

An aerial photograph of a person wearing a bright red jacket and a black helmet, riding a bicycle on a floor made of many small, square tiles. The tiles have various colors and patterns, including shades of green, red, and grey, some with marbled or stone-like textures. The person is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image, moving towards the top-left.

2022

Albania
Progress
Report

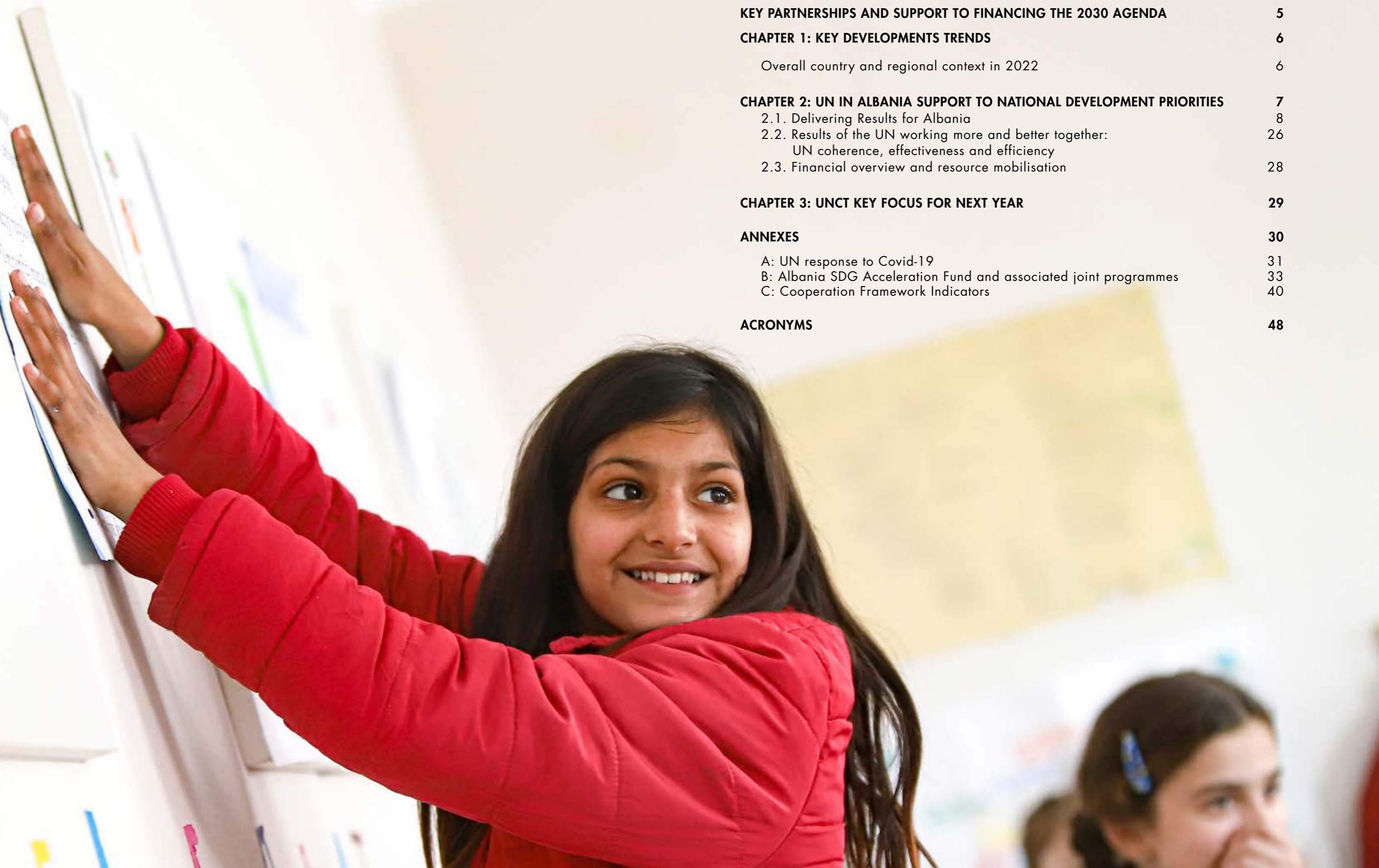


UNITED NATIONS
ALBANIA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| FOREWORD | 3 |
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 4 |
| KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT TO FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA | 5 |
| CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS TRENDS | 6 |
| Overall country and regional context in 2022 | 6 |
| CHAPTER 2: UN IN ALBANIA SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES | 7 |
| 2.1. Delivering Results for Albania | 8 |
| 2.2. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency | 26 |
| 2.3. Financial overview and resource mobilisation | 28 |
| CHAPTER 3: UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR | 29 |
| ANNEXES | 30 |
| A: UN response to Covid-19 | 31 |
| B: Albania SDG Acceleration Fund and associated joint programmes | 33 |
| C: Cooperation Framework Indicators | 40 |
| ACRONYMS | 48 |



FOREWORD



Our success in 2022 is founded on solid and long-term partnerships, which aid to mobilise financing towards Albania's achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the ambition to integrate into the European Union

In our capacity as the Co-Chairs of the Joint Executive Committee of the Government of Albania and United Nations in Albania, we are pleased to present the 2022 Annual Progress Report. The report gives a detailed account of the progress made in 2022, the first year of implementation of the Government of Albania and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022–2026, in supporting national priorities to accelerate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) achievements.

Our commitment to assisting all Albanians, through achievement of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, has driven substantial progress in several important reforms, resulting in the opening of European Union (EU) accession talks for Albania followed by the first intergovernmental conference on accession negotiations and the start of analytical examination (screening) of the acquis. The UNSDCF is built upon a strong relationship between Albania and the UN that was bolstered through Albania's substantial contribution as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in promoting rules-based international order, further strengthening the security and stability of the entire region.

Challenged by the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic, the 2019 earthquake recovery, parliamentary elections, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the focus in 2022 was placed upon driving sustainable reforms towards socio-economic and environmental development agenda, aiming, in the spirit of 'leaving no one behind', to address the socio-economic implications of these crises in the long term. We are proud to have supported advancements to the legal provisions related to the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and foreign citizens in accordance with international standards, and enabling their inclusion in health, education, housing and other basic services. The development of the Fourth National Communication was undertaken jointly by the UN and government, and submitted on 3 November, 2022 to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, committing to an unconditional emission reduction target of 20.9 percent by 2030. Wide support was provided for the government's engagement in critical global forums, such as the food systems

and transforming education summits, and the national campaigns to celebrate key international days, including World Environment Day, 16 Days of Activism and Day of Persons with Disabilities to name a few. The support also contributed to country-led initiatives including Tirane European Youth Capital, Youth4Health, Tirane 2022 Health and Well-being. A real highlight of our joint work with the government was the running of a large-scale UN Week in October that reached communities across Albania and focused on the values enshrined in the UN Charter and advocated in the SDGs. The exhibition 'We the People' began in Tirane and was showcased also in three other municipalities, in the north, centre and south of the country, over the course of the week. A UN Fair, Concert of Change and a wide range of UN exhibitions and events were held in each location.

Engagement with Parliament, the private sector, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), academia and youth was further strengthened on SDGs and the UN's Global Compact principles. Coherent and strategic engagement was ensured with UN human rights mechanisms, along with timely and effective human rights reporting (e.g., by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CESCR; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW; Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRC; Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, CCPR; and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development).

The third National Strategy for Development and European Integration 2021–2030, prepared in 2022 with UN support and undergoing a range of consultations with all stakeholders, including the UN, has the potential to strengthen the interface between the socio-economic and environmental targets and the overall governance reforms. To reach SDG targets under the pressure of an uncertain global environment, UN is supporting the development of the first Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for Albania, laying out a financing strategy for raising resources, managing risks and achieving sustainable development priorities.

Our success in 2022 is founded on solid and long-term partnerships, which aid to mobilise financing towards Albania's achievement of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, and the ambition to integrate into the EU. Support for the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund this year not only included our flagship joint programmes – Leave No One Behind Phase 2 (Switzerland), Eliminating Violence against Women (Sweden), EU4GE (EU), Earthquake Recovery (Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the UK) – but also new and renewed programmes. Bilateral agreements, multilateral partnerships, and global and regional funding opportunities are also significant contributors to the work of UN agencies in various priority areas in the country, especially the EU's bilateral support to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)'s earthquake recovery efforts and the World Bank (WB)'s bilateral support to UNOPS Covid-19 response. Details of partners' contributions and the achievements enabled by such support can be found within this comprehensive report.

We are proud that, this year, Albania was featured as a positive case study in the regional webinar 'On EU–UN country cooperation to drive realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals for the EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood area', held on 13 December. We hope this report informs on the comprehensive work we do in the country and inspires you to join forces together to shape a better future for the citizens of Albania.



Ms. Belinda Balluku
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Infrastructure and Energy



Ms. Fiona McCluney
United Nations
Resident Coordinator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Albania and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022–2026 guided the United Nations support in Albania in 2022.

This year, the UN in Albania made progress in its support to the government in all four strategic directions of its work, with enhanced focus on the 2019 earthquakes and Covid-19 responses and recovery, advancing human rights and gender equality, strengthening institutional and governance capacities, improving the quality of education, health services, crisis management and social assistance, access to decent work, enhancing local services and infrastructure and promoting climate change resilient development. Section 2.1 dives deeper into the details of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT)'s main results for the year under each of the four outcome areas, focusing on significant highlights rather than providing an exhaustive list of results.

In 2022, the Cooperation Framework was implemented by 19 UN agencies, funds and programmes, which

comprised UNCT in Albania, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the designated representative of the UN Secretary General for development operations in the country. Of these agencies, nine had a physical presence in Albania, either through a stand-alone representative office, project staff or a capacity embedded in the Resident Coordinator.¹

The UN in Albania implemented more than 200 interventions in 2022, each linked to SDG goals and targets. More than half of the activities contributed to achievement of SDG 5 Gender Equality, and SDG 16 Peace and Justice-Strong Institutions. In terms of budget allocation, more than half of the budget for the year was directed towards SDG 4 Education, and SDG 2 Good Health and Well-being, credited to support provided for the earthquake and Covid-19 responses.

In 2022, the UN collectively delivered USD 58 million through its Cooperation Framework, of which 90 per-

cent was mobilised by efforts of the country offices. A key enabler to achieving results is the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund, which by the end of the year had six joint programmes in its portfolio. It served to maximize the effectiveness of the Framework implementation to deliver expected results, incentivize good performance, facilitate the prioritization of limited financial resources among competing funding needs and requests, ensure that funding is channelled to support strategic priorities, and ensure transparency and fairness in the allocation of resources. Section 2.3 and Annex B dive deeper into the details of the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund.

Assessment of progress, using Cooperation Framework indicators (39 outcome and 121 output), made towards achievement of targets shows that out of 160 targets, 79 (49%) are on track, 24 (15%) are partially on track and 31 (19%) have not progressed, while 26 (16%) have no data available to measure progress. For further details on progress made against the indicators, please see Annex C of the present report.

Cooperation Framework indicators of progress

● Progress ● Partially on track ● No Progress ● No Data



Resident UN Agencies

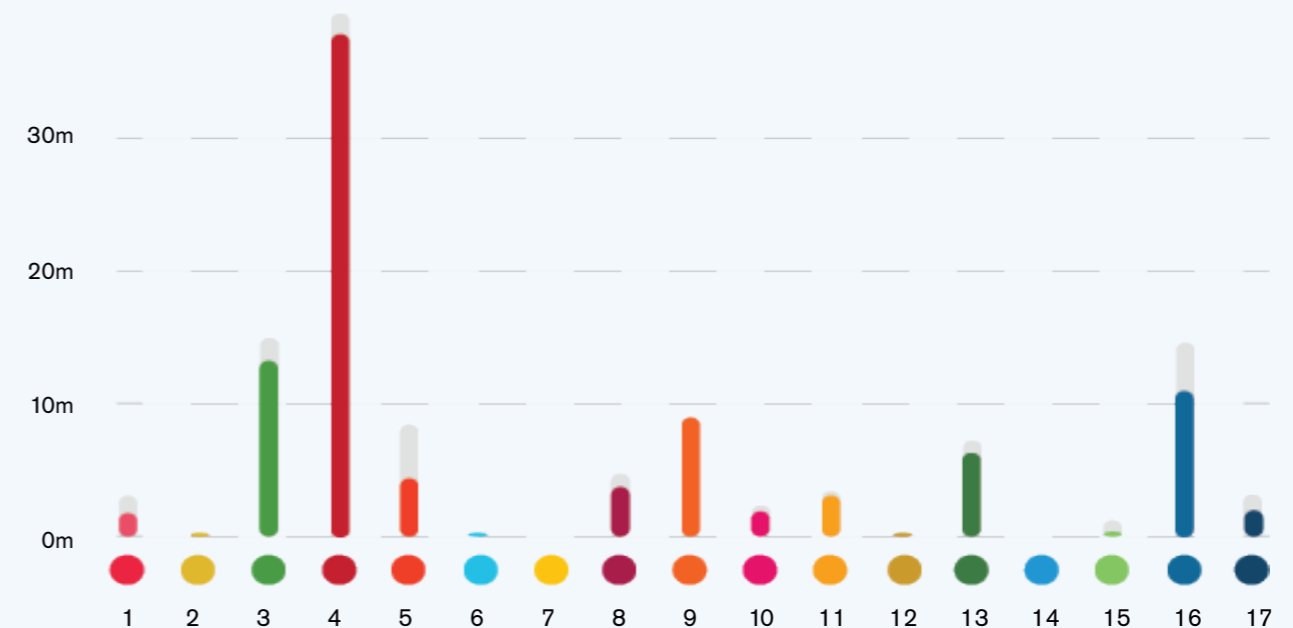


Non-Resident UN Agencies



SDGs delivery (2022)

● Total Required Resources ● Available Resources (in USD millions)



1. Resident agencies: FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, UNOPS; non-resident agencies: IAEA, ILO, ITU, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNODC, UNDRR, UNV.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT TO FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

The United Nations' support to Albania is made possible by our many valued partners, without whose partnership the UN would not have been able to achieve the accomplishments presented in the present report. Our key development partners include government institutions at the national, regional and local levels, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, national and local media, the private sector, community organisations, international bilateral donors and International Finance Institutions (IFIs), who were instrumental in supporting implementation of the Cooperation Framework in 2022, as well as the 2030 Agenda in the country.

UN Albania would like to give special recognition to the close partnership with the Government of Albania, the Prime Minister's Office, Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Parliament and the newly established parliamentary sub-committee on achievement of the SDGs, thirteen line ministries and other governmental bodies who have all made significant contributions to our joint efforts in implementation of UN activities in the country.

As the UN interventions in Albania are mostly donor financed, mobilisation of the resources of our development partners is essential for their deployment, undertaken either bilaterally by UN agencies or through the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. The top financing partners of the UNSDCF 2022–2026 this year were the European Union (EU) and the World Bank (WB), followed by the USA, Sweden, Swiss, Italy, and others. Several partners, such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the private sector, may not make a financial contribution to the UN in Albania, but their work is synergised with that of the UN, resulting in greater coverage of vulnerable or marginalised groups in the country.

The UN has continued to play a constructive role in Albania's coordination for, such as the Donor Technical Secretariat, Development and Integration Partners, Integrated Policy Management Groups, and the Development Partners Coordination Group on Gender, as well as in the regional forums.

We at UN Albania work with all our government and development partners, public and private sectors, communities, and individuals towards achieving the #GlobalGoals. In 2022, we further consolidated and diversified

our partnerships to help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Several innovative partnerships, particularly with youth, CSOs and the private sector, were established and have already produced notable results.

Great importance was placed by UN Albania on partnering with and for youth. Many activities were implemented in 2022 as a very important aspect of the overall UN Cooperation Framework, including the flagship regional project launched this year, which includes Albania, as part of the Peacebuilding Fund, on 'Strengthening the role of youth in promoting increased mutual understanding, constructive narrative, respect for diversity, and trust'.

An excellent partnership was forged between the UN in Albania and the Tirane European Youth Capital. More than 40 events were implemented jointly under this programme over the year, including #Youth4Health-Tirane 2022 Health and Well-being Forum for Youth held in October during UN Week. This event paved the way for WHO-Europe's first-ever regional network of its kind. Other activities organized jointly in the framework of this partnership included, among others, training opportunities, international events, conferences, exhibitions, advocacy actions including in the context of the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence and the follow up from the 66th Commission on the Status of Women, and various studies.

This year we also teamed up with Vodafone Albania and our UN Albania youth partners in an effort to raise awareness and encourage action on SDGs. Through this partnership an interactive tool in the form of an SDG quiz was developed, embedded into the Vodafone core utility app 'My Vodafone' with an estimated reach of at least 400,000 users, and with the app 'JUTH', with an estimated reach of 100,000 users.

Under great partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, 'Bebbo' was released, the first mobile parenting app to support parents and other caregivers of children up to six years of age. This application aims to reach 20,000 parents in Albania.

A financing agreement was signed with the American Bank of Investments to help 50 microbusinesses recover from the impact of the earthquakes that struck Albania in 2019. Abi Bank has committed USD 100,000 to this

Partners' contribution to UNSDCF Outcomes in 2022



partnership. Through it, 50 businesses were supported with situational diagnosis, training in soft and business skills, and investment in equipment.

In close partnership with the private sector, the UN Free & Equal campaign in Albania expanded its work by introducing UN Standards of Conduct for Business: Tackling Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans and Intersex People to dozens of companies with the aim of creating a more inclusive workplace. Many companies officially endorsed the standards within the year.

Effective partnerships were established during 2022 with a series of 'champion' private sector companies to promote more family-friendly policies and gender-responsive work environments and create conditions for a better work-life balance. The new established partnerships, totalling eight as of 2022, include also the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (CPD), which aims to further increase capacities, understanding and

knowledge of the Champion Companies. Meanwhile, the Women Economic Chamber for the responsibilities and obligations of private business has to enforce the Law against Discrimination and enable a family-friendly, gender-responsive and non-discriminatory work environment.

Following continuous efforts to promote the UN Global Compact and the Global Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), several awareness-raising events and workshops were organized during the year with private sector companies and Chambers of Commerce. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of companies joining the WEPs in 2022, from 11 to 38. The 27 new WEPs signatories comprise companies from a variety of sectors – banking, publishing, education, business consulting, telecommunication, construction, law – and chambers of commerce, all committing to abide and follow the set of seven principles promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community.

1 | KEY DEVELOPMENTS TRENDS

Overall country and regional context in 2022

Despite the challenges posed by the triple shock of the earthquake of November 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic since 2020, and the start of the war in Ukraine in 2022, Albania has continued to show its commitment to European Union (EU)-oriented reforms and delivered tangible and sustainable results. The first Inter-governmental Conference in July 2022 marked the opening of accession negotiations with the EU. Albania is the only country in the region that has signed cooperation agreements with all justice and home affairs agencies of the EU. The third National Strategy for Development and European Integration (NSDEI) 2022–2030 has been prepared in consultations with all stakeholders, including the UN, and has the potential to strengthen the interface between the socio-economic and environmental targets and the overall governance reforms. Also, it will play an important role in implementation of the Government of Albania and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022–2026. The government is well positioned to address the many challenges facing Albania and has included agriculture, energy, digitalization, tourism and fighting corruption among its priorities, with European integration as the guiding goal.

In terms of sustainable development, Albania's real economic growth rebounded better than foreseen following the pandemic, and is projected to be around 3.2 percent for 2022. The country experienced a smooth vaccination rollout, with no further lockdowns and continued recovery in services, led by tourism, and construction. Good progress was made to refocus health services at the primary level, introduce digital health services and improve transparency and accountability. The 2022 Sustainable Development Report index score of 71.63 suggests that the country is more than two-thirds of the way towards achieving the SDGs, with a position of 61 out of 163 countries. The second Gender Equality Index was conducted in 2022 to measure gender inequalities across reproductive health, empowerment, and participation in

the labour market. It shows that gender disparities have increased in the past year, with an increased value of 0.09 compared to 0.06 measured in 2021 (Men and Women in Albania, INSTAT 2022)

Albania is party to the nine core international human rights treaties. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the main Council of Europe human rights instruments have been ratified. Meanwhile, Albania is a transit country for economic migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and is hosting Afghan and Ukrainian refugees. 2022 marked the first year of Albania's non-permanent membership to the United Nations Security Council. The Women, Peace and Security Agenda is amongst the key priorities for the government, as well as promoting human rights, countering violent extremism, and tackle climate change and security².

Strengthening regional cooperation rests at the centre of Albania's foreign policy and leads the country's constructive approach and active leadership in the region. Albania has maintained its engagement in a number of regional cooperation initiatives: examples include the Berlin Process, Regional Youth Cooperation Office, the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA), the Regional Cooperation Council, the Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans, Energy Community, Transport Community, the South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) and the Regional Cooperation Council. The country hosts the secretariats of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) and the Western Balkans Fund (WBF) and in December 2022 it hosted the EU–Western Balkans summit in the capital city, Tirane. A sub-regional cooperation mechanism established with Serbia and North Macedonia known as 'Mini-Schengen', or Open Balkans Initiative, was declared in 2019 with the main purpose of intensifying intra-regional cooperation and integration in the Western Balkans. Making further progress at a summit in Ohrid in June 2022, leaders from participating countries signed several agreements such as on mutual recognition of diplomas, tax evasion, and cross-border cooperation in culture and tourism.

Albania at a glance

Geographical Area
28,748 km²

Capital City
Tirana



MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS

| | |
|--|--|
| GDP per capita (2021) | USD 6,492 |
| Government Budget Expenditure (% GDP) | 31.5% Total; 10.3% on social protection; 3.4% on health; 3.1% on education |
| Unemployment Rate (-Q2.2022) | 11.5 |
| NEET (2021) | 26.1% |
| Labor force participation rate (15-64) (Q2.2022) | 72.8%: 79.8% (male) and 66.1% (female) |

DEMOGRAPHIC & SOCIAL INDICATORS

| | |
|---|---|
| Population (1 January 2022) | 2.79 million (down from 2.83 a year ago) |
| Life expectancy (2021) | 76.5: 74.4 (male) and 78.7 years (female) |
| At-risk of poverty rate in Albania (2021) | 22% |
| Maternal mortality rate (2021) | 7.3% |
| Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births) (2021) | 228 |
| Gross Enrollment Rate (2021) | 83.8% |
| Proportion of women in ministerial level positions (%) (2020) | 56.3% |

SELECTED GLOBAL RANKINGS

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Rule of Law Index (2022) | Overall Score: 0.49 Global Rank: 87/139 | SDG Index (2022) | Score: 71.63 Global Rank: 61/163 |
| Human Development Index (2022) | Score: 0.796 Global Rank: 67/191 | Global Gender Gap Index (2022) | Score: 0.787 Global Rank: 18/146 |
| Economic freedom Index (2022) | Score: 66.6 World Rank: 50/161 Regional Rank: 30/45 | Environmental Performance Index (2022) | Score: 47.1 Global Rank: 62/180 |

2. <https://punetejashime.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Security-Council-UN.pdf>





2 | UN IN ALBANIA SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

2.1. Delivering Results for Albania

Continuing along the path of 'Delivering as One', 19 agencies of the UN in Albania implemented in 2022 the first year of UNSDCF 2022–2026. Combining their expertise and experience, the initiatives implemented in the country contributed to increasing investment in people and creating opportunities for those at risk of exclusion, accelerating green and blue growth and innovation, enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation, and strengthening governance, rule of law, human rights and gender equality.

By end-2022, many flagship results were evidenced at the central and local levels, as reported below, for each of the four Cooperation Framework Outcomes in support of Albania's development priorities and the achievement of the SDGs. Reference is made to key SDG targets towards which these results contribute. Reporting on the indicators (Outcome and Output level) of the UNSDCF Results Framework is presented in Annex C.





OUTCOME 1 HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

By 2026 there is increased and more equitable investment in people, removing barriers and creating opportunities for those at risk of exclusion.

Alignment with SDGs

Alignment with National Development Goals

Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas



Three Years after the Earthquake a story of building back better

The story takes us initially to Qerekë, one of the many villages heavily affected by the 2019's devastating earthquake where UNDP's intervention under UN's Earthquake Response Programme has changed lives.



36 education facilities, as the new kindergarten and school in Qerekë were built, or rebuilt, across the many areas affected by earthquake under the #EU4Schools project funded by EU and support of UNDP. 29 more such are in the process of building. Additional support for rebuilding schools was provided by the Governments of Croatia, Denmark and the United Kingdom

The earthquake took a heavy toll on businesses, especially the small ones and the UN earthquake response included interventions to stimulate the economy by revitalizing the competitiveness of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

[READ MORE](#)

OUTCOME 1 CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



Human Capital Development

By 2026 there is increased and more equitable investment in people, removing barriers and creating opportunities for those at risk of exclusion.

OUTPUT 1.1 - SOCIAL PROTECTION

SDG targets: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 3.8, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 10.2, 10.3, 10.7, 11.10, 16.3, 16.6

The UN support to the social protection reform in the country in 2022 contributed to **advancing the legal, policy and strategic framework, ensuring that social services are adequately resourced and monitored, and strengthening institutional capacities for adequate implementation at both the central and local level.** At the central level, the following key achievements were attained: Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) finalized the national Social Protection Strategy 2020–2023 annual progress report and started preparations for the new Strategy 2024–2030, developed a new Social Inclusion Policy Document 2023–2027, identified gaps in social services funding to ensure implementation of the Social Fund in full compliance with the approved legal framework, initiated the amendment process of Law no. 22/2018 on Social Housing and implementation of the Social Fund and National Exit Programme for economic aid recipients, rolled out the new national disability reform, established the Order of Social Workers in Albania, implemented the new Action Plan on People with Disabilities 2021–2025 and National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptian in Albania (2021–2025), and identified steps to reform the childcare system and monitoring of the Deinstitutionalization (DI) National Action Plan 2020–2022, paving the way for the development of a new DI Action Plan in the country vis-à-vis the new Social Protection Strategy. Fifty-five frontline professionals working in the Residential Care Institutions were trained in the DI process in close coordination with the State Social Service. The issuance of the first ever biometric ID residence permits with numbers compatible with the e-Albania system benefitted two refugees in the country.

At the local level, policy practices on integrated health and social care were developed, informing the design of six orders of municipalities on ‘Implementation of Integrated Care’ and Guidelines of Services for four multi-functional community centres (Devoll, Kamez, Pogradec

and Puke), resulting in improved social protection for vulnerable communities. A total of 131 social and health-care providers, including municipalities, were trained in integrated social and healthcare for older persons. A pilot exercise of mapping older persons and their needs took place in Sukth, where a total of 1,218 older persons are registered in the database.

A strategy was prepared to upgrade and rescope the Management Information System (MIS) for social care services, used by all 61 municipalities. Eight municipalities finalised, and nine other municipalities developed, five-year social housing plans. Tirane Municipality developed a Local Social Care Plan 2023–2025, offering integrated services for families and children in need. The status was assessed and capacity building planned in eight municipalities to engender social care plans and in twelve other municipalities a mapping and needs assessment identified interventions for inclusive gender responsive services. Some 159 municipal staff (71% females) in ten municipalities now have increased knowledge and skills on efficient and effective use of revenues and resources to plan and deliver gender-responsive social services. Local authorities were equipped with practical guidance (a handbook) on effective integration and inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the community.



Click to view



Working directly with vulnerable and marginalized people

Several UN studies informed public policies, identified innovative mechanisms and resources for the sustainability and upgrading of social services in Albania, and raised awareness on issues related to the provision of adequate services to vulnerable groups. Findings from the impact analysis of public investments in childcare and child and family allowance on poverty reduction, human development and gender equality (GE), including a feasibility study of family and child allowance based on the impact analysis, will be discussed in dialogue tables with partners in 2023. The documented challenges and opportunities of the 61 municipalities to finance social care services informed them on how to mobilize funds from both local revenues and the state social protection budget. The feasibility study on the long-term care support system in Albania focused on the living conditions of older persons, healthy life expectancy, and institutional care, among others. The reports on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Social Cash Assistance Programme and on assessment of the capacity of the State Inspectorate of Labour and Social Services are finalized. The research studies on 1) childcare costs, fiscal revenue effects and gender-centred multi-dimensional vulnerability, and 2) financing a social protection floor for vulnerable women, girls and children in Albania provide tangible evidence

on how gender-sensitive public investment has had a significant positive impact on who benefits from childcare and job creation, and provides essential information for policymakers on gender-sensitive fiscal policy measures to empower women economically.

Working directly with vulnerable and marginalized people that are on the receiving end of social services to utilize information, skills and opportunities for social protection and inclusion, as well as strengthening capacities of change agents, UN supported a nationwide communication campaign, reaching 70,000 persons, informing the public about the advances made in social care reform and development of new ways of providing social care support and promoting child financial and material well-being in Albania in line with EU standards. Some 7,500 Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in Divjake, Kamez, Kruje, Patos and Rogozhine were empowered and increased their participation in decision-making processes, 7,000 people were informed on assistive devices for PwD through social media campaigning, and 1,302 people (40% Roma and Egyptians) in Divjake, Durrës, Lushnje and Tirane were provided with integrated social services. Based on Law no. 121/2016 ‘On Social Care Services’, new models of community-based social services for disad-

vantaged people were introduced in Divjake and Patos, including a) developmental therapy for PwD, especially for children of age 0–16 years, b) emergency assistance for women who are victims of domestic violence, c) home care assistance for older persons living alone, and d) assistance for persons in emergency situations. The capacity of 70 professionals from 15 municipal community centres for PwD increased for the provision of integrated services, especially for children with intellectual disabilities. Five Albanian sign language teachers graduated in June after successfully completing a unified and accredited course for the profession of Albanian sign language instructor, while standards for professional development and certification of Albanian sign language interpreters were developed. Through partnership with the Quality Assurance Agency for Pre-University Education (*Agjencia e Sigurimet të Cilësisë së Arsimit Paruniversitar, ASCAP*) 250 members of 60 professional networks of assistant teachers increased their capacities in inclusive education for students with disabilities.

Partnerships were fostered with the universities of Elbasan, Shkoder and Tirane to enhance the professional knowledge, skills and competencies of the pre-service and in-service social care workforce in the country. An advocacy plan was finalized for engaging women and girls in participatory budgeting processes of five municipalities: Delvine, Dropull, Fushe-Arrez, Gjirokaster and Vau i Dejës. In partnership with the Prisma European Network of 50 grassroots organizations working on participatory budgeting processes, 500 vulnerable women and girls increased their participation and influence in the local participatory budgeting processes, with 73 percent of issues raised by vulnerable women now addressed and accepted in the municipalities' priorities and budgets. Meanwhile, there is ensured enrolment of 58 refugee children in the education system and all persons in need have access to public healthcare. Implementation of actions under the National Action Plan for Older Persons continued, through partnerships with the municipalities of Durres, Gjirokaster, Rogozhine, Tirane and Vlore, to design long-term care for older persons. Partnerships with CSOs led by older people continued, and the demography magazine is being published by a network of academics. The community-based health model has been strengthened and is active in thirteen districts of Albania. A total of 97 caregivers were trained and assisted in issues affecting access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services for PwD. The gradual repatriation and reintegration of children and women of Albanian origin continued from the conflict zones and refugee camps in Syria and Iraq. Direct support, such as engagement in learning and recreational activities, was used to reintegrate 18 children (15 girls and 3 boys) and their mothers (6) back into various communities.

OUTPUT 1.2 - EDUCATION

SDG targets: 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7

Working closely with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) and other actors to implement the National Education Strategy 2021–2026, especially with a focus on the most marginalized children and youth, UN in Albania contributed in 2022 to **enhancing evidence-based advocacy and action to improve learning**. A series of policy analyses and exchange was conducted, using a regional policy platform in which Albania participated, resulting in consolidated knowledge on robust inclusion policies and strategies to advance SDG 4. The dialogue for improving the future of education advanced through the Transforming Education Summit and National Education Congress. A review of career education and counselling in secondary schools will feed into the design and implementation of a career programme in schools. Three studies are being developed: 1) Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices, regarding dropout in upper secondary schools, 2) Financing for Early Childhood Education, and 3) Barriers to Accessing Early Childhood Education that will help achieve improved evidence-based advocacy.



Upgrading of teacher and student skills in blended learning and inclusive education

Improvement of education services through infrastructure and soft interventions was another key focus, where the UN supported the completion of civil works for repairing or rebuilding 36 education facilities affected by the 2019 earthquake in eleven partner municipalities, providing better services to 9,159 children and students, and 619 teachers. The construction works are ongoing for 16 other education facilities. Consultation meetings held in nine education facilities, with the participation of 209 people from communities, teachers, students, local authorities and representatives of supervision companies, revealed that 88 percent are 'very satisfied with the rebuilt facilities'. The Business Intelligence dashboard is publicly accessible online, while EU4Schools portal (<http://eu4schoolsportal.al>) received 17,975 visitors who browsed 46,266 pages. *Akademi.al* advanced to becoming an open-source access platform for children, offering 27,126 interactive videos lessons, including videos for children with disability, and novel 136 interactive video lessons for pre-school children of age five years that are aligned to pre-school curricula were added during 2022. *Akademi.al* has been accessed by a total of 507,504 users.

