



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



United Nations
ALBANIA

2023 Progress Report





REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA AND UNITED NATIONS

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION 2012-2016
PROGRESS REPORT 2015

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FOREWORD

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

In our capacity as co-chairs of the Joint Executive Committee, we are delighted to present to you the 2015 Annual Progress Report for the current Government of Albania–United Nations Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016.

The present report looks back at the fourth and penultimate year of the Programme's implementation. It highlights our joint endeavours to advance human rights, empower women and girls to ensure a more sustainable future, teach youth skills for better jobs, combat the effects of climate change, improve basic services for citizens and access to justice, give a boost to the economy, tackle inequalities, combat corruption and build an inclusive society.

In 2015, Albania held local elections following the new administrative division of the country, a landmark reform led by the government and supported by the UN. The elections marked great progress in the political participation of women, with a 50-50 quota on party lists, resulting in women holding a record-setting 35 percent of municipal council seats across the country. This should encourage further politi-

cal participation of women, as well as contribute to better mainstreaming of gender issues in planning, implementation and monitoring of local policies and interventions.

In December last year, the world emerged from the Paris Climate Change Conference with a new universal climate change agreement to curb emissions, strengthen resilience and take common climate action. With support from the UN, Albania submitted its climate action plan with a commitment to reduce CO₂ emissions by 11.5 percent by the year 2030.

We recognise that success is founded on partnership. Our gratitude goes to our international development partners who have partnered with us to make a measurable difference in the lives of people across the country. Similarly, partnerships and coalitions with civil society, faith-based leaders, the business community and youth groups have proved critical to the results achieved.

Albania's progress over the past few years has been solid, with ambitious and comprehensive reforms made in many areas, as the data and analysis of the Millennium Development Goals Report published in 2015 reveal.

On 25 September 2015 the United Nations or-

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OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

ganized the Sustainable Development Summit in New York. World leaders, Albania amongst them, adopted the new 2030 Agenda to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social protection, a healthy environment and the rule of law.

The Sustainable Development Goals – in concert with Albania’s ambition to become quickly a full member of the European Union – provide a framework to help prioritize the evolving partnership between UN and Albania. Remaining challenges will continue to be tackled in the last year of the current Programme, as well as in the design of the next

Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021. These include increasing transparency, ensuring Government service delivery across the 61 new Municipalities, improving functionality of institutions and increasing trust by citizens in those institutions, and expanding social inclusion in the economy and social services, and the supporting mechanisms to sustainably protect human rights. In short, and in line with Agenda 2030, it means ensuring no one is left behind.

We recommend the present report to a wide audience for the readers to gain a deep insight into our common work, results and impacts.



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Deputy Secretary General Director
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United Nations in Albania*

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS IN 2015



Government of Austria



European Union



Government of Finland



Government of USA



Government of Germany



Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation



Swedish International Development Cooperation



Government of Italy



Government of Belgium



Austrian Development Cooperation



United Nations Development Group - Delivering Results Together Fund

DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN ALBANIA YEAR 2015 IN BRIEF

Albania received European Union candidate status in June 2014. Through regular political and economic dialogue with the EU, the country is currently implementing a road map on the key priorities identified for the opening of accession negotiations. In order to mainstream the integration process within all government levels and across the political spectrum, the law 'On the Role of Parliament in the European Integration Process of Albania' was adopted in March 2015, while the National Council for European Integration was established in May. By June 2015, 88 percent of the total measures foreseen in the Road Map had been completed.¹

The 5th round of the High Level Dialogue between the EU and Albania on key priorities, held in March, noted among others the steady progress made by the country in the public administration reform, with the start of implementation of the law 'On Civil Servants', adoption of a comprehensive cross-cutting Strategy for Public Administration Reform 2015–2020 and a new Code of Administrative Procedures.

Whilst supported by 91 percent of Albanians², a comprehensive judicial system reform is in its preparatory phase and remains one of the

most considerable challenges for the country.³ Year 2015 saw the drafting of package of constitutional amendments on the reorganisation and functioning of the justice system and the close involvement of the Venice Commission in the reform process. Since its inception, the process has encountered differences of opinions between the two main political sides but ultimately all parties have committed to accepting the recommendations of the Venice Commission. Next steps foresee the adoption and implementation of the constitutional package aiming to improve the lives of Albanian citizens, country's economy and its future in the EU.

The 'decriminalisation law', banning people with criminal convictions from holding elected and other high public offices, was approved in November, to be followed by the preparation and approval of bylaws in 2016. The Albanian National Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism was also approved in November aiming to preserve the values of tolerance and religious harmony, to protect human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and to defend Albanian society from violent extremism.

In 2015, Albania adopted its national anti-corruption strategy (2015–2020) and action plan

1. Progress Report 2015, Ministry of European Integration

2. http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/albania/press_corner/all_news/news/2016/statement20160415_en.htm

3. Albania 2015 Report, EC, November 2015

(2015–2017). Throughout the year, the government efforts were focused on strengthening the capacities of the National Coordinator against Corruption and the anti-corruption network in line ministries and at the local level. However, further efforts are needed to establish a solid track record of investigations, prosecutions and convictions at all levels and enhance the independence of institutions involved in the fight against corruption not to remain vulnerable to political pressure and other undue influence⁴.

Albania's institutions still struggle with generating public trust.⁵ There are low levels of trust in the judiciary and a perception that corruption continues to persist in multiple sectors. Overcoming this challenge of politicization is at the heart of the national reform agenda for meeting the political criteria for EU accession.

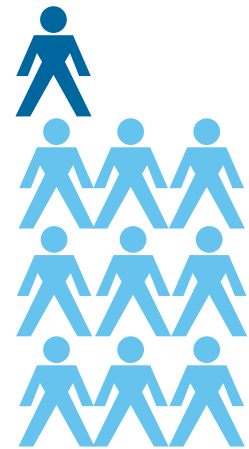
According to the 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International, Albania is the 88th least corrupt nation out of 175 countries, rising 22 positions in just one year (from 110 in 2014) through an improved public perception of corruption.⁶ Meanwhile, Albania has ratified all nine core UN human rights treaties and is committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Nonetheless, effective implementation of relevant legislation and strategies for protection of human rights is limited and enforcement of human rights protection mechanisms remains insufficient.⁷

Albania finalized and approved its National Strategy for Development and Integration

2015–2020, which considers progress towards EU integration as an overarching national goal and outlines a vision to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth. In August, the government prepared the country's Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Progress Report⁸, providing an overview of fifteen years of continuous efforts by government, local institutions and the international donor community to achieving the MDGs in Albania. The findings of the MDG report were presented, along with the new Sustainable Development Goals, at the Social Good Summit event, held on 28 September 2015.

Testimony to the country's commitment to candidacy status is the manner in which the June local elections were held, following on from the 2014 Territorial–Administrative Reform. These elections were the first to elect mayors and local councils in the newly formed 61 municipalities that replaced the former 373 municipalities and communes.⁹ In April, the Electoral Code was amended to reflect the new boundaries and set gender quota provisions for local elections, requiring 50 percent representation of each sex on the lists of candidates, in line with OSCE–ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations. This resulted in 35 percent of women representation across the 61 municipal councils. Close to 15 percent women are Mayors, a remarkable achievement compared to the elections of 2011, when women as Mayors constituted only 1.31 percent.¹⁰ Albania's Human Development Index (HDI) value has steadily progressed over the years, from 0.656 in 2000 to

91%
of Albanians
support a
comprehensive
judicial system
reform



4. Ibid 3

5. Open Government Partnership, Trust in Government Survey (2014, 2015)

6. Transparency International Albania; tia.al

7. Ibid 3

8. Report on Progress in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Albania, August 2015

9. OSCE–ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report, September 2015; www.osce.org/odihr/elections/albania/180731?download=true

10. UNCT Report to the CEDAW Committee, November 2015

0.733 in 2015, putting the country in the High Human Development category, positioned 85th out of 188 countries and territories from 2013 onwards. The country has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.217, ranking 45th out of 155 countries, while 20.7 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 81.8 percent of adult women have reached at least secondary level of education, compared to 87.9 percent of their male counterparts.¹¹

The drive for European integration is perceived as the main agent of reform in Albania, whose economy has been impacted by the global and, particularly, regional economic downturn since 2008. More specifically, increased aversion to risk has diminished the interest of foreign investors in developing economies such as Albania's. The financial crisis in Italy and Greece has reduced remittances to the country, while the crisis has also been felt in the exporting sectors of Albania's economy, mainly in the form of increased market uncertainties.¹² At the same time, the country's highly weather-dependent hydro-power electricity sector poses risks to its economic and fiscal outlook.

Despite the impact of severe flooding in the south of the country in the first quarter of the year, the Albanian economy performed steadily in 2015 maintaining a positive real GDP growth of 2 percent, comparing favourably to the region. However, public debt reached high levels, above 70 percent of GDP, with non-performing loans at 20 percent. The country faces a high level of long-term and youth unemployment, with large gender differences in labour force participation, indicating significant structural obstacles.¹³ The un-

employment rate fell slightly, to 17.7 percent in 2015 from 17.9 percent the year before, with youth unemployment (ages 15–29 years) at 32.2 percent, and male employment 14.2 percent higher than that of females (15–64 years).¹⁴

Throughout 2015, government engaged in structural reforms and fiscal measures to support economic recovery and growth, in close coordination with private economic actors, banks and international organisations. To address the problems of revenue under-performance, government undertook large-scale reforms targeting tax evasion, non-compliance, and informality. Major reforms with a high social impact were noted in the pensions and energy sectors. The pensions system was put on a sustainable footing through legislative amendments in line with the EU directives and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines and the preparation of a Pension Policy Paper, aiming to guarantee a balance between the adequacy of benefits and the affordability of costs. Budgetary risks related to the energy sector were reduced, yielding a 6% reduction to 31.8% (2015) from 37.8 (2014)¹⁵, mainly through a vigorous outreach and enforcement programme to reduce electricity theft and improve revenue collections. The power sector law, compliant with the Third EU Energy Package, was adopted in April 2015 and the law on the gas sector was adopted in September 2015, important steps towards energy sustainability. A Power Sector Financial Recovery Plan was approved by a Decision of the Council of Ministers aiming to close within 2020 the financial gap generated in this sector, transforming the system from one generating arrears to one that is self-sustained and liquid.¹⁶

11. hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/ALB.pdf

12. Ibid 1

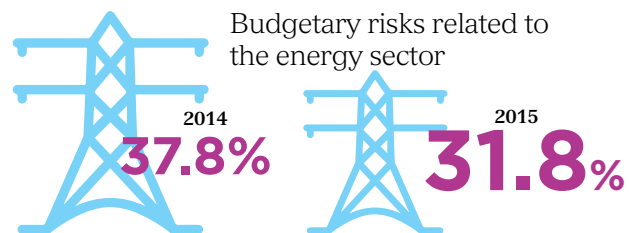
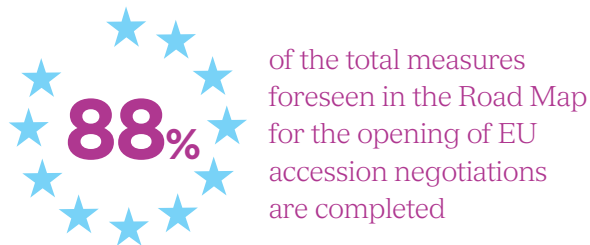
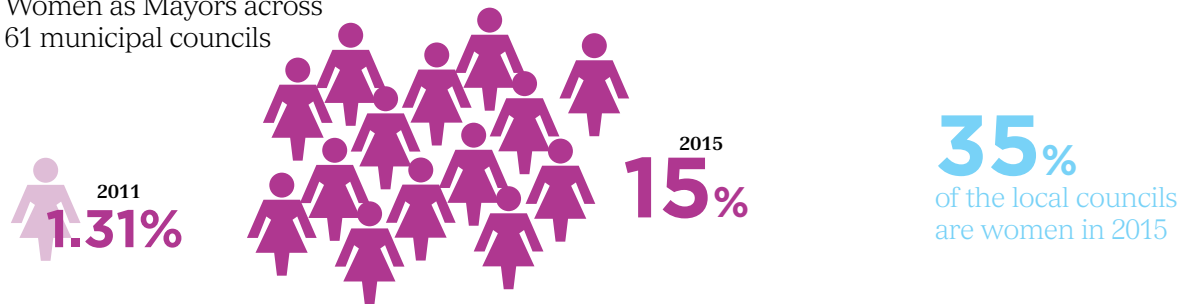
13. Ibid 3

14. www.instat.gov.al/en/themes/labour-market/publications/books/2016/labour-force-survey-q4-2015.aspx

15. http://www.ekonomia.gov.al/files/userfiles/Albania_s_Economic_Reform_Programme_2016-2018.pdf

16. Ibid 1

Women as Mayors across 61 municipal councils



Small and medium-sized enterprises play a significant role in the Albanian economy, providing 81 percent of the employment and 70 percent of value added in the non-agricultural private sector, accounting for 46 percent of jobs overall.¹⁷ Recognising the power of the private sector apparatus in boosting economic growth, government established in April an Investment Council as a platform to intensify dialogue with the private sector, aiming to improve good economic governance. The country's efforts to improve the business climate were reflected in a major jump of 40 places in the World Bank Doing Business rankings, to 62nd position in 2015 from 108th the year earlier, though the 2016 report has downgraded Albania to 97th position as a result of the country suspending the issuance of building permits as a measure to pave the way for the Territorial Administrative Reform (TAR).¹⁸

Albania's bilateral relations with its neighbouring countries and beyond are characterised by a marked level of political dialogue and commitment aiming to strengthen the strategic partnership in order to advance economic growth, improve the quality of life and accelerate the European integration process.¹⁹

In light of the global migrant and refugee crisis, and given the country's borders with Greece and Macedonia, Albania has been on alert all year, expecting that at least part of the massive flow of refugees and migrants transiting from Greece to Macedonia would re-route through Albanian territory. Preparing for a potential flow of migrants into the country, government has established a migration crisis group headed by the deputy prime minister that is in the final stages of preparing a contingency plan.

17. Ibid 3

18. Doing Business 2016 www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/albania/~/_/media/giawb/doing%20business/documents/profiles/country/ALB.pdf

19. Ibid 3

CHAPTER 1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Tirana Clock Tower turns blue to mark the 70th anniversary of the UN

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The present Annual Progress Report for Albania covers the period January–December 2015. The report, prepared jointly by the Government of Albania and the United Nations, reflects the tangible development results accomplished and the lessons learned from implementation of the Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016.

UN support to the national development agenda, inclusive of the contribution of all UN agencies—specialised and non-specialised, resident and non-resident—is aligned with national priorities in four strategic areas, or pillars: i) Human Rights; ii) Inclusive Social Policies; iii) Governance and Rule of Law; and iv) Regional and Local Development. The UN supports the government’s leadership role in pursuing its national priorities, adhering to international norms and fulfilling international obligations, and advancing the path to European Union membership and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by building its capacities at all levels and strengthening national ownership.

Through the active engagement and commitment of government and joint implementation of the Programme of Cooperation, the following results were attained in 2015:

Pillar 1 Human Rights

The UN enhanced national capacities to ensure efficient negotiation, management, monitoring and reporting on international obligations stemming from ratified international human rights treaties and other agreed development goals and treaty obligations. The UN provided policy expertise and advo-

+1,100
cases of domestic
violence registered
over the period
2013–2015 through
the CCR

3,000
cases of domestic
violence reported
to the state police in
2015 compared to
94 cases in 2005

100
thousand citizens
reached through
outreach campaigns
and workshops
increasing
community
sensitivity to
women and
girls facing and
surviving trafficking

cated for legislative change around gender equality, early marriage and gender-based violence, administering juvenile justice following international standards, and increasing children's access to justice and their right to remedies for violations of their human rights.

UN Albania supported national partners on the self-applicability of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) norms and compliance with the Albanian legislation and Constitution. Engagement with parliamentarians continued throughout the year in advocating the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 2014 agenda through joint meetings, capacity building, awareness-raising activities and events. Year 2015 saw submission of the Initial Report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UNCT Report and Ombudsman's Report on CEDAW. Correspondingly, other important reports and documents were prepared, notably CSO CEDAW Shadow Report on health care in Albania, the second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the methodology for the Ombudsman to conduct an annual human rights monitoring exercise for foreign migrant workers.

Significant steps were taken in implementation of gender sensitive policies at the local level and mechanisms to prevent and fight domestic violence. The national conference 'Together for gender equality and the fight against domestic violence', organised in honour of the Human Rights Day with a diverse participation of national partners, called for coordinated actions to bring an end to violence against women. Through UN support, the Government of Albania empowered local structures to deal with this phenomenon by establishing multi-disciplinary community

coordinated response mechanisms in 27 out of the 61 municipalities (44%). More than 1,100²⁰ cases of domestic violence were registered over the period 2013–2015 through the CCR online tracking system, an important tool for monitoring implementation of gender-based violence legislation. Due to an increased level of awareness, victims of domestic violence and their families reported 3,000 cases to the state police in 2015 compared to 94 cases in 2005. Applying the lessons learned from UN-supported CCR models in 27 municipalities, government is vested towards 100 percent country coverage, setting a positive pattern in south-eastern Europe.

The 'National Action Plan on Involvement of Men and Boys as Partners to Women and Girls in Challenging Gender Stereotypes and Combating Gender-Based Violence' was implemented actively in the country, reaching more than 20,000 people through informed discussions on the negative effects of domestic violence and encouraging young men to empower women. UN work with the media resulted in increased sensitivity in reporting²¹ on trafficked women and girls, a key step in capacity improvement and regular assessment. Community sensitivity to women and girls facing and surviving trafficking has been increased by outreach campaigns and workshops reaching more than 100,000 citizens across the country. Different modules on how to identify, refer and assist victims of trafficking were identified for inclusion in the obligatory curriculum of professional education on trafficking in human beings for

20. 73% of women survivors of domestic violence live in rural areas and more than one in three are unemployed.

21. As reported in the "Media Monitoring Report 2015" produced in the framework of the project EIDHR/2013/335-757 "Preventing and addressing violence against women and girls in Albania, Mexico and Timor Leste, implemented jointly by UN Women and European Union in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 16 April 2012.

police, social workers, health practitioners and magistrates. The first Action Plan for the socio-economic reintegration of girls and women victims of trafficking²² was prepared and endorsed through the National Anti-trafficking Strategy. In 2015, a total of 109 victims and potential victims of trafficking were identified: 38 victims and 71 potential victims; 22 males and 87 females; 48 children and 61 adults, 105 Albanians and 4 foreigners. 2015 saw a decrease in the number of identified trafficking cases compared to 125 VoTs and PVoTs identified and assisted in 2014²³.

Parliament increased its engagement with the children's rights agenda. In 2015, at least five parliamentary discussions were held on issues²⁴ related to children, promoting accountability of government officials towards violence against children. Increased recognition resulted in a Plan of Action of the Friends of Children Caucus that now features child protection, empowerment of the voice of children and adolescents, a stronger legal recognition of the principle of the best interests of the child and overall efforts to advance child rights. Advocacy to emphasize child-friendly justice within broader judicial reform efforts resulted in government and Parliament committing themselves to elevate the idea of a Juvenile Justice Chapter of the Criminal Proce-

dures Code into a specific Juvenile Justice Code, and developing a distinct Justice for Children Strategy. UN activism towards juveniles in conflict with the law, to advance their needs into legislation and policy, resulted in a public declaration from the Minister of Justice to step up efforts to send no more children to detention, resulting in judges and prosecutors sending 130 fewer children to pre-trial detention in 2015 than in 2014 and shortening the detention time. The Minister of Social Welfare and Youth committed to embed a section on the prevention of juvenile delinquency and recidivism within the White Paper on Child Rights Protection. Whereas from 2012–2015 the average length of detention steadily grew, the country experienced a decrease in 2015, from 140 days to 126 days.

Pillar 2 Inclusive Social Policies

To advance the social inclusion and social protection agenda, the UN supported the government to develop policies and services to reduce inequalities and promote social and economic inclusion for vulnerable groups, strengthened capacities of Albanian institutions at central and local levels and enhanced participation of civil society and citizens as rights holders. Setting standards and developing policies directed towards achievement of universal health coverage from an equity perspective was a major UN contribution to the health sector. Policy recommendations resulted in the approval of the Primary Health Care (PHC) service delivery framework, including the basic package of services, by the Council of Ministers in February 2015.²⁵ 'The Health Status of the Albanian Population', the

22. The plan was approved with PM Order No. 115, date 17.02.2016.

23. The Annual Report of the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator reports lack of identification of VoTs/PVoTs cases from different structures including labor inspectorate, education and health structures. During 2016, UN will ensure that Standard Operating Procedures for Identification of VoTs and Referral of VoTs (SOPs) are included in the orientation training for new staff from different sectors. An inter-sectorial training module will be developed and a series of 12 Inter-sectorial Trainings on the Identification, Referral and Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking will be organized in 12 Regions of Albania.

24. The issues discussed were the blood-feud phenomenon, education and media, and inter-country adoption, with participation of a broad base of relevant stakeholders.

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

288

cases handled by CPD in 2015, issued 20 *ex officio* cases and 169 decisions

109

victims and potential victims of trafficking were identified in 2015 compared to 125 in 2014

126

days became in 2015 the average length of detention from 140 days

+29%

every Roma in Pre-school national initiative resulted in a larger number of Roma children participating in pre-school (from 26% in 2011, to 55% in 2015)

+70

public hearings were held in all Roma settlements in the country, resulting in the completion of 1,271 legalisation/land entitlement applications

11,000

teachers or 100% teacher workforce for Grade 1 and 6 supported with on-the-job capacity building

2014 National Health Report²⁶ of Albania was published by the Institute of Public Health. UN agencies contributed to: i) improvements in the health sector statistics by supporting preparation of the full package for the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) implementation in the Albanian health information system; ii) strengthening of the country's capacities to routinely report on crucial health data, such as cause of death, which has gone unreported in Albania for more than a decade; and iii) developing capacities of health institutions for generating, analysing and utilising data on the population health status and the health system's performance. Additionally, a manual²⁷ of health indicators was prepared for the first time in 2015 aiming to guide the collection of national core health indicators in a standardized and disaggregated manner ensuring comparability for cross-country comparisons and reporting. A review²⁸ was conducted on anti-retroviral therapy and procurement and supply management components of the HIV-AIDS programme in Albania, informing the development of a concept note for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria that will invest USD 6 million in the country over the next three years, focusing on key at-risk populations and strengthening the health system to address HIV-AIDS.

In the area of education, among others, UN supported the government to close gaps in equity in its education system, improve school-based learning processes and strengthen system management capacity with special focus on policy development

26. <http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/materiale/Health-report-English-version.pdf>

27. <http://ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/libri-indikatorëve-final.pdf>

28. http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/283605/HIV-Programme-Review-Albania-Antiretroviral-therapy-procurement-supply-management.pdf

linked to research and education management information system (EMIS) data. National partners were supported in the preparation of evidence-based recommendations for the education sector policy review for issuance in early 2016 addressing the most pressing issues in the country, such as curriculum reform, teacher development, and technology in education, focusing particularly on quality and equity. Implementation of the global initiative Out-of-School-Children resulted in the development of cross-sectoral agreements at the local level aiming to provide recommendations and lessons learnt to policy makers. The national initiative Every Roma in Pre-school increased the accountability of service providers in ensuring equal rights for all children, resulting in a larger number of Roma children participating in pre-school (from 26% in 2011, to 55% in 2015)²⁹. In addition, on-the-job capacity building was provided for 11,000 teachers of Grade 1 and 6, constituting 100 percent of the overall teacher workforce for those grades, or 22 percent of the overall teacher workforce for Grades 1-9.

Shortcomings in employment and skills development policies were addressed by the UN through re-orienting the vocational education and training (VET) system towards labour market needs, modernising and extending the outreach of employment services and enhancing entrepreneurship in the unemployed in urban and rural areas. The employment rate of VET graduates is 65% - comparable to university graduates (66.5%) and significantly above high school graduate (44.5%). In 2015, 18,979 students were attending vocational education schools - 40% increase compared to the previous academic year. The Ministry of Social Wel-

29. http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Every_Roma_Child_in_Pre-school_1February2016.pdf

fare and Youth was supported in designing a roadmap for the transfer of VET schools under the management of the National Employment Service. The functional analysis carried out at the central and local level for the management of public VET providers, and the advisory support provided both in terms of defining the functions of VET providers, as well as harmonizing their functioning and optimizing public investments, resulted in MoSWY's decision to gradually reduce the number of public VET providers to 33 (compared to 39 in 2014-2015 academic year). In addition, 15 schools of excellence have been identified to be further supported by public and donor funds as per best European practices of work-based learning. Various incentives for private sector participation in work-based learning schemes were introduced. In 2015, 260 occupational descriptions were developed in collaboration with the private sector. Establishment of an integrated policy management group and respective thematic group on employment, skills and employability was supported by the UN to oversee and monitor the National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014–2020 implementation in the years to come. UN promoted social dialogue among government, employers and workers organisations and provided capacity building and an advisory role to non-government partners, aiming at increasing the efficiency of the National Labour Council as the highest tripartite social dialogue forum in the country.

UN work in the area of social protection ensured that the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalised social groups are equally implemented through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions. Vocational courses, on-the-job training and assistance to entrepreneurs were provided to 341 Roma and Egyptian individuals in the regions of Korçë, Berat and Vlorë, while 138 Roma and Egyp-

tians were assisted in finding employment.³⁰ Support was provided in the legalisation process in two Roma localities in Lushnjë and Berat and more than 70 public hearings were held in all Roma settlements in the country, resulting in the completion of 1,271 legalisation/land entitlement applications. Roma and local CSOs institutional capacities were strengthened in becoming reliable partners for fighting discrimination and furthering Roma and Egyptian social inclusion at the local and central levels. Additionally, UN supported participatory budgeting processes in the municipalities of Tiranë, Fier and Berat, resulting in recommendations aiming to render social services at the local level more responsive to women such as offering housing support for widow women and women head of household, support for the Centre for women victims of violence, etc. Up to 40 percent of Fier's 2016 municipal budget for social services was committed towards completion of the actions proposed by the citizens in these recommendations.

Pillar 3 Governance and Rule of Law

EU accession priorities are critical anchors for the national reform processes in the area of Governance and Rule of Law. The UN team continued to support Albania's progress towards a more transparent, accountable and efficient public administration, including public services. Support was provided for development of the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2015–2020, including the organising of public consultations. Government reform of public services and their citizen-centric orientation was supported

30. 32 self-employed, 40 employed in the private sector, 31 left the job after some days or months of working, 35 refused work.

18,979

students were attending vocational education schools, 40% increase compared to the previous academic year

260

occupational descriptions were developed in 2015 in collaboration with the private sector

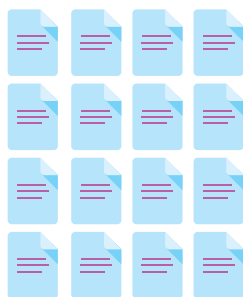
11,078

reported cases from the national online anti-corruption portal for citizens to report corruption, 5,540 of which have been addressed

341

Roma and Egyptian individuals in Korçë, Berat and Vlorë were provided with vocational courses, on-the-job training and assistance to entrepreneurs

16

MTBPs 2016–2018
incorporate gender
equality objectives
and priorities

through equipping the newly established National Agency for Delivery of Integrated Services of Albania to become operational. Alongside building capacities of the Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration for the management of the process, a long-term government policy document on public services in Albania and a provisional Results Framework of the government's reform strategy were developed. Combined with advancements in other key national reform areas, innovations in public service delivery can fundamentally change how Albanian citizens interact with their state.

Gender equality continues to be a critical development area in Albania and the UN is committed to a strategic, multi-sectoral approach. In response to UN work to make gender equality central to planning and budgeting for national development and EU integration, civil servants at the central and local level, CSOs and academia increased their knowledge of the application of gender equality and gender-responsive planning and budgeting. Gender equality objectives and priorities were incorporated into national plans and budgets: ten line ministries, one independent institution and 16 medium-term Budgetary Programmes 2016–2018³¹, a breakthrough compared to none in 2013, totalling USD 61,534,401 or 4% of these ministries overall budget in 2016, the largest state budget yet committed to advancing gender equality. Also, the collection of sex-disaggregated data is now mandatory in Albania.

31. 1) Support for Economic Development, 2) Urban Planning and Housing, 3) Arts and Culture, 4) Institutional Support for the EU Integration process, 5) Agricultural Counselling and Information, 6) Rural Development, 7) Funds for Science, 8) Prisons System, 9) Bailiff Services, 10) Crime Investigation, 11) Public Order, 12) Police Support Services, 13) Social Inclusion, 14) Social Care, 15) Labour Market, 16) Primary Health Care

Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination was supported to increase its outreach and transparency, fundamentally advancing its role in fighting gender-based discrimination and promoting gender equality. In 2015, CPD handled 288 cases³² and issued 20 *ex officio* cases and 169 decisions. The State Police Academy upgraded the training curricula on gender-based and domestic violence in view of the latest legislation and newly ratified international treaties. Gender-responsive planning and budgeting of local services was implemented in five pilot municipalities³³ resulting in commitment of municipal funds towards fulfilment of citizens' priorities and needs. For example, Tirana municipality allocated USD 48,000 to women new entrepreneurship initiatives, endorsed one year municipal tax break for vulnerable women and established the Women Councilors Committee. Three universities, one public and two private, adopted Gender-Responsive Budgeting literacy for master's level students and professors based on the UN Women resource textbook on the subject. Meanwhile, gender-sensitive indicators for the media were disseminated to the Association of Women in Science Network for use in tertiary education planning.

UN assistance to elections focused on enabling institutions to advance historical change towards gender equality and electoral integrity for the new Local Government Units (LGUs). The first half of 2015 witnessed the introduction of the zipper system³⁴ for local councillors. The turnout of eligible voters in the local elections was 47 percent, of which

32. 181 complaints submitted by citizens: 82 men, 89 women, 3 from citizens groups and 7 by CSOs

33. Tiranë, Vlorë, Sarandë, Kelcyrë and Përmet

34. All lists competing for local councils should be in compliance with a gender quota of 50 per cent. Every second name on the list should be a woman for the list to be registered.

42 percent comprised women voters. Despite the 50 percent nomination quota for local councils, the outcome was that 35 percent of women were elected as council members, lower than hoped but still an historic gain. Women were nominated in 16 municipalities for the position of the mayor, nine of which were attained (14%). UN support to Central Elections Commission (CEC), on establishment of a new online system for registration of political parties and candidates, enabled, for the very first time in Albania, the provision of detailed disaggregated statistics on voters, candidates and commissioners.

