



Strengthening the Social Protection Response After the Earthquake in Albania

Final Report 2023





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Final Report

Tirana, April 2023

ABOUT THE COVER

Country: Albania

Project title: Strengthening the Social Protection Response after the Earthquake in Albania

Short title: Earthquake Social Protection Response (ESPR)

Start date: 08/02/2021

End date: 30/04/2023

Reporting Period: June 2021 – April 2023

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Budget (Joint SDG Acceleration Fund contribution): With donations from the Governments of United Kingdom, Finland and Norway.

Overall budget (with co-funding): 965,909.00 USD



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SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

“Earthquake Social Protection Response (referred hereinafter as ESPR) project is short-term project designed with the aim to address social inclusion, protection and the needs of the most vulnerable groups impacted by the November 2019 earthquake.



Overall budget
965,909.00 USD



Reporting Period
June 2019
April 2023

The project also seeks to improve the social and economic resilience of earthquake affected communities with particular focus on the geographical and institutional areas administered by municipalities of Durrës, Krujë and Shijak. Overall, the project aims to assist local social protection services in integrating measures to improve community resilience and increased transparency and voices of those affected and more prone to be affected by disaster and emergency situations. The project supports the government and local authorities to develop strategies and action plans to respond to social issues in emergencies with a component of ensuring economic and livelihood recovery mechanisms are implemented at individual, household and community level.

At a broader level, it aims to instill a level of empowerment and support by exploring the outlooks of contributing to an integrated social and employment services at local and/or community level.

It also takes into consideration transparency mechanisms for people and families impacted by the earthquake, those living on margins of poverty, people with disabilities, children, women, elderly, youth, ethnic minorities, people in rural areas and other vulnerable categories. It excludes cash-based schemes, thus focusing mainly on integrated social care services with linkages to employment, livelihood and income generation, support for farmers and inclusive education.

Municipalities on focus



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ESPR project is part of the overall efforts and financial support in line with the Reconstruction Plan of Government of Albania, following the disastrous effects of the November 2019 Earthquake.

It is largely funded through the SDG Acceleration Fund of UNDP, comprising also financial contribution from within the organization as well as donations from a pool of funds attained from several donors – namely for ESPR specifically - the Governments of United Kingdom, Norway, and Finland. The project was designed as short-term and complementary intervention to assist communities in three partner municipalities mostly affected by this natural disaster – Durres, Kruje and Shijak - to build resilience and recover from the effects of the earthquake through a combined approach of livelihood and social services support.

Although it officially commenced from February 2021 (when the agreement was signed) it became fully operational in mid-2021, and intended to be completed by end of 2022. However, it was extended to April 2023 based on the following reasons: a) although significant results have already been achieved for the first group of 160 household beneficiaries, it has become obvious that a monitoring process and evaluation activities are needed to ensure and measure the impact of the scheme as well as the improvement of beneficiaries' lives; and b) additional time was deemed as necessary to extend the support an additional number of 40 households which have already been identified and are expecting tools and equipment's to be procured and delivered.

The initiative is based on two main outputs, with each of them entailing specific categories of sub-activities:



Throughout its implementation the project team has employed iterated agile project management approach. This was driven by two main factors:

1. The project document was based on a set of activities that were complementary of each other yet somehow vague in terms of the outputs and outcomes;
2. The timeframe was relatively short and required a combination of a variety of interventions to achieve the indicators specified in the project document. On an additional note, it required the design, development, and implementation from scratch of a methodology surrounding the integrated model of livelihood, economic and social support, all combined jointly with beneficiaries at the center of it.

To attain the main bulk of the foreseen indicators and activities planned, the project completed two rounds of Calls for Community-based Grants. Through them it funded 13 CSOs to support with direct livelihood and social support services - 7 from the 1st round focusing largely on the Output 1 (with an overall lifetime of initiatives spanning from 10 -12 months) and 5 from the 2nd round aiming to support the Output 2 activities (with a shorter length of 6 months' timeline). All these grants were concluded by June 2022 with 2 CSOs receiving a cost-extension until September 2022 to expand and complete some processes that required additional funding and time. An additional CSO was contracted during the 2nd half of 2022 to complement some level of support based on a request from Durres Municipality.

Although each set of grants was designed to attend to the requirements of each output, it is very important to note that a considerable amount of overlapping and contribution to the overall set of activities of the project was attained based on their initiatives.

Additionally, World Vision Albania was funded through a Responsible Party Agreement to deliver its THRIVE - Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments - methodology in rural areas of Kruje Municipality, engaging with some of the most vulnerable and affected communities. The initiative was implemented during a period of 13 months bringing the total amount of grants to 14.

The approach employed during the selection process followed a geographical distribution based on the proportional coverage of the needs identified as per the March 2022 [Post-Disaster Needs Assessment \(PDNA\)](#) carried out by UN Country Office following the aftermath of the earthquake. More specifically 7 grants were implemented in Durres Municipality, 3 in Kruja and 3 in Shijak. This distribution was based also through close consultations with Departments of Social Care and Social Inclusion Cluster Management.

Liaising closely with Local Government Units in targeted municipalities, the project instigated the process of designing a set of technical protocols for social service providers in emergency situations. More specifically, for each of the local government institutions Protocols for Municipal Social Service Providers in Emergencies and Emergency Social Plans were developed based on the available resources and the needs identified at a broad spectrum of respective populations/communities/households.

A Livelihood Support Scheme was designed to assist more than 200 households/ Individuals to increase their resilience, economic recovery and improve their capacities to generate incomes. It is guided through a dedicated Operation Specifications on “Post-disasters Social Protection and Livelihood Support” designed specifically for this project. The scheme takes into consideration three components – Social Support, Livelihood and Economic – all combined together to ensure as much as possible a wrap-around approach to beneficiaries.



200+

HOUSEHOLDS

have been supported through the Livelihood and Social Support Scheme.



1500+

HOUSEHOLDS

have been supported with psycho-social support, tailored social services.



15+

INITIATIVES

to support volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives.

In terms of the achievements of the ESPR project during its entire implementation the following is a broad presentation in terms of figures and coverage - Through the contribution of 14 CSOs grantees, more than **1500 households** have been supported with psycho-social support, tailored social services and referrals to a range a municipal service, assisting concurrently also with the preparation of the necessary documentation to ensure access according to procedures applied. Extensive data collection and needs assessment in urban and rural areas of households affected in the partner municipalities has produced a database containing more than **2000 households** collectively. The data attained contain a range of issues ranging from disability, social support, housing, employment, and legal representation.

Overall, more than **15 initiatives** to support volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives have been implemented to contribute to community resilience and earthquake recovery efforts. These have been largely implemented by grantees and encompass a variety of models

Three online platforms have been designed to support volunteerism, raise issues and concerns with municipal authorities, gather and distribute resources and coordinate volunteerism in emergency situations and exchange information among young people on employment and training opportunities.

The dedicated Livelihood and Social Support Scheme started its full implementation from March 2022, guided through a dedicated Operation Specifications on “Post-disasters Social Protection and Livelihood Support” designed specifically for this project. Combining collectively the contribution of grantees who have provided a variety of assets to selected families, **more than 200 households** have been supported through the scheme. It is important to note that the scheme excludes cash-based transfers, while two external experts have been hired to further develop the procedures, supporting documentation while overseeing closely the process and provide necessary assistance to beneficiaries.

ESPR project has achieved the intended outcome and outputs and has successfully delivered surpassing the indicators set in the project document. Employing a high degree of agility, the project has continuously designed relevant and responsive activities to support the achievement of its outputs during 2022. No major challenges have been identified, although the project team frequent monitoring visits and consultations in the field to ensure activities remain on track and adequate actions are taken to mitigate possible drawbacks.

3 ONLINE PLATFORMS

have been designed to support volunteerism, raise issues and concerns with municipal authorities.



- > Jam Vullnetar.al
- > Digital Youth
- > Platforma Komunitare Shijak

Read more at page 25

I. OVERALL PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Taking into consideration the relatively tight timeline of the project, designated budget volume and the range of activities foreseen, the overall progress has been satisfactory. Although the current project team was hired by mid-2021, it has worked substantially and with careful reference to the workplan to initiate and implement all the respective activities. Under tight deadlines and combining a range of complex procedures to allow for the achievement of each indicator, output and outcome, the project has maintained a clear course. This, albeit operating in a period that has to a considerable extent been negatively affected by the restrictions, delays and other difficulties deriving from the COVID-19 pandemic. While minor constraints have been identified, the project team with time swiftly to mitigate any possible shortfalls and progress towards completion of results, in some instances beyond the initial indicators noted in the project document.

1.1 Context and the overall approach

The ESPR project had supported the Albanian Government and three earthquake impacted municipalities – namely Durres, Kruje and Shijak - in translating the policy intent into proper local actions to ensure that men, women, girls and boys living in poverty, or vulnerable situations, intersecting with post-earthquake conditions, have access to integrated, quality social services. To achieve this goal, the project has focused on the following main outcome: all women, men, girls, and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups impacted by the earthquake, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights. The project contributes towards addressing any of the multidimensional impacts of the COVID-19 and to protect the needs and rights of people living under the duress of the pandemic, with focus on the most vulnerable groups, and people who risk being left behind.

The main of this project has encompassed assistance to national and local government/s in reducing further social and economic losses, and to accelerate the recovery process 'by 'Strengthening the social protection system response to disasters and ensure that no one is left behind in the areas affected by the November 2019 earthquake in Albania'. In response to the needs of local communities, those most impacted, vulnerable, and marginalized, the focus has on four main intervention outputs:

1. Strengthened institutional emergency framework and capacities for social protection in emergencies and disasters.
2. Local communities (including vulnerable groups) are organized to articulate their needs and fully benefit from the socio-economic opportunities for infrastructure reconstruction and socio-economic recovery.
3. Groups affected by the earthquake, particularly, marginalized, or vulnerable groups such as women, children, youth, ethnic minorities, people living with disabilities, in rural areas, elderly, etc., supported through integrated social care, livelihood and income-generating activities.
4. Innovative post-disaster social care programmes ensure improved wellbeing of Households (HH) affected by the earthquake.

It is important to note that the project has been implemented during a period of considerable unpredicted challenges largely posed by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This, in multiple dimensions, has affected the overall working and living conditions of the population in Albania – the country is no exception from the global trend in dealing with the institutional, health, and well-being strains experienced. For those still experiencing the hardship posed by the November 2019 Earthquake, such difficulties have exacerbated their situation. Combined with issues related to losing their dwellings, loss of employment, strains in cash-flows and limits in income generating activities, particular communities, families, and individuals have faced an increased hardship. Some of them have further suffered from remoteness and limited access to services – particularly those belonging to marginalized and vulnerable groups, including Roma and Egyptian communities.

1.2 Alignment of the Project with SDG Development Agenda

By delivery of its objectives, the Project will contribute to achievement of the targets set within the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, more specifically the SDGs 1, 3, 5, 10 and 16.

1 NO POVERTY



1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



16.6 Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels. “Strengthening the social protection response after the earthquake in Albania” has been aligned with 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and 2018 -2021 UNDP Country Strategic Plan: Development Setting

- › C. Build resilience to shocks and crises and Signature Solution 3: Enhance prevention and recovery for resilient societies.

ESPR Project also contributed to Outcome 2 of Country Programme Document and [Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021](#) that reads as follows:

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

1.3 Alignment to UNDAF Albania Outputs

The ESPR project contributed to the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 (Output 2.3 of [Joint Working group between Government of Albania and United Nations Albania](#) and Government of Albania United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 (output 1.5).

OUTPUT 1

INCREASED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
OF EARTHQUAKE EFFECTED COMMUNITIES



2. REPORTING ON PROJECT OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES



Activity 1.1

Support the government develop and strengthen central and local social strategies to respond to social issues in emergencies (develop protocols of work for social care providers to respond to different groups, needs and vulnerabilities in disaster situation).

The project contracted an independent consultant since October 2021 to undertake the process of developing the **Protocols of Social Services at Local Level in Emergency Situations**. The expert has conducted a series of extensive semi-structured interviews with representatives of Local Government Units in all three partner municipalities. A draft of the initial findings was submitted for review, which has been circulated to each of the Municipal Departments of Social Care, members of the project's team as well similarly experienced teams for their comments.

The protocols include a series of technical components on the steps that providers of social services should take into consideration when dealing with emergency situations. These have been largely built on other countries' vast experiences in extensively addressing such contexts. The information collected through the research is contextualized to better suit their institutional arrangements at local as well as national level. The final drafts have undergone a consultative and review process with workshops organized in all Departments of Social Care in partner municipalities, where participants having the opportunity to express their observations and recommend necessary amends.

The final products – one for each of the partner municipalities – have been completed and designed for publication on municipalities websites and ESPR project page. In their final form there are envisaged to be utilized as a core protocol to be shared and adopted by respective LGUs within their Annual Social Protection Plans as an additional supporting mechanism. At the later stages of the project, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection is envisaged to undertake a leading role in disseminating the final output and facilitate the incorporation of the protocols in the Social Care Plans of Municipalities at national level as an additional tool that will be 'activated' and consulted as per their needs, contexts, and circumstances.

In addition, the CSO 'Nisma për Ndryshim ARSIS' as part of their workplan as projet grantee, prepared **Emergency Social Plans** for each of the project's partner municipalities. These plans are designed as tools to assist the Departments of Social Care and Civil Emergencies to better react and coordinate their services focusing on vulnerable groups affected by natural disasters should they take place in the future. They are considered as mechanisms that could be activated in the immediate aftermath

of such events and their designed has been prompted by reports from respective local government personnel who put emphasis on the need for a better and more swift response/ coordination following the November 2019 Earthquake and COVID-19 pandemic initial stages of the aftermath. Both sets of these documents (2 for each municipality) are included under Annex 1 of this report.

To extend the support at municipal level, ESPR project has assisted the Municipality of Tirana with the preparation of the Action Plan for Inclusion of Roma and Egyptian Minorities. An external consultant was contracted through the ESPR project to prepare the document . Further and following the approval of the new [National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians in Albania \(2021-2025\)](#), during 2023, under the direction and coordination of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP), and with the technical assistance of UNDP and ESPR, all line ministries, regional directorates, municipalities and local institutions (242 officials are active users) were trained on the indicators, their definition and the methodology of progress reporting in the ROMALB electronic system . However, the institutional capacity of MHSP, in charge of the coordination of Roma-related policies, remains weak in terms of human resources, therefore the project facilitated the contracting of 2 external experts to assist in the process. Similarly, to the aforementioned support for Municipality of Tirana, the project considered such assistance was deemed crucial to the overall improvements towards reporting against relevant indicators as per the EU Accession Process requirements in the respective area of work.



Activity 1.2

Support volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives to contribute to community resilience and recovery efforts.