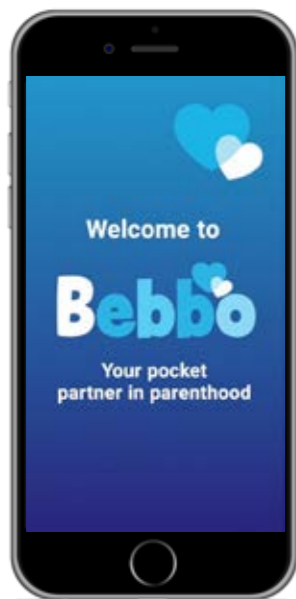
The UN supported the **implementation of pre-school curricula** through the formulation of the 'Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Pre-school Education' and the 'Quality Framework for Pre-school Education', prepared and finalized for accreditation 18 modules and programmes for teacher training, and expanded and implemented a quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme on a national scale through adoption in the Albania context of 'Journey4Life', a new curriculum for peer-educators. As a result, 346 teachers and school principals were trained, 36 schools monitored, and 4,500 students and 9,000 parents reached with SRHR information.

The **upgrading of teacher and student skills in blended learning and inclusive education** was ensured through several capacity development initiatives on how to provide quality education to their students (future workers and employers), benefiting more than 500 teachers, and 20,000 students and parents. Introduction of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) was piloted in the formal educational system, resulting in an increased quality of literacy in teaching and learning processes, reaching 8,456 students at the lower level and 1,372 students at the higher level. An assessment of training needs in Information Technology (IT) and the digital literacy of primary and basic education teachers was finalized and an **online training module** prepared. The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) training modules were drafted and used, upscaling the ICT skills of 350 secondary education teachers. Schools were provided with ICT supplies: 17 new Techhubs were procured and will be set up in secondary schools. Some 1,000 of the most vulnerable children enhanced their English language knowledge through the Akelius digital programme. A non-formal learning programme for Afghan children was set up in Shengjin, addressing the needs of more than 300 such children. An extra-curricular programme (JOM) was developed, bringing together ICT, environment, culture and arts for schools, and will soon start implementation in 200 schools. Some 410 assistant teachers and regular teachers have been skilled in inclusive education methodologies in cooperation with ASCAP, while 151 students in 9th grade at risk of dropout and 600 grade 10 students in Vocational and Education Training (VET) schools have been supported with foundational skills in Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Korce, Shkoder, Tirane and Vlore. Some 50 teachers were trained and 3,050 high school children selected a new, optional, subject introduced into the curriculum, on 'Building dialogue and communication skills among future workers and employers'.

OUTPUTS 1.3 & 1.4 - HEALTH CARE & SHOCK RESPONSIVE SYSTEMS
SDG targets: 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.d

The UN provided support to government for the country response to Covid-19, continuity of essential health services, including equal access to services, strengthening of the health system, focusing on resilience, and advocacy and partnerships on the rights to health and reducing inequalities. The key achievements of 2022 are reported below, while a summary of UN support to government on the Covid-19 response is provided in Annex A.

Advancing the regulatory and policy framework included strategic risk assessment (STAR) and development of the Public Health Risk Profile Albania 2022; revision of the MoHSP Emergency Operation Plan; incorporation of an Incident Management System at the MoHSP Emergency Operation Centre; development of a National Framework for joint investigation and response to outbreaks of zoonotic diseases; development of an Operational Plan for all hazards for Mother Tereza University Hospital Centre (UHC); preparation of Control of a Health-care-Associated Infections Strategy; guidance for Primary Health Care Reconfiguration towards a model of integrated health and social services; development of a National Action Plan of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2022–2030, Contraceptive Security 2022–2026; Cancer Control Programme 2022–2030; National Action Plan on Health Promotion 2022–2030; evaluation of the National Action Plan for Mental Health in Albania, 2013–2022; and mapping of mental health services for



Bebbo is a pocket set of tools which supports parents in taking care of their child's development since their birth

4,200
DOWNLOADS

(81% mothers, 11% fathers, 8% caregivers and service providers)

[LEARN MORE](#)

children and adolescents as a basis for the development of the new Mental Health policy 2030 and updating of the Primary Health Care Mental Health Guidelines.

Promotion of health and well-being and strengthening of prevention and control – The National Immunization Programme on Cervical Cancer (human papillomavirus, HPV, vaccine) was launched in November 2022 and is being implemented at the national scale. The national Infection Prevention and Control Manual and Guidelines are in place. An assessment of the infrastructure, distribution, storage and management capacities was conducted (cold chain) for all 432 Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities, a new module for cold chain inventory was developed and integrated into the Immunization Information System, and around 172 health personnel were trained in cold chain assessment and integration and the Information System for the Surveillance of Infectious Diseases. In addition, an immunization programme management guideline was drafted, and the Albanian surveillance system and the clinical management for monkeypox outbreak was strengthened through training of more than 400 health specialists. Meanwhile, Afghan children and families residing in Albania were reached with pertinent health services aided by a rapid health needs assessment conducted on the demographics of this population group. A health centre was established at the residence site of the Afghan population in Shengjin, Lezhe, attending to 169 children, 16 pregnant women and 122 adolescents.

Technical support was provided on strengthening the national procurement and supply management system to reduce stock-outs of antiretroviral, tuberculosis first- and second-line medicines and respective diagnostics. Key populations are better informed on HIV self-testing and pre-exposure prophylaxis, aiming at a 6–7 percent increase in the number of beneficiaries receiving daily services. Under the leadership of MoHSP, the National Health Care Operator and the Institute of Public Health (IPH), a national advocacy event and two workshops were organized on 'Prevention of Vertical Transmission of HIV'. Moreover, 19 policymakers from MoHSP, MoES and the ministries of Justice and Interior were trained in the nature, prevention and treatment of drug use disorders. Various advocacy and awareness events were conducted among key stakeholders and partners on breast and cervical cancer prevention and control. Regional consultations and capacity development activities in Elbasan, Korce, Tirane and Vlore were conducted for enforcement of the joint orders of MoHSP, MoES and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) on the standards of foods offered in pre-university school settings and the marketing of unhealthy food in these institutions. These activities resulted in 112 teachers, school



The National Vaccination Programme against Cervical Cancer

psychologists and representatives of government providing useful recommendations on the way ahead. The **Bebbo** parenting app. was developed for use in the Albanian language and launched by the Minister of Health and Social Protection on 27 May. Some 552 health and education service providers were reached with professional development activities, and around 4,200 users downloaded and used the app. (81% mothers, 11% fathers, 8% caregivers and service providers).

The national survey Health Behaviour in School-Age Children (HBSC) 2022–2023 was completed, providing important information on health, nutrition, mental health and well-being of such children. Data collection for the surveillance of childhood obesity in Albania 2022–2023 was completed and included 5,888 students of age 6–9 years. A survey into the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour around antimicrobial resistance – as part of the Eurobarometer survey – was completed (with 500 interviewees of age 18 years or more in Tirane). The youth campaign 'Let's talk about mental health', organized in light of European Mental Health week, engaged two line ministries – MoHSP and MoES – with six focus group discussions facilitated in six districts and 88 young people reached. Promotion of youth engagement for health and



172

HEALTH PERSONNEL TRAINED on cold chain assessment and integration and the Information System for the Surveillance of Infectious Diseases.

well-being through the European Youth4Health Forum, held on 25–27 October in Tirane, brought together 500 young people from 30 countries, and 200 delegates representing government, the UN and civil society partners.

Improving quality of care, including for health emergency prevention, detection and response capacity included development of a roadmap for strengthening country capacities for improving the quality of care and patient safety; assessment of the functionality of the current public health laboratory network; training in post-Covid management: manifestations associated with Covid-19 including rehabilitation of patients affected by the disease (245 primary healthcare professionals and 298 hospital care professionals from 9 regions of Albania: Berat, Durres, Elbasan,

Fier, Kukes, Lezhe, Shkoder, Tirane and Vlore). Two training programmes on Bleeding after birth completion and Pre-Eclampsia–Eclampsia were held, and capacities of 40 healthcare professionals from regional maternity hospitals and professors of nursing were strengthened. The Virtual Contraceptive Consultation (ViC) online learning platform was employed for development of a family planning sustainability roadmap, and policy dialogue on ViC sustainability was intensified.

Universal Progressive Home Visiting continues to be implemented with a sharpened focus on capacity building of health professionals (~375) in child development, supporting parenting skills and parental well-being, addressing early detection of disabilities and gender norms, and fostering intersectoral collaboration. As a result, 10,529 home visits were conducted, reaching 2,184 children, of whom 588 were from ethnic minority groups. An assessment of the **neonatology services** in the country was conducted and ten standard treatment protocols were developed for doctors and nurses in areas including transport of sick infants, neonatal resuscitation, care for babies with neonatal hypoglycaemia, respiratory distress and convulsions.

Capacity building for strengthening the national procurement and supply management system included gap analysis, recommendations for improvement and participation and contribution to the European Health Public Procurement Alliance summit.

The Infectious Diseases Clinic at Mother Teresa Hospital was renovated and furnished, doubling the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity to eight beds, while patient wards now accommodate 87 high-care beds for in-patient treatment of infectious diseases, and an emergency care department provides space for up to 16 beds. A detailed design and master plan was prepared for IPH, identifying physical interventions that would increase laboratory capacities with expanded infrastructure, essential lab equipment and capacity building. A total of 15 pieces of fixed imaging equipment was installed in radiology rooms in health clinics and hospitals around Albania, twelve items of mobile imaging equipment were provided and relevant medical staff trained in their use, while a total of 28 ambulances was provided. Procurement of one fully automated and integrated system (Cobas 5800) was concluded for the virology laboratory at IPH.

OUTPUT 1.5 - INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
SDG targets: 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 5.1, 5.5, 10.2

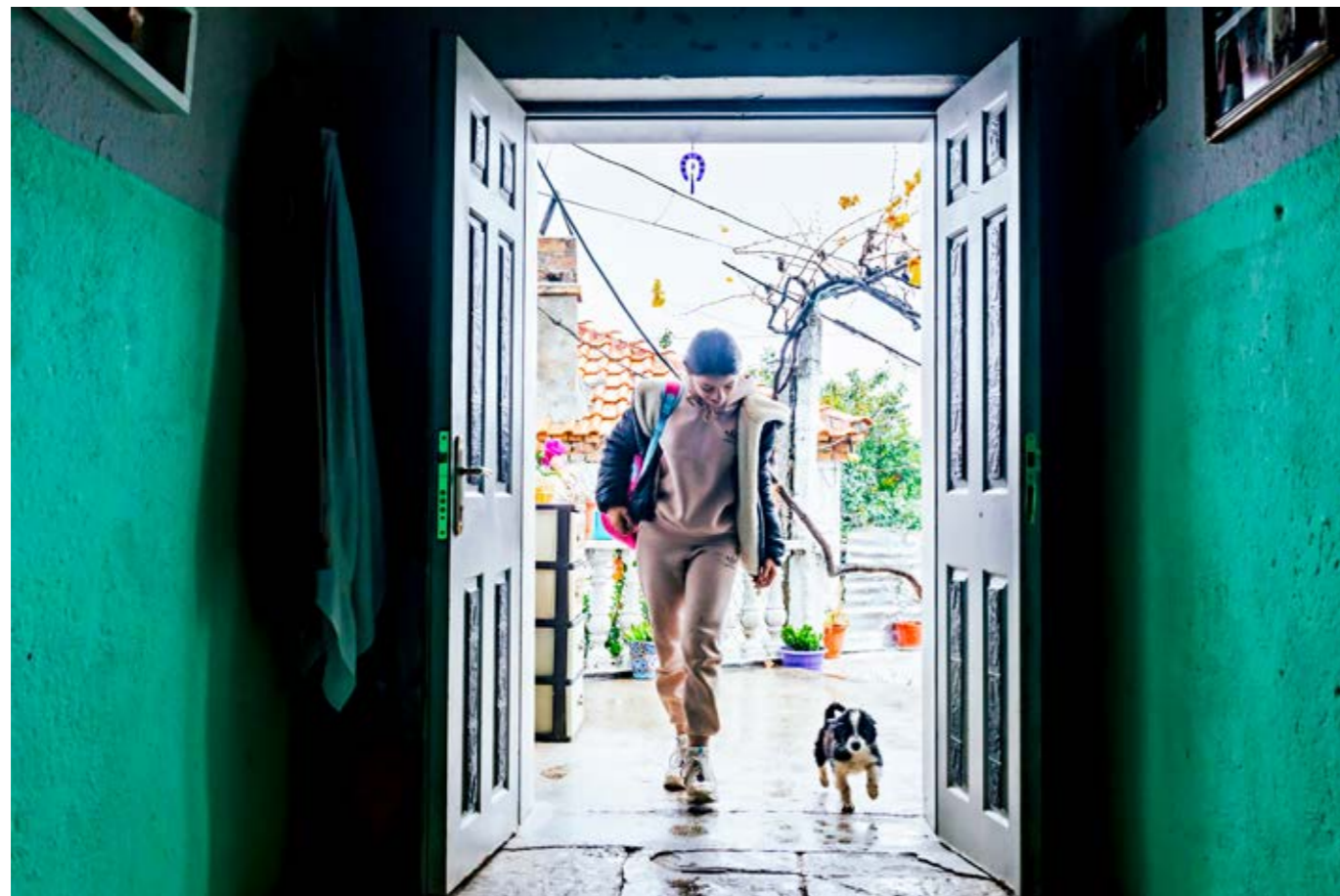
Aiming to develop mechanisms to ensure social inclusion and social protection system improvements in the long run lead to resilient and cohesive local communities, the UN contributed to **strengthening national and local systems to support the effective socio-economic integration of returnees** through mobilization of local partnerships and implementation of measures for sustainable reintegration. Three local multi-stakeholder platforms were established in and coordinated by the municipalities of Berat, Devoll and Fier. Local Roma and Egyptian returnee reintegration action plans were developed with these municipalities, adopted by Devoll and Fier, and elements implemented in all three municipalities, reaching 204 persons (50% females). A protocol of case management was designed for the reintegration of returnees with an integrated family-focused approach and started implementation in the three municipalities. A start-up programme was also initiated resulting in 156 applications of which 76 were preselected for support. The methodology and format of individual

employability improvement plans were developed, resulting in 21 individuals employed through mediation. Two individuals participated in internships with the National Agency for Employment and Skills, and nine are part of active labour market measures. Seven Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and CSOs were enabled to support returnees and their family members (368 in total; 50% females) in a variety of initiatives.

UN efforts towards **increasing social and economic resilience of earthquake-affected communities** resulted in improved recovery and resilience of 1,500 households through fourteen grants awarded to CSOs operating in the municipalities of Durres, Kruje and Shijak. More than 15 volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives were established and assisted through training and mentoring to contribute to community resilience and recovery efforts. Three community-based and open-access platforms (with more than 10,000 users) became operational to promote transparency around the emergency response and gender-responsive recovery effort, employment opportunities and participatory decision making in planning, prioritization and recovery activities. An integrated employment and livelihood and social services model – Livelihood Support Scheme – for affected, vulnerable citizens to recover and start life in a new post-earthquake setting were developed, tested and became operational, supporting more than 100 households with materials, tools and assistive devices to improve their income-generating activities and build a better life in the future. Aiming to improve the level of preparedness and response in emergency situations, two sets of documents were developed in close consultation with the respective Department of Social Care in each of the three partner municipalities: 1, Protocols for Social Service Providers at the Local Level, and 2, Emergency Social Plans. These documents were endorsed by local authorities and will be included and utilized as supporting mechanisms for relevant personnel during and after emergency and natural disaster events.

The UN supported **bottom-up community development to promote the inclusion of rural people in policy design and decision-making processes**, specifically on promoting and supporting cooperation of farmers, contract farming, short value chains, income diversification and integrated community development. The document ‘Best practice policy recommendations supporting smallholder development’ was prepared and shared with MoARD, while the ministry was supported in drafting a National Action Plan for Family Farming. Small ruminant farmers, milk processors and smallholder farmers in the three municipalities of Belsh, Korce and Malesie e Madhe benefited from small-scale equipment (milking equipment, olive seed removers, fruit processing line) and trainings in equipment use and maintenance.

Developing mechanisms to ensure social inclusion and social protection system improvements





OUTCOME 2 GREEN GROWTH, INNOVATION, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

By 2026 innovative and integrated policy solutions accelerate sustainable, productive and inclusive economic development, enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation and transition to a green and blue economy.

Alignment with SDGs

Alignment with National Development Goals

Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas

OUTCOME 2 CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



Solar panels. Solar Energy! A story from the Albanian Alps!!

Solar Panel. Solar Energy. These words are no longer stranger to Vasilika! She has come to understand too well the power of the sun shining on her little village of Sylbica for 260 days!

Vasilika lives in the Sylbica Highlands, among the most beautiful in Albania. Situated on the north-eastern Alps of Albania, these highlands are between 1600 and 2400 meters above sea level, making up the upper part of the Tropoja river valley. Rich in flora and rife with water sources, the highlands are an ideal place for raising livestock for at least five months a year.

'Solar panel' and 'solar energy' are no longer strange words to her and other farmers in her area. They have come to understand too well the power of the sun shining on her little village of Sylbica for 260 days! Its power is bringing benefits to the communities in Albanian Alps.

[READ MORE](#)

OUTCOME 2

Green growth, innovation, and climate change

By 2026 innovative and integrated policy solutions accelerate sustainable, productive and inclusive economic development, enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation and transition to a green and blue economy.

OUTPUT 2.1 - EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

SDG targets: 1.b, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.a, 8.3, 8.5, 8.8

In 2022, UN support to the employment and skills reform in the country, including the Decent Work Agenda, contributed to **advancing the legal, policy and strategic frameworks, strengthening institutional capacities for adequate implementation**, and catered to the **labour market integration needs of vulnerable groups**. The development process of the **National Employment and Skills Strategy (NESS) 2030** commenced, aligned to national commitments for implementation of EU priorities in the sector (National Implementation Plan of Osnabrück Declaration) and based on State Agency for Strategic Programming and Assistance Coordination (SASPAC) methodology. The UN has been instrumental in not only bringing all the stakeholders together to formulate the new strategic document and reform agenda of the sector, but also providing the needed technical assistance to the national institution during the process. UN facilitated broad-based consultations of NESS with technical experts, the private sector, line ministries, civil society, students of VET schools and formal forums such as the National VET and Labour councils. **Employment Promotion Law** amendments were elaborated to enable operationalization of the Social Employment Fund and submitted for approval. An innovative Employment Promotion Programme (EPP) was designed



Click to view

with UN support and approved by the Council of Ministers, offering upskilling and reskilling opportunities to jobseekers by outsourcing training provision to private providers through a voucher scheme.

Following a **detailed analysis** of the registered long-term unemployed, through standardized methodology of UN-ESCO's Institute for Lifelong Learning, UN conducted a skills assessment of some 820 long-term registered unemployed jobseekers throughout the country, ensuring the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) design two new EPPs targeting vulnerable jobseekers, namely social reintegration and basic skills training. An **International Conference – Upskilling pathways: lifelong opportunities of adults in Albania** – brought together speakers from various international organizations, experts contributing to the European Training Foundation (ETF) and European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), local actors, representatives of civil society, local community centres and VET providers, to discuss a roadmap for lifelong learning in the country.

Albanian authorities and the private sector have enhanced knowledge and skills on ethical recruitment principles and practices for migrant workers, including gender considerations. MoFE was enabled to implement the National Strategy on Migration measure related to ethical recruitment standards for migrant workers through preparation of the Guidelines on Ethical Recruitment of Migrant Workers and promotional materials tailored to various user categories. The Albanian tripartite delegation attended the regional meeting in Montenegro with Social and Economic Councils (SECs) and National Labour Councils (NLCs) focused on identification of performance indicators that will enable comparative assessment of all the SECs–NLCs in the Western Balkans.

The UN, in partnership with MoFE, the EU Delegation Albania and SDC, held the **National VET Conference**, aiming to take stock of achievements, challenges and the way forward for the ongoing reform in the skills development sector. A VET Provider Optimisation Plan was formally adopted by the Minister of Finance and Econ-

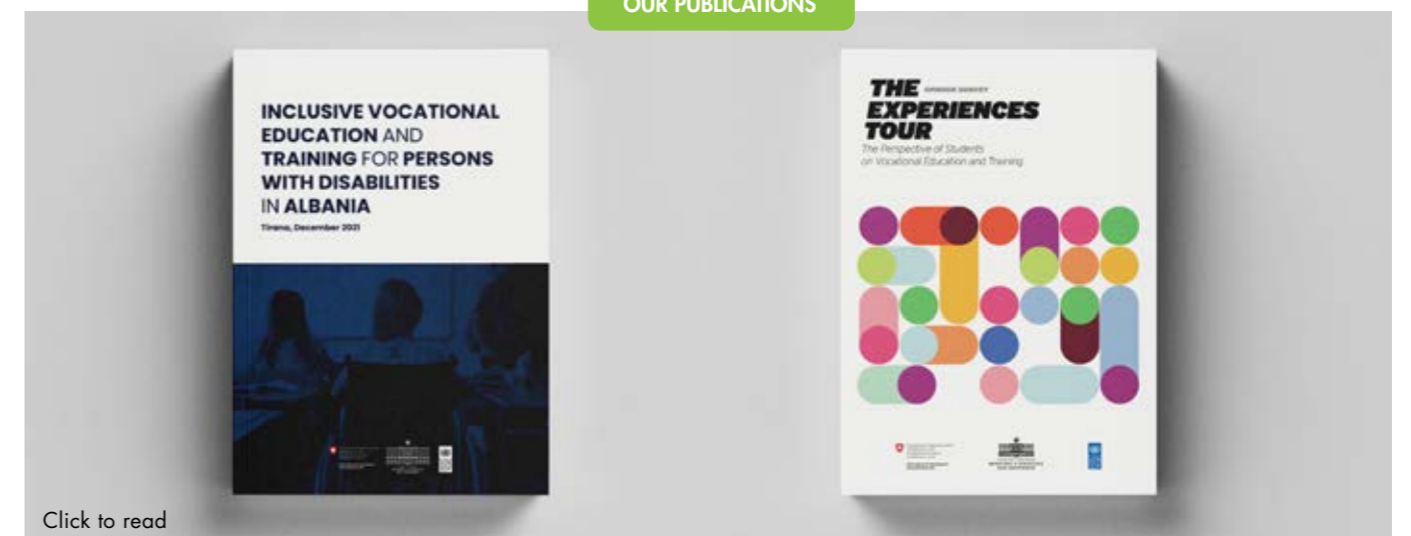


Empowering adolescents and youth with 21st century skills and increasing their capacities to amplify their voices

omy on 28 June, 2022, and 1,000 students from 20 VET schools across the country were enabled to voice their experiences, perceptions and expectations on the system, utilizing the youth engagement platform GenerationR and a student survey. Aiming to design and develop a coherent VET quality assurance framework, UN supported the development of skills of MoFE staff through the certification of 38 external assessors, and implementation of an accreditation process for five public and one private VET provider. An important campaign aiming at

girls enrolment in VET schools was also supported, reaching 448,422 people. Human-centred design to provide entrepreneurship skills through the Upshift programme was also supported, reaching the municipalities of Lezhe, Shkoder and Tirane with twelve awards provided for young people to implement their best ideas in the service of their community. UN also supported the efforts for developing a career guidance policy framework on how to implement career education and guidance in education to ensure a better transition from school to work and

OUR PUBLICATIONS



Click to read

capacity development of career guidance focal points in schools. The ILO International Training Centre, Turin, supported the National Agency for Vocational Education, Training and Qualifications in training the network of IT teacher trainers from the 35 VET schools in the use of digital skills and applications in teaching.

The UN **contributed to empowering adolescents and youth with 21st century skills and increasing their capacities to amplify their voices.** An After-School programme was designed to enhance skillset and digital competencies of children and adolescents in Albania for piloting in 200 schools, led by the prime minister and implemented by the Minister of State for Youth and Children and implemented by MoES. UN supported the development and consultations for the first National Youth Strategy 2022–2029 containing significant objectives on youth employment and skills. **Chances of employability and participation of vulnerable groups in the labour market** were increased through UN-facilitated awareness-raising and capacity-building activities on information and employment coaching procedures. By making use of the findings of Gender-Sensitive Value Chain Analysis in eleven municipalities and through nine different interventions implemented by the UN in 8 local government units, 150 women beneficiaries in the targeted earthquake-affected areas increased their capacities, of whom 136 from gender sensitive value chain through the Women Small Business Programme.



3. Venetian Tower and Hammam in Durres, Ethnographic Museums of Kavaje and Kruje, Archeological Museum in Durres and Bashtova Castle.

OUTPUT 2.2 - SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY TRANSITION

SDG targets: 1.b, 2.a, 5.a, 6.4, 8.2, 8.3, 8.9, 9.1, 10.2, 10.4, 11.4, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 17.7, 17.9

As a response to the two recent shocks – the earthquakes of 2019 and Covid-19 – the UN contributed to **strengthening competitiveness and resilience capacities** with the aim of revitalizing the Albanian economy. A total of 63 businesses were supported through ‘In Motion’ in the municipalities of Durres, Tirane (Astir) and Kavaje, while the Supplier Development Methodology is supporting seven businesses in the municipalities of Durres and Tirane, and is in the process of identifying at least ten beneficiary businesses to be supported until the end of 2023. Twelve cultural heritage sites in six earthquake-affected municipalities are being renovated with quality infrastructure and renovation techniques that are preserving the sites’ authenticity, ensuring to build back better with enhanced resilience and increased accessibility. Six³ of these sites will be transformed into cultural development hubs with rich experiences for visitors. For the three main sites in Durres, management plans are already in progress allowing for the establishment of unit tariffs for visits and ticketing, enabling job creations in the cultural sector and regular upkeep of the sites. Eleven grants have been awarded to be implemented by 15 CSOs (8 women-led) including local and community development NGOs, contributing towards the creation and development of socio-economic growth opportunities for local communities, bridging cultural heritage monuments and institutions with the local communities, and enhancing public and institutional awareness on the role of cultural heritage as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development. A second call has been launched that will expand the reach to more municipalities and with dedicated funding to youth initiatives in the field of cultural heritage.

The UN is also **engaging more the private sector**, as a key actor in the country’s development and achievement of the SDGs. Focusing on the agro-processing and textile sectors, three sectoral events (1, high-level) and two hybrid roundtables were organised to raise awareness of the CEOs and stakeholders on the sustainability business model and to reflect the on-the-ground reality and challenges of the companies. Moreover, a ‘Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE)’ Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted, UNIDO Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production methodology was introduced, and six enterprises were



Engaging more the private sector

assessed using this methodology in the textiles, clothing, leather and footwear (TCLF) industries, a stocktaking paper on SDG applicability and a zero roadmap on application of SDGs in the sector were developed in consultation with more than 60 key stakeholders.

The UN also supported **improvement of the competitiveness of the agriculture sector** and its alignment with EU approximation requirements, while MoARD was assisted with Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN), Geographical Indications (GIs), marketing standards and agriculture policy analysis. FADN software specification and questionnaire was prepared and three MoARD officials were trained in FADN system development and implementation. Two ministerial orders are in place concerning registration in the vineyard cadastre and mandatory declarations on potential production in accordance with the law on vineyards and wine and EU practices. For the GI component, the project trained National Food Authority inspectors and prepared technical guidance on how to develop a GI specifications review process, technical guidance on a control plan for the procedure for verification of compliance with the product specifications for protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications, traditional specialty guaranteed and the checklist used by the inspectors. A draft policy

brief on monitoring of the impact of the Ukraine crisis on the Albanian agriculture sector and food security were prepared and will be discussed with MoARD. Two agriculture product incubators are being established in Elbasan and Leskovik, not only to provide decent working spaces for local rural women and increase ownership on productive assets, but also to support local and central government with information to design and implement improved legislative and regulatory measures. In addition, 37 beneficiaries were supported for recovery of agriculture damage and restoration of productive capacities. In addition to the investment for barn reconstruction, purchase of equipment and live animals in earthquake-affected areas, animal feed, 16.9 tons; hay, 39.6 tons; alfalfa, 42.5 tons) were distributed to individual farmers with livestock (cows, sheep and goats). Awareness-raising activities on good animal feeding practices will be continued in 2023. Likewise, in May 2022, the UN launched a new project ‘Global Quality and Standards’ to strengthen quality and standards compliance capacity in the medicinal and aromatic plants and fruits and vegetables value chains to facilitate market access for small and medium-sized enterprises. It also supported the preparation of an appropriate competition–consumer protection framework so that Albanian entrepreneurs could fairly benefit from such market access.

Cognizant of the impact that digitalization of the economy has on entrepreneurship, the UN also contributed towards **building foundations for making digitization and digitalization processes green and sustainable**. A joint project 'e-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans' was rolled out by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Within this project, a country profile is being prepared on the status of e-Waste and related management practices and legislation in Albania that, together with profiles of four other Western Balkans countries, will lead to the creation of a Regional e-Waste Monitor Report. This work is carried out in close collaboration with the Albanian National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), whose focal points were also trained in how to make and collect e-Waste-related statistics.

Aiming to **link recovery strategies and plans with risk-informed and sustainable financing policies and reforms**, the UN is assisting the Government of Albania in drafting its first Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), which started in January 2022 and kicked off with national and international partners in March. By the end of 2022, the assessment and diagnostics component of INFF was completed through an exhaustive process of consultations and validation with relevant stakeholders. The analysis provides an overview of the financial flows available to Albania – domestic and international, public

and private – shedding light on their volumes and historical trends, thus allowing the identification of emerging areas of opportunity. It also provides relevant insights into data gaps to be filled in the future, coordination mechanisms between various governmental actors that, in turn, will serve to discuss INFF governance and coordination, and opportunities for leveraging and mobilizing additional financing for development by improving efficiencies in public finance and fiscal consolidation, and mobilizing domestic private finance through innovative financial tools.

In the area of trade facilitation, national capacities to use United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) standards and tools for implementation of trade facilitation and a single window using international (UN/CEFACT) standards were strengthened, along with development of web services for information exchange between the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) and the e-Albania portal, the launch of new modules and functionalities following the update of ASYCUDA World to the latest version, and enhanced the Excise Movement Control System by introducing risk management, while automatic exchange of tax registration numbers (as well as joint controls and customs seals management module) between Albania and Kosovo facilitated the Albania-Kosovo transit corridor.

OUTPUT 2.3 - INNOVATION

SDG targets: 2.3, 2.4, 4.4, 4.7, 8.3, 8.5, 9.5, 9.b, 17.10, 17.11

Acknowledging that development through digital transformation has become ever more important since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, UN assisted Albania to **increase digital capacities by extending the availability of products and services and empowering citizens, workers and students in their daily engagements and needs**. A digital development country profile was developed, providing government and all stakeholders with an overview of the national digital development, including a comparative analysis for countries in Europe with UN-in-country presence and gaps that need to be addressed. The digital economy on trade facilitation issues was promoted through the development of web services for information exchange between ASYCUDA and the e-Albania portal in line with the EU standards and best practices. Meanwhile, the FADN technical working group and *Agjencia e Sigurimit të Cilësisë së Arsimit Parauniversitar (AKSHI)* (Agency of Quality Assurance in Higher Education) agreed to develop FADN software. A data collection questionnaire was prepared in consultation with MoARD, INSTAT and the FADN technical working group, and tested with a few farmers. In close collaboration with MoARD and INSTAT, the UN is engendering rural and agriculture statistics and data, mainly with regard to the national Census that will be launched in 2023, to shed more light on needs and challenges of rural women. Rural women are being organized into local action groups (LAGs) in the municipalities of Elbasan and Kolonjë, aiming to promote bottom-up decision making, increase participation of women in leadership positions and promote the economic and social empowerment of rural women. A gender-sensitive value chain analysis was conducted in the municipalities of Elbasan, Kolonjë and Puke, providing to the local government means to improve policies and development strategies and increase effectiveness and efficiency of decision making. In the education sector, the UN focused on reducing the digital divide to enhance the digital knowledge and skills of young people with a focus on children in remote and multi-grade schools. In this regard, *Akademi.al* advanced to becoming an open-source platform for children to access and expansion of the BiblioTech programme in Korce and Shkoder led to establishment of a well-structured BiblioTech brand and transformation of the libraries of these two main Albanian cities into innovation and technology development hubs, together with the provision of Friendly Wi-Fi access. Some 1,418 children and young people improved their skills related to digital literacy and online protection from abuse, exploitation and trafficking.



