the general parliamentary elections that were held in June 2017 and the government changes that preceded and followed those elections. Most persons who request asylum at the borders of Albania abandon procedures even before their application is formally lodged by the Directorate for Asylum in Tirana, resulting in the Directorate taking decisions on a smaller number of asylum seekers (13 of 309 asylum seekers registered in 2017). The health sector capacity to manage large and sudden influxes of migrants is poor and the national contingency plan provides no clear chain of command, communication flow or standard operating procedures related to health aspects of migration. Mitigating these challenges is in the focus of the work of UN agencies in Albania under the Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) 2017–2021.

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Way Ahead 2018–2019 **Output 1.1 Human Rights**

In collaboration with CSOs and National Human Rights Mechanisms, UNFPA and UN Women will support implementation of international human rights standards on women's rights, including CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention. UNICEF will sustain relevant institutions in preparation of the Periodic Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, relevant monitoring and reporting on the 2020 Agenda for Children along with preparation of a tailored plan of activities for the coming years. Additionally, the oversight and legislative role of Parliament will be emphasised in UNICEF's interaction with a wide range of partners, including provision of technical support to the Parliamentary Group Friends of Children in further advancing the child rights and protection agenda.

As justice sector reform is among the key political criteria for EU accession, UNDP will focus on local human rights institutions to reach out to underserved populations and women in this largely political reform process. Supported by IOM, the Ombudsman's capacity to conduct periodic assessments on migrant worker rights will be enhanced and expanded to include more migrant groups. UNHCR will capacitate the Ombudsman to promote and monitor access to the territory and asylum procedures for refugees intercepted at the Albanian border and to enhance the capacities of the authorities responsible for asylum and human rights. UNICEF support to the Ombudsman will focus on integrating a child rights perspective into strategic action planning while investing in capacities of both Ombudsman and CPD for handling and tracking cases of violations of child rights.

UN Women focus will be placed on empowerment of women as leaders, especially at the local level, and increasing capacities of public oversight institutions, civil society, media and women beneficiaries to monitor, report and advocate on gender equality commitments. UNHCR will strengthen the protection monitoring system with focus on access to territory and asylum for refugees, enhancement of screening tools in border areas and promoting non-discriminatory practices for asylum seekers and refugees. UNHCR and UNICEF will work on implementation of the joint strategy to address childhood statelessness in 2018 and 2019. UNHCR will continue working with the Ministry of Interior on the mapping of stateless populations and provision of legal aid for confirmation of nationality.

Output 1.2 Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law

UNDP's focus will be on the ongoing citizen-centric service delivery reform, including a larger scope and increased focus on deregulation and electronic services, including: (i) expansion of ADISA customer-care services with one-county piloting planned along with further co-location deployment and delivery channel development through mobile facilities with special reference to remote areas, (ii) implementation of service delivery policy and standards through dependent agency restructuring programme support as a vehicle for service delivery improvement, enabling third party and civil society performance oversight, and assistance in know-how transfer and quality certification for ADISA, and (iii) promotion of innovation in service delivery through capacity development for ADISA's Innovation Lab. Moreover, UNDP will support regular citizen perception surveys on various dimensions of governance, including the annual survey on Trust in Government for 2018.

IOM's focus will be on building capacities of the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to improve evidence-based planning and reporting. Awareness-raising efforts for prevention of trafficking will focus on un-

The Way Ahead

accompanied children and child victims of trafficking. UNODC will continue to assist government with border control in implementation of the Container Control Programme in Durres Port, expanding also to the border with Kosovo (1244). UNODC will support MoI in drafting national strategies¹⁰³ that fall under its mandate and strengthen the newly established Power of Law Task Force by offering technical expertise mainly in the area of anti-money laundering.

Through capacity building for advocacy and a holistic approach to monitoring, UNFPA will support government institutions and media to ensure realisation of SRH rights of women, youth and vulnerable populations. In the framework of the EU-funded project 'Building Trust in Media in South-East Europe and Turkey', UNESCO will continue supporting the new Albanian Media Council to strengthen media ethics and media self-regulation in the country through organising an awareness-raising campaign to promote the new website and capacity-building activities for the new staff of the body. In partnership with the Ethical Journalism Network, the use of ethical media audits as part of a self-reporting process to help media management become more efficient and accountable will be promoted within selected Albanian media outlets. Finally, a position paper on Media and Information Literacy policy and strategy in Albania will serve as a basis for government institutions to start a national debate on MIL policies and strategies.

Output 1.3 Local Governance

UNDP will focus on strengthening the functionality and service delivery systems of local administrations, as well as instruments for promoting local democracy and participation. The model will be developed and piloted in at least four municipalities by the end of 2018 and then deployed to an additional 45 LGUs by the end of 2019. Several planned capacity-building initiatives (on leadership, transparency, accountability, integrity) and application of pertinent legislation (Code of Administrative Procedures, and Right to Information Law) are ongoing and will be completed by 2019. By the end of that year, all Albanian municipalities will be capacitated to use a unique and standard approach to local archiving, have a transparency plan in place and be assessed in accordance with a transparency assessment tool, have all municipal council decisions published online, and receive training in anti-corruption and integrity. Also, some 30 municipalities will be supported in improving local revenue management and in implementation of mid-term budgeting instruments in accordance with the legislation in place. Nationwide local government mapping will be replicated at the end of 2019.

Focusing on service quality, UNFPA's support will focus on (i) strengthening municipal capacities to provide equal access to quality integrated SRH services and improve performance monitoring, (ii) promoting mechanisms to enhance participation of young people in policy and decision making related to SRH, including HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and (iii) increasing monitoring capacity on budget allocations and engagement with clients to not only expand access but also encourage a higher level of government investment in the future. Moreover, the model created in Shkodra Municipality will be replicated in other municipalities.

¹⁰³. National strategy on the prevention of small and light arms trafficking and on prevention of illicit trafficking of narcotics.

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Way Ahead 2018–2019

Output 1.4 Access to Justice

Following adoption of the Free Legal Aid law, UNDP will support government in developing relevant by-laws, advancing professional capacities of assigned state structures on provision and monitoring of FLA and consolidating the four FLA centres. With adoption of the Criminal Justice for Children Code and the Child Rights and Protection Law, UNICEF support will be directed towards development of secondary legislation for implementation of the above laws, the process of adoption of Justice for Children Strategy, and advocacy with Parliament to ensure that child rights are addressed in draft laws and amendments in the framework of the Justice System Reform process. In the area of children's access to justice, UNICEF will sustain establishment of information management systems and law enforcement and capacity building of justice for children professionals in interpreting and applying the new legislation. The Ministry of Justice will be assisted to promote restorative justice and community-based programmes and practices for children in conflict and contact with the law.

Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender-Responsive Budgeting

UN Women will continue to support implementation of the European Charter for Equality of women and men in local life and provide technical expertise to five municipalities (Durres, Elbasan, Korca, Shkodra and Tirana) for preparation of local gender action plans. Moreover, in collaboration with INSTAT and line ministries, the agency will address national data gaps and international reporting requirements on SDGs, and institutionalise GRB at national and local levels in line with CEDAW concluding observations on the monitoring of public expenditures that advance gender equality. UNDP will focus on Gender Mainstreaming in local and central policy and decision-making processes, ensuring all interventions involve LGUs and representation of women in local parliaments forums and bodies.

UNICEF will support a range of sectoral work on Management Information Systems on child rights, focusing on identification of gender imbalances for boys and girls, with a view to supporting evidence-based sectoral policy changes that address these inequities. UNICEF and UNFPA will support Gender Mainstreaming across various policy documents, planning and budgeting frameworks, and service monitoring tools at both the central and local level. Moreover, they will continue to support MoESY and the National Institute for Development of Education in preparing pre-school principals with the awareness and knowledge to implement new curricula, and other normative frameworks in the education sector that have adequately integrated gender equality and non-discrimination elements. UNFPA will strengthen its work with young people and raise awareness on gender equality especially with out-of-school young people and key populations.

UN Women will support MoFE to institutionalise GRB through improvement of legal and operational framework, including laws, by-laws and directives. Planning and budgeting specialists of line ministries and municipalities will be capacitated in gender-responsive planning and budgeting of MTBPs. Coaching of, and exchange of knowledge among, parliamentary committees on expenditure monitoring through gender lenses will be introduced in 2018. Finally, UN Women will provide support for production and use of sex-disaggregated sectoral data for expenditure monitoring purposes.

The Way Ahead

Output 1.6 Migration and Asylum

To address challenges related to complex migration flows, as well as enhance the development impact of migration, IOM will support government in (i) developing a cross-cutting policy for migration governance, (ii) strengthening capacities to address both immigration and emigration in full respect of migrants' rights, (iii) improving immigration reception capacity for migrants to ensure proper registration, pre-screening, identification of vulnerability and referral to accommodation and other specialised governmental services, (iv) increasing the legal and technical capacities of the national agencies to introduce advance passenger information systems, and (v) enhancing engagement with the Albanian diaspora, with specific focus on the communities in Italy.

UNHCR will continue providing support to the Ministry of Interior to align national policies, legislation and practices on asylum with the EU asylum *acquis* and to adequately reflect asylum policies and their implementation into relevant governmental policy documents and action plans, including the Migration Governance Action Plan. UNHCR will foster state capacity and promote inter-ministerial coordination to establish and manage a protection centred system from the moment of arrival to durable solutions. Close partnerships with the Directorate for Asylum, Directorate of Border Police and the Asylum Centre's multidisciplinary team will continue, to i) promote access to territory and access to asylum, ii) improve pre-screening procedures and identification of humanitarian needs, iii) enhance reception conditions, iv) ensure adequate status determination procedures are in place, and v) promote local integration and non-discriminatory practices for refugees and asylum seekers.

UNICEF will work with MoHSP, the Agency of Child Protection and MoI to ensure that the needs of women and children at risk are adequately addressed.¹⁰⁴ WHO will aid with the preparedness and readiness of the country to respond to any health emergencies, including emergencies related to sudden influxes of migrants, and will continue to advocate for policies that leave no one behind, whether migrant, potential migrant or returning migrant..

104. Focus of work will include (i) capacity building of national stakeholders at central and municipal levels to address the emergency preparedness and response needs, within the current refugee and migrant crisis in Europe, and in a broader context of Albania's outward migration pattern; and (ii) assisting national partners in developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for identification, reception (including, repatriation back to Albania) and protection of unaccompanied children in Albania (Albanian, foreigners and without nationality/stateless).

OUTCOME 2 Social Cohesion

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

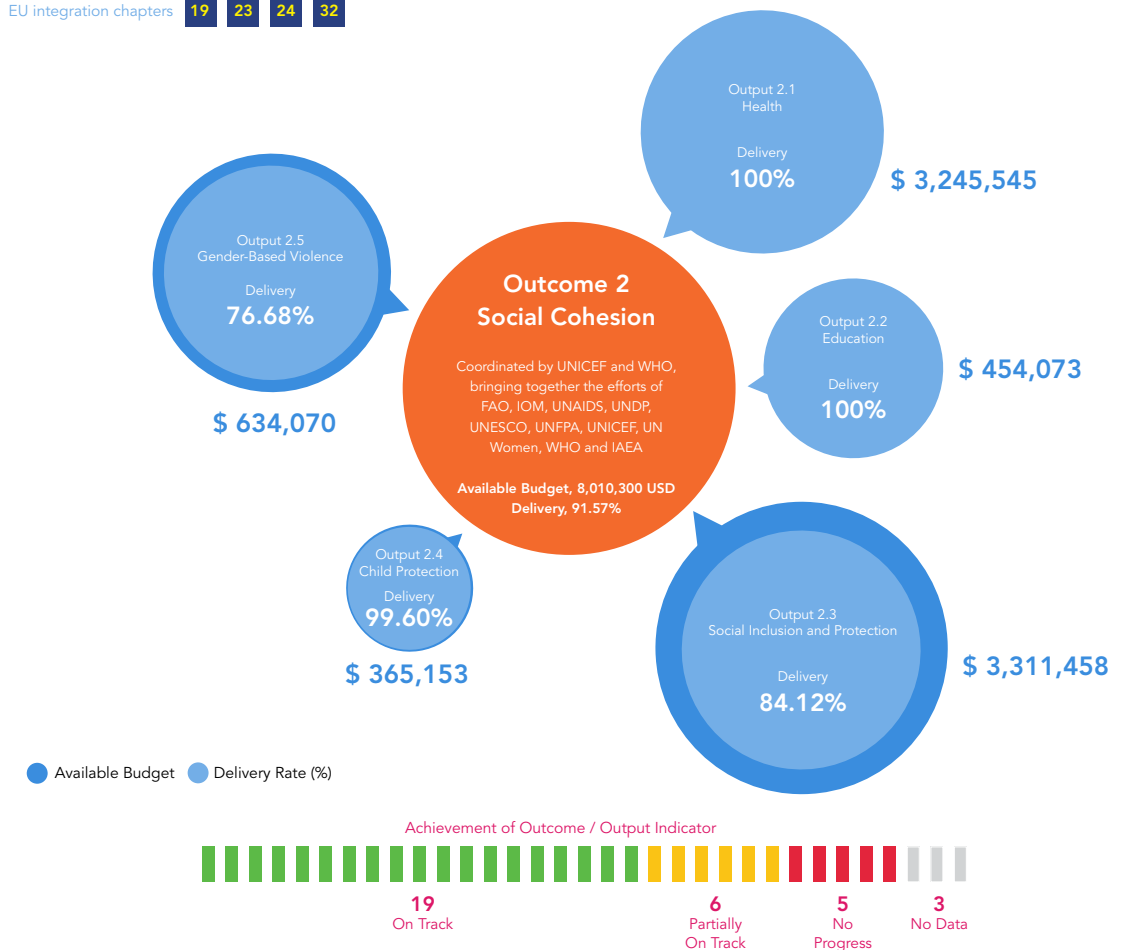


Young boys advocating for gender equality in Pogradec

United Nations in Albania interventions at the local level aim towards effective, gender-responsive, fiscally sustainable and accountable delivery of public services. For a quick look at our presence in all Albanian Municipalities, [Please click here](#)

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

The total available budget for implementation of Outcome 2 in 2017 was USD 8 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and USA, and the EU, UNICEF global thematic funds, Swedish National Committee for UNICEF, Global Fund to End Violence Against Children, the David Beckham UNICEF Fund, Terre des hommes and Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Citta della Salute e della Scienza di Torino. **The outcome delivery is 91.57%.**



Output 2.1 Health

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ National Health Strategy 2016-2020 approved, including SDG mapping and training by doing exercise
- ✓ Roadmap for National IHR Action Plan prepared
- ✓ National Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan 2017-2021 and guidelines on Chronic Hepatitis C and HIV treatment prepared
- ✓ PMU of Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is set up and operational in Albania
- ✓ Revised legislative framework for Breast-Milk Substitutes marketing finalized
- ✓ Albania's Demographic and Health Survey 2017-2018 started implementation
- ✓ A Linear Accelerator for cancer therapy purchased for University Hospital Centre "Mother Theresa"
- ✓ A pilot school food and nutrition program launched in 20 elementary schools
- ✓ National targets and means of verification produced for national indicators related to SDG 2 and 5

Government continues to implement the approach of Universal Health Coverage. Yet, disparities and inequalities persist among some groups of the population in the country, notably among Roma and Egyptians, and between urban and rural areas. Spending on health care is still below three percent of GDP and ten percent of the national budget.¹⁰⁵ Despite a reduction in the price of pharmaceuticals by an average of 30 percent from 2014–2015, out-of-pocket payments still account for more than 50 percent¹⁰⁶ of total expenditures on health. Infant mortality and under-five mortality rates have steadily declined (12 and 14 deaths, respectively, per 1,000 live births in 2017)¹⁰⁷ and immunisation coverage is nearly universal. Total burden of disease for children of age from 1–4 years has declined significantly but remains the highest in South-eastern Europe.¹⁰⁸ Among Roma children, 70 percent do not receive regular medical check-ups.¹⁰⁹ Meanwhile, the maternal mortality ratio has decreased, from 71 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to an estimated 29 per 100,000 in 2015.¹¹⁰ Antenna-

tal care coverage and percentage of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel are high. The prevalence of modern contraceptives is estimated at eleven percent.¹¹¹ HIV incidence is around 2.9 in 100,000, with a prevalence of 0.04 percent,¹¹² though stigma is still present. Tuberculosis incidence has been stable over the last three years, at 14.4 per 100,000, and TB mortality is around 0.5 per 100,000.¹¹³ Statistical data from the hospitals and public health database show an increasing number of new cancer cases diagnosed (~5,500) and patients treated (~150) each year, exceeding capacities for cancer care, especially in the radiotherapy service. The demographic profile of Albania is changing, following an ageing population with rapidly changing health needs, and will need to be met by a wider range of capacities and competencies of health-care providers. Health-care delivery remains fragmented and will become a growing challenge as Albania develops, society ages, and EU integration accelerates. Political commitment to grow and sustain financing is essential.

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

106. Ibid 21.

107. UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME), 2017.

108. <http://ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Health-report-English-version.pdf>

109. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/dam/albania/docs/Roma%20Needs%20Assessment.pdf>

110. Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2015. Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division. <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2015/en/>

111. Albania Demographic and Health Survey 2008–2009.

112. Albania Demographic and Health Survey 2008–2009.

113. National TB Programme, Albania.

BOX 1

Viewing the Albanian National Health Strategy through the lens of WHO instruments and tools for health policy making

The Albanian Ministry of Health (MoH) has initiated the process of developing a new, intersectoral health strategy (Albanian National Health Strategy – ANHS). It has established an interministerial group, chaired by the deputy-minister of health, to steer the process and ensure the overarching health policy is aligned with the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2020.

The ANHS envisages four strategic priority areas:

- investing in population health through a life course approach
- provision of universal health coverage for all
- strengthening people-centred health systems
- improved governance and cross-sector cooperation for health.

WHO has supported both the inclusion of health into the NSDI 2020 and the process of developing the ANHS, as a means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On 17 January 2017, a workshop was held in the MoH to discuss the ANHS, looking at it through the lens of WHO instruments and tools for health policy making. It was led by Professor Kosta Barjaba, Advisor to the Minister, with technical support provided by WHO. The discussions were useful for the MoH in finalizing the ANHS and further developing the ANHS implementation plan. The discussions made use of the Innov8 approach, an analytical process that supports the operationalization of the SDG commitment to “leave no one behind”. Subsequently, links have been strengthened among technical group participants through interactive sharing and management of knowledge in the process of developing the ANHS implementation plan. Dr Nazira Artykova, a WHO representative in Albania, emphasized the importance of linking development and health agendas in Albania, increasing financing for health and using the ANHS as an instrument for closing eventual financing gaps, through strengthening partnerships at national and international levels.



UN support to Albania's health reform advanced the system's regulatory framework in 2017 through development and approval of the **National Health Strategy 2016–2020**,¹¹⁴ including an SDG mapping and training by doing exercise,¹¹⁵ prepared with technical expertise of UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO. The road map for the National International Health Regulation (IHR) Action Plan to address the country's IHR implementation¹¹⁶ and related capacity gaps was prepared with WHO support. Two national IHR experts and 16 national public health specialists were capacitated in drafting the upcoming national IHR Action Plan 2018–2020 through a workshop held in Tirana. Moreover, WHO contributed to preparation of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan 2017–2021, the report *Antimicrobial Medicines Consumption 2011–2014* (2017) featuring data from Albania, as well as guidelines on Chronic Hepatitis C and HIV treatment. Supported by UNAIDS and WHO, a Project Management Unit to manage and coordinate the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria¹¹⁷ has been set up in Albania and is operational.

UNICEF supported revision of the legislative framework for Breast-Milk Substitutes marketing, the issuance of a Council of Ministers Decree¹¹⁸ on labelling, and a Minister of Health and Social Protection Order¹¹⁹ on education materials on Infant and Young Child Feeding. FAO reviewed the national institutional and legal framework of school food and nutrition, prompting government to launch implementation of a pilot

school food and nutrition programme in 20 elementary schools in five selected municipalities (Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Tirana and Vlorë) and improve the primary education curriculum with a health and nutrition component. UNICEF supported dissemination of key findings from the costing analysis of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) services, conducted in 2016, and facilitated consensus on further actions among key stakeholders.¹²⁰ A budgeting tool was developed in 2017 to inform the mid-term budgeting framework of financial resources needs for preventive MNCH services.

Contributing to further strengthening Albania's health sector data, implementation of Albania's Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2017–2018 started in 2017, supported by UNFPA, UNICEF, MoHSP, INSTAT, Institute of Public Health (IPH), SDC and other partners. UNICEF capacitated MoHSP and IPH in continuous monitoring of child nutrition status, based on administrative and DHS data, and quality assurance mechanisms through a special web-based data collection system and appropriate trainings, including on-the-job capacity building, for 44 health statistics personnel representing all twelve regions of the country. This experience was summarised in a technical paper on the status of the child nutrition monitoring system. Equally importantly, WHO supported the upcoming switch from ICD9 to ICD10 and preparation of a road map for implementation of ICD10 in 2018–2020, revision of birth and death certificates, training of

trainers (8 master trainers) and other ICD10-related trainings. Moreover, WHO completed a needs assessment of environment and national health indicators and conducted relevant trainings for environmental and health experts.¹²¹ FAO produced national targets and means of verification for national indicators related to SDG2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG5 (Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls). Three **assessments** were supported by WHO and UNFPA, providing recommendations for progress¹²² on (i) Management of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Primary Health Care (PHC) in Albania, (ii) Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses, and (iii) Cervical Cancer Control.

Through organisation of several trainings and workshops, IOM trained 60 national health professionals on indicators to identify and refer victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking. UNFPA supported the operationalisation of the Virtual Learning Platform in Family Planning where 93 professionals enrolled in 2017 and 100 PHC providers were trained in Shkodra, Tirana and Vlora. UNFPA enhanced humanitarian response preparedness by training 180 PHC providers in Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health¹²³ implementation in six districts in the north-east of the country. Through advocacy, UNFPA mobilised prisoners to increase uptake of voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services through informative sessions on Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV and AIDS, hepatitis and risky

behaviours and benefits of using VCT services, reaching 250 prisoners, 85 of whom underwent voluntary testing for HIV.

Throughout the year, UNICEF continued to support government in supplying childhood vaccines and antiretroviral medicines, in close interaction with UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen. Similarly, through International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) support, a **Linear Accelerator** (LINAC)¹²⁴ for cancer therapy was purchased for the Department of Oncology in the public Mother Theresa University Hospital Centre in Tirana. The cost of this device was partially covered by the government.¹²⁵ Moreover, three medical physicists from Mother Theresa Hospital were trained for several months in hospitals abroad to enhance their skills in treatment planning, commissioning, dosimetry and quality assurance of the radiotherapy therapy equipment. Similarly, UNFPA's continuous support in strengthening the cervical and breast cancer screening programme helped establish a suitable recruitment strategy for women eligible for screening, as well as an international certified training course in colposcopy.

Continuous awareness raising of health issues and advocacy of universal health coverage was the focus of several health-related days, conducted jointly by national partners and UN agencies, including days for Universal Health Coverage, World Antibiotic Awareness Week, Immunisation, Malaria, Blood Donation, TB, World No Tobacco, World Health, Road Safety Week, Mental Health, among others.

114. The strategy was consulted with partners in the event *The Albanian National Health Strategy 2016–2020 through the lenses of Universal Health Coverage*, held on Universal Health Coverage Day (December 12) by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in close cooperation with UN agencies.

115. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/albania/news/news/2017/03/viewing-the-albanian-national-health-strategy-through-the-lens-of-who-instruments-and-tools-for-health-policy-making> http://www.who.int/social_determinants/Health_sector_reorientation/en/

116. Follow up to IHR Joint External Evaluation 2016.

117. Ministry of Health and Social Protection is the principal recipient of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria grant for implementing the programme *Scaling up and ensuring sustainability of the national response to HIV/AIDS and TB among key populations*. The Global Fund programme will continue until 31 December 2019 and has a value of USD 5.8 million.

118. Order no. 116, dated 15.02.2017.

119. Order no. 179, dated 13.04.2017.

120. National and local level health authorities and UN agencies

121. Two or three experts from the Regional Directorates of Health and from the Regional Agencies of Environment, in each of the 12 counties.

122. Key recommendations: Encourage inter-sectoral community health interventions to tackle priority health determinants through an enhanced role for local health policy of municipal administrations and better integration of public health and primary health care; Revise scope and frequency of population-based check-up procedures, leaving only evidence-based, and increase accessibility to advanced diagnostic resources for, follow up of patients with diagnosed NCDs; Introduce mechanisms for internal quality improvement in Primary Health Care <http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/albania/news/news/2017/05/improving-the-role-of-primary-health-care-in-early-detection-and-management-of-noncommunicable-diseases-in-albania>

123. A priority set of life saving activities to be implemented at the onset of every humanitarian crisis.

124. <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/albania-enhances-radiotherapy-treatment-for-cancer-patients-with-iaea-support>

125. Costs of the LINAC amounted to Euro 1,519,970 of which the Government of Albania has contributed Euro 700,000 and the IAEA the remaining Euro 819,970.