In November 2021, the ESPR project launched the 2nd Call for Community Based Grants, with a particular focus on support to volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives. Following evaluation of applications, 5 proposals were considered as suitable and awarded approval. Starting from 10 December until 30 June 2022, they implemented their initiatives. The following organisations were selected based on their proposals:

- 1. Center for Social Advocacy – Durres and Fushe-Kruja**
- 2. USHTEN Center – Durres**
- 3. ACTIVE Durres Center – Durres**
- 4. SEKTRA – Kruje**
- 5. Together for Life – Shijak**

Their projects combined a set of innovative approaches including a Club of Volunteers, an online Community Platform for young people to share information regarding professional development and employment opportunities, assistance to Roma and Egyptian communities who have lost their previous accommodation due to the

Earthquake as well as capacity building for members of community to jointly voice their needs to local government institutions. More information on the contribution of these organisations can be found in Annex 4 of this report.



Activity 1.3

Develop an integrated employment/livelihood and social services model for affected vulnerable citizens to recover and start life in post-earthquake setting.

1.3.1 Livelihood Support Scheme

This activity was initially explored through several initiatives supported through the grants provided to CSOs. By January 2022, a dedicated **Livelihood/Social Support Scheme** was designed which became effective and started implementation on March 2022. More specifically, the needs assessment processes conducted by grantees have contributed to the preparation of a substantial number of short proposals suitable for non-cash support that would encourage income generating processes for the identified households. Building on this the project team contracted 2 experts of business development and private sector engagement to outline the tailored kind of support that will be delivered.

The scheme is administered through a detailed Operations Specifications document, supported further with an extensive individual report on the needs and capacities of each individual/household. It provides an outline of the best suitable support, suggesting materials, tools, vocational courses, livestock and other items which allows them to increase their income generating activities and build a fairly sustainable small to medium enterprise.

Working collectively with the ESPR project team and Social Mediators assigned to each municipality the consultants developed a series of tools that would facilitate and guide the process of identifying, assessing and determining the kind of support for each beneficiary. More specifically and based on the Operation Specifications the following mechanisms were designed, utilized and transferred to Municipal Institutions for further use/implementation in the future – they can be found in Annex 2 of this report:

1.3.2 Local Social Mediators Databases

Thorough databases have been prepared by the Local Social Mediators within the Project. These databases contain collected data on the affected inhabitants and/or families by the earthquake, socio-economic issues faced, any health issues affecting their vulnerability, support provided by other CSOs, data source, case follow up planning, special needs they have, location of the head of household. The databases were considered a living

document therefore they were continuously updated throughout the assignment period by the Local Social Mediators as per their meetings, interviews, on-site visits etc.

1.3.3 Case Based Social Assessment Report

To ensure detailed data collection per each eligible cases, a Case Social (Assessment) Report template was developed by the contracted experts, in close consultation with the ESRP team and Local Social Mediators. The case assessment report was developed for each of the identified case by the Local Social Mediator. The Case Social (Assessment) Reports provide a baseline social-economic assessment of the social vulnerabilities and level of earthquake damage based on the interview and site visits.

The Case Social (Assessment) Reports is organised in five main sections that include: i) general data of the eligible case; ii) a brief family background/history; iii) current situation focusing on the needed interventions along with the strengths and weaknesses noticed; iv) ways to provide support to ensure income generation activities for improving the overall households' wellbeing and v) assessment on case management challenges. Also, assessment photos/documentation evidence of the earthquake damages and photos related to the current situation are included in these reports.

1.3.4 Individual Development Plan

Based on Case Social (Assessment) Reports detailed Individual Development Plans are developed for each case. The plans elaborate in detail the development objectives of each case looking from a full cycle that focusses on every potential aspect and includes personal self-development, increase of professional capacities, improvement of working conditions, provisions for the socio-psychological improvement of the family as the whole which in turn should lead to livelihood conditions improvement. The Plan includes steps and tasks (along with deadlines) toward this development objective achievement. Outside and inside factors as well as risks are considered while preparing these development objectives. Criteria for success are also identified to ensure that development

A Livelihood Support Case Report is prepared by the contracted experts based on the Case Social (Assessment) Report, which reports support volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives to contribute to community resilience and recovery efforts. It is the summarising tool that brings together the Individual Development Plan and Case Social (Assessment) Report.

1.3.6 Key Stakeholders of the process

The ESRP The contracted experts supported by the project team, have closely collaborated with project stakeholders at national, regional and local level. They are identified as main beneficiaries, primary stakeholders, the ones who are directly affected by the project and secondary stakeholders, as parties which have influence on but are not directly impacted by the Project. They are as follows:

Main Beneficiaries

- › Households benefiting from ESRP Livelihood Support scheme
- › Urban and rural communities in the project sites of Durrës, Krujë and Shijak affected by the earthquake.

Primary stakeholders

- › Municipality of Durrës – Directorate of Social Services; Child Protection Unit;
- › Municipality of Durrës – Administrative Units No. 2, No. 4, No. 6, Rrashbull, Rrushkull, Sukth – their Needs Assessment and Referral Unit¹
- › Municipality of Krujë – Directorate of Social Services,
- › Municipality of Krujë – Administrative Units of Fushë Krujë, Thumanë, Bubq, Nikël – their Needs Assessment and Referral Unit;
- › Municipality of Shijak – Directorate of Social Services
- › Municipality of Shijak – Administrative Units of Maminas, Xhafzotaj and Gjepalaj

Secondary stakeholders

- › Municipality of Durrës – Regional Directorate of National Employment Agency, Regional Directorate of State Social Services, Vocational Education Institution Centre; Local Education Directorate, CSOs providing direct support to vulnerable groups; IRCA, CDC Today for the Future; Udhëtim i lirë; USHTEN, Centre for Social Advocacy; Durrësi Aktiv; Association “Gender, Peace and Security”, Social Centres providing social care services to specific vulnerable groups;
- › Municipality of Krujë – Local Employment Office, Vocational Education Centre; Local Education Directorate, ARSIS, World Vision, Porta Rome për edukim; SEKTRA;
- › Municipality of Shijak – ESRP grant implementing CSOs – Plan & Go; Partnerët për fëmijët; Together for life.

Other stakeholders

- › ESRP project team and local social mediators
- › Other local CSOs working with vulnerable people at the local level
- › Other project stakeholders as identified during project implementation.

The experts have particularly worked closely with Needs Assessment and Referral Units and Child Protection Units/Workers (through the local social mediators) in the relevant Administrative Units of the target municipalities.

1. To perform the defined functions, the Needs Assessment and Referral Unit must have at least i) a social worker for case assessment and referral for every 6,000 to 10,000 inhabitants; ii) one child protection worker for every 3,000 children; and iii) social administrator

1.3.7 ESPR Livelihood Support Scheme implementation

As part of the ESPR Livelihood Support Scheme Implementation, several **meetings with key local stakeholders, site and family visits** were conducted during the assignment period, in targeted municipalities, from the contracted experts along with the respective Local Social Mediators to assess needs and constraints among the targeted individuals/households. As a result of this activities the following results were produced:

- **83 cases in need** have been visited, interviewed and assessed by the contracted experts with the presence of Local Social Mediators, representatives of local government (head of Administrative Units, Social Worker, Elder, etc.), directorates of social support, etc. mainly in rural areas, and not only.
- **77 cases in need**, have been assessed as eligible beneficiaries and supported through the ESPR Livelihood Support Scheme. Livelihood Case support Report has been prepared per each case from the contracted experts, and **Individual Development Plans** (often Family Development Plans) were prepared to address the identified needs and provide tailored family empowerment support. Grants in material goods with a budget of up to 3,000 USD have been provided for each case with the final goal, economic empowerment of supported families.
- **75 cases** have been assessed and **referred to the local structures** at the municipality level, such as providers of professional courses, civil registry offices, local CSOs to get further support.

The following diagram shows the typical work processes for “case management” as followed by the ESRP project. The diagram is based in the traditional “case management” approach of the local public institutions and does heavily rely on them for identification of “vulnerable cases” to be supported by the ESRP project livelihood scheme.

Diagram 1: Livelihood Support Scheme

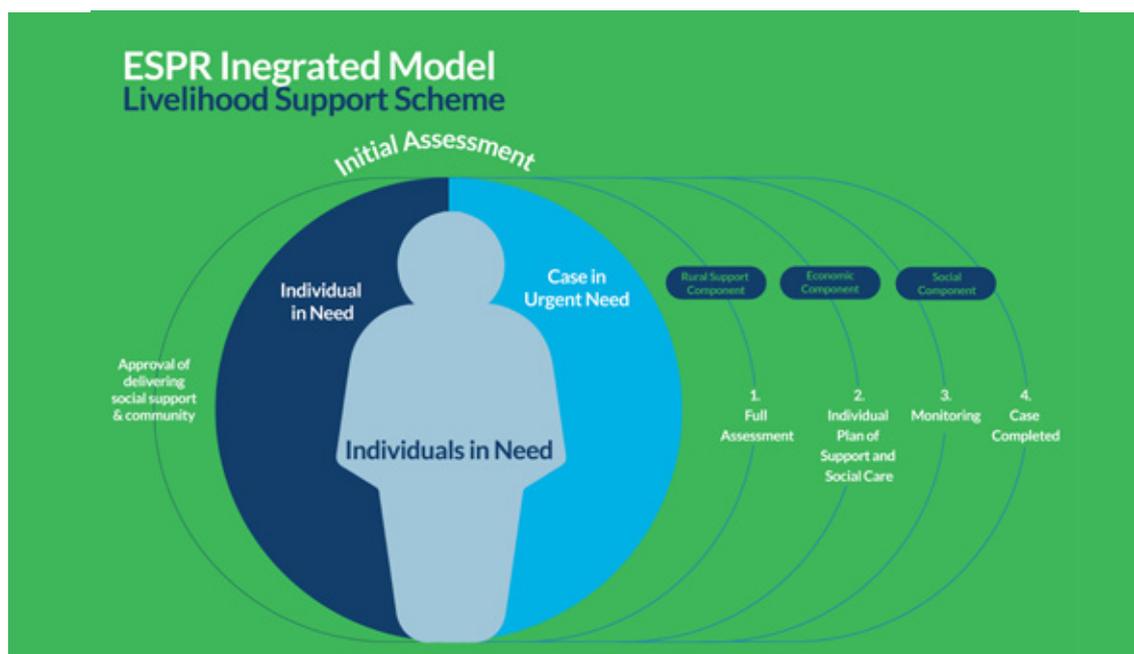
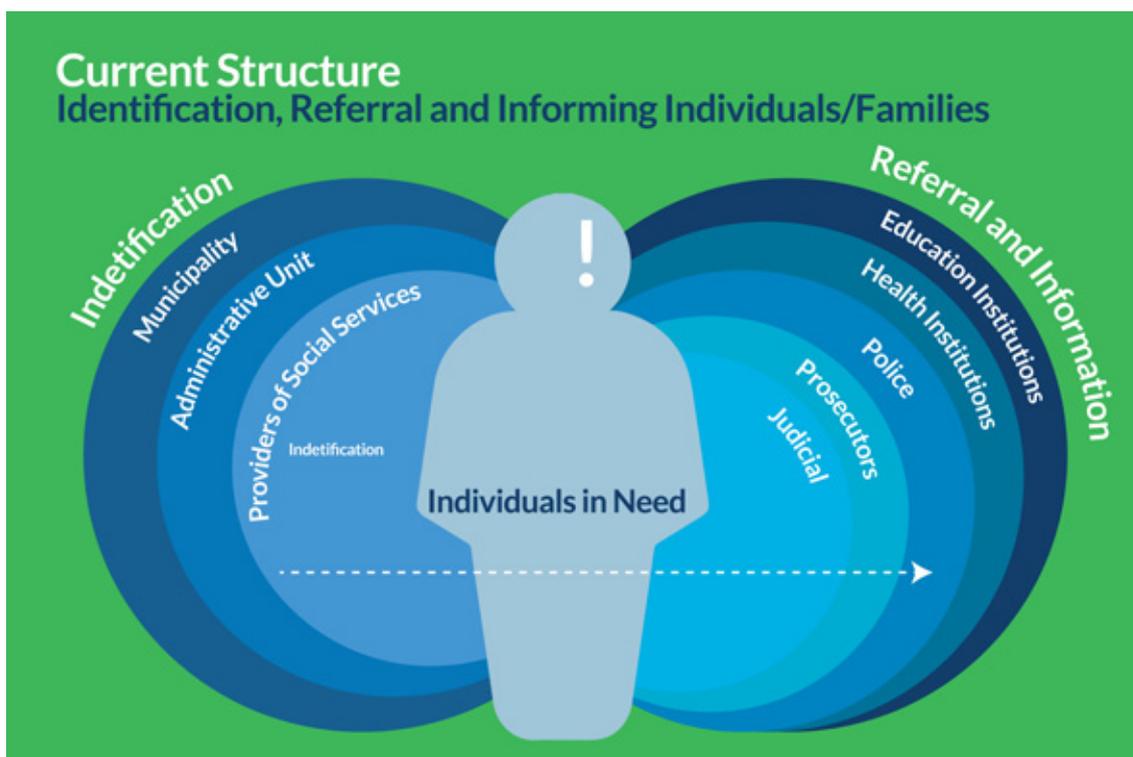


Diagram 2: Identification, Referral and Informing Individuals/Families



Overall, the Livelihood Support Scheme is considered as an innovative mechanism that could be easily replicated in the future from UNDP, other CSOs, local government and community-based initiatives. Its main strength remains the initial in-depth assessment of the situation of at individual or household level and a bottom-up approach applied when determining the tailored support for each of them. More importantly and in support of designing an integrated model of employment/livelihood and social services model in supporting activity 1.4, the scheme takes into consideration and aims to offer a wrap-around approach where social issues are addressed jointly with the exploration of the realistic capacities of each case to improve the generation of incomes based on existing strength. This with the aim to build on what already exists within each household and strengthen that to the mid to long term and sustainable benefits of families and at a broader level community.

The entire process of designing the Livelihood Support Scheme has followed a learning by doing approach for the ESPR project. Lessons learnt from the early days of grants design and implementation, frequent consultations with local government institutions and reasonable exploration of what could really be beneficial for each case – rather than suggesting externally what they should receive - have contributed to a model that support practically and genuinely the beneficiaries.

The support provided through the scheme ranges from livestock (milking cows, goats and hens as well as food for them to ensure the longevity and sustainable effects of such provisions) to working tools for self-employed professionals as electricians, plumbers,

tile layers and local fisherman. It has also included a range of agriculture tools such as plowing and milking machines, small transport trailers and water pumps. In many instances and taking into consideration the needs of the entire household assistive devices such as eyeglasses, furniture, working devices (laptops), etc.