Strengthening governance mechanisms to address biodiversity loss

OUTPUT 2.4 - CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEM RESOURCES

SDG targets: 3.3, 3.8, 3.9, 3.d5.a, 5.5, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 15.1, 15.2, 15.5

The UN contributed to **accelerating climate resilience and adaptation planning and transition into a clean green economy** through: strengthening governance mechanisms to address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and land degradation; promoting ecotourism and circular bioeconomy; promoting a 'source-to-sea' approach and strengthening trans-boundary cooperation for water resources management in the Drini river basin; and promoting nature-based tourism that sustains livelihoods and protected areas, while improving ecosystem services and financial sustainability. Key achievements in 2022 are referenced below.



Focusing on reducing the digital divide to enhance the digital knowledge and skills of young people



UN supported the 4th National Communication to the Convention on Climate Change and accompanied the submission process with a nationwide awareness campaign prior to the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27). Further support is provided to establishment of the inter-ministerial working group on climate change and of the transparent mechanisms for monitoring and reporting in line with the European acquis. Eight municipalities are undergoing the process of risk assessment to feed into local climate adaptation plans. Restructuring of the Institute of Geosciences has been supported to strengthen early warning systems and monitoring in hydrology, climate-related hazards and seismology, with upgrading of the entire national seismic strong motion network (20 new and rehabilitated stations). A decision of the prime minister has endorsed the transition of the Blue Economy Programme into a Blue Economy National Strategy, supported by UN, that will articulate the vision and benefit from long-term planning. Eight CSOs from north to south were engaged in improving capacities under the fourth pillar of the Blue Economy, consolidating tourism hubs and maritime ecosystems through innovative solutions.

UN supported #YouthMove4Air&Climate in Berat, Elbasan, Pogradec, Shkoder and Tirane and 250 youth were capacitated and coached in topics of Air & Climate and becoming watchdogs for climate change,

while a joint youth manifesto was developed for presentation to policymakers. In the framework of Tirane Climathon, held in October 2022, the UN has engaged in raising awareness among youth to come up with solutions for Air & Climate change. In the framework of the government initiative on doing away with plastic waste, UN in Albania joined forces with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE), development partners, youth groups and CSOs to support a communication campaign to raise awareness and instil a culture of re-using plastic among adolescents and young people in Albania. The initiative is leading into a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among MoES, Minister of State of Youth and Children, MoTE, UNICEF and Tirane Municipality to educate young children in the principles of recycling.

The energy sector was supported by a number of assessments including one on Albania's geothermal energy resources to support the country's efforts to develop low-carbon energy sources to address the climate crisis and a study on the local geological and mining conditions. These assessments enable the development of principle-based guidelines for designing and implementing a programme for efficient, safe and environmentally aware mine closures in the country. Albania can utilize tools developed within the project 'Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of mov-

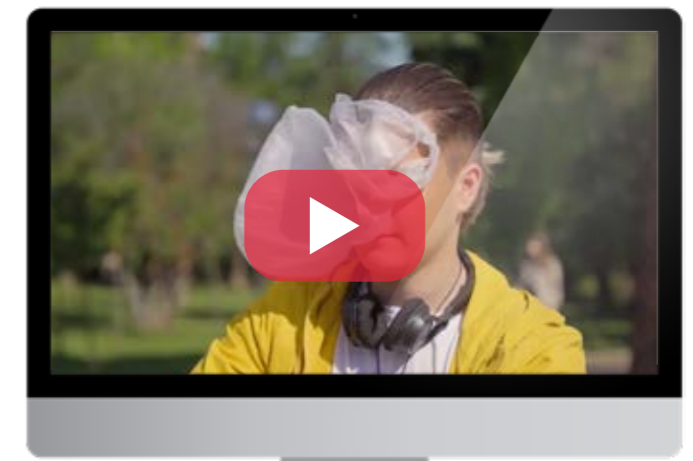
ing to carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy-intensive industries by 2050'. The project identified policy and technology options to attain carbon neutrality by 2050 and developed technology briefs and publications that form the UNECE Carbon Neutrality Toolkit tailored for policymakers to make informed decisions. The UN will support Albania's climate targets through accelerating the shift to electric mobility as a promising measure for greenhouse gas emission mitigation through implementation of the project Electric Mobility for Sustainable Tourism in Albania funded by the Global Environmental Facility. Progress has been made in enhancing capacity building in low-carbon and low-emission technologies and practices and strengthening the country's compliance with its obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The country is enforcing an operational licensing and quota system for imports and exports of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), enabling reductions in consumption of these gases in line with the Protocol's phase-out schedule. In 2021, hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) consumption was 48 percent below the control targets. The new fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gas) legislation was fully aligned with the EU regulations and approved by a Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) in June 2022, undergoing final approval by Parliament in December 2022. Policies and regulations to facilitate the phasing-down of HFCs and the introduction of low global warming potential alternative technologies were also identified and will be further developed in line with the HFC phase-down strategy.

The national financial planning framework for protected areas (PAs) and respective management capabilities of the National Agency of Protected Areas were strengthened through provision of advisory and counselling services for implementing the regulatory framework on PA income generation. Two DCMs were approved on revenue generation from PAs and a special fund for PAs, as key by-laws of the Law on Protected Areas. Their implementation will aid MoTE to effectively manage PAs and introduce ordinances and financial instruments. PAs increased revenues in 2022 through: automatic entry barriers installed in Dajti National Park (NP) and Syri Kallter NP, landscape and habitat watching telescopes in Dajti and Divjake-Karavasta NPs, the wildlife rehabilitation centre in Divjake-Karavasta NP, walking trails and signposting in Dajti, Llogara and Divjake-Karavasta NPs, landscape attractions, visitor facilities and electric sightseeing buses in Divjaka and Dajti, an e-Communication platform for tourists and other visitors, juniors' engagements and visitors' statistics reports, the e-Learn-

4. <https://en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/venice/historicenvironments>

ing platform, online management effectiveness tool for PAs, and maintenance of the monitoring infrastructure in all three parks (video-cameras, etc.). The number of tourists increased by 30 percent, providing opportunities and increased pressure for monitoring and conservation practices through which the youth involvement programme in four National Parks continues to prove very effective.

A declaration on the protection of the Vjosa river valley as the last wild river in Europe was signed and in support UN convened an ecotourism Bootcamp and Accelerator Programme with nine businesses to apply innovative approaches for conservation and eco-tourism development in the valley. Albanian authorities are being assisted to enhance cooperation with North Macedonia on the joint management of the shared World Heritage property Natural and cultural heritage of Ohrid Region, with a focus on preserving outstanding universal values. Three experts from Albanian water management, civil protection and culture institutions increased their capacities in flood risk management and cultural and historical heritage protection in the Sava river basin, notably through the operational framework platform and resilience tools developed by the SHELTER project.⁴



Click to view

Several national and regional workshops were conducted on the legal framework and policies of agritourism and agrobiodiversity. An informal agritourism network of national and regional actors was established, aiming to further support development of the sector in Albania while information on plant and animal genetic resources was collected to foster an effective integration between agrobiodiversity and agritourism.

OUTPUT 2.5 - DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

SDG targets: 1.5, 4.1, 5.1, 6.5, 11.b, 11.4, 11.5, 13.1, 13.3, 13.5, 15.3

To contribute to a strengthened risk and disaster management system, UN assisted government in **driving policies and actions that focus on prevention and reduction of disaster-related risks, increasing resilience of infrastructures, ecosystems and society, and enabling adaptive capacities, all as a means of reducing the long-term vulnerability of the population and protect development investments, particularly in at-risk areas.**

The National Civil Protection Agency shaped the organizational model and increased capacities for DRR. The Disaster Risk Management system set in motion includes all three levels of civil protection (local, regional and national) and cooperation with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and regional networking was strengthened. Accordingly, Albania became the newest member of the mechanism. The UN enabled a highly participatory development process of the National Risk Assessment and National DRR Strategy at both technical and political levels involving 450 representatives of national public institutions. Special focus was applied to gender considerations and the inclusion of vulnerable groups in all the processes, with the final drafts in the last stage of approval. Meanwhile, the National Civil Emergency Plan is ongoing and will be associated with simulations at all

levels. The first pilot municipality (Lezhe) municipal council endorsed the Local Risk Assessment DRR Strategy and Local Emergency Plan, and replication has begun in six municipalities in Fier County.

The UN has facilitated two rounds of meetings and exchanges and endorsement of interventions along the River Drini through the Albania–Montenegro Cross-border Commission. A Geographic Information System-based vulnerability, loss and damage assessment tool and database were enhanced with socio-economic data further informing structural and non-structural measures to be implemented in the Albanian part of the basin. Understanding of disaster risk in Albania was enhanced with the rollout of the INFORM sub-national risk index, providing risk information on hazard exposure, vulnerability and coping capacity at the sub-national level across Albania and the broader South-Eastern Europe region.

DRR policies at national and local levels respond better to the needs of women and girls and other marginalized groups, credited to the legal and policy documents and concrete recommendations developed on gender and DRR and guidelines for gender equality mainstreaming in the first National DRR Strategy 2023–2030. Gender-sensitive research into DRR was conducted, while relevant partners were mapped on gender and DRR. Practical reflections were carried out regarding the evidence of the importance this draft strategy places on

the integration of gender sensitivity and the most marginalized groups of society. The Local Action Plan for Gender Equality (LAGP) 2023–2025 (in Durres) is the first to integrate a gender-sensitive approach with regard to DRR-related needs. In October 2022, the Minister for Youth and Children included the Empowerment through Self Defence (ESD) approach in the extra-curricular programmes of Albanian public schools, and ESD is also part of the National Strategy for Youth and its Action Plan (2022–2029). To support the rollout of the programme, an initial pool of 60 teachers working in 60 public schools was enrolled in the training cycle for future ESD instructors.

Learning from the 2019 earthquake and aiming to **become resilient to future shocks**, UN supported the revitalization of Albania's cultural heritage sites with a focus on boosting tourism and local economic development. Recognizing the potential of cultural heritage in strengthening society's future economic and social resilience, restoration is ensuring prolonged durability and longevity of cultural heritage sites. Disaster Risk Management Plans are now an important component for each of the conservation and revitalization designs for the cultural sites, and all conservation designs include treatment of structural stabilization elements. It is planned for this approach to be shared widely as a lesson for possible retrofitting design and planning in the future. Albanian scientists, experts and managers of UNESCO designated sites, selected through a Call for Applications, increased their understanding of the impacts of climatic change and natural hazards on natural and cultural sites, and improved their capacities for effective emergency preparedness and response within site governance frameworks through a training workshop organized in the Ohrid–Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve–World Heritage Site on *Building a climate resilient future: capacity development in climate change adaptation and designated sites of South-East Europe*.⁵ Resilience building initiatives supported also vulnerable groups whereby, at the end of 2022, the following results were attained: increased availability of services⁶ for women victims of violence; expanded availability of evidence and data on women's economic empowerment; enhanced knowledge of women's property rights, to name a few. In June 2022, an on-line presentation of web-based software developed by the UN was arranged with participation of government representatives to support the field collection of disaster damage and loss data in agriculture, the methodology for which will be tested in one of the selected municipalities.

5. <https://en.unesco.org/news/building-climate-resilient-future-training-workshop-unesco-designated-sites-south-east-europe>

6. For example: informed on GBV and reporting mechanisms; legal assistance orientation and referral services; psychological services; increased capacities to implement DV legislation and international standards during emergency.

OUTPUT 2.6 - SUSTAINABLE CITIES

SDG targets: 10.4, 16.6, 16.7

Albania's local governments play a crucial role in the country's sustainable development, particularly as they are responsible for some key functions related to social protection, including planning and budgeting for social protection services, as well as for delivering social assistance and transfers to individuals, households and families. Addressing the socio-economic disparities among population groups, as well as between municipalities, UN supported development of capacities of urban municipalities to implement sustainable development policies and programmes. More concretely, it completed a review of the legal framework that regulates funding of mandates at the local level, focusing on provision of social welfare support, social protection and social care services. Findings inform that, while there are no regulatory gaps per se, local authority capacities need to be strengthened to make use of the entire range of financing mechanisms for service delivery, mobilize sufficient own resources, and not remain highly dependent on the central government for the provision of social services. The UN is also implementing a Digital Rights Governance Framework pilot project in collaboration with Tirane Municipality to address the challenge of building the capacity of public officials to understand and work with digital rights. The pilot phase will extend until the start of 2023 and the scale-up phase will identify specific actions towards implementing a digital rights agenda in the city. Collaboration in the framework of *Bashki mike e fëmijëve* (Child-Friendly Municipality) was marked with the signing of an MoU between Korca Municipality and UNICEF Albania, in February 2022. Based on *relevant data*, the cross-sectoral steering committee of the initiative assisted in drafting the *2023–2015 Plan 'Korca - Bashki mike e fëmijëve'*, approved by the municipal council in October. At least 100 children (65 girls) were engaged in defining the plan's vision and activities. An MoU between Diber Municipality and UNICEF Albania was signed in December 2022, and a similar process will follow in engaging local stakeholders, children and parents there as well.



Strengthening risk and disaster management system



OUTCOME 3 GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

By 2026, governance is more transparent and accountable, enabling people (women and girls, men and boys, and persons at risk of exclusion), to enjoy quality, inclusive services, enhanced rule of law and access to justice in line with Albania’s human rights commitments.

Alignment with SDGs

Alignment with National Development Goals

Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas

OUTCOME 3 CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



A SERIES OF LIFE CYCLE MEMOIRS OF ALBANIAN MIGRANTS

The stories of Albanians in migration are different. The circumstances they left the country, the obstacles, and challenges they went through, or the difficulties they encountered make each story unique.

But many of them have the same message – to be informed about safe and regular migration. From a young age, chef Alfred Marku from Lezha dreamed of a better life, which Albania of early 90’ could not offer him. After a period of migration to Italy he returned to his hometown where he opened his own restaurant. Today he is 43 years old and one of the most successful chefs in Albania. Chef Alfred has tried both sides of the coin and in the end, he found the best in his country.

His message in this migration testimony is addressed to all Albanians advising them not to flee their country because Albania cannot be developed by itself.

[READ MORE](#)

OUTPUT 3.1 - ACCESS TO JUSTICE

SDG targets: 5.2, 5.5, 8.3, 8.5, 8.8, 16.1, 16.3, 16.4, 16.9

The UN supported government in **improving and implementing the justice system substantive and procedural framework and increasing capacities of state structures on provision and monitoring of the service.** The assessment of the national Justice for Children Strategy (2018–2021) was completed, and the new Strategy 2022–2026 was adopted by the Council of Ministers, thereby leading the country beyond the concept of criminal justice for children towards children’s equitable access to justice in other areas of justice, namely family, civil and administrative. More than 475 justice system professionals, social services staff and labour dispute mediators and conciliators had capacities strengthened in confirming nationality of persons otherwise at risk of statelessness, the Criminal Justice for Children Code, integrated Justice for Children (J4C) Data System use, referral and management of cases of children in conflict and in contact with the law, domestic violence, trafficking in persons, women’s access to justice needs, women’s property rights in reconstruction processes in earthquake-affected areas, anti-discrimination, international labour standards, peaceful labour dispute resolution, public mediation and conciliation procedures, and pension-related topics.

A practical manual for law professionals on women’s property rights during the earthquake reconstruction process was prepared and disseminated, addressing the need for information identified in the contextual analysis report on ‘Protection of property rights and women in the aftermath of the earthquake’. The UN, through its partner CLCI, carried out an intense advocacy effort with central level institutions and municipalities giving legal guidance on the drafting of the contracts for the beneficiaries during the reconstruction process. In partnership with the CPD and the People’s Advocate, UN prepared an evaluation report on [The approach and household use of social protection transfers](#), identifying challenges of vulnerable families and individuals in accessing cash transfers of social protection. An MoU was also signed between CPD and UN with a focus on strengthening private sector knowledge and skills on the Law against Discrimination and to empower staff to exercise their rights in the workplace and live a balanced life.

Some 2,300 citizens benefited from Free Legal Aid (FLA) centres in Berat, Diber, Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Lezhe, Pogradec, Shkoder and Vlore, and 1,615 in-need citizens and 500 women survivors of violence benefited from both primary and secondary legal aid from CSOs supported by the UN in 24 municipalities. In 2022, three new FLA centres were opened, in Berat, Elbasan and Kukes, increasing to eleven the number of such centres opened with UN support. A total

of 3,430 in-need individuals in 24 municipalities were legally empowered on access to justice, human rights and legal aid provided by the state through information sessions, street law activities and community meetings. With UN advocacy and support fourteen leaders from public authorities representing the justice and care sides of legal processes affecting children concluded Memoranda of Understanding and Cooperation in Puke and Shkoder. As a result, 481 children (287 females) and 141 youth (71 females) took active part in education and community awareness activities to promote child-friendly justice, while 150 students, 30 teachers and security officials were trained in conflict resolution methods. In addition, 200 parents (173 females) engaged in positive parenting programmes with a strong gender equality focus, 140 (72 females) children and youth in conflict or contact with the law were referred to and obtained integrated services, including restorative justice and mediation services, mentoring and job placement, socio-economic (re)integration support, with legal and psychological assistance provided for legal processes in which they were involved. The J4C data system recorded more than 200 justice professional users with approximately 2,000 children’s cases logged. Law students from Aleksander Xhuvani University in Elbasan were equipped with the tools and knowledge to provide free legal aid and information to over 100 women in rural communities around Elbasan region.

Improving and implementing the justice system substantive and procedural framework



OUTPUT 3.2 - GOOD GOVERNANCE, PARTICIPATION AND VOICE

SDG targets: 10.2, 10.3, 16.5

The UN continued to strengthen participatory democracies and supported the EU integration process of Albania by **empowering civil society and youth to actively participate in decision making by creating an enabling legal and financial environment for them.** By the end of the year, the capacity of local governments and CSOs was strengthened to institutionalize and implement transparent and gender-responsive grant schemes, benefiting more than 50 local government professionals and 29 CSOs, and to generate greater civic and youth engagement in local affairs. In addition, the Minister of State for Youth and Children adopted the methodology of the Local Democracy Strengthening Project (LOD, 2009-2016) and as a result a new legal act was revised for the grant scheme to improve financial mechanisms used for the disbursement of public funds to CSOs. A national public call for CSOs, launched by the National Youth Agency, was implemented following LOD principles and rules for a more transparent mechanism in support of the youth sector in Albania. The second National Action Plan on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is being prepared in consultation with civil society actors promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda.



3.430

IN-NEED INDIVIDUALS in 24 municipalities were legally empowered on access to justice, human rights and legal aid provided by the state.



250

YOUTH across the country trained on how to address peacebuilding and hate speech issues

The new UN regional project ‘Strengthening the role of youth in promoting increased mutual understanding, constructive narrative, respect for diversity, and trust in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo’, funded by the Peace Building Fund, started implementation in 2022 to support young men and women to promote constructive and fact-based narratives and contribute to building trust, intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity, GE and social cohesion in the region. In 2022, a consultation workshop with partners was held in June, a project advisory board was established and convened in September, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) Albania and the Minister of State for Youth and Children and a national meeting was held with the participation of 100 representatives of municipal youth councils conducted on the occasion of International Youth Day, on 12 August, to support them in empowering youth-led decision making at the local level and discuss how hate speech affects their lives and relationship with peers. Some 250 youths across the country were trained in how to address peacebuilding and hate speech issues, using peer-to-peer training approach, by a Y-Peer network of trainers. In partnership with Albanian Media Institute, the implementing modality for professional development of teachers in media and information literacy (MIL) was finalized, along with MIL empowering and exchange of young journalists with peers in North Macedonia.

OUTPUT 3.3 - DATA AND EVIDENCE

SDG targets: 2.4, 4.4, 4.7, 6.6, 8.3, 8.9, 8.a, 9.1, 9.c, 10.a, 11.4, 11.7, 12.a, 12.b, 13.1, 13.3, 14.5, 15.1, 16.4, 16.7, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b, 17.18, 17.19

Key challenges on the adequacy of financing and systemic weaknesses in collecting and analysing statistical data in Albania were addressed by the UN through several initiatives undertaken in 2022. For example, the Labour Market Information Observatory was developed as a tool to enhance evidence-based policy making in the skills development and employment sector, featuring four main features: Data, Themes, Explore and Reports. MoFE is considering taking full ownership of the platform (named the Economic Development Tracker), rolling it out to other sectors and making it the primary mechanism for fetching, analysing and disseminating information and intelligence on various sectors. A dedicated Policy Research Unit

(PRU) was established in MoFE to monitor macro-economic developments and trends and to provide actionable policy recommendations. INSTAT drafted an assessment of the labour market needs in selected countries of destination and their impact on the Albanian labour force, and how labour migration from and to Albania has been affected by Covid-19. A study was carried out into the impact of migration on the structure of the labour force, complemented by population projections and leading to recommendations on skills development, including from the gender perspective. Capacity building on migration data, with specific focus on labour migration, was carried out, in cooperation with the Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA). Government is drafting an analytical report for the 2nd Gender Equality Index for Albania, increasing availability of comparable evidence and data on GE in Albania. The Ministry of Culture completed data collection and construction of culture development indicators and finalized a technical report enabling comparison with data, results and sectoral policy in other SEE countries and at the EU level. MoARD and INSTAT initiated joint work on elaboration of missing SDG indicators in the National Strategy for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries and their monitoring. Additionally, recommendations were provided for formalization of the institutional focal points and adoption of the WB-MIDEX platform for facilitation of the migration data exchange.

INSTAT has prepared (to be published) an Annual Publication of Statistics on children, adolescents and youth. Differently from previous publications, the graphical presentation of the indicators trends over the years is accompanied by summary explanations to enable data interpretation and ease of understanding. Complementary to the publication, INSTAT has prepared a panel or dashboard of at least 120 indicators (to be published). The [MoU⁷ between UNICEF and INSTAT has been signed](#) to kick off the planning process for the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), part of the [National Official Statistics Programme 2022–2026](#).⁸ The MICS data gap assessment exercise started in 2022, to feed into the decisions about the scope of the survey in Albania. Owing to the support of UNICEF, the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection (SACRP) has updated a [Platform \(dashboard\) of 58 Child-specific Indicators](#) with the latest figures for 2021.⁹ Work was initiated for mid-term monitoring of the Agenda for Children implementation, and engaged a wide range of responsible entities. Fieldwork and data collection were completed for HBSC 2022–2023, to provide regular data on health behaviour of school children (age 11, 13 and 15 years).

OUTPUT 3.4 - PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND QUALITY SERVICES

SDG targets: 5.1, 5.2, 11.3, 15.7, 16.2, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.a, 17.1, 17.17, 17.9

Improved access to public services and the quality and efficiency of their delivery to citizens and businesses was evidenced in 2022 through contributing to the establishment of digital public services national standard requirements that adhere to the best EU and international practices, supporting the transformation to e-Services and promoting the expansion of citizen-centric public service delivery based on customer-care principles. At the central level, UN partnered with the government institutions responsible for standards of service and the digital agenda and aided in policy design, institutional capacity development, and improved access and accessibility. By the end of 2022, the new national Decentralization Strategy 2023–2030 was drafted and is currently undergoing the final consultations. The 2021 annual Trust in Governance (TiG) Opinion Poll was completed, capturing public perceptions and attitudes on the trustworthiness of institutions, transparency and accountability, corruption, political influence, citizen engagement, satisfaction with public service delivery and gender and social inclusion. The fieldwork for the 2022 edition was carried out during November and December 2022 across the 61 municipalities of Albania with a nationally representative sample of 2,500 respondents, controlled for gender. At the local level, the focus was placed on consolidating and expanding the municipal one-stop-shop system, established and made operational through UNDP's STAR2 project, in 52 Albanian municipalities while its rollout to the planned 250 administrative units (AUs) was suspended as requested by government due to changing priorities shifting from desk to e-Services. Instead, the design of an exercise for assessing the digital

readiness of local governments and citizens started, with plans to implement the exercise in the field in 2023. Integrity plans were expanded to 15 additional municipalities and five line ministries as a preventive measure tackling the risk of corruption within public institutions and expanding the experience of municipal integrity planning from a pilot scale previously to about one-third of Albania's municipalities. The customer care principles expanded with delivery of public services for citizens and businesses in Permet Municipality, bringing to fourteen the total number of benefiting small and medium-size municipalities.

The Government of Albania was enabled to address threats in the areas of border control, trafficking in persons, firearms trafficking, anti-corruption and asset recovery, and countering the financing of terrorism. The enabling took place through the delivery of specialized training to the relevant law enforcement entities and through support to the criminal justice response via harmonization of the national legislation on relevant topics with international standards and existing UN tools. By end of year, adherence to and implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was promoted as an essential tool to effectively prevent or combat certain conducts involving nuclear or other radioactive material, that the states have at their disposal to strengthen their criminal justice systems. Meanwhile, government developed the Asset Recovery Roadmap, stakeholders in Albania validated the findings and recommendations that emerged from the national review and analysis of Trafficking in Persons (TiP) cases (13 from the past 5 years), aiming to map strengths and weaknesses in TiP response, from the first reporting or suspicion of potential TiP instances to adjudication in courts, and the capacities of more than 50 state and private sector professionals were strengthened.



The MoU signing of the agreement between UNICEF and INSTAT

7. www.facebook.com/unicefalbania/posts/pfbid0Fua6Dz1q34REmo2uyzDvqHQF8qzmuGM26MpTFKvM79PLLvLB13XQNVLS2RMPQ9I

8. www.instat.gov.al/media/9910/psz-2022-2026.pdf

9. <http://statistikafemijet.gov.al/#treguesit>



Implementing customer care standards in public service delivery with UNDP support

OUTPUT 3.5 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SDG targets: 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16.a, 16.b, 17.9

The UN employed its advocacy and convening role with Parliament, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and political parties around child rights, GE, non-discrimination, eradication of gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices, and invested in strengthening the capacities of the public oversight mechanisms in monitoring and generating evidence on the situation and violations of vulnerable groups. The People's Advocate is developing a new case management system to cope with the workload and reporting and enable the institution to link its work with human rights SDG indicators, expected to be finalized in early 2023. It also developed a Child Rights Impact Assessment Report related to the Covid-19 response. The Ombudsman issued several recommendations to public authorities for the protection of children in the earthquake-affected areas.

In its special role as an NHRI, it monitored and protected human rights of refugees and migrants at the border. The Group of Parliamentarians 'Friends of Children' developed a yearly action plan for advancing child rights and used international and national events and forums to raise challenges and share solutions for advancement of child rights. The group also organised two hearings to examine and call on the government to step up efforts in addressing legal and implementation gaps in response to the issue of foreign unaccompanied children in Albania, as well as for ensuring the child's right to friendly and accessible justice that provides remedies to violations of child rights. MPs conducted site visits and held dialogue with adolescent boys and girls in their constituencies. Efforts were made to establish an All Party Parliamentary Group on the Population, whose formal launching will be in 2023. An MoU with the Commissioner for Anti-Discrimination was signed with the main focus on raising awareness on the anti-discrimination law among employees in the private sector. The Human Rights Academy brought together in its 11th year 25 young people from various minority groups.

OUTPUT 3.6 - MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

SDG targets: 3.8, 5.1, 10.7, 16.2, 16.3, 16.9

Since the beginning of 2018, Albania has been a transit route for refugees and migrants traveling as part of a mix of movements towards the EU. By end-2022, the **government was being supported to enhance the processing of refugees and migrants as part of mixed movements through the expansion of current reception capacities, to better address vulnerabilities.** Government was also supported for the coordination and monitoring of the National Strategy on Migration (NSM) and Action Plan (AP) 2019–2022, with implementation and mid-term review of the NSM and AP conducted. Country-wide awareness-raising campaigns were conducted on prevention of irregular outmigration. The UN advocated to Parliament the issue of non-national unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and presented recommendations to improve UASC legislation, while SACRP was presented with best EU practices on assessment and determination

of the best interests of such children. MoARD designed a participatory people-focused local development strategy and two by-laws on registration to support LAGs in rural areas that include female returnees who want to contribute to the community for effective protection and integration. The border authorities were sensitized to international protection and supported in identifying and referring asylum seekers and persons with specific needs. The capacities of the national asylum authority was strengthened with regard to applications for refugee family reunification, while strengthened and more coordinated case handling was ensured, credited to regular stakeholder meetings.

The Registration and Temporary Accommodation Centre in Kapshtica doubled its capacity to 110 beds. More than 1,000 refugees and migrants, including women, children and adolescents, were assisted in the reception centre with psycho-social and medical services, recreational and sport activities in child-friendly spaces,

Support was provided for the relocation of 1,646 Afghan evacuees to Canada, USA and Norway



[Read the full Publication](#)



[Click to view](#)


personal and environmental hygiene, family planning, gender-responsive services (provided by 2 female staff, focusing on potential victims of domestic and sexual violence). Meanwhile, local staff increased their capacities with regard to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and protection of refugees and vulnerable people. More than 30 foreign UASC were provided with community-based and family reunification services in child-friendly emergency accommodation. Two initiatives were conducted in support of Ukrainian citizens, with a meeting held with officials from the Ukrainian Embassy for more information on the Ukrainian population in Albania, and a roundtable held with stakeholders on the functioning and benefits of the health cards system. Support was provided for the relocation of 1,646 Afghan evacuees to Canada, USA and Norway.



OUTCOME 4 GENDER RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

By 2026, gender responsive governance strengthens equality and non-discrimination, promotes women’s empowerment and human rights, and reduces violence against women and children.


Alignment with SDGs



Alignment with National Development Goals



Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas




“I Have a Dream...”, a photo project and exhibition giving voice to young women in Albania

A photographic project that gives voice to the dreams of young women from all over Albania was exhibited in Tirana on the occasion of International Women’s Day.

Renowned photographer Jutta Benzenberg partnered with UN Women in Albania to bring to attention the reality of young women who live in remote parts of the country where gender stereotypes and patriarchal norms are still dominant.

“Women and girls in these far-flung, still overwhelmingly patriarchal corners of the country, are often missing their voice. They have fewer options for education, no option to go abroad like many of their male peers, little say or choice in their own lives. But each of these girls have dreams for their own future,” said Jutta Benzenberg, who has been photographing people around Albania for over 30 years.

[READ MORE](#)

OUTCOME 4 CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



OUTPUT 4.1 - END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

SDG targets: 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 8.7, 16.1, 16.2

The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated an already existing high prevalence of violence. In 2022, UN agencies contributed to the overall goal of eliminating violence against women and children by providing support in the areas reported below.

A strengthened normative and accountability framework was developed for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Girls and Children (EVAWGC), including harmful practices, through development of a Commentary on implementation of Law no. 9669/2016 'On Measures against Domestic Violence' (amended), ratification of ILO Convention no. 190 'Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work' by the Albanian Parliament, development of policy and procedural safeguards free from any forms of violence, harassment and sexual harassment for the University of Tirane, and of a set of quality criteria for service provision by the statutory child protection workforce, which will improve central government's ability to monitor services and performances of child protection workers. Government was enabled to report on international and national commitments, including through the CEDAW review of its State Report and the monitoring of the National Gender Equality Strategy. The Albanian Audio-Visual Media Authority included a special chapter on GE and non-discrimination in the new Broadcasting Code, which establishes new standards related to gender-sensitive reporting and elimination of discrimination and protection of privacy of, inter alia, women victims of violence.

Advances with regard to evidence for EVAWGC, including harmful practices, were ensured through finalisation of the survey 'Knowledge attitudes and behaviours towards violence against children in Albania', which informed on needed interventions and the triggering of a more protective attitude towards children. An assessment report on the accessibility of shelters for survivors of violence with disability and a policy paper on the state of data collection with an intersectoral nature, specifically for women with disabilities, Roma and Egyptian women and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex+, will inform advocacy efforts in 2023. These aim at improving standards of service delivery for vulnerable groups and data collection centralized around the principle of Leaving No One Behind. An HBSC survey of 11, 13 and 15-year-olds was designed in 2022, with implementation planned for 2023, aiming to provide important information on sexual violence among these age groups and support evidence-based intervention in school settings and policy reformulation with a focus on comprehensive sexuality education and GBV. A study of gender-responsive family-friendly policies implemented by private and public

sectors was developed and disseminated during 2022. Six youth needs assessments were carried out in the AUs of Berzhite, Bulgarec, Kodovjat, Lunxheri and Velipoje, and some 151 young people were engaged in activities relating to GE, knowledge about GBV and harmful practices, especially the issue of early and child marriage.

