



United Nations

ALBANIA

Delivering as One UN in Albania

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

November 2007 – May 2008

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Acronyms

ACHO	Albanian Community Health Organization
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DSDC	Department for Strategy and Donor Coordination
EC	European Commission
EEEEP	Education Excellence and Equity Programme
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEL	Gender Equality Law
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMC	Government Modernization Committee
GovNet	Government Electronic Network
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno- Deficiency Syndrome
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ILD	Institute for Liberty and Democracy
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses
INSTAT	National Institute of Statistics
JEC	Joint Executive Committee
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDG-F	Spanish MDG Achievement Fund
MTBP	Medium-Term Budget Programme
NASW	National Association of Social Workers
NES	National Employment Service
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NHDR	National Human Development Report
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
NSGE-DV	National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence
PWG	Programme Working Group
RMSA	Refugee and Migrant Services in Albania
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDG	UN Development Group
UNEG	UN Evaluation Group
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
UNRC	UN Resident Coordinator
UNV	UN Volunteers
USD	United States Dollars
TVSH	Televizioni Shqiptar
VAW	Violence Against Women
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol

1. REFORM OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN ALBANIA

Introduction

Following the request of the Government, Albania was selected in January 2007 as one of the eight Delivering as One UN pilots around the world. The request falls within the Albanian Government's reform efforts to align external assistance with national plans and budgets. Under the Delivering as One UN initiative, the Albania pilot has worked towards a common UN system approach in the country while capitalizing on the strengths and comparative advantages of the different members of the UN family with common elements, such as 'One UN Programme', 'One Budgetary Framework', 'One Leader' and 'One Office'. The objective of this interim report is to show progress and results in both programme and the reform process, from the time of signature of the One UN Programme in late October 2007 to May 2008. In order to provide a holistic overview of progress under the One UN Programme, in addition to covering the use of the first allocation of USD 926,500 from the One UN Coherence Fund, this report covers work carried out under the Programme funded through other UN resources during that time period.¹

The One UN Programme was signed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Chair of the Government Modernization Committee (GMC) on behalf of the Government on UN day, 24 October 2007. As the only pilot country in Europe, the response of the UN system aligns and supports the European integration and national development goals of Albania, while complementing assistance provided by other multilateral and bilateral development partners. The people of Albania are at the centre of the development assistance and the One UN Programme aims to make a positive difference in their lives, with influence in decision-making and enhanced quality and accessibility of services. The success of the One UN Programme depends on national leadership and ownership as well as support from international partners. The participating organizations of the One UN Programme are grateful to the Government of Albania for its close partnership and its high level commitment to UN reform. The participating organizations of the One UN Programme are also grateful to international partners for their support and commitment, particularly those donors that contributed to the One UN Coherence Fund, for their generous contributions. The total financial amount of the One UN Programme from 2007 to 2010 is USD 75 million with a current total financial gap of USD 24 million, which was reduced from USD 34.6 million at the time of signature.²

Development challenges

Early macroeconomic reforms in Albania and their successful management have contributed to growth, poverty reduction and moderate levels of inflation. Annual growth rates in Albania have averaged six percent since 1998, and the poverty ratio has fallen by seven percentage points over the past three years. Reduction of poverty and regional disparities is high on the Government agenda. While overall improvements

¹ This interim progress report covers the expenditure for the first Joint Executive Committee (JEC) allocation of 17 December (USD 926,500) spent up to April 2008. The second allotment of funds of 8 April (USD 2,416,000), which were disbursed in May 2008, will be reported in the next One UN progress report.

² As of May 2008, Spain (USD 2,000,000), Norway (USD 1,081,000), Austria (USD 388,000) and Switzerland (USD 285,000) have supported the One UN Coherence Fund. Switzerland has also contributed USD 240,000 to One UN change management. Spain's Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F) approved a total of USD 8,770,000 towards three joint programmes within the One UN Programme: Youth, Employment and Migration (USD 3,300,000), Culture and Development (USD 3,260,000) and Economic Governance (USD 2,000,000).

have been noted in some basic indicators such as poverty, disaggregated data from studies and surveys indicates that certain parts of the country and sub-groups of the population continue to lag behind in key health, education and other social indicators. The United Nations is assisting the Government to carry out the *Living Standard Measurement Survey* (LSMS) that allows for the monitoring of Government social and economic programmes laid out in the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) and measurement of poverty figures between regions in the country. The LSMS and the *Demographic and Health Survey* (DHS), which will provide quality data on population, health and nutrition, have been made possible through the One UN Coherence Fund. These important statistical initiatives will provide evidence necessary for national policy making and monitoring of key reforms.

The estimated size of the informal economy varies between 30 and 50 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), and fiscal evasion is estimated at 11 percent of GDP. There continue to be weaknesses in the business climate, particularly with respect to legal uncertainty and weaknesses in the implementation of laws, poor infrastructure, unreliable power supply, and the lack of enforcement of property rights. In order to assess the magnitude of the country's extra-legal sector and the reasons why some Albanian citizens prefer to stay outside the current legal system, the One UN Coherence Fund contributed to the provision of technical expertise for a diagnostic report by Hernando de Soto and his Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD). The report provides the Government with the necessary policy options for expanding its ongoing reform efforts to reduce extra-legality. A joint programme on Economic Governance to address utility regulation in the water and energy sectors has been designed with funds from the Spanish Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F).

The Government of Albania has taken steps to improve the legal and policy framework for the protection of women's rights. However, full and equal participation in decision-making continues to be restricted due to stereotypes and discriminatory practices which remain in the public arena. In the local elections in 2007, only 33 of the 1,073 candidates nominated for mayoral posts were women, and of these, only nine were elected. At the national level, currently, seven percent of Members of Parliament are women, and there is only one female Cabinet Minister. Advances have been made and many political parties have instituted quotas within their general assemblies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have increasingly targeted the issue of women's political participation.

It is estimated that one in three women have experienced domestic violence in the country and one in two children have experienced physical and psychological violence at home and one in three at school. Focus on gender equality in the One UN Programme is geared towards ensuring that women actively participate in genuinely democratic governance, and that the public sector improves its responsiveness to women's rights and needs, including mechanisms and services for victims of gender based violence. Through the One UN Coherence Fund, key initiatives in this regard have started.

Joint programmes

To further address some of the critical development challenges of the country

mentioned above, the UN team has developed seven joint programmes together with the Government and other partners: (i) HIV/AIDS; (ii) Support to Minority Rights and Roma; (iii) Environment; (iv) Gender Equality; (v) Culture and Development; (vi) Economic Governance; and (vii) Youth, Employment and Migration. The joint programmes have clearly defined roles and responsibilities in line with agency mandates and expertise. A joint programme on regional development is currently being prepared with activities planned for three pilot regions. Concentration of resources in certain geographical areas is expected to significantly improve the overall impact of UN assistance.

Changes in *modus operandi*

Overall, during the reporting period, the beginnings of important changes in the way the UN in Albania works through Delivering as One UN can be noted. While overlapping of activities has not been a major concern as UN agencies have been working closely for many years, Delivering as One UN has increased dialogue, communication and synergies among UN agencies. This has led to better understanding of agency expertise, mandates and comparative advantages. Consequently, participating UN agencies in the One UN Programme have increased alignment of vision and expectations of results and the work is geared towards creating synergies. Non-resident UN agencies have been called upon to contribute with their expertise. The enhanced role of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in shaping the One UN Programme with the Government on behalf of the UN system and in guiding the strategic development of Joint Programmes has been recognized and appreciated by participating UN agencies and national partners. There is greater trust in the role of the UNRC to advocate for and represent the broader UN agenda. The arrival of a UNDP Country Director to manage the day to day operations of UNDP Albania has allowed the UNRC to devote more time and focus to the UN system and the start up of the One UN Programme.

