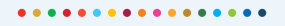


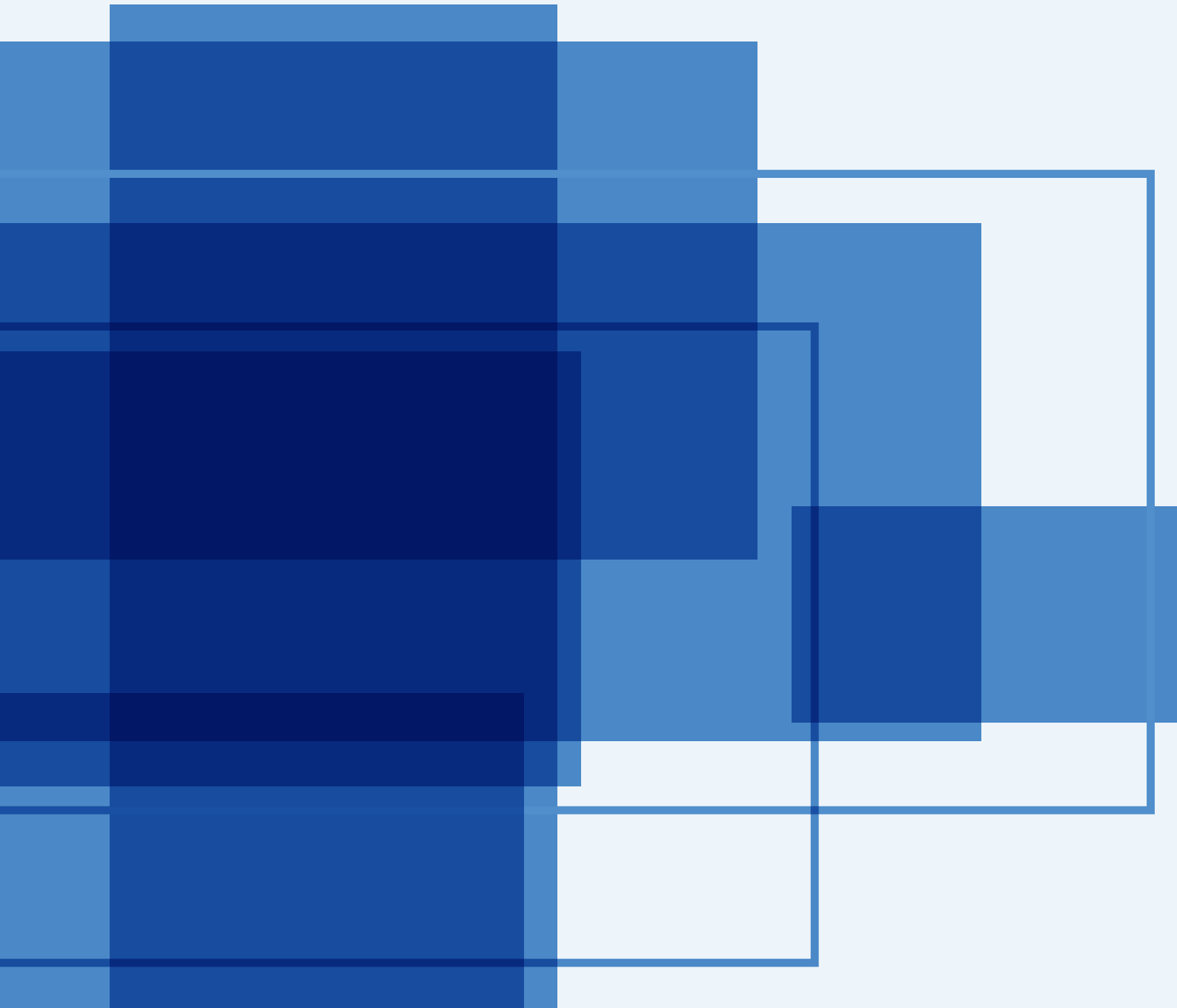


UNITED NATIONS
ALBANIA



MID-YEAR REPORT
EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY

2019



Executive Summary

The present United Nations Mid-Year Report provides implementation information, progress and challenges, for the first half of the year 2019, prepared with contributions from 16 UN agencies. Support to the Government of Albania to accelerate achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country is highlighted in the penultimate slide of this report.

