



Government of Albania – United Nations Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016

PROGRAMME REVIEW 2015



January 2015

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Introduction

Background and Purpose of the Annual Programme Review

This 2015 programme review report presents the progress and results achieved by national partners and supported by the United Nations in Albania under the four pillars of the Government of Albania – United Nations Programme of Cooperation (PoC) 2012-2016, namely: (i) Human Rights; (ii) Inclusive Social Policies; (iii) Governance and Rule of Law; and (iv) Regional and Local Development. Additionally, it provides a brief overview of the implementation challenges and lessons learned, potential forthcoming United Nations support to the country, and the preliminary financial position for the year 2015.

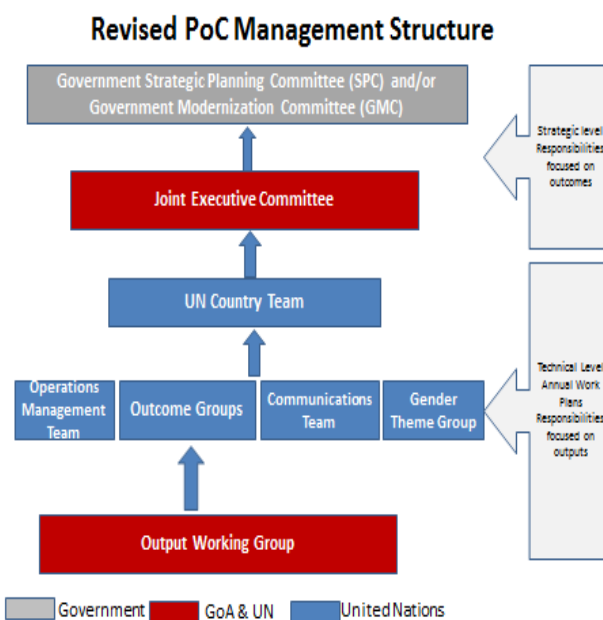
Programme Implementation Structure

The implementation structure of the PoC represents a convergence of principles, primarily "delivering as one" by the participating UN agencies in partnership with the Government of Albania.

In 2015, the implementation of the PoC 2012-2016 started with a revised Results Framework, in line with the deliberations of the Mid-Term Review, consisting of 4 outcomes, namely Human Rights, Inclusive Social Policies, Governance and Rule of Law and Regional and Local Development, and 15 outputs. The higher strategic level content of each outcome and output under the new Results Framework called for a modification of the programme’s management arrangements, in order to allow the UN to be responsive to national demands and increase effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme of Cooperation.

In this regard, Outcome Groups, chaired by a Head of UN agency, were established to contribute to the specific outcomes through coordinated and collaborative planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. These new Outcome Groups, effective since January 2015, have aimed to produce a flow of performance information from the Output Working Groups to the Joint Executive Committee to inform decision-making.

The Outcome Groups carried out the data collection exercise and prepared outcome narratives for the formulation of this report during November to December 2015. Likewise, the contribution of the Outcome Groups has been crucial in developing the UNDAF 2017-2021.



UNDAF 2017-2021 Roll Out

The Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation (PoC) 2012-2016 is in its penultimate year of implementation. Consequently, in 2015, the United Nations Country Team in Albania embarked on the preparation of a new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Albania for the period 2017-2021. Strategic guidance for UNDAF 2017-2021 preparation was provided by the Joint Executive Committee, in its role as the PoC Steering Committee, with technical support from the Outcome Groups and government partners.

The UNDAF Roadmap was endorsed by the Department of Development, Financing and Foreign Aid (DDFFA) at the Prime Minister's Office in January 2015.

UNDAF Guidelines

Mandatory Steps



An independent EVALUATION of the current Programme of Cooperation was prepared in June and a Management Response to this evaluation was completed in September.

The full-fledged COMMON COUNTRY ASSESSMENT (CCA) was finalized in early September. It enabled all partners to achieve a deeper knowledge of the Albania's key development challenges focusing on the country's commitments, goals and targets as well as presented a deep analysis of the UN's comparative advantage in the country. A gender position paper supplemented the CCA preparation ensuring that the pursuit of gender equality is reflected throughout the substantive content as well as the process. Likewise, the CCA included findings from multi-stakeholder perceptions on the country's

development challenges, causes and capacity gaps gathered through public consultations held in Tirana, Shkodra and Korca with 165 multi-stakeholder representatives and an online crowdsourcing survey reaching out to almost 330 citizens and partners. CCA findings were presented to key stakeholders during the Prioritization and Validation workshops organized in early July aiming to (i) identify priority problems on the basis of common underlying or root causes where programmatic responses may yield multiple impacts, and the comparative advantages of the UN system in Albania; and (ii) validate the priority development challenges as analyzed in the CCA.

A series of trainings were held in September and early October for UN representatives and staff on the five UNDAF programming principles: (i) Human rights-based approach (HRBA); (ii) Gender equality; (iii) Environmental sustainability; (iv) Results based management (RBM); and (v) Capacity development.

The completion of the above critical milestones in the UNDAF roll out set the stage for the STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION RETREAT, held during September 30 - October 1, 2015, which validated the priorities for the new UNDAF, discussed the main expected strategies and partnerships for implementation, and prepared draft outcomes. The SPR took into account the feedback received from the second phase of the public consultations, with participation of over 150 multi-stakeholder representatives, and the crowdsourcing platform, engaging almost 500 citizens and partners, held in September 2015.

It is expected that the new UNDAF 2017-2021 will be submitted to the Albanian Council of Ministers in February 2016 for formal review by the Strategic Planning Committee. UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF will be submitting their Country Programme Documents to respective Executive Boards in September 2016. The finalized UNDAF 2017-2021 will be signed by the Government of Albania and participating UN Agencies on the occasion of UN Day 2016.

▪ Structure of the report

This Annual Programme Review Report is organized into three main parts. **Part I** presents the main achievements from PoC implementation during the year 2015, including key challenges and lessons learned and highlighting the anticipated UN support to the country for the year 2016. **Part II** provides a financial overview, including resource mobilization actions, for the year 2015. The Annexes provide additional details on the programme's financial position, indicators status, and main events held during the year.

Part I: Narrative by outcome/output – progress and challenges; lessons learned; future direction

OUTCOME 1 - HUMAN RIGHTS

<i>Key National Partners</i>	<i>MoSWY, MoJ, MoI, MFA, MoH, MoES, INSTAT, IPRO, School of Magistrates, National Bar Association, National Notary Chamber, IPRO, Civil Society, etc.</i>
<i>Participating UN Agencies and Partners</i>	UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, WHO and IOM
<i>Financial Contributors</i>	SIDA, SDC, EU

“Human Rights and gender equality considerations guide interactions between citizens and institutions”

Albania has ratified all nine core United Nations human rights treaties, including the convention on the rights of the child and its optional protocols, eight fundamental international labour conventions, most major multi-lateral environmental treaties (MEAs) and is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The United Nations work under the Human Rights outcome aims to provide high level technical and policy advice, develop and strengthen the capacities, practices and systems of the public administration in order to effectively implement international obligations stemming from ratified international human rights treaties and other agreed development goals and treaty obligations. UN efforts are equally invested in administering juvenile justice as per international standards, increasing children’s access to justice and the right to remedies for the violation of their human rights as well as addressing gender based violence.

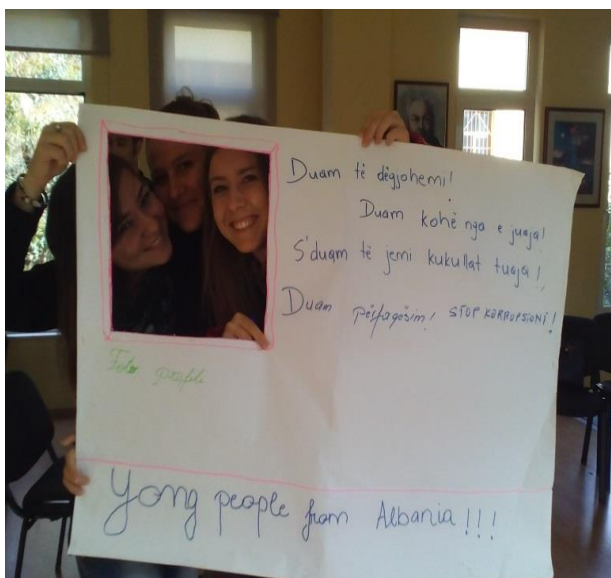
The Human Rights outcome is made up of three components focused on *meeting Human Rights Normative Standards* that the country is committed to, *ensuring Access to Justice* and *Eliminating Violence in Society*, especially against women and children. The majority of results under this outcome is cross reported from implementation in other outcomes of the Programme of Cooperation and is often implemented through regular advocacy with government officials as opposed to specific programme activities.

1.1 Normative Reporting, Tracking and Quality	Government of Albania meets its international human rights reporting obligations and application of normative standards through tracking implementation
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Over the years, UN Agencies in Albania have supported the government to meet the international human rights reporting obligations. Quality reporting, tracking of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and other Human Rights instruments and awareness raising are important elements of UN Albania work under this area.

▪ Main Achievements

During 2015, UN has provided technical assistance and capacity building support to the government in tackling recommendations and obligations deriving from the signed Human Rights (HR) conventions. UN Women prepared a thematic clustering of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, which informed the public consultations held by the government to identify specific actions to be undertaken in this area. Going forward, the Ministry of Foreign



Regional Youth Voice Campaign

Affairs in collaboration with UN Women drafted a project aiming to increase government's capacity to follow up on UPR recommendations and establish a Human Rights tracking system. The project is currently under the MoFA's revision.

UNICEF supported the government to improve the collection, measurement and use of information on Human Rights standards through strengthening the health and education management information systems. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MoSWY) and 5 social agencies adopted consistent disaggregated data collection standards and INSTAT implemented the Eurostat technology standards on data sharing.

IOM is supporting the government in the preparation of the second report on the migrant workers convention to be submitted to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers. A methodology is also being drafted for the Ombudsman to conduct annual monitoring of human rights exercise for foreign migrants workers. Local actors have improved reporting on both emigration of Albanian citizens and returnees, notably looking at social impact. Immigration services in EU member states, tackling cases involving Albanian migrant children, have benefited from a "country of origin" report on Albania.

The new local government structure is furnished with a mapping and capacity assessment on Child Protection Units (CPUs) system prepared jointly by the State Agency for Child Rights Protection (SACRP), the Child Rights Observatory (CRO) and UNICEF. This mapping will be used to advocate for investments in CPUs human capacities in the ongoing decentralization process. SACRP also finalized a 2013-14 report on the child rights situation including consolidation of sector-specific data, which will inform the evaluation of the current National Action Plan for Children (2012-15) and support the development of a new Plan until 2020.

The government has been engaged in UNFPA's advocacy and awareness raising actions on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Sustainable Development Goals and Youth Voice. In addition, UNFPA supported the preparation of the CSO Shadow Report on CEDAW, for submission to the CEDAW Committee in 2016. UNDP supported the preparation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Initial Report, approved by the government, decree no. 460 in May 2015, and submitted to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In the domain of the Gender Equality Normative Standards, year 2015 saw the submission of the fourth periodic reporting of CEDAW and the Beijing +20 report. The government is committed to the role of Men & Boys in tackling violence in direct follow-up to CEDAW's recommendations. The Minister of Social Welfare and Youth presented "Breaking Mindsets", Albania's unique National Action Plan to engage Men & Boys in tackling behavior change to stop violence against women at the global forum CSW59, Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York. Thanks to a close collaboration between the European Union Delegation, UN, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and the Ministry of European Integration, Gender Equality standards, based on the EU GE acquis, have been embedded in key government reforms, strategies and planning documents including "Employment and Skills", "Social Policy" and "Public Administration Reform".

■ Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned

UN agencies will continue to strengthen the government's reporting, tracking and implementation of Human Rights and relevant treaties and conventions, including CRPD, CEDAW and CRC. There is a need for increased awareness rising and greater public ownership on UPR recommendations as well as improved coordination and follow-up across line ministries.

■ Future Direction

The UN will support the government in organizing adequate public consultations on the UPR. A National Strategy on Gender Equality will be prepared for adoption in 2016. The CSOs will publish their CEDAW shadow reports. The second report on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection of all Migrant Workers & Members of their Families will be finalized in 2016.

**1.2
Access to Justice and
Civil Society Support**

**The Ministry of Justice, state institutions and civil society
channel public demand for justice and ensure support services
are established and accessible to provide resolution**

The ongoing Justice System reform is critical both for national development and EU integration. Driven by Parliament, with oversight from an ad-hoc group and support from a High Level Panel, the reform focuses on reorganization of the judiciary, prosecution and legal professions with a view to improve efficiency of the system, strengthen checks and balances and tackle widespread corruption.

UN involvement in the reform process seeks to ensure that human rights, especially women's and children's rights are embedded through all pillars of the process and are part and parcel of the future context of the judicial system in the country.

■ Main Achievements



Roundtable with stakeholders on Justice for Children at the focus of the Justice System Reform

UNICEF involvement in the Justice System Reform has contributed to Child-Friendly Justice, notably highlighting the challenges of access to justice faced by children and juveniles and establishing principles for the Justice System reform that make it child friendly. Going forward, the government committed to adapt the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Chapter into a specific Juvenile Justice Law and develop a distinct Justice for Children Strategy.

In this context, the Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with UNICEF, launched the regional study "Children's Equitable Access to Justice" where Albania was one of the four focus countries. The study highlights the recommendations provided by legal professionals and child rights activists' on the

obstacles that children face in accessing justice informing the Justice for Children Strategic Document that the Ministry is developing with UNICEF support. In addition, the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration included elements of children's rights and safety in the draft law "On cybersecurity".

2015 saw a major step forward in capacity development of decision-makers and professionals on Juvenile Justice Code/Law. Among others, UNICEF supported the visit to Albania of a high level delegation from Georgia, consisting of the Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia and the Vice

President of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, to share their innovative experience on the adoption of the JJC.

To empower children as rights holders, UNICEF supported 25 Albanian adolescents to develop one-minute video stories on children’s equitable access to justice. Two videos by the Albanian participants were nominated for the One Minutes Jr Awards in Amsterdam. Going forward, UNICEF supported the participation of the Albanian winners in a specifically designed advance course on the use of modern technology and production of One Minute Videos, as a powerful advocacy tools to be used by children and adolescents in addressing challenges and injustices.

In line with UPR and CRC recommendations, UNICEF has advocated for specific attention to juveniles in conflict with the law, as a target group, including advancing their needs into legislation and policy. Specific technical recommendations on how to address the challenges of boys and girls in conflict with the law were shared across the Ministries of Education, Social Welfare and Youth and Health and included in draft strategies for Pre-University Education, Social Inclusion and Occupational Health sub-legislation. In addition, UNICEF supported the Parliamentary Commission on Laws, Public Administration and Human Rights to integrate child rights perspective into Albania’s draft Labour Code, draft amendments to the Law on the Rights and Treatment of Prisoners, draft amendments to the Family Code and the Law on Adoptions.

UNDP assisted access to civil rights for marginalized communities through providing legal and paralegal services support for vulnerable Roma families and their children. In 2015, over 40 vulnerable Roma families and their children in 2 regions were supported in court proceedings or other necessary intermediary proceedings, whether administrative or judicial. UNFPA conducted advocacy workshops to inform vulnerable and socially excluded groups, particularly Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT) beneficiaries, sex workers, and Intravenous Drug Users (IDU), on accessing medical and legal services as well as addressing the recommendations to responsible government institutions.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

The government’s renewed focus on judicial reform, provides a critical opportunity to advance juveniles and children’s access to justice, notably by introducing a specific Juvenile Justice Code. The Child-Friendly Justice Policy needs to operate across several government agencies. Since “access to justice” is complex, it may be helpful for the UN to map out the chain of responsibilities across different institutions also providing targeted support to vulnerable individuals. Following UPR and CRC recommendations, reconciliation needs to be used as a restorative justice method to minimise juvenile detention.

▪ **Future Direction**

The UN will continue to support the Justice System reform throughout 2016. Planned interventions include the integration of children’s rights and Gender Equality into all pillars of the judicial reform process and context. In addition, studies on inequity aspects within the juvenile justice system will serve to inform the development and implementation of improved policies, as per UPR recommendations. A range of legal amendments, laws and associated consultations will be supported to move key issues forward including the Juvenile Justice Law, Justice for Children strategy, amendments or revisions to the Legal Aid Law, Child Rights Protection Law, and the Cybersecurity Law.

1.3 Eliminating Violence in Society	Mandated line ministries and state institutions ensure that their practices and policies effectively prevent and address violence (against women and children) in society
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UN work focuses on the overall goal of eliminating violence against women and children seeks to ensure that laws, policies, and strategies are adopted, restructured and implemented to respond to and prevent violence as well as reduce incidence of trafficking in women and girls by addressing

its root causes (e.g., limited awareness, domestic violence, and lack of economic alternatives). The UN seeks to safeguard that the rights of women and girls are equally granted through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions. The advocacy work centers on behavior change and promotion of social cohesion.

▪ Main Achievements



The launching of the CCR assessment report in Tirana

At the normative level, UNDP supported the government in developing a package of legislative amendments to sustain and mainstream Gender Equality in the ongoing Justice System reform, compatible with the Istanbul Convention provisions. In addition, a Multi-Country Study Report “Mapping Violence against Women and Girls Support Services” was prepared on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, specifically looking at the provision of sexual violence services and verifying their compliance with standards. The study, which will be published in 2016, was initiated by the Council of Europe and UN Women, as part of the ongoing partnership between the two organizations to promote the signature, ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe

Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Through UNICEF assistance, the interactions between CSOs, Government and Parliament in the Child Rights Parliamentarians Caucus “Friends of Children” have been strengthened on a number of issues such as the child friendly justice reform, the draft of the new child protection law, the draft of the new law on social services, the online safety draft legal framework and hearing sessions with children and young people.

There have been significant steps forward in the implementation of gender sensitive policies at the local level and mechanisms to prevent and fight domestic violence. In Kruja, Erseka, Saranda and Kavaja, local authorities and stakeholders committed to establish multi-disciplinary Community Coordinated Response (CCR) mechanisms to prevent domestic violence (DV) cases and increase available services to survivors, while strengthening those in Burrel and Permet. As part and parcel of UNDP efforts to improve the quality of CCR mechanisms and extend this approach to other municipalities, a thorough assessment was conducted on CCRs practice. Clear progress was reported in the functionality of 27 CCR mechanisms out of 61 municipalities (44%). In 2015, 306 domestic violence cases were reported, the majority being reported in three municipalities where CCRs are supported by the UN. Though, there is a weak link between reporting and the implementation of protection orders. Significant efforts are needed to make CCR mechanisms fully functional, effective, sustainable and present in all municipalities.

Supported by UN Women, Domestic Violence (DV) costing campaigns were conducted in Durres, Fier, Berat, Vlora, Saranda, Kelcyra, and Permet with a focus on sustainability of services to survivors of DV. Alongside public awareness campaigns and costing profile preparation, involving members of the Referral Mechanism against Domestic Violence, CCR Network and public institutions, municipalities of Durres, Fier, Berat, Vlora, Saranda and Permet committed funds from the 2015 budget to ensure the position of one DV coordinator and the operational cost of the GE/DV office throughout 2015. In addition, with continued focus on implementation of essential services by municipalities, UNDP provided a series of practical recommendations to local government authorities in Shkodër, Dibër, Elbasan, Kukës and Korçë to overcome access barriers faced by DV survivors.

UNFPA completed a survey¹ of vulnerable groups in prison settings, focused on Gender-based Violence, supplemented with Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS findings to increase attention for the inclusion of their needs in the basic package of Reproductive Health related protocols for the Primary Health Care.

Ensuring basic support shelters for women and girls survivors of violence requires further efforts from state and non-state stakeholders (currently there are two shelters for domestic violence and four for trafficked survivors). In cooperation with the government and the National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking shelters, UNDP, UN Women and IOM have supported the domestic violence shelters, including the large National Shelter, to improve approaches and policy, notably focused on the adoption of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes with different state and non-state service providers.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), UN Women work with the media has resulted in increased sensitivity in media reporting on trafficked women and girls, including the MoIA print media monitoring report, which is a key step forward in capacity improvement and regular assessment. Community sensitivity to women and girls facing and surviving trafficking has been increased by outreach campaigns and workshops reaching 20,000 citizens nationwide. Additionally, a national multi-sector Action Plan for Reintegration has been drafted and endorsed through the National Anti-trafficking Strategy. As of September 2015, a total of 70 victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking were identified: 22 victims of trafficking and 48 potential victims of trafficking; 18 males and 52 females; 37 children and 33 adults.