The establishment of a One Budgetary Framework and a One UN Coherence Fund allows for a transparent overview of the UN's financial resources and gaps in the country and provides an opportunity for international partners to channel resources to a single pooled fund to simplify and harmonize resource management.

The UN has made a deliberate decision to use, to the extent possible, existing national structures and mechanisms for governance of the Programme rather than creating parallel structures, which would increase the burden on the Government. The existing Government Modernization Committee (GMC) chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister provides oversight and strategic direction to the One UN Programme. The Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination (DSDC) leads national donor coordination efforts and co-chairs the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) of the One UN Programme together with the Resident Coordinator, thereby playing a central role in the prioritization and allocation of resources through the One UN Coherence Fund. Two JEC meetings have taken place and a total of USD 3,342,500 has been allocated from the One UN Coherence Fund to programmes representing high national priorities, according to agreed fund allocation criteria.

Programme working groups (PWGs) have been established for each of the five pillars of the Delivering as One UN Programme with UNEP as a non-resident agency leading

the environment pillar. This has called for innovative approaches to communication with the creation of a virtual team and increasing use of video conferencing and Skype. The PWGs coordinate with national sector groups to provide optimal support within the Programme and to avoid duplication with other international partners. A strategic, annual One UN work plan was developed in early 2008, and the PWGs play a key role in monitoring the progress of planned results.

Savings through common services and reducing transaction costs to partners

By 2010, the target is for all resident UN agencies to have acquired accommodation in a One UN House with measurable reduction of costs through the provision of related One UN premises, facilities and common services. Since the building proposed by the Government, unfortunately, was assessed as not structurally sound, there are ongoing discussions with the Government to find an alternative solution. Initial savings from common services has been achieved through cost-sharing in the areas of travel services, mobile communications, security, banking and health services. Further savings are expected in the short- to medium-term through common services in the areas of translation, interpretation, editing, publishing, fuel for vehicles/generators, IT equipment and event management.

This interim report is the first attempt to provide a unified overview of the UN Programme and it is expected to contribute to save time and reduce transaction costs for our partners.

Joint monitoring and evaluation

A UN interagency Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Group has been established and has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework, to be finalized by September 2008. The framework is linked to existing Government reporting requirements and global aid-effectiveness targets and defines outcome indicators and means of verification for the entire Programme period. A mission by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), which took place in early 2008, confirmed that the pilot initiative in Albania is on track and provided recommendations currently under consideration.

Visits of UN General Assembly Representatives

The Permanent Representatives of Tanzania and Ireland to the UN, who have been serving as Co-chairs of the UN General Assembly consultations on system-wide coherence, visited Albania in April 2008 to assess the work on UN reform and Delivering as One UN. The Co-chairs underlined the importance of a tri-partite partnership between the Government, the United Nations and development partners and complimented the close coordination achieved under the Government's leadership. Furthermore, they stressed the significant role of civil society as partners in implementation and monitoring of programmes. Their mission was followed by the visit of the President of the UN General Assembly at the end of May. The Prime Minister and the President of the UN General Assembly agreed for Albania to host an international forum to share experiences on UN reform with other UN member states.

Implementation challenges

Together with national partners, the current focus is on Programme implementation and getting joint programmes started. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for mid 2009 in Albania and this may impact the pace of implementation of the UN Programme. Current implementation constraints include delays in Parliamentary approval of important laws on which subsequent activities are dependant. Staff turnover within some line ministries is a challenge, leading to increased costs in training and coordination. While the One UN Coherence Fund and the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund have been crucial for the startup and continuation of key programmes, predictable and multi-year funding is critical for the success of the Delivering as One UN effort in Albania. If the UN is to remain coherent and strategic, it needs strong support in funding that is multi-year and flexible to respond to national priorities. Important programmes planned for 2008 have not yet received funds with a current funding gap of approximately 2 million for 2008.

2. DELIVERING AS ONE UN IN ALBANIA FOR GREATER DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

2.1. More transparent and accountable governance

The first pillar of the One UN Programme focuses on governance with emphasis on a well-functioning public sector that effectively responds to citizens' needs. In this context, the UN is helping to strengthen national institutions, public administration, public policy and regulatory systems and statistical analysis. Key issues include EU integration requirements, advancement of gender equality, social inclusion in the implementation of the National Strategy for Development and Integration, and economic frameworks to promote inclusive growth and poverty reduction. Supporting the national information technology strategy, e-services and reducing informality in business and property ownership are key components under this pillar.

Under the Governance Pillar of the One UN Programme, disbursements from the One UN Coherence Fund made within the reporting period have supported UNDP's work on Extra-legality, UNICEF projects on the monitoring of child poverty and child rights, child rights policy and legislation reform and the Joint Programme on Gender Equality. Detailed financial tables can be found in Annex 1 and 2. The second allocation of the Joint Executive Committee disbursed in May is presented in Annex 3 and will be covered in the next progress report.

Statistics and data management

Given the importance placed on statistics and data management for informed planning and decision-making, the UN is supporting the Government with the *Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)*, the *Geographic Information System for the National Census* and the *Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS)*.

The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) is expected to provide quality data on population, health and nutrition. The UN (UNFPA and UNICEF) supported development of questionnaires and preparatory work for the pretest and procurement of hand-held computers (PDAs) for field work and for measurement of height and weight, levels of iodine in table salt, and levels of iron (anemia). Through the support of the One UN Coherence Fund, a special component on collection of statistics on women is being included within the DHS. Training of trainers from the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) and the Institute of Public Health is ongoing and data collection is expected to start in September with scheduled completion by January 2009.

The UN (UNDP), in cooperation with the World Bank, is providing technical services to INSTAT to carry out the Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS). Data collected through the survey will serve as a basis for policy and decision-making and allow for the monitoring of social and economic programmes contained in the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI). One of the main outcomes of the survey is the measurement of poverty in the country. Fieldwork will be carried out during the summer and results will be ready in early 2009. The LSMS is funded from the second

disbursement of the One UN Coherence Fund and results on the LSMS will be provided in the next report.

As part of the preparations for the National Census, the UN (UNFPA) is supporting the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS), which will enable the Government to analyze spatial information, create interactive queries, and edit data and maps.

To ensure that the data informing public policy is sex-disaggregated and reflective of gender equality issues in Albania, the UN (UNIFEM and UNFPA) through the support of the One UN Coherence Fund, launched work with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and INSTAT in harmonizing and systematizing the monitoring of the status of women and the advancement of gender equality. A strategy has been developed to support a systematized inter-governmental process for monitoring of implementation of national policies and commitments. A core initiative under the Joint Programme on Gender Equality, this process will link to the broader data collection and NSDI monitoring processes being supported by the Government and the UN.

The *National Human Development Report* (NHDR) 2008, a report produced by the UN (UNDP), will focus on capacity development required to meet EU accession standards by analyzing key capacity assets and gaps in the country. The report is expected to be launched in November 2008.

