JOINT SDG FUND

"Improving Municipal Social Protection Service Delivery" UN Joint Programme

National Monitoring of the SDG Indicator 1.3.1

December 2020, Albania

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
**MINISTRIA E SHËNDETËSISË
DHE MBROJTJES SOCIALE**

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This is an exercise to measure for the first time in Albania the SDG indicator 1.3.1, which links social protection provision with the goal of poverty reduction: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable.

Introduction

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Social Protection is defined as the set of nationally-owned policies and programmes' designed to reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability throughout the life cycle, usually provided by the state (through domestic resources, either contributions or tax finance), or with support from international donors[1]. Social protection is commonly understood as 'all public and private initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to the poor; and the overall objective is to protect and help from deprivation and social exclusion those who are poor, vulnerable, marginalized or dealing with risks[2,3]. The risks can be at individual level (idiosyncratic) and can be associated with life cycle change or large-scale ones, affecting communities or regions due to climate, conflict or other stresses and shocks. The concept of ILO regarding the social protection states "*that society protect its members against economic and social distress that would be caused by the absence or a substantial reduction of income from work as a result of various contingencies (sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age, and death of the breadwinner); the provision of health care; and, the provision of benefits for families with children*".[4]

Social protection systems support these groups by a mix of contributory schemes (social insurance) and non-contributory tax-financed benefits, including social assistance. Therefore, implementation of coherent social policies are vital elements of national development strategies to reduce poverty and vulnerability across the life cycle and support inclusive and sustainable growth by raising household incomes, fostering productivity and human development, boosting domestic demand, facilitating structural transformation of the economy and promoting decent work.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, reflect the joint commitment of countries to "implement nationally appropriate social protection systems for all, including floors" for reducing and preventing poverty (SDG 1.3). It recognizes that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth. Despite recognition in supporting and strengthening social protection systems, yet the human right to social security is not a reality for all. According to the World Social Protection Report (2017–19)[5], at the global level only 45 per cent of the population are effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit and only 29 per cent are covered by comprehensive social security systems that include the full range of benefits. People are left behind and are prone to vulnerable to poverty, inequality and social exclusion due to lack of social

1. https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/07/1-1.pdf
2. UNDP 2016: Leaving No One Behind. A SOCIAL PROTECTION PRIMER FOR PRACTITIONERS
3. Transformative social protection Stephen Devereux and Rachel Sabates-Wheeler IDS Working Paper 232. Available at: https://www.ids.ac.uk/download.php?file=files/dmfile/Wp232.pdf.
4. https://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/download/lifecycl/lifecycle.pdf
5. World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

protection policies and systems. Therefore, SDGs call for universal social protection and countries have responsibility to guarantee at least a basic level of social security – a social protection floor – for all, as part of their social protection systems. Even though many countries are investing to strengthen the social protection system, much remains to be done to achieve the 2030 Agenda for SDGs.

After the fall of socialist regime in early 90s and beginning of the transition process, the living standards in Albania has been improved significantly. The economy of Albania is increasing during the last two decades, ranking our country among the fastest growing economies in South Eastern European (EES) with 4.06% growth in 2018 and with an anticipation of 4.3% economic growth in 2019[6]. Currently, Albania is classified as un upper-middle income country with around $14.496128 GDP per capita (2019)[7]. The EU Statistics Income and Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC), which measures living conditions, relative poverty and material deprivation among households, showed that at- risk of poverty rate in Albania reduced by 0.3 percent point in 2018 (23.4%) compared with 23.7% in 2017. This ratio, places our country before Serbia (24.3 %) and Rumania (23.5 %)[8].

However, despite some positive aspects of growing economy, yet living standards remain low and great disparities exist among vulnerable groups and remote communities that face the risk of left behind. The last World Bank's Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS) which is carried out in 2012, revealed considerable variation in poverty across regions, with the highest poverty rate (20.6%) observed in the north-eastern part of the country, and Tirana (the capital) showing the lowest level (11.7%)[9]. Similar findings were noticed at the Household Budget Survey (HBS), which is another tool that provides data on poverty issues in Albania. The latest HBS published in October 2020 showed that the Tirana Prefecture has the highest monthly average consumption expenditures (on average 98,402 ALL), whereas the prefectures with the lowest level of monthly average consumption expenditures are the prefectures of Dibër and Elbasan, with respectively 67,805 ALL and 68,903 ALL monthly per household.[10]. On the other hand, the previous HBS (2018), provides a more detailed data regarding poverty variation and significant differences in consumption expenditures between the different income deciles. The top 10% of households spent on average ALL 152,079 (EUR 1,220) per month (i.e. 20.7% of total consumption), which was 2.4 times more than the average of ALL 64,659 (EUR 520) per month for the other 90%. Even more striking was the low level of expenditures for the bottom 10%, of which 90% spent on average ALL 18,311 (EUR 150) per month[11].

In the light of HBS data, the UNDP/Albania carried out a study on *"Out of Poverty and Back to Poverty Transitions using Synthetic Panel Data"*. Findings from this study indicate that poor households are often engaged in unstable, temporarily, low paid employment and without a working contract. Therefore, addressing the discrepancy regarding access to social protection, education attainment and labour market outcomes among poor and non-poor households remains a challenge for policy makers[12].

