

Support to SDG Financing Programme

At a glance

Programme Title: Strategic Policy Options for SDG Financing

Programme Objective: Supporting SDG financing through the provision of technical assistance and collaboration with the Government of Albania for the identification of more equitable and adequate financing for SDGs and integration in the national budgetary framework

Participating UN Organizations: UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, UN Women, UNFPA, with coordination by RCO

National Partners: Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Prime Minister's Office, Parliament

Duration: 35 months

[July 2020 – June 2023]

Funded by: Joint SDG Fund

Total budget:

USD 1,149,205

CONTEXT

Despite the strong commitment of the Government of Albania to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, challenges in meeting sustainable development targets remain. The country still experiences socio-economic challenges and (growing) inequality, which are further aggravated by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, as well as natural disasters, such as the November 2019 earthquake, and climate change. These have not only highlighted the urgency of the Sustainable Development Agenda, but also the need for holistic approaches to financing sustainable development that respond to heightened uncertainty, inter-connected shocks, and trade-offs between policy choices. Yet, even though Albania has integrated the SDGs into the national policy framework and has established strategic decision-making mechanisms - such as the Inter-ministerial Committee and Inter-institutional Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, often, efforts to estimate the cost of meeting these development goals and to identify financing options are inadequate.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Thus, this UN Joint Programme focuses on the support to SDG financing in Albania. Working in close collaboration with the Government of Albania, the programme seeks to expand institutional capacities at the national and local level for developing feasible solutions and identifying fiscal space to progressively increase SDG-related spending in Albania and integrate these in the national budgetary framework.

It intends to bring about such change through solid evidence on the costs on non-investment on SDGs, through credible analysis and data on fiscal space, through the creation of tools for financing policies and regularly measuring the impact, and through strengthening the capacities of the SDG financing institutions, enabling a continuous national dialogue on SDG financing in Albania.

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

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| Social protection for the most vulnerable population groups | Role of local governments in sustainable development | Decision making based on data and innovative analytical tools | Integrated planning and monitoring at the central level |
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JOINT AIM

Institutional capacities at national and local level are supported to develop feasible solutions and identify fiscal space to progressively increase SDG-related spending for women, men, boys, and children in Albania

WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE

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| A national strategy for financing comprehensive social protection floors is developed, discussed nationally, and ready to be integrated in the MTBG through national and social dialogue | Feasible options are identified and agreed with Government Authorities to catalyse financing of unfunded mandates at local government units | Innovative approaches and tools (micro-simulation, behavioural insights) and other mechanisms are developed to pilot and evaluate the impact of fiscal policies | Public institutions' capacities are enhanced to articulate, implement, and review budgets that reflect increasing SDG-related spending |
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OUTPUT 1

OUTPUT 2

OUTPUT 3

OUTPUT 4

WHAT WE WILL DO

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing the impact, effectiveness and/or efficiency of public investment in childcare, child and family allowance, and economic aid Identifying financing options for social protection benefits Assessing the feasibility of innovative financing mechanisms and instruments to catalyse additional funding Promoting policy dialogue and providing assistance to integrate social protection floor into MTBF | <p>2.1. Analysing of unfunded mandates and respective costs, through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of budgets and legislation Assessment of capacities of selected municipalities Analysis of existing and possible sources of revenue <p>2.2. Identifying social outcomes of intergovernmental transfers through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of impact and stability of funding the social care services Establishment of a monitoring plan Collaboration with civil society | <p>3.1. Introducing, training and supporting the application of microsimulation for policy analysis</p> <p>3.2 Promoting the use of behavioural insights for assessing the impact and informing policies, leading to resilient capacities to deal with natural disaster and emergencies</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the preparation of Integrated National Financing Framework for Albania Supporting capacity building of Ministry of Economy and Finance staff related to INFF Providing training and expertise to Parliamentary Commissions and other authorities on SDG financing and SDG-related budget oversight Supporting legislative reforms on gender-equitable comprehensive care insurance schemes for the self-employed |
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