



GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA & UNITED NATIONS

Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development

2017-2021

2021 Joint Work Plans – Mid-Year Review

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Continuing on the 'Deliver as One' path, 9 resident and 8 non-resident agencies of UN Albania continue to combine their expertise and experience in support of Albania's development priorities, providing more coherence, better results and greater impacts in the country.

Outcome 1 – Governance and Rule of Law

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

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

SDGs: 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17

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OUTPUT 1.1 HUMAN RIGHTS

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OUTCOME CHAIRS

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

UNDP REPRESENTATIVE

UNWOMEN REPRESENTATIVE

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC, IOM, UNESCO, UNHCR, ILO

MAIN IMPLEMENTING LINE MINISTRIES: MOI, MEFA, MOJ, MOHSP, MOFE

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNHCR
Contributing Partners: Governments of Albania, Norway, United Kingdom, United States

OUTPUT 1.1 HUMAN RIGHTS

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNFPA & MEFA

SDGs

Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 16, 17

Targets: 3.1, 4.5, 5.2, 5.5, 5.6, 8.5, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 16.2, 16.3, 16.6, 16.9, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b, 17.18

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Improve the Legal Framework and related implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- ❑ Strengthen monitoring mechanisms and data collection to provide evidence, monitor progress, coordinate and report on the implementation of recommendations from International Human Rights Conventions, Treaties and regular National Reports.
- ❑ Develop institutional capacities of national institutions and National Human Rights Institutions to increase outreach to vulnerable persons, including refugees, and improve their role in protecting and promoting human rights, non-discrimination and equal access to justice for vulnerable populations.
- ❑ Awareness raising and civil society engagement
- ❑ Support government's engagement and contribution in inter-governmental fora related to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Improve the legal framework and related implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Comments provided to the Parliamentarian Committee on National Security during its deliberations on the draft Law on Foreigners, approved by Parliament on 24 June 2021, advocating for inclusion of a statelessness determination procedure to protect stateless persons as per Albania's pledge at 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness. Support and engagement continued to key government officials on successes and challenges of implementing the revised Law on Civil Status, aiming to reduce risk of statelessness and provide effective solutions where relevant. (UNHCR)

323 persons at risk of statelessness benefited from provision of legal and administrative assistance. 94 court and administrative cases supported of children and their caregivers affected by statelessness and whose access to core services and rights have been jeopardized because of the pandemic. Considering statelessness-related cases are often correlated to other legal obstacles such as parental responsibility, paternity, or maternity recognition, custody, divorce, residence status and citizenship rights, 3 dedicated workshops organised for frontline statutory workers (representatives of police structures, social services, education, health, justice, and non-profit organizations) in Elbasan, Shkodra, and Korca. (UNHCR, UNICEF)

Develop institutional capacities

PA's advocacy role sharpened to mobilize attention and support of Albanian Parliament and line Ministries to enable initiation of legislative processes leading to adoption of minimum subsistence as a legal instrument, where social protection for the groups in need is built upon and guaranteed. PA's stand on this issue is based on findings and recommendations from the study on minimum subsistence standard developed in 2021. (UNDP)

Work has started for an assessment report on equal and fair access to social assistance benefits and protection for families in need and individuals with special status. (UNDP)

CPD in collaboration with CSOs developed a study on enhanced protection from discrimination of customers in need aiming to initiate approval of the bylaws complementing the Law on "Electricity Service" and determining the status of "Customer in need" for marginalized minority groups such as Roma and Egyptians. (UNDP)

PA and CPD in partnership with CSOs increased visibility and reach to vulnerable women and men - 1034 individuals in 13 municipalities reached with information on FLA, HR and protective mechanisms through info sessions, street law activities, online training, meetings with both vulnerable communities and local state institutions. Marginalized minorities and PwDs were also reached through social posts, informative videos in different minority and sign languages and local and national TV interviews. (UNDP)

PA monitored the conditions and treatment of children deprived of liberty and issued official recommendations to law enforcement and justice institutions, which were discussed in a roundtable with stakeholders that publicly committed to take recommendations on board. The General Department of Police issued a circular to draw the attention of all police departments to full implementation of children's procedural rights in criminal law processes. As a result of open days activities, as well as online dialogue, People's Advocate tripled the number of complaints received directly by boys and girls (from 15 in 2020 to 48). (UNICEF)

Border crossing officials and social and health service providers in Korce and Gjirokaster improved knowledge on addressing GBV in emergencies. (UNFPA) PA conducted 356 protection monitoring visits at these border areas, six advocacy interventions at local level, and two at national level. (UNHCR)

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Strengthen monitoring mechanisms and data collection

Ministry of Health and Social Protection prepared the Monitoring Report of the Implementation of the National Action Plan on the Resolution 1325 for 2018-2020 and initiated work on drafting the new National Plan on the Resolution 1325 covering the period 2021-2023. (UNWOMEN)

UNICEF is in process of preparing a confidential written report for the CRC Committee based on what they see as the priority children's issues in Albania, including contribution from UN WOMEN, UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA.

Implementation of MoU amid INSTAT - People's Advocate to improve data collection, monitoring and reporting resulted in (i) annual publication "Women and Men" with a dedicated chapter on human rights; and (ii) initiation of discussion on indicators (including Human Rights SDG indicators) to be included in the new Official Statistical Programme 2022-2026. (UNFPA)

INSTAT published 'Children, Adolescents and Youth-Focused Wellbeing Indicators 2016-2019', containing at least 100 official statistics. Municipalities of Korca and Shkodra for the second year published local statistics on situation of children and adolescents, to inform local planning. (UNICEF)

State Agency for Child Rights and Protection launched the Visualization Platform (dashboard) with 58 child-specific Statistics. (UNICEF)

Awareness raising and civil society engagement

The 2021 State of the World Population Report "My Body is My Own" inspired UN activities to engage young people to think, reflect, create to inspire and influence understanding of bodily autonomy, respect of diversity and tolerance - to be culminate with 16 Days of Activism against GBV. (UNFPA)

UN Women informed interventions of Albanian Ambassador in CSW64 side event "Ending the cycle of online harassment, threats, violence against women and girls' leaders" and in Female Ambassadors Roundtable "Insights on Integrating Gender as a Catalyst for Economic Recovery (COVID-19) and Women's Leadership Role in Diplomacy: Lessons learned".

Two Albanian CSOs became signatories of the Global Compact on Women Peace and Humanitarian Action launched during the Paris Generation Equality Forum. (UNWOMEN)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing restrictions have impacted work of NHRIs and mobility of these actors. Nevertheless, both PA and CPD used online platforms and telecommunication to facilitate communication and coordination of actions and planned interventions.
- ❑ 2021 was an electoral year and the parliamentary elections have somewhat shifted the governmental institutions attention and slowed down implementation of planned interventions.
- ❑ UNHCR and partners observed that access to territory and asylum procedures for persons wishing to seek international protection remained curtailed, including lack of procedural guarantees during pre-screening interviews, resulting in returns to the country they arrived from without a proper assessment of protection needs and intention to seek asylum in Albania. .
- ❑ Reluctancy of state institutions for evidence-informed planning.
- ❑ Limited financial and human resource capacities of NHRIs undermine their effectiveness and independence.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC, UNFPA, IOM

Contributing Partners: Governments of Austria, France, Italy, Turkey, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA, the EU

OUTPUT 1.2 ANTI-CORRUPTION AND RULE OF LAW

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOI

SDGs

Goals: 3, 8, 16

Targets: 3.5, 3.7, 8.7, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.9, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b

Gender Marker 1

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Consolidation of citizen-centric public service delivery in Albania
- ❑ Trust in Governance
- ❑ Continue support to Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism (CCCVE) for rehabilitation and reintegration of RFTF in Albania. Facilitate regional cooperation focused on sharing specific country models for provision of services to Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters (RFTF).
- ❑ In the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe: Counter regional and transnational cross-border crime through the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP); Support regional and national efforts in countering corruption and on asset recovery; Counter trafficking in persons through regional cooperation; Support the national authorities in the development and implementation of relevant strategies, policies and plans to address transnational organized crime and in addressing firearms trafficking; Address drug use among youths.

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

UNODC Regional Programme for SEE - Continued implementation, ensured coordination of efforts and cooperation with national, regional and international counterparts, supported national ownership and regional partnership.

UNODC Container Control Programme (CCP)

One workshop on the enhancement of cooperation and partnership between the Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) operating at Tirana International Airport (TIA) and the private business operators;

One mentorship mission for the officers of the ACCU at TIA to encourage the mentoring habits for the ACCU officers in particular in the view of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Five training activities attended by 40 participants. The Port Control Unit at Durres Port seized 541.35kg cocaine originating from Latin America, while ACCU at TIA seized undeclared currencies of 23,120 GBP, 15,000 Euros and 33,000 USD as well as 71 cloned credit and debit cards.

Support regional/national efforts in countering corruption and on asset recovery (UNODC)

Launch of regional initiative “Southeast Europe Together Against Corruption” to strengthen the resilience of SEE, including Albania, combat corruption by enhancing capacity of governments, CSOs, private sector and media, while effectively implementing United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

Meeting with Ministry of Justice and Special Anti-Corruption Structure of Albania to introduce the Asset Recovery initiative, a regional project in the six Western Balkans jurisdictions aimed to enhance the capacity of the addressed jurisdictions to recover the proceeds and instrumentalities of crime and strengthen the exchange of relevant information or evidence leading to seizures and confiscations across the participating jurisdictions.

Development and adoption by the Governments of SEE, including Albania, of a Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance aimed to fast-track implementation of UNCAC, GRECO evaluations, Financial Action Task Force recommendations and EU Directives on Anti-money laundering and public procurement, in support of achievement of SDG 16 in WB jurisdictions.

Countering trafficking in persons through regional cooperation (UNODC)

Albania attended the regional meeting of Network of Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of South-East Europe (NATC SEE) to mark 20 Anniversary of United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol on Trafficking in Persons and 10 Anniversary of NATC SEE Network under Brdo Process - focused on implementation of TIP Protocol, particularly investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons and the victim centered approach as well as the role of NGOs in criminal justice response.

Albania participated in two online expert group meetings, targeting different regions of the world including SEE, for the development of a comprehensive toolkit on the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons for organ removal.

Albania joined five Regional Expert Group Meetings (REGM) on addressing trafficking in human beings and one REGM on “Addressing Trafficking in Children, particularly for the purpose of forced criminality in Southeastern Europe” co-hosted by and organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of Albania.

Support national authorities in the development and implementation of relevant strategies, policies and plans to address transnational organized crime (UNODC)

Directorate for Policies and Strategies of Ministry of Interior of Albania participated in the multi-stakeholder virtual event aimed at discussing strategic priorities to prevent and combat organized crime in line with the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and allowing peer-to-peer exchanges around good practices for the development of strategies against organized crime.

Addressing drug use among youths (UNODC)

Practitioners in SEE, including Albania benefitted from the regional capacity development workshop “Treatnet Family: Elements of Family Based Treatment for Youths with Drug Use Disorders including in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Creating Societies Resilient to Drugs and Crime”.

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Support the national authorities in addressing firearms trafficking (UNODC)

One case law collection of firearms trafficking cases completed contributing towards harmonization of the judicial practice on this crime.

One inter-institutional workshop organized on information exchange on criminal procedural law applicable in firearms investigations, resulting in review of the existing case law and identification of challenges linked to special investigative measures and interpretation of criminal substantive law by the courts.

IOM and the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism of the Government of Albania (CCCVE) signed a MoU to implement the EU funded regional project to support **rehabilitation and reintegration of Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters** (RFTF) for 3 years.

- CCCVE supported in organising exchange visit and meetings between Albania and Kosovo in Tirana (January), focused on the rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) process, starting from the camps up to the facility that is designed to rehabilitate Albanian citizens.
- Dedicated psychological expertise provided to the selected Municipality during R&R process for five RFTF families, and selected municipality staff capacitated on conducting R&R process ensuring sustainability and successful steps forward.
- CCCVE enabled in organising and delivering a training on case management system, data protection, and monitoring of cases, offering a series of tailored sessions for a broad range of professionals that are directly engaged in the rehabilitation and reintegration of Albanian citizens returning from conflict zones.

Citizen-centric public services reform in Albania (UNDP)

- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, as reform leader, supported in the conduct of a comprehensive review of the reform's strategic and regulatory framework, with several recommendations identified.
- Training module on standards of customer care public service delivery with focus on persons with disabilities developed in close coordination with Albanian School of Public Administration targeting front office staff.
- Based on a readiness assessment, capacity building and process documentation assistance commenced to assist Agency for the Delivery of Integrated Services in Albania (ADISA) in completing quality management and anticorruption ISO certification.
- Two new ADISA-Municipality joint citizen service centers (co-location of central and local government services) opened, respectively, in Tepelenë (June), and Himarë (August), with 13 such centers now established in Albania with donor support, altogether serving nearly 368000 inhabitants.
- Areas of assistance for the implementation of the National Broadband Plan identified to support with the preparation of the legal framework for broadband as a Universal Service in Albania and the design of financing mechanisms to support both the supply side (broadband infrastructure) and demand side (usage by citizens).

Trust in Governance - Report with findings of the 2020 Trust in Governance Opinion Poll (eighth edition), including annual data and trend analysis, completed and launched. (UNDP)

Integrity Planning - Evaluation of implementation of pilot Integrity Planning of six pilot municipalities to inform further expansion of the practice and reflect lessons at the integrity risk assessment methodology. Competitive process for selection of 14 target municipalities for the expansion of Integrity Planning Selected 14 municipalities out of 33 expressing the interest to be part of the process. Detailed workplan in place for the expansion plan July 2020 – November 2021. (UNDP)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Delay in the engagement of planned resources from funding partners for the pool funding project Supporting and Advancing local Government Reforms (STAR3)

- ❑ Challenges faced due to continued COVID-19 situation
 - Restrictions in conducting field work, travelling to other towns/cities, or having workshops and meetings with many participants.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, UNFPA

Contributing Partners: Governments of Sweden, Switzerland, the EU

OUTPUT 1.3 LOCAL GOVERNANCE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOI

SDGs

Goals: 3, 16

Targets: 3.7, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Develop a consensual and comprehensive new phase of assistance to local governance, STAR3, supported by a broad partnership and sufficient resource mobilization.
- ❑ Establish and expand national advocacy platforms to monitor planning and implementation of reproductive services and rights and youth budgeting, focused on young people, vulnerable groups and young key populations at municipal level, by evaluating results, identifying best practices and lessons learnt. Develop a consensual new phase of assistance to more municipalities on youth budgeting and advocacy platforms, anticipating and articulating future activities and build necessary partnerships for the implementation of next phase.