Financial reporting on expenditures is presented in several slides. Implementation of PoCSD in the first half 2019 aimed at a budget of USD 22 million, with 75 percent supported by government and development partners in the country, and also regionally and global. By end June 2019, the programme achieved a delivery rate of 45 percent, with the balance carried over into second half 2019.

A few milestones from first half 2019 implementation in each of the four Outcomes are provided below.

OUTCOME 1—GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

- ✚ **Human Rights** - Coalition of CSOs on Women Peace and Security developed joint National Action Plan to implement the UN1325 Resolution; the Monitoring Network Against Gender Based Violence prepared/presented a shadow report to the UPR Pre-Session; technical expertise provided to People's Advocate Strategic Plan 2018-2022; UNCT submitted reporting on the Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities and CEDAW Committee; MEFA/MoHSP supported to lead the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action +25 (BDPfA +25) National Review; Friends of Children' Parliamentary Group developed the Group's annual report to the Parliament and a parliamentary resolution related to advancement of child rights (UN Women/UNICEF/UNCT)
- ✚ **Anti-corruption & Rule of Law** - Tirana International Airport has a specialized Air Cargo Control Unit - first one in the region; Durres PCU seized 2.16kg of heroin; costing of the Action Plans for Preventing Violent Extremism concluded for 6 line ministries along with M&E plan to measure implementation progress; trainings on conducting financial investigations, countering trade-based money laundering, countering money laundering and terrorism financing risks linked to cryptocurrencies provided to Albanian professionals to support the country in its efforts against these threats. (UNODC/IOM)
- ✚ **Local Governance** - ADISA service windows co-located in municipal one-stop-shops - Maliq (Nov. 2018), Patos (April 2019), Belsh (May 2019), Librazhd (July 2019); ADISA's first mobile office operationalized, for piloting in Shkoder, Tirane counties in 2019; ADISA's Lab's prototyped solution for improved access to services for PwDs is fully deployed in the newest ADISA Centers in Shkoder (April 2019) and Kombinat Tirane (July 2019); the One Stop Shop model is scaled up and operational in 24 municipalities – 3 in 2018; 21 during first half 2019; planning 25 additional by end 2019; SRH media platform expanded in 2 additional municipalities (Pogradec, Maliq); the "Youth Voice" advocacy platform and ypeer introduced in three additional municipalities (Pogradec, Cerrik, Maliq) – covering 8 municipalities to date. (UNDP/UNFPA)
- ✚ **Access to Justice** – 5 CoM Decisions adopted on the Criminal Justice for Children Code; National Justice for Children Strategy 2017-2020 published and distributed to all stakeholders; High Council of Justice decentralized the court's review of criminal justice for children cases; 8 key by-laws on implementation of Law on Free Legal Aid adopted by CoM and Ministry of Justice; FLA scheme scaled up in two district courts (Diber, Shkoder) - 602 vulnerable women/men benefited from FLA services; rules and procedures on the return and repatriation of the child are stipulated in CoM Decision "On the procedures and rules for return, and repatriation of the children" (UNICEF/UNDP/UNHCR)
- ✚ **Gender Equality & GRB** - INSTAT conducted the 3rd Violence Against Women survey and produced its annual Women and Men report; a series of 3 fiscal bylaws and policies are in place, prioritizing revenue and budgetary allocations in favor of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment; MoFE continues to engender MTBP 2020-2022; MoHSP drafted a performance evaluation report on the 2018 implementation of Gender Equality Strategy; U-report has become a dynamic platform for young boys and girls to speak up; UNFPA supported the size estimation of the key population with a gender mainstreaming focus. (UN Women/UNICEF/UNFPA)
- ✚ **Migration & Asylum** - National Strategy of Diaspora & Action Plan 2018-2024 revised; Assessment report on API for Albania finalized/shared with stakeholders; drafting in process of new Law on Asylum; the review of Pre-Screening Instruction for Mixed-Movements to Albania is ongoing; Household Migration Survey is underway with field data collection completed; Registration and Temporary Accommodation Centre for irregular migrants in Kapshtica, Korçë is being established; Humanitarian assistance and services at borders delivered to new arrivals; Fellowships launched for engagement of Diaspora professionals to territorial development in Albania. (IOM/UNHCR)