UN assisted national partners in their efforts to reform the judicial system and fight corruption and organised crime by strengthening the functions of the National Coordinator for Anti-corruption and setting up a national online anti-corruption portal for citizens to report corruption and service delivery failures. For the period February–December 2015, a total of 11,078 cases were reported, 5,540 of which have been addressed.³⁵ Within the framework of the Open Government Partnership³⁶ initiative, UN supported preparation of a third national survey ‘Trust in Government’,³⁷ sampling 1,600 respondents on public trust towards government institutions and service delivery performance. The survey results show that in Albania one in three citizens surveyed (34%) trust the government, which enjoys greater trust than Parliament (22%). Meanwhile, the judiciary (80%) and political parties (79%) are the least trusted institutions. When compared to 2014, the institutions that have suffered the steepest

decline of trust in 2015 are: the Parliament (from 29% to 22%) and the Health System (from 32% to 27%). Media is the only institution that has shown no change in trust. On the other hand, Religious institutions have seen the highest increase in the level of trust (from 44% to 52%). Other institutions that have experienced an increase in trust from 2014 include: the Police (from 41% to 45%), the President (from 25% to 29%), Civil Society Organizations (from 34% to 38%), the European Union (from 68% to 72%) and NATO (from 71% to 74%). Weak technical and institutional capacities of law enforcement agencies were addressed through the provision of policy advice, expertise and advocacy based on best practices.

Pillar 4 Regional and Local Development

UN promoted local economic development and supported relevant governmental institutions and Albania’s regions in the areas of agriculture, tourism, cultural heritage and environment, ensuring access to services, in particular for vulnerable and marginalised groups, and encouraging community participation. As implementation of TAR intensified with the approach of the June 2015 local elections, UN supported improvement of the legal framework and mandate of the newly established National Agency for Implementation of the Territorial Reform and prepared the legal framework for amalgamation of the existing LGUs.³⁸ Furthermore, 26 municipalities³⁹ were supported in formulation of their engendered short-term local development

35. <http://www.ceshtjetvendore.gov.al/programi-transparences/portali-antikorrupsion>

36. Albania has been a member of the OGP Initiative since August 2011.

37. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/opinion-poll-2015-trust-in-government.html

38. Reflected in Law 30/2105 ‘On changes and additions to Law No. 8652 ‘On the organisation and functioning of local governments’, adopted April 2015

39. Belsh, Bulqizë, Delvinë, Devoll, Dropull, Finiq, Fushë-Arrëz, Gramsh, Has, Kamëz, Këlcyrë, Kolonjë, Libohovë, Maliq, Mallakastër, Memaliaj, Mirditë, Patos, Peqin, Përmet, Pukë, Pustec, Roskovec, Selenicë, Tepelenë and Vau-Dejës

9,500

persons have been provided with cash assistance from The United Nations World Food Programme

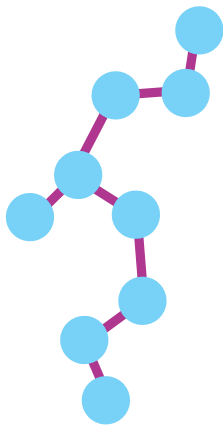
16

flood protection infrastructures developed, benefiting a rural population of around 160,000 people

1,100

children targeted from Child-Friendly Spaces model established in four schools in Pjeshkore, Morave, Darzeze and Fitore

-11.5%
reduction of
CO₂ emissions
committed by
Republic of Albania



operational plans, which will serve as blueprints during their first two to three years of operations. Going forward, UN assessment related to the above plans will feed into the development of long term general/territorial plans, under the auspices of the Ministry of Urban Development, five of which are already under formulation by USAID's Planning and Local Governance Project.

UN supported the preparation of Albania's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and submission of the country's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, committing to a reduction of 11.5 percent in CO₂ emissions. The marine and coastal protected areas of Karaburun and Sazan developed management and business plans with UN support and enacted monitoring and enforcement mechanisms for long-term effective site management and approach to conservation. The government updated the national Action Plan on Renewable Energy to reflect the latest changes in the energy legal frame and introduced energy efficiency standards in the design of social houses.

In response to the flooding that inundated the southern part of the country EU, UN and World Bank engaged jointly in the development of a simplified post-disaster needs assessment in coordination with government authorities. In this context, UN prepared and executed flood control infrastructure restoration, aiming at strengthening resilience and disaster risk preparedness and prevention in south-east Albania. Rehabilitation of 16 flood protection infrastructures located in eight municipalities, benefiting a rural population of around 160,000 people, is ongoing with 80 percent of the infrastructure works already implemented. The FLOODIS system was tested for the delivery of alerts to users in one geographical area at risk—Shkodër region. Under

the Back to School initiative, flood affected areas of Berat, Vlorë and Fier were assisted with a post-flood assistance package of interventions. Provision of psycho-social assistance to children, using the Child-Friendly Spaces model, was set up in four schools in Pjeshkore, Morave, Darzeze and Fitore targeting 1,100 children. A joint health mission assessed the capacities of selected Primary Health Care facilities and monitored the implementation of breastfeeding and immunisation practices. The United Nations World Food Programme provided cash assistance to around 9,500 people affected by the floods in the country. Households in the five most-affected regions—Fier, Berat, Vlorë, Elbasan and Gjirokastër—received a three-month cash grant totalling US\$105 per person.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2015, UN supported the government in the preparation of the Albania MDG Progress Report, providing an overview of fifteen years of continuous efforts by the national and international partners in achieving the MDGs in Albania. Albania has reached or nearly reached the targets for MDG4-reducing the child mortality, MDG5-improving maternal health and MDG6-combating HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Significant progress has been made in achieving targets for MDG7-ensuring sustainable environmental development, while mixed results have been obtained in MDG1-eradicating extreme poverty and reducing risk of social exclusion, MDG2-ensuring high quality basic universal education and MDG3-promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. Relatively less progress has been achieved in addressing the challenges of MDG8-develop a global partnership for development and MDG9-improving governance for all citizens and par-

ticularly for most disadvantaged groups.

The findings of the MDG report and the new Sustainable Development Goals were presented at the Social Good Summit event, held on 28 September, 2015. UN Albania contributed to the preparation of the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 through the mainstreaming of SDG 16, on governance. The campaign ‘World’s Largest Lesson in 60 Schools’ promoted SDG 4 in cooperation with child CSOs and local educational departments.

Way Forward in 2016

The year 2016 is the last year of the current Programme of Cooperation. In the area of Human Rights support will be provided to the government to organise adequate public consultations on the Universal Periodic Review. The National Strategy on Gender Equality will be finalised for adoption in 2016. Focus will be placed on preparation of legal amendments, laws and associated consultations to move key issues forward, including, among others, the Juvenile Justice Law, Justice for Children Strategy, Legal Aid Law, Child Rights Protection Law, and Cybersecurity Law.

The focus envisaged in the area of Inclusive Social Policies will be on strengthening system governance and leadership through policy advice and technical support for informing the reform processes, developing and implementing sector-related strategies and action plans, and setting priorities in policy making in the areas of health, education, labour and social protection.

In the area of Governance and Rule of Law, UN aims to invest in institutional capacity development of electoral management bodies, and intensify engagement with the Women Members of Parliament (MPs) Al-

liance in preparation for the 2017 elections, supporting women’s participation. The anti-corruption and anti-crime efforts will be channelled around the judicial system reform and support will be provided for adoption of standards, institutionalisation of systems and incentives for reduction of corruption and a stronger legislature, civil society, public awareness and oversight. Based on the successful UN experience in working with local and regional governments, further support will be provided to the newly established LGUs in strengthening local democracy and improving service delivery. Focus will be placed on the operational level preparedness for mixed migration management, including conducting capacity assessments at the local level.

In the area of Regional and Local Development, attention will be placed on agricultural subsidies and schemes, including delivery of financial and non-financial (extension) support and services to the rural sector. UN will join forces around supporting authorities in value-chain development and in directing support policies towards rural enterprises, especially those owned by women. Government will be supported for consolidating the capacities of the LGUs to take on new competencies and improve services at the local level. Work in the area of environment will focus mainly on energy efficiency and renewable energy targets, including for innovative financing mechanisms.

The Government of Albania and the United Nations will sign a new Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development, 2017–2021, in the first half of 2016, taking into consideration the developments towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Throughout 2016, UN will support integration of the SDGs into the national central and local processes, engaging CSOs and the private sector in SDG implementation.

CHAPTER 2
DELIVERING RESULTS
FOR ALBANIA



OUTCOME 1 — HUMAN RIGHTS

With financial contribution from Swedish National Committee, Switzerland and the European Union, UN core and global non-core resources, and un-earmarked and soft-earmarked Coherence Fund (DRT-F, SDC and SIDA)

Human rights and
gender equality
considerations
guide interactions
between citizens and
institutions.

Albania has ratified all nine core United Nations human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its optional protocols, eight fundamental international labour conventions, and most major multi-lateral environmental treaties (MEAs), and is committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The United Nations work under the human rights outcome aims to provide high level technical and policy advice, develop and strengthen the capacities, practices and systems of the public administration in order to effectively implement international obligations stemming from ratified international human rights treaties and other agreed development goals and treaty obligations. UN efforts are equally invested in administering juvenile justice, increasing children's access to justice and addressing gender-based violence (GBV).

The human rights outcome is made up of three components, focused on meeting human rights normative standards that the country is committed to, ensuring access to justice, and eliminating violence in society, especially violence against women and children. The majority of results under this outcome are cross-reported from implementation in other outcomes of the Programme of Cooperation (PoC) with the Government of Albania (GoA) and are often implemented through regular advocacy with government officials, as opposed to specific programme activities.

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Thematic clustering of the UPR recommendations
- ✓ Civil Society Organisation CEDAW Shadow Report on health care in Albania
- ✓ The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities initial report
- ✓ Detailed mapping and capacity assessment of the CPU system
- ✓ 2013–2014 report on the child rights situation
- ✓ Second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- ✓ Assessment of the institutional and legislative framework for unaccompanied minors against international norms

Students march for gender equality in Korça



Output 1.1 Normative reporting, tracking and quality

Government of Albania meets its international human rights reporting obligations and application of normative standards through tracking implementation

In recent years, the UN in Albania has supported the government to increasingly meet international human rights reporting obligations. Quality reporting, tracking of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and other human rights instruments and awareness raising are all critical elements of this engagement.

Progress towards Results

During 2015, the UN provided technical assistance and capacity building support to GoA in tackling recommendations and obligations deriving from the signed human rights conventions. UN Women prepared a thematic clustering of the UPR recommendations, which informed public consultations held by the government to identify specific

actions to be undertaken. Going forward, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, in collaboration with UN Women and UNFPA, has drafted an approach to increase the government's capacity to follow up on UPR recommendations and establish a human rights tracking system.

The government has been engaged in UNFPA's advocacy and awareness-raising actions⁴⁰ on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Youth Voice. A Civil Society Organisation (CSO)–CEDAW Shadow Report on health care in Albania was prepared with UNFPA support and the engagement of 21 organisations.⁴¹ In the same vein, UNDP supported the preparation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) initial report, approved by government through decree no. 460 in May 2015, and submitted to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Child Protection Units (CPUs) form a key part of the local government social safety net. A detailed mapping and capacity assessment of the CPU system was prepared jointly by the State Agency for Child Rights Protection (SACRP), the Child Rights Observatory (CRO) and UNICEF. The assessment will be used to advocate for human capacity investment in CPUs in the ongoing decentralisation process. SACRP also finalised a 2013–2014 report on the child rights situation, including

40. Actions relate to issues regarding population, youth and reproductive health, gender-based violence and gender equality.

41. The report will be submitted to the CEDAW Committee in March 2016.

consolidation of sector-specific data, which will inform evaluation of the current National Action Plan for Children (2012–2015) and support the development of a new NAP through 2020.

With extensive migration and refugee flows in the Balkans, IOM is supporting government in the preparation of a second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Ombudsman is being supported to conduct annual monitoring of a human rights exercise for foreign migrants workers. Local actors have improved reporting on emigration of Albanian citizens and returnees, looking notably at the social impact. At this time of flux, a detailed assessment of the institutional and legislative framework for unaccompanied minors (UAMs) against international norms is an important part of IOM support, facilitating the establishment of a platform to assist UAMs.

Following a significant step taken in reporting against Gender Equality Normative Standards, 2015 saw increased government commitment to engage men and boys in tackling violence in direct follow up to CEDAW's recommendations. The Minister of Social Welfare and Youth presented Breaking Mindsets at the Commission on the Status of Women 59th global forum held in New York. Breaking Mindsets is Albania's unique National Action Plan (NAP) to engage men and boys in tackling each other's behaviour to stop violence and empower women.

Output 1.2 Access to justice and civil society support

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

The ongoing justice system reform is critical both for national development and EU integration. Driven by Parliament, with oversight from an ad hoc group and support from a high level panel, the reform focuses on reorganisation of the judiciary, prosecution and legal professions with a view to improve efficiency of the system, strengthen checks and balances and tackle widespread corruption.

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

Progress towards Results

Child-friendly justice has become an integral part of the justice system reform with UNICEF engagement, notably highlighting the challenges of access to justice faced by children and juveniles and establishing principles to make the reform child friendly. In 2015, government and Parliament committed to develop a specific Juvenile Justice (JJ) Code and a distinct Justice for Children Strategy, rather than a merely relevant Chapter of Criminal Procedure Code. In this context, the Ministry of Justice, with UNICEF support, launched the regional study Children's Equi-

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Regional study Children's Equitable Access to Justice
- ✓ Elements of child rights and safety integrated in the draft law 'On cybersecurity, Labour Code, Law on the Rights and Treatment of Prisoners, Family Code, Law on Adoptions
- ✓ Technical recommendations on how to address the challenges of boys and girls in conflict with the law included in draft strategies for Pre-University Education, Social Inclusion and Occupational Health sub-legislation
- ✓ Government and Parliament commitment to develop a specific Juvenile Justice Code and a distinct Justice for Children Strategy
- ✓ Online tracking system for children in conflict and in contact with the law



International Youth
Day Radio Shkodra

table Access to Justice⁴² where Albania was one of the four focus countries. The study highlights the recommendations on barriers to children accessing justice and will inform the strategy under development. Embedding child rights further, the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration included elements of child rights and safety in the draft law 'On cybersecurity'.

In line with UPR and CRC recommendations, UNICEF advocates for specific attention to be paid to juveniles in conflict with the law, including advancing their needs into legislation and policy. 2015 saw a significant step forward in the attitudes of professionals and decision makers, from seeing juvenile justice as a punitive system to a restorative and rehabilitative system. In large part, this success is due to a series of high-level advocacy sessions on child-friendly justice supported by UNICEF. A 2015 ad hoc parliamentary

42. English version is available at: http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/Equitable_access_to_justice_for_children_in_Central_and_Eastern_Europe_and_Central_Asia_-_v2_1.pdf; Albanian version is available at: http://www.unicef.org/albania/sq/2015-Mundesit_te_barabartas_per_femijet_ne_sistemin_e_Drejtesise.pdf

commission round table was dedicated to child-friendly justice, with participation of more than 70 MPs, government representatives, magistrates and child rights activists. A high-level delegation from Georgia, including the Deputy Minister of Justice and the Vice President of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, visited Albania to share experience on adoption of the Juvenile Justice Code, attended by more than 50 Albanian members of the justice sector. Twenty-five adolescents were supported to develop one-minute video stories⁴³ on children's equitable access to justice, two of which were nominated for the One-Minute Jr Awards in Amsterdam. The Albanian winners were supported to join an advanced technical course to develop powerful advocacy tools to be used by children and adolescents in addressing challenges and injustices.

A range of efforts were made by UNICEF to support legal amendments to embed child-friendly justice. Technical recommendations on how to address the challenges of boys and girls in conflict with the law were shared with the ministries of Education, Social Welfare and Youth (MoSWY) and Health, and included in draft strategies for Pre-University Education, Social Inclusion and Occupational Health sub-legislation. The Parliamentary Commission on Laws, Public Administration and Human Rights was supported to integrate child rights into the draft Labour Code, draft amendments to the Law on the Rights and Treatment of Prisoners, draft amendments to the Family Code and the Law on Adoptions.

UN advocacy and efforts culminated in December 2015 with a public declaration from

43. All one-minute videos are available at: http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_X6Bh1YRstbqK8o9lBDhDpC6FF3D4611

the Minister of Justice to send no more children to detention; indeed judges and prosecutors sent 130 fewer children to pre-trial detention in 2015 compared to the year before, and shortened the detention time. The Minister of Social Welfare and Youth committed to embed a section on the prevention of juvenile delinquency and recidivism within the White Paper on Child Rights Protection. Whereas from 2012 to end-2014 the average length of detention increased, in 2015, there was a decrease, from 140 days to 126 days. Going forward, UNICEF is working on the establishment of an online tracking system for children in conflict and in contact with the (criminal) law, from the moment they enter the system until they exit, enabling the government to obtain disaggregated statistics in real time and pinpoint any bottlenecks through children's journey in the law enforcement and justice system.

Access to civil rights by marginalised communities was supported by UNDP, through direct provision of legal and paralegal civil registration services to vulnerable Roma families and their children. In 2015, 165 Roma and Egyptian families in Korçë, Berat and Cërrik were supported with free legal assistance in the form of representation in court for civil and administrative cases. Similarly, IOM and local Roma CSOs supported the reintegration of 50 stateless Roma children returnees to Albania from Greece. UNFPA conducted advocacy and awareness workshops to inform vulnerable and socially excluded groups on how to access medical and legal services, notably including Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT) beneficiaries, sex workers, and Intravenous Drug Users (IDU).

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

UN work focuses on the overall goal of eliminating violence against women and children. Activities promote that laws, policies, and strategies are adopted, restructured and implemented to respond to and prevent violence, and reduce the incidence of trafficking of women and girls by addressing its root causes, including limited awareness, domestic violence, and lack of economic alternatives. The UN seeks to safeguard that the rights of women and girls are equally granted through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions. Advocacy work centres on behaviour change and promotion of social cohesion.

Progress towards Results

Parliament and GoA developed a package of legislative amendments with UNDP support to mainstream gender equality in the ongoing justice system reform, compatible with the Istanbul Convention provisions. In the same vein, Parliament organised a round table on Justice Reform and Women's Rights to ensure that justice reform integrates gender commitments and complies with international norms and standards. In addition, a series of recommendations were made in consultation with judges, prosecutors, defence lawyers, line ministry specialists and High Council of Justice inspectors to ensure that the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations met international standards.

Reviewing implementation of the Istanbul

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Package of legislative amendments to mainstream gender equality in the justice reform, compatible with the Istanbul Convention provisions
- ✓ Multi-country study—Mapping Violence against Women and Girls Support Services
- ✓ The first National Action Plan for the Socio-Economic Reintegration of Girls and Women Victims of Trafficking
- ✓ Community Coordinated Response mechanism assessment
- ✓ A survey of vulnerable groups in prison settings
- ✓ Recommendations for Law On Measures against Violence in Family Relations to meet international standards
- ✓ CCR mechanisms functional in 27 out of 61 municipalities

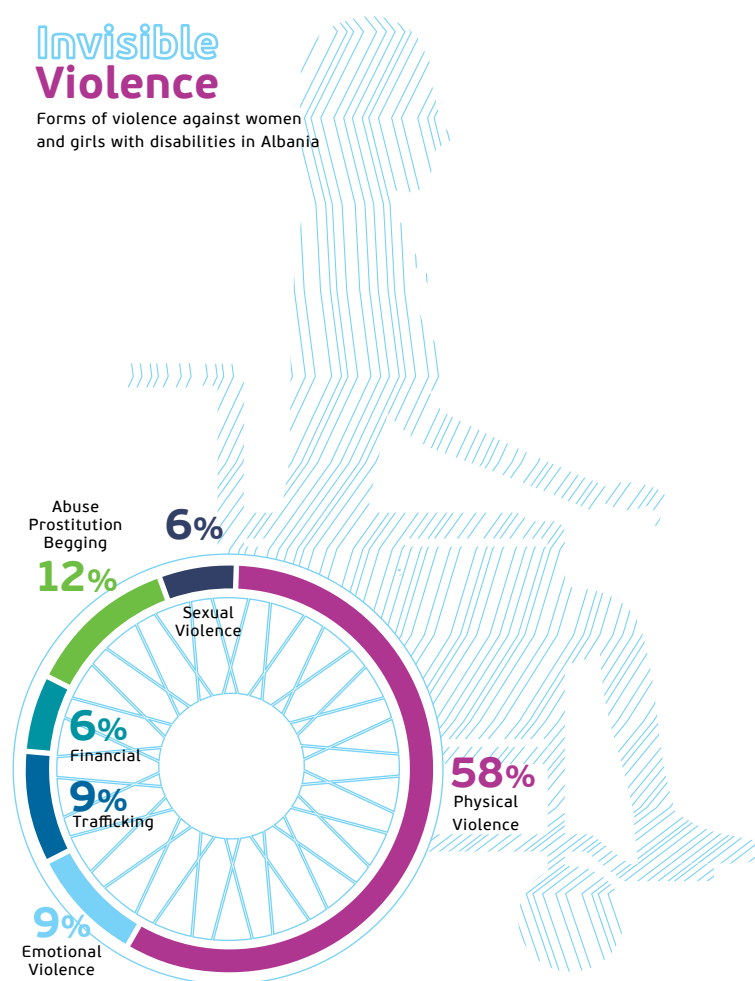
Convention, a multi-country study—Mapping Violence against Women and Girls Support Services—was conducted by UN Women and the Council of Europe, looking specifically at the provision of sexual violence services and verifying their compliance with standards. The study and recommendations will be published in 2016 as part of the ongoing partnership between the two organisations to promote the signature, ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

There have been significant steps taken in implementation of gender sensitive policies at the local level and mechanisms to prevent and fight domestic violence. In Krujë, Ersekë, Sarandë and Kavajë, local authorities and stakeholders committed to establish multi-disciplinary Community Coordinated Response (CCR) mechanisms to prevent domestic violence (DV) cases and increase available services to survivors, while strengthening those in Burrel and Përmet. A detailed assessment was conducted on CCRs in practice⁴⁴ as one element of UNDP efforts to improve quality and extend CCRs to further municipalities. Progress was reported in the functionality of 27 CCR mechanisms (44%) out of 61 municipalities. In 2015, 312 complex domestic violence cases were reported, the majority in four municipalities where CCRs are supported by the UN. Meanwhile, there are still significant challenges in sharing, cross-checking and consolidating data across local CCR members. Significant efforts are needed to make CCR mechanisms fully functional, effective, sustainable and present in all municipalities.

Domestic violence costing campaigns were conducted in Durrës, Fier, Berat, Vlorë, Sarandë, Këlcyrë and Përmet to support focus on the sustainability of services to survivors. As part of this concerted approach by UN Women, public awareness campaigns⁴⁵ and costing profile preparation, the municipalities of Durrës, Fier, Berat, Vlorë, Sarandë and Përmet committed additional funds from the 2015 budget to cover the position of one DV coordinator and the operational cost of the GE-DV office through 2015. Focused on the

Invisible Violence

Forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities in Albania



44. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/functioning-of-the-coordination-mechanism-for-referral-and-treat/>

45. With participation of members of the Referral Mechanism against Domestic Violence, CCR Network and public institutions

practical implementation of essential services by municipalities, a series of recommendations were provided by UNDP to local government authorities in Shkodër, Dibër, Elbasan, Kukës and Korçë to overcome access barriers faced by survivors.

Ensuring basic support shelters for survivors requires further efforts from state and non-state stakeholders. Currently, there are two shelters for DV survivors and four for trafficked survivors. Support to shelters to improve practice and policy by the UN has cut across both types of shelter, bringing MoSWY and MoIA together on the issue. With the National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking shelters, UNDP, UN Women and IOM have supported improved focus on the adoption of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes with both state and non-state service providers.⁴⁶ The first National Action Plan for the Socio-Economic Reintegration of Girls and Women Victims of Trafficking⁴⁷ was prepared with IOM support and endorsed through the National Anti-trafficking Strategy. UNDP rehabilitation and reintegration programme support ensured that 47 percent of GB-DV survivors in the national shelter were successfully employed in 2015, compared to 38 percent in 2014. During 2015, the National Shelter accommodated 26 women in total, 8 of which were employed in the private sector on a one year working contracts with potential of renewal.

MoIA Anti-trafficking Unit work with the media, supported by UN Women, resulted

46. Support consisted mainly in capacity building interventions, purchase of vocational equipment and computers to conduct related trainings in the shelters, employment of survivors and financial support for the first 6 months, and support to 3 social businesses conducted by the shelters including business plans in place and initial support to staff.

47. The plan was approved with PM Order No. 115, date 17.02.2016.

in increased sensitivity in media reporting on women and girl survivors of trafficking, including publication of a MoIA print media monitoring report, a key step to ensuring regular assessment. Similarly, outreach campaigns⁴⁸ to increase community sensitivity to women and girls at risk of and surviving trafficking increased dramatically, with workshops reaching more than 100,000 citizens nationwide, while an advertorial prepared by MoIA was shared 170,000 times. In 2015, 38 survivors of trafficking and 71 potential victims of trafficking were identified: 22 males and 87 females; 48 children and 61 adults; 105 Albanians and 4 foreigners. 2015 saw a decrease in the number of identified trafficking cases compared to 125 VoTs and PVoTs identified and assisted in 2014⁴⁹.

A survey⁵⁰ of vulnerable groups in prison settings, completed by UNFPA, sought to reveal the complexity of challenges in addressing sexual and reproductive health, HIV-AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in a prison setting, taking into account gender-based violence. Findings will draw attention to the needs of this population, advocate

48. In this context, 15 exhaustive messages on the topic of trafficking were articulated and disseminated widely by various media during 2015: numerous audio-visual media shows, chronicles and interviews on TV and radio stations focused on the topic of trafficking, concentrating on its root causes, integration of victims and legislation issues. One anti-trafficking video was produced jointly with the ministry, broadcast on media and shared and re-shared on several social networks of journalists, reaching a total outreach of 172,216 views.

49. The Annual Report of the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Coordinator reports lack of identification of VoTs/PVoTs cases from different structures including labor inspectorate, education and health structures. During 2016, UN will ensure that Standard Operating Procedures for Identification of VOTs and Referral of VOTs (SOPs) are included in the orientation training for new staff from different sectors. An inter-sectorial training module will be developed and a series of 12 Inter-sectorial Trainings on the Identification, Referral and Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking will be organized in 12 Regions of Albania.

50. Studim i Survejancës Biologjike dhe të Sjelljes tek Personat e Burgosur në Shqipëri, October 2015

for essential investment and their access to quality services, and for inclusion of their needs in the primary health care basic package of reproductive health protocols. The survey sample consisted of 211 people—8 percent of whom were female—in thirteen prisons in the country.

Following establishment of the parliamentary group Friends of Children, Parliament increased its engagement with the children's rights agenda. Supported by UNICEF, a parliamentary hearing caucus prioritised child rights issues that need immediate attention in 2016, with participation of more than 80 human rights and child rights CSOs. The resulting plan of action features child protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, and empowerment of the voices of children and adolescents.

Advocacy to tackle violence in society goes strong. MoSWY is strongly engaged in implementing its National Action Plan on Men and Boys to support women and girls, with support from UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA. UNiTE to End Violence against Women,

the Secretary General's global campaign of 16 days of activism against gender violence, and the rolling out of the HeForShe Initiative were conducted nationwide by volunteers, CSOs and TV media, engaging directly 20,000 people and reaching many more times that number. Leaders of the five main religious communities in Albania expressed their commitment on stage and by signing cooperation agreements with MoSWY to advocate for gender equality and the fight against GBV.⁵¹ Events in Tiranë, Kavajë, Kolonjë, Pogradec, Dibër, Durrës, Korçë, Shkodër, Vlorë, Elbasan, Kukës, Fier, Lezhë and Sarandë engaged youth through discussions, informing them on domestic violence and encouraging young men to empower women.

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Challenges

While UN Agencies will continue to strengthen the government's reporting, tracking and implementation of human rights and relevant treaties and conventions—including CEDAW, CRPD and CRC—there is a need for, firstly, increased awareness raising about, and greater public ownership of, UPR recommendations, and, secondly, improved tracking, coordination and follow up on recommendation implementation across government. The UN will continue to foster partnerships between central and local government and develop and strengthen relevant capacities and resources.

The government's renewed focus on judicial reform provides a unique and important opportunity to advance access to justice by children and juveniles in particular. Following

No to violence
against women
and girls



51. <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1000852716640171.1073741904.302120716513378&type=3>

UPR and CRC recommendations, reconciliation and other restorative justice methods need to be promoted to minimise juvenile detention. Despite the substantial UN support provided to develop and improve services for socially excluded groups, the sustainability of such services remains a major concern. Since access to justice is a complex issue, it may be helpful for the UN to map out the chain of responsibilities across different institutions, while also providing targeted support to vulnerable individuals.

Whilst territorial reform and decentralisation provide a great opportunity for improving the implementation of services, notably expanding the mechanisms of coordination and referral on GBV to the entire country, this will be dependent on functioning partnerships between central and local government and relevant capacities and resources in place at all government levels. Through coordinated multi-sectoral support and tailored services, UN will assist national partners to consolidate and bring to scale the policy and legal framework to prevent and address GBV and DV at both local and central levels of governance.

Way Ahead

In 2016, GoA will be supported to organise public consultations on the UPR, finalise and adopt the National Strategy on Gender Equality, and submit the CSO–CEDAW shadow report on health care in Albania and the second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. UN Agencies will maintain the normative rights agenda and advance it further by ensuring national scaling and implementation of the social cohesion policies and the coordinated community response (CCR) mechanisms. Thus the virtual

cycle of Pilot-to-Policy from the previous programming period will be closed, with national scaling through local level implementation on the basis of the new municipalities or amalgamated Local Government Units (LGUs). Awareness raising of citizens and professionals will continue to ensure sustained behavioural change, with involvement of religious communities and CSOs. Support and focus on the campaign Men and Boys as agents of change to stand up for women and girls, in line with the National Action Plan on Men and Boys, will be ongoing through and beyond 2016.

UN interventions in support of the justice system reform include the integration of children’s rights and gender equality into all pillars of the reform process and context. Preparation of studies on inequity aspects within the juvenile justice system will inform the development and implementation of improved policies, in line with the UPR recommendations. Support will be provided to the preparation of legal amendments, laws and associated consultations to move key issues forward, including the Juvenile Justice Code, and the Justice for Children Strategy, amendments or revisions to the Legal Aid Law, Child Rights Protection Law and the Cybersecurity Law.

Finally, with a judicial reform package on the horizon, the UN will explore other ways in which it can provide assistance to its institutional implementation through central and local government, as well as through increased citizen engagement.

OUTCOME 2—INCLUSIVE SOCIAL POLICIES

With financial contribution from Swedish National Committee for UNICEF, Switzerland, European Union, Italy, Finland, UK National Committee for UNICEF, UN core and global non-core resources, un-earmarked and soft-earmarked Coherence Fund (DRT-F, SDC and SIDA)



Crowdsourcing Albania's UNDAF 2017-2021

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

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

The Inclusive Social Policies outcome is made up of four components—Health, Education, Labour and Social Protection—supporting the Albanian government in ensuring

that social inclusion is mainstreamed through all sectoral policies, action plans, results frameworks and budget exercises. Policy formulations for national and local development agendas have been expanded by the sound use of evidence, reflecting the situation of vulnerable and marginalised populations, while the recent territorial-administrative configuration presents a unique opportunity to take stock of the social and economic situations of exclusion faced by vulnerable communities and families. The UN will continue to analyse and discuss further with government innovative ways to maximise capacity development efforts to ensure a greater impact of service delivery within the new municipalities.