Output 2.2 Education

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ SDG 4 launch enlisted Government's commitment to an equitable and quality education and lifelong learning for all
- ✓ National inclusive pre-school curricula framework and programme for teachers' professional development approved and preschool teachers' standards developed
- ✓ 66% Roma children (3-6 years) attended early learning in academic year 2016/2017 (23% in 2011)
- ✓ Mechanism for early identification and response to school drop-out is in place and successfully tested
- ✓ Education Policy Review recommended advancement in curriculum development and reform, ICT in education, teacher and school leadership policies
- ✓ Economic analysis "on the benefit to invest on Comprehensive Sexuality Education" provided recommendations for policy makers
- ✓ Study on "costs of non-investments in education" evidenced the importance of investing in education as a human right and condition for Albania's long term economic growth

The overall efforts made in the field of education are in line with Albania's aspirations to join the European family. Over the years, the legal and policy framework and practices are becoming more aligned with EU standards, intending to improve quality. Albania has achieved significant progress with almost universal enrolment in primary and lower secondary education¹²⁶ and made steady progress in education outcomes in all learning areas, such as in science, maths and reading, where Albanian children have outperformed their peers from many countries of the region (confirmed by PISA 2015 results¹²⁷). In addition to their academic achievements, PISA comparative analysis highlighted that Albanian children's sense of community belonging, well-being and resilience is very high and comparable to OECD countries. Reforms such as new curricula based on competences and schools as community centres, as well as massive teacher trainings, are already yielding results.

UN efforts to support education reform have been guided by SDG4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) and the Pre-University Education Development Strategy 2014–2020. Through the [launching event for SDG4](#)¹²⁸ in Albania, UNESCO and UNICEF advocated government commitment to equitable and qual-

ity education and lifelong learning for all. A national inclusive pre-school curriculum framework and programme for professional development of teachers was prepared and approved by MoESY in collaboration with UNICEF. Pre-school teachers' standards were developed and are now in the process of being approved by the ministry. Government, in collaboration with the Institute of Educational Development and UNESCO, developed a programme on Promotion of intercultural and interreligious understanding through education in Albania, introduced in school year 2017–2018, along with a teacher training programme piloted in ten schools in five counties of the country. Nonetheless, there is still room for improvement in development of an inclusive education system, enrolment of children and youth from ethnic and cultural minority backgrounds, as well as with special education needs, and increased access to quality pre-school education, among others.

Every Roma Child in Pre-school national initiative of MoESY and UNICEF achieved a visible increase in Roma children accessing early learning services: 66 percent of Roma children of age from 3–6 years attended early learning in the academic year 2016–2017 compared to 23 percent in 2011. A mechanism for early identification and response to school drop-out is in place, developed through UNICEF support and approved by MoESY after

126. Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development for Albania 2017–2021 <https://www.un.org.al/publications/programme-cooperation-sustainable-development-un-sustainable-development-framework-2017>

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

128. <https://www.un.org.al/news/albania-launches-sustainable-development-goal-4-education-2030-and-education-policy-review>



SDG 4 is vital to the attainment of all SDGs

successful testing in three municipalities: Berat, Korca and Tirana. A new definition of drop-out and absenteeism was developed and adopted by the ministry. Additionally, the multi-sector agreement on out-of-school children, supported by UNICEF, has continued to work nationally through a coordinated mechanism convening different sectors, and was tested locally in Durres and Elbasan. An innovative SMS system was developed to inform on steps each stakeholder or ministry should take as part of this agreement, with 1,900 stakeholders reached with more than 6,000 text messages, containing important milestones to be reached at each level of governance to ensure the full implementation of the out-of-school multi-sector agreement.

Sector policy has been informed through data and research, mainly from the [Education Policy Review report](#)¹²⁹ developed through UNESCO assistance, providing a series of recommendations to advance three policy domains: (i) curriculum development and reform, (ii) information and communication technologies in education, and (iii) teacher and school leadership policies. A study conducted by UNICEF on [the costs of non-investments in education](#)¹³⁰ provided evidence on the importance of investing in education as a human right and condition for long-term economic growth. UNFPA¹³¹ developed an economic analysis, On the benefit of investing in Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), including relevant recommendations for policy makers.

129. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002479/247993e.pdf>

130. https://www.unicef.org/albania/2017_ALB_Underinvestment_in_education-en.pdf

131. UNFPA support to MoESY with regard to CSE focused on (i) development of standards for teachers, (ii) improving teachers' capacities, (iii) expanding the intervention, (iv) advocating for CSE in the teacher training universities, and (v) introducing CSE into the universities' curricula.

BOX 2

Albania launches SDG4-Education 2030 and the Education Policy Review

A special event to highlight SDG4-Education 2030 and launch the Albania Education Policy Review was held in Tirana, Albania. The event, jointly organized by the Ministry of Education and Sport and the Institute for Educational Development of Albania in cooperation with UNESCO and UNICEF, was attended by Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Niko Peleshi, the Minister of Education and Sport, Hon. Lindita Nikolla and Mr Qian Tang, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education along with other education stakeholders. As well as promoting awareness of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG4-Education 2030, which aims to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all', the Education Policy Review was jointly presented by UNESCO and the Institute for Educational Development. The review analyses three key policy domains: curriculum development and reform; ICTs in education; and teacher and school leadership policies along with issues in each domain and makes actionable recommendations, together with indicative priorities.

Fostering a shared long term-vision

These recommendations include further professional development of teachers in order to implement curriculum reform in areas such as student assessment, meeting the needs of disadvantaged learners, and ICTs for educational purposes. Measures to raise the status of the teaching profession and to attract high quality applicants are also suggested. The report backs increased internet connectivity, especially in rural areas, and better online safety for children. UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education, Qian Tang, commended Albania for: "... fostering a shared, long-term vision for quality education and lifelong learning in Albania that leaves no one behind. The Education Policy Review is intended to support Albania through an evidence-based and analytical approach to education sector development that refers to international experience. Governments have the primary responsibility to deliver on SDG 4. UNESCO, in its role of leading and coordinating the Education 2030 agenda, is committed to supporting them".



UNESCO supported three trainings for teachers in 20 schools, piloting integration of religion and related issues and viewpoints into the curriculum of citizenship education, with 60 teachers trained.

School practices have improved through UNICEF-supported teacher training modules for inclusive education, accredited by MoESY and implemented in Durres, Gjirokastra, Shkodra and Tirana. Teacher training faculties of social sciences in Durres, Elbasan, Gjirokaster, Shkodra and Tirana committed to reflecting the philosophy of inclusive education in their work. Similarly, an Inclusive Education Teacher Profile, developed through UNICEF support, was approved and included in the MoEYS curriculum for head teacher training, aiming at an effective leadership of schools, and reached 360 school head teachers in 2017. Awareness raising and informative activities on how to identify and refer potential victims of trafficking were conducted in six schools of Albania (Diber, Durres, Elbasan, Korca, Kukes and Shkodra) in 2017, supported by IOM and reaching 180 teachers and 200 pupils.

UNESCO supported improvement of gender

practices in school through teacher training in the topic Inclusive Science Classroom: the Gender Issue, looking at how to redesign or adjust many existing classroom activities to better engage and sustain the interest of both girls and boys. The training featured participation of 40 teachers from primary and secondary education from five municipalities in Albania, and follow up included (i) establishment of a gender focal point in MoEYS, (ii) three teachers reporting using activities from the Ark of Inquiry portal and applying lessons learned from the training, including uploading their own activities in the Albanian language onto the portal for other teachers to make use of, and (iii) MoEYS indicating interest in this training being replicated in other municipalities. Also, UNESCO supported three trainings for teachers in 20 schools, piloting integration of religion and related issues and viewpoints into the curriculum of citizenship education, with 60 teachers trained.

Output 2.3 Social Inclusion and Protection

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ New Law on Social Housing and an Action Plan developed and approved
- ✓ "Social Pact for ImPact" enhanced Albania's social services municipal map with 70 new services
- ✓ 5 employment promotion measures and mediation services targeting R/E individuals designed and accessed by 361 R/E individuals
- ✓ 786 R/E individuals enjoyed improved access to basic services
- ✓ Over 1,200 R/E families (6,000 inhabitants) improved living conditions through community upgrading infrastructure projects
- ✓ 4 community centres operationalized and served 122 children
- ✓ New audio equipment provided for the Blind Students Institute, benefiting 68 students and the blind community in Albania
- ✓ A Mental Health Residential Center constructed in Korca
- ✓ Bylaws for the law on social care services are being developed

Government priorities to reduce poverty in the most vulnerable groups of society are set out in the Social Protection Strategy 2015–2020 and the cross-cutting Social Inclusion Policy Document 2016–2020, both in line with EU human rights standards for monitoring and measuring social inclusion across sectors. Adoption of the Law 'On Social Care Services' (November 2016) and Law 96/2017 'On the Protection of National Minorities in Albania' has laid the foundations for a system of integrated services to be planned and implemented at central and local levels, inclusive of all populations. Although Albania has made progress in the field of fundamental rights, credited to government increasing attention on policies tackling poverty and social exclusion, a large segment of the population remains vulnerable (14.3% of population)¹³² and lives close to the poverty line with poor education levels and limited employment opportunities in the formal market.

Certain vulnerable groups¹³³ continue to face difficult living conditions and often are subject

to limited access to services, with some 15,000 children with disabilities officially receiving a disability-related cash allowance from the state,¹³⁴ following a medical model that focuses mainly on children with severe disabilities, leaving out other categories.¹³⁵ Meanwhile, Roma people experience extremely high levels of unemployment, estimated at around 71 percent, compared to the population as a whole. Whereas three percent of Albanians have never attended school, the figure is 15 percent for Egyptians and 49 percent for Roma.¹³⁶ Considering that public spending on social inclusion programmes is modest, national authorities need support, both financial and technical, to shift from the design of policies to the implementation of social reforms.

The year 2017 saw the development and approval of a new law on Social Housing¹³⁷ and an Action Plan enabling local government to intervene through investments and local actions to upgrade and urbanise Roma neighbourhoods, as well as to improve the living conditions of

132. World Bank, 2014, Poverty headcount ratio at national level is 14.3% of the total population (2,876,591 inhabitants). The National Social Protection Strategy reports that 80,000 families benefit from the main poverty reduction scheme of cash assistance. The figure of 80,000 families fits with the total number of 400,000 persons living below the national poverty line (marginalised and vulnerable).

133. Roma and Egyptian communities, people with disabilities, internal migrants living in suburbs of big cities, returned migrants, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied children and elderly.

134. State Social Services Annual Report 2016 <http://www.sherbimisocial.gov.al/raporte/>

135. Rama, R. (2016) *Analysis of services for children with disabilities in Albania*. Save the Children in Albania.

136. Pre-university Education Strategy 2016–2020.

137. The Law is a comprehensive attempt to address many of the shortcomings in the field of housing and forced evictions as identified by international bodies with regard to Albania and to introduce several novel concepts including adequate housing and homelessness. The law is approved by the Council of Ministers and awaiting adoption by the Albanian Parliament, expected within 2018.



 PLAY VIDEO

R&E communities across the country, both supported by UNDP. Formulation of the action plan was based upon feasibility studies for social housing conducted in the municipalities of Durrës and Tirana, as well as countrywide assessments¹³⁸ on housing and living conditions of Roma and Egyptians. Moreover, UNDP and UNICEF assisted INSTAT¹³⁹ to upgrade its technology for data collection, disaggregation and analysis in the framework of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), which is crucial for informing the country's evidence-based policy and interventions in social protection and other sectors.


Another important accomplishment in this area

is the Social Pact for ImPact campaign, designed by the former MoSWY with UNICEF support, where 61 municipalities committed to implement the Law on Social Care Services and build necessary structures and systems according to the needs of various social categories, through the symbolic signing of a formal **Social Pact Commitment**.¹⁴⁰ The signing of the Social Pact enhanced Albania's social services municipal map, with 70 new services, benefiting in particular 27 municipalities of the country where no social services had previously been offered. Building in the political commitment created, UNICEF supported the work for development of by-laws for the law on social care services, expected to be finalised and approved in 2018.

138. The assessments evaluated the technical, urban, market, economic and social conditions in 18 municipalities to inform future implementation of affordable social housing programmes.

139. UNDP purchased 35 new laptops enabling INSTAT to conduct SILC fieldwork, and developed INSTAT's and relevant line ministries' institutional capacity on methodology and technology for data collection to perform SILC.

140. https://www.unicef.org/albania/Social_Pact_Report.pdf

 Roma Stories


PLAY VIDEO



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The government's reform actions for enhancing the access of R&E to quality public services received UNDP support to break the cycle of poverty within their communities. In cooperation with the National Employment Services, five employment promotion measures and mediation services targeting R&E individuals were designed and accessed to date by 361 such individuals residing in Berat, Durres, Shkodra and Tirana. Five R&E employment mediators and coaches were trained and placed within the National Employment Services. In the R&E community 786 individuals enjoy improved access to basic services, including civil registration, education, health and social care though the successful implementation of a **pilot model of integrated community-based social services**.¹⁴¹ Twenty R&E civil society organisations (CSOs) were supported through capacity building and grant schemes. The living conditions of more than 1,200 R&E families (approximately 6,000 individuals) were improved through community upgrading infrastructure projects.¹⁴²

The establishment of sustainable community

centres is another way to enhance social inclusion. Four community centres were established in the municipalities of Bulqize, Pogradec, Saranda and Shijak through UNDP¹⁴³ support, providing services to 100 children, 16 young people with disabilities and six children in need of after-school assistance, and having the capacity to also host other vulnerable groups such as victims of domestic violence and families in an emergency. Twenty-nine municipal professionals were capacitated in functional behaviour analysis and the autonomy of persons with disabilities through a three-day tailored training and two peer exchange study visits to Lushnje and Pogradec municipalities. Also, six associations of persons with disabilities were supported with micro-grants to implement projects aiming at strengthening their own capacities for (i) advocacy for disability rights, (ii) partnering and networking for the common cause, (iii) promoting the disability agenda, and (iv) influencing policy and decision making regarding their rights. In addition, 230 teachers and assistant teachers were introduced to the situation of children with disabil-

ities in the education system, while 210 people with disabilities benefited from quality awareness and training sessions and conferences.

Other UNDP support focused on equipping the audio-book laboratory of the Blind Students Institute with new high-accessibility hardware and software tools, enabling independent engagement of blind students in recording, editing and producing literature books in audio. Already benefiting are 68 students from the institute and the blind community across the country. Furthermore, UNDP supported a learning visit to the United States for two staff of the Institute with expertise in assistive technology, capacitating them in the systems designed to produce books in braille and on the practical aspect of configuring and setting up related tools and devices.

A Mental Health Residential Centre¹⁴⁴ was constructed in Korca County, helping the de-institutionalisation of people with mental health disorders already kept in the Psychiatric Hospital of Elbasan. WHO supported the capacity

development of eleven persons from fourteen staff in the operation of the centre, and donated equipment: a vehicle and two computers.

Further to approval of the Law 'On Social Enterprises', best practices were explored regarding the legal and financial mechanisms required for its implementation. In this regard, UN Women supported an exchange visit to Zagreb by an Albanian delegation composed of six high-level representatives of the former Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, former Ministry of Finance and former Ministry of Economy to explore Croatia's state support mechanisms to social enterprise start-ups, including approaches to social and economic re-integration of vulnerable categories of women and men, as well as EU funding modality opportunities. At the local level, the municipal governments¹⁴⁵ of Elbasan, Korca, Kukes and Tirana were trained in the concept of social enterprises as an effective mechanism to address vulnerability and promote social re-integration, with 2,000 people and civil society activists reached through four dedicated public campaigns.

141. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/-integrated-community-based-social-services-in-albania-to-address.html>

142. For example: construction of sewage systems, water supply, lighting, reconstruction of kindergarten crèches and other interventions in line with the needs and priorities of communities.

143. UNDP's specific assistance included rehabilitation of the facility and provision of furniture, equipment and teaching materials.

144. It accommodates twelve persons with mental health disorders: six women and six men. The individual care plan comprises rehabilitation, gain of functional independence, establishment of social interaction drive and skills and re-integration of people with mental health disorders.

145. Thirty-one members of Kukes Municipality and local NGO staff; 24 members of Elbasan Municipality and local NGOs; 30 members of Korca Municipality and local NGOs; 20 members of Tirana Municipality and local NGOs.

Output 2.4 Child Protection

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Law on Child Rights and Protection & Criminal Justice for Children Code adopted and sub-legislation is being developed
- ✓ Over 800 children at immediate/high risk or affected by severe abuse, neglect, violence identified and assisted
- ✓ National Child Helpline AL0116 aided 200 children in distress
- ✓ Situation Analysis on Children with Disabilities is being developed
- ✓ Situation Analysis on the Prevention of Child Maltreatment in Albania and the Way Forward published

Children in Albania experience various forms of violence and exploitation at home, school and in the community. Among children, 41.5 percent and six percent, respectively, have been abused physically or sexually at least once during their childhood.¹⁴⁶ One-in-five children in school report that they are subject to verbal bullying.¹⁴⁷ Exposure to cyber-violence and sexual abuse is also high, documented by a 2017 survey¹⁴⁸ with children of age 13–18 years pointing out that bullying, password theft and unintentional pornography viewings happen every day to 45 percent of children participating in the survey, while 47 percent of children were contacted through the Internet by unknown adults. UN latest studies showed that 7.75 percent of Albanian children of age 5–17 years are engaged in some type of economic activity¹⁴⁹ and 2,000–2,500 children are connected to the street by living or working, or both.¹⁵⁰ As Albania lacks a comprehensive integrated national child protection system interventions in this area are driven by NGOs and are mostly inefficient, overlapping, issue-based and fragmented.¹⁵¹ High expectations are associated

with Albania's political aspirations to strengthen the rule of law and (child) rights protection as critical milestones along the path to EU membership.

Throughout 2017, UNICEF advocated, technically supported and facilitated national consensus building and parliamentary engagement on child protection issues. Benefiting from the active collaboration of the Parliamentary Group Friends of Children, government and civil society, the Law on Child Rights and Protection and the Criminal Justice for Children Code were both passed in 2017. Even closer cooperation with civil society partners and development agencies is envisioned in 2018 and beyond around implementation of these laws. Re-establishment of the Parliamentary Group Friends of Children in the newly elected Parliament, following the June elections, was an important milestone and a sign of sustainability in this area. Moreover, MoHSP and the Ministry of Justice were assisted by UNICEF in development of the necessary set of sub-legislation through engaging local expertise of Tirana Le-

146. Qirjako G. et al. (2013) *Community survey on prevalence of adverse childhood experiences in Albania*. WHO.

147. Dragoti, M., & Ismaili, E. (2017) *National Survey on Bullying and Violent Extremism in the Education System of Albania*. Tirana: Council of Europe <https://rm.coe.int/albania-study-report-on-bullying-egn/1680732872>

148. World Vision (2015) *A study into child online safety in Albania*. Tirana. The report can be accessed at: <http://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Internet%20Safety%20OK.pdf>

149. INSTAT & ILO (2013) *Working children in the Republic of Albania*. The report can be accessed at: <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=21295>

150. UNICEF (2014) *National study on children in street situations*. http://www.unicef.org/albania/NationalStudy-children_in_street_situation-June2014.pdf

151. Lai, A. (2016) *Future of an Integrated Child Protection System in Albania*. Tirana: Council of Europe.



Protecting children stands at the core of our work

gal Aid Society, TLAS. Drafting of the sub-legislation is currently ongoing and it is anticipated that at least 20 sub-legal acts will be ready in early 2018.

As a key contributor in this area, UNICEF regards the capacity gap in the child protection workforce as one of the most pressing priorities for the building of a child protection system. Therefore, significant technical support has been provided to the State Agency on Child Rights and Protection following a twin format with UNICEF providing a direct technical advisory role in the preparation of the Children's Agenda 2020 document while sub-contracted local CSOs support capacity building efforts of the child protection workforce at the local lev-

el. Some key local results, implemented by local NGO ARSIS (*Organizatë Shoqërore e Përkrahjes së të Rinjve*) in six administrative units of Tirana Municipality and the municipalities of Devoll and Diber, include: 285 children at immediate or high risk, or already affected by severe abuse, neglect or violence, or both, were identified and assisted directly by the ARSIS mobile teams; and 465 children¹⁵² in vulnerable situation and 515 cases¹⁵³ with at least one form of VAC were identified and support was provided through a multi-disciplinary set of services.¹⁵⁴ Face-to-face mentoring of 114 members of the child protection workforce took place along with 965 instances of online professional technical support and thirteen technical workshops provided by the ARSIS technical team to child

152. 230 girls and 235 boys, among them 273 Roma and 118 Egyptians, as well as 32 children with disabilities.

153. Of which 238 children were identified in a street situation and 277 children through community work.

154. Psycho-social, food, medical, personal hygiene, shower, laundry, non-formal education, school follow up, reinforcement classes, administrative and legal support, case management, child development through, e.g. sports, entertainment and citizenship education.



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Celebrating children's day in Durres

protection workers in the field, mainly for the new child protection protocol utilisation and referral mechanisms. Similarly, IOM capacitated the Child Protection Units (CPUs) on identification, reporting and referring of vulnerable groups and victims of trafficking, as well as unaccompanied minors. Six workshops were organised with the Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees in Diber, Durres, Elbasan, Korca,

Kukes and Shkodra with participation of 27 professional staff from CPUs.

Equally importantly, Tirana Municipality, in partnership with UNICEF (through ARSIS), managed a unique day-care and emergency centre for vulnerable children and women—House of Colours—a multi-functional service in Tirana offering 24/7 support and, if needed,

placed in the emergency shelter, 199 children in conflict or contact with the law were assisted directly in six police stations, and 123 children in a street situation were assisted directly by the emergency team.

Throughout 2017, the National Child Helpline ALO116 aided children in distress with UNICEF support: 34,654 calls were recorded with the majority being test calls or children requesting general information or guidance, though more than 200 calls were cases of child abuse and violence, which were directly reported and followed up by the ALO116 team. Nearly 15,000 pupils and more than 500 teachers were reached countrywide by the ALO116 team, informing them of the importance of reporting child abuse and violence. ALO116 has started a significant process of re-assessing its current operating business model, aiming to make it more efficient and cost-effective and to gradually become a state-funded service, legally supported under the recently adopted Law on Child Rights and Protection.

New impetus to intensify the work for inclusion of children with disabilities was catalysed by UNICEF through initiating the work for conducting a situation analysis on Children with Disabilities, to be finalised in 2018. Likewise, WHO published [Situation Analysis on the Prevention of Child Maltreatment in Albania and the Way Forward](#)¹⁵⁵ and strengthened monitoring and evaluation capacities of central and regional health institutions on the use of ICD10 for coding and reporting indicators, with eight master's trainers from INSTAT, IPH, MoHSP, UHC and 60 representatives from various institutions.¹⁵⁶

emergency response and shelter to survivors of violence (mainly children and women). As a result of this partnership, 201 children were

155. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/violence-and-injuries/publications/2016/situation-analysis-on-the-prevention-of-child-maltreatment-in-albania-the-way-forward-2016>

156. Health Insurance Fund, Civil Registration Office (Ministry of Interior), Mother Theresa University Hospital Centre, Institute of Public Health, Directorates of Public Health in Berat, Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Korca, Lezha, Mat, Shkodra, Tirana and Vlora; Regional Hospitals in Berat, Diber, Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Korca, Lezha, Shkodra and Vlora.

Output 2.5 Gender-Based Violence

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Community Coordinated Response mechanisms operationalized in 60.6% of municipalities
- ✓ Recommendations provided to 8 Codes/Laws to comply fully with CEDAW and Istanbul Convention
- ✓ Parliament passed a resolution on violence against women
- ✓ Network of 41 CSOs established to monitor/advocate implementation of international HR obligations
- ✓ Model of "specialist support services for victims of sexual violence" developed
- ✓ Increased public sensitivity to Gender-based Violence - 4,543 reported cases in 2017 (3,725 in 2016)
- ✓ A 24/7 emergency shelter "House of Colors" sheltered 201 child survivors of violence
- ✓ Albania was one of 6 selected countries globally to pilot SDG Indicator 5.6.2

Violence against Women (VAW) remains one of the most pervasive forms of violence in Albania. Latest data (2013) show the prevalence of GBV to be 59.4 percent and more than half of Albanian women of age 15–49 years have experienced at least one form of domestic violence in their life. However, only 15 percent of survivors report seeking help from institutions, with the majority of women seeking protection from family networks. The costs and consequences of domestic and other forms of violence against women and children are significant and it cuts across all socio-economic groups and educational strata. The **2017 GREVIO baseline report for Albania**¹⁵⁷ provides a comprehensive road map for implementation of international obligations¹⁵⁸ in relation to VAW, aiming at full compliance with the Istanbul Convention. In response to the situation on VAW in the country and pursuant to the recommendations of international bodies, Parliament unanimously voted for a **resolution**¹⁵⁹ on condemning VAW, calling on responsible central and local authorities to take concrete actions in effectively implementing the legislation for prevention and elimination of VAW. The recent developments and the current needs in this area call for accel-



PLAY VIDEO

erated efforts towards implementation of the legislative and policy framework on VAW.

Equally importantly under this output is the phenomenon of child marriage, a harmful practice that is still present in Albania. Ten percent of children are married before the age of 18 years, and girls are eight times more likely than boys to be married or in a union. Three percent of adolescent girls have given birth and of these, only eight percent continue with their education, thereby reducing their chances of an independent, healthy and financially stable life as adults, and increasing their vulnerability to GBV. The UNFPA study *Child Marriage in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Regional*

*Overview*¹⁶⁰ places Albania in a more serious situation than other countries in the CEE/CIS region, with a prevalence of 27.2 percent.¹⁶¹ Child marriage remains an understudied area, with lack of available data, challenging the government to address the issue through appropriate policy and legal measures. This prompted the UN CEDAW Committee to recommend that "Albania prohibit all harmful practices, including child marriage and to raise public awareness on its negative impact" in its concluding observations issued to Albania in July 2016. In addressing child marriage, MoSWY, UNFPA and UNICEF commissioned a study of knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of the phenomenon, supported by the government of Sweden, that is expected to deliver fundamental knowledge, enrich the evidence base and guide a more tailored programmatic response in the country.