The model was presented in detail on September 2022 at the Multi-Stakolder Conference held in Kruja Multicultural Center to a wider audience with participation of partner municipalities of Durres, Kruje and Shijak, UNDP, donors, grantee CSOs and beneficiaries to highlight its achievements, lessons learnt, challenges as well as what would be the way forward for future replication locally, nationally and if applicable at a wider level.



Activity 1.4
Support at least 200 households through Integrated employment/ livelihood and social services model.

Combining collectively the wide range of activities delivered from the grantees, the project has managed to support at the time of this report, more than 250 families through a range of services. These include:

- › Direct psycho-social support – particularly to address social services,
- › Provision of packages for meeting basic needs with food and hygiene items,
- › Children provided with psychological counselling,
- › Children engaged in after school support activities – developmental,
- › Positive Parenting training.
- › Individuals – particularly young people – engaged in employment support schemes/programs,
- › Communities trained in responding to emergency situations.

Further and more importantly more than 70 direct beneficiaries have been supported directly from the Livelihood Support Scheme while a further 150 have been assisted in various forms from the grants distributed to CSOs through provision of white goods, small appliances and raw materials. To complement the social, economic and livelihood support, they are being referred for complementary services such as:

- › psychological counseling,
- › assisted to received social and housing support from local authorities,
- › engagement with employment offices, centers for vocational training,

Table 1: Data on Grant Scheme Beneficiaries

Grant Scheme Beneficiaries							
Services Provided	Durres		Kruje		Shijak		Total
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	
Psycho-Social Support	184	-	150	75	300	30	739
After-School Classes And Education Support	-	-	-	85	-	210	295
Parenting Classes	-	-	30	-	20	-	50
Economic Support (Microinitiatives)	-	-	34	-	8	-	42
Community Initiatives	220	137	20	80	30	70	557
Emergency Aid (Food And Clothes)	15	-	30	90	60	-	195
Referral Services	180	60	18	-	120	-	378
Life Skills/Vet Referral	420	-	-	-	-	-	420
Volunteering	-	14	-	8	-	6	28
Total	1019	211	282	338	538	316	2704

The table above illustrates the overall number of beneficiaries through the services provided by project grantees.

An electronic booklet depicting 23 notable cases of direct assistance could be found at Annex 5 of this report.

OUTPUT 2

STRENGTHENED TRANSPARENCY AND VOICES





Activity 2.1

Develop Community Platforms to promote transparency on emergency response and gender responsive recovery effort, and participatory decision-making in planning, prioritization, and recovery activities.

2.1.1 Online Platforms

Recipients of both rounds of Community-based Grant Applications have envisaged and planned activities to fulfill this objective. Apart for a variety of frequent community meetings held, work has now started to empower, train, and instruct community leaders to better articulate and present to local government institutions their needs. This has already included aspects of reconstruction process for those that have not yet benefited from the allocated funds from government, the coverage and distribution of social services, identifications of areas for improvement in the future and respective timelines to meet these needs. A budget planning component will be included however, it should be noted that resources of LGUs and central government are under considerable pressure due to effects of COVID-19 effects and economic effects that have followed as a result. Given each of the partner municipalities have specific priorities – i.e., Shijak has progressed considerably with reconstruction efforts and would benefit from better social services in terms of both availability and geographical coverage – these community platforms will contribute to identifying particular issues based on the need's assessment exercises already undertaken by the grantees.

The following is a summary of community platforms is listed below as per the contribution of each CSO contracted by the ESPR project:



Durresi AKTIV

www.JamVullnetar.al

An online platform for Volunteers developed by Durresi AKTIV Center (at this stage targeting only the Durres Municipality area) which seeks to provide an open access medium for all activities and initiatives which support the community assistance and information for all those interested to participate in volunteerism and coordinate their efforts jointly. The platform offers an opportunity to discuss and raise issues related to the effects of the earthquake – physical reconstruction as well as social support, access to information and emergency response coordination.



Click to view

Promotional video of the platform
JamVullnetar.al komunitetit

Together for Life
www.PlatformaKomunitareShijak.com

Aiming to boost the community engagement within the area administered by Municipality of Shijak (which was considerably suffered from the November 2019 Earthquake), the platform developed by Together for Life Center offers updated information on the process of reconstruction. It serves as an open access space for the public to ask questions, submit requests, complaints, and petitions thus facilitating a transparent communication between respective institutions and members of public. The platform is designed based as a need identified by local government as well as those communities affected - its link is promoted also within the official webpage of the Municipality.

At the time of preparing this final report the platform has been visited by more than 15,000 citizens with 3 issues raised with local government through it, requiring the attention of respective authorities to be addressed accordingly.

For a promotional video of the platform and instructions for registering and lodging an inquiry visit [Platforma komunitare Shijak](#)



Click to view

SEKTRA
www.DigitalYouth.al

Developed by SEKTRA, the platform provides courses on Technology, Information and Communication, targeting largely young people as well as professionals inspiring to expand their consultancy services. It aims to establish a network/hub where primarily young people could share information about employment opportunities and expression of interest based on their availability, qualifications, and expectations.

The objective is to increase the employment opportunities, linking it largely to the needs of private sector in Kruje Municipality. The platform will also offer tailored training modules on Digital Literacy, including Web-Design and Digital Programming – which are considered areas with considerable potential for employment – office based as well as remotely. It also serves as a medium for users to exchange information on a range of issues including community initiatives, employment opportunities, learning possibilities and joint projects - not necessarily limited to the profile of courses offered. It is widely shared also within the digital profiles of the Municipality of Kruje, education institutions, local employment office as well as other organisations working in the area.

2.1.2 Community Initiatives

► Center for Social Advocacy

A Community Initiative with elected representatives including more than 100 families of Roma and Egyptian Communities from Administrative Unit 7 in Durres to inquire continuously with local government authorities on the process, progress and expected outcomes of earthquake reconstruction/compensation of earthquake damages.

► Durresi Aktiv

A Bicycle Riding Tour on the Earth Day with more than 25 participants accompanied by Municipal and Local policy authorities riding through the main areas of Durres City to promote and advocate for protection of environment.

- › The exhibition 'Urban Life in Durres' held between 20-31 May 2022, depicting moments and issues of communities affected during and after the earthquake as well as other socio-economic issues due to COVID-19 pandemic. The collection of 75 black and white photos taken by young volunteers – most of them engaged in the assisting in the aftermath of the earthquake – more than 1000 people popped in at the gallery (local and foreign visitors), including the Minister for Standards of Services, Mayor of Durres Municipality, and other representatives of central and local authorities.

Video of the Bicycle Riding Tour



[Click to play video](#)

Video of the KRAK Club & ESPR project contribution, accompanied with moments of mural's creation



[Click to play video](#)

- › Installation of mural on the façade of a newly reconstructed building damaged by the earthquake bearing the logo of KRAK Club with the inscription 'I Am a Volunteer' (Jam Vullnetar).

▶ USHTEN

- › A Joint Consultative Group between Directorate of Education, Junior and High Schools and Durres Municipality Representative established to facilitate 'Activism of Roma Youth Activism' established as advocating initiative and practice for young people from Roma Community.
- › A series of periodic meetings held jointly with Durres Emploment Office and Regional Center for Vocational Training, Department of Social Services, CSOs working with vulnerable groups and Management of Junior High Schools with a high level of Roma children attendance. The meetings resulted in the establishment of joint working group that meets every two months to discuss relevant issues and determine pathways for addressign them accordingly and in the best interest of beneficiaries and those interested to pursue vocational education and/or employment.

▶ SEKTRA

- › Installation in one of the entry facades of Kruja in proximity of City's Castle of the first painting ever recorded of illustrating the early days of this urban setting.



- › An exhibition held at High School Scanderbeg in Kruja with old photos of major events and prominent community members of the past and present of the city. This event was curated by students and they were provided information to visitors throughout the week-long lifetime of the exhibition.
- › Installation of sitting benches and waste bins along the route mostly frequented by visitors coming to Kruja – including the old bazaar – in collaboration with the Municipality Department of Public Spaces Management. Students and teachers were also involved throughout the process assisting with the installation, painting and preparation of instructive signage.

▶ Together for Life

- › In consultation with Municipality of Shijak, the project supported the request of Maminas community to address the collection of rubbish and establish designated areas for their deposits. In addition, it brought to the attention of the local authorities the lack of water supply in particular areas of towns which prompted the authorities to hold an open meeting of the Municipal Council where respective parties responsible informed of the measures to be taken in short-term future to address the issue. Shortly after, the supply of water improved significantly although a complete solution would have to wait upon the completion of new apartment buildings being reconstructed following the damages caused by the earthquake.

- › Identified as a pressing issue from community members and Municipality of Shijak, the project supported the rehabilitation of the Recreational Park of the town. Engaging a group of student activists, project team, municipality workers and parents the entire space was cleaned, painted and repaired.

Today for the Future

- › An awareness campaign ‘Community for Community’ has brought 20 parents and 30 young people in assisting voluntarily with 8 community meetings and door-to-door knocking to collect items that people would like to donate for those more in need and affected by the earthquake. A broader and open campaign was held on 26 November 2021 in Manëz where painting from children and young people portraying their perceptions of post-earthquake moments were exhibited to raise funds. It achieved to collect financial and other donations which were distributed to those more in need again through a careful selective process based on the early assessment.
- › A round table with 19 representatives from Department of Social Services, Needs Assessment and Referral Units, Health Services, Administrative Units and Education Department brought to the establishment of Joint Working group that meets quarterly to collectively identify ways to improve their outreach, coordination and service delivery.
- › An exchange meeting held between the representative of Women’s Alliance of Municipal Councilors of Durrës and Krujë was held to share experiences and lessons learnt in better addressing the needs of affected communities, improve coverage and quality and services and collaborate in cross-cutting issues.

IRCA

- › Establishment of Roma Women’s Club of NISH-Tulla Community which held at least 8 meetings during the lifetime of the project. This is intended as a continuous medium and/or a hub where members can get together and share personal stories, exchange information on employment and access to services. Its ongoing engagement is transferred as model to be managed in the future by the Multi-Cultural Center of NISH-Tulla.
- › A painting competition held at primary school Isuf Ferra, where children were invited to depict their perceptions, emotions and experiences of the earthquake and its aftermath effects. This activity was the conclusion of a close engagement with this academic institution – including the refurbishment of the school’s library - which accommodates a substantial number of children from Roma Community as well as other vulnerable groups of NISH-Tulla Community.

Partners for Children

- › Identification and training of 12 volunteers who have facilitated the establishment of 2 self-help groups for women and young people in Administrative Unit of Maminas. More than 28 different activities have been facilitated through the contribution of volunteers followed by 8 art expos held in various schools of Shijak Municipality.
- › Establishment of the after-school support group for elementary schools which are further supported through Department of Education upon completion of the project.

WVA

- › Establishment of 4 IMPACT Clubs in 2 schools in Fushe-Kruja, 1 in Bubq and 1 in Thumane as per the model designed and implemented in other areas where WVA operates. Selected groups of students were selected on the IMPACT Curriculum to facilitate peer to peer support on resilience, emotional wellbeing and engagement in community to offer support and volunteering in emergency situations.
- › Establishment of 3 community groups among farmers, parents and key community representatives in close collaboration with Thumane Administrative Units which are to meet periodically to share information, collaborate and mobilise resources with a focus on emergency situations.



Activity 2.2

Generate evidence by local communities through Community Platforms of the gaps in services as a particularly powerful tool for more inclusive and sustainable social protection interventions, by provision of small grants to activists and NGOs and engaged leadership of women and women's organizations in crisis and recovery.

The sub-activities for this component are similarly related to those planned under Activity 1.2. However, and more specifically, at least 2 grants funded under the 2nd Round of Community Based Call for proposals from CSOs, envisage to identify more in depth the needs of vulnerable communities in Durres, Fushe-Kruje and a community in Shijak directly related to reconstruction and housing needs. This considered as a priority given the urgency to fulfil basic needs within a Human Rights Protection Framework. The data collected will be shared with LGUs and community meetings will be facilitated to ensure a participatory process takes place and specific timeframes be determined to disseminate information about the respective plans from responsible institutions in charge of overseeing the process during 2022.



Activity 2.3

Support recovery and resilience through call for proposals and grants provided to NGOs in partnership with municipalities in urban/semi-urban/rural areas - reaching at least 50% of the vulnerable HH impacted by the earthquake (while linking social care to: Inclusive education services; Psychosocial services; Rehabilitation Services for Persons with Disability in the affected areas; Community based social services for the most vulnerable; Family based social services).

In conjunction with Activity 1.4, and in support of the indicator of 200 Households to be assisted through an integrated model of economic/livelihood and social services, the awarded projects from the 1st round of Community Based Grants have directly contributed to services linked to recovery and resilience. In total 7 different organizations, since July 2021 commenced the implementation of their project activities:

1. **Today for the Future – Manëz, (rural), Social Housing District in Durrës City (urban)**
2. **Institute for Roma Culture Albania – Nishtulla area (semi-rural) in partnership with Multifunctional Community Center operated by Durrës Municipality**
3. **Free to Move (Udhëtim i Lirë) – Urban Areas in Durrës Municipality**
4. **ASET CENTER (Durrës urban)**
5. **Plan & Go – Shijak (urban)**
6. **Partners for Children – Shijak (rural)**
7. **ARSIS Initiative – Kruje (urban)**
8. **Romani Gate for Integration – Fushe-Kruje (semi-urban)**



World Vision Albania (WVA) – Implementing Partner Agreement²

Apart from the local CSOs financed as per the description above, World Vision Albania was funded through a Responsible Party Agreement at the value of USD 100,000 (a 10 months' timeframe – later extended to 13 months between September 2021 - end September 2022) as per the internal procedures of UNDP, to implement its THRIVE methodology (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) in rural areas of **Kruje Municipality** most affected by the November 2021 Earthquake. Foreseen to be implemented during October 2021 – July 2022, their action follows an integrated approach – tested during previous implementation in Albania and other countries - that drives economic and social empowerment of the households (HHs) while raising awareness/community dialogue with local stakeholders on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and prevention of future livelihood losses. The proposed solution benefits to different targets groups (i) HHs who can engage in livelihoods and income generation

² WVA Albania was selected as Responsible Party Agreement based on a Micro-Assessment conducted on behalf of UNICEF for the organization prior to commencement of the contract.

activities as well as accountability with local structures and (ii) HHSs living in vulnerable situation and confronted with social exclusion/ lack of services (violence in the family, lack of services for disability). The reason for such action being focused on rural regions of Kruje, is based on findings from the PDNA report as well as close consultations with Municipal Department of Social Care. These noted the needs and limitations faced by some of the most isolated communities in accessing services and/or schemes available to them through an array of sources – both government and non-government.

