

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISE
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Final report 15 April 2010 – 31 December 2013

ONE UN JOINT PROGRAMME ON EMPOWERING VULNERABLE LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF ALBANIA



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Basic data/Summary

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Location	Tirana, Elbasan, Fier and Durres regions
Title of the Project	Empowering Vulnerable Local Communities of Albania (EVLIC)
Duration of project	42 months
UN organization responsible for project management	UNDP as Administrative Agent of the One United Nations Programme in Albania
Executing organizations	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV and UNHCR
Non-UN executing partners	Ministry of Social Wellbeing and Youth (MSWY)
Total project cost (including programme support cost)	2,749,600.40 USD
Reporting Period	15 April 2010 – 31 December 2013
Type of Report	Final report

Executive summary

This report represents the final report on the implementation of the One UN joint programme “Empowering the Vulnerable Local Communities of Albania,” funded by United Nations Human Security Trust Fund, UNHSTF. It covers the period 15 April 2010 – 31 December 2013 and summarizes the progress in three major directions, including participatory planning, access to rights as well as institutional strengthening for social inclusion vis-à-vis the key indicators and results related to programme document.

Overall, it can be assessed that JP intended activities and outputs have been successfully delivered, despite some delays due to slow start up phase of JP, thus making a significant contribution to the achievement of JP specific objectives and overall goal to improve the human security and access to rights and social services of vulnerable Roma and Egyptian minorities, particularly of women and children.

JP, through establishment of 13 functional CBOs, has provided a successful participatory community development model at local level through engagement of vulnerable communities in identifying and agreeing their development needs and priorities in consultation with local governments. As a result, 20 development priorities packaged into 11 infrastructure upgrading projects have directly contributed to improvement of living conditions of beneficiary vulnerable communities and beyond and provision of social services (health care and pre-school education) in the new or rehabilitated premises.

Access to rights has been facilitated through resolution of over 1700 concrete civil registration cases (administrative and legal), adoption of three legal acts to facilitate the civic registration for Roma and Egyptians as well as training of relevant authorities in civic registration procedures. As a result, social and public services such as health care, employment services, economic aid, access to pension schemes etc. have become more accessible by a number of vulnerable Roma and Egyptian individuals. Training of R/E CSOs in civic registration and their field involvement played a significant role in this direction. JP activities in establishing a network of community policing and health mediators, as well as provision of child protection services through CPUs and multi-purpose center, pre-school education services, early child development counseling and support services and vocational training have contributed in bringing services closer to the needs of vulnerable communities.

JP strengthened the institutional capacities at central and local level to implement and monitor policies targeting vulnerable ethnic communities through development of internet-based reporting and monitoring system of National Action Plan (NAP) on Roma Decade, capacity building of over 150 officials at central and local level in partnership with Training Institute for Public Administration (TIPA) on data collection and data entry into the monitoring system as well as setting up functional Regional Committees on Planning and Assessing Social Needs (RCPASN) and establishment of Roma Sub-Technical

Committees as part of them to review progress and implementation of commitments on NAP on Roma Decade at local and regional level.

With a total budget of \$ 2,749,600.40, JP provided sustained technical support to a diverse group of stakeholders at central and local level over a three year period. Impressive results have been achieved with strategic use of resources in the amount of 60% of total budget in activities directly benefiting vulnerable communities by supporting participatory community planning and development and access to rights and social and public services, which have led to improved living conditions of vulnerable communities and enabled them to access civil rights and social and public services. It should be noted that in most cases the number of direct beneficiaries of JP interventions is higher than the planned one in the programme document for the same allocated budget.

Competitive bidding procedures for services, matching funding and in-kind contribution for infrastructure projects from LGUs, voluntary work from communities and reliance on highly qualified, motivated and multi-tasking staff have enhanced the efficiency use of resources. Organization of activities in-situ relying on community spaces and voluntary work from communities and their contribution through self-help activities has been an added value in efficiently implementing many activities.

Overall, it is assessed that JP has made significant positive changes quite tangible and visible at individual, community and institutional level. Community members acknowledge positive changes in their living conditions through implementation of infrastructure projects as well as improvement in their social life, social interaction and network, community cohesion and cooperation through participation in JP activities like information campaigns and discussions on many social issues, trainings, cultural shows, exchange visits among communities, self help activities and voluntary work.

1.1. List of abbreviations and acronyms

CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CPU	Child Protection Unit
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EO	Employment Office
EVLC	Empowering Vulnerable Local Communities of Albania
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPH	Institute of Public Health
LGs	Local Governments
LGU	Local Government Unit
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MSWY	Ministry of Social Wellbeing and Youth
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan for Roma Decade
RCPASN	Regional Committee on Planning and Assessing Social Needs
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
TIPA	Training Institute for Public Administration
TLAS	Tirana Legal Aid Services
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Populations Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees
UNTFHS	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

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Section I. Programme Goal and Objectives

Empowering Vulnerable Local Communities was a Joint Programme (JP- EVLC) developed in the framework of ONE UN program in Albania aiming to improve the human security and access to rights of vulnerable Roma and Egyptian minorities, particularly of women and children.

To overcome the multiple types of insecurities and to empower vulnerable groups, the programme implemented a cross-sectored approach requiring a combination of expertise from UN agencies which are best positioned to address the relevant issues. The programme was designed in three main objectives including:

Supporting participation of vulnerable communities in local decision-making - through identification of priorities and preparation of Community Development Plans, implementation of community upgrading projects in partnership with local governments, strengthening capacities and cooperation between Roma and Egyptian NGOs and their respective communities.

Enabling vulnerable communities to access their rights and public services – through civil registration, community policing; establishing and strengthening a network of Roma Mediators in areas of health, education, and child protection; facilitating vocational training and employment.

Promoting policies and institutional strengthening for social inclusion of vulnerable communities – through capacity building and assistance to local and central government institutions, capacity building and partnership strengthening for Roma and Egyptian NGOs.

Table 1 shows that the programme involves multilevel cooperation with both national and local partners to address issues of social inclusion to vulnerable groups.

