

Section I: Identification and JP Status

Economic governance, regulatory reform, public participation, and pro-poor development in Albania

Semester: 2-11

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Country | Albania |
| Thematic Window | Democratic Economic Governance |
| MDGF Atlas Project | |
| Program title | Economic governance, regulatory reform, public participation, and pro-poor development in Albania |

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Report Number | |
| Reporting Period | 2-11 |
| Programme Duration | |
| Official Starting Date | |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Participating UN Organizations | * UNDP * WB |
|--------------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Implementing Partners | * •Albanian Electricity Transmission Corporation * •Albanian Electro-Energetic Corporation * •Energy Regulatory Entity * •General Department for Water Supply * •Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy * •Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities * •Ministry of Transport and Public Works |
|-----------------------|--|

Budget Summary

Total Approved Budget

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| UNDP | \$2,097,200.00 |
| WB | |
| Total | \$2,097,200.00 |

Total Amount of Transferred To Date

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| UNDP | \$2,097,200.00 |
| WB | \$0.00 |
| Total | \$2,097,200.00 |

Total Budget Committed To Date

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| UNDP | \$1,221,062.00 |
| WB | \$743,650.00 |
| Total | \$1,964,712.00 |

Total Budget Disbursed To Date

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| UNDP | \$1,098,714.00 |
| WB | \$743,650.00 |
| Total | \$1,842,364.00 |

Donors

As you can understand, one of the Goals of the MDG-F is to generate interest and attract funding from other donors. In order to be able to report on this goal in 2010, we would require you to advise us if there has been any complementary financing provided for each programme as per following example:

Please use the same format as in the previous section (budget summary) to report figures (example 50,000.11) for fifty thousand US dollars and eleven cents

| Type | Donor | Total | For 2010 | For 2011 | For 2012 |
|-------------|-------|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| Parallel | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Cost Share | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Counterpart | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |

DEFINITIONS



1) PARALLEL FINANCING – refers to financing activities related to or complementary to the programme but whose funds are NOT channeled through UN agencies. Example: JAICA decides to finance 10 additional seminars to disseminate the objectives of the programme in additional communities.

2) COST SHARING – refers to financing that is channeled through one or more of the UN agencies executing a particular programme. Example: The Government of Italy gives UNESCO the equivalent of US \$ 200,000 to be spent on activities that expand the reach of planned activities and these funds are channeled through UNESCO.

3) COUNTERPART FUNDS - refers to funds provided by one or several government agencies (in kind or in cash) to expand the reach of the programme. These funds may or may not be channeled through a UN agency. Example: The Ministry of Water donates land to build a pilot 'village water treatment plant' The value of the contribution in kind or the amount of local currency contributed (if in cash) must be recalculated in US \$ and the resulting amount(s) is what is reported in the table above.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiary type

Targetted

Reached Category of beneficiary

Type of service or goods delivered

Section II: JP Progress

1 Narrative on progress, obstacles and contingency Measures

Please provide a brief overall assessment (1000 words) of the extent to which the joint programme components are progressing in relation to expected outcomes and outputs, as well as any measures taken for the sustainability of the joint programme during the reporting period. Please, provide examples if relevant. Try to describe facts avoiding interpretations or personal opinions

Plases describe three main achievements that the joint programme has had in this reporting period (max 100 words)

The JP supported the preparation of a "model" contract for water which contains the respective rights and responsibilities of the water companies and their customers. The contracts aims at better protecting the rights of consumer.

The JP supported the introduction of an online consumer complaints management system.

The JP supported the preparation and airing on 3 national TV channels of 2 TV spots on consumer rights.

Progress in outcomes

The implementation of the programme is close to completion. Most activities have been implemented under both the WB and the UNDP-led components. The level of commitments is USD 1,964,712 that is 93.6% of the available budget. The level of disbursements is USD 1,842,364 corresponding to 88% of the available budget.

In September 2011, the EG programme prepared a Sustainability Strategy which captures its progress towards the achievement of sustainable outcomes. The Strategy shows that the programme has contributed to or will contribute to many changes in its areas of intervention.