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Advancing implementation of STAR3 Project

- Engagement of resources focused on strengthened local democracy, expansion of OSSIS to administrative units of 50 municipalities and building capacities of central and local officials in the area of local governance.
- Assessment of the gap in IT infrastructure for expansion of OSIS at Administrative Units (AU) of 50 Municipalities and supporting the 50 municipalities for the maintenance of the system and preparation for expansion at AU.

National advocacy platforms to monitor planning & implementation of reproductive services and rights, focused on young people, vulnerable groups and young key populations, expanded at municipal level (UNFPA):

- “Youth voice” platform established in 3 additional municipalities, bringing the overall number to 15.
- Youth voice “Media platform” established in one additional municipality, bringing the overall number to 10 and media reporting on SRH and youth improved in first half 2021 – 40% increase in published articles vs. same period last year;
- Youth education and SRH budgeted for in 6 additional municipalities, bringing the overall number to 15.
- JoTabu portal & apps and Facebook page had a total reach of 250000 people.

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Delay in the engagement of financial resources from funding partners
- ❑ Central election slowed down the work of public entities
- ❑ Challenges faced due to continued COVID-19 situation
 - Restrictions in conducting field work, travelling to other towns/cities, or having workshops and meetings with many participants.
 - Adjusting to online / virtual modality, especially in reaching out to the most vulnerable, marginalized and young key populations, is not the best and most efficient way to engage young people in physical meetings and events at municipal level.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNWOMEN, ILO
Contributing Partners: Governments of Austria, Norway, Sweden, UK

OUTPUT 1.4 ACCESS TO JUSTICE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNICEF & MOJ

SDGs

Goals: 5, 16

Targets: 5.8, 5.a, 16.2, 16.3

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Enable all relevant stakeholders to implement, through institutional capacity building, promotion of inter-disciplinary collaboration for case management, establishment of FLA centers, development of SOPs, improvement of legislation and provision of information about rights, the legal and policy framework on:
 - ❖ Justice for Children
 - ❖ Trafficking in persons
 - ❖ Free Legal Aid
 - ❖ Labour relations
 - ❖ Unaccompanied and separated children

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Efficient implementation of legislation:

INSTAT finalized the mapping of Albania's legislation against the International Classification of Crime Statistics and prepared a plan towards its adaptation for administrative data. (UNICEF)

Centre for Juvenile Criminality Prevention established, recruited its staff, offered induction training to 15(12F) persons, and designed its official website <https://qpkmr.gov.al/>. (UNICEF)

Ministry of Justice developed a communication plan to accompany the National Justice for Children Strategy 2017-2020 - 10(9F) MoJ staff and 24(20F) community practitioners (Berat, Gjirokaster) received training on its implementation, 50(27F) students and 7(F) teachers (Berat, Gjirokaster) participated/contributed to awareness activities on new approaches of justice for children legislation. Information materials on the rights of child victims, witnesses and offenders are available to children and families in all police departments, district prosecution offices and the JCPC website. The Facebook posts with this information had a reach of over 45000 users. (UNICEF)

National Agency on Child Rights and Child Protection and UN implementing partners reached an agreement on the capacity development needs of Child Protection Units at municipal level and to jointly advocate at national level on the need of revising national laws to guarantee a full satisfaction of rights of foreign unaccompanied and separated children and to services they are entitled to. (UNHCR)

Expansion of Free Legal Aid service in judicial districts: A new FLA Center opened in Vlora, increasing to 8 the no. of FLA centers opened in Albania, administered by FLA Directorate. 1261 citizens in need benefitted from FLA services provided by FLA centers in Shkodra, Peshkopia, Lezha, Durres, Vlora, Fieri, Pogradec and Gjirokastra. (UNDP)

Partnership with Educational Institutions established, and capacities of professionals further strengthened:

❖ National Chamber of Advocacy signed a MoU with UNDP on enhancing the capacities of lawyers/ advocates from the list of secondary legal aid guaranteed by the State - 70 *pro bono* lawyers benefitted from the development of a specific training module on secondary legal aid. (UNDP)

- ❖ 24 public officials benefited from a specific training module on primary FLA developed by the Albanian School for Public Administration. (UNDP)
- ❖ 50 magistrates and judges trained on International Labour Standards. School of Magistrates approved ILS training module as part of the formal in-service training curriculum. (ILO)
- ❖ 12 police officers from 5 police stations of Gjirokastra police department capacitated to handle cases of children and use the child-friendly interview unit, an important element to ensure children's right to be heard. (UNICEF)
- ❖ The School of Magistrates produced 6 didactic mock courts videos with elements of judicial determination of the best interest of the child as part of the online learning platform for magistrates. Also, the training manual on human trafficking was developed and uploaded on the Moodle platform – two training workshops delivered to 26 judges and prosecutors on changes in the Albanian Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code to address trafficking in human beings, international best practices and case law of the Serious Crimes Court and European Court of Human Rights, practical guidance on the effective application of victim-centred and human rights-based approaches in the criminal proceedings. (UNICEF)
- ❖ Upon establishment of the online Integrated Data System on Criminal Justice for Children, a user's manual was developed, the Train of Trainers (12 persons/10F) completed and training of 69(54F) end users (from police, probation, prosecution and penitentiary) conducted. Following the issuance of administrative orders and authorizations by these authorities, they have started populating the system, ensuring that children are also 'seen' by the justice system, in addition to being heard. (UNICEF)
- ❖ The content of the training manual for the Security Academy on Human trafficking was finalized, including the adaptation for distance learning. Two training workshops delivered to 62 graduating students and 35 police officers on trafficking in human beings' investigation techniques, proactive investigations and effective identification of victims of human trafficking. (UNICEF)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Ensuring sustainability and ownership for unhindered and equal access to FLA services, especially to the most marginalized women and men in Albania, remain key for the successful FLA law implementation.
- ❑ Covid19 pandemic and 2021 Parliamentary elections somewhat slowed down operations from the part of national and local government institutions. Both these factors shifted the government's attention and resources (both human and financial) from access to justice and legal aid, to administration and management of the impact of Covid 19 pandemic situation and the elections.
- ❑ UNHCR and partners observed that access to territory and to asylum and other procedures were generally curtailed. The pre-screening interviews with UASCs undertaken by border and migration police were conducted without due safeguards. A total of 863 children with their families or caretakers, including 142 UASC, were returned to Greece without a full implementation of procedural guarantees under national and international law.
- ❑ In the absence of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the identification, referral (including repatriation back to Albania) and protection of unaccompanied and separated children, actions are needed for the joint establishment of improved support mechanisms, and practical solutions (i.e., alternative accommodation and psychosocial support) need to be provided.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA
Contributing Partners: Governments of Austria, Sweden, the EU

OUTPUT 1.5 MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS - UNWOMEN & MOHSP

SDGs

Goals: 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17

Targets: 4.3, 5.1, 5.4, 5.c, 8.6, 10.3, 16.6, 16.7, 17.18

Gender Marker 3

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Enable national and local governments to integrate gender equality principles in the Public Finance Management processes by applying gender responsive budgeting and gender sensitive COVID-19 measure (GRB) tools.
- ❑ Enable parliament, NHRIs, civil society organizations, and women to demand transparency and accountability of public policies and budgets to Gender Equality priorities.
- ❑ Improve production of gender statistics to enable the monitoring of national policies and reporting commitments under the SDGs and greater usage by different players at national and local level to inform advocacy, research, policies and programmes.
- ❑ Review the national Strategy on Gender Equality 2016-2020 and draft the new GE Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025.
- ❑ Strengthen the capacity of the Government of Albania to transposes the EU gender Equality acquis at central and municipal levels.
- ❑ Engage Private Sector to Gender Responsive and Family Friendly Policies in the work-place.
- ❑ Engage young people and wider communities to influence gender responsive youth plans development at municipal level.

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Ministry of Finance and Economy enabled in applying an institutional approach towards gender responsive policy making and budgeting, including in response to COVID-19. (UN Women)

- Budget standard instructions 2021 local+ central level issued with GRB part of the criteria.
- MTBP 2021-2023, containing two Annexes with analysis of GRB, uploaded in MoFE website. 57% of budgetary programs engendered. GRB constitutes 8.9% of the total State Budget compared to 7.2% last year.
- Finalization of analysis of Major Financial Changes caused by COVID-19 and possible implications in terms of gender.
- Improvement of GRB monitoring process through AFMIS: Preparation of the budget monitoring report and on GRB rates for 2020.
- Development of Gender Sensitive Citizen's Budget 2021.

MoU signed between UN Women and Albanian Supreme State Audit Institution on GE and GRB and an Information Session conducted benefitting 10 ALSAI staff on basic concepts of GRB. (UN Women)

MoU signed between UN Women and Albanian School of Public Administration. Two ASPA standardized training modules developed for local government units on gender responsive planning and budgeting including in the context of pandemic and post-recovery period - 120 public officials and 20 local budget users from 20 municipalities trained on GRB at local level. (UN Women)

GE/GRB capacity development: 10 face-to-face trainings delivered to 11 Line Ministries and subordinate institutions – 150 public officials trained on GRB integration into MTBP 2022-2024 and Gender statistics. 20 Gender Equality employees of all Line Ministries, INSTAT and State Police trained on GRB, gender statistics, gender analysis and its use in their work as Gender Officials. 40 members of Ombudsman and CPD trained on GRB and committed to co-draft thematic report on GRB and social inclusion. (UNW)

A series of policy/strategic documents reviewed for their gender responsiveness (i.e., government's Strategic Response to IPA III and two related Action Documents) and feedback provided to relevant government institutions. (UN Women)

Municipality of Gramsh is the newest signatory of the European Charter for Equality of women and men in local life. (UN Women)

Ministry of Health and Social Protection conducted the costing of the action plan of the new National Gender Equality Strategy (2021-2030) and drafted indicators. (UN Women)

INSTAT published a new edition of Women and Men, including new gender data and indicators (i.e., related to social protection, student/academic staff in tertiary education, etc) in addition to the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators. (UN Women)

INSTAT's Gender Equality domain on the PC-Axis has been restructured and enriched allowing increased availability and access of gender/disaggregated data by all users and the public. This significant achievement was based on a detailed assessment of the existing structure and data proposing to restructure seven sub-domains and 81 indicators based on linkages with the new performance monitoring framework of the new National Strategy of Gender Equality 2021-2030, the SDG gender-related indicators and the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators. (UN Women).

20 CSO representatives (18 women/2 men) increased knowledge and capacities on gender statistics and analyses following a series of introductory and advanced training sessions using the most up-to-date curricula for gender statistics users developed by UN Women globally. (UNW/INSTAT)

Policy and legal framework is being scanned in support of Family Friendly Policies by the Private Sector. Private sector is being capacitated to implement family friendly policies in the workplace. A partnership between UNFPA, IDRA, DuaPune and Iceberg Communication is established for a multidisciplinary intervention in the private sector to empower the employee and improve private sector response to family friendly work-place. (UNFPA)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Constitution of the new Government following the parliamentary elections of April 2021 has postponed the processes for the drafting of NSDI III.
- ❑ New Legislative and Parliament composition in September 2021 put on hold work with the parliament.
- ❑ Pandemic situation – less priority to Gender and more to Health.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA

Contributing Partners: Governments of Austria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Norway, USA, the EU

OUTPUT 1.6 MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – IOM, UNHCR & MOI

SDGs

Goals: 5, 10, 16, 17

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

Gender Marker 1

Priority Focus 2021

As per UNHCR and partner data, 6453 individuals travelling in mixed movements of refugees and migrants arrived in Albania during January-August 2021. 80% of the arrivals claimed to be from countries with generally high protection recognition rates, while only 1% (73 individuals) were referred by the authorities to the asylum procedure. Women and children formed a significant proportion of these arrivals. 13% (863 individuals) of the arrivals were children, including 142 UASC.

- ❑ Advance policy framework, aligned with EU acquis, and reflect the development and implementation of migration and asylum policies into relevant governmental strategies and action plans
- ❑ Data improvement
- ❑ Build up national systems of preparedness and response and increase prospects of integration of both refugees and migrants in the country.
- ❑ Prevent irregular migration and ensure enhanced access to territory of refugees, proper pre-screening and identification of humanitarian needs and reception conditions, and adequate refugee's status determination in place.
- ❑ Enhance diaspora engagement for the development of Albania
- ❑ Support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) to ease their access to vital and child friendly services

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

A Concept Note presented to MoI by UNHCR and IOM for a differentiated, higher-quality pathways and procedures to address mixed movements has been endorsed.

Advocacy for resumption of a full-fledged pre-screening procedure at border points to address the observed lack of consistent screening for international protection needs or consideration for specific protection needs/vulnerabilities prior to their return to the country from which they arrived to Albania. UNHCR engaged with authorities on restoration of access to the asylum procedure.

MoI supported on the issuance of biometric ID cards for refugees and other foreigners of concern residing in Albania facilitating their access to government services. (UNHCR)

UNHCR and IOM successfully advocated for the inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers (and migrants) in the national vaccination programme, with a positive governmental response.

UN Migration Network established in April 2021. (IOM)

MoI established and operationalized the Coordination and Monitoring mechanism of the National Strategy on Migration (NSM) and Action Plan (AP) (2019-2022). Scoping study on NSM and AP implementation, in view of NSM mid-term review, is being conducted. (IOM)

MoI updated and costed a Contingency Plan for Massive Influx of Migrants and Asylum Seekers to Albania and drafted the new law "On Aliens" (approval pending). (IOM, UNHCR)

Technical contribution to the new Law on Asylum approved in February 2021. (UNHCR)

UNHCR developed a Quality Assurance Initiative in Western Balkan region. In Albania, the Directorate for Asylum prepared a joint assessment of the state of affairs of the national asylum procedure. UNHCR closely coordinated with EASO in the framework of the EASO-Albania Roadmap on strengthening the asylum system.