Output 2.1 Health

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

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

Progress towards Results

Setting standards and developing policies directed towards achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) from an equity perspective are a major UN contribution in this area. In the framework of the UHC agenda, policy recommendations supported by UNFPA and UNICEF resulted in approval of the Primary Health Care (PHC) service delivery framework, including the basic package of services, by the Council of Ministers in February 2015.⁵² WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and IAEA supported preparation of an assessment⁵³ of the health financing system, focused on primary health care. Additionally, an assessment was prepared for the screening programme Basic Check-Up for Citizens aged 40–65, which served as a consultative process for development of both Non-Communicable Diseases prevention and a control plan, and reorientation of primary health care towards person-centred services. The

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

53. The assessment will be published in 2016.

State Health Inspectorate was supported by UNICEF to strengthen enforcement of Albanian Law No. 8528 'On Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding'.⁵⁴ Capacity building workshops on monitoring enforcement of the law were organised with participation of 82 out of 195 health inspectors (42%) from all regions of the country.

The UN has strengthened national capacities in both planning and budgeting for advancing policy implementation mechanisms, endorsed through consultative stakeholder-driven processes. In particular, support was provided to the Ministry of Health in developing the National Health Strategy 2016–2020, as part of the sectoral strategies of the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020, the National Action Plan on Non-Communicable Diseases prevention and control, National Reproductive Health Strategy oriented from an equity perspective, and the National Action Plan on Health Promotion.

WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF supported multi-country training on integrating equity into strategies, programmes and activities related to maternal and child health (MDGs 4 and 5) with an explicit, yet not exclusive, focus on the Roma population. This group has significantly the worse health situation compared to the rest of the population: life expectancy of Roma and Egyptian populations is low where Roma die on average at least ten years younger than non-Roma; have poorer access to health services; and higher rates of

54. UNICEF provided technical support to help the inter-institutional team of experts appointed by the Minister of Health for revision of the BF law; link of activities: <http://www.ins-shendetesor.gov.al/deklarate-per-shtyp/>, <http://www.ins-shendetesor.gov.al/zbatimi-i-ligjit-per-nxiten-dhe-mbrojtjen-e-te-ushqyerit-me-gji-ne-shqiperi-seminar-2-ditor-me-inspektoret-e-ishsh-ne-qarqe>

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Assessment of the health financing system, focused on primary health care
- ✓ Assessment for the screening programme Basic Check-Up for Citizens aged 40–65
- ✓ National Health Strategy 2016–2020
- ✓ National Action Plan on Non-Communicable Diseases prevention and control
- ✓ National Reproductive Health Strategy
- ✓ National Strategy on Prevention and Control of HIV–AIDS 2015–2019 and action plan
- ✓ National Action Plan on Health Promotion
- ✓ Package for International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)
- ✓ Comprehensive manual to guide collection of national core health indicators
- ✓ "Health Status of the Albanian Population", the 2014 National Health Report
- ✓ Guidelines, protocols and manuals for PHC provision of services
- ✓ STI surveillance system
- ✓ Concept Note for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- ✓ National study on the acceptance of health care providers and child caregivers of administration of multiple injectable vaccines
- ✓ Individual assessment and care plans to assist persons transiting from mental institutions towards community living
- ✓ Global Youth Tobacco Survey



Reproductive Health Care visit
at the Maternity Home in Tirana

infant mortality.⁵⁵ Almost 11% of Roma children have not received any vaccines, 61.7% have received all the required vaccines, and 10.5% have been partially vaccinated. While for 17% of children the health staff does not have any records.⁵⁶ While the 2011 census identified only 8,300 Roma and 3,368 Egyptians, other official reports estimate between 18,2761 and 120,000 Roma and presumably over 200,000 Egyptians, which makes their socio-economic inclusion relevant for the overall country development⁵⁷.

Health sector statistics saw major improvements with UN support, notably in preparation of a full package for International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) implementation in the Albanian health information system, strengthening of the country's capacities to

routinely report on crucial health data, such as cause of death, which has gone unreported in Albania for more than a decade. Likewise, national stakeholders were supported in development of a comprehensive manual⁵⁸ to guide collection of national core health indicators in a standardised and disaggregated manner, which will be followed with the piloting of selected indicators at the PHC level in 2016. Furthermore, in preparation of the 'Health Status of the Albanian Population', the 2014 National Health Report,⁵⁹ launched in February, UNICEF assisted the health institutions develop capacities for generating, analysing and utilising data on the health status of the population and performance of the health system. Going forward, government is committed to beginning development of a framework for conducting a new Demographic and Health Survey in Albania.⁶⁰

Support was extended to other areas in this sector, reporting significant achievements. UNFPA supported development of guidelines, protocols and manuals for PHC provision of services and a STI surveillance system aiming to strengthen the national response in addressing cervical cancer, STIs and HIV issues. In response to the floods affecting southern Albania in February 2015, a joint health mission assessed selected capacities of PHC facilities and monitored the implementation of breastfeeding and immunisation practices, which were found to be functioning well. The National Family Plan-

58. <http://ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/libri-indikatorëve-final.pdf>.

59. <http://ishp.gov.al/raport-shendetesor-kombetar/>, <http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/newsroom/fjalime/raporti-i-pare-kombetar-gjithepershires-per-shendetin-e-shqip-tareve&page=2>

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

55. European Commission, Roma Health Report: Health Status of the Roma Population and Monitoring of Data Collection in the Member States of the European Union, April 2014

56. <http://www.crca.al/sites/default/files/publications/ALBANIA%20-%20ROMA%20CHILDREN%20ACCESS%20TO%20EARLY%20CHILDHOOD%20SERVICES%202014.pdf>

57. National Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians in the Republic of Albania, 2015-2020

ning Programme was strengthened through development of guidelines and protocols for the provision of family planning services and advocacy around a total market approach focusing on a strengthened role of all sectors in service provision.

UNAIDS supported preparation of a new Strategy on Prevention and Control of HIV–AIDS 2015–2019 and action plan, and development of a successful Concept Note for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which will invest USD 6 million in Albania in the next three years focusing on key at-risk populations and strengthening the health system to address HIV–AIDS.

WHO and UNICEF aided preparation of a national study on the acceptance of health care providers and child caregivers of administration of multiple injectable vaccines. De-institutionalisation and community living for persons with intellectual disabilities was supported by WHO through establishment of an inter-ministerial working group by the Ministry of Health and MoSWY. Technical assistance was provided for preparation of individual assessment and care plans to assist persons currently living in mental institutions who are transiting towards community living.

Albania's efforts to protect public health from tobacco products were sustained through preparation of a Global Youth Tobacco Survey, aimed at young people aged 14–19 years, by the Ministry of Health. In the framework of World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) held in May, Albania's Minister of Health was awarded the WNTD award in recognition of strong leadership in Albania's comprehensive efforts to fight the tobacco epidemic through strong policy measures, as well as in partnership with the community.

Health promotion, mainly building social capital and community engagement on priority health issues through public awareness strategies, is another important area supported by the UN. Based upon broad dialogue on public health matters, inspired by Health 2020, the UN agencies supported a number of inter-sectoral events aimed at promoting the whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. World Health Day 2015, dedicated to Food Safety, was observed by an inter-sectoral workshop that brought together two government sectors (health and agriculture), academia from both medical and veterinary schools, line institutions and grassroots organisations. In April 2015, a full week of events was dedicated to mark European Immunisation Week, with participation of four hundred primary health workers trained in vaccine safety communication and large media coverage. In May 2015, technical and financial support was provided to the organising of an international public health conference⁶¹ in Tirana, focused on social determinants of health. An International Conference on Breast and Cervical Cancer, focused on prevention and screening programmes, was organised for the third consecutive year in the country. A multi-sectoral policy dialogue on road safety was organised from the perspective of inter-sectoral collaboration with participation of the ministries of Health, Transport, Interior, and Education, and the General Directorate of Police.

61. Web links for the conference: <http://ishp.gov.al/konferenca-nderkombetare-e-shendetit-publik-determinantet-soziale-te-shendetit-12-maj-2015/>, <http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/al/newsroom/fjalime/beqaj-jemi-ne-drejtimin-e-duhur-per-mbulim-aksese-dhe-cilesi-universale&page=1>


KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Sexuality education curriculum
- ✓ Evidence-based recommendations for the education sector policy review
- ✓ Review of the national initiative 'Schools as Community Centres'
- ✓ Early Learning and Development Standards
- ✓ Inclusive pre-school curriculum
- ✓ Training of Trainers modules for inclusive education
- ✓ Communication for Behavioural Impact programme 2015–2016
- ✓ Manual for teachers on combatting violence against children
- ✓ Strategy of Pre-university Education 2014–2020
- ✓ Cross-sectorial and inter-ministerial agreement signed by the MoES, MoI, MoH and MoSWY " for coordination of work for the identification and registration in school of all compulsory school age children"

Output 2.2 Education

Early childhood development and education policies ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for individuals and groups

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

Progress towards Results

In supporting the main principles of the New Education Sector Strategy 2014–2020, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNESCO have advocated for a qualitative and equitable education system; strengthened capacities of teachers and school managers, and improved data systems to inform national decision making. The attitudes and behaviours of parents, teachers and the public at large

were influenced on issues such as combating violence against children. A comprehensive sexuality education curriculum was developed informing on sexual and reproductive health, risk behaviours that affect health and addressing gender-based and all other forms of violence. Equitable access to education for the most vulnerable children (e.g. Roma children, children with disabilities, children living in remote isolated areas, etc.) has been tackled through policy level and targeted interventions, taking into consideration the needs of children in a holistic manner and through an integrated response.

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

In collaboration with the ministry, UNICEF has undertaken specific strategic interventions and advocacy to secure availability of inputs, especially to the most vulnerable groups such as Roma and children with disabilities, including transportation costs, textbooks and specific budgets. The country is implementing the UNESCO-UNICEF "Out-of-school Children Initiative" (OOSC) since 2011 and it is the first country in the region to sign a cross-sectorial and inter-ministerial agreement in 2015 by the ministry of education and science, ministry of interior, ministry of health and ministry of labor, social affairs and equal opportunities " for coordination of work for the identification and registration in school of all compulsory school age children". This agreement was piloted in Durres and identified 800 OOSC at the primary level in 2015. Going forward, schools in Durrës



Early childhood education

are being trained to reduce drop out and integrate children that are out of school. Furthermore, the MoES education management information system (EMIS) is being upgraded to more accurately capture and track these children.

Achieving increased accountability of service providers in ensuring equal rights for all children has been addressed by UNICEF through the national initiative 'Every Roma in Pre-school', leading to a successful increase in the number of Roma children attending pre-school (from 26% in 2011, to 55% in 2015)⁶². A review of the national initiative 'Schools as Community Centres',⁶³ already implemented from the perspective of vul-

nerable groups in 180 schools in the country, has been undertaken by UNICEF, aiming at improved policies and practices. UNICEF has also provided support to MoES and the National Testing Agency in monitoring progress with gaps concerning children outcomes for Grades 1 and 6 in different areas of the country (with poorest results recorded in Fier and Durrës), vulnerable groups, with a difference of 15 points between achievement of all students at the national level and that of Roma students, and gender, with girls outperforming boys at all grades and subjects.

Substantial actions have been undertaken by UNICEF to improve the quality of education and children outcomes through preparation of Early Learning and Development Standards and development and implementation of a competency-based curriculum. The availability of a qualified teacher workforce

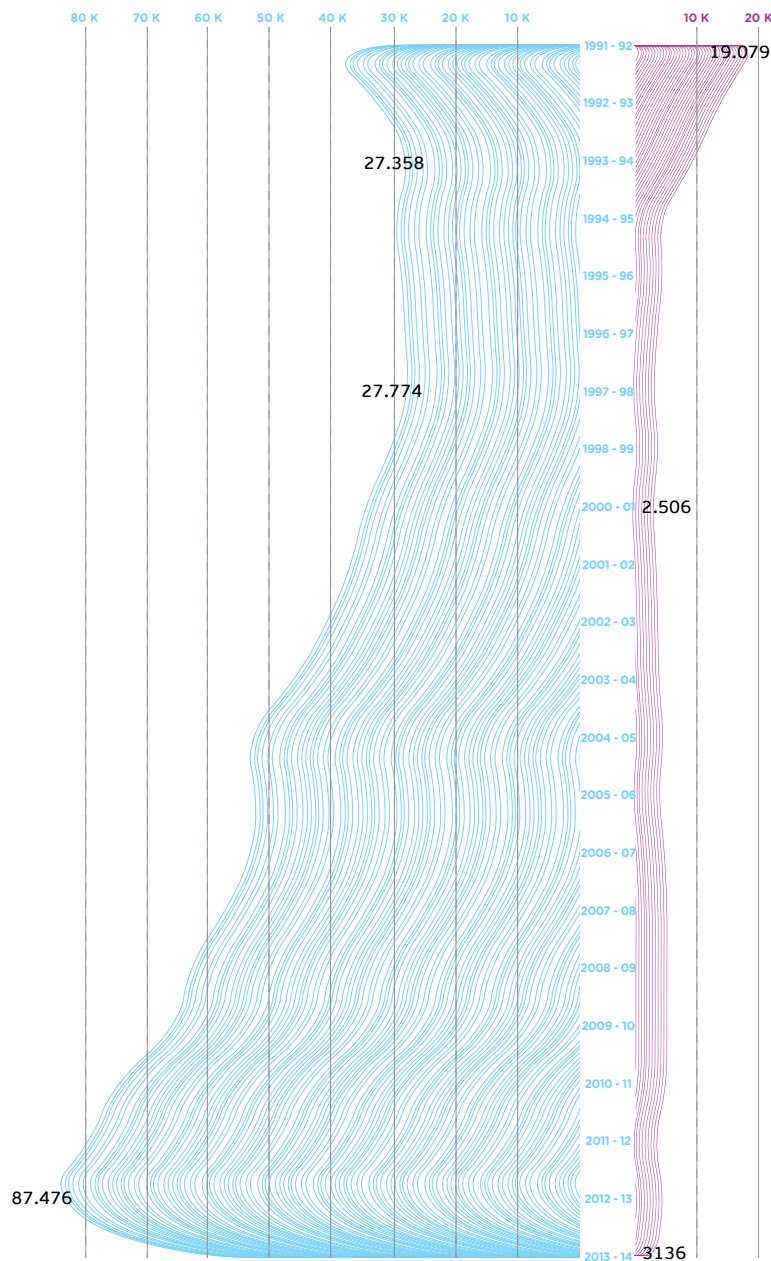
62. http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Every_Roma_Child_in_Pre-school_1February2016.pdf

63. <http://www.unicef.org/albania/School-as-community-centre.pdf>

The Vocational Fall

General and Upper Schools VS Upper Vocational Schools

General and Upper Schools Upper Vocational Schools



has been addressed through assisting MoES in establishing a qualification system focusing on both academic achievements and non-cognitive skills. In the framework of the new competency-based curriculum, UNICEF supported on-the-job capacity building for 11,000 teachers of Grades 1 and 6 (constituting 100% of the total teacher workforce for these grades, or 22% of that for Grades 1–9).

MoES is also being supported by UNICEF for the development of an inclusive pre-school curriculum. In this context, relevant training practices for teachers, such as Training of Trainers modules for inclusive education, were developed. Part of these efforts included the Training of Trainers in comprehensive sexuality education, which took place in the cities of Shkodër, Elbasan, Kukës, Tiranë, Korçë, Gjirokastër and Vlorë with the support of UNFPA, reaching out to 70 Teachers of Tomorrow.⁶⁴ UNESCO supported the inclusion of arts and culture in the curricula through a series of activities including preparation of a 'World Heritage in Young Hands' kit, establishment of 'Creative Corners' at the heritage sites of Kruja Museum and Apollonia Archaeological Park, and the organising of the conference On Education through Arts.

MoES's plan 'Stop Violence in Schools' has been supported by UNICEF through the development of a new Communication for Behavioural Impact (COMBI) programme 2015–2016. COMBI is a communication programme aiming to reduce violence against children in the pre-university public system through the introduction of new way discipline targeting primarily teachers. The plan is being implemented in all public compul-

64. A Letter of Understanding was signed between the Institute of Education Development and UNFPA to pilot comprehensive sexuality education in Korçë, Shkodër, Tiranë, Elbasan, Gjirokastër, Vlorë and Kukës.

sory schools in the country. Current baseline data on psychological violence indicate: 41% of children have experience shouting often as a form of violence; 5% have experience shouting every day; 22 % have reported threatening; and 16% have reported name calling. While baseline data on physical violence indicate: 12% of children have experience biting; 8% have experienced pinching; 5% say “I don’t know”. The end line study to measure the impact of the programme will take place in December 2016. Meanwhile, a manual for teachers on combatting violence against children has been developed for in-service training use, and the existing monitoring instruments of the State Education Inspectorate are being reviewed to include new elements of the application of discipline in schools.

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

The increased demand of communities to seek accessible and quality education for all has been addressed by UNICEF through the ‘World’s Largest Lesson in 60 Schools’ campaign, promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 4, in cooperation with children CSOs and local educational departments. 70 parent clubs have been established, particularly in Roma settlement communities, aiming to raise demand for pre-school education. A parenting programme, to be delivered by pre-school personnel, has been developed by UNICEF and is pending MoES approval.

Output 2.3

Labour

Improved social dialogue leads to active employment and skills development policies, and decent work for men and women

Employment and skills development policies are a high priority in the government’s commitment⁶⁵ to transform the country’s low-productivity, import-dependent and informal economy into a modern, innovative and highly productive one. Government has recognised the need to systematically address employment by re-orienting the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system towards labour market needs, diversifying the education pathways of both youngsters and adults, and modernising and extending the outreach of employment services. The UN’s role in this area is to support government in aligning its policies with international standards, namely the EU guidelines in this matter, strengthening the capacities and raising awareness and ownership of both government and non-government partners in the areas of labour market governance, skills development and integration with social protection measures, with a strong need for emphasising the role and active participation of social partners. One important element of the UN’s work in this area is the strengthening of professional capacities in managing cultural heritage in Albania in order to fight trafficking of cultural heritage and ensure effective protection of the country’s rich tangible cultural heritage.

Progress towards Results

The main UN contributions in this area are provided through UNDP’s four-year Skills Devel-

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014–2020
- ✓ Mapping of the institutional set-up of the VET system
- ✓ National list of occupational descriptions based on the European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations
- ✓ Study identifying the incentives for private sector participation in work-based learning schemes
- ✓ Analysis of new models and approaches to employment promotion programmes
- ✓ Analysis of the magnitude, depth and structure of the rural economy and employment in Albania
- ✓ Occupational Safety and Health Policy Document and Action Plan 2016–2020
- ✓ New VET law
- ✓ Web portal enlisting public and private offers of VET courses
- ✓ Web-based application to orient youth on labour market demands and trends in Albania

65. Government of Albania has adopted, through Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 818, dated 26.11.2014, a National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014–2020 and its related Action Plan, the main strategic documents for employment and skills development policies in the country currently under implementation.



Vocational Training Session

opment for Employment programme, funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), aiming to ensure that more young Albanian men and women in urban and rural areas are employed or self-employed, and the ILO own-funded action for supporting implementation of the National Employment and Skills Strategy (NESS) 2014–2020. The latter builds on the results achieved with the ILO–EU IPA 2010 project on Human Resources Development and provides technical and policy advice to government and social partners in the implementation and monitoring of NESS, supports MoSWY in negotiations over the portfolio of technical cooperation projects, and assists the government and interfaces with the EU Delegation in relation to the planning of the IPA II cycle.

Through the UNDP–SDC programme, MoSWY was supported in transferring VET schools under the management of the National Employ-

ment Service. In this regard, UNDP prepared a roadmap, functional analysis and management arrangements at both the central and local level and a manual for VET management. A mapping of the institutional set-up of the VET system in Albania was developed, including roles and responsibilities with regard to quality assurance and accreditation. Support was provided to the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Qualifications in revising the national list of occupational descriptions based on the European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO). In 2015, 260 occupational descriptions were developed in collaboration with the private sector. UNDP supported other ongoing work in this area such as the preparation of a study identifying the incentives for private sector participation in work-based learning schemes paving the way for private sector participation in VET; a mapping exercise of private VET providers in the country aiming to take stock of all VET

offers prior to introducing elements of quality assurance and accreditation in the system; development of a web portal enlisting public and private providers offers of VET courses; and development of a web-based application to orient youth on labour market demands and trends in Albania.

Additionally, an analysis of new models and approaches to employment promotion programmes was completed, including financial, managerial and coordination capacities considerations, paving the way for full-scale policy reform. In this regard, three new Council of Minister's Orders were drafted for inclusion in the 2016 package of employment promotion programmes. A consolidated document with definitions on the concepts related to Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Work-Based Learning and a National Action Plan for the Social Re-integration of Beneficiaries of Cash Assistance programmes was approved by the Council of Ministers.⁶⁶ Furthermore, an analysis of the magnitude, depth and structure of the rural economy and employment in Albania is being developed, aiming to (i) provide clear data on the working age population outside the labour force and the under-employed in rural areas, and (ii) review institutional arrangements as they relate to employment services and the social and health insurance schemes and consider the system difficulties and implications, as well as relevant procedures related to registration as unemployed job-seekers.

Adoption of NESS 2014–2020 constituted a step forward in policy definition and strategic planning for the sector. NESS is considered as the main policy document for any further technical assistance and future interventions in the sector. With this in mind, the technical assistance provided by ILO in 2015 made available a set

of data collection tools for monitoring implementation of NESS by the relevant ministerial departments and institutions, as well as establishing a continuous monitoring system. MoSWY was supported for the revision and finalisation of the Occupational Safety and Health Policy Document and Action Plan 2016–2020, drafting of the new VET law, and participation in the recently established Albanian Qualification Framework (AQF) task-force, aiming at developing a handbook for effective implementation of AQF in the country and a revised legal framework.

Given that the sub-sector of employment and skills development policies is orientated strategically with NESS priorities and actions, it has been considered by the EU as one of the sectors eligible for receiving budget support from 2016–2018 to an amount of Euro 30 million. In this regard, MoSWY with ILO support drafted an action document for assessing the eligibility of EU budget support and prepared the necessary documents for a sector reform contract, including definition of results indicators against which the performance of MoSWY in implementation of the sector reform will be measured.

In close cooperation with the Project Preparation Facility project, implemented by ADA and funded by the EU, ILO supported preparatory work for establishment of an Integrated Policy Management Group (IPMG) and the respective Thematic Group on Employment, Skills and Employability, which replaced the Sectoral Working Group on Employment and Vocational Skills Development. This IPMG⁶⁷ has a tripartite basis and a decisive role in overseeing and monitoring NESS implementation in the years to come.

66. DCM No. 87, 03/02/2016

67. First meeting of IPMG was held in December 2015 and first two meetings of the IPMGs thematic group on Employment, Skills and Employability were held, respectively, in January and February 2016.


KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Policy Paper for Social Inclusion 2014–2020
- ✓ Social Protection Strategy 2015–2020, with a costed action plan
- ✓ Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015–2020
- ✓ Social Housing Strategy 2015–2025
- ✓ Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities 2016–2020
- ✓ Profiles for victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors
- ✓ Standard operating procedures for identification, referral and assistance to victims of trafficking
- ✓ Design of a standard package (basket) of services
- ✓ Draft integral Law on Social Care Services
- ✓ Secondary legislation to improve Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities
- ✓ Law on Social Workers
- ✓ Draft law on Social Enterprises
- ✓ Maps of vulnerabilities in the twelve administrative divisions
- ✓ Mapping and Analysis of the Child Protection System in Albania
- ✓ Local Action Plans for Inclusion, Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- ✓ Community Development Plans
- ✓ Information package for Roma and Egyptian individuals on accessing key social and public services

Furthermore, ILO has promoted social dialogue among government, employers and workers organisations and provided capacity building and an advisory role to non-government partners, including the Association of Independent Trade Unions of Albania, Confederation of Trade Unions of Albania, and Business Albania. In particular, it has focused on increasing the efficiency of the National Labour Council as the highest tripartite social dialogue forum in the country. In 2015, this Council met quarterly and provided advice on issues such as the Policy Document for Safety and Health at Work 2015–2020, social security reform, the fight against informality, and revision of the regulations on Occupational Safety and Health. Moreover, the Council reviewed and endorsed the draft laws ‘On Employment Promotion’, ‘On Crafts in the Republic of Albania’ and ‘On Unemployed Jobseekers’.

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

Concerning the fight against illicit trafficking of Albania’s cultural heritage, UNESCO supported the development and strengthening of the professional and institutional capacities of the main relevant authorities in the country through provision of specialised training to ten officials from the ministries of Culture, Interior, and Justice, the Police and the Customs Agency.

Output 2.4 Social protection

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

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

Progress towards Results

The national policy framework in this area has benefited from UN support for the development of several policy documents, relevant action plans and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, namely: Policy Paper for Social Inclusion 2014–2020, including a set of national indicators on social inclusion based on qualitative analysis on the most vulnerable categories of the population; Social Protection Strategy 2015–2020, with a costed action plan articulating the need to harmonise the different instruments of social protection, recognising that cash alone cannot address the complex needs of vulnerable families and children; Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015–2020; New Social Housing Strategy 2015–2025; Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities 2016–2020; and alignment of the Health and Reproductive Health



Roma child in Berat

budgetary frameworks to the principles and targets of Social Inclusion (SI). In particular, development of profiles for victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors contributed to identifying the need for establishment of a system of identification, and reflection on the numbers of both Albanian unaccompanied minors abroad and foreign minors in Albania, and revising the standard operating procedures for identification, referral and assistance to victims of trafficking (approved with a Prime Minister Order in July 2011).⁶⁸

The work conducted under the policy framework is aligned and will be implemented in tandem with the TAR and the National Cross-cutting Strategy for Decentralisation and Local Governance. Besides provision of technical advice, UN agencies UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UN Women, and

68. Initiatives led by the State Social Service and the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

IOM have facilitated the consultative processes on policy formulations, ensuring participation of all relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups, with more than 15 national consultations organised with participation of more than 400 representatives from line ministries, other state institutions, LGUs, CSOs, youth groups and vulnerable communities.⁶⁹

Legal, administrative and financial instruments for social inclusion and social protection have been developed through UNICEF

69. For example, UNDP facilitated 7 sectorial workshops and 2 rounds of consultations for drafting the Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities 2016–2020 with the participation of at least 200 representatives from line ministries, CSOs, development partners and national human rights institutions. The Social Housing policy document was drafted, costed and consulted widely with all key stakeholders and interest groups—150 officials from 61 municipalities in Albania. Moreover, 64 representatives from line ministries, including health, education, justice, interior, housing and their de-concentrated institutions, contributed to the consultation process of the Social Inclusion Policy Document.

and UNDP support, including a draft integral Law on Social Care Services, secondary legislation to improve Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and to enforce the Law on Social Workers. Through UNICEF support, the formal “social worker” and “psychologist” job descriptions have been updated for recruiting personnel for sub-national social care structures. UNICEF supported the design of a standard package (basket) of services, including a central planning tool for local government administrations to ensure that social needs in their constituencies are properly addressed. UN Women provided technical support to MPs, members of the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and on the new Labour Code, reinforcing a series of gender-related recommendations on, among others, improved women’s access to the labour market, equal treatment at work for women and men, reinforced social protection measures in labour relations for women and men, enjoyment of maternity and paternity leave, and reduction of harassment in the work place. Furthermore, government was guided with UN Women support to shift from protective measures and services to social re-integration services and policies in line with the EU2020 perspective of Increased Social Inclusion through Development of Labour Market and Social Welfare, resulting in the formulation and approval of a draft law on Social Enterprises.

Knowledge has been produced⁷⁰ by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA for evidence-based policy making on the situation of those most at risk of social exclusion: women, men, youths and children (both girls and boys) belonging to the most vulnerable groups, namely people with disability, Roma, elderly, victims of traf-

70. Documents and other information materials are available on the UN Agencies website.

ficking and unaccompanied minors. Maps of vulnerabilities⁷¹ in the twelve administrative divisions were developed by UNICEF for use as a social protection planning tool by the central and local administrations. In addition, UNICEF prepared a comprehensive analysis of the child protection system—Mapping and Analysis of the Child Protection System in Albania—recommending strategies and measures towards strengthening the national systems to protect children from any form of violence, abuse and neglect. Based on solid experience and support provided by UNICEF, in February 2015, a protocol establishing inter-sectoral collaboration on child protection was approved by the ministries of Social Welfare and Youth, Health, Education, and Interior Affairs. The protocol outlines modalities of cooperation between various central and sub-national entities in following up on specific cases requiring special protection measures and interaction of various duty bearers, and may serve as a prototype mechanism to regulate complex multi-sectoral accountabilities and operational relationships.

UNDP assisted the municipalities⁷² of Lezhë, Lushnjë and Pogradec to prepare and approve Local Action Plans for Inclusion, Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁷³ guiding local

71. To be published in April 2016

72. These municipalities showed a large presence of persons with disabilities, lack of specific policies and measures for this category, and a political will to cooperate or partner on these matters.

73. These documents identify five major areas for intervention—education, social and health services, employment, the built-up environment, and information—and propose a series of interventions including evidence-based assessment of community needs for services, design and implementation of alternative services, planning and appropriate distribution of financial resources, capacity building of local staff, awareness raising of local staff and people with disabilities, increased participation of people with disabilities and representative organisations in decision-making processes and implementation of local measures.



Innaguration of the Development Center in Lushnja for Children with Special Needs

structures to address the needs of persons with disabilities residing in these municipalities and providing them with opportunities for inclusion in the community. Four local Community Development Plans⁷⁴ (CPDs), focusing on Roma and Egyptian communities, were prepared by the municipalities of Korçë, Buçimas, Novoselë and Berat, benefiting a total of eight neighbourhoods in these regions. UNAIDS supported establishment of local partnership forums in three municipalities, Shkodra, Elbasan and Vlora, with participation of municipal councils, local CSOs and regional offices of Education, Social State Services and Health to serve as advocators of key populations during development of plans

74. Interventions foreseen in the CDPs relate not only to infrastructure, but also to soft actions such as tax exemptions for Roma and Egyptian entrepreneurs, employment of Roma and Egyptian in the local administration, modelling of various social services for Roma early inclusion, Roma integration, foster care for children without parental care, street children, and children affected by violence.

by the local governments.

An information package indicating the criteria and procedures for accessing key social and public services has been prepared to aid Roma and Egyptian individuals access their civic rights in the areas of civil registration, social protection, education, employment and vocational education and training, social housing, legal aid, and health care. Roma and Egyptian households were enabled to diversify their sources of income through innovative self-employment and income generation initiatives. Vocational courses, on-the-job training and assistance to entrepreneurs was provided to 341 Roma and Egyptian individuals in the regions of Korca, Berat and Vlora, and 138 Roma and Egyptians were assisted in finding employment.⁷⁵ Support was provided

75. 32 are self-employed, 40 are employed in the private sector, 31 left the job after some days or months of working, and 35 refused work.

in the legalisation process in two Roma localities in Lushnjë and Berat and more than 70 public hearings were held in all Roma settlements in the country, resulting in completion of 1,271 legalisation applications. Community members acknowledged positive changes in their living conditions resulting from the infrastructure projects and employment and entrepreneurship initiatives.⁷⁶

The country-wide communication campaign under the slogan ‘You and I, equal in diversity’, aiming to promote social inclusion and cultural diversity, proved an important vehicle for sharing with the general population the accurate and up-to-date information on the situation of Roma and Egyptian communities. UNDP supported the strengthening of Roma and local CSOs institutional capacities to become reliable partners for fighting discrimination and furthering Roma and Egyptian social inclusion at local and central levels. In this regard, 15 proposals submitted by Roma and Egyptian CSOs and three joint proposals developed by Roma and Egyptian CSOs and by non-Roma and Egyptian CSOs were supported.