Addressing GE and GBV challenges, through joined efforts with Parliament and the former Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MoSWY), UNDP proposed concrete recommendations for eight codes and laws¹⁶² related to gender equality and GBV, bringing them in full compliance with CEDAW and the CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Comprehensive provisions on the rights of victims of crimes, including victims of GBV, sexual violence and human traffick-

ing, were included in the recent amendments to the Albanian Code of Criminal Procedure¹⁶³ and the Free Legal Aid law.¹⁶⁴ This engendered legal review benefited from a comprehensive consultation forum organised jointly by the parliamentary sub-committee on Juvenile Affairs, Gender Equality and Domestic Violence and the former MoSWY, supported by UNDP, voicing the commitment and support of government, Parliament and other relevant stakeholders in mainstreaming gender in the legislative review process, part of the justice sector reform.

In early 2017, government submitted the national report to GREVIO, the preparation of which was supported by UN Women with additional technical expertise from UNDP and UNFPA. Throughout 2017, UN agencies actively disseminated the recommendations from the GREVIO baseline report to government authorities at the national and local levels and to CSOs, raising awareness on the flagged issues, as well as sharing best practices and relevant actions needed for effective institutional multi-disciplinary response. An action plan for implementation of the recommendations was prepared by MoHSP with UN Women technical support. In December, supported by UN Women¹⁶⁵ and UNDP, Parliament passed a resolution on violence against women, calling for establishment of a permanent parliamentary subcommittee of the Committee on Social Is-

160. <http://eeca.unfpa.org/publications/child-marriage-eastern-europe-and-central-asia-regional-overview>

161. Rates of officially registered marriages involving girls aged 15–19 were highest in Albania (27.2%), Turkey (23%), and Kyrgyzstan (19.1%), and lowest in Kazakhstan (0.9%), Ukraine (2.2%), and Serbia (5.9%). Among certain minority groups, principally Roma in South-East Europe and Ukraine, rates of child marriage are known to be much higher than among the general population. For instance, MICS data from Serbia indicate that among Roma in that country, 44 percent of girls of age 15–19 years were married or in union, of whom 14 percent had married before the age of 15.

162. Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania; On the execution of the Criminal Decisions as amended; Juvenile Justice Code; On the Probation Services; Civil Code of the Republic of Albania; Criminal Procedural Code of the Republic of Albania; On the rights and treatment of prisoners and detainees; On the prevention and combating of organised crime, trafficking and corruption through preventive measures against property.

163. Adopted in May 2017 and entered into force on August 1, 2017.

164. Adopted in December 2017 and entering into force in June 2018.

165. UN Women provided some important recommendations and lobbied to expand the scope of the resolution, not only on domestic violence as initially planned but also on all forms of violence, as well as make reference in the resolution to the CEDAW and GREVIO recommendations.

157. <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-first-baseline-report-on-albania/16807688a7>

158. It addresses concerns related to VAW and domestic violence (DV), including among others the need to challenge prevalent stereotypes and increase awareness among populations that violence against women and girls should not be tolerated under any circumstances, and to effectively tackle all forms of VAW and against girls, including child and forced marriage, sexual harassment and sexual violence and calls on the responsible state bodies to improve the relevant legislation.

159. <https://www.parlament.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/rezolute-kunder-dhunes-ne-familje-dt-4-12-2017.pdf>

BOX 3

Expert's take: Civil society has the potential to play a major role in ending violence against women

On the morning of August 19, the first piece of news that grabbed my attention was that of a 53-year-old woman killed by her husband in the village of Fier, Albania. She was working their land when her husband hit her with the tool she was using. The next day, there was another case of domestic violence in Elbasan: the perpetrator happened to be a former Member of the Albanian Parliament, who threatened to kill his ex-partner. The following day, in the suburbs of Tirana, a man killed his wife before committing suicide. The lack of public reaction to this wave of violence against women was almost as disheartening as the violence itself. The regularity of the media coverage turned these events into a mundane fact of life, like the unrelenting heat of August.

But there was no end to the heartbreaking succession of news. Only a few days later, a 39-year-old judge was shot dead by her ex-husband in Tirana. This time, however, there was an immediate outcry in the mainstream and social media. There were strong statements from high-level politicians, public figures, civil society representatives and international organizations, condemning the violence against women in Albania. The case became prominent because it shed light on the problems in the Albanian justice system. The ex-husband had physically abused and threatened the judge on a previous occasion, and served time for domestic violence and the unlawful possession of weapons. He was, however, given a light sentence and was released early thanks to a general amnesty.

Normally, few cases of violence against women receive this kind of attention. Almost three out of five Albanian women aged 15 to 49 have experienced domestic violence: 58 per cent of women reported experiencing psychological violence at some point in their marriage and/or intimate relationship and 23.7 per cent reported being victims of physical violence. In 2016, close to a quarter of people murdered in Albania were victims of domestic violence. However, the number of cases reported to law enforcement agencies remains low. From January to June 2017, 2,035 cases of domestic violence were reported to the Albanian state police. However, as a result of awareness-raising activities, the number of reported cases has increased over the years.

While the Government has made efforts to address the problem, violence against women remains prevalent in Albania. Further legal changes are needed, as well as significant investment in human and financial resources in the justice, police, health and social services sectors. Women under protection orders need to feel safe and effectively protected. The impunity of perpetrators should end and violation of protection orders should not be tolerated. Government officials also need to understand that gender-based violence in Albania will not decrease without a strong civil society and should use the opportunity to benefit from both the technical support and oversight that civil society organizations can provide.



issues on Gender Equality and End of Violence against Women and urgent action of government to implement several priority measures to address the phenomenon. Equally importantly, MoHSP, with UNDP support, led the process of improving the Law 'On Measures against Violence in Family Relations', to be adopted by Parliament in 2018, aiming at stronger harmonisation of domestic violence definition and other provisions with the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW.

To monitor and advocate for implementation of international human rights obligations¹⁶⁶ in the area of VAW,¹⁶⁷ a network of around 41 CSOs working on gender equality and ending violence against women was established, supported by UN Women. The network's purpose is to increase the accountability of government institutions to fulfil their obligations and intensify efforts in this area. Furthermore, a strong civil society is a key requirement of Albania's EU accession process. In addressing other forms of violence, the Albanian State Police, former MoSWY, UN Women, UNDP and other partners engaged in the development of a model of specialist support services for victims of sexual violence in accordance with the Istanbul Convention will guide the legal and policy amendments required to provide this missing service to women and girls across Albania.

Significant steps were taken, supported by UNDP, in strengthening the institutional response to preventing and fighting VAW at both central and local levels. Improvements were noted in the tracking, reporting and addressing of violence against women and children through (i) establishment of four new Community Coordinated Response (CCR) mechanisms in Himara, Klos, Mallakstra and Tepelena

166. Istanbul Convention, GREVIO recommendations, CEDAW concluding observations, UPR recommendations.

167. <https://rrjetikunderdhunesgjinore-monitorime.al/>

and strengthening of existing CCRs in twelve municipalities (Bulqize, Burrel, Diber, Erseka, Gjirokaster, Kavaja, Kruja, Patos, Permet, Perrenjas, Roskovec and Saranda), and (ii) capacity development of 73 local GBV coordinators from all municipalities in tracking cases through the [national online tracking system](#)¹⁶⁸ and evidencing the assistance provided to GBV victims. Attributed to solid collaboration (60.6% of municipalities with established CCRs), there is an increased level of awareness of the presence of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence (GB-DV), evidenced by an upward trend in reported cases, with 4,537 cases reported to the state police in 2017 compared to 94 cases in 2005. Nearly 600 GB-DV cases were recorded in the national online tracking mechanism (Recording Violence in Albania, REVALB) handled by CCR members during 2017 compared to 545 in 2015.

Throughout 2017, UNDP supported the state-run National Shelter for Domestic Violence Victims to improve focus on adoption of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes with both state and non-state service providers, with nearly 51.5 percent of GB-DV victims (17 women) successfully integrated through employment and 30.7 percent (13 women) through social housing, compared to 14.2 percent employed in 2014 (3 women).

With the objective of informing all GBV support interventions with field data, UNDP engaged in the second study of *Fjalë Burri*¹⁶⁹ on involving men and boys in Albania, focused on the counties of Diber and Durrës. The feedback from 694 boys and girls and 723 parents resulted in two main findings: (1) the reiterated need to

continue engaging adolescent boys and young men as allies to achieving gender equality and as supporters of women and girls' empowerment, and (2) the highlighted importance of understanding and addressing the specific needs and vulnerabilities of boys and men themselves in the context of GBV issues. The study findings serve to inform future national campaigns and actions of the relevant state institutions and stakeholders.

UNICEF's support to eliminate all forms of violence, especially against children and young women, cuts across several outputs of PoCSD 2017–2021. Programmatic interventions focus on the overall capacity building of the front-line professionals—such as child protection workers, police officers and others—in six municipal units in Tirana, as well as in Devoll and Diber. Furthermore, maintaining and supporting the 24/7 emergency shelter House of Colours for children and women, survivors of violence and those at immediate or high risk is another intervention carried out in 2017, resulting in the sheltering of 201 child survivors of violence (cross-reported under output 2.4).

UNFPA advocates for a multi-sectoral response to GBV. In 2017, it targeted the health-care response through finalisation of essential guidelines, standard operating procedures and a road map for implementation in 2018. UNFPA also assisted the Faculty of Technical Medical Sciences to integrate GBV into the curriculum. Additionally, UNFPA supported the piloting in Albania of *SDG Indicator 5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women of age 15–49 years access to sexual and*

168. REVALB <https://www.revalb.org>

169. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/fjale-burri.html>



reproductive health care, information and education. Albania is one of six countries selected globally by UNFPA to carry out this process. A report was prepared and validated by a group of technical experts from CSOs, INSTAT, IPH, MoHSP and UN agencies (UNICEF and WHO). Policy dialogue shaped the preparation of the Albanian National Health Strategy 2016–2020, supported by WHO with involvement of 17 experts from CSOs, IPH, MoHSP and UN agencies who drove the process and its final adoption in May 2017.

Several government-led nationwide campaigns and activities¹⁷⁰ for increasing knowl-

edge of citizens on ending violence against women, supported by UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women, reached more than 10,000 people in person and more than 1,000,000 people through social and local media, and produced more than 1,000 awareness-raising materials and more than ten video reportages. Other initiatives, such as lighting the Municipality of Tirana Clock Tower, had a direct impact on the target groups,¹⁷¹ as well as the communities at large. Meanwhile, several advocacy platforms, including youth voice, media and CSO networks, were capacitated towards addressing GBV and harmful practices, SDGs and ICPD.

170. Examples include the campaign under the slogan *End violence against women and girls* in the frame of 16 Days of Activism against GBV.

171. Boys and girls, men and women, people with disabilities, religious communities, media, etc.

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Challenges

Challenges **Output 2.1 Health**

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

Output 2.2 Education

Translating policies and legislative reforms into improved classroom practices remains the main challenge in this sector. In this regard, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF efforts are focused on enabling teachers and schools to adopt new child-centred and inclusive methodologies. Equally importantly, the sector needs investments in line with the OECD and countries in the region to ensure achievement of SDG4 and national education goals. Investment should focus on the many priority areas already identified, such as pre-school, an inclusive education system that responds to the need of all learners, teacher training and school practices. UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF have conducted studies on the investments required and are advocating with MoEYS and government for increased and more efficient investments in education. While there still exists lack of clarity among central and local governments on how to handle responsibilities handed over to local government (e.g. pre-school education), UNICEF has provided technical assistance and models from other countries serving to mitigate this challenge.

Output 2.3 Social Inclusion and Protection

In this area the main challenge remains the inadequate financial and human resources to implement social reform actions at both central and local levels. UN agencies will work with municipalities to build the structures required by the law on social care services and develop the needed capacities. Meanwhile, lack of data and identification of positive effects of the decision-making processes at LGUs remain concerns that will be addressed by UN agencies through establishment of good partnerships and networks, and development of monitoring tools to evaluate progress.

Output 2.4 Child Protection

The main challenges identified in this area and tackled by the UN throughout 2017 include (i) delays in implementation of the new legal requirements and development of secondary legislation due to parliamentary elections and restructuring of governmental institutions, (ii) substantial capacity gaps in the child protection workforce and lack of children-oriented services at the municipal level that have been partially addressed by engaging local CSOs to work on an ad hoc basis in addressing a variety of issues and often providing services themselves, (iii) weak M&E capacities at central and regional levels, and (iv) a fragmented health information system and under-capacitated health professionals on the prevention of child maltreatment.

Output 2.5 Gender-Based Violence

The area of GBV was overshadowed by the Justice Reform in 2017. While substantial UN support has been provided towards improving the legal framework in compliance with the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW standards, there remains a pressing need for coordinated multi-sectoral support and tailored services at both central and local levels. Additionally, lack of financial resources to implement activities that address GBV, including those in the National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE) 2016–2020, remained a challenge in 2017.

Way Ahead

Way Ahead 2018–2019 **Output 2.1 Health**

WHO will support implementation and monitoring of the National Health Strategy 2016–2020 and Non-communicable Diseases Action Plan, with evaluation of the latter. Actions will be initiated to reduce food marketing pressure on children and promote product reformulation, consumer-friendly labelling and nutrient profiling tools that facilitate a healthy choice. A Cervical Cancer Screening Programme will be established and country capacities developed for strict and responsible implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Implementation of ICD10, as well as drafting and implementation of a feasible national action plan on antimicrobial resistance, will be the focus of WHO work in 2018.

UNICEF's interventions will focus on children's right to health, through advancing the policy and regulatory frameworks, costing, analysis and design of financing mechanisms that ensure universal health coverage, and the health information system, aligned with international measurement standards for monitoring health and nutrition outcomes. To expand application of the new Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) regulatory framework, national and regional health authorities will be capacitated for improved data collection and analysis, budgeting and resource allocation, and enhanced performance monitoring of MNCH service providers. Home visits and other outreach forms will enable health-care professionals to identify and prioritise children and families in difficult life circumstances. Health-care professionals will be accountable to interact with national child protection actors and mechanisms on spotted incidences of child neglect, maltreatment or abuse, being attentive to early identification of developmental delays and disabilities. MoHSP will be supported in procurement of vaccines for the national immunisation programme and antiretroviral medicines. UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action will be promoted to leverage national and local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans and policies, given the country's susceptibility to natural disasters.

UNFPA's focus will be on reducing inequalities in sexual and reproductive health and rights with attention paid to young people and the most vulnerable and marginalised through (i) generating data for evidence-based policy advice, informing health-care reform focused on service delivery in primary health care, and reaching out to women and girls, Roma and Egyptian, the elderly, adolescents and youth, ii) strengthening mechanisms for monitoring the quality of integrated SRH services, iii) development and adoption of rights-based clinical guidelines, protocols and standards for provision of integrated SRH services, iv) institutionalisation of new SRH and rights training curricula for health providers that integrate principles and standards of human rights and gender equality, v) strengthening preparedness of national response mechanisms in delivering SRH services in humanitarian crises and emergencies, including services for adolescents, and (vi) advocacy and support for partnerships between government and non-government institutions to promote reproductive rights and empowerment of women, and reduce inequalities in SRH.

IAEA will continue to support prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer with the goal of improved overall survival and quality of life through (i) continuing human resource capacity building and training of medical staff to ensure effective, secure and precise cancer care, (ii) upgrading and improving utilisation of existing medical equipment (e.g. brachytherapy machine), (iii) introduction of newer or more sophisticated therapy and diagnostic techniques aiming to improve treatment of cancer patients to levels available in EU countries.

FAO will support preparation and implementation of a national school food and nutrition (SFN) programme aim-

ing to prevent malnutrition and undernutrition of primary school children through (i) analysing the feasibility of engagement of local producers and private sector stakeholders in supply, provision and procurement of foods for selected primary schools in Albania, (ii) assessing nutritional status and nutrition-related knowledge, attitudes and practices of school-age children in Albania, and (iii) preparing an action plan for SFN project implementing design.

Output 2.2 Education

Guided by SDG4, UN agencies IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF will support MoESY in translating the strategic direction of the Pre-University Education Development Strategy (2014–2020) and NSDI 2015–2020 into concrete measures for ensuring an equitable and quality education system for all, increasing access to education, improving the quality of education provision, and strengthening governance of the education sector. These collective efforts will feed into the evaluation of the current Pre-University Education Development Strategy and enable a closer alignment of the next strategy in the sector with SDG4: Education 2030.

UNESCO's education policy review and relevant 2018 activities will support (i) the process of alignment of Albania's future strategy for education with SDGs and EU accession targets, (ii) capacitation of teachers to implement a new module within democratic citizenship curricula on intercultural and interreligious dialogue through the programme 'Promotion of intercultural and interreligious understanding through education in Albania', (iii) expansion of the EU-funded project Ark of Inquiry to Albania, ensuring that selected Albanian science teachers are trained in how to apply the Inquiry cycle in the classroom, with special focus on empowering girls in science, (iv) development of Albania's pedagogical skills in using ICT, and of school leadership, and (v) conducting of a situation analysis of SDG4 implementation in the country, identifying progress and gaps, including analysis of data on education financing.

UNICEF's interventions will aim at strengthening inclusive education practices in schools, guided by the vision of a transformed education system that responds to the diversity of learners, including children with disabilities, by enhancing the quality of education. Such an approach will be embedded in a framework for inclusive education to be embraced by Albania in line with General Comment Number 4 for Article 24, on Inclusive Education, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNICEF will also support (i) improvement of systems at the national and local level for identification and integration of out-of-school children and reduction of dropping out in three municipalities in Albania, ii) implementation of a teacher-driven scheme for professional development in, and development of a tool for monitoring and assessing, pre-school education, (iii) investing in teacher training and communication for behaviour change for a non-violent school, and (iv) a national curriculum review and assessment of the evaluation and assessment system of the country.

UNFPA will support completion of teacher standards on CSE, expanding CSE nationwide, and advocating for CSE to be included in the Universities of Education.

UNFPA will support completion of teacher standards on CSE, expanding CSE nationwide, and advocating for CSE to be included in the Universities of Education.

Way Ahead

Way Ahead 2018–2019

Output 2.3 Social Inclusion and Protection

UNDP will focus on strengthening MoHSP's monitoring of implementation of the Social Inclusion Policy Document 2016–2020 and cooperation with responsible government agencies through (i) establishment of an inter-ministerial mechanism with clear impact monitoring and social inclusion data reporting roles, (ii) enabling LGUs to provide specific social inclusion measures and social care services that benefit the most vulnerable people, particularly those with disabilities and Roma and Egyptians, and (iii) targeting local organisations of people with disabilities and Roma and Egyptians to better demand the services to which they are entitled.

UNICEF will focus on (i) ensuring establishment of proper coordination mechanisms between cash assistance and social care services for poor or vulnerable families to receive social protection entitlements, (ii) enabling availability of tools to plan, budget, monitor and enforce social protection service delivery through development of secondary legislation for the Law on Social Care Services (adopted in 2016) and proper standards and protocols for community care services, (iii) developing and implementing innovative approaches to capacity building for local authorities to be equipped with necessary tools and skills (critical for establishment and management of the Social Fund), and iv) strengthening of national social protection Management Information System (MIS) to regularly collect disaggregated data on children and families in particularly vulnerable situations, including data on access to social care services for the first time. Currently, work is under way, in collaboration with INSTAT, to understand how the EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) data, to be released in 2018, can be further disaggregated and analysed so that better data on child poverty and different monetary and non-monetary deprivations are made public and can inform policy decisions in social protection and other sectors.

UN Women will support an enabling environment for development of social enterprises, aiming at social and economic reintegration of vulnerable categories. Social enterprise start-up will be promoted at the national level in line with government's social reintegration programme. Moreover, local planning and budgeting of social services will be supported, taking stock of good practices from the participatory processes established from 2014–2016.

Output 2.4 Child Protection

UNICEF's support to government and the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection will focus on finalising and implementing the revised architecture of the national child protection system, with well-defined accountabilities at central and local levels, ensuring clarity of roles across all sectors and alignment with reforms in health, education, social protection and justice. Decentralised elements of the system will be sustained and expanded, optimising the experience of community-based child protection units and workers, and ensuring that municipalities are equipped to deliver on their child protection responsibilities. A child's right to a caring and supportive family environment will be addressed along with facilitation of the reunification of children living in residential state institutions with their biological families, as well as increased access to alternative family-based care services. WHO will contribute to an Assessment of the status and determinants of Child Maltreatment in Albania, to better inform the effective implementation of the National Action Plan for Child and Family Social Services (Deinstitutionalisation Plan) and strengthen coordination with all key stakeholders for its implementation.

Output 2.5 Gender-Based Violence

The efforts of UN agencies IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO will aim at contributing to the overall goal of eliminating violence against women and children through supporting its adoption and reform and implementation of laws, by-laws, policies and strategies to respond to and prevent violence against women, girls and children, including victims of trafficking. Specific interventions include: (i) new qualitative accessible services and reintegration programmes, (ii) building resilience through establishment of networks of mutual support, (iii) strengthening capacities of key ministries and LGUs to regularly review, reform and efficiently implement legislation, normative standards and policies to End Violence Against Women, including victims of trafficking in partnership with the media and CSOs, and (iv) consolidating the multi-sectoral response and referral mechanisms for GBV victims, including adoption and dissemination of Standard Operational Procedures and provision of livelihood opportunities for women survivors of violence, contributing towards the standards of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW. Awareness raising of women, men, boys and girls in communities and of professionals, and involvement of religious communities will serve prevention purposes. All major interventions will be guided by existing evidence, along with relevant knowledge generation exercises, and contribute to implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and its Action Plan (2016–2020) and all other relevant strategies targeting vulnerable women and girls.

OUTCOME 3

Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture

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

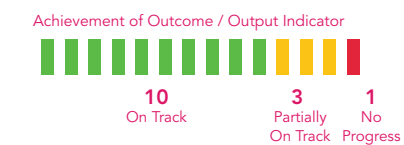
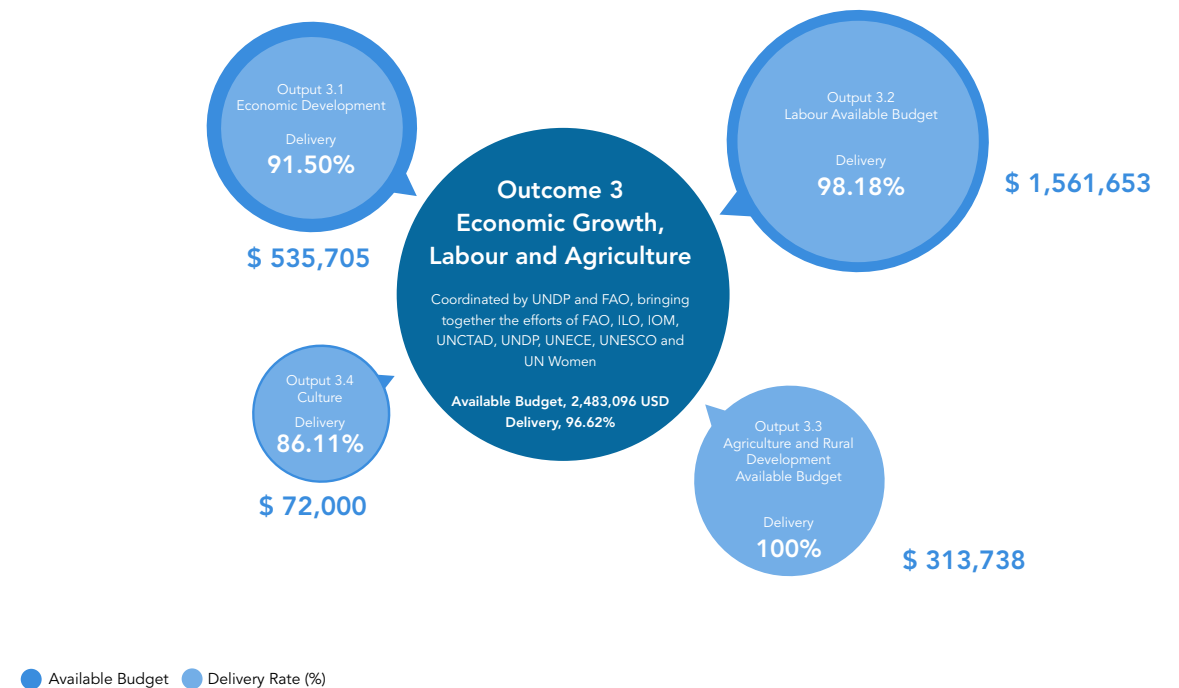
This outcome supports the Government of Albania in achieving four priorities of NSDI 2015–2020: 1) EU membership, 2) Growth through increased competitiveness, 3) Investing in people and social cohesion, and 4) Growth through sustainable resources and territorial development. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12, and EU integration chapters and priority areas 8, 11, 13, 18, 19, 20 and 26.