The National Action Plan on Men & Boys to support women and girls is being strongly implemented by MoSWY and UN Women: *UNiTE to End Violence against Women*, a campaign of 16 days of activism against gender violence, and the rolling out of the *HeForShe initiative* have been conducted nationwide by volunteers, CSOs and TV media reaching over 15,000 people. Events in Tirana, Kavaja, Kolonja, Pogradec Dibra, Durres, Korca, Shkodra, Vlora, Elbasan Kukes, Fier, Lezhe, and Saranda impacted youth through discussions, aiming to inform them about the disadvantages of domestic violence and encourage young men to empower women.

■ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

The territorial reform and decentralization provide a great opportunity for expanding the mechanisms of coordination and referral on GBV to the entire country. Nevertheless, this is dependent on partnerships between central and local government and relevant capacities and resources.

As the HeForShe campaign is in full swing with multiple formats, high-level intervention is critical in order to scale involvements with large groups of young men.

■ **Future Direction**

UN agencies will contribute to reducing violence in society through improved monitoring and implementation of the legal and policy framework and of the availability of qualitative and better-tailored services responding to the needs of survivors of DV and trafficking. Particular focus will be placed in the consolidation of multi-disciplinary response and referral mechanisms in all municipalities. Awareness raising of citizens and professionals will continue to ensure sustained behavioral change, with the involvement of religious communities and CSOs. Support and focus on the campaign Men & Boys as agents of change to stand up for women and girls, in line with the National Action Plan on Men and Boys, will be ongoing through 2016.

¹ “Studim i Survejancës Biologjike dhe të Sjelljes tek Personat e Burgosur në Shqipëri”, Tetor 2015

OUTCOME 2 - INCLUSIVE SOCIAL POLICIES

Key National Partners

MoH, MoES, MoI, MoSWY, MoARDWR, MoE, MoUD, INSTAT, Institute of Public Health, State Health Inspectorate, University Hospital Centre “Mother Theresa”, Health Insurance Fund, National Center for Quality, Safety and Accreditation, etc. Association of Independent Trade Unions of Albania, Confederation of Trade Unions of Albania, Business Albania, etc.

Participating UN Agencies and Partners

WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IAEA, UNESCO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNWOMEN and IOM

Financial Contributors

SIDA, SDC, EU, ADA, Italy, Finland, UK

“The rights of individuals and groups are ensured through equitable, inclusive and evidence based sectoral policies”

UN work under this outcome focuses on the provision of technical assistance for evidence-based social policy and advocacy. The strategy centers on narrowing the inequity gaps faced by the most vulnerable groups through specific targeting; scaling up coverage and improving the quality of services; and improving the overall planning and budgeting to ensure more effective and efficient utilization of resources in the provision of social services. In advancing the agenda of social inclusion and social protection in Albania, the UN is playing a broker and facilitator role allowing for wide participation of and consultation with all key stakeholders.

The UN supports the Albanian Government to ensure that social inclusion is mainstreamed through all sectorial policies, action plans, results frameworks and budget exercises. Policy formulations for national and local development agendas have been expanded by sound use of evidence reflecting the situation of vulnerable and marginalized populations; and the new administrative-territorial configuration presents a unique opportunity to take stock of the social and economic situations of exclusion faced by vulnerable communities and families. The UN will continue to analyze and discuss further with the government innovative ways to maximize capacity development efforts to ensure greater impact of service delivery within the new Local Government Units (LGUs).

2.1 Health

Health care policies and sector reform enabled towards equitable universal health coverage

UN work in this area focuses on the sector’s strategic priorities “increasing access to effective health services by reducing financial, geographical and cultural barriers, providing widespread free essential public health services, and articulating a network of services able to ensure continuity of care”. The UN applies the whole of government and whole of society approach in its work as set out in the Health 2020: the European policy for health and well-being.

▪ Main Achievements

Setting standards and developing policies directed towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) from an equity perspective is a major UN contribution to this area. Policy recommendations have resulted in the approval of the Primary Health Care service delivery framework, including the basic package of services, supported by UNFPA and UNICEF, by the Council of Ministers in February 2015².

Technical assistance, knowledge generation and organizational support for inter-sectoral engagement provided by WHO and UNICEF helped to strengthen the national health information

² http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2015/PDF-2015/16-2015.pdf



Launching of the National Health Report

system. Going forward, the government committed to begin the development of a framework for conducting a new Demographic and Health Survey in Albania³.

By providing technical expertise for data collection and analysis and by facilitating policy dialogues, the UN has strengthened national capacities in both planning and budgeting for advancing policy implementation mechanisms, endorsed through consultative stakeholder-driven processes. In particular, support was provided to the Ministry of Health in developing the National Health Strategy as part of the sectoral strategies of the National Strategy for Development and Integration; the National Action Plan on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) prevention and control;

National Reproductive Health Strategy oriented from an equity perspective and the National Action Plan on Health Promotion. WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF supported a multi-country training on integrating equity into strategies, programmes and activities related to maternal and child health (MDGs 4 and 5) with an explicit, yet not exclusive, focus on the Roma population.

In the framework of the UHC agenda, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and IAEA supported the preparation of an assessment on the health financing system focused on primary health care. In this context, an assessment was prepared for the screening programme “Basic Check-Up for citizens aged 40-65” that served as a consultative process for both the development of the Non Communicable Diseases prevention and control plan as well as for the reorientation of primary health care towards person-centered services. The State Health Inspectorate was supported by UNICEF to strengthen the enforcement of the Albanian law on Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding no.8528. A comparative report on the national measures and the provisions of the international code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes served as the basis for drafting the legislative changes to the law no. 8528. Capacity building workshops on monitoring the enforcement of the law were organized with participation of 82 out of 195 health inspectors (42%) from all the regions of the country.

UN agencies contributed to improvements in the health sector statistics by supporting the preparation of the full package for the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) implementation in the Albanian health information system; strengthening of the country's capacities to routinely report on crucial health data such as the cause of death, which has gone unreported in Albania for more than a decade. Likewise, the national stakeholders were supported in the development of a comprehensive manual to guide the collection of national core health indicators in a standardized and disaggregated manner, which will follow with the piloting of selected indicators at PHC level in 2016. Furthermore, in preparation of the National Health Report, launched in February 2015, UNICEF assisted the health institutions to develop capacities for generating, analyzing and utilizing data on the population health status and the health system's performance.

Support was extended to other areas in this sector reporting significant achievements. UNFPA advocated for the Total Market Approach action plan implementation focusing strengthening the role of social marketing in the private, public and CSO sector for the provision of Family Planning services and commodities. In addition, consultative meetings with national stakeholders are

³ Several meetings were held in 2015 between the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and other relevant government partners to discuss on DHS planning: survey tool, areas to be covered by the questionnaire, timeline and budget.

ongoing to define the strategy for strengthening the country's surveillance system of sexually transmitted infections (STI). UNAIDS supported the development of a successful Global Fund application for a joint HIV/TB concept note for a three-year programme. WHO and UNICEF aided the preparation of a national study on *the health care providers and child caregivers'* acceptance of the administration of multiple injectable vaccines. Albania's efforts to protect public health from tobacco products were sustained through the preparation of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, aimed at young people aged 14-19, by the Ministry of Health. In the framework of World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), the Minister of Health of Albania was awarded the WNTD award in May, in recognition of strong leadership to Albania's comprehensive efforts to fight the tobacco epidemic through strong policy measures as well as in partnership with the community. In response to the floods affecting Southern Albania in February 2015, a joint health mission assessed selected PHC facilities' capacities and monitored the implementation of breastfeeding and immunization practices, which were found to be functioning well.

Deinstitutionalization and community living for persons with intellectual disabilities was supported by WHO through the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. Technical assistance was provided for the preparation of individual assessment and care plans to assist persons currently living in mental institutions transiting towards community living.

Health promotion, mainly building social capital and community engagement on priority health issues, through public awareness strategies is another important area supported by the UN. Under a broad dialogue on public health matters, inspired by "Health 2020: the European policy for health and well-being", the UN agencies supported a number of inter-sectoral events that aimed at promoting a whole of society and whole-of-government approach. World Health Day 2015, dedicated to Food Safety, was observed by an inter-sectoral workshop that brought together two government sectors (Health and Agriculture), academia from both medical and veterinary schools, line institutions and grassroots organizations. In April 2015, a full week of events was dedicated to mark the European Immunization Week, with about four hundred primary health workers trained in vaccine safety communication, which received large media coverage. In May 2015, technical and financial support was provided to the organization of an international public health conference held in Tirana focusing on social determinants of health. The International Conference on Breast and Cervical Cancer with a focus on prevention and screening programs was organized for the third consecutive year in the country. Support was provided to the organization of a multi sectoral policy dialogue on Road Safety, with participation of Ministries of Health, Transport, Interior, Education and General Directorate of Police, in an effort to address road safety issues in Albania from the perspective of inter-sectoral collaboration, involving both policymakers and public at large.

■ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

Cross sectorial and multi-stakeholder relationships in this sector are complex and often times competitive. Weak financial management capacities of government institutions endanger the implementation of joint interventions. The UN can play a pivotal role in facilitating cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches. In effect, sector reforms require the engagement of stakeholders that go beyond each sector and sometimes outside the government's scope. The "Health 2020: European policy for health and well-being" is a good instrument for reaching out to other sectors with a say and interest in health matters. Taking into consideration the importance of the broad participatory processes in priority setting and in planning phases, more time and efforts need to be dedicated to these processes.

■ **Future Direction**

The envisaged focus will be on strengthening health system governance and leadership through policy advice and technical support for informing the health reform processes; developing health sector related strategies and action plans; and setting priorities in policymaking. Partnership building efforts will be prioritized aiming at strengthening coordination among health institutions,

donors and other stakeholders. Capacity development of social capital will focus on engaging and empowering communities and establishing and expanding networks of health educators to better reach communities in remote and rural areas. Sustainable interventions for future health promotion programs will be developed and communication materials for primary health care provision (e.g. Reproductive Health, Child Health, HIV and AIDS prevention, Reproductive Tract Cancers prevention and control, and others) will be strategically used. UN agencies will work in strengthening response and preparedness to humanitarian crisis and emergencies.

2.2 Education	Early childhood development and education policies ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for individuals and groups
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The Ministry of Education and Sports in Albania is undertaking a series of bold reforms aiming to achieve better governance in the education system and equip Albania’s children with 21-st century skills. In this context, the ministry in cooperation with the development partners and through a broad consultative process has developed the new Strategy of Pre-university Education 2014-2020 as the main policy document paving the way to the future development of education in Albania. Curricular and teacher reforms are focusing not just on academic achievements but also on interpersonal communication and interaction abilities, transferrable knowledge needed for the labour markets of the future, responsible citizenship and civic engagement. UN support in this area focuses on the provision of policy advice, technical expertise and continuous advocacy to assist the ministry in moving forward with the reform agenda through inclusiveness of the education policies and practices and quality of education, aiming at bringing the country closer to the EU 2020 targets.

▪ **Main Achievements**



Parent club discussion in a preschool in Bregu i Lumit

In supporting the main principles of the New Education Sector Strategy 2014-2020, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNESCO have advocated for a qualitative and equitable education system, strengthened capacities of teachers and school managers, improved data systems to inform national decision making, and influenced the attitudes and behaviors of parents, teachers and the public at large on issues such as combating violence against children and promoting sex and reproductive health behaviors. Equitable access for the most vulnerable children to education has been tackled through policy level and targeted interventions, taking into consideration the needs of children in a holistic manner and through an integrated response.

UNESCO supported the preparation of evidence-based recommendations for the education sector policy review for issuance in early 2016. These recommendations address the most pressing issues in the country such as curriculum reform, teacher development, technology in education, etc., focusing particularly on quality and equity.

In collaboration with the ministry, UNICEF has undertaken specific strategic interventions and advocacy to secure availability of inputs, especially for the most vulnerable groups including Roma and children with disability, such as transportation costs, textbooks, and specific budgets. In this vein, global efforts such as Out-of-School-Children Initiative are being implemented to secure a cross-sectoral response to the issue of OOSC in Albania. Cross sectoral agreements such as the one on the identification and integration of out-of- School Children (OOSC) have been

tested at the local level with the aim of feeding recommendations and lessons learnt to policy makers. Furthermore, the MoES EMIS system is being upgraded to more accurately capture and track Out- of- School children.

Increased accountability of service providers in ensuring equal rights for all children has been addressed by UNICEF through the national initiative “Every Roma in Preschool“, leading to a successful increase in the number of Roma children participating in preschool (from 26 % in 2011 to 55% in 2015). A review of the national initiative School as Community Centers, already implemented in 180 schools of the country, has been undertaken by UNICEF from the vulnerable group perspective aiming at an improved policy and practice. Furthermore, UNICEF provided support to MOES and the National Testing Agency in monitoring the progress of the gaps in children outcomes for grade 1 and 6 among different areas of the country (poorest results in Fier and Durres) and among vulnerable groups such as Roma.

The availability of a qualified teacher work force has been addressed through assisting the ministry in establishing a qualification system focusing on both academic achievements and non-cognitive skills. In the framework of the new competency based curricula, UNICEF supported on the job capacity building for 11,000 teachers of grade 1 and 6 (constituting 100% of the overall teacher workforce for these grades or 22% of the overall teacher workforce for grade 1-9). In addition, UNICEF provided technical support to the preparation of the Early Learning and Development Standards for Preschool, approved by MoES in December 2015. The ministry is also being supported by UNICEF on the development of inclusive preschool curriculum. In this context, relevant training practices for teachers and for pre-and- in-service teacher training have also been supported based on best international experiences aiming to establish a network of inclusive schools in the country. Part of these efforts is also the training of trainers on comprehensive sexuality education, which took place in the cities of Shkodër, Elbasan, Kukës, Tiranë, Korçe, Gjirokastër and Vlorë reaching out to 70 ToT teachers.

Substantial actions have been undertaken by UNICEF and UNESCO to improve the quality of education and children outcomes such as the preparation of the Early Learning and Development Standards, development and implementation of the competency-based curriculum, inclusion of arts and culture in the curricula through a series of activities such as the preparation of the *World Heritage in Young Hands* kit, establishment of *Creative Corners* at heritage sites of Kruja Museum and the Apollonia Archaeological Park and the organization of the conference *On Education through Arts*.

The ministry’s plan “Stop Violence in Schools” has been supported by UNICEF through the development of a new Communication for Behavioral Impact (COMBI) programme 2015-2016. The plan is being implemented in all public compulsory schools in the country. A manual for teachers on combatting violence against children has been developed for in-service training use. The existing monitoring instruments of the State Education Inspectorate are being reviewed to include new elements of discipline application in schools.

Under the “Back to school” initiative, 1,100 children in the flood affected areas of Berat, Vlora and Fier were assisted with the post flood assistance package of interventions, based on the evidence presented in the education sector analysis included in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) prepared in February-April 2015 with UNICEF support.

The increased demand of communities to seek accessible and quality education for all has been addressed by UNICEF through the “World largest lesson in 60 schools” campaign promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG number 4, in cooperation with children CSOs and local educational departments. Parent clubs have been established, especially in the Roma settlement communities, aiming to raise demand for preschool education. A parenting programme, to be delivered by preschool personnel, has been developed by UNICEF and is pending MoES approval.

▪ Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned

The culture of cross-sectoral collaboration is still weak and bringing different ministries to the same discussion table requires special efforts. The UN is undertaking a facilitator role in engaging different Ministries such as Health, Education, Social Welfare and Youth and Interior to plan, coordinate and take action together on out-of-school children identification and integration.

The dearth of disaggregated statistical data limits the formulation as well as evaluation of appropriate government policies and programmes, which calls for immediate concerted and coordinated action to strengthen the country's capacity to generate, analyze and manage reliable social qualitative and quantitative information for evidence-based policy making. Accuracy of social statistical data continues to be a concern determined by the lack of internationally comparable data. UNICEF has a key role to play in providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Education and Sports for strengthening information systems (EMIS).

Primary and secondary education have been underfinanced and have benefited the least from development assistance in the country and public spending on education remains low at around 3 % of GDP⁴. Future contributions should be increased aiming to support not only the unmet needs in this sector but also the lack of specialized technical expertise in the country which is crucial for the development and implementation of the challenging reforms that MoES is undertaking in the sector. The UN will continue to support the consolidation and modernization of the existing specialized workforce in the country through continued on-the-job training, strengthening of networks, and exchanges with other countries, etc.

▪ Future Direction

Continuation of activities will focus on (i) reinforcement of advocacy messages on the Investment Case for Education and Equity with the central government and especially with elected municipal administrations; (ii) contribution to mitigating any potential risks resulting from the new territorial reform; (iii) undertaking specific actions to address the needs and challenges of Albania as identified in the education sector policy review conducted in cooperation with the national authorities; (iv) supporting the equitable access to education as per the National Strategy of Education 2014-2020, focusing on equitable preschool expansion, inclusive education and improved practices to reduce early school leaving and out- of school children, as well as increase the use of new ways of discipline in schools..

2.3 Labour	Improved social dialogue leads to active employment and skills development policies and decent work for men and women
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Employment and vocational education and training is a high priority in the government's commitment to transform the country's low-productivity, import dependent and informal economy to a modern, innovative and a highly productive one. The government has recognized the need to systematically address employment by re-orienting the vocational education and training system towards labour market needs, and modernizing and extending the outreach of employment services. The UN's role in this area is to support the government align its policies with international standards, strengthen the capacities and raise awareness and ownership of both government and non-government partners in the areas of labour market governance, vocational education and training and integration with social protection measures. One important element of UN's work in this area is strengthening professional capacities in managing cultural heritage in Albania in order to fight against trafficking of cultural heritage and ensure effective protection of the country's rich tangible cultural heritage.

⁴ Basic education expenditures including preschool constitute 58.5 % of the MoES budget while secondary education 15.4% .

■ Main Achievements



Launch of UNDP Skills Development for Employment Programme

The main UN contribution in this area is provided through UNDP's four year *Skills Development for Employment* programme, funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation, aiming to ensure that more young Albanian men and women in urban and rural areas are employed or self-employed.

Through this programme, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth was supported in transferring VET schools under the management of the soon to be established National Labour Agency. In this regard, UNDP prepared a roadmap, functional analysis and management arrangements at both the central and local level and a manual for VET management.

Likewise, a mapping of the institutional set up of the VET system in Albania was developed, including roles and responsibilities with regards to quality assurance and accreditation. Support was provided to the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Qualifications in revising the National list of occupational descriptions based on the European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO). Presently, over 150 occupational descriptions have been developed in collaboration with the private sector.

Additionally, an analysis of new models and approaches to employment promotion programmes has been completed, including financial, managerial and coordination capacities considerations, paving the way for full-scale policy reform. In this regard, three new Council of Minister's Orders have been drafted for inclusion in the 2016 package of employment promotion programmes. A consolidated document with definitions on the concepts related to Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Work Based Learning and a National Action Plan for the Social Re-integration of Beneficiaries of Cash Assistance programmes have been drafted.

UNDP supported other ongoing work in this area such as the preparation of a study identifying the incentives for private sector participation in work based learning schemes paving the way for private sector participation in VET; a mapping exercise of private VET providers in the country aiming to take stock of all VET offers prior to introducing elements of quality assurance and accreditation in the system; development of a web portal enlisting public and private providers offers of VET courses; and development of a web-based application to orient youth on labour market demand and trends in Albania. Moreover, an analysis on the magnitude, depth and structure of the rural economy and employment in Albania is being developed aiming to (i) provide clear data on the working age population outside the labour force and the underemployed in the rural areas; and (ii) review institutional arrangements as they relate to employment services and the social and health insurance schemes and consider the system difficulties and implications as well as relevant procedures related to registration as unemployed job-seekers.

ILO has promoted social dialogue among government, employers and workers organizations as well as provided capacity building and advisory role to non-government partners, such as the Association of Independent Trade Unions of Albania, Confederation of Trade Unions of Albania, Business Albania, etc. In particular, it focused on increasing the efficiency of the National Labour Council as the highest tripartite social dialogue forum in the country. In 2015, the National Labour Council met quarterly and provided advice on issues such as the Policy Document for Safety and Health at Work 2015-2020, Social Security reform, fight against informality, and a revision of regulations on Occupational Safety and Health. Moreover, the Council reviewed and endorsed the

draft laws "On employment promotion", "On crafts in the Republic of Albania" and "On the unemployed jobseekers".

In the area of legislative information sharing and dissemination, the organization of the Sub-Regional Workshop on Labour Law and Industrial Relations in Central and Eastern European Countries by ILO was an important accomplishment in discussing and sharing data collected by national independent researchers on industrial relations and labor law related topics; validating the structure and content of a comparative legal and policy analysis based on nationally collected data; and introducing the newly created sub-regional legal database on industrial and employment relations (CEELex).