UN Women supported a participatory budgeting process⁷⁷ in the municipalities of Tiranë, Fier and Berat, resulting in recommendations aiming to render social services at the local level more responsive to women. The recommendations, approved by the municipal councils, proposed the use of municipal funds to supplement financial assistance in support of women and families in need, construction of ramps to facilitate access for women and men with disabilities, provision of support services for women and children in multi-functional

centres and application of soft loan criteria for social housing, especially for divorced and widowed women. Up to 40 percent of Fier’s 2016 municipal budget for social services was committed towards completion of the actions proposed by citizens in these recommendations. In addition, two human stories were developed for women beneficiaries of participatory gender-responsive budgeting in Fier and Berat.

UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNAIDS contributed to strengthening capacities of selected LGUs on various social inclusion and social protection issues. UN Women coached and trained specialists of the National Employment Service, Social State Services, Social Insurance Institution, and Labour Inspectorate, completed a mapping of social related indicators against the national set of harmonised indicators for gender equality in these four institutions, and provided recommendations for social and gender-related data following INSTAT and Eurostat guidelines. Harmonised and standard procedures on data collecting and reporting were introduced to MoSWY and administrative data, disaggregated by sex, are now mandatory for institutions to report to this ministry. In addition, Social State Services developed a training package for social workers at the national and local level, with UNAIDS support, to ensure mainstreaming of HIV within social services. UNDP supported capacity building interventions on how to mainstream disability in local policies in the municipalities of Lezhë, Lushnjë, Pogradec, Kukës, Berat and Kucovë. It conducted 16 specialised monitoring and reporting training sessions and on-the-job coaching for 112 local and central government officials providing them with specialised knowledge on the web-based system of the new Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian Integration 2015–2020.

76. Final evaluation of SSIREC project, July 2015

77. Participants included municipal authorities and citizens, women and men. On average 45% women and 55% men attended each of the participatory meetings organised in the three municipalities.

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Challenges

Noticing the complex and often times competitive cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder relationships in the **health, education, labour and social protection** sectors, the UN can play a pivotal role in facilitating cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches, taking into consideration the vast UN experience and know-how in the domain of inclusive social policies, through broad participatory processes in priority setting and in planning phases.

The dearth of disaggregated statistical data limits formulation and evaluation of appropriate government policies and programmes, and calls for immediate concerted and coordinated action to strengthen the country's capacity to generate, analyse and manage reliable social qualitative and quantitative information for evidence-based policy making. The accuracy of social statistical data continues to be a concern determined by the lack of internationally comparable data.

In the aftermath of TAR, the **social protection** area calls for stronger UN advocacy to ensure that the needs of the vulnerable groups are prioritised in the new municipalities' agenda and a more strategic approach to dissemination of data and capacity building, especially in the delivery of social services. The establishment of a well-developed government support programme for LGUs, in cooperation with development partners and civil society, is crucial.

In the **employment** sector, the lack of trade unions in the private sector and the under-development of many of the existing workers' and employers' organisations calls for the UN to play a greater role in this area. Much remains to be done to improve the bipartite

social dialogue and strengthen the autonomy of social partners at the local and enterprise levels. The functional transfer of VET schools from MoES to MoSWY poses a big challenge to the entire VET system: adoption of a modern legal framework for the system in Albania is urgently required. Meanwhile, a clear and effective governance model for the employment and skills development policies is still to be defined. Furthermore, meaningful participation of the private sector in the VET system should be encouraged. In addition, coordination, complementing and information sharing among stakeholders and actors on relevant development initiatives for the VET system should be fostered, namely through the IPMG core and thematic groups. The UN will play a facilitator role in fostering inter-institutional collaboration to enable short- and medium-term skills forecasting.

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

Way Ahead

The focus envisaged in the area of **inclusive social policies** will be on strengthening system governance and leadership through policy advice and technical support for informing the reform processes, developing and implementing sector-related strategies and action plans, and setting priorities in policy making in the areas of health, education, labour and social protection.

Partnership building efforts will be prioritised, aiming at strengthening coordination among health institutions, donors and other stakeholders. UN agencies will continue to advocate for including equity indicators and targets in key health policy documents, and support health system strengthening, including the health information system, enforcement mechanisms for MCH regulatory and legislative frameworks, and studies and research into child health and nutrition. Capacity development of social capital will focus on engaging and empowering communities and establishing and expanding networks of health educators to better reach communities in remote and rural areas. Sustainable interventions for future health promotion programmes will be developed and communication materials for primary health care provision (e.g. reproductive health, child health, HIV and AIDS prevention, reproductive tract cancer prevention and control, among others) will be strategically used. UN agencies will work in strengthening the response and preparedness for humanitarian crises and emergencies.

Continuation of activities in the education sector will focus on: i) reinforcement of advocacy messages on the investment case for education and equity with the central government and especially with elected municipal administrations; ii) contributing to mitigating any potential risks resulting from the new territorial reform; iii) undertaking specific actions to address the needs and challenges of Albania as identified in the education sector policy review conducted in cooperation with the national authorities; and iv) supporting equitable access to education as laid out in the National Strategy of Education 2014–2020, focusing on equitable pre-school expansion, inclusive education and improved practices to reduce early school leaving and out-of-school children, as well as increasing

the use of novel ways of ensuring discipline in schools.

UN will continue to contribute to attainment of the envisaged outcomes of the National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014–2020 Action Plan as its implementation is a key priority of the Albanian government's reform agenda. Considering the fact that the sub-sector of Employment and Skills development policies will be among the four initial sectors selected by the EU to receive budget support from 2016 onwards, with a significant allocation of funds, it is clear that strengthening of the capacities of the public authorities and private sector representatives should be one of the focus areas of future technical assistance in this policy field. Areas such as public finance management, including procurement, multi-annual financial planning and monitoring and evaluation, will require a set of organised technical support activities, in which UN agencies could resume their previous experience as a partner of the EU accession strategy.

As already planned and agreed with the Albanian government, among others, the focus of UN work in the social protection area will be on: i) evidence-based profiling of the segments of the Albanian population most at risk of social exclusion; ii) development of the necessary instruments for implementation of the social inclusion and social protection newly designed policy frameworks; iii) development of legal, administrative and financial instruments to shape local service delivery policies and practice for greater impact; iv) capacity building and advocacy with the newly instituted municipalities on social inclusion and social protection; and v) enhanced child protection mechanisms and services to effectively reach and support children and families in situations of particular vulnerability.

OUTCOME 3—GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

With financial contribution from Austria, USA, Global Environment Facility, Switzerland, European Union, UN core and global non-core resources, un-earmarked and soft-earmarked Coherence Fund (DRT-F, and SIDA)



Anti-corruption Conference in Tirana

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

EU accession priorities are critical anchors for the national reform processes in the domain of governance and the rule of law. In 2015, GoA pursued multiple reforms aiming at adopting a stronger rule of law and better governance performance measured through rankings for index scores for open budget and corruption, and an increased number of evidence-based, gender-sensitive sector policies and budgets.

UN is focusing on four components: 1) parliament and electoral institutions, 2) mainstreaming gender and

gender-responsive budgeting, 3) anti-corruption and the rule of law and 4) safeguarding public goods. This is achieved through supporting: the functions of institutions mandated with key democratic processes, namely elections, legislation and oversight; evidence-based, inclusive, gender-responsive planning and budgeting; innovations in public administration and law enforcement for accountability, transparency and effectiveness in carrying out statutory mandates, and; governance and effectiveness of institutions that safeguard public goods.


KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Study “Strengthening the decision-making power of councilwomen in Albania
- ✓ Ombudsman CEDAW Shadow Report
- ✓ Automation of campaign donation and expenditure declaration forms
- ✓ Web-based election platform
- ✓ Elections training video for observer groups and election officials
- ✓ Strengthen the oversight role of the country’s public oversight institutions as advocates of vulnerable groups such as women and children
- ✓ Software module for tracking of electoral materials into and out of the voting centers

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

Elections and parliamentary functions, including their oversight, are core functions for a democracy and accountability to citizens. UN work in this area, deriving from the unique mandate and capacities vested with the UN Department of Political Affairs and UN Electoral Assistance Division, supports capacity development of electoral management bodies and functioning of the legislature as a core branch of governance following CEDAW and gender equality considerations. Additionally, the capacities of the country’s public oversight institutions, namely the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination and the Ombudsman, are strengthened to enable them to monitor, report and redress violations of rights especially of vulnerable groups such as women and children deriving from main human rights conventions. Particular focus is placed in strengthening the oversight role of the Parliament, the Child Rights Caucus, civil society and other public oversight bodies as advocates of children’s rights.

Progress towards Results

On 21 June 2015, Albania held local elections following significant reform of the country’s territorial-administrative structure. Sixty-one municipalities were created following a process of wide stakeholder consultation, public input and analytical and expert research, replacing the country’s 373 LGUs that had existed up to that point. The 2015 local elections provided citizens with the opportunity to elect the first councils and mayors of these new municipalities.

Elections are administered in Albania by the Central Election Commission (CEC), an independent institution comprised of commissioners nominated by political parties, and a professional civil service staff, or secretariat. In order to further the CEC’s development and to strengthen the capacities of its staff, and that of other electoral stakeholders, UNDP, drawing on its long-term democratisation work in Albania, launched the programme Strengthening Electoral Processes in Albania, designed to improve competencies of election officials and strengthen processes and systems employed to administer elections. In doing so, UNDP helped improve levels of transparency and trust in the 2015 local elections, helping to bring the TAR process closer to completion and its integration into Albania’s system of governance.

*Focus group findings report.*⁷⁸ At the outset of the project, UNDP held a series of focus group discussions to identify key issues in voter education prior to the 2015 local elections. UNDP drafted a discussion guide together with project partner Partners Albania, a leading CSO who had also worked with UNDP closely in supporting Albania’s territorial reform. The consultations took place in eight towns and villages in all major regions of Albania. Discussions centred on voter perceptions of the elections in the context of Albania’s new municipalities and how voters’ needs for information and motivation for participation were affected. Discussions also focused on gender and elections, family voting and informal pressures placed on voters, sanctions for fraud and other issues. The results offered insight into what the key gaps were, as well as motivating factors in voter education for these elections. The analytical

78. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/research-on-voter-education-and-motivation-prior-to-the-june-2015/



A voter in Fier

report, including findings and recommendations, was provided to more than 2,000 local CSOs and other organisations and institutions in Albania in the months leading up to the elections.

Party and candidate interactive website.

Given the territorial reform and new electoral units (municipalities), it was critical for the electorate to have updated information. UNDP assisted CEC in developing a web-based platform⁷⁹ to provide easy-to-understand information on the local elections, including the new election boundaries and candidates. The new map and presentation of candidate lists replaced the out-dated and non-user-friendly practice of posting the lists in separate .doc or .html files. The site was operational a few weeks prior to election day (though there were delays in candidate regis-

tration due to unrelated external factors) and received more than 18,000 page views from users in 71 countries. The information was also shared via Facebook, Twitter and other social media. In total, the page appeared on more than 250,000 Facebook accounts, and was shared directly more than 1,400 times.

Election observation video.

UNDP and the CEC produced an animated video for international election observer groups to train their short-term observers in the week before the 21 June election. The video described the roles and responsibilities of observers, opening of voting, processing of voters, closing, and transfer of materials to the counting centres. The video was provided directly to representatives of observer missions, foreign delegations and international organisations, and was also placed on YouTube⁸⁰ and on the

79. <http://kandidatet.cec.org.al/Results/LocalMayor?cs=sq-AL&r=r&d=r1>

80. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zOmsvtoahY>

CEC website. A longer version of this video, used to train election officials (see below), was also aired by the national TV broadcaster (in Albanian) in the days prior to the election.

Training video for election officials. Originally designed to provide hands-on assistance with e-Learning for election officials, UNDP changed its approach following a local project appraisal committee meeting and a request from the CEC to create a video training aid for voting centre commissioners. A sixty-minute animated training video was created in cooperation with the CEC Election Commission Department, covering all key duties for the preparations for voting and the voting centre, and the election day itself, in a series of chapters, each of which had a Q&A session to test viewers' knowledge. The video also covered various scenarios that might occur on election day in the process of voting, and how to deal with them. The video was provided to each of the 280 CEC trainers, placed on the CEC website,⁸¹ and picked up by the national broadcaster and aired as civic education during the week prior to the election.

Election dispute resolution training. UNDP organised a week-long training programme for judges appointed as members of the Electoral College and CEC commissioners and staff on interpreting the Electoral Code and resolving electoral disputes. The training was co-organised with UN Women and based on Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) methodology, combined with a series of case studies and simulations. The training programme covered issues related to voting centre fraud and irregularities, investigation techniques and evidentiary standards, allocation of mandates, and case management within and be-

tween the institutions.

Gender and elections training. UN WOMEN and UNDP organised a two-day gender and elections BRIDGE workshop⁸² for staff of the CEC secretariat and CSOs. The workshop sought to explore issues facing women in elections in Albania, from the perspectives of voters, candidates and members of the election administration. More than forty participants from the various groups examined gender-related issues present in the organising of the June 2015 election, and strategised how the electoral authorities, civil society and other stakeholders could address such issues.

Training of voting centre secretaries on new pilot project. As part of its pilot project to test implementation of the new voting centre management software module (see below), UNDP trained 85 voting centre secretaries from Tiranë, Pukë and Sarandë municipalities. These trainings covered the idea behind the project, their roles and key duties, how to operate a tablet computer, and how to use the software to report on the status of materials, the opening and closing of the voting centre and turnout during the election day.

Management systems for candidate and party registration. The CEC of Albania registers candidates for elections using a combination of systems, including paper copy submissions, manual data entry, and a few basic software applications at both the central and zonal commission level. Moreover, the systems are not connected to other election management systems and software, such as for tallying of votes and the allocation of mandates. This process was thus time consuming (often requiring re-entering of the same data), lacked basic

81. <http://www.cec.org.al/sq-al/Zgjedhjet/Video-Trainimi-KQV>

82. The full workshop report is available at: <http://www.al.undp.org/content/dam/albania/docs/misc/BRIDGE-Final%20Report.pdf>

validation checks to gauge compliance with eligibility requirements, and easily subject to human error. UNDP worked with the CEC to create a political subject management software application, with built-in checks to determine candidate eligibility and gender threshold requirements in accordance with new provisions of the electoral code. The system is also integrated within the overall CEC IT management system, making easier such tasks as ballot design, allocation of mandates and publishing of results. The system also allowed for import of candidate information using pre-existing software applications. Connected to this system is also the interactive map of Albania that presents to voters a visualisation of the new municipalities and the candidates standing for mayor and municipal council (see above).

Automation of campaign donation and expenditure declaration forms. According to the electoral code, political party treasurers and others handling campaign finances must submit records of donor contributions, and campaign expenditures to the CEC. The commission currently provides a template document for recording donations, and guidelines to writing the required report, through its website. UNDP developed a database to manage this process, whereby parties are given their own access to an online database for recording donations and expenditures. The database separates items as set out in the requirements of the electoral code, such as cash contributions, loans, in-kind services and goods (for donations) and different types of expenditures. Once parties submit expenses to official auditors and eventually the CEC, the latter will be able to present publicly the various reports on its website, increasing public information and transparency on this important issue⁸³.

83. The 2015 reports are available at CEC website <http://www.cec.org.al/sq-al/Publikimet/Raporte-Financiare/Raportet-vjetore-financiare-t%C3%AB-partive-politike/Raportet-vjetore-financiare-p%C3%ABr-vitin-2015>.

Development of management systems for voting centre operations. Updates on the opening of voting centres and voter turnout are an important feature of elections: among other things they provide citizens with insight into the voting process on election day. Such information, when delivered promptly and regularly, builds confidence in the electoral process and its administration. To provide the CEC greater access to information on election day, UNDP provided assistance for developing computer software to relay this important information directly from the voting centre to the CEC. The software modules allowed for tracking of electoral materials into and out of the voting centres, communicating the status (open, closed, etc.) of the centres, and reporting hourly voter turnout figures directly to the CEC by using tablets and 3G and GPRS network communication. The system was piloted in voting centres in Pukë and Sarandë municipalities during the June 21 local elections. Data were available to the CEC almost instantly, with turnout data available in many cases hours before the CEC obtained the information from the traditional means of collection. Turnout was also displayed on an interactive public website and updated approximately every 60 seconds. UNDP and CEC will use the lessons learned from the successful pilots to evaluate the applicability of the systems countrywide in the 2017 parliamentary elections.

UN Women and UNDP assistance also contributed towards the historical changes taking place towards gender equality and electoral integrity for the new LGUs. The first half of 2015 witnessed the introduction of the ‘zipper system’ (a gender balance procedure used in PR electoral systems) for local councillors and some 180,000 first time voters who were potential gender equality agents.

Furthermore, UN Women supported the

monitoring of women participation in elections, political parties campaigns and media portrayal and coverage during the electoral period. The turnout of eligible voters in the 2015 local elections was 47 percent, of whom 42 percent comprised women. Despite the 50 percent nomination quota for local councils, 35 percent of council members that were elected were women. Meanwhile, women were nominated in 16 municipalities for the position of mayor, with success for them in nine (15%) of the 61 municipalities. None of the political parties competing in the elections were led by a woman. Nevertheless, unlike in 2011 and 2013, for the first time all competing political parties were able to complete and present proportional candidacy lists based on a 50 : 50 gender balance.

Despite the improvements of recent years, the electoral legislation is not yet complete in terms of better practices relating to gender balance, as well as the transparency of the electoral process and the administration of the vote. The process of electoral management continues to be a significantly discriminatory process for women: the 30 percent gender quota for participation in the Commission of Election Administration Zones could only reach 28 percent, while about 37 percent of the vote counting centres had no female members. Tirana scored positively in this regard with 28 percent of women members in its counting centres. Meanwhile, the CEC continues to be run by a woman and includes two other women members.

Thanks to UN Women strategic support, a number of gender responsive measures and processes have substantially supported the advancement of women representation at the local level, and gender mainstreaming in the Organic Law for Local Governance. CEC mainstreamed gender considerations in all its departments and published for the first time sex-disaggregated data on voters. The new organic draft law 'On the Organisation and Func-

tioning of Local Government in the Republic of Albania⁸⁴ ensured full compliance with international obligations, while the Gender Equality Law of 2008 and Albania's commitments towards European integration constitute a step forward in the effective promotion of women in local self-government and empowerment of women in local communities.

Additionally, support was provided to quality improvement and engendering of the National Elections Integrity System Index (NEISI),⁸⁵ a comprehensive assessment and a holistic analysis of the electoral system (i.e. institutional capacities and legal provisions), as well as of the electoral process (i.e. administration of elections). The strongest and a unique characteristic of the Election Situation Room is the fact that for the first time the monitoring reports reflect a unified voice among the CSOs.

Councilwomen, women in political party forums, women in parliament and civil society representatives are well aware of the barriers that women face in local government decision-making processes and the underlying roots of their limited powers in the political parties. A study⁸⁶ "Strengthening the decision-making power of councilwomen in Albania" was conducted by UNDP on the voice of women and their role in 137 local councils with the participation of 186 councilwomen, from both urban and rural areas. The study found that the women caucus in Parliament, newly elected councilwomen and political par-

84. The law was approved by Parliament and published in the Official Gazette No. 51, 2015

85. This assessment is a product of the Election Situation Room (ESR), a platform for 7 CSOs in Albania aiming to enhance collaboration among CSOs engaged in activities related to election processes and monitoring. http://idmalbania.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Indeksi-i-Integritetit-të-Zgjedhjeve_FINAL_Sept2015.pdf

86. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/study-strengthening-the-decision-making-power-of-councilwomen-in.html>

ty women generate concrete ideas⁸⁷ on how to pursue the following: i) the advancement of the agenda of women empowerment in politics, ii) increasing the oversight role of central and local parliaments regarding implementation of the gender legal machinery for ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of women, and iii) lobbying for an increase in the gender quota in the electoral code for general elections and ensuring effective safeguards administered by the central electoral management bodies. In parallel to this, the Albanian School of Public Administration, with UNDP support, started to develop a tailored course on ‘Strengthened leadership skills and performance in decision making for councilwomen and women employees in the administration of the newly amalgamated municipalities’.

The People’s Advocate is now more capable of monitoring and enforcing national and international commitments. The Ombudsman presented its first ever CEDAW Shadow Report to the UN Committee on CEDAW, identifying a number of areas where it can play a crucial role in further strengthening the monitoring of implementation of the CEDAW recommendations.

The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (CPD) increased its outreach to vulnerable men and women and transparency with UNDP support. Its latest published annual report⁸⁸ uses evidence that shows an increased trust of vulnerable citizens in CPD through an increase in the number of complaints lodged, and an increased participation of CPD in judicial processes aiming at better law enforcement

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

88. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/annual-report-commissioner-for-protection-from-discrimination-20/>; <http://www.kmd.al/?fq=brenda&emri=Botime&gj=gj1&kid=142&kidd=80>

and upholding gender equality commitments. More specifically, CPD handled 288 cases,⁸⁹ issued 20 *ex officio* cases and made 169 decisions. Such evidence-based reporting fundamentally advances the role of independent institutions in fighting gender-based discrimination and promoting gender equality.

Meanwhile, Parliament organised at least five discussions on issues related to children with UNICEF support, namely on the blood-feud phenomenon, education and media, and inter-country adoption, with participation of a broad base of relevant stakeholders. A tripartite work plan is being developed among the Ombudsman, UNICEF and the Child Rights Observatory to conduct monitoring⁹⁰ of the conditions of children in detention facilities. A comprehensive joint work plan⁹¹ is being developed by the CPD and UNICEF, in collaboration with CSOs, to raise awareness of children’s rights and non-discrimination, as well as to analyse judicial and court processes and decisions related to children, predominantly when there are inequity-related concerns. A partnership has been established with the local CSO Tirana Legal Aid Society to support strategic litigation for children’s rights and raise awareness of the human rights of children through street law activities and the web-based assistance of a lawyer. As a result, at least three strategic litigation cases were initiated in 2015 and the programme will continue through 2016.⁹²

89. Statistics cover the period January–31 December 2015; 181 complaints were submitted by citizens (82 men and 89 women), 3 from citizens groups, 7 by CSOs.

90. The monitoring is expected to begin in April 2016

91. Implementation of the related activities is expected to start in April 2016

92. Strategic litigation is a method that can bring about significant changes in the law, practice or public awareness through taking carefully selected cases to court. The clients involved in strategic litigation have been victims of human rights abuses and usually such cases re-occur. In this way, strategic litigation focuses on an individual case in order to bring about social change: http://mdac.info/en/what-we-do/strategic_litigation.


KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Assessment of the National Strategy on Gender Equality, Reduction of Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence (NSGE-GBV-DV) 2011–2015 and Action Plan
- ✓ INSTAT's annual publication Women and Men in Albania 2015
- ✓ Policy addressing harassment and sexual harassment cases among police forces
- ✓ Independent review of 655 decisions on divorce cases from Tirana District Court
- ✓ Women and property rights (2nd edition)
- ✓ Women's Property Rights Guide
- ✓ Study on public perceptions and attitudes towards gender equality in Albania
- ✓ NSDI 2015–2020 includes sex-disaggregated, gender-sensitive governance targets
- ✓ Public finance management system includes Gender equality principles

Output 3.2 Mainstreaming gender and gender-responsive budgeting

Line ministries and public service delivery institutions are able to mainstream gender and conduct gender-responsive planning and budgeting and evidence-based policy making at all levels

The Albanian Gender Equality Law decrees gender mainstreaming into all legislative and policy development initiatives at the central and local level and commands implementation to be equally beneficial to both men and women. A key requirement for gender mainstreaming is the establishment of stable national gender machinery steered by a professional administration that follows an integrated process of gender mainstreaming in all elements of governance.

UN support in this area focuses on strengthening government accountability through incorporation of gender equality objectives and priorities in national plans and budgets. Particular attention is paid to develop the knowledge and capacities of civil servants at the central and local level, CSOs and academia in applying gender responsive planning and budgeting. Support is provided to advance approaches that attract and build the capacity of women to leadership positions in service delivery institutions. Advocacy and awareness raising initiatives ensure that citizens and government alike see gender mainstreaming as the only possible way that governance is performed.

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

Progress towards Results

The government's Delivery Unit ensures that government priorities, aligned where possible to the EU priority sector programming and budget support exercises, are underpinned by advances in the governance of those sectors through IPMGs. UN supports this overall prioritisation and planning exercise focusing on both the processes and the products.

In the context of gender sensitising both the processes and the products, UN Women supported the integration of sex-disaggregated, gender-sensitive governance targets in the draft NSDI 2015–2020. Gender equality principles were included in the public finance management system, resulting in 16 out of a total of 84 mid-term budget programmes for 2016–2018⁹³ completed with specific gender-responsive objectives, outputs and targets. A gender responsive budget of USD 61,534,401 or 4% of the overall budget of these ten ministries was committed for 2016, the largest state budget committed so far to advance gender equality. UNDP supported assessment of the National Strategy on Gender Equality, Reduction of Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence (NSGE-GBV-DV) 2011–2015 and Action Plan enabling MoSWY to incorporate the lessons learnt and gender equality objectives and priorities into the new National Strategy for 2016–2020.⁹⁴ In parallel to this, UNFPA supported gender mainstreaming in the National Action Plan

93. 1) Support for Economic Development, 2) Urban Planning and Housing, 3) Arts and Culture, 4) Institutional Support for the EU Integration process, 5) Agricultural Counselling and Information, 6) Rural Development, 7) Funds for Science, 8) Prisons System, 9) Bailiff Services, 10) Crime Investigation, 11) Public Order, 12) Police Support Services, 13) Social Inclusion, 14) Social Care, 15) Labour Market, 16) Primary Health Care

94. The strategy is envisaged to be finalised in 2016.

for Youth 2015–2020⁹⁵empowering youth to monitor its implementation in the coming years.

INSTAT's annual publication *Women and Men in Albania 2015*,⁹⁶ supported by UN Women, was enriched with up-to-date sex-disaggregated data from a range of sources across sectors, supplementing policy making, sector analysis and decision making from a gender perspective. Gender Sensitive Indicators for the Media (GSIM) were disseminated to the Association of Women in Science Network for use in tertiary education planning. Furthermore, three universities, one public and two private, adopted Gender-Responsive Budgeting literacy for lecturers and master's level students, thanks to the UN Women resource textbook on Gender-Responsive Budgeting.⁹⁷

The Institute of Development of Education, in partnership with UNICEF, has initiated revision and development of new curricula of pre-school education⁹⁸ paying attention to gender-equality and non-discrimination issues that should be tackled from an early age. Moreover, UNICEF introduced gender-equality elements to the programme of parenting clubs for the Roma communities, promoting the education of children with principles of gender equality and non-discrimination, encouraging shared parenting between mothers and fathers and raising

95. The plan was launched in July 2015: <http://www.sociale.gov.al/al/dokumente/strategji/planit-kombetar-te-veprimit-per-rinine-2015-2020>.

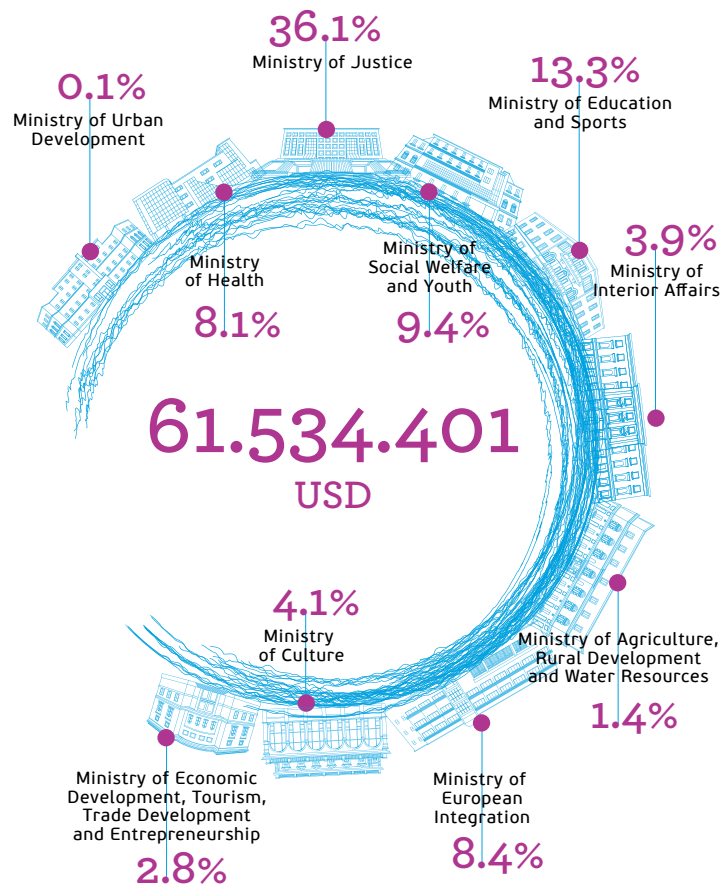
96. http://www.instat.gov.al/media/295842/femra_dhe_meshkuj_n_shqip_ri_2015.pdf

97. Gender Responsive Budgeting textbook developed by the University of Sarajevo and UN Women

98. Pre-school Curricula Standards, the Core Curriculum and the Programmes for 3-, 4- and 5-year olds are expected to be completed within July 2016.

Gender Responsive Budgeting

in the Medium Term Budget 2016-2018



parents' awareness of the negative effects of early marriages, particularly common among Roma and Egyptian girls.

UNDP supported the State Police Academy to assess and upgrade the training curricula on GBV–DV in view of the latest legal improvements of the domestic related legislation and newly ratified international treaties, along with training 23 trainers

from the academy. Additionally, this is the first public institution that adopted in 2015 with UNDP support a harmonised policy to properly address harassment and sexual harassment cases among police forces. In this regard, 447 basic role and middle management police staff were trained in 9 regions⁹⁹ of the country. The impact of this training will be monitored through a survey by end 2016. Nonetheless, the effective functioning of the CCR mechanisms speaks loudly on the improved police behaviour and the importance of the police structure in this domain. Due to an increased level of awareness, victims of domestic violence and their families reported 3,000 cases to the state police in 2015 compared to 94 cases in 2005.

Implementation of gender-responsive planning and budgeting of local services was supported by UN Women in five pilot municipalities: Tiranë, Vlorë, Sarandë, Këlcyrë and Përmet. As a result, municipalities allocated funds for citizens' priorities and needs for the following: a) social housing for widowed women and women head of household, b) centres for children with limited abilities and visually impaired people, c) centres for women victims of violence, and d) youth and multicultural centres. Meanwhile, relevant human stories have been developed into articles for e-Media. Also, as part of its support for territorial reform, UNDP assisted 26 amalgamated municipalities¹⁰⁰ to prepare gender-responsive local development operational plans, expected to be finalised in the first quarter of 2016.