Albania Government is committed to reducing poverty and improving the effectiveness and infrastructure of social assistance programs. During the last five years, several National Strategies, Policy Documents and Laws have been drafted, approved and coming into force, such as: the Social Inclusion Policy Document (2016-2020), the Law on Social Care Services (2016), the Government Decision on the functioning of the Social Fund (2018), the updated National Strategy on Social Protection (2019-2022), and so forth. On the practical level, however, implementation of social policies and the level of financing dedicated to social protection and social services remain insufficient. The Leave No one Behind (LNB) Report (2018)[13] showed that spending on social care services for both local and central public budget decreased from 1.40% in 2017 to 1.32% in 2018. At the same year, the budget for social services was estimated to be 0.40% of the government budget, where 95% of social protection sector's overall budget continue to be used for cash transfers. Information regarding social and economic disparities remains spare, this mainly due to lack of available data.

6. https://www.intellinews.com/albania-among-fastest-growing-economies-in-see-with-4-06-growth-in-2018-158774/
7. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD?locations=AL
8. http://www.instat.gov.al/media/6544/income-and-living-conditions-in-albania-2017-2018.pdf
9. http://www.instat.gov.al/en/themes/social-condition/living-standard-measurement-survey-lsms/#tab2
10. http://www.instat.gov.al/media/7532/hbs_2019_.pdf
11. http://instat.gov.al/media/4784/hbs_2017.pdf
12. https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.15/2017/Expert-meeting-Montenegro-2017/Albania_paper_for-matted.pdf
13. LNB: Year 2 Annual Progress Report June 2018 - May 2019

The economic assistance and social services are provided to families in need, for individuals and vulnerable groups, who cannot provide for themselves their basic vital needs. The Cash Assistance program, disability benefit and social services are covered by the state and local government budgets. Key social protection schemes for vulnerable groups implemented in Albania are as the following:

◆ Cash assistance scheme (Ndihma Ekonomike-NE) for poor families, orphans, child/ family care, victims of trafficking and domestic violence;
◆ Disability allowance (DA) for people with mental and physical disability and payment for caregivers;
◆ Pension scheme;
◆ Universal health insurance/ health care;
◆ New-born payment;
◆ Unemployment payment;
◆ Maternity leave/payment for parents; and
◆ Social care services.

Currently, the number of beneficiaries of social protection schemes has been increased (cash assistance/ NE and disability allowance payments). However, households or families in need find difficult to cover the basic needs with the money they receive. The weakness of social protection system in Albania is also highlighted in the MAPS Report (2018)[14] which states that: *the biggest weakness in Albania's social protection system may lie not in its social assistance or insurance programs, but in its social care components*. Even though financing is a key, lack of legacy in the area of social care services leads to incomplete regulatory and standards in social delivery, including limitation in number and poor quality of services[15].

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[14] Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Albania (2018). Available at: https://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/MAPS_Report_web.pdf
[15] Jorgoni, E.; Ymeri, S.2017. Governance of Social Services. The case of Albania. [Available at: http://futureofthewelfarestate.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Albania-CountryBrief.pdf

OVERVIEW OF SDGs PROCESS

The 2030 Agenda encompasses 17 SDG Goals, 169 targets and 230 global indicators. It highly emphasizes the need that the global indicator framework should be simple yet robust and that it will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels which will be developed by Member States. In addition, the UN Statistical Commission created the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG). The SDG indicators are classified into three tiers on the basis of their level of methodological development and the availability of data at the global level.

TABLE 1 : CRITERIA FOR THE SDG INDICATORS TIER SYSTEM

Criteria for the SDG indicator tier system	
Tier I	Indicators are conceptually clear, with an established methodology and standards agreed and used consistently across agencies, and they use data that are regularly produced at country level.
Tier II	Indicators are conceptually clear and also have an established methodology and standards, but data are not regularly produced at national level.
Tier III	Indicators do not have an established methodology and standards, although these may be under development.

Source: UNStats (2016a)

Furthermore, a "custodian" agency was selected for each indicator and would be responsible for data collection and report at the global level.

OVERVIEW OF SDG INDICATORS DIRECTLY RELATING TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection under the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) period was identified as the Goal 1, covering issues on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. Similarly, with SDGs the social protection it's not a goal itself within the SDGs, but it is explicitly covered in a number of SDG targets (4 of the 17 SDGs), such as: Target 1.3; 3.8;5.4 and 8.5.

◆ **Target 1.3** covers about implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 the achievement of substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
◆ **Target 3.8**, aims at achieving universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
◆ **Targets 5.4 and 8.5** recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate – and aim to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value by 2030, respectively.

OVERVIEW OF THE 1.3.1 INDICATOR

As specified in the SDG 1, the target 1.3 directly links social protection provision with the goal of poverty reduction, with the target being the implementation of nationally appropriate "social protection systems and measures for all, including floors" and the attainment of "substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable" by 2030. The indicator for this target is: *Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable* (Table 3).