The main result of the WVA intervention include:

1. An initial Needs Assessment conducted in rural areas of Kruje identified 288 Households in need of immediate support.
2. Of these, 65 prioritized by the project were supported with food and hygiene packages.
3. A series of training and other complementary activities were organized with 57 parents to enhance their capacities on issues of positive parenting, positive family relationships and healthy childhood development.
4. Two bootcamps held with the participation of 56 families from areas of Bubq and Thumane.
5. At least 51 families were supported with items to improve income generation, productivity and profitability through the provision of livestock and farming support as per the existing local plans and priorities identified for agricultural development in the municipality area. This was considered as part of the Livelihood Support Scheme model designed and delivered through the ESPR project of an integrated model of socio-economic support.
6. Following such support, basic training/mentoring/coaching was delivered with selected beneficiaries on money saving skills and financial literacy for 100 participants.
7. Development of the Community Disaster Preparedness Document by utilizing the previous methodology developed by WVA through close consultations with communities affected representatives of local government institutions as well.
8. In collaboration with the Local Directorate of Education and 4 schools located in Fushe-Kruje and rural areas, psycho-social support was delivered through individual and group sessions to students. At least 5 cases were identified as in need of further and more specialized psychological support and were referred to respective services to be followed up further.

Apart from combining different models of direct social services delivery, some of the grantees have been instructed to assist municipal institutions in undertaking a more in-depth needs assessment of vulnerable communities and households using a detailed format that takes into consideration many socio-economic indicators. Such activity aims to establish a sustainable model of assessment that will be handed over to Social Care Departments to be used in the future as well as conduct a thorough update of socio-economic data of vulnerable populations. The information will then be used by municipalities to allocate the respective financial resources in the annual budgets to augment the level of service coverage as well consequently improve the model of service delivery towards a better evidence-based approach.

To further assist the municipal institutions, the project has hired 3 (three) Social Mediators – one for each Municipality – who are attached to the respective Social Care Departments. Their main role includes acting as an additional human capacity to LGUs, assist with day-to-day activities on the ground in collaboration with relevant grantees, contribute to needs assessment efforts for communities, households and individuals and act as local representatives of the ESPR project in maintaining relationships with stakeholders and project partners. They also played a crucial liaising role during the implementation of the Livelihood and Social Support Scheme planned to start implementation in January 2022. This through working closely with project consultants to identify, assess and determine the kind of support, using local knowledge and in close coordination with local government institutions to maximize the use of resources and increase the coverage of services as per the needs identified by Department of Social Care for each municipality.

Gender Mainstreaming Approach

Gender Equality has been the focus of the project all throughout its activities. The project team has paid particular attention to the project proposals of the grantees, and it has encouraged them continuously to identify and take into consideration the needs of vulnerable girls and women when selecting the intervention target groups.

Further, it has intensively engaged with institutions working with issues of gender equality as well as local government institutions responsible for gender equality rights. The implementation of the Livelihood Support Scheme has aimed to assist to the highest possible level particular vulnerable groups such as victims of domestic violence, single mothers, young female entrepreneurs to provide them with much needed assistance to rebuild their lives and expand their income generating activities.

However, it is important to note the project by the same token has not been formulated as a gender focused initiative. This since all targeted populations have been almost equally affected by the earthquake and are experiencing similar hardships albeit their individual/household circumstances.

Lessons Learnt

To re-iterate again, the ESPR project was designed and implemented as an ad-hoc intervention as part of the overall efforts of socio-economic reconstruction following the November 2019 Earthquake in Albania. As such, it was not intended to establish and nurture solid outcomes comparably to other more in-depth and lasting initiatives. Regardless, the following are the main takeaways in terms of lessons learnt during its implementation.

- a) From the local government side on behalf of partner municipalities and despite their ongoing commitment with the project, the reconstruction of physical infrastructure has attained the focus in the aftermath efforts – one may argue rightly so given the immediate need for housing and urban services. However, this has resulted somewhat in a lesser attention and engagement towards social services. The ESPR project, without doubt has provided a much-needed relief and/or support through its initiatives and those implemented through grantees. Now it remains their responsibility to ensure the future implementation of those steps initiated by the project.
- b) The Livelihood Support Scheme is an innovative mechanism which represents a tool that could be easily replicated in the future initiatives. The supporting documents produced to facilitate its implementation has established a well-grounded foundation although it could be altered based on specific needs of other initiatives.
- c) Although the Departments of Social Care at Municipal level are committed to continuously improve their level of support and tailored services, there is still a high need to engage with vulnerable communities and households in respective areas. This is true with respect to remote and rural areas which still suffer from a limited coverage as well as access to services. The needs analysis and data collected by grantees in each municipality should serve to inform and better plan services in the future.
- d) The local government institutions have become more aware on improving their capacities to better respond to emergency situations. The documents produced by the project have also assisted them in re-organizing their level of preparation, reaction and addressing as quickly as possible the needs of vulnerable households and communities. Regardless, this should be considered as an area of further assistance and support within future possible initiatives.
- e) The project has identified a high demand for psycho-social services, particularly for the most vulnerable groups such as people living with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, Roma and Egyptian communities and households living at the edge of poverty. Despite the continuous increase in such services and respective budget from local government authorities, further support is needed to improve their capacities and expand the range of services through mobile access and/or the community social service centers already operating in each area.

ANNEX 1. PROTOCOLS OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AT LOCAL LEVEL

Protocols for Social Service Providers

Municipality of Shijak



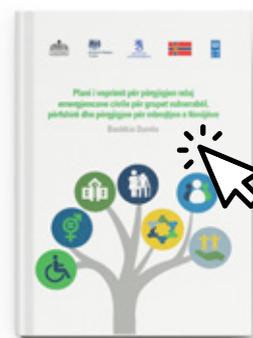
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Municipality of Krujë



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Municipality of Durrës



Click to read

Action Plans to React in Emergencies

Municipality of Shijak



Click to read

Municipality of Krujë



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Municipality of Durrës



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ANNEX 2. LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME SUPPORTING TOOLS

OPERATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS: “Post-Disasters Social Protection and Livelihood Support” in the framework of the Earthquake Social Protection Response - ESPR Project

“Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support” is an in-kind transfer social protection package carried out within the framework of the “Earthquake Social Protection Response” project (ESPR Project), which aims to promote the economic and social empowerment of earthquake affected communities in Albania - specifically in the territories administered by Municipalities of Durres, Shijak and Kruje.

This Operational Specifications contain a clear and transparent overview and general terms and conditions for the implementation of the “Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support” scheme: it clarifies the kind of support to be provided to households, identifies the role of parties involved in such implementation, sets out the eligibility criteria for beneficiaries, specifies the evaluation process and business cycle and shows the main documents to be used through the scheme cycle.

It articulates the overall procedures to be applied at every stage of this scheme, including eligibility criteria, rules and procedures. - November 2021

1. Background Information

The Livelihood Support Scheme is a combined intervention, designed to offer short-term support to struggling individuals and their families as potential employers, following the effects of the November 2019 in Albania, who were/are operating an economic activity. The Albania Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)¹ shows damage and loss to businesses in the amount of 27.2 million EUR for the Durres Municipality, 4.2 million EUR in Shijak and 2 million EUR in Kruje where damage and loss is calculated on employment loss, income loss and demolition and debris removal costs. Losses in the agriculture sector were estimated up to 222,000 EUR, relating mostly to production losses in livestock and crop production. Even though the monetary losses are comparatively lower for this sector, 75.5% of the affected farming households rely solely on

1. Albania Post Disaster Needs Assessment, February 2020, albania_post-disaster_recovery.pdf

agricultural production, a factor that puts pressure on the mediums of recovery for the targeted communities. The Livelihood Support Scheme aims to boost productivity for the agricultural sector in the targeted municipalities of Durres, Shijak and Kruje through direct support with raw material, livestock, seeds, seedlings, crops, etc.

This Operational Specifications document is designed to support the complementary activities designed within the framework of “Earthquake Social Protection Response” (ESPR Project), implemented by UNDP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and funded by the SDG Acceleration Fund (with contribution from United Kingdom, the Government of Finland and Norway etc.). The project supports community resilience in earthquake affected areas of Durres, Shijak and Kruje.

The document outlines the general terms and conditions for the implementation of the “Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support” scheme, aiming to further facilitate the adequate implementation of this support activity. It provides an overview of this integrated safety net instrument that will be implemented in the form of in-kind transfers to households affected by the November 2021 earthquake. T

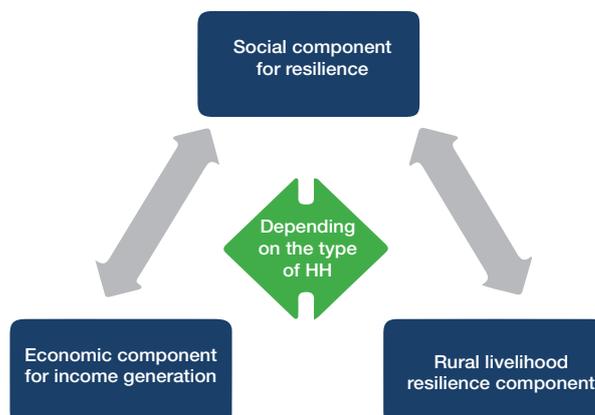
he implementation of the scheme is foreseen to be implemented by external consultants while been overseen by ESPR project team. Information collected through field visits as well as assessment exercises from CSOs funded through community-based grants will also serve as the basis for selecting and supporting eligible beneficiaries. The list of beneficiaries identified through the scheme will be shared with local government institutions to both inform them and attain their endorsement and support during the implementation phase.

Main objectives of the scheme are:

1. Promote the economic/livelihood and social empowerment of earthquake affected communities in Albania in the regions of Durres, Shijak and Kruje.
2. Support the livelihoods rebuilding process of urban and rural vulnerable communities affected by the November 2019 earthquake.
3. Respond to the needs identified following the effects of the November 2019 earthquake, with tailored interventions providing rural communities with the means to re-establish productive lives by restoring livestock, agriculture tools and equipment, etc.
4. Improve social wellbeing of vulnerable earthquake affected communities.
5. Contribute to the overall efforts of local government in increasing their support in accelerating the recovery

The support package for each of the households assisted by the “Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support” scheme to be financed, is between the amount of 300,000 - 500,000 ALL per household.

Figure 1: Support package for households



The Social Component- targets the family members simultaneously to ensure, in the mind- long term, their sustainable integration into the society. It includes:

- a. Basic social assessment and eligibility for psycho-social support.
 - b. Psychosocial social support through referral to existing municipal and NGO based social care service providers.
 - c. Assistance with the preparation of the documentation required to increase their access to social support mechanisms and schemes at local level.
 - d. Assistive devices for persons with disabilities (all types: wheelchair, hearing impairment equipment, glasses etc.).
- 2. Rural livelihood resilience component - foresees support for households living in rural areas through livestock, seeds, agricultural inputs etc. It includes:**
- a. Assessment for pre-selection (based on social vulnerabilities and level of earthquake damage).
 - b. Development of a plan for restoring livestock/ agricultural inputs and equipment.
 - c. Delivering livestock/ agricultural inputs and equipment.
 - d. Monitoring for sustainability and further growth.
- 3. The Economic Component - consists of a financial reward/contribution provided to individuals/households identified as eligible from the scheme, for the activity of income generation, including a self-employment tailored cycle of:**
- a. Assessment of the existing or envisaged/planned income generation activities for improving the overall households' wellbeing.
 - b. Strengthening income generating capacities through training, mentoring, and coaching.
 - c. Income generation plan development.
 - d. Purchase and handover of tools, equipment, raw materials etc. as per the income generation plan development.
 - e. Monitoring for sustainability and further growth of the income generating activities.
- At least 10 households per municipality (30 in total) will be supported with in-kind package to be procured by the Project and to be transferred to the beneficiaries.

2. “Social Protection and Livelihood Support” Scheme

This short-to-mid-term recovery intervention aims to provide social protection combined with livelihood support in a post-emergency context, coupled with income generation recovery support, to help people regain their livelihoods while contributing to the revival of the local economy, and creating a positive multiplier effect. In order to shift to the medium-term recovery phase, it will be necessary to establish an enabling environment aiming to assist households to build and/or regain resilience following the negative impact and consequences of November 2019 Earthquake combined with COVID-19 pandemic as well as support overall income generation reactivation and development.

During the early phase of ESPR project, 7 grants have been awarded to local CSOs to improve the design, quality, and coverage of social support services for those communities most affected in the respective municipalities. Information gathered in the field by the contracted practitioners have emphasized the need to complement these services with short-term assistance in the form of in-kind packages –raw materials, supplies, tools, items that will improve the re-activation of previous income generating activities as well as technical assistance in improving the sustainability of their financial situation. This would help to overpass the actual hindrances faced by them while trying to re-build their lives and work towards a more sustainable and resilient future for them-selves and their communities. The positive impact of these proposed measures has been tested also through an additional and more substantial grant been provided to World Vision Albania to apply their already tested methodology of recovery in post- disaster situations. Their approach allows for a direct livelihood component through which hands-on assistance – as non-cash transfers - is provided to selected number of households that are deemed most in need as identified from their in-depth assessment process of communities in the rural areas of Kruje Municipality.

Based on the above, the ESPR ‘Social Support and Livelihood Scheme,’ support will be provided in the recovery and/or strengthening of pre-existing activities and livelihoods of those individuals/families who have experienced an abrupt halt in their income generating activities. As such the scheme will aim to integrate addressing issues they may experience with regard to psycho-social support – already provided through the Community-Based Grants Scheme – with immediate assistance with items and technical expertise to those who could utilize their pre-existing capacities to become more resilient in the future. The main goal would be to sustain in the best way possible their economic/ livelihood momentum and if possible, in the mid-term increase their turnover with the view of employing more community members and increasing the revenue pertaining to the community, especially in rural and peripheral areas.