99. Tiranë, Shkodër, Lezhë, Korçë, Elbasan, Durrës, Fier, Vlorë, Berat and Gjirokastër

100. Belsh, Bulqizë, Delvinë, Devoll, Dropull, Finiq, Fushë-Arrëz, Gramsh, Has, Kamëz, Këlcyrë, Kolonjë, Libohovë, Maliq, Mallakastër, Memaliaj, Mirditë, Patos, Peqin, Përmet, Pukë, Pustec, Roskovec, Selenicë, Tepelenë and Vau-Dejë

To promote EU *GE acquis*, a Gender Equality Facility¹⁰¹ was established in Albania in 2015 by UN Women in partnership with the Austrian Development Cooperation Agency and EU. Substantial gender inputs were provided to feed into various government sectoral planning documents in order for the European Union IPA II Sector Planning Documents to include reference to gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting, sex-disaggregated statistics and gender data and, where relevant, gender quota and affirmative action.

Repeated CEDAW observations¹⁰² concerning the direct applicability of the CEDAW provisions in the Albanian legal system were the focus of a legal study supported by UNDP. This study provided recommendations to Parliament, the Ombudsman, CPD, the courts and government regarding the self-applicability of the CEDAW provisions within the national legal order of Albania. Furthermore, UNDP supported an independent review¹⁰³ of 655 decisions on divorce cases from Tirana District Court that indicated that in 70 percent of cases

101. The Gender Equality Facility in Albania is funded in Phase I (May 2015–April 2016) by a budget of EUR 88,000 by the Austrian Development Agency. GEF has been included within the upcoming EU Integration Facility Action Plan for support by the EU Delegation under the Ministry of European Integration, under IPA II, the ELARG Sector Democracy & Governance, and is foreseen to be financially supported by a budget of EUR 1.7 Million for a period of 28 months (i.e. GEF Phase II). GEF is captured in EUIF Action Plan Result 4: "EU Gender Equality *acquis* transposed through implementation of gender- and socially responsive government strategies, policies, budgets at a central and municipal level".

102. The CEDAW Committee, following consideration of Albania's third periodical report to CEDAW, under section 'Legal status of the Convention and legal complaint mechanisms' paragraph 12 reiterated the concerns expressed in its previous concluding observations (see A/58/38, para. 58) about a lack of clarity regarding the direct applicability of the Convention in the domestic law of Albania.

103. <http://www.pressreader.com/albania/gazeta-shqip-tare/20151203/281771333117255/TextView>; <http://time.ikub.al/Filloi-fushata-per-eliminimin-e-dhunes-ndaj-grave9888/4424.aspx>



Students march for gender equality in Korça, Albania

women are not guaranteed enforcement of court orders on child alimony. The review was consulted with national partners, highlighting the unequal distribution of benefits among men and women in divorce cases, and called for improvements to the law and realistic alternative solutions for state compensation of child alimony in divorce cases, especially for mothers and victims of domestic violence with court protection orders.

Two knowledge products *Women and property rights* (2nd edition) and *Women's Property Rights Guide* were produced by UN Women to raise awareness among urban, semi-urban and rural communities on a better understanding of the rights and obligations of women in the family, marriage, work and property relations. The first report will be launched by MoJ and MoSWY in 2016 and it will be mainly used

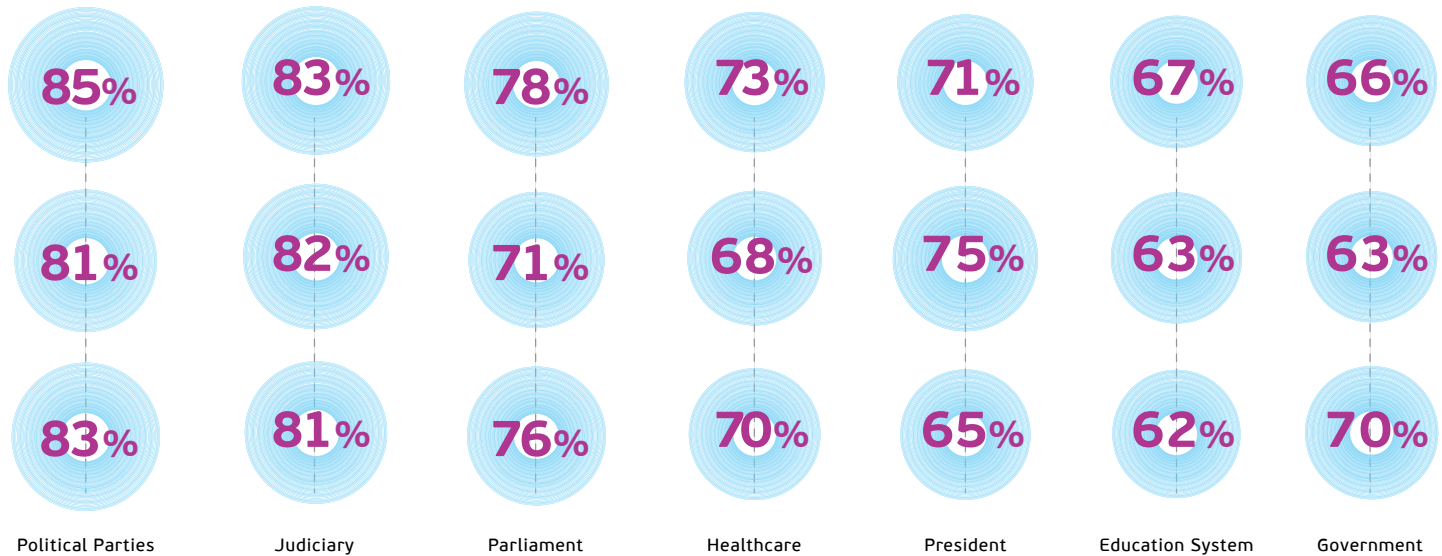
in all trainings and events on property and human rights. While the second report was extensively referenced in early 2015 in a series of workshops organized in five regions¹⁰⁴ of Albania with a broad participation of lawyers, notaries and property registration specialists. A study¹⁰⁵ was prepared by UNDP investigating public perceptions and attitudes towards gender equality in Albania, focusing on the types of barriers hindering women's successful integration into the labour market and proposing strategies that promote the economic empowerment of women. The study will be launched in the first quarter of 2016.

104. Diber, Lezhe, Gjirokaster, Sarande, and Lushnje

105. <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/public-perceptions-and-attitude-towards-gender-equality-in-alban/>

A Country of Sceptics

Institutional Distrust 2013-2015 in Albania



KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Public Administration Reform Strategy 2015–2020
- ✓ Set of 21 governance indicators along with targets, baselines and sources of data included into the NSDI
- ✓ Long-term government policy document on public services
- ✓ Third national survey "Trust in Government"
- ✓ Contingency plan on massive mixed migration flows to Albania
- ✓ Anti-corruption portal
- ✓ 482 Camp Ashraf refugees

Output 3.3 Anti-corruption and the rule of law State, market, non-state institutions enabled to deliver their statutory mandates, prevent corruption, enforce rule of law

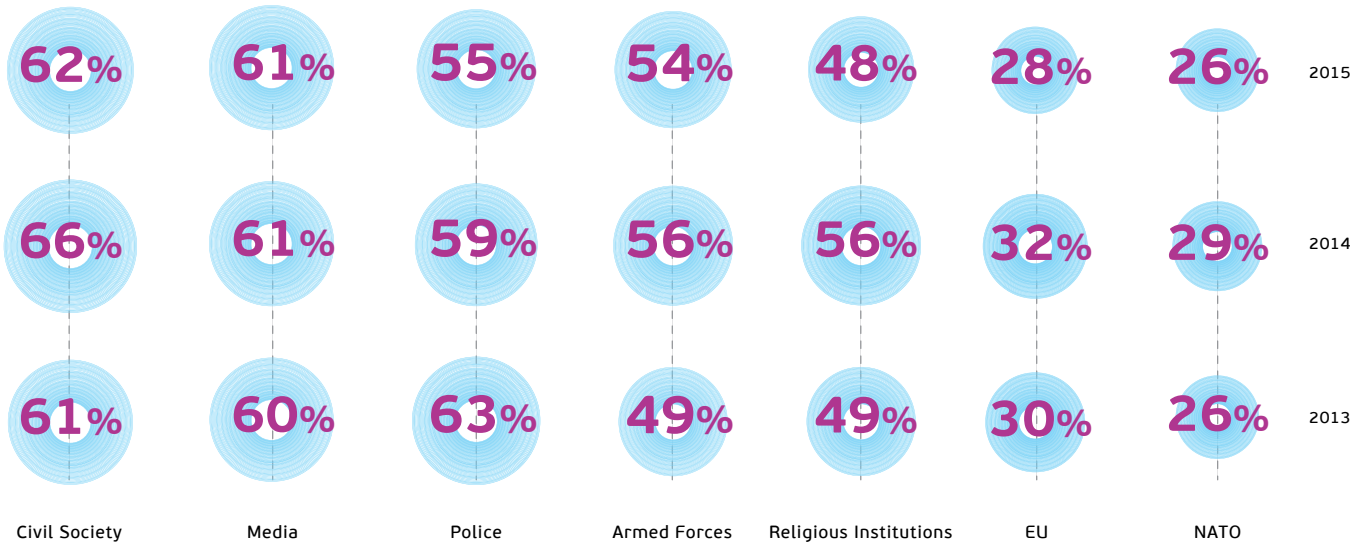
UN actions in this area focus on adoption of standards, institutionalisation of systems and incentives for a reduction of corruption, including greater awareness and stronger oversight by the legislature, civil society and the general public. Work is conducted jointly with institutions and organisations that safeguard economic transactions by protecting property rights, enforcing contracts and organising collective action to set the rules, regulations and information that are needed to lend feasibility or workability to the interactions among different economic actors, individual and corporate. Areas of focus are public procurement and key service delivery

sectors, including non-distributive sectors such as judiciary, state police, national coordinators of anti-trafficking, asylum and the fight against corruption.

Progress towards Results

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

In the context of finalisation of NSDI 2015–



2020 and in response to a request from the Office of the Prime Minister to develop and test governance targets and indicators to feed into the UN's post-2015 SDG framework, UNDP helped to identify a set of 21 governance indicators along with targets, baselines and sources of data to be included into the NSDI. Along with the provision of feedback to the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2015–2020 public consultations, UNDP supported the government's reform of the public services and their citizen-centric orientation through equipping the newly established Agency for Delivery of Integrated Services of Albania (ADISA) central office to become fully functional and formulating a long-term government policy document on public services.

In the framework of the Open Government Partnership, UNDP supported organisation of the regional conference Western Balkans Open Government Partnership Dialogue,

in September 2015, with the participation of some 300 people from Albania, the region and the EU. In this context, support was provided to preparation of a third national survey,¹⁰⁶ Trust in Government, which sampled 1,600 respondents on public trust towards government institutions and their service delivery performance. The survey was conducted in parallel in five Western Balkan countries, enabling the data to be analysed at the regional level in 2016. The survey results show that in Albania one in three citizens surveyed (34%) trust the government, which enjoys greater trust than Parliament (22%). Meanwhile, the judiciary (80%) and political parties (79%) are the least trusted institutions. When compared to 2014, the institutions that have suffered the steepest decline of trust in 2015 are: the Parliament (from 29% to 22%) and the Health System (from 32% to 27%). Me-

106. http://idmalbania.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Opinion-Poll_trust-in-government_2015.pdf

dia is the only institution that has shown no change in trust. On the other hand, Religious institutions have seen the highest increase in the level of trust (from 44% to 52%). Other institutions that have experienced an increase in trust from 2014 include: the Police (from 41% to 45%), the President (from 25% to 29%), Civil Society Organizations (from 34% to 38%), the European Union (from 68% to 72%) and NATO (from 71% to 74%).

In February 2015, government launched a first of its kind anti-corruption portal, enabling citizens to report cases of corruption occurring in public institutions. UNDP focused on strengthening the functioning of the National Coordinator for Anti-Corruption. Three full-time operators for the portal's operations room were initially supported, and the focus has moved to optimising the portal's analytical and knowledge products, automating the reporting information and strengthening the capacities of key officials of the anti-corruption network at both central and sub-national levels. An initial survey involving 850 respondents was carried out to gauge public awareness of the portal and trust in such instruments to fight corruption.¹⁰⁷ For the period February–December 2015, a total of 11,078 cases were reported, 5,540 of which have been addressed.¹⁰⁸

In the area of organised crime prevention, the UN works to counter smuggling of illicit goods and to improve the management of fiscal assets. UNODC and the World Customs Organisation (WCO) provided technical as-

107. About 70% of respondents were aware of the existence of the anti-corruption portal and 42% of the respondents had visited it. About 42% of respondents believe such an initiative responds to the concerns of citizens against acts of corruption in state institutions. Around 60% of respondents asked for more statistical information about the solved cases reported through the portal to be convinced that it will serve its purpose.

108. <http://www.ceshtjetvendore.gov.al/al/programi-transparences/portali-antikorrupsion>

sistance to further strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies, in particular in the field of improved border control through application of more efficient container risk profiling and inspections. In addition,

Despite efforts to curb irregular migration to the EU, the number of Albanian asylum applicants in EU member states increased in 2015. During January–December 2015, 67,735 asylum applications were filed in EU Member States by Albanian citizens, a dramatic increase compared to 16,026 in 2014.

UNHCR and IOM engaged jointly with government to prepare a contingency plan for the possibility of massive mixed migration flows to Albania. In 2015, Albania received 482 Camp Ashraf refugees, bringing the total number of Camp Ashraf refugees relocated to Albania since 2013 to more than 958 people. The assistance provided by government and UNHCR was channelled through the National Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers and included food and non-food items and personnel to manage the high number of arrivals. Individuals received monthly financial support and, along with other asylum seekers, were assisted in completing procedures for obtaining refugee status, thus contributing to Albania's still high refugee recognition rate.¹⁰⁹

109. <http://www.unhcr.org/4ce531e09.pdf> - In the absence of an internationally agreed methodology for calculating recognition rates, UNHCR uses two rates to compute the proportion of refugee claims accepted during the year. The Refugee Recognition Rate divides the number of asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee status by the total number of accepted (Convention and, where relevant, complementary protection) and rejected cases. The Total Recognition Rate divides the number of asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee status and complementary form of protection by the total number of accepted (Convention and, where relevant, complementary protection) and rejected cases. Non-substantive decisions are, to the extent possible, excluded from both calculations. For the purpose of international comparability, UNHCR only uses these two recognition rates and does not report nationally calculated rates.

Output 3.4 Public goods

Line ministries ensure and enforce the conservation, sustainable use of public goods

UN actions in this area aim to ensure and enforce the conservation and sustainable use of public goods and common goods such as the air we breathe, cultural heritage, natural heritage, biodiversity, recreational areas, coasts, parks, and urban spaces. UN supports the efficient management of Protected Areas, safeguarding nature and culture values with the long-term vision of balancing natural and cultural protection with local economic benefits for communities. Priority is given to enforcement and monitoring actions focused on marine and coastal protected areas, strengthening trans-boundary cooperation, and increasing capacities for effective management of natural and cultural heritage.

Progress towards Results

Management and business plans for the marine and coastal protected area of Karaburun–Sazan were developed with UNDP support, aiming to provide long-term effective site management and approach to conservation. Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms by the National Agency of Protected Areas are being supported, and a set of targeted priority actions¹¹⁰ was implemented with CSOs, local communities and resource user groups located in this area. A Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) methodology was institutionalised and used to assess performance of protected areas starting with Karaburun–Sazan and proceeding on to

110. The major interventions are: 1, underwater and terrestrial trails at Shen Vasil, Karaburun peninsula; 2, repairing of the existing docks at Shen Jan and Shen Vasil; 3, establishment of a mooring buoys system at Shen Jan and Shen Vasil; 4, signposting; and 5, establishment of an information centre.

all 56 protected areas. Expansion of marine protected areas has been sustained with scientific and legal evidence for designation of Porto Palermo as a Natural Park.

UNESCO supported Albania's participation in the international meeting 'Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR) in Europe: Instruments, Methods, Governance' held in June 2015. The meeting concluded with an engagement to continue working with Albania on issues contributing to strengthening management and governance in TBR, including institutional enhancement and funding mechanisms, as well as promoting and improving its visibility at various levels in the country. More specifically, the work for the Ohrid-Prespa Watershed TBR will involve the Albanian inter-ministerial¹¹¹ Man and the Biosphere National Committee and the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Coordination Office, hosted by the Ohrid Watershed Management Committee (OWMC), with offices in Pogradec and Ohrid. It is expected that the Albanian authorities ensure the MAB National Committee becomes fully operational and work to strengthen the everyday management and governance in the Ohrid-Prespa Watershed TBR, involving local people in transboundary sustainable development projects; enhancing institutional and funding mechanism in the TBR; promoting the TBR to improve its visibility and recognition/acknowledgement by authorities at regional, national and international levels, including the EU.

Additionally, three management planning workshops for the Lake Ohrid region were conducted with UNESCO support. The work-

111. Officially established in May 2013 with representatives from MoE, MoSWY, Academy of Science, Universities, CSOs and site managers.

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Management and business plans for Karaburun–Sazan
- ✓ Transparency reports on Certain Conventional Weapons, Convention of AP Mines and Convention on Cluster Munitions
- ✓ METT methodology institutionalised and used to assess performance of protected areas starting with Karaburun–Sazan
- ✓ Scientific and legal evidence for designation of Porto Palermo as a Natural Park
- ✓ Reports on Berat and Gjirokaster on preservation of cultural heritage and fulfilment of international obligations

shops aimed to establish management mechanisms that build upon and strengthen those already in place at national and trans-boundary levels, provide tools to design an integrated management system for the Lake Ohrid region as a potential mixed trans-boundary World Heritage property, and advance the substantial work already undertaken by the FYROM authorities in terms of management planning. The workshops concluded with preparation of four visions for the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid region.¹¹² Similarly, UNECE supported the inception meeting of the GEF Project “Enabling trans-boundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River Basin” reconfirming the strong commitment for the development of cooperation including at the ministerial level.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Culture, in accordance with the decision of the World Heritage Committee, has undertaken necessary action towards enhancing the management of the World Heritage properties. UNESCO support enabled government to prepare reports¹¹³ on Berat and Gjirokaštër, thus presenting the government’s commitments and examples of best practices to ensure adequate preservation of cultural heritage and fulfilment of international obligations.

In two unexploded ordnance hotspots, in the villages of Gjeroven and Palikesht, Berat, 446,211 square metres of land was cleared by the UNDP project “Albanian Mine Action and Ammunition Destruction” supported by Norwegian People’s Aid. Also, inspection and certification was conducted in five former military ammunition depots: Mirake (Librazhd), Qafë Mollë 2 (Tiranë), Sazan (Vlorë)

and Labinot (Elbasan). Risk education, community liaison actions and public-awareness sessions were undertaken on the potential risks of unexploded ordnance, with participation of 5,800 local inhabitants in Gjeroven and Palikesht who are involved in risky activities such as scrap metal collection and farming in contaminated areas. 5,000 leaflets with risk education messages have been prepared.

Since 1997, there have been at least 991 unexploded ordnance casualties, with 150 killed and 841 injured, across Albania.¹¹⁴ Thanks to collective efforts, new injuries from unexploded ordnance have dropped to near zero – in 2015, 5 incidents were registered, 3 boys and 2 men. During 2015, 264 victims and their families were visited, with 221 victims in Tiranë, Fier, Vlorë and Kukës interviewed, and at least 50 amputees were fitted with prostheses or received major repairs at the prosthetic workshop at Kukës Regional Hospital. Meanwhile, UNDP supported the Government’s preparation of five annual convention transparency reports on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Convention of AP Mines and the Convention on Cluster Munitions for the year 2015.

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

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

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

114. The reported number is cumulative and covers the period 1997–2015.

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Challenges

Sustainable interventions will require both strong policies and capable institutions. Despite government commitment for advancement in specific development areas, adequate capacities in place and coordination skills are still key impediments for the public administration to ensure smooth and proper implementation of reform initiatives.

Participative governance needs coaching and practice to turn citizens into active actors for improved performance and responsive institutions. In spite of strong established partnerships with government counterparts at both central and local levels, it is critical to expand working with civil society and promote and support its role as a factor for democracy and the realisation of checks and balances. With more policies in place, it is increasingly critical to measure implementation progress through objective, quantitative data. In many cases, the positive progress assessed by government is indeed more modest according to data or quite different from the perception of citizens. Therefore, it is necessary to work in several directions at once and with a self-critical sense.

Election administration is a critical area requiring assistance. However, most international partners focus on observation of election day itself, and detracting funds and attention from structural weaknesses of the electoral administration. Notably, insufficient and unpredictable funding forces development partners to cram electoral assistance into the months preceding the elections, though it is important to provide support to electoral administration during non-electoral years for essential institution building.

Progress towards results in the fight against corruption and organised crime requires inter-institutional cooperation among national partners. Where inter-institutional partnerships have been successful, e.g. the UNDOC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP), results are more tangible.

Way Ahead

The UN will continue to support public administration reform through capacity building for proper implementation of the Civil Service Law, establishment and strengthening of human resource management systems and compliance with the new Code of Administrative Procedures. The work will entail innovation and modernisation of service delivery efforts at central and local levels, along the principle of citizen-centric service provision, and adoption of delivery schemes that discourage corruptive practices.

Technical and organisational capacities of the Alliance of Women Parliamentarians will be supported to promote gender-sensitive legislation and better monitor law implementation. Further support will be provided to increase the advocacy role of women in Parliament and in local governance structures, as well as the capacities and partnerships of women and civil society in holding decision makers to account for the adoption of good policies and practices at local governance level. The UN will support the capacities of elected women to perform in their new positions and increase those of the electoral management bodies to address challenges identified during 2015 and prepare for the 2017 parliamentary elections. Future interventions aim at improving the oversight role of the recently established Parliamentary group Friends of Children and the capacities of the Com-

missioner for Protection from Discrimination and the Ombudsman to outreach and inform different partners, especially in the private sector and media.

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

UNDP will support the National Anti-corruption Coordinator to improve the existing online instruments of denunciation and in-

crease citizen's confidence in the latter. The nascent status of the 61 new municipalities provides an excellent opportunity to introduce pioneering initiatives on anti-corruption and initiate the formulation of local-level integrity systems or anti-corruption action plans. Hence, new areas and activities aiming to strengthen public pressure on corruption will be identified through targeted capacity development of the National Anti-corruption Coordinator, relevant line ministries, central agencies, and civil society. UNODC–WCO will continue to strengthen the capacities of the government's law enforcement agencies in monitoring and reporting, incorporating gender considerations into operations, and establishing stronger regional cooperation. UNHCR and IOM support will be extended to improve the conditions of reception and treatment of migrants and refugees in Albania, to ensure that human rights for all categories of migrants are being respected, independent of their status (regular or irregular). UNHCR will continue to monitor the observation of the right to seek asylum for all foreign migrants and the right to access fair and efficient asylum procedures. This will include border monitoring, support to police for carrying out pre-screening procedures, provision of free legal assistance and representation and additional integration services.

OUTCOME 4—REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

With financial contribution from European Union, USA, Global Environment Facility, Switzerland, Italy (Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region), Sweden, UN core and global non-core resources, un-earmarked and soft-earmarked Coherence Fund (DRT-F, and SIDA)



"Gratë Bletërritëse të Shpatit", 30 women who work on beekeeping and honey production in Gjinar, Elbasan

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

In Albania change towards democratic, equitable, sustainable regional and local development is being advanced through the following mutually interlinked entry points of rural development and agricultural sector policies: increasing the technical, financial and human resource capacities of local governance institutions, strengthening the capacities of national and sub-national government units to promote sustainable growth and livelihoods, and supporting national and local authorities in mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction in programmes, policies and implementation. The regional and local development outcome is made up of

four components focused on the following: i) implementation of rural development and modernisation of the agriculture sector; ii) ensuring that LGUs and governance institutions have the technical, financial and human resources to deliver equitable public and administrative services for both men and women and render an account of those services; iii) fostering economic development through increasing capacities of national and sub-national government units to generate and strengthen investments, employment and livelihood opportunities, especially for youth and women; and iv) ensuring climate change adaptation and mitigation across sectors.

 **KEY RESULTS**

- ✓ Nationwide monitoring and information-sharing system for plant genetic resources
- ✓ Analysis on the State of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- ✓ Diagnosis study of the socio-economic situation of rural women
- ✓ Recommendations on gender mainstreaming in rural development projects
- ✓ Two Women's Cluster Models in Belsh and Gjinar

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

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

Progress towards Results

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

Thanks to FAO's assistance to Albania in the conservation and management of endangered locally adapted crop varieties, a nationwide monitoring and information-sharing system for plant genetic resources has been established and training provided in data gathering and reporting for professionals from the Faculty of Agriculture and the Agriculture Technology Transfer Centres

(ATTCS) of Fushë-Krujë, Korçë, Vlorë and Lushnjë. The system stores, inter alia, information on the entire *ex situ* collection of plant genetic resources (4,105 accessions), as well as information on 305 crop varieties recently released in the country and more than 400 references to publications addressing plant genetic resources in Albania.

In addition, the government has been supported in preparation of an analysis on the State of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA),¹¹⁵ which highlights gaps and needs and provides recommendations to improve the preservation and sustainable management of PGRFA through strengthening partnerships among existing national stakeholders. A national web-portal, serving as a dissemination and aggregation platform for the country's PGRFA community, was developed as a key element of a public awareness campaign on the importance of PGRFA and the need to conserve genetic resources for future use.

The reporting period corresponds to the closure of the FAO project 'Capacity Development of Agricultural Technology Transfer Centres and Extension services for Rural Diversification', which focused on developing approaches and replicable pilot project modules for rural development, taking into consideration the needs of the rural under-employed, with particular focus on women. The national strategy and policy documents were reviewed for conformity with the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), the capacities of extension services and ATTCS were strengthened for formulation and implementation of rural development programmes.

For three regional pilot rural programmes

115. <http://qrqj.org/>

(in Korçë, Berat and Shkodër) in particular, training manuals were prepared for each technical issue (e.g. sheep management, olive production, integrated vegetable pest management) as well as one for trainers, and a mechanism was established to replicate the trainings in other communes or regions with similar needs. Other supported initiatives include post-harvest training for farmers in Shkodër, preparation of a brochure for farmers on the same topic, preparation of a gender impact assessment of the trainings and recommendations for government and rural advisory services on gender mainstreaming in rural development projects. The training materials and recommendations were used by the extension service of MoARDWA to prepare the program and budget for the support of extension service in the country. Around 20 women farmers were also trained to produce soap from olive oil.

The impact assessment conducted after a year of the trainings in the three pilot locations indicated a clear increase in farmers' income (80-100%) as a result of increased productivity and decreased labour costs and an increase in the welfare of farmers, including women farmers (woman labour decreased with 70-80%). The impact assessment also identified existing burdens that limit *de facto* enjoyment of extension services by women (e.g. mixed vs. women associations, use of male dominated channels of information, mobility constraints, confidence gap, gender gaps in distribution of tasks, decision-making, and access to technologies and machinery). Recommendations and a tool in the form of a checklist were provided to MoARDWA and women's access to extension services increased.

In collaboration with the ministry, UN Women conducted a diagnosis study of the socio-economic situation of rural women with



Economic empowerment of women – at the heart of SDGs

a view to identify priority areas where positive action is needed. The study gathered an insight into rural women's needs, the factors that hinder or foster their full economic participation, and the way in which developmental processes in rural Albania can be used to enhance the living conditions of rural women. While participation in economic agricultural clusters¹¹⁶ is considered a relevant instrument for women's economic empowerment, especially in rural areas, UN Women is supporting both MoARDWA and the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship (MEDTTE) in piloting two Women's Cluster Models in two pilot communes in the region of Elbasan: a community based agro-tourism cluster in Belsh Municipality and one around the former municipality of Gjinar. The cluster in Belsh is composed of 25 rural women providing various services in the area, while that in Gjinar comprises 20 women involved in bee-keeping activities.

116. An economic cluster is a geographical concentration of businesses where enough resources and competences amass to reach a critical threshold, giving the cluster a key position in a given economic branch of activity, with a decisive sustainable competitive advantage over other places, even top position in the world in that field.


KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Legal framework for LGU amalgamation
- ✓ National Cross-cutting Strategy for Decentralisation and Local Governance 2014–2020
- ✓ Short-term local development operational plans for 26 LGUs
- ✓ Pilot One-Stop-Shop practices in Durrës and Elbasan
- ✓ Pilot data management system and digitalisation of archives in Durrës
- ✓ Digitalisation, cataloguing and opening up to the World Wide Web the Marubi photography archive
- ✓ Initial due diligence piloting exercise in 12 LGUs to inform the process of transferal of functions and responsibilities to the new 61 LGUs
- ✓ Definition of the administrative borders of the 61 new LGUs

Output 4.2 Local governance

LGUs and governance institutions have the technical, financial and human resources to deliver equitable public and administrative services for men and women and render an account of those services

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

Progress towards Results

Implementation of territorial reform intensified in the light of the approaching June 2015 local elections. A dedicated Agency for Implementation of the Reform was established in February under the Minister of State for Local Issues to facilitate institutional coordination between LGUs and central government agencies and to support amalgamation and consolidation of the newly established LGUs. Legal support was provided by UNDP to improve the definition of the agency's legal framework and mandate, as well as in preparing and improving the legal framework for amalgamation of the existing LGUs that was reflected in Law 30/2105 'On changes and additions

to Law No. 8652: On the organisation and functioning of local governments', adopted in April. The National Cross-cutting Strategy for Decentralisation and Local Governance 2014–2020 was approved in July with support provided by several development partners—including UNDP, USAID, OSCE, Council of Europe, and the Swiss Government—both financially and in the preparation of substantial analytical work as part of the strategy development process.

The initial due diligence piloting exercise¹¹⁷ in 12 LGUs¹¹⁸ conducted by UNDP was finalised in April and informed directly the process of transferal of functions and responsibilities to the new 61 LGUs. The piloting exercise was accompanied by a nationwide training of 61 local working groups on due diligence and amalgamation approaches, involving more than 240 officials from the local administrations. The collection and structuring of related financial and operational data for each of the 373 former LGUs is ongoing and will be completed by April 2016. The final product will consist in the delivery of 373 reports on the former LGUs and 61 consolidated reports on the new municipalities.

117. The due diligence relates to assessing and providing a full picture of the financial, legal, operational and personnel situation in each of the LGUs, followed by the identification of measures and recommendations for optimizing and consolidating systems and resources for the new amalgamated LGUs. The assessment includes: (i) the situation of finances and accounting, inclusive of borrowings, investments, liabilities and arrears; (ii) the existing contracts and agreement in place; (iii) the availability and significance of local plans and commitments; (iv) the inventory as well as the legal and physical status of assets; (v) the types of IT infrastructure and information systems in place; and (vi) details on the contractual arrangements and status of the locally employed; etc.

118. Municipalities of Pogradec and Ura Vajgurore, and communes of Buçimas, Çërravë, Cukalat, Dardhas, Kutalli, Poshnjë, Proptisht, Trebinjë, Udenisht and Velcan

Additionally, 26 smaller LGUs¹¹⁹ were supported in formulating their short-term local development operational plans, including project outlines for capital investments. These plans will serve as blueprints for the new municipalities, especially during their first 2–3 years of operations. Gender mainstreaming was in the focus throughout the planning phases, from data collection and analysis to prioritisation. Going forward, UNDP assessment related to the above plans will feed into the development of long term general/territorial plans, under the auspices of the Ministry of Urban Development, five of which are already under formulation by USAID’s Planning and Local Governance Project. Furthermore, special consideration was given in supporting government to address the definition of the administrative borders of the 61 new LGUs. In this context, 120 specialists from 61 LGUs were trained in the use of the established GIS system for their respective municipality.