A legal gap assessment and an Employment Information Kit finalized for distribution to the National Agency for Employment and its three regional offices, and at border crossing points. (ILO, UNHCR)

In depth assessment of institutional capacities on migration governance carried out by IOM and recommendations provided. Migration governance training module developed in cooperation with the Albanian School of Public Administration - 11 trainers and 35 officials from various institutions trained.

The overall reception, processing, service and care conditions for UASC in Albania improved through drafting: i) A technical document, analyzing the current legal and regulatory framework on the case management of UASC in Albania and related recommendation; ii) Standard Operating Procedures for the case management of UASC. Both documents have been consulted with the UN agencies and the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection, pending government endorsement. In addition, active capacity-building support is being provided to child protection workforce in the southern border adjacent regions, equipping to date 60 professionals with the necessary learning skills to proactively identify among UASC cases, the children affected by statelessness or at risk and effectively activate referral and case management mechanisms. (UNICEF)

A set of recommendations prepared for two pieces of legislation related to foreigners, identifying gaps in services for women irregular migrants who report being subject of gender-based violence, and presented during two hearing sessions with the Law Commission and Security Commission. All the recommendation presented were accepted by the Commission on Legal Affairs, Public Administration and Human Rights. (UNWOMEN)

165 women and girls migrants (mainly from Afghanistan and Syria) assisted at the reception center in the Korca border through psycho-social, translation and professional medical services by three female staff engaged to provide immediate support to women migrants in the center, with a specific focus on potential women and girls victims of domestic and/or sexual violence. (UNWOMEN)

6453 arrivals at borders (refugees and migrants) assisted with food (10864 rations), counselling (263), medical referrals (395) and, as needed, some non-food items (1,217), and border monitoring. (UNHCR)

Counselling on Assisted Voluntary Return from Albania was provided to irregular migrants. (IOM)

An Online training platform on COVID-19 for border guards at Point of Entry developed in English and Albanian, IT equipment and PPEs procured based on needs identified by Border Police and delivered to the Albanian State Police, and the online roll out of the training started in July 2021 and is ongoing. (IOM)

36 highly skilled diaspora members engaged to the development of the country through policy support, fellowships in support of EU approximation and investments (Connect Albania). (IOM)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Sustainability remains a challenge: IOM is continuously working with the Ministry of Interior to ensure the sustainability of interventions/results and identify potential donors to address remaining gaps.
- ❑ Some decision making at central level is pending as a result of 2021 Parliamentary elections and the appointment of a new Government.
- ❑ The law on social care services is still a barrier for UASC accessing social care services.
- ❑ Lack of coordination between Ministry Interior and Ministry Health and Social Protection on service provision to migrants and refugees at the border, that should be addressed through a Joint Ministerial Order to set up an improved Pre-Screening System (draft pending approval).
- ❑ The Law on Foreigners has been vetoed by the President of the Republic of Albania.
- ❑ UNHCR and partners observed that access to territory and asylum procedures for persons wishing to seek international protection remained curtailed, including lack of consistent screening for international protection needs or consideration for specific protection needs/vulnerabilities prior to their return to the country from which they arrived to Albania.
- ❑ The national reception system, currently affected by inadequate reception capacities and standards for reception, remains as much a challenge as a priority. The standards of treatment, together with a fair and efficient asylum system, provide powerful incentives for asylum-seekers to remain in the country where they have sought protection instead of moving onward.
- ❑ UNHCR and IOM advocated for an enhanced system for the reception of applicants for international protection (and migrants), including a response to persons with special reception needs (e.g., unaccompanied and separated children).
- ❑ Various IPA II activities were postponed to the latter half of the year, due to the COVID-19 situation. This included the Quality Assurance Initiative project aimed at enhancing government capacities in Refugee Status Determination, as pledged by the government at the 2019 GRF. While the Law on Asylum was passed in February 2021, the work of the relevant asylum institution stagnated due to various reasons, including very few asylum applications, and internal institutional management dynamics. This impeded the consultations under the Quality Assurance Initiative, where progress slowed down.

Outcome 2 – Social Cohesion

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

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

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

EU Chapters: 19, 23, 24, 32

OUTPUT 2.1 HEALTH

OUTPUT 2.2 EDUCATION

OUTPUT 2.3 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

OUTPUT 2.4 CHILD PROTECTION

OUTPUT 2.5 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

OUTCOME CHAIRS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE

UNFPA HEAD OF OFFICE

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNWOMEN, FAO, IAEA, ILO

MAIN IMPLEMENTING LINE MINISTRIES: MOHSP, MOES, MOI, MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

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

Contributing UN agencies: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, IAEA

Contributing Partners: Governments of Austria, Canada, Germany, Netherland, Switzerland, USA, the EU, Global Thematic

OUTPUT 2.1 HEALTH

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – WHO & MOHSP

SDGs

Goals: 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17

Targets: 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 5.6, 8.2, 11.6, 16.5, 17.18

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Support the country response for COVID-19.
- ❑ Strengthen the health system, focusing on resilience.
- ❑ Continuity of essential health services, including equal access to services.
- ❑ Advocacy and partnerships on the rights to health and reduces inequalities.

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Country response for COVID-19 supported:

Coordination - Technical lead in coordination meetings with health partners on COVID-19 response and vaccination; Albania's data uploaded/updated in COVID-19 Partners Platform; updating Strategic Action Plan for the Response to COVID-19 (2021-2023); Establishment of Public Health Emergency Operation Centre. (WHO)

Risk Communication and Community Engagement - support public health communication and promotion efforts; develop a proposal on a series of risk communication and community engagement training workshops with IPH; #TheCareProtects campaign implemented in 7 cities reaching 160000 people. (WHO, UNICEF)

Case management - participation of Albania to Solidarity PLUS Trial; set of trainings conducted on COVID Case Management, Post COVID case management and O2 therapy; clinicians exposed to updated WHO guidance on COVID-19 case management in ambulatory and hospital settings. (WHO)

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) - Albanian IPC National Focal enabled to update, revise and strengthen the National IPC Programmes; IPC NFP and IPC advisory group at IPH developed an IPC Training Strategy. (WHO)

Capacity development of 1900 health professionals (1520F/380M) in 370 Health Centres and 9 Maternity hospitals, using IPC protocols developed through UNICEF and University of Medicine partnership and officially endorsed by order of the Minister MoHSP No 156, 10.3.2021. (UNICEF)

Around 10000 health care workers in all 412 primary health care centres in Albania reached with PPE supplies. (UNICEF)

Surveillance - Establishment of the E-referral System of Rapid Test Units and Vaccination Centres in the PHC system. A two-day round table between MoHSP and WHO Balkan Hub Europe team organized to exchange experiences on consolidating emergency and preparedness procurement procedures and protocols. (WHO)

Points of Entry (PoE) - Assessment of the IHR core capacities in the designated port of Durrës, according to WHO guidance. (WHO)

Laboratory - Setting up IPH's Laboratory IMS; Conduct risk assessment in public health laboratories based on the laboratory biosafety manual fourth edition and develop action plan for improvement; Procurement of laboratory equipment, kits and reagents to strengthen diagnostic capacities of COVID-19 laboratories; Training of laboratory staff (35 persons).

Medical Equipment – incubators, resuscitation tables, photo therapy units, warmer systems for newborns, lab supplies, other delivered to strengthen capacities of health sector to deal with challenges posed by the pandemic and ensure continuity of health services. (UNICEF, WHO)

Public health and health services - Facilitation of second round of national pulse survey on continuity of essential health services during COVID-19 pandemic; Rapid Assessment on TB maintenance services during COVID-19 pandemic; Preparation of "COVID-19 MHPSS information package" for vulnerable groups; Report on behavioral determinants regarding control and prevention of COVID-19 among Albanian schoolchildren; Review of the governance of community pharmacies in Albania (ongoing). (WHO)

COVID-19 vaccination - As of 31 August 2021, Albania received a total of 1,899,172 doses, shipped through COVAX: 143,400 doses - 509,172 Pfizer, 320,000 AstraZeneca, 1 million Coronavac, and 60,000 Sputnik V doses. A total of 1,472,316 doses administered - 29% of population received 2 doses and 38% received at least one dose of Covid19 vaccine. (WHO)

IPH is implementing the Vaccine Effectiveness Study against SARS-CoV-2 among health workers in hospitals in Albania - 1496 health workers enrolled in the study. Establishment of 7 Mobile COVID Vaccination Units. (WHO)

Supported printing of vaccination cards, communication materials and other documents required in the process of COVID-19 vaccination. Procurement services were provided for COVAX facility vaccines. 75 health professionals attended 3 TOT sessions for microplanning in immunization at the subnational levels. 36 tables and 20 computers and printers were provided to strengthen recording and reporting of vaccination process. (UNICEF)

WASH - 5063 adults (2393M/2670F, out of which 206 PWD) and 5791 children (2883B/2908G, out of which 105 children with disabilities) reached with personal and family hygiene supplies to ensure key recommended hygiene practices were implemented at family and community level in the context of COVID-19. (UNICEF)

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Health System Strengthening

UHC - Development of National Health Strategy 2021-2030 (ongoing); Analysis of implementation of health-related SDGs in Albania and summarizing of findings in report “Health and sustainable development – progress in Albania”; Analysis of National Health Accounts, 2018; Development of the regulatory framework for implementing models of service delivery that integrate health and social services at community level; Assessment of the accomplishment of the recommendations of WHO Mission Report 2016, on Medical Devices.

SRHR - National Action Plans on SRHR, Health Promotion and Contraceptive Security drafted. Third MISP readiness assessment completed. Coordination and collaboration among key stakeholders to advance SRH agenda and promote dialogue around priority SRH issues, strengthened.

Food & Nutrition - A national iodine survey among school age children completed. Two by laws on iodine salt analysis procedures and salt traceability finalized. The monitoring, inspection, and traceability frameworks for iodized salt developed, and salt industry supported in quality assurance of domestic salt iodization. National guidelines for implementation of USI law, Salt Situation Analysis, Iodine survey report and SOPs for QA in salt iodization were produced. (UNICEF)

Consolidation of web-based data collection system using administrative data for child nutrition monitoring for children under 5 years of age. 143 health professionals and specialists from health statistics units trained in using the improved child nutrition monitoring system and 107 health personnel supervised and coached. 20249 children under 5 years of age were reached with growth monitoring and data were registered in the child nutrition monitoring web-based system functional countrywide; 14926 mothers and caregivers were provided advise on IYCF through PHC service providers. (UNICEF)

Two joint orders issued by Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture on the standards of foods offered in pre-university school settings as well as the marketing of unhealthy food in these institutions. 20 teachers participated in an accredited training focusing on healthy nutrition through basic education (grades 1-9). (UNICEF)

A concept note on school food nutrition will be shared/consulted with government and partners. The feasibility study on school milk is finalized and recommendations for follow-up actions will be shared with respective stakeholders. (FAO)

HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis/STIs prevention - HIV Action Plan 2020-2025 revised, approved and signed. Antiviral guidelines for the treatment of HIV, updated. Guidelines on HIV Testing, updated and submitted for approval. Provision of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis/STIs and COVID-19 prevention activities among people who use drugs and their injecting/sexual partners through outreach work and peer to peer involvement. (WHO, UNFPA)

Cancer control - University Hospital Center “Mother Theresa” provided with radiotherapy related medical equipment. Human resource capacity building activities implemented in a virtual format including a virtual expert mission to consult on establishment of national radiotherapy protocols for most common cancer sites, a virtual national training course on radiography quality control and a long term virtual national training course on treatment planning systems and new techniques for IMRT and VMAT. The first long term fellowship training for a medical physicist in brachytherapy started in August 2021 for three months in Turkey. (IAEA)

Global **Youth Tobacco** Survey in Albania conducted, and factsheet released. (WHO)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ The COVID-19 pandemic focus shifted the attention and resources. Strong focus on COVID -19 response, makes it difficult to discuss “normal” programme planning and implementation.
- ❑ The parliamentary electoral campaign and the transitional period till the establishment of the new government caused delays in the implementation of the planned activities and in the undertaking of new initiatives.
- ❑ The “normal” MCH service delivery systems continued to be heavily tested. Training sessions continued to be conducted online, however in person supervision in smaller teams was possible to follow up with the trained health personnel.
- ❑ Donated equipment in the health sector is not exempt of VAT (20%) when entering the country. Government counterparts need to explore opportunities to achieve a VAT exemption for UN donations.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO, UNDP

Contributing Partners: Governments of Austria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the EU, the Peace Building Fund

OUTPUT 2.2 EDUCATION

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNICEF & MOES

SDGs

Goals: 4, 5

Targets: 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.2, 5.b

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Data and evidence-based policy development
- ❑ Continue the efforts toward equity education, innovation in Education to cope with COVID-19 crisis and capacity building
- ❑ Advance the 21 - first century skills agenda
- ❑ Implementation at national scale of Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- ❑ Strengthen Y-Peer network
- ❑ Participation of young people in policy dialogue and programming, including in peacebuilding processes
- ❑ Reaching out to the most vulnerable youth and young key population with information and services on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- ❑ Enhancing youth Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in Albania
- ❑ Enhancing capacities of teachers in implementation of the MIL curricula

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Data and evidence-based policy development

Education Sector Strategy 2021-2026 developed, laying a vision of a modern, inclusive and life-long learning education system. (UNICEF)

ASCAP is assessing the education needs of preschool teachers. (UNICEF)

Equitable learning, innovation in Education to cope with COVID -19 and capacity building

The online learning platform [Akademi.al](#) offers 16000 video lessons to over 400000 users, including features and videos for children with hearing and vision impairments. (UNICEF)

To reduce the digital divide, 5000 children access Tech-hubs, a technology oriented blended learning model, is offered in 24 schools in Albania. (UNICEF)

ICT standards for teachers in education approved by MOESY and 1500 teachers undertook professional development on ICT in education. 1000 teachers in remote schools provided with digital devices. (UNICEF)

An online learning platform is in use for teacher training in Western Balkans, providing a state-of-the-art methodology in peace building. (UNICEF/RYCO)

The drop out prevention mechanism in school combined with remedial learning and socio emotional skills building reached directly 600 students in schools affected by earthquake. (UNICEF)

445 preschool teachers and 750 compulsory schools' representatives from the professional networks skilled on the use of inclusive education approaches, while 750 teachers undertook a training on competency-based curricula. (UNICEF)