The total available budget for implementation of Outcome 3 in 2017 was USD 2.5 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Austria, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland, the EU and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung fund. **The outcome delivery was 96.62%.**



Providing opportunities for unemployed youth

United Nations in Albania interventions at the local level aim towards effective, gender-responsive, fiscally sustainable and accountable delivery of public services. For a quick look at our presence in all Albanian Municipalities, [Please click here](#)





Output 3.1 Economic Development

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Competition Authority drafted Regulation on Party Commitments and simplified Notification Regime for identified categories of concentration in line with EU regulations
- ✓ Road Safety National Performance Review recommended measures to improve Albania's road safety management system
- ✓ A set of 3 legal and policy measures endorsed to promote and strengthen women entrepreneurs
- ✓ Program document "Policies Promoting Employment and Income Security for Women through Inclusive Growth policies and Investments in the Care Economy" developed to promote women's access to decent employment
- ✓ 51 private companies committed to apply gender principles in their practices
- ✓ Preparation of a Farmer's Register for Baldushk is underway to help development of rural policies
- ✓ 15 farmers benefited grants to enlarge their greenhouses and productivity
- ✓ A family farm identified to be transformed into a demonstration farm

With a gross national per capita income of USD 10,252 (2011 PPP), Albania is an upper middle-income country in the high human development category.¹⁷² In recent years, the country has maintained growth rates and rebuilt fiscal buffers. Albania's economic outlook is expected to further improve over the medium term, projected at 3.5 percent for 2017–18 and expected to increase to 3.8 percent in 2019, driven by private investments and private consumption.¹⁷³ As the economy continues to accelerate and labour markets improve, further gains in poverty reduction are expected. The 2017 Gender Gap Index ranks Albania 38th out of 144 countries, a significant gain due notably to achievements in political empowerment that compensates for slower progress in economic participation and health. The gap in employment is still significant, at 12.2 percent, and women are mostly employed in low productivity informal areas. Access to finance is still limited and data from Bank of Albania's loan register show that the number of women borrowers is almost half that of men, while the average amount of the loan borrowed by a woman is half that of a man. Due to the smaller presence of women in the labour market, paid activities and access to finance, entrepreneurship has gained the attention of the government of Albania. Harnessing growth will require macroeconomic stability and implementation of structural reforms to improve the business climate, including continuing reforms in the judicial and energy sectors, enhancing public invest-

ment management, and improving the skills of the labour force. Importantly, the reform agenda—in, for example, energy and skills—should be informed by equity considerations to sustain and enhance the poverty and inclusion gains made thus far.

In 2017, government was supported by UNCTAD in delivering improved economic support services in the areas of competition and consumer protection for sustainable economic development through enforcement of the competition law and policy in line with EU requirements. More specifically, the Albanian Competition Authority drafted the Regulation on Party Commitments in line with Article 9 of Regulation 1/2013 of the EU and simplified the Notification Regime for identified categories of concentration with reference to the European Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No. 139/2004. Moreover, the Competition Authority was capacitated in using economic analysis in prosecuting cartels without direct evidence and alleged abuses of dominant position (excessive pricing). The private sector was capacitated in familiarising Albanian entrepreneurs with policy frameworks and procuring practices that effectively promote competition in procurement markets in line with the EU regulatory framework and best practices. The private sector and academia were capacitated in the collaborative economy, namely understanding of the competi-

tion policy role in the digital market and influence in the market.

During the second half of 2017, UNCTAD, in collaboration with the Albanian Competition Authority, drafted a technical assistance programme—for which funding will need to be mobilised—to enhance the Authority's capacity to enforce competition policy, as well as that of the judiciary to enforce the competition law.

UNECE contributed to national road safety management capacities of Albania by preparing a Road Safety National Performance Review¹⁷⁴ and identifying jointly with government specific measures to implement the review's recommendations. Moreover, a UNECE advisory mission,¹⁷⁵ in consultation with Albania's key institutions on housing and urban development, identified a wide range of issues related to data collection and evidence-based policies in these areas, which will be followed up with the development of a policy paper in 2018.

The regulatory framework for women entrepreneurs in urban and rural areas saw substantial advancements during 2017. Approval of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016–2020 was a significant step in strengthening women's economic empowerment, particularly in the areas of employment, skills and entrepreneurship. A set of three legal and policy measures—binding quotas, entrepreneurial learning platforms and access to credit—that promote, strengthen and create a friendly environment where women entrepreneurs have access to adequate resources and support was designed and endorsed by the advisory board of the former Ministry of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism and Entrepreneurship for further

integration into the government programme. A project fiche dedicated to women entrepreneurship in Albania within the competitiveness and innovation priority for EU IPA funding is in place, serving also for other potential grants and funds in this area.

Given this enabling environment, 51 companies have voluntarily accepted to be part of UN Women future capacity building interventions for application of gender principles in their practices. In 2017, a programme document on 'Policies promoting employment and income security for women through inclusive growth policies and investments in the care economy' was developed by UN Women, aiming to promote women's access to decent employment and attainment of a secure income through the adoption of gender-responsive economic and labour market and social protection policies, as well as public investment in social care and physical infrastructure. The programme document will be consulted in a round table in early 2018 with MoFE and line ministries, aiming to transform it into a viable and implementable document.

UNDP focused on implementation of a Territorial Employment Pact with the Municipality of Tirana in the rural unit of Baldushk. Following the signing of the pact, several actions are under way, including preparation of a farmer register for Baldushk that will help development of rural policies, and upgrading of rural enterprises in milk and vegetable production. Following a 2017 call for applications, 15 farmers (direct beneficiaries) were selected as beneficiaries of grants to enlarge their greenhouses and productivity, and a family farm has been identified for transformation into a demonstration farm.

174. The road safety performance review identified the most critical aspects and priority needs in road safety management systems in Albania. It analysed the legal and administrative framework for road safety and identified road safety trends and road safety management issues in the country. It also considered areas such as safer road networks, safer vehicles, road-user behaviour, emergency services and first aid at road accidents. The review will be finalised in 2018.

175. The mission visited Albania on 7 April 2017. Meetings were held with all key stakeholders, including several departments of the former Ministry for Urban Development, Tirana Municipality, Office of the Registration of Immobile Properties, INSTAT and UNDP.

172. Human Development Report, 2016, Human Development Index 0.764.

173. Western Balkans Regular Economic Report No. 12, Fall 2017, World Bank Group.

Output 3.2 Labour

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ The Albanian Labour Code Commentary as amended prepared and published in Albanian language
- ✓ 2 by-laws on establishment of Regional Consultative Councils and conciliation of Labor Disputes submitted to NLC for adoption
- ✓ A Strategic Policy Framework "Key Business Constraints in Albania" developed offering policy solutions to Albanian enterprises' constraints
- ✓ National enterprise survey/report on Skills Needs evinced current needs in skilled labour force
- ✓ Bylaws for the new VET law and "Self-Assessment Guide" developed for VET providers
- ✓ 85 businesses established from 2nd edition of the self-employment scheme
- ✓ 89% of Migration Counters specialists capacitated on HRBA in migration management

Labour market data in Albania suggest that the economic growth experienced during the last two decades has not been translated into significant labour market improvements. In 2017, labour force participation rates remained below European averages, with the rate for women significantly lower than that for men (67.1% overall, 58% for women and 76% for men), while the level of female vulnerable employment in Albania stands at 57.1 percent.¹⁷⁶ Youth participation rates are considerably lower than for the rest of the population (45.2 percent overall, with the gender gap above 15 percent) and data indicate that, since 2007, Albanian youth has faced increased difficulties in the labour market compared to older adults. Albania's vocational education and training (VET) and vocational skills development (VSD) system all too often fails to equip students with the requisite knowledge, competences and skills for a successful move into the labour market. This results in an unsuitably qualified labour force, skills shortages and soaring youth unemployment that hamper the growth and modernisation potential of the country's economy. Skills mismatch in the labour market and the associated inefficiencies of Albania's education model have thus emerged as a priority topic for the government and its development partners. Government is committed to addressing jobs creation and skills development, with focus on employment of youth and women

and creation of an enabling environment for sustainable businesses.¹⁷⁷ In 2017, government increased the minimum wage from 22,000 to 24,000 Albanian Lek following intensive tripartite discussions and agreement reached with employers and workers organisations.

Meanwhile, Albania has continued to experience significant emigration, but also return of migrants. Information on reintegration opportunities for returnees and regular opportunities for migration need to be improved at the local level. The capacities of the migration counter in 36 regional and local employment offices in the country need to be strengthened and the network needs to be expanded across all 61 municipalities. Returning migrants bring with them a valuable set of capacities, skills and qualifications obtained abroad, which needs to be grasped and oriented towards the local labour market. In this regard economic empowerment for women and girls' victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking is of paramount importance.

Several advances to the regulatory and policy framework for employment were noted in 2017. A *Commentary on the Albanian Labour Code* as amended was prepared by ILO and published in the Albanian language. It has served as a basis for several training workshops on the best use

176. World Bank estimates based on data from International Labour Organisation, ILOSTAT <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.EMP.VULN.FE.ZS?end=2017&locations=AL&start=1991&view=chart>

177. Priorities include a substantial re-orientation of VET towards labour market needs, undertaking of necessary reforms with focus on intertwining theoretical and on-the-job training (mirroring the dual system), extension of employment services to rural areas, expansion of outreach of active labour market measures, promotion of entrepreneurship, and fostering of closer partnerships with the private sector in VET provisioning, among others.



 PLAY VIDEO

of the Labour Code in two pilot counties (Lezha and Shkodra), targeting 70 officials from the National Employment Service (NES), Regional Employment Offices, Labour Inspectorate, state conciliation offices, as well as state mediators. Relevant trainings on the use of the commentary are planned to be held in 2018 with other target groups, including employers' and workers' organisations, judges, other state officials, and others. A tripartite meeting consulted on the development of secondary labour legislation, namely the details for two draft decisions on establishment of regional consultative councils, and conciliation of labour disputes, resulting in the subsequent submission of these two by-laws to the National Licensing Centre (NLC) for adoption.

Key business constraints for Albanian enterprises were identified in the report *Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises*,¹⁷⁸ prepared by Biznes Albania and IDRA with ILO technical support including direct responses from 400 enterprises and a comprehensive desk research that included international benchmarking comparing the business environment in Albania with that in its neighbours. Subsequently, a Strategic Policy Framework *Key Business Constraints in Albania* was developed offering key policy solutions to the identified gaps. Furthermore, a national enterprise survey on Skills Needs¹⁷⁹ and its draft report, prepared with UNDP support to explore current needs for a skilled labour force, were presented and discussed with relevant stakehold-

178. <http://www.idrainstitute.org/files/IDRA%20-BA/An-Enabling-Environment-for-Sustainable-Enterprises-in-Albania.pdf>

179. The survey comprised a representative sample of 2,560 enterprises from all sectors of the economy, apart from agriculture, and provides detailed data disaggregated by development region, sector, ownership and size of enterprise.



Small grants helped young people become entrepreneurs

ers¹⁸⁰ during a dedicated workshop. The survey results are being translated into concrete steps and an action plan towards minimising labour market skills mismatches and shortages.

Six experts from NES in Durres, Shkodra and Tirana were trained in the use of the participatory audit tool, aiming to enable them to identify capacity gaps and visible and invisible barriers in the design, organisation of service delivery and monitoring the effectiveness of programmes for the unemployed and access for vulnerable groups. Application of the audit tool enabled NES to review the existing rules, procedures, workflow, case managers' load, information and knowledge management systems, with a final report to be released in spring 2018. NES staff benefited from several other capacity development opportunities, including regional peer exchanges, regional workshops, and participation in a number of Western Balkans activities.

The area of VET in Albania benefited from a feasibility study on work-based learning models, prepared by UNDP, that identified and assessed the models introduced and implemented among VET providers in the country over the last five years. Eight schemes were identified and scored among public VET schools and public and private Vocational Training centres. A comparison was made across four dimensions identified and agreed upon with the experts of the work-based learning working group, including i) VET provider readiness for implementing work-based learning schemes, ii) business engagement, iii) alignment of curricula to private sector needs, and 4) employability of VET graduates. An important key message emerged: a more meaningful and formalised engagement of the private sector—with at least 50 percent time allocation to practical learning in enterprise premises—contributes to a better alignment of curricula with private sector needs, increases private sector trust in the VET

180. MoFE, NES and National Agency of Vocational Education Training and Qualifications (NAVETQ).



Small grants helped young people become entrepreneurs

system and ultimately improves the employability of VET graduates. Meanwhile, UNDP supported the development of by-laws for the new VET law, consultation and finalisation of the Self-Assessment Guide for VET providers, and organisation of the Vocational School fair in April.

The second edition of the **self-employment scheme**,¹⁸¹ focusing the call for applications on the sectors of tourism, technology and innovation, agriculture, handicrafts, fishing, textiles and fashion, e-Commerce, and services, was launched and implemented with UNDP support in 2017. In total, during the two rounds, more than 1,000 applications were received and reviewed, from which 800 were deemed as complete and subject to further assessment on individual entrepreneurial skills and aptitude. During March and April, a 40-hour training programme was delivered to registered trainees in separate groups of 20–30 participants, focusing on business idea generation, minimum

viable product, model generation, and mode canvas. During both rounds, participants were mentored over the two months to transform the business idea into a viable operational model, comprehending all the key issues and risks in establishing a new business. As a result of this initiative, 85 businesses were established, out of which 76 are currently up and running.

Eighty-nine percent of migration counter specialists (32 of 36) were capacitated in a human-rights based approach towards migration management, gender mainstreaming in day-to-day activity, and collection and administration of data, file management, critical elements of pre-departure and reintegration service delivery centred on the citizen and inclusive of all. One-stop-shop services were discussed in particular as a new means of effective delivery of migration counter services, in line with existing models and international best practices.

181. Potential applicants were invited to apply through the platform www.aftesi.info/vetepunesimi

Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Recommendations drafted for development of a scheme supportive of national quality products
- ✓ Procedures introduced for development of geographic indications (GI) products in Albania
- ✓ 150 extension offices staff, 700 women farmers, over 500 rural women and 100 stakeholders acquainted on rural women's contribution in agriculture and rural economy
- ✓ 15 statisticians capacitated to assist MoARD with EU integration and SDGs monitoring
- ✓ A cross-regional market and gender sensitive value chain analysis identified key value chains with high profitability and potential for women's empowerment

The rural context in Albania faces considerable challenges in terms of improving women's and men's quality of life. Data collected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) indicate that 1.6 million people live on farms, of whom 47 percent are women. Approximately 25 percent of women in rural areas consider that their family income is insufficient, while another 25 percent believe that even their hard-earned income is barely enough to cover the costs of food. Furthermore, according to the Living Standard Measurement Survey, the per capita food consumption of female-headed households is less than that of male-headed households, both in urban and rural areas. The agricultural sector employs more than 54 percent of all active women in Albania, 87 percent of whom work as contributing family workers. Thus, a large proportion of women provide unpaid labour for the family farm. Although the share of such farms owned by women is very small, most women are hidden farm leaders. Recent studies by FAO and UN Women indicate that women are more involved in the farming economy (32%) than men (22%), even though the majority of farm holders are men (96%). This dichotomy creates a gap between the truly positive impacts that a rural farming economy has on women's lives, and the intense amount of work they undertake. Moreover, there is a vertical and horizontal gender-based segregation in employment, in which women

tend to be over-represented in lower positions (vertical) and in less productive economic areas (horizontal), and which is coupled to a persistent gender pay gap, with women being paid less than men for doing the same job. Thus, the phenomenon of feminisation in agriculture is persistent, and is growing with the increasing migration flow.

Albania's implementation of reforms in sustainable rural development and modernisation of the agricultural sector requires (i) development and adoption of quality standards and capacities at the central and local level for preparation of relevant agriculture and rural development policies required by international markets in alignment with EU standards, (ii) increased investments in agriculture through strengthened financial and advisory services operative at the central level and especially at the local level, and (iii) accelerating rural women economic empowerment through income diversification for sustainable rural development. The above identified gaps were focus areas of UN support under output 3.3 in 2017.

Through the design of an integrated service to farmers, Single Window Service for Farmers,¹⁸² which integrates in one system the farmers' access to finance and to advisory services, FAO empowered a more inclusive and efficient financial support programme from government,



Rural women in Elbasan participate in bio-products fair

expected to further increase investments in agriculture through national and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development (IPARD) financial schemes¹⁸³ in 2018. Because of the improved farmers' application system and an increase in the national budget of about 100 percent compared to 2017, the number of beneficiaries is expected to increase by about 300 percent in 2018 compared to 2017.

MoARD is committed to accelerating alignment of standards for agriculture products in line with the requirements of international and EU markets. In this regard, technical recommendations were drafted for the development of a scheme supportive of national quality products, and procedures were introduced for the development of geographic indications (GI)

products in Albania. MoARD institutional capacities of twelve staff and 26 public advisors were strengthened in M&E, agriculture statistics, EU approximation, marketing standards, product quality, GI, organic farming and quality policy formulation. Moreover, FAO supported capacity development of 15 central and local statisticians on agriculture statistics, data collection, monitoring and reporting to assist MoARD in the process of **EU integration and SDG¹⁸⁴ monitoring**.

UN Women support for rural women is promoting proactive policy instruments that address women's rights to natural and financial resources, employment creation, diversification of rural economies and provision of related extension services for women. Through MoARD

182. The system is designed by FAO in compliance with the requirements of EU Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) ensuring the interconnection with other databases (i.e. Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS), Farm Register, etc.).

183. Calls for applications to the national financial schemes start in March every year, while IPARD calls are expected to start in the second half 2018.

184. <http://un.org.al/news/fao-and-ministry-agriculture-and-rural-development-lead-work-implementing-and-monitoring-sdds>

BOX 4

FAO and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development lead work on implementing and monitoring SDDs on Food and Agriculture

In the framework of the commitments Albania has undertaken as a member of the United Nations for the implementation of the Agenda2030 for global development and work done to implement these commitments, FAO in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development held a meeting on “Implementing and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Albania. Stakeholder Sensitization Workshop on the SDGs on Food and Agriculture”. The meeting was attended by representatives of the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), private sector, civil society and the academic world. In Albania, the Office of the Prime Minister is leading efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and coordinates the work of the line ministries. In addition, the National Statistics Office, INSTAT, has assessed what data is available already and what other data will be required to measure progress.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is expected to take the lead in identifying the national priorities for Goals 2, 14 and 15 of the Agenda2030. FAO is supporting this process through the project “Support to the MARD in the implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals”, including raising awareness and capacity for their implementation and monitoring.

Mr. Brian Williams, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Albania, said: “The Sustainable Development Goals are a vision for the development of a healthy and sustainable society, with diverse opportunities for everyone. This development agenda should be followed even after European integration. It includes commitments stemming from the Paris Agreement on Global Actions to Address Climate Change (COP23). Agriculture is a very important element in it.” In addition, Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner, FAO Programme Coordinator (Global Delivery), Sustainable Agriculture Programme added “Food and agriculture is central to achieving many of the SDGs. This is an important opportunity for agricultural sectors in Albania to engage more strongly at high political levels. It is also an opportunity to explore new ways to work constructively on solutions with other sectors, the private sector, civil society, and academia.”

The UN Statistical Commission has prepared global indicators to measure development. This committee consists of the national statistical offices of the member states. Since the context of each country is different, all states are required to adapt the Objectives to their status, including the development of national indicators. This is often called “nationalization” of Objectives at the country level. In addition, signatory states have committed to report on progress both globally and nationally. FAO and other United Nations organizations will support the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to create services and mechanisms for increasing rural investment in the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.



and UN Women intensive training and outreach campaigns have been conducted in nine regions of Albania (Devoll, Durrës, Korça, Maliq, Pogradec, Puka, Shkodra, Tirana and Vau i Dejës), with 150 extension specialists from Agriculture Information Centres capacitated to reach out to rural women and offer gender-oriented services. Meanwhile, 700 women farmers have been equipped with practical knowledge and know-how on (i) accessing the market, credit and subsidy schemes, (ii) business management, and (iii) growth and moving up the value chain. In addition, more than 500 rural women and 100 relevant stakeholders have been actively engaged in information sessions organised by UN Women to raise awareness of Albanian rural women’s unrecognised contribution to agriculture and rural economy and to promote at large their role.

To support strategic and results-oriented interventions for women’s economic empowerment, a **cross-regional market and gender sensitive value chain analysis**¹⁸⁵ was conducted by FAO in Berat, Korça and Vlora. The study identified key value chains with high profitability and potential for women’s empowerment, including traditional food and gourmet production linked with agro-rural tourism, medicinal and aromatic plants, and beekeeping, and provided recommendations for overcoming existing gender burdens in these economic clusters. In the frame of the newest government programme 100 Villages,¹⁸⁶ this analysis will help better strategize the work of MoARD, IPARD, UN agencies and NGOs in supporting rural women’s entrepreneurship efforts.

185. FAO (2017) Market and value chain analysis of selected sectors for diversification of the rural economy and women’s economic empowerment <http://www.fao.org/3/I8909EN/I8909en.pdf> <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I8909EN>

186. Council of Ministers Decision (CMD) No. 21, dated 12.1.2018, ‘On some additions to CMD No. 709,’ dated 29.10.2014, ‘On approval of the cross-cutting strategy for rural and agricultural development 2014–2020’.

Output 3.4 Culture

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Role of culture for development strengthened and management of Albania's cultural heritage enhanced
- ✓ Regional cooperation in culture advanced, reinforcing coordination between cultural and other sectorial policies

In recent years, Albanian cultural institutions have made notable achievements in their capacity to more adequately monitor, safeguard, preserve, restore and protect the country's rich cultural heritage as a means for promoting sustainable development and economic growth, further promoting culture as a driver of development. Albania's rich and diverse cultural heritage, still largely untapped by municipalities and tourism operators alike, offers great potential to advance the process of European integration and improve the country's international image. Furthermore, all efforts and actions taken by government, more specifically the Ministry of Culture, with the support of UNESCO, are supporting achievement of Agenda 2030 and reaching of the targets of SDGs 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Close cooperation between UNESCO and government have strengthened the role of culture in development, enhanced the management of Albania's rich cultural heritage and advanced regional cooperation in this area, reinforcing coordination between cultural and other sectorial policies in line with Agenda 2030. Within the Albanian Presidency of the Council of

Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe (CoMoCoSEE)—Enhancing culture for sustainable development,¹⁸⁷ UNESCO supported the organisation of the **3rd annual meeting of CoMoCoSEE**.¹⁸⁸ Based on the **Tirana Declaration**¹⁸⁹ adopted on 22 February 2017, and the particular needs of the country, UNESCO supported the following: (i) improvements in the management of UNESCO-designated sites in the Albania, including in segments of conservation and DRR, (ii) reinforced coordination¹⁹⁰ between cultural and other sectorial policies to achieve the SDGs, (iii) reaffirmation of the importance of culture, cultural heritage and art in education to foster diversity of cultural expression and encourage development of arts education, (iv) inventorying of cultural heritage and development of specific databases, (v) improving and implementing statistical tools to assess and monitor the impact of culture on sustainable development, and (vi) developing a more strategic and coordinated approach to the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Furthermore, the management of underwater cultural heritage and adequate use of underwater cultural potential was strengthened through

the conference and exhibition **Underwater heritage potentials/treasures of Albania**,¹⁹¹ organised by the Ministry of Culture with the support of UNESCO in February 2017. The conference raised awareness among decision makers on underwater treasures, underlined the necessity to adjust further the existing legal framework to better address protection of underwater heritage (natural, cultural, historical) and emphasised developmental potentials of Albania's underwater heritage.

Capacity development in the field of cultural heritage conservation has been recognised as one of the most emerging needs and, accordingly, UNESCO supported the organisation by the Centre for Restoration of Monuments of the Institute for Cultural Monuments of the training programme Structural Analysis and Reinforcement Methods and Techniques of Historic Masonry Buildings,¹⁹² attended by 30 experts from the Institute of Cultural Monuments, Ministry of Culture, and regional offices for cultural heritage.

Close cooperation between UNESCO and government have strengthened the role of culture in development

187. Being the main cooperation platform in South-East Europe its main purpose is to strengthen regional cooperation in the field of culture and development, boosting cultural heritage and creativity as drivers for sustainable development and regional integration.

188. http://www.unesco.org/new/en/venice/about-this-office/single-view/news/south_east_europe_ministers_of_culture_to_address_culture_a/

189. http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Venice/pdf/news/Declaration_ThirdMinisterialConferenceCoMoCoSEE.pdf

190. This was emphasised through implementation of the project 'Towards strengthened governance of the shared trans-boundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region' <http://whc.unesco.org/en/lake-ohrid-region/>

191. <https://skift.com/2017/02/15/albania-wants-to-take-tourists-underwater-for-archeological-treasures/> <https://www.argophilia.com/news/real-underwater-albania/217789/>

192. <https://opendata.unesco.org/project/XM-DAC-41304-38-14182>



Challenges and the Way Ahead

Challenges

Output 3.1 Economic Development

From the perspective of entry into the European common market, informality, despite continuous government action, is still of major concern to economic growth, competitiveness and public finances, and negatively affects new investments in the country. Moreover, developing policies for women entrepreneurs remains a real trial for government. Involvement in the activities of an enterprise means more economic freedom, ownership, decision making and thus further empowerment of women in the country.

Output 3.2 Labour

Government restructuring, followed by the shuffling of functions and responsibilities related to policymaking and management of employment and VET system, was an unexpected challenge in 2017, and reduced the pace of implementation of activities. Further to the negotiations of UNDP, ILO and its constituents in Albania with the MoFE, the minister committed to establishing a sector in the ministry that will attend to the employment relationships, social dialogue and labour inspection. Based on an ILO and UNDP functional review of the institutions in this sector, preliminary discussions for the elaboration of a road map of interventions leading up to the sector's new infrastructure are ongoing with government representatives.

Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development

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

Output 3.4 Culture

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

Output 3.1 Economic Development

UN Women and FAO will focus towards advancing the regulatory policy and legal framework for women entrepreneurs in urban and rural areas through national and local support programmes. UNCTAD will support the government and relevant institutions to strengthen its trade policy framework to adapt to EU standards in key areas such as debt management, investment promotion, trade facilitation, enterprise development and competition. UNECE support programmes will focus on trade related transactions through the Single Window Facility initiative, policy development and implementation in the areas of housing and urban development and strengthening of the national road safety management. There is commitment from UN agencies to explore other lines of work and dedicate funding to certain areas: e.g. private sector development (UNDP and UN Women), tax administration (UNDP).