The main components that would address through this scheme will include:

A. Social Component

This intervention will mainly comprise of:

1. **Basic Social Assessment.** Such process is already under way through the activities undertaken by the grantees. Their areas of coverage are largely in those communities most in need of the social support services and their work is delivered in close collaboration with Departments of Social Care in each municipality. However, their early feedback notes that the demand for services is higher than what they can meet, with extensive processes of assessment carried in areas of operation and by including a wider number of beneficiaries. One of the most tangible achievements of such assessment is an extensive update of the register of people in need of social support- basic and specialized- especially in rural areas and particularly for those individuals/families not aware of the services available and mechanisms that facilitate and allow access.
2. **Psychosocial social support through referral to existing municipal and NGO based social care service providers.** The range of services provided by municipalities through their specialized units and Community Centers have without doubt increased in the recent years. Incidentally, so has the number of households that have come forward or been identified through the increased coverage of municipal professionals. In addition, the grantees are members of several networks of organisations that provide more specialized services for vulnerable categories of individuals and families. Incidentally, they are working to conduct referrals even in other areas outside the respective municipalities where the grants are being implemented.
3. **Assistive devices and small infrastructure adjustments for persons with disabilities (all types, wheelchair, hearing impairment equipment, glasses, etc.).** In some cases, Department of Social Care and the grantees have determined that some households, apart or more than from immediate social support, could benefit from small scale assistance to re-establish their pre- earthquake livelihoods. In other cases, families who could have been able to continue the previous income generation activities have experienced a considerable drop in available resources necessary to allow them for a comfortable living and growth. For those families that through assessment have been identified as directly affected by the earthquake effects, assistance to support them in attaining the aforementioned items as per the needs identified. Priority here will be given those households with people living with a disability, with temporary

B. Rural livelihood resilience (livestock, seeds, agricultural inputs etc.)

This intervention is focused only on rural areas. In all 3 municipalities, the focus and the main impact of interventions undertaken so far within the earthquake recovery efforts has largely concentrated in urban and semi-urban areas. Due to lack of infrastructure, knowledge about the initiatives available from multiple sources as well as effects of COVID-19, rural areas may have to a certain extent missed on the opportunities. As such, the scheme will aim to cover the following aspects:

1. **Assessment (social vulnerability and earthquake damage)** with the focus on identifying possible assistance modalities to help them towards better recovery. While most

- of the social vulnerability part will be covered during the first intervention of Social Component, the databases prepared by grantees, municipal institutions and other actors involved in the process will assist in validating the data and enrich the assessment with additional aspects being added to the respective files/documents. These again will be shared with local government institutions for their consideration and records, prompting their reaction internally or through external donors when applicable.
2. Development of plan for restoring livestock/ agricultural inputs and equipment. The experts engaged to facilitate the implementation of the scheme will also contribute to the development of these plans while taking into consideration a series of criteria which would apply for this scheme. This will contribute positively to features of sustainability for the grants distributed – households have the capacity to utilize the livestock/agricultural inputs in their best interest, according to their capacities to increase production/outputs, to fill a need for products in the local market or for their household needs while at the same time do this through a plan that provides a model they can replicate in the future similar activities – investment, expansion, etc.
 3. Delivering livestock/ agricultural inputs and equipment as per the development plan. This will help households to attain to the prerequisites and what has been agreed in the early stages.
 4. Monitoring activities to ensure sustainably and progressive growth. Experts will conduct periodic checks to oversee the utilization of the goods purchased, while advising households on better use of the opportunities at local market, community assets as well ensure that any savings accrued to be invested back to increasing their internal capacities for production and improvement of their livelihoods.

C.Economic component:

Quite often, and particularly in rural areas where services are limited, individuals and communities specialized in a particular vocation and/or skill could benefit from a boost in their productivity, re- vitalization of their ateliers/warehouses to increase production. In other instances, their existing enterprise could make use of technical expertise in better promoting their services, better presentation of their outlets and marketing in their communities or beyond that. Given the nature of the ESPR project, such approach poses its limitations in terms of coverage, sustainable impact as well as longevity of the intervention. Taking into consideration these, this component will mainly focus on supporting artisans, free professionals, those self-employed, small traders and small businesses who could employ additional workers – on the condition that these are individuals affected by the earthquake. Women and young girls will be given priority within this component, especially those that have the capacity to expand their range of products as well as employ other women and girls in their communities. It will cover both urban and rural areas of the respective municipalities.

This component will cover the following types of assistance:

1. Assessment of the capacities and potential for growth. Similarly, the experts contract-

ed will be responsible for facilitating this process through careful examinations of the capacities of the potential beneficiaries.

2. Income generation plan development. These will be a joint exercise that experts will conduct in close consultation with the potential beneficiaries. It will include a detailed plan – similar to a business plan model – with all its components outlined in the document. This will serve also as a model for future reference from beneficiaries that could be replicated/used in similar initiatives they may conduct.
3. Purchasing of tools, equipment, raw materials etc. as per income generation plan development. This to be agreed with the experts and within the criteria applied by the ESPR/UNDP procedures and regulations.
4. Strengthening income generating capacities through training and coaching. Apart from the development plan, experts will conduct periodical spot checks and further consultations with beneficiaries to assist them address any issues they may face while working towards establishing a more sustainable and lasting enterprise in the future.
5. Monitoring for sustainability. Although the length of the project is relatively short, within at least a six-month period, beneficiaries will be monitored to ensure that they are adhering to the development plan, have explored opportunities for further growth, have increased their income and have established a solid basis for continuation. Additional technical support could be provided also within the following aspects, although this will be determined only through close examination of the needs of beneficiaries:
6. Formalization of small businesses/income generating activities;
7. Assistance with business and marketing plans - introduction to potential; collaborators/buyers/suppliers, etc.

The ultimate aim of the scheme would be to combine all these 3 components to ensure that support is provided through an integrated model of economic/livelihood and social support.

3. Vulnerability profiles of household:

The goal of this scheme is to support the municipalities of Durres, Kruja and Shijak, so immediate as well as possibly lasting initiative are undertaken to ensure that men, women, girls and boys affected by the earthquake and living in poverty, or vulnerable situations have improved access to social protection programmes and income generating activities.

The following vulnerable categories will be prioritized:

- Households damaged by the Nov 2019 earthquake;
- poor and small farming households;
- households depending on informal self-employed workers in non-farm low-pay activities;
- households depending on casual or short-term wage jobs for un/low-skilled labour;
- households with elderly or disabled people depending on external help;

- households composed of ethnic or religious minorities;
- female-headed households with young children or elderly relatives in their care.

Gender issues pervade every aspect of disaster recovery, cutting across all the traditional sectors of common recovery initiatives. How temporary or permanent housing is designed and built, what health services are provided and how, and the type of livelihood assistance provided and to whom, are all issues which affect men and women differently and to which each can contribute.

Gender perceptions also directly influence the vulnerability of populations to future disasters. Unless addressed both in recovery efforts and longer-term development goals, recovery programs may simply perpetuate the same gender inequalities and corresponding disaster vulnerabilities. This requires a holistic approach that engages all recovery actors and embeds gender in all disaster recovery planning activities, from reviewing national policies to post-disaster evaluations.

This scheme will mainstream gender issues through the following actions:

1. Identifying gender specific recovery needs;
2. Engaging women in community mobilization, local discussions and recovery initiatives;
3. Facilitating a gender-balanced and bottom-up social protection, reconstruction, and recovery response.

4. Eligibility Criteria

Applications and beneficiaries for a Livelihood Support Program will be considered eligible if:

- Applicants are men or women whose lives and livelihood has been disrupted by the November 2019 earthquake, above 18 of age, residing in any of the Project sites in Durres, Shijak and Kruje.
- Applicants present a clear and systematic idea for strengthening an existing income generating activity in the moment of application.
- Applicants' current income generating frame includes but is not limited to, handicrafts, agriculture and farming, individual professionals such as tailors, hairdressers, plumbers, carpenters, small level merchants, etc.
- Applicant has applied for only one business idea, despite the applicant applying solely or in partnership with another applicant.

All applicants shall participate personally in all the business cycle of this Program and no representatives shall be recognized even though with due power of attorney. There is no limit to the number of applicants from all targeted regions.

Acceptable type of economic and rural livelihood support

An income generating activity is considered acceptable to be considered for financial support under the Livelihood Support Program in case it falls under any of the categories below:

1. Agriculture.
2. Professional Services.
3. Handicrafts and other forms of applicable arts.
4. Tourism.
5. IT.
6. Textile, etc.

Priority will be given to applicants:

- Currently operating an income generating activity that was directly or indirectly affected by the earthquake.
- Having an innovative business/income generating idea offering new services or products to the market.
- With a business/enterprise located in the rural areas.
- Creating 2 or more jobs.
- Employing in the business other members of marginalized communities affected by the earthquake.
- That implements effective technologies, save energy or new production methodologies.

The Income Generation Program will not consider eligible the following business activities:

- Production of liquors.
- Production and processing of tobacco.
- Production and distribution of weapons.
- Production through waste generation technologies.
- Any other form of business activity that is prohibited in the Republic of Albania

5. Support package

The fund for each support package that will be financed through in-kind support, in accordance with this Operational Specifications is ALL 300,000 - 500.000 per application.

At least 30 households will be supported, preferably 10 in each of the three affected geographic areas of Durres, Shijak and Kruje. The needs assessment process will determine the final beneficiaries and support amount. Adaptations to the above might be made accordingly.

6. Allowed expenditures of the support scheme

All applicants will prepare a business plan for their business idea in accordance with the business plan template attached hereto as Annex 3. Among others, the business plan shall contain a list of items necessary to be financed through the grant for formalizing and/or strengthening the existing income generating activity. The list shall specify an estimation of the price of any such item. The business plan shall specify the total amount of the grant that each of the business requests for its implementation. The grant expenditures shall be in accordance with the items set out in the business plan.

The Project team recognizes that the business/income generating plan is a vital document and may change as negotiations with beneficiaries go before the actual purchases are made. For this reason:

- The price of the items is made for orientation purposes and fluctuations between the price shown in the business plan and the actual purchase price is possible.
- The beneficiary and the Project team may agree to change some of the items specified in the business plan to be purchased through the grant and substitute with other items that the beneficiary justifies as more necessary for its business.
- However, total purchases of such items shall not exceed the total amount of the grant specified in a chosen business plan.

The expenses that can be covered through the grant include:

- Reconstruction expenses of the premises, however, within a reasonable sum shall the premises be rented
- Seeds, seedlings, livestock, and other farming supporting materials.
- Rent of premises up to 6 months from the grant disbursement.
- Furniture
- Machineries, tools, and other equipment, including software and intangible assets.
- Raw materials for the production/construction of the final asset, in which case, such purchase can be made only once.
- Salaries up to 6 months and up to the average salary in Albania.
- Promotion materials and advertisement.
- Professional services to the business such as accountant, IT, tax administrator etc.

The grant may not be used for the purchase of immovable property, vehicles and other assets that can be used exclusively for the operation of the business activity. The beneficiary is however free to bear such costs through other means of finance.

7. The Support Team

The Project team is composed of the Project Coordinator and Community Coordinator, who will coordinate all activities necessary for the implementation of the “Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support” scheme.

The ESPR Project Team will monitor the “Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support” implementation periodically through consultations, assistance for the issue of necessary documents and motivation throughout the business cycle. One Social Mediator, appointed by the ESPR Project in each targeted municipality will assist the project team during the identification phase, as well as in preparing applications, necessary documentation and monitoring on the effects of the livelihood support to the affected communities.

The Project will contract two experts that shall support the implementation of the three scheme components:

1. The Economic Component: support the Assessment of the existing or aspired/

- planned income generation activity for improving household's wellbeing; providing training and coaching to income generating initiatives; Support income generation plan development; Support purchase and handover of tools, equipment, raw materials etc. as per income generation plan development; Monitoring for sustainability.
2. The Rural livelihood resilience building component: Support the assessment for pre-selection (based on social vulnerabilities and level of earthquake damage); Support development of a plan for restoring livestock/ agricultural inputs and equipment; Support delivering livestock/ agricultural inputs and equipment; Monitoring for sustainability.
 3. The Social Component: Support basic social assessment; Psychosocial social support through referral to existing municipal and NGO based social care service providers; support purchase and handover of assistive devices for persons with disabilities (all types, wheelchair, hearing impairment equipment, glasses etc.).
 4. The Project Management Committee (PMC) will facilitate and support the institutional arrangements that are necessary for effective implementation and will provide overall guidance. In addition, the PMC will approve the overall list of beneficiaries who will get assistance as per the "Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support" scheme, after clearance from the ESPR Project and the experts.

8. Distribution of the in-kind support

Handover of items

UNDP may opt to purchase directly the items shown in the "Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support" plan, including parts of the income generation plan or in the plan for restoring livestock and e as agreed with the beneficiary and hand over such items to the beneficiary. The items shall remain under the property of UNDP fo

Post Disaster Social Protection and Livelihood Support for Earthquake affected communities in Durrës, Krujë and Shijak

Prepared by: Edlira Shima and Ledina Gjikhuri, Tirana, March 2022

1. Introduction



Purpose

This report constitutes the Inception Report referred to in section 3, under “expected deliverables” section of the Terms of Reference (ToR). The report serves two purposes.

1. It contributes to a common understanding of the scope of the assignment, its objectives, outputs and activities. For this purpose, the main text of the report has been kept brief.
2. It forms the basis for the assignment better planning and execution, as well as its monitoring by ESRP project team and other stakeholders.

This Inception Report is based on the initial findings in the Inception Phase, as described in Section 4.2 below and the discussions with stakeholders during several meetings held and site visits organised during the period March 2 to March 30.

1.2 Overview of report

This report has been prepared for the Experts’ Services concerning the “Earthquake Social Protection Response” Project and in response to the ToR.

This report aims to describe how the contracted experts will carry out the assignment. To that end, in the next Chapter 3, we provide the background and objectives of the assignment.

In Chapter 4 the context and project stakeholders are introduced and clarifications provided on the ToR. We also summarise assumptions, determine probable risks and the potential consequences of these risks and provide recommendations for reducing the probable risks.

Chapter 5 summarizes the activities in the Inception Phase and presents the findings. We also elaborate the main background documents and the project input data that has been acquired at this stage of the project.

In Chapter 6 the implementation of the Project after the Inception Phase is described, including proposed activities and outputs.

2. Project Description

2.1 Background

Following the devastating earthquake which hit Albania on November 26, 2019 UNDP mobilized financial support to overcome the impact. Among other interventions the “Strengthening the Social Protection Response after the Earthquake in Albania” Project (the Project) was launched.

The project is supporting the Albanian Government and three earthquake impacted municipalities – Durrës, and Shijak, in designing and translating the policy intent into proper local actions to ensure that men, women, girls and boys living in poverty, or vulnerable situations, intersecting with post-earthquake conditions, have access to integrated, quality social services. To achieve this goal, the project focuses on the following outcome: all women, men, girls, and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups impacted by the earthquake, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights and there is increased social and economic resilience of earthquake affected communities.

The project, through two open calls for applications, has supported with small grants 13 Albanian civil society organization operating in at least one of the targeted programme municipalities – Durrës, Krupë and Shijak, to plan and implement innovative small projects supporting the recovery and resilience of the vulnerable households impacted by the earthquake (while linking social care to: inclusive education services; psychosocial services; rehabilitation services for persons with disability in the affected areas; community based social services for the most vulnerable; family based social services).

2.2 Objectives

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the Project is to support the Albanian Government and three earthquake impacted municipalities, in designing and translating the policy intent into proper local actions to ensure that men, women, girls and boys living in poverty, or vulnerable situations, intersecting with post-earthquake conditions, have access to integrated, quality social services.

Areas of Intervention

1. Increased social and economic resilience of earthquake effected communities.
2. Strengthened transparency and voices.

2.3 Scope of assignment

The objective of the assignment is to support the livelihood rebuilding process for earthquake affected urban and rural communities in the project sites of Durrës, Krupë and Shijak through the implementation of three main intervention approaches covering i) social, ii) rural livelihood resilience and iii) economic aspects.