Policy development

A major achievement in the work towards compliance of national legislation with international human rights conventions is the agreement on the *Child Rights Code* which will lead to review of all existing legislation to ensure that it is rights-based and meets international standards. UN (UNICEF) advocacy contributed to the inclusion of the National Plan of Action for Children into the Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP) and its monitoring and evaluation mechanism was incorporated into the NSDI.

The UN (UNFPA) is assisting the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities to prepare a national strategy on ageing to address delivery of services and social assistance. The Ministry has launched the process and prepared detailed budgets and work plans. The UN's role is to provide technical advice and coordinate the participation of NGOs operating in the field. The strategy is expected to be ready by the end of 2008. Under the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality, and building on technical work carried out in 2006-2007 by the UN, UNDP/UNIFEM have supported the Council of Ministers in tabling draft gender equality legislation (GEL), which is now before the Parliament for debate. The GEL is expected to enhance protection of women's rights and advancement of gender equality, including special measures for an increase of women in decision-making.

The Albanian diaspora is able to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country through the Brain Gain Programme. Seven laws and regulations related to sustainable incentives for returning Albanians with postgraduate degrees have been

approved. With the support of the UN (UNDP), the Department of Public Administration identified 20 positions critical to implementation of key reforms to narrow the capacity gap in the public administration. These positions will be filled by October 2008. Incentive packages for returning scholars have been prepared for 100 teaching and research positions in Albanian universities.

The development of a strategic plan for scientific research based on the new Law on Higher Education is currently under discussion and a roadmap has been prepared with technical advice provided by the UN (UNESCO). The plan is expected to include recommendations for enhancing international collaboration and inclusion of the diaspora in research.

The newly established *National Agency for Information Society* is responsible for setting standards and procedures for information and communication technology (ICT) in the Government and coordinating the work of all other international partners in this area. The UN (UNDP) is bringing expertise from the Estonian e-Governance Academy to provide technical assistance. Voice over IP (VoIP) is currently being installed in all Government institutions through GovNet (Government Electronic Network).

Economic development

Albania is addressing and combating extra-legality in property, business and labour practices. In order to assess the magnitude of the country's extra-legal sector and the reasons why some Albanian citizens stay outside the current legal system, technical expertise was provided by the UN (UNDP) in partnership with Hernando de Soto and his Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD). Together with a trained national reform team at the Council of Ministers, the programme analyzed the scope and nature of extra-legality and assessed existing legal institutions in the country. The diagnostic report, completed in March 2008, provides the Government with the necessary policy options for expanding its ongoing reform efforts to reduce informality. This initiative received USD 300,000 from the One UN Coherence Fund during the reporting period.

A rapid environmental assessment, which will help the Government to design the future industrial park of Porto Romano (Durrës) is one of the UN (UNDP) contributions towards creating a more favourable business climate for trade and foreign direct investment (FDI). An interagency mission composed of six UN agencies active in the area of trade and productive capacities was conducted in April 2008 to further expand the trade component under the One UN Programme as per national priorities.

As a result of Albania's EU integration agenda and opening to global markets, the interest of local stakeholders to adopt Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices and principles is growing. Promoting CSR in Albania falls under the Global Compact, an initiative spearheaded by the United Nations, supporting fundamental social values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption. Currently 33 companies and organizations in Albania are members of the Global Compact.

Refugees and asylum seekers

The UN (UNHCR) continued to provide protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in Albania in close collaboration with the Government, in particular with the Ministry of Interior's Directorate of Nationality and Refugees. The programme is implemented by two Albanian NGOs. Psycho-social services and community-based assistance, individual and family support, and legal advice and counseling to asylum-seekers and refugees was provided through the Refugee and Migrant Services in Albania (RMSA). Assistance also went to securing residence permits, employment, education, vocational training, and socio-cultural adaptation. Health care services to asylum-seekers and refugees were provided with doctors visiting the private shelters on a regular basis and provision of on call services available 24 hours a day through the Albanian Community Health Organization (ACHO). In 2008, ACHO was entrusted with providing HIV/AIDS services to refugees and asylum-seekers. Monitoring of the status of pre-screening procedures at major border crossing points has been carried out by UNHCR in coordination with the Border and Migration Police Directorate. The purpose is to prepare for the requirements of the Readmission Agreement with EU for third country nationals.

Culture and development

The UN (UNESCO) supports national capacities to ensure the preservation and restoration of Albania's cultural heritage. The recently established *Center for Restoration and Conservation of Monuments* is providing two 18 month-long training courses on the restoration of architecture, frescos, mosaics, stucco, stone and wooden artefacts. More than 20 international and local professors have given lectures so far and training courses will continue until the end of October 2009. The Government is providing funding to restore the Museum City of Gjirokastra, a World Heritage Site, with work being led by UNESCO. A project to safeguard Albanian folk isopolyphony also started in December 2007 and will continue until March 2010.

Joint Programmes for enhanced delivery

The Joint Programme on Culture and Development aims to preserve, protect and promote Albania's cultural heritage by safeguarding the country's archaeological heritage and by providing support to Albania's participation in the Alliance of Civilizations. A key feature is the rehabilitation of the National History Museum in Tirana, transforming it into a modern cultural institution.

The programme will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local governments and non-governmental organizations with **UNESCO** as the lead agency and **UNDP**. The joint programme was awarded USD 3.2 million by the *Spanish Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievement Fund*. Implementation is expected to start in summer 2008.

The Joint Programme on Youth, Employment and Migration aims at enhancing decent work opportunities for young people and migration management in Albania through better alignment of national strategies on youth, employment and migration.

The implementation of the programme will be supported by **ILO** as the lead agency, **IOM**, **UNDP/UNV** and **UNICEF**. The programme will i) strengthen the capacity of labour market institutions to implement national policies through a coherent youth employment action plan; ii) devise strategies that minimize the risks of migration of youth from rural areas; and iii) increase the positive impact of migration through better allocation of resources for youth employment.

The programme targets young workers in the regions of Shkodra and Kukes, highly affected by informal employment and youth migration. It also supports the return to Albania of young professionals working abroad and the mobilization of resources through public-private partnerships for youth employment. The programme has been awarded USD 3.3 million by the *Spanish MDG Achievement Fund* and is expected to start in the third Quarter of 2008.

The Joint Programme on Economic Governance supports activities in public utility sectors and consumer protection that are aligned with European institutional and policy frameworks.

This joint programme supported by the **World Bank** and **UNDP** aims at: (i) increased capacity of the regulatory agencies such as the Energy Regulatory Entity and General Directorate of Water and Sanitation to better monitor and disseminate the provision and quality of services delivered; (ii) strengthened role of civic and state consumer protection bodies to provide a voice for consumers; (iii) access to water and electricity services for vulnerable consumers and those living in informal settlements as well as their protection from price hikes resulting from utility reforms.

The programme will develop capacities of relevant Ministries and regulatory bodies; facilitate the pro-active engagement of civil society to safeguard the public interest and help improve service delivery; and help institutionalize dialogue between suppliers and users to strengthen the pro-poor character of public utility regulation and consumer protection.

The programme has been awarded USD 2 million by the *Spanish MDG Achievement Fund*, and is expected to start in summer 2008.

2.2. Greater inclusive participation in public policy and decision-making

The second pillar of the One UN Programme focuses on increased participation of citizens to influence the decisions that shape their lives and hold decision makers to account for the results. It broadens opportunities for women, youth and marginalized groups to take part in public policy-making. Partnerships with public institutions expand space for civil society input, with a spotlight on removing gender biases inhibiting women's participation.