Progress in outputs

All planned outputs have been finalized and delivered. The completion of only a few activities and the related outputs is pending. These activities are expected to be completed in 2012 while the official programme end date was 20 January 2012. This is why an extension of 5 months and 10 days (until 30 June 2012) was requested and approved by the MDG-F Secretariat.

Measures taken for the sustainability of the joint programme

In September 2011, the EG programme prepared a Sustainability Strategy highlighting the various steps taken in order to ensure that outcomes are achieved and that the sustainability of these outcomes is enhanced. This strategy has been shared with the MDG-F Secretariat.

The Final Evaluation of the EG programme was conducted in November 2011. The draft Final Evaluation report concluded that "the JP was effective in responding to national priorities and needs in the water, energy and consumer protection areas". The report also indicates that a large of sustainable results were achieved by the programme.

Are there difficulties in the implementation?

Management: 1. Activity and output management. 2. Governance/Decision Making 4.Accountability

What are the causes of these difficulties?

External to the Joint Programme

Briefly describe the current difficulties the Joint Programme is facing

The programme is not facing any major internal difficulties that are of an operational character. The issues with respect to financial reporting to the MDG-F Secretariat which were already reported on several occasions have not been resolved (the EG programme cannot report on the expenditures and commitments by activity for the World Bank led component because the World Bank reports to UNDP by input and not by activity).

Briefly describe the current external difficulties that delay implementation

A new counterpart of the EG programme at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (METE) was designated and since then consultation/coordination with METE resumed normally. Some last activities such as for instance the finalization of 3 TV spots on consumer protection and the preparation on a study on access to water in informal urban settlements and rural areas have been delayed. Consultation with the government and coordination with GIZ on the study took longer than expected. The competitive process for the selection of a contractor was delayed due to the end of year holiday break. With regard to the 3 TV spots, the finalization of the scenarios of the TV spots by METE took considerable time due to the unavailability of the relevant METE official. The scenarios have now been finalized and the shooting of the spots has started.

Explain the actions that are or will be taken to eliminate or mitigate the difficulties

As already indicated in previous reports, there is no easy and rapid way to address the financial reporting issue. Based on past experience the process of addressing the issue which requires corporate legal clearances by both organizations might take longer than the remaining lifespan of the project. With regard to the implementation delays with respect to certain last activities mentioned above, a 5 months and 10 days extension of the EG programme was requested and approved by the MDG-F Secretariat.

2 Inter-Agency Coordination and Delivering as One

Is the joint programme still in line with the UNDAF?

Yes true
No false

If not, does the joint programme fit the national strategies?

Yes
No

What types of coordination mechanisms

The JP is part of the One UN Programme in Albania and is structured under the Governance Pillar. Therefore, activities are part of the standard planning and reporting cycle foreseen by the One UN Programme along with those of all other JPs that are active in the country.

The Programme Management Committee, which meets on a quarterly basis and is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Lead Government partner, provides oversight and guidance to all agencies participating in the joint programme.

The activities of the Joint programme have been structured in order to complement each other and are closely interlinked to prevent the various components of the JP from running in parallel as separate sub-programmes. Although technical JP staff of UNDP and the World Bank are not able to co-locate given that the WB technical staff working on the JP are based in Washington DC, the JP has put in place an effective mechanism to ensure continuous communication and coordination also with the local WB office.

At the invitation of the Resident Coordinator the Joint Programme CTA / coordinators have been meeting to share lessons learned and experiences to improve and strengthen the work of all the JPs in the country.

Please provide the values for each category of the indicator table below

| Indicators | Baseline | Current Value | Means of verification | Collection methods |
|--|----------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Number of managerial practices (financial, procurement, etc) implemented jointly by the UN implementing agencies for MDF-F JPs | 0 | 10 | Internal reporting system | Internal meetings / reports |
| Number of joint analytical work (studies, diagnostic) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for MDG-F JPs | 0 | 1 | Internal reporting system | Internal meetings / reports |