TABLE 2: SDG INDICATOR (1.3.1) AS DEFINED BY THE UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Indicator name	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable
Indicator number	1.3.1
Target number	1.3
Target name	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
Global indicator description	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable
UN designated tier	Tier 2

This indicator measures the percentage of the eligible population covered by these social safety nets. It focuses exclusively on coverage, being an outcome indicator relating to coverage in terms of the proportion of the population covered by social protection floors/systems disaggregated by socioeconomic or demographic group. The ILO includes the following ten (10) elements as part of comprehensive social security coverage: medical care; sickness benefits; protection for disability, old age and survivorship, maternity, children, unemployment, and employment injury; and general protection against poverty and social exclusion.

The indicator 1.3.1 is calculated based on the national data, on a methodology developed by ILO and the World Bank. The methodology developed by ILO is based on the methodology for appraising social protection coverage under the World Social Protection Inquiry and on Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors. Hence, the indicator is based on "on the number of persons with access to social protection coverage over the life cycle, including the main areas of social protection (but excluding health in this context, as this is dealt with elsewhere in the SDGs) in line with Convention 102 and Recommendation 202". Data are collected through the ILO *Social Security Inquiry* (SSI), an administrative survey regularly submitted to governments, complemented by existing international data. While the World Bank methodology is based on the ASPIRE (Atlas of Social Protection: Indicators of Resilience and Equity) database. This program calculates coverage within the total population and also disaggregated by income quintile and by urban/rural status[16].

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16 https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/tools-and-methods-series-concept-paper-n%C2%B0-5-indicators-measure-social

Albanian government, since the beginning has embraced the SDGs and is fully committed to implement the Agenda 2030, which is reflected in the development of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI).

Monitoring the SDG Indicator 1.3.1 in Albania

Albanian government, since the beginning has embraced the SDGs and is fully committed to implement the Agenda 2030, which is reflected in the development of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI). Nearly 83% (140) SDG targets are directly tied to specific components of the NSDI 2015–2020 pillars. Expanding the social protection coverage is one of the main priorities of the government which is well reflected in several national policy documents that complement the NSDI II on social protection policy. The most relevant documents related to social protection are:

◆ National Social Protection Strategy 2019-2022
◆ Pensions Policy Document, 2014
◆ Program on Employment Promotion for Persons with Disabilities (2014)
◆ The Social Inclusion Policy Paper (2016-2020)
◆ The National Disability Action Plan (2016-2020)
◆ The National Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptian Communities (2016-2020)

There have been some efforts to measure the progress of SDGs in Albania. The Baseline Report on the Sustainable Development Goals (2017) in Albania and the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on Sustainable Development Goals (2018) are the most appropriate documents. They provide useful data on the country progress, including a brief overview on the SDG 1.3.1 indicator. According to the SDG Baseline Report, Albania has progressed in the field of social protection, and this system for all the poor and vulnerable groups and individuals is well established in Albania. The *"SDG target is well aligned with the national policies in Albania as all its requirements are fully covered by the domestic policy on social protection"* and nearly 1.6% of the country GDP is dedicated to the social protection schemes with minimal investments in social support and care services. The VNR on SDGs, shows that the share of social protection expenditure in the government budget was 9.1 percent in 2017, and mostly is allocated to social insurance (e.g. pensions), which take up 70 per cent of the total social protection spending in the country[17]. However, findings from these reports show that information on indicator 1.3 is available with some processing efforts on the social protection programs. Both reports, briefly describe some achievements of this indicator but none of them provides detailed data on the indicators' input.

In order to fill this gap, the UNDP has supported the compilation of the Report "National Monitoring of the SDG Indicator 1.3.1". This document will provide more accurate data at the national level for this indicator, having the year 2019 as the baseline one.

Calculation coverage will be done based on the ILO methodology and its database will be used to provide comparative figures with other countries and/or regions.

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17 https://www.unicef.org/albania/media/3161/file/Mapping%20Social%20Protection%20Transfers.pdf

SDG INDICATOR 1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable.

This indicator reflects the proportion of persons effectively covered by a social protection system, including social protection floors. It covers the main components of social protection: child and maternity benefits, support for persons without a job, persons with disabilities, victims of work injuries and older persons, with an aim of providing at least a basic level in all main contingencies along the life cycle.

Data for this indicator has been collected in close partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and Institute of Statistics- INSTAT as follows:

a. Proportion of the population protected in at least one area: Proportion of the total population receiving cash benefits under at least one of the contingencies (contributory or non-contributory benefit) or actively contributing to at least one social security scheme.

This indicator is calculated as the sum of persons protected by contributory schemes and recipients of contributory and non-contributory benefits expressed as a percentage of the total population.

The main contributory and non-contributory schemes in Albania are: Cash assistance (NE), Disability Allowance, Unemployment Payment, Pension Scheme, Universal health insurance/ health care, Maternity leave/baby bonus, as well as residential care institutions.

