

UNDP Albania support to Social Inclusion, Gender and Roma Portfolio Brief



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Social Inclusion Context

Albania has challenges in securing welfare and inclusion, quality of public sector services and, therefore, cohesion in society. In 2014 the poverty rates increased while unemployment remains high at around **18%**. Poverty and social exclusion affect mainly children and women, Roma and Egyptians, elderly, people with disabilities as well as impoverished families in peripheral areas where poverty incidence can be double the national average. Roma and Egyptian communities. People with disabilities, women, victims of trafficking and gender based violence, LGBTI community, etc., are some of the most vulnerable groups at risk of further social exclusion.

Roma and Egyptian communities are among the poorest, most marginalized and socially excluded groups in Albania. The 2011 census identified only 8,300 Roma and 3,368 Egyptians, while other official reports estimate between **18,276** and **120,000 Roma** and presumably over **200,000 Egyptians**, which make Roma and Egyptian socio-economic inclusion relevant for the overall country development. Roma and Egyptians face direct and indirect barriers in accessing public services. Studies show that the level of poverty among Roma is twice as high as the majority population. Lower school attendance and early drop out result in low level of educational attainment, and more concretely widespread illiteracy among Roma and Egyptians. The analysis of CENSUS 2011 data indicates that less than a quarter of Roma and Egyptians are employed, and the gender inequality is impressive: only **15% of the Roma women** and **13% of the Egyptian women are employed**. The same source indicates that 15% of the Roma households live in a non-conventional housing. The income for about 48% of Roma families is less than ALL 10,000/month, while 35% of households report a monthly income of less than ALL 20,000. A UNDP survey also showed that social benefits (economic aid, disability, unemployment) represented about 13.1% of the budget of Roma family and 24% of an Egyptian family.

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA



The proportion of **women in Parliament** has risen from **6%** in 2001 to **16%** in 2009, since the institution of a quota of 30% of the underrepresented gender in electoral lists in 2008, and has since risen to 20% in 2014. 2015 local elections resulted in 35% women member of municipality councils.

51.3% of women aged 15-64 were in the **labour force** compared to **72.2% of men** in 2014. Gender-based violence (women aged 15-49) has increased from 56% in 2007 to 59.4% in 2013. Rural women, those with only basic education, women who did not work outside the home and married women are more likely to have experienced domestic abuse. Violence is rooted deeply in the patriarchal traditions and customs as well as in unequal status of women and men in society.

UNDP's Approach and Interventions

UNDP helps social and economic inclusion in Albania through supporting policies and implementation measures to help remove barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full capabilities. Group specific implementation measures (e.g. policy



1 NO POVERTY



5 GENDER EQUALITY



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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UNDP OUTCOME STATEMENT

Economic growth priorities, policies, and programs of the GoA are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development.

responses and action plans) are of critical importance for Roma and Egyptian communities as well as Persons with Disabilities. Such measures are further critical as EU political criteria for accession.

Based on information and up to date data gathered, UNDP supports the preparation of the **Social Inclusion Policy Document (2015-20)** and **Social Housing Strategy (2015-25)**. Special attention is given to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWD). The national action plan for PWD is being developed and support to local government is pursued through the establishment of services for PWD. Civil society and citizens' participation as rights holders in national social inclusion processes has been supported through several capacity building initiatives.

UNDP support to Roma and Egyptian inclusion targets policy making and implementation by facilitating cooperation among all state and non-state actors and implementing innovative tools, new models and initiatives for increasing employment and vocational training opportunities, improving access to basic social services, strengthening institutional capacity, and establishing supportive mechanisms for those who live under severe circumstances. In the long term, this aims is to lift the Roma and Egyptian families out of poverty and support their sustainable inclusion in the Albanian society and labour market.

UNDP supports national policies and institutions to increase women's participation and economic opportunities, improve their **access to justice** mechanisms, mainstream gender into legislation and **eradicate gender based violence**. Moreover, UNDP supports mandated state institutions ensure that their practices and policies effectively prevent and address violence in society in legal and evidence-based policy development; services to DV victims; building partnership between men and boys in breaking mind-sets and joining efforts to end GB&DV. Parliament and oversight equality bodies are supported to have

the capacities to keep government accountable in effectively preventing and addressing GB&DV. Line ministries and public service delivery institutions are supported be able to promote gender equality across legislation, policy and strategy development. Economic women empowerment is pursued through the support provided to local government units, civil society and vulnerable women to generate and strengthen employment and livelihood opportunities.

In this portfolio area, **gender equality** results are both mainstreamed and targeted directly through deliverables for women's empowerment. While promoting women rights as human rights, the programmes under the Social Inclusion portfolio have ensured diligent implementation of gender mainstreaming principles in all aspects of programme implementation. Women empowerment and promotion of gender equality have been at the core of the support provided to national partners at central and local level. Partnership with women organization and other civil society groups has been used as a means to increase people's demand for voice and accountability.

Budget 2015 - 2019	USD 4.65 mil; USD 12 mil pipeline
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List of Key Projects	Promoting Gender Equality and Eradication of GBV; UN Support to Social Inclusion; Supporting Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptian Communities