2.4 Deliverables

The team grouped the deliverables as per foreseen main activities to be undertaken under this assignment. The following will be delivered:

Table 1: Deliverables

No	Activity	Deliverable	Implementation Timeline
1	Inception phase	Inception Report	Month 1
2	Tools for Vulnerability Need Assessment Package	Needs Assessment package with well-defined criteria of vulnerability for affected households	Month 1 to Month 3
3	Tools for implementing the Economic Component intervention	Training curriculum on income generation and entrepreneurship/soft skills	Month 1 to Month 3
4	ESPR Livelihood Support scheme implementation	<p>30¹ Household Development Plans drafted to outline the modality of intervention for support</p> <p>30² Households are followed up in terms of applicability and sustainability through the Livelihood Support scheme</p> <p>5 new business ideas or existing business activities, materialised into business plan outlines</p> <p>5 business plan outlines selected for setting up the business and/or developing existing informal activities.</p>	Month 2 to Month 6

1. 30 household development plans is the indicative number provided in experts' ToRs and Contracts; in discussion with the ESRP Project team during the kick off meeting it is agreed that this number to be around 40 – 50 households depending also on the available budget;

2. Ibid

3. Inception Phase

Overview

The Inception Phase of the assignment comprised the period from 2 March until 30 March 2020 and included meetings with the main stakeholders, site visits, review of the available documents and preparation of the Inception Report.

3.1 Assignment basis and availability of relevant documents/tools

The main basis of this assignment are the documents/tools developed within the ESRP project. They constitute mainly the Operational Specifications, databases per each municipality prepared by the Local Social Mediators, Case Social (Assessment) Report to be prepared for each eligible case, Concept Note, and Individual Development Plan. All these documents (at different maturity stage) have been collected by the team.

The experts consider them as “key tools” to be used for undertaking this assignment. The Operational Specifications contain a clear and transparent overview and general terms and conditions for the implementation of the “Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support” scheme. It articulates the overall procedures to be applied at every stage of this scheme, including eligibility criteria, rules and procedures. The Operational Specifications are prepared by the ESRP project team.

Thorough databases have been prepared by the Local Social Mediators within the Project. These databases contain collected data on the affected inhabitants and/or families by the earthquake, socio-economic issues faced, any health issues affecting their vulnerability, support provided by other CSOs, data source, case follow up planning, special needs they have, location of the head of household. The databases are considered a living document updated by the Local Social Mediators as per their meetings, interviews, on-site visits etc.

At the time of this assignment start the Local Social Mediators databases included 81 cases in Durrës Municipality, 71 potential cases in Krujë Municipality and 79 cases in Shijak Municipality. Based on the discussions with the ESRP project team and the Local Social Mediators these cases have been referred to the ESRP team by i) the Directorate of Social Services at municipal level, including: Economic Assistance and Social Protection Sectors nearby each Municipality; ii) the Social Administrators at the Administrative Units; iii) Child Protection Unit/Child Protection Workers; iv) ESRP grant awarded local CSOs operating in the partner municipalities.

To ensure detailed data collection per each eligible cases, a Case Social (Assessment) Report has been agreed to be used by each Local Social Mediator in each municipality. The Case Social (Assessment) Reports provide a baseline social-economic assessment of the social vulnerabilities and level of earthquake damage based on the interview and site visits.

They are organised in five main sections that include: i) general data of the eligible case; ii) a brief family background/history; iii) current situation focusing on the needed interventions along with the strengths and weaknesses noticed; iv) ways to provide support to ensure income generation activities for improving the overall households' wellbeing and v) assessment on case management challenges. Also, assessment photos/documentation evidence of the earthquake damages and photos related to the current situation are included in these reports.

At the time of this assignment start the Local Social Mediators have each completed 7 case social reports in Durrës Municipality, 4 cases in Krujë Municipality, and 5 case social report in Shijak Municipality.

Based on Case Social (Assessment) Reports detailed Individual Development Plans are developed for each case. The plans elaborate in detail the development objectives of each case looking from a full cycle that focusses on every potential aspect and includes personal self-development, increase of professional capacities, improvement of working conditions, provisions for the socio-psychological improvement of the family as the whole which in turn should lead to livelihood conditions improvement. The Plan includes steps and tasks (along with deadlines) toward this development objective achievement. Outside and inside factors as well as risks are considered while preparing these development objectives. Criteria for success are also identified to ensure that development objective will be successfully undertaken. At the timing of the start of this assignment a total of five Individual Development Plans have been completed and processed by the ESRP team, four of them in Shijak and one in Krujë Municipality.

The Case Social (Assessment) Reports on support volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives to contribute to community resilience and recovery efforts, is the summarising tool that brings together the Individual Development Plan and Case Social (Assessment) Report. At the timing of the start of this assignment a total of five concept notes (four in Shijak and one in Krujë Municipalities) have been completed and processed by the ESRP team.

3.2 Activities carried out and meetings held

A number of meetings and site visits were undertaken between the start of the assignment and submission of this Inception Report.

Table 2: Meetings and site visits held during Inception Phase

Date	Location	Meeting purpose	Main topics /conclusions
22/02/2022	Tirana	Introductory meeting with ESRP Team (Project Manager and Community Coordinator)	Project activities; Operational Specifications on Social Protection and Livelihood Support; work done till now with the earthquake affected vulnerable communities
02/03/2022	Durrës	Workshop on “Protocol of Social Service Providers in Emergency Situations”	The team participated in this workshop to establish contacts with the municipality stakeholders, ESRP grant awarded CSOs etc. for better organisation of the upcoming tasks
02/03/2022	Durrës	Site visit and meeting with an identified case study	Site visit and meeting with Ali Gjongecaj case study
07/03/2022	Tiranë	Introductory meeting with the ESRP Local Social Mediators	The introductory meeting was to discuss the work and responsibilities of the Local Social Mediators given that they will be the experts main counterparts at the local level.
11/03/2022	Durrës	Meeting with Durrës Local Social Mediator	Discussion of the database and the cases which can be visited
11/03/2022	Durrës	Family visit and meetings with potential cases	<p>Family visit and meeting with identified potential cases in Durrës Municipality with the aim of cases needs and constrains assessment.</p> <p>The potential cases visited and met, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Bukuroshe Dushku, Durrës Municipality; › Besnik Selimi, Durrës Municipality, Kënetë; › Diana Metushi, Durrës Municipality, Sukth Administrative Unit; › Safet Domi – Durrës Municipality, Sukth Administrative Unit, Rrushkull village.
18/03/2022	Krujë	Introductory meeting with Local Social Mediator and Directorate of Social Services staff in Krujë Municipality	<p>The introductory meeting was to discuss the assessment and decision-making process regarding the Livelihood Support Scheme for identified cases, roles and responsibilities of each party.</p> <p>With the support of the Local Social Mediator, four meetings/interviews were conducted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Agron Reci – Brret village, Krujë Municipality; › Nadire Guni – Krujë city; › Ardi Bajraktari – Krujë city; › Sulejman Tahiri – Krujë city.
		Individual meeting with four potential cases	

4. Proposed Assignment Implementation Methodology

This section deliberates on the team's understanding of the ToRs and implementation of the foreseen tasks. Of key importance to the task implementations is the identification of key assignment stakeholders

4.1 Key stakeholders

Identified key project stakeholders are at the national, regional and local level. They are identified as main beneficiaries, primary stakeholders, the ones who are directly affected by the project and secondary stakeholders, as parties which have influence on but are not directly impacted by the Project. They are as follows:

Main Beneficiaries

- › Households benefiting from ESPR Livelihood Support scheme
- › urban and rural communities in the project sites of Durrës, Krujë and Shijak affected by the earthquake.

Primary stakeholders

- › Municipality of Durrës – Directorate of Social Services; Child Protection Unit;
- › Municipality of Durrës – Administrative Units No. 2, No. 4, No. 6, Rrashbull, Rrushkull, Sukth – their Needs Assessment and Referral Unit
- › Municipality of Krujë – Directorate of Social Services,
- › Municipality of Krujë – Administrative Units of Fushë Krujë, Thumanë, Bubq, Nikël – their Needs Assessment and Referral Unit;
- › Municipality of Shijak – Directorate of Social Services
- › Municipality of Shijak – Administrative Units of Maminas, Xhafzotaj and Gjepalaj

Secondary stakeholders

- › Municipality of Durrës – Regional Directorate of National Employment Agency, Regional Directorate of State Social Services, Vocational Education Institution Centre; Local Education Directorate, CSOs providing direct support to vulnerable groups; IRCA, CDC Today for the Future; Udhëtim i lirë; USHTEN, Centre for Social Advocacy; Durrësi Aktiv, Association “Gender, Peace and Security”, Social Centres providing social care services to specific vulnerable groups;
- › Municipality of Krujë – Local Employment Office, Vocational Education Centre; Local Education Directorate, ARSIS, World Vision, Porta Rome për edukim; SEKTRA;
- › Municipality of Shijak – ESRP grant implementing CSOs – Plan & Go; Partnerët për fëmijët; Together for life.

Other stakeholders

- › ESRP project team and local social mediators
- › Other local CSOs working with vulnerable people at the local level
- › Other project stakeholders as identified during project implementation.

The team will work closely with Needs Assessment and Referral Units and Child Protection Units/Workers (through the local social mediators) in the relevant Administrative Units of the target municipalities.

4.2 Initial findings to be considered in the assignment implementation

The experts have drawn the following elements to be considered in the assignment implementation.

Existing tools

The team finds the existing tools as very beneficial to document the situation and ensure an integrated support to every case. Nevertheless, better organisation of the tools is possible and could better support the project counterparts. More concretely:

Databases can be better organised to show the great work that the Local Social Mediators are undertaking. Organisation of spread sheets as per Administrative Units could help not only the ESRP project team to have a better overview of the localities (administrative units, villages) where the highest % of cases are found but they can be used by the Municipalities per se a tool in the future to be further completed with other cases. Revised versions of the existing tools are found in section 5 of this document (separate word documents).

Existing work processes to support the individual cases

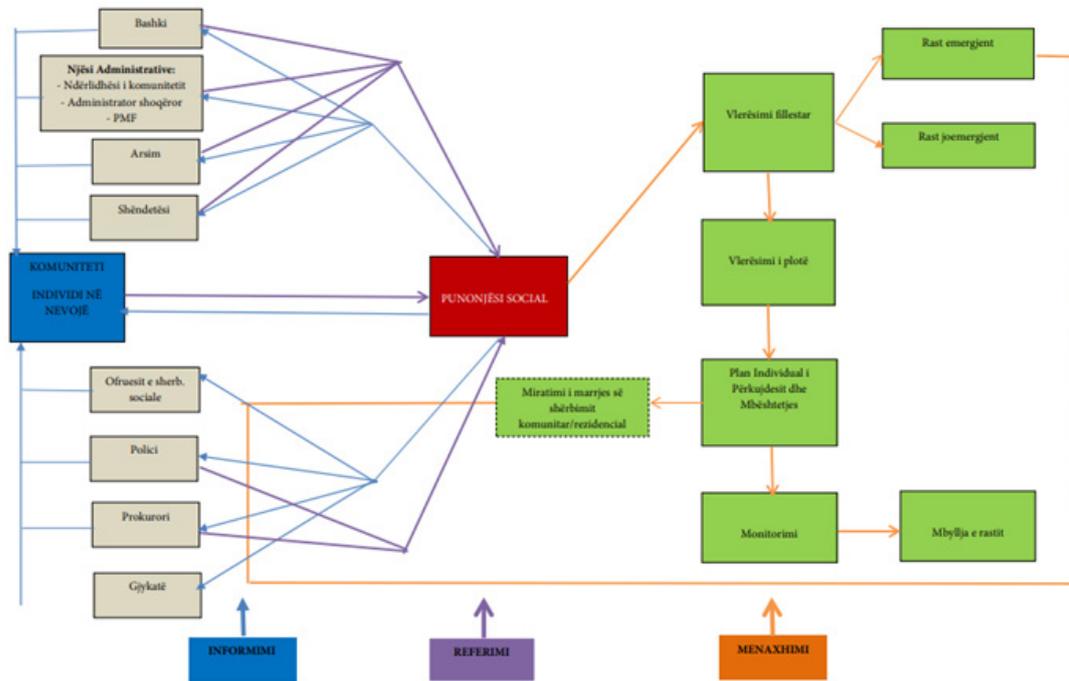
The work process undertaken by the Local Social Mediator with the individuals in need for support and with other local actors is not the same in each Municipality. This is particular important to indirectly raise capacities of the local stakeholders, which is important to be gathered and treat/discuss approaches to each specific case from a more holistic view.

In Kruja Municipality, a multidisciplinary meeting was organised by the Head of the Social Service Directorate, with the presence of the social administrator, child protection worker, local CSO (Arsis) representative, and the ESRP team. Such approach ensured that the case was treated properly through an integrated approach towards individual (family) development.

Nevertheless, good practices exist regarding case management process for both children and violence against women cases. Reference will be made to those practices, particularly with regard to assessment process (preliminary and in – depth assessment)

and Individual Development Plans. i.e DCM no. 578, dated 3.10.20183 “On the case management process procedures for children in need of protection cases”, foresees for a clear process flow to treat the case of child/children in need of protection. The following diagram shows the typical work processes for “case management” as should be managed by the social employee in interaction with the individual in need for services and with other local actors.