Over the 2019, the contributory and non-contributory schemes covered the followings:

TABLE 3: PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION PROTECTED IN AT LEAST ONE AREA

No.	Population protected in at least one area (contributory or non-contributory)	Number of beneficiaries
1	Cash Assistance (Ndihma Ekonomike)	243.077[18]
2	Disability Allowance	168.414[19]
3	Beneficiaries of pension schemes	705.080 [20]
4	Workers protected by injury insurance	781.924[21]
5	People registered as unemployed receiving unemployment benefits	22.167[22]
6	Women receiving Maternity Benefits	14.251[23]
8	Children in Residential Institutions/Orphan Houses	700[24]
9	Daily and Residential Social Care Centers	26.276[25]
10	Baby bonus	28.561
	TOTAL	**1.990.450**

The total sum of persons protected by at least one contributory or non-contributory schemes is: 1.990.450 people. According to INSTAT, the population of Albania on 1 January 2020 is 2,845,955[26].

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18 MSHMS. Programi Kombëtar i Daljes për Përfituesit e Ndihmës Ekonomike (2019)
19 Caregivers included
20 http://www.issh.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Permbledhese-issh-2019-converted.pdf
21 Ibid
22 Ibid 18
23 Ibid
24 https://rm.coe.int/report-on-the-visit-to-albania-from-21-to-25-may-2018-by-dunja-mijatov/16808d2e22
25 Mrs. Merita Xhafa (Merita.Xhafaj@shendetesia.gov.al) email message to Arian Boci, November 24, 2020.
26 http://www.instat.gov.al/al/statistika/t%C3%AB-dh%C3%ABna-ky%C3%A7e/

Consequently, proportion of the population protected in at least one area is: **69.9%**

This figure is lower compared with the average of Europe and Central Asia (84.1%), but similar with the average of Latin American and Caribbean. Data from Western Balkan countries are missing in the database of World Social Protection Report; therefore, it is impossible to have some comparison figure at the regional level.

b. Proportion of children covered by social protection benefits: ratio of children/households receiving child or family cash benefits to the total number of children/households with children.

Social protection programs for children -- encompasses social assistance and economic support directed at the family or at the individual child and social services including family and community support and alternative care. More specifically, the program includes: (1) social assistance/economic support -- conditional/unconditional cash transfers, child care grants, social pensions, tax benefits, subsidized food, and fee waivers; and (2) social services for children and their families including protective (and preventive) services such as foster care, adoption, residential treatment, family and community support services for children with special needs as well as early childhood care.

The main cash benefits scheme for children and their families is Social Assistance (Ndihma Ekonomike/ NE), Disability Allowance (Pagesa e Aftesise se Kufizuar/PAK) Scheme and Maternity leave.

NE program aims to ensure minimum standard of living for the poor or underserved population. Eligibility criteria, also include mother of families in need having more than 2 children born simultaneously, children without parental care who are not living the in the residential care institutions. The monthly amount given by NE varies approximately from 3.600 – 8.000 ALL. Families that are part of NE program, also receive energy compensation, free textbooks for children attending primary school and free medical treatment for children 0-1 years old.

DA Scheme is part of the social protection programme support persons with disabilities aiming to improve their quality of lives. Disability fund is given to child/adults with disability and to parents/ caregivers in specific disability properly defined by the law. A person could receive up to 9.000 ALL per month. Additionally, beneficiaries of DA also benefit utility compensation and waiving fees for secondary and tertiary education.

As specified in the social insurance contribution scheme, an amount of 2.3% goes for the maternity insurance, which includes: a) maternity benefits, b) maternity allowance and c) birth grant. The rate of maternity benefit for insured women is 80% of work salary for the first 150 calendar days prior to birth and 50% for the rest of the period. The birth grant is approximately half of the minimum wage and is given as one-off grant, equivalent with 10.500 ALL. As of January 1, 2019, the parents/families (regardless of their economic status) receive a reward for the birth of every child, often called baby bonus. The amount is 40,000 ALL for the first child to 120,000 ALL for the third child.

Over the 2019 period, as it is shown in Table 4, the number of children covered by at least one social protection schemes is 143.274. A large majority of them belong to NE scheme with 99,392[27] beneficiaries, whereas the number of children with disabilities receiving disability benefits is 15.321[28]. As explained above, Albania Government rewards families for each new-born with a child grant and lately with the baby bonus. During 2019, 28.651 new-born were registered and according to birth type, 27.813 were normal births, 742 were twins and 6 triplets.

27 Ibid
28 http://www.sherbimisocial.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ANALIZA-VJETORE-SHSSH-2019-FINAL.pdf

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF CHILDREN COVERED BY SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES

Type of social protection schemes	Number of beneficiaries
Social Assistance (Ndihma Ekonomike)	99.392
Disability Allowance (PAK)	15.321
Baby bonus	28.561
TOTAL	**143.274**

Then, the total sum of children covered by social protection benefits is 143.274 people. According to INSTAT, the population of children (0-18 y/o) in Albania on 1 January 2020 is 643.944 (where 314.512 out of 643.944 are female)[29].

Therefore, proportion of children covered by social protection benefits is: **22.2%**

c. Proportion of women giving birth covered by maternity benefits: ratio of women receiving cash maternity benefits to women giving birth in the same year (estimated based on age-specific fertility rates published in the UN's World Population Prospects or on the number of live births corrected for the share of twin and triplet births).