Approved Components	UN Agencies	Partner Agencies
1. Participation 2. Access to Rights 3. Institutional Strengthening	UNDP (UNV)	The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY), Technical Secretariat for Roma, The Municipality of Tirana, The Municipality of Durres, The Municipality of Elbasan, The Municipality of Fier
		The Ministry of Interior (Mol), The General Directorate of the State Police, Regional Employment Offices, Vocational Training Centre, Tirana Legal Aid Services (TLAS)
		The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY)
2. Access to Rights (education, birth registration)	UNICEF	The Ministry of Interior (Mol), The Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), The Ministry of Health (MoH), Tirana Legal Aid Services (TLAS)
2. Access to Rights (healthcare)	UNFPA UNICEF	The Ministry of Health (MoH)

Following is a list of outputs with indications of the role of each participating agency;

Objective 1: Participatory development planning in marginalized communities (UNDP in close consultation with UNV)

- **Output 1.1:** Communities mobilized for local development
- **Output 1.2:** Infrastructure projects implemented
- **Output 1.3:** Capacity and partnership opportunities raised for Roma and Egyptian NGOs

Objective 2: Access to Rights

- **Output 2.1:** People registered through civic registration (UNDP and UNICEF under the technical guidance of UNHCR)
- **Output 2.2:** Community policing (UNDP)
- **Output 2.3:** Primary health care services accessed through health mediators and health providers (UNICEF and UNFPA)
- **Output 2.4:** Child protection provided through Child Protection Units (UNICEF)
- **Output 2.5:** Early learning and access to education ensured through pre-school education for Roma/Egyptian children (UNICEF)
- **Output 2.6:** Employability of Roma and Egyptians promoted through vocational training courses (UNDP)

Objective 3: Policies and institutional strengthening for minority inclusion (UNDP)

- **Output 3.1:** Roma Secretariat supported through technical assistance to implement the priority areas of the Strategy and the Decade for Roma Inclusion
- **Output 3.2:** Roma and Egyptian development issues mainstreamed in the programmes of different local governments
- **Output 3.3:** Capacity among local and central government officials developed in order to effectively deal with specific issues of development, security and inclusion related to the target groups of the project

Section II: Results Achieved

This section describes the main activities undertaken during the lifetime of the programme, highlighting activities implemented during 2013, followed by an overview of activities undertaken to accomplish the programme objectives and outputs.

1. Participatory development planning in marginalized communities

1.1 Community mobilized for local development

During the entire implementation phase the programme intervened in 13 communities in 4 regions in Albania, namely Tirana, Durrës, Fier and Elbasan, because these regions are highly populated by vulnerable Roma and Egyptian communities. Social mobilisation in Roma and Egyptian neighbourhoods started by establishing community-based organisations (CBOs) as non formal community counselling groups composed of neighbouring households. CBOs consisting of 164 members where 48 out of the total were women have played an active role in the identification of community development priorities, mainly in infrastructure and social services and ensured adequate representation of community member perspectives of their needs and priorities. Via CBOs, the community members voiced their concerns, decided together what was important to them as a community and negotiated with local government to jointly address them. Maintaining a gender balance in CBOs was essential to ensure the multidimensionality of community needs.

The establishment of such community forums was preceded by conducting a country-wide needs assessment study on Roma and Egyptian communities. The study was a very comprehensive undertaking, on the one hand responding to the needs of the programme by identifying areas of interventions and new approaches, while on the other hand furnishing baseline data for the National Action Plan (NAP) for Roma. The process also served to increase capacities among educated Roma and Egyptians to conduct needs assessment through involvement of 5 university graduates in the data collection phase. While increasing their capacities, Roma and Egyptian data collectors helped in outreaching remote and isolated communities of these vulnerable groups.

It is followed by a series of self help activities, trainings, workshops on community participation, needs prioritization, negotiation with local governments and cooperation with local civil society organisations. Only during 2013 more than 40 mobilisation activities have taken place and about 5000 Roma and Egyptians have benefitted from awareness activities, training sessions, and volunteering in self-help activities which have strengthened their capacities, raised awareness on certain issues, thus fostering their empowerment.

1.2 Community priority and infrastructure development

JP-EVLC supported and facilitated the development and implementation of 20

development priorities packaged into 11 projects in the amount of 675,786USD, which were consolidated interventions in infrastructure construction or upgrading (road rehabilitation, sewage system construction, construction of multi-functional community centres and rehabilitation of health centres and schools) and providing quality social services in rehabilitated premises.

In order to ensure the priorities identified by CBO members to be taken into consideration by local authorities, partnerships formalised through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been established with respective local authorities such as regional councils, municipalities and communes.

The financial share for infrastructure projects was 80 percent by the programme and 20 percent by the respective local government units.

Through introduction of this participatory planning model at local level, the programme contributed to improving the living conditions and human security of 2000 Roma and Egyptian families in all the four regions of programme implementation. Table below presents the identified infrastructure projects and the total amount per project.

Table 2. Completed infrastructure projects		
No.	Infrastructure Project Name	Total amount of amended contract ALL
1.	Road Rehabilitation in Roma quarter - Fushe Kruje	4,050,406
2.	Construction of Sewage System - first phase in Roma Village, Qender Commune, Fier	4,561,596
3.	Construction of Multifunctional Center and kindergarten in Levan Commune	8,829,612
4.	Surrounding and Systematization of School Yard Valias, Kamza Municipality	3,135,911
5	Construction of Bridge, Channel Syst., Road rehabilitation, Xhamia Quarter, Peqin	6,525,889
6	Construction of Multifunctional Centre and Kindergarten in Cerrik	5,948,044
7	Construction of Community and Health Center in Nishtulla Quarter, Durres	13,036,880
8	Construction of Community Center and kindergarten in Rrapishte Quarter, Elbasan	12,191,527
9	Reconstruction of Health Center in Valias + two roads	5,848,623
10	Reconstruction of "HOUSE OF COLORS" Tirana	3,276,863
11	Surrounding wall, reconstruction of the buildings in social center ShishTufine	2,876,406
	Total in ALL	70,281,756
	Total in USD	675,786

1.3 Capacity building and partnership strengthened for Roma and Egyptian NGO

Building capacities and strengthening partnership of Roma and Egyptian NGOs was one of the programme objectives explicitly identified in the project document. To achieve that EVLC staff continually partnered with Roma NGOs with the view to increase their capacities and bringing their voice closer to decision making process, while strengthening their networking with other professional organizations and institutions. In this regards, 5 Roma/Egyptian NGOs (Amaro Drom, Romani Baxt, Romani Kham, Roma Active Albania, and Romano Sezi) have been supported to work closely with Tirana Legal Aid Society (a professional legal aid organization) and civil registration authorities in order to resolve cases of unregistered Roma and Egyptian individuals.

In December 2011, a capacity assessment was finalized for Roma and Egyptian NGOs, providing a complete profile of Roma and Egyptian civil society organization in the country. The assessment involved organizations operating for a long time as well as newly established ones, both in Tirana and in the regions. Based on the findings of the assessment a training programme was finalized for Roma and Egyptian NGOs and seven training sessions involving topics such as NGO management, strategic planning, human resources management, fundraising, project cycle implementation, networking, advocacy and lobbying, community development were organised during the period April - July 2012.

121 members (66 out of the total were women) from different Roma and Egyptian NGOs took part in the training sessions, which were based on the methodological concept of the “Adult Learning Process.” Following up the capacity building support 12 R/E NGOs benefitted from the grant scheme of 90.000 USD which provided support to 12 Small Scale Projects.