Reaching out with information and services on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Initiatives are being implemented in reaching out with information and services on SRHR the most vulnerable youth and young key populations. (UNFPA)

Advanced the 21- first century skills agenda - Programmes on critical skills building (redebate, PONDER), social responsibility and entrepreneurships (UPSHIFT) are being implemented, offering young people the possibility to learn and apply the human center design, reaching 5000 young people. (UNICEF)

Student councils benefitted from capacity building on "Gender Education" and how to look at inequalities from a gender perspective. (UNICEF)

Implementation of CSE at national scale - Local capacity building in each Local Education Office benefitted 288 teachers and 36 school principals, 36 schools monitored, and 9000 students informed. Didactic's materials for online delivery of CSE developed and model lessons prepared by teachers. Monitoring and certification nationwide of the health education curriculum package with a focus on "Sexual education as life skills". (UNFPA)

Strengthened Y-Peer network - Y-Peer network, comprehensive network of over 500 non-profit organizations and governmental institutions and thousands of youth, expanded in 18 municipalities. (UNFPA)

Participation of young people in policy dialogue and programming, including in peacebuilding processes - *UN – RYCO Project successfully accomplished*: Around 15 youth-led peacebuilding initiatives were implemented engaging 500+ grassroots youth from hard-to-reach communities through common areas of interest that bring youth across different ethnicities and backgrounds together. A regional Youth Peace Lab was implemented with the participation of 120 young policymakers from the WB6, who were provided the opportunity to develop policy solutions to the most pressing regional issues related to mobility, connectivity, transformation of the legacy of war etc. More than 30000 young people were reached through the social media campaign #youthinspiredbypeace. (UNFPA)

Media and Information Literacy - MIL national strategy and position paper updated and aligned with actual needs and requirements. The new MIL curriculum and related monitoring and evaluation tools for its implementation are being tested in 10 schools across the country. Tools and teaching materials developed to support teachers in MIL curricula implementation. (UNESCO)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Learning disruptions - may become a chronic learning issue if not intervened. The total duration of full and partial closures is 29 weeks as to date. UN agencies will continue to advocate for targeted interventions, remedial and learning catchup with a focus on the most vulnerable children and learners, while advocating for keeping all schools and learning institutions opened.
- ❑ Reducing the digital divide remains a challenge for many learners still with limited connectivity (the latest household connectivity rate was 82% in 2019) or digital devices. Technical assistance, including costed, effective and multiparty solutions, is needed to address the situation.
- ❑ Education investments are very low compared with OECD countries and the region. By investing in education, we create economic growth and prosperity. Investing in education can create jobs, boost GDP and contribute up to an estimated 30% of total labour productivity growth. Advocacy, technical advice for increased and more smarter and efficient education investment will be UN niche while continuing to mobilize donors around the education sector.
- ❑ COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges in the implementation of CSE at national scale and in reaching out to the most vulnerable youth and young key populations with SRHR information and services.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, ILO, WHO
Contributing Partners: Government of Switzerland, the UN SDG Fund

OUTPUT 2.3 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP, UNICEF & MOHSP

SDGs

Goals: 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 16

Targets: 1.3, 1.4, 3.7, 4.1, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 10.2, 11.1, 11.10, 16.6

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Continuously advance, review and adopt the social protection and inclusion policy framework in Albania, including for integration of social and health services at the community level, to protect livelihoods of vulnerable people
- ❑ Enable national institutions (central and local) to implement the policy framework to effectively manage the provision of rights-based social services and promote social inclusion
- ❑ Empower vulnerable groups on their rights and entitlements to social services and mobilized them for a meaningful participation in advocacy forums and public consultation mechanisms

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Social protection and inclusion policy framework in Albania advanced, including for integration of social and health services at the community level, to protect livelihoods of vulnerable people:

MoHSP finalized the monitoring of Social Inclusion Indicators and related evaluation report, approved the new Action Plans on Persons with Disabilities (2021-2025) and on Accessibility and developed the Action Plan on Equality, Inclusion, and Participation of Roma and Egyptians (2021-2025). (UNDP)

Primary Health Care (PHC) Policy for integrating health and social services elaborated, to be linked with the National Health Strategy 2021-2030. For providing integrated social and health services at the PHC level: guideline developed, standards of accreditation of PHC institutions revised and submitted for official endorsement, the legal framework (amendments to laws, regulations, protocols and pathways) for their provision at the community level developed and submitted for official endorsement. (WHO)

MoFE completed the secondary legislation on Law on Social Housing, mid-term evaluation 2016-2020 of the Social Housing Strategy (SHS) and developed SHS new Action Plan 2021-2025. (UNDP)

MoES finalized the evaluation and dissemination of the National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020 and initiated the process to drafting the new national Youth Strategy and related Action Plan. (UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF)

Guidelines drafted and consulted for development of 5 local social housing plans (Tirane, Vlore, Korce, Vau i Dejes, Permet). (UNDP)

Analysis of situation of the Older Persons in Albania and Survey on Older Persons and Loneliness conducted. (UNFPA, INSTAT)

Analysis of the Social Protection system in Albania validated in a three partite group of stakeholders and published. Analysis of Fiscal space for supporting integrated social services in Albania is completed. (ILO)

Expenditures and fiscal space analysis, including gender and child sensitive budgeting on establishing social protection floor in Albania is under preparation. Review of budgets and assess fiscal space is underway to increase spending in childcare infrastructure by undertaking simulation of such investment for gender-disaggregated employment creation, poverty reduction, unpaid work time reduction. (UNW)

Assessment conducted of social and economic vulnerabilities of Roma Returnees in Albania, aiming to lay the ground for the development of local integration plans for Roma returnees in municipalities of Berat, Fier and Devoll. (UNDP)

Faculty of Social Sciences reviewed and proposed changes in the bachelor curricula of social work, updating it to the best national and international social protection policies and legislation. (UNICEF)

National institutions (central and local) enabled to implement the policy framework to effectively manage the provision of rights-based social services and promote social inclusion:

12 municipalities developed three-year social care plans, fully costed and with clear targets to reach people in vulnerable situation in the municipality. Budget briefs were developed to inform the decision making on the planning of expenditures for the financing of social care plan and social care services in each municipality. Municipalities were also enabled to populate and use the MIS for social care services. (UNICEF, UNDP)

Tirana municipality developed the Action Plans for PWD and R/E to feed into the new Local Social Care Plan 2021-2025. (UNDP)

Six innovative models of integrated social care services piloted, including establishing local linkages between health and social protection services. A "Framework for integrated social and health care services" developed and adopted by municipalities of Tirane, Kamze, Rrogozhine, Pogradec, Devoll - over 250 individuals and their families benefited from the services. (UNDP)

17 municipalities enabled to implement innovative community-based social care services (grants) through the Social Fund. (UNDP)

3 municipalities (Kruje, Lezhe, Fier) empowered to implement integrated social services benefiting 1500 R/E individuals. (UNDP)

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

4 municipalities (Puke, Shkoder, Roskovec, Korce) supported to operationalize community centers for children with disabilities and develop capacities of 13 community centers' staff through online training and exchange visits. A multifunctional community center in Devoll is under construction, aiming to provide inclusive social-health care services. (UNDP)

A new model of cash plus has been piloted in three municipalities (Durrës, Lezhe, Berat). More than 600 families with children that receive cash assistance supported with information and referral to other support services that address their multiple material deprivations. The families received information on how to access additional subsidies and top-ups to cash assistance and how to access important care services that are available and prioritised for families under cash assistance. (UNICEF)

Two municipalities (Tirane, Elbasan) signed letters of commitment for engaging their own resources in supporting health and social community services targeting vulnerable groups of population (drug users, people affected by HIV and TB, etc.) (WHO)

State Social Service aided in mapping social care services nationwide, aiming to identify gaps in the area of social care services. (UNDP)

Quality Assurance Agency for Pre-University Education strengthened professional capacities of 1000 assistant teachers for children with disabilities and documented/divulged good practices in supporting their development. (UNDP)

Vulnerable groups are empowered on their rights and entitlements to social services and are mobilized for a meaningful participation in advocacy forums, public consultation mechanisms:

Vulnerable communities and their organizations in Tirana, Puka, Rrogozhina, Devoll, Pogradec and Kamza are supported with six small projects to uphold their rights and hold local institutions accountable for delivering social services. Hundreds of citizens have benefited from integrated health and social services during 2021 (564 in total: 246 F/153 M/165 LGBTI). (UNDP)

Implementation of small grant projects with 6 organizations of PWDs to strengthen their capacities for advocacy and networking and voicing the rights of their constituencies. (UNDP)

Community health model expanded in two new municipalities, bringing to 18 the total no. of municipalities with community health model in place) and capacities strengthened of health education teams in these municipalities. (UNFPA/LNB)

Participation of vulnerable women and girls in participatory budgeting practices in 12 municipalities increased through 2 regional meetings in the frame of Prisma Network, organized in Lezhe and Elbasan, targeting 7 regions with participation of 25 representatives from NGOs/activists and Lezha LGU, focused on (i) capacity building of LGUs and Prisma Members/local organizations in public deliberation on thematic and budgetary priorities and interaction with their communities, and (ii) strengthening the network and fostering coordination; capacity building to LGUs, local NGOs and activists in 5 municipalities on public deliberation and women's engagement; engagement of 123 women and local NGOs and activists in 7 awareness raising meetings conducted in 5 municipalities with participation of LGUs. (UN Women)

Capacity building conducted for activists and CSOs in 6 municipalities on integrated social care services, expenditure monitoring and accountability for gender equality through watchdog monitoring report; a three-day online training on Gender Responsive Budgeting and Budget Monitoring was provided benefiting 17 (15F/2M) persons representing 11 organizations, which covered municipalities of Skrapar, Polican, Fushearrez, Vlore, Elbasan, and Durrës. The participants agreed to work on the elaboration and presentation of 6 watchdog reports to be developed at the municipal level. (UN Women)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ The capacities and resources of public administration in charge of social protection and social services remain limited at all levels, both in terms of the number of staff, technical capacity and financial allocations.
- ❑ COVID-19 pandemics, with restricted mobility and other preventive measures applied at country level, resulted in limited options for field consultations and direct coaching of the public administration. It has also presented serious challenges on budgetary allocations to LGUs to respond to the financial and health crisis, burdened social spending and social protection budgets, hence gender budgeting became even more challenging to address.
- ❑ Budgetary allocations to respond to the financial and health crisis does burden social spending and social protection budgets. Fear of pandemic, depression and post diseases symptoms have also caused an overall fatigue.
- ❑ Progress (or delays) of earthquake reconstruction and recovery efforts underway, may affect the level of adequate engagement and service provision for those most affected and in immediate need of socio-economic support.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNICEF, WHO, ILO

Contributing Partners: Governments of Albania, UK, the Global Thematic Fund, the Ending Violence Against Children Fund

OUTPUT 2.4 CHILD PROTECTION

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNICEF & MOHSP

SDGs

Goals: 1, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17

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

Gender Marker 1

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Child Protection system support for building more resilient emergency response capacity
 - policy level work
- ❑ Address protection needs of the most vulnerable children and their families affected by November earthquake
 - active field work
- ❑ Address (sexual) Violence Against Children
 - national wide awareness raising, reporting and response services
- ❑ Implementation of National De-Institutionalisation Action Plan
 - establishment of alternative childcare services and gradual closure of institutions
- ❑ Strengthen efforts to eradicate human trafficking
 - policy, advocacy, capacity building work at national level and service delivery at local level
- ❑ Expansion of mental health and psychosocial support and counselling
 - improving awareness and access to counselling services
- ❑ Preparation of the Report on “Child Labor in Rural Areas”

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Implementation of National De-Institutionalization Action Plan 2020-22 progressed with 3 proposed models of alternative childcare services - A model for Child and Family Support Hub; Guidelines' model for child-family reunification; A model of alternative professional Foster Care Service - approved by the National DI Steering Committee and started implementation in Korca and Vlora. (UNICEF)

LGUs Korca, Vlore submitted request to Social Fund for development of Alternative childcare services in their localities and each received \$110000 for first year (out of three) implementation. (UNICEF)

54 children and 24 families avoided family separation and/or benefitted from family re-unification, 24 of which were/are residing in institutions and 30 children assessed at risk of institutionalization. (UNICEF)

95 Child Protection Workers assisted on-the-job and through online coaching. (UNICEF)

National Child Helpline ALO116 111 registered 21822 calls and dealt with 816 cases, 715 of which required referrals to child protection services and follow-up - 52% of cases related to economic exploitation of children, 30% to online and mobile safety, and 8.5% to abuse and violence. (UNICEF)

The national awareness campaign #TeBesoj (TrustMe) on child sexual abuse covered 6 additional municipalities, north to the south, reaching at least half of the country's population. (UNICEF)

2021 was launched the Year for Combatting Child Labor at the Global UN - EU Conference held on 11 June 2021. The Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection addressed the conference on behalf of Minister MoHSP as one of the key panelists. National Agency for Protection of Children's Rights submitted the annual report on Child Labour to the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat. (ILO)

GoA endorsed National Cybersecurity Strategy (2020-2025), which for the first time incorporates a dedicated chapter on children's online protection, and as such elevates it to a higher priority level, solidifying the State's commitment to keeping children safe in every environment. (UNICEF)

The BiblioTech technological hubs for online safety in 4 public libraries of Tirana engage 6021 children and adults and motivated at least 100 children and young people to participate in the "BiblioTech Challenge" offering tech solutions to their local and community issues. (UNICEF)

300 children and young people and 138 parents benefitted from community based digital literacy and online safety program. (UNICEF)

Tirana's "Friendly WiFi" coverage grew from 5 to 16 venues, blocking 372319 internet requests for child sexual abuse and adult pornography and 1200 illegal material websites/month. (UNICEF)

[NukjeVetem](#) psychological and mental health counselling platform supported 2465 (810 children 10-17y.o) individuals seeking help with depression, anxiety, suicide attempts/self-harm, sexual orientation and abuse. In areas with limited online interaction, 531 individuals supported with direct counselling, mental health awareness and psychosocial activities. 268 individuals (254 children 180M/74F) at high risk or immediate risk of abuse and violence supported with the core package of services, emergency shelter and child protection case management. 356 young people and 318 members of very vulnerable families (Shkoder, Diber, Kukës) directly assisted to prevent their risks to violence and human trafficking. (UNICEF)

4089 children and 831 community members engaging by community mobilization teams in awareness raising, community dialogues, prevention, available support services on human trafficking. (UNICEF)

Following the first group of 5 repatriated persons from Syrian refugee camp, 14 children (10 girls and 4 boys) and 5 mothers were repatriated in August. UNICEF is providing almost all basic support care services, psycho-social support and educational activities in the dedicated Child Friendly Spaces as well as supporting court and administrative cases to bring repatriates residence paperwork in order to allow them accessing all services and rights as Albanian citizens.