The maternity benefit is payable to a woman for pregnancy and childbirth, provided she has made 12 months' worth of social insurance contributions. The benefit period is 365 calendar days, including a minimum of 35 days prior to the due date and 42 days after delivery. Women with multiple pregnancies are entitled to 390 calendar days of maternity leave including a minimum of 60 days prior to the due date and 42 days after delivery[30].

The number of women giving birth for the 2019 period was 27.813, but the number of those who could benefit the maternity leave was 14.251 women.

Thus, the proportion of women giving birth covered by the maternity benefits is: **51.2%.**

This figure is much lower compared with Western European countries, while data for Eastern Europe or Western Balkan countries are missing at the World Social Protection Report.

On the other hand, as of January 2019, all women giving birth get the maternity benefits a baby cheque based on the DCM[31]. During 2019, there were registered 28.561 new-born babies. According to birth type, 27.813 were normal births, 742 were twins and 6 triplets.

***Therefore, hundred percent** of women giving birth have received bonus cheque following specifications in the respective DCM.*

d. Proportion of persons with disabilities receiving benefits: ratio of persons receiving disability cash benefits to persons with severe disabilities. The latter is calculated as the product of prevalence of disability World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2000 ratios (published for each country group by the World Health Organization) and each country's population.

A disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them
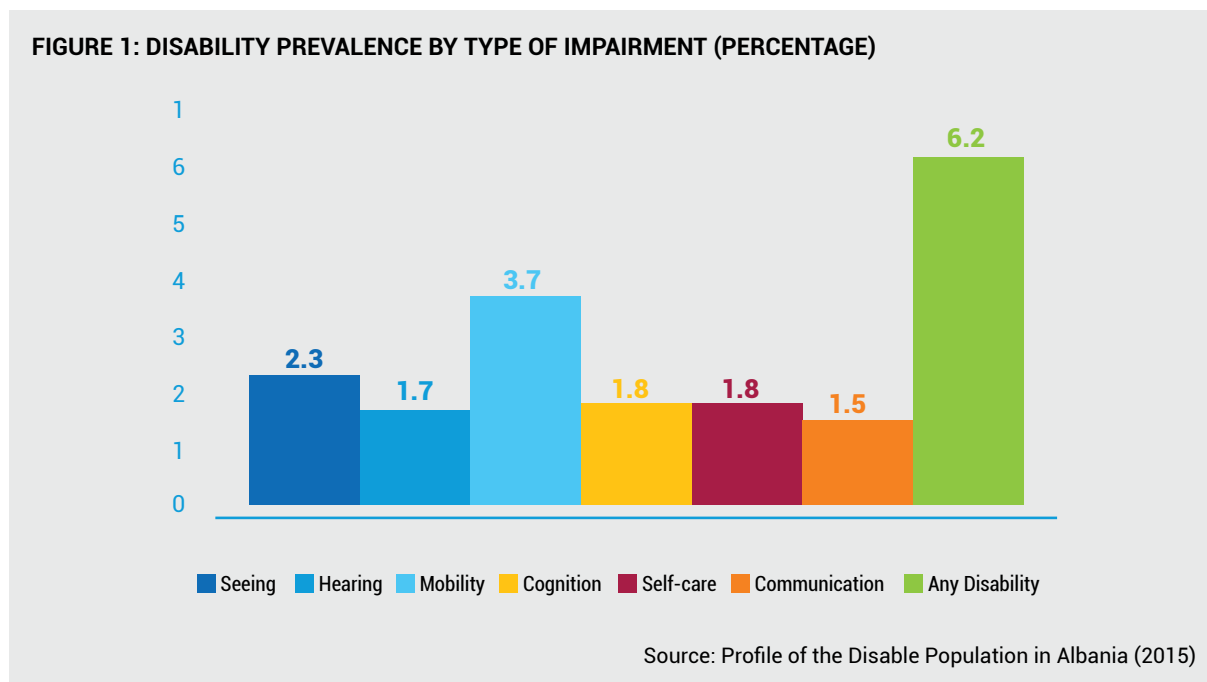
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29 INSTAT (info@instat.gov.al) email message to Arian Boci, February 03, 2021
30 http://www.issh.gov.al/?page_id=7261&lang=en
31 *Duke filluar nga Janari 2019*, qeveria shqiptare, nëpërmjet politikave të reja sociale, politika nxitëse për familjen, mbështet drejtpërdrejt fëmijët, familjen dhe zhvillimin e shoqërisë, duke garantuar **bonus për çdo të porsalindur**, 40 mijë lekë për fëmijën e parë, 80 mijë lekë për fëmijën e dytë dhe 120 mijë lekë për fëmijën e tretë.

(participation restrictions). Related to conditions that are present at birth and may affect functions later in life, including cognition (memory, learning, and understanding), mobility (moving around in the environment), vision, hearing, behavior, and other areas[32].

The adult population of Albania suffer from some sort of disability (seeing, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-care, communication, or disability) is estimated to be 176.449 people or 6.2 percent (Albania population: 2.845.955) [33,34]. Movement restrictions is the most commonly encounter type of disability, followed by vision, learning and self-care. Hearing and communication are the least common disabilities.