The table below provides information of the NGOs, the project focus, and the location the project is implemented.

No.	NGO Name	Project focus	Project location
1	Rromani Baxt Albania – Peqin Branch	Development and Improvement of Educational Capacities of Roma children, youth and woman	Peqin, Elbasan
2	Rromani Baxt Albania – Tirana Branch	Developing opportunities for the employment of Roma women through vocational training, as an incentive towards achieving gender equality and improvement of women’s rights in their own families and the mainstream society.	Tirane
3	Union for Development and Integration of the Roma Minority in Albania “Amaro-Drom”	Increasing access to public education for the Roma and Egyptian communities	Fushe Kruje, Durres region

4	Romano Sezi	Empowerment of Roma and Egyptian parents towards social integration through their increased participation as well as development of local policies for reducing school dropout rates.	Region of Elbasan
5	Roma Woman of Tomorrow	Increasing access of Roma Children to pre-school education	10 Kindergartens in the city of Tirana and Fier regions
6	Institute of Roma Culture in Albania	“Romveritas” – Educational Support, Career Counseling and Involvement in Decision Taking Processes for Roma Youth”	Fier, Durres, Elbasan, Tirane
7	Organization of Embroidery	Financial Empowerment of Roma and Egyptian woman and their employment rights	Tirane region
8	Rromano Kham	Awareness raising on accessing health services	Tirane region
9	“Jemi edhe Ne” Association	Vocational training for Egyptian women, support to children that have abandoned the school, awareness activities for human rights	Librazhd, Elbasan region
10	ARRISEC	Awareness raising of Roma women and girls and increasing of access to health care services	Tirana region
11	SFINKS- Egyptian NGO	Reducing stigma and discrimination of public administration towards R/E communities	Tirana region
12	Roma Center “Per nje vision bashkekohor Rom”	Increasing access to public education	

Partnerships between R/E NGOs, governmental institutions and other actors were strengthened through their communication and dialogue in several round tables organised with R/E NGOS and MSWY on discussing a series of issues of concern for these communities. R/E NGOs were consulted and involved in several research studies undertaken by EVLC on community needs assessment study, NGO capacity assessment study, labour market survey, where they provided their relevant inputs and insights.

This led to strengthening the relationship of these CSOs with Roma and Egyptian communities, as well as their inter-organisational relationship by creating cohesion, cooperation and partnership among them.

Description of performance indicator	Planned	Achieved	Comment
Feasibility study of needs of VCs	Year 1.5	Year 3	Delayed delivery impacted setting up of JP baseline data and M&E plan
Establishment of CBOs	8	13	1 CBO per target community
Identification, design and implementation of priority community development projects	20	20	Packaged in 11 projects which are fully implemented
Small scale community projects implemented by Roma and Egyptian NGOs	8	12	Fully implemented

2. Access to Rights

2.1 People registered through civic registration and able to access public and social services

A lot of efforts during JP-EVLC implementation were spent on civil registration as a precondition, pivotal to assessing and enjoying their rights. Depending on the situation, the registration process varied in complexity, in time, and cost. EVLC programme cooperated with Tirana Legal Aid service (TLAS) to handle the registration process of Roma and Egyptians in regions of Durres, Fier, Elbasan and Tirana. With advice from UNHCR, the programme established wider partnerships that included volunteers, Roma and Egyptian CBOs, police, UN agencies and civil servants who were trained to confidentially navigate through the system to accomplish the task regardless of its complexity. The underlying principle for continuing to keep involved Roma NGOs relied in the fact that these NGOs possess a wealth of knowledge on the issues and challenges surrounding Roma and Egyptian communities. This approach ensured that all cases in need of civil registration were identified and referred for registration to relevant service providers while Roma NGOs had an opportunity to increase their capacities by working closely with specialized legal assistance NGOs based in Tirana as well as civil registration authorities.

Table 5; Types of resolved civil registration cases (individuals and families)		
Types of registration		Nr
Birth registration (individuals)	Registered	181
	Certificate of birth	48
Transfer of residency (families)		10
Certificate of death		4
Child custody		10
Registration as unemployed		289
Divorce in court (couples)		27
Certification of marriage (couples)		5
Homeless applicants for social housing (families)		16
Stateless individuals seeking to regain Albanian nationality		4
ID Cards (individuals)		266
Health Cards		696
Change of surname		2
Child adoption		2
Economic Aid		124
Property Cases/Heritage		2
Children Registered in Pre-School Education		34
Children registered in public elementary school		39
TOTAL OF RESOLVED CASES 1640 Roma NGOs 119 TLAS		TOTAL 1759

In addition UNICEF has completed 60 other cases during 2013. TLAS have addressed 119 cases and trained 5 NGOs to provide direction to their own community members for getting registered. Following the training Roma NGOs completed 1759 registrations in various categories. Overall TLAS and Roma NGOs addressed 1640 cases of registration in four regions. The following table provides a breakdown of types of registration covered.

A mapping of Roma children in Albania conducted by UNICEF has indicated gaps of services for the Roma children including the remaining number of Roma children who are not registered in Albania. The mapping process led to development of profiles per community with specific data on number of persons who received social assistance, number of children in and out school distance to crèches or pre-school, etc.

The EVLC programme supported a series of expert consultations amongst service providers to find practical solutions to the

problematic issues of civil registration, to understand and appropriately apply the Albanian legislation at local level. These consultations led to recommendations for changes in the relevant secondary legislation. The government approved the Decree No 508 dated 07/12/2011, that facilitated registration of newborn children in maternity homes using a new form of birth certificate. Along the same lines the Government mandated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and specifically the Consular Services of Albania to operationalize the law No 8372, date 09/07/1998 “On the functions of Consular Services and Diplomatic Bodies of the republic of Albania.” As the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) worked on the guidance for consular services during 2011, it also signed an agreement with TLAS, to provide guidance to those parents who needed to register their children born abroad. The Government also issued a Decree no 7 dated 10/01/2012 which provided guidance to police forces and other civil registration officers by their mothers. These three changes have significantly impacted the civil registration process, have facilitated the solution of many complex cases, and prevented new child –births from going unregistered.

The number of resolved registration cases is quite high: 1990 vs. 400 planned in the JP document. This is as a result of innovative approach that the JP successfully adopted through combination of several activities:

- Awareness raising campaigns for both community members and public officials (civil registry, health centers/maternity homes, employment offices on importance of civil registration of Roma and Egyptian communities and access to social and public services;
- Provision of specialized legal assistance through TLAS for complex registration cases and case referral;
- Capacity building and on-job training for CBO members Roma and Egyptian NGOs on registration issues and administrative procedures, as well as public officials.