Under the Participation Pillar of the One UN Programme, disbursements from the One UN Coherence Fund made within the reporting period have supported UNICEF's projects on supporting the establishment of child rights observatories; planning, analysis and budgeting social policies and capacity building for young reporters. Detailed financial tables can be found in Annex 1 and 2. The second allocation of the Joint Executive Committee disbursed in May is presented in Annex 3 and will be covered in the next progress report.

Civil society participation and monitoring of state institutions

Civil society capacity to monitor and report on state institutions was strengthened by establishing a non-governmental mechanism to monitor children's rights, called "*observatories of children's rights*." This was done in cooperation with INSTAT, the Social Research Centre, and the Children's Alliance. This UNICEF-led initiative received funding from the One UN Coherence Fund in order to support the periodic collection

of data from Government departments, qualitative surveys conducted by the National Observatory as well as analysis and reporting.

The UN (UNICEF) builds the capacities of civil society and the Government to analyze public spending on children at national and local levels to ensure that adequate funds from the state budget go towards disadvantaged children in national social and economic plans. The model has been tested in two regions with support from the One UN Coherence Fund, jointly implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Health, Regional Councils and the Children's Alliance.

The UN (UNIFEM) scaled up technical support in the area of gender-responsive budgeting – targeting in particular local budgeting processes in Elbasan, Shkodra, Lezha and Kukes. A participatory assessment involving local civil society and local authorities was conducted to analyze women's unpaid work in the home, its linkages to women's engagement in public life (both economic and otherwise), and the support needed for state services to encourage women's increased access to resources.

Labour market participation

Albania is facing a growing problem of exclusion of disadvantaged groups from the labour market and increasing 'informal' employment. In this context, the UN (ILO) is providing assistance to the National Employment Service (NES). Targeting especially the low-skilled and long-term unemployed, including redundant public employees, disadvantaged youth and ethnic minorities, the UN contributes to strengthening the structure and organization of employment and vocational training services and programmes. Active employment programmes will be implemented for 3,000 people at risk of labour market exclusion. Weak tripartite social dialogue on the labour market is being addressed through strengthening the role and functions of Economic and Social Councils and similar tripartite institutions and actors in relation to social dialogue.

Communication for development

Considering that media is an important tool of communication for development and a key means for debate and advocacy, the UN (UNFPA and UNDP jointly) supported media training seminars in seven regions of Albania during the reporting period. The seminars covered issues such as reproductive health, gender equality and minority rights. Specific training sessions aimed at enhancing the understanding of human development concepts and definitions as well as strengthening reporting skills. In order to enhance understanding of development issues and to provide young journalism students an opportunity to influence public opinion, the UN (UNICEF) organized training for 75 young reporters in ten of Albania's twelve regions, in cooperation with TVSH. They gained journalism skills and presented compelling stories on national television. Funding was provided through the One UN Coherence Fund. Future support will go towards strengthening the capacities of TV producers and young reporters to increase the quality of broadcast journalism.

Gender equality

As part of an awareness campaign on women's rights and empowerment in Albania, the UN (UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP) supported the broadcasting of a 30-second public service announcement with messages against domestic violence and gender-based violence, featuring the Albanian Speaker of Parliament.

The issue of women in decision-making positions remains one of the top priorities for gender equality advocates in Albania. In a recent report, the International Parliamentary Union ranked Albania 115th of 142 countries monitored for women's representation in elected positions at the national level – giving Albania one of the lowest rankings in Europe. Under the Joint Programme on Gender Equality, the UN (UNIFEM, UNDP) has prioritized increasing the role of women in elections – both as voters and as candidates. As such, the UN has worked extensively over the past five months consulting potential partners in the Government and civil society, international partners and political parties to determine a strategy for the planned work on "Women in Elections" in the lead up to the 2009 elections. The UN supported civil society to advocate with Parliament for the adoption of the draft Gender Equality Legislation, which contains special measures to increase women's appointments and elections in decision-making positions.

Joint Programmes for Enhanced Participation

The Joint Programme on Gender Equality (2008-2010) supports the effective implementation and monitoring of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence (NSGE-DV), with particular focus on: (i) Strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks on gender equality; (ii) Increasing women's participation in decision-making; (iii) Improved situation of women at risk through increasing access to quality social services; and (iv) The eradication of domestic violence.

Advancing gender equality is a core principle of the One UN in Albania and a cross-cutting theme throughout the One UN Programme. Many of the joint actions under this programme are linked to and/or integrated into broader UN initiatives on Governance, Participation, Regional Development and Basic Services. **UNIFEM** has expanded its programming and presence in Albania in 2006/2007 by request of the Government and is the lead agency for the development and coordination of the Joint Programme. The programme is implemented by UNDP, UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNICEF. A first achievement in this area is that the UN is speaking with one voice on gender equality issues.

The programme has been designed with financial support from the One UN Coherence Fund (USD 26,500) and based on extensive discussions with the Government, under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and civil society.

The estimated budget of the programme is USD 3.5 million, with initial seed funding coming from the One UN Coherence Fund and participating agencies' core resources.

The Joint Programme on Empowering the Vulnerable Minority Communities of Albania addresses the inequalities and extreme poverty of the Roma and Egyptian minorities and responds to the multi-dimensional problems faced by these communities. The programme aims to link the community with the Government, providing disadvantaged minorities with the tools and skills to advocate for their rights, and develop capacities of institutions and the public administration on minority rights.

The programme involves targeted interventions in the areas of civic registration, security, health, education and child protection and labour market strengthening. **UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF** and **UNV** will provide specific technical expertise. Civil society project partners include Tirana Legal Aid Services, Terre des Hommes, the Spanish Red Cross, the Albanian Red Cross and the Regional Environmental Center. The joint programme is awaiting funds and implementation is delayed until funding is secured.

The **UNDP/UNV** Roma project is the pre-cursor to the Joint Programme and implementation has started in the regions of Tirana, Fier and Elbasan as of April 2008 with UN financial resources. National UN Volunteers will work with local community members and local authorities to carry out project activities. Activities include the civil registration of families and cooperation with community-based organizations, NGOs and local authorities, to implement infrastructure projects prioritized by communities themselves.

2.3. Increased and more equitable access to quality basic services

The Basic Services pillar promotes an integrated model for extending basic health, education and social services, particularly to excluded groups. New health standards and capacity development initiatives are advancing the quality and reach of health care. Key health issues comprise environmental risks, reproductive health, maternal and child health, mental health, the prevention of HIV and AIDS and reduced tobacco and alcohol use. Education assistance centres around high-quality schooling for all children, emphasizing improved curricula, more rigorous teacher standards, and the provision of modern computer technology and Internet in all elementary and high schools. Under social services, the UN helps devise standards and institutional frameworks and capacities for improved services; child and family protection, including from domestic violence; and juvenile justice.

Under the Basic Services Pillar of the One UN Programme, disbursements from the One UN Coherence Fund made within the reporting period have supported the e-Schools Programme to provide Albanian schools with computer labs and UNICEF's Programmes to improve child health services, standards of child protection and child care and youth empowerment. Detailed financial tables can be found in Annex 1 and 2. The second allocation of the Joint Executive Committee disbursed in May is presented in Annex 3 and will be covered in the next progress report.