Concerning the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage, UNESCO supported the development and strengthening of the professional and institutional capacities of the main relevant authorities in Albania through provision of specialized training to 10 officials from the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Interior – police, Ministry of Justice, and customs agency.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

The lack of trade unions in the private sector and the underdevelopment of many of the existing workers' and employers' organizations calls for the UN to play a greater role in this area. Much remains to be done to improve the bipartite social dialogue and strengthen the social partners' autonomy at local and enterprise level.

The functional transfer of VET schools from the Ministry of Education and Sports to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth poses a big challenge to the entire VET system. Furthermore, meaningful participation of the private sector in the VET system should be encouraged. In addition, coordination/complementing and information sharing among stakeholders and actors on relevant development initiatives for the VET system should be fostered. The UN will play a facilitator role in fostering inter-institutional collaboration to enable short and medium term skills forecasting.

▪ **Future Direction**

With a portfolio of potential medium-scale interventions that could be realized within a three-year period, UNDP will continue to contribute to the attainment of the envisaged outcomes of the National Employment and Skills Strategy Action Plan as its implementation is a key priority of the Albanian Government's reform agenda.

The Vocational Education and Training institution will receive continuous support in designing and implementing programmes and practices that improve the employability of women, targeting especially girls' and women's skills development in expanding or high productivity sectors, women excluded from the labour market and lengthy inactivity, and women and girls particularly in rural areas. In addition, support will be provided towards systemic changes in the VET system, including reaching an agreement on a national model of work-based learning, and setting the framework for quality assurance and accreditation. Lastly, inter-institutional collaboration will be fostered to enable short and medium term skills forecasting.

Advocacy and support to the Labour Code and related legislation to strengthen women's rights in the workplace, harmonized with the CEDAW and EU legislation on Gender Equality, will continue throughout 2016. Capacity development activities on international labour-related norms and standards will be supported in cooperation with development partners as well as universities and other scientific institutions.

2.4 Social Protection

Social protection and inclusion mechanisms ensure that social needs of the disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally met

UN work in this area ensures that the rights of the most vulnerable social groups, including children, women, people living in poverty, the elderly, the disabled, Roma and Egyptian minorities, victims of human trafficking, etc., are equally implemented through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions. Specific UN actions focus on generation of knowledge on vulnerability and social exclusion, development and promotion of the required national policy framework and relevant legal, administrative and financial instruments in shaping both central and local service delivery policies and practice.

▪ Main Achievements



A Roma family gets support to put their children in kindergarten - in the framework of Early Inclusion of Roma

The national policy framework in this area has benefited from UN support for the development of several policy documents, relevant action plans and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, namely: Policy Paper for Social Inclusion 2014 – 2020 including a set of national indicators on social inclusion based on qualitative analysis on the most vulnerable categories of the population; Social Protection Strategy 2015–2020 with a costed action plan articulating the need to harmonize the different instruments of social protection, recognizing that cash alone cannot address the complex needs of vulnerable families and children; Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015-2020; New Social Housing Strategy; Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities (2016 – 2020); and

alignment of the Health and Reproductive Health budgetary frameworks to the principles and targets of SI.

The work conducted under the policy framework is aligned and will be implemented in tandem with the Territorial and Administrative Reform and the National Crosscutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance. Besides the provision of technical advice, UN agencies, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UN Women, and IOM have facilitated the consultative processes on the policy formulations ensuring participation of all relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups.

Legal, administrative and financial instruments for social inclusion and social protection have been developed through UNICEF and UNDP support, including a draft integral Law on Social Care Services, secondary legislation to improve the Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and enforce the Law on Social Workers. Through UNICEF support, the formal “social worker” and “psychologist” Job Descriptions have been updated in recruiting personnel for sub-national social care structures.

UNICEF supported the design of a standard package (“basket”) of services as a central planning tool for local government administrations to ensure that social needs in their constituencies are properly addressed. In addition, UN Women provided technical support to the MPs, members of the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, on the draft Labour Code reinforcing a series of gender related recommendations on improved women’s access to labour market, equal work treatment between women and men, reinforced social protection measures in

labour relations for women and men, enjoyment of maternity and paternity leave, reduction of harassment at the work place, etc.

Knowledge has been produced⁵ by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA for evidence-based policy-making on the situation of those most at risk of social exclusion such as women, men, youth and children (girls and boys) belonging to the most vulnerable groups, namely people with disability, Roma, elderly, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors. Maps of vulnerabilities as per the different administrative divisions have been developed by UNICEF for use as a social protection planning tool by the central and local administrations and will be published in 2016. In addition, a comprehensive analysis of the child protection system has been finalized recommending strategies and measures towards strengthening the national systems to protect children from any form of violence, abuse and neglect.

UNDP assisted the municipalities of Lezha, Lushnja and Pogradec to prepare and approve inclusive local plans for people with disabilities. Four local Community Development Plans (CPDs) focusing on Roma and Egyptian communities were prepared by the municipalities of Korca, Bucimas, Novosela and Berat to benefit a total of eight neighborhoods in these regions. The interventions foreseen in the CDPs relate not only to infrastructure, but also to ‘soft’ actions such as tax exemptions for Roma and Egyptian entrepreneurs, employment of Roma and Egyptian in local administration, modelling of various social services for Roma early inclusion, Roma integration, foster care for children without parental care, street children, children affected by violence, etc. Local partnership forums were established in three municipalities, Shkodra, Elbasan and Vlora, with participation of municipality councils, local CSOs and regional offices of Education, Social State Services and Health. An informative package indicating the criteria and procedures for accessing key social and public services has been prepared to aid Roma and Egyptian individuals accessing their civic rights in the areas of civil registration, social protection, education, employment and vocational education and training, social housing, legal aid, and health care. Roma and Egyptian households were enabled to diversify their sources of income through innovative self-employment and income generation initiatives. Vocational courses, on the job training and assistance to entrepreneurs was provided to 341 Roma and Egyptian individuals in the regions of Korca, Berat and Vlora; 138 Roma and Egyptians were assisted in finding employment⁶. Support was provided in the legalization process in two Roma localities in Lushnja and Berat and over 70 public hearings were held in all Roma settlements in the country resulting in completion of 1271 legalization applications. Community members acknowledged positive changes in their living conditions resulting from the infrastructure projects and employment and entrepreneurship initiatives⁷.

Furthermore, the country-wide communication campaign under the slogan “you and I, equal in diversity”, aiming to promote social inclusion and cultural diversity, proved an important vehicle for sharing with the general population the accurate and up-to-date information on the situation of Roma and Egyptian communities. UNDP supported the strengthening of Roma and local CSOs institutional capacities to become a reliable partner for fighting discrimination and furthering Roma and Egyptian social inclusion at local and central levels. Fifteen proposals submitted by Roma and Egyptian CSOs and three joint proposals developed by Roma and Egyptian CSOs and non-Roma and Egyptian NGOs were supported.

UN Women supported a participatory budgeting process in the municipalities of Tirana, Fier and Berat resulting in recommendations aiming to render social services at the local level more responsive to women. The recommendations, approved by the Municipal Councils, proposed the use of municipal funds to supplement financial assistance in support of women and families in need, construction of ramps to facilitate access for women and men with disabilities, provision of support services for women and children in multi-functional centers and application of a soft loan

⁵ Documents and other informative materials are available in the UN Agencies website.

⁶ 32 self-employed, 40 employed in private sector, 31 left the job after some days/months of working, 35 refused to work.

⁷ Final evaluation of the SSIREC project, July 2015

criteria for social housing especially for divorced and widow women. Up to 40% of Fier 2016 municipal budget was committed towards the completion of the actions proposed by the citizens in these recommendations.

The government was supported in adopting a multi-sectoral (social protection, health, education and interior) approach to address vulnerability and exclusion. Based on a solid experience and support provided by UNICEF, in February 2015, a Protocol establishing inter-sectoral collaboration on Child Protection was approved by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Health, Education and Interior Affairs. The Protocol outlines modalities of cooperation between various central and sub-national entities in following up on specific cases requiring special protection measures and interaction of various duty-bearers, and may serve as a *prototype* mechanism to regulate complex multi-sectoral accountabilities and operational relationships.

UNDP, UNICEF and UNAIDS contributed to strengthening capacities of selected local government units on different social inclusion and social protection issues, namely identifying the needs of people with disability, people living with HIV; monitoring and reporting towards the indicators of the new Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptian communities; identifying and responding to Child Protection issues; and participatory budgeting on issues that affect women. The MoSWY and its pertinent institutions, including the National Employment Service, Social State Services, Social Insurance Institution, Labour Inspectorate, etc., are being supported by UNICEF towards establishing harmonized procedures and data collection standards aiming to produce a solid database for social programs, disaggregated by sex. Furthermore, UNDP conducted 16 specialized monitoring and reporting training sessions and on the job coaching for 112 local and central government officials providing them with specialized knowledge on the web-based system of the new Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian Integration 2015-2020.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

The new territorial configuration will require an adjustment to UN's work to align with the timeframe of amalgamation of the existing LGUs into bigger ones, stronger UN advocacy to ensure that the needs of the vulnerable groups are prioritized in the new municipalities' agenda, and a more strategic approach to dissemination of data and capacity building, especially in the delivery of social services. The establishment of a well-developed government support programme for LGUs in cooperation with development partners and civil society is crucial.

There is a lack of disaggregated and comparative statistical data on the effectiveness of specific anti-discrimination measures and programmes for the vulnerable groups. The government and the UN should concentrate efforts to improve this statistical gap, as availability of these data is key to better formulation as well as evaluation of appropriate government policies and programs.

The Social Housing Strategy recommends changes to the existing institutional structure that supports the social housing sector. Further work is needed to model the institutional set-up and potential cooperation among actors in this area. Public-private partnerships should be explored as potential options of a renewed institutional framework for social housing delivery.

The involvement of qualified Roma/Egyptian individuals in the public administration and as part of local professional agencies has vested in them the status of service providers conversely to being always viewed as the targeted group. This approach has resulted in greater self-sufficiency thus reflecting another dimension of social inclusion. In this perspective, through its relevant programmes in the country, the UN should advocate more on behalf of Roma/Egyptian university graduates.

▪ **Future Direction**

As already planned and agreed with the Albanian Government, among others, the focus of UN work in this area will be on: (i) Evidence based profiling of the segments of the Albanian population most at risk of social exclusion; (ii) Development of the necessary instruments for the implementation of the social inclusion and social protection newly designed policy frameworks;

(iii) Development of legal, administrative and financial instruments to shape local service delivery policies and practice for greater impact; (iv) Capacity building and advocacy with the newly instituted municipalities on social inclusion and social protection; and (v) Enhanced Child Protection mechanisms and services to effectively reach and support children and families in situations of particular vulnerability.

OUTCOME 3 - GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

<i>Key National Partners</i>	<i>MoSWY, MoI, MoJ, MoEDTTE, MoUD, MoSLG, Parliament, CEC, Ombudsman, Political parties and interest groups, Union of workers and other employers and workers organizations, Business Associations, Banking services, INSTAT, Civil Society, Academia and Professional associations, Media, Private Sector, etc.</i>
<i>Participating UN Agencies and Partners</i>	UNDP, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNODC, UNHCR, UNEP, FAO and IOM
<i>Financial Contributors</i>	SIDA, ADA, Government of Belgium, SDC, EU, USA

“The Albanian State executes major governance processes following internationally agreed democratic principles and practices, while upholding the rule of law and eliminating key factors of exclusion of women”

During the reporting period, the Government of Albania pursued multiple reforms aiming at adopting stronger rule of law and governance performance measured through rankings in open budget index score; corruption index; and increased number of evidence-based, gender-sensitive sector policies and budgets. EU accession priorities are critical anchors for the national reform processes.

The governance and rule of law outcome level change is advanced by the UN through support provided to (1) the functions of institutions mandated with key democratic processes, namely elections, legislation and oversight; (2) evidence-based, inclusive, gender-responsive planning and budgeting; (3) innovations in public administration and law enforcement for accountability, transparency and effectiveness in carrying out statutory mandates; and (4) governance and effectiveness of institutions that safeguard public goods.

3.1 Parliament and Electoral Institutions	Parliament and electoral institutions have the capacity to perform core functions
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Elections and parliamentary functions, including their oversight, are core functions for a democracy. Without free and fair elections and executive and legislative functions with ultimate accountability to the citizenry, there can be no prospects for further democratization. UN work in this area, deriving from the unique mandate and capacities vested with the UN Department of Political Affairs and UN Electoral Assistance Division, supports capacity development of electoral management bodies and functioning of the legislative as a core branch of governance following CEDAW and gender equality considerations.

▪ **Main Achievements**

In 2015, Albania held the local elections which followed the 2014 Administrative-Territorial Reform. These elections were the first to elect mayors and local councils in each of the 61 newly-formed municipalities that replaced the former 373 municipalities and communes. As these elections were held soon after the country received its candidacy status, they were viewed as an



Monitoring women participation in Local Elections 2015

important assessment of the ongoing Administrative-Territorial Reform and the country's commitment to the requirements of the candidate status.

UNDP and UN Women assistance to elections focused on enabling institutions to advance historical change towards gender equality and electoral integrity for the new local government units. The first half of 2015 witnessed the introduction of the zipper system for local councillors and some 180K first time voters who are potential gender equality agents.

For the very first time, the Central Election Commission published sex-disaggregated data. The Commissioner for Protection from

Discrimination (CPD) was supported to increase its outreach and transparency. During the reporting period, CPD has handled a total of 212 cases from 172 in 2014⁸ and issued 165⁹ decisions. Its last published annual report included evidence based reporting, which fundamentally advances the role of independent institutions in fighting gender-based discrimination and promoting gender equality.

In view of the recent legal electoral advances and following Albania's administrative-territorial reform, the Albanian School of Public Administration developed tailored courses on *strengthened leadership skills and performance in decision-making* for councilwomen and women employees in the newly amalgamated municipalities' administration.

UN supported the monitoring of women participation in elections, political parties campaigns and media portrayal and coverage during the electoral period. The turnout of eligible voters in the local elections was 47%, of which 42% was comprised of women voters. Despite the 50% nomination quota for local council, the outcome was at 35% of women elected as council members. Women were nominated in 16 municipalities for the positions of the mayor, 9 of which were attained or 14%. None of the political parties competing in the elections were led by a woman. Nevertheless, unlike in 2011 and 2013, for the first time all competing political parties were able to complete and present proportional candidacy lists based on a 50% to 50% gender balance.

Despite the improvements in recent years, the electoral legislation is not yet complete in terms of better practices relating to gender balance as well as the transparency of the electoral process and the administration of the vote. The process of electoral management continues to be a significantly discriminatory process for women: the 30% gender quota for participation in the Commission of Election Administration Zones could only go as high as 28%; about 37% of the Vote Counting Centers had no female members. Tirana has a positive record with 28% of women members in the VCC. CEC continues to be run by a woman and includes two other women as members.

UNDP supported the improvement of the quality and engendering of the National Elections Integrity System Index (NEISI) - a comprehensive assessment and a holistic analysis of the electoral system (i.e. institutional capacities and legal provisions) as well as of the electoral process (i.e. administration of elections). This assessment is a product of the Election Situation Room (ESR) - a platform for the civil society in Albania aiming to enhance collaboration among CSOs engaged in activities related to election processes and monitoring. The strongest and the most

⁸ 187 complaints from individuals (83 males and 104 females); 8 complaints from organizations with a legitimate interest; and 17 ex-officio cases
⁹ 156 decisions on complaints handled and 9 decisions imposing sanctions by fine for non-implementation of CPD recommendations.

unique characteristic of the ESR is the fact that for the first time the monitoring reports reflect a CSOs unified voice.

Councilwomen, women in political party forums, women in parliament and civil society representatives are more aware of the barriers that women face in the local government decision making processes and its underlying roots in the limited powers women have in the political parties from a study on women's voice and role in local councils conducted by UNDP in 137 local councils with participation of 186 council women, from both urban and rural areas. Drawing lessons from the study's findings, the Women Caucus in Parliament, along with the newly elected councilwomen and political party women, generated concrete ideas¹⁰ on how to pursue: (i) the advancement of the agenda of women empowerment in politics (ii) increasing the oversight role of the central and local parliaments regarding implementation of the gender legal machinery for ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of women and (iii) lobbying for the increase of the gender quota in the electoral code for general elections and ensuring effective safeguards administered by the central electoral management bodies.

Following the establishment of the Parliamentary Group "Friends of Children", the Parliament has increased its engagement with the children's rights agenda. In collaboration with UNICEF, the Caucus organized a hearing session with CSOs to prioritize child right issues that need immediate attention for taking actions in 2016. In addition, the Parliament organized at least five discussions on issues related to children, namely on the blood-feud phenomenon, education and media, and inter-country adoption, with participation of a broad base of relevant stakeholders.

Further work is being advanced by UNICEF in this area. A tripartite work plan is being developed between the Ombudsman, UNICEF and the Child Rights Observatory to conduct various monitoring exercises related to children, particularly in prisons or other care institutions. A comprehensive joint work plan is being developed between the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination and UNICEF, in collaboration with CSOs, to support the Commissioner in reaching out to children in schools and also working with teachers and parents, particularly to raise awareness on children's rights and non-discrimination, as well as to analyze judicial/court processes and decisions related to children, predominantly when there are inequity-related concerns. A partnership is established with the local CSO Tirana Legal Aid Society to support strategic litigation for children's rights and raise awareness on the human rights of children.

■ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

Election administration is a critical area requiring assistance, however most international partners focus on the E-Day observation, detracting funds and attention from structural weaknesses of the electoral administration. Notably, insufficient and unpredictable funding forces development partners to cram electoral assistance around the months preceding the elections. It is important to provide support to electoral administration during non-electoral years so as to prepare election management bodies to handle the work load of election administration.

■ **Future Direction**

The UN will continue to support technical as well as organizational capacities of the Alliance of Women Parliamentarians to promote gender-sensitive legislation and better monitor law implementation. Further support will be provided to increase the advocacy role of women in the Parliament and in local governance structures as well as the capacities and partnerships of women and civil society in holding decision-makers to account for the adoption of good policies and practices at local governance level. The UN will support elected women capacities to perform in their new positions as well as increase capacities of the electoral management bodies to address challenges identified during 2015 and prepare for 2017 parliamentary elections.

¹⁰ Systematic lobbying for future electoral law improvements; Increasing accountability of respective line ministries through parliamentary hearing sessions on the advancement and the implementation of the gender considerations at central and local levels of governance.

Future interventions aim at improving the oversight role of the recently established Parliamentary Group “Friends of Children” and capacities of the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination and the Ombudsman to outreach and inform different partners especially in the private sector and media.

A few strategic cases for children in court will be initiated; awareness raising campaigns to increase demand of children for justice; support for monitoring juvenile detention facilities or judicial decisions for signs of discrimination against children from vulnerable groups.

Work will be conducted with civil society to strengthen their networking capacities and their quality of data collection, monitoring and reporting. Support will be provided to Albanian Universities (i.e., the faculties of journalism) and journalists on Gender Sensitive Indicators for the Media (GSIM) to increase their knowledge and understanding of gender indicators especially in elections.

<p style="text-align: center;">3.2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mainstreaming Gender and Gender Responsive Budgeting</p>	<p>Line ministries and public service delivery institutions are able to mainstream gender and conduct gender responsive planning and budgeting and evidence-based policy making at all levels</p>
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The Albanian Gender Equality Law decrees gender mainstreaming into all legislative and policy development initiatives at the central and local level and commands implementation to be equally beneficial to men and women. A key requirement for gender mainstreaming is the establishment of a stable national gender machinery steered by a professional administration that follows an integrated process of gender mainstreaming in all elements of governance.

UN support in this area focuses on strengthening government accountability through incorporation of gender equality objectives and priorities in national plans and budgets; increasing knowledge and capacities of civil servants at the central and local level, CSOs and academia in applying gender responsive planning and budgeting; and supporting approaches that attract and build the capacity of women to leadership positions in service delivery institutions. Particular attention is placed in improving the legal framework in public finance and justice system to respond to gender equality commitments. Advocacy and awareness raising initiatives ensure that citizens and government alike see gender mainstreaming as the only possible way that governance is performed.

Specific gender achievements are noted under each outcome and output of this report.

■ **Main Achievements**



Korca police women officers participating in the gender training

The Government’s Delivery Unit ensures that government priorities, aligned where possible to the EU priority sector programming and budget support exercises, are underpinned by advances in the governance of such sectors through the integrated policy management groups (IPMGs). UN support in this overall prioritization and planning exercise is focused on gender sensitizing both the processes and the products.