Table 6: Overview of Performance Indicators in Objective 2.1			
Access to civil registration and public and social services			
Description of Performance Indicator	Planned	Achieved	Comment
Baseline disaggregated data on unregistered R&E collected through feasibility study	Year 1.5	Year 2	Delayed and impacting setting up of baseline study
No of people benefit from specialized legal support in various registration processes	400	1759	High number of resolved cases vs. planned
No of children registered	200	229	
No of staff trained from maternity home and civil offices	240	256 maternity home 200 civil registry	High number of trained official s vs. planned

2.2 Community policing introduced among Roma communities through police mediators

JP-EVLC has contributed to improve the human security and safety in targeted communities. Awareness campaigns for safer and healthier communities were combined with trainings of 40 police mediators (49% women) on multi-faced issues of security and safety in community, home, work domestic violence and intermediary skills in response to community's request to handle issues impartially.

20 police officers were trained as well on social and cultural context of Roma and Egyptian communities and how to work with police mediators. After these trainings, these police mediators have been regularly involved in joint awareness raising activities in cooperation with the regional Department of education, health and police. Addressing inseparable issues with personal security, such as HIV/AIDS and drug abuse at school, police mediators are mobilized to enlighten the community members on the safer and healthier school and neighbourhoods' environment. These activities were undertaken with a collaborative approach by UNDP, UNFPA and local authorities and 500 R/E inhabitants have directly benefited and about 800 posters and leaflets distributed by mediators in close collaboration with community leaders and NGOs.

These activities have built bridges of communication, contacts and trust between police officers, police mediators and targeted vulnerable communities to bring police officials closer to these communities.

Description of performance indicators	Planned	achieved	Comment
No of police mediators trained (% F)	12	40 (49% F)	High number of trained mediators vs planned
No of trainings to police mediators	3	4	
No of trainings provided to police	2	2	

2.3 Communities have better access to primary healthcare services through health mediators and health providers

JP, though expertise provided by UNFPA focused the efforts in enabling vulnerable Roma and Egyptian communities to access their rights, particularly in the area of health, increasing capacities of Health Mediators and Community Based Officers, as well as in advocating among the youth and in targeted areas of Tirana, Durres, Elbasan and Fier.

Training was provided to 69 health mediators (57% female and 84 % of them below 24 years old) who were identified in the community by the field teams working in the target regions. Training was based on findings of needs assessment on health issues involving community members and health provider. Training was also provided to 100 public health officials in the target regions on friendly service provision to Roma and Egyptian communities.

The result of these actions strengthened knowledge of Young People of Egyptian and

Roma Communities in the areas of health, sexual and reproductive health, risky behaviors that affect the health of young people, advocate for healthy lifestyles; raise awareness about HIV/AIDS/STI; promote youth participation of Egyptians and Roma. The trainings and raising awareness activities focused on the problems faced by these vulnerable and marginalized communities with drugs, alcohol, sexual and reproductive health, hygiene issues and access to health services.

It should be noted that door to door screening for immunization status of R/E children was supported along with promotion materials (leaflets, stickers, posters) on immunization, nutrition, and protection from most frequent diseases. Outreach and advocacy activities on health issues targeted community in large, women and teenagers through attractive approaches, such as theatre based peer education on risky behaviors, child health days, international youth days and basic health services have been intensively supported by JP in cooperation with community members and public health officials.

While with UNICEF support, at the end of the intervention period around 100 health care providers from Durres region were able to use the new growth monitoring and nutrition counseling techniques for pregnant women and young children and were exposed to innovative models of partnerships between health care providers and communities. 550 mothers and other direct caregivers were reached during community based outreach activities focused on child health.

Description of Performance Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Comment
% of children vaccinated under 5	80% (50% F)		No data available in %
No of professional health workers trained in friendly minority services	100	130	
No of professional health workers trained in identifying R & E children missing immunization services	100	100	
5 of eligible children under 5 reached through basic child health immunization services	50%		No data available in %

2.4 Child protection provided through Multi-purpose centre to protect children from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation

EVLC project through the expertise of UNICEF has contributed to improve child protection services from abuse, neglect violence trafficking and exploitation. A network of protective services for children has been set up in Tirana made up of Child Protection Units and a multipurpose centre, which has provided a range of services by a multidisciplinary team including providing a model of child protection services:

- Identification of 276 children in difficult street situation and provision of daily services such as development of action plans and case management and referral for vulnerable children to minimize risks;

- Emergency Shelter service has been institutionalized based on various agreements signed with the Section of Minors and Domestic Violence at the Police Directorate and Department of State Social Services in order to ensure the rehabilitation and reintegration of children exposed to domestic violence and exploitation and the Police Section of Anti-trafficking in cases of internal or external trafficking of children.
- Provision of hygienic conditions for 321 children
- The Centre has offered as well case management to monitor and discuss the actions plans for cases to be followed up, legal aid for children and families, health check-up provision and summer entertainment and educational activities for children.
- Educational support to an average of 27 children a day supporting with daily supervision in homework and lessons
- Provision preparatory lessons to 31 pre-school children and 53 children who are school drop-outs
- 170 community visits have been conducted to introduce the centre and its services to community
- Altogether, the centre has offered a variety of services for 550 children as direct beneficiaries, 840 children as indirect beneficiaries and 2500 families.

Description of Performance indicators	Planned	Achieved	Comment
No of children using services	960 (50% F)	+ 960	
No of families using social services	720	+800	
No of children /families referred to psychological support	361	+361	
Municipalities staff increased capacities in case management and referral	12	12	

2.5 Pre-school education services provided for Roma children to ensure early learning and access to education

Under this activity efforts have consisted in delivering awareness raising campaign for over 300 Roma and Egyptian families on the importance of pre-school education as an important prerequisite for school attendance and children's future. Pre-school preparatory courses have been provided in Elbasan and Durres (Keneta area). 90 children have benefited from activities aiming early and inclusive education and facilitating preparation of children for school. 60 Roma children (25 in Community centre in Durres and 35 in Community centre in Elbasan) participated in school preparatory courses and enrolled 100% in first grade.

Early Child Development Centres in Baltez and Saver in Fier region run by Roma NGOs, in close partnership with local and educational authorities, offered pre-school education, provided pre-school parent counselling, and health check-ups. An average of 80 children attended daily pres-school centres.

UNICEF helped the government to conduct a mapping of Roma neighbourhoods in

Albania, resulting in the identification of 108 geo-tagged locations with a total of about 15,000 individuals. Data on each neighbourhood provides a profile of the particular Roma community - including persons receiving social assistance, number of children in and out of school, distance to and participation to in crèches or pre-schools and so on. In many locations, it is only few children not in school, few child not registered at birth, few families excluded from its social assistance entitlement, and so on. For such small numbers, the issues can be entirely solved locally, given the overall favourable legislation on many of these issues.