Figure 1: Meetings and site visits held during Inception Phase



3. DCM on case management process procedures for children in need of protection, available at: <http://femijet.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/VKM-nr.-578-date-3.10.2018.pdf>

4.3 Plan of activities

Based on the duties and responsibilities, deliverable timeline and deadlines stated in the Contract and as per the discussion with the project team, a plan of activities for the whole duration of the contract is proposed, as summarized in the following table:

Table 3: Assignment implementation approach

No	Activity	Main tasks to be undertaken	Comments
1	Inception phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Meet with the project team and ESRP Local Social Mediators › Review key project documents 	It is of outmost importance the ESRP team support in contacts and document sharing
2	Tools for Vulnerability Need Assessment Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Revision and assessment of the existing tools used by the ESRP team › Propose improvements to ensure easier usage of the tools not only by the project team but also other stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › It is the understanding of the experts that the tools are prepared based on the existing › Under section 4.2 an initial assessment of these tools is provided which will be further discussed in the next phase of the assignment implementation › The consultant will assess the possibility to introduce a weighting criterion
3	Tools for implementing the Economic Component intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Training curriculum on income generation and entrepreneurship/ soft skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The experts will prepare a short manual for proactive and interested beneficiaries but it is strongly believed that mentoring/ coaching in the 1st stage of self-employment initiative
4	ESPR Livelihood Support scheme implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › site visits in municipalities to assess needs and constraints among the targeted individuals/ households › categorize potential proactive beneficiaries in one of the following support pillars as per the ESRP Livelihood Support scheme › provide orientation and coaching in the development of Individual/ Household Development Plans as tailored packages of support deriving from the needs' assessment process › Organisation with the support of the municipalities' Social Service Department multi-disciplinary meetings to discuss and agree on the targeted support › Drafting of the Individual Development Plans › Drafting of business plans and/or tailored interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › In preparation of the Individual/Household Development Plans as tailored packages of support, the experts will consult with the Municipality and CSOs grant beneficiary to the ESRP fund to consider different livelihood aspects that can be supported by various interventions which shall maximise and elevate the effects of these small grants perse. › While treating each case the experts plan to referral individual situations to existing municipal and CSO providers involved in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › social care service › capacity building, trainings for entering the business market › The experts plan to travel every week (one to two trips per week) to meet with Local Social Mediators and visit the potential individuals › Multi-disciplinary meeting will be aimed to be organised with the presence of several local institutions and local CSOs, to enable a holistic support for the discussed case

4.4 Timeline of activities

Existing work processes to support the individual cases

The proposed Timeline of Activities reflects the Consultant’s ability to plan operations efficiently. The Timeline can be easily adapted to adjusted demands of the ESRP project team and will be done in close dialogue with them. The Consultant will ensure that reports presented in the ToR are produced to a high standard and submitted in accordance with to be agreed schedules.

Table 4: Detailed Time Schedule

No	Activity	Month 2022					
		March	April	May	June	July	August
1	Inception phase	+					
2	Tools for Vulnerability Need Assessment Package			+			
3	Tools for Implementing the Economic Component Intervention			+			
4	ESPR Livelihood Support Scheme Implementation						+

4.5 Assumptions on activities implementation

The activities will be implemented simultaneously in the three project Partner Municipalities. A number of external assumptions, still vital for sound and timely implementation of the assignment are considered important in determining the degree to which the proposed Timeline will be realistic:

- potential beneficiaries’ (individuals/households affected by the earthquake) interest for participating in the ESRP Livelihood Support scheme activities will be high and stable;
- representatives of different local institutions and local CSOs in the Multi-disciplinary meeting will be interested, committed and will participate in the multi-disciplinary meetings to discuss in a more holistic approach case by case support;
- continuous support and active involvement of the Project’s primary and secondary stakeholders, wherever necessary;
- there are no external factors, such as Covid-19 pandemic, or natural catastrophic events that affect or delay tasks’ implementation.

Post Disaster Social Protection and Livelihood Support for Earthquake affected communities in Durrës, Krujë and Shijak

Prepared by: Edlira Shima and Ledina Gjijknuri, Tirana, August 2022

1. Overview of the Final Report

This report has been prepared for the Experts' Services concerning the "Earthquake Social Protection Response" Project in completion to the assignment which was implemented from February to August 2022.

This report aims to describe how the contracted experts carried out the assignment. To that end, in the next section 2, we provide the background and objectives of the assignment.

Section 3 presents the activities implemented and outputs delivered. In Section 4 main finding and recommendations regarding implementation of similar interventions for the future are presented.

2. Project and Assignment Description

2.1 Project Background

Following the devastating earthquake which hit Albania on November 26, 2019 UNDP mobilized financial support to overcome the impact. Among other interventions the "Strengthening the Social Protection Response after the Earthquake in Albania" Project (the Project) was launched.

The project is supporting the Albanian Government and three earthquake impacted municipalities – Durrës, Krujë and Shijak, in designing and translating the policy intent into proper local actions to ensure that men, women, girls and boys living in poverty, or vulnerable situations, intersecting with post-earthquake conditions, have access to integrated, quality social services. To achieve this goal, the project focuses on the following outcome: all women, men, girls, and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups impacted by the earthquake, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights and there is increased social and economic resilience of earthquake affected communities.

The project, through two open calls for applications, has supported with small grants 13 Albanian civil society organizations operating in at least one of the targeted programme municipalities – Durrës, Krujë and Shijak, to plan and implement innovative small projects supporting the recovery and resilience of the vulnerable households impacted by the earthquake (while linking social care to: inclusive education services; psychosocial services; rehabilitation services for persons with disability in the affected areas; community based social services for the most vulnerable; family based social services).

2.2 Project Objectives

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the Project is to support the Albanian Government and three earthquake impacted municipalities, in designing and translating the policy intent into proper local actions to ensure that men, women, girls and boys living in poverty, or vulnerable situations, intersecting with post-earthquake conditions, have access to integrated, quality social services.

Areas of Intervention

1. Increased social and economic resilience of earthquake effected communities.
2. Strengthened transparency and voices.

2.3 Scope of assignment

The objective of the assignment was to support the livelihood rebuilding process for earthquake affected urban and rural communities in the project sites of Durrës, Krujë and Shijak through the implementation of three main intervention approaches covering

1. social,
2. rural livelihood resilience
3. economic aspects.

2.4 Methodology of assignment

The main basis of this assignment were the documents/tools developed within the ESRP project. They constitute mainly the Operational Specifications, databases per each municipality prepared by the Local Social Mediators, Case Social (Assessment) Report to be prepared for each eligible case, Concept Note, and Individual Development Plan. All these documents (at different maturity stage) have been collected by the team.

The experts considered them as “key tools” to be used during the assignment. A part of them were further improved during the implementation of this assignment.

Operational Specifications

The Operational Specifications contain a clear and transparent overview and general terms and conditions for the implementation of the “Post-Disasters Social Protection Livelihood Support” scheme. It articulates the overall procedures to be applied at every stage of this scheme, including eligibility criteria, rules and procedures. The Operational Specifications are prepared by the ESRP project team.

Local Social Mediators databases

Thorough databases have been prepared by the Local Social Mediators within the Project. These databases contain collected data on the affected inhabitants and/or families by the earthquake, socio-economic issues faced, any health issues affecting their vulnerability, support provided by other CSOs, data source, case follow up planning, special needs they have, location of the head of household. The databases were considered a living document therefore they were continuously updated throughout the assignment period by the Local Social Mediators as per their meetings, interviews, on-site visits etc.

Case Social (Assessment) Report

To ensure detailed data collection per each eligible cases, a Case Social (Assessment) Report template was developed by the contracted experts, in close consultation with the ESRP team and Local Social Mediators. The case assessment report was developed for each of the identified case by the Local Social Mediator. The Case Social (Assessment) Reports provide a baseline social-economic assessment of the social vulnerabilities and level of earthquake damage based on the interview and site visits.

The Case Social (Assessment) Reports is organised in five main sections that include: i) general data of the eligible case; ii) a brief family background/history; iii) current situation focusing on the needed interventions along with the strengths and weaknesses noticed; iv) ways to provide support to ensure income generation activities for improving the overall households' wellbeing and v) assessment on case management challenges. Also, assessment photos/documentation evidence of the earthquake damages and photos related to the current situation are included in these reports.

Individual Development Plan

Based on Case Social (Assessment) Reports detailed Individual Development Plans are developed for each case. The plans elaborate in detail the development objectives of each case looking from a full cycle that focusses on every potential aspect and includes personal self-development, increase of professional capacities, improvement of working conditions, provisions for the socio-psychological improvement of the family as the whole which in turn should lead to livelihood conditions improvement. The Plan includes steps and tasks (along with deadlines) toward this development objective achievement. Outside and inside factors as well as risks are considered while preparing these development objectives. Criteria for success are also identified to ensure that development

Concept Note – Livelihood Support Case Report

A Livelihood Support Case Report is prepared by the contracted experts based on the Case Social (Assessment) Report, which reports support volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives to contribute to community resilience and recovery efforts. It is the summarising tool that brings together the Individual Development Plan and Case Social (Assessment) Report.

2.5 Key stakeholders

The ESRP contracted experts have closely collaborated with project stakeholders at national, regional and local level. They are identified as main beneficiaries, primary stakeholders, the ones who are directly affected by the project and secondary stakeholders, as parties which have influence on but are not directly impacted by the Project. They are as follows:

Main Beneficiaries

- › Households benefiting from ESRP Livelihood Support scheme
- › urban and rural communities in the project sites of Durrës, Krujë and Shijak affected by the earthquake.

Primary stakeholders

- › Municipality of Durrës – Directorate of Social Services; Child Protection Unit;
- › Municipality of Durrës – Administrative Units No. 2, No. 4, No. 6, Rrashbull, Rrushkull, Sukth – their Needs Assessment and Referral Unit
- › Municipality of Krujë – Directorate of Social Services,
- › Municipality of Krujë – Administrative Units of Fushë Krujë, Thumanë, Bubq, Nikël – their Needs Assessment and Referral Unit;
- › Municipality of Shijak – Directorate of Social Services
- › Municipality of Shijak – Administrative Units of Maminas, Xhafzotaj and Gjepalaj

Secondary stakeholders

- › *Municipality of Durrës* – Regional Directorate of National Employment Agency, Regional Directorate of State Social Services, Vocational Education Institution Centre; Local Education Directorate, CSOs providing direct support to vulnerable groups; IRCA, CDC Today for the Future; Udhëtim i lirë; USHTEN, Centre for Social Advocacy; Durrësi Aktiv; Association “Gender, Peace and Security”, Social Centres providing social care services to specific vulnerable groups;
- › *Municipality of Krujë* – Local Employment Office, Vocational Education Centre; Local Education Directorate, ARSIS, World Vision, Porta Rome për edukim; SEKTRA;
- › *Municipality of Shijak* – ESRP grant implementing CSOs – Plan & Go; Partnerët për fëmijët; Together for life.

Other stakeholders

- › ESRP project team and local social mediators
- › Other local CSOs working with vulnerable people at the local level
- › Other project stakeholders as identified during project implementation.

The experts have particularly worked closely with Needs Assessment and Referral Units and Child Protection Units/Workers (through the local social mediators) in the relevant Administrative Units of the target municipalities.

3. Activities, Outputs and Results

The assignment has been conducted during the period February – August 2022, as summarised in the following table:

Table 1: Detailed Time Schedule

No	Activity	Month 2022					
		March	April	May	June	July	August
1	Inception phase	+					
2	Tools for Vulnerability Need Assessment Package			+			
3	Tools for Implementing the Economic Component Intervention			+			
4	ESPR Livelihood Support Scheme Implementation						+

3.1 Preparation of the Inception Report

The Inception Phase of the assignment comprised the period from 2 March until 30 March 2020 and included meetings with the main stakeholders, site visits, review of the available documents and preparation of the Inception Report. The Inception Report was issued on April and “no objection” was provided by the ESPR project team. It provided detailed information regarding (i) methodology and detailed work plan with the proposed activities necessary to assess needs and develop Household Development Plans as per the components of intervention of the Livelihood Support scheme; (ii) support programme in respect of social protection measures, rural resilience and business development of new start-up and existing informal activities.

3.2 Tools for Vulnerability Needs Assessment Package

A revision and assessment of the existing tools used by the ESRP team was done from the contracted experts. Specific improvements were proposed to the existing templates to ensure easier usage of the tools not only by the project team but also other stakeholders. Revised versions of the existing tools are found in section 5 of this document (separate word documents).

3.3 Tools for Implementing the Economic Component Intervention

Tools developed for implementing the economic component intervention were used for all the beneficiaries who have benefitted from support provided as part of the economic component – they included mainly marketing advise and technical support through the equipment suppliers.

As part of the ESPR Livelihood Support Scheme Implementation, several **meetings with key local stakeholders, site and family visits** were conducted during the assignment period, in targeted municipalities, from the contracted experts along with the respective Local Social Mediators to assess needs and constraints among the targeted individuals/households – as summarised in the following table:

Table 2: Meetings and site visits held

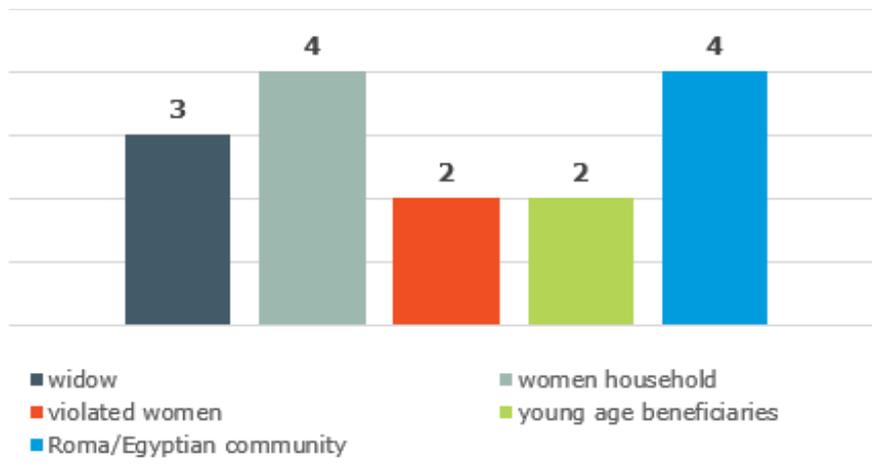
Date	Site visits/Meetings	Location
02/03/2022	Site and family visit with Case 10 (Ali Gjongecaj)	Durres – Kënetë
11/03/2022	Meeting with Social Services Directorate and site and family visit with Case 11 (Diana Metushi), Case 12 (Besnik Selimi), Case 43 (Safet Domi) and site visit to family of Bukuroshe Dushku, case no-eligible for support	Durrës –Shkozë – Sukth – Rrushkull
18/03/2022	Introductory meeting with Local Social Mediator and Multidisciplinary meeting with Kruja Municipality employees and potential families to be supported by the Livelihood scheme	Kruja
25/03/2022	Meeting with Shijak Local Social Mediator and family visit to Case 45 (Ilir Ndoja)	Shijak – Gjepalë
29/03/2022	Site and family visit of Case 13 (Hajta Bilaj), Case 14 (Yllson Agastra), Case 15 (Artan Berisha), Case 18 (Lori Peqini), Case 24 (Igli Shuti), Case 25 (Martin Hyseni) and site visit to families of Lulash Peci and Nik Vatnikaj, cases no-eligible for support	Durrës – Porto Romano – Shkallnur – Shën Vlash – Kenetë
31/03/2022	Site and family visit of Case 16 (Urim Dana), Case 17 (Drita Dishani), Case 34 (Artur Tahiri) and to the families of Albina and Maksim Gjatolli and Dritan Delilaj cases non-eligible for support	Durrës – Sukth – Shkafanë – Manzë e Re – Rrashbull – Maminas
06/04/2022	Site and family visit of Case 19 (Ardian Bajraktari), Case 20 (Sulejman Rec), Case 22 (Nadire Guni)	Kruja
12/05/2022	Meeting with Durres Emergency Center employees; Site and family visits to Case 28 (Gezim Dusha); Case 29 (Teuta Elezi); Case 30 (Argest Sefaj); Case 31 (Gjyste Patoku); Case 32 (Kimete Habibi); Case 33 (Nexhmije Aliaj) and to the family of Edmond Zekja, case no-eligible for support	Durrës – Shkozë – Kënetë – Sukth
17/05/2022	Monitoring visit to families supported through CSOs grant schemes implemented by Word Vision in Thumanë and Porta Rome in Fushë-Kruja; Family visit to the non-eligible case Marsida Kocja; Site visit to business site of Case 22 (Nadire Guni) in Kruja	Thumanë – Fushë Krujë – Krujë
24/05/2022	Site and family visits to Case 35 (Shkeqim Beshiri), Case 36 (Valentina Shahini), Case 37 (Azbi Sulaj), Case 38 (Florjan Sulaj), Case 39 (Flamur Kadiu) as well as family visits to Elona Ndoka, Brixhilda, Kate Ismaili families, cases non-eligible for support	Durrës – Porto Romano – Spitalë – Sukth – Hamallaj – Kullë – Kudëllin – Rrushkull
10/06/2022	Site and family visits to Case 40 (Artan Keci), Case 41 (Elton Gjepali), Case 42 (Etleva Elezi), Case 43 (Miranda Koci), Case 44 (Nezir Kuçi)	Shijak – Hardhishtë – Shetë – Gjepalë – Maminas – Shijak
22/06/2022	Site and family visits to Case 46 (Elvira Leka) Case 47 (Edmond Babaj), as well as site visits to families of Mondi Shima, Xhuljana Alushi, Xhevrie Sala Astrit Tufa, Selman Sala – cases not eligible for support	Thumanë – Bushnesh – Fushë Krujë – Nikël
15/07/2022	Case 48 (Përparim Keci); Case 49 (Artan Kabili), Case 50 (Isa Çela), Case 51 (Mimoza Isufi), Case 52 (Saba Durma), as well as site visits to families of Shkelqim Laci, Selman Bajrami and Bukurie Vata – cases not eligible for support	Thumanë – Derven – Fushë Krujë
22/07/2022	Site visit to Case 54 (Fidane Strazimiri)	Durrës