In this context, UN Women supported the integration of sex-disaggregated, gender-sensitive governance targets in the National Strategy for Development and Integration

2015-2020; formulation of the new National Strategy on Gender Equality, Reduction of Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence (2016-2020) and Action Plan; inclusion of gender equality principles in the public finance management system, resulting in 15 Mid Term Budget Programmes completed with specific objectives, outputs, activities and costs; provision of technical assistance and policy advice to MoSWY in the implementation of 2014-2015 Gender Equality Commitments.

The State Police Academy is assessing and upgrading the current training curricula on gender based violence and domestic violence as per the mandates of the state police forces in preventing and eliminating GBV & DV in the country, in view of the latest legal improvements of the domestic related legislation and newly ratified international treaties.

Repeated CEDAW observations concerning the applicability of human rights treaties in the Albanian legal system are being analyzed with a view to enable rights holders to seek redress before national courts and tribunals. New precedents in the Albanian jurisprudence for the proper implementation of the CEDAW Convention are being supported. Likewise, the parliament, Ombudsman, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination and the government are being supported on the self-applicability of CEDAW norms and compliance with the Albanian legislation and the Constitution. In September 2015, the Ombudsman submitted to the CEDAW Committee its recommendations on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention in Albania.

In the statistical domain, INSTAT's annual publication *Women and Men in Albania 2015*¹¹ was enriched with up-to-date sex disaggregated data from a range of sources across MoSWY, supplementing policy-making, sector analysis and decision making from a gender perspective. Additionally, INSTAT and MoSWY are being supported in adopting EUROSTAT standards for disaggregated data sharing between local and central level institutions. Gender Sensitive Indicators for the Media (GSIM) were disseminated to the Association of Women in Science Network for use in tertiary education planning.

To promote EU "*GE acquis*", a Gender Equality Facility¹² was established in Albania in 2015 by UN Women in partnership with the Austrian Development Cooperation Agency and EU. Substantial gender inputs were provided to feed into the government's sectorial planning documents in employment, skills and social policy, integrated water management, food safety and veterinary, draft decentralization strategy; and the draft public administration strategy. As a result, the EUD IPA II Sector Planning Documents include reference to gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting, sex-disaggregated statistics and gender data and where relevant gender quota/affirmative action.

UN Women supported the implementation of gender-responsive planning and budgeting of local services in 5 pilot municipalities, Tirana, Vlora, Saranda, Kelcyra and Permet. Furthermore, four universities, public and private, adopted the Gender Responsive Budgeting textbook for university-level students and professors.

Two knowledge products "Women and property rights" informative brochure and "Women' Property Mapping" report were produced by UN Women to raise awareness among urban, semi-urban and rural communities on a better understanding of the rights and obligations of women in the family, marriage, work and property relations. A study is being prepared by UNDP investigating public perceptions and attitudes towards gender equality in Albania, focusing on the types of barriers hindering women's successful integration into the labor market and proposing strategies that promote the economic empowerment of women.

¹¹ http://www.instat.gov.al/media/295842/femra_dhe_meshkuj_n_shqip_ri_2015.pdf

¹² The Gender Equality Facility in Albania is funded in Phase I (May 2015 - April 2016) with a budget of EUR 88.000 by the Austrian Development Agency. GEF has been included within the upcoming EU Integration Facility Action Plan for support by the EU Delegation under the Ministry of European Integration, under IPA II, ELARG Sector Democracy & Governance, and is foreseen to be financially supported by a budget of EUR 1.7 Million for a period of 28 months (i.e. GEF Phase II). GEF is captured in EUIF Action Plan Result 4: "EU Gender Equality *acquis* transposed through implementation of gender- and socially responsive government strategies, policies, budgets at a central and municipal level".

The Institute of Development of Education, in partnership with UNICEF, has initiated the revision and development of the new curricula for pre-school education paying attention to gender-equality and non-discrimination issues which should be tackled from an early age. Moreover, UNICEF, in collaboration with its partner NGOs, has introduced gender equality elements to the programme of parenting clubs for the Roma communities, promoting the education of children with principles of gender equality and non-discrimination, encouraging shared parenting between mothers and fathers and raising parents' awareness on the negative effects of early marriages, particularly pronounced among Roma and Egyptian girls.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

The country's major reforms undertaken in light of the EU-accession agenda have highlighted to a greater extent the legislative role of the Parliament compared to its oversight role. The local elections had implications at the central and local level as it influenced staff turnover and created a "stand by" situation affecting important decisions on gender mainstreaming in policy-making processes.

▪ **Future Direction**

Gender mainstreaming work will continue with specific deliverables in the following dimensions: a) legal and policy review in light of strategic priorities of the government and international commitments; b) development of the new National Strategy on Gender Equality, Reduction of Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence (2016-2020) Action Plan in consultation with the relevant actors; c) strategic litigation for women's rights; and d) stable local gender machinery and an administration with specific skills to integrate gender in local initiatives that lead to women empowerment in local communities, and e) efforts to ensure that children and parents become aware of the importance of gender equality and elimination of discrimination and incorporate this awareness in their behavior and family and society members.

<p>3.3 Anti-corruption and the Rule of Law</p>	<p>State, market, non-state institutions enabled to deliver their statutory mandates, prevent corruption; enforce rule of law</p>
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UN actions in this area focus on adoption of standards, institutionalization of systems and incentives for the reduction of corruption and stronger legislative, civil society and public awareness and oversight. Work is conducted jointly with institutions and organizations that safeguard economic transactions by protecting property rights, enforcing contracts, and organizing collective action to set the rules, regulations, and information that are needed to lend feasibility or workability to the interactions among different economic actors, individual and corporate. The areas of focus are the public procurement and key service delivery sectors, including non-distributive sectors such as judiciary, state police, national coordinators of anti-trafficking, asylum, fight against corruption etc.

▪ **Main Achievements**

Albania's progress in the area of governance and rule of law is still modest. The new National Strategy for Development and Integration is pending finalization since 2014. A comprehensive Public Administration Reform Strategy 2015-2020 is approved and a new Code of Administrative Procedures adopted. Together with the earlier enactment of a new Civil Service Law, these policy documents constitute a sound package for the modernization of the public administration. Nevertheless, implementation remains a challenge and a test for the future, with high expectations in ensuring the sustainability of a professional and depoliticized public administration at both central and local levels.

In the context of the finalization of the NSDI 2015-2020 and in response to a request from the Office of the Prime Minister to develop and test governance targets and indicators to feed the UN's post-2015 SDG framework, UNDP helped to identify a set of 21 governance indicators along with



Container Control Programme

targets, baselines and sources of data to be included into the National Strategy for Development and Integration.

Along with the provision of feedback to the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2015-2020 public consultations, UNDP supported the government's reform of the public services and their citizen-centric orientation through equipping the newly established Agency for Delivery of Integrated Services of Albania (ADISA) central offices to become operational and fully functional and formulating a long term government policy document on public services in Albania.

In the framework of the Open Government Partnership, UNDP supported the organization of a regional conference on "Western Balkans Open Government Partnership Dialogue", in September 2015, with participation of around 300 people from Albania, the region, and EU. In the same context, support is being provided to the preparation of a third national survey "Trust in Government", sampling 1,600 respondents on public trust towards government institutions and their service delivery performance. The survey is conducted in parallel in five Western Balkan countries, enabling for the data to be analyzed at the regional level in 2016.

In February 2015, the Government launched a first of its kind anti-corruption portal, enabling citizens to report cases of corruption occurring across public institutions. This government initiative was initially sustained by UNDP through temporary support for the portal's operators. Current support is focused on optimizing the portal's analytical and knowledge products, automating the reporting information and strengthening capacities of key officials of the anti-corruption network at both central and sub-national levels. For the period February to September 2015, a total of 8,749¹³ cases have been reported, 4,455 of which have been addressed. An initial survey involving 850 respondents was carried out to gauge public awareness on the portal and trust on such instruments to fight corruption. In addition, throughout the year, UNDP provided targeted interventions focused on strengthening the function of the National Coordinator for Anti-Corruption.

In the area of organized crime prevention, the UN works to counter smuggling of illicit goods and to improve the management of fiscal assets. UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO) provided technical assistance to further strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies, in particular in the field of improved border control through application of more efficient container risk profiling and inspections. In addition, IOM supported the partnership and inter-institutional cooperation between relevant policing units for combating irregular migration.

Despite efforts to curb irregular migration to the EU through the asylum claims, the number of Albanian asylum applicants in EU member states has been on the rise during 2015. UNHCR and IOM engaged jointly with the government to prepare a contingency plan for the possibility of massive mixed migration flows to Albania. In 2015, Albania received 482 Camp Ashraf refugees, bringing the total number of Camp Ashraf refugees residing in Albania since 2013 to over 960 people. The assistance provided by the government and UNHCR was channeled through the National Reception Center for Asylum Seekers and it included food and non-food items and

1. <http://appa.al/a/raport-shtator-2015-ministria-e-shtetit-per-ceshtjet-vendore/> - 930 corruption cases in the public administration in the following categories: Health 182 cases; Education 224; Police 82; Justice 50; Property 43; Taxation 38; Vehicles 35; Customs 28; Procurement 24; Legalization 18; Energy 12; Other 191.

personnel to manage the high number of arrivals. The individuals received monthly financial support and were assisted in completing the procedures for obtaining the refugee status.

In the context of local elections, UNDP launched the project "Strengthening Electoral Processes in Albania" designed to improve competencies of election officials and strengthen processes and systems for the administration of elections. Focus group discussions to identify key issues in voter education prior to the local elections were organized in eight towns in all major regions of Albania. CEC produced an animated video for training international election observer groups and 280 CEC trainers, which was published on the CEC website besides being aired by the national TV in Albanian as a civic education tool prior to the elections day. A CEC web-based platform was established to provide information on local elections, including the new election boundaries and candidates. A week-long training program was organized, based on the BRIDGE methodology, for judges appointed as members of the Electoral College and CEC commissioners on interpreting the Electoral Code and resolving electoral disputes. Furthermore, a two-day Gender and Elections workshop was organized by UN Women for the staff of the CEC secretariat and civil society organizations.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

Progress towards results in the fight against corruption and organized crime requires inter-institutional cooperation among national partners. Where inter-institutional partnerships have been successful, e.g. UNDOC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP), results are more tangible. In the elections area, supporting interventions should be conducted in advance in the election cycle. Potential future programming should commence as early in the electoral preparation period as possible in order to maximize effectiveness of interventions.

Policy reforms typically require several years to work their way through government. There is a number of ambitious initiatives related to modernization of public administration, improving service delivery and fighting anticorruption, for which it is necessary to find the appropriate intermediate indicators of progress and disseminate them properly. There is a need to enrich the ways of conducting performance monitoring for services and e-services, i.e. user surveys completed by the public to inform policy making on their needs and expectations on ongoing initiatives.

▪ **Future Direction**

UN will continue working on adoption of standards, institutionalization of systems and incentives for the reduction of corruption and stronger legislative, civil society and public awareness and oversight. UNDP will support the National Anticorruption Coordinator to improve the existing online instruments of denunciation (information on corruption cases identified by citizens) as well as increase the citizen's confidence on the latter. In addition, engagement will continue with the government counterparts and civil society to identify new areas and activities aiming to strengthen public pressure on corruption.

UNHCR and IOM support will be extended to improve the conditions of reception and treatment of foreign migrants in Albania, in order to ensure that human rights of all categories of migrants, independent of their status (regular or irregular) are being respected. UNHCR will continue monitoring the observation of the right to seek asylum by all foreign migrants and the right to access and have fair and efficient asylum procedures. This will include border monitoring, provision of free legal assistance and additional integration services.

UNODC/WCO will continue to support the government's law enforcement agencies in integrated border management and combating organized crime and corruption focusing on greater regional cooperation and integration, stronger monitoring and reporting, and incorporating gender considerations into operations.

Actions in this area aim to ensure and enforce the conservation and sustainable use of public goods and common goods i.e. the air we breathe, cultural heritage, natural heritage, biodiversity, recreational areas, coasts, parks, urban spaces, etc. UN supports the efficient management of Protected Areas that safeguards the nature and culture values with the long term vision of balancing the natural and cultural protection with local economic benefits for communities. In this context, priority is given to the enforcement and monitoring actions focusing on marine and coastal protected areas; strengthening transboundary cooperation over the region's cultural and natural heritage as well as recognizing and profiling the transboundary area by assessing its values and sustainable development opportunities; increasing capacities for the effective management of natural and cultural heritage; and supporting integrated management planning based on active cross-sectorial cooperation and public participation.

▪ **Main Achievements**



Ohrid Project Workshop

UNDP supported the development of the Management and Business Plans for the marine and coastal protected area of Karaburun – Sazan, aiming to provide long term effective site management and conservation approach. In this context, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are being enacted at Karaburun – Sazan and the buffer zone in cooperation with the National Agency of Protected Areas, the latter being set up and supported in its operational activities by UNDP. A set of targeted priority actions was implemented with CSOs and local communities and resource user groups located in this area. The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) methodology is institutionalized and used to assess performance of protected areas starting with Karaburun – Sazan and proceeding with all

coastal areas. The expansion of marine protected areas is sustained with scientific and legal evidence for designation of Porto Palermo as a Natural Park.

UNESCO supported Albania's participation to the international meeting on "Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR) in Europe: Instruments, Methods, Governance" held in June 2015. The meeting concluded with an engagement to continue working with Albania on issues contributing to strengthening management and governance in TBR, including institutional enhancement and funding mechanisms, as well as promoting and improving its visibility at various levels in the country.

Likewise, three Management Planning workshops for the Lake Ohrid region were supported aiming to establish management mechanisms that build upon and strengthen those already in place at national and transboundary levels, provide tools to design an integrated management system for the Lake Ohrid Region as a potential mixed transboundary World Heritage property, and advance the substantial work undertaken by the authorities of the FYR of Macedonia in terms of management planning for the already inscribed. These workshops concluded with preparation of four visions for the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid region¹⁴.

¹⁴ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/lake-ohrid-region/>

The Ministry of Culture, in accordance with the decision of the World Heritage Committee, has undertaken necessary action towards enhancing the management of the World Heritage properties. UNESCO support enabled the Government to prepare reports¹⁵ on Berat and Gjirokastra, thus presenting the government's commitments and examples of the best practices which ensure adequate preservation of cultural heritage and fulfillment of international obligations.

UNDP supported Albania Third National Communication (TNC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is currently in the final peer review process. The scientific work conducted in the framework of TNC¹⁶ contributed to the formulation of Albania's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), which was submitted to the Convention on 24 September 2015, committing to a reduction of 11.5 % CO₂ emissions. Furthermore, UNDP provided technical support and guidance to the Albanian Delegation participating in the Climate Change meeting of parties in Paris (COP 21). The INDCs submitted by the governments sealed the climate deal in Paris. UNDP is starting a Climate Change National Adaptation planning process in the country and it is currently working with the National Territorial Planning Agency to include Climate Change considerations in the Integrated Plan for Coastal Zone Management.

In two unexploded ordnance (UXO) Hotspots (Gjeroven and Palikesht Berat), 446,211 square meters of land was cleared by the Norwegian People's Aid. Inspection and certification was conducted in five former military ammunitions depots (Mirake-Librazhd, Qafe Molle-2 in Tirana, Sazan- Vlore and Labinot-Elbasan). Risk education, community liaison actions and public awareness sessions were undertaken on the potential risk of dangerous unexploded ordnances, with participation of 5,800 local inhabitants in Gjeroven and Palikesht UXO hotspots in Berat involved in risky activities such as scrap metal collection and farming in contaminated areas. In this regard, 5,000 leaflets with risk education messages are being prepared for distribution to the priority hotspots.

There are at least 991 UXO casualties (150 killed and 841 injured) all over Albania¹⁷. Disaggregation of data by age and gender are available for every prefecture/region of the country. During 2015, 264 UXO and explosive remnants of war (ERW) victims and their families were visited, 221 UXO and ERW victims in Tirana, Fier, Vlora and Kukes were interviewed and at least 50 amputees were fitted with prostheses or received major repairs at the prosthetic Workshop in Kukes Regional Hospital. Likewise, UNDP supported the preparation of 5 annual convention transparency reports on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Convention of AP Mines and the Convention on Cluster Munitions for the year 2015.

Technical assistance was provided by FAO in assessing and monitoring the situation concerning the status and spread of the Pine Processionary Moth (PPM, *Thaumetopoea pityocampa*). PPM constitutes a serious threat to Black Pine forest ecosystems in Albania. Based on the comparison of monitoring data of 2014 and 2015, there is evidence that the moth population is still on the increase, despite the possible alleviating effect of mechanical nest removal programmes of previous years jointly implemented by relevant governmental institutions.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

The main barriers that hamper the attainment of maximum ecological coverage and high management effectiveness of the marine and coastal protected area system in Albania are being addressed. The support provided to the new National Agency of Protected Areas aims to establish a governance system that would provide for effective protection and sustainable development of the Protected Areas in the country.

¹⁵ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/documents/>

¹⁶ The INDC formulation process was supported by the GHG inventory, analysis and mitigation actions under the Albania Third National Communication to UNFCCC and two National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).

¹⁷ The reported number is cumulative covering the period 1997-2015.

Data availability continues to be a challenge especially in the area of climate impact monitoring in different systems/sectors. Lack of data and monitoring capacity affect other environment sectors, such as biodiversity data on flora and fauna species and population, and makes application of conservation policies a real challenge.

Following the broad consultation process on Albania INDC, the country needs to start preparing in this regard by breaking down the commitments into concrete domestic actions in the area of energy and transport

In monitoring and controlling PPM, the Ministry of Environment with support from the UN and other potential partners should design and implement a program using biological control measures (*Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)*) since mechanical nest removal in previous years did not yield the expected results. A mixture of both biological and mechanical control measures depending on specific forest and terrain conditions is the most promising way forward to control this forest pest.

▪ **Future Direction**

The National Agency of Protected Areas will be supported with training and capacity building as well as technical advice for the preparation and implementation of the Nature Protection Strategy. UN agencies will continue to support law enforcement and monitoring activities in the Protected Areas system in the country in cooperation with other local government structures. The implementation of Karaburun-Sazani management plan priority actions will continue as well as showcasing eco-tourism promotion in other coastal protected areas in the country.

The third National Report to UNFCCC will be launched accompanied with intensive awareness events and further work will advance in supporting post Paris work and Albania INDC implementation. Authorities from Albania and the FYROM, such as the MAB National Committees and UNESCO National Commissions, will follow up on the final outputs and outcomes of the International Meeting on TBRs in Europe: Instruments, Methods, Governance.

UN will support hotspots clearance ammunition disposal over the country’s territory: (i) clearance and certification of 775,755 m² in contaminated areas (Picar, Kordhoc, Sinanaj, Qaf-Shtame, Klos, Suc, Mbreshtan,,Jube-Sukth) in full compliance with international humanitarian standards; (ii) four former military depots in Borizane Kruje; Vertop Berat; Qafe Molle-1 Tirane; Mengel Elbasan inspected and certified as safe and free from ammunition for further use; (iii) community liaison, public awareness and risk education of local communities living around the affected areas in Gjirokaster, Tepelene, Lac, Burrel and Durres.

OUTCOME 4 - REGIONAL & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>National Partners</i>	<i>MoARDWA, MoEDTTE, MoI, MoE, MoSLG, MIPA, AIDA</i>
<i>Participating UN Agencies and Partners</i>	<i>UNDP, FAO, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNWOMEN, UNESCO</i>
<i>Financial Contributors</i>	<i>SIDA, GEF, EU, Italy, SDC, USAID,</i>

“Government of Albania implements policies that advance democratic, equitable and sustainable regional and local development”

Change towards democratic, equitable, sustainable regional and local development is being advanced through the following mutually interlinked entry points of rural development and agricultural sector policies: increasing the technical, financial and human resource capacities of local governance institutions; strengthening capacities of national and sub national government units to promote sustainable growth and livelihoods; and finally through supporting national and

local authorities in mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction in program, policy and implementation.

4.1 Agriculture and Rural Development	State institutions at regional and local levels have the capacity to implement rural development and modernization of the agricultural sector
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UN supports the Government of Albania to implement policies that advance democratic, equitable and sustainable regional and local development. Notably, it aims for state institutions at regional and local levels to have the capacity to implement rural development and modernization of the agricultural sector. Explicitly, in order to ensure a timely and effective implementation of the relevant actions for the main policy areas, UN supports the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Water Administration to strengthen its policy implementation capacity and its competitiveness for the benefit of the sector; ensure resource-efficient development of the rural areas; and better quality of life for the rural dwellers.