A very much intended effect of the mapping was to point at the authorities responsible (in fact accountable) for ensuring social protection and services to Roma. By geo-tagging the locations of Roma neighbourhoods, the responsible authorities can be readily identified (the school where they are supposed to go to learn, the kindergarten that they are supposed to attend, the census office where they are supposed to register their children, the social worker who is supposed to help that all this is to be done, etc.), and held accountable by their supervising institutions (regional or national council or authorities, inspectorates and so on). As the information is publicly available (anyone can see and demand action (or accountability) from the relevant authorities in www.sidalbania.org).

Also anyone can inform the relevant authorities eg MSWY or UNICEF if the number or issues of Roma in the respective community have changed (children now in school, some families moved away etc).

The results of the mapping study are being followed up by different actions at local and central level in order to analyse and address the situation of the Roma children. The Ministry of Education is able to analyse through this tool the impact of its educational policies and latest legislation approved in the identified Roma communities.

Table 10: Overview of performance indicators in Objective 2.5 Access to pre-school education			
Description of Performance Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Comment
No of children attending kindergarten	100	+130	
No of parents trained in parenting skills	500 (50% F)	540	
No of children enrolled in school	100	100	

2.6 Minority friendly employment services

Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania are often excluded from the job market and their income generating activities occur in the realm of the informal market. Mostly involved in collecting recycling materials such as cans, plastic, iron, as well as selling second hand clothes, these activities are far from ensuring them sustained employability and socially accepted jobs. Therefore the JP aimed to address the issue of employment as an important factor for social inclusion and contributed to make the employment services become more minority friendly

Concrete measures on how to accommodate vulnerable Roma and Egyptian individuals into the labour market have been identified in a rapid labour market survey conducted in 2011 by the programme. Lack of knowledge and skills of R/E in different professions

was identified as a major obstacle in the survey preventing them to be compatible in the labour market.

In this framework the programmed adopted an integrated approach in improving employability of Roma and Egyptians through a series of reinforcing and complementary activities: awareness raising campaign on importance of vocational training to acquire professional skills, variety of vocational courses on offer and eligibility criteria, identification on site of interested candidates and their profile matching with vocational training courses based on individual interests, facilitating enrolling of candidates in public and private Vocational Training Centres (VTC) s and supporting them financially when needed, particularly in private VCT, subsidizing transportation costs, monitoring their attendance and performance during the course, providing them career advising on how to find employment, providing them with the tool kits to facilitate their (self) employment, referring and assisting them in finding internships and employment through Employment offices, public and private employers or self employment.

As a result, 200 Roma and Egyptians, mainly young people have completed vocational courses (traditional and market oriented) and built their skills as plumber, welder, cook, computer technician, solar panel technician, car mechanics, tailor, hairdresser, graphic designer etc. Acquisitions of professional skills through vocational training and internships have enhanced their employability.

JP partnered with other projects such as World Bank funded YECD Project “Small Grants to start a Business” where 8 Roma and Egyptians are referred to apply for their business ideas and two already were awarded of 2500 USD to start their businesses. On the other hand JP has contributed in improving employment services provided by Regional Employment Offices (REO) for unemployed Roma and Egyptians in terms of streamlining procedures to register them as job seekers, advising and registering them in vocational courses. Overall, as a result of awareness rising among REO and VTC there is noted a supportive attitude in providing access to employment services to vulnerable communities and better understanding of their cultural context and social constraints.

Description of Performance Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Comment
Proportion of people by sex and age in employable age enrolled and completed vocational training courses	200	200	
Vocational training curricula by sector and type of profession		Available	

3. Policies and institutional strengthening for minority inclusion

3.1 Roma Secretariat supported through technical assistance to implement the priority areas of the Strategy and the Decade for Roma Inclusion

Good progress was made to the achievement of this objective through the delivery of planned outputs, yet there is the need for follow up after the completion of the activities of EVLC project.

There is good evidence that JP supported MSWY/Roma Technical Secretariat to develop and establish internet-based reporting and monitoring system of National Action Plan on Roma Decade in close consultation with local government authorities and civil society organizations along with the structure of information flow to feed the monitoring system and standardized procedures and instruments on data collection and information to be used by LGUs. Although web-based reporting and monitoring system of NAP on Roma Decade is developed and tested for Roma Technical Secretariat in the framework of JP, it is not fully operational.

JP EVLC built capacities at central and local level through a series of trainings delivered in partnership with TIPa on data collection and data entry into the monitoring system. Over 150 governmental officials were trained country-wide and represented a good mix of institutions at central and local /regional level in charge of data collection for Roma and Egyptian communities (Roma Secretariat, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Interior, Regional Employment offices, Regional Social Service Departments, Regional Health departments, Regional Education Departments, etc). This approach strengthened the inter-governmental cooperation at regional and national level on data collection on VCs and increased the visibility of Roma and Technical Secretariat, who established contacts at local level through their presence in all the trainings. For the first time, Roma Secretariat had a regional exposure and established contacts at regional/local level.

The monitoring system of NAP on Roma Decade aimed to assist the Albanian government to produce annual progress reports on the status of vulnerable communities and impact of measures and interventions undertaken at local and central level. Two monitoring reports are produced to date, but not through the web-based monitoring system developed through JP.

It should be noted that although the web-based monitoring and reporting infrastructure is in place and staff at central and local level are trained to use it, it is not fully operational yet due to a number of subjective reasons:

- (I) it is not obligatory by law for governmental institutions to collect and provide periodically the requested data;
- (II) some of staff trained at local and central level are replaced due to staff turnover at local level and the newly appointed staff is unable to enter the data;

(III) some technical issues such as clarification on indicators need to be resolved;

The project provided technical assistance in drafting a Decision of Council of Ministers in close consultation with MSWY staff to make obligatory the data collection for monitoring system and web-based reporting for NAP, but its approval is still pending due to elections in June 2013 and new government in place as of September 2013.

3.2 Roma and Egyptian development issues mainstreamed in the programmes of different local governments

There is good evidence that the project has contributed to mainstreaming Roma and Egyptian issues into the development programs of local governments. JP is given credit by MSWY/Roma Secretariat and LGUS for providing technical support to establish, reactivate where possible, and make functional the Regional Committees on Planning and Assessing Social Needs and establishment of Roma Sub-Technical Committees as part of them. The committees consist of the representatives of the local institutions that fall under the priority of the National Action Plan for Roma Decade, namely, education, employment and social protection, housing and infrastructure, health, social inclusion and equal opportunity, and cultural heritage. The committees are fully operational and meet on quarterly basis to discuss on progress made, share upcoming work plans and seek for further consultations on the outputs of National Action Plan for Roma respectively.

Such structures are established also in 6 other regions that are highly populated by Roma and Egyptian populations and provide information to the responsible institutions to report to Roma Technical Secretariat on the implementation of the National Action Plan for Roma Decade through the newly established reporting and monitoring system.