73 cases in need have been visited, interviewed and assessed by the contracted experts with the presence of Local Social Mediators, representatives of local government (head of Administrative Units, Social Worker, Elder, etc.), directorates of social support, etc. mainly in rural areas, and not only.

54 cases in need, have been assessed as eligible beneficiaries and supported through the ESRP Livelihood Support Scheme. Livelihood Case support Report has been prepared per each case from the contracted experts, and **Individual Development Plans** (often Family Development Plans) were prepared to address the identified needs and provide tailored family empowerment support. Grants in material goods with a budget of up to 3,000 USD have been provided for each case with the final goal, economic empowerment of supported families.

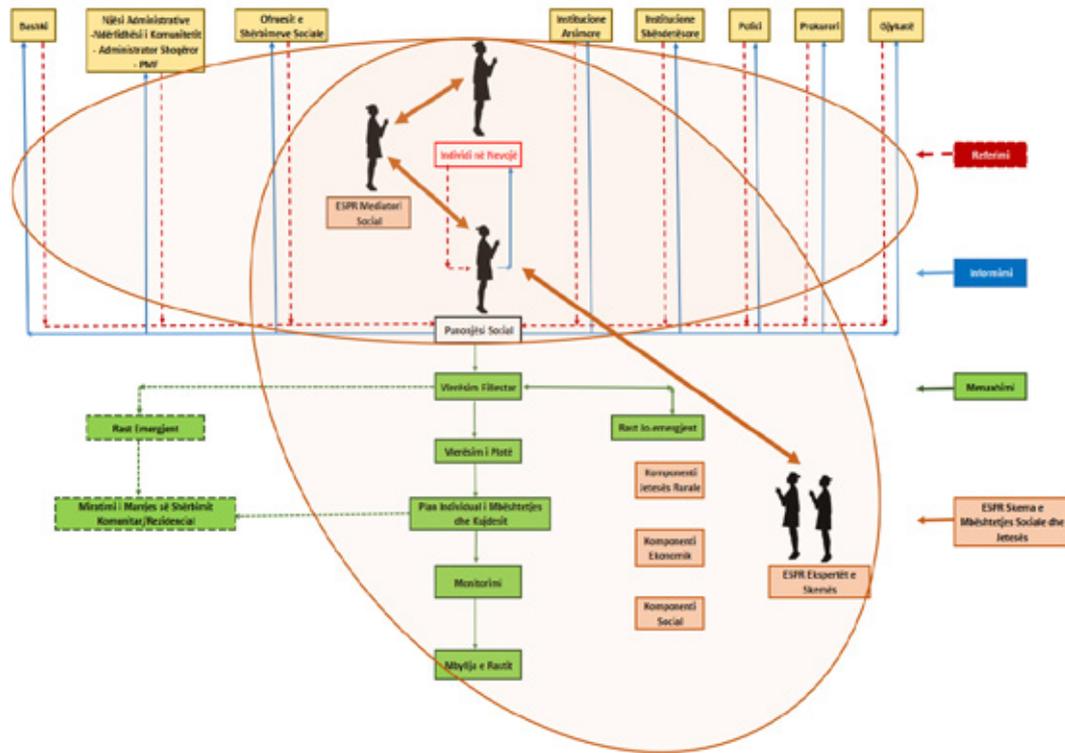
35 cases have been assessed and **referred to the local structures** at the municipality level, such as providers of professional courses, civil registry offices, local CSOs to get further support.

Figure no. 1 Number of families/individuals based on vulnerability



The following diagram shows the typical work processes for “case management” as followed by the ESRP project. The diagram is based in the traditional “case management” approach of the local public institutions and does heavily rely on them for identification of “vulnerable cases” to be supported by the ESRP project livelihood scheme.

Figure 2 Livelihood Case Management according to the ESRP scheme



Source: own drawing based on the various stakeholders' role

4. Findings and Recommendations

4.1 Main findings

- › Local and regional cooperation enhanced through this project proved to be a successful model for further strengthening and expanding towards achievement of set goals and objectives. Local CSOs remain the most progressive force and natural alliance for UNDP to achieve changes in the targeted municipalities;
- › The role of Local Social Mediator – who conducted an outreach work jointly with the representatives of the social services at municipal level as well as close collaboration with other related stakeholders – resulted to be very successful in terms of reaching the most vulnerable groups, identifying their immediate needs and opportunities for integration into mainstream society;
- › Flexibility of the ESRP livelihood scheme which enabled the “direct beneficiaries” to identify their most useful equipment/livestock (in partnership with the ESRP livelihood experts, local social mediators and the project team) to support improvement of their economic situation made a real tangible impact on the everyday life of these families;

- › There is a high and stable interest from the potential beneficiaries' (individuals/households affected by the earthquake) to participate in the ESPR Livelihood Support scheme activities once they were presented the scope and seriousness of the scheme;
- › Representatives of different local institutions and local CSOs in the Multi-disciplinary meeting are interested and committed to contribute to the ESPR Livelihood Support scheme implementation;

4.2 Recommendations

- › Local government authorities need further assistance to develop their own capacities to support vulnerable people, particularly in regard to effective ways of responding to needs of people affected from the emergency situations (including immediate, mid- term and long – terms need);
- › Municipalities, could make the ESRP livelihood scheme intervention and integral part of the Local Social Plans and foresee an annual budget to provide longer term support and more funding, if possible, which can enable local government authorities and CSOs to better deliver results and reach more sustained and long-term changes in terms of the livelihood support; The ESRP livelihood scheme intervention could also be introduced as a project proposal idea from the respective municipality as part of the application for benefitting from Social Fund.
- › Best practices, knowledge gained, learning, and methodologies should be further developed and replicated in future similar programming. Promotion of success stories and dissemination of them widely at the country and regional context should continue;
- › Work more consistently with institutions at the national level to identify more sustainable ways and modalities for providing livelihood support to vulnerable people affected from the emergency situations; maintain provision of services provided by the Project and gradually hand over such services to the relevant institutions.

Raport Social Vlerësimi i Përmbledhur mbi Rastin

Emri, Mbiemri i Kryefamiljarit/es

Statusi Civil

Vendbanimi Aktual

Profesioni

Niveli arsimor

Numri i Fëmijëve (0-18 vjeç)

Të dhënat e anëtarëve të tjerë në familje (i rritur/fëmijë/mosha, gjinia)

Arsimimi

Profesioni

Tjetër (si psh: aftësi të kufizuara, përkatësi etnike, etj)

Mediatori social:

Vizita në familje: (data, vendi)

Sfondi familjar/përmbledhje e historive të fundit/ngjarje kritike:

Funksionet familjare (marrëdhëniet dhe dinamikat):

Kushtet e jetesës dhe situata ekonomike/e punësimit:

- Strehimi (përcakto nëse familja jeton në një shtëpi të sigurt, shtëpi me qera, pa shtëpi, strehim i papërshtatshëm ose i pasigurt, etj.)
- Të ardhurat (përcakto: nëse familja ndodhet në varfëri ekstreme, varfëri afatgjate kronike, marrin ndihmë ekonomike; mbajnë dhe rrisin kafshë; kanë një biznes të vogël familjar, nivelin e të ardhurat mujore në familje; nëse familja ka kredi aktuale për të paguar).
- Punësimi (përcakto nëse kryefamiljari/ja apo të rritur të tjerë kanë punësim të rregullt; të pjesshëm; rastësor/joformal; është/janë i papunë; i rrituri ka një aftësi të kufizuar dhe nuk mund të punojë; merr pension ose pension pa aftësie/kujdestarie, etj)

Situata aktuale e familjes

Burime shtesë/mbështetja e disponueshme

- Mbështetje nga anëtarë të tjerë familjes/të afërm (përcakto nëse familja përfiton ndonjë mbështetje financiare apo ndonjë lloj mbështetje tjetër nga anëtarë të tjerë të familjes që jetojnë në një vend tjetër apo të afërm të familjes)
- Mbështetje nga struktura të tjera në nivel lokal (përcakto nëse familja përfiton ndonjë lloj mbështetje financiare apo mbështetje të ndonjë lloji tjetër nga strukturat bashkiake në nivel lokal, nga OJF, apo institucione fetare.)

Problematikat/ nevojat e identifikuara e Listo problematikat/nevojat e identifikuara për rastin. Përcakto se cilat nevoja do të jenë në fokus të ndërhyrjes së ofruar.

Propozime për mbështetjen dhe fuqizimin e rastit Listo propozimet konkrete lidhur me ndërhyrjen që do të ofrohet për rastin

Sfida të parashikuara në Menaxhimin e Rastit dhe disa nga propozimet për adresimin e tyre:

Përgatitur nga:

Aneks/e

Dokumenta të disponueshme lidhur me problematikat/nevojat e identifikuara (Foto nga vizitat në terren, kopje të skanuara të dokumentave që vertetojnë problematikat/nevojat e identifikuara.

Formulari i Planit Individual të Zhvillimit dhe Progresit

Formulari i planit individual të zhvillimit dhe progresi

Emër mbiemër i kryefamiljarit/es:

Data e miratimit të Planit Individual të Zhvillimit:

Data e rishikimit të Planit Individual të Zhvillimit:

Veprimet e nevojshme	Nevojat për zhvillim që adresojnë këto veprime	Personi përgjegjës	Afati kohor	Komente mbi progresin e arritur (datat)
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Persona të përfshirë në hartimin e PIZH-it (firmat)

Concept note

Support volunteering mechanisms and self-help initiatives to contribute to community resilience and recovery efforts.

Area of Intervention: Shijak Municipality

Duration: Up to April 2022.

Beneficiaries:

Budget for pre-approved intervention:

Introduction:

Immediately after the devastating 2019 earthquake that hit Albania, UNDP teams were timely responsive, supporting the government to deliver humanitarian aid and estimating damages in infrastructure, local economy and lives affected. During this process, several cases were assessed and documented, as basis for designing the appropriate approach of family-based social support. The Earthquake Social Protection Response project was designed considering the thorough assessments made for the affected areas, to contribute to the outcome: all women, men, girls, and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups impacted by the earthquake, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights and there is increased social and economic resilience of earthquake affected communities.

During the 1st programmatic year, the Earthquake Social Protection Response project was tailored to tackle the immediate needs of affected municipalities in the assessment and referral of community needs related to damages and losses suffered during and after the earthquake. Three Social Mediators were contracted individually to support the Municipalities of Durres, Kruje and Shijak as well as the Project Team in gathering evidence and follow up on recovery efforts and livelihood resilience for vulnerable communities affected by the earthquake. One Operational Specifications document on Social Protection and Livelihood Support was approved as a manual on addressing social, economic and livelihood related needs and shortcomings.

Upon careful consideration on the current situation in affected municipalities and in close collaboration with Social Welfare municipal departments and representatives, the Social Mediators have developed comprehensive databases on affected families, their shortcomings, opportunities, and risk areas to be considered prior to developing their individual/family development plans (annexes to this format).

Current analysis

Proposed Intervention

Timetable

Estimation of Costs

(INSERT BUDGET/FINANCIAL OFFER)

Individual Development Plan

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN							
Development Objective	Steps/Tasks Towards Achievement	Strengths	Weaknesses	Resources/ Opportunities	Risks	Criteria For Success	Target Date
1							
2							

ANNEX 3. DATABASE OF BENEFICIARIES OF THE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME

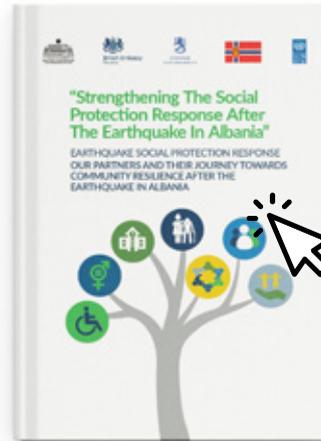
Grant Scheme Beneficiaries							
Services Provided	Durrës		Krujë		Shijak		Total
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	
Psycho-Social Support	184	-	150	75	300	30	739
After-School Classes And Education Support	-	-	-	85	-	210	295
Parenting Classes	-	-	30	-	20	-	50
Economic Support (Microinitiatives)	-	-	34	-	8	-	42
Community Initiatives	220	137	20	80	30	70	557
Emergency Aid (Food And Clothes)	15	-	30	90	60	-	195
Referral Services	180	60	18	-	120	-	378
Life Skills/Vet Referral	420	-	-	-	-	-	420
Volunteering	-	14	-	8	-	6	28
Total	1019	211	282	338	538	316	2704

Livelihood Scheme Beneficiaries



Click to read

ANNEX 4. LIST OF CSOS CONTI PROJECT AND THEIR CONTRIB PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUT



Click to read

ANNEX 5. 23 HUMAN STORIES IN 2023 – CASES DEPICTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME



Click to read