An **improved institutional response to EVAWGC** was ensured by the end of 2022. Twenty-six Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRMs) were consolidated, serving as an institutional response to Violence Against Women (VAW) at the local level, and the data collection system Recording Violence in Albania (REVALB) was improved to register and track Domestic Violence (DV) cases at the local level. Some 335 CRM members and more than 1,300 service providers were capacitated to provide non-disruptive and accessible support services to DV survivors, including long-term socio-economic reintegration, victims of trafficking, violence and harassment in the workplace in a coordinated manner and the implementation of legislation on DV during emergencies and crisis situations. A total of 46 child protection workers had capacities developed on child risk assessment procedures, case management referral pathways and best interest assessments. Capacity building on social care response to the GBV Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) reached 55 social care providers from the CRM and the social services of Durres, Tirane and Vlore.

Initiatives towards **increasing accountability and improving the oversight role for EVAWGC** included the finalization of two studies¹⁰ on 'Violence against women in politics', one by the People's Advocate and the CPD in partnership with Albanian Parliament, unpacking the various forms of VAW in politics in the country and putting forward concrete findings and recommendations to be followed by the political parties, Parliament, CSOs and the media. The People's Advocate new case management system is being developed, enabling the initial registration and follow-up of the cases and the documentation of all actions performed, and expected to complete in early 2023. Women's organizations are better skilled to monitor policies related to GE and the elimination of VAW and to advocate more strongly for better implementation of laws and policies. The latter included CSO-led monitoring of the law on free legal aid and the law on measures against violence in family relations and other advocacy actions by members of the Monitoring Network Against Gender-Based Violence, supported by the UN.

Improved services for survivors of VAWGC was made possible by Lilium Centre's specialized integrated emergency

10. <https://albania.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/06/violence-against-women-during-elections-vawe-and-gender-bias-in-media-coverage-of-the-2021-elections-in-albania>



In the context of 16 days of Activism to end violence against women, women ambassadors met with members of the National Women Football Team

support services to thirteen cases of sexual violence and a strengthened cooperation with CRMs and CSOs for referral and rehabilitation support services. Two Regional One-Stop Centres (Barnahus model) for child survivors of sexual abuse and other severe forms of violence were established in the Regional Paediatric Hospitals of Fier and Shkoder. A SOP for One-Stop Centres for sexually and severely abused children was adopted by Instruction of the Minister of Health and Social Protection no. 546, dated 5.10.2022. Four municipalities (Berat, Diber, Korce, Kukes) prepared and integrated socio-economic reintegration plans for survivors of violence into their strategies of local social plans. More than 1,900 women survivors of violence and more than 350 children identified as at high risk of abuse were able to escape violence, benefit from psycho-social and legal support and reintegrate economically. A dedicated guide enabled the National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cybersecurity to develop capacities of more than 500 parents and caregivers in twelve cities to assist children in prevention and response to online risks and harm. Meanwhile, 1,800 children and young people improved their skills in digital literacy and online protection from abuse, exploitation and trafficking. In the areas most impacted by the 2019 earthquake, there has been increased availability of services for women victims of violence. More than 2,000 women and girls and men and boys, including survivors of DV-GBV, have more information on GBV and reporting mechanisms, have benefitted from legal assistance orientation and referral services, and received concrete

support through direct and secondary legal aid services, and were emotionally supported through face-to-face psychological services. More than 200,000 people were reached through several campaigns, including 'How to be safe and create a safe online environment for children and the youth,' the 16 days of Activism to end violence against women,¹¹ Tjetër herë me vajzë campaign, which addressed gender-biased sex selection, and Rural Women's Day, which engaged government, academia, the private sector and faith-based institutions. Over 200 women and girls from Roma community, women with disabilities and women from LGBTQI+ community accessed psychosocial counseling, free legal aid and referral to more specialized services. 80 women from marginalized communities enhanced understanding and information on protection mechanisms, by receiving smartphones equipped with the BrightSky application and digital literacy training.

In November 2022, the second phase of the UN Joint Programme on Ending Violence Against Women in Albania was signed by the UN Resident Coordinator, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Swedish Ambassador. The programme will be implemented by UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA and it will build on the results achieved during the first phase of the intervention, with a stronger focus on engaging men and boys and implementing activities at the local level.

11. <https://albania.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/06/violence-against-women-during-elections-vawe-and-gender-bias-in-media-coverage-of-the-2021-elections-in-albania>

OUTPUT 4.2 - ADDRESSING GENDER STEREOTYPES AND HARMFUL NORMS AND PRACTICES
SDG targets: 5.1, 5.3, 5.5, 5.a, 5.b, 17.17

UN's contribution in this area aimed towards **increasing the knowledge base of duty bearers on gender stereotypes and identifying key partners with the potential of reaching the highest impact in shifting social norms and stereotypes**, such as the media and youth, in addition to continued engagement of faith leaders. UN's advocacy and technical advice to government resulted in the preparation of two strategic documents: 1) National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2030, and 2) National Agenda for Child Rights, which cover normative development and its implementation, service provision, accountability of perpetrators, community engagement for social and behavioural change, and economic empowerment of girls and young women, particularly from minorities and rural areas. UN also conducted an exercise on how gender issues were addressed during the Covid-19 response, aiming to contribute to sector-wide learning on GE in emergency response and programming. The UN and Tirane Municipality formalized an MoU on Good Parenting work aiming to establish Positive Parenting courses in several community centres. Together with the private sector, UN is promoting family-friendly policies in the workplace and by the end of 2022 seven private companies had partnered the organisation through MoUs to be champion companies that promote gender-responsive family-friendly workplaces. The study Implementing Family-Friendly Policies and Gender Equality in the Public and Private

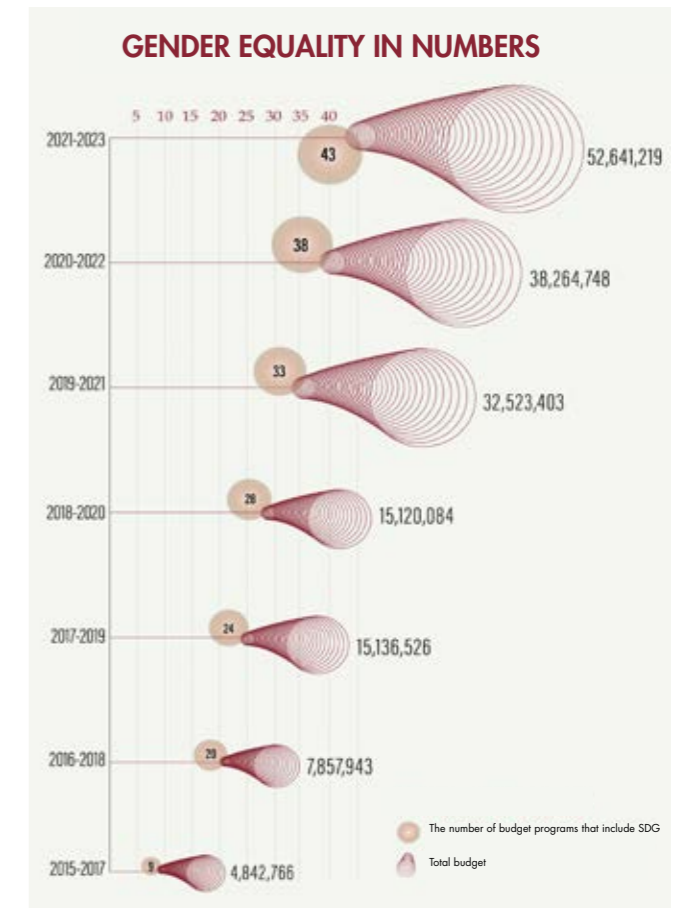
Sectors, launched in June, identified the level of knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of such policies among employees and employers in both the private and the public sectors. The findings will support evidence-based advocacy around gender-responsive family policies and identify specific areas for policy recommendations. A policy paper will be prepared based on the findings from analysis of family-friendly policies in the workplace in Albania. Eleven 'Be a Man Club' groups are active in the country acting as agents of change for GE and advocating for youth engagement in the fight against harmful practices, gender stereotypes and GBV–DV, while more efforts are put towards their expansion. A Father's Day event, the campaign *Tjetër herë me vajzë*, the 3rd edition of the Men and Boys who Inspire Forum and six events at the administration level focused on gender-biased sex selection and the addressing of GBV and other harmful practices such as child and early marriage.

Youth-led research, exploring the links between GE, social cohesion challenges and sustainable development in the Western Balkans region is being carried out. The research will engage with students, young activists, youth organizations, young researchers, the media and institutions across the region to articulate issues of toxic masculinity, GE, violence and misogyny with social cohesion challenges, building on the youth platforms and movements that have recently and publicly raised sexism and GBV as key issues of concern. The research findings will inform a regional advocacy campaign in 2023 in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia.

OUTPUT 4.3 - GENDER RESPONSIVE PLANNING AND BUDGETING
SDG targets: 5.c

The SDG database placed Albania among the 19 percent of countries that have an institutionalized method for tracking allocations towards GE. Gender-responsive Budgeting (GRB) remains one of the central approaches in the overall planning and design of the state budget with a total budget allocation for GE of nine percent in the medium-term budget plan (MTBP) 2023–2025, reflected through 47 engendered budget programmes of eleven ministries and two state institutions. These budgetary allocations address directly the needs of most vulnerable women, including fiscal incentives for women in business, social housing and increased social care services. More than 300 officials from government and other institutions had their knowledge on gender mainstreaming increased, and GRB was integrated into MTBP 2023–2025 and gender statistics as a result of intensive capacity building efforts, whose training module was developed in cooperation with ASPA and certified accordingly. Eight initiatives were undertaken by the National Gender Equality Machinery in support of budget users on engendering the budget documents as a follow up to the trainings conducted. All budget standard instructions issued by MoFE contain GRB as part of the criteria and for the first time, a Gender Budget Statement has been attached to the project budget. The 2023 Budget is open and transparent to citizens and the oversight mechanisms to the Gender-Sensitive Citizen's Budget are published annually by MoFE. In addition, the second Gender Equality Index for Albania was finalized, following the methodology developed by the European Institute for Gender Equality and shared with MoHSP for endorsement. The UN is also supporting the development of an INFF, ensuring that the framework considers the priorities of children and women.

GRB constitutes twelve percent of local public finances and the municipalities actively use gender key performance indicators in their budget planning. It is also systematically integrated into the continued capacity development of the local administration, resulting in strengthened capacities of municipalities to apply GRB within local budgets with a focus on gender mainstreaming in policies and municipal services. In 2022, six gender-sensitive initiatives came from municipal councillors to the yearly budget of municipalities, and 33 concrete initiatives were budgeted and undertaken by municipalities as a direct result of GRB training and the mentoring processes of more than 180 municipal staff. In addition, the UN proposed a series of improvements to local government MTBPs, aiming to increase rural women's access to rural services. A gender-sensitive value chain study targeting rural women in Elbasan, Leskovik and Puka was completed and two training activities improved the



skills and knowledge of 35 representatives of the agricultural extension services in Elbasan and Korce to design and deliver gender-responsive services to empower rural women and improve their access to advisory services. In addition, the municipalities of Gramsh and Gjirokaster have approved their municipal plans, which include youth gender-responsive area-based plans.

Parliament and oversight bodies have increased capacities to mainstream gender in auditing processes and practices and promote accountability for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) commitments. One National Gender Audit on Women's Economic Empowerment was conducted by the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution, the first of its kind in the country, providing key recommendations to public institutions on utilizing GRB for progressing women's economic empowerment. The report is pending final comments from audited institutions and will be made public in 2023. One GRB report from the Ombudsman – with focus on social services for vulnerable women and girls – was produced and will be made public in 2023. The UN is actively engaging with Members of Parliament to increase their capacities to advocate for more finances for children. MPs and members of the parliamentary group 'Friends of Children' addressed the annual Inter-Parliamentary Union conference in Nusa Dua, Bali, committing to advocate for increasing the budget for children.



"Tjetër herë me vajzë" was an open exhibition to address gender stereotypes

OUTPUT 4.4 - GENDER EQUALITY MECHANISMS

SDG targets: 5.a, 5.c

OUTPUT 4.4 - LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION:

SDG targets: 5.1, 5.5, 5.c

Shaping and building resilient, representative, responsive and democratic institutions based on GE and respect for human rights are central to the mandate of the government and UN agencies to promote gender-responsive and equally inclusive governance institutions. In 2022, **capacities of national gender equality mechanism and public administration were strengthened to monitor and report progress achieved towards commitments on GEWE.** Five Gender Mainstreaming Guidance Notes (on justice, anti-corruption, DRR, ICT, health and digitalization) were prepared to ensure close alignment with the EU's legal and policy framework on GE. Assessment is also being conducted into the existing bottlenecks in monitoring and reporting of SDGs 5.a.1 and 5.a.2. The UN provided technical support on gender mainstreaming to the draft NSDEI and national strategies for Youth 2022–2029 and Employment and Skills 2023–2030.

More than 28 government professionals increased their knowledge and skills on mainstreaming GE goals into strategies, policies, sectoral programmes and the EU in-

tegration process through an introductory workshop on Gender Mainstreaming and the technical roundtable 'Gender Mainstreaming Guidance in the EU accession context: DRR, climate change, and civil emergencies'. Five municipalities (Durrës, Elbasan, Gramsh, Gjirokaster and Tirane) developed and adopted costed Local Gender Action Plans (LGAPs) 2022–2024 and 160 representatives from these municipalities were enabled to prepare LGAPs through eight workshops. Meanwhile, Lushnje Municipality signed the [European Charter for Equality between women and men in local life](#). Four Gender-Sensitive Value Chain (GSVC) analyses were developed to support women's economic inclusion and empowerment in four selected municipalities (AUs of Farke, Labinot-Mal and Lunxheri, and Gramsh Municipality). With the aim of providing employment opportunities and higher income, 180 women were identified whose skills were strengthened in farming, processing, food safety, standards, artisanal products and market presentation. Partnering with CSOs, 46 young boys and girls in Durrës, Pogradec and Shkoder were engaged to promote women and girls' empowerment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through inspiring women in STEM models, aiming at addressing discrimination, violence and promoting women and girls' empowerment in non-traditional areas through the use of innovative tools in storytelling techniques using digital multimedia production.



Shaping and building resilient, representative, responsive and democratic institutions based on Gender Equality

KEY CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- 1** The prolonged Covid-19 pandemic and the recent Russia-Ukraine military conflict have increased vulnerabilities significantly, further exacerbating those felt as a result of the 2019 earthquakes. Social protection systems and mechanisms should be strengthened to increase the coverage, quality and monitoring of cash benefits and social care services, and affordable housing for vulnerable groups in line with the National Strategy for Social Protection and other social inclusion policies. Some progress has been made but further improvements can be reached regarding transparency of social funds and accessibility of public services from vulnerable groups. Albania needs to further improve health governance and overcome obstacles regarding the rights to health of vulnerable groups. Emergency and crisis preparedness, at both state and local levels, needs to be further improved. The country needs to work on further modernizing its civil protection system taking into consideration the multiple natural disasters over the past decade.
- 2** There is a need to climb the value chain and diversify further various sectors of the economy, leading to structural transformation both within and between sectors. Some areas that show promise include tourism, digitization and technology, wider participation of women and youth in all sectors of the economy and an increasing share of small and medium enterprises. Albania needs to adapt its economy to climate change. The importance of agriculture, Albania's reliance on hydroelectricity, and the country's transformation into a tourism-dependent economy leave it vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Adaptation needs to be an integral part of government policy and planning.
- 3** Albania has in recent years advanced legal provisions related to the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and foreign citizens in accordance with international standards. It should continue to strengthen measures to protect the rights of refugees and migrants, and fully implement legislation that enables the inclusion of refugees and migrants in health, education, housing and other basic services. The persistent flow of Albanians out of the country represents a long-term challenge as it is changing both the educational and age demographic composition. Challenges remain in access to the labour market for refugees and asylum seekers due to lack of documentation, recognition of language skills and academic and skills credentials.

2.2. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

In 2022, UNCT Albania implemented the first year of UNSDCF 2022–2026, which was signed on 25 October 2021 by the deputy prime minister, the UN Resident Coordinator and the heads of 19 UN agencies.¹² This new cooperation framework marks the fourth of its kind in Albania and builds upon the significant experience and built-in adjustments¹³ by the UN system in the country as one of the first Delivering as One (DaO) pilot countries. UN Albania's DaO approach is valued by government and partners as helping to consolidate and harmonise the programming, communications, advocacy, investment mapping and reporting. Lessons from the previous cooperation cycles using a DaO approach are embedded fully in the UNSDCF theory of change and configuration of the UN system, including existing mechanisms for joint work with government and other programme partners.

The new programme cycle 2022–2026 is governed by a revitalised management structure, empowering a greater involvement of government partners in the strategic oversight of UN Albania's work. This has been achieved mainly through establishment of the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) of the Cooperation Framework co-chaired by the deputy prime minister and the UN Resident Coordinator and affiliation of two line ministers, instead of one previously, as co-chairs of the Result (Outcome) Groups along with pairs of UN agency heads. The Result Groups co-chairs guided the preparation of the biennial Joint Work Plans (JWPs) 2022–2023 and were also signatories to the four outcome JWPs, as well as the preparation of the Annual Performance Review. A dedicated JEC meeting was held on 21 December and reviewed progress and provided more advice on the priorities for the year 2023.

For implementation of the UNSDCF in 2022, UN agencies, through the result groups and thematic groups, followed a robust coordination and collaboration approach to jointly implement initiatives, report on contributions and focus on a programme approach and results-based management.

12. Three UN agencies – ITU, UNDRR and UNV – that were not signatories to the UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) 2017–2021 signed the new UNSDCF and committed to delivering across its results. However, IAEA will not participate in the UNSDCF implementation.

13. For example: 1, UN programme staff and partners have worked over two full previous cycles in joint inter-agency results groups and using JWPs where working methods and performance expectations are now considered 'business as usual'; 2, A joint fund for strategic, coordinated UN system work has been in continuous operation since 2007 and is a preferred funding modality for government and offers broad appeal to the international community.

14. The Gender Theme Group (GTG) was first established in 2012 in Albania with the adoption of PoCSD 2012–2016 to facilitate gender mainstreaming into all stages of UN programming: design, implementation, review, monitoring and evaluation. Since 2018, following a recommendation from the UNDG Task Team on Gender Equality, the GTG was renamed 'Gender Thematic Results Group' (GTRG), combining the responsibilities of the group to both promote gender mainstreaming across all Results Groups and providing technical advice for the implementation of the GEWE components of the UNSDCF and the stand-alone gender outcome (C2).

15. Resident agencies participating in GTRG (11): UN RCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNOPS, UNHCR, IOM, WHO, FAO, ILO. Non-resident agencies (3): UNODC, UNEP, UNESCO.

Results Groups progress on UNSDCF implementation is reported above, in section 2.1, while there follows below a brief overview of progress from the work of the thematic groups in support of national priorities:

GENDER THEMATIC RESULTS GROUP

Gender Thematic Results Group (GTRG) was set up in 2012¹⁴ and currently comprises fourteen UN entities,¹⁵ guided by clear Terms of Reference (ToR) that outline roles and responsibilities and annual activities included in the GTRG Workplan, integrating also relevant actions to implement the UNCT Systemwide Action Plan (SWAP) Gender Equality Scorecard. The group convenes quarterly with the participation of the Resident Coordinator. Key achievements in 2022 include the following:

- **Development and adoption of a Gender Equality (GE) Screening Tool for Joint Programmes** in response to UNCT SWAP Performance Indicator 2.1., aiming to assess a Joint Programme from a GE perspective. The tool was piloted on the Joint Programme on EVAWG Phase II and will be further applied to all new Joint Programmes that will be designed at UN Albania. The tool has been showcased as a good practice among other UNCTs in the Western Balkans region, as well as at a global level and across other regions, including during Asia-Pacific Regional training on UN Coordination accountability frameworks.
- **Continuous joint advocacy efforts:** On occasion of International Women's Day, 2022, GTRG co-produced an op-ed: [Addressing the greatest development challenge of our time](#). More joint position papers and advocacy pieces will continue to be developed in 2023 in response to current political context, including the upcoming local elections.
- **Partnership with youth and civil society:** During the 16 days campaign in 2022, GTRG and other partners, including CSOs, coordinated activities and efforts through a joint calendar and organized several joint events. A total of five open lectures and interactive dialogues for public and private universities was organized that engaged approximately 200 students.



Annual Performance Review meeting with the Cooperation Framework Joint Executive Committee

- **Normative support:** Nine agencies contributed to the development of the UNCT confidential report that was submitted to CEDAW in February 2022, feeding into the CEDAW Committee's list of issues for attention of the Government of Albania, highlighting key gaps for promoting GEWE in Albania. Building on the findings in the list of issues, UN Women, in consultation with GTRG, is carrying out a legal review of key priority laws from a GE perspective. In this context, the Criminal Code (as amended) will be reviewed regarding addressing sexual violence and DV and violence in the workplace, the Family Code (as amended) will be reviewed with regard to the age of marriage, and the Civil Code (as amended) will be reviewed from a gender perspective regarding the agricultural family. Civil society has been engaged and has been leading the review and inputs will be solicited from the GTRG members. In addition, GTRG shared inputs and comments on CRC, as well as on the European Commission Annual Report for Albania.
- **Gender mainstreaming capacities of UNCT Albania:** Responding to UNCT SWAP performance indicator 5.2, and considering that the newly adopted UNSDCF 2022–2026 includes a dedicated outcome on GEWE

and gender is mainstreamed across other outcomes, UN Albania launched a Capacity and Learning Needs Assessment to identify key capacity gaps for UN personnel to mainstream GEWE in their work. Almost 60 per cent of UN personnel completed the assessment, which was the basis for developing a learning plan that will be implemented starting in 2023 with a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and data training and will last throughout implementation of the UNSDCF.

HUMAN RIGHTS

UNCT Albania continued to work closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and international human rights instruments and mechanisms, providing for example input to CESCR, CEDAW and CRC Committees during 2022. Joint UN Women-UNFPA contribution on gender equality and GBV prevention was added to the [Publication & repository of good practices](#) of UN engagement in the UPR process. The Special Rapporteur on the right to development conducted a country visit to Albania from 15 to 24 November and will present detailed report and recommendations to the Human Rights Council in September 2023. UNCT Albania also continued to collaborate with the People's Advocate (PA), including through the UN-PA

Coordination Group to strengthen partnership and synergies. In the framework of the Call to Action for Human Rights, the Gender Thematic and Results Group (GTRG) in Albania agreed to implement a project to promote the use of the Checklist on Eliminating Discriminatory Laws, aimed at reviewing a limited number of Albanian laws against the Checklist and at reinforcing pending issues highlighted in the [Concluding Observations on the fourth periodic report of Albania \(CEDAW/C/ALB/CO/4\)](#) and the ["List of issues and questions to the fifth periodic report of Albania"](#) (2022).

PSEA

UNCT Albania established this Interagency Task Force in 2021, with endorsed ToR and twelve appointed Focal Points. It works as a dedicated UNCT-wide entity committed to PSEA, under the overall strategic supervision of the UN RC. In 2022, the Task Force jointly agreed on SOPs for receiving, recording and processing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) complaints and designed to guide and define steps and measures to be taken when there is a suspected or alleged SEA case committed by a humanitarian or development staff working for or on behalf of the UN in Albania. It also developed a flyer as awareness-raising material. The Task Force holds regular meetings and submitted the 2023 UNCT Action Plan on PSEA to the Office of the Special Coordinator on improving the UN response to sexual exploitation and abuse.

DISABILITY INCLUSION

Following preparation of an Action Plan for advancing disability inclusion at the country-level, UNCT Albania received funding and implemented a range of activities in line with the indicators of the UNCT Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion (successfully submitted both in 2021 and 2022). An experiential dinner was organised in partnership with Down Syndrome Albania to increase understanding among UN Albania staff members on barriers faced by PwD and raise awareness on disability inclusion.

YOUTH

The UN Youth Advisory Group, established in December 2021, continued to be actively involved in the work of UN Albania, including, e.g., in the context of Tirane European Youth Capital and as part of the UN Week (24–30 October). In April 2022, a UN Albania Youth Task Force was established to a) improve the effectiveness of the UN work with youth in the country, b) encourage synergies and coordination in UN engagement with youth partners, and

(c) serve as an internal peer-to-peer exchange and information-sharing platform on UN work with youth. This Task Force has endorsed ToR and includes twelve Focal Points from UNCT Albania. It works closely with the UN Youth Advisory Group, UN Youth Delegates, the UN Association and bilateral UN agencies' youth groups.

COMMUNICATION

Communication actions included the support to fight misinformation in the context of Covid-19 and further, amplifying voices of the most vulnerable, unrepresented and underrepresented. The highlights of the year were the [United Nations Week in Albania #UNWeekAlbania2022](#), a large-scale effort of all UN entities in the country in cooperation with the government, within the remit of the International Week of Culture in Albania and the traditional [#16DaysofActivism against gender-based violence](#).

Designed to reach a wider audience outside Tirane, [UN Week 2022](#) brought the organisation closer to the communities across Albania, visiting Durrës, Permet and Pukë. With a clear set of objectives and a focus on 'We the Peoples', as enshrined in the UN Charter, the UN Week 2022 promoted UN values at large, while also showcasing the important role of the country as a member of the UN and currently as a non-permanent member of UN Security Council. It echoed the call to accelerate action for the SDGs while demonstrating concrete actions and results of the UN work in Albania. With a massive display of a 999 peoples' portraits exhibition in Tirane ([#WeThePeoplesExpo](#)) and in the visited municipalities, some vibrant concerts and UN fairs in the cities achieved excellent visibility with an estimated 500,000 people engaged from all across Albania who had the chance to see at least one visibility item during UN Week.

Other achievements of communications during 2022 include [cooperation with the private sector to boost SDG awareness](#), adopting a five-year joint communications strategy aligned with UNSDCF 2022–26, and developing the [Albanian edition of the UNCT website](#). The UN's social media presence is active with a steady 20 percent, or more, organic growth of audiences across the channels. It continues to reach out to its development partners and general public through the [Delivering for Development newsletter](#) and piloting an easy-to-read digital format [Annual Progress Report accessible through the UNCT website](#). The UN also ran successful visibility campaigns on [addressing the issue of mental health among young people](#), played an important role in running youth engagement actions as part of [Tirane European Youth Capital 2022](#) and worked jointly with MoTE on a [targeted campaign to reduce use of plastic bags](#).



UN Week in Albania was a week of events around the country, bringing closer the organisation's work to communities

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Business Operations Strategy has been a lively forum and platform for ongoing and productive cooperation amongst Operations Management Team (OMT) members and working groups, the UN RC Office and UNCT throughout 2022. The number of BOS participating agencies increased to 8 with the joining of UNOPS in several common services. Key priorities include completion of the 2021 Business Operations Strategy annual review and implementation of the Disability Inclusion initiative. The annual review process reinstated the good quality of common services provided, shown evidently by the good average scoring of key performance indicators by all participating agencies. Following the solid and long-standing experience in establishing the Long-term Agreements (LTAs), OMT worked jointly to finalise a few solicitation processes for several common services and by the end of the year, the UN agencies in Albania had benefited from ten renewed LTAs, bringing the total number to 21 for thirteen common service areas, achieving an estimated cost avoidance of USD 223,000 for a volume of expenditures for LTAs use of USD 3.2 million. UN agencies also benefited from common medical services and common premises services through renewal of two MoUs. Green IT initiatives were identified from the ICT working group focused on environmentally certified com-



panies for ICT equipment disposal and improvement and simplification of electronic equipment disposal process. OMT scaled up its work in promoting disability inclusion in operations, with contribution to UN House physical accessibility assessment, establishment of a database for young talented individuals with disabilities, training of OMT members and the Procurement Working group on disability inclusion procurement and formulation of disability inclusion guidelines for the Procurement of Goods and Services by UN Agencies in Albania.

2.3. Financial overview and resource mobilisation

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2022

UNSDCF for 2022 had an available budget of USD 94 million, with core resources of USD 6 million (6%) and mobilised resources of USD 88 million (94%). The large proportion of non-core resources highlights the impor-

tance of local resource mobilisation. By year end, the programme had reached a delivery rate of 62 percent, with the balance carried over into 2023. Annex B presents the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund, its role in UN-SDCF implementation and progress with associated joint programmes.

Figure 1. Budget and delivery (USD), January to December 2022



Outcome 1 and Outputs 1.2 and 1.4 lead in terms of budgetary contributions, focusing on implementing school reconstruction following the earthquakes and Covid-19 support initiatives.

Figure 2. Outcome delivery (USD million), 2021

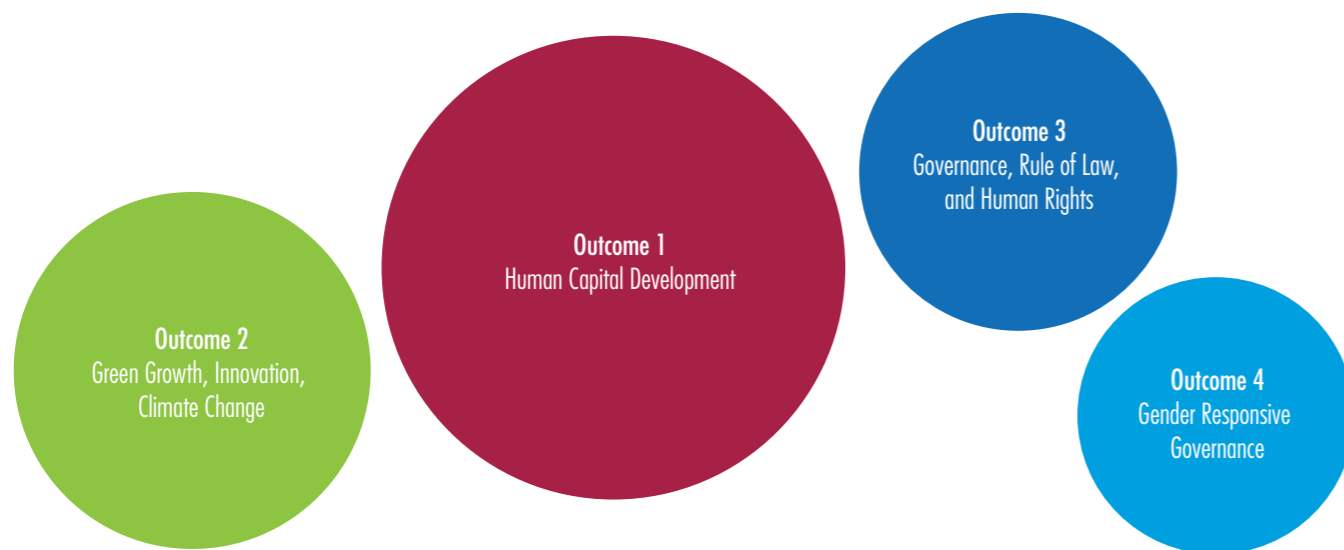


Figure 3. Output delivery (USD million), 2021

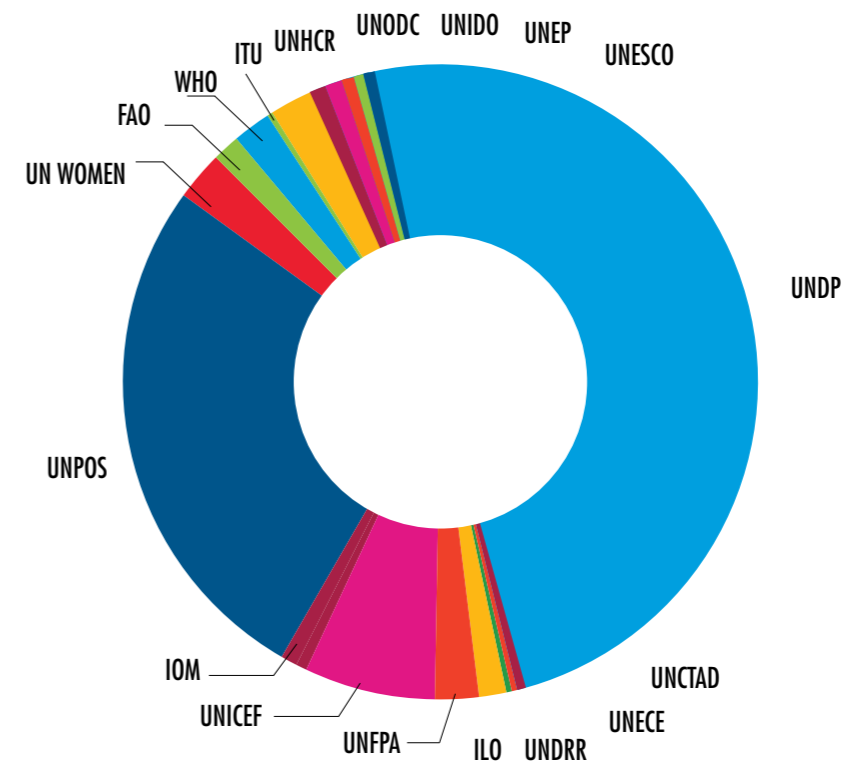
Regarding implementation of Joint Projects, out of the nine projects under implementation in 2022, two are implemented under Outcome 1, three under Outcome 2 and one each under Outcome 3 and Outcome 4.