Education

The UN (UNDP) supports the e-Schools Programme that aims to provide all primary and secondary schools in Albania with modern computer labs, equipped with high-speed, reliable Internet connectivity. In addition, the programme supports the development and implementation of quality curricula and builds the capacities of teachers in ICT. In the reporting period, the installation of computer labs was completed in 100 percent of high schools in the country. Furthermore, the development of an "Education Network of Albania" through wireless broadband was approved by the Prime Minister. The Ministry of Education and Science is the main implementing partner. The initiative has received USD 200,000 from the One UN Coherence Fund in the reporting period.

The UN (UNICEF) actively provided support in the area of Early Childhood Education. Some of the main achievements include: (i) the inclusion of the previously UN funded pre-school budgets in the World Bank supported Education Excellence and Equity Programme (EEEP) under the Sector Wide Approach; (ii) Roma children attend pre-school and have access to early childhood services in three areas of the country; (iii) a framework of indicators has been developed to measure progress of the Roma Strategy as part of the UN joint initiative on Roma; (iv) a study on Roma participation in education has been completed providing important qualitative and quantitative data needed to make evidence-based decisions, and; (v) the draft census law includes provisions for birth registration.

The UN (UNICEF) supported the establishment of parents' boards, which are attached to Regional Education Directorates in three pilot regions. These pilots are expected to be reviewed, refined and rolled out to other regions in coming years. Engaging parents

at this level brings them to the forefront of decentralization and builds partnerships with local government. In the area of capacity building of teachers, for the first time in Albania, training standards for teachers have been drafted. These standards will guide how teachers are trained and will be used as the basis for the first school of teacher training in Albania.

Social protection

The UN (UNICEF) cooperates closely with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, local government, the Parliamentary Sub-Commission on Social Issues and Minors, Youth Parliaments, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and NGOs. Key achievements in the area of child protection during this period include the approval of the *Strategy on Foster Care* for the establishment of a national family placement service in Albania (2008) as part of the *Sectoral Strategy for Social Protection 2007-2013*. So far in 2008, several improvements in legislation have been made and related standards and training packages are being developed and accompanied by an awareness campaign on alternative care services for children. New national standards in the area of trafficking of children and women were finalized and approved. The implementation process has started with capacity building covering all shelters. Significant initiatives for drafting new laws and improving existing legislation on child protection are underway, including the law on protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse and child pornography.

With One UN Coherence Fund support, the UN (UNICEF) has contributed to strengthening the coordination of social services for at risk children. The quality and outreach of services offered by child protection units (CPUs) at the local government level has been improved, especially in the areas of case management through the use of standardized tools. Since January 2008, the five child protection units (CPUs) are providing protection services to children in Elbasan, Pogradec, Korca, Gjirokastra and Fier. The CPUs have created a safety net for children, through coordinating the management of cases with local stakeholders such as schools, community, those working with anti-trafficking, police, the courts, shelters and the Office of Social Care and Economic Aid.

Health workers' capacities to develop an effective response for the victims of gender based violence have been built through publication of a reference manual, facilitation of groups on protocols/law, training sessions with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) as the implementing partner of this project.

Health

The development of the national policy document and action plan on reproductive health and the updating of the *National Strategy and Action Plan on Health Promotion* are ongoing with the assistance of the UN (UNFPA). The documents are expected to be finalized by end 2008. Integrated reproductive health services and standardized and oversight mechanisms have been incorporated into primary health care through (i) Strengthening and computerization of the abortion surveillance system in close cooperation with the implementing partner, the Institute of Public Health and (ii) the

Logistics Management Information System of contraceptives functioning in 36 districts (209 midwives/nurses and 43 physicians were trained; and 82 managers of the system from the 36 districts provided information and updates). Information, education and communication materials on sexual and reproductive health were developed to increase client knowledge and stimulate demand for services.

With resources from the One UN Coherence Fund, the UN (UNICEF) contributed towards increased use of data to develop evidence based policies and standards and build community-based capacities and interventions in the area of maternal and child health and nutrition. Community skills and participation in the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) built trust and cooperation between community members and front-line health workers in pilot areas, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and local government.

Through the One UN Coherence Fund, the UN (UNICEF) also supported efforts to mobilize youth to better understand their own responsibilities for their health and well-being and to increase demand for the Government to provide youth friendly services. On the initiative of the Parliamentary Sub-Commission on Social Issues and Minors, a nation wide campaign called "Life Campaign" was developed to promote implementation of laws and related services including the ban on smoking in public places and enforcing the legal age for drinking alcohol. The UN (UNICEF) contributed to developing the concept and the promotional materials of the campaign and the necessary human infrastructure needed to carry out the campaign, using the One UN Coherence Fund. The funding was also used to complement and strengthen the existing work with Youth Parliament networks in 12 prefectures. Young people have advocated with local authorities to establish joint advisory boards at the municipal level in order to publicly discuss different decisions on basic services at the local level. This has significantly increased the level of participation and influence of young people in local decision-making processes with enhanced services as a result.

Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS

The Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS supports coordination among actors and increased involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in order to scale up the national response to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

A technical working group, consisting of the Government, Parliament and civil society representatives, including people living with HIV, was supported by the UN in assessing the existing law on HIV/AIDS, identifying gaps and drafting the new law, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in May 2008. Awareness raising activities were organized in the context of World AIDS Day at the end of 2007. The UN ensured the involvement of civil society through the network of NGOs working on HIV/AIDS.

2.4. Regional development to reduce regional disparities

Through the regional development pillar, the One UN Programme supports laws and institutions to foster balanced and sustainable economic growth across Albania in line with the National Strategy for Regional Development. A national system will be created to manage national and EU regional development policies in accordance with future EU structural funds and Chapter 21 of the *acquis communautaire*. To better link regional priorities and national investments, the UN will support preparation of regional planning guidelines and county development strategies, stressing gender equality and social inclusion. Analysis of the root causes of regional disparities shapes a statistical system to chart socioeconomic variations and inform the Government's proposed Disadvantaged Areas Development Programme.

No Coherence funds were disbursed to this pillar of the One UN Programme within the reporting period. Activities undertaken were financed by the UN's regular resources. Annex 3 provides an overview of allocations made by the Joint Executive Committee disbursed in May for which detailed reporting will be included in the next progress report.

Policy support

Direct support and advice has been provided to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, responsible for regional development. The UN (UNDP) has supported the review of the first drafts of a new *Law on Regional Development* which is currently subject to a consultative and review process by national and regional/local stakeholders. Technical discussions are held with the Ministry of European Integration on the implementation of EC pre-accession programmes and funds.

EU regional development policies and current review of assistance

Progress was made in defining UN assistance in the context of working with EU regional development policies, in close consultation with the European Commission for supporting national capacity and institution building for regional development. In order to harmonize assistance and effectively support the Government with regional development, existing programmes are being aligned with the national framework defined by the *National Regional Development Cross-cutting Strategy* which was approved by Council of Ministers in November 2007. Following the long-standing and successful support by the UN in Kukes, the UN (UNDP) at the invitation of the Ministry of Integration will support a cross-border programme for the Kukes region, which will start implementation in the third Quarter of 2008.

2.5. Environmentally sustainable development

The fifth pillar addresses the incorporation of environmentally sustainable development policies into sectors such as energy, agriculture, tourism, forestry and industry. Assistance goes towards climate change mitigation, including mechanisms for carbon financing. New environmental management capacities expand options to protect biodiversity, reduce pollution, remediate environmental threats, increase energy efficiency and invest in clean technologies. Other initiatives aim at increasing civil society involvement in environmental protection, and raising environmental awareness through the media and schools.