FIGURE 1: DISABILITY PREVALENCE BY TYPE OF IMPAIRMENT (PERCENTAGE)

Source: Profile of the Disable Population in Albania (2015)

For the 2019 period, the number of persons receiving cash disability benefits is 168.414, as presented in the below table:

TABLE 5: NUMBER OF DISABILITY ALLOWANCE BENEFICIARIES ACCORDING TO DISABILITY TYPE

Type of disability	Number of beneficiaries	Female
Person with mental and physical disabilities	55,166	22.495
Blind	12,367	5.487
Paraplegics and quadriplegics	6,661	2.456
Work invalids	74,350	30.975
Caregivers	19.874	n/a
TOTAL	**168.414**	

As a result, the proportion of persons with disabilities receiving benefits: 95.4%

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32 https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability.html#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20World%20Health,%2C%20walking%2C%20or%20problem%20solving.
33 https://teleseict.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Profile-of-PWD-in-Albania-Census-2011.pdf
34 http://instat.gov.al/al/temat/censet/censusi-i-popullsis%C3%AB-dhe-banesave/#tab2

This figure is almost similar with Eastern European countries, where the proportion of persons with disabilities receiving benefits is 97.9% and slightly higher compared with Northern, Southern and Western Europe (92.4%).

e. Proportion of unemployed receiving benefits: ratio of recipients of unemployment cash benefits to the number of unemployed persons.

This indicator is measured by relating the number of actual recipients of unemployment benefits to the number of unemployed workers at a given point in time.

Over the year 2019, the number of unemployed in Albania is **164,792 persons.** The official unemployment rate is 11.5 %, decreasing by 0.8 percentage points compared to 2018. The official unemployment rate for males is 11.6 % and for females is 11.4 % (INSTAT, 2019)[35]. The number of people registered as unemployed receiving unemployment benefits in 2019 is 22.167 people (Registered jobseekers receiving unemployment benefit) or 12.9% of the total number of people covered by NE (243.077 people in 2019).

Thus, proportion of unemployed receiving benefits is: **13.4%**

This percentage is lower compared with the global coverage, where 21.8 per cent of the unemployed receive unemployment benefits. While for Eastern European countries this percentage is estimated to be 56.5%.

f. Proportion of workers covered in case of employment injury: ratio of workers protected by injury insurance to total employment or the labour force.
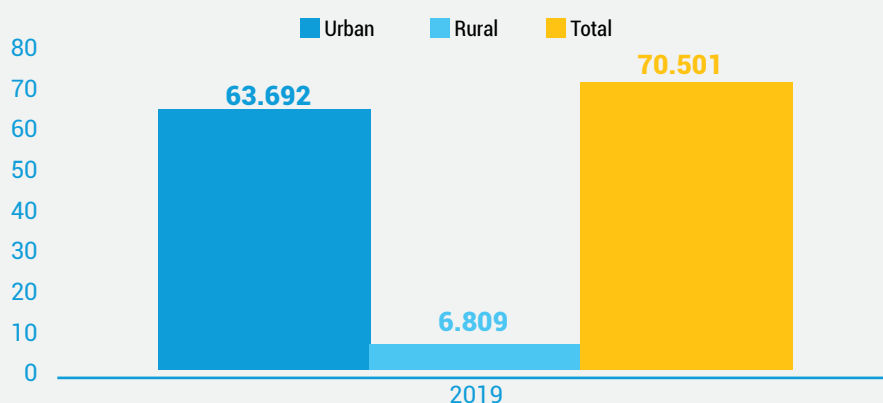
The work injury program provide compensation for work connected injuries and occupational diseases, and nearly always provide cash benefits and medical services. In most countries, work injury programs operate as part of social insurance system that use public funds. However, there are some various forms of private or semi-private programs and employers are allowed the option to pay either to public or private insurance system. To be eligible, all employers should pay the contribution to the public carrier, which in turn pay the benefits.

In Albania, the employment injury is covered by legislation under the social insurance scheme, which is publicly funded[36]. Only those having a valid insurance are entitled to benefit from the social insurance scheme. If a person suffers an employment accident/occupational disease, can be entitled to benefit additional medical care and rehabilitation necessary to recover lost abilities; benefit in case of incapacity, compensation for reasonable damages & benefit in case of death. If the capacity to work is loosed, the benefits provided are: Benefit in respect of temporary incapacity, if the employment accident/occupational disease, is certified by a competent medical expert committee. According to Social Insurance Institute (SII) over the 2019 period, the number of invalidity pensioners was 70.501, where the vast majority of them are residing in urban areas (Figure 2).

35 http://instat.gov.al/media/6942/njoftim-per-media-lfs-vjetore-2019_shqip.pdf
36 http://www.issh.gov.al/?page_id=65

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF PENSIONERS ACCORDING TO PLACE OF LIVING

Despite many efforts to increase the number of workers into the social security scheme, yet this percentage continues to remain low. The main contributors in this scheme are those working in private businesses and the public sector. To a lesser degree, are those paying contributes as self-employed, agriculture and voluntary contribution (Table 6).