In order to tackle the preservation of public services in the territory, UNDP provided support to develop innovative systems and integration approaches, such as One-Stop-Shops and digitalisation of archives, by optimising relevant best practices and local capacities, aiming to develop replicable models and up-scaling at the national level during 2016 and beyond. One-Stop-Shop practices were piloted in two LGUs, in Durrës and Elbasan, offering up to nine services through a single desk. A data management system and digitalisation of archives was piloted in one LGU in Durrës.

Besides supporting implementation of the

119. Municipalities of Belsh, Bulqizë, Delvinë, Devoll, Dropull, Finiq, Fushë-Arrëz, Gramsh, Has, Kamëz, Këlcyrë, Kolonjë, Libohovë, Maliq, Mallakastër, Memaliaj, Mirditë, Patos, Peqin, Përmet, Pukë, Pustec, Roskovec, Selenicë, Tepelenë and Vau-Dejë



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

STAR, a landmark reform of GoA


KEY RESULTS

- ✓ National study on the state of gender diversity in Albanian company boards and senior management
- ✓ Study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade
- ✓ Analysis of trade in agricultural products with high export potential
- ✓ Policy recommendations to enhance Albania's competition legal and institutional framework
- ✓ Strategic analysis of FDI inflow
- ✓ National Action Plan for Women Entrepreneurship 2014–2020
- ✓ Concept for operationalization of a women's business centre within AIDA
- ✓ Mapping study on 'potential women groups, geographical spots and respective local capacities' for the establishment of women's community-based tourism initiatives
- ✓ Cooperation agreements between women and local authorities
- ✓ Analysis of the UNCTAD business registration and licensing process tool to collect, produce and communicate data on trade and foreign direct investment (FDI)

Output 4.3 Economic development

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

UN initiatives in this area address policy dialogue and partnership with the Government of Albania and the private sector through provision of technical support aiming to shape current policy debates on development, with particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international actions are mutually supportive in bringing inclusive and sustainable economic growth through enhanced regulatory frameworks.

Progress towards Results

UN Women is working closely with MEDTTE on implementation of the National Action Plan for Women Entrepreneurship 2014–2020. The establishment of a women's business centre within the Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA), a key priority of the newly established Advisory Board for the coordination and monitoring of the Action Plan, was addressed by UN Women through the development of a concept for its operationalisation. Furthermore, the ministry's objective to develop and promote community-based tourism that aims to include and benefit local communities, particularly in the rural belt, was supported through development of a mapping study on 'potential women groups, geographical spots and respective local capacities' for the establishment of women's community-based tourism initiatives.

MoSWY's revision of the regulation 'Safety measures for health and security in the workplace of pregnant employees, new mothers and breastfeeding employees' benefited from an analysis undertaken by UN Women of the

experience of previous policies, EU related legislation and ILO conventions, as well as relevant CEDAW recommendations, and the expertise of UN agencies and relevant partners of the Ministry. In addition, the government's consideration of the state of gender diversity in Albanian company boards and senior management, prompted by the concern that women continue to be under-represented despite progress in education and employment, was addressed by UN Women through a national study and evidence-based recommendations.

UNDP support to vulnerable women in rural and semi-rural areas of Ersekë, Vithkuq, Horë-Vranisht, Novoselë and Burrel aimed at women's social and economic empowerment. Training, workshops, fairs, sales events and coaching were conducted to build skills in learning appropriate methods of collecting, processing and marketing local and handicraft products, building sustainable partnerships and designing business plans for successful women-run social enterprises. These interventions increased i) awareness of the area's products aiming to expand their trademark by the private businesses that operate in other regions of the country; ii) income for women resulting in their economic empowerment; and iii) women's orientation towards private initiatives to self-employment. Through a participatory process, four business plans were developed and four cooperation agreements between women and local authorities were established. Out of 58 women identified in the above regions for the establishment of local entrepreneurship, 29 were trained on medical and forest fruits processing and a processing center for such products was established in Burrel.

UNDP's economic literacy programme for women, conducted in five regions of the country—Burrel, Sarandë, Vlorë, Korçë and Durrës—reached out to 170 vulnerable women in local communities and to relevant state

and non-state bodies emphasising women's rights, duties and protection mechanisms in family, marital, work and property relations, and the role and responsibilities of local state bodies to appropriate implementation of these rights and safeguards.

In supporting the government's fulfilment of the EU *acquis communautaire* in the trade domain, UNECE developed a study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and an in-depth analysis of trade in agricultural products with high export potential, highlighting the consequences of these barriers to the country's export competitiveness and regional integration.

An analysis of the UNCTAD business registration and licensing process tool for a combined service through the e-Albania portal¹²⁰ was presented to MEDTTE. This tool assists state and non-state stakeholders to collect, produce and communicate data on trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) with the aim of facilitating business through an enhanced regulatory framework with transparent and streamlined administrative rules and procedures to support private sector development. It aided the government to design a combined online services for business registration and licensing enabling individual businesses and companies to apply online simultaneously for registration at the National Registration Centre and for selected licenses at the National Licenses Centre.

UNCTAD's *Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy*¹²¹ was published in May 2015 in the context and in view of the 'Seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multi-laterally Agreed Equitable Principles and

Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices' organised in Geneva from 6–10 July 2015. The peer review includes UNCTAD findings with targeted policy recommendations to enhance Albania's competition legal and institutional framework enabling the government, trade organisations and the private sector to promote the competitiveness of enterprises, supply chain integration and investment for a more inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The technical recommendations of the Peer Review are endorsed by the ACA and their full implementation will be realised by the end of 2016. During the phase of implementation of the Peer Review on Competition Law and Policy, UNCTAD and the Albanian Competition Authority (ACA) embarked in an ambitious work programme that will be marked by a three series of workshops to train judges on Competition law and Policy in association with the School of Magistrates of Tirana. By end 2015, one out of three national workshops was held in Tirana with a strong commitment of the judiciary to understand their role in the enforcement of competition rules in Albania. Other activities targeting strengthening the work of ACA will be undertaken during May to June 2016.

Through Czech expertise, UNDP conducted a strategic analysis of FDI inflow along with a review of the Albanian Investment Development Agency's activities.¹²² Particular attention was placed on the development of infrastructure for greenfield and brownfield investments as these were identified as among the weakest links in Albania's investment climate. In addition, capacities of staff at MEDTTE and AIDA were strengthened over the entire FDI life cycle, including local sourcing.¹²³

120. <https://www.e-albania.al/esherbimet.aspx>

121. UNCTAD peer review on competition law and policy is an exercise in which a country voluntarily has its competition legal framework and institutional set-up evaluated by other countries. It presents a unique opportunity to discover the strengths and weaknesses of the country's competition system, to draw lessons from past experiences, to examine risks and opportunities and propose improvements for the future. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditclp2015d1_en.pdf

122. Transfer of Czech know-how: supporting an investment and business development programme in Albania

123. Eight AIDA staff members from FDI and marketing departments were trained in both Czech experience and global best practices in investment promotion. The training incorporated some of AIDA's real-life cases so that the workshop was more of an on-the-job training than a series of formal lectures. Furthermore, a study tour to the Czech Republic took place during the period 24–28 March 2015. The Albanian delegation of seven participants included the deputy minister and several experts and managers from MEDTTE.


KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Post-disaster needs analysis on floods
- ✓ Albania's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- ✓ Albania's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
- ✓ National Action Plan on Renewable Energy
- ✓ Rehabilitation of 16 flood protection infrastructures located in eight municipalities, benefiting a rural population of around 160,000 people
- ✓ Field testing and cost-benefit analysis of the FLOODIS system in Shkodër region for delivery of alerts
- ✓ Child Friendly Spaces set up in four schools—in Pjeshkore, Moravë, Darzeze and Fitore – targeting 1,100 children
- ✓ Integrated Plan for Coastal Zone Management includes climate change considerations
- ✓ Energy efficiency standards are being introduced in the design of social houses
- ✓ Report on the wood energy situation

Output 4.4 Climate change

Key ministries and local authorities adopt local, regional and national action on climate change adaptation (including in the short term, e.g. Disaster Risk Reduction) and mitigation across sectors

The ongoing reform in the energy sector saw the adoption of the Power Sector Law, the Energy Efficiency Law and a reduction in electricity non-payments, from 45 percent in 2013 to 32 percent in mid-2015. UN support in this area ensures that the role of renewable energy sources in the overall power supply strategy is clearly defined prior to embarking on nuances of renewable energy support schemes in general and feed-in-tariffs in particular.

In terms of the global policy agenda, the process leading up to the 21st Convention of the Parties (COP21) held in Paris on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was the most critical event of the year. Albania prepared actively for its COP21 presentations, which will have far ranging and long-term impacts on the sector.

Progress towards Results

In response to the flooding situation that affected the south-east of the country in early 2015, the UN, jointly with the EU and the World Bank, supported the government in conducting a post-disaster needs analysis (PDNA). The EU-led PDNA of government specified clear areas requiring intervention, including rehabilitation of flood damage in selected priority areas as identified by MoARDWA. Under the broader EU Flood Infrastructure Rehabilitation Programme, UNDP implemented flood control infrastructure restoration, aiming at strengthening re-

silience and disaster risk preparedness and prevention in south-east Albania. Rehabilitation of 16 flood protection infrastructures located in eight municipalities, benefiting a rural population of around 160,000 people, began at the end of September 2015 and by year end, 80 percent of the foreseen infrastructure rehabilitation works had been completed.

UNESCO conducted field testing of the FLOODIS system in Shkodër region for delivery of alerts and interactive maps on flooding risks and events to users in the geographical area at risk. The cost-benefit analysis was concluded in the fall and presented at a conference held in Paris on 2 October 2015. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) provided cash assistance to around 9,500 people affected by the floods in the country. Households in the five most affected regions in Albania—Fier, Berat, Vlorë, Elbasan and Gjirokastrë—received a three-month cash grant through personal cheques of US\$35 per month, totalling US\$105 per person. Beneficiaries were selected by local village committees, consisting of village elders, women and the poorest members of the community.

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



Flooding

UNDP supported Albania's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The communication is currently in the final peer review process. The scientific work conducted in the framework of National Communication¹²⁴ contributed to the formulation of Albania's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), which was submitted to the Convention on 24 September 2015, committing to a reduction of 11.5 percent in CO₂ emissions. Together with the EU and GIZ, UNDP supported Albania's preparations for COP21 in Paris. The INDCs submitted by the governments sealed the climate deal. UNDP is starting a

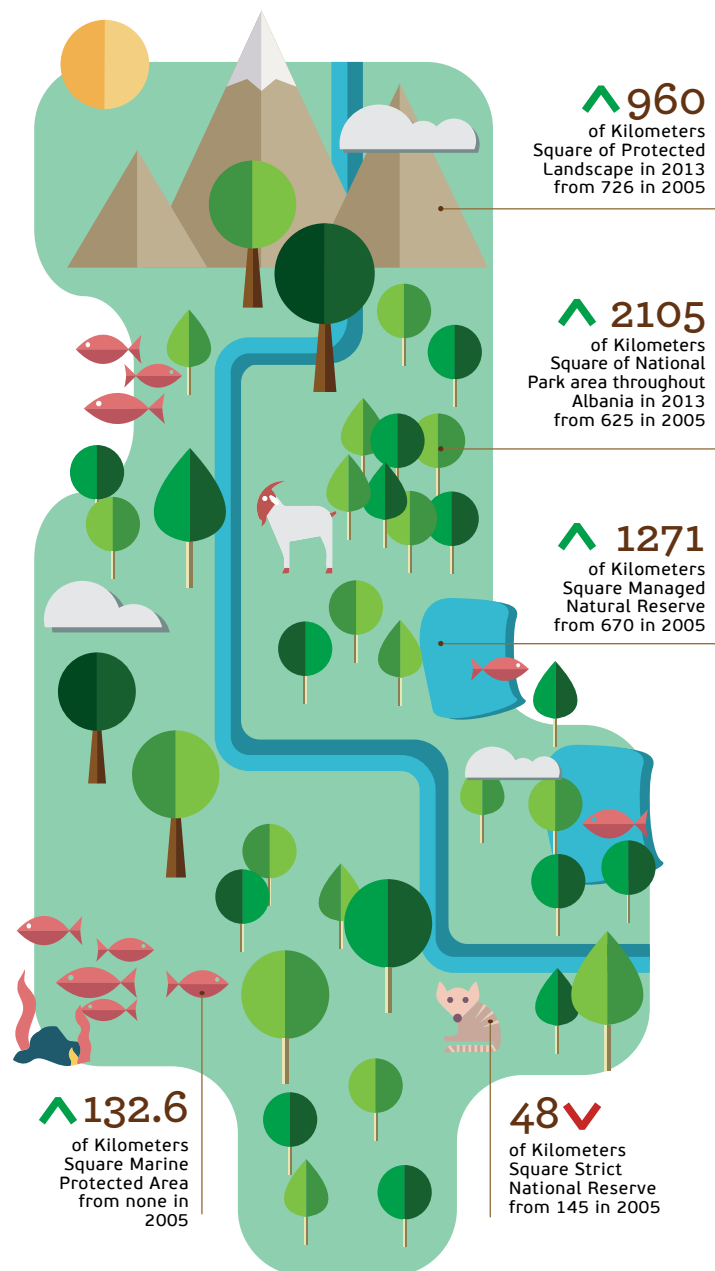
Climate Change National Adaptation planning process in the country and is currently working with the National Territorial Planning Agency to include climate change considerations in the Integrated Plan for Coastal Zone Management.

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

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

Protected Areas

in Numbers during the last Decade



UNDP's promotion of legal- and market-based approaches to increasing the use of energy efficient and innovative solar water heating technology continues through the small grants scheme co-funded at the municipal level, associated with advocacy and capacity building activities. To date it has achieved a cumulative installed area of 164,870 m² with annual sales of 20,305 m² and 678,570 tCO₂ reduction.¹²⁵ Six municipalities¹²⁶ have benefited from tailor-made capacity building activities on the application of solar technologies, and eleven public institutions¹²⁷ received installation of solar water heating systems.

FAO supported a regional wood energy project, covering Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYROM, focused on preparing technical reports on wood fuel consumption and supply, compiling a database and model on wood supply, demand and integration, and producing a comprehensive report on the wood energy situation. Although relevant ministries in each country are the main beneficiaries, the project is also helping to increase capacities in participating institutions, including national statistical offices and university departments.

125. These CO₂ emission reductions show the cumulative effect of the UNDP-supported interventions in solar water heating technology in the country during the last four years. The target of 20,000 m² of annual sales, foreseen to be reached by 2020, has already been reached in the third year of the project (2014) due to the project's direct and indirect interventions. Through the incentives provided in the related legal framework, the market will maintain the pace and show further positive trends by 2020.

126. Fier, Berat, Burrel, Elbasan, Lushnjë, Lezhë

127. 2 health centres, 3 kindergartens and 1 day-care, 3 multi-disciplinary centres, 1 house for the elderly, and 1 student dormitory

Challenges and the Way Ahead

Challenges

Outcome 4—Regional and Local Development enabled demand-driven and bottom-up trainings build potential for income diversification. MoARDWA and other partners could consider involving non-formal extension services, CSOs and farmer organisations in the provision of advisory services, especially in regions where public extension services lack human resources. In addition, rural communities should take an active role in the process of project formulation to ensure that activities match needs. Specific and proactive measures are needed to ensure that both women and men have access to innovation and knowledge, especially by reducing burdens that women face in accessing extension services and Agricultural Technology Transfer Centres (ATTCs).

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

Albania's INDC is a target commitment to reduce by 11.5 percent CO₂ emissions compared to the baseline scenario in the period

2016–2030. The INDC formulation process was supported by the greenhouse gases inventory, analysis and mitigation actions under Albania's Third National Communication to UNFCCC and two National Appropriate Mitigation Actions supported by UNDP. Following the broad consultation process on the INDC, the country needs to start preparations in this regard by breaking down the commitments into concrete domestic actions in the area of energy and transport, and should implement the action provided in, for example, the national actions plans for energy efficiency and for renewable energy.

In the energy sector, the MoU signed between public entities and municipalities ensured cooperation for: i) legal assistance to adopt solar obligations on local standards; ii) capacity building of staff in charge of policy making and project design; and iii) securing cost-sharing of selected pilot projects with a direct impact in terms of overall installed area and emissions reductions. Other co-financing schema and other financial instruments for promotion of renewables and energy efficiency in the country will be further promoted based on the experiences accumulated to date and best practices in the region and EU countries.

Data availability continues to be a challenge, both for climate change mitigation and adaptation analysis, especially in the area of wood fuel, forestry, industrial processes and the waste sector. Currently, ad hoc studies, surveys and informal sharing are helpfully undertaken to build knowledge, but efforts should increasingly aim towards building a systemized, sustainable and government-led data system.

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

Way Ahead

MoARDWA will be supported in implementing the Inter-sectoral Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2020, while specific actions to support rural women's economic empowerment will be undertaken as prioritised in the 2015–2017 FAO–Government of Albania Country Programming Framework.¹²⁸ Based on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, specific recommendations and support for land management will be provided.

The Ministry of Environment and the Agency of Protected Areas will be further supported to reduce existing funding gaps for the system of protected areas, improving the management of individual protected areas, creating cost efficiencies and building the financial management capacities of protected area staff in the country. Implementation of Karaburun–Sazan management plan priority actions will continue, as will showcasing eco-tourism promotion in other coastal protected areas in the country.

Regarding the INDC, Albania needs to break down the commitments into concrete do-

mestic actions and implement the national actions plans for energy efficiency and renewable energy, among others.

In the energy sector, the MoU between public entities and municipalities has ensured co-operation for i) legal assistance to adopt solar obligations on local standards; ii) capacity building of staff in charge of policy making and project design; and (iii) securing the cost sharing of selected pilot projects with a direct impact in terms of the overall installed area and reduction of GHG emissions. Other co-financing schema and other financial instruments for promotion of renewables and energy efficiency in the country will be further promoted based on the experiences accumulated to date and best practices in the region and EU countries.

UNDP in Albania has already established a strong working niche in the area of local government through co-designing with government the roadmap for territorial reform, coordinating donor support and managing the joint resources throughout implementation. Based on this recent successful experience and the reputation built up over the years in working with local and regional governments, UNDP is building its future assistance around furthering support to the newly established LGUs. The new assistance, for which donor support is sought through a similar joint contribution modality, will focus on the one hand on strengthening local democracy and, on the other, improving service delivery reorganisation and efficiency in reaching citizens to ensure national coverage of local service delivery by end of 2017. Gender and pro-poor considerations alongside participatory and evidence-based decision making will be ensured throughout the processes.

128. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-au045e.pdf>

Human-centred innovations in service design will be replicated to bring tourism closer to areas traditionally not known as tourist destinations. UN deliverables in support of AIDA will focus on elaboration of sector profiles on the leather and shoe industry, as well as agro-tourism. A study on the potential non-financial business services that new municipalities can offer to their constituents

will be completed in 2016. The newly designed merger between the National Centre for Registration and the National Centre of Licensing will also provide a new institutional impetus to business support. UNCTAD and UNECE will focus on Albania's integration into regional and global value chains and the development of a multi-agency Albanian Single Window for export and import clearance.

CHAPTER 3
UN DELIVERING AS
ONE IN ALBANIA



A Delivering as One (DaO) country since 2007, Albania has developed two Programmes of Cooperation, covering the periods 2007–2011 and 2012–2016. The PoC is operationalised through the components One Programme, One Budgetary Framework, One Leader, One Voice, and One House in a DaO approach. A unified UN jointly carries out planning and implementation activities to support the government’s leadership role in pursuing its national priorities by building its capacity at all levels and strengthening national ownership.

2015 was the penultimate year of the implementation of PoC 2012–2016. In line with the DaO Standard Operating Procedures, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Albania engaged in an intensive preparation phase for the development of the next PoC 2017–2021. The process followed nationwide consultations and identification of priorities together with the government and partners. Four strategic priority areas were identified: 1. Governance and Rule of Law; 2. Social Cohesion; 3. Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture; and 4. Environment and Climate Change. The Programme is envisaged to be endorsed and signed by the government, 16 UN agencies and the UN Resident Coordinator in 2016.

One Programme

In 2015, PoC 2012–2016 was implemented through a revised results framework in line with the recommendations of the 2014 Mid-Term Review. UN agencies operated under four outcomes—Human Rights, Inclusive Social Policies, Governance and Rule of Law, and Regional and Local Development—and 15 outputs, measured through a total of 43 indicators, nine at the outcome level and 34 at the output level.

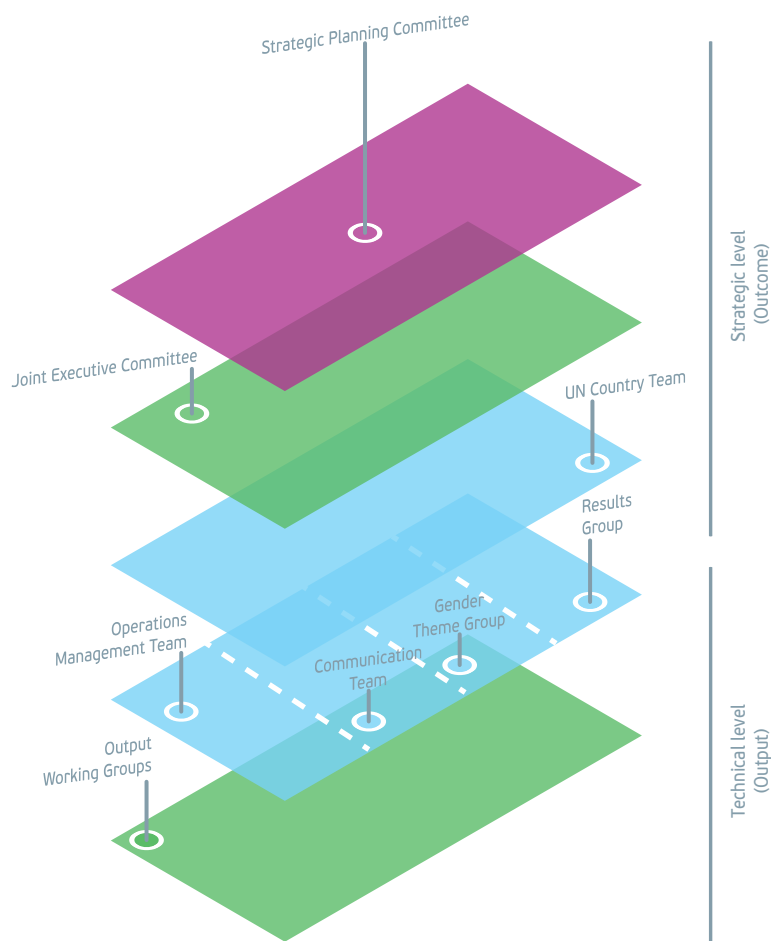
The higher strategic level content of each outcome and output under the new results framework called for a modification of the

programme's management arrangements, in order to allow the UN to be responsive to national demands and increase effectiveness and efficiency of the PoC. In this regard, Outcome Groups, chaired by a Head of UN agency, were established to contribute to the specific outcomes through coordinated and collaborative planning, imple-

mentation, monitoring and evaluation. These new Outcome Groups, effective since January 2015, produced a flow of performance information from the Output Working Groups to the Joint Executive Committee to inform decision making. The Outcome Groups have improved information sharing across the UN, increased coherence in the support provided to government and facilitated PoC reviews and planning processes under the relevant outcome areas. The PoC management arrangements are presented in the graph on the left.

PoC management arrangements

- Government of Albania Leadership
- Government of Albania and United Nations Coordination
- United Nations Management



This PoC Results Framework was operationalised through 15 joint work plans (JWPs), ten annual and five biennial, co-signed and implemented by UN agencies and GoA signatory authorities. Each Outcome Group oversaw the preparation of 3–4 JWPs by Output Working Groups. Output Working Groups are co-chaired by senior programme staff from the UN and the identified focal point Ministry, and are responsible for identifying the specific activities to be undertaken in pursuit of the PoC over a one-year or two-year period. As the UN promotes a multi-sectoral approach that breaks down institutional silos, often Output Working Group Co-chairs are responsible for coordinating with lateral UN agencies or additional line Ministries to include necessary activities to attain the desired result. Each Output-specific Joint Work Plan is measurable through indicators, baselines, targets, means of verification and assumptions and risks. All JWPs had incorporated gender, institutional capacity building and policy development into their respective programmatic deliverables. The implementing partners and UN agencies specified in the 2015 JWPs are shown in the tables on the right.

The Mid-year and the Annual Review consolidated reports were prepared in July and December, outlining results achieved in 2015 and lessons learned, along with relevant rec-

ommendations on the way forward. Both reports were prepared with inputs received by the Output Working Groups, consisting of technical staff from both GoA implementing line ministries and institutions, and UN agencies. Significant progress was noted in the indicators results by end-2015 compared to the baseline, and is reported in Annex A: Progress against PoC results framework.

One Budgetary Framework

The One Budgetary Framework provides a comprehensive overview of UN Albania indicative costing and funding needs for 2012–2016 in support of the national development priorities and results. The budgetary framework is updated on an annual basis. The PoC for 2015 had a desired total budget of almost USD 40 million. However, available funds amounted to only USD 24 million, a funding shortfall¹²⁹ of USD 16 million. Total expenditure for the year was USD 18 million, a delivery rate averaging 77 percent, with the balance carried over into 2016. Outcome 4—Regional and Local Development had the highest available budget (USD 8.5 million), followed by Outcome 2—Inclusive Social Policies (USD 7.8 million). Meanwhile, Outcome 1—Human Rights had the highest delivery rate (86.5 percent). For a financial overview of the 2015 total budget, including all sources of funding, see Annex C.

129. Examples of some important activities that could not be delivered due to the funding shortfall include: Quality improvement initiatives for mothers and new-borns: Helping Mothers Survive Training addressing Maternal Mortality as a consequence of post-delivery haemorrhage; Research and studies on Social Determinants for health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups (DHS/BDSS); Advancement of academic research and gender responsive budgeting at universities aiming to educate the young generation on the social benefit and economic perspective/benefit of gender equality; Supporting the government to determine a course of action for children younger than 14 who commit offences but are not held accountable by law; Promoting among parents and children knowledge about child rights and equipping them with information to pursue violations of these rights.

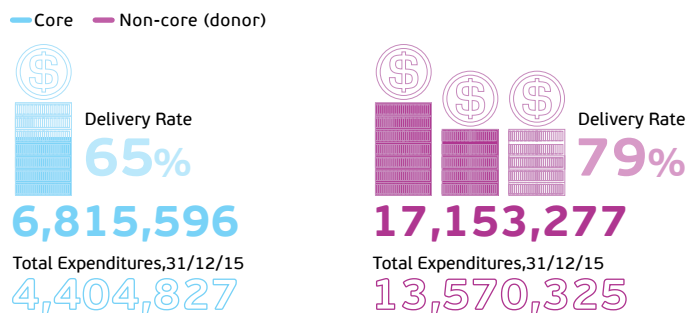
2015 JWP's signed

— UN Agencies and IOM — 2015 Implementing partners

UN Agencies and IOM	No. of JWPs signed
FAO	3
IAEA	1
ILO	1
IOM	3
UNAIDS	1
UNCTAD	1
UNDP	10
UNECE	2
UNEP	1
UNESCO	5
UNFPA	8
UNHCR	1
UNICEF	8
UNODC	1
UN WOMEN	10
WHO	1

2015 Implementing partners	No. of JWPs signed
Direct Implementation (Oversight Bodies)	1
Minister of State for Local Government	1
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development & Water Administration	1
Ministry of Economy, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship	1
Ministry of Education and Sports	1
Ministry of Energy and Industry	1
Ministry of Environment	1
Ministry of Health	1
Ministry of Internal Affairs National Coordinator for Anti-corruption	1
Ministry of Justice	1
Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth	5

Fund sources of available budget



Budget & expenditures per Outcome

Outcomes/Outputs	Delivery Rate (%)
Output 1.1 Normative reporting, tracking and quality	69.47%
Output 1.2 Access to justice and civil society support	93.72%
Output 1.3 Eliminating violence in society	88.70%
Outcome 1 Human Rights	86.53%
Output 2.1 Health	77.06%
Output 2.2 Education	50.74%
Output 2.3 Labour	81.32%
Output 2.4 Social Protection	74.57%
Outcome 2 Inclusive Social Policies	70.02%
Output 3.1 Parliament & electoral institutions	74.73%
Output 3.2 Mainstreaming gender & gender responsive budgeting	77.52%
Output 3.3 Anti-corruption & the Rule of Law	52.71%
Output 3.4 Public Goods	103.40%
Outcome 3 Governance and Rule of Law	67.60%
Output 4.1 Agriculture and Rural Development	50.13%
Output 4.2 Local Governance	81.05%
Output 4.3 Economic Development	62.65%
Output 4.4 Climate Change	91.24%
Outcome 4 Regional & Local Development	82.27%
TOTAL	76.60%

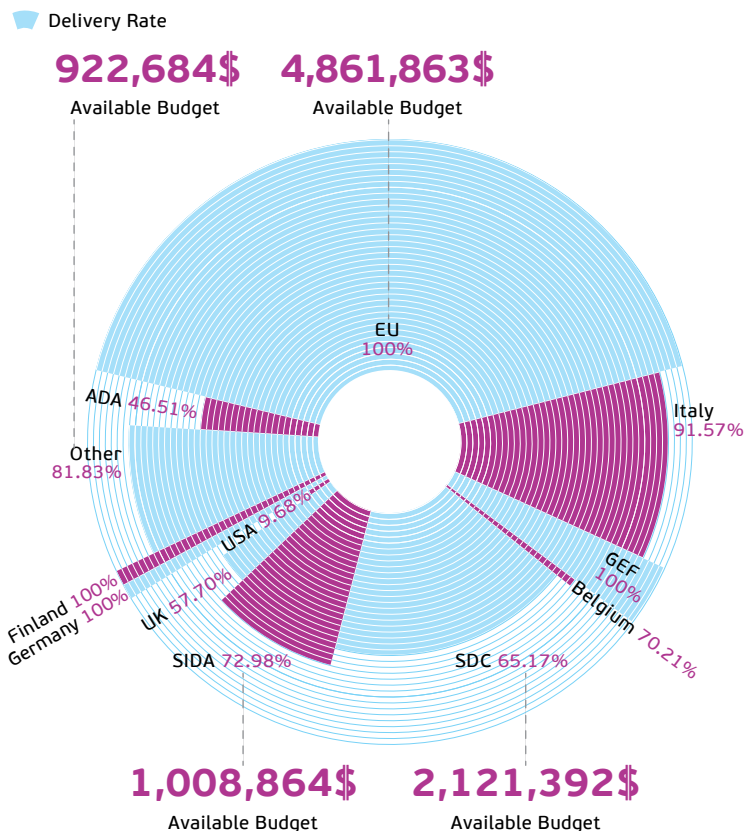
The graphs and table on the left present a breakdown of the budget available and expenditures for each source of funding and outcome. Non-core (donor and coherence fund) resources made up 72 percent of the available budget, highlighting the importance of resource mobilisation initiatives in PoC implementation.