OUTCOME 2—SOCIAL COHESION

- ✦ **Health** - Assessment of HIV & TB central/regional laboratories conducted; 7 guidelines on TB & HIV care and ToT developed, expertise and training provided on Management of TB medicines and diagnostics in Albania (2 ToT); Protocol on “Estimating the size of key populations at risk to HIV in Albania” developed; PHC Strategy (draft) developed and PHC Standards revised; Community health promotion model established in districts of Puke and Malesi e Madhe and expanded in regions of Berat and Korce; One of the two LINACs upgraded to Volumetric modulated arthrotherapy, HDR brachytherapy machine upgraded, pediatric immobilization equipment purchased, radioisotopes and cold kits for nuclear medicine supplied to 2 hospitals in Tirana; A pilot School Food Nutrition project is designed for implementation in Tirana Municipality within 2019; over 500 health professionals trained on various health-related issues. (WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA/IAEA/FAO)
- ✦ **Education and Culture** - MoESY supported to conduct the appraisal of current Education Strategy 2014-2021 and work is ongoing for the development of the new education’s sector strategy; Tool for monitoring/assessing preschool education developed and piloting awaiting approval from MOESY; Drop-out prevention efforts results: reinforced capacities of 600 teachers in 4 Municipalities (Durrës, Korce, Berat, Tirane); No students at high risk of school dropout reduced with 37% and with moderate risk of school dropout reduced with 16%.; draft CoM Decision in place on awarding financial support for children who are out of school or at risk of dropping out - supporting financially 600-800 children during 2019-2020 academic year; CSE scale up in 7 qarks and 56% of teachers are trained on CSE; Study on the Intersection between SDG-4 (Quality Education) and SDG-5 (Gender Equality) in South-East Europe developed, addressing issues that relate to the intersection of education and gender, including in Albania; Inscription of the Albanian part of the Ohrid Lake region to the UNESCO World Heritage List. (UNICEF/UNFPA/UNESCO)
- ✦ **Social Inclusion & protection** - 578 R/E supported through integrated community based social services; 209 adult R/E employed through startups; 2 community infrastructure upgrading projects improved living conditions of over 1,000 R/E; 3 models mainstreamed for inclusive education and desegregation in 4 municipalities benefiting over 2,800 R/E students to improve education outcome; 583 PwDs, 109 deaf women, their family and community members in 3 municipalities equipped with information and knowledge on their rights and entitlements; Four community-based social care centres (Diber, Ura Vajgurore, Përmet, Kruje), designed for PwDs/other vulnerable groups, were rehabilitated and equipped with furniture; 9 Municipalities developed a fully costed social care plan, reflecting needs of most vulnerable children/families. 7 plans are approved and ready to be implemented; Update of National Social Protection Action Plan 2015-2020 is ongoing; Mid-term review of Social Protection Strategy 2015-2020 is ongoing; Mid-term Monitoring Report of National Action Plan for Children finalized; 14 DCMs of Law on Social Housing developed (8 consulted/3 approved); 1 DCM of Law on Social Care Services on Social Fund modalities & resourcing approved; draft Youth Law finalized; Roadmap approved for integration of health and social services in the work of maternal and child health consulting services; Shelter provided to 72 asylum seekers out of the National Reception Centre; Medical assistance provided to 145 asylum seekers and refugees; Fund for Social Enterprises established at 249,760,000 ALL for 2019-2021 to subsidize Social Enterprises activity. (UNDP/UNICEF/UN Women/UNFPA/ UNHCR)
- ✦ **Child Protection** - Comprehensive in-service training curricula for child protection workers revised in line with the newly adopted legal framework; Over 230 children residing in 9 public residential care institutions assessed and their individual developmental plans are in place and their possible reintegration back to family (environment) plans are being finalized in close collaboration with MoHSP; An outline of a model to transform the existing 9 public residential institutions into family strengthening centers is developed and is being consulted with key stakeholders for subsequent piloting in 1 or 2 Municipalities; Web-based platform <http://www.nukjevetem.al/> is operational and provides professional medical counselling to children and youth affected by violence, suffering from stigma, anxiety and other mental health related issues; national priorities identified to combat hazardous child labour in Albania (UNICEF/ILO)
- ✦ **Gender-based Violence** – INSTAT’s 3rd national VAW prevalence survey report reveals that 52.9% of women age 18-74 ‘ever’ experienced one or more of the five different types of violence during their lifetime - first time this Survey provides baseline figures for other forms of VAW. 10 by-laws approved in areas of domestic violence and free legal aid and several are being drafted. Capacities of staff in law enforcement agencies strengthened in adequately implementing VAW related laws and policies (21 trainers, 329 police officers, 43 DV Local coordinators). 8 Referral Mechanisms at local level (Tirana, Durrës, Shkoder, Elbasan, Korce, Vlore, Kamez, Lezhe) trained on inter-institutional coordination and collaboration and the importance of integrated policies in offering services to survivors of VAWG– benefiting over 230 professionals; 6 Referral Mechanisms (Tirana, Durrës, Shkoder, Elbasan, Korce, Vlore) monitored (for 2017/2018; 2019 monitoring is ongoing) on their obligations to address cases of violence against women and girls; first piloted centre “LILIUM” is operational for providing specialized multi-sectorial services to survivors of sexual violence - 14 survivors of sexual violence are supported with a range of specialized integrated support services; SoPs and Essential Guidelines on GBV reviewed