TABLE 6: NUMBER OF PENSION BENEFICIARIES ACCORDING TO TYPE OF PROGRAM

Type of Contributors according to subjects	Number of beneficiaries
Public Sector/Social Insurance	210.079
Private Sector	418.552
Self-Employed	83.756
Self-employed Agriculture sector	61.563
Voluntary	7.973
TOTAL	**781.924**

As shown in the Table 6, the number of workers protected by injury insurance for the 2019 period is 781.924 people. On the other hand, for the same period, the labour force is estimated to be 1,430 thousand persons[37].

*Therefore, the proportion of workers covered in case of employment injury is: **54.6%***

g. Proportion of older persons receiving a pension: ratio of persons above statutory retirement age receiving an old-age pension to persons above statutory retirement age (including contributory and non-contributory).

Transition from employment to retirement is regulated mainly by two laws: Labour Code 136/2015 and Law no 7703, dated 11.05.1993 "On Social Insurance in the Republic of Albania" (amended in 2002). The general public system of social insurance is composed of: (1) compulsory, (2) voluntary, (3) supplementary social insurance. The model "pay-as-you-go" (PAYG) is being implemented, while the private pension schemes were introduced after 2005.

To be eligible to receive a full old age pension, persons must have established insurance periods are eligible for a full old age pension and mothers who have given birth to six or more children at over 8 years of age have

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37 http://www.instat.gov.al/media/7174/tregu-i-punes-2019.pdf

the right to retire when they reach age 55 and have completed 30 years of insurance. After 90s, Albania has undergone several pension reforms imposed by the new political and economic system. The first reform, was initiated in 1993 and set regulations on the retirement age (60 years for men and 55 for women) for a transitional period until 2024. The minimum insurance period was increased from 15 to 20 years, with a maximum of 35 years for a full age-old pension for both women and men.

The 2002 reform, increased the retirement ages by 5 years for both men and women (60-65 for men and 55-60 for women), but the minimum insurance period was reduced by five years (20-15 years).

The last pension reform (2015) brought some significant changes to adopt the pension scheme based on the demographic and socio-economic situations. The retirement age was increased to 67 years old by 2056 and an extension to the insurance period for a full old age pension from 35 to 40 years by 2029 for men and by 2032 for women. Additionally, the new scheme encourages people to pay higher contribution in order to earn higher benefits. Particular attention was given to protect the vulnerable groups, where people above age 70 without any source of income, will receive a basic non-contributory scheme was introduced[38].
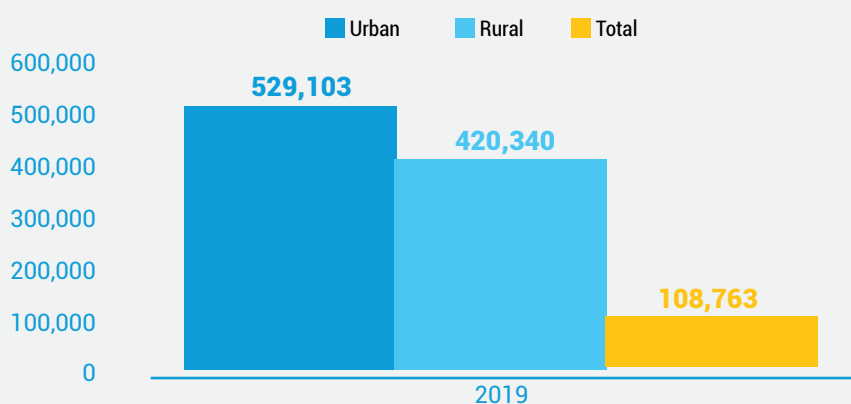
Currently, the number of people benefiting from a pension scheme is 705.080 people (Table 5).

TABLE 7: NUMBER OF PENSIONERS ACCORDING TO TYPE OF PENSION.

Type of pension	Number of beneficiaries	Male	Female
Old – Age pensions	529.103	254.279	274.824
Invalidity	70.051	40.683	29.368
Survivors	51.935	25.833	26.102
Supplementary Scheme	43.541	39.887	3.654
TOTAL	**694.630**	**360.682**	**333.948**

As it can be seen from Table 5, the number of people receiving an old-age pension is: 529.103 (2019) [39] where an overwhelming majority of them (420.340) live in urban areas (Figure 1).

FIGURE 3: NUMBER OF URBAN AND RURAL OLD AGE PENSIONS IN 2019

As of January 1, 2020, the number of persons above statutory retirement age (>60 y/o) is: 605.325[40].