IASC authorized/ published the Albanian translation of the Basic Psychological Skills guidelines Annex D) - IASC Guidance on Basic Psychosocial Skills - A Guide for COVID-19 Responders - 2 rounds of trainings organized with 174 participants from different professional backgrounds (psychiatrist, nurses, GP, psychologists, social workers, teachers). (WHO)

"COVID-19 MHPSS information package" for vulnerable groups translated and distributed - 2 rounds of trainings organized with 145 participants from different professional backgrounds. (WHO).

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Child protection system work force continuously remains underqualified, understaffed and underfunded. There is significant shortage of statutory as well as freelance child protection professionals (social workers, psychologists) outside of Tirana.
- ❑ Covid-19 caused socio-economic hardship hit very hard the most vulnerable children and families, causing significant or complete loss of basic income in many cases. This situation almost immediately affected negatively all the progress achieved with cases of child-family reunification, placed more children into institutional care and pushed numbers of all forms of violence to grow higher.
- ❑ The number of children identified as at risk of trafficking or already accessed as PV/VoT is growing, and yet the protection system and support services are not reflecting the increased child protection need.
- ❑ The existing legal framework continuous to prevent Unaccompanied and separated foreign children, without any status and residence in Albania to access basic social services, leaving them in highly risky situation, exposed to abuse, trafficking, smuggling and modern slavery.
- ❑ Inadequate solutions for motivating the professionals dealing with mental health and psychosocial support and counselling.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, WHO, ILO
Contributing Partners: Governments of Sweden, UK, the EU

OUTPUT 2.5 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOHSP

SDGs

Goals: 5, 8, 16

Targets: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 8.7, 16.1, 16.2

Gender Marker 3

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Strengthen normative and accountability framework related to EVAWG, including harmful practices
- ❑ Improve institutional response for survivors of EVAWG
- ❑ Improved implementation capacities of local actors and law enforcement agencies in adequately implementing VAW related laws and policies
- ❑ Increase accountability and improve oversight role to EVAWG
- ❑ Improve services for survivors of VAWG
- ❑ Challenge norms pertaining to VAWG (including child marriage)

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Strengthened normative and accountability framework to EVAWG, including harmful practices:

Adoption of CoMD 327/2021 on Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRMs) functionality in line with 2018&2020 DV Law amendments, Istanbul Convention requirements and GREVIO; standardized protocol for CRMs members and professionals to manage sexual violence cases at local level through a coordinated multisectoral approach; unified DoPA-PA guideline to prevent and handle violence in workplace; and development of the guide for Police Officers members of CRMs at local level on management of DV cases in accordance with 2018 & 2020 DV law amendments. (UNDP, UN Women)

Development of Policy and Procedures against Harassment and Sexual Harassment to protect women and men among Armed Forces (AF) and Ministry of Defense personnel part of the mandatory educational bachelor program of the AF academy. (UNDP)

Recommendations to protect victims of GBV in draft law "On the Status of Foreigners" presented and accepted by the Parliamentary Law Commission. (UN Women)

MoHSP finalized/approved the National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE) 2021-2030. The annual monitoring reports on the implementation of NSGE and Action Plan for 2019 and 2020 with respect to the GBV objective and the evaluation report on the overall implementation of NSGE 2016 – mid 2020, informed the development of the new NSGE and Action Plan 2021 – 2030. (UN Women, UNDP)

Monitoring reports for functioning of CRMs in 14 municipalities and a report on the implementation of NSGE 2016-2020, including key findings and recommendations for the new NSGE, published by the Gender Alliance for Development Center. (UN Women)

Shadow reports on CEDAW and GREVIO Istanbul Convention submitted and by CSO Monitoring Network Against GBV and it also published monitoring reports with recommendations for better implementation of the Laws on Social Housing, Free Legal Aid and DV. (UN Women)

Preparation of the file for the ratification of the Convention 190 on "Violence and Harassment in the World of Work". (ILO)

Gap analysis, with specific recommendations, of the Albanian legislation on preventing and addressing Violence against Women in Politics in the context of elections published. (UN Women)

Improved institutional response to EVAWG:

Scaled up and consolidated multi-sectorial CRMs, serving as institutional response to VAW at local level, and improved data collection system (REVALB) - 61 CRMs established, 900 DV cases recorded in REVALB, compared to 545 in 2015. During Jan-Aug. 285 DV cases benefited from multiple services provided through CRMs. (UNDP)

Better coordination among CRMs actors ensured through workshops held in the municipalities of Elbasan qark benefitting 69 CRM members. (UN Women)

Five municipalities (Durrës, Korce, Tirane, Elbasan, Lezhe) effectively applied gender responsive planning and budgeting in the local MTBP, with a focus on VAWG. Six municipalities (Tirana, Elbasan, Vlora, Durrës, Shkodra, Pogradec) developed new schemes for reintegration of women survivors of violence - 71 women and 153 children in municipalities of Tirane, Elbasan, Vlore provided with services as per the reintegration plans. (UN Women)

256 service providers in 9 municipalities are better equipped to respond to and refer cases of violence against women and domestic violence, including from marginalized communities. (UNW)

Economic reintegration and livelihood program, specifically designed for Potential Victims and Victims of Trafficking (PV/VoT, resulted in 29 (6M/23F) successful employment; 29 (7M/22F) successful setting up business start-ups; 29 individuals into internship scheme; 89 individual referred to public VET. (UNICEF)

10 Faith Based Institutions gathered in Vlora to inform on GBV related mechanisms and address ways forward to combat GBV and harmful practices. (UNFPA)

The Albanian State Police developed an E-Learning Course on the Policy against Harassment, including Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. (UN Women)

An analysis of the Gender Equality Action Plan 2018-2020 adopted in Municipalities of Elbasan and Tirana, identifying progress and gaps of budget planning for services to DV victims. (UNW)

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Improved implementation capacities of local actors and law enforcement agencies in adequately implementing VAW related laws and policies:

40 young students of Armed Forces trained on the Policy and Procedures against harassment and Sexual Harassment to protect women and men. (UNDP)

512 members of CRMs, 20 Local Coordinators against DV (LCDVs) and service providers benefited from trainings related to: i) use of the two newly approved protocols in managing DV cases by CRM members at local level; ii) informative sessions on DV and case management; iii) CRMs steering committee meetings and multisectoral technical teams meeting; iv) systematically use of REVALB system. (UNDP)

4 E-forums of the LCDVs network organized on a range of draft regulatory documents on DV and on Women in Leadership. (UNDP)

11 training sessions on GBV case management provided to 27 Administrative Units of Tirana. (UNW)

7 trainings on Health Care Response to GBV SoP, including SoP on GBV in Emergencies, organised benefitting 83 health care providers (64F/19M). 62 social care providers (59F/3M) trained on Psychosocial Care Response to GBV SoP. 32 service providers from border police, CRM, NHRI, CSOs trained on GBV in Emergencies. (UNFPA)

Increased accountability and improved oversight role to EVAWG:

PA and CPD initiated a study on VAW in politics. PA lobbied for the unified guide on Sexual Harassment & Harassment in public admin institutions. (UNDP)

GE sub-Parliamentary Committee lobbied for women's rights in national and international forums. PA, AMA, journalists aware on media role on women's rights and reporting standards. (UN Women)

Women's rights CSOs share findings and recommendations of the monitoring of the implementation of NSGE and Action Plan with local authorities in several municipalities. (UN Women)

Improved services for survivors of VAWG:

LILIUM Center provided specialized integrated emergency support services to 23 cases (5 women, 14 girls, 4 boys) of sexual violence, strengthened cooperation with CSOs and CRMs for referral and rehabilitation support services, and served as a reference model to establish similar centers for children victims of DV. (UNDP)

250 PV/VoT rescued, referred to appropriate support services and reintegrated to 'normalcy' and meaningful community and social life. (UNICEF)

71 women and 173 children in 3 municipalities (Tirane, Elbasan, Vlore) provided with services based on their needs and as per the tailored plan of reintegration. (UN Women)

247 counselling sessions (psychological and legal) organized in 6 municipalities of Elbasan region benefitting 134 women and girls. (UN Women)

14 representatives of CSOs who received Women's Level 1 Empowerment Self-Defense Instructor Training delivered these trainings to 372 women and men. Further, 315 women and girls and 57 men and boys benefited from training from trainers certified previously from ToTs organized by Aikido Albania. (UN Women).

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Challenged norms pertaining to VAWG (including child marriage):

Development of the Manual on Good Parenting Norms (based on the national survey of norms and traditions that influence parenting in Albania). (UNFPA)

Through a series of online and offline workshops, 310 young people (86 boys, 228 girls), university and high school students, especially from rural areas, are better equipped (i) to identify and combat harmful social norms, gender stereotypes and different forms of violence, especially in the digital world; (ii) to engage as local actors of change in their local communities to identify and reject harmful norms that justify violence of any form against women and girls. (UN Women)

12410 SMS messages were sent calling on citizens to report violence against women and girls in any form, as part of a nationwide campaign to change behaviors around VAWG. (UN Women).

13 journalists from visual and printed media participated in a one-day training organized by CSOs representing vulnerable women (Albanian Disability Rights Foundation, LGBT Alliance and Roma Women's Rights Center), aiming to bring more attention to violence against women from marginalized communities. At the end of the training, participants prepared four articles, which were published in different media outlets. (UN Women)

The Bright Sky application - a new app providing information for women and girls on DV and GBV - developed by Vodafone Albania in collaboration with MoHSP, MoI and UN Women was launched on 25 June 2021. (UN Women)

Three videos with information on key service providers (police, LCDV and women's rights organizations) in addressing and managing cases of domestic violence reached out to more than 32000 people on social media. (UN Women).

320 meetings of 10 Be a Man Clubs have taken place. (UNFPA)

Multiple online activities raised awareness on GB&DV, challenged gender stereotypes and family traditional roles reaching out to over 600000 people through videos, booklets, trainings, social and traditional media. (UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, CSOs, MoHSP, CRMs, LGUs, Media)

1556 young girls and boys participated in 30 awareness raising activities and online art competitions organized by CRMs. Over 19536 people reached out through social media. (UNDP)

Doruntina's Besa reached over 80000 views in local and international audiences and members of communities. (UNDP)

Tirana Municipality broadcasted messages to raise awareness on VAW and encourage reporting in the big screens at the Scanderbeg square in TiranaFunZone during the European 2021 football matches. (UN Women).

25 door to door meetings organized with Roma women to share information on reporting violence against women and girls. (UN Women)

354 community members (247 women and girls, 107 men and boys) in Preze, Bexulle and Fushe Kruje were informed on the services available for survivors of domestic violence and the mechanisms to report it. (UN Women)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing restrictions have impacted the adequate support to all GBV/DV cases reported at local level. However, UN agencies supported the design of a range of communication channels, innovation tools and online platforms for the state and non-state partners to ensure delivery of support services for GBV-DV victims.
- ❑ 2021 was an electoral year and the parliamentary elections have somewhat shifted the governmental institutions attention and slowed down implementation of planned interventions. UN agencies focused on local level ensuring that planned activities were delivered accordingly.
- ❑ Covid19 economic impact has been felt the most by vulnerable groups. The women affected by trafficking, violence and abuse found it extremely difficult to find dignified means of income and stability. This also had a very negative effect on their dependent children and their wellbeing.
- ❑ The number of children identified as being under high risk of trafficking or assessed as PV/VoT is growing.

Outcome 3 – Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture

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

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

SDGs: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 17

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

OUTPUT 3.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT 3.2 LABOUR

OUTPUT 3.3 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT 3.4 CULTURE

OUTCOME CHAIRS

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY

FAO ASSISTANT REPRESENTATIVE

ILO NATIONAL COORDINATOR

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: UNWOMEN, UNDP, FAO, IOM, UNECE, UNESCO, UNCTAD, ILO, UNIDO

MAIN IMPLEMENTING LINE MINISTRIES: MOFE, MOARD, MOC

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNECE, UNCTAD, UNDP
Contributing Partners: UN SDG Fund

OUTPUT 3.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOFE

SDGs

Goals: 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17

Targets: 1.1, 4.4, 8.3, 11.3, 11.4, 11.6, 11.b, 11.c, 12.a, 17.14

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Competition-Consumer Protection policy framework
- ❑ Trade Facilitation-Customs operations
- ❑ Trade facilitation and Single Window implementation

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Competition-Consumer Protection - UNCTAD developed a wide-ranging programme aimed at facilitating the economic recovery of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the aftermath of the Covid 19 crisis, through the promotion of competition policy and its interaction with other public policies. In particular, the objective is to boost economic recovery through support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Albania benefitted from this programme for the implementation of the recommendations made in the studies prepared.