The strengthened local government structures are expected to accelerate the implementation process of National Action Plan for Roma Decade, while streamlining the reporting to the central government.

3.3 Capacities increased among local and central government officials in order to effectively deal with specific issues of development, security and inclusion related to the target groups of the project

Every activity organized within the framework of the programme has been designed in such a way to have a capacity building effect to local or central officials, while taking measures for guarantying institutions ownership and sustainability of results. In this regard, local governments, civil registration authorities, health service providers, law enforcement and security institutions, child protection units, employment services as well as line ministries have always been partners and co-organizers of the relevant programme activities. Partnering with the Training Institute of Public Administration in several occasions, the latest being that related to training on reporting and monitoring of the Roma NAP, has been key in ensuring Training Institute of Public Administrations (TIPAs) recognition of the provided trainings and capacity building workshops.

In order to further complement the support for capacity building, a study tour with local and central officials in Romania, a member state of Roma Decade initiative, took place in November 2012. Besides local and central officials, parts of the group were also representatives of R/E NGOs

Description of Performance Indicator	Planned	Achieved	Comment
Monitoring report positively assesses streamlined and operational NAP		yes	two monitoring reports prepared
Regional and local action plans designed in line with NAP are being implemented		yes	
Vulnerable communities represented in local regional coordination committee		yes	structures set up in 10 regions
Data collection mechanism developed tested and institutionalized		delivered	not operational at full capacity; considered a priority for the MSWY

4. Communication activities and visibility

As part of the One Un programme in Albania, the project team made use of different One Un discussion and consultative forums, reports and publications to make the project visible duly highlighting the changes it is bringing in the local communities of the country, but also providing knowledge on the work of UN agencies in the area of Human Security.

In this context, the programme used different communication channels and tools during the entire implementation phase, to mention here visible and written media, leaflets, posters, reports, case studies, etc. Recognition of joint interest in mutually acceptable solutions to problems of vulnerable population was clearly spelled out in all the advocacy messages of the programme, highlighting the statement that addressing of R/E development opportunities is in the interest of Roma, Egyptians and majorities alike.

Simultaneously, the programme explored during 2012, the use of social media for a broader and more cost effective outreach at any levels. Opening of a page in Facebook was envisaged to be utilised in a way to complement the traditional means of communication. Since September 2012, the time the Facebook page is opened, it is visited by more than 15.000 persons that have liked and commented activities and news posted in the page.

The programme worked on strengthening the network with journalists in order to mainstream the issues of social inclusion. National and local journalists have been invited on field visits in community neighbourhoods. The programme highly valued such an opportunity that enabled the voices of community members to be heard as well as journalists to become more aware of the situation of Roma and Egyptians.

5. Midterm and final evaluation of the programme

During end of April – mid July 2012, an independent evaluation of the JP-EVLC took place aiming to assess the efficiency, effectiveness, coordination, relevance and sustainability of the JP-EVLC.

In a summarised way, according to the evaluation, the JP-EVLC addresses relevant and critical challenges in Albania. It is designed based on the participation of a great number of stakeholders and the results of the programme contribute towards overall UN Goal for sustainable development and human security. The evaluation team identified some recommendations as well, which were seriously considered by the Joint Programme Coordination Group, JPCG. Concrete actions for each recommendation were specified by JPCG; a report was drafted which was shared and then endorsed by the Joint Programme Management Committee.

A final evaluation took place by the end of the programme, in October –November 2013, with the same aim to assess the efficiency, effectiveness, coordination, relevance and sustainability of the JP-EVLC.

Overall, it is assessed that JP EVLC has made significant positive changes quite tangible and visible at individual, community and institutional level. Vulnerable communities, through JPEVLC, have experienced, witnessed been part of a model that serves as a benchmark for their development and social inclusion in the future and are aware that although they have a long way to go to break their poverty and social exclusion cycle, their participation and cooperation with mainstream society institutions is fundamental.

JP has contributed to recognition by governmental institutions at central and local level of communities in search of security and development and brought their social and development issues on their decision making and policy making agenda contributing thus to sustainable improvement of these communities. It is highly recommended that similar interventions like JP, which adopt a multi sector, multi level intervention should continue to keep up the momentum of trust, awareness, positive attitudes and capacities built.

Section III: Resources and financial implementation

UNDP received 2,337,650.40 USD for the whole project lifetime, from UNTHS, The total funds spent to date is **2,337,650.40 USD**.

UNICEF received 358,450.00 USD for the whole project lifetime, and the total funds spent to date are **358,421.83 USD**.

UNFPA received 53,500.00 USD for the whole project lifetime, and the total funds spent to date are **53,500.00 USD**. In a table format it will look like:

Table 13; Resources and financial implementation /expenditures			
	Program	Gms	Total
UNDP	2,184,705.86	152,944.54	2,337,650.40
UNICEF	334,980.05	23,441.78	358,421.83
UNFPA	50,000.00	3,500.00	53,500.00
TOTAL	2,569,701.04	179,886.32	2,749,572.23

Table 14: Detailed budget by objective and by year

Specific Objectives	Year 1	Expenditures Year 2010	Year 2	Expenditures Year 2011	Year 3	Expenditures year 2012	Expenditures year 2013	Total Expenses
Objective 1	Support participation of vulnerable communities in local decision-making	283,400.00	345,400.00	351,760.45	328,400.00	239,641.49	416,281.77	1,017,244.76
	Access to rights - UNDP	141,750.00	133,750.00	124,167.58	55,800.00	99,956.19	36,486.54	269,010.39
	Access to rights - UNICEF	157,003.45	144,003.18	122,125.56	34,000.75	32,487.00	54,336.14	334,980.05
	Access to rights - UNFPA	16,000.00	19,000.00	21,586.00	15,000.00	16,600.00		50,000.00
Objective 2	Total	314,753.45	296,753.18	267,879.14	104,800.75	149,043.19	90,837.81	654,005.57
Objective 3	Policies and institutional strengthening for minority inclusion	19,300.00	51,000.00	42,126.25	1,600.00	38,811.16	20,985.86	101,923.27
Programme subtotal	308,940.00	142,097.78	252,940.00	270,610.26	262,440.00	205,513.18	178,306.22	796,527.44
Subtotal (Project costs for all agencies)	926,393.45	297,904.26	946,093.18	932,376.10	697,240.75	633,009.02	706,396.53	2,569,685.91
Administration by UNDP (7%)		10,696.20		55,198.03		40,892.15	46,158.16	152,944.54
Administration by UNICEF and UNFPA (7%)	64,847.54	10,157.10	66,226.52	10,068.30	48,806.85	3,418.18	3,298.20	26,941.78
TOTAL	991,240.99	318,757.56	1,012,319.70	997,642.43	746,047.60	677,319.35	755,852.89	2,749,572.23