38 https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-40985-2_6#Sec3
39 http://www.issh.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Permbledhese-issh-2019-converted.pdf
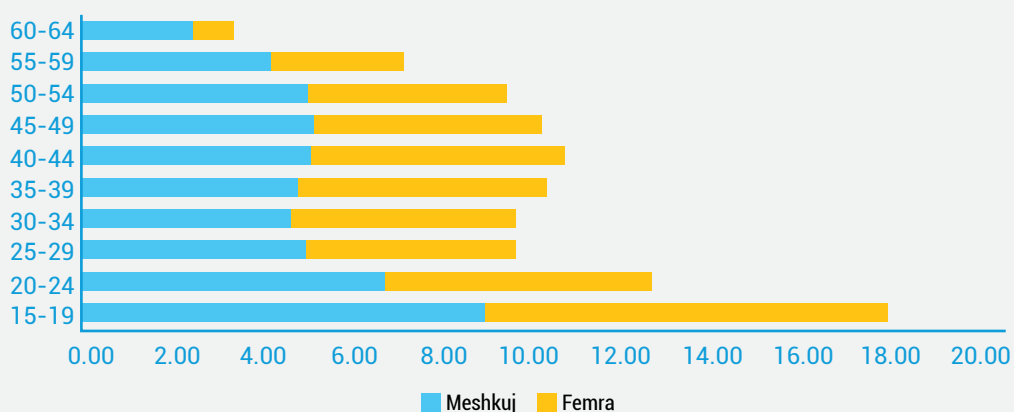40 http://www.instat.gov.al/al/statistika/t%C3%AB-dh%C3%ABna-ky%C3%A7e/

Consequently, proportion of older persons receiving a pension is: **87.4%**

This percentage is higher compared with the worldwide one, where 68 per cent of people above retirement age receive a pension, either contributory or non-contributory.

h. Proportion of vulnerable persons receiving benefits: ratio of social assistance recipients to the total number of vulnerable persons. The latter are calculated by subtracting from total population all people of working age who are contributing to a social insurance scheme or receiving contributory benefits, and all persons above retirement age receiving contributory benefits.

The total number of people covered by NE is 243.077 people (2019), which includes the number of beneficiaries who are paid under the 6% economic aid grant, generated by Municipal funds. Nearly, 51 percent of beneficiaries are men and 49 percent (n=119.108) are female.

FIGURE 4: NUMBER OF NE BENEFICIARIES ACCORDING TO SEX AND AGE-GROUP

INSTAT publishes for the first time the main results of Income and Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC) that measures living conditions, relative poverty and material deprivation in Albanian households. Around 671,000 individuals living below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold are estimated in 2018, against 681,000 individuals estimated in 2017[41]. Data in Table 8 shows that the at risk of poverty rate has not changed among the age group of 0-17, while it has increased by 0.6 percentage point among the age group of 65 years old and above.

TABLE 8: AT RISK OF POVERTY RATE BY AGE GROUP AND SEX (IN %)

Age group	Male	Female	2017 Total	Male	Female	2018 Total
0-17	27.7	31.8	29.6	28.7	30.6	29.6
18-64	24.0	23.4	23.7	23.2	23.3	23.2
65+	13.0	13.7	13.4	12.5	15.4	14.0
Total	**23.5**	**23.9**	**23.7**	**23.0**	**23.8**	**23.4**

Therefore, this indicator is calculated based on the number of NE beneficiaries (243.077) for the 2019 period and over the number of individuals living below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (671.000) a figure gathers from findings of the EU-SILC survey published in 2018.

Hence, proportion of vulnerable persons receiving benefits is: **36.2%**

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41 http://www.instat.gov.al/media/6544/income-and-living-conditions-in-albania-2017-2018.pdf

Conclusion

PROPORTION OF PERSONS EFFECTIVELY COVERED BY A SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS.

Summary of Indicator 1.3.1: proportion of persons effectively covered by a social protection system, including social protection floors.		
	Sub-Indicator	**Proportion**
a	Proportion of the population protected in at least one area: Proportion of the total population receiving cash benefits under at least one of the contingencies (contributory or non-contributory benefit) or actively contributing to at least one social security scheme.	*69.9*
b	Proportion of children covered by social protection benefits: ratio of children/ households receiving child or family cash benefits to the total number of children/ households with children.	*22.2*
c	Proportion of women giving birth covered by maternity benefits: ratio of women receiving cash maternity benefits to women giving birth in the same year (estimated based on age-specific fertility rates published in the UN's World Population Prospects or on the number of live births corrected for the share of twin and triplet births).	*51.2*
d	Proportion of persons with disabilities receiving benefits: ratio of persons receiving disability cash benefits to persons with severe disabilities. The latter is calculated as the product of prevalence of disability World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2000 ratios (published for each country group by the World Health Organization) and each country's population.	*95.4*
e	Proportion of unemployed receiving benefits: ratio of recipients of unemployment cash benefits to the number of unemployed persons.	*13.4*
f	Proportion of workers covered in case of employment injury: ratio of workers protected by injury insurance to total employment or the labour force	*54.6*
g	Proportion of older persons receiving a pension: ratio of persons above statutory retirement age receiving an old-age pension to persons above statutory retirement age (including contributory and non-contributory).	*87.4*
h	Proportion of vulnerable persons receiving benefits: ratio of social assistance recipients to the total number of vulnerable persons. The latter are calculated by subtracting from total population all people of working age who are contributing to a social insurance scheme or receiving contributory benefits, and all persons above retirement age receiving contributory benefits.	*36.2*
	AVERAGE	*53.8*

December 2020, Albania