Trade facilitation-customs operations - Albanian Customs Administration benefited from development of an Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) in line with the provisions of the World Customs Organization and European Union as well as capacitated on its use. In 2021, an upgrade was made to ACA ASYCUDA World system, including support for integration of WCO HS 2022 and requirements from the new Foreign Trade Agreements (including with UK). (UNCTAD)

To advance **trade facilitation and Single Window implementation** in line with the UNECE standards and recommendations and the EU Single Window and e-freight information regulations, a regional seminar to enhance the capacity of the transition economies in the Western Balkans to implement trade facilitation measures and the Single Window organized in October 2021. (UNECE)

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, ILO, IOM

Contributing Partners: Governments of Albania, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, the EU

OUTPUT 3.2 LABOUR

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – ILO & MOFE

SDGs

Goals: 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17

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

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Implement the Reformed Active Labour Market Programmes, including the Self-Employment and Community Employment Programme, backed by development of clear operational guidelines and capacity building of Employment Offices and NAES Head Office staff.
- ❑ VET - Complete the regulatory framework, including secondary legislation in the employment and VET. Implement the Self-Assessment of VET providers in the third round through a digital platform and support the National Agency for VET and Qualifications to commence the roll-out of the accreditation model of VET providers.
- ❑ Better access to labour market – establish Integrated Case Management of Social and Employment Services; revise regulatory framework of post-secondary education.
- ❑ Footwear and garment industry - support women workers laid off due to COVID 19 with cash transfer in view of jobs and income retention as well as companies to implement and observe the COVID 19 measures enforced by the Government of Albania via the red protocols and C 19 occupational and safety at workplace standards as recommended by the ILO.
- ❑ Enable tripartite stakeholders to address skills' mismatch via sector-based skills' anticipation analysis as well as enhance the performance of social dialogue mechanisms and procedures.
- ❑ Consolidate the Amicable Labour Disputes Resolution System by revising the existing procedures and upskilling the network of public Labour Disputes Mediators.
- ❑ Empower the Labour Market governance institutions to best serve and facilitate the access of the migrant workers in the Labour Market.
- ❑ Establish Labour Market Observatory as a forum to generate, analyze and disseminate information for policy makers and other labour market stakeholders.

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Footwear and garment industry - COVID 19 response (ILO):

450 laid-off women, who did not have access to the unemployment benefit or other social protection schemes and were prioritized as most disadvantaged based on the ILO selection criteria, received cash in hand support -three months of salaries equivalent to the minimum wage in Albania.

10 textile and footwear factories, employing 1580 workers, received support and established healthy and safe conditions at the workplace.

Guideline on “Safe return to work” for the textile and footwear industry produced to support companies reorganize work in accordance with the ILO OSH standards on safe return to the workplace and national Covid-19 Red Protocols. Training on “Safe Return to Work for the textile and footwear industry” delivered in 10 footwear and garment companies, enabling them to promote these standards in their workplaces.

Labour Market governance institutions empowered to best serve and facilitate the access of the migrant workers in the Labour Market:

Extensive analyses of the primary and secondary legislation, standard operating procedures of pertinent institutions, as well as policy and institutional framework for the labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees in the Republic of Albania performed, providing recommendations for the revised legal documents that will contribute to facilitate access to labour market and employment services for asylum seekers and refugees in Albania. (ILO)

The Info Kit on Access to Labour Market in Albania for Refugees and Asylum Seekers updated as per the recent developments in the Albanian Labour Market, governing institutions and employment service providers. (ILO)

The project “Strengthening labour migration framework in Albania”, funded by the IOM Development Fund was activated in January 2021 to support national priorities on migration, contributing to improvement of the good migration governance in Albania, through strengthening the national labour migration policy framework, migration impact on the Albanian Workforce and Skills Development Needs, and guidance on ethical recruitment systems. (IOM)

Tripartite stakeholders enabled to address skills’ mismatch via sector-based skills’ anticipation analysis and the performance of social dialogue mechanisms and procedures enhanced (ILO):

The analysis on the skills gap/anticipation in the dairy value chain completed and validated in a tripartite audience chaired by the Minister of Agriculture.

25 labour mediators from the National Agency for Employment and Skills and social partners (Business Albania and trade unions) trained on “Basic Mediation and Conciliation Techniques and Skills”.

Strengthened Amicable Labour Disputes Resolution System (ILO):

The MoFE Instruction on the upgraded procedure to peaceful labour disputes resolution designed via a series tripartite consultations and endorsed by the Minister. The manual on Peaceful Labour Dispute Resolution at the company level” designed, presented and validated in a tripartite audience.

The National Labour Council performance indicators drafted by the tripartite working group and agreed regionally in the ESAP regional conference.

The Labour Inspectorate is supported in providing the technical data for the design of the risk assessment tool on spotting informality in the labour market - undeclared and under-declared work.

VET - Regulatory framework, including secondary legislation in the employment and VET is completed. Third round of Self-Assessment of VET providers implemented via a digital platform. National Agency for VET and Qualifications commenced the roll-out of accreditation model of VET providers. (UNDP)

Labour Market Observatory established as a forum to generate, analyze and disseminate information for policy makers and other labour market stakeholders. (UNDP)

Reformed Active Labour Market Programmes, including Self-Employment and Community Employment Programme, implemented - clear operational guidelines developed and capacity building ensured of Employment Offices and NAES Head Office staff. (UNDP)

Better access to the labour market - revision of the regulatory framework of post-secondary education, identifying the gaps and developing a roadmap for its further development. Integrated Case Management of Social and Employment Services is being established to aid people on social assistance. (UNDP)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ The COVID-19 crisis has further emphasized labour market challenges of vulnerable groups, as well as it has served as a powerful reminder of the need for social protection systems that are adaptable and responsive to existing and emerging needs .
- ❑ The COVID-19 impact on the economy and enterprises and the lengthy process of NAES and Employment Offices restructuring affected negatively the implementation of the newly reformed ALMPs, which resulted in a significant decrease of the number of beneficiaries and underutilization of employment promotion funds.
- ❑ Parliamentary elections delayed the adoption of necessary amendments in the Employment Promotion Law and the VET Law for the operationalization of the Social Employment Fund and implementation of the VET providers network optimization.

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

Contributing UN agencies: FAO, UNWOMEN, ILO

Contributing Partners: Governments of Albania, Hungary, Italy, Turkey, Sweden, Switzerland

OUTPUT 3.3 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – FAO & MOARD

SDGs

Goals: 1, 2, 5, 8, 12

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

Gender Marker 3

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Design and implement policies and strategies for sustainable rural development and modernization of the agricultural sector that are gender sensitive and empower rural women.
- ❑ Enable local governments and rural women communities to implement inclusive and sustainable rural development.

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Small-scale investment support scheme - 90 farmers benefitted from implementation in three regions (Malesi e Madhe, Belsh, Korce), promoting best practices of rural income diversification, focused on short value chain development, rural women empowerment, youth-led economic activities and integrated community development approaches. (FAO)

Vocational Education Training - training modules for farmers and rural women are prepared and training activities are ongoing. (FAO, ILO)

Earthquake reconstruction - 34 farmers received grants; other 10 applications are under evaluation. A study on the demand and supply of financial services in the earthquake-affected areas is finalized. Tailored trainings for farmers on advisory service and on access to finance is ongoing. Institutional capacity to assess damage and loss in agriculture is strengthened - 30 staff of central and local institutions are capacitated. (FAO)

Gender Rural Equality and Tourism (GREAT) project - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development signed agreement on the implementation of the GREAT project, implemented by UN Women and FAO, aiming to contribute to rural women's empowerment in Albania and strengthens its role and contribution in community in context of Agenda 2030.

- ❖ Initial assessment for the implementation of rural women economic empowerment conducted in consultation with MoARD and local governments of Kolonje, Elbasan and Puke. (UN Women, FAO)
- ❖ Preparations initiated for a media campaign to fight gender-based stereotypes, which will consist in a series of events broadcasted in national media. (UN Women)

Initiated provision of support to MoARD to mainstream gender in new Agriculture Strategy 2021-2027. Initial feedback and contributions provided in IPMG meeting organized by MoARD focused on the new strategy. (UN Women, FAO)

A Country Gender Assessment in agriculture and rural sector as well as a policy paper on the figure of farm co-manager is under development. (FAO)

The role of women in agriculture and country's economy was the main theme of the conference "Women and Agriculture: from Business to Social Wellbeing" organized in cooperation with Embassy of Italy on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021. The conference brought together government and development partners representatives as well as best experiences from "Coldiretti Donne" Network and successful Albanian rural women entrepreneurs. (UN Women)

Work on the economic diversification incubators in selected value chains and rural women communities linked to them has started in collaboration with local government. (FAO)

Implementation Challenges 2021

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

State institutions have inclusive policies to foster cultural and creative industries, improve access to cultural markets, protect cultural diversity, and improve the management of cultural heritage as drivers and enablers for sustainable development.

Contributing UN agencies: UNESCO
Contributing Partners: Government of Switzerland

OUTPUT 3.4 CULTURE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNESCO & MOC

SDGs

Goals: 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

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

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Enhance management and safeguarding of Albania's cultural heritage and especially in Disaster Risk Management Plans
- ❑ Improve capacities of the national institutions in management of cultural heritage

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

As a direct result of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment in Cultural Heritage sector, elaborated with the support of UNESCO, the Swiss Government provided funding for the design and implementation of the project “Digitization of the archive of the National Institute for Cultural Heritage and establishment of a protocol for emergency evacuation of the archive”.

By end August 2021, the project ensured:

- ❖ Establishment of digital archive, and preservation of the documentation against possible disasters, as well as design of a digital database for all cultural monuments;
- ❖ Improvement of the infrastructure of the internal network of the institution and protection of information and documents from computer malfunction;
- ❖ Setting a protocol for the emergency evacuation of the archive, drafted in the framework of the national Civil Emergency Plan, compliant with the overall legal framework regulating the matter of civil protection and disaster management in Albania.

- ❖ Safeguarding of a rich archive collection for future generations, whose knowledge and appreciation is supported through facilitated access: 4100 technical dossiers of various monuments and sites; 47700 negatives of films and microfilms; 256000 photographs and 28500 diapositive of different formats in color and black & white technique.
- ❖ Improvement of capacities of relevant professionals in the management of cultural heritage.

UNESCO is regularly assisting the authorities to improve the management of World Heritage properties, and especially in supporting enhancement of cooperation with the Republic of North Macedonia in regard to the joint management of World Heritage property “Natural and cultural heritage of Ohrid Region”.

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Although the management of culture in Albania seems to be adequate, for many years the main challenge was the absence of a national Culture Strategy - essential to address existing challenges as well as provide mid-term perception/outlook, as well as absence of adequate legal framework ensuring the best appropriate management of the cultural sector. The National Strategy of Culture 2019-2025 and its Action Plan aim at conceiving a roadmap for the development of the culture, cultural heritage and creative industry sector in order to create favorable conditions for individual, social and state development.
- ❑ The earthquake of November 2019 showed further necessity to include the culture sector in all DRR country plans.
- ❑ A need to ensure further capacity development actions is being recognized in Cultural Heritage Preservation sector to address emerging issues in the preservation of Albania's rich cultural heritage.

Outcome 4 – Environment and Climate Change

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

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

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

EU Chapters: 15, 27

OUTPUT 4.1 DRR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTPUT 4.2 NATURAL RESOURCES

OUTPUT 4.3 EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

OUTCOME CHAIRS

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT

UNDP REPRESENTATIVE

UNEP NATIONAL COORDINATOR

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: FAO, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, ILO, UNWOMEN, UNIDO, WHO, UNICEF, UNOPS

MAIN IMPLEMENTING LINE MINISTRIES: MOTE, MOARD, MOIE, MOES, MOC, MINISTER OF STATE FOR RECONSTRUCTION

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, UNESCO
Contributing Partners: Government of Albania, the Global Environment Facility

OUTPUT 4.1 DRR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOTE, MOIE

SDGs

Goals: 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17

Targets: 7.2, 9.1, 11.2, 11.b, 12.1, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 15.1, 15.3, 17.9

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Climate Change and DRR
 - ✓ Fourth National Communication to UNFCCC and First Albania Biennial Update Report
 - ✓ Climate Promise – Revision of Albania National Determined Contribution –NDC
 - ✓ Climate Smart Agriculture and Integrated Pest Management measures for mitigation/adaptation to Climate Change
 - ✓ Strengthening the DRR/DRM framework and capacities in Albania
- ❑ Realization of environmentally friendly biomass technologies in the agro-industry and identification and promotion of local traditional, organic and GI products in support to agro-tourism and sustainable production and consumption.
- ❑ Sustainable land management, including fight against land erosion and land degradation, with focus on Kolonja.

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

National GHG Inventory updated to reflect for new figures out of the draft Forestry Inventory (January) and the UNIDO provided f-gases (February). National GHG Report is finalized for submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Developed GHG emissions' projections between 2016-2030, consisting of a BAU scenario that considers mitigation measures, referred to as the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) scenario. (UNDP)

Disaster Risk Management System Capacity Assessment in Albania carried out and conducted in terms of the DRR knowledge, roles and complementarities at the central level and the comparative assessment for the National DRR Platform in line with Sendai Framework and Albanian Law on Civil Protection Law NO 45/2019. (UNDP)

A gender equality action plan for climate change decision making for 2021-2027 in Albania has been prepared. (UNDP)

Cooperation established with Albanian Institute of Geosciences for the review of the coverage of national hydromet networks in Drin River Basin and acquisition of hydrological data for hydrological and hydraulic modeling and flood hazard and risk mapping of the Drin River Basin in Albania. (UNDP)

The Adaptation Assessment of the Vjosa River Basin completed. (UNDP)

An awareness raising event organized in Kolonja on the International Forest Day 2021, honoring the restoration of a degraded site by planting 300 seedlings of endemic species of black pines and acacia; promotional materials were produced such as leaflets, banners and a video. A workshop on 'Gender Perspectives in Sustainable Forest and Land Management' in Kolonja organized in March. (UNEP)

3 prioritized pilot sites selected for a comprehensive mapping of degraded forest and pasture land in Kolonja. (UNEP)

Climate change education and awareness, health and security, increased through the development of an analysis of the implementation of the health-related SDGs in Albania, whose findings were summarized in report "Health and sustainable development – progress in Albania". (WHO)

3 bio-energy technology demonstrations installed in 2 pilot enterprises in Lushnje and Qeparo. Feasibility studies and business plans prepared aiming to make biomass energy projects economically feasible to reduce the national GHG emissions. (UNIDO)

An evaluation mission and on-site visit to 9 pilot demonstration projects conducted, including interviews with 24 project partners and stakeholders, beneficiaries and independent experts, to assess the performance of environmentally friendly biomass technologies in the agro-industry and identified key learnings to feed into the design and implementation of the forthcoming similar initiatives. (UNIDO)

An awareness raising event was organised via the Vienna Energy Forum 2021. The Forum created a space for youth and entry level professionals to gain knowledge towards advancing their skills, creating an enabling environment for the energy transition and engaging with policy makers on their role in policy making. More than 1000 individuals joined from all over the world throughout the live virtual tours. In Albania, the virtual tour guided the participants to the pilot projects to understand how climate-friendly, biomass energy from olive oil can be used in SMEs. Five promotional videos have been shared via the platform to increase awareness about biomass applications, acceptance of its use and well-designed technical integration into production processes. (UNIDO)