In terms of UN agencies contribution to the Cooperation Framework, UNDP weighs in at 52 percent of the 2022 budget, followed by UNOPS at 26 percent and UNICEF,

7 percent, while the other UN agencies contribute two percent or less.

Figure 4. UN Agencies Contributions to the Cooperation Framework, 2022





3 | UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

The year 2023 will be the second in the UNSDCF 2022–2026 implementation. The activities to be implemented this year are included in the JWPs 2022–2023 that are formulated and signed by contributing UN agencies and line ministers co-chairing each Outcome.

Having in place the new NSDEI 2022–2030, the UN will ensure close alignment with government priorities. The aim of this alignment is to reduce vulnerability and exclusion through sustaining focus on domestic social agenda: health, education, GE and social welfare policy and programmes. Key drivers of vulnerability will be addressed through preparation of several deep dives on priority issues, aiming to formulate area-specific plans and strategies, offering technical support for evidence-based policymaking, implementation and service delivery, increasing capacities at central and local levels, with a focus on leaving no one behind and reaching those farthest behind first. UN will support the Census and MICS preparations, the results from which will shape future policy development and help better tailor projects and programmes to the needs of the Albanian population. To ensure all the above, the UN will engage in stronger collaboration with government, increase synergies in the priority areas and at the Outcome and target areas and increase visibility of the results.

Government will be supported in the reinstatement of the high-level government SDG Committee and the preparation of the SDG Roadmap for localizing the SDGs. To reach SDG targets under the pressure of an uncertain global environment, UN will support the finalization of the first INFF for Albania, laying out a financing strategy for raising resources, managing risks and achieving sustainable development priorities. Work will continue with civil society, academia and Parliament to strengthen their engagement in SDGs and build capacities of INSTAT and line ministries on M&E to improve data availability and quality in the country.

On the country's efforts towards EU accession, the UN will support Albania to meet key benchmarks for accession and address major gaps in legal frameworks, policies and implementation, also through diaspora engagement and contribution.

Being dependent on funding from partners, and in a contracting donor environment, the UN will prepare a Resource Mobilization Strategy to enhance joint resource mobilization efforts and opportunities for collaboration. The Albania SDG Acceleration Fund will be accentuated as a key vehicle to support resource mobilization for the joint programming of UNSDCF.

Efforts will be vested in enhancing the role of the private sector in green economy policy and programming and developments in digital space, as well as of young people. Consultations and engagement with the UNCT Youth Advisory Group and the UNCT Youth Task Force will be frequent, including stronger involvement of the newly established position of Minister of State for Youth and Children, aiming to contribute to implementing the UN Youth Strategy 2030 and the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, particularly in areas where further work is required.

During 2023, UNCT will continue to implement its Business Operations Strategy, promoting common business operations, gender balance in staffing, and disability inclusion, as well as its plan on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Acceleration across the UN system in the sub-region will take place to enable joint work and the sharing of knowledge and practices, while the production, sharing and use of quality data will continue. Taking into consideration the good experience of the UN Peacebuilding Fund implementation support, work will continue at advancing peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in the region.

ANNEXES

ANNEX A: UN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

UN supported Albania's health system to prepare for, prevent, detect and respond effectively to health emergencies, including the Covid-19 pandemic, at the national and local levels, while sustaining quality and inclusive health services and leveraging relevant national and international capacities, as reported below.

A. COVID-19 RESPONSE, PROVIDING SUPPORT IN:

1. **Planning, financing and monitoring (refer to the budget table and indicators under output 1.4)**
2. **Risk communication, community engagement (RCCE), through undertaking the following:**

➤ A communication campaign Forconi Vetën, Mbrojtë Tjerët (Strengthen Yourself, Protect Others) was implemented during 2022 aiming at promoting behaviours for prevention of the spread of Covid-19 including vaccination. A combination of communication channels was used, including social media, mass media, print materials, interpersonal communication activities involving mainly schoolchildren and teachers, and outdoor promotion (billboards, city lights). Twelve short videos were produced and published on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram with each video having receiving an average of 35,000 views and reaching 75,000 people, and with each including sign language. Three TV spots, themed on misinformation, vaccination and hygiene behaviours were produced and aired on two national TV channels and livestream applications reached some five million views. 'Message in a Bubble' events involved 850 children (495 girls and 355 boys) in six schools (in Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Korce, Tirane, Vlore) to spread important messages on Covid-19 prevention through fun activities. Diversified communication channels with messages tailored to the target group, ensured children and their families were reached and communication fatigue around Covid 19 issues avoided. Some 511,250 people were reached through mass and social media with RCCE messaging. A total of 218 healthcare providers in seven target regions (Berat, Fier, Korce,

Kukes, Lezhe, Shkoder, Tirane), had capacities developed to communicate the importance of Covid-19 vaccination and address misconceptions and rumours through a mix of online and face-to-face professional development activities.

- A team of vaccination and communication experts prepared a chatbot related to vaccination issues. Based on available information for Covid-19 from trusted sources – WHO, CDC, UNICEF and ECDC – a set of most frequently asked questions was prepared and standard answers agreed upon. The chatbot session is located on the IPH website and has open access for all users.
- A total of 134 social administrators in three municipalities were trained in Covid-19 risks and prevention, vaccine benefits and how to communicate this information to the families, reaching 1,200 individuals with information on how to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and how to contact their health provider for administration of the Covid-19 vaccine.
- A communication campaign was undertaken in support of MoHSP, for boosting Covid-19 and influenza vaccination (December 2022–January 2023). Communication materials included one video graphic, one video spot, one video message, five myths and facts, 1,000 copies of poster 1, 1,000 of poster 2, five City Light Posters, eight infographics, 250 badges and 200 T-shirts (branded).
- Support in community engagement for increasing Covid-19 vaccine acceptance and uptake through the Health Caravan Project was provided in collaboration with the Albanian Red Cross and MoHSP. There was participation and engagement of twelve municipalities: Bathore (Tirane), Dimal, Divjaka, Gramsh, Korce, Librazhd, Maliq, Paskuqan, Poshnje (Berat), Shijak, Sukth (Durres) and Vau i Dejes. More than 3,000 people were reached and 247 people received on-site the

Covid-19 vaccine, with many others showing up in the vaccination centres in the respective localities in the days following the Caravan for Health.

- CSOs were engaged for community commitment to Covid-19 prevention (2 CSOs empowered).
- Covid-19 vaccination and other preventive measures were promoted through responsible journalism. A network of media reporters received a training cascade, attended by 15 reporters from several national public and private influential media. Some 134 journalism students received IDM sessions at five journalism faculties (public and private universities). Three TV media stories were covered by health reporters on promoting Covid-19 vaccination, and two video-messages on promoting the rules of responsible journalism during pandemics were made available online (links below).
- Risk communication and protection of people with diabetes from Covid-19 and other respiratory infections included promotion of a comprehensive 'Do it all!' approach for controlling Covid-19 during World Diabetes Day 2022, as part of diabetes education, for which 1,500 persons with diabetes were reached.
- Communication for Covid-19 vaccination and public health and social measures (PHSMs) during UN Week were covered at:

<https://albania.un.org/en/207433-united-nations-week-albania>

www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=571934454737326&set=pcb.571935848070520

3. **Surveillance, epidemiological investigation, contact tracing and adjustment of public health and social measures included the following:**

- Development of a national framework for joint investigation and response to outbreaks of zoonotic diseases
- Operationalization of a Laboratory Management Information System (LMIS) for the IPH laboratories within the framework of strengthening the infectious diseases surveillance system, including for Covid-19, and laboratory management.

4. **Laboratories and diagnostics, included the following:**

- Assessment of the functionality of the current public health laboratory network supporting actions to strengthen their capacities
- Development of SOPs for the IPH Laboratory Reception Centre in the framework of the LMIS
- Technical service for the QuantStudio 5 Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction system
- Procurement of one fully automated and integrated system (Cobas 5800).

5. **Infection prevention and control, and protection of the health workforce, included the following:**

- Preparation of an analysis of the regulatory framework for enforcement of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) standards in healthcare settings
- Preparation of job descriptions for the IPC focal points in the regional health service departments, with 40 accredited training sessions organized in seven regions reaching some 736 health personnel (165 doctors, 571 nurses; 662 females and 74 males).
- Sustainable improvement of IPC practices in 30 health centres in seven districts, in partnership with the Faculty of Medicine, MoHSP, IPH and the National Operator of Health Services.
- Some 1,600 healthcare workers in 82 primary healthcare centres in Albania reached with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies
- To ensure Covid prevention measures are practised, 15,000 hygiene kits were distributed to vulnerable communities in seven counties, in close collaboration with local government authorities
- Pilot application of a methodology on how to assess equity of access to water and sanitation in the context of Covid-19 and other water-related epidemics launched; this will be the first step in follow-up action, including the development of equity-sensitive policy frameworks.

6. **Case management, clinical operations and therapeutics, included the following:**

- Training in post-Covid management, including effects of the disease and rehabilitation of patients; primary healthcare included ten training sessions in nine counties, with 245 participants; hospital care included ten training sessions in nine counties (Berat, Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Kukes, Lezhe, Shkoder, Tirane, Vlore) with 298 participants including health professionals from regional hos-

pitals and Mother Teresa UHC in Tirane, from a range of specializations (infectious disease, pulmonology, ICU, or Emergency Unit, paediatrics, radiology, obstetrics, cardiology, neurology, nephrology, allergies, ophthalmology, psychiatry, endocrinology, physiotherapy and psycho-social medicine).

7. Operational support and logistics, and supply chains, included the following:

- distribution and installation of cold chain equipment in primary healthcare centres with 103 refrigerators
- support for safe transportation and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, with provision and installation of safety items in two refrigerated vehicles
- procurement of 300 pulse oximeters
- procurement of laboratory Covid-19 diagnostic kits, reagents and other materials, in addition to systems for molecular diagnostics
- procurement of 100,000 Antigen-detecting rapid diagnostic tests (Ag-RDTs) in support of MoHSP for strengthening Covid-19 primary case detection and contact tracing during outbreak investigations, and to monitor trends of disease incidence in communities
- procurement of IT equipment.

8. Maintaining essential health services and systems, included the following:

- a mental health meeting in the Western Balkans 'Building back better after Covid-19 Pandemic and transforming mental health', Tirane, 24–25 October 2022
- consultancy service for scaling up the WHO technical assistance to Albania for mental health
- Covid-19 testing and vaccination services, integrated into a package of Covid-19-related PHC services, for people affected by humanitarian emergencies (refugees, migrants, evacuees from Afghanistan and other countries), through the following:
 - 535 medical visits conducted by an appointed physician
 - 270 persons of concern (PoC) provided with initial medical check-up
 - 35 PoC infected with Covid-19 all of whom were supported with testing and medication
 - 150 PoC provided with PHC services and follow-up
 - 608 awareness messages sent, and thirteen

informative sessions held for all beneficiaries, mostly face-to-face discussions and through video calls, concerning Covid-19 vaccination, personal hygiene, environmental hygiene, family planning, sexual transmitted diseases, child abuse, among others. The awareness companion was held for 244 beneficiaries of whom 166 individuals were from different nationalities and 79 Ukrainians.

- 145 prescriptions issued for all medications not on the reimbursement list and those who due to unclear status (asylum seekers) do not have access to a family doctor
- 106 medical examinations facilitated in public clinics and, where inappropriate, in private clinics
- 6 packages with emergency medications for six Ukrainian families prepared and delivered during this period
- 3,800 information leaflets sent for dissemination at the Border and Migration Police of Tirane, in Durres, Sarande and Vlore, and to all PoC contacted during this period
- 244 individuals assisted at least once with psychological support, including 166 individuals of various nationalities and 78 Ukrainians
- 779 psychological sessions and periodically contacts provided to the PoC in need of the service
- 4 roundtables performed during the reporting period
- 13 meetings held with representatives of the hospital and public clinics of Durres, Sarande, Tirane and Vlore regarding emergencies, visits to family doctors, specialists, hospitalizations and the vaccination process for PoC
- 8 meetings held with MoES representatives in Durres, Sarande, Tirane and Vlore regarding registration in public schools and kindergartens for Ukrainian children.

9. Vaccination

- post-introduction evaluation of Covid-19 vaccination in Albania
- National Immunization Technical Advisory Committee work supported through development of four policy briefs with recommendations
- development of Covid-19 Immunization and Vaccine Deployment Plan 2022–2023
- implementation of a Vaccine Effectiveness Study in Albania (ongoing), a prospective cohort study

to evaluate primary series vaccine effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2 infection among healthcare workers in three hospitals in Albania, with 1,504 participants enrolled in the study

- support for vaccinations services delivery, with seven mobile teams for provision of the delivery to hard-to-reach or disadvantaged communities, such as people in remote areas; at the national level, 19,872 doses of Covid-19 vaccines administered: 2,251 first doses, 2,675 second doses, 9,135 third doses and 5,811 fourth doses, with 4,843 patients with chronic disease vaccinated
- improved access of refugees, migrants and evacuees to Covid-19 vaccination services.
- Covid-19 awareness-raising campaign and vaccination among at-risk populations and youth in Albania 'Let's Talk about Vaccines'
- facilitation of Covid-19 and influenza vaccination of diabetic patients and their family members (within the target population), through care coordinators, dedicated transportation for disabled persons, people living in remote areas, etc. (ongoing); target: at least 500 individuals and their families assisted for vaccination with the booster doses; revised or updated guidance for risk communication, vaccination and care of people belonging to high risk groups, including those with diabetes; general practitioners and vaccinators in PHC trained with the latest guidance and in SOPs (12 workshops)
- as a result of UN agencies' advocacy efforts with the Albanian government, people in need of international protection residing in Albania, such as refugees and migrants, were included in the Albanian Covid-19 vaccination plan.

B. BUILDING BACK BETTER AND PREPARING FOR FUTURE EMERGENCIES, PROVIDING SUPPORT IN:

1. Technical support to the revision of Emergency Preparedness and Operational Plans, with the following:

- development of a National Framework for joint investigation and response to outbreaks of zoonotic disease
- development of a Mother Tereza UHC Emergency Operational Plan for all hazards
- conducting of a national risk assessment and profiling for all hazards using the WHO-STAR tool

- inclusion of Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexually Reproductive Health (SRH) into the SRHR National Action Plan 2022–2030
- strengthening of Vaccines Cold Chain management capacities: tools for conducting Cold Chain Assessments developed (with user's guide, reporting and monitoring forms, training materials); new module for cold chain inventory developed and integrated into the Immunization Information System; local Public Health Units in districts coached for producing Cold Chain Assessment Reports at the level of their jurisdiction; around 172 health personnel trained in cold chain assessment; assessment of the infrastructure, distribution, storage and management capacities conducted (cold chain) for all 432 PHC facilities
- development of immunization programme management guideline.

2. Infrastructure, with the following:

- vaccination cold chain: three cold rooms installed in Elbasan, Lushnje and Rreshen
- IT equipment for immunization (40 laptops)
- IT equipment for the Laboratory Information System at IPH (30 desktop computers)
- IT equipment for IPC at IPH (25 desktop computers, three laptops, two printers)
- assessment, detailed design, planning and management or supervision of civil works for the renovation of Infectious Disease Clinic in Mother Teresa Hospital. Renovation doubled ICU capacity to eight beds, while patient wards will accommodate 87 high-care beds for in-patient treatment of infectious disease, while emergency care department can provide space for up to 16 beds
- detailed design and master plan for IPH, including identification of possible physical interventions such as construction of new laboratory building, renovation of existing building and provision of essential laboratory equipment and capacity building
- installation of 15 fixed imaging equipment in radiology rooms at health clinics and hospitals around Albania and twelve mobile imaging equipment, comprising one angiography unit, four computerised tomography scanners, ten fixed digital X-rays, eight mobile digital X-rays and four general purpose ultrasound and a total of 28 ambulances; training has been provided to relevant medical staff in the use of the equipment.

ANNEX B: ALBANIA SDG ACCELERATION FUND AND ASSOCIATED JOINT PROGRAMMES

Albania has been a Delivering as One country since the start of its pilot phase in 2007 and has completed three One Programme cycles from 2007 to 2021. The year 2022 saw the start of implementation of the Government of Albania–United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022–2026, signed on 25 October 2021 by the Deputy Prime Minister, the UN Resident Coordinator and the heads of 19 UN agencies.

In response to the 2030 Agenda call for integrated approaches across multiple sectors and goals, as well as collective action at all levels in order to achieve the SDGs, the joint Government of Albania and UN development cooperation funding mechanism – SDG Acceleration Fund – was extended to cover the 2017-2021 programming cycle¹⁶ to support integrated and multi-dimensional sustainable development activities for achievement of the SDGs. The Fund is the re-branded mechanism of the former One UN Coherence Fund, a core element of the Delivering as One Approach established in 2007 with the first UN One Programme in Albania, and operates in full respect of human rights principles, promoting GEWE as of fundamental importance with multiplier effect for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development as required by UN General Assembly Resolution 71/243.¹⁷

The objective of the SDG Acceleration Fund is to support integrated and coherent resource mobilization, allocation and disbursement – from the governments of UN member states, inter-governmental or non-governmental organisations, or private sources – to promote development and implementation of integrated activities to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in the priority areas outlined in the NSDEI and the UN One Programme being implemented in Albania.

The ToR for the SDG Acceleration Fund, which set out the modus operandum and the responsibilities of the Government of Albania and the UN in Albania, as well as the Development Partners contributing towards the Fund's implementation, were approved by the One Programme JEC on 6 June 2018, co-signed by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator.

The JEC,¹⁸ in its role as overseer of the overall contribution of the UN to Albania's development via the One Programme, decides on specific allocations of resources from the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. The allocation decisions are based on the relevant priority activities, including respective budgets and implementation partners, set out in the cooperation frameworks and government strategies in place.

On behalf of the UN in Albania, accountability lies with the UN RC for overall management of the Fund, administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in New York, as Administrative Agent, with the UN RC Office serving as Secretariat.

All actions of the UN in Albania are organized through four Outcome workplans, corresponding to the four Outcomes of the One Programme. Actions financed by the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund are included in these workplans, which are prepared jointly with the government counterparts and signed by the UN RC, relevant line ministers, UN heads of agencies, who co-chair the Outcomes, and all contributing UN agencies. Government has a critical role in the discussion of priorities, monitoring of progress and mid-course adjustment.

Core reporting is provided through the annual, joint UN Progress Report against the One Programme. On a case-by-case basis, specific joint projects within the SDG Acceleration Fund may establish Steering Committees and agree to more detailed supplementary reporting, as agreed by the parties involved.

In 2021, phase II of the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund was established to accompany UNSDCF 2022–2026 implementation, with an MoU signed in July 2021, while the current Fund's closure date was extended to 31 December 2023, with JEC minutes of 11 October 2021, to allow for finalisation of the ongoing projects related mostly to gender acquis implementation and earthquake recovery response. The Albania SDG Acceleration Fund, both phase I and phase II, is seen as an enabler to streamline cooperation between donors with multiple UN agencies in an integrated way and offer a way for smaller contributors to participate in a larger project, thus leveraging the development impacts. For the past 15 years, contributions to the Fund reached USD 70 million by the end of 2022, 88 percent of which are contributions to phase I of the Fund. The deposits made from 2007 to 2022 is presented in Chart 1.

In 2022, Phase II of the Fund mobilized USD 3.4 million from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), while Phase I mobilized USD 0.4 million from the EU and Sida.

Fifteen contributors or partners enlisted their support to Albania's development priorities through the Fund during 2007–2022, as presented in Chart 2.

Until the end of 2022, five joint projects (joint output work) continued to be implemented with support from the Fund, both phase I and II, ensuring strengthened UN coherence, coordination and collaboration in Albania.

Chart 1: Deposits (USD) for the period 2007–2022

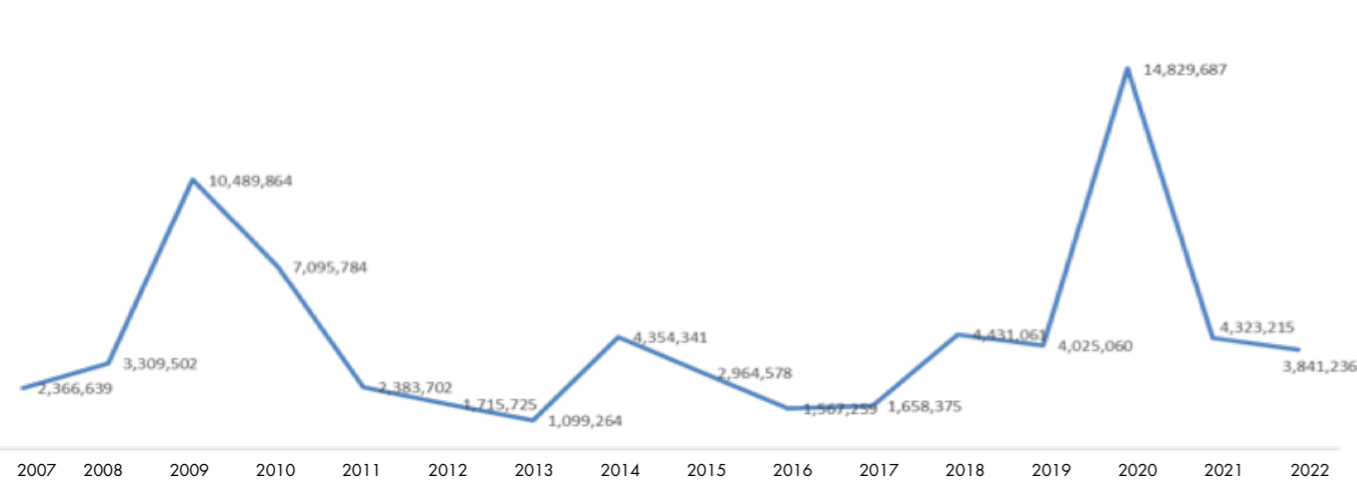
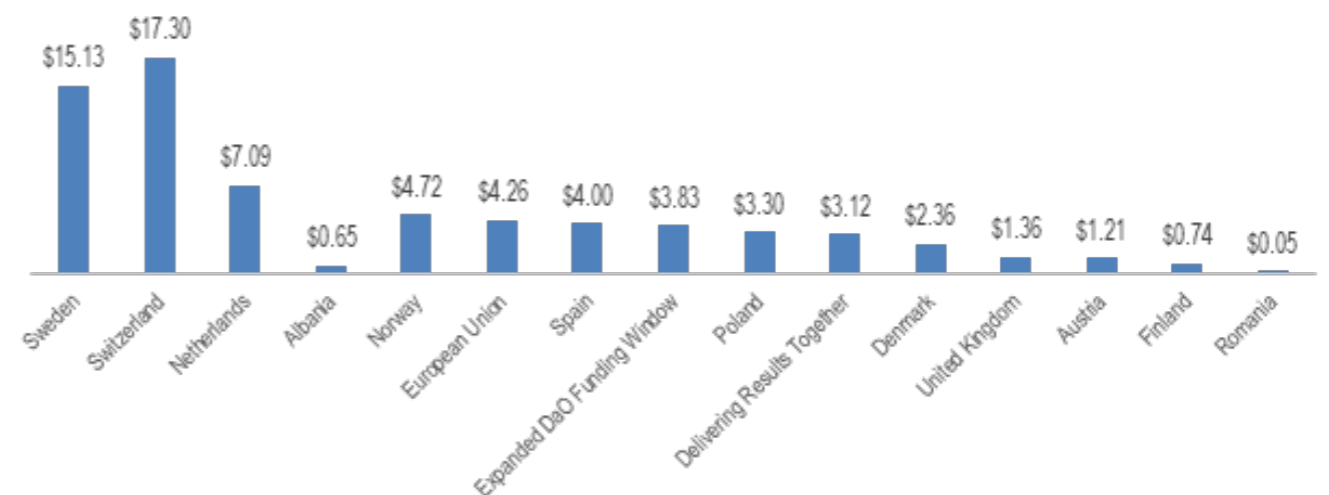


Chart 2: Deposits (USD) for the period 2007–2022 by contributing partner



16. The Fund was extended until 31 December 2023 to cover programmes approved under the 2017-2021 programming cycle.

17. Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

18. The JEC is co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator (and composed of Government and the UN Country Team).

The following section presents the details of the joint projects' main results for the year, focusing on significant highlights rather than providing an exhaustive list of results.

In December 2022, the SAA with Sweden was signed for a new End Violence against Women phase II project to be implemented in Albania by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA starting in 2023. The Sweden contribution is under Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II.

| Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase I Projects | Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II Projects |
|--|---|
| End Violence against Women in Albania (EVAWIA) implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA | Leave No One Behind (LNOB) phase II implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA |
| EU for Gender Equality in Albania – Implementation of the EU GE acquis implemented by UN Women and UNFPA | Business Partnerships & Solutions for SDGs implemented by UNDP, ILO, FAO and UNIDO |
| Earthquake response implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, FAO | EVAWIA Phase II implemented by UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA; to start in 2023 |

ALBANIA SDG ACCELERATION FUND PHASE I

EVAWIA

Outcome 4—Gender-Responsive Governance

EVAWIA, a UN Joint Programme (UNJP), was a response to the government's efforts to address VAW. The programme, financed by Sida was implemented from January 2019 to June 2022 (including an approved no-cost extension). It underwent an external final [evaluation](#), which assessed all aspects of the interventions, outcome and output results and the resources allocated in relation to the programme's results. The evaluation was undertaken through implementation of a mix-methods approach across all six Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development–Development Assistance Committee evaluation criteria: relevance, coherence, impact, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. Human rights and GE dimensions were also analysed within the criteria.

During 2022, its last year of implementation, steady and sustained progress was marked towards achievement of the outcomes and overall goal. The concrete results achieved focus mainly on the following:

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

- Development of a commentary on implementation of Law no. 9669/2016 'On Measures against Domestic Violence' (amended).
- Development of a policy and procedural safeguards free from any forms of violence, harassment and sexual harassment for University of Tirane.
- Approval of multi-sectoral response to GBV SOPs

for healthcare psycho-social care responses and GBV in emergencies, including multi-sectoral response to GBV essential guidelines.

- Government was enabled to report on international and national commitments, e.g. national review to CEDAW Committee and monitoring of national GE Strategy.
- Audio-visual Media Authority included a special chapter on GE and non-discrimination in the new Broadcasting Code, which establishes new standards for gender-sensitive reporting and elimination of discrimination and protection of privacy of, inter alia, women victims of violence.

Improved institutional response to EVAWG:

- 26 CRMs were consolidated with UNDP support serving as institutional response to VAW at the local level, and an improved data collection system (REVALB) on registering and tracking DV cases at the local level, with 529 DV cases recorded in REVALB and 481 cases benefiting from multiple services provided through supported CRMs.

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

- A total of 335 members of CRMs and service providers were capacitated to provide services to DV survivors through on-site and online mentoring and expertise to manage effectively DV–GBV cases and ensure undisruptive and accessible support services.

- One regional forum of the Local Coordinator against Domestic Violence network, with 58 participants from CRMs across the country, was organized to increase capacities for effective cooperation among the responsible institutions to manage DV cases as per the latest approved CDM on CRM functionality and capitalize on good practices and lessons learnt on local DV case management.
- Capacity building of social services was undertaken in seven municipalities and with healthcare providers in eleven municipalities on the approved GBV-related SOPs.
- Some 147 service providers (health, police, social) in six municipalities had capacities strengthened to identify, refer and manage cases of DV in a coordinated manner, with 74 social services staff and police enabled to identify and refer cases of sexual violence.

Increased accountability and improved oversight role to EVAWG:

- People's Advocate and CPD with UNDP support launched in partnership with Parliament the study on VAW in politics.

Improved services for survivors of VAWG:

- Lilium Centre provided specialized integrated emergency support services to 37 cases (3 women, 30 girls, 4 boys) of sexual violence and strengthened cooperation with CRMs and CSOs for referral and rehabilitation support services.
- Four municipalities (Berat, Diber, Korce and Kukes) were enabled to prepare and integrate socio-economic reintegration plans for survivors of violence in their strategies of local social plans, benefiting 74 women and 132 children for them to escape violence and reintegrate economically.
- More than 1,000 women survivors of violence accessed psycho-social counselling and support, while 80 women from disadvantaged groups built technology literacy through UN Women and Vodafone's donation of smart phones and training in use of the Bright Sky App to report violence.
- Women, girls, men and boys and CSOs working on GB-VAW collectively engaged in prevention that builds the foundation for social change in eliminating GB-VAW.
- The first-ever FEM Fest was celebrated during 8th March 2022 promoting women's empowerment and leadership.

EU for Gender Equality in Albania: Implementation of the EU Gender Equality acquis (EU4GE)

The UN Joint Programme 'EU for Gender Equality in Albania: Implementation of the EU Gender Equality acquis' (EU4GE), financed by the EU through the SDG Acceleration Fund for Albania, is being implemented by UN Women and UNFPA. The two-year intervention reflects the EU's commitment to GE as a principle underpinning its external relations within the framework of Albania's accession to the EU and with a focus on the negotiation process. With the overall goal of enhancing the transposition of the EU GE acquis and resulting in positive socio-economic development outcomes for women and men, girls and boys in Albania, the programme will provide support at the central level and at local government and the service unit level. At the central level it will support the government in the transposition of EU Directives, global norms on GE and the empowerment of all women and girls, so that they become consistently reflected in sector reforms, strategies and post-Covid-19 recovery programmes. At the local level it will support selected municipalities in performing their functions with regard to gender and socially responsive post-Covid-19 recovery, women's and girls' rights, women's economic resilience, and empowerment and the social inclusion of adolescent girls and boys.

Under Output 1: In line with EU directives and global norms and standards on GE and the empowerment of women and girls, sector reforms, strategies, post-Covid-19 recovery and development programmes, plans are designed consistently with gender sensitivity in mind. Five gender mainstreaming guidance notes (justice, anti-corruption, DRR, health, ICT and digitalization) were prepared to ensure that future policy, planning and programming documents align more closely with the EU legal and policy framework on GE. More than 20 representatives from line ministries increased their knowledge and skills by participating in the technical roundtable 'Gender Mainstreaming Guidance in the EU accession context: disaster risk reduction, climate change, and civil emergencies', which highlighted the importance of mainstreaming GE goals into strategies, policies and sectoral programmes on DRR, climate change and civil emergencies, as well as into the EU integration process. Technical support on gender mainstreaming was provided to the overall NSDEI 2022–2030 and specifically to four thematic areas: Agriculture and Rural Development, Foreign Policy and EU Integration, Social Protection and Justice, and Anti-Corruption. In addition, inputs were provided to the draft National Strategy for Youth 2022–2029 and the National Strategy on Employment and Skills 2023–2030. In addition, an introductory workshop on gender

mainstreaming was organized with eight representatives (4 women and 4 men) of the Strategic Programming Directorate at SASPAC.

Under Output 2:¹⁹ Municipalities engage in gender mainstreaming and, in selected municipalities, community resilience is strengthened by supporting women's economic inclusion and empowerment in value chains. Five municipalities (Durrës, Elbasan, Gramsh, Gjirokaster and Tirane) were engaged in gender mainstreaming by each developing an LAGP 2022–2024 and 160 representatives from these municipalities increased their knowledge and skills, through eight workshops and were enabled to prepare LGAPs. All LGAPs have been costed in collaboration with the respective municipal directories, and all were adopted through approval of the respective municipal council. In addition, Lushnje Municipality signed the European Charter for Equality between women and men in local life.

Upon the finalization of the GSVIC conducted to support women's economic inclusion and empowerment in four selected municipalities (AUs of Farke, Lunxheri and Labinot-Mal, and Gramsh Municipality), UN partnered with four organizations that will implement GSVIC interventions: vegetable production in Elbasan–Labinot, dairy and honey in Lunxheri (Gjirokaster), medical aromatics plants and honey in Gramsh, and artisanal products in Farke (Tirane). Some 180 women were supported in strengthening their skills in farming, processing, food safety, standards, artisanal products and market presentation with the aim of providing employment opportunities and higher income.

Three local events were organized in the municipalities in which the programme is being implemented. The first local agriculture fair was organized in Gramsh Municipality where women beneficiaries and other local actors exposed their products, women beneficiaries participated in the Divani Lunxhiot Festival and winter vegetable cultivation was included in the demonstration of good ag-

ricultural practices in Labinot-Mal (Elbasan Municipality).