No Coherence funds were disbursed to this pillar of the One UN Programme within the reporting period. Activities undertaken during the reporting period were funded primarily by the UN's own resources. Annex 3 provides an overview of allocations made by the Joint Executive Committee disbursed in May for which detailed reporting will be included in the next progress report.

Climate change

The Law on Environmental Protection was amended to include provisions related to the Kyoto Protocol and the respective institutional role of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration on the protocol. The amended law opens the way for secondary legislation, required for implementation. The UN (UNDP) is supporting the Government to establish the institutions necessary to access carbon financing opportunities, including Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.

The completion of the Second National Report on obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is expected in early 2009 with the assistance of the UN (UNDP). This process has included completion of an inventory of greenhouse gases (GHGs) for the year 2000 as well as for the time period from 1994 to 2000 by sector. A survey analysis on wood consumption for fuel by household and industry has been finalized, contributing to the improvement of the GHG inventory and estimates for the forest and energy sectors. Studies assessing the impact of climate change on the hydropower sector have been finalized, including for adaptation response measures

for the Drini Cascade. Technologies and actions to abate greenhouse gas emissions for waste and industrial processes have been identified and reduction scenarios are under development. The first climate change adaptation project for Albania focusing on the Drini–Mati River Deltas has been initiated.

Environmental actions plans, hotspots, bio-diversity and nature protection

With assistance from the UN (UNDP), local environmental action plans were developed and approved for two communes for the trans-boundary Prespa Park project. Piloting of waste management improvement in this area has also been initiated. An agro-meteorological station was established in the Prespa area to measure meteorological and agro parameters per hour, helping farmers and experts assess the agro situation. In the area of biodiversity and nature protection, nine small sized local projects are implemented by NGOs such as tagging turtles in Patok and marking nature trails in Thethi National Park. These local initiatives build environmental consciousness and encourage community action.

Closely cooperating with the Agency for Environment and Forestry of the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, the UN (UNEP) successfully convened over 30 Albanian governmental, civil society, academic and private sector representatives to discuss earth observation and environmental data sharing among their agencies and institutes.

Environmental hotspots in Albania and the region are being identified and cleaned up with assistance provided by the UN.

Building environmental awareness among young people

Curriculum development on environmental issues is contributing to raising awareness of school children on environmental sustainability issues, by targeting children between grades one and five with assistance from UN (UNICEF). The curriculum was developed in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, the Institute for National Curriculum, the Educational Center for Training and Qualification, university faculties of education and environmental NGOs. Student materials and a communication for behavior change plan for the environment have been developed in consultation and agreement with main stakeholders. The Directorates of Education and a first group of teachers have been trained in the participatory child-to-child methodology for the environment that will be rolled out in their schools. The teachers have indicated enthusiasm and find the ready made package and the methodology a useful tool.

3. KEY IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

While progress is on track, a number of external and internal challenges have been faced in the implementation of the Programme. They include:

Approval of Laws: Important laws that were planned to be passed in early 2008 are awaiting approval in Parliament, such as Gender Equality Legislation and the Law on Asylum and Local Integration. The delays have implications on the implementation progress as subsequent activities are dependent on these laws.

Turn-over of Government staff: The continued staff turnover within some line Ministries is a challenge to implementation and increases costs in training and coordination.

Coordination amongst stakeholders: Insufficient capacities for coordination among line Ministries, their departments, local authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders impacts the work of the UN. A positive spin-off arising from enhanced collaboration among UN agencies in preparation of Joint Programmes is the improved collaboration and increased dialogue between the Ministries involved. This was highlighted by the Government during the visit of the Co-Chairs of the General Assembly consultations on system wide coherence.

Labour intensive start-up phase and new ways of collaboration: The UN in Albania took deliberate steps not to exaggerate the role of the UN, or significantly inflate staffing, being mindful of the need to keep administrative costs as low as possible. While the coordination of agencies participating in Delivering as One UN brought together analytical capacities and increased synergies, the process was time-and energy consuming, especially the close collaboration on the preparation of the Joint Programmes. Non-resident agencies have increased their country assistance under the One UN Programme and the enhanced workload requires additional staff time and timely advance planning by the UN team in order to provide efficient support to non-resident agencies.

Predictable multi-year funding: While the One UN Coherence Fund and the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund have been crucial for the startup and continuation of key programmes, predictable and multi-year funding is critical for the success of the Delivering as One UN effort in Albania. If the UN is to remain coherent and strategic, it needs strong support in funding that is multi-year and flexible to respond to national priorities. Important programmes planned for 2008 have not yet received funds with a current funding gap of approximately USD 2 million for 2008.

ANNEXES

Annex 1*: Overview of programmes funded by One UN Coherence Fund 2007 allocation

Annex 2*: Financial report on One UN Coherence Fund 2007 allocation

Annex 3: Overview of One UN Coherence Fund allocation decisions in December 2007 and April 2008

** The information contained in the annexes 1 and 2 were compiled by UNDP in its capacity as Administrative Agent of the One UN Coherence Fund, based on the reports submitted to the Administrative Agent by the agencies that received One UN Coherence Fund allocations on 17 December 2007. The Administrative Agent's financial report for One UN Coherence Fund allocations made on 8 April 2008 will be provided in the next report.*

ANNEX 1: OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMMES FUNDED BY ONE UN COHERENCE FUND 2007 ALLOCATION

1. More transparent and accountable governance

One UN Programme Result (and Projects under the Result)	Agency	Short Description of Project(s)	Location(s)	Implementing Partners	Programme Duration	Total Budget by Project	One UN Fund Allocation
<i>1.1.1 Build national capacity to collect, analyze and use data for policy work (Social Policy and Knowledge)</i>	UNICEF	1. Institutionalization of child poverty monitoring system 2. Monitoring the progress of realization of child rights	Tirana	INSTAT	Jan 2006 to Dec 2010	\$360,000	\$30,000
<i>1.1.1. Build national capacity to collect, analyze and use data for policy work (Joint Programme on Gender Equality)</i>	UNIFEM	1. Supporting the creation of coordinated, systematized inter-governmental processes on the monitoring of implementation of the Joint Programme on Gender Equality 2. Supporting the harmonization of collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data on the status of women and gender equality;	Tirana	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities MoLSAEO ; INSTAT;	Dec 2007 to Dec 2010	\$403,180 (UNIFEM only)	\$14,500 (UNIFEM only)
<i>1.2.1 Support mechanisms to coordinate implement and monitor the NSDI with strong emphasis on social inclusion. (Social Policy and Knowledge)</i>	UNICEF	1. Child Rights policy and legislation reform 2. Establishing / strengthening national / regional mechanisms that monitor and report on the realization of child rights and functioning of Child Rights Unit in all regions.	Tirana Durrës Elbasan Kukes Korca Vlora	MoLSAEO INSTAT Tirana Municipality Durrës Municipality	Jan 2006 to Dec 2010	\$80,000	\$45,000
<i>1.2.2. Government effectively resources and implements gender</i>	UNIFEM	Development of the UNCT's first Joint Programme on Gender Equality for Albania.	Nation-wide and with targeted	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and	June 2008 - Dec 2010 (but work	\$425,680 (UNIFEM only)	\$12,000 (UNIFEM only)