Output 3.2 Labour

ILO, UNDP, UN Women and IOM efforts will focus on employment and skills development and decent work with interventions targeting market integration including the employability and self-employment of youth, women, disabled job seekers, Roma and Egyptian people, returning migrants and other vulnerable groups. The mid-term review of the National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014–2020 will be conducted during the first half of 2018 through tripartite consultations. The new National Labour Council will be established and technical assistance will be provided for its smooth proceedings. Similarly, regional consultative councils will be established in four pilot areas (Korca, Shkodra, Tirana and Vlora). Assessment of out-of-court resolution of labour disputes will be followed by an intensive awareness-raising campaign among workers and their organisations, as well as training of relevant actors in the system. The statistical profile of Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) youth will enable stakeholders to take well informed actions to address this target group. The Occupational and Safety Campaign in the area of construction will be launched by the Labour Inspectorate on World Day for Safety and Health at Work in concert with similar institutions in the Western Balkans. Moreover, Labour Inspectorate staff will be capacitated to conduct timely, professional and constructive visits to business premises. Expansion of the MC network in local administrative units will be supported along with recognition of skills and qualifications obtained in migration that need to be grasped and oriented towards the local labour market. Economic empowerment of women and girls' victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking will be supported, as employment is perhaps the most important factor in the process of reintegration, enabling women to become financially independent and self-sufficient in the long term. The care economy entry points for Albania will be explored with a view to enhancing care services as a supporting net for women in the labour market.

Way Ahead

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Way Ahead **Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development**

UN Women and FAO work will focus on (i) development of gender equitable and sustainable rural development and poverty reduction strategies and value chains including awareness raising and recognition of women's pivotal role in the rural economy and agriculture, (ii) establishment of an integrated service to farmers, together with the promotion of farmers' vertical and horizontal cooperation through a contract farming model, aiming to improve the inclusiveness and efficiency of food systems, contributing to achievement of the SDGs, (iii) supporting central and local governments increase investments in agriculture through grant schemes in combination with credit lines, by use of a state guarantee fund, (iv) strengthening central and local statistical capacities for formulation of relevant agriculture and rural development policies, and for economic and policy analysis capacity in the process of EU integration to help alignment with EU standards and the monitoring process of SDG indicators, and (v) supporting rural women to promote proactive policy instruments that address women's rights to natural and financial resources, employment creation, diversification of rural economies and the provision of related extension services for women. UNDP will support municipalities with rural development approaches through capacity development, relevant skills upgrades and employment services in rural areas aligned to the 100 Villages government programme.

Output 3.4 Culture

UNESCO support will target inclusive policies to foster cultural and creative industries, improve access to cultural markets, protect cultural diversity, improve the management of cultural heritage as drivers and enablers for sustainable development and support promotion reporting on the role of culture within Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Additionally, UNESCO will assist, with government efforts, in the protection of cultural heritage through applicable initiatives, raising awareness of the links among tourism, culture and sustainable development, supporting the prevention of looting, and—importantly—supporting a new draft law on culture, backed by the establishment of a database on stolen works and a permanent cooperation mechanism between key authorities to improve management of the country's cultural heritage.

OUTCOME 4

Environment and Climate Change

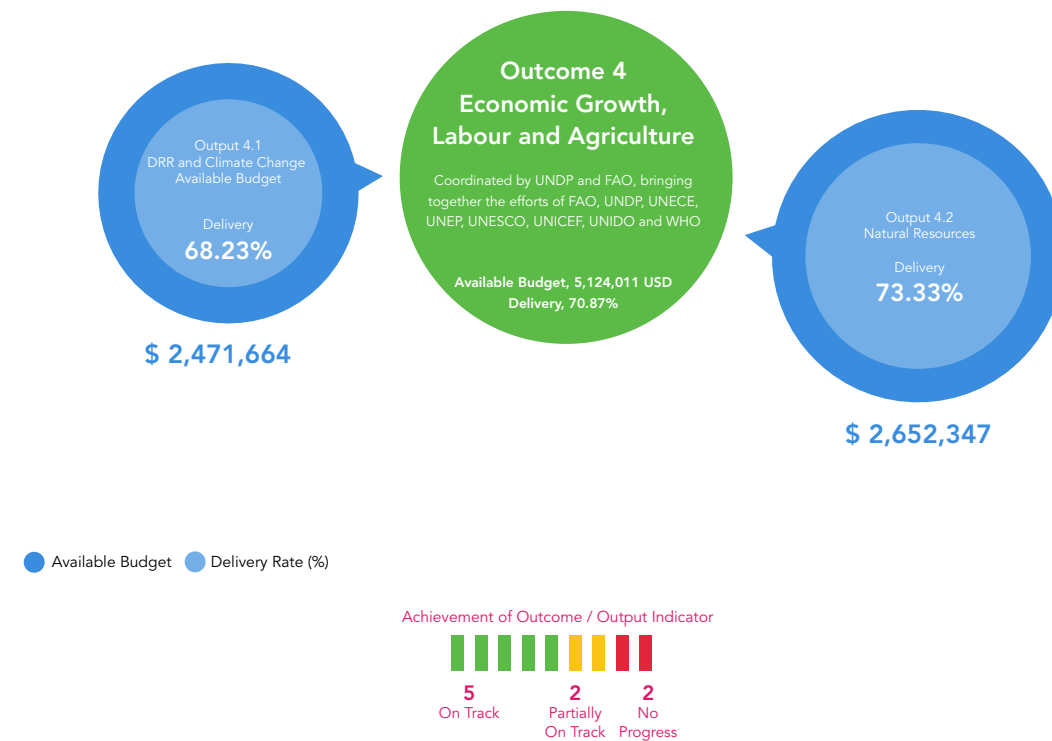
Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.



United Nations in Albania interventions at the local level aim towards effective, gender-responsive, fiscally sustainable and accountable delivery of public services. For a quick look at our presence in all Albanian Municipalities, [Please click here](#)

This outcome supports the government in achieving four priorities of NSDI 2015–2020: 1) EU membership, 2) Growth through sustainable resources and territorial development, 3) Investing in people and social cohesion, and 4) Good governance, democracy and rule of law. It also contributes to government efforts to achieving SDGs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, and EU integration chapters and priority areas 15 and 27.

The total available budget for implementation of Outcome 4 in 2017 was USD 5 million from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the governments of Albania, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey, the EU, Climate Green Fund, Global Environment Facility, and the Slovenian NGO ITF Enhancing Human Security. **The outcome delivery was 70.87%.**



Output 4.1 Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Energy Efficiency Agency and Energy Efficiency Fund established/ operationalized in line with EU requirements
- ✓ 70% savings reached in energy used for hot water in 13 municipalities (55 institutions)
- ✓ A municipal energy tracer platform tested in Durres, contributing to establishment of Albania's municipal energy MIS
- ✓ A Strategic Environment Assessment launched, capacitating GoA to integrate SEAs into energy/environmental decision-making
- ✓ Assessment of Vjosa river hydro-ecological and socio-economic systems through climate change lens launched
- ✓ National Guideline and Roadmap prepared on Water Safety Plans in Small Scale Water Supply Systems in Albania
- ✓ Albania's 3rd Environmental Performance Review organized and recommendations adopted
- ✓ A sea turtle rehabilitation center became part of Rradhima Information Center
- ✓ Over 1200 stakeholders capacitated on adaptation to CC, CA, IPM, bio-energy technology applications and environment education
- ✓ Data systems established – national GIS, WISDOM model forestry data (ANFI) system
- ✓ CLEEN methodology updated in line with the competency-based national curricula

In the context of the EU accession process and in line with the objectives of the Third Energy Package,¹⁹³ Albania has committed to a binding target of 38 percent of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in gross final energy consumption in 2020.¹⁹⁴ In 2015, the country achieved a 34.9 percent share of energy from RES, above the third indicative trajectory of 34.3 percent. In February 2017, a new law, 'On Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources,' was adopted and partially transposes Directive 2009/28/EC, introducing support grants to renewable energy producers through a tendering procedure. Moreover, a draft law on renewables in transport was developed, transposing the requirements of Directive 2009/28/EC with respect to sustainability criteria and certification of biofuels, and is awaiting adoption. The energy efficiency domain noted concrete progress with adoption of the law 'On Energy Performance in Buildings' and the establishment of the Energy Efficiency Agency as the key implementing body, while the process of establishing a fund is ongoing. Meanwhile, Albania is tardy with adoption of secondary legislation to implement the legislation in force, and especially with adoption of the 2nd and the 3rd energy efficiency action plans. All the above-mentioned initiatives are aligned with and contributing to the country's commit-

ment to the ratified Paris Agreement and the National Determined Contribution, NDC.

The establishment and operationalisation of the Energy Efficiency Agency and the Energy Efficiency Fund was supported by UNDP in line with EU requirements. The support will be extended throughout 2018 to finalise two DCMs: 'On Establishment of the Energy Efficiency Fund and Criteria for Appointing the Members of Board and Executive Director' and 'On Energy Efficiency Fund Statute and its Operational Manual'. The solar upscale, co-funded at the municipal level, reached thirteen municipalities¹⁹⁵ (55 institutions), saving approximately 70 percent of the energy used for hot water. In addition, a municipal energy tracer platform was tested in Durres Municipality and three hands-on training sessions were provided through East-East cooperation with Croatia, building momentum towards the ultimate goal of an energy MIS in all Albanian municipalities.

A Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) at the policy level has been developed and launched through UNDP support, including for the Small Hydropower Plant (SHPP) sector, capacitating government to integrate SEAs into energy and environmental decision making. As a follow up, an assessment of hydro-ecologi-

193. Third Energy Package includes, for the very first time, legislation on climate change to be transposed and implemented under the *acquis communautaire* for parties of the Energy Community Treaty.

194. Starting with 31.2 percent in 2009.

195. Total installed cumulative area of solar panels for water heating, 209,745 m², annual sales, 21,701 m², resulting in 1,160,452 tons of CO₂ reduction.



Providing rescue services to those affected by floods in north Albania

cal and socio-economic systems of the River Vjosa through a climate change lens has been developed and launched in cooperation with IGJEU and Stockholm Environment Institute, applying Water Evaluation and Assessment Planning (WEAP), a scenario-based modelling system that can be easily replicated to other rivers. The National Guideline on Water Safety Plans in Small-Scale Water Supply Systems in Albania and a road map for its implementation were prepared by the inter-sectoral working group, under the coordination of MoHSP, through WHO facilitation and support.

Moreover, the environment sector has benefited from the initial design and testing of the environmental information monitoring and management system, including development of 158 Technical Sheets on indicators that are sub-

ject to national monitoring in line with global reporting, delivered to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment along with coaching and training for a transparent and indicator-based environmental monitoring system taking into consideration SDGs and EU requirements. The inventory and initial assessment of mercury pollution in Albania (Minamata Convention) is being developed by UNDP for finalisation in 2018 accompanied by relevant capacity building and training activities.

FAO's efforts focused on capacitating MoARD in developing and implementing Post-Disaster Needs Assessments, Community Supported Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and DRR interventions in the agriculture sector. As a result, 3,525 households benefited from disbursement of compensation and grants for

losses from floods in 2017 with impact monitoring from the compensations duly completed and lessons learned disseminated to partners. In addition, methodologies and best practices for farm- and ecosystem-based DRR and CCA interventions are being developed to reduce natural hazards such as flooding, drought and landslides. Among central and municipality institutions 137 staff, as well as 723 farmers and extension services staff, were capacitated in adaptation to climate change, conservation agriculture and integrated pest management.

UNECE organised the third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of the country, covering issues related to legal and policy frameworks, greening the economy, air protection, water and waste management, biodiversity and protected areas, and examined Albania's efforts to integrate environmental considerations into its policies on the transport sector. **Recommendations in the third EPR of Albania**,¹⁹⁶ discussed and agreed at the EPR expert group meeting in October, were adopted by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its 23rd session in November 2017. Albania is encouraged to use the EPR recommendations in support of national efforts towards the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, the EPR and recommendations can also serve as inputs to Albania's voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

UNIDO supported six workshops on bio-energy technology applications in the policy and industrial sectors,¹⁹⁷ delivered to 255 stakeholders.¹⁹⁸ Moreover, the report *Sectoral Assessment of the Biomass Potential with a focus on*



Protecting Albania's flora and fauna

*the Olive Oil Sector in Albania*¹⁹⁹ was prepared, detailing the bio-energy potential for industrial uses, along with questionnaires, guidelines and eligibility criteria. Involvement of financial institutions was sought to assess whether and how their existing financing instruments can be accessed for the targeted type of technology investments as part of the business plans and feasibility studies.

Existing national gaps related to the lack of data and information on woody biomass potential, consumption and contribution were addressed

through FAO's support for the establishment of a national Geographic Information System (GIS) that integrates all available datasets and national systems already in place. Moreover, a WISDOM model²⁰⁰ (Wood-fuel Integrated Supply / Demand Overview Mapping) and forestry data system was established, including the Albanian National Forest Inventory (ANFI) and the new land cover and land use map. Intensive on-the-job GIS training was provided for ten national experts.

UNICEF addressed environmental awareness and protection in schools, capitalising on previous successes where environmental education became part of the school curriculum and envi-

ronmental competence was included as one of the seven key competences for schoolchildren, under competences for life, entrepreneurship and environment. Albania's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and the pre-school curriculum are also explicitly sensitive to making young children aware of environmental considerations and the challenge of sustainability. UNICEF also updated the methodology of the Child-Led Environmental Education Initiative (CLEEN) in line with the competency based national curriculum and capacitated the local Departments of Education in Berat, Kukes, Tirana and Vlora to revitalise this methodology and ultimately use it in primary schools, reaching 320 education personnel.

196. <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-23/EPR.Albania.IP3.e.pdf>

197. Olive oil and other sectors with high replication potential, such as wood processing, wine production and jam-fruit production.

198. Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, and others.

199. The report will be available online and published within first half 2018.

200. <http://www.wisdomprojects.net/global/> https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/kitti_horvath_fao_org/EWR39JU7WhTEiGvkI4m0zYwB7zl2VgeM3JrQN5RFyRQIBQ?e=Dzh6t3

Output 4.2 Natural Resources

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

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ New legal frame approved for Protected Areas, establishing legal context for declaration, conservation, administration, management and use of PAs
- ✓ Transboundary Cooperation in Drini River Basin reinforced for an improved river basin management that integrates climate change considerations
- ✓ Cooperation between Albania and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia strengthened for safeguarding and sustainable development of Lake Ohrid region

The protection of Albania's environment has not kept pace with the country's economic growth. The historical increase in demand for natural resources and their uncontrolled exploitation has caused significant damage to the country's habitats and ecosystems. In response, the country has doubled its protected areas over the last decade, including, since 2014, the Ohrid-Prespa Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve. Although some 36 percent of Albania's territory is forested, providing significant livelihood resources, the size is declining due to clearance for agriculture, grazing and woodcutting for fuel and building. More than 60 percent of forest and pasture lands are under municipal or commune management, providing local incentives to improve management and protection of forests, land and water resources. Ongoing challenges include lack of financial resources, low management capacity of LGUs and legal enforcement, shortage of qualified scientific staff and lack of data and analysis trends among protected species, poor community involvement in protection, and lack of trust in local administrations. Weak law enforcement reflects broader governance and rule of law concerns.

Albania's Protected Areas benefited from a new legal frame, prepared and approved with UNDP support, which establishes the legal context for declaration, conservation, administration, management and use of protected areas. The legal frame benefited from the findings of a UNDP-developed in-depth review of all legal acts pertinent

to environment conservation and management and financing models and mechanisms. Moreover, UNDP's focus on the sustainable management of Vloa Bay, following the successful 1st stage of a UNDP-GEF intervention, will be further strengthened through planned activities targeting support to the local administration of protected areas and Vloa Municipality for the management of the entire ecosystem ridge to reef with specific focus on marine debris management, sustainable tourism and fisheries. Credited to this initiative and aiming to bring people and nature closer, a sea turtle rehabilitation centre became part of the Rradhima Information Centre, attracting university researchers and tourists.

A reinforced Trans-boundary Cooperation for the Drini river basin was signed in 2017 for an improved management that integrates climate change considerations. Through enhancement of the knowledge base and exchange on river basin management, UNDP's support enabled implementation of new approaches at the sub-basin and whole basin levels, and intensified networking and exchange cooperation among the countries involved. The Trans-boundary diagnostic analysis for the Drini will be finalised in 2018.

UNESCO focused on enhancement of the safeguarding and sustainable development of the Lake Ohrid region by strengthening cooperation between Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia over the region's shared cultural and natural heritage.²⁰¹ Two cross-border



*We love
SDG 14-Life
under water*

der committee meetings²⁰² were organised in 2017, aimed at development of effective cross-sectoral management and conservation and strengthening coordination among the different administrations²⁰³ responsible for the region, creating direct contribution to implementation of SDGs 6, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17.

UN Environment has finalised the preparatory phase of the GEF-funded project Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Albania through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems²⁰⁴ for implementation in 2018. Activities will focus on revision of the legal framework and land mining process, training of local landowners and resource users in Kolonja Municipality in utilising SLM approaches, and strengthening coordination and engagement of the Inter-Min-

isterial Committee with relevant institutions and the local community on SLM. Moreover, UN Environment started implementation of the project Developing the capacities of Albania for an effective engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), focusing on (i) improving institutional capacities of the national focal point to the GCF, (ii) developing a country programme in line with the GCF and consistent with the country's national environmental, waste management, industrial, agricultural and energy strategies, and (iii) establishing a mechanism to facilitate the communication of nominations of prospective public and private sector entities seeking accreditation with the Fund.

202. 5th and 6th Transboundary Platform Meeting for the safeguarding of the Lake Ohrid region (9–10 Feb 2017; 14–15 Sep 2017) <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1360/> <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1405/>

203. Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Culture of both countries, as well between the municipalities of Prograde, Ohrid and Struga.

204. One year of project preparations resulted in a project document and set of annexes, detailing the project, as well as co-financing letters. All project documents were validated at a stakeholder meeting that took place in Tirana in October 2017. The full-scale project was approved in November 2017.

201. All activities implemented supported protection of the Lake Ohrid's trans-boundary region, which includes one of the world's oldest lakes and is one of the largest centres of endemism in Europe, by addressing threats against the natural and cultural heritage of the region, such as unplanned urban development, waste management issues, habitat alteration, lack of effective management, and destruction and depletion of natural resources.

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Challenges The key challenge affecting the sector in 2017 is related to the re-engineering of the line ministries, agencies and their structures at the local level that has slowed the pace of work towards the development priorities in the area, necessitating tailored support from UN agencies to ensure that sustainability of the environment and public goods remained in the core of the country development. Ongoing challenges in the environment sector include lack of financial resources, low management capacity of LGUs, weak legal enforcement, shortage of qualified scientific staff and lack of data and analysis of trends concerning protected species, as well as poor community involvement in protection, and lack of trust in local administration. In the mid to long term the lack of financial instruments might risk Albania's opportunity to boost energy efficiency and renewable energy and comply with obligations under NDC and national Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Source action plans. In addition, coordination and planning on climate change issues would require a sectoral approach and a functional inter-ministerial committee on climate change. Other challenges relate to (i) unclear division of responsibilities among institutions on the security and safety of drinking water, coupled with insufficient know-how and laboratory capacities for assessing the quality of drinking water, and no clear strategy on water and sanitation, with target setting under the Water Protocol still pending, and (ii) insufficient awareness of teachers, children and the community at large impeding them from acting to protect the environment.

UN agencies interventions under Outcome 4 will build institutional capacity, data and knowledge to integrate **Way Ahead** environment and climate considerations more fully into the national regulatory framework and develop new capacities and systems for implementation and compliance monitoring across major sectors.

UNDP will focus on revitalisation of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change, policy support and reporting in line with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and EU requirements, as well as removing legal and financial barriers for boosting Energy Efficiency and RES penetration. Actions towards EU horizontal legislation related to public participation in decision making through increased transparency in an indicator-based national environmental information and management system will be supported along with initial assessment and an action plan for mercury-related sources of pollution. Further support will focus on alignment of nature protection and biodiversity with EU requirements, concentrating on financing mechanisms for protected areas, sustainable tourism activities in Vlora Bay and management of marine debris. UNESCO will focus on the development of effective cross-sectoral management and conservation, and strengthening coordination among the different administrations responsible for the Lake Ohrid region.

WHO will focus on the development of water safety action plans for urban and rural water facilities, based on WHO methodology. Also under the SDG umbrella, WHO will provide support to environmental education and awareness, including climate change, health and security, and advocacy about the Minamata and other conventions. UNICEF will support extension of CLEEN methodology depending upon availability of funds. UN Environment will implement the GEF-funded projects Promoting Sustainable Land Management in Albania through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems, and Developing the capacities of Albania for an effective engagement with the Green Climate Fund.

CHAPTER 3 THE UN DELIVERING AS ONE IN ALBANIA



The year 2017 marked the first in the implementation of the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017–2021 signed in October 2016 by the Government of Albania and 17 UN agencies. This programme delivers a unified assistance (One UN) from contributing UN agencies in the country in line with national development priorities, including the EU integration agenda and Agenda 2030. The Common Budgetary Framework captures the work of the entire UN system's delivery in Albania, whether activities are undertaken jointly or individually, linked to performance through Outcome work-plans and supported by the Coherence Fund (One Fund), under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the UN Country Team. Through Operating as One, UN Albania is opting for more cost-effective common operations and service support in the country, while Communicating as One facilitates coherent UN messaging and advocacy on normative issues and delivery of results.

One Programme—The GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development

The new programme cycle 2017–2021 is governed by an invigorated management structure, empowering a greater involvement of partners, mainly government and development partners, in the strategic oversight of UN Albania's work. This has been achieved mainly through affiliation of line ministers in the Programme's Steering Committee (Joint Executive Committee), co-chairmanship of Result Groups (Outcome Groups) by ministers and pairs of UN agency

heads, and engagement of development and other implementing partners in the Outcome Group Meetings.²⁰⁵

In addition, UN Albania has established three new joint thematic groups, besides the existing Gender Theme Group, Operations Management Team, and UN Communication Group:

- (i) UN-INSTAT Data Group (led by UN-FPA) focused on coordinating joint efforts in support of better data collection and use, with a special focus on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.
- (ii) UN-People's Advocate Group (led by UNICEF) focused on strengthening the roles of independent institutions to push forward the human rights agenda in the country.
- (iii) UN-SDG Task Force (co-led by the UNRC office and UNDP with involvement of Department for Development and Good Governance) focused on driving joint actions forward on the SDGs.

As a leading Delivering as One country since 2007, all UN activities in support of the country's development are operationalised through comprehensive rolling biennial joint work-plans (JWPs), prepared at the outcome level by the implementing government institutions and 17 contributing UN agencies (8 resident and 9 non-resident). JWPs were discussed with partners and signed for 2017–2018 in the areas of (i) Governance and Rule of Law,²⁰⁶ (ii) Social Cohesion,²⁰⁷

(iii) Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture,²⁰⁸ and (iv) Environment and Climate Change.²⁰⁹ All JWPs include indicators, baselines, targets, means of verification and assumptions and risks as tools to assess progress made and hold implementing parties accountable for achievement of results. Furthermore, gender, institutional capacity building and policy development are a crucial part of JWP strategic deliverables.

In 2017, 80 percent of the Programme Results Framework was on track or partially on track and programme delivery amounted to 87 percent of the budget. Progress was captured in continuous reviews and reporting, such as the mid-year review²¹⁰ (September), 2017 UNCT Albania work plan reporting (December), and specific reporting to Programme contributing donors and global funds: Sida (September), Delivering Results Together Fund (October), and SDC (December). Effective and coherent communication of results was achieved through a wide array of platforms to key audiences such as website stories, news and video, publications, bi-monthly UN newsletter, national and local media, as well as many more. UN Albania social media platforms were instrumental in reaching out to people, spreading awareness and information on the UN's programme in Albania and creating a two-way communication with the public at large.

Recognising innovations for development as a potential area to bring about change, UN agencies utilised innovative approaches in 2017 programme implementation, including, among others, one-stop shops and the in-one-place approach for service delivery to citizens, tracking mechanisms for real-time information in the areas of justice, human rights, GBV, agriculture and environment, surveys, mapping and CBSs of

standards and perceptions (public and government), innovation labs involving mainly youth to design sustainable solutions for Tirana citizens, crowdfunding and alliances (women, children).

Furthermore, a joint initiative of UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women was implemented for testing innovative financing mechanisms in Albania. The innovation was linked to the approach taken to build financial connections between mature enterprises willing to invest in promising start-ups through equity crowdfunding, and eventually set up a sustainable system in support of emerging businesses. A partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tirana made possible the engagement of 100 VIP companies in an exploration survey, probing their potential participation in equity crowdfunding schemes.

Common Budgetary Framework—One Fund

UN Albania's costed results are presented in one financial framework. Twice a year, in the middle and at the end of the year, UNCT Albania and implementing government partners provide information on progress made against the planned results and actual expenditures.

PoCSD for 2017 had an available budget of USD 21.8 million (Figure 1), including core resources of USD 6.5 million (30%) and non-core / mobilised resources of USD 15.3 million (70%). The high value of the non-core resources highlights the importance of resource mobilisation initiatives in programme implementation. By end of year, the programme reached a delivery rate of 87 percent, with the balance carried over into 2018. Annex C presents a financial overview of the 2017 total budget, including all sources of funding.

205. In 2017, eight Outcome Group meetings (one each per Outcome) were held. Four meetings were arranged internally with participation of UN agencies only, while four meetings were organised with partners, government and development partners. The focus of these meetings was to finalise, validate and sign the JWPs 2017–2018.