Under Output 3²⁰ : Municipalities create an enabling environment for young people to thrive, focusing on serin poor, underserved and rural areas.⁷ During the reporting period, three training sessions were held in an AU in each of the four municipalities of Berzhite, Bulgarec, Kodoviat and Lunxheri, a total of twelve training sessions that reached 106 15–24-year-olds (60 girls and 46 boys). In addition, through online and in-person awareness-raising campaigns with young people, around 2,000 people were reached in the AUs of Shirgjan and Velipoja. The awareness-raising campaign consisted of the dissemination of key messages on GE, positive youth development, gender-responsive youth development and visibility materials, production of six shorts spots and other online tools with the aim of reaching out to a larger number of young people and other actors from the respective AUs.

Six events were organized at the local level for the presentation of a needs assessment in the AUs of Berzhite, Bulgarec, Kodoviat, Lunxheri, Shirgjan and Velipoje with the participation of stakeholders from the targeted municipalities, AU health-care directories, teachers, social workers and school psychologists, as well as high school student representatives. Copies of the assessments were submitted to the AUs and local stakeholders and used for preparation of local strategic plans and direct interventions in their area.

Technical support was provided to the municipalities of Gramsh and Gjirokaster to map youth local government actions and policies in order to enable municipalities to address and include youth development and youth-centred outreach support in their development plans. Two orientation documents for incorporating in the local plans gender-responsive youth-centred outreach work were drafted in consultation with the municipalities. These documents were made public on the websites of the municipalities (<https://bashkiagramsh.gov.al>; <http://bashkiagjirokaster.gov.al>) and the Observatory (www.observator.org.al). In addition, two info sheets summarizing and

highlighting gender and youth aspects of the municipalities were drafted.

Technical assistance and guidance to include gender-responsive youth development and outreach work at the municipal level will be offered also in the municipalities of Elbasan, Korce and Tirane, where a previous partnership had been established through this programme. These mechanisms are important for making municipalities aware, sensitive and responsible to take actions towards youth and GE.

Earthquake Response – 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)

- **Outcome 1 Human Capital Development**
- **Outcome 2 Green Growth, Innovation and Climate Change**
- **Outcome 4 Gender-Responsive Governance**

The early days of 2020 found Albania mobilising efforts to recover from the devastating November 2019 earthquake (6.3 on the Richter Scale), from which 51 people died, more than 900 were injured, some 17,000 temporarily displaced, with more than 200,000 (7% of the population) in eleven municipalities²¹ affected, and thousands of buildings destroyed or seriously damaged, including public and private infrastructure, homes, schools and healthcare facilities. The government, with rapid support from the international community, undertook immediate search and rescue operations followed by short-term life-saving assistance for those displaced.

The government received immediate emergency support from UN agencies in Albania (UNDP, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF; see publication UN support for Albania earthquake recovery).²² A UN Disaster

Assistance Coordination team organised by the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was attached to the support provided by the EU-led Civil Protection Team. Moreover, following the prime minister's request, the EU, UN and World Bank undertook a PDNA,²³ released on 5 February 2020 to support preparations for the Together for Albania Donor Conference,²⁴ which resulted in pledges to an amount of EUR 1.15 billion. The UN received a medal of honour from the prime minister in appreciation of the organisation's rapid support during the immediate response phase.²⁵

Aligned to PDNA and in collaboration with the government to support the reconstruction and recovery efforts to Build Back Better,²⁶ successful resource mobilisation efforts resulted in USD 13.4 million unearmarked contributions to the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund from the governments of Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the UK to support national earthquake efforts in the areas of (i) education, (ii) economic recovery and resilience, (iii) agriculture, (iv) community infrastructure, (v) social protection, (vi) child protection, (vii) GE, and (viii) DRM.

In 2022, UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, FAO) supported the government in identifying and addressing areas of emergency support and immediate need, aiming to reduce the impact on the poorest, and other vulnerable groups.

Education

- **With financial contribution from the governments of Netherlands and Romania**

During 2022, UNICEF, in collaboration with MoES and ASCAP, as well as with NGOs specialized in Early Childhood, municipalities, pre-school teachers and directors were engaged in working for the creation of Quality Education of Pre-school children in Albania.

19. www.facebook.com/unwomenalbania/posts/pfbid02AWCvbXoZPqyTF7LPP43tgfo4vvZoWFABcU2F2xs6rjWnsCHltsjzFRezvdN6UdCKI; https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02zugh7My92vzMXRDTMvWxgCF66gPxCbAp9T5gnH1eqMzq8taHzVq3nQANPXBrl&id=668381123207158&mbetid=c1GfEaKryetare dhe nËnkryetare të bashkive... - UN Women Albania | Facebook

www.facebook.com/unwomenalbania/posts/pfbid022pMon2DT3LfiQ3AB4fBKdeZfA7zXwiFjqBnDaXlqai9b7UAvSAcz8vR3b1RpG1Tcl
www.facebook.com/unwomenalbania/posts/pfbid02kXh33irmDMKoldJzAe7P1RvmyY6NofZ9xyax1RiEYkppDRSRURwm36mxkxki1ozCl
www.facebook.com/unwomenalbania/posts/pfbid02y4hiN8TNR2iZMfVDZuyN2wz46jQFS81fYy3Mz1lvQLfQBzsaL1wZVZiXKon8Wtll
<https://albania.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/11/municipalities-of-tirana-and-gramsh-launch-their-local-gender-equality-action-plans-2022-2024>
www.facebook.com/unwomenalbania/posts/pfbid02DU3xvJzjuBnH6xtPgXVPQ3xVCx1RRi3QsZMdeVYVHXUkk1keXVZ6AmSANQFF4cC6l
www.facebook.com/bashkialushnjefaqiazrytare/posts/pfbid0zqrQyB2oXsJzQkCQLKogk7yWwRYQSEMqNbwPc8YLgrHhijANNciv1Qhp3N1wguWI

20. www.facebook.com/UNFPAAlbania/photos/pcb.1922149884641485/1922138904642583 www.facebook.com/UNFPAAlbania/photos/pcb.1893047330885074/1893047087551765

www.facebook.com/UNFPAAlbania/posts/pfbid02nKz8kUVZvgdM1ZyRM56TphxbkdC55w1fxvegnwvHitr3zP4KkcV3oGY39dm9acl
www.facebook.com/groups/188336281298376/permalink/2602275463237767
www.facebook.com/UNFPAAlbania/photos/pcb.1904233913099749/1904233699766437

Products: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1or3rpyfd-pR6x2mOBwel0TnmEWFBRbl?usp=sharing>

21. Durrës, Kamez, Kavaje, Krujë, Kurbin, Lezhe, Mirdite, Rrogazhine, Shijak, Tirane and Vore.

22. https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/un_support_to_albania_earthquake_recovery.pdf

23. Assessing the impact of the earthquake on affected sectors and populations, and studying the socio-economic development of affected districts and at a wider national level. It defined a recovery strategy with short-, medium- and long-term needs, priority actions and costing, as well as an intervention framework. The PDNA identified a total need of EUR 1.076 billion.

24. https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/international-donors-conference-albania-earthquake_en

25. The certificate reads: "In recognition of the work of the Search and Rescue unit of the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team for extraordinary dedication in the search and rescue of lives of those affected by the earthquake, and for selflessness shown by all members of the unit in professionally helping the people in need, in extreme conditions."

26. All construction will follow the Build Back Better (BBB) principle, applying sustainable building norms and providing an opportunity to sustainably reduce future risk. BBB will guide rebuilding stronger, safer and more disaster-resilient infrastructure and systems. This agenda will also contribute to building sustainable infrastructure. In terms of environmental sustainability considerations, the special measure will bring improvements to energy efficiency, which will be pursued through the reconstruction and rebuilding process of public buildings and at cultural heritage sites. This will help manage the carbon footprint for the buildings and sites and reduce cost for the beneficiaries.

Significant efforts made in collaboration with ASCAP and directorates of local departments of education, pre-school directors and academia led to the development of the Quality Framework and Monitoring of Early Childhood Education services.

A methodology for pre-school training was developed along with a ToT training on 'Implementation of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Curriculum in Albania' delivered to pre-school teachers, directors, regional directorates staff, municipal staff and academia. As a result of the trainings, the participants improved skills on child-centred methodologies as a means to implement the ECE curriculum. Capacity building activities were organized with various municipalities, reaching altogether 200 pre-school teachers.

The tech-hub initiative was supported in 22 compulsory schools in various regions of the country, providing all schools with technical support during the year in digital, blended education, as well as with Internet connection.

Work is ongoing for the preparation of the study 'Barriers to Early Childhood Education,' aiming to analyse the shortage of essential system inputs required to deliver pre-school education services with a focus on the most vulnerable children (e.g. Roma children, children with disability, children living remotely). Results of this study are expected in 2023 and will help ensure better policy formulation for increased access to pre-school education in the country.

Economic Recovery and Resilience (ERR)

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

The ERR programme is supporting the private sector in Albania through implementation of two successfully tested methodologies: In Motion, and Supplier Development. So far, 63 businesses have been supported through 'In Motion' in the municipalities of Durres, Kavaje and Tirane (Astir), while the Supplier Development Methodology is supporting seven businesses in the municipalities of Durres and Tirane and is in the process of identifying at least ten beneficiary businesses to be supported until the end of 2023.

Agriculture

With financial contributions from the governments of Netherlands and the UK

Out of 44 grant support requests (40 farmers and 4 agri-businesses), FAO signed grant agreements with 34 beneficiaries, who were assessed with regard to eligibility

criteria and documentation completeness, with a decision to support them endorsed by the Technical Committee.

Financial support for barn reconstruction is transferred in four instalments (pre-payment), while for purchase of equipment and live animals (cows) the financial support is transferred in two instalments. The implementation of construction works and activities related to each transfer is monitored in situ by the FAO.

In 2022, for three vulnerable farming families unable to meet the minimum of 15 percent of the total grant value beneficiary contribution, FAO additionally procured two pregnant heifers, constructed one cow barn and installed one set of milking equipment.

Project savings under the grant component are used to purchase and distribute animal feed (16.9 tons of crash corn, 39.6 tons of hay and 42.5 tons of alfalfa) to 30 farmers with livestock (cows, sheep and goats). The distribution intervention at this time in Albania, when demand for basic feed for livestock is higher than the local production, which has provoked growing concern among livestock owners, has a large positive influence on the quantities of milk produced.

The project initiated an awareness-raising cycle on best animal feeding practices in 2022 and will continue in 2023. FAO prepared, in partnership with Tirane Agriculture University, a methodology to assess the capacities needs of farmers and extension specialists related to financial literacy. Based on the findings of the assessment, two specific syllabi will be prepared in 2023 on access to finance and financial literacy (how to develop business plans, access to broader business development services and financial education, and proposals to access financing opportunities from various sources) for further training of extension specialists and targeted farmer groups. In 2023, nine trainings will be organized in the three earthquake affected regions of Durres, Lezhe and Tirane.

Further to the training workshops on FAO's Damage and Loss Assessment methodology held in 2021, a technical mission of the organisation's regional statistician and regional DRR expert was conducted to meet with the mandated ministerial decision makers (MoARD, INSTAT, NCPA, Mol, MoTE) to agree on an Action Plan for adoption of the Damage and Loss Assessment methodology and its pilot testing.

In June 2022, FAO organized an on-line presentation of web-based software developed by FAO to support the field collection of disaster damage and loss data in agriculture. The presentation was made to representatives of NCPA, MoARD, INSTAT, MoTE, Mol, and the National

Information Society Agency.

In 2022, FAO started development of a video to communicate on the positive impact of the grant support provided to farmers and rural households affected by the earthquake of November 2019. The video also elaborates on the indirect positive impact for the neighbouring rural communities.

Community Infrastructure

With financial contributions from the governments of Denmark and the UK

The project 'Community Infrastructure Support (CIS)' continued to support Albanian citizens in Durres Municipality to improve their education outcomes, by providing rapid assistance to help restore education facilities damaged by the earthquake. The project is impacting indirectly some 48,500 citizens and directly about 850 students and children and 51 teachers. It is contributing to achievement of the targets of SDGs 4, 10 and 17.

An MoU was signed with Durres Municipality to enable a solid partnership and efficient implementation of the project. In addition, a Financing Agreement was signed between UNDP and the municipality on 11 November, 2022, for a contribution of the last of Albanian Lek 43,480,000 as cost sharing to increase the financial resources of CIS.

Three education facilities²⁷ in Durres Municipality, two schools to be retrofitted and repaired and one kindergarten to be newly built, will receive assistance with strong emphasis on sustainability, inclusiveness, vulnerable groups and environmental protection. During this period, the following activities were implemented: (i) technical evaluation prepared for the three education facilities, (ii) procurement procedure carried out to contract one design and supervision company, (iii) detailed designs for three educational facilities completed, (iv) three consultation meetings organized in the three education facilities with participation of 61 participants, (v) civil works are ready to start on one education facility as soon as the municipality issues the construction permit, and (vi) a tendering process for selecting the construction companies for the other two education facilities is in progress.

Assessment of training needs in IT and digital literacy of teachers in primary and basic education were finalized and an [online training module](#) prepared, comprising 56 video lessons, 25 presentations and 88 quizzes.

27. Isuf Ferra Kindergarten serving 80 children, Jusuf Hoti joint school serving 370 students, and Zyber Sallaku 9-year school serving 290 students.

Social Protection

With financial contributions from the governments of Finland, Norway and the UK

The project 'Strengthening the social protection response after the earthquake in Albania (Earthquake Social Protection Response)' addressed social inclusion, protection and the needs of the most vulnerable groups impacted by the earthquake. The project contributed to improvement of social and economic resilience of earthquake-affected communities in Durres, Kruje and Shijak. Social protection services delivered by the project have integrated measures that aim for community resilience and increased transparency and voices. The government and local authorities have been supported to develop strategies and action plans to respond to social issues in emergencies, people and families impacted by the earthquake, and those living in poverty. The project targeted a wide cohort of beneficiaries collectively, including PwD, children, women, older persons, youth, ethnic minorities, people in rural areas and other vulnerable categories who are empowered and supported through integrated social and employment services and transparency mechanisms.

In the framework of the project, UN efforts (UNDP and FAO) contributed to achievement of SDGs 1, 5, 10 and 16. For SDG 1 No poverty, the project supported implementation of a local post-disaster livelihood scheme appropriate for all, including the poor and vulnerable groups. For SDG 5 Gender Equality, the project provided support to earthquake-affected women and men, girls and boys through provision of integrated social protection services. For SDG 10 Reduced inequalities, the project empowered and promoted the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. For SDG 16 Peace, justice and accountable institutions, the project is supporting the municipalities of Durres, Kruje and Shijak to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels responding to the needs of households affected by the earthquake.

By end-2022, recovery and resilience of 1,500 households was improved through fourteen grants awarded to CSOs operating in the municipalities of Durres, Kruje and Shijak. More than 500 households benefitted from social care services, inclusive education, psycho-social support, PwD rehabilitation, and community and family-based social services. More than 15 volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives were established and assisted through training and mentoring to contribute to communi-

ty resilience and recovery efforts. Three community-based and open-access platforms (with 6,292 users) became operational to promote transparency over emergency response and gender-responsive recovery efforts, employment opportunities and participatory decision making in planning, prioritization and recovery activities. An integrated employment and livelihood and social services model for affected vulnerable citizens to recover and start life in a new post-earthquake setting was developed, tested and became operational, with more than 100 households supported with materials, tools and assistive devices to improve their income-generating activities and build a better life.

Aiming to improve the level of preparedness and response in emergency situations, two sets of documents were developed in close consultation with the departments of social care of partner municipalities, namely protocols for social service providers at the local level and emergency social plans. These documents are endorsed by local authorities and will be included and utilized as supporting mechanisms for relevant personnel during and after emergencies and natural disasters.

Child Protection

With financial contribution from the governments of Luxembourg and Sweden, and USAID

Two years after the earthquake, some of the families affected still reside in temporary shelters or homes. Their overall socio-economic situation has not improved, while the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic has worsened their childcare and protection ability. Unsurprisingly, the incidence of children's early school drop-out, exposure to violence, trafficking, economic exploitation, and many other forms of abuse has increased. Against this backdrop, a weak protection system and a statutory child protection workforce shortage created a fertile ground for child abuse to grow undetected and unattended. UNICEF's intervention provided needed assistance to people affected by the emergency and the respective national protection system. Such an approach enabled people in urgent need to be helped while strengthening the statutory workforce's overall higher level of professional preparedness and response abilities.

In 2022, vital protection services were delivered to a total of 2,001 children and adults severely affected by the earthquake, with many still residing in temporary shelters and housing. Provision of emergency response services benefited 81 children identified at high risk of abuse, 484 cases of children who had been intercepted by the police received specialized child protection support and

immediate counselling in the police stations, while 60 children and 15 adults identified as in a street situation were supported through emergency outreach services, and 137 children supported with case management services.

UNICEF, in partnership with the National Child Helpline ALO116, supported counselling for 256 children, provided dedicated referral to 107 cases at a medium or high risk of whom 83 were referred to state institutions and partner NGOs as requiring child protection services and follow-up. The National Child Helpline ALO116, besides being supported with the introduction of the web-based reporting platform and mobile application Rapor-to Tani during 2022, was assisted to develop a real-time online dashboard and data repository: <https://dev.alo116.al/dataraports>. The tool allows child protection professionals, researchers and policymakers to analyse real-time and accumulated data and trends and make best informed decisions and interventions. In parallel, in partnership with the local NGO Foundation Together Albania, online counselling platform www.nukjvetem.al delivered vital support to 958 children and young people who reached out for help. Of this group, 83 children were referred to more specialized therapeutical services. Both intervention streams contributed directly to acceleration of results towards SDGs 5.2 and 16.2.

UNICEF's support to SACRP enabled this critical institution to develop a set of quality criteria for service provision by the statutory child protection workforce. This work significantly improves the central government's ability to monitor the services and performances of the child protection workers across the country. UNICEF also provided on-the-job coaching in case management to 136 statutory child protection workers, strengthening the existing system workforce and allowing them to manage 256 cases of children (40 with disabilities) at medium to high risk of abuse and exploitation or violence. These efforts covered 20 AUs and 40 geographic locations across the country. These results contributed directly to achievement of SDG target 16.2.

Gender Equality

With financial contributions from the government of Sweden

Women's resilience was supported and strengthened across the municipalities hit worst by the 2019 earthquake as a result of the generous support of the Government of Sweden, and institutional capacities were built across these municipalities, contributing to SDG targets

5.1 and 11.b.2. More specifically, UN Women efforts during 2022 resulted in:

- The availability of services for women survivors of, or those experiencing, violence increased: 1,282 women and girls and men and boys were informed on GBV and reporting mechanisms; 161 DV-GBV women and girls survivors benefitted from legal assistance orientation and referral services; 566 GBV women survivors benefitted from direct and secondary FLA, and 123 from psychological services; 764 state service providers increased capacities to implement DV legislation and international standards during emergencies; while advocacy activities on the need to improve protection mechanisms for GBV survivors and their children were carried out successfully.
- The availability of public evidence and data on women's economic empowerment was increased, enabling the development of Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis in ten municipalities and providing direct support to four value chains (medicinal and aromatic plants, 2 traditional foods, handicrafts) in six municipalities (Kamez (Bathore, Valias), Kavaje, Kruje, Kurbin, Lezhe, Vore) supporting vulnerable 134 women in these value chains. Another 16 women were economically empowered through the Women's Small Business Programme, an [intervention](#) focusing on women-run small businesses in Kamez Municipality, covering various sectors (handicrafts, services, manufacturing, digital marketing). During implementation, proactive engagement of, and collaboration with, non-traditional partners like the private sector was made possible.
- Information and knowledge about women's property rights increased, enabling 394 women and girls to become aware of their legal property rights in the reconstruction process, with 392 benefitting from legal advice, and 252 women able to better prepare for the legal procedures, making use of the primary legal expertise offered by UN Women's partner (CLCI). In 52 cases assistance was provided in drafting and compiling the necessary documents, while ten cases were filled in and represented in administrative bodies. Capacities of 128 state officials, freelance professionals (notaries) and representatives in earthquake-damaged municipalities were strengthened particularly to address women's property rights in the reconstruction process. The manual [Property rights of women during the reconstruction process](#) and legal guidance on the drafting of contracts for the beneficiaries during

the reconstruction process aided legal professionals and institutions at central and local levels to improve understanding in protecting the rights of women beneficiaries, thus addressing the need for information identified in the contextual analysis report on [Protection of property rights and women in the aftermath of the earthquake](#). During an intense advocacy effort, thirteen joint official letters from UN Women and CLCI were addressed to the central and local authorities giving legal support and guidance on the drafting of the contracts for the beneficiaries during the reconstruction process. A tailor-made follow-up was made with each municipality and national authority involved.

- In the frame of a study aiming to capture the impact of ESD in schools, nine (6 public, 3 non-public) schools in Durres, Kavaje, Lezhe and Tirane successfully piloted ESD, involving around 1,200 students during the 2021–2022 academic year. This approach has been adopted officially and introduced into the extra-curricular programmes of Albanian public schools as a result of the project support in partnership with the Minister for Youth and Children and the MoES. ESD is also part of the National Strategy for Youth and its Action Plan (2022–2029). To support the rollout of the programme, an initial pool of 60 teachers working in 60 public schools were enrolled in the training cycle for future ESD instructors. The teachers will complete their training in January 2023 and will be ready to immediately start applying the ESD methodology in their schools, as part of the extra-curricular classes. During 2022, more than 700 youth in ten municipalities learned about the ESD methodology, experiencing empowerment exercises in-person during community outreach sensitizing and educational interventions, while thousands of women and girls accessed the information via online communication channels.
- Women's participation and voice in developing local budget plans was increased. In earthquake-affected municipalities, 760 women and local activists in twelve municipalities were informed and empowered to participate in planning and budgeting processes in addressing their needs and priorities. Following up on consultations with women as part of the municipalities' plans of public hearings, an advocacy plan was implemented, fostering dialogue on insufficiently budgeted services in several sectors, including education (public pre-education services as nurseries and kindergartens), social services (DV-GBV services, community services), qualitative PHC services; housing

(post-earthquake housing and services), accessibility (infrastructure, transportation), economic empowerment of women (employment programmes), and public services (water and waste management, public and green spaces, public safety). Direct feedback and validation of actions was made during the process of participatory budgeting in the targeted municipalities.

- The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023–2030 was reviewed and analysed through a gender lens and specific recommendations were officially delivered through MoHSP with the purpose of addressing the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups and women and girls in particular. Community interest groups in three pilot municipalities were actively engaged in reviewing DRR actions to incorporate approaches that are more inclusive and responsive to their needs. Some 226 women and girls, men and boys (132 women, 174 youth and 20 municipal and CSO representatives) voiced their needs and opinions on the topic while the LAGP for Durres 2023–2025 is the first to integrate a gender-sensitive approach in regard to DRR-related needs.

Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

➤ With financial contribution from the government of Poland

Interventions of the project ‘Strengthening Capacities of Albanian Fire Protection and Rescue Service (AFPRS)’ are fully in line with the national action for enhancing the effectiveness and performance of the decentralized fire-fighting service. The objective of the project is strengthening, modernising, increasing the standards, operational and response capacities of AFPRS through support to ten targeted municipal fire protection and rescue services, contributing to SDG 11.

By the end of 2022, capacities of Fire Protection and Rescue Service in eight municipalities were strengthened through provision of 169 full sets of personal protection equipment, increasing security at work, efficiency and operation capacities. Project designs for the construction of new fire stations in Fier, Lezhe and Pogradec municipalities, all requiring permits from state institutions (environment permits, technical opponency, energy efficiency certifications, construction permits), have been approved and are ready to be implemented.

ALBANIA SDG ACCELERATION FUND PHASE II

Leave No One Behind 2 (LNOB2)

➤ Outcome 1 Human Capital Development

LNOB2 began implementation in the middle of Albania’s economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic. However, improvements in areas such as poverty reduction and economic growth are being impacted by global developments and new challenges that threaten economic and poverty prospects. LNOB key target groups run the risk of being affected most by the current global crisis, making the ongoing social protection reform a priority for the country with two interventions very relevant. During the first year of implementation the framework of collaboration with key partners was defined and work has been initiated successfully towards the programme’s goals and objectives.

Under Outcome 1,²⁸ the programme partnered with several organisations focusing on (i) empowering PwD and increasing their participation in decision making, (ii) increasing the participation of vulnerable women and girls in participatory budgeting practices, (iii) increasing civil society’s supervisory role of social services, (iv) offering integrated social services to families in need, (v) establishing new models of community services, and (vi) improving delivery and coordination among PHC and social services.

Concrete results include: 7,500 PwD in Divjake, Kamez, Kruje, Patos and Rogozhine were empowered and had increased participation in decision-making processes. Some 7,000 people were reached and informed on assistive devices for PwD through social media campaigning. Some 1,302 people (40% Roma and Egyptians) in Divjake, Durres, Lushnje and Tirane were provided with integrated social services. Based on Law no. 121/2016 on social care services, new models of community-based services for disadvantaged people were introduced in Divjake and Patos, including a) developmental therapy for PwD, especially for children of age 0–16 years, b) emergency assistance for women victims of DV, c) home care assistance for older persons living alone, and d) assistance for persons in emergency situations. Five Albanian sign language teachers graduated after successfully completing the unified and accredited course for the profession of Albanian sign language instructor. Standards for professional development and certification of Albanian sign language interpreters in Albania were

developed. Meanwhile, 500 vulnerable women and girls raised their voice to express their needs and priorities in the local participatory budgeting processes in five municipalities (Delvine, Dropull, Fushe-Arrez, Gjirokaster, Vau i Dejes) with 40 percent employed, 18 percent from the Greek minority, 12 percent Roma, 10 percent rural or from villages, 8 percent head of household, 6 percent entrepreneurs, 5 percent divorced or survivors of DV and 2 percent retired. A total of 52 key issues were presented, 73 percent of which were addressed or accepted in the municipal budget priorities, with the rest remaining priorities for the medium term, or through funding and grants, or both. Youth represented 30 percent of the total number of participants. More than one-quarter (28%) were boys, while seven percent of youth engaged in the process were from other municipalities beyond the five targeted ones. Eight one-day information sessions were held with 129 participants representing particularly vulnerable groups (37 males, 92 females) from Durres, Fier and Tirane municipalities on their SRHR and to increase access to quality SRHR, HIV and sexual and gender-based violence services. Information sessions implemented with young people regarding medical and psycho-social services offered to people who use drugs, drug use and risky behaviours, SRHR, soft skills methodologies with a focus on the young key population. In implementation of the National Action Plan for Older Persons, focus was placed on raising awareness on issues about demographic resilience, the impact of demographic changes, population ageing and advancing commitments taken in MIIPA+20. Partnership with CSOs led by older people continued and the demography magazine was published by an academics’ network. The community-based health model was strengthened and is active in thirteen districts in Albania, focused on access to quality Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. A training package on RMNCAH has been completed and a survey on the utilization of the services in PHCs, focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, has analysed the situation and access to services at the primary health level in the municipalities of Delvine, Fier, Kurbin, Lezhe, Mallakaster, Mirdite, Sarande and Vlore. The main results and recommendations from the survey are being developed.

Under Outcome 2,²⁹ LNB2 strengthened its collaboration with 32 municipalities towards (i) assessment of the gaps, challenges and capacities of municipalities to establish Needs Assessment and Referral Units (NARUs), (ii) improvement of the Social Protection MIS, (iii) development of five-year social housing plans at the local

level, (iv) effective implementation of the National Exit Programme for Economic Assistance for the recipients, (v) establishment of modalities of collaboration with several municipalities to implement the model of family-based integrated social services for Roma and Egyptian communities and other vulnerable families, and assessment of capacity needs of teachers and school leaders to ensure inclusive and quality education, (vi) increase in the capacities of the staff of community centres for PwD, (vii) strengthening of capacities of Multidisciplinary Disability Assessment Commissions, and (viii) support for gender-responsive social care planning, policies and funding mechanisms.

Concrete results include the following: 17 (5-year) municipal plans were developed for social housing and a strategy was prepared to upgrade and rescope MIS for social care services, used by all 61 municipalities; a report with challenges and opportunities of 61 municipalities to finance social care services advanced municipalities in how to mobilize funds from both local revenues and the state social protection budget; one desk review report was finalized with findings and recommendations from eight municipalities, with an engendering process incorporated into the social care planning and funding. Work will proceed with engendering existing and upcoming social care plans. One mapping document is in place aiming to identify the main gaps and challenges related to access for vulnerable women to social services in the municipalities of Delvine, Dropull, Fushe-Arrez, Shkoder, Tirane, Vau i Dejes and Vore and four rural AUs: Baldu-shk, Dajt, Kashar and Peze. The mapping identifies gaps and proposes specific interventions that, if piloted, can address social gaps for women in these territories. Upon discussion and selection of final interventions with local partners work will follow through until funding of pilot initiatives take place. Some 97 caregivers were trained and assisted in issues affecting access to SRHR services for PwD. Trainings in ‘Sexual and Reproductive Health for People with Disabilities’ were organized in Shkoder and Vlore, targeting health personnel (9 doctors, 38 nurses, 14 psychologists, 12 social workers, 27 caregivers or guardians) who provide direct services to persons with intellectual disabilities, in hospitals and community, day and residential mental healthcare centres. Workshops with representatives of local health authorities were organised in five municipalities to raise capacities through promoting the human rights of people who use drugs, facilitating the provision of prevention, care, treatment, support and the referral system for them.

Tirane Municipality developed an Action Plan for Persons

28. Vulnerable population requests and receives adequate gender-responsive social services from local authorities, aimed at increasing their social inclusion and minimizing vulnerability, and holds decision makers and service providers accountable for policy delivery.

29. Municipalities efficiently and effectively manage and scale up effective models of quality support and integrated community-based social services to boost social inclusion that are gender-responsive, and rights-based and reflect internationally recognized standards.

with Disabilities 2022–2024 and Korce Municipality an Action Plan for Children and Adolescents as part of the initiative Bashki mike e femijeve. The status was assessed and capacity building planned in eight municipalities to engender social care plans and in twelve other municipalities a mapping and needs assessment identified interventions for inclusive gender-responsive services. Strengthening of the capacities of Multidisciplinary Disability Assessment Commissions and support for the rolling out of the disability assessment reform was undertaken in six other regions and on home visiting for 142 healthcare professionals and 20 staff from social services, as well as strengthening of collaboration between health and social services to identify children at risk. Capacities of 70 professionals from 15 municipal community centres for PwDs was increased to provide integrated services, especially for children with intellectual disabilities. Through partnership with ASCAP 250 members of 60 professional networks of assistant teachers increased capacities in inclusive education for students with disabilities, and capacity needs of 290 teachers and school leaders in four municipalities were assessed to ensure inclusive and quality education for children from disadvantaged communities. Partnerships were fostered with the universities of Elbasan, Shkoder and Tirane to enhance the professional knowledge, skills and competencies of the pre-service and in-service social care workforce in the country.

Under Outcome 3,³⁰ the programme supported national institutions to (i) develop a new Social Inclusion Policy Document 2023–2027, (ii) support the establishment of a coordination mechanism, or framework, between health and social services in selected municipalities, (iii) initiate the development of the new Social Protection Strategy, (iv) review the Social Policy Guideline with a view to identifying possible areas or provisions that could be amended to address GE priorities, (v) raise awareness on the need to improve and galvanize the social fund to expand social care services for disadvantaged communities, (vi) initiate the process for amendment of Law no. 22/2018 on social housing, (vii) support the data collection process on social service indicators related to specific groups, (viii) strengthen inspection capacities of the State Inspectorate of Labour and Social Services (SILSS), (ix) support capacities of ASCAP towards inclusive education, (x) foster partnership with the universities of Elbasan, Shkoder and Tirane to enhance the professional knowledge, skills, and competencies of the pre-service and in-service social care workforce in the country, and (xi) support the establishment of the Order of Social Workers in Albania.

The following key achievements were attained: Annual progress report and starting preparations for the devel-

opment of a new Strategy 2024–2030; development of a new Social Inclusion Policy Document 2023–2027; report with recommendations in addressing gaps in social services funding to implement the social fund in full compliance with the approved legal framework; the amendment process of Law no. 22/2018 on social housing initiated and implementation of the National Exit Programme in full compliance with the approved legal framework; roll-out of the new national disability reform; support for implementation of the new Action Plan on People with Disabilities 2021–2025 and of the National Action Plan on Roma and Egyptians in Albania 2021–2025; report on assessment of the capacity of the SILSS, which is responsible for inspecting the delivery of social services on the ground, to steer its organizational development; support for establishment of the Order of Social Workers in Albania; pre- and post-transition and follow-up care models agreed for implementation in Berat and Fier male prisons; and advance of STIs, HIV–AIDS prevention services and strengthening of the voluntary counselling and testing network in prison settings. It was agreed with the General Prison Administration that Pre and Post-transition and follow-up Care Model be implemented in Berat and Fier prisons. A leaflet Transitional Care was developed and distributed among prison staff and prisoners who took part in the awareness sessions.