Annex 1: Final assessment form

PART 1. BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Empowering Vulnerable Local Communities of Albania (EVLC)
Project Number	Albania
Country and region	Albania, (Tirana, Elbasan, Fier and Durres regions)
Lead UN Organisation	UNDP as Administrative Agent of the One United Nations Programme in Albania
Other implementing partners	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV and UNHCR
Project start date:	15 April 2010 – 15 April 2013
• Originally planned	31 December 2013
• Actual	Two times
• Extensions	
Total budget	2,749,600.40 USD
Project description	Empowering Vulnerable Local Communities was a joint programme (JP- EVLC) developed in the framework of ONE UN program in Albania aiming to improve the human security and access to rights of vulnerable Roma and Egyptian minorities, particularly of women and children.
Main objectives	Supporting participation of vulnerable communities in local decision-making Enabling vulnerable communities to access their rights and public services Promoting policies and institutional strengthening for social inclusion of vulnerable communities

PART II: NUMERICAL RATING

Rate the relevance and performance of the project, using the following scale:
 1 – Excellent 2 – Good 3 – Satisfactory 4 – Unsatisfactory 5 – Not applicable
 6 – Insufficient information

	Rating criteria	Rating
	RELEVANCE	
1	Has the project proven to be as relevant as originally envisaged?	1
	<i>Comment:</i> EVLC is highly relevant with national strategic objectives and priorities defined in the governmental strategies for improving Roma Living conditions, Roma Decade National Action Plan. EVLC has responded to address identified institutional capacity gaps to operationalize and implement the strategic legal framework in place on protection of vulnerable communities in Albania.	
	EFFECTIVENESS	
2	Were the project's main objectives achieved in keeping with the original activities, outputs and performance indicators?	2
	<i>Comment:</i> EVLC intended activities and outputs are successfully delivered, despite some delays due to slow start up phase and elections thus contributing to the achievement of JP specific objectives and overall goal to improve the human security and access to rights and social services of vulnerable Roma and Egyptian, particularly of women and children.	
3	How would you assess the effectiveness of the management and administrative arrangements employed to implement the project?	3
	<i>Comment:</i> JP ensured its presence in the target regions with the minimum number of staff given the high number, frequency and diversity of activities implemented and coordinated and geographic areas covered. JP has recruited highly qualified, committed staff with excellent organisational and communication skills. This part is assessed as good (2). Administrative and financial procedures are evaluated as time-consuming and non-responsive to the dynamics and frequency of program activities. This part is assessed as unsatisfactory (4). Overall the management and administrative arrangements are evaluated as satisfactory.	3
4	How effectively did the project partners collaborate? (Elaborate what, if any, were the major challenges?)	3
	<i>Comment:</i> Un inter-agency collaboration has been quite effective at annual work plans and output level at central management level, but not in timely information sharing on the activity implementation and delivery	
	EFFICIENCY	
5	Were the anticipated outputs generated on time and within the budget, as specified in the work plan and implementation schedule? If certain outputs were not achieved, elaborate briefly the reasons.	
	<i>Comment:</i> All planned activities and outputs have been delivered, but some delays have been inevitable. JP was formally launched in mid April 2010, but it took several months to become operational due to some delays in setting up of regional offices and negotiating and formalizing cooperation agreements with local governments, which were impacted by elections. Efforts were made to catch up in subsequent years and no cost extension of 8 months was granted.	3

	IMPACT	
6	How would you rate the overall performance and impact of the project?	2
	<i>Comment:</i> EVLC project has made significant positive changes quite tangible and visible at individual, community and institutional level. Individuals mainly young women and men articulate a shift in mentality from self perception as a victim of mainstream society to self perception as an actor of change in partnership with mainstream society institutions and other stakeholders.	
7	If appropriate, were the communication and public /media outreach components of the project effectively implemented? To what extent were the project's achievements disseminated to the benefit wider audiences?	2
	<i>Comment:</i> The programme used different communication channels and tools during the entire implementation phase, to mention here visible and written media, leaflets, posters, reports, case studies, etc. The programme explored during 2012, the use of social media for a broader and more cost effective outreach at any levels.	2
	SUSTAINABILITY	
	What is the prospect that the project's activities and achievements will be sustained following UNTFHS support? (Elaborate on major factors and potential follow-up needs that are likely to influence whether the project's activities will be sustained)	2
	<i>Comment:</i> Sustainability of JP intervention is ensured through multi stakeholder inclusion, participation and ownership of results. The project built knowledge and capacities at local community level and institutional level at the same time. The project created a good model of functioning as one UN. The main challenge to sustainability remains capacity retention in public institutions at central and local level.	
	OVERALL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT	
	How would you rate the overall performance of the project, considering the Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability of the Project?	2
	<i>Comment:</i> EVLC JP has made a significant contribution in improving the human security and social inclusion of vulnerable communities over more than three years in the target regions.	

PART III: TEXTUAL ASSESSMENT

1. What were the major issues or problems that affected project implementation?

Comments:

- JP is an evidence-based intervention responding to identified needs of vulnerable communities designed and implemented in close consultation with the responsible governmental authority MOLSAEO, with the focal point being the Technical Secretariat for Roma, other governmental agencies at central and local level, vulnerable communities and their representative NGOs. JP was built on experiences and lessons learnt from previous projects implemented by UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV) targeting vulnerable communities and drew on their expertise to maximize the impact of their intervention.
- JP has employed a coordinated multi-sector approach to address the multi-dimensionality poverty and social exclusion of Roma and Egyptians through reinforcing interventions targeting a series of components (participatory development planning, access to civil rights and public services in health, education, community security, child protection, employability, capacity development and improvement of legal framework for social inclusion) at the levels of community, local and central government through partnership building and coordination of efforts and capacities of targeted stakeholders and participating partners.
- JP encouraged and ensured participation of men and women from Roma and Egyptian community members by providing adequate opportunities to them to contribute to community development and personal development. In most of activities women representation is ensured at quite satisfactory levels (30%-50%) according to data provided in the reports, but also confirmed by women participants during the interviews. JP succeeded in bringing women out of their homes and provided them opportunities to become actors of change for their families and community.
- Diversity and frequency of tools used to reach out and maintain the interest and commitment of the vulnerable communities such as public information and awareness campaigns on the issues of human rights and access to them, human security (personal and community), health, child protection, nutrition, parenting, education, community self-help activities, cultural shows and thematic theater shows where community members were protagonists combined with capacity building activities for CBO members and mediators have positively contributed in empowering communities with information, knowledge, skills and initiatives for community development activities.
- JP has relied on highly professional, committed and motivated staff who have been effective in managing and implementing the program activities by bringing on board a range of stakeholders like LGUs, respective communities and NGOs which have contributed respectively funds and in-kind contributions, voluntary work and expertise to support the vulnerable communities.
- It should be noted that a few of JP activities and outputs have been affected by delays in delivery due to slow start-up phase of JP, local elections in May 2011

which delayed MoUs agreement and consequently implementation of infrastructure projects as well as losses of capacities built at local and central level in the course of JP due to local elections in 2011 and general elections in June 2013. This has hindered the operationalisation of web-based reporting and monitoring of NAP on Roma Decade at local and central level.