206. <https://www.un.org.al/what-we-do/governance-and-rule-of-law/joint-work-plan-and-activities>

207. <https://www.un.org.al/what-we-do/social-cohesion/joint-work-plan-and-activities>

208. <https://www.un.org.al/what-we-do/economic-growth-labour-and-agriculture/joint-work-plan-and-activities>

209. <https://www.un.org.al/what-we-do/environment-and-climate-change/joint-work-plan-and-activities>

210. <https://www.un.org.al/publications/programme-cooperation>

FIGURE 1. BUDGET AND DELIVERY, 2017

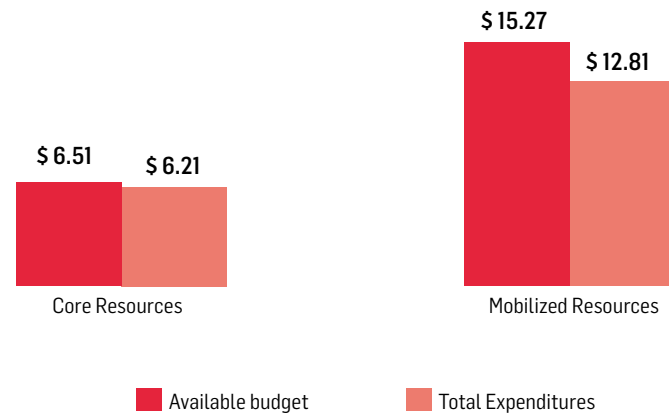
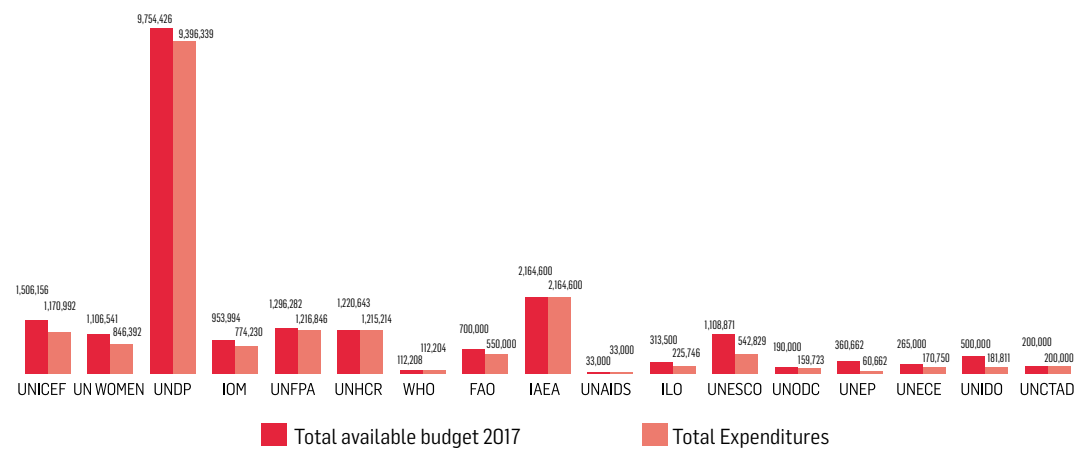


FIGURE 2. UN AGENCIES BUDGETS AND DELIVERY, 2017



The eight resident and nine non-resident agencies (NRAs) contributions to PoCSD implementation in 2017 are shown in Figure 2. The available budget of resident agencies made up 76 percent of UN Albania’s total available budget, while non-resident agencies contributed 24 percent. By end of year, resident agencies delivered 80 percent of UN Albania total expenditures, and non-resident agencies, 20 percent.

Figure 3 presents the budget and delivery of the four outcomes. Outcome 2 (Social Cohesion) had the largest available budget (37%) followed by Outcome 1 (Governance and Rule of Law; 28%), Outcome 4 (DRR and Climate Change; 24%) and Outcome 3 (Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture; 11%).

Figure 4 presents the composition of the avail-

FIGURE 3. BUDGET AND DELIVERY OF THE FOUR OUTCOMES, 2017

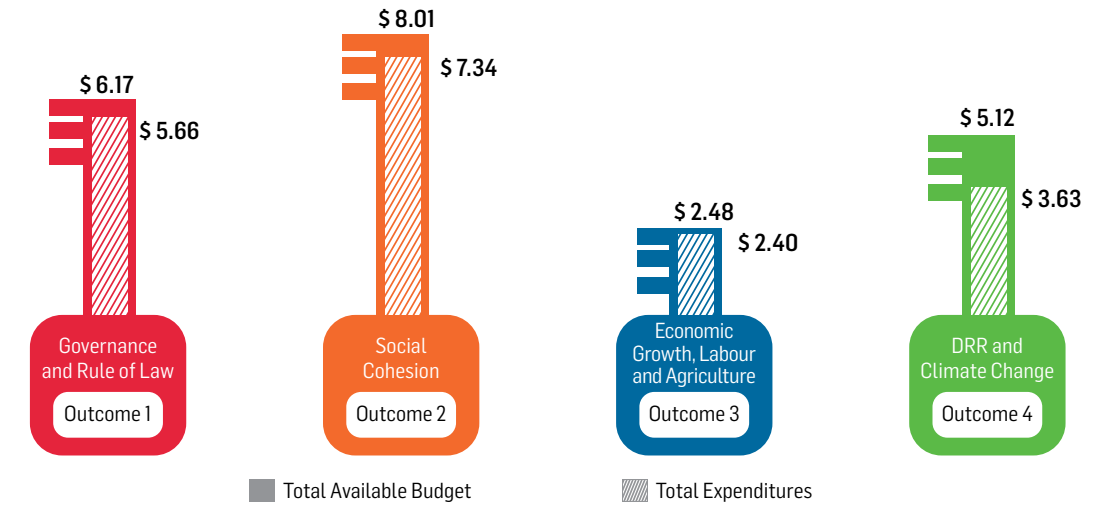
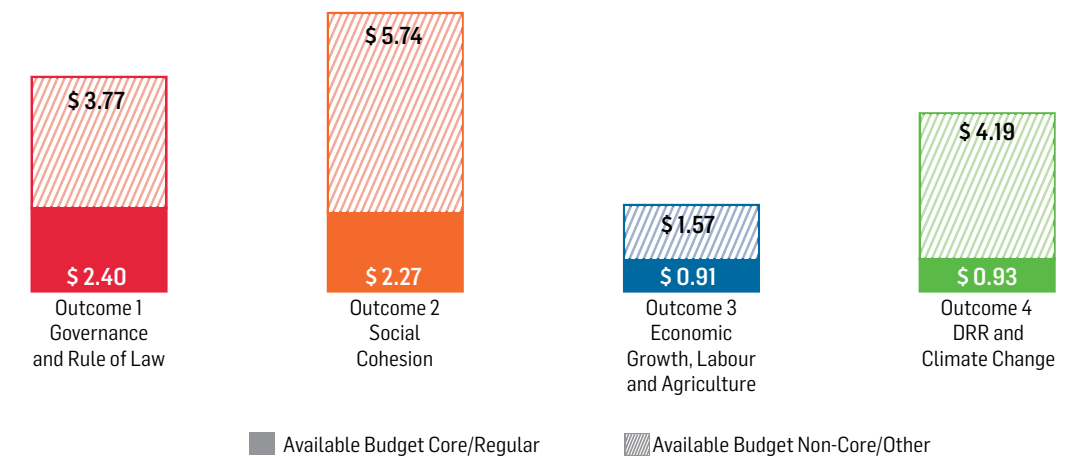


FIGURE 4. COMPOSITION OF AVAILABLE BUDGET OF THE FOUR OUTCOMES, 2017

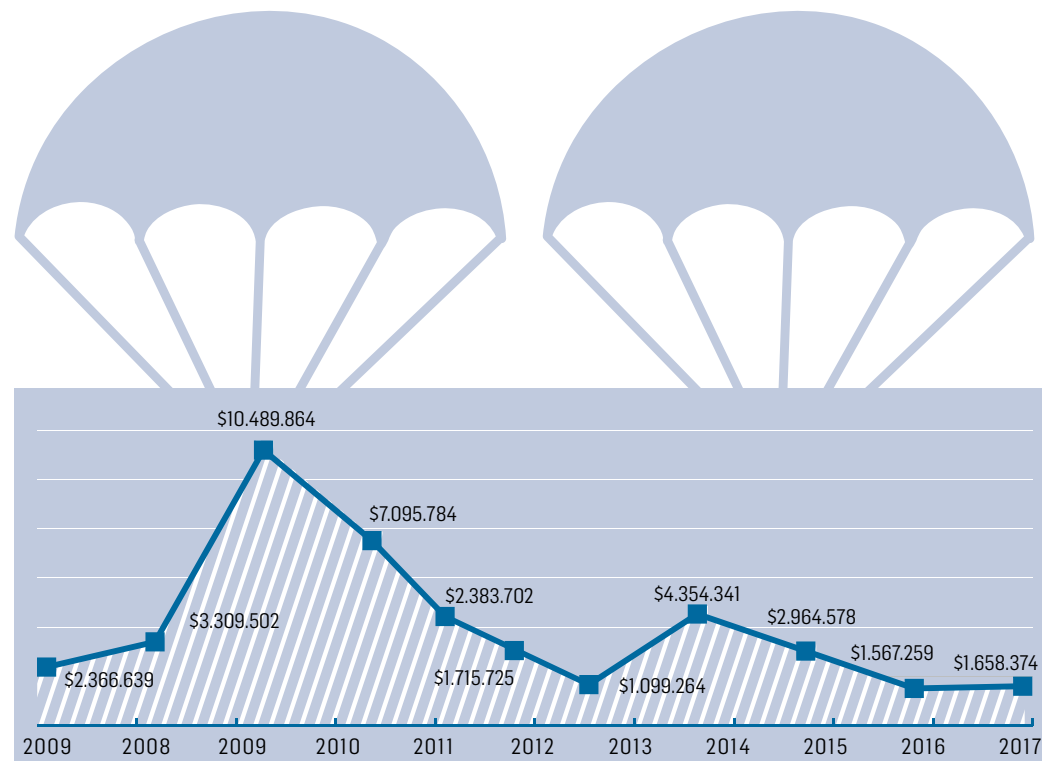


able budget per each Outcome. The relevance of non-core contributions for the PoCSD implementation is noticeable, with the non-core budget amount more than double the core budget amount for each outcome.

The UN Albania Coherence Fund (the One Fund, from the Delivering as One initiative, that, as of 2018, will be branded the *Albania SDG Acceler-*

ation Fund) is an important element of the mobilised (non-core) resources and supports priorities from PoCSD. In 2017, SDC invested USD 1.6 million to advance social inclusion and protection priorities. The UN in Albania also implemented carry-over funds (received in late 2016) from Sida to support gender work through the Coherence Fund. Figure 5 presents the size of the UN Coherence Fund over the last 10 years.

FIGURE 5. SIZE OF THE UN COHERENCE FUND, 2007–2017



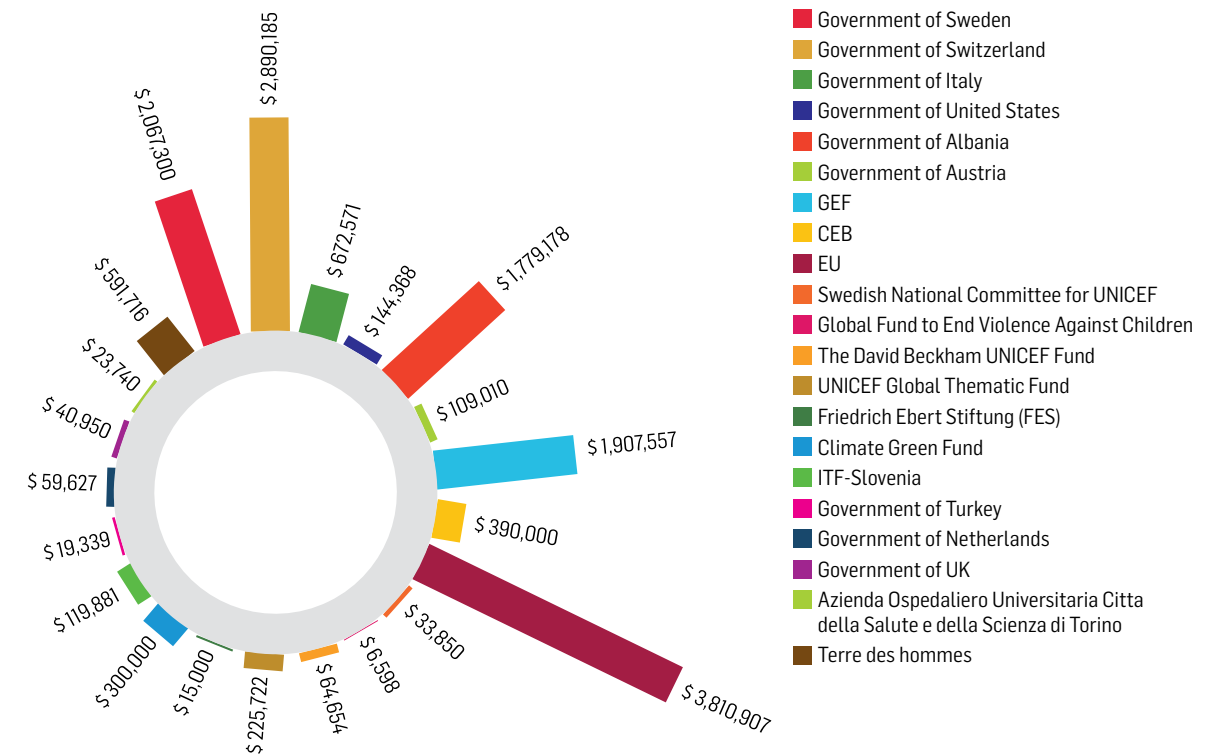
The SDC contribution is part of a four-year commitment of approximately USD 8 million, with a possible second four-year phase of similar size. An independent evaluation commissioned by Sida about their support to the Coherence Fund in support of gender equality work from 2012–2017 was conducted from April–June 2017, assessing comparative advantages and disadvantages of this means of financing for achievement of results. The evaluation²¹¹ recommended continued Swedish contribution to the Coherence Fund, and efforts are ongoing for preparation of

long-term support towards gender work under PoCSD 2017–2021, to be materialised in 2018.

In 2017, UN Albania implemented USD 15.3 million from 21 contributing funding sources, mobilised through the Coherence Fund and other sources at the country level, regionally and globally (USD contributions shown in Figure 6). The delivery rate of this non-core funding amounted to 84 percent by the end of 2017. The largest six donors are EU, the governments of Switzerland and Sweden, GEF, the governments of Albania and Italy.

211. <http://www.un.org.al/publications/evaluation-swedish-support-one-un-albania-gender-equality-work-2012-2017>

FIGURE 6. TOTAL NON – CORE / MOBILIZED RESOURCES IMPLEMENTED IN 2017



UN Resident Coordinator functioning

In 2017, the UN Resident Coordinator’s office focused on launching the new five-year Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development, in particular by establishing ministerial level Outcome (Results) groups. These Outcomes groups, co-chaired by pairs of UN agency heads, inclusive of development partners and bringing together multiple line ministries, oversaw the strategic planning process on a two-year rolling basis.

A second key priority for 2017—and one that will continue—is leading the UN in supporting the government on its commitments to the SDGs. In addition to the SDG advocacy presented throughout this report in nearly all activities, the UN in Albania also advocated for the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee, a Parliamentary resolution on SDGs,²¹² the agreement for government to deliver a Voluntary National Report in 2018, a signed commitment of universities on SDGs,²¹³ and organ-

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

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

isation of round tables with the private sector. Advocacy with the EU and European member states was also undertaken to promote and an understanding of the synergies between EU integration and SDG achievement.

The Resident Coordinator represents the UN system at the Donor Technical Secretariat and on the Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs, and presented SDG approaches at the Development Partners forum. The RC has taken the lead in re-positioning the Coherence Fund as the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. A one-day off-site UN system planning day was held in June 2017, and a two-day retreat organised in November.

Operating as One

In 2017, the UN Operations Management Team (OMT) in Albania played an important role in enhancing the efficiency of the common services, resulting in reduced transaction costs of UN agencies operating in the country. Eight agencies—ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDSS, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC—and several UN agency projects reside in the common premises designated by the UN Secretary General as UN House on 25 November 2013. UN Women is in satellite premises close to the central building. UN House contributes towards an increased level of UN cohesiveness in programme implementation and operations practices and procedures, including the introduction of more efficient common services. By being close physically and functionally, the UN Common House has allowed UNCT in Albania to enhance collaboration, present a unified image in the country and achieve greater economies of scale. Provision of common services and clustering of activities has enabled a reduction in operational costs of six percent, and increased effectiveness and efficiency in supporting programme delivery. Due consideration

is given to the safety of the premises, to security access and the environment. Several efforts were implemented in 2017 to increase environmental sustainability of common premises, aiming towards reduction of energy consumption, through installing light sensors with LED technology, periodic monitoring of energy consumption, and increasing UN staff awareness and improving attitudes in this regard. The established practice of paper recycling has been in place since 2016.

UN in Albania has twelve common services, including facilities management, in place, 18 common long-term agreements (LTAs), and two memorandum of agreements (MoAs) for medical services and common premises. Most of these LTAs meet the value for money and quality standards set by OMT. In 2017, aiming towards greater efficiency through economy of scale and collective bargaining on behalf of all participating agencies, OMT revisited LTAs to explore further possibilities of cost optimisation. LTAs for six common services (travel, event management, fuel, translation, office stationery and Internet) were renewed, and seven new LTAs for four common services areas (security services, printing, video production and design) were endorsed. The agreement with Medical Response for the Diplomatic Corps (MRDC) was renewed with reduced prices negotiated, while translation and consultancy rates were reviewed and adjusted accordingly based on market rates. Use of common LTAs and overall cost consciousness resulted in estimated savings of USD 167,123 across all operations.

Within the framework of PoCSD 2017–2021, OMT supported development of a Business Operating Strategy (BOS)²¹⁴ that aims to take a strategic results-oriented approach to planning, management and implementation of harmonised business operations. At the onset, a BOS road

214. Based on a review of existing common services, and after assessing the capacity of the OMT and its working groups, a modified BOS was recommended, with focus on maximising avoided costs through full utilisation of LTAs by all UN agencies, and regular monitoring and evaluation of competitiveness and value for money of existing LTAs.

map was prepared to enhance development results through strengthened linkages between the Programme and business operations supporting programme delivery. BOS is expected to be finalised and approved by UNCT in the first half of 2018.

Regarding the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework implementation, focused on joint micro assessment, improved risk management and capacity building of implementing partners, a HACT macro assessment was completed in 2017, and a micro assessment of disbursement means for funds to reflect adjusted risk ratings of implementing partners²¹⁵ is ongoing. The UN in Albania is determined to comply fully with the requirements of the HACT Framework, with increased focus on risk management and capacity building, as well as costing for joint assurance activities to serve as a benchmark in measuring efficiency gains in HACT implementation.

Communicating as One

Putting a Human Face on Development

UNCT in Albania continued to reach out to citizens by making use of a myriad of communication channels and products with the aim of keeping the public informed about the UN's actions in advancing Albania's development and EU integration agendas.

A new communications and advocacy strategy in support of the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017–2021 was developed. The strategy aims to inform the UN's targeted audiences of its programme and impact, advocate for the SDGs and promote a coherent image of the UN as a united family of specialised agencies, working as one to accompany Albania

215. Government and NGOs.

in its development journey.

Through strategic communications, UN reached out to its audiences through several communication products, including stories featuring programme beneficiaries and partners, through story telling visual content, such as infographics, real-time news and videos, a joint UN Albania newsletter, outreach activities and through giving a boost to national and local media relations.

Four editions of the newsletter *Delivering for Development in Albania*, produced and shared widely with the UN's (one thousand) key partners, brought to the reader news from the UN, highlighted results of its work through stories and videos, and brought its latest thematic publications and studies.

Around twenty beneficiary stories have helped bring into the spotlight the way the UN is making a difference in the lives of people. A video story entitled *Advancing Social Inclusion in Albania* helped bring the human face of development to the eyes of people and brought into focus the assistance provided by the UN to Leave No One Behind. This video was viewed more than 8,000 times.

A novelty was marked during 2017. As part of the UN's advocacy for gender equality and the empowerment of women, UN honoured six Silent Heroes of Albania, women who have contributed tirelessly to bring about tangible change. The video was the key highlight of the UN Day celebrations, organised in partnership with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Sweden, and was shared by 130 people and viewed 174,000 times.

In 2017, UN revamped its website, which remains a key information channel and tool used exten-

sively by UN agencies operating in country.

Strategic communication helped UN strengthen existing partnerships with international development partners and forge new ones. Support provided by development partners has been made visible through multiple channels.

Two media fieldtrips to UN programme areas generated around 50 new stories in printed media, TV and Internet portals, thus helping the public gain more insight into UN interventions in the country and most importantly how people are affected by them. In turn this helped UN strengthen its relations with key national media.

Strengthening of social media played an instrumental role in reaching out to more people, to spread awareness and information on the UN programme and, more importantly, to engage in conversation with the public about our core purpose. Social media followers increased by nine percent, around 110 Facebook posts reached some 480,000 people, and 500,000 Twitter impressions were made over a one-year period. A social media campaign around the results of the UN Progress Report 2016, reached around 35,000 people and earned more than 40.5 K impressions on Twitter alone.

Throughout the year, issues of social inclusion and human rights were kept in the public attention through several communications products. For example, a video against domestic violence re-posted on Facebook reached some 128,000 people and has been shared more than 880 times on Facebook alone. Through the Free and Equal Campaign, implemented in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN has strongly promoted respect for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex rights and human rights in general.

Associating people and companies with the SDGs

Agenda 2030 and the SDGs were put at the centre of communications in 2017. By communicating as One, UN worked to bring together a diverse array of partners to transmit the message of the SDGs, spur actions in support of these Goals, build new partnerships and involve people to act for themselves locally, in their daily lives.

Partnership with Youth Voice, a network of 20 youth CSOs, played a significant role to bring SDGs closer to youth and raise awareness about this transformative agenda that can change Albania and the world.

SDG Week helped generate further awareness around Agenda 2030. Placing a focus on youth, activities of the week included an SDG Hackathon in Tirana where 30 students came together to design six quick win solutions to benefit Tirana citizens.

Being mindful of the fact that localisation is important in allowing people around the country to take ownership of their development agenda and local media to monitor progress, UN organised an SDG Day—Elbasan 2030—bringing together some 100 stakeholders, including the mayor, councillors, civil society and media, to discuss how to localise the SDGs. Thirty-five students participated in a Hackathon in Elbasan, coming up with innovative proposals to advance some of the SDGs in their city and neighbourhoods, while some 150 schoolchildren were introduced to the SDGs through the World's Largest Lessons.

Agenda 2030 is a transformative agenda that promises to leave No One Behind, but the goals will not be achieved without meaningful actions by the private sector. UN advocacy in 2017 aimed to convey the message that the SDGs represent a historic opportunity for business, as it can use the goals as an overarching framework to shape and



communicate their strategies, goals and activities.

Two ground-breaking partnerships with the private sector were established.

A partnership with Sophie Coffee Chain in Tirana included distribution of SDG Happy Tickets served with coffee. Around 200,000 such tickets were distributed to youth with their serving of coffee. A video produced to highlight the partnership and raise awareness of the SDGs was viewed 15,000 times and shared more than 90 times on Facebook alone.

A partnership with Telekom (part of Deutsche Telekom Group) was another highlight of 2017. A launch event and press conference generated 31 stories and news, 5,000 views through live broadcasting, with 59,000 people reached through social media posts.

A social media campaign about ten SDGs was implemented on Telekom and UN Albania social media platforms. Ten SDG posts for ten days posted on a Telekom account reached 195,300 users.

The highlight of the partnership was a night run in which some 400+ people joined the Tirana mayor, ambassadors and young people. Held under the motto Light Up the Future—Run for SDGs, the event, the first of its kind in the country, generated more than 25 news stories, and TV coverage. The event page created reached some 93,000 Facebook users, the profile picture frame to promote the run was applied by 270 users, 800 users were interested in the event, the event page was shared 65 times, 60 posts were shared by external users, and 50,000 people were reached through social media posts, as well as 14,000 viewers of the live broadcasting.

CHAPTER 4 AGENDA 2030—EFFORTS IN ALBANIA



Having endorsed Agenda 2030 on 25 September 2015, the Albanian government, with the support of the UN in Albania, embarked upon a comprehensive implementation of the Agenda in line with the NSDI and the country's EU integration agenda. The UN in Albania, through its established SDG Task Force and UN-INSTAT Joint Data Group, has sought to insert the SDGs into the development discourse in the country and interweave it with the EU agenda in several ways.

The SDGs are integrated into NSDI and the **National Statistical Programme 2016–2020**.²¹⁶ The **Rapid Integration Assessment**²¹⁷ tool of the UN (UNDP) has been applied, while the **Report on the Harmonisation of SDGs with Existing Sectoral Policies**,²¹⁸ finalised in 2017 and launched in February 2018, serves as a useful baseline report. The first half of 2018 will see the development of a baseline analysis of the Albanian state budget against the SDGs, and a needs assessment of INSTAT capacities in the country, as well as establishment of the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. Furthermore, a draft national action plan that outlines how Albania intends to pursue SDG achievement is being prepared by the Prime Minister's Office, including elements on monitoring and coordination mechanisms, structures and capacity building, costs and funding, links among the SDGs, IPMGs and EU integration long-term recommendations.

An **Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs**,²¹⁹ and chaired by the deputy prime minister and fea-

turing membership of development partners, civil society, academia and the private sector, and an inter-institutional working group for achievement of SDGs were established by the prime minister in May 2017. Both structures are mandated to provide an inclusive long-term approach to sustainable development, including policy direction, planning, implementation, financing and reporting.

The Albanian Parliament unanimously passed a **resolution**²²⁰ on commitment to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, outlining their commitment to promoting, financing and monitoring achievement of the SDGs and its positive relationship to EU integration. This will be achieved through a network of focal points positioned in each and every parliamentary commission, and through Parliament's power to convene inclusive discussions with the Albanian public and civil society.

As part of UN Albania efforts to establish partnerships with academics, 25 Albanian universities signed a **Declaration of Commitment**²²¹ to play an active role in advancing the Agenda. The pledged commitment will be further advanced through academia's role as a member of Albania's high-level inter-ministerial SDG committee.