The programme maintains a strong gender focus and strives to improve the governance of social protection and social inclusion. Efforts have been made to address challenges associated with the political, economic and social context in Albania, as well as those related to implementation modalities.

SDG4Business

Outcome 2 Green Growth, Innovation and Climate Change

The UNJP Business Partnerships and Solutions for SDGs works to prepare and capacitate private sector partners in Albania for implementation of the SDGs in their business models in two strategic sectors: agro-processing and textiles.

For the agro-processing sector, UNDP and FAO have undertaken three sectoral events with strong company participation, capturing insights into their level of knowledge and awareness of sustainability practices, as well as the challenges that they face. The kick-off event was an agro-processing business sector meeting held on 14 July 2022 in Tirane. A high-level event on sustainable packaging took place during the Swedish Culture Week on 14 September – Business Culture and Sustainability in

Sweden: focus on Sustainable Packaging – with an Albanian and a Swedish company sharing their experiences and collaborations. In addition, conversation with local businesses through Engaging the Private Sector on the SDGs took place in Permet on 27 October in the scope of UN Week. A service provider was contracted by UNDP and FAO for a stocktaking exercise and roadmap drafting, featuring six focus groups, 5–10 semi-structured interviews and 3 or 4 case studies. The insights collected will be utilised to draft a roadmap for the SDG–EU Green Agenda for the Agro-processing sector, to be finalised at the beginning of 2023. Finally, UNDP and FAO jointly organised two hybrid roundtables, on 5 and 9 December, for awareness raising and promoting good practices among business representatives in the agro-processing sector.

For the textile sector, ILO, in close collaboration with UNIDO, performed an extensive assessment of the value chain of the TCLF sector in Albania, the economic impact at the national level, the regulatory framework, and an analysis of the current workforce. The assessment was presented in a stocktaking paper ‘SDG principles and positive practices adopted by the textile and footwear sector in Albania’ that was validated in a workshop with representatives of government, employers’ associations, experts, academia, CSOs and representatives of TCLF enterprises. The main findings of the stocktaking paper were presented at a panel discussion held during the Circular Design festival in Albania, organised by Design Thinkers Albania and supported by ILO in the framework of this project. As a follow up, ILO will collaborate with IndustryAll to prepare an action plan aimed at increasing union membership and bargaining power to improve wages and working conditions in the TCLF sector. UNIDO, in close collaboration with ILO, designed a Zero Roadmap for the SDG–EU Green Agenda in TCLF sector. In line with the main findings of the Stocktaking paper the Zero Roadmap intends to 1) map the major sources of sustainability increase across the apparel value chain, 2) identify the most impactful actions that the enterprises can take to address the quality dimensions of jobs in the sector (working conditions, productivity, occupational safety and health, etc.), to support a transition into formality and mitigating gender inequalities, 3) highlight the challenges to taking these actions and potential solutions to improve the environmental and social performance, and 4) identify the stakeholders and initiatives working to increase sustainability and circularity in the sector. The first draft of the Zero Roadmap for SDG–EU Green Agenda in the TCLF sector was presented in a workshop conducted during UN Week. ILO and UNIDO will continue the focus group consultations of the Roadmap and finalize it. ILO, based on consultations with employer and business members organizations (Business Albania

and Pro Export), introduced into Albania the Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) training programme in the TCLF sector. In May 2022, ILO opened a call for a SCORE Trainer of Trainers. A total of 27 applicants expressed interest, of which seven trainers became SCORE certified. In parallel, an open call for Training of Enterprises was launched, for which 23 enterprises expressed interest. ILO will continue mobilizing interest among private sector actors to engage in SDG implementation through ILO SCORE training by initially following up on the current ongoing implementation in TCLF enterprises and push the local trainers to finalize the programme, including the endline assessment and registration of the results on the SCORE global platform. A cost-extension request was submitted to the Swedish partners to complete the activities begun under the UNJP, as well as to cover additional tasks. Sida approved the request in December 2022, as a result of which, the first phase of the project has been extended until September 2023, for an additional fund of USD 280,000.

EVAW 2

Outcome 4 Gender Responsive Governance

At Sida’s request, following completion of the evaluation of the Joint Programme (JP) Ending Violence Against Women in Albania (EVAWIA) 2019–2022, a project document was prepared and consulted with a broad range of stakeholders for the second phase of the JP, 2023–2025, led by UN Women and implemented jointly with UNDP and UNFPA. Compared to the first phase of intervention, JP Phase II will have a sharper focus on engagement of men and boys and also work at the local level. The project’s rationale, theory of change and results framework build on the recommendations and findings of the evaluation of Phase I including continuing the work with civil society, Parliament and the NHRIs, engaging the media, and reaching out to women and girls experiencing multiple forms of discrimination, following the principle of LNOB. The Outcomes of Phase II are as follows: (i) women and girls enjoy more effective preventive measures against violence in Albania, (ii) all women survivors, and those at risk, of violence are better protected and have equitable access to services in the country, and (iii) responsible institutions and actors implement national policies and legislation on VAW in a more comprehensive, inclusive and coordinated way. The project document has been signed by the Minister of Health and Social Protection and implementing UN agencies, and is expected to begin in January 2023, with a duration of 36 months.

30. National institutions efficiently and effectively implement their policy framework for ensuring social inclusion and adequately fund gender-responsive social services through improved policy monitoring and evaluation systems, updated quality professional standards and empowered citizens and sustainable financing mechanisms.

ANNEX C: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK INDICATORS

| GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA AND UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK, 2022–2026 | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Strategic Priority 1. Human capital development & social inclusion | | | | |
| This priority integrates quality, inclusive 21 st C. education and learning readiness; Effective and inclusive healthcare and services and social protection within a strategic UN system approach to sustain investment in people – especially vulnerable groups ¹ – as part of Covid-19 response and recovery and EU accession. | | | | |
| Impact | | | | |
| 1. National development priorities: NSDEI II Pillar 3: Investing in human capital and social cohesion | | | | |
| 2. Economic Reform Programme 2021–2023: 2.3.6 Education and skills; 2.3.8 Social protection and inclusion, including healthcare | | | | |
| National Plan for European Integration 2020–2022: Political criteria; Economic criteria (human capital); Approximation to EU acquis, chapters 19, 23, 24, 26, 28 | | | | |
| Regional frameworks: European Green Deal; ² Europe 2020 Strategy; European Pillar of Social Rights; ³ other | | | | |
| SDGs and targets: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.7, 4.c, 5.1, 5.2, 5.6, 10.2, 10.3, 10.7, 11.1 | | | | |
| OUTCOME 1: BY 2026, THERE IS INCREASED AND MORE EQUITABLE INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE, REMOVING BARRIERS AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE AT RISK OF EXCLUSION⁴ | | | | |
| Indicators | All indicators Baseline, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022 | Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2022; annual | Source | Status (end-December 2022) |
| Proportion of total government spending on essential services as a proportion of total government spending and Gross Domestic Product (GDP): i) education; ii) health; iii) social protection; iv) adequate housing | i. T: 11.4; GDP: 3.3 ii. T: 10; GDP: 2.99 iii. T: 32.5; GDP: 9.5 iv. T: 1.8; GDP: 0.05 | I - iv. T, GDP: greater than baseline value | INSTAT MoFE GoA Housing Department | i. T: 11.4; GDP: 2.4 ii. T: 9.47; GDP: 3.04 iii. T: 32.5; GDP: 9.9 iv. T: 1.8; GDP: 0.05 |
| Gross early childhood education enrolment ratio in pre-primary education (children 3–6 years), disaggregated by sex ⁵ (SDG 4.2.2) | T: 79.9 M: 81.9 F: 77.9 | Increase by 5pp | INSTAT | T: 82.2 (INSTAT 2021) M: 83.1 F: 81.1 |
| Average PISA score of 15-year-old students, in reading, mathematics, and science, disaggregated by sex (SDG 4.1.1 ⁶ , proxy) | Reading: T: 405; M: 387; F: 425 Maths: T: 437; M: 435; F: 440 Science: T: 417; M: 409; F: 425 | Reading: 410 Maths: 437 Science: 422 | PISA, Albania | Reading: T: 405; M: 387; F: 425 Maths: T: 437; M: 435; F: 440 Science: T: 417; M: 409; F: 425 |
| Coverage of essential health services (UHC; SDG 3.8.1 ⁷); proportion of children under 1 year that received measles vaccine (SDG 3.2.1) | 64% 94% | 65–70% >95% | WHO–GHO UHC report INSTAT MoHSP | 64% 87% ⁸ |
| Out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of total expenditure on health | 44.5% | 35–40% | WHO–GHO INSTAT MoHSP | 44.5% |
| Percentage of infants under 6 months exclusively fed with breast milk (SDG 2.2.1, 2.2.2.) | 37% | >40% | INSTAT MoHSP (DHS–MICS) | N/A |
| Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women in the age group 15–19 years | 14.2 births | 11 births | INSTAT | 12 births (INSTAT 2021) |

1. For example: 'Albania's social care and protection systems insufficiently protect people against poverty shocks, and still struggle to help the poor find sustainably productive pathways. Investments in education, healthcare and social protection as a share of GDP are below EU averages' (CCA 6).

2. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal>

3. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights_en

4. UN system contribution to 'investment' is two-fold: 1) strengthen the quality and coverage of essential social services, and 2) offer policy options for more effective and efficient social sector spending. Specific outputs and activities will address education and life skills, healthcare, social care and social protection, housing and livelihoods

5. Data will be available at municipal level following Census 2022.

6. SDG 4.1.1: Proportion of children or young people: a) in Grade 2/3; b) at the end of primary; and c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading, and (ii) mathematics, by sex.

7. SDG 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services is defined as the average coverage of the 14 SDG 3.8.1 tracer interventions.

8. Measles-containing-vaccine first-dose (MCV1) immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (%) (who.int)

| Country Preparedness index & Operational readiness index to respond to pandemics ⁹ (SDG 3.8.1; 3.d.1) (Level 1, <=30; Level 2, <=50%; Level 3, <=70%; Level 4, <=90%; Level 5, > 90%) | 73%) | 75% | WHO–SPAR ¹⁰ | Level 4: 76% |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Number of i) households, ii) persons with disabilities (PwD), and iii) percentage of refugees and persons granted temporary protection covered by social protection system (SDG 1.3.1) | i. 66,269 ii. 72,711 iii. 2.3% | i. 65,000 ii. 70,000 iii. 1.5% | MoHSP UNHCR | i. 63,714 ii. 71,443 iii. 2.1% |
| Socio-economic gaps between Roma and non-Roma, by sex (reflected in employment, registration, and access to services) | (i) Employment NR: 27%; R: 18%; RF:11% (ii) Possession of IDs NR: 97%; R: 90%; RF:91% (iii) Youth (18–24) NEET NR: 42%; R: 78%; RF:90% (iv) Use of preventive health care NR: 68%; R: 44%; RF:49% | Gap decreased by at least 2% | Regional Roma Survey | No change from Baseline New survey will be conducted in 2024 |
| No. of children in residential care at end of the year, per 100,000 population age 0–17 years, by sex | T: 96.6 M: 98.4 F: 94.6 | T: 50 M: 51 F: 49 | State Social Services INSTAT | Data will be produced Q2 2023 |
| No. of visits on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health at PHC level | 1,000,285 annually (15% of total visits to PHC) | Greater than baseline value | UNFPA reports | Data will be produced by the end of UNSDCF cycle 2026 |
| Output 1.1 Social Protection Social protection systems and mechanisms are strengthened to increase the coverage, quality, and monitoring of cash benefits and social care services and affordable housing for vulnerable groups. | | | | |
| Indicators | All indicators Baseline, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022 | Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2022; annual | Source | Status (end-December 2022) |
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 1.1 No. of new or revised national social protection policies to extend coverage, enhance comprehensiveness and/or increase adequacy of benefits, with UN support ¹¹ | (2022): 0 | (2023): 4 | MoHSP Website, Reports UN Reports INSTAT | 0 |
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 1.4 No. of people accessing basic services, with UN support ¹² | (2022): 36,164 | (2023): 43,900 | | 36,164 |
| National government measurement of child poverty using multidimensional measures | Score 1 (none) | (2022): Score 1 (2023): Score 1 | | Score 1 |
| % of SOM and THB officials who report improved victim-centred approach in their unit attributable to activities under this outcome | 0 | (2022): 75% (2023): 80% | | Data not available |
| % of targeted childcare professionals, care-givers, relevant frontline workers in selected municipalities with improved knowledge and skills to provide alternative care | 0 | (2022): 30% (2023): 50% (2024): 80% | | 30% |

9. This indicator measures the level of preparedness and operational readiness based on the implementation of IHR capacities.

10. WHO. The State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting tool (SPAR) tool consists of 24 indicators for the 13 IHR capacities needed to detect, assess, notify, report and respond to public health risk and acute events of domestic and international concern.

11. UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women report on this indicator. The baseline for 2022 is zero.

12. UNDP, UN Women, UNHCR and UNICEF report on this indicator. The baseline for 2022 is 35,864 reported from: UNDP, 13,750 vulnerable people access to basic services and 21,914 vulnerable families' access to Social Housing Programmes; UNHCR, 200; UN Women, 500 vulnerable women and girls; UNICEF, N/A.

| Output 1.2 Education Education institutions have improved policy, digital knowledge, infrastructure, tools, and budgets to offer inclusive learning and 21st century skills ¹³ to boys and girls and especially vulnerable groups (all education levels and including in emergencies). | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Indicators | All indicators Baseline, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022 | Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2022; annual | Source | Status (end-December 2022) |
| No. of students and teachers benefiting from better education services provided by repaired or reconstructed education facilities | 7,400 | (2022): 18,000 (2023): 25,000 | UN and partners reports and PISA results | 22,000 |
| Coverage of schools providing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) | 70% | (2022): 80% (2023): 85% | | 75% |
| Scope and degree of digital learning ecosystems at primary and secondary level | 2 initiating | (2022): 3 established (2023): 3 established | | 3 established |
| Performance in PISA | Reading (405), Maths (437), Science (417) | (PISA 2022–2023): Reading (410), Maths (457), Science (422) | | Reading (405), Maths (437), Science (417) |
| GER in tertiary education | 55% | 60% | | 56.7% |
| Education infrastructure facilities repaired or reconstructed | 63 education facilities repaired or reconstruction | (2022): 36 education facilities (2023): 60 education facilities (2024): 67 education facilities | | 36 education facilities completed (civil works); construction works ongoing for 16 other education facilities |
| Tools (furniture, laboratories) | 63 education facilities furnished 41 education facilities with laboratories | (2022): 36 education facilities furnished (2023): 60 education facilities furnished (2024): 67 education facilities furnished | | 36 education facilities furnished |
| IT laboratories | 41 education facilities with IT laboratories | (2022): 23 education facilities with laboratories (2023): 38 education facilities with IT laboratories (2024): 44 education facilities with laboratories | | 23 education facilities with laboratories |
| Digital knowledge (assessment of teachers' needs on IT and digital literacy and online training platform) | No | (2022): Yes (2023): Yes | | Yes. An assessment for training needs in IT and digital literacy of the teachers of primary and basic education finalized and an online training module prepared, comprising of 56 video lessons, 25 presentations, and 88 quizzes |

| Output 1.3 Healthcare The health system has increased capacities to achieve SDG 3 and UHC targets, providing quality people-centred services ¹⁴ at an affordable cost, including during emergencies, and improving the social, economic and environmental determinants of health. | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Indicators | All indicators Baseline, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022 | Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2022; annual | Source | Status (end-December 2022) |
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 2.3 No. of governmental and non-governmental institutions having increased capacity to design, implement and fund policies preventing and reducing malnutrition and promoting healthy diets, with UN support ¹⁵ | (2022): 0 | (2023): 4 | UN project reports MoHSP and other institutions reports | 0 |
| No. of healthcare institutions that have conducted self-assessment on the compliance to approved Quality of Care Standards | 41 (11 hospitals and 30 PHC centres) | (2022): 4 University Hospitals, 11 regional hospitals, 19 municipality hospitals, 225 PHC centres, 2 non-public health clinics. (2026): 96 (16 hospitals and 80 PHC centres) | | 4 University Hospitals, 11 regional hospitals, 19 municipality hospitals, 225 PHC centres, 2 non-public health clinics |
| No. of neonatal intensive care units applying or implementing quality standards for neonatal care | 0 | (2022): 0 (2023): 1 (2026): 3 | | 0 |
| % of health providers providing home visiting services with adequate skills to effectively engage with parents and promote nurturing care, gender socialization, early detection and intervention for children with developmental risks, delays or disabilities | 0 | (2022): 7% (2023): 23% (2026): 70% | | 7% |
| No. of regions with modelling of a non-obesogenic environment for children in place in schools | 0 | (2022): 0 (2023): 1 (2026): 3 | | 0 |
| Contraceptive prevalence rate for modern methods | 4% | (2022–2023): NA (This indicator is measured only through DHS) (2026): increased by 30% | | N/A (This indicator is measured only through DHS) |
| Unmet need for family planning all women 15–49 years old | 12% | (2022–2023): NA (This indicator is measured only through DHS) (2026): 7% | | N/A (This indicator is measured only through DHS) |
| % of people from most vulnerable and marginalised groups who do not use primary healthcare, though needing the services | 30% women, 76% Roma and Egyptian communities, 58% poor individuals | (2022–2023): NA (This indicator is measured only through studies) (2026): Reduction by 10% | | N/A (This indicator is measured only through studies and will become available at the end of UNSDCF cycle 2026) |
| No. of PHC centres that provide quality integrated sexual and reproductive health services accredited by the National Centre for Quality, Safety and Accreditation of Health Institutions | 3 | (2022–2023): 100 PHC to be newly accredited (2026): 30 | | 225 PHC accredited |
| No. of women of age 25–65 covered with cervical cancer screening | 15,000 | (2022): 15,000 annually (2023): 16,000 annually (2026): 19,500 annually | | 12,900 (age group 40–49) |

13. 21st century transversal skills (e.g., communication, team work and networking, critical thinking and problem solving, initiative and resilience) and deep skills in one or more trades: e.g., ICT, boilermakers, millwrights, welders. EC, Skills for Industry Strategy 2030; 2019. See also; ILO, [Skill-up](#), dtd November 2019; AES, [What are 21st century skills](#), dtd 2020.

14. Health services include: Sexual and reproductive health, maternal health, newborn, child and adolescent health, non-communicable diseases and mental health, infectious diseases, and nutrition and immunization services. Services also address access for PwD (e-Health and telemedicine) and capacities to treat drug use disorders in line with international standards). Additional support will assist enhanced coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psycho-social and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders.

15. UNICEF reports on this indicator. Baseline for 2022 is zero.

Output 1.4 Shock responsive systems for effective disaster and pandemic preparedness and response
Health and social protection systems have increased capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies and pandemics and to promote increased community resilience.

| Indicators | All indicators Baseline, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022 | Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2022; annual | Source | Status (end-December 2022) |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| No. of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control | 1,900 | (2022): 600 (2023): 100 | UN agencies and gov. reports, Handover and acceptance certificates of the MoHSP | 736 |
| Coordination mechanisms and teams on MISP implementation established at national and sub-national levels | 1 | (2022): 3 (2023): 5 | | 3 |
| No. of people reached with critical WASH supplies | 5,000 adults; 6,000 children | (2022): 25,000 (10,000 adults; 15,000 children) | | 53,000 (25,500 adults; 27,500 children) |
| Infrastructure for disease prevention and control upgraded; Infectious Disease Clinic renovated and furnished and master plan for IPH developed | No | (2022): ID Hospital renovated; IPH masterplan developed; 14 imaging rooms in healthcare facilities equipped with testing & imaging equipment | | ID Hospital renovated; IPH masterplan developed; Installation of 15 fixed imaging equipment in radiology rooms of health clinics and hospitals around Albania and 12 mobile imaging equipment, comprising 1 angiography unit, 4 CT scanners, 10 fixed digital X-rays, 8 mobile digital X-rays and 4 general purpose ultrasounds |
| Covid-19 vaccination coverage (complete regimen) | 42% (2 doses) | (2022): 45.8% (2 doses); 13.2% (2 doses + booster) (2023): 70% general population (primary series, 2 doses) and 100% high priority groups (primary series + booster) *Highest-priority groups for Covid-19 vaccination include older adults, health workers and immunocompromised persons | | 45.8% (2 doses); 13.2% (2 doses + booster) |

Output 1.5 Inclusive Community engagement
Communities and CSOs enjoy greater capacities and working mechanisms to participate in planning, service delivery, and monitoring to enhance the quality of services and improve access for vulnerable groups.

| Indicators | All indicators Baseline, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022 | Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2022; annual | Source | Status (end-December 2022) |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Socio-economic gaps between Roma and non-Roma, by sex (reflected in employment, registration and access to services) | (v) Employment NR: 27%; R: 18%; RF: 11% (vi) Possession of IDs NR: 97%; R: 90%; RF: 91% (vii) Youth (18–24) NEET NR: 42%; R: 78%; RF: 90% (viii) Use of preventive health care NR: 68%; R: 44%; RF: 49% | (2022): Gap decreased by at least 2% (2023): Gap decreased by at least 1% | Regional Roma Survey UN reports Government reports Group contract | (i) Employment NR: 27%; R: 18%; RF: 11%; (ii) Possession of IDs NR: 97%; R: 90%; RF: 91% (iii) Youth (18–24) NEET NR: 42%; R: 78%; RF: 90% Use of preventive health care NR: 68%; R: 44%; RF: 49% Gap decrease will be measured in 2024–5 with the new survey |
| Enhanced organization of local communities (including vulnerable groups) to articulate their needs and fully benefit from socio-economic opportunities for reconstruction and recovery | NA | (2022): 6 small projects (grants provided) to activists and NGOs on social care services after earthquake (2023): N/A | | 14 small projects (grants provided) to activists and NGOs on social care services after earthquake |
| No. of farmers groups and/or community-supported agriculture | 0 | (2022): 3 (2023): 0 | | 3 (completed) |

Strategic Priority 2. Sustainable, resilient and green economic growth and resource management

Inclusive, resilient economic development and shared prosperity (including effective skills training, decent, formal sector jobs, entrepreneurship, support for green and blue economy transitions and increased production and incomes from agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, greater climate and disaster resilience and effective management of natural resources.

Impact

- National development priorities: NSDEI II Pillar 2 — Economic growth through enhanced competitiveness and innovation; Pillar 3 — Investing in Human Capital and Social Cohesion; Pillar 4 — Growth through sustainable use of resources (Creating dynamic drivers of growth that generate opportunities and revenue; Strengthening the government's capability to deliver; Managing regional integration, natural hazards and migration)
- Economic Reform Programme 2021–2023: 2.3.1 Energy and transport market reform; 2.3.2 Agriculture, industry and services; 2.3.3 Business environment and reduction of informal economy; 2.3.4 R&D, innovation and the digital economy; 2.3.5 Economic integration reforms; 2.3.7 Employment and labour markets

National Plan for European Integration 2020–2022: Political criteria; Economic criteria (human capital); Approximation to EU acquis, chapters 2, 11, 12, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27

Regional frameworks: Sofia summit (regional cooperation for economy and trade, the digital agenda, research and innovation, connectivity, security, fight against corruption, promoting reconciliation and youth); clean energy transition declaration (Podgorica); regional connectivity and roaming agreement (Belgrade); Roma integration declaration; MoU 5G for digital transformation in Western Balkans (WB) 2020; MoU interoperability and trust services in WB 2020

SDGs and targets: 1.5, 1.b, 2.3, 2.4, 2.a, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.a, 6.1, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7b, 8.3, 8.5, 8.9, 9.1, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.b, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 11.3, 11.6, 11.b, 12.2, 12.7, 13.2, 15.1, 15.4, 15.b

Outcome 2

By 2026, innovative and integrated policy solutions accelerate sustainable, productive and inclusive economic development, enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation and transition to a green and blue economy

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Value of production per ha. of agricultural land (proxy, SDG 2.3.1) | USD 4,056.9 | USD 4,868.28 | FAO | USD 4,322.3 |
| Labour force participation rates, by sex, age (SDG 8.5.2; 8.6.1) ¹⁶ | T: 69.6; M: 77.6; F: 61.6 YP (15–24) ¹⁷ T: 3; M: 43; F: 30 | T: 69.7; M: 77.7; F: 61.6 YP (15–24) T: 38; M: 44; F: 31 | INSTAT | T: 72.8; M: 79.8; F: 66.1 YP (15–24) T: 38.7; M: 43.5; F: 34 |
| Proportion of youth (age 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training, by sex (SDG 8.6.1) | T: 26; M: 26; F: 25 | T: 21.4; M: 21; F: 22 | INSTAT | T: 25; M: 25; F: 24.5 |
| Proportion of youth and adults with at least one ICT skill, by sex and age group (SDG 4.4.1) | Total: 41 M: 22; F: 19 YP (15–24) T: 57; M: 56; F: 58 | T: 45; M: 24; F: 21 YP (15–24) T: 60; M: 59; F: 61 | INSTAT | T: 41; M: 22; F: 19 YP (15–24) T: 57; M: 56; F: 58 |
| Proportion of informal employment in non-agricultural sectors, by sex (SDG 8.3.1) | T: 30; M: 36; F: 22 | T: 27 | LFS 2019 (INSTAT) | T: 29.1 |
| Availability of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change (based on EE and RES targets) (Y/N) (SDG 13.2.1) | NDC | Yes | GoA reports UN programme reports | No: work in progress for the adoption of the National DRR Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2030 |
| No. of new or amended laws, policies, regulations approved for environmental protection and sustainable green and blue growth ¹⁸ incorporating gender equity considerations and sex disaggregated data | 3 | 9 | GoA reports, strategies and legal framework UN programme reports | 0 |
| Degree of integrated water resources management ¹⁹ (SDG 6.5.1) | 47 (0–100) | 52 | UN Water | 47 (0–100) |
| Proportion of the country covered by protected areas and under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (SDG 15.1.2, proxy) | 18.5% | 23% | National Agency for Protected Areas, MoTE ²⁰ | 21.3% |

16. Note: Labour force participation (a choice or behaviour) is instrumental to moves in the overall employment rate (SDG 16.6.1).

17. For young persons: [ILOSTAT, modelled ILO estimate](#), January 2021.

18. In sectors: water resources management, biodiversity conservation, air pollution, waste management, land management, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.

19. Integrated water resources management is lynchpin of sustainable development policy. MAPS.

20. All protected areas comprise: National Park, 46%; Nature Managed Reserve, 29%; Land/maritime protected areas, 5%; Resource Reserve/ Multiple Use Area, 4%; Ramsar network of wetlands, 3%; Strict Nature Reserve/Scientific Reserve, 1%; Biosphere reserve, 1%.

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Availability of i) National disaster risk reduction strategy and updated national emergency plan, and ii) Proportion of municipalities with disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework and incorporating gender equity and child rights considerations and sex disaggregated data ²¹ (Y/N) (SDG 11.b.1) | i. N ii. 1 | i. Yes ii. 5 | GoA reports UN programme reports | i. No: work in progress for the adoption of National DRR Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2030 ii. 1 |
| No. of cities implementing green and smart action plans providing access to safe, healthy, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and PwD (SDG 11.7) | 4: Durres, Korce, Tirane, Vlore | 30 | GoA reports UN programme reports | 4: Durres, Korce, Tirane, Vlore |

Output 2.1 Employment and skills development
Government institutions have increased capacities to strengthen policies and services that address the skills mismatch and increase labour force participation and decent work, especially for young people, vulnerable groups and the long term unemployed.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 4.3 No. of people directly benefiting from improved access to skills and lifelong learning programmes, including for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), developed and implemented with UN support ²² | (2022): 17 | (2023): 35 | Official Gazette and Annual Progress Reports Minister's Orders published on NAVETQ website and Annual Progress Reports | 17 |
| No. of Employment Promotion Programmes (EPP) designed and implemented for vulnerable groups | 5 | (2022): 6 (1 new EPP on outsourcing private training) (2023): 7 (1 new EPP on ICM) (2026): 9 | | 8 |
| No. of VET providers accredited or in the process of accreditation | 0 | (2022): first 5 public and 1 private VET providers accredited (2023): 10 (4 additional) VET providers accredited | | 6 |
| Proportion of Refugees & Asylum seekers who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year | 5% | (2022): 30% (2023): 5% | | 5.8% |
| Proportion of Refugees & Asylum Seekers (working age) who are unemployed | 71% | (2022): 60% (2023): 50% | | 62.2% |
| No. of interventions targeting women and young people, with aim of improving their access to the labour market | 0 (Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis conducted and ready for use to design interventions during 2022) | (2022): at least 4 interventions implemented (5 earthquake: 3 GSVCA and 1 Women in Small Business programme, UN Women) (2023): 2 interventions (earthquake UN Women GSVCA project) | | 6 interventions implemented (6 earthquake: 5 GSVCs and 1 Women in Small Business programme, UN Women) |
| Ethical recruitment standards enforced with PEAs | No | (2022): Yes (2023): Yes | | Yes: guidelines available, to be enforced by the MoFE |

Output 2.2 Sustainable and resilient economic growth and green and blue economy transition
Economic policy measures and programmes are designed, piloted, and tracked to promote sustainable, climate resilient, green and blue economic growth and women's economic empowerment with focus on 'building back better'.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 9.2 No. of private sector entities (including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)) that innovated their business practices, by mainstreaming environmental, social or economic sustainability elements, with UN support ²³ | (2022): 63 businesses supported by In Motion and 7 businesses supported SDP | (2023): 100 businesses supported | Official acceptance of sites, management plans, regular monitoring of grantees UN reports Government reports | 63 businesses supported by In Motion and 7 businesses supported SDP |
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 17.1 No. of policies developed or improved for the benefit of MSMEs with business sector input, and promulgated or implemented, with UN support ²⁴ | (2022): 0 | (2023): 1 | | 0 |
| Output Indicator Framework – 17.4 Existence of a national SDG-financing strategy in country developed with UN support ²⁵ | (2022): No financing strategy in place | (2023): Financing strategy approved | | No financing strategy in place but development finance assessment drafted leading to INFF |
| No. of private sector entities exposed to SDG positive business practices | 50 | (2022): 65 (2023): 100 | | 65 |
| No. of private sector entities that demonstrate integration of ESG principles and SD into their business models | 0 | (2022): 28 (2023): 20 | | 28 |
| No. of sites fully rehabilitated and revitalized employing a "building back better approach" and accessible to the public | 0 | (2022): 12 (2023): 15 (cumulative) | | 2 |
| No. of interventions targeting women and young people, with aim of improving their access to the labour market | 1 | (2022): 5 GSVC completed/ Earthquake Recovery; (2023): At least 6 interventions - 2 GSVC/Earthquake Recovery; (2 business skills + 2 LAGs) | | 6: 5 GSVC completed and 1 Women Small Business Programme |
| No. of administrative acts prepared to strengthen producers and businesses competitiveness in domestic and export markets | 0 | (2022): 0 (2023): 10 | | 0 |

Output 2.3 Innovation
Policies and programme measures are developed to promote digital economy, entrepreneurship and growth of competitive SMEs–SMAEs, and increased spending on R&D.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|---|----------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| UNCT Digital Development Country Profile for Albania | 0 | (2022): 1 | UNCT Albania Report | 1 - completed |
| Implementation plan for Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) | 0 | (2022): 1 | FAO Report; FADN implementation plan | 1 - completed |
| FADN system development | 0 | (2022): 0 (2023): 1 | UNWOMEN Reports | 0 – system in development, to be finalized in 2023 |
| No. of policies, programmes or strategies aiming at boosting digital economy that specifically consider WEE | 0 | (2022): 0 (2023): 1 | | 0 |

21. Minimum standards: UNISDR, [Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines](#) (section 5.6).

22. UNDP and UNHCR report on this indicator. Baseline for 2022 is 17 - In October 2022, the Council of Ministers approved a new programme which allows NAES to outsource training provision to private providers which offer short term trainings courses, targeting employed and unemployed jobseekers (DCM no. 646, dated 5.10.2022).

23. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 63 businesses supported by In Motion and 7 businesses supported SDP.

24. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is zero.