<i>equality commitments (Joint Programme on Gender Equality)</i>		(UNIFEM is lead agency, also responsible for coordinating implementation. Participating agencies - UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNIFEM). The overall goal of the Joint Programme on Gender Equality is to support the effective implementation and monitoring of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence	interventions on VAW and/or GRB in Tirana, Kukes, Shkodra, Elbasan, Lezha, Durres and Korca	Equal Opportunities (Directorate for Equal Opportunities); Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Parliament, local authorities, NGOs	began prior to the finalization of the project document in late 2007)			
1.3.2 Government puts in place legal and economic reforms necessary to reduce the extent of informality in both business and property sectors. (Extra-Legality Programme)	UNDP	The “Program for the Transition to the Rule of Law and an Inclusive Market Economy in Albania” (Extra-Legality) is comprised of two stages aimed at diagnosis and reform of the extra-legal economy in Albania. Stage One was completed in March 2008.	Tirana	Department of Formalization of Informal Economy, Council of Ministers; Institute of Liberty and Democracy	May 2006 - March 2008	\$1,612,700	\$300,000	
TOTAL ONE UN COHERENCE FUND DISBURSEMENT FOR GOVERNANCE PILLAR							\$401,500	

2. Greater inclusive participation in public policy and decision-making

One UN Programme Result (and Projects under the Result)	Agency	Short Description of Project(s)	Location(s)	Implementin gPartners	Programme Duration	Total Budget by Project	One UN Fund Allocation
2.1.1 <i>Civil society (including Roma, women, migrants, youth) has capacity and mechanisms to monitor performance of state institutions, and be part of the decision-making and policy process. (Social Policy and Knowledge)</i>	UNICEF	Support provided to Observatory of ChildRights	Tirana and 12 regions	INSTAT Social Reaserch Center (SRC) Children's Alliance	Jan 2006 to Dec 2010	\$76,000	\$25,000
2.1.2 <i>Increased dialogue between duty bearers and women, children and youth in decision making processes that impact their lives (Healthy Lifestyles/Life skills and Livelihood)</i>	UNICEF	Budgeting for Children 1. Awareness raising and monitoring of budget allocation/expenditure for child rights. 2.Planning and budgeting social policies from a child rights perspective 3.Analysis of social policy implementation from a cost effectiveness point of view	Tirana Durrës Kukës Elbasan Korçë Vlorë Shkodër Lezhë Gjirokastra	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Ministry of Education and Science Ministry of Health Councils of regions Children's Alliance Civil society	Jan 2006 to Dec 2010	\$47,000	\$25,000
2.2.1 <i>Media reports on development issues are more systematic and of better quality. (Advocacy and Partnership)</i>	UNICEF	Capacity Building of young Reporters	National and local bureaus in 10 of 12 regions	TVSH	Jan 2006 to Dec 2010	\$40,000	\$35,000
TOTAL ONE UN COHERENCE FUND DISBURSEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION PILLAR							\$85,000

3. Increased and more equitable access to quality basic services

One UN Programme Result (and Projects under the Result)	Agency	Short Description of Project(s)	Location(s)	Implementing Partners	Programme Duration	Total Budget by Project	One UN Fund Allocation
3.1.1 <i>Relevant Government departments and MoH put in place, inclusive policies, regulatory and institutional frameworks and standards for delivery of services. (Child Health and Development/Maternal, Newborn and Child Health)</i>	UNICEF	1. Improving quality of child health services through policy development, standards elaboration and capacity development 2. Address malnutrition through policy development	National, Tirana, Kukes,	Ministry of Health (MoH)	Jan 2006 to Dec 2010	\$720,000	\$30,000
3.1.2 <i>Civil Society and user groups, with special focus on excluded and marginalized groups, are better able to demand quality health care services. (Child Health and Development/Maternal, Newborn and Child Health)</i>	UNICEF	Empowerment of communities to improve child care practices, Community Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses	National, Kukes	Ministry of Health NGOs	Jan 2006 to Dec 2010	\$186,000	\$10,000
3.2.4 <i>Albania upgrades its public education system and brings it to the international level. (e-Schools)</i>	UNDP	The e-Schools Programme connects all Albanian public primary and high schools to the Internet and equips them with networked computer labs. The programme also trains teachers to operate these labs and develops modern ICT standards and curricula.	Nationwide	Ministry of Education and Science	Dec 2005 - Dec 2008	\$25,225,700	\$200,000
3.3.1 and 3.3.3 <i>Civil Society and users groups, with special focus on the excluded and marginalized, are better able to demand quality social services. (Child, Youth and</i>	UNICEF	1. Development of policies and legislation on child protection; 2. Development of standards and protocols of care; 3.	National as well as Municipalities of Elbasan,	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities,	Jan 2006 to Dec 2010	\$1,200,000	\$200,000

<i>Family Protection)</i>		Campaign to empower youth, promote law enforcement on alcohol, tobacco, drugs, domestic violence	Pogradec, Korca, Gjirokastra and Fier	Local Government, NGOs			
TOTAL ONE UN COHERENCE FUND DISBURSEMENT FOR <u>BASIC SERVICES PILLAR</u>							\$440,000

ANNEX 2: FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE ALBANIA ONE UN COHERENCE FUND 2007 ALLOCATION

Expenditure Report for One UN Coherence Fund by Agency (Dec 2007 - Apr 2008):

Agency	Approved Project Budget(s) / Revision(s) (A)	of which Support Cost (B)	Expenditure as of 31 December 2007 (C)	Expenditure as of 30 April 2008 (cumulative) (D)	Balance as of 30 April 2008 (E)=(A)-(B)-(D)
UNDP	\$500,000	\$35,000	\$465,000	\$465,000	0
UNICEF	\$ 400,000	\$ 28,000	\$0	\$358,786	\$13,214
UNIFEM	\$ 26,500	\$0	\$0	\$20,651.16	\$5,848.84
Total	\$926,500	\$63,000	\$465,000	\$844,437.16	\$19,062.84

Expenditure Report for One UN Coherence Fund by One UN Programme Results (Dec 2007 - Apr 2008)

One UN Programme Result(s) for which Budget was approved	Agency	Approved Project Budget(s) / Revision(s) (A)	of which Support Cost (B)	Expenditure as of 31 December 2007 (C)	Expenditure as of 30 April 2008 (cumulative) (D)	Balance as of 30 April 2008 (E)=(A)-(B)-(D)
Governance						
<i>Result 1.1.1 National capacities for collection, analysis and use of data strengthened to support evidence based development policies;</i>	UNICEF	\$ 30,000	\$ 2,100	0	\$ 22,852	\$ 5,048
<i>Result 1.1.1. National capacities for collection, analysis and use of data strengthened to support evidence based development policies; and Result 1.2.2. Government effectively resources and implements gender equality commitments</i>	UNIFEM	\$ 26,500	0	0	\$20,651.16	\$ 5,848.84
<i>Result 1.2.1 Government at all levels has systems and mechanisms in place to coordinate, implement and monitor the</i>	UNICEF	\$ 45,000	\$ 3,150	0	\$ 41,636	\$ 214