▪ **Main Achievements**



Training in the use of Geographic Information System tools

FAO is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Water Administration (MoARDWA) in implementing the Inter-sectoral Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020 through enhancement of the internal policy function of the ministry, capacity development of the newly established Economic Analysis Unit and Statistics Unit and policy design in line with EU standards.

In addition, it provides assistance to Albania in the conservation and management of endangered locally adapted crop varieties. A nationwide monitoring and information-sharing system for plant genetic resources has been established, with training provided in data gathering and reporting for

professionals from the Faculty of Agriculture and the Agriculture Technology Transfer Centres (ATTCs) of Fush-Kruja, Korca, Vlora and Lushnja. The system stores, *inter alia*, information on the entire *ex situ* collection of plant genetic resources (4,105 accessions) as well as information about 305 crop varieties recently released in the country and over more than 400 references to publications addressing plant genetic resources in Albania.

FAO supported the government in the preparation of an analysis on the State of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA)¹⁸. It highlights gaps and needs and provides recommendations to improve the preservation and sustainable management of PGRFA through strengthening partnership among existing national stakeholders. Furthermore, a national web portal, serving as dissemination and aggregation platform of the country PGRFA community, was developed as a key element of a public awareness campaign of the importance of PGRFA and the need to conserve them for future use.

The reporting period corresponds to the closure of FAO's project "Capacity development of Agricultural Technology Transfer Centers and Extension services for rural diversification", which focused on developing approaches and a replicable pilot project module(s) for rural development, taking into consideration the needs of the rural underemployed, with a particular focus on women.

¹⁸ <http://qrgj.org/>

In this context, the national strategy and policy documents have been reviewed for conformity with the CAP; capacities of Extension services and ATTCs have been strengthened on formulation and implementation of rural development programmes, especially three pilot rural programmes at regional levels (Korca, Berat and Shkodra); training manuals have been prepared for each technical matter (sheep management, olive production, integrated pest management for vegetables, etc.) and one for trainers and a mechanism has been established to replicate the trainings in other communes or regions with similar needs.

Other supported initiatives include post-harvest training for farmers in Shkodra, preparation of a brochure for farmers on the same topic, preparation of a gender impact assessment of the trainings and recommendations for the government and rural advisory services on gender mainstreaming in rural development projects. Women farmers have also been trained to produce soap from olive oil. The impact assessment conducted after a year of the trainings at the three pilot locations indicated clear increase of the farmers' income due to increased productivity, decreased labor costs and increase farmers' and women farmers' welfare.

In collaboration with the ministry, UN Women is conducting a diagnosis study of the socio-economic situation of rural women with a view to identify priority areas where positive action is needed. It will provide knowledge of rural women's needs, the factors that hinder or foster their full economic participation, and the way in which developmental processes in rural Albania can be used to enhance the living conditions of rural women. Additionally, as participation in economic agricultural clusters¹⁹ is considered a relevant instrument for women's economic empowerment, especially in rural areas, UN Women is supporting both MoARDWA and the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship in piloting two Women's Cluster Models in two pilot communes of Elbasan region.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

In rural development, a participatory capacity gap assessment in the form of workshops at the local level allowed for more demand- and bottom-up driven trainings that build potential for income diversification. MoARDWA and other partners could consider involving non-formal extension services, CSOs, farmer organizations, in the provision of advisory services, especially in regions where public extension services lack human resources. In addition, rural communities should take an active role in the process of project formulation to ensure that the project addresses their actual needs.

In the conservation and management of endangered locally adapted crop varieties, integrated actions between three main public stakeholders, namely MoARDWA and its ATTCs, the Agricultural University of Tirana and the Ministry of Environment, are essential for securing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA in Albania. The expertise of the National Genebank within the Agricultural University of Tirana represents a key element of the national conservation strategy on these resources. Finally, an ad hoc management of crop wild relatives and wild food plants, which are increasingly threatened in protected areas by changes in climatic conditions, requires strong coordination with the Ministry of Environment.

▪ **Future Direction**

A decentralized FAO office was established in early 2015 in Albania. It will support MoARDWA in implementing the Inter-sectoral Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020 through enhancement of the internal policy function of the ministry, capacity development of the newly established Economic Analysis Unit and Statistics Unit, and policy design in line with EU standards.

¹⁹ An economic cluster is geographical locations where enough resources and competences amass reach a critical threshold, giving it a key position in a given economic branch of activity, and with a decisive sustainable competitive advantage over other places, or even a world supremacy in that field (e.g. Silicon Valley and Hollywood).

4.2 Local Governance

Local Government Units and governance institutions have the technical, financial and human resources to deliver equitable public and administrative services for men and women and render account

UN support in this area focuses on local governance consolidation by assisting the government in the implementation of the administrative and territorial reform through the development of the amalgamation model and instructions for the full re-organization of current 373 LGUs into only 61 larger ones; massive replication of the model, based on capacity building for local stakeholders and actors; and necessary adjustments to the legal and administrative frameworks. In parallel, the re-organization of local government and the preservation of public services in the territory, by adopting innovative and system integration approaches, will also be in the UN focus requiring piloting of services in accordance with the one-stop-shop approach.

▪ Main Achievements



A demonstration of “One Stop Shop” in Ishem

The implementation of the administrative and territorial reform intensified in light of the June 2015 local elections. A dedicated Agency for the Implementation of the Reform was established in February 2015 under the Minister of State for Local Issues to provide institutional facilitation and to support the amalgamation and consolidation of the newly established LGUs. Legal support was provided by UNDP to improve the definition of the Agency’s legal framework and mandate as well as in preparing and improving the legal framework for the amalgamation of the existing LGUs, which were reflected in the Law 30/2105 “on changes and additions to the Law 8652” on the organization and functioning of the local governments” adopted in April 2015.

The initial due diligence piloting exercise in 12 LGUs, conducted by UNDP, was finalized in April 2015 and informed directly the process of transferal of functions and responsibilities to the new 61 LGUs. The piloting exercise was accompanied by a nationwide training of 61 local working groups on due diligence and amalgamation approaches and involved over 240 officials from the local administrations. The collection and structuring of related financial and operational data for each of 373 former LGUs is ongoing and it will be completed by April 2016.

In order to tackle the preservation of public services in the territory, UNDP provided support to develop innovative systems and integration approaches such as one-stop-shop and digitalization of archives by optimizing relevant best practices and local capacities, aiming to develop replicable models and up scaling at national level during 2016 and beyond. One-Stop Shops practices were piloted in two LGUs in Durres and Elbasan, offering up to 9 services through a single desk. A Data Management System and Digitalization of Archives was piloted in one LGU in Durres.

Additionally, 26 smaller LGUs were supported in formulating their short-term Local Development Operational Plans, including project outlines for capital investments. These plans would serve as blueprints for the new municipalities, especially during their first 2-3 years of operations. Gender mainstreaming has been in the focus throughout the planning phases, from data collection and analysis to prioritization. Furthermore, special consideration has been given in supporting the government to address the definition of the administrative borders of the 61 new local government

units. In this context, 120 specialists from 61 LGUs were trained to use the established GIS system for their respective municipality.

Besides supporting the implementation of the administrative and territorial reform, UN continues to serve as a platform for fostering new and consolidating existing territorial partnerships between Albanian LGUs and those from EU countries. In this framework, UNDP facilitated the cooperation between selected communes in the region of Shkoder, including the regional council, with the Italian Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, in implementing two project initiatives: (i) physical rehabilitation and adaptation to touristic purposes of six guesthouses of traditional architecture in the Albanian Alps and capacity building of 25 local inhabitants to become tourism service providers and guides; and (ii) instituting a process of digitalization, cataloguing and opening up to the World Wide Web one hundred thousand, 19th century images from Marubi Photo Archive, the oldest and largest in the Balkans. These initiatives aim at lifting out of poverty poor people living in rural areas, increase the vision and capacities of local administrations to define their own development objectives based on their endogenous potential, as well as promote culture and history and generate income through increased touristic visibility.

UN Women supported the implementation of participatory planning and budgeting in five municipalities through an increased effective citizens' participation and consultation²⁰. In addition, in the period leading up to the local elections, it ran local Community Based Scorecards in four new local government units to monitor gender-sensitive election platforms.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

An effective policy environment and national commitment, with appropriate institutions and mechanisms in place, is an essential prerequisite to the success of any intervention at local level. In order to improve coordination among different active actors, the information, tools and training materials need to be made accessible during the various interventions. The observed replacement of some of the already trained local working groups' members after the elections is an identified risks. Such replacements diminished the ability of the working groups to carry out in a timely manner the due diligence and provision of required data. The establishment and functioning of a help–desk has helped to mitigate this risk.

The focus of the territorial and administrative reform on the organizational restructuring and consolidation of LGUs has put somewhat out of focus the need for strengthening their capacities and role towards the local development agenda. Hence, it is important that this element is included in future assistance as an important part of LGUs purpose.

Higher level indicators are commonly used to gauge the effectiveness of decentralization and improved local governance and to reflect improvements in basic public services. However, such indicators often fail to capture the progress made as the changes require more time to happen in aggregate. Hence, there is a need to identify more appropriate and intermediate measurable results that carry significance.

▪ **Future Direction**

In close consultation with the national counterparts, UNDP has identified a number of future entry points related to supporting the consolidation of local governments and local democratic governance. On one hand, the assistance will cover areas of accountability, transparency, participative governance as well as strengthening administrative capacities and supporting the proper implementation of the new Code of Administrative Procedures and the Civil Service Law at the local level. On the other hand, local government units will be supported in the reorganization of public services and utilities, building capacities for the newly decentralized functions as per the new organic law, and expanding or developing replicable models of e-governance (one-stop-shops). Support will be provided for the establishment of a national benchmarking system for

²⁰ Cross reported under output 3.2

service delivery performance and promotion of best relevant practices and innovations for increased access, inclusiveness and efficiency of service provision.

4.3 Economic Development	National and sub-national government units have the capacity to generate and strengthen investments, employment and livelihood opportunities, especially for youth and women
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UN initiatives in this area address policy dialogue and partnership with the Government of Albania and the private sector through provision of technical support aiming to shape current policy debates on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international actions are mutually supportive in bringing inclusive and sustainable economic growth through enhanced regulatory frameworks.

▪ **Main Achievements**



Women economic property and family rights discussed among Korça local government and civil society partners

UN Women is working closely with the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship (MEDTTE) on the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women Entrepreneurship (WE) 2014-2020. The newly established Advisory Board for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan on WE 2014-2020 conducted several meetings in 2015, setting the establishment of a women’s business center within AIDA as a key priority, aiming to provide business counseling and training for women throughout Albania. Going forward, the ministry is working jointly with the UN Women to develop a concept for the operationalization of this business center.

The ministry is committed to develop and promote community based tourism that aims to include and benefit local communities particularly in the rural belt. In this context, UN Women provided support in developing a mapping study on “potential women groups, geographical spots and respective local capacities” for establishment of women community based tourism initiatives. The study will be piloted by the ministry in 3 regions aiming to create further economic opportunities for women to engage in community based tourism initiatives with strong state and relevant donors’ support.

Additionally, UN Women worked with the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth on revising the Regulation “Safety Measures for health and security in the workplace of pregnant employees, new mothers and breast feeding employees’.

Likewise, UNDP activities in this area, aiming at improving the economic situation of women in rural and semi-rural areas, took place in Korça region, including Erseka and Vithkuq, and Vlora region, including Hore Vranisht and Novosela. Through a participatory process, business plans have been developed, identifying equipment and raw materials, cooperation agreements among women and with local authorities have been established, and women groups have been defined to receive professional skills for developing local products and services for sale and contribution to resilient lives and family economies. Interventions in Burrel increased (i) awareness on the area’s products aiming to expand their trademark by the private businesses that operate in several regions of the country; (ii) income for women resulting in their economic empowerment for processing new plants; and (iii) women’s orientation towards private initiatives to self-employment.

UNDP's economic literacy program of women, conducted in 5 regions of the country Burrel, Saranda, Vlora, Korça and Durres, reached out to local community vulnerable women and relevant state and non-state bodies emphasizing women's rights, duties and protecting mechanisms in family, marital, work and property relations as well as on the role and responsibilities of local state bodies to the appropriate implementation of these rights and safeguards.

The government places particular attention to the state of gender diversity in the Albanian companies' boards and senior management. In this context, the ministry is being supported by UN Women to conduct a national study to examine the state of affairs and provide key recommendations. This intervention is prompted by the concern that women continue to be under-represented on boards and in senior management despite making immense progress in education and employment.

In terms of supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Albania, UNECE provided assistance to the ministry in the preparation of two technical papers (i) the national system of standardization, quality assurance and metrology and (ii) trade facilitation conditions in Albania. A trader's survey and a database of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Albania by sector are complemented with training of the national team, responsible for conducting the interviews and establishing the database with the Government.

An analysis was made of the UNCTAD business registration and licensing process and a road map for the implementation of a combined service through the e-Albania portal was presented to the Albanian national partners. The new service would allow entrepreneurs to apply online simultaneously for registration at the National Registration Center (NRC) and for licenses at the National Licenses Center (NLC).

The "UNCTAD Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy" was published in May 2015 in the context and in view of the "Seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices" organized in Geneva on 6-10 July 2015.

UNDP conducted a strategic analysis on FDI inflow along with a review of Albanian Investment Development Agency's activities. Particular attention was placed on the development of infrastructure for Greenfield and Brownfield investment as these were identified as one of the weakest links of Albania's investment climate. In addition, capacities of AIDA staff were strengthened on the entire FDI life cycle including local sourcing.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

The complexity of the economic development work necessitates an increased level of interaction across the UN agencies and between the UN and the Ministry of Economy as the government's leading partner. The UN's work on local employment creation / local growth has been hampered by changes in the management of institutions, notably AIDA. The government's institutional roles and responsibilities for enterprise development, FDI promotion and spurring local economic growth remain unclear. Moreover, work with community based tourism initiatives for women has been slow due to transitioning competences from MoUDT to MEDTTE. UN interventions in this area will pick up in line with MEDTTE priorities.

▪ **Future Direction**

UNCTAD and UNECE will focus towards Albania's integration into regional and global value chains; and the development of a multi-agency Albanian Single Window for export and import clearance.

UNDP and UN Women actions will focus on women's economic empowerment: self-employment opportunities for poor, marginalized and vulnerable women; increased knowledge among women of their economic, property and family rights.

Human centered innovations in service design will be replicated to bring tourism closer to areas traditionally not known as tourist destinations. UNDP deliverables in support of AIDA will focus on the elaboration of sector profiles on leather and shoe industry as well as agro-tourism. In view of local economic development services outreach, a study on the potential non-financial business services that new municipalities can offer to their constituents will be completed during 2016. The newly designed merger between the National Centre for Registration and National Centre of Licensing will also provide a new institutional impetus to business support.

4.4 Climate Change	Key ministries and local authorities adopt local, regional and national action on climate change adaptation (including short term e.g. DRR) and mitigation across sectors
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The ongoing reform in the energy sector saw the adoption of the Power Sector Law, the Energy Efficiency Law and a reduction in electricity non-payments from 45% in 2013 to 32% in mid-2015. UN support in this area ensures that the role of Renewable Energy sources in the overall power supply strategy is clearly defined prior to embarking on nuances of RES support schemes in general and feed-in-tariffs in particular.

▪ **Main Achievements**



Team on deployment for the real testing case of FLOODIS in Shkodra

UNESCO conducted a field testing of the FLOODIS system in Shkodra region for the delivery of alerts and interactive maps on flooding risks and events to users in the geographical area at risk. The cost-benefit analysis was concluded in the fall and presented in a conference held in Paris on October 2nd 2015.

In response to the flooding situation that affected the southeast part of the country in early 2015, the UN, jointly with the European Union and the World Bank, supported the government in conducting a post-disaster needs analysis (PDNA).

In this context, UNDP took actions to prepare and execute flood control infrastructure restoration, aiming at strengthening resilience and disaster risk preparedness and prevention in southeast Albania. Rehabilitation of 17 flood protection infrastructures located in 8 municipalities is ongoing with 80% of the infrastructure works already implemented.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) provided cash assistance to around 9,500 people affected by the floods in the country. Households in the five most-affected regions in Albania, Fier, Berat, Vlorë, Elbasan and Gjirokastër, received a three-month cash grant through personal cheques of US\$35 per month, totaling US\$105 per person. Beneficiaries were selected by local village committees, consisting of village elders, women and the poorest members of the community.

Informed by the post-disaster assessment conducted jointly with the MoES, UNICEF prioritized the provision of psycho-social assistance to children, using the Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) model. The interventions were aimed at restoring the feeling of normalcy for children through play and creative activities, reducing harmful levels of accumulated stress and teaching new positive coping strategies by socializing with other children and adults in supportive environments. CFSs were set up in four schools in Pjeshkore, Morave, Darzeze and Fitore (Central Albania, municipalities of Vlora, Fier and Berat) targeting 1,100 children.

UNDP supported the Ministry of Energy in updating the national Action Plan on Renewable Energy to reflect the latest changes in the energy legal frame i.e. the new law on Power Sector and Concessions. Energy efficiency standards are being introduced in the design of social houses, Korca being the first complex of this kind to be built in 2016. This initiative will serve as an important example on how to tackle fuel poverty and assist vulnerable residents and those on low incomes to save on their bills and avoid ill health as well as establish a model for benchmarking private investments in the housing sector.

UNDP's promotion of legal and market based approaches to increase the use of energy efficient and innovative solar water heating technology continues through the small grants scheme co-founded at municipal level, associated with advocacy and capacity building activities. To date it reached 164,870 m² installed cumulative area with an annual sale of 20,305 m² and 678,570 tCO₂²¹ reduction. Six municipalities have benefited from tailor-made capacity building activities on the application of solar water heating technologies and 11 public institutions received installations of SWH systems (2 health centers, 3 kindergartens and 1 day-care, 3 multidisciplinary centers, 1 elderly house and 1 students' dormitory). Planned interventions will scale up under the jurisdiction of the current 61 municipalities.

Support was provided by FAO to the government in strengthening professional capacity of staff in forest administration on wood energy issues, to overcome the existing data and information gaps on wood biomass potentials and fuel wood consumption.

▪ **Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned**

Despite operational experience and leadership of the UN in responding to disasters, in an EU context and for long-term capacity development, it is critical that the EU and the Government co-lead disaster response. The National civil protection department should be empowered and include professional staff with adequate technical expertise to proactively interface with the DEWETRA system managed by IGEWE, possibly under a common unified coordinative framework.

In the energy sector, the MoU between public entities and municipalities ensured cooperation for (i) legal assistance to adopt solar obligations on local standards; (ii) capacity building of staff in charge of policy making and projects design; and (iii) secured the cost-sharing of selected pilot projects, which had a direct impact in terms of the overall area installed and GHG emissions reduced.

Data availability continues to be a challenge, both for the climate change mitigation and adaptation analysis, especially in the area of fuel wood, forestry, industrial processes and waste sector. To date the use of surveys, complimentary studies to enable quality assurance/quality control of the data and findings, strengthening of the cooperation with donors and focal points in central and local institutions, tries to compliment the needs and looks further to building a solid system on data management for better planning and policy formulation.

▪ **Future Direction**

Coordinative technical meetings to assess the potentialities of interfacing the Albanian DEWETRA system with the FLOODIS solutions will be held at the beginning of 2016. Support will continue in the area of RES and EE in the country, namely for the establishment of an efficient energy management system and other management tools to monitor and control energy use by municipalities, organization of energy audits, and implementation of low-cost EE/RE measures. A household survey on fuel wood consumption, both in urban and rural areas in Albania, will be conducted whose results will be compiled in a country report.

²¹ These CO₂ emission reductions show the cumulative effect of the UNDP supported interventions in Solar Water heating technology in the country during the last four years. The target of 20,000 m² annual sale which was foreseen to be reached in 2020 is already reached in the third year of the project (2014) due to the project's direct and indirect interventions. Through the incentives provided in the related legal framework, the market will keep the pace and show positive trends towards 2020.

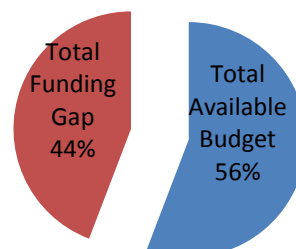
Part II - FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Year in Brief

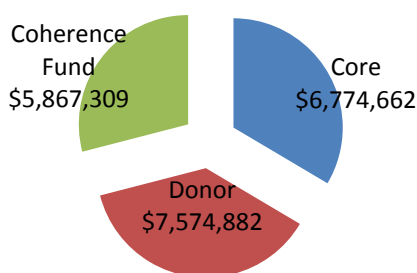
This chapter provides the financial snapshot²² of the implementation of the four outcomes of the Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016 during the year 2015, operationalized through 15 Joint Work Plans, 6 biennial and 9 annual.