25. UNDP and UNICEF report on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is no financing strategy in place.

Output 2.4 Climate and ecosystem resources²⁶
Planning and coordination mechanisms strengthened for climate change adaptation and mitigation and enhanced environmental management, conservation and protection, ensuring integration of gender equality commitments.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 6.2 No. of trans-boundary water bodies in which cooperation and joint management is strengthened with UN support: a) river and lake basins, and b) aquifers ²⁷ | (2022): 2 | (2023): 3 | METT score (UNDP & NAPA), Fourth National Communication finalized that is gender sensitive, UN and Government reports | 2 |
| Output Indicator Framework – 7.3 No. of people who, with UN support: a) gained access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy; and b) benefitted from services from clean, affordable, and sustainable energy ²⁸ | (2022): 150 | (2023): 2,124 | Site accomplished investments, as well as studies and reports available with project office | 150 |
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 14.2 Level of implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas, with UN support ²⁹ | (2022): 3 Plan Adoption/Designation DK National Park (2022): 27,866.95 ha Narta–Vjosa Landscape PA (2022): 39,342.46 ha. KS MPA | (2023): 4 Implementation and adoptive management DK National Park (2023): 27,866.95 ha. Narta–Vjosa Landscape PA (2023): 39,342.46 ha. KS MPA | National Agency for Protected Areas, MoTE (Protected areas comprise: National park, 46%; Nature Managed Reserve, 29%; Land or maritime protected areas, 5%; Resource Reserve or Multiple Use Area, 4%; Ramsar network of wetlands, 3%; Strict Nature Reserve, Scientific Reserve, 1%; Biosphere reserve, 1%) | 3 Plan Adoption or Designation DK National Park (2022): 27,866.95 ha Narta–Vjosa Landscape PA (2022): 39,342.46 ha KS MPA |
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 15.2 Area (ha.) of terrestrial and marine protected areas created or under improved management practices, supported by UN ³⁰ | (2022): 80,985 ha. | (2023): 103,922 ha. | | |
| Fourth Communication to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Biennial Update Report (BUR) in place | Third National Communication No BUR | (2022): Both reports submitted to the UNFCCC (2023): 0 | | |
| Strategic adaptation intervention options identified and organized by sector and location, based in the stocktaking report on updated climate vulnerability analysis | NAP Strategy detailing mid-and long-term Common Country Analysis (CCA) action plan not in place | (2022): NAP Stocktaking report and capacity assessment and training programme finalized (2023): NAP vulnerability and risk assessment finalized for the 5 priority sectors and adaptation options identified and prioritized | | |
| No. of innovative good practices for agrobiodiversity conservation promoting local or organic or GI products | 0 | (2022): 3 (2023): 0 | | |

26. Including: Integrated water resources management, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land and forest management.

27. UNDP and UNESCO report on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is two.

28. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 150 persons.

29. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 3 Plan Adoption/Designation.

30. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 80,985 ha.

Output 2.5 DRR
Policies, capacities and mechanisms enhanced for effective disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response at all levels.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 13.3 Existence of a national DRR strategy adopted with UN support and implemented by government in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR ³¹ | (2022): national risk assessment and DRR strategy completed | (2023): National risk assessment for 6 types of risks and consolidated report developed: DRR strategy and Action Plan developed and in place; Ongoing preparation and update of National Civil Emergency Plan, expected to be finalized in first part of 2023 | Position paper with recommendations for gender mainstreaming in DRR frameworks NS and Action Plan on DRR Local DRR plans Revised Local Budgets Project documents Media campaign products and visibility records Physical monitoring Handover documents | National risk assessment and DRR strategy completed in the final stage of approval; local level work started in Fier Prefecture with the respective 6 municipalities Preparation of the National Civil Emergency plan started |
| No. of institutions with strengthened capacities to improve provision of essential services, goods and resources for women during and in post-emergency situations | 0 | (2022): 12 (11 municipalities + 1 national institution in 2022, Ministry of Defence) (2023): 12 (11 municipalities + 1 national institution in 2023) | | 13 (11 municipalities, MoI, MoES, Minister of State for Youth and Children) |
| No. of households restoring agricultural production and dependent livelihoods | 50 | (2022): 100 Completed (2023): 0 | | 37 |
| No. of institutions involved in improving their system of collection and reporting on disaster damage and loss data in agriculture sector | 0 | 6 (MoARD, NCPA, MoTE, MIA, municipality, INSTAT) | | 0 - will be achieved in 2023 |
| No. of cultural heritage sites retrofitted to withstand disaster shocks | 0 | (2022): 12 (2023): 15 (cumulative) | | 2 |
| No. of DRM plans prepared for cultural heritage sites | 0 | (2022): 12 (2023): 15 (cumulative) | | 0 |
| No. of municipalities provided with firefighting equipment or facilities | 0 | (2022–2023): 10: Durres, Fier, Kamez, Kavaje, Kruje, Kurbin, Lezhe, Pogradec, Shijak and Tirane | | 8 municipalities: Fier, Kamez, Kavaje, Kruje, Kurbin, Lezhe, Pogradec, Shijak; 169 Professional PPE delivered Contracts for supply of 3 USAR and 3 Fire Trucks ongoing Designs and permits for construction of 3 new Fire Stations of 3 municipalities (Fier, Lezhe, Pogradec) completed; Works tender launched for Fier and Lezhe municipalities |
| INFORM risk index calculated | 0 municipalities, 12 regions | (2022): 61 municipalities (in 12 regions) (2023): 61 municipalities (in 12 regions) | | 12 regions and 61 municipalities covered by INFORM sub-national index results |

Output 2.6 Sustainable cities
Capacities of urban municipalities increased to implement sustainable development policies and programmes.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|--|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| No. studies that screen legislation and capacities on unfunded mandates at the local level | N/A | (2022): 3 studies completed | Internal documentation, publications | 1 study completed, publication pending finalization of translation and design |

31. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is a national risk assessment and (DRR) strategy completed, in the final stage of approval.

Strategic Priority 3. ³²Effective, people-centred governance, rule of law, human rights and gender equality

This priority is focused on transparent and accountable institutions, delivering quality, inclusive services, enabling rule of law and increased access to justice,³³ implementing human rights commitments

Impact

- National development priorities: NSDEI fundamental principle: Good Governance, Democracy and Rule of Law; Pillar 3 — Investing in human capital and social cohesion; Priority: Delivery of innovative, citizen-centred public services (Improving the quality of life and the environment for all; Strengthening governance and the government's capability to deliver)
- Economic Reform Programme 2021–2023: 2.3.5 Economic Integration Reforms; 2.3.6 Education and skills; 2.3.7 Employment and labour markets; 2.3.8 Social protection and inclusion, including healthcare

National Plan for European Integration 2020–2022: Political criteria; Economic criteria (human capital); Approximation to EU acquis, chapters 5, 10, 22, 23, 24, 32

Regional frameworks: European Agenda on Migration; Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI);³⁴ Regional Anti-corruption Initiative;³⁵ Social Agenda 2020 Regional Working Group; Multi-annual Action Plan on Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans

SDGs and targets: 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.a, 5.c, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.7, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.b, 17.18, 17.19

Outcome 3

By 2026, governance is more transparent and accountable, enabling people (women and girls, men and boys, and persons at risk of exclusion), to enjoy quality, inclusive services, enhanced rule of law and access to justice in line with Albania's human rights commitments

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source |
|--|--|---|--|
| Proportion of population who believe institutional transparency and accountability are satisfactory, by sex, age, disability and population group (disaggregated by central and local level) (SDG 16.6.1, proxy) | Central: T: 35%; A: 35% Local: T: 37%; A: 37% | Central: T: 50%; A: 60% Local: T: 50%; A: 60% | Trust in Governance annual survey (UNDP) |
| Proportion of population who believe there are sufficient opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes of public institutions (disaggregated by sex, age group, central and local level) (SDG 16.7.2, proxy) | Central: 28% Local: 39% | Central: 40% Local: 50% | Trust in Governance annual survey (UNDP) |
| Level of implementation of accepted recommendations from UPR and human-rights treaty bodies (rating, 4-point scale: 4, fully implemented; 3, partially; 2, inadequately; 1, not or poorly implemented) | 3, Partially implemented | 4, Fully implemented | NHRI reports UN reports |
| No. of human rights complaints registered, by sex (note: effectiveness of remedial action assessed by routine annual programming monitoring with NHRI) ³⁶ | T: 1,384 M: 919; F: 338 M&F: 127 | (2022) 10% increase annually; reported improvement in remedial actions | INSTAT; NHRI reports UN reports |
| Rate of (pre-trial) detention for children (per 100,000 population of age 14–17, disaggregated by sex) (SDG 16.3.2) | T: 12.3 M: 24; F: 0 | T: 8 | INSTAT; General Department of Prisons, Ministry of Justice |
| Extent to which laws, policies and practices relating to migrants, refugees, stateless persons are consistent or aligned with international standards (SDG 1.2.1; 1.2.2; 1.4.1) (rating, 4-point scale: 4, fully aligned; 3, partially; 2, inadequately; 1, not or poorly aligned) | Migrants: Partial Refugees: Partial Stateless persons: Partial | 100% approximation of Albanian migration legislation and policy with EU legal framework and international law and standards | GoA reports IOM reports UNHCR reports |
| Extent to which measures of Action Plan of the National Strategy on Migration 2019–2022 are implemented | 20% | 100% | GoA periodic reports on implementation of NSM |
| Existence of an approved comprehensive migration policy (Y/N) | No | Yes | DCM on approval of new policy |
| World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law index , Civil Justice Sub-factor: 7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination | 0.51 | 0.56 (Regional; Global avg.) | WJP Rule of Law index |
| Proportion of seized assets used for public social purposes ³⁷ (SDG 16.4, proxy) | 4 properties confiscated for social use | +12% | GoA reports |

33. Access to justice is a basic principle of the [rule of law](#).

34. [marric.org](#)

35. [www.rai-see.org](#)

36. Ombudsman, People's Advocate and Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination.

37. Pursuant to article 37 of Law no. 10 192 (2009): On the prevention and crackdown on organized crime, trafficking and corruption through preventive measures against property. Seized or confiscated assets are to be re-directed toward social services and projects (e.g., centres for rehabilitation of victims of organized crime, violence, trafficking).

Output 3.1 Access to justice

Law enforcement and justice institutions have improved capacities, structures, tools, and evidence to address gaps in legislation and strengthen justice system performance in line with international and national standards.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source |
|--|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Output Indicator Framework — SDG 16.6 No. of people who have access to justice, with UN support ³⁸ | (2022): 2,608 | (2023): 3,600 | Ministry of Justice annual report UN programme reports National Labour Council or tripartite meeting report |
| No. of Free Legal Aid centres established to ensure equitable and unhindered access to justice to the most vulnerable women and men | 8 | (2022): 10 (2023): 12 | Monthly statistical report Albanian State Police data and Project reports |
| No. of justice professionals that have been trained in dealing with a) child offenders, b) child victims of crime | 50 | (2022): At least 20 (additional, sex disaggregated) (2023): At least 20 (additional, sex disaggregated) | 234 professionals (100 women) |
| Existence of specialized justice for children systems, such as capacity building and standards setting within criminal and civil justice systems | 3 of 6 criteria met | (2022): 2 of 6 criteria met (2023): 2 of 6 criteria met | 2 out of 6 criteria met |
| No. of justice professionals trained in GB–VAW issues | 60 | (2022): 360 (sex disaggregated) (2023): TBD | 506 (258 women) |
| Tripartite policy recommendation and roadmap on enhancing access to justice for all workers prepared and adopted by tripartite constituents | No strategy or roadmap in place | (2022): Tripartite policy recommendation developed (2023): Tripartite policy recommendation and roadmap adopted | Tripartite policy recommendation developed |
| Proportion of PoC (for statelessness) enrolled in National Social Registries | 29% | (2022): 40% (sex and age disaggregated) (2023): 10% | 30.5% |
| Rate of standard-compliant Albanian State Police arms and ammunition storages vs. total | 48% | (2022): 58% (2023): 65% | 48% |

Output 3.2 Good governance, participation and voice

Integrated multi-sector mechanisms will be created and strengthened to support dialogue and strengthen policy formulation, based on good governance principles. (Cooperation efforts will promote inclusion and build higher levels of trust in society, and enable rights holders, especially from excluded groups, to have greater access to information and services (including FLA), enabling them to voice their concerns, claim their rights in legal processes and to seek remedies violations.)

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source |
|---|----------|----------------------------|--|
| No. of local governments with more efficient and transparent system of funding of CSOs from public sources | 12 | (2022): 18 | Formal agreements or MoU and contracts between local governments and CSOs in participating IPA beneficiaries; |
| No. of women and men receiving benefits and support from CSOs supported by the action | 28,000 | (2022): 33,500 | Action field monitoring reports, CSO reports for implementation of projects indicating beneficiaries, statistics and data from beneficiary CSOs; |
| No. of young people (disaggregated by gender) in target group who indicate to have acquired new skills to effectively address hate speech | 0 | (2022): 250 (2023): 500 | UN project reports and publications |
| No. of youth engaged in activities that address toxic masculinities, GBV, social cohesion challenges that post positive stories on social media | 0 | (2023): 100 | 3,481 |

38. UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and UN Women report on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 2,608 people.

Output 3.3 Data and evidence
Cooperation Framework partners have increased capacities to generate quality disaggregated data to strengthen policies and programmes.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source |
|--|----------|--|--|
| Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) implemented | No | (2022): MoU with INSTAT signed (2023): Survey plan agreed | UN agencies annual reports INSTAT publications |
| No. of data producers and users with strengthened capacities in the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics | 15 | (2022): 0 (2023): 3 | 0 |
| National profiles developed and published annually to inform national priorities on: i) gender equality, ii) children, adolescents, young people's wellbeing, and iii) older persons | Yes | (2022): Yes (2023): Yes | Yes: ii) publication and dashboard with official statistics focused on children, adolescent and youth prepared by INSTAT (pending publication) |
| Report on implementation of Agenda 2030 indicators completed (culture 2030 indicators) | 0 | 1 report completed | Data collections and construction of indicators along with technical report completed |
| No. of data collection tools on agri-food sector for improved SDG monitoring | 0 | (2022): 1 (2023): 2 | 1 (achieved): data collected through Focused Group Discussions in 2022 |
| Availability of data and information on labour migration to inform policy development | No | (2022–2023) | Yes |
| No. of in-depth analyses based on Census 2022 for vulnerable groups prepared | N/A | 2022: Census implemented 2023–2026: analysis conducted | Census not implemented, postponed to 2023 |

Output 3.4 Public sector accountability and quality services
Institutions at national and municipal level have enhanced capacities and 'open-government' mechanisms to deliver quality services, promote consultation and participation, carry out integrity planning, fight corruption and organized crime, and strengthen participation of civil society and citizens, in line with good governance principles, the Open Government Partnership, and international standards.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source |
|--|-------------|---|--|
| No. of municipalities adopting integrity plans as a corruption prevention tool | 6 | (2022): 20 (cumulative) (2023): 23 (cumulative) | STAR3 Project reports, municipalities reports, Trust in Governance annual opinion poll (UNDP), Reports from CCP Coordinator, National statistics |
| No. of AUs operating One-Stop Shops for service delivery | 15 | (2022): 250 (2023): 20 (cumulative) | Annual report from UN agencies and relevant institutions |
| No. of STAR3 municipalities applying planning and reporting cycle of public consultations | 0 | (2022): 7 (2023): 7 (cumulative) | 7 |
| Proportion of women and men aware of e-Albania portal | 69.1% | (2022): 76% (2023): 90% (cumulative) | 75.2% |
| No. of multi-disciplinary practitioners with increased knowledge, understanding and capacity to use relevant national and regional tools for conduct effective victim-centred and trauma-informed investigations and prosecutions of TIP | 0 | (2022): 70 (2023): 80 | 50 |
| CCP Unit officials trained to detect illicit goods from examined containers, based on profiling and risk assessment (subject to availability of resources) | 2 trainings | (2022–2023): At least 3 trainings per year (subject to availability of resources) | 1 training |
| No. of asset recovery knowledge products developed | 0 | (2022–2023): 3 | 1 - Asset Recovery Roadmap |

Output 3.5 Accountability and oversight for human rights
The Parliament, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) and CSOs have strengthened capacities and mechanisms to assess the implementation of human rights and gender equality legislation, policies and strategies and to promote and protect the realisation of Albania's human rights and gender equality commitments.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source |
|---|----------|--|--|
| No. of public hearings organized by Parliament with public institutions and other stakeholders on child and adolescent rights | 2 | (2023): 3 (2026): 3 annually | Parliament website Annual NHRI reports CRC and UPR recommendations |
| No. of complaints brought by children to independent human rights mechanisms during the year | 1 | (2022): 10 (2023): 20 (2026): 40 | EU Albania Reports 92 |

Output 3.6 Migration and asylum
Government has increased capacities to i) strengthen policies and legislation for effective migration and asylum governance, ii) enhance the management of mixed movements of refugees and migrants including reception and identification of persons with special needs, iii) offer effective protection for unaccompanied, separated foreign children, minors and women, and iv) strengthen mechanisms for diaspora engagement.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source |
|--|---------------|------------------------------|--|
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 10.3 No. of people who are internally displaced, migrants, refugees or part of the host communities, or communities left or affected populations benefiting from integrated and targeted interventions, including on strengthening social cohesion, with UN support ³⁹ | (2022): 8,913 | (2023): 14,300 | UN project reports Decision of Council of Ministers on approval of the policy Yes Yes 0.26% 100% Yes |
| Existence of coordination and monitoring system in place and functioning | No | (2022): Yes (2023): Yes | |
| Border management and readmission frameworks aligned with international standards | No | (2022): Yes (2023): Yes | |
| Proportion of refugees and migrants arriving as part of mixed movements who are referred to the asylum procedures | 0.8% | (2022): 10% (2023): 5% | |
| Proportion of individuals undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal advice or representation | 100% | (2022): 100% (2023): 100% | |
| Existence of an approved comprehensive migration policy | No | (2022): Yes (2023): Yes | |

39. UNHCR, UNICEF and UN Women report on this indicator. Baseline for 2022 is 8,913 people.

Strategic Priority 4. Effective, people-centred governance, rule of law, human rights and gender equality

This priority is focused on transparent and accountable institutions, delivering quality, inclusive services, enabling rule of law and increased access to justice,⁴⁰ and implementing human rights commitments

Impact

- National development priorities: NSDEI II: Cross NSDEI - Delivery of innovative, citizen-centred public services; Pillar 3 — Investing in human capital and social cohesion
- Economic Reform Programme 2021–2023: 2.3.5 Economic integration reforms; 2.3.6 Education and skills; 2.3.7 Employment and labour markets; 2.3.8 Social protection and inclusion, including healthcare

National Plan for European Integration 2020–2022: Political criteria; Economic criteria (human capital); Approximation to EU acquis, chapters 5, 10, 22, 23, 24, 32
Regional frameworks: Gender Equality Strategy 2018–2023; EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III)

SDGs and targets: 5.1, 5.a, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.7, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.b, 17.18, 17.19

Outcome 4

By 2026, gender responsive governance strengthens equality and non-discrimination, promotes women's empowerment and human rights, and reduces violence against women and children

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Rate of child victims of criminal offences, per 100,000 child population (0–17 years), last 12 months | T: 203.1 F: 106.9 M: 294.8 | 20% decrease | INSTAT Ministry of Interior | No data available for 2022 as cyberattack in Albania jeopardised data collection systems; the data might be available in Q2 2023 |
| Proportion of children 1–14 years who experienced any physical punishment or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month, disaggregated by sex and age group (SDG 16.2.1) | Total: 47.5% 2–4 years: 43 5–9 years: 51 10–14 years: 46 Male: 49; Female: 45 | 30 pp decrease | INSTAT (DHS–MICS) | Latest data available from INSTAT are from 2021; data for 2022 will be available in Q2 2023 |
| Proportion of women of age 18–74 years subjected to i) intimate partner DV, ii) non-partner violence, and iii) sexual harassment, in the previous 12 months (SDG 5.2.1; 5.2.2) | i) 33.7 ii) 2.4 iii) 8.5 | i) 32 ii) 2 iii) 8 | INSTAT | i) 33.7 ii) 2.4 iii) 8.5 |
| Proportion of women of age 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 (SDG 5.3.1) | 1.4 (under 15) 11.8 (under 18) | 1 (under 15) 11 (under 18) | INSTAT (DHS–MICS) | 1.4 (under 15) 11.8 (under 18) |
| Existence of systems to track and make public allocations for GEWE (SDG 5.c.1) ⁴¹ | Approaches requirement | Meets requirement | GoA reports UN reports ⁴² | Meets requirement |
| Proportion of seats held by women in Parliament and local government (SDG 5.5.1) and national dialogue mechanisms | 29.5% | >32% | INSTAT | 35.7% 43.7% |

Output 4.1 End violence against women and children

Government institutions at central and local levels and CSOs service providers have increased capacities to prevent and respond to all forms of violence and exploitation against women and children, with focus on vulnerable groups and multidisciplinary, specialized services for the rehabilitation of children suffering sexual abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, and mental health challenges.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|---|------------|--|--|---|
| Output Indicator Framework – SDG 5.1 No. of laws and regulations based on international human rights norms and standards developed with UN support to: a) EVAWG, including harmful practices, and b) promote equal access to SRH care, information and education ⁴³ | (2022): 10 | (2023): 13 | Parliament website CM Website UN and Government reports and website REVALB State Agency of Child Rights and Protection | 10 |
| No. of DV cases addressed through CRMs | 994 | (2022): 500 (2023): 550 | | 502 |
| No. of child victims of violence registered by child or social welfare authorities during the year | 1,020 | (2022): 1,100 (2023): 1,200 (2022): 19 (2023): 10 (minimum no. of municipalities that will be supported through JP EVAW Phase II) | | Latest data available from State Agency for Child Rights and Protection are from 2021; data for 2022 will be available in Q2 2023 |
| No. of institutions with strengthened capacities to improve the provision of essential services, goods and resources for women | 17 | | | 21 |

40. Access to justice is a basic principle of the rule of law: www.un.org/ruleoflaw/thematic-areas/access-to-justice-and-rule-of-law-institutions/access-to-justice

41. Methodology for measuring progress against indicator 5.c.1 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-0c-01.pdf>

42. <https://data.unwomen.org/country/albania>

43. UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA report on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 10.

Output 4.2 Addressing gender stereotypes and harmful norms and practices

Influential leaders, communities, families, men and boys, women and girls have improved knowledge and capacities to address harmful norms, stereotypes, and behaviours that drive gender discrimination, VAW, VAC, child marriage.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| No. of knowledge products by youth articulating the linkages between masculinities, GBV and social cohesion challenges in the region | 1 | (2022–2023): 5 papers (1 per each project territory) 1 regional summary | PBF Project monitoring activities UN Report | 0 |
| No. of new media platforms and social media actors producing articles and reports on cross-related issues of gender norms and social cohesion challenges | 1 | (2022–2023): 2 media platforms, 30 social media actors (at regional level); 5 videos produced at regional level | | 1 |
| No. of actions that raise awareness on rural women's roles and rights in agriculture and rural economy | 5 nationwide campaigns to disseminate information on rural women's rights | (2022): 8 nationwide campaigns implemented in rural areas (2023): 1 nationwide campaign addressing harmful stereotypes | | 1 nationwide campaign implemented in rural areas |
| No. of rural women and men informed through awareness raising and trainings | 700 | (2022): 6,500 (2023): 7,000 | | 11,557: 57 rural women and men participated in 2 roundtables; 10,500 in the campaign on International Day for Rural Women; 1,000 informed on free legal aid, reporting VAW in rural communities |
| No. of legal acts and policy documents addressing child marriage as a harmful practice | 4 (Family Code and Criminal Code, Gender Equality Strategy and Agenda for Child Rights) | (2023): 4 (2026): 6 | | 4 |
| No. of communities engaged in dialogue and consensus building on alternatives to child marriage (including education), the rights of adolescents girls and GE | 4 | (2022): 5 (2023): 4 (2026): 7 | | 10: AUs of Berxhite, Bulgarec, Kodovjat, Lunxheri and Velipoje; 4 FBOs of Vlora; YVN, ACA, ACPD, ActfSociety; community of students and Faculty of Social Sciences |

Output 4.3 Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting

Government institutions at central and local levels have increased capacities to plan, budget, monitor, track expenditures, and leverage resources for GEWE in targeted sectors.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Percentage of national budget allocated to GE and women's empowerment out of total budget | 9% | (2022): 9% (2023): 9% | Medium-Term Budget Programme Ministry of Finance and Economy Ministry of Finance and Economy UN Women Report FAO project report on RAS capacity building | 9% in MTBP 2023–2025, reflected through 47 engendered budget programmes |
| No. of national partners with capacities to apply Gender-Responsive Budgeting tools in budget cycle | 17: 10 line ministries, 2 oversight institutions, 5 municipalities | (2022): 29 (11 line ministries, 3 oversight institutions, 15 municipalities) (2023): 35 (11 line ministries, 4 oversight institutions, 20 municipalities) | 32: 11 line ministries, 4 small central institutions, INSTAT, police 12 LGUs, Supreme Audit Institution, Ombudsman, ASPA | |
| Existence of roadmap for gender-responsive value chain development in pilot municipalities, and technical trainings and advice provided by Rural Advisory Services (RAS) | 0 | (2022): 1 (2023): 1 | | 1 gender-sensitive value chain study completed |
| Tailored capacity development events conducted for rural advisory services and related partners on gender-responsive services and social behavioural change | 0 | (2022): 3 (2023): 2 | | 2 training activities with agricultural extension services delivered |

Output 4.4 Gender Equality Mechanisms

National Gender Machinery and public administration at central and local level have increased capacities support and monitor implementation of international and national commitments and EU priorities for gender equality.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|--|------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| No. of partners that have increased capacities to i) promote or influence gender-responsive legislation and its implementation, and (ii) advance GE and women's empowerment through national or local (multi)sectoral strategies, policies or action plans | (i) 10 (ii) 4 | (2022–2023): (i) 15; (ii) 5/8 | Membership lists of Monitoring Network Against GBV: CLCI, HRDC, ADRF, WFE, GADC, Refleksione, Sot për të ardhmën, CDTF, CRCA, Qendra Psiko-Sociale Vatra Relevant UN project documents and monitoring reports | (i) 14 (ii) 5 |
| No. of institutions that have increased capacities to design and implement institutional reforms, strategies, policies that promote GEWE | 1 | (2022–2023): 1 | | 2 |
| No. of training and capacity development events for monitoring and reporting on SDG indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2, and on advancing towards target 5.a and CEDAW article 14 | 0 | (2022): 0 (2023): 2 | | 0 - Assessment is also being conducted on the existing bottlenecks in monitoring and reporting of SDG 5.a.1 and SDG 5.a.2 |

Output 4.5 Leadership and Participation
Women and girls and gender equality advocates have increased capacities and opportunities to lead, participate, and influence decision making processes at national and local level.

| Indicators | Baseline | Target | Source | Status |
|--|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| No. of rural women who participate in LAGs | 0 | (2022): 2 (2023): 15 | UN Agencies project reports | 0 |
| No. of rural women who participate in agribusiness incubators | 0 | (2022): 2 (2023): 10 | | 0 |
| No. of private-sector companies that integrate gender-responsive family-friendly policies in the workplace | 6 | (2022–2026): 3 annually | | 1: MoU signed on harmful practices among UNFPA, Fibank and Mother and Child Hospital Foundation |

ACRONYMS

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| AFPRS | Albanian Fire Protection and Rescue Service |
| AIDS | Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome |
| ASCAP | Agjencia e Sigurimit të Cilësisë së Arsimit Parauniversitar (Agency of Quality Assurance in Higher Education) |
| ASPA | Albanian School of Public Administration |
| ASYCUDA | Automated System for Customs Data |
| AU | Administrative Unit |
| BBB | Build Back Better |
| BUR | Biennial Update Report |
| CCA | Common Country Analysis |
| CCPR | Covenant on Civil and Political Rights |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| Cedefop | European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training |
| CEFTA | Central European Free Trade Agreement |
| CESCR | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| CIS | Community Infrastructure Support (project) |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| Covid-19 | Coronavirus disease 2019 |
| CPD | Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| CRM | Coordinated Referral Mechanism |
| CSE | Comprehensive Sexuality Education |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation |
| DaO | Delivering as One |
| DCM | Decision of the Council of Ministers |
| DI | Deinstitutionalization |
| DRM | Disaster Risk Management |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| DV | Domestic Violence |
| ECE | Early Childhood Education |
| EPP | Employment Promotion Programme |
| ERR | Economic Recovery and Resilience |
| ESD | Empowerment Through Self Defence |
| ETF | European Training Foundation |
| EU | European Union |
| EVAWGC | Elimination of Violence Against Women, Girls and Children |
| EVAWIA | Elimination of Violence Against Women in Albania |
| FADN | Farm Accountancy Data Network |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations |
| FLA | Free Legal Aid |
| GB–DV | Gender-Based and Domestic Violence |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GE | Gender Equality |
| GEWE | Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment |
| GI | Geographic Indication |
| GRB | Gender-Responsive Budgeting |
| GSVC | Gender-Sensitive Value Chain Analysis |
| GTG | Gender Theme Group |
| GTRG | Gender Thematic Results Group |
| HBSC | Health Behaviour in School-Age Children |
| HFC | Hydrofluorocarbon |

| | | | |
|----------------|--|------------------|--|
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus | RSH | Reproductive and Sexual Health |
| HPV | Human Papillomavirus | RYCO | Regional Youth Cooperation Office |
| IAEA | International Atomic Energy Agency | SAA | Standard Administrative Arrangement |
| ICT | Information and Communications Technology | SACRP | State Agency for Child Rights and Protection |
| ICU | Intensive Care Unit | SASPAC | State Agency for Strategic Programming and Assistance Coordination |
| IFI | International Finance Institution | SCORE | Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises |
| ILO | International Labour Organisation | SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| INFF | Integrated National Financing Framework | SEA | Sexual Exploitation and Abuse |
| INSTAT | National Institute of Statistics | SEECP | South East European Cooperation Process |
| IOM | International Organisation for Migration | Sida | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency |
| IPC | Infection Prevention and Control | SILSS | State Inspectorate of Labour and Social Services |
| IPH | Institute of Public Health | SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| IT | Information Technology | SPAR | State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting |
| ITU | International Telecommunication Union | SRH | Sexual and Reproductive Health |
| JEC | Joint Executive Committee | SRHR | Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights |
| JP | Joint Programme | STEM | Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths |
| JWP | Joint Work Plan | SWAP | Systemwide Action Plan |
| LAGP | Local Action Plan for Gender Equality | TCLF | Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear |
| LMIS | Laboratory Management Information System | TiP | Trafficking in Persons |
| LNOB | Leave No One Behind | ToR | Terms of Reference |
| LOD | Local Democracy | ToT | Training of Trainers |
| LTA | Long-term Agreement | TSG | Traditional Specialty Guaranteed |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation | UASC | Unaccompanied and Separated Children |
| MICS | Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey | UHC | University Hospital Centre |
| MIL | Media and Information Literacy | UK | United Kingdom |
| MIS | Management Information System | UN | United Nations |
| MISP | Minimum Initial Service Package | UN/CEFACT | United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business |
| MoARD | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development | UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| MoES | Ministry of Education and Sports | UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| MoFE | Ministry of Finance and Economy | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| MoHSP | Ministry of Health and Social Protection | UNDRR | United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| MoTE | Ministry of Tourism and Environment | UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| MoU | Memorandum of Understanding | UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| MTBP | Medium-Term Budget Programme | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation |
| NDC | National Determined Contribution | UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| NESS | National Employment and Skills Strategy | UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation | UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| NHRIs | national human rights institutions | UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| NP | National Park | UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organisation |
| NSDEI | National Strategy for Development and European Integration | UNITAR | United Nations Institute for Training and Research |
| NSM | National Strategy on Migration | UNJP | United Nations Joint Programme |
| OMT | Operations Management Team | UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| OSCE | Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe | UNOPS | United Nations Office for Project Services |
| PA | Protected Area | UNRC | United Nations Resident Coordinator |
| PDNA | Post-Disaster Needs Assessment | UNSDCF | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework |
| PHC | Public Health Care | UNV | United Nations Volunteers |
| PoC | Persons of Concern | UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| PoCSD | Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development | USAID | US Agency for International Development |
| PPE | Personal Protective Equipment | USD | United States Dollar |
| PSEA | Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse | VAW | Violence Against Women |
| PwD | Persons with Disability | VAWG | Violence Against Women and Girls |
| RC | Resident Coordinator | VET | Vocational and Education Training |
| RCCE | Risk communication, community engagement | WB | World Bank |
| R&E | Roma and Egyptian | WBF | Western Balkans Fund |
| REVALB | Recording Violence in Albania | WEP | Women's Empowerment Principles |
| RMNCAH | Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health | WHO | World Health Organisation |



UNITED NATIONS
ALBANIA



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

albania.un.org



United Nations Albania



@UN_Albania