In 2015, UN agencies individual efforts mobilised resources from eleven donors and delivered 86 percent of this assistance (graph on the right). The One UN Coherence Fund (CF)¹³⁰ is an important source of contribution to the PoC, established to maximise the effectiveness of the UN agencies delivery by pooling resources into a common fund to support national strategic top priorities. Eight donors—Austria, EU, Finland and the governments of the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland— as well as the Expanded DaO Funding Window and the Delivering Results Together Fund were the contributors to the UN Albania CF with a total commitment of USD 35.8 million since its establishment in January 2007 up until the end of 2015. As shown in the graph on the right, Sweden is the largest contributor (22%) followed by Switzerland (14%), and the Netherlands and Spain (11% each).

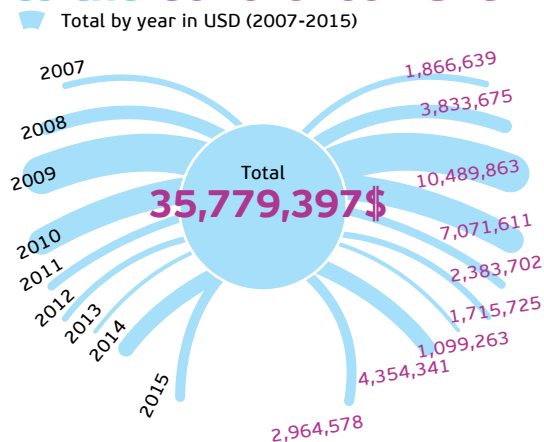
In 2015, UNCT Albania successfully mobilised USD 1,441,750 from the Delivering Results Together Fund, USD 1,053,721 from the Government of Switzerland and USD 469,108 from the Government of Sweden for the Coherence Fund in support of joint initiatives of the four pillars of the PoC and gender equality. The Coherence Fund component of the PoC achieved a delivery rate of 66 percent. The graph on the right provides total partner yearly contributions into the Coherence Fund since its establishment in 2007.

130. Refer to Annex B for detailed information on the Coherence Fund.

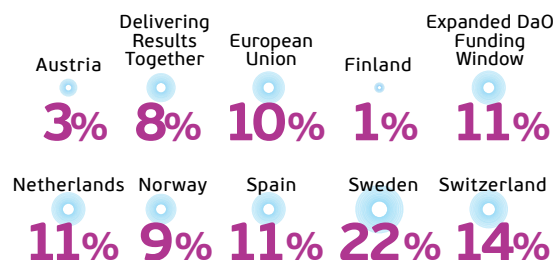
Distribution of donor resources



Partners contributions to the Coherence Fund



Partners contribution



One Leader

Overall coordination of the DaO approach is provided by the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the UN Country Team in close collaboration with the government's Coordinating Authority, the Department of Development, Financing and Foreign Aid in the Prime Minister's Office. Fifteen UN agencies, seven resident and eight non-resident, as well as IOM, were involved in implementation of the PoC in 2015 under the strategic leadership of UNRC, drawing on their expertise and comparative advantages. The RC led successful joint resource mobilisation efforts

and supported agency resource mobilisation initiatives enabling the UN in Albania to work together towards strengthening and deepening the normative policy work in the country and increasing the support provided to government on the development and implementation of various policies in key sectors. Furthermore, under the RC and with UNCT guidance, the key inter-agency management bodies, Gender Theme Group, Operations Management Team (OMT) and UN Communications Group (UNCG), ensured both vertical and UN coherence at all levels.

Communicating as One

2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations and Albania's 60th anniversary of membership to the UN. The 70th anniversary was an opportunity to reflect on the UN's history and take stock of its tangible achievements in Albania and elsewhere. In partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UNCG implemented a year-long social media campaign, helping raise awareness and understanding of Albania's key moments and milestones as a UN member country and highlighting the impact of the UN's work. The celebration of this anniversary in Albania also presented an opportunity to spotlight where the UN and the international development partners need to redouble their efforts to meet current and future challenges across areas of intervention in the country. The ten month commemoration culminated on the 70th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter (on 24 October 2015): . The event brought together the highest government representatives, national and international development partners, civil society, media and academia.

To commemorate the founding of the UN and to honour the historic breadth of its work in Albania and around the world, the city of Tirana joined the global event 'Turn the World UN Blue'. Tirana Clock Tower, along with world-famous landmarks such as Sydney Opera House, the Great Pyramids of Giza, the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro and the Empire State Building in New York, were all lit up in blue. Tirana Clock Tower was one among two hundred iconic monuments, buildings, museums, bridges and other landmarks in more than forty-five countries around the world that were bathed in UN Blue.

As part of World Environment Day, under

the theme 'Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care', the UN agencies in partnership with the OSCE Presence in Albania, Embassy of Italy and Tirana Express joined forces with the supermarket chain Conad to raise awareness among the Albanian public of the need to reduce the use of plastic bags. For one week, customers were asked for a voluntary monetary contribution for each plastic bag used in Conad shops in Tirana and some other regions. This was accompanied by a public awareness and information social media campaign, aimed at making citizens aware of the harm caused to the environment by plastic bags and calling on them to act responsibly and consume with care. The funds collected from this campaign went towards cleaning the Ishëm River, which flows into the Adriatic Sea. The campaign turned out to be one of the most successful advocacy events organised in 2015. News about the event went viral on social media, generating debate about the use of plastic bags and the need to ban their use in Albania. Around half a million people were reached through TV reports of the event, with TV programmes organised on this occasion, and around 70,000 people reached through a social media campaign.

The 2030 development agenda – the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs - was launched in Albania in partnership with the Prime Minister's Office and in the presence of a large array of national and international partners, including the private sector. After the presentation of the 2030 Agenda, a social media education campaign to increase public awareness of the 17 goals was launched. The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations also centred on the Sustainable Development Goals. Senior government officials and members of the international

community were pictured with SDG frames, helping raise awareness of the global call to reach the SDGs.

As part of the 2030 Agenda, Albanian youth became part of the 'Youth Voice' campaign, which reached out to decision makers and other stakeholders across the country to present a youth vision and advocate for their inclusion in developing national action plans and budgets.

Albanian children in fifty schools across the country joined the World's Largest Lesson Campaign, which aims to spread awareness among school students of the SDGs and empower and mobilise them to change the world. The World's Largest Lesson aims to engage school children in the effort to achieve those goals, educating them about the challenges that are shaping their futures and encouraging them to drive change in their own communities.

The UN Communication group continued to implement a national public awareness campaign around the advancement of gender equality and the fight against domestic violence. Public awareness and advocacy events across Albania rallied people young and old, women and men, boys and girls. The campaign culminated in a concert called 'Sounds against Violence'. A spectacular line up of Albanian artists took to the stage to add their voices and talents to a solidarity movement to end violence against women and girls in Albania. They appealed to the Albanian public to end violence and commit to a society where men and women have equal opportunities. The event shone a spotlight on the importance of building a society with equal opportunities for men and women and highlighted the role artists play in informing and engaging people in positive change.

Religious communities in Albania joined in the 16 days of campaign to end violence against women. A cooperation agreement was signed between the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth and five youth and religious communities in Albania aiming to encourage coordinated concrete actions of these communities in becoming supporters of women and girls and change makers in promotion of values and messages that prevent Gender-Based and Domestic Violence in Albanian society.

Following this signature, Tirana Mosque, the Orthodox Cathedral, MoSWY and Tirana Municipality were lit up in orange in support of the campaign joining #orangetheworld global campaign, featuring 450 landmarks across the world.

In 2015, the UN agencies in Albania embarked on a dynamic journey to develop the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework—the UN strategic plan that aims to help Albania advance its development agenda and create a better life for citizens. With funding from the UNDP Innovation Facility, the Communications Team designed a public awareness campaign to engage the Albanian public in the design process of the programme and to promote its actions. This was done through a combination of traditional face-to-face public consultations and an online crowdsourcing technique. The two components fed into the Common Country Assessment and the PoC 2017-2021 formulation, respectively. An online questionnaire was prepared to gather first-hand perceptions on the country's development challenges, causes and capacity gaps. The second survey focused on priority areas for UN involvement and comparative advantages.

Around 400 people filled in the survey and

preparations

GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA AND UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION



The PoC development followed an intensive preparation phase of nationwide consultations and identification of priorities together with government partners. Significant changes in national structures and priorities, such as the Territorial-Administrative Reform, influenced both the development process and the formulation of PoC 2017–2021.

Below is a brief explanation of the milestones followed for the PoC development:

The PoC Roadmap was endorsed by the Department of Development, Financing and Foreign Aid (DDFFA) in January 2015.

An independent Evaluation of the current PoC was prepared in June and a Management Response to the evaluation was completed in September.

The Common Country Assessment (2015), an analysis of the UN System comparative advantage in Albania, and a series of extensive consultations with government and other development partners at the national and sub-national level, provided the basis for the determination of the areas in which the UN

some 430,000 people were engaged through the social media platforms to have a say on issues that they deem important and to participate in prioritising development issues in the country. This led to raised awareness of the PoC 2017-2021 process and engaged citizens in a two-way communication on issues that affect their lives. Around 300,000 people were reached through the national TV reports generated from the event.

Operating as One

Eight UN agencies—UNDP, UNICEF, UN-

FPA, ILO, UNHCR, UNODC, UNAIDS and UNDSS—and several UN agency projects reside in the common premises designated by the UN Secretary General as UN House on 25 November 2013. UN Women is located in satellite premises close to the central building.

In the field of operations, common services are shared among the seven resident agencies, aiming to promote efficiency and reduce transaction costs, including renewal of several Long-Term Agreements, Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers implementa-

should focus its collective efforts for the next five years. The CCA was finalised in early September, supplemented by a gender position paper ensuring that the pursuit of gender equality is reflected throughout the substantive content as well as in the process. Public consultations were held in Tiranë, Shkodër and Korçë with 165 multi-stakeholder representatives, while an online crowdsourcing survey reached out to some 330 citizens and partners. CCA findings were presented to key stakeholders during the Prioritisation and Validation workshops organised in early July.

A series of Trainings were held in September and early October for government and UN representatives on: i) Human rights-based approach (HRBA), ii) Gender equality, iii) Environmental sustainability, iv) Results-based management (RBM), and v) Capacity development.

Completion of the above critical milestones set the stage for the Strategic Prioritisation Retreat, held from September 30–October 1 2015. The Retreat validated the priorities

for the new programme, discussed the main expected strategies and partnerships for implementation, and prepared draft outcomes. The SPR took into account the feedback received from the second phase of the public consultations, with participation of more than 150 multi-stakeholder representatives, and the crowdsourcing platform, engaging almost 500 citizens and partners, held in September 2015. Four strategic priority areas were identified: 1. Governance and Rule of Law; 2. Social Cohesion; 3. Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture; and 4. Environment and Climate Change.

Following the SPR, UNCT constituted four Thematic Working Groups that mirrored the four PoC Pillars. These groups identified PoC Outputs and developed draft Results Matrices for each one of the four UNDAF Pillars. The PoC 2017–2021 Framework was finalised in December 2015. The Programme is envisaged to be endorsed and signed in 2016 by the government, 16 UN agencies and the UN Resident Coordinator.

tion, provision of better services to clients and increased in-house capacities on operations. In 2015, OMT renewed the Long-Term Agreements for printing services, office stationery, travel services, events management and mobile services, and initiated a new tendering process for provision of fuel. The total estimated saving from the use of LTAs for fuel, events management, travel, translation and printing amounted to USD 91,000, an increase of 82 percent compared to 2014. Further accommodation of UN agency projects and expanding of UNHCR activity in the

country has allowed for increased cost savings to the amount of USD 24,000 due to effective use of common services.

A significant step was taken towards establishing a Business Operations Strategy, to be finalised in 2016. In addition, under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) implementation, UNCT started preparation of a macro-assessment of the public financial management environment, to be followed by a micro-assessment of UN agencies implementing partners in 2016.

CHAPTER 4
LESSONS LEARNED AND
FUTURE PROSPECTS



Port of Durres

Throughout 2015, government leadership, at both the central and the local level, stakeholder participation and effective social mobilisation were crucial for implementation of the current Programme and the planning of the next one for 2017–2021.

PoC 2012–2016 Implementation

In 2015, UN Albania implemented a revised results framework deriving from the mid-term review of the 2014 programme, under the overall guidance of four new results groups—Outcome Groups—in line with the global UN Standard Operating Procedures for collaboration. Joint work plans (JWPs) were signed by the end of March, later than desirable, contributing to a lower programme delivery rate for the year. Moreover, due to declining donor resources in the country, the 2015 JWPs saw a widened funding gap compared to previous years. UN agencies sought to benefit from external joint resource mobilisation initiatives, such as the UN Development Group’s headquarter-based Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F). Nonetheless, adequate attention should be paid to presenting a realistic programme-funding gap in the JWPs and building more strategic partnership approaches to resource mobilisation in the country.

During programme implementation, UN agencies maintained a solid partnership with the government that proved to be essential to the successful implementation and delivery of results in 2015. Nevertheless, the partnerships with non-state actors should be strengthened further and serve as a platform to demonstrate the UN’s comparative advantage in the country and capture competencies and specialisations that reside outside of the

UN system. Whilst UN agencies in Albania work with a wide spectrum of CSOs across many development areas, maximising the political impact of such interaction remains a challenge.

2016 marks the final year of the current five-year programme. This year should bring to a close an intense period of work, which focused on building an evidence base where there was little or none before, and accompany the reform of key legislation and policies. It sets the stage for a new era focused on supporting implementation of the new policies.

New Programme Development

The preparation for the new programme involved broad consultations with government, development partners and representatives from civil society. Partnership with Government in the PoC's development ensured alignment with national goals, especially as articulated in the NSDI 2015–2020, anchored in the EU integration agenda, as well as the SDGs. Four expected outcomes of this PoC were identified jointly by the Government of Albania, United Nations, development partners and the civil society: 1. Governance and Rule of Law; 2. Social Cohesion: Health, Education, Social Protection, Child Protection, and Gender-Based Violence; 3. Economic Growth, Labour, and Agriculture; and 4. Environment and Climate Change. Government endorsement and joint signatures of the new Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 will take place later in 2016. The document will serve as a foundation for individual agency Country Programmes that need to be approved by their

Executive Boards.¹³¹

As detailed in the new Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) 2017-2021, management arrangements are designed to incentivize intra-UN collaboration as well as partnership with Government. Joint work plans, developed and overseen by the Output Working Groups, co-chaired by the UN and Government, under the overall guidance of the Outcome Groups, include all UN activity in the area. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system will be carefully framed for monitoring the performance of the PoC. Whilst the PoCSD results framework is finalized at the outcome level, particular care will be given to the preparation of the results framework at the output level in 2016, to allow for more effective tracking of PoC performance.

Joint resource mobilisation efforts will be undertaken by the UN and the Government to finance the new programme pillars. The UN in Albania aims to continue with the maintenance of a Coherence Fund, whereby development partners can support either the entire UN programme or specified areas of work. In line with Albania's Upper Middle Income status,¹³² increasingly the UN's technical work will be focused on collaborating with Gov-

131. The Programme of Cooperation is signed by the UN in Albania and the Government of Albania and requires no further approvals, though it was required to pass through a UN regional peer-review process during its preparation. UN agencies active in Albania align themselves to the Programme of Cooperation through their own strategy and programme documents. UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF are preparing individual Country Programme Documents that are harmonized to the same planning cycle (2017-2021) and will be presented to their Executive Boards in New York in September.

132. As of July 2015, per WorldBank: Low income: \$1,035 or less; Lower middle income: \$1,036 to \$4,085; Upper middle income: \$4,086 to \$12,615; High income: \$12,616 or more. This is based on gross national income (not PPP), for which Albania's figure is \$4,450 (2014). See <http://data.worldbank.org/news/new-country-classifications>.

ernment to improve and scale-up their own financially-supported programmes. Government is encouraged to use its own resources to invest catalytic resources into programmes that can incentivize additional contributions from development partners.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Government of Albania has consistently declared its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During 2015, it piloted draft indicators for SDG 16 on Rule of Law and thus contributed to the global development of this critical new Goal, addressing a gap in the previous MDGs. To push the agenda forward, UN Albania will work with the government to land the SDGs at the country level, establish a mechanism to monitor implementation of the

SDGs, including the development of baseline data and targets, and integrate SDGs in the work of the IPMGs.

The UN will make a joint effort to support mechanisms to improve data collection. Data collection exercise proves difficult in most sectors, affecting any activity designed to support achievement of the SDGs. UN will address this concern by providing capacity-building support to INSTAT – in particular for the development of its 5-year plan -- as well as with line ministries. Focus will be placed on the engagement of civil society, the private sector and other partners in the process through various joint initiatives such as data collection in selected municipalities, organization of innovation boot camps focusing on safety for women and children, etc.

ANNEXES



ANNEX A: PROGRESS AGAINST POC RESULTS FRAMEWORK

**ANNEX B: ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FINANCIAL REPORT
ON ONE UN COHERENCE FUND FOR 2015**

**ANNEX C: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2015 TOTAL BUDGET
INCLUDING ALL SOURCES OF FUNDING**

**ANNEX D: NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS, PARTICIPATING
UN ORGANISATIONS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES,
AND THEIR ACRONYMS AND WEBSITES**

ANNEX A: PROGRESS AGAINST POC RESULTS FRAMEWORK

■ ON TRACK
 ■ PARTIALLY ON TRACK
 ■ NO PROGRESS

Outcome 1—Human Rights					
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNICEF UNWOMEN UNDP IOM UNFPA UNHCR WHO	Fundamental Rights Index	2012 2014: 0.58	2016: 0.65	World Justice Project (WJP): Rule of Law Index	0.60 (ranking 48 th)
	Extent to which justice system is affordable and accessible to women and men	2012: 2014: 0.58	2016: 0.60	World Justice Project (WJP): Rule of Law Index	0.56 (ranking 59 th)
	Number of cases brought to Anti-Discrimination Office	2012: 104 complaints filed 14 by the Commissioner herself	2016: 600 report complaints filed and tracked, sex-disaggregated	Records of the Anti-Discrimination Office	For the period January–December 2015, CPD handled 288 cases, 181 complaints submitted by citizens (82 men and 89 women), 3 from citizens groups and 7 by CSOs, and issued 20 ex officio cases and 169 decisions
Output 1.1: Government of Albania meets its international human rights reporting obligations and application of normative standards through tracking implementation					
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNICEF UNWOMEN UNDP IOM UNFPA UNHCR	Estimated degree of integration and implementation of normative reporting recommendations in policies and legislation	CEDAW: 30% Conv. Rights of Children: 20% Conv. Prot. Rights of Migrant Workers, partial integration Family Planning HRP: 0% Conv. on Status of Refugees, Protocol on Status of Refugees: 40%	CEDAW: 70% Conv. Rights of Children: 70% Conv. Prot. Rights of Migrant Workers, complete integration Family Planning HRP: 70% Conv. on Status of Refugees, Protocol on Status of Refugees: 70%	Min. of Social Welfare & Youth Min. of Justice Min. of Health Min. of Interior	Data will be available in 2016 as Albania follows the finalisation and submission of the 2 nd report on the MWC convention to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers, indicating also the level of integration of the observations from the first report. A methodology for the Ombudsman of Albania to conduct annual monitoring of human rights exercise for foreign migrants workers in Albania is being drafted. The process will be finalised in spring 2016. CSO CEDAW Shadow Report on health care in Albania is drafted to be submitted to the CEDAW Committee in early 2016.
	Existence of national tracking mechanism to track Human Rights obligations	Zero	One	Min. of Foreign Affairs Min. of Interior Min. of Social Welfare & Youth Min. of Justice	Zero

Output 1.2: The Ministry of Justice, state institutions and civil society channel public demand for justice and ensure support services are established and accessible to provide resolution

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNWOMEN UNICEF UNFPA UNHCR UNDP	Number of Free Legal Aid cases annually supported by government; noting women: men ratio	2012: zero 2014: zero	10 Ratio: at least 1:1	Min. of Justice	Based on reports from Legal Aid Commission 290 applicants were assisted with free legal aid in 2015, only one is a domestic violence case. Statistics were not reported in a disaggregated form and the report is not publicly available.
	% of male and female juvenile offenders benefitting from diversion measures (including alternatives to detention)	20%	35%	Min. of Justice	Annual data not yet available for 2015
	Length of pre-trial detention for male and female juveniles	5–7 months (46% stay in detention longer than 6 months)	2–4 months	Min. of Justice	4.1 months
	System in place to monitor boys and girls victims and witnesses of crime and that other violations of their rights are treated according to standards	Respective amendments to Code of Criminal Procedure not yet adopted	Juvenile Justice chapter to Criminal Procedure adopted	Min. of Justice Parliament of Albania	Juvenile Justice Chapter not adopted as a specific Juvenile Justice Code will be developed
	Clearly defined channels in place in public administration for lodging complaints related to children's rights and to seek remedies through judicial processes	No	Yes	Min. of Justice Parliament of Albania	No, but signs of moving in the right direction are evidenced, i.e. a public consultation round table was organised with UNICEF support on child-friendly justice as part of the Justice System Reform

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

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNWOMEN WHO UNFPA IOM UNDP UNICEF	Existence of an obligatory core curriculum as part of professional education for police, social workers, health practitioners (doctors, nurses and others) and magistrates on all forms of violence against women and children and trafficking in human beings	Police: No Social workers: No Health practitioners: No Magistrates: Yes	Police: Yes Social workers: Yes Health practitioners: Yes Magistrates: Yes	Records from ASP, Min. of Social Welfare & Youth, Min. of Health, School of Magistrates	Different modules introduced on how to identify, refer and assist victims of trafficking to be included in the obligatory curriculum of professional education for police, social workers, health practitioners (doctors, nurses and others) and magistrates on trafficking in human beings. First National Multi-Sectoral Action Plan on socio-economic reintegration of victims of trafficking developed during 2015 to be annexed to the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy to combat trafficking in persons. 2 photo novella raising awareness of trafficking of women and girls in Albania developed and disseminated during 2015. National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking shelter and Domestic Violence shelters promoted. Statistics: In 2015, a total of 109 victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking were identified: 38 victims and 71 potential victims; 61 adults and 48 children; 22 male and 87 female; 105 Albanian and 4 foreigners More than 1,100 cases of domestic violence were registered over the period 2013–2015 through the CCR online tracking system, an important tool for monitoring implementation of gender-based violence legislation. Due to an increased level of awareness, victims of domestic violence and their families reported 3,000 cases to the state police in 2015 compared to 94 cases in 2005.
	Coverage and validity of mechanisms for tracking, reporting and addressing violence against women and children	Functioning Community Coordinated Response (CCR) mechanisms: 30% of municipalities	Functioning CCR: 50% of municipalities	Min. of Social Welfare & Youth	Functioning CCR: 44% of municipalities. In 2015, reported cases dropped to 312 (vs. 485 in 2014) and the majority of the reported cases were provided by 4 municipalities where CCR is supported by the UN.
	Proportion of men and women who think that abuse or violence against women is acceptable or tolerable	2013 perceptions from 'Fjale Burri' study; 59% of men and boys, and 80% of girls believe a man should never raise his hand against a woman	65% of men and boys 85% of girls	Perception Survey Min. of Social Welfare and Youth INSTAT	New perception survey under preparation; data will be available by mid-2016
	Existence of standards for ethical recruitment of female migrant workers in Albania	No baseline	To have some standards of ethical recruitment introduced into the legal framework that regulates the work of private employment agencies (PEAs) in Albania	Assessment report of IOM to be issued in spring 2016 Legal framework on PEAs	Assessment ongoing by IOM

Outcome 2—Inclusive Social Policies					
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
WHO UNICEF UNDP UNFPA UNAIDS UNWOMEN IAEA ILO IOM UNESCO	Sector-specific policies have explicit social inclusion targets	X policies out of Z	Y policies out of Z	Line ministries policy documents, NSDI 2015–2020 monitoring framework	Social Inclusion Policy Document finalised and approved. Social Protection Strategy finalised and approved. Action plan for the integration of R/E finalised; pending approval. Social Housing Strategy and its action plan (from social inclusion perspective) finalised, pending approval. National Health Promotion Strategy (focusing on the equity dimension) developed.
	Social inclusion of Roma, Egyptians and other disadvantaged groups is increasingly achieved	Rated 2 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4) ²	Rated at least 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	UN, EU and stakeholders qualitative assessment(s)	Rated 2; Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015–2020 discussed extensively in early 2015, and formally adopted in the last week of 2015. Social exclusion profiles for victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors issued and utilised to advance social protection system in the country Number of UAMs cases assisted by SSS: 2014: 11 2015: 143 2016: 18 Number of victims assisted: 2013: 96 2014: 125 2015: 109

Output 2.1: Health care policies and sector reform enabled towards equitable universal health coverage					
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
WHO UNICEF UNFPA UNAIDS IAEA	National policy addressing health inequities established and documented through functional health information system	Rated 2 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy documents, NSDI 2015–2020 monitoring framework, UN qualitative assessment	<p>Data from National Health Report have informed the development of the national health strategy 2016–2020.</p> <p>A manual of health indicators was prepared for the first time in Albania in 2015 guiding the collection of national core health indicators in a standardised and disaggregated manner contributing to a qualitative improvement of the data collection and analysis in the health system through standardization of indicators to ensure comparability for cross-country comparisons. The manual is an important tool for data users and producers at all levels, to disaggregate data by gender, SES, place of residence and geographical region.</p> <p>Two strategic / policy documents drafted: National Reproductive Health Strategy and National Action Plan on Health Promotion.</p>
	Mechanisms established to ensure access and utilisation of the Basic Package of Services (in line with evidence-based clinical guidelines and protocols)	Rated 2 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy documents and health sector strategy monitoring framework, UN qualitative assessment	<p>MCH - Planning phase is completed for capacity development framework, supervision and monitoring systems, and costing of MCH health services based on revised basic package of services.</p> <p>Quality improvement initiatives at the PHC level: a) Clinical guidelines and protocols developed and endorsed in the areas of: Family Planning; Cervical Cancer Screening; Prevention of Transmission of Infective Agents from Mother to Child. b) Capacities of PHC providers strengthened based on the accredited training program with particular focus on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) c) Health education teams established and consolidated in 6 districts of Albania.</p> <p>The New National Strategy on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS 2015–2019 was approved. The strategy is costed and includes clear indicators and M&E plan.</p> <p>The networks of CSOs and local government increased their advocacy work during 2015 in Shkodra, Vloa and Elbasan. Each network held two meetings with participation of local government, health department, social service department, education department and CSOs (15–20 participants in each meeting) A regional meeting was held with representatives from the three regions (33 participants).</p>
	Out-of-pocket health expenditures of private households as a proportion of total health expenditure	60%	40%	MoH policy documents, NSDI 2015–2020 monitoring framework, UN qualitative assessment, Min. of Finance data, INSTAT	Out-of-pocket health expenditure decreased to 55% (as per WB reports) due to decreased price for pharmaceuticals
	Disease registries for Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) (cancer, CV, diabetes) and rare diseases, established and functional	Rated 2 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy document, MoH–MTUHC–IPH Cancer Registry, IAEA Project Progress Assessment Reports (PPARs), expert meetings and reports	This work is pending on advancement of health information agenda. Although the objective is to integrate the data collection, analysis and reporting systems across line institutions (MoH, NCHIF, IPH, INSTAT) and health care levels (primary, secondary, tertiary), innovative initiatives are still in the planning phase. Hence, disease registries, while designed, are still not effective and functional.

Output 2.2: Early childhood development and education policies ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for individuals and groups

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNICEF UNFPA UNESCO	National ECD policy exists	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents	New sector strategy including pre-school developed
	Policies and solutions developed to ensure equal access to kindergarten and pre-schooling across income quintiles	Rated 1 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	Policy on increased access of Roma children to education developed by MoSWY
	National comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Education curricula in line with international standards	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents	Curricula developed
	% of children of pre-school age (especially Roma) who have access to quality pre-schooling	33.2% of children 3–5 years have access to preschool, 26% of Roma, 58.4% of children 5 years old attend	10% increase on pre-primary year (at least 10% yearly increase for Roma children)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	Data available in 2016 70% of children 5 years old attend pre-school (UIS)
	Standards for pre-school education provide a basis for ensuring quality and inclusiveness	Standards not completed	New curricula, programmes and teacher training developed based on the standards	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	Standards approved Curricula framework and programme have been initiated
	New sector education policy sets objectives and ensures action and monitoring of out-of-school children (OOSC)	Inter-sectoral MoU on OOSC and action plan exist	EMIS measures OOSC	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	OOSC are part of the objectives of new sector strategy and indicators of Education MIS piloting
	Teachers workforce (Grade 1–9) skilled in new inclusive competency-based curricula	0%	70%	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	New competency-based curricula rolled out Teachers trained in new curricula: 22% of teachers grade 1–9 and 100% of teachers Grade 1 and 6
	% of incidence of identified violent behaviours reduced through COMBI on Violence Against Children (VAC) in schools	6 types of violent behaviours identified	Violent behaviours reduced by 30 %	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	Data will be made available in 2016
	Production of specific materials to raise youth awareness of cultural heritage and training of staff for implementation	Baseline, 0	Tool actively used by educators in (tentatively) 10 schools	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	No trainings were organised in 2015

Output 2.3: Improved social dialogue leads to active employment and skills development policies and decent work for men and women					
Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
ILO UNDP UNESCO UNWOMEN IOM	Social dialogue mechanism is established through meetings of National Labour Council	Once a year	Quarterly	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	Achieved: the National Labour Council meets quarterly
	No. of active labour market measures implemented (including ones targeting women and rural populations)	6 (vulnerable groups, youth, women, apprenticeships, recent graduates, disability)	8 (6 from baseline + entrepreneurship, rural)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	Comprehensive assessment of the 6 ALMMs from 2008–2014 has been completed. The 6 existing ALMMs are under implementation, with additional increases in budget and number of beneficiaries. All 6 ALMMs have been reviewed, and are undergoing changes in both implementation modalities and levels of compensation for beneficiary enterprises and job-seekers. The most significant changes have been drafted for the programme targeting youth and women from vulnerable groups. A 7 th ALMM has been drafted targeting orphaned youth.
	VET programmes introduced that ensure equal opportunities, with special orientation towards lifelong learning skills, for urban and rural communities	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	Achieved. The National Employment and Skills 2014–2020 Strategy and Action Plan launched and being implemented with special orientation towards lifelong learning skills, for urban and rural communities and in line with EU vision and directives. Monitoring procedures and processes defined for preparing mid-term review 2017 and annual progress reports
	Number of new employment programmes		3	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	Achieved
	Number of legal acts enacted in support of VET and employment		2	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	New VET Law and relevant by-laws drafted New Employment Promotion Law drafted and consulted with stakeholders Crafts Law drafted and consulted with interest groups New Law on Unemployment Benefits drafted and in the final stages of the approval process

Output 2.4: Social protection and inclusion mechanisms ensure that social needs of the disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally met

Participating Agencies	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNICEF UNDP UNWOMEN WHO UNFPA UNAIDS ILO IOM	A system of social care services is in place	Rated 1 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	Social Protection Strategy 2015–2020 finalised and approved. It lays the foundations for establishing an integrated system of social care services in Albania building on knowledge endorsing the principles and activities of Social Care Reform developed by UNICEF. Secondary Legislation for implementation of the Law on the Social Worker has been developed and approved. The final draft of the Integral Law on Social Care Services is ready to be approved in 2016. Assessment finalised
	Social inclusion coordinating and monitoring system is in place	Rated 1 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	Draft Social Inclusion Policy Document 2015 – 2020 developed. It will become part of the overall National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI). A set of national indicators on social inclusion are included in the draft SI Policy Document based on qualitative analysis of existing survey data on the most vulnerable categories of the population. 16 training sessions and on the job coaching were provided to 112 local and central government officials on the web-based monitoring and reporting system (RomAlb). The system underpins the new Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian Integration 2015–2020 and serves to measure its progress. The system is an integral part of the National Social Inclusion Policy document.
	National policies with budgets and clear M&E frameworks are in place for government to be able to implement social inclusion and social protection measures for any family, woman, man, boy or girl considered vulnerable or at risk	National social protection and social inclusion strategies expired in 2012–2013	Social protection and inclusion policy frameworks in place or revised and budgeted for	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	3 by-laws on implementation of Law no. 9232 on Housing Programmes developed and approved. 5 by-laws on implementation of the Law on Inclusion of and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities developed and approved. SIPD document and Roma and Egyptian Action Plan developed, consulted and costed. Draft law on Social Enterprises in line with social re-integration principle of National Strategy on Social Protection approved by Inter-ministerial working group and pending approval by PM office, prior to reaching Parliament in 2016.
	% of increased access to public services and social protection entitlements for families, women, men, children (boys and girls) considered vulnerable or at risk	Lack of legal, administrative and financial instruments to deliver social care services; concept of accessibility not understood as a cross-cutting issue	System in place for delivering services Law on Social Care Services adopted	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	Final draft of the Integral Law on Social Care Services is ready to be approved in 2016. All administrative instruments for the functioning of social care system have been developed and will be approved in 2016. Standards of support packages for PLWH established within the Social State Services.
	% of LGUs with social inclusion, community care plans or integrated social services that protect vulnerable children, men, women, and families	Not known	At least 10 large municipalities	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGU administrative records	5% of LGUs with local action plans for PWD that clearly stipulate the needs of PWD and provide guidance support for implementation of the interventions towards fulfilment of their rights. Three municipalities of Tiranë, Fier and Berat developed participatory budgeting processes for inclusive planning and budgeting of social services. Concrete budgetary allocations have been assigned to a range of social services, such as social housing, economic aid, multi-cultural centres for elderly and youth, and daily care centres. In Fier up to 40% of social service budget is decided by citizens' priorities. 3 inclusive local plans for PWD were developed and approved by municipalities of Lezhë, Lushnjë and Pogradec. 4 local community development plans focusing on Roma and Egyptian communities were prepared by four LGUs: municipalities of Korçë, Buçimas, Novoselë and Berat. Local partnership forums established in three municipalities (Shkodër, Elbasan and Vlorë) with participation of municipal councils, local NGOs and regional offices of Education, Social State Services and Health.