<i>NSDI with strong emphasis on social inclusion.</i>						
<i>Result 1.3.2 Government puts in place legal and economic reforms necessary to reduce the extent of informality in both business and property sectors.</i>	UNDP	\$300,000	\$21,000	\$279,000	\$279,000	0
Participation						
<i>Result 2.1.1 Civil society (including Roma, women, migrants, youth) has capacity and mechanisms to monitor performance of state institutions, and be part of the decision-making and policy process.</i>	UNICEF	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,750	0	\$ 23,131	\$ 119
<i>Result 2.1.2 Increased dialogue between duty bearers and women, children and youth in decision making process that impact their lives</i>	UNICEF	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,750	0	\$ 17,413	\$ 5,837
<i>Result 2.2.1 Media reports on development issues are more systematic and of better quality.</i>	UNICEF	\$ 35,000	\$ 2,450	0	\$ 32,550	0
Basic Services						
<i>Result 3.1.1 Relevant government departments and Ministry of Health put in place, inclusive policies, regulatory and institutional frameworks and standards for delivery of services for maternal, child health, adolescent health, family planning, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and surveillance and control of major non-communicable and communicable diseases.</i>	UNICEF	\$ 30,000	\$ 2,100	0	\$ 26,904	\$ 996
<i>Result 3.1.2 Civil Society and user groups, with special focus on excluded and marginalized groups, are better able to demand quality health care services.</i>	UNICEF	\$ 10,000	\$ 700	0	\$ 9,252	\$ 48
<i>Result 3.2.4 Educational and employment opportunities are expanded through the introduction of ICT in</i>	UNDP	\$200,000	\$14,000	\$186,000	\$186,000	0

<i>schools</i>						
<i>Result 3.3.3 Civil Society and users groups, with special focus on the excluded and marginalized, are better able to demand quality social services</i>	UNICEF	\$ 200,000	\$ 14,000	0	\$ 185,048	\$ 952
Total		\$926,500	\$63,000	\$465,000	\$844,437.16	\$19,062.84

ANNEX 3: OVERVIEW OF ONE UN COHERENCE FUND ALLOCATION DECISIONS IN DECEMBER 2007 AND APRIL 2008

The Joint Executive Committee (JEC) of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund, co-chaired by the DSDC and the UNRC, has allocated in total USD 3,342,500 (during two JEC meetings held in December 2007 and April 2008) towards initiatives within the One UN Programme as described here in Annex 3. Projects and programmes that respond to the highest Government priorities and are ready for immediate implementation have been funded. Expenditure of the second JEC allocation, which took place in April 2008, will be included in the next Progress Report.

One UN Programme Outcome 1 - More transparent and accountable governance

- UNDP Living Standards Measurement Survey; Brain Gain Programme; Support to the National Agency for Information Society; Extra-Legality Programme
- UNFPA Demographic Health Survey
- UNICEF support to strengthening child rights and child poverty monitoring systems; activities to establish and strengthen systems and mechanisms to monitor and report on child rights policy implementation
- UNESCO improving science and research governance
- UNIFEM support to the revision of the existing Gender Equality Law in the Framework of the Joint Programme on Gender
- UNIFEM and UNDP support to collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and monitoring of the Government's gender equality commitments in the framework of the Joint Programme on Gender Equality

One UN Programme Outcome 2 - Greater participation in public policy and decision making

- UNDP Model UN project
- UNFPA establishment of a database for youth networks and the strengthening of peer education networks; awareness campaigns to support healthy lifestyles
- UNICEF support to building capacity of CSOs to monitor and cooperate with Government on child rights; strengthening the Youth Parliament; training of reporters
- UNIFEM civic education initiatives on importance of women in elections under the Joint Programme on Gender Equality

One UN Programme Outcome 3 - Increased and more equitable access to quality basic services

- UNFPA support to upgrading the Strategy of Health and its Action Plan and capacity building of health providers; support to reproductive health policy in the framework of the Joint Programme on Gender
- UNICEF improvement of the quality of child health policy through policy development, standards elaboration and capacity development of health providers; support to the establishment of community health boards; improvement of attendance and access by Roma children to education opportunities; development of standards for 0-3 year olds; development of legislation and policies on child protection, specifically children with disabilities, victims of abuse and exploitation and children and women who are trafficked; supporting a national campaign to empower youth, promote law enforcement related to alcohol, tobacco and drugs and raise awareness on domestic violence

- UNDP e-Schools project, providing technical assistance and computer labs in all Albanian public schools; development of referral services and preparation for the establishment of a first Government shelter for victims of domestic violence in the framework of the Joint Programme on Gender Equality

One UN Programme Outcome 4 - Regional Development to reduce regional disparities

- FAO advisory services on the reform of extension systems, capacity building and stakeholder needs in the context of the formulation of a Strategic Framework for a more effective, farmer responsive agricultural research and advisory system
- UNFPA strengthening of social services in eight regions, through capacity building of social workers and others working to provide support to most marginalized groups

One UN Programme Outcome 5 - Environmentally Sustainable Development

- UNEP technical assistance and training of Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration officials on implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and EU directives in national laws and regulations; remediation of three mining sites, identified as environmental hotspots.

Approval Date	One UN Albania Outcome	Participating UN Agency	Project Title	Approved Budget (USD)
17.12.2007 and 08.04.2008	Outcomes 1 and 2 - Governance and Participation	UNIFEM	Joint Programme on Gender Equality	144,500
17.12.2007 and 08.04.2008	Outcome 1 - Governance	UNDP	Extra-Legality	450,000
17.12.2007 and 08.04.2008	Outcomes 1 and 2 - Governance and Participation	UNICEF	Social Policy and Knowledge	258,000
17.12.2007 and 08.04.2008	Outcomes 2 and 3 - Participation and Basic Services	UNICEF	Child Youth and Family Protection	400,000
17.12.2007 and 08.04.2008	Outcome 3 - Basic Services	UNDP	e-Schools	400,000
17.12.2007 and 08.04.2008	Outcome 3 - Basic Services	UNICEF	Child Health and Development	309,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 1 - Governance	UNDP	Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS)	531,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 1 - Governance	UNDP	Brain Gain	150,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 1 - Governance	UNDP	Support to ICT	80,000
08.04.2008	Outcomes 1 and 3 - Governance and Basic Services	UNDP	Joint Programme on Gender	110,000

08.04.2008	Outcome 1 - Governance	UNESCO	Support to Strategy on Science and Higher Education	25,000
08.04.2008	Outcomes 1 and 3 - Governance and Basic Services	UNFPA	Joint Programme on Gender	100,000
08.04.2008	Outcomes 1 and 4 - Governance and Regional Development	UNFPA	Population Development	130,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 2 - Participation	UNDP for the UN	Model United Nations	15,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 2 - Participation	UNFPA	Support to healthy life-style education	40,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 2 - Participation	UNICEF	Advocacy and Partnership	5,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 2 - Participation	UNICEF	Healthy Lifestyles	15,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 3 - Basic Services	UNFPA	Support to the Reproductive Health Strategy	50,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 4 - Regional Development	FAO	Formulation of a Strategic Framework for a more effective, farmer responsive agricultural research and advisory system	70,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 5 - Environment	UNEP	Capacity building of Ministry of Education and Science officials on implementation of MEAs/EU directives	30,000
08.04.2008	Outcome 5 - Environment	UNEP	Inventory, prioritization and remediation of environmental hotspots	30,000
Total approved allocations				3,342,500

A large, light blue watermark of the United Nations logo is centered on the page. It features a globe with latitude and longitude lines, flanked by two olive branches. The globe shows the continents of Africa and Europe.

Delivering as One UN in Albania

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

November 2007 – May 2008