and consulted; Oversight capacities and role of the Parliamentary sub- Committee on Gender Equality and GB-VAW increased; Around 1,500 citizens in targeted communities were reached out to challenge existing gender norms and stereotypes; Safe cities report “Sexual Harassment and other forms of Gender Based Violence in Urban Spaces in Albania - for Korca and Shkodra Municipalities” finalized; First ever “Women International Film Festival” (Albania, 8-11 March) commemorated International Women’s Day, with the theme “gender-based violence”. (UNDP/UN Women/UNFPA)

OUTCOME 3—ECONOMIC GROWTH, LABOUR AND AGRICULTURE

- ✚ **Labour** - National Employment and Skills Strategy Action Plan revised; annual report (2018) on implementation of National Employment and Skills Strategy completed; new Law on Employment Promotion (nr.15/2019) approved; Functional assessment of NES conducted; Fourth round of self-employment programme for young people launched in northern municipalities (Shkoder, Kukes, Durres) - 20 business ideas selected and supported; Work initiated on establishment of the Social Employment Fund to provide employment and training opportunities to people with disabilities; Work initiated for drafting of a joint-program (UN Women, ILO) on accelerating Transition to Inclusive and Green Economy with gender lenses, focused on development of social enterprises as means to social innovation. (UNDP/UN Women/ILO)
- ✚ **Agriculture and Rural Development** - Feasibility study and project proposal developed to increase income opportunities for smallholders and accelerate rural women’s economic empowerment; Regulatory framework on product quality certification, including GI, organic and traditional products developed; Study prepared for the formulation of the national Food Loss and Waste Strategy; MoARD capacity increased on agriculture statistics and data collection for SDG monitoring and quarterly/annual Statistical Reports produced; Capacity of the public and private veterinary service is increased in risk prevention and mitigation practices on transboundary animal diseases; Rural women’s economic empowerment (GREAT project) document and budget submitted for review in September 2019. (FAO/UN Women)

OUTCOME 4—ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- ✚ **DRR & Climate Change** - Albania’s First Biennial Update Report to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is under preparation; Strategy on Climate Change and related Action Plans on Mitigation and Adaptation endorsed - first country in the region with an endorsed CCS; Management plan for the WH property “Natural Heritage and Cultural heritage of Ohrid region” developed; Sustainable Land Management approaches mainstreamed into revised legal framework and land management planning processes; More than 5 olive oil enterprises supported with grants and expertise to (i) prepare feasibility study and business plan, (ii) make biomass energy projects economically feasible; Awareness/capacities of relevant institutions/stakeholders increased on the mitigation and adaptation of agriculture sector to the effects of climate change; Action Plan and priority actions on agro-ecology at national level are defined. (UNDP/UNEP/UNESCO/UNIDO/FAO)
- ✚ **Natural Resources** - Business plan for National Parks of Llogara and Divjaka developed; Study finalized on the national strategy and financial planning of protected areas, potential contribution of private actors in PAs governance and management policies at municipal level; Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for Drini is being finalized and the initial draft of Strategic Action Plan was discussed in 6 stakeholders working group meetings; A review of implementation of recommendations stemming from Albania Environmental Performance Review vis-à-vis SDGs and targets and need assessments prepared. (UNDP/UNEP)