Outcome 3—Governance and Rule of Law					
Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNDP UNICEF UNWOMEN UNODC UNHCR UNESCO UNEP UNFPA UNECE UNCTAD IOM	Open Budget Index Score	UNDP, 47 in 2012 Open Budget Survey 2012	UNDP, 60	UNDP, Open Budget Survey 2014	38 (2015)
	Sector policies that include an evidence-based statement on gender inequality in relevant sector and provide for measures to combat it	1	4	UN Women Transparency International	Achieved (> 4) 1. Social Protection Strategy 2. Social Inclusion Policy Document 3. National Strategy of Public Finance Management 2015–2020 (TBC if reported in 2014) 4. Decentralisation Strategy 5. Public Administration Strategy 6. National Strategy for Employment and Skills 7. Eight (8) EU IPA II Programming documents (budget support to Albania)
	TI Corruption Index	CPI: 31 (2013)	CPI: 50	UN Women Transparency International	33 (2014)
Output 3.1: Parliament and electoral institutions have the capacity to perform core functions					
Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNICEF UNDP UNWOMEN UNFPA UNODC	Public perception of trust in parliament; EMBs; political parties	Government 30% Parliament 24% Police 37% Civil society 39% European Union 70% NATO 74%	Government 30% Parliament 24% Police 37% Civil society 39% European Union 70% NATO 74%	Public Perception Survey	Government 29% Parliament 22% Police 45% Civil society 38% European Union 72% NATO 74%
	No. of parliamentary sessions and hearings for oversight of international and national human rights and gender equality obligations	2 topics on child rights and gender equality	3 discussions in parliamentary standing committees per topic	UNWOMEN records	1 hearing session of Alliance of Women Parliamentarians on changes to the Electoral Code with a proposal of 50% gender quota at the local level. 1 hearing session for CEC proposing a number of amendments to the Electoral Code, including on gender issues. Parliament has organised at least 5 discussions on issues related to children broken down as follows: 1. 1 discussion of the Laws Commission on the People's Advocate Special report on the Blood-feud phenomenon and approval of a parliamentary resolution on this issue, negatively affecting children's right to life, education, and normal development 2. 1 questions and answers session with the Minister of Education and Parliamentary Commission on Education and Media 3. Discussion of 2 commissions on the amendments to the pre-university education law 4. 1 public hearing of Children's Rights Caucus with civil society (with UNICEF support) on prioritising a children's agenda 5. Public hearing of Commission on Labour and Social Affairs on legal amendments regarding inter-country adoption of children

Output 3.2: Line ministries and public service delivery institutions are able to mainstream gender and conduct gender-responsive planning and budgeting and evidence-based policy making at all levels

Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNICEF IOM UNFPA UNWOMEN UNDP UNESCO	Number of national policies with gender specific objectives and indicators	1	4	Department for Development Planning, Financing, and Foreign Aid (DDPFFA) and Delivery Unit (DU)	Achieved (> 4) 1. Social Protection Strategy 2. Social Inclusion Policy Document 3. National Strategy of Public Finance Management 2015–2020 (TBC if reported in 2014) 4. Decentralisation Strategy 5. Public Administration Strategy 6. National Strategy for Employment and Skills 7. Eight (8) EU IPA II Programming documents (budget support to Albania)
	Number of ministries and public institutions with gender equality objectives and targets in national planning and budgeting	0	6	MTBP	10 line ministries, 1 independent institution and 16 budget programmes with gender targets. Gender-responsive budgeting applied in 5 municipalities: Tiranë, Vlorë, Sarandë, Këlcyrë and Përmet

Output 3.3: State, market, non-state institutions enabled to deliver their statutory mandates, prevent corruption, enforce rule of law

Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNDP UNWOMEN UNECE UNCTAD IOM UNODC UNICEF UNHCR	Perception of trust in and satisfaction with public service delivery institutions (e.g. judiciary, health, education)	Judiciary 19% Health system 30% Education system 38%	Judiciary 19% Health system 30% Education system 38%	Public Perception Survey	Judiciary 16% Health system 27% Education system 33%
	Percentage of migrants and asylum seekers receiving protection and integration services	20% (2013, asylum seekers and refugees) 4% of returning migrants contacted Migration Counters during 2012 and 2013	50% 100% 20%	National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters) INSTAT–IOM national survey on return migration	In the period January–December 2015, a total of 520 returnees registered in the Migration Counters compared to 25,431 forced returnees in the same period in 2014, equivalent to 2%. 924 asylum procedures were initiated and 103 refugees were assisted for integration services.
	Corruption Perception Index (CPI)	33 (2012) Transparency International	37	Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters) INSTAT–IOM national survey on return migration	33 (2014)
	Absence of Corruption in Government Index	0.31 (2012) WJP: Rule of Law Index Report	0.40	Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	0.36
	Open Government Index	0.44 (2012) WJP: Rule of Law Index Report	0.48	Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	0.52
	Asylum seekers and migrants are identified and able to access the territory and differentiated procedures to have their needs assessed and addressed, in line with international and European standards	Extended Migration Profile data	100%	Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	60% Contingency planning for massive mixed migration flows to Albania prepared jointly with the Government of Albania. Pre-screening form has been reviewed with also an additional language: Arabic.
	Percentage of seizure on incoming and outgoing illicit trafficking increased	90% of the cases in the anti-trafficking area discovered (2010)	100%	Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	90%
	Percentage of migrants migrating irregularly from Albania reduced	20,219 irregular migrants returned in 2013	70% decrease	Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	In the period January–December 2015 there were 67,735 asylum applications filed in EU Member States by Albanian citizens (irregular migrants), a dramatic increase since 2014.
	Percentage of female officers in the Joint Port Control Unit increased and gender component mainstreamed in the CCP	1 female officer with JPCU	50% increase	Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	Objective achieved: two female officers are now members of the JPCU at Durrës Port
	Percentage of officers on precursors identification increased	Joint Team officials at Durrës port trained	100%	Public Perception Survey National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)	This activity is scheduled for 2016

Output 3.4: Line ministries ensure and enforce the conservation, sustainable use of public goods					
Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UNESCO UNEP FAO UNECE	Percentage of protected areas with management plans and administrative structure in place (proxy indicator for public, or common goods, protection)	17%	25%	National Reports to the Convention on Biological Biodiversity http://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?-type=nr-04	19%
	No. of World Heritage (WH) properties extended and have enhanced management systems	2 WH properties already inscribed to WH list by Republic of Albania	2 management plans improved and one cross-border property extended	National Reports to the Convention on Biological Biodiversity http://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?-type=nr-04	New management plan is being elaborated within the scope of the EU-funded project 'Towards strengthened governance of the shared trans-boundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region', implemented by UNESCO. Two trans-border management meetings between Albania and FYROM took place, during which the main stakeholders within the management plan were identified. http://whc.unesco.org/en/lake-ohrid-region/
	Number of sectors mainstreaming Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) measures	Limited number	3 sectors	Min. of Environment	3 reports were produced, on plastic waste management, green jobs in recycling and eco-innovation. These will be followed by interactive workshops in 2016 in order to influence policy making in these areas.

Outcome 4—Regional and Local Development					
Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNDP UNWOMEN ILO UNEP UNCTAD UNECE UNIDO FAO UNESCO UNICEF	Decentralisation strategy adopted and commences implementation	Baseline: policy being formulated	Policy adopted	UNDP monitoring	Decentralisation strategy approved, 29 July 2015, Decision No. 691
Output 4.1 State institutions at regional and local levels have the capacity to implement rural development and modernisation of the agricultural sector					
Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNDP UNEP UNCTAD UNECE FAO UNIDO UNWOMEN IFAD	Percentage of female beneficiaries of extension services	10%		Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2020	Data not available
	Productivity in agro-processing given by Gross Value Added (GVA) and Agricultural Working Units (AWU)	5,010,105 ALL	7,000,000 ALL	Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2020	GVA 2015: will be known by mid-2016 AWU 2015: no data; not possible before Farm Register is created (could be included in agri. stats after 2016)
	Labour productivity in the agricultural sector	447,000 ALL	715,000 ALL	Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2020	Data will be available by mid-2016
Output 4.2: LGUs and governance institutions have the technical, financial and human resources to deliver equitable public and administrative services for men and women and render an account of those services					
Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNWOMEN UNDP	Proportion of LGUs using Community Based Scorecards to chart experiences of their citizens (proxy for local participatory democracy)	13 LGUs, or 3% ⁶	26 LGUs, or 7%	Community Based Scorecards (UNWOMEN records)	7 LGUs ⁶ , or 11.5% ⁷
	Ratio of total social, investment and service expenditure to total LGU expenditure (management efficiency ratio; proxy for effectiveness and local technical, fin. HR capacity)	32%	35%	Min. of Finance	52%
	Share of local revenue collection to total revenue (revenue collection efficiency ratio)	49%	53%	Min. of Finance	38%

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

Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNDP UNWOMEN ILO IOM FAO UNCTAD UNECE UNIDO	Net number of new enterprises created and proportion owned by women	8,650 (2013)	10,000 gov. target, 5% increase	QKR (National Registry)	Data available in 2016

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

Contributing Entities	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Means of Verification	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2015
UNIDO UNDP UNICEF UNEP UNECE UNESCO FAO	Number of sectors mainstreaming CC mitigation or adaptation measures	0	2	CC National communications	2 INDC submitted by Albania ahead of Paris meeting has a cross-sectoral approach. Agency of Territory Planning integrates Climate Change considerations in the Integrated Plan for Coastal Zone management. Energy Efficiency standards are introduced in the Housing Sector.

ANNEX B: ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FINANCIAL REPORT ON ONE UN COHERENCE FUND FOR 2015

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2015. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2015, 11 contributors have deposited US\$ 35,779,398 in contributions and US\$ 392,578 has been earned in interest, bringing the cumulative source of funds to US\$ 36,171,976 (see respectively, Tables 2 and 3).

Of this amount, US\$ 38,443,296 has been transferred to 17 Participating Organizations, of which US\$ 30,979,527 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ 357,793. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund as of 31 December 2015.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2015 (in US Thousands)¹

	Annual 2014	Annual 2015	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Gross Contributions	4,354	2,965	35,779
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	1	5	274
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	1	1	119
Total: Sources of Funds	4,356	2,971	36,172
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	4,024	3,105	38,443
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	-1	-6	-2,778
Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations	4,022	3,099	35,666
Administrative Agent Fees	44	30	358
Bank Charges	0	0	1
Total: Uses of Funds	4,066	3,129	36,024
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	290	-159	148
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	16	306	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	306	148	148
Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations	4,022	3,099	35,666
Participating Organizations' Expenditure	2,104	3,380	30,980
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations			4,686

1. 1 Due to rounding of numbers, totals may not add up. This applies to all numbers in this report.

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December 2015.

Table 2. Contributors' Deposits, as of 31 December 2015 (in US Thousands)²

Contributors	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
	as of 31-Dec-2014	Jan-Dec-2015	
Austria	1,215	-	1,215
Delivering Results Together	1,500	1,442	2,942
Expanded DaO Funding Window	3,825	-	3,825
European Union	3,475	-	3,475
Finland	394	-	394
The Netherlands	3,846	-	3,846
Norway	3,338	-	3,338
Spain	4,000	-	4,000
Sweden	7,390	469	7,859
Switzerland	462	-	4886
Grand Total	32,815	2,965	35,779

3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent ('Fund earned interest'), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations ('Agency earned interest') where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA. As of 31 December 2015, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ 273,866 and interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ 118,712, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ 392,578. Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2015 (in US Thousands)

Interest Earned	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
	as of 31-Dec-2014	Jan-Dec-2015	
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	269	5	274
Total: Fund Earned Interest	269	5	274
Participating Organization			
FAO		0	0
UNDP	84		84
UNESCO	1		1
UNFPA	22		22
UNIDO	4		4
UNODC	0		0
UNWOMEN	6	1	7
Total: Agency earned interest	118	1	119
Grand Total	386	6	393

2. This table does not include any contributors that have made a commitment through a signed SAA but that have not yet deposited the funds.

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2015, the AA has transferred US\$ 38,443,296 to 17 Participating Organizations (see list below). Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2015 (in US Thousands)

Participating Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2014			Current Year Jan-Dec-2015			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNECE	80	-1	78				80	-1	78
FAO	315		315		-1	-1	315	-1	314
IAEA	94		94				94		94
ILO	75		75				75		75
IOM	255		255	20		20	275		275
ITC	30		30		-2	-2	30	-2	28
UNAIDS	160		160				160		160
UNCTAD	179		179				179		179
UNDP	15,550	-1,975	13,575	1,442		1,442	16,993	-1,975	15,018
UNEP	439		439				439		439
UNESCO	756	-121	635	178	-2	176	934	-123	811
UNFPA	4,278	-33	4,245	375		375	4,652	-33	4,619
UNICEF	7,961	-365	7,595	540		540	8,501	-365	8,135
UNIDO	666	-143	523		-1	-1	666	-144	522
UNODC	264		264	99		99	363		363
UNWOMEN	3,347	-43	3,304	451		451	3,798	-43	3,755
WHO	891	-91	800				891	-91	800
Grand Total	35,338	-2,772	32,566	3,105	-6	3,099	38,443	-2,778	35,666

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year 2015 were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ 35,665,538 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ 30,979,527. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 87 percent. The agencies with the three highest delivery rates are: IAEA and ITC with 100 per cent, ILO with 96.11 percent and WHO with 95.44 percent.

Table 5. Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2015 (in US Thousands)

Participating Organization	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
		Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2014	Current Year Jan-Dec-2015	Cumulative	
UNECE	78	29		29	36.8
FAO	314	278		278	88.55
IAEA	94	94		94	100
ILO	75	72		72	96.11
IOM	275	109	88	197	71.5
ITC	28	28		28	100
UNAIDS	160	47	25	72	44.75
UNCTAD	179	24	3	28	15.48
UNDP	15,018	11,308	1,542	12,851	85.57
UNEP	439	387	27	414	94.17
UNESCO	811	495	87	582	71.78
UNFPA	4,619	3,750	432	4,182	90.53
UNICEF	8,135	7,361	235	7,595	93.36
UNIDO	522	492	0	492	94.23
UNODC	363	229	106	335	92.43
UNWOMEN	3,755	2,296	671	2,968	79.04
WHO	800	600	163	763	95.44
Grand Total	35,666	27,600	3,380	30,980	86.86

5.2 EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

Table 6 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures incurred and the financial delivery rates by UNDAF Outcome.

Table 6. Expenditure by UNDAF Outcome, as of 31 December 2015 (in US Thousands)

Country/Sector	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2014		Current Year Jan-Dec-2015		Total		Delivery Rate %
	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	
Albania							
ALB 2012 P1 Governance	5,948	3,776	930	1,586	6,878	5,362	77.96
ALB 2012 P2 Economy and Environment	1,373	1,150	-2	146	1,371	1,297	94.59
ALB 2012 P3 Regional and Local Development	922	406	428	275	1,349	682	50.52
ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	4,835	2,821	1,746	1,471	6,582	4,292	65.21
Basic Services	7,322	7,322			7,322	7,322	100
Environment	1,388	1,490	-1	-103	1,387	1,387	99.96
Governance	8,070	8,020		4	8,070	8,024	99.42
Participation	2,190	2,135		0	2,190	2,135	97.48
Regional Development	518	481	-1		517	481	92.98
Grand Total	32,566	27,600	3,099	3,380	35,666	30,980	86.86

5.3 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditure incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditure are reported in the new eight categories. The old and new categories are noted to the right.

Table 7 reflects expenditure reported in the UNDG expense categories. Where the Fund has been operational pre and post 1 January 2012, the expenditures are reported using both categories. Where a Fund became operational post 1 January 2012, only the new categories are used.

2012 CEB Expense Categories

1. Staff and personnel costs
2. Supplies, commodities and materials
3. Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation
4. Contractual services
5. Travel
6. Transfers and grants
7. General operating expenses
8. Indirect costs

2006 UNDG Expense Categories

1. Supplies, commodities, equipment & transport
2. Personnel
3. Training counterparts
4. Contracts
5. Other direct costs
6. Indirect costs

Table 7. Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2015 (in US Thousands)

Category	Expenditure			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2014	Current Year Jan-Dec-2015	Total	
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	1,836	-	1,836	6.35
Personnel (Old)	6,224	-	6,224	21.51
Training of Counterparts (Old)	372	-	372	1.28
Contracts (Old)	8,277	-	8,277	28.61
Other direct costs (Old)	1,217	-	1,217	4.21
Staff & Personnel Cost (New)	1,203	125	1,328	4.59
Supplies, Commodities, Materials (New)	(159)	66	(93)	(0.32)
Equip, Vehicle, Furniture, Depreciation (New)	151	121	272	0.94
Contractual Services (New)	3,763	1,718	5,481	18.94
Travel (New)	522	208	730	2.52
Transfers and Grants (New)	1,151	418	1,569	5.42
General Operating (New)	1,181	541	1,721	5.95
Programme Costs Total	25,737	3,197	28,934	100.00
Indirect Support Costs Total ³	1,863	182	2,045	7.07
Total	27,600	3,380	30,980	

3. Indirect Support Costs charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

Table 8: Transfer of Funds and Expenditure by Participating Organization and One UN Programme of Cooperation Outcomes, 2012- 2015 (in US\$ Thousands)*4

Sector/ Project no. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Funds Transferred 2012 -2015	Total Expenditure 2012 - 2014	Delivery Rate %
00082435 Outcome 1.1. Strengthen public oversight, civil society and media institutions make authorities more accountable to the public, and better able to enforce gender equality commitments in planning, programming and budgeting processes	UNAIDS	10	10	100
	UNDP	607	702	115.64
	UNESCO	60	52	86.5
	UNFPA	20	20	99.97
	UNICEF	44	44	100
	UNODC	54	53	100
	UNWOMEN	514	514	100
Total Outcome 1.1		1,309	1,395	106
00082436 Outcome 1.2: Public administration will be supported to enhance capacities, practices and systems for effective delivery of national development priorities and international obligations	UNECE	18	18	100
	ILO	20	20	100
	UNDP	1,486	1,421	95.61
	UNESCO	32	32	100
	UNFPA	132	132	100
	UNICEF	105	105	100
	UNWOMEN	381	381	100
Total Outcome 1.2		2,174	2,109	97
00082437 Outcome 1.3: Government meets international obligations and standards for juvenile justice, managing migration and the fight against organized crime and corruption	IOM	105	105	100
	UNICEF	178	178	100
	UNODC	105	105	100
Total Outcome 1.3		388	388	100

4. While 2012-2015 transfers to Participating UN Organizations and expenditure are reflected in Table 8 aiming to focus on the current DaO cycle, the transfers and expenditure during 2007 – 2011 are available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, Albania One UN Coherence Fund Web-site.

00082438 Outcome 2.1 Government, trade organizations and the private sector support inclusive and sustainable economic growth through enhanced regulatory frameworks, trade facilitation and investment promotion	ITC	28	28	100
	UNCTAD	30	13	44.18
	UNDP	90	90	99.99
Total Outcome 2.1		148	131	88
00082439 Outcome 2.2: National authorities and institutions, the private sector and the general public protect, preserve and use natural resources more sustainably, with consideration to the impacts of climate change and to the achievement of European environmental standards	UNECE	11	11	100
	IAEA	15	15	100
	ILO	20	19	95.31
	UNDP	730	729	99.89
	UNEP	185	159	86.21
	UNESCO	39	39	100
	UNICEF	50	50	100
	UNIDO	173	143	82.51
Total Outcome 2.2		1,223	1,165	95
00082440 Outcome 3.1: Institutional capacities, frameworks and policies meeting international standards promote equitable and sustainable regional development focusing on land use and livelihoods for women and men, agriculture, tourism and cultural and natural heritage management	UNDP	134	134	100
	UNESCO	78	78	100
Total Outcome 3.1		212	212	100
00082441 Outcome 3.2: The public, including marginalized groups and communities, better receive equitable, inclusive and accountable decentralized services from regional and local governments	UNAIDS	40	12	29.77
	UNDP	230	230	99.88
	UNWOMEN	10	1	6.54
Total Outcome 3.2		280	243	87

00082442 Outcome 4.1: The rights of disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally ensured through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions	IOM	100	79	78.84
	UNAIDS	100	40	39.69
	UNDP	1,942	1,757	90.48
	UNFPA	409	388	94.75
	UNICEF	343	253	73.72
	UNODC	105	78	73.85
	UNWOMEN	391	295	75.49
Total Outcome 4.1		3,390	2,890	85
00082443 Outcome 4.2: Boys and girls over the age of 3 (including youth), especially from marginalized groups, participate in quality formal and informal education	UNICEF	74	74	100
Total Outcome 4.2		74	74	100
00082444 Outcome 4.3: Health insurance is universal and quality, gender sensitive and age appropriate public health services available to all including at-risk populations	IAEA	79	79	100
	UNAIDS	10	10	100
	UNFPA	33	33	100
	UNICEF	151	151	100
	WHO	217	217	100
Total Outcome 4.3		490	490	100
00082445 Outcome 4.4: All people better realize fundamental rights at work, have greater and inclusive employment opportunities, and can engage in a comprehensive social dialogue	ILO	35	33	94.34
	UNDP	106	106	100
	UNWOMEN	287	263	91.75
Total Outcome 4.4		428	402	94
00092621 ALB 2014 OC 1: Human Rights and gender equality considerations guide interactions between citizens and institutions.	UNDP	758	419	55.25
	UNESCO	31	5	17.34
	UNFPA	278	149	53.59
	UNICEF	69	20	28.65
	UNWOMEN	382	244	63.97
Total ALB 2014 OC 1 Human Rights		1,518	837	55

00092624 ALB 2014 OC 3: Governance and Rule of Law: the Albanian State executes major governance processes following internationally agreed democratic principles and practices, while upholding the rule of law and eliminating key factors of exclusion of women	UNECE	50		0
	IOM	20		0
	UNCTAD	149	14	9.68
	UNDP	616	247	40.02
	UNFPA	32	28	87.62
	UNICEF	50		0
	UNODC	99	99	100
	UNWOMEN	473	244	51.52
Total ALB 2014 OC 3: Governance and Rule of Law		1,489	632	42
00092625 ALB 2014 OC 4: Regional and Local Development: Government of Albania implements policies that advance democratic, equitable and sustainable regional and local development	IOM	50	13	25.6
	UNDP	428	103	24.13
	UNESCO	89		0
	UNWOMEN	290	111	38.28
Total ALB 2014 OC 4: Regional and Local Development		857	227	26
00092626 ALB 2014 OC 2: Inclusive Social Policy: the rights of individuals and groups are ensured through equitable, inclusive and evidence based sectoral policies.	UNDP	875	-	0
	UNESCO	188	82	43.57
	UNFPA	429	146	34.06
	UNICEF	485	135	27.76
	UNWOMEN	120	8	6.54
	WHO	104	67	64.88
Total ALB 2014 OC 2: Inclusive Social Policy		2,201	438	20

6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2015, were as follows:

- The Administrative Agent (AA) fee: 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ 29,646 was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2015, US\$ 357,793 has been charged in AA-fees.
- Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations: Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ 182,293 was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ 2,045,452 as of 31 December 2015.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

8. DIRECT COSTS

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Secretariat services and overall coordination, as well as Fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. In 2015, there were no direct costs charged to the Fund.

DEFINITIONS

Allocation

Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

Approved Project/Programme

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

Contributor Commitment

Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

Contributor Deposit

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

Delivery Rate

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the 'net funded amount'.

Indirect Support Costs

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs.

Net Funded Amount

Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

Participating Organization

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

Project Expenditure

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

Project Financial Closure

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

Project Operational Closure

A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

Project Start Date

Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTF Office to the Participating Organization.

Total Approved Budget

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

US Dollar Amount

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

ANNEX C: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2015 TOTAL BUDGET INCLUDING ALL SOURCES OF FUNDING

Status as of 31 December 2015	Available Budget		Total Available Budget	Total Funding Gap	Expenditures		Total Expenditures	Delivery rate in %
	Core/Regular	Non-Core/Other			Core/Regular	Non-Core/Other		
Outcome 1 - Human Rights	336,783	1,473,614	1,810,397	1,004,635	369,366	1,197,159	1,566,525	86.53%
Outcome 2 - Inclusive Social Policies	2,161,014	5,656,262	7,817,276	2,722,587	1,888,035	3,585,408	5,473,443	70.02%
Outcome 3 - Governance and Rule of Law	3,229,376	2,653,944	5,883,320	6,481,077	1,616,964	2,360,033	3,976,996	67.60%
Outcome 4- Regional and Local Development	1,088,423	7,369,457	8,457,880	5,713,000	530,462	6,427,726	6,958,187	82.27%
Programm of Cooperation: TOTAL in USD	6,815,596	17,153,277	23,968,873	15,921,299	4,404,827	13,570,325	17,975,152	76.60%

Outcomes/Outputs	Available Budget	Total Expenditures	Delivery Rate (%)
Output 1.1 Normative reporting, tracking and quality	271,722	188,760	69.47%
Output 1.2 Access to justice and civil society support	258,085	241,875	93.72%
Output 1.3 Eliminating violence in society	1,280,591	1,135,891	88.70%
Outcome 1 Human Rights	1,810,397	1,566,525	86.53%
Output 2.1 Health	2,216,101	1,707,651	77.06%
Output 2.2 Education	1,914,405	971,324	50.74%
Output 2.3 Labour	669,095	544,116	81.32%
Output 2.4 Social Protection	3,017,676	2,250,353	74.57%
Outcome 2 Inclusive Social Policies	7,817,276	5,473,443	70.02%
Output 3.1 Parliament & electoral institutions	751,268	561,392	74.73%
Output 3.2 Mainstreaming gender & gender responsive budgeting	659,429	511,179	77.52%
Output 3.3 Anti-corruption & the Rule of Law	3,393,560	1,788,629	52.71%
Output 3.4 Public Goods	1,079,063	1,115,796	103.40%
Outcome 3 Governance and Rule of Law	5,883,320	3,976,996	67.60%
Output 4.1 Agriculture and Rural Development	726,000	363,943	50.13%
Output 4.2 Local Governance	2,626,553	2,128,900	81.05%
Output 4.3 Economic Development	673,567	421,990	62.65%
Output 4.4 Climate Change	4,431,760	4,043,354	91.24%
Outcome 4 Regional & Local Development	8,457,880	6,958,187	82.27%
TOTAL	23,968,873	17,975,152	76.60%

ANNEX D: NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS, PARTICIPATING UN ORGANISATIONS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES, AND THEIR ACRONYMS AND WEBSITES

Implementing partners

AIDA	Albanian Investment Development Agency	www.aida.gov.al
CEC	Central Election Commission	www.cec.org.al
CPD	Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination	www.kmd.al
DDFFA	Department of Development, Financing and Foreign Aid	www.kryeministria.al
INSTAT	National Institute of Statistics	www.instat.gov.al
MIPA	Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration	www.inovacioni.gov.al
MLG	Minister of State for Local Government	www.kryeministria.al
MoARDWA	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration	www.bujqesia.gov.al
MoC	Ministry of Culture	www.kultura.gov.al
MoD	Ministry of Defence	www.mod.gov.al
MoE	Ministry of Environment	www.mjedisi.gov.al
MoEDTTE	Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship	www.ekonomia.gov.al
MoEI	Ministry of Energy and Industry	www.energija.gov.al
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports	www.arsimi.gov.al
MoF	Ministry of Finance	www.financa.gov.al
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	www.mfa.gov.al
MoH	Ministry of Health	www.shendetesia.gov.al
MoIA	Ministry of Interior	www.punetebrendshme.gov.al
MoJ	Ministry of Justice	www.drejtesia.gov.al
MoSWY	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth	www.sociale.gov.al
MoUDT	Ministry of Urban Development	www.zhvillimiurban.gov.al
Ombudsman	People's Advocate	www.avokatipopullit.gov.al

Participating UN organisations, funds and programmes

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	www.fao.org
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	www.iaea.org
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	www.ifad.org
ILO	International Labour Organisation	www.ilo.org
IOM	International Organisation for Migration	www.iom.int
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	www.unaids.org
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	www.unctad.org
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	www.undp.org
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	www.unece.org
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	www.unep.org
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	www.unesco.org
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	www.unfpa.org
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	www.unhcr.org
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	www.unicef.org
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation	www.unido.org
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	www.unodc.org
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	www.unwomen.org
WHO	World Health Organisation	www.who.int

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