A **pre-MAPS mission**²²² took place on 4 July 2017, supported by the UNDP regional office with the specific focus of looking at how SDGs and EU accession can work together, and whether or not a full multi-UN agency MAPS

(Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) mission could be helpful. Built around a half-day workshop, the mission assessed the utility of a subsequent full MAPS mission, as well as increased stakeholder voices in Albania to advocate for SDGs. The conclusion was that the necessary elements were in place to organise a full mission in the second quarter of 2018. Preparations are under way for it to be undertaken in April 2018.

The MAPS mission findings will feed into Albania's voluntary national report (VNR) that will be presented in July at the 2018 high-level political forum (HLPF). VNR preparation will be based upon a long process of consultations to be held during 2018Q1 with various stakeholders at the national and sub-national level focused on the prioritisation and nationalisation of SDGs and an overall adaptation of Agenda 2030 for Albania, including connections with EU integration processes. A first draft VNR will be made available by the end of 2018Q1, and a side event will be arranged in the margins of the HLPF, focused on Western Balkan cooperation on implementation of the EU and SDG agendas.

SDG outreach was in the focus of the UN's agenda in Albania during 2017. In partnership with relevant stakeholders, the UN in Albania organised many events to draw attention to the SDGs and aid the movement of important issues forward. Examples include the **Global Goals Week**,²²³ which brought together school

children and youths from across the country, as well as local government, civil society and businesses to raise awareness, find solutions, build partnerships and drive concrete actions to achievement of SDGs in Albania. Partnership was established with two leading Albanian businesses—**Telecom**²²⁴ and **Sophie Caffè**²²⁵—to advocate among the public on the importance of Agenda 2030. Numerous awareness-raising and advocacy activities were organised with young people across the country, with engagement of students from university and high school, **innovation boot camps**²²⁶ and **hackathons**²²⁷ focused on SDGs. The Albanian Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) network—Tirana Chamber of Commerce, CSOs, Parliament and academia—has been an important target group whose involvement in SDG outreach efforts has proven critical to shaping and communicating its varied roles in achieving SDGs in Albania, as well as driving forward SDG-focused strategies, goals and activities.

Other important SDG-related outreach efforts in 2017 include the issuance of UN Country Team's Op Ed **Issues for debate: Agenda2030, a lens to discuss Albanian priorities during election season**,²²⁸ launch of **SDG4-Education 2030 and Albania Education Policy Review Report**²²⁹ by MoESY, UNESCO and UNICEF, and organisation of the **Stakeholder Sensitization Workshop Implementing and Monitoring SDGs in Albania**²³⁰ by MoARD and FAO.

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

217. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/sustainable-development-goals/rapid-integrated-assessment---mainstreaming-sdgs-into-national-a.html>

218. https://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/Albania_Report_on_the_Harmonization.pdf

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

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

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

222. <https://www.un.org.al/news/%E2%80%9DAlbania-its-way-eu-accession-and-sdgs%E2%80%9D-forum>

223. <https://www.un.org.al/news/global-goals-week-week-joint-action-advance-global-goals-albania> <https://www.un.org.al/news/global-goals-week-kicks-albania>

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

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

226. https://undg.org/silofighters_blog/open-data-for-a-safer-and-child-friendly-albania/

227. <https://www.un.org.al/news/48-hour-hackathon-brings-young-people-together-design-solutions-achieve-global-goals>

228. <https://www.un.org.al/news/issues-debate-agenda2030-lens-discuss-albanian-priorities-during-election-season>

229. <https://www.un.org.al/news/albania-launches-sustainable-development-goal-4-education-2030-and-education-policy-review>

230. <https://www.un.org.al/news/fao-and-ministry-agriculture-and-rural-development-lead-work-implementing-and-monitoring-sdgs>

With SDG5, Agenda 2030 represents a major step forward in terms of the global commitment to gender equality, and—just as importantly—gender equality will be necessary to reach all the SDGs. Gender statistics are essential for monitoring achievement of the goals, especially the need to ensure no one is left behind. INSTAT has mapped existing data to SDG reporting requirements, showing that just over one-third (38%) of the indicators are currently available. The remaining indicators require the introduction of new collection activities, new technologies and improved statistical methodologies for them to be produced. SDGs represent an important opportunity to build on earlier investment in gender statistics, mainly supported by the UN in Albania, and make rapid progress with innovative approaches. The new set of gender indicators in the National Statistical Programme 2016–2021 can be used for monitoring the SDGs.

With this foundation in place on SDG achievement, action needs to be accelerated if targets are to be achieved in the remaining thirteen years. These include creating a team of SDG champions across the restructured line ministries, the finalisation of the SDG national action plan, the setting of nationalised targets and indicators, and the commencement of monitoring and reporting.

These steps are necessary if institutions are to be held accountable and, more importantly, programmes and resources can be adjusted as necessary. All steps will require substantial capacity building at central and local levels to ensure compliance with European and other international standards.

In line with these challenges, UN Albania's focus in 2018 will be to support the Prime Minister's Office in its delivery of the national report to the UN High Level Political Forum (July 2018) and its leadership on SDGs more generally. A multi-agency UN MAPS mission will be organised, to make recommendations on acceleration platforms for SDGs. The UN will build capacities of INSTAT and line ministries, support the analysis of the national budget against the SDGs, as well as continue to undertake SDG awareness raising. It will work closely with Parliament to help with monitoring, resource allocation and public engagement. Means to finance actions in priorities areas will be sought through partnership building and the establishment of the SDG Acceleration Fund. Support to EU integration structures on the negotiation process will be provided, aiming to insert the SDGs into the working agenda of those structures.

ANNEXES



ANNEX A: PROGRESS AGAINST POCSO RESULTS FRAMEWORK

ON TRACK PARTIALLY ON TRACK NO PROGRESS NO DATA

Outcome 1—Governance and Rule of Law					
State and civil society organisations perform effectively and with accountability for consolidated democracy in line with international norms and standards					
National Development Goals: Accession to the European Union; Good governance, democracy and the rule of law					
EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas: 5, 10, 18, 22, 23, 24					
SDGs: 5, 10, 16					
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2016	Outcome Target (2021) Output Target (2017)	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2017
UNFPA UN Women UNICEF UNDP UNODC WHO IOM UNESCO UNHCR	% MPs, municipal councillors, and senior positions in the public sector held by women	MPs 21% Municipal Councillors 35% Public Sector 44.6%	MPs 30% Municipal Councillors 40% Public Sector: no less than 30%	Parliament Central Elections Commission Department of Public Administration	MPs 28.57% Municipal Councillors 35% Public Sector 44.6%
	Annual rating of democratic change in Albania (composite)	4.14	3.9	Albania Democratic Governance Country Report, Freedom House	4.14 / 7
	Perceptions of performance of public institutions	CEC 8% Parliament 10% Government 14% Local Government 13%	CEC 20% Parliament 25% Government 35% Local Government 50%	Periodic citizen survey undertaken in the framework of Open Government Partnership	CEC 20% Parliament 13% Government 28% Local Government 32%
	Rate of children in detention (per 100,000 population aged 14–17)	179	105	Ministry of Justice Records	114.3
	Out of all child-related valid complaints, proportion for which remedial action was taken by the People's Advocate, annually	65% (2014)	5% points increase	People's Advocate Office records	37% (2016)
Output 1.1 Human Rights - Constitutional, ministerial and independent mechanisms are reinforced to identify and report human rights violations and enable evidence-based policy making and response.					
UNFPA UN Women UNICEF UNDP UNODC UNHCR IOM	Number of monitoring reports on migrant rights situation in the country	0	1	Physical monitoring	0
	Number of national reports monitoring implementation of international instruments with gender equality indicators, age and sex-disaggregated data and analysis	0	CRC at least 1 UPR at least 1	National government institutional websites	CRC reporting process is initiated Mid-Term report on implementation of the recommendations received during the second cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submitted in 2017 National report to CoE's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) submitted in 2017
	Percentage of population who believe women are capable political leaders	46% of population believe that women do not compare to men with regard to leadership qualities (31% women, 58% men)	65% of population believe that women are capable political leaders	Project data	As of end 2017, 46% of population (31% women, 58% men) believe that women are capable political leaders. Updated data will be published in the second half of 2018

Output 1.2 Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law - National public administration has greater capacity to improve access to information, address corruption and organised crime, and engage CSOs and media in efforts to strengthen monitoring of reform efforts.					
UNDP UNESCO UNODC IOM UNFPA WHO	Improved Database on potential victims of trafficking (PVoTs) and victims of trafficking (VoTs) in view of data analysis and reporting	Existing VoTs database	Database populated and disaggregated data available	Annual report of Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (ONAC)	Country Database is operational. Actions to improve it with the aim of producing more specific and timely reporting and data analysis will be undertaken in 2018
	No. of ADISA regional service delivery centres	1	4	Physical, MIPA/ADISA	4
	No. of legal and policy measures and operational tools defined and activated against illicit trafficking of cultural objects	0	4: database, new law, bilateral agreements, national platform	UN and partners reports Project data	4: database, new law, bilateral agreements, national platform Achievement of the target is in process and expected to be reached fully by 2021
	No. of events and activities to strengthen media accountability and MIL in Albania	N/A	At least 3 events or activities	Platforms establishment documents UN & platform reports	2 capacity building activities, 3 activities with media and journalists on ICPD, SRH, youth issues (UNFPA)
Output 1.3 Local Governance - Local Government Units (LGUs) are able to deliver equitable, quality services and strengthen influence of citizens in decision making.					
UNDP UNICEF UNFPA	No. of LGUs operating OSS for service delivery	3	20	Physical LGUs MSLI	12 LGUs
	No. of new participatory instruments for participatory decision making at LGU level	3 LGUs	10 LGUs	Local Governance Mapping of LGUs Project data	3 LGUs
	No. of municipal action plans that have a budget line for youth, including education and SRH	0	12	LGUs	3 LGUs
Output 1.4 Access to Justice - Children and vulnerable adults and groups have equitable access to a friendlier justice system, and juvenile justice is administered to international standards.					
UNICEF UNDP	Existence of legislation that recognises children's right to be heard in civil and administrative proceedings that affect them (in line with Article 12 of the CRC)	1 Law: Family Code	2 Laws: Family Code; Child Rights and Protection Law and its secondary legislation	Parliament website Official Gazette	Child Rights and Protection Law adopted in February 2017, recognising the right of the child to be heard Free Legal Aid Law adopted in December 2017

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

UN Women UNDP UNICEF UNFPA UNODC	No. of GoA draft policies, strategies and plans engendered	2: NSDI, NSGE	2 NSDI, NSGE	Annual reports	2: NSDI, NSGE (both approved)
	Extent of gender mainstreaming in central budgeting process (MTBP)	24 MTBPs	30 MTBPs	Policy document Action plans	28 budgetary programmes from 11 line ministries have mainstreamed gender principles in the new MTBP 2018–2010
	No. of fiscal laws, by-laws and policies reflecting compliance with GRB	2: OBL, GEL	1	Draft laws By-laws	1, Law on Local Government Finances 2, Instruction on MTBP for all line ministries and state institutions, reinforcing mandatory GRB application across sector budget programmes 3, Instruction on MTBP for all municipalities to guide application of GRB in process of municipal budget preparation 4, Standard instruction on monitoring and reporting procedures of municipalities providing requirement for gender sensitive reporting of municipal services and expenditures 5, Standard instruction on preparation of budget
	A consolidated monitoring system for data collection & dissemination for service delivery	Existence of an unconsolidated monitoring system	Consolidated monitoring system in place (1 monitoring framework of NSGE; 2 Templates of onset data collection)	National statistical reports and bulletins	1 Monitoring system in place; INSTAT is supported on a yearly basis to provide increased sex-disaggregated data sets across sectors in annual statistical publication Women and Men

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

UNHCR IOM UNICEF WHO	Migration governance policy available and endorsed	No	Yes	DCM on endorsement of the policy	Policy is being prepared for finalisation in 2018
	Extent to which asylum procedures are compliant with international refugee law and the EU acquis	50%	60%	Gap analysis (legal, institutional, practice) Systematic border monitoring Monitoring of RSD procedures	60%
	Reception capacities at border increased	30 persons	100 persons	Ministry of Internal Affairs reports Monitoring of border situation	105 persons
	No. of reception facilities for irregular migrants and asylum seekers meeting minimum international standards	40%	60%	Systematic monitoring of National Centre for Asylum seekers and closed centre for irregular migrants	60%
	No. of Anti-Trafficking cases prosecuted	No baseline	10	ONAC reports	According to ONAC there were 4 anti-trafficking cases prosecuted during 2017

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

All women, men, girls and boys, especially those from marginalised and vulnerable groups, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights; 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; Consolidating good governance, democracy and the rule of law; Investing in people and social cohesion

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

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

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2016	Outcome Target (2021) Output Target (2017)	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2017
WHO UNICEF UNFPA UNAIDS IOM UNESCO UNDP UNW FAO IAEA	Private household out-of-pocket expenditures as a proportion of total health expenditure	55%	40%	World Bank reports INSTAT	55%
	2.2 Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	Total 26 Female 12 Male 14	Total 18 (30% reduction) Female 8 (30% reduction) Male 10 (30% reduction)	UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME) https://data.unicef.org/resources/levels-trends-child-mortality/	Total 26 Female 12 Male 14
	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 deliveries)	29 (UN IGME)	20 (30% reduction)	UN IGME	32 (2016, INSTAT)
	Net enrolment rates	<u>Pre-Primary</u> Total 81.34% Girls 80.6% Boys 82% Roma children 55% <u>Primary 2013</u> Total 95.92% Girls 94.8% Boys 96.2% Roma children 61.4% <u>Children with disabilities basic education 2014</u> 3,201 students	<u>Pre-Primary</u> Total 98% Girls 98% Boys 98% Roma 75% <u>Primary 2021</u> Total 100% Girls 100% Boys 100% Roma 80% <u>Children with disabilities basic education 2020</u> 25% increase	MoE reports INSTAT UNESCO Institute for Statistics UNHCR annual reports OECD Biannual report of MoHSP	<u>Pre-Primary</u> Total 70.3% Girls 75.1% Boys 77.4% Roma children n/a <u>Primary</u> Total 96.9% Girls 96.2% Boys 97.5% Roma children: n/a <u>Children with disabilities basic education</u> 3,252 students (16% increase)
	Schoolchildren's learning outcomes (as measured by PISA)	Reading 394 Maths 394 Science 397	Reading 494 Maths 496 Science 501	OECD Biannual report of MoHSP	Reading 405 Maths 413 Science 427
	% of low income families and children with disabilities with access to adequate cash benefits	Total (% of households living in extreme poverty receiving cash assistance) 26%	Total (% of households living in extreme poverty receiving cash assistance) 56%	INSTAT Biannual report of MoHSP Line ministries policy documents NSDI 2015–2020 monitoring framework	Data on poverty as of December 2017 will be available by October 2018
	Number of sector-specific policies with explicit social inclusion targets	4	24	INSTAT Biannual report of MoHSP Line ministries policy documents NSDI 2015–2020 monitoring framework	15 out of 24
	Level of implementation of National Action Plan on Roma and Egyptian Integration	Rated 2	Rated at least 3 (rating from 1 to 5) ¹	UN, EU and stakeholders' qualitative assessments, sector and country progress reports MoHSP and SSS records	Rated 3 (rating from 1 to 5)
	Rate of children (age 0–17 years) in residential (public and non-public) care per 100,000 child population	84	42	UN, EU and stakeholders' qualitative assessments, sector and country progress reports MoHSP and SSS records	79.2 (refers to population of age 0–18 years)
	Number of national mechanisms collecting evidence and addressing violence against children	4: police, Child Protection Units (CPUs), schools, helpline	At least 6: police, CPUs, schools, helpline, health centres, online and web-based platform	State Agency for Child Rights Protection annual reports	At least 6: police, CPUs, schools, helpline, health centres, online and web-based platform
	% of women who have experienced physical violence during their lives	23.7%	21%	INSTAT	23.7% (2016) No data available for 2017

Output 2.1 Health - There is increased access to quality, inclusive, equitable, and affordable health-care services and community demand is increased.

UNFPA UNICEF WHO IAEA UNAIDS FAO IOM	Monitoring and evaluation reports on comprehensive national health policies and action plans on UHC, NCD control, RH, HIV and TB	1	3	Reports produced by MoHSP	Three technical reports produced in support of MoHSP: NCD Management at PHC, Cervical Cancer Control, and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses
	No. of LGUs with oversight inter-sectoral coordinating mechanisms and Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent health and Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) quality improvement plans	0	2	Reports produced by Regions and LGUs	2 LGUs have initiated the work for establishing oversight inter-sectoral coordinating mechanisms and Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent health and Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) quality improvement plans
	No. of health care institutions that have conducted self-assessment on compliance to approved Quality of Care Standards	5 hospitals	10 hospitals and 14 Primary Health Care Centres	Reports produced by the National Centre for the Quality, Safety and Accreditation of Health Institutions	11 Regional Hospitals, 4 University Hospitals, 3 Services at Mother Theresa University Hospital Centre, 10 Primary Health Care Centres in Tirana; 5 Primary Health Care Centres in Durres
	No. of patients diagnosed with cancer using imaging nuclear medicine techniques and treated with radiation therapy in public hospitals	20%	+40% by 2021; Therapy +40% by 2021; 1302 (Cobalt and Therapax) of which 225 breast cases	Reports produced by Mother Theresa University Hospital Centre	22.4%
	No. of health professionals with capacity to identify and refer potential victims of trafficking (PV/VoT)	0	60 health professionals (5 per county)	Yearly reports produced by MoIA, ONAC	60 health professionals from 12 counties of Albania have been capacitated in implementation of indicators to identify and refer victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking

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

UNICEF UNESCO UNFPA IOM FAO	Availability of inclusive mechanisms for prevention and response towards out-of-school children and children at risk of drop-out for all relevant actors	Mechanism for preventing drop-out developed	Mechanism for prevention of school drop-out enter into force and used in at least three regions in Albania	MoESY policy documents Approval letter from Minister of Education, MoESY reports	Mechanism in place, approved by MoESY and in use in 10 schools in four counties of Albania
	Presence of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in all schools at all levels, private and public, including children 10–18 years of age	20%	30%	MoESY policy documents Approval letter from Minister of Education, MoESY reports	30%
	No. of schools and children reached with 'trafficking in human beings prevention and education' interventions	Not available from statistics	1,200: 12 schools, 100 children each	Agreements, report from project and MoESY	6 schools, 180 teachers, 200 students reached
	Extent to which Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is mainstreamed in the national education policy, curriculum, teacher education and student assessment	GCE not mainstreamed in curriculum	GCE part of the curriculum	Reports for project, MoESY, among others	Pilot project on testing new curriculum related to Global Citizenship Education implemented in 20 schools Indicator target will be reached by 2021

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

UNDP UNFPA UNICEF UNWOMEN UNAIDS IOM FAO	Inter-sectoral monitoring and coordination mechanism established and performing to its mandate, ToR	0	1	GoA / MoHSP Social Inclusion annual reports	Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group (SIIG) established in cooperation with line ministries to ensure alignment and integrity of data for measuring, monitoring and reporting on national policies and programmes outlined in the Social Inclusion Policy Document
	Policy or budgetary framework, or both, that explicitly addresses child poverty and disparities available	No	Yes	NSDI implementation report	Work is under way with INSTAT to introduce new ways of measuring and reporting on child poverty
	Coordination mechanisms for social protection systems established countrywide	No	7 municipalities	GoA / MoHSP Social Inclusion annual reports	Through the Social Pact, political commitment has been stated at sub-national level to institute social protection coordination mechanisms
	Level of implementation of National Action Plan on Roma and Egyptian Integration	Rated 2 (rating of 1 to 5)	Rated at least 3	GoA / MoHSP Social Inclusion annual reports	Employment, start-ups and integration support provided to > 361 R&E 6 Community Upgrading Projects (CUP)—with an average value of EUR 75,000 per project—identified and implemented in line with priorities of NAPREI 20 R&E CSOs coached and supported through small grants to improve living conditions of R&E 4 municipalities (Berat, Durres, Shkoder and Tirana) supported to prepare, adopt and implement local action plans for R&E integration 7 R&E youth activism initiatives supported GoA supported implementation and monitoring of progress of Action Plan for Integration of R&E through the ROMALB system
	No. of R&E women and men with improved access to basic social protection services is increased	Baseline 2016: 357 R&E benefited from integrated community-based social services; 112 R&E included in reintegration programmes; 184 R&E benefited from employment measures	Target 2018: 450 R&E benefited from integrated community-based social services; 150 R&E included in reintegration programmes; 250 R&E benefited from employment measures		4 inter-cultural community centres operational with a new model of integrated community based social services in line with NAPREI 786 R&E enjoy improved access to basic services, including civil registration, education, health and social care Employment, start-ups and integration support provided to more than 361 R&E 150 R&E included in reintegration programmes

Output 2.4 Child Protection - Child protection systems are strengthened to prevent and respond to cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children, with a particular focus on vulnerable children and families.					
UNICEF WHO IOM	No. of instruments facilitating implementation of legal framework for Child Protection is in place	0	3	Parliament records	3 DCMs ² and 1 by-law ³ finalised and shared with government Around 20 sub-legal acts deriving from the Law on Child Rights and Protection and Criminal Justice for Children Code in total will be drafted by the 1 st quarter of 2018
	% of CPUs that perform case management of children at risk and need of protection	26%	40%	State Agency on Child Rights and Protection annual report	26%
	National Action Plan for Child and Family Social Services (De-institutionalisation Plan) available in the country	Policy drafted	Policy finalised and disseminated	Parliament records	Process will start in March–April 2018
	No. of (potential) Victims of Trafficking identified by CPUs	Not available	36	ONAC annual reports	Statistics on the cases identified and referred by CPUs are not yet available. The annual report for 2017 will be ready by June 2018
Output 2.5 Gender-Based Violence - Capacity of institutions and service providers to implement legislation and normative standards on Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) and other forms of discrimination is strengthened.					
UNDP UN Women UNFPA WHO UNICEF IOM	No. of legal amendments adopted on GBV to align with international and regional standards	2	4	Parliament website Council of Ministers website	2 laws approved in 2017: Albanian Code of Criminal Procedure; Free Legal Aid Law
	Municipalities with functional CCR	44%	70%	Yearly reports produced by MoIA, ONAC	60.6% of municipalities with established CCRs
	No. of cases of GBV addressed through CCR	312	370	MoHSP report REVALB, MoHSP	593 cases recorded in REVALB during 2017
	Existence of improved knowledge on child marriage	No	Yes	UNICEF reports	Work for preparation of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Qualitative Study started in 2017Q4. Finalisation and launch of the study will be in 2018

Outcome 3—Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture					
Economic growth priorities, policies, and programmes of the Government of Albania are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development.					
National Development Goals: Accession to the European Union; Growth through increased competitiveness; Investing in people and social cohesion; Growth through sustainable resources and territorial development					
EU Integration Chapters and Priority Areas: 8, 11, 13, 18, 19, 20, 26					
SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12					
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2016	Outcome Target (2021) Output Target (2017)	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2017
UNDP UNWOMEN	Ease of Doing Business distance to frontier (score)	60.5	72.13	World Bank: Doing Business Report	68.7 (2018)
FAO UNECE UNCTAD ILO UNESCO IOM	No. of new businesses established, by sex of owner	Total 16,731 Female 1,947 Male 14,784	Annual 10% increase	National Registration Centre annual reports	Total 19,090 Female 9,649 Male 9,441
	Youth unemployment rate (young men and women of age 15–29 years who are without work, available for work and seeking work)	Total 34.2% Female 35.9% Male 33.3%	Total 20.5% Female 21% Male 20%	INSTAT Labour Force Survey	Total 26% (Q3 2017) Female 25% Male 26.6%
	Growth of agriculture sector 2016–2020	2.25%	20%	INSTAT	3.15%
	Agriculture exports:imports ratio in 2020	1:4.5	1:3	INSTAT	1:4.1
	Global Innovation Index Rank	87	75	Cornell University, INSEAD, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) www.globalinnovationindex.org/	93
Output 3.1 Economic Development - Central and local governments are able to deliver effective economic support services and implement urban development policies that promote gender equality, the green economy and inclusive and sustainable industrial development.					
UNDP UN Women FAO UNECE UNCTAD	No. of new or revised policies, by-laws and regulatory frameworks that support women entrepreneurship in urban and rural areas	1	5	Ministry of Economy SME Policy Index Albania (OECD) MoARD	1
	No. of corporations that endorse Women Empowerment Principles	7	50	Tirana Municipality, UN Women CO annual reports	11
	% women representation on board of public companies	13.2%	40%	INSTAT	27.9%
Output 3.2 Labour - Labour market governance, tripartite dialogue and collective bargaining are strengthened and reduce informal employment, improve occupational health and safety, and enhance the employability of youth, women and other vulnerable groups.					
UNDP UN Women ILO IOM	No. of trainings for MC staff	0	3	MoHSP reports	1
Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development - There is increased capacity to design and implement policies and strategies for sustainable rural development and modernisation of the agricultural sector that are gender sensitive and empower rural women.					
FAO UN Women	No. of actions that raise awareness of rural women's role and rights in agriculture and rural economy	1	At least 5 nationwide implemented campaigns in rural areas that disseminate information on rural women's rights	UN Women CO Annual Report	At least 2 nationwide campaigns implemented in rural areas that disseminate information on rural women's rights
	Women's share among beneficiaries of agriculture extension service	11%	15%	MoARD	28%

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

UNESCO	Inter-institutional mechanisms in place for cultural and natural heritage management, including for sustainable tourism	No mechanism in place	Mechanism in place	Laws adopted, reports on implementation of conventions, decisions of government	Inter-institutional mechanism in place with participation of main governmental stakeholders (Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Ministry of Culture, MoARD, National Agency of Protected Areas, Pogradec Municipality), local communities and CSOs
	Culture mainstreamed within development programmes at all levels, by means of providing an evidence base on the impact of culture for development and implementing a national strategy for culture	No	Yes	Laws adopted, reports on implementation of conventions, decisions of government	A new law on Cultural Heritage and Museums is being elaborated, to be sent for parliamentary procedures in 2018

Outcome 4—Environment and Climate Change

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

National Development Goals: Accession to the European Union; Growth through sustainable resources and territorial development; Investing in people and social cohesion; Good governance, democracy and the rule of law (Strengthening public order and emergency preparedness)

EU Integration Chapters and Priority Areas: 15, 27

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

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2016	Outcome Target (2021) Output Target (2017)	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2017
UNDP UNICEF UNEP UNESCO FAO WHO UNECE UNIDO	Extent to which comprehensive measures, plans, strategies, policies, programmes and budgets are being implemented to achieve low-emission and climate-resilient development objectives	Current RES in energy portfolio (34.22%)	38% RES in energy mix (Energy Community Treaty Target)	EU report, National communication to UNFCCC, Ministry of Tourism and Environment State of Environment report, GEF tracking tool	34.9% share of energy from RES, above the third indicative trajectory of 34.3%
	No. of hectares (ha.) of land managed sustainably as protected areas under a conservation, sustainable use or access- and benefits-sharing regime	9,424 ha.	73,219 ha.	National Agency for Protected Areas, local environmental inspectorates and agencies, environmental departments in LGUs, CBD reports	9,424 ha.
	No. of farmers accessing disaster early warning system	0% Female 30%	10% 2017 20% 2018 30% 2019 40% 2020–2021	MoARD: Early Warning Platform to be established during 2016	10% Female 30%
	Gender action plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation prepared	No plan	Action plan prepared	Ministry of Tourism and Environment reporting	Albania Third National Communication to UNFCCC provides for gender mainstreaming in climate change from the policy perspective

Output 4.1 Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change – Scaled-up action on DRR, and climate change4 mitigation and adaptation across sectors.

UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UNEP UNESCO FAO WHO	No. of sites, including World Heritage sites, with costed DRR plans or interventions, that are gender sensitive	0 (UNESCO) sites	3 (UNESCO) sites	Ministry of the Interior report World Heritage management plans	0
	No. of financial mechanisms and pipelines developed to access climate finance, including GCF	0	3	Quantitative information from Ministry of Tourism and Environment Environmental. Performance Review (EPR) report	0
	No. of partnerships at local level for improved energy efficiency or sustainable energy solutions, or both, including businesses, targeting also underserved communities and groups and women	5 partnerships 11 factories No CO2 related emissions	10 partnerships 15 demonstration plants 53,000 tCO2eq direct emissions	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy reports, Ministry of Interior reports, Project documents EPR report	13 partnerships for solar water heating application. Total installed cumulative area of solar panels for water heating 209,745 m2, annual sales 21,701 m2 resulting in 1,160,452 tCO2 reduction

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

UNECE UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UNEP UNESCO FAO WHO	Categories of Protected Areas and Biosphere Reserves with working, sustainable financial and legal mechanisms	0	2 plus Prespa Lakes Zone	NAPA, CBD. UNECE Committee on Housing, Land Management and Population. Joint Commission for the protection and rational use of water resources. MoARD, water basins commissions	One new area of Lake Ohrid is proposed for inscription in World Heritage
	% of public schools implementing new curriculum on environmental education and sustainable development	Implemented in Grades 1 and 5	Implemented in other Grades	Reports from Ministry of Tourism and Environment, and MoESY	Implemented in Grades 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8

ANNEX B: ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FINANCIAL REPORT ON ONE UN COHERENCE FUND FOR 2017

INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **Albania One UNITED NATIONS Coherence Fund** is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors.¹

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

2017 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2017 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the **Albania One UNITED NATIONS Coherence Fund**. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>).

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

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2017, 11 contributors deposited US\$ 39,005,032 in contributions and US\$ 402,036 was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ 39,407,068 (see respectively, Tables 2 and 3)

Of this amount, US\$ 38,999,872 has been net funded to 17 Participating Organizations, of which US\$ 37,128,218 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ 390,049. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Albania One UNITED NATIONS Coherence Fund** as of 31 December 2017.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2016	Annual 2017	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	1,567,259	1,658,375	39,005,032
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	3,540	3,915	281,321
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	680	1,323	120,715
Total: Sources of Funds	1,571,479	1,663,612	39,407,068
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	1,143,490	2,240,810	41,827,596
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	(38,926)	(11,040)	(2,827,724)
Net Funded Amount	1,104,564	2,229,770	38,999,872
Administrative Agent Fees	15,673	16,584	390,049
Bank Charges	55	8	808
Total: Uses of Funds	1,120,292	2,246,361	39,390,730
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	451,187	(582,749)	16,338
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	147,899	599,087	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	599,087	16,338	16,338
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	1,104,564	2,229,770	38,999,872
Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	3,918,365	2,230,325	37,128,218
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations			1,871,654

1. The Albania One United Nations Coherence Fund (the One Fund, from the Delivering as One initiative) as of 2018, will be branded the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. There will be no changes in the fund administration.

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December 2017. The **Albania One UNITED NATIONS Coherence Fund** is currently being financed by **10** contributors, as listed in the table below. The table below includes commitments made up to 31 December 2017 through signed Standard Administrative Agreements, and deposits made through 2017. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond 2017.

Table 2. Contributors' Commitments and Deposits, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2017 Deposits	Total Deposits
Austria	1,214,737	1,214,737	-	1,214,737
Delivering Results Together	3,116,750	3,116,750	-	3,116,750
European Union	3,474,781	3,474,781	-	3,474,781
Expanded DaO Funding Window	3,825,000	3,825,000	-	3,825,000
Finland	394,240	394,240	-	394,240
Netherlands	3,845,700	3,845,700	-	3,845,700
Norway	3,338,389	3,338,389	-	3,338,389
Spain	4,000,000	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
Sweden	8,741,849	8,741,849	-	8,741,849
Switzerland	7,053,586	5,395,211	1,658,375	7,053,586
Grand Total	39,005,032	37,346,657	1,658,375	39,005,032

3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December 2017, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **281,321**.

Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ **120,715**, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ **402,036**.

Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016	Current Year Jan-Dec-2017	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	277,406	3,915	281,321
Total: Fund Earned Interest	277,406	3,915	281,321
Participating Organization			
UNECE		49	49
FAO	595		595
UNDP	84,070		84,070
UNESCO	1,245	1,065	2,310
UNFPA	22,154		22,154
UNIDO	4,445	209	4,654
UNODC	104		104
UNWOMEN	6,780		6,780
Total: Agency earned interest	119,392	1,323	120,715
Grand Total	396,798	5,238	402,036

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2017, the AA has transferred US\$ 41,827,596 to 17 Participating Organizations (see list below).

4.1 TRANSFER BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

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

Table 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016			Current Year Jan-Dec-2017			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNECE	79,500	(1,173)	78,327		(8,401)	(8,401)	79,500	(9,575)	69,925
FAO	315,300	(36,811)	278,489				315,300	(36,811)	278,489
IAEA	94,461		94,461				94,461		94,461
ILO	75,000	(2,921)	72,079				75,000	(2,921)	72,079
IOM	295,000		295,000	39,996		39,996	334,996		334,996
ITC	30,000	(1,999)	28,001				30,000	(1,999)	28,001
UNAIDS	185,815		185,815				185,815		185,815
UNCTAD	178,500		178,500				178,500		178,500
UNDP	17,621,209	(1,974,979)	15,646,229	1,404,412		1,404,412	19,025,621	(1,974,979)	17,050,641
UNEP	439,244		439,244				439,244		439,244
UNESCO	934,118	(123,264)	810,854		(2,736)	(2,736)	934,118	(126,001)	808,118
UNFPA	4,875,585	(32,896)	4,842,689	131,708		131,708	5,007,293	(32,896)	4,974,397
UNICEF	8,580,823	(365,384)	8,215,439	356,593		356,593	8,937,416	(365,384)	8,572,032
UNIDO	665,848	(143,769)	522,079		98	98	665,848	(143,671)	522,177
UNODC	388,315		388,315				388,315		388,315
UNWOMEN	3,937,531	(42,803)	3,894,728	308,101		308,101	4,245,632	(42,803)	4,202,829
WHO	890,536	(90,684)	799,852				890,536	(90,684)	799,852
Grand Total	39,586,786	(2,816,684)	36,770,102	2,240,810	(11,040)	2,229,770	41,827,596	(2,827,724)	38,999,872

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year 2017 were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2017 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>.

5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

In 2017, US\$ 2,229,770 was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ 2,230,325 was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table 5 below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ 38,999,872 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ 37,128,218. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 95 percent.

The agencies with the three highest delivery rates are: FAO (100%), UNECE (100%) and IAEA (100%)

Table 5. Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Net Funded Amount	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016	Expenditure		Delivery Rate %
			Current Year Jan-Dec-2017	Cumulative	
UNECE	69,925	73,882	(3,956)	69,925	100.00
FAO	278,489	278,489		278,489	100.00
IAEA	94,461	94,461		94,461	100.00
ILO	72,079	72,079		72,079	100.00
IOM	334,996	267,751	48,607	316,358	94.44
ITC	28,001	28,001		28,001	100.00
UNAIDS	185,815	137,146	48,005	185,152	99.64
UNCTAD	178,500	173,054	(10,582)	162,472	91.02
UNDP	17,050,641	14,678,373	1,198,172	15,876,545	93.11
UNEP	439,244	430,224		430,224	97.95
UNESCO	808,118	789,752	13,377	803,129	99.38
UNFPA	4,974,397	4,745,401	143,279	4,888,680	98.28
UNICEF	8,572,032	8,083,730	168,408	8,252,138	96.27
UNIDO	522,177	483,795	98	483,893	92.67
UNODC	388,315	360,509	18,746	379,255	97.67
UNWOMEN	4,202,829	3,401,395	606,170	4,007,565	95.35
WHO	799,852	799,849	3	799,852	100.00
Grand Total	38,999,872	34,897,892	2,230,325	37,128,218	95.20

5.2 EXPENDITURE BY UNDAF OUTCOME

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

Table 6. Expenditure by UNDAF Outcome, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Country/Sector	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016		Current Year Jan-Dec-2017		Total		Delivery Rate %
	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	
Albania							
ALB 2012 P1 Governance	7,301,497	6,547,010	(8,401)	601,954	7,293,095	7,148,965	98.02
ALB 2012 P2 Economy and Environment	1,369,829	1,304,393		14,341	1,369,829	1,318,734	96.27
ALB 2012 P3 Regional and Local Development	1,447,181	1,268,883		163,274	1,447,181	1,432,157	98.96
ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	7,201,419	6,429,856	(2,736)	739,721	7,198,682	7,169,578	99.60
Basic Services	7,322,092	7,322,092			7,322,092	7,322,092	100.00
Environment	1,387,052	1,386,552	98	98	1,387,150	1,386,650	99.96
Governance	8,070,310	8,023,704			8,070,310	8,023,704	99.42
Governance and Rule of Law			255,053	137,748	255,053	137,748	54.01
Participation	2,189,722	2,134,686			2,189,722	2,134,686	97.49
Regional Development	481,000	480,716			481,000	480,716	99.94
Social Cohesion			1,985,757	573,189	1,985,757	573,189	28.87
Grand Total:	36,770,102	34,897,892	2,229,770	2,230,325	38,999,872	37,128,218	95.20

5.4 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UNITED NATIONS Development Group (UNDG) established six categories against which UNITED NATIONS entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UNITED NATIONS Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditure incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditure are reported in the new eight categories. See table 7 below.

2012 CEB Expense Categories	2006 UNDG Expense Categories
1. Staff and personnel costs	1. Supplies, commodities, equipment & transport
2. Supplies, commodities and materials	2. Personnel
3. Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	3. Training counterparts
4. Contractual services	4. Contracts
5. Travel	5. Other direct costs
6. Transfers and grants	6. Indirect costs
7. General operating expenses	
8. Indirect costs	

Table 7. Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Category	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016	Expenditure Current Year Jan-Dec-2017	Total	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	1,836,091	-	1,836,091	5.29
Personnel (Old)	6,223,909	-	6,223,909	17.94
Training of Counterparts (Old)	371,723	-	371,723	1.07
Contracts (Old)	8,276,599	-	8,276,599	23.86
Other direct costs (Old)	1,217,459	-	1,217,459	3.51
Staff & Personnel Cost (New)	1,542,848	151,639	1,694,487	4.88
Supplies, Commodities, Materials (New)	(30,782)	280,630	249,848	0.72
Equipment, Vehicles, Furniture, Depreciation (New)	412,028	54,985	467,013	1.35
Contractual Services (New)	7,436,549	1,048,761	8,485,310	24.46
Travel (New)	915,983	30,688	946,671	2.73
Transfers and Grants (New)	2,196,075	221,945	2,418,020	6.97
General Operating (New)	2,213,893	291,798	2,505,691	7.22
Programme Costs Total	32,612,374	2,080,446	34,692,820	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	2,285,518	149,880	2,435,398	7.02
Total	34,897,892	2,230,325	37,128,218	

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

6. COST RECOVERY

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

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2017, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ 16,584 was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2017, US\$ 390,049 has been charged in AA-fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ 149,880 was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ 2,435,398 as of 31 December 2017.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

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

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

DEFINITIONS

Allocation

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

Approved Project/Programme

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

Contributor Commitment

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

Contributor Deposit

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

Delivery Rate

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

Indirect Support Costs

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

Net Funded Amount

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

Participating Organization

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

Project Expenditure

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

Project Financial Closure

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

Project Operational Closure

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

Project Start Date

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

Total Approved Budget

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

US Dollar Amount

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

ANNEX C: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2017 TOTAL BUDGET (USD) INCLUDING ALL SOURCES OF FUNDING

Status as of 31 December 2017	Available Budget		Total Available Budget	Total Funding Gap	Expenditures		Total Expenditures	Delivery rate
	Core/Regular	Non-Core/Other			Core/Regular	Non-Core/Other		
Outcome 1	2,403,219	3,765,256	6,168,475	2,733,505	2,293,423	3,362,370	5,655,794	91.69%
Outcome 2	2,268,484	5,741,816	8,010,300	2,882,005	2,267,591	5,067,528	7,335,119	91.57%
Outcome 3	909,321	1,573,776	2,483,096	2,341,176	788,765	1,610,362	2,399,127	96.62%
Outcome 4	932,706	4,191,305	5,124,011	3,250,602	865,104	2,766,195	3,631,299	70.87%
TOTAL	6,513,730	15,272,152	21,785,882	11,207,288	6,214,884	12,806,455	19,021,338	87.69%

Outcomes/Outputs	Available Budget	Total Funding Gap	Total Expenditures	Delivery Rate
Output 1.1 Human Rights	816,958	368,000	736,767	90.18%
Output 1.2 Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law	848,628	627,540	791,846	93.31%
Output 1.3 Local Governance	2,009,528	280,000	1,762,698	87.72%
Output 1.4 Access to Justice	337,344	223,000	332,292	98.50%
Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender-Responsive Budgeting	259,569	130,000	258,395	99.55%
Output 1.6 Migration and Asylum	1,896,448	1,104,965	1,773,796	93.53%
Outcome 1 Governance and Rule of Law	6,168,475	2,733,505	5,655,794	91.69%
Output 2.1 Health	3,245,545	950,570	3,245,541	100.00%
Output 2.2 Education	454,073	830,100	454,073	100.00%
Output 2.3 Social Protection and Social Inclusion	3,311,458	270,564	2,785,589	84.12%
Output 2.4 Child Rights Protection	365,153	216,510	363,707	99.60%
Output 2.5 Gender-Based Violence	634,070	614,261	486,209	76.68%
Outcome 2 Social Cohesion	8,010,300	2,882,005	7,335,119	91.57%
Output 3.1 Economic Development	535,705	1,112,176	490,156	91.50%
Output 3.2 Labour	1,561,653	724,000	1,533,233	98.18%
Output 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development	313,738	205,000	313,738	100.00%
Output 3.4 Culture	72,000	300,000	62,000	86.11%
Outcome 3 Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture	2,483,096	2,341,176	2,399,127	96.62%
Output 4.1 DRR and Climate Change	2,471,664	1,365,602	1,686,340	68.23%
Output 4.2 Natural Resources	2,652,347	1,885,000	1,944,959	73.33%
Outcome 4 DRR and Climate Change	5,124,011	3,250,602	3,631,299	70.87%
TOTAL	21,785,882	11,207,288	19,021,338	87.69%

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

KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

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

ACRONYMS OF PARTICIPATING UN ORGANISATIONS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

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

ANNEX E: UN ORGANISATIONS PUBLICATIONS IN 2017

- Survey on Access to Justice in Albania, UNDP 2017
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/survey-on-access-to-justice-in-albania.html>
- Fjale Burri, UNDP 2017
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/fjale-burri.html>
- Antimicrobial Medicines Consumption (AMC) Network. AMC data 2011–2014 (2017)
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/health-technologies-and-medicines/publications/2017/antimicrobial-medicines-consumption-amc-network.-amc-data-20112014-2017>
- Taking stock: Tobacco control in the WHO European Region in 2017 (2017)
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/tobacco/publications/2017/taking-stock-tobacco-control-in-the-who-european-region-in-20172017>
- National Social Pact to build a system of social care services, UNICEF, 2017
https://www.unicef.org/albania/Social_Pact_Report.pdf
- Social Care Planning guide, ESA, UNICEF (2017)
https://www.unicef.org/albania/Social_Care_Guide_Albanian.pdf
- Behavioural Change training curriculum and manual for public servants, UNDP
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/-behavioral-change-modules/>
- Integrated community-based social services in Albania to address the needs of Roma and Egyptian communities, UNDP
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/-integrated-community-based-social-services-in-albania-to-address/>
- A report on substandard Roma settlements in the municipalities of Tirana, Durrës, Kruja, Lezha and Shkodra with the purpose of assessing the need for investments for improving housing and living conditions of the Roma Community (UNDP)
http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/studimi-_vleresimi-i-nevojave-per-investime-ne-vendbanimet-e-kom/
- A report on substandard Roma settlements in the municipalities of Lushnja, Divjaka, Fier, Berat, Kucova, Vlora, Gjirokaster and Delvine with the purpose of assessing the need for investments for improving housing and living conditions of the Roma Community (UNDP)
http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/_vleresimi-i-nevojave-per-investime-ne-vendbanimet-e-komunitetev0/
- A report on substandard Roma settlements in the municipalities of Elbasan, Pogradec, Maliq, Korca and Devoll with the purpose of assessing the need for investments for improving housing and living conditions of the Roma Community (UNDP)
http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/_vleresimi-i-nevojave-per-investime-ne-vendbanimet-e-komunitetev/
- Albania Education Policy Review: Issues and Recommendations. Paris, UNESCO. (In [Albanian](#) and [English](#)).
- Albania Education Policy Review: Issues and Recommendations. Extended Report. Paris, UNESCO. (In [Albanian](#) and [English](#)).
- The Cost of Underinvestment in Education: And ways to reduce it (UNICEF)
https://www.unicef.org/albania/2017_ALB_Underinvestment_in_education-en.pdf
- Trust in Governance 2016 Annual Survey (UNDP)
http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/opinion-poll--trust-in-governance-2016--.html
- Delivering Customer Care and Cutting Corruption in Public Services: A case study on citizen-centric service delivery reform in Albania (UNDP)
<https://albania.growthlab.cid.harvard.edu/blog/case-study-delivering-customer-care-and-cutting-corruption-public-services>
- Local Governance Mapping Albania (UNDP)
http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/local-governance-mapping-.html
- Local Governance Mapping online platform (UNDP)
<http://www.star2igm.com/en/>
- Market and value chain analysis of selected sectors for the diversification of the rural economy and women’s economic empowerment (FAO)
<http://www.fao.org/3/I8909EN/i8909en.pdf> <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I8909EN>
- An Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises in Albania (ILO)
<http://www.idrainstitute.org/files/IDRA%20-BA/An-Enabling-Environment-for-Sustainable-Enterprises-in-Albania.pdf>
- LGU assessment on publication of Municipal Decisions (UNDP)
- Training Manual on Local Archives (UNDP)
- Manual on Gender Mainstreaming into the Container Control and Maritime Area (UNODC)
- Evaluation Report on the performance of the Port Control Unit at Durrës Port, Albania (UNODC)
- Skills Needs Analysis 2017 (UNDP)
- Measuring the Performance of Work-Based Learning and Vocational Skills Development Provision in Albania. (UNDP)
- What is a good VET school? Quality in Vocational Education and Training (UNDP)
- Commentary of Labour Code of Albania (ILO)
- Key Business Constraints in Albania (Biznes Albania–ILO)
- Assessment of Out-of-Court Resolution of Labour Disputes in Albania (ILO)

- Albania Broadband Pre-Feasibility Study (UNDP)
- Feasibility study for improving housing conditions of vulnerable populations: Durres and Tirana municipalities
- Cost analysis of sexuality and life skills programme in Tirana, Albania: policy brief for Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (UNFPA)
- Roma and Egyptian Local Community Development Action Plan of Durres Municipality (UNDP)
- Roma and Egyptian Local Community Development Action Plan of Berat Municipality (UNDP)
- Roma and Egyptian Local Community Development Action Plan of Shkodra Municipality (UNDP)
- Contract farming guide and two model templates for Albania (FAO)
- Project Proposal for Promoting Contract Farming in Albania (FAO)
- High level design for the single window service for farmers and e-Agriculture strategy in Albania (FAO)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development capacity to collect and analyse data and formulate relevant policies: project document (FAO)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development administrative capacities to coordinate EU integration work in agriculture and to prepare with economic and policy analysis, for technical negotiations with EU: project document (FAO)
- Asylum System in Albania. Challenges and recommendations Version No.4, dated 30.12.2017 (UNHCR Albania/Protection Unit)
- Strengthening primary health care for earlier detection and management of non-communicable diseases in Albania, WHO Assessment Report, 2017
- Cervical cancer screening in Albania, Country visit report & recommendations; 1–4 August 2017, Tirana, Albania. Dr Maribel Almonte (WHO/IARC), Dr Marilys Corbex (WHO Europe)
- Albania: IMCI review, WHO Assessment Report, 2017

ANNEX F: MAPPING OF GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES & ACTION PLANS TO POCSO 2017–2021 OUTCOMES

Outcome	Strategies/Policies/Action Plans (supported by UN)
1. Governance and Rule of Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UPR Action Plan 2014–2018 & CEDAW Action Plan 2016–2020 - National Cross-cutting Strategy for Public Administration Reform 2015–2020 - Cross-cutting Strategy for Decentralisation and Local Governance 2015–2020 - Cross-cutting Strategy for Anticorruption 2015–2020 - Cross-cutting Strategy for the Digital Albania 2014–2020 - National Action Plan of Child Online Safety 2018–2020 - Justice for Children Strategy 2017–2020 - National Action Plan on Youth 2014–2020 - LGBTI National Action Plan 2016–2020 - Long-term policy document for the provision of services to the citizen by the state administration in Albania - National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016–2020 - Albania Public Finance Management Strategy 2014–2020 - National Strategy on Migration & Action Plan 2005–2010 - National Strategy on Diaspora and Migration 2018–2024 - National Extended Profile for Migration 2012–2014 - Migration Profile 2015, 2016 - Social and Economic Profile of the Return Migrants in Albania - National Strategy on the Reintegration of Returned Albanian Citizens & Action Plan 2010–2015 - Anti-Trafficking Action Plan 2018–2020 - Cross-cutting Strategy on Combatting Organised Crime, Trafficking, and Terrorism 2013–2020 - Action Plan against the cultivation and trafficking of cannabis 2017–2020 - Strategy of the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings & Action Plan 2014–2017 - National Action Plan for the Socio-Economic Re-Integration of Women and Girls Victims of Trafficking 2015–2017 - Official statistics Programme 2017–2021
2. Social Cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Health Strategy 2016–2020 - National Reproductive Health Strategy & Action Plan 2009–2015 - National Strategy on Prevention and Control of HIV–AIDS & Action Plan 2015–2019 - National Non-communicable Diseases Strategy & Action Plan 2016–2020 - National Strategic Document on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2017–2021 - National Action Plan on Contraceptive Security 2017–2021 - National Action Plan on Health Promotion 2017–2021 - National International Health Regulation (IHR) Action Plan - National Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan 2017–2021 - Occupation Safety and Health Policy & Action Plan 2016–2020 - Pre-University Education Development Strategy 2014–2020 - Social Protection Strategy 2015–2020 - Cross-cutting Social Inclusion Policy Document 2016–2020 - Social Housing Strategy & Action Plan 2016–2025 - National action plan for persons with disabilities 2016–2020 - Local Action Plan for Inclusion, Protection and Promotion of the Rights of PwDs - National action plan for the integration of Roma and Egyptians 2016–2020 - National Strategy for the fight against violent extremism & Action Plan 2016–2020 - National Action Plan for the Involvement of Men and Boys as Partners with Women and Girls for GE and the Prevention of GBV–DV 2014–2019
3. Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2014–2020 - National Cross-cutting Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2020 - Business and Investment Development Strategy (BIDS) 2014–2020 - Action Plan in support of women entrepreneurs 2014–2020 - National Strategy for Road Safety 2011–2020 & Action Plan 2011–2015 - National Cross-cutting Strategy for Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance 2014–2020 - National Strategy for Culture 2014–2020
4. Environment and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Cross-cutting Strategy for Environment 2014–2020 - National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection 2014–2018 - National Sector Strategy for Energy 2015–2030 - First National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency 2011–2018 - Second and Third National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Albania 2016–2020 - National Action Plan for Renewable Energy Sources 2015–2020 - Strategic plan for marine and coastal protected areas 2013 - Policy Document for Biodiversity and Action Plan 2015–2020

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