As of December 31, 2015, the total estimated budget of UN Agencies in Albania to implement the activities set forward in the PoC 2012-2016 for the year 2015 amounted to USD 35,989,653, with an available budget of USD 20,216,854 and a funding gap of USD 15,772,799. The graph on the right presents this situation in percentage terms.

Programme Budget as of December 31, 2015



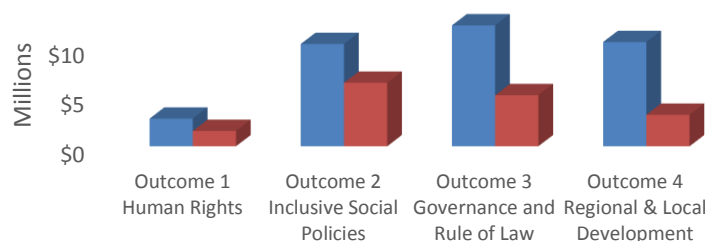
Available Budget as of December 31, 2015



The graph on the left presents a more detailed breakdown of the available budget of the PoC as of December 31, 2015 highlighting the catalytic function of the Resource Mobilization initiatives.

The graph below shows the total budget and expenditures per outcome as of December 31st, 2015. The outcomes with the highest financial budget in the PoC are Outcome 3 Governance and Rule of Law and Outcome 4 Regional and Local Development with a respective share of 35% and 29% of the PoC total budget.

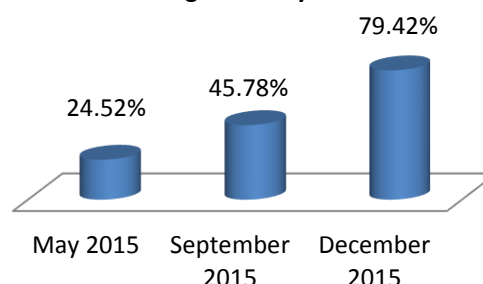
Total Estimated Budget & Expenditures per Outcome as of December 31, 2015



■ Total Budget as of December 31, 2015 ■ Total Expenditures as of December 31, 2015

The estimated average delivery rate in 2015, calculated as the share of the expenditures on the available budget as of December 31, 2015, amounts to 79.4%. The graph on the right present the trend of PoC delivery rate during the year.

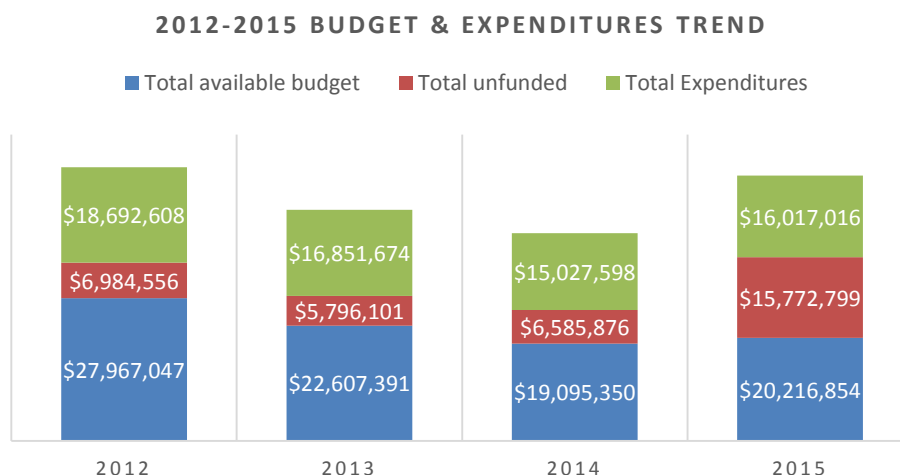
Poc Average Delivery Rate Trend



²² The figures reported are 'best estimates' at this point in time with additional certified financial statements to come through in the final Annual Progress Report 2015

2012-2015 Trend

The graph below shows the trend of the PoC budget and expenditures during the years 2012 to 2015²³.



Fundraising during 2015

Resource mobilization initiatives are carried out either jointly through the UN Coherence Fund or through individual agency efforts in order to achieve results as stated in the joint work plans. In 2015, UNCT Albania successfully mobilized USD 1,441,750 million from the Delivering Results Together Fund, USD 714,793 from the Government of Sweden, and USD 1,043,158 million from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Delivering results together-Fund (United Nations Development Group (UNDG))

In April 2015, UN Albania applied to the DRT-F with the aim to raise funds for the unfunded deliverables of the 2015 joint work plans and it was allocated the amount of USD 1,441,750 for the year 2015 covering 50% of the funding gap of the unfunded deliverables of 7 joint work plans as follows.

2015 DRT-F Budget			
Outcomes	Policy Initiatives	Application to DRT-F	Total Amount Awarded by DRT-F
Outcome 1. Human Rights	Output 1.1	90,000	45,000
	Output 1.2	197,000	98,500
OUTCOME 1 – Human Rights		287,000	143,500
Outcome 2. Inclusive Social Policies	Output 2.1	727,500	363,750
	Output 2.2	730,000	365,000
	Output 2.3	125,000	62,500
OUTCOME 2 – Inclusive Social Policies		1,582,500	791,250
Outcome 3. Governance & Rule of Law	Output 3.3	414,000	207,000
OUTCOME 3 – Governance & Rule of Law		414,000	207,000
Outcome 4. Regional and Local Development	Output 4.4	600,000	300,000
OUTCOME 4 - Regional & Local Development		600,000	300,000
TOTAL		\$ 2,883,500	\$ 1,441,750

Swiss funding (SDC) & Swedish funding (SIDA)

In December 2015, the JEC allocated the third instalment of the Government of Switzerland, through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), in the amount of \$963,000 and the second instalment of the Government of Sweden, through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), to the One UN Coherence Fund (CF) in the amount of

²³ 2015 financial data are estimates. Accurate data will be collected during the first quarter of 2016 for inclusion in the 2015 Annual Progress Report.

\$714,793.37. These funding was allocated based on the existing agreements in place with both the Swiss and Sweden governments for implementation of activities starting in January 2016.

The SDC funding was allocated towards the unfunded social inclusion work of the 2016 AWP under output 2.4 Social Protection. Meanwhile, the SIDA funding was allocated towards the unfunded gender deliverables of the 2016 AWP under outputs 1.3 Eliminating Violence in Society; 3.1 Parliament and Electoral Institutions; 3.2 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender Responsive Budgeting; and 4.3 Economic Development.

2016 OUTPUTS/AWPs	SIDA	SDC
Output 1.3 Eliminating Violence in Society	290,793	
Output 2.4 Social Protection		963,000
Output 3.1 Parliament and Electoral Institutions	105,000	
Output 3.2 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender Responsive Budgeting	188,000	
Output 4.3 Economic Development	131,000	
TOTAL	714,793	963,000

For more detailed financial information on the year 2015, please refer to ANNEX I and II.

ANNEX I – 2015 Total Budget per Outcome

Outcomes	Available Budget			Total Available Budget	Total Funding Gap	Total Estimated Budget as of 31 December 2015
	Core	Non-Core/Other				
		Donor	Coherence Fund			
Outcome 1 Human Rights	329,191	413,152	1,028,833	1,771,176	974,935	2,746,111
Outcome 2 Inclusive Social Policies	2,051,252	2,961,046	2,477,121	7,489,419	2,665,662	10,155,081
Outcome 3 Governance and Rule of Law	3,315,797	1,629,338	1,379,252	6,324,387	6,419,202	12,743,589
Outcome 4 Regional & Local Development	1,078,423	2,571,346	982,104	4,631,872	5,713,000	10,344,872
Total	6,774,662	7,574,882	5,867,309²⁴	20,216,854	15,772,799	35,989,653

ANNEX II – 2015 Total Expenditures per Outcome

Outcomes	Total Expenditures			Total Estimated Expenditures as of 31 December 2015
	Core	Non-Core/Other		
		Donor	Coherence Fund	
Outcome 1 Human Rights	341,278	284,920	896,123	1,522,321
Outcome 2 Inclusive Social Policies	2,041,646	2,773,110	1,487,704	6,302,460
Outcome 3 Governance and Rule of Law	3,083,225	1,028,822	958,138	5,070,185
Outcome 4 Regional & Local Development	515,569	2,326,990	279,492	3,122,051
Total	5,981,717	6,413,842	3,621,457	16,017,016

²⁴ The 2015 reported balance under the Coherence Fund consists of DRT-F phase II allocations and carry over funds from previous years allocations, such as SDC, SIDA and DRT-F phase I funding.

ANNEX III - OUTCOME/OUTPUT INDICATORS PROGRESS

Outcome 1 - Human Rights						
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31 st , 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30 th , 2015
UNICEF UNWOMEN UNDP IOM UNFPA UNHCR WHO	Fundamental Rights Index	2012 2014: 0.58	2016: 0.65	WJP: Rule of Law Index	0.58	0.60 (ranking 48 th)
	Extent to which justice system is affordable and accessible to women and men.	2012: 2014: 0.58	2016: 0.60	WJP: Rule of Law Index	0.58	0.56 (ranking 59 th)
	Number of cases brought to Anti-discrimination Office	2012: 104 complaints filed; 14 by the Commissioner herself.	2016: 600 report complaints filed and tracked sex disaggregated	Records of the Anti-Discrimination Office	172 cases lodged with CPD, of which 5 cases are withdrawn from complainants, 26 considered illegible, 2 closed with fines, 8 recommendations issued, 7 suspended and 8 in process of investigation ²⁵ .	From 25 November 2014 to 28 October 2015, CPD has handled 212 cases in total, of these 195 complaints (187 complaints from individuals (83 males and 104 females) and 8 complaints from organizations with a legitimate interest) and 17 <i>ex-officio</i> cases. CPD has issued 165 decisions, of these 156 decisions on complaints handled (147 complaints and 9 <i>ex-officio</i> cases) and 9 decisions imposing sanctions by fine for non-implementation of CPD recommendations. The Commissioner has ascertained: Discrimination 35 decisions; Non-Discrimination 61 decisions; Non-acceptance 37 decisions; Withdraw of the complainant 4 decisions; Dismissal (case to the court) 16 decisions; Fine (non-implementation of CPD decision) 9 decisions; Fine (not providing information) 1 decision.
Output 1.1 - Government of Albania meets its international human rights reporting obligations and application of normative standards through tracking implementation.						
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31 st , 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30 th , 2015
UNICEF UNWOMEN UNDP IOM UNFPA UNHCR	Estimated degree of integration and implementation of normative reporting recommendations in policies and legislation	Con. Elim. Dis. Against Women: 30% Conv.Rights of Children: 20% Conv.Prot. Rights Migrant Workers, partial integration Family Planning HRP: 0% Conv. on Status of Refugees, Protocol on Status of Refugees: 40%	Con. Elim. Dis. Against Women: 70% Conv.Rights of Children: 70% Conv.Prot. Rights Migrant Workers, complete integration Family Planning HRP: 70% Conv. on Status of Refugees: 70%	Min of Social Welfare & Youth Min of Justice Min of Health Min of Interior	N/A	Data will be available by December 2015 as Albania is currently preparing the 2 nd report on the MWC convention for submission to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers, indicating also the level of integration of the observations from the first report. A methodology for the Ombudsman of Albania to conduct annual monitoring of human rights exercise for foreign migrants workers in Albania is drafted. The process will be finalized in spring 2015. CSO CEDAW Shadow Report drafted. The shadow report will be submitted to CEDAW Committee early 2016.

²⁵ More particular on gender cases: 5 cases claiming discrimination based on gender, 1 closed with discrimination decision on gender ground, 2 cases for non-discrimination on gender ground and 2 cases ineligible on the same ground. ADC initiated 8 *ex-officio* cases claiming discrimination on gender ground but none of them resulted in cases of discrimination.

	Existence of national tracking mechanism to track Human Rights obligations.	Zero	One	Min of Foreign Affairs, Min of Interior, Min of Social Welfare & Youth, Min of Justice	Zero	Zero but signs of moving in the right direction are evidenced i.e. UNWOMEN and UNFPA have drafted a request for funds to OHCHR on behalf and with the support of UNRC in order to hire a consultant who will work alongside MFA to strengthen the tracking mechanism of HR obligations.
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Output 1.2: The Ministry of Justice, state institutions and civil society channel public demand for justice and ensure support services are established and accessible to provide resolution

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNWOMEN UNICEF UNFPA UNHCR UNDP	Number of Free Legal Aid cases annually supported by Government; noting women: man ratio	2012: zero 2014: zero	10 Ratio: at least 1:1	Min of Justice	Based on the State Legal Aid Commission statistics for 2014, only 169 applications for free legal assistance were received by this Commission, and of these 140 were accepted as eligible. Of the 140 eligible cases 29 completed their judicial process and received their final court decision. None of them was a child rights case.	Annual data not yet available for 2015
	“Access” perception score	No baseline available ²⁶		Annual Perception survey, on women and children’s access to justice.	Annual data not available for 2014	Annual data not yet available for 2015
	% of male and female juvenile offenders benefitting from diversion measures (including alternatives to detention)	20%	35%	Min of Justice	60% (boys); 100% girls	Annual data not yet available for 2015
	Length of pre-trial detention for male and female juveniles	5 – 7 months (46% stay in detention longer than 6 months)	2-4 months	Min of Justice	46% stay in detention longer than 6 months	Annual data not yet available for 2015
	System in place to monitor boys and girls victims and witnesses of crime and other violations of their rights are treated according to standards	Respective amendments to Code of Criminal Procedure not yet adopted	Juvenile Justice chapter to Criminal Procedure adopted	Min of Justice. Parliament of Albania	Respective amendments to Code of Criminal Procedure not yet adopted	JJ Chapter not adopted as specific JJ Code/Law is to be developed
	Clearly defined channels in place in public administration for lodging complaints related to children’s rights and to seek remedies through judicial processes	No	Yes	Min of Justice Parliament of Albania	No	No, but signs of moving in the right direction are evidenced, i.e. a public consultation roundtable was organized with UNICEF support on child-friendly justice as part of the Justice System Reform

Output 1.3: Mandated line ministries and state institutions ensure that their practices and policies effectively prevent and address violence (against women and children) in society

²⁶ The Annual Perception Survey was not prepared as planned. The data on women and children’s access to justice is captured from the Outcome indicator “Extent to which justice system is affordable and accessible to women and men” reported yearly by WJP – in 2015 the value is 0.56 (ranking 59th).

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNWOMEN WHO UNFPA IOM UNDP UNICEF	Existence of an obligatory core curriculum as part of professional education for police, social workers, health practitioners (doctors, nurses and others) and magistrates on all forms of violence against women and children and trafficking in human beings.	Police: No Social workers: No Health Practitioners: No Magistrates: Yes	Police: Yes Social workers: Yes Health Practitioners: Yes Magistrates: Yes	Records from ASP, Min of Social Welfare & Youth, Min of Health, School of Magistrates.	National Standard Operating Procedures for Identification, Referral and Assistance of VOTs Adopted by Council of Ministers Decision No. 582, date 27.07.2011 and 8 booklets developed to provide direct guidance to SOP implementing structures including: Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; State Social Service; Labour Inspectorate; Migration and Border Management Police; Anti-trafficking Police Department in the State Police; Department for the Protection of Minors and Domestic Violence in the State Police and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on how to implement the SOPs. As of 2014 SOPs and booklets used to train practitioners and new appointed officials of all institutions by each institution directly. Statistics: During 2014, there were a total of 125 victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking identified and assisted: 63 adults and 62 children, 37 victims of trafficking and 88 potential victims of trafficking, 17 males and 108 females, 123 Albanian citizens and 2 foreigners	Different modules introduced on how to identify, refer and assist victims of trafficking to be included in the obligatory curriculum of professional education for police, social workers, health practitioners (doctors, nurses and others) and magistrates trafficking in human beings. First National multi-sectorial Action Plan on socio-economic reintegration of victims of trafficking developed during 2015. Pending approval from Government to be annexed to the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy to combat trafficking in persons. 2 photo novella raising awareness on trafficking of women and girls in Albania developed and disseminated during 2015. National Coalition of Anti Trafficking shelter and Domestic Violence shelters promoted Statistics: As of September 2015, a total of 70 victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking identified: 22 victims of trafficking and 48 potential victims of trafficking; 18 males and 52 females; 37 children and 33 adults.
	Coverage / validity of mechanisms tracking, reporting and addressing violence against women and children.	Functioning Community Coordinated Response (CCR) mechanisms - 30% of municipalities	Functioning CCR - 50% of municipalities	Min of Social Welfare & Youth	According to REVALB, in 2014 reported cases grew to 485 (vs. 341 in 2013) of which 7 are municipalities where the CCR is supported by the UN.	Functioning CCR – 44% of municipalities According to REVALB data, in 2015 reported cases dropped to 306 (vs. 485 in 2014) and the majority of the reporting cases was provided by 3 municipalities where the CCR is supported by the UN.
	Proportion of men and women who think that abuse or violence against women is acceptable or tolerable	2013 perceptions from “Fjale Burri” study; 59% men & boys, 80% girls believe a man should never raise his hand against a woman.	65% of men & boys 85% of girls	“Perception Survey” Min of Social Welfare & Youth, INSTAT	New perception survey under preparation. Data will be available in 2016.	New perception survey under preparation. Data will be available in 2016.
	Existence of standards for ethical recruitment of female migrant workers in Albania	No baseline	To have some standards of ethical recruitment introduced in the legal framework that regulates the work of private employment agencies (PEAs) in Albania	Assessment report of IOM to be issued in spring 2016 Legal framework on PEAs	N/A	Assessment ongoing by IOM
Outcome 2 - Inclusive Social Policies						
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015

WHO, UNICEF UNDP UNFPA UNAIDS UNWOMEN IAEA, ILO IOM, UNESCO	Sector-specific policies have explicit social inclusion targets	“X” policies out of “Z”	“Y” policies out of “Z”	Line ministries policy documents, NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring framework	Draft Social Inclusion strategy elaborated Draft Social Protection elaborated Draft R/E action plan elaborated	Social Inclusion Policy Document finalized - pending approval Social Protection strategy finalized - pending approval Action plan for the integration of R/E finalized – pending approval Social Housing Strategy and its action plan (from social inclusion perspective) finalized - pending approval National Health Promotion Strategy (focusing on the equity dimension) developed
	Social inclusion of Roma, Egyptians and other disadvantaged groups is increasingly achieved	Rated “2” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4) ²⁷	Rated at least “3” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	UN, EU and stakeholders qualitative assessment(s)	No data available	Social exclusion profiles for Victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors issued and utilized to advance social protection system in the country.

Output 2.1: Health care policies and sector reform enabled towards equitable universal health coverage

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31 st , 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30 th , 2015
WHO UNICEF UNFPA UNAIDS IAEA	National policy addressing health inequities established and documented through functional health information system	Rated “2” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated “3” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy documents, NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring framework, UN qualitative assessment	National Strategy on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS 2016-2019 updated and approved	Data from National Health Report have informed the development of the national health strategy. The manual of health indicators prepared during 2015 will guide the collection of national core health indicators in a standardized and disaggregated manner. Two strategic / policy documents drafted: National Reproductive Health Strategy and National Action Plan on Health Promotion.
	Mechanisms established to ensure access and utilization of the Basic Package of Services (in line with evidence-based clinical guidelines and protocols)	Rated “2” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated “3” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy documents and health sector strategy monitoring framework, UN qualitative assessment	During 2014 Basic Package of PHC Services revised and approved with a Decision of the Council of the Ministers) New prevention packages included in PHC service delivery: screening for population 40-65yrs, adolescent health, child screening for vision & hearing. The rapid test on HIV introduced within the basic package of primary Health HIV testing increased in the region of Shkodra and Elbasan through coordinated actions among Department of Health, PHCenters, local government units and local NGOs involvement	Planning phase is completed for capacity development framework, supervision and monitoring systems and costing of MCH health services based on the revised basic package of services.
	Out-of-pocket health expenditures of private	60%	40%	MoH policy documents, NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring framework,	Underway measures were enforced during 2014 to decrease the price of pharmaceuticals through imposing	55% The out-of-pocket health expenditure decreased to 55% (as per WB reports) due to decreased price for pharmaceuticals.