80 farmers and local government staff in the areas of Permet, Tirane, Durrës and Lezhe are trained on PDNA and DRR/DRM. 60 farmers and 5 staff from local government are trained on CSA and IPM in Permet. 20 local producers of traditional and organic products are promoted in Permet in support to agro-tourism and sustainable production and consumption. (FAO)

Responsible authorities for cultural heritage protection in Albania participated in the SHELTER H2020 National Workshop on Governance structure of the planning and emergency management caused by floods. (UNESCO)

Conceptualized, designed and pilot tested a modern multi-purpose transboundary groundwater monitoring network in the Extended Drin River Basin (Albania, Montenegro), providing the competent authorities of Albania and Montenegro with the tools to implement a systematic monitoring of groundwater resources state in the focus area, along with limited practical experience on approaches for monitoring their shared groundwater resources. Three new wells were installed for monitoring the resources and 16 people trained. Sustainability is ensured as the Geological Surveys of the two countries took ownership of the wells, and the national databases receive data remotely. (UNESCO)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ The COVID-19 pandemic mitigation measures have slowed project implementation resulting in delays in receiving feedback and input for the development and approval of documents; inability to organize field activities and/or postponement of such events, difficulty in reaching out to stakeholders to acquire information and data for the preparation of studies, limitations in stakeholder participation in awareness raising activities, workshops, meetings, challenges in applications and access on online platforms, challenges for SMEs to procure several equipment.
- ❑ The PDNA report prepared following the earthquake of November 2019 showed several shortcomings regarding the inclusion of cultural heritage in related management, DRR strategies and plans as well as absence of relevant management and DRR plans for the earthquake affected sites.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNECE, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, ILO, UNWOMEN, WHO
Contributing Partners: Governments of Albania, Italy, Norway, the Global Environment Facility

OUTPUT 4.2 NATURAL RESOURCES

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UNDP & MOTE, MOIE

SDGs

Goals: 3, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17

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

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Ensure sustainable marine and coastal protection, and an integrated development of the maritime sector
- ❑ Safeguard financial sustainability of the protected area system in Albania
- ❑ Effective management of natural resources supporting the green economy for a sustainable development
- ❑ Raise capacities for a blue economy transition to promote resilient, low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive economic development
- ❑ Develop and implement water safety action plans for urban and rural water facilities, based on WHO methodology
- ❑ Effective management of natural resources supporting the green economy for a sustainable development of Vjosa Valley – Zagori
- ❑ Improve management of UNESCO designated sites in Albania by establishing a functional coordination mechanism for the operational management of Ohrid-Prespa watershed, the Biosphere Reserve and cultural and natural heritage of Ohrid lake region

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

An iVRT (interactive Virtual Reality Tour) is produced as a digital archive presenting the main coastal and marine habitats, and hot spots of the marine area of Vlora bay, with the main focus on Marine Protected Area (MPA) Karaburun-Sazan.

Local administration accomplished ecological monitoring and enforcement tasks for the Marine Park Karaburun-Sazani. Analyses of chemical, biophysical and socioeconomic data are provided, incorporating all information and delivering respective GIS thematic mapping. (UNDP)

A Manual on Ecotourism in MPAs, with numerous instructions and forms of environmental -marine- best practices currently used by ecotourism operators, and the Code of Conduct are developed to ensure sustainable tourism experience. (UNDP)

Fishery Sector benefitted from the development and publication of guides/handbook on sustainable fishing techniques, endangered species, helping lowering the impact of IUU Fishery, as well as encouraging co-management issues. Special focus is given to support and encouragement of pescatourism as an important section for the sustainable tourism in the sea. (UNDP)

The financial position of the protected area system is being strengthened through facilitation of the proclamation and implementation of DCMs issued in 2020-2021 relating to the rights of individual PAs to collect and use revenue directly to improve management of the Protected Areas. (UNDP)

Technical assistance is being provided to increase revenues from individual protected areas – National Parks of Divjake-Karavasta, Dajti and Llogara. (UNDP)

4 information centers in the four main national parks in Albania are operational and youth involvement through seasonal work is promoted for touristic data recording, as well as promotion of natural values of the National Parks. (UNDP)

Guideline on Unified Standards and procedures for the establishment of walking trails in PAs is finalized and delivered to the National Agency of Protected Areas. Three pilot national parks (Dajti, Divjake-Karavasta and Llogara) administrations are being assisted to unify and maintain of the outdoor hiking trails, as well as to improve the relevant information system accordingly. (UNDP)

An APP tool for Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool and the Financial Sustainability Scorecard (FSS), as well as an e-learning platform offering training modules for PA personnel is developed. Several trainings have been conducted to build the financial management capacity of national and regional administration of protected areas and others are envisaged to be accomplished by NAPA /RAPAs on their side. (UNDP)

Implementation of water safety action plans are ongoing for rural facilities in the Valley of Vjosa: Kutal (Permet) and Dëshnicë (Kelcyre), resulting in establishment of Water Safety Plan teams, description of the community water supply, identification of hazards, hazardous events, risks and existing control measures. (WHO)

19 soil mapping on physical, geo and ecological indicators and 18 soil analyses on chemical, fertility, and residue content completed and delivered to Permet Municipality. 10 staff from the local government services and 150 farmers are trained on sustainable development of soil. (FAO)

Comprehensive desk research and a mapping of women and women's groups as potential beneficiaries conducted with the objective to identify a minimum of 10 potential beneficiaries interested to obtain the social enterprise registration status and strengthen their capacities on social entrepreneurship. Four training sessions for women and local actors were held in Përmet and a tailored one-to-one coaching process with each one of the beneficiaries - 26 entrepreneurs trained, 58% women participation rate, 5 business plans developed. 12 face-to-face meetings held with key public institutions, locally/other stakeholders, aimed to give visibility and raise awareness of the importance of social enterprise and green economy. Sets of high-quality photos and short video recordings were produced and distributed to the beneficiaries, in order help improve their online communication and business promotion campaigns. An awareness raising video spot produced, identifying main potential social businesses owned by women in Vjosa River upper basin and showing their contribution to the agri-tourism of the area, aiming to reach local tourists to consume Albanian products owned by women who are particularly experiencing challenges in the COVID 19 pandemic situation. (UN Women)

A programme is under development for the training of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment staff on how to apply fully-fledge Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). (UNECE)

Identifying and mapping of depositing sites (dumpsites), landfills, incinerators, including collection of technical and legal documentation related to the approval of waste. Identifying best practices in the treatment of waste during the COVID-19 pandemic. (UNECE)

Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ The COVID-19 pandemic mitigation measures have slowed project implementation resulting in delays in receiving feedback and input for the development and approval of documents; inability to organize field activities and/or postponement of such events, difficulty in reaching out to stakeholders to acquire information and data for the preparation of studies, limitations in stakeholder participation in awareness raising activities, workshops, meetings, challenges in applications and access on online platforms, other.

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

Contributing UN agencies: UNDP, UNOPS, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, FAO

Contributing Partners: Governments of Croatia, Netherland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, UK, the EU

OUTPUT 4.3 EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

OUTPUT WORKING GROUP CHAIRS – UN RCO & MINISTER OF STATE FOR RECONSTRUCTION

SDGs

Goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17

Targets: 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 2.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.a, 4.c, 5.2, 5.a, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.9, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.b, 11.4, 13.1, 16.2, 17.3

Gender Marker 2

Priority Focus 2021

- ❑ Economic Recovery and Resilience
- ❑ DRM – Disaster Risk Management
- ❑ Child Protection
- ❑ Agriculture
- ❑ Education
- ❑ Gender Equality
- ❑ Cultural Heritage
- ❑ Social Protection

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

Economic Recovery and Resilience (UNDP)

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

ERR is introducing to Albania two successful recovery methodologies that support private sector, specifically Micro Enterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises – In Motion and Supplier Development Programme.

UNDP provided economic recovery and resilience support to micro and small enterprises affected by the earthquake in Durres Municipality, following an area-based survey of more than 150 family businesses in the city, applying In Motion methodology to support businesses in their earthquake recovery. As a result, 15 family-run enterprises improved their commercial image and business operations through 15 hours of group training and 300 hours of technical assistance. Following the pandemic, businesses were supported also in adopting new ways of doing business, such as introducing and implementing digital tools. The Supplier Development Programme will be piloted for the first time in Albania and implementation has recently started.

DRM – Disaster Risk Management (UNDP)

- with financial contribution from the government of Poland

Two meetings organized with General Directorate of Albanian Fire Protection and Rescue Service. Procurement procedures launched for fire trucks, USAR containers and PPE. The project has finished the introductory meetings with beneficiary municipalities (Lezhe, Pogradec, Fier) focused on fire stations' construction urban requirements, permits issues, collaboration, roles and responsibilities. Draft modules of training courses developed and approved for firefighters and USAR teams and implementation process started.

Child Protection (UNICEF)

- with financial contribution from the governments of Luxembourg and Sweden and USAID

940 children and 461 adults severely affected by the earthquake and still residing in temporary shelters benefited and strengthened their coping abilities through psychosocial counselling.

110 statutory child protection workers were supported with on-the-job coaching, case management and technical assistance, enabling them to open and manage 198 new child protection cases.

135 children (18 with disabilities) identified at a medium to high risk of abuse, exploitation, or violence and supported with direct case management by a statutory protection worker/protection unit. These services are covering 20 administrative units and 40 geographic locations.

Conceptualization started of the first Emergency Mitigation Plan for the National Child Protection System.

www.nukjvetem.al psychosocial and mental health counselling service reached 223 children in the most affected areas by earthquake were 10 workshops and 6 Educational live streams were organized. Dedicated psycho-social counselling sessions provided to 30 adults who needed mental health support due to anxiety, shock, trauma, abuse intensified from the earthquake.

6000 books for children "Trinka and Sam: The day the Earth Shook" specially designed to facilitate children and parents' discussion about the earthquake, fears, anxiety and how to cope with it, were delivered to temporary shelters and settlements where affected communities are based.

Agriculture (FAO)

- with financial contributions from the governments of Netherlands and UK

34 farmers benefited grants for reconstruction from earthquake; other 10 applications are under evaluations. A study on the demand and supplies financial services in the earthquake-affected areas is done. Tailored trainings for advisory service and for farmers on access to finance is ongoing. Institutional capacity to assess damage and loss in agriculture are strengthened, 30 staff of central and local institutions are trained".

Education (UNICEF, UNDP)

- with financial contribution from the government of Netherlands and the EU

The online learning platform Akademi.al enriched with new features and videos for children with hearing and vision impairments, offering 16000 video lessons to more than 400000 users. To reduce the digital divide, 5000 children access Tech-hubs offered in 24 schools in Albania, 1500 teachers went through professional development on ICT in education while ICT standards for teachers in education approved by MOESY, 1000 teachers in remote schools provided with digital devices. The drop out prevention mechanism in school combined with remedial learning and socio emotional skills building reached directly 600 students in schools affected by earthquake. 445 preschool teachers and 750 compulsory schools' representatives skilled on use of inclusive education approaches while 750 teachers trained on competency-based curricula. 230 school staff from 23 schools raised capacities on DRR, and 600 psychologists and social workers trained on psychosocial support. Programs on social responsibility (Redebate, PONDER) and entrepreneurship skills (UPSHIFT) implemented, reaching 5000 young people with possibility to learn and apply the human center design. Capacity building on "Gender Education" and how to address inequalities from a gender perspective offered to 544 teachers and school psychologists and 114 student council members. (UNICEF)

JWP Strategic Deliverables

Main Undertakings 2021

MoUs signed with representatives of 11 municipalities targeted by the EU4Schools programme; 45 consultation processes on schools designs organised with the participation of around 1300 representatives of communities, including teachers, children, parents and local authorities; 27 detailed designs for education facilities in the municipalities of Durres, Kamez, Kavaje, Kruje and Kurbin prepared based on Build Back Better principles and the recommendations of the communities and local authorities participating in the consultation process. Works are ongoing for preparation of 32 other detailed designs for education facilities. Contracts for construction works signed for 27 educational facilities, with works started in 21 of them: with 11 education facilities (22,000 m²) being reconstructed, and ten educational facilities being repaired (17,000 m²).

Four professional education facilities in Durres, Kavaje and Tirane will be repaired/reconstructed by this programme, benefiting 2670 students and 175 teachers. To date, two repaired education facilities, respectively Technological High School "Hysen Çela" and Kindergarten "1 Qershori", have been furnished and handed over to representatives of respective education facilities.

A transparency and accessible portal [EU4Schools \(eu4schoolsportal.al\)](http://eu4schoolsportal.al) designed to communicate with and involve the public in all the processes related to the implementation of this programme.

Gender Equality (UN Women)

- with financial contributions from the government of Sweden

Several initiatives are underway: mainstream gender in DRR national frameworks and policies; respond to social service needs of women affected by earthquake and COVID-19 in 10 municipalities by increasing their participation and voice in the Municipality's Participatory Budgeting Process; a gender sensitive value chain analysis to guide the economic empowerment interventions of women and girls; ensure equal property rights in 11 targeted municipalities through legal information and support to women for registration of their properties and capacity building to authorities; raise awareness and implement behavioral change activities on GBV using Empowerment Through Self Defense in the earthquake affected municipalities (including schools); photography project to promote the empowerment of Albanian women and girls from different areas, including earthquake affected areas; provide information about services and raising awareness on GBV legal aid and other services to women survivors of violence including in emergency situations, and capacity building to service providers in several of the earthquake affected municipalities - benefitting 300 women/girls in Berzhite, Petrele and Krrabe and 30 local authorities representatives in Tirane and Kurbin.

Cultural Heritage (UNOPS)

- with financial contribution from the EU

Assessment missions finalized to understand the current condition, functionality, level of risk exposure and vulnerability of assets and systems for all 27 selected sites (12 cultural heritage buildings, 7 museums, 3 fortifications, 1 theatre, and 4 sites to undergo digitalization). 15 broad conservation concepts outlining the vision for their revitalization developed for 15 sites. 10 pre-designs and 10 detailed designs developed for 10 sites ready for works. Construction works are ongoing at 3 sites (Monastery Church in Rubik, Church of St Anthony Rodon, Mosaic of the National Historic Museum).