2. What, if any, significant unintended impacts/outcomes (positive or negative) were there beyond the original project plans?

Comments:

N/A

3. Comment on the impact of the project in enhancing and strengthening the UN implementing partner and the wider UN system.

Comments:

As the needs of R/E communities in the Albania featured complex, multi-sectorial and multi-layered characteristics, EVLC JP drew on the expertise, know-how and experience of several participating UN agencies. The interventions of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA cannot be seen as standalone, but rather as complementary in resources skills and knowledge to maximize the benefit and impact of target beneficiaries. All participating agencies have ensured that objectives under JP remain a constitutive part of their strategic frameworks and their upcoming projects.

4. What type of evaluation was conducted on the project by the UN implementing partner(s) (internal, external or participatory)? Were the target beneficiaries involved in the evaluation, and if so how?

Comments:

A consultative and participatory evaluation is applied, by ensuring participation, engagement and inputs of key project beneficiaries, relevant stakeholders and partners in and effected by implementation of the project including women and men from municipal and rural areas. Participation of beneficiaries is ensured by visits to project sites.

5. What were the major lessons (positive and negative) learned through the project? Are there concrete recommendations that could increase the success of future programmes?

Comments:

- JP is an encouraging learning model of social inclusion programming with multiplier

effects for a range of stakeholders: central and local governments, CSOs and donors and even vulnerable communities. It has demonstrated that the multi-dimensionality poverty and social exclusion of vulnerable communities cannot be addressed by one time piecemeal and fragmentary interventions, but require consistent and cohesive multi-sectored interventions (health, education, employment, security, human rights, institutional support, capacity building) coupled with multi-stakeholder partnership (community, governmental institutions at central and local level, CSOs, UN agencies and other donors), diversity of reinforcing activities for the same purpose (community mobilization and awareness, public information, capacity building, exchange visits, research) and appropriate application of multi-facet human security concept over a long period of time.

- Engagement of national and regional institutions in programme design and implementation ensures programme relevance, institutional political will and commitment to promote, support and implement social inclusion in policy-making through supportive legal framework and budgetary allocations and consequently ownership and sustainability of results;
- Recruitment of professional and experienced staff and particularly engagement of qualified Roma and Egyptian individuals in the program management team is essential for building trustworthy relationships with vulnerable communities and ensuring their participation, commitment and contribution in implementation of planned activities, ownership and sustainability of results. Team cohesion and professionalism have assured effective coordination and communication among stakeholders and partners in the implementation of activities and achieving results, despite staff turnover in the management team.
- Close cooperation with local governments and bringing them closer to vulnerable communities and their needs, allocation of financial and in-kind contribution for infrastructure projects have all contributed to responding to communities needs and improving their life, establishing communication and dialogue channels between local communities, local government units and their subordinate institutions. JP has also contributed in establishing a sustainable model of working with vulnerable communities and empowering them, which can be replicated and scaled up in other regions where vulnerable communities live;
- Strengthening the capacities of national and local governments and dependant institutions is as important as strengthening the inter-governmental institutions' cooperation. Institutional capacity building is an on-going process due to staff turnover and governmental changes at local level following the local elections in May 2011 and at central level following general elections in June 2013. Both elections, particularly the local elections in 2011 hindered the operationalisation of the web based monitoring system of National Action Plan of Roma Decade due to staff turnover at local level. Capacity building activities have strengthened the inter-governmental institutional cooperation particularly the cooperation of Roma Technical Secretariat with local government units and their dependant institutions.
- Active Involvement of R/E CSOs in planning processes, civil registration and community engagement activities, were important not only in implementation of the activities, but increased their organizational capacities in dealing with vulnerable community issues and are a strong foundation for the sustainability of knowledge, skills and JP results.

6. What was the added value, if any, of applying the human security approach to this project?

Comments:

EVLC JP applied a human security through the entire implementation phase, and focused on the safety and security of individuals, their protection and empowerment, highlighting the interface between security, development and human rights. For Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania that suffered from social exclusion, discrimination, lack of civil registration, extreme level of poverty application of this approach was of added value. The project provided concrete and sustainable benefits to the Roma and Egyptian communities in the four regions. The activities have contributed in the improvement of self-reliance, self-confidence and self-organization of Roma and Egyptian people.

7. Would you suggest that the UNTFHS profile this project as a human security success story?

Comments:

Most definitively

8. Has there been any significant progress in the promotion of the concept of human security as a result of this project?

Comments:

Because of JP intervention there has been a significant progress in the promotion of human security concept. There has been an increased awareness and well understanding of the concept. The project assisted R/E vulnerable population through community –level mobilization to plan and upgrade their communities, and in accessing their rights to public and social services through civil registration, in improving their personal security through community policing, in enhancing health and education security through community health mediators and child protection activities, in increasing employability opportunities through vocational training .

9. Describe any significant contributions by donors/s (outside of the UN system) and/or effective strategies employed to secure funding.

N/A

10. Has this project been replicated elsewhere using other financial resources?

The approach followed for EVLC is replicated when drafting another project in other regions of the country financed by EU.

11. Any other comments?

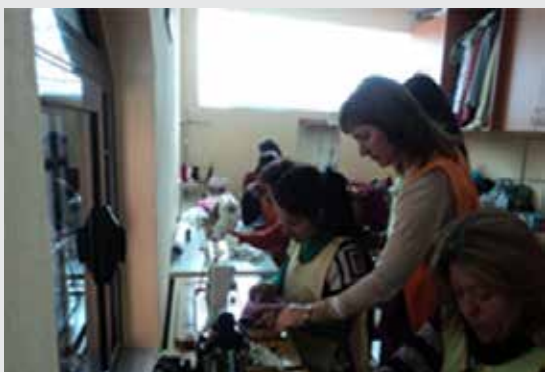
Annex 2. Photos from the programme implementation

Internship Program with Roma & Egyptian students,
March-May 2012



Vocational Training Activities

(practical & theoretical classes, completion ceremonies etc)



Community members in Rrapishta provide their inputs in Municipality budget-October 2012



"Boys of the sea" football team during the football championship, Durrës July 2012



Meeting of the Technical Group on Roma Issues, Durrës



Thematic workshop on the security in intercultural contexts, Durres August 2012



Forum on employment of Roma, Durres November 2012



Educational activities, UNICEF