²⁷ “1” – no progress or steps towards achieving the target are made; “2” – some limited and/or fragmented measures towards achieving the target are taken; “3” - consistent progress is made at systems level towards achieving the target; “4” – critical systemic changes are in place to ensure the target will be met.

	households as a proportion of total health expenditure			UN qualitative assessment, Ministry of Finance data, INSTAT	decreased profit margins for large distributors. The objective is to decrease drugs' price by 30-40% so that patient's cost share when purchasing can be similarly decreased.	
	Disease registries for NCDs(Cancer, CV, Diabetes) and rare diseases, established and functional	Rated "2" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated "3" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy document, MoH/MTUHC/IPH Cancer Registry, IAEA Project Progress Assessment Reports (PPARs), expert meetings and reports	An Order by the Minister of Health on May 2014 defines the format and methodology of collecting and reporting data by health care (public and private) providers. The Order aims at establishing disease registries, among which the NCD cluster diseases.	This work is pending on the advancement of health information agenda. Although the objective is to integrate the data collection, analysis and reporting systems across line institutions (MoH, NCHIF, IPH, INSTAT) and health care levels (primary, secondary, tertiary), innovative initiatives are still on the planning phase; hence disease registries, while designed, are still not effective and functional.

Output 2.2: The rights of individuals and groups are ensured through equitable, inclusive and evidence based sectoral policies

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31 st , 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30 th , 2015
UNICEF UNFPA UNESCO	National ECD policy exists	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents	No	New sector strategy including preschool developed (pending approval of Council of Ministers)
	Policies and solutions developed to ensure equal access to KGs and pre-schooling across income quintiles	Rated "1" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated "3" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	No	The "policy on increased access of Roma children to education" developed by MoSWY
	National comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Education curricular is in line with international standards	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents	Cross-curricular modules on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for Grades 4-9 evaluated	Curricula Developed.
	% of children of preschool age (especially Roma) who have access to quality pre-schooling	33.2 % of children 3-5 have access to preschool/26% Roma 58.4 % of children 5 years old who attend	10 % increase on pre-primary year (at least 10 % yearly increase for Roma children)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	55 % of Roma children attend preschool	Data available in 2016 70 % of children 5 years old attend preschool (UIS)
	Standards for preschool provide a basis for ensuring quality and inclusiveness of preschool	Standards not completed	New curricula, programs and teacher training developed based on the standards	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	Standards in the process of being developed	Standards approved. Curricula framework and program have been initiated.
	New sector education policy set objectives and ensures action and monitoring of the Out- of-school children(OOSC)	Inter- sectorial MOU on OOSC and action plan exist	EMIS measures OOSC	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	MoU signed in December 2014 between MoES, MoH and MoI to allow tracking children currently out-of-school; data collection forms unified.	OOSC are part of the objectives of new sector strategy and indicators of EMIS piloting
	Teachers workforce (grade 1-9) skilled in new inclusive competency based curricula	0%	70%	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	No teachers trained in new curricula	The new competency based curricula rolled out. Teachers trained in new curricula: 22 % of teachers grade 1-9 and 100 % of teachers grade 1 and 6.
	% of incidence of identified violent behaviors reduced through COMBI on Violence Against Children(VAC)in schools	6 types of violent behaviors identified	Violent behaviors reduced by 30 %	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	Incidence of violence in teacher-to-student communication and behaviour in public schools decreased by 10% in 2012-2013.	Data will be made available in 2016
	Production of specific materials to raise youth	Baseline 0	Tool actively used by educators	MoES policy and monitoring documents,	20 cultural heritage staff trained under various UNESCO programmes	No trainings were organized in 2015

	awareness on cultural heritage and training of staff for their implementation		in tentatively 10 schools	LGUs administrative records	5 trained by IAEA	
Output 2.3: Improved social dialogue leads to active employment and skills development policies and decent work for men and women						
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
ILO UNDP UNESCO UNWOMEN IOM	Social dialogue mechanism is established through meetings on National Labor Council	Once a year	Quarterly	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	23 recommendations were made in 2014 through the meetings of the National Labor Council. Tripartite constituents trained in the prevention and settlement of labour disputes – dialogue between social partners in the workplace promoted.	Achieved: the National Labour Council meets quarterly
	# of active labour market measures implemented (including the ones targeting women and rural populations)	6 (vulnerable groups, youth, women, apprenticeships, recent graduates, disability)	8 (6 from above + entrepreneur-ship, rural)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	3 Extensive changes occurred in the ALMM governance, particularly in setting new transparency standards in their operationalization. Scoring-card system designed for evaluating and selecting applicant enterprises for ALMMs.	The 6 existing ALMMs are under implementation, with additional increases in budget and number of beneficiaries. All 6 ALMMs have been reviewed, and are undergoing changes in both implementation modalities and levels of compensation for beneficiary enterprises and job-seekers. The most significant changes have been drafted for the programme, targeting youth and women from vulnerable groups. A 7th ALMM has been drafted targeting orphaned youth.
	Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs introduced that ensure equal opportunities, with special orientation towards lifelong learning skills, for urban and rural communities	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	National Employment and Skills 2014-2020 Strategy and Action Plan drafted and launched. Strategy and Action Plan prepared in line with EU vision and directives, and is gender aware.	Achieved. The National Employment and Skills 2014-2020 Strategy and Action Plan launched and are being implemented with special orientation towards lifelong learning skills, for urban and rural communities and in line with EU vision and directives.
	Number of new employment programmes		3	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	3 effective and efficient Youth Employment Services (YES) established 260 jobs created through No. of Active Labour Market Measures (sex-disaggregated)	Achieved. 3 effective and efficient Youth Employment Services (YES) established and are being implemented. 260 jobs created through No. of Active Labour Market Measures (sex-disaggregated).
	Number of legal acts enacted in support of VET and employment		2	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	N/A	New VET Law and relevant by-laws drafted. New Employment Promotion Law drafted and consulted with stakeholders. Crafts Law drafted and consulted with interest groups. New Law on Unemployment Benefits drafted and in the final stages of the approval process.
Output 2.4: Social protection and inclusion mechanisms ensure that social needs of the disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally met						
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNICEF UNDP	A system of social care services is in place	Rated “1” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated “3” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	The overall social care reform is under development Social workers’ retraining program included in the MoSWY’s plan of the social protection system reform; Law	Social protection Strategy 2015 – 2020 finalized. It lays the foundations for establishing an integrated system of social care services in Albania building on the knowledge endorsing the principles and activities of Social Care Reform developed by UNICEF.

UNWOMEN WHO UNFPA UNAIDS ILO IOM					on Social Worker's Status approved in 2014. Comprehensive assessment /mapping of the national Child Protection policies, actors and factors at central, regional and local level launched in 2014.	Secondary Legislation for the implementation of the Law on Social Worker has been developed and approved. The final draft of the Integral Law on Social Care Services is ready to be approved in 2016. Assessment finalized
	Social inclusion coordinating and monitoring system is in place	Rated "1" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated "3" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	Draft SI strategy (skeleton of the strategy elaborated) and SI Policy Document finalized. A new version of the national Social Protection Strategy drafted.	Draft Social Inclusion Policy Document 2015 – 2020 developed. It will become part of the overall National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI). A set of national indicators on social inclusion are included in the draft SI Policy Document based on qualitative analysis of existing survey data on the most vulnerable categories of the population. 16 training sessions and on the job coaching were provided to 112 local and central government officials on the web-based monitoring and reporting system (RomAlb). The system underpins the new Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian Integration 2015-2020 and serves to measure its progress. The system is an integral part of the National Social Inclusion Policy document.
	National policies with budgets and clear M&E frameworks are in place for the government to be able to implement social inclusion and social protection measures for any family, woman, man, children (boys and girls) considered vulnerable or at risk	National social protection and social inclusion strategies expired in 2012/2013	Social protection and inclusion policy frameworks in place/revised and budgeted for	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	3 by-laws on the implementation of the existing legislation for social housing programs developed The SI inclusion policy document, developed and consulted. It set the foundation for the development of Roma and Egyptian Action Plan.	3 by-laws on the implementation of the law n. 9232 on "housing programs" developed and approved. 3 by-laws on the implementation of the Law on Inclusion of and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities developed and approved The SIPD document and Roma and Egyptian Action Plan developed, consulted and costed.
	% of increased access to public services and social protection entitlements for families/woman/men/children (boys and girls) considered vulnerable or at risk	Lack of legal, administrative and financial instruments to deliver social care services; concept of accessibility not understood as a cross-cutting issue	System in place for delivering services Law on Social Care Services adopted	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	The vision of the Social Care Reform was validated and endorsed.	The final draft of the Integral Law on Social Care Services is ready to be approved in 2016. All administrative instruments for the functioning of social care system have been developed and will be approved in 2016. Standards of support packages for PLWH established within the Social State Services.
	% of LGUs with social inclusion/community care plans/integrated social services that protect vulnerable children, men, women, and families	Not known	At least 10 large municipalities	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	Child Protection Worker/Unit functions have been formally established in 52% of LGUs (in the old administrative/territorial division)	3 inclusive local plans for PwD were developed and approved from municipality of Lezha, Lushnja and Pogradec. 4 Local Community Development Plans focusing on Roma and Egyptian communities were prepared by four local government units (Municipality of Korca, Bucimas, Novosela and Berat). Local partnership forums established in three municipalities (Shkodra, Elbasan and Vlora) with participation of municipality councils, local NGOs and Regional offices of Education, Social State Services and Health.

Outcome 3 - Governance and Rule of Law

Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNDP, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNODC, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UNECE, UNCTAD, IOM,	Open Budget Index Score	UNDP 47 in 2012 Open Budget Survey 2012	UNDP 60	UNDP Open Budget Survey 2014	N/A	38 (2015)
	Sector policies that include an evidence-based statement on gender inequality in relevant sector and provides for measures to combat it.	1	4	UN Women Transparency International	Achieved (over 4)	Achieved (over 4)
	TI Corruption Index	CPI: 31 (2013)	CPI: 50	UN Women Transparency International	33	33 (2014)

Output 3.1: Parliament and electoral institutions have the capacity to perform core functions

Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNICEF UNDP UNWOMEN UNFPA UNODC	Public perception of trust in parliament; EMBs; political parties	<u>Trust 2013:</u> Government 30% Parliament 24% Police 37% Civil society 39% European Union 70% NATO 74%	Government 30% Parliament 24% Police 37% Civil society 39% European Union 70% NATO 74%	Public Perception Survey	<u>Trust 2014:</u> Government 37% Parliament 29% Health System 32% Police 41% Civil society 34% European Union 68%	<u>Trust 2015:</u> Government 29% Parliament 22% Police 45% Civil society 38% European Union 72% ²⁸ NATO 74%
	No. of parliamentary sessions / hearings for oversight of international and national human rights and gender equality obligations	2 topics on child rights and gender equality	3 discussions in parliamentary standing committees per topic	UNWOMEN records	2 hearings on reproductive health and one on aging 1 Plenary / Special Parliamentary Session on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women)	1 Hearing session of Alliance of Women Parliamentarian on the changes to the Electoral Code with the proposal of 50% gender quota at the local level. 1 Hearing session for the Central Election Commission proposing a number of amendments to the Electoral Code including in gender issues. Parliament has organized at least 5 discussions on issues related to children broken down as follows: 1. One discussion of the Laws Commission on the People's Advocate Special report on the Blood-feud phenomenon and approval of a parliamentary resolution on this issue, negatively affecting children's right to life, education, plan and normal development 2. One questions and answers session with the Minister of Education with the Parliamentary Commission on Education and Media

²⁸ Factsheet: Opinion Poll "Trust in Government 2015" within the framework of Open Government Partnership Project. Data show a decrease of trust towards a considerable number of public institutions, compared to 2014. The institutions which have suffered the most from the decline of trust are the Government (from 37% to 29%) and the Parliament (from 29% to 22%). On the other hand, institutions which are subject to an increase of trust towards them (compared to 2014) are Police (from 41% to 45%), civil society (from 34% to 38%) and European Union (from 68% to 72%). Data show that for the 3rd consecutive year, the most trusted institutions in Albania are the European Union and NATO. On the other hand, the least trusted institutions are the Political Parties.

						<p>3. Discussion of two commissions on the amendments to the pre-university education law</p> <p>4. One public hearing of the children's rights caucus with civil society (with UNICEF support) on prioritizing a children's agenda</p> <p>5. Public hearing of the Commission on Labour and Social Affairs on legal amendments regarding inter-country adoption of children.</p>
Output 3.2: Line ministries and public service delivery institutions are able to mainstream gender and conduct gender responsive planning and budgeting and evidence-based policy making at all levels						
Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNICEF IOM UNFPA UNWOMEN UNDP UNESCO	Number of national policies with gender specific objectives and indicators	1	4	Department for Development Planning, Financing, and Foreign Aid (DDPFFA) and Delivery Unit (DU)	Achieved (over 4)	Achieved (over 4)
	Number of ministries and public institutions with gender equality objectives and targets in national planning and budgeting	0	6	MTBP	6 line ministries and 8 Budgetary programmes with gender targets. Gender responsive budgeting applied in 3 municipalities (Vlora, Tirana, Saranda).	10 line ministries, 1 independent institution and 15 Budgetary programmes with gender targets. Gender responsive budgeting applied in 5 municipalities (Tirana, Vlora, Saranda, Kelcyra and Permet)
Output 3.3: State, market, non-state institutions enabled to deliver their statutory mandates, prevent corruption; enforce rule of law						
Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNDP UNWOMEN UNECE UNCTAD IOM UNODC UNICEF UNHCR	Perception of trust / satisfaction in public service delivery institutions (e.g. judiciary, health, education)	<u>Trust 2013:</u> Judiciary 19% Health system 30% Education system 38%	Judiciary 19% Health system 30% Education system 38%	Public Perception Survey	<u>Trust 2014:</u> Judiciary 18% Health system 32% Education system 37%	<u>Trust 2015:</u> Judiciary 16% Health system 27% Education system 33% ²⁹
	Percentage of migrants and asylum seekers receiving protection and integration services	20% (2013, asylum seekers and refugees) 4% of returning migrants contacted Migration Counters during 2012-2013	50% 100% 20%	National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters) INSTAT-IOM national survey on return migration	20,376 Albanian citizens returned in 2014, out of which 834 returnees registered in the Migration Counters (data from the Extended Migration Profile), equal to 4.1%. All returnees approaching Migration Counters received orientation to public services however the registration rate remains very low.	In the period January – September 2015 only 450 returnees registered in Migration Counters compared to 17,521 forced returnees in the same period, equal to 2.5%.
	Corruption Perception Index (CPI)	33 (2012) Transparency International	37	Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual	33	33 (2014)

²⁹ Factsheet: Opinion Poll “Trust in Government 2015” within the framework of Open Government Partnership Project. Data show a decrease of trust towards a considerable number of public institutions, compared to 2014. The institutions which have suffered the most from the decline of trust are the Government (from 37% to 29%), the Parliament (from 29% to 22%) and institutions of the Health System (from 32% to 27%). On the other hand, institutions which are subject to an increase of trust towards them (compared to 2014) are Religious institutions (from 44% to 52%), Police (from 41% to 45%), civil society (from 34% to 38%) and European Union (from 68% to 72%). Data show that for the 3rd consecutive year, the most trusted institutions in Albania are the European Union and NATO. On the other hand, the least trusted institutions are the Political Parties and Judiciary. Judiciary and the Institutions of the Education System suffer from a constant decline in lack of trust.

				statistical analysis of Migration Counters) INSTAT-IOM national survey on return migration		
Absence of Corruption in government Index	0.31 (2012) WJP: Rule of Law Index Report	0.40		Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	0.34	0.36
Open Government Index	0.44 (2012) WJP: Rule of Law Index Report	0.48		Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	0.44	0.52
Asylum-seekers and migrants are identified and able to access the territory and differentiated procedures to have their needs assessed and addressed, in line with international and European standards	Extended Migration Profile data	100%		Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	N/A	Contingency planning for massive mixed migration flows to Albania jointly prepared with the Government of Albania.
Percentage of seizure on incoming and out - going illicit trafficking increased	90% of the cases in the anti-trafficking area discovered (2010);	100%		Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	90%	90%
Percentage of migrants irregularly migrating from Albania reduced	20,219 irregular migrants returned in 2013	70 % decrease		Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	By the end of 2014, the number of asylum requests by Albanian citizens in the EU Member States was 16,026. 17,023 Albanian citizens have sought asylum in Europe, US, Canada, Australia and the New Zealand. ³⁰	In the period January- November 2015 there were 61,330 asylum applications filed in EU Member States by Albanian citizens. More than 62,250 Albanian citizens have sought asylum in Europe, US, Canada, Australia and the New Zealand.
Percentage of female officers in the Joint Port Control Unit increased and gender component mainstreamed in the CCP	1 female officer with the JPCU	50% increase		Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	Objective achieved: two female officers are now members of the JPCU at Durres Port	Objective achieved: two female officers are now members of the JPCU at Durres Port
Percentage of officers on precursors identification increased	Joint Team officials at Durres port trained	100%		Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual	N/A	This activity is scheduled for 2016

³⁰ UNHCR Asylum Trends in Industrialized Countries report.

statistical analysis of Migration Counters)

Output 3.4: Line Ministries ensure and enforce the conservation, sustainable use of public goods.

Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UNESCO UNEP FAO UNECE	Percentage of protected areas with management plans and administrative structure in place (Proxy indicator for public / common good protection)	17%	25%	National Reports to the Convention on the Biological Biodiversity http://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?type=nr-04	17%	19%
	# of World Heritage (WH) properties extended and have enhanced management systems	2 WH properties already inscribed to the WH list by the Republic of Albania	2 management plans improved and one cross – border property extended	National Reports to the Convention on the Biological Biodiversity http://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?type=nr-04	2 UNESCO World Heritage properties already inscribed to the World Heritage list by the Republic of Albania	The Albanian authorities requested advisory mission in order to explore adjustment of required management systems. The new Management plan is being elaborated under Upstream project for Ohrid
	Number of sectors mainstreaming RECP measures	Limited number	3 sectors	Ministry of Environment	0	0 (work in progress)

Outcome 4 - Regional and Local Development

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNDP UNWOMEN ILO UNEP UNCTAD UNECE UNIDO FAO UNESCO UNICEF	Decentralizations strategy adopted and commences implementation	Baseline: Policy being formulated	Policy adopted	UNDP Monitoring	Draft decentralization strategy in place	Decentralization strategy approved in 29 July 2015, decision No 691

Output 4.1 State institutions at regional and local levels have the capacity to implement rural development and modernization of the agricultural sector

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31st, 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30th, 2015
UNDP UNEP UNCTAD	Percentage of female beneficiaries of extension services.	10%		Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020	10% female beneficiaries of extension services ³¹ .	Data not available
UNECE FAO UNIDO UNWOMEN	Productivity in agro-processing given by Gross Value Added / Agricultural Working Units (GVA/AWU)	5,010,105 ALL	7,000,000 ALL	Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020	GVA 2014 = 280,036 million ALL AWU 2014: no data; not possible before Farm Register is created (could be included in agri stats after 2016)	GVA 2015: will be known by mid-2016 AWU 2015: no data; not possible before Farm Register is created (could be included in agri stats after 2016)
IFAD	Labour productivity in the agricultural sector	447,000 ALL	715,000 ALL	Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020	632,412 ALL	Data will be available by mid-2016

³¹ The figure dates back to 2013 from the Directory of Extension within MoARDWA as a source. No updated data is available.

Output 4.2: Local Government Units and governance institutions have the technical, financial and human resources to deliver equitable public and administrative services for men and women and render account.

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31 st , 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30 th , 2015
UN WOMEN UNDP	Proportion of Local Government Units using Community Based Scorecards to chart the experiences of their citizens (proxy for local participatory democracy)	13 LGU (communes and municipalities) or 3% ³²	26 LGU or 7%	Community Based Scorecards (UNWOMEN records)	4 or 6.6%	7 ³³ or 11.5% ³⁴
	Ratio of total social/investment/service expenditure to total LGU expenditure (management efficiency ratio)(Proxy for effectiveness and local technical, fin. HR capacity)	32%	35%	Ministry of Finance	54%	52%
	Share of local revenue collection to total revenue (revenue collection efficiency ratio)	49%	53%	Ministry of Finance	48%	38%

Output 4.3: National and sub-national government units have the capacity to generate and strengthen investments, employment and livelihood opportunities, especially for youth and women.

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31 st , 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30 th , 2015
UNDP UNWOMEN ILO IOM FAO UNCTAD UNECE UNIDO	Net number of new enterprises created / proportion owned by women.	8650 (2013)	10000 Gov. target w %5 increase	QKR – National Registry	16,731 new businesses 1,520 owned by women (11.6%)	Data available on annual basis

Output 4.4: Key ministries and local authorities adopt local, regional and national action on climate change adaptation (including short term e.g. DRR) and mitigation across sectors

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator as of December 31 st , 2014	Value of Indicator as of September 30 th , 2015
UNIDO UNDP UNICEF UNEP UNECE UNESCO FAO	Number of sectors mainstreaming CC mitigation / adaptation measures	0	2	CC National Communications	Draft strategies of Environment, Energy and Agriculture include climate change considerations	Agency of Territory Planning, integrates Climate Change considerations in the Integrated Plan for Coastal Zone management Energy Efficiency standards are introduced in the Housing Sector

³² The ratio is derived from the share of 13 LGUs into the total 373 LGUs.