Standards ensured for responsible delivery of infrastructure interventions through 33 quality inspections, 27 health and safety inspections, 10 risk assessments, and 14 material testing. 0 accident culture ensured through provision of Health and Safety training to 120 personnel & contractors.

Social Protection (UNDP)

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

Meetings with representatives of pilot municipalities (Durres, Kruje, Shijak) took place, bringing to a mutual understanding and agreement on the areas and beneficiaries that will be targeted through the intervention.

Work has started on supporting Local Government Units to review their social protection plans to include protocols for responding to those affected in disaster and/or emergency situations. Lessons learnt from the aftermath of earthquake are being identified, aiming to form the core framework of responsiveness.

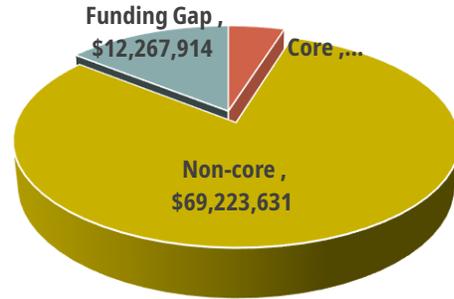
Implementation Challenges 2021

- ❑ Many people who were worse affected by the earthquake and who lost their houses, are still residing in temporary shelters. Their overall socio-economic situation is not improving, especially after covid19 impact. More children from the worst affected communities are seen to be pushed to exploitative (street) work to support families, causing early school drop out risks, exposure to violence, trafficking and many other forms of abuse. There is still a significant shortage to the statutory child protection work force available to support the volume of child protection cases
- ❑ Difficulties from municipalities to identify proper sites for the fire stations and ensure the necessary land ownership and other utility permits in time. Lengthier procurement process for fire trucks as they are not off-the-shelf products, but built as per given specifications. VAT reimbursement for the procured firefighting goods is a burden of the beneficiary municipalities and might result difficult for some given the overall municipal finances.
- ❑ The education system during COVID-19 had to reinvent itself and go through revolutionary changes and shift to blended and online learning. Digital learning could be the great equalizer in education or on the contrary expand further digital divides. UN in Albania will continue to identify these game changers contributing to education strengths such as resilience, creativity of teachers, flexibility of the systems and the incredible momentum gained through use of technology.
- ❑ Delays in implementation of GE DRR related interventions due to government delays in starting preparations for the National DRR Strategy and Action Plan.
- ❑ Legal/ownership issues of cultural heritage sites identified during project implementation hamper continuation of envisioned intervention.

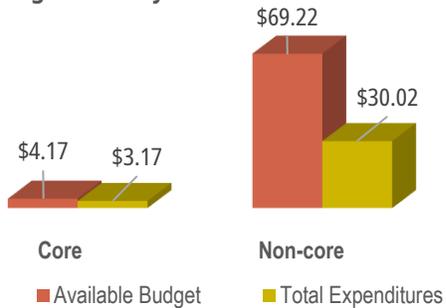
2021 Financial Overview

"January - August"

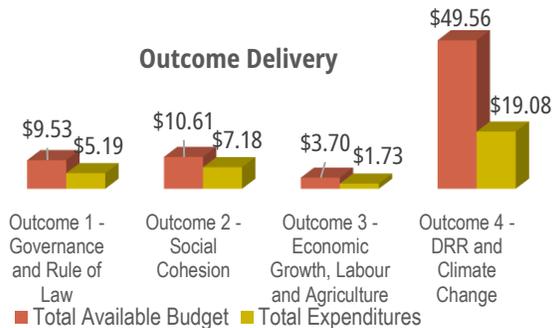
Total Budget



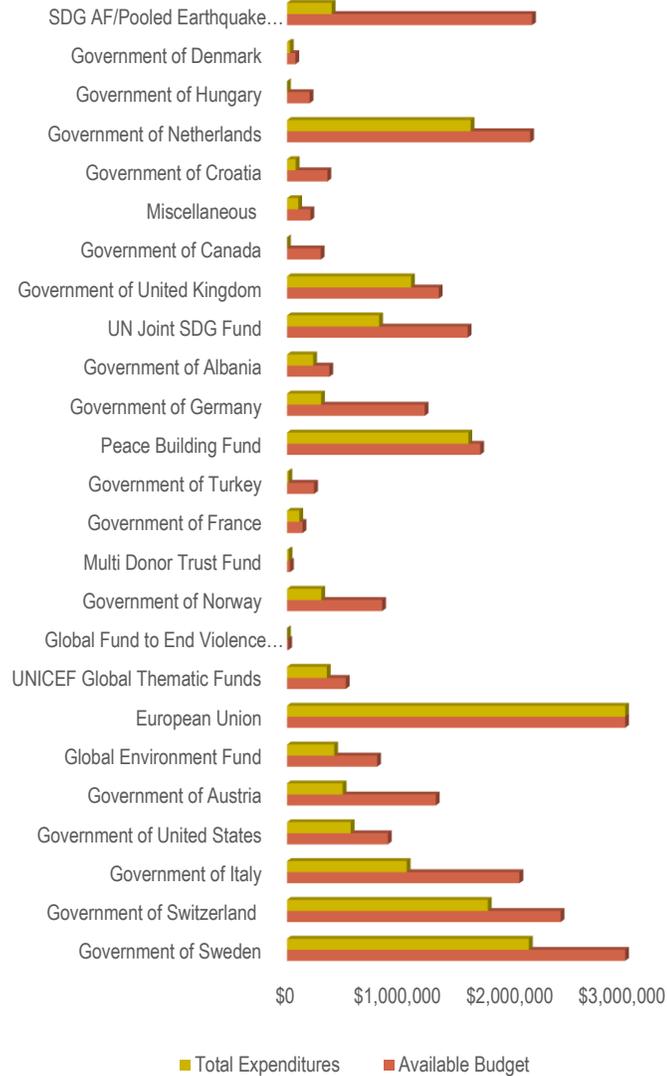
Total Budget Delivery



Outcome Delivery

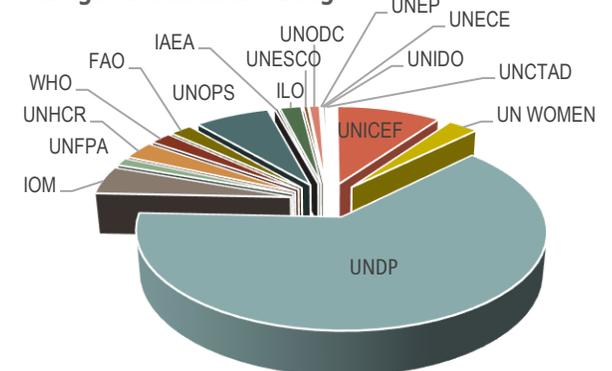


Contributing Partners



| 2021 Contributing Partners | Outcome I - Governance and Rule of Law | Outcome II - Social Cohesion | Outcome III - Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture | Outcome IV - Environment and Climate Change |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Albania | | | | |
| Austria | | | | |
| Canada | | | | |
| Croatia | | | | |
| Denmark | | | | |
| EU | | | | |
| Finland | | | | |
| France | | | | |
| Germany | | | | |
| Hungary | | | | |
| Italy | | | | |
| Netherlands | | | | |
| Norway | | | | |
| Poland | | | | |
| Sweden | | | | |
| Switzerland | | | | |
| Turkey | | | | |
| UK | | | | |
| USA | | | | |
| EVAC | | | | |
| GEF | | | | |
| PBF | | | | |
| UN Global Funds | | | | |

UN Agencies Available Budget



Communication and Visibility

- ❑ A revamped UNCT website (albania.un.org), a strong social media presence across most popular platforms and, full utilization of targeted-audience newsletters have enriched the visibility of the joint UN actions and strengthened advocacy efforts across SDGs.
- ❑ UN Albania website access increased 4 times vs. previous period; social media channels continued to follow a steady increase of over 20% YoY.
- ❑ Increased frequency of PoCSD's Delivering for Development Newsletter to bimonthly (vs quarterly) with 3 issues produced during reporting period. Continued to target SDG stakeholders and general public.
- ❑ Six issues of a special UN Covid Response Newsletter published. This publication showcased UN Joint action to the pandemic and its consequences on vulnerable and addressed issues of misinformation (the UN verified campaign).
- ❑ UNCT Communication Group agreed and executed a joint annual comms plan and actively supported joint visibility campaigns. Highlight of joint work included: Joint UN campaign on Women and Covid Response (March); Environment Day (June).
- ❑ Joint communication campaigns with development partners were held on priority communications areas. An environment/climate protection campaign with embassies of UK and Italy ran on occasion of Environment Day and pre-COP26.

Partnerships

- ❑ Heightened private partnerships with local and international chambers and business associations – International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Foreign Investors Association of Albania (FIAA), American Chamber (AMCHAM), Women Economic Chamber (WEC).
- ❑ Enhanced knowledge of the private sector around specific SDG goals and UNGC principles and tools through conduct of several SDG awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives, including through the UN Global Compact. Development of knowledge instruments (i.e., the SDGs Business Toolkit) and partaking of private partners participation to the broader UN Sustainability frameworks (i.e., UN Global Compact platform) are underway- 2 private sector companies joined the UN Global Compact, 2 are in process, and 3 are considering joining.
- ❑ A partnerships mapping conducted, serving as a baseline of donor intelligence, to inform UNCT dialogue with partners and support the implementation of the current UN Albania Resource Mobilization Strategy 2017-2021 as well as feed into the new RM Strategy 2022-2026.
- ❑ Reinforced advocacy for the achievement of SDGs through locally-tailored partnerships and resource mobilization initiatives – i.e., MoU w Vodafone.
- ❑ Best practices and exchange of knowledge on pooled-funding instruments – i.e the SDG Fund - within the UN networks.

Sustainable development Goals

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

2019-2021

UN is supporting government to establish SDG interim targets and develop the new National Strategy for Development and European Integration (NSDI) 2021-2030 aligned to SDGs.

UN Resident Coordinator Office carried out a study to analyse national financing of SDGs, through examining alignment of NSDI and government budget allocations with SDGs for 2018-2020, whose findings provide a support tool to enable government to improve prioritisation, efficiency and effectiveness of all public resources against SDGs and also form an important building block for the development of the SDG Financing Framework.

SDG financing related work is being supported by implementation of two UN Joint Programmes, on Strategic Options for SDG Financing, and Improving Municipal Social Protection Service Delivery.

The Parliamentary sub-committee for Sustainable Development, established in February 2020, continuous to work closely with UN to monitor and support the achievement of the SDGs in Albania. Key efforts finalized in 2021 included the mainstreaming of SDGs within the parliamentary mechanisms, reviewing legislation through an SDG lens and financing of the Goals.

UN partnered with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to enhance SDG preparedness among MPs and exchange best practices.

2018

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

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

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

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

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

2017

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

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

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

2015-2016

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

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

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

Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|---|--------------|--|
| ADISA | Agency for the Delivery of Integrated Services Albania | IAEA | International Atomic Energy Agency | SARPC | State Agency for Child Rights and Protection |
| ASRH | Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health | ICCS | International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes | SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| AWEN | Albanian Women Empowerment Network | ICPD | International Conference on Population and Development | SFN | School Food and Nutrition |
| CCA | Climate Change Adaptation | IPARD | Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development | SIIG | Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group |
| CCP | Container Control Programme | IPH | Institute of Public Health | SILC | Survey on Income and Living Conditions |
| CCR | Community Coordinated Response | IPR | Intellectual Property Rights | SIIPD | Social Inclusion Policy Document |
| CPD | Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination | ISARD | Inter-Sectoral Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development | SLM | Sustainable Land Management |
| CEDAW | Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women | KAP | Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices | SMD | State Minister for Diaspora |
| C4D | Communication for Development | LGU | Local Government Unit | SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| CPS | Child Protection System | LINAC | Linear Accelerator | SRH | Sexual and Reproductive Health |
| CPU | Child Protection Unit | MCH | Maternal and Child Health | SWH | Solar Water Heating |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child | MIL | Media and Information Literacy | TB | Tuberculosis |
| CSE | Comprehensive Sexuality Education | MIS | Management Information System | TDA | Trans-Boundary Diagnostic Analysis |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation | MISP | Minimum Initial Service Package | TLAS | Tirana Legal Aid Society |
| DCM | Decision of the Council of Ministers | MoARD | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development | UASC | Unaccompanied and Separated Children |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction | MoES | Ministry of Education and Sports | UPR | Universal Periodic Review |
| ELDS | Early Learning and Development Standards | MoFE | Ministry of Finance and Economy | USI | Universal Salt Iodisation |
| EMIS | Education Management Information System | MoHSP | Ministry of Health and Social Protection | VAW | Violence Against Women |
| EPR | Environmental Performance Review | MP | Member of Parliament | VAWG | Violence Against Women and Girls |
| EU | European Union | MTBP | Mid-Term Budget Programme | VET | Vocational Education Training |
| EVAC | Ending Violence against Children | MTH | Mother Theresa Hospital | VoT | Victim of Trafficking |
| EVAW | Elimination of Violence Against Women | MTR | Mid-Term Review | WCO | World Customs Organisation |
| FLA | Free Legal Aid | NAP | National Action Plan | | |
| GADS | Gender Alliance for Development Center | NARU | Needs Assessment and Referral Unit | | |
| GB-DV | Gender-Based and Domestic Violence | NCD | Non-Communicable Disease | | |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence | NDC | National Determined Contribution | | |
| GCED | Global Citizenship Education | NES | National Employment Service | | |
| GCF | Green Climate Fund | NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation | | |
| GI | Geographic Indications | NHRI | National Human Rights Institution | | |
| GIS | Geographic Information System | NSGE | National Strategy on Gender Equality | | |
| GM | Gender Mainstreaming | ONAC | Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator | | |
| GoA | Government of Albania | OSS | One-Stop-Shop | | |
| GRB | Gender-Responsive Budgeting | PCU | Port Control Unit | | |
| GREAT | Gender Equality in Rural Development and Tourism | PHC | Primary Health Care | | |
| GREVIO | Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence | PoCSD | Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development | | |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus | R&E | Roma and Egyptian | | |
| | | REVALB | Recording Violence in Albania | | |
| | | RMSA | Refugee and Migrant Services in Albania | | |

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

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

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