³³ Following the 2014 Administrative Territorial Reform, the former 373 LGUs have been mapped into 61 with a larger geographic and population coverage. As a result although it look like the indicator has been stagnant, the areas covered are significant based on the new Territorial Division.

³⁴ The ratio is derived from the share of 7 LGUs into the newly 61 LGUs.

ANNEX IV – 2015 Main Events

Period	Event – name / purpose	Where	Participants
Q1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Workshop for the drafting of country’s extended Migration Profiles ✚ Two round tables organized to discuss the Assessment Report <i>on the synergies between the referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking and for victims of domestic violence</i> ✚ Educational Policy Review -Scoping mission ✚ 1st Management Planning Workshop ✚ Signing ceremony of STAR project, Italian Cooperation funding agreement ✚ Alliance of Albanian Women Parliamentarian (AAWP) retreat aiming to analyze the work of the Alliance of Women in Parliament to better perform and achieve its goals in transforming the parliament into a gender-sensitive forum as an institution founded on gender equality ✚ Launching of the Skills Development for Employment Programme ✚ Process for the development of New strategy of Education ✚ National Conference on integration of Roma children in Education ✚ Workshop on Out of School Children integration ✚ New CCR in Kruja established. ✚ Albanian showcasing in the Commission on the Status of Women ✚ A yearly media event to provide incentives/recognition to media that professionally reported on trafficking and violence issues ✚ National and Local consultations workshops for the Social Inclusion Policy Document ✚ Consultative workshops on the Action Plan of Roma and Egyptian Inclusion 2015-2020 ✚ The impact of the Social Care Reform on delivering social care services at Local Level ✚ Launching of the National Health report ✚ Planning of management priority actions such as underwater trail, establishing mooring buoys, restoration of quays, info enter and signposting ✚ Signing ceremony of the agreement with Italian Cooperation for funding STAR project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Korce ✚ Tirana ✚ Budva, Montenegro ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Kruja ✚ New York ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Elbasan ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Education and Youth, National Bank of Albania, INSTAT, etc. ✚ Representatives from Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Municipalities, CCR, State Social Service, CSOs assisting VOTs and DV, UN Agencies, etc. ✚ UNESCO Team, Section of Education Policy, UNESCO HQ ✚ 31 participants, 5 of which were Macedonian and 19 were Albanian ✚ Development partners ✚ Women Alliance, OSCE ✚ Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, MSWY staff, Switzerland Embassy, development partners, etc. ✚ MOES, UNICEF, UNFPA, NGOS, Development Partner etc. ✚ MOES, parliament, development partners, NGOs, schools, teachers , children , directorates of education in the districts ✚ MOES, MOSWY, MOH, MOI, UN, international experts, education experts m teachers etc. ✚ The Municipality of Kruja and 8 other key institutions part of the local referral mechanism. ✚ MSWY representatives; CSO representative; UNDP representatives ✚ 60 participants (14 men, 46 women), representatives of government institutions, international entities; representatives of civil society organizations and key media outlets. ✚ Facilitated by MoSWY, the inter-ministerial technical working group composed of all line ministries and the PM’s office; civil society representatives; development partners; donors; UN agencies ✚ Facilitated by MoSWY, the inter-ministerial technical working group composed of all line ministries and the PM’s office; civil society representatives; development partners; donors; UN agencies ✚ Facilitated by UNICEF with participation of regional and municipal authorities, MoSWY, etc. ✚ Minister of Health, UNICEF Representative, Director of IPH, Dean of School of Public Health, health professionals from Tirana and regions ✚ All local concerned stakeholders, INCA, NAPA, REPA, UNDP ✚ Development partners
Q2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Two days consulting/validation process on <i>the training modules developed to address the needs of the victims of trafficking</i> ✚ Educational Policy Review - First fact finding mission ✚ 2nd Management Planning workshop – Visioning Workshop ✚ Community Coordinated Response, specific activity in gender mainstreaming ✚ Pursuing Strategic Litigation Cases to protect the economic rights of women and children in divorce cases ✚ Findings on the study on women’s voice and role in local councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Burrel, Permet ✚ Tirana District Court ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Brussels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Representatives from MoSWY, State Social Service and its 12 regional offices; Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator; Civil Society, Shelters for VoTs and DVs, UN Agencies, etc. ✚ The review team formed by international experts and UNESCO staff ✚ 23 representatives attended the workshop, including participants from the Albanian Ministry of Culture, Environment, Economic Development and Tourism and Urban Development, as well as from the Ministry of Culture of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The Commissioner publishes annual reports in Albanian and English language in a reader-friendly format ✚ Kick-off meeting of CHEAP project ✚ National conference “The Future” ✚ Increasing awareness on gender equality issues under the new territorial reform through implementation of the CBS methodology in at least 4 regions. ✚ A two-day BRIDGE module on Gender and Elections provided to the CEC staff and civil society working on gender issues and elections ✚ Cultural Education for Sustainable Development conference ✚ School as Community Centre Fair ✚ Legislation and implementing regulation package in compliance with Istanbul Convention developed and proposed to the Parliament ✚ Presentation of the Multi Country Study Report on the Provision of Sexual Violence Services in Albania ✚ The third Meeting of the Advisory Media Forum of the project. ✚ Stakeholders Consultation for the Actin Plan for the National Social Protection Strategy ✚ Supporting Planning Of Social Care Services: Presentation of Vulnerability Maps ✚ “Sounds of Cultural Diversity” Concert to mark International Roma Day ✚ Secondary analysis of the 2011 Census re. PwD and Roma ✚ Launching of the Local Action Plans for PWD in Lezha and Lushnja ✚ Launching of European Immunization week activities ✚ Public Health Conference on social determinants of health ✚ Presentation of draft Final Results of GHG Inventory under Third National Communication ✚ National conference “The Future” ✚ Study tour to learn from experiences of Kosovo related with organization of service delivery at local level ✚ Presentation/demonstration of One Stop Shop pilot ✚ Training program developed and implemented on replication of due diligence model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Vlora ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Lezha ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Prishtine and Gjilan communes ✚ Ishem/Durres region ✚ Lezhe, Tirane, Vlore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Awareness meetings with women in community and CCR members. ✚ Awareness meetings with women in community and CCR members. ✚ Political parties; local government representatives; civil society organizations and international partners ✚ N/A ✚ Project consortium members (no Albanian representatives present) ✚ Prime Minister and several members of the Council of Ministers and the Albanian Parliament, representatives from central and local public agencies and from international development partners present in the country ✚ CEC staff, CSOs ✚ The participants were from the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey) ✚ Prime Minister, Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Education, children , teachers, U agencies , public at large ✚ N/A ✚ 35 Participants ranging from Government Representatives to Civil Society organizations ✚ 21 participants (journalists, government representatives, civil society representatives). ✚ Facilitated by UNICEF and MoSWY with participation of government, non-government, donors and vulnerable communities. ✚ Facilitated by UNICEF and MoSWY with participation of government, non-government, donors and vulnerable communities. ✚ Roma musicians performing alongside well known artists. ✚ Facilitated by INSTAT, representatives of all line ministries and the PM’s office; civil society representatives; development partners; donors; UN agencies ✚ Facilitated by ADRF, Mr. Viktor, Mayor, Municipality of Lezha, Mrs. Bardhylka Kospiri, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, SDC representative, civil society representatives and key stakeholders at local level. ✚ Minister of Health, UNICEF Representative, WHO Head of the Office, Director of IPH, Public health professionals from Tirana and regions. ✚ Minister of Health, UN RC, Health professionals and public health experts from Albania, Kosovo and FYROM, International Public health experts. ✚ Ministry of Environment, CSOs, academia, etc. ✚ Prime Minister and several members of the Council of Ministers and the Albanian Parliament, representatives from central and local public agencies and of international development partners present in the country ✚ Representatives of Minister of State for Local Issues MSLI, representatives from the Agency of TAR implementation ✚ Representatives of MSLI, LG representatives from Ishem commune and Durres municipality ✚ Members of 61 established groups at new municipality level.
Q3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Educational Policy Review - Second fact-finding mission ✚ Revision of the direct applicability of the CEDAW provisions within the national legal order of Albania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Tirana and Korca ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The review team formed by international experts and UNESCO staff ✚ Representatives of the line ministries, international organizations and relevant stakeholders

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Assessment of the Albania National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence (NSGE-GBV&DV) 2011-2015 and its Action Plan ✚ Roundtable “Empowering Women’s Role in Politics” ✚ Demonstration of FLOODIS System ✚ Meeting with CHEAP stakeholders to identify demonstration site in Albania ✚ Announcement of the photo competition “Snap it” Under the slogan “Snap it”, the competition aimed to raise awareness of developments brought about by the Administrative and Territorial reform, which combines urban and rural territories and as a result creates joint development perspectives. ✚ First time voters empowered as gender advocates for the 2015 Local Elections in at least 3 regions to monitor women participation in elections - tournament of debates in Shkodra, Tirana and Vlora. ✚ National Index on Elections Integrity – Elections Situation Room launched the final report on local elections. ✚ Technical discussions on the monitoring report for women participation in Elections in partnership with CEC and Women’s Alliance. ✚ Theory of Change Planning for Inclusive Education ✚ Workshops with local authorities for Roma inclusion in early learning and development ✚ CSE TOT training for 70 teachers ✚ New CCRs established in Kavaja, Erseka and Saranda. ✚ Evaluation of the CCR performance with recommendations for improved functioning and monitoring conducted ✚ Shelters support through increased capacity building with professionals to coach domestic violence victims residents in the national public and non-public shelters for their socio-economic integration in communities ✚ 17 CSOs selected to promote innovative ideas of building partnerships between men and women for gender equality and a society free from violence ✚ An evaluation report issued on the functioning of The National Shelter for Domestic Violence Victims, highlighting the needs for additional capacity building. ✚ Assessing and improving the level and quality of public authorities’ response to violence against women and girls with disabilities ✚ Korca Beer Fest and the HeForShe ✚ Validation of Standard Basket of Services ✚ Round table on disability rights and challenges faced by persons with disabilities ✚ The Social inclusion policies at local level, with a special regard to those related to persons with disabilities ✚ Round table to discuss the manual of health ✚ Advocacy meeting on “Integrated approach to Family Planning Services in Albania.” ✚ Presentation of the assessment work regarding emission scenario modelling and choices of sectors for INDCs” under Third National Communication ✚ Announcement of the photo competition “Snap it” Under the slogan “Snap it”, the competition aimed to raise awareness of development s brought about by the administrative and territorial reform, which combines urban and rural territories and as a result creates joint development perspectives. ✚ Conference on Local Governance in partnership with other donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Oblik ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana, Berat, Elbasan and Vlora ✚ Tirana, Vlora, Shkodra ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Durres, September 2015 ✚ Korca, Shkodra, Berat , Durres, Fier, Gjirokaster etc ✚ Tirana ✚ Kavaja, Erseka, Saranda ✚ Tirana, Durres, Maminas, Korca, Permet, Erseka, Korca, Fier, Patos, Shkoder, Burrel, Lezhe ✚ The National Shelter for Domestic Violence Victims, Shelter for Abused Women and Girls, Tirana and the National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking shelters ✚ Districts of Tirana, Durres, Korca, Pogradec, Shkodra, Vlora, Elbasan Kukes, Fier, Lezhe, Diber and Saranda ✚ Tirana ✚ Shkodra, Dibra, Elbasan, Kukes and Korça ✚ Korça ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Lushnje ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirane, Emilia Romagna ✚ Shkoder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Representatives of the line ministries, international organizations and relevant stakeholders ✚ Deputy Chair of the Albanian Parliament, Alliance of Women Parliamentarians, Heads of Parliamentary Commissions, Heads of political party forums, representatives of women in elected local bodies as well as council women. ✚ GDCE – General Director of Civil Emergency, Albanian Red Cross, CIMA Foundation ✚ Head of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Dept., Director of the National Historic Museum of Albania, Director of Cultural Heritage and Diversity ✚ The exhibition was attended by the competition applicants, the territorial reform partners and the jury composed by the professional photographers ✚ Citizens, Political Parties ✚ Students, Civil Society, Universities ✚ Election Situation Room, International Organizations, CSO, media ✚ CEC staff, Women Alliance members, International organizations, Embassies, CSO, Students. ✚ MOES, Institute of development of education. development partners, NGOs, schools, teachers , children , directorates of education in the distracts ✚ Directorate of education, health local authorities, ✚ MOES, IDE, 70 teachers from various regions of Albania ✚ The Municipality of Kavaja, Erseka and Saranda and other key institutions part of the local referral mechanism. ✚ Identified stakeholders at selected LGUs ✚ Representatives from Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and State Social Services; Tirana Employment Office’s Directorate; Meeting with NPO Equal and Different; Staff of the National Shelter for DV victims and also women living within the shelter. ✚ Structures responsible/related to VAW and DV at the local level in the selected municipalities ✚ 15000 people participating to the Fest, 700 commitments to the campaign ✚ Facilitated by UNICEF and MSWY with participation of national and local government, CSOs, donors. ✚ Members of the National Council on Disability Issues and the disability focal points from line ministries ✚ Mr. Fatos Tushe, Mayor, Municipality of Lushnja, Mrs. Eglantina Gjermeni, Minister of Urban Development, Mrs. Bardhylka Kospiri, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Mr. Christoph Graf, Swiss Ambassador, in Albania, and Mrs. Yesim Oruc, Country Director, United Nations Development Programme ✚ Deputy Minister of Health, Deputy director of IPH, representatives from IPH, MOH, INSTAT, health Insurance Fund, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO. ✚ Minister of Health, UN RC, Health professionals and public health experts from Albania, Kosovo and FYROM, International Public health experts ✚ Ministry of Environment, CSOs, Academia ✚ The exhibition was attended by the competition applicants, the territorial reform partners and the jury composed by the professional photographers
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Exchange visits with Emilia Romagna region aiming to learn from best practices and experiences with territorial and administrative reform implementation ✚ Presentation of the new cataloguing software and webpage for Marubi Photo library 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Prime Minister and several members of the Council of Ministers and the Albanian Parliament, representatives from central and local public agencies and of international development partners present in the country ✚ Representatives from MSLI, amalgamation Team, local government representatives
Forecasted Q4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Training on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property ✚ Series of exhibition of UNESCO World heritage sites in Albania ✚ Educational Policy Review - Validation mission ✚ 2nd Trans-boundary Platform Meeting ✚ 3rd Management planning Workshop ✚ Research over the public perceptions of gender equality and women's involvement in business and career in Albania ✚ Trainings to increase professional capacities of state police administration in the direct applicability of policy and procedures for the treatment of cases of harassment and sexual harassment in State Police ✚ A gender responsive methodology to serve as a guiding tool for NGOs in the process of drafting and finalizing the Local Development Operational Plans; Set of recommendations provided to 26 LDOPs for municipalities ✚ Upgraded training manual and curricula on the role of the police in preventing and reducing domestic violence and gender based violence; ✚ The New NSGE-GBV-DV 2016-2020 and its Action Plan drafted and consulted ✚ Albanian School of Public Administration training curricula assessed and upgraded from the gender perspective ✚ A training manual of the Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA) on engendered leadership at local governance level drafted and pre-tested at the Albanian School of Public Administration ✚ Final conference of FLOODIS ✚ Sub-Regional Workshop on Labour Law and Industrial Relations in Central and Eastern European countries ✚ Workshop on the promotion of Social Tourism in Albania ✚ Expert mission for the Development of a quality framework for Preschool in Albania (Round table etc.) ✚ Kick off workshop for preschool curricula ✚ Launching of Combi second phase conference ✚ Dialogue meeting between Parliamentarian Friends of the Children, CSOs and Government ✚ Developed training modules and training conducted with National shelter for DV survivors staff and other relevant authorities aiming to build effective collaboration and improve the referral and reintegration of survivors ✚ Preparatory work for the draft regulatory framework defining the standards of services of the national hotline started. ✚ Launching of the assessment report on the functioning of the coordinated community response mechanisms to domestic violence at the local level in Albania ✚ 3 Workshops for the local consultation of the draft Social Housing Strategy ✚ Launching of the social exclusion profiles and policies for Roma published and launched in a regional conference ✚ Consultation meeting on the draft Social Housing Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Rome, Italy ✚ Durres, Saranda, Gjirokastra, Butrint, Berat, Korca, Elbasan, Shkoder, Lezhe ✚ Tirana ✚ Ohrid, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ✚ Pogradec ✚ Regions of Lezha, Vlora, Berat, Tirana, Kukës, Korça, Gjirokatra, Dibra ✚ Tirana, Lezha, Shkodra, Korça ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Paris ✚ Turin, Italy ✚ Saranda ✚ Tirana, Berat ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Berat, Lezhe, Durres ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana ✚ Tirana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 10 participants from Ministries of culture, interior, justice, and customs agency ✚ School children and general population of listed cities ✚ UNESCO Team ✚ 30 representatives expected, including officials from the two countries' environment and culture ministries, and from the region's municipalities. UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention (ICOMOS and IUCN) ✚ Representatives of the following institutions from two countries are to attend the workshop: the Albanian Ministry of Culture, Environment, Economic Development and Tourism and Urban Development, as well as from the Ministry of Culture of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (UNESCO and WH Committee Advisory board) ✚ The methodology to collect the data and the questionnaires has been prepared. The regions have been selected and data collection process has started. ✚ 220 role base staff and middle managers among police administration in Police Circuit Directorates including regions of Tirana, Lezha, Shkodra, Korça, Elbasan, Kukës, Dibra ✚ 6 selected CSOs that are engaged in developing LDOPs in 26 municipalities ✚ Students at the State Police Academy ✚ Students at the State Police Academy ✚ Students at the State Police Academy ✚ Representatives of women in elected local bodies, local administration as well as councilwomen. ✚ GDCE – Fire Corps director, CIMA foundation, Albanian red cross ✚ Participants from Albania, Montenegro, Ukraine, Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, FYROM and Moldova. ✚ Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, UNDP, MEDTTE, Members of Parliament, several mayors, development partners ✚ NGOs, MOES, IDE, teachers etc. ✚ MOES, IDE, DoEs, teachers, education specialists, international experts, UN etc. ✚ MOES, MOSWY IDE, DoEs, teachers, education specialists, UN, NGOS etc. ✚ The “Friends of Children” Parliamentarian Group, Civil Society Organizations, Government and Parliamentarians ✚ National shelter for DV survivors' staff, regional state social offices, Tirana employment office, school psychologists, CSOs service providers to DV survivors, state police, judges and prosecutors. ✚ CCR representatives, MSWY, CSOs service providers to DV survivors, National Shelter for DV survivors, State Police ✚ Facilitated by MUD, Mayer and high level representatives from All 61 newly created municipalities of Albania.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ “With Innocence on” launching event to make visible the skills and talent of young people with disabilities. ✚ Workshop on revision of the legislative framework for marketing of breastmilk substitutes ✚ Workshop on capacity development for monitoring the enforcement of the Law on the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes ✚ International conference on Breast and Cervical Cancer ✚ Advocacy meeting on HIV and AIDS ✚ Launching of the State of the World Population “Shelter from the Storm” ✚ Seminar on plastic waste ✚ Finalization and results presentation of the due diligence process for 384 administrative units 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Regional Roma project representatives from Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania. representatives of all line ministries and the PM’s office; civil society representatives; development partners; donors; UN agencies ✚ Facilitated by MUD, the inter-ministerial technical working group composed of all line ministries and the PM’s office; civil society representatives; development partners; donors; UN agencies ✚ Minister of MoSWY, donors, media, etc. ✚ Deputy Minister of Health, Head of the State Health Inspectorate, UNICEF Representative, State Health Inspectorate: chief inspectors from regions and legal experts; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, National Food Control Authority, Professional Associations: Pediatrics, Perinatology, National Institute of Public Health, IBFAN Albania, UNICEF experts ✚ State Health Inspectorate: heads of inspection units from Tirana and the regions, inspectors from each region; members of the TWG working on revision of the law and strengthening of the monitoring framework IBFAN Albania, UNICEF. ✚ Minister of Health, UN RC, Professors from the European Institute of Oncology, Public health experts, specialists from the university hospital center, partner organizations. ✚ Minister of Health, UN RC, USAID, Health professionals and public health experts ✚ Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, health care professionals, NGOs representatives. ✚ Ministry of the Environment, business community, civil society ✚ Representatives of the MSLI, and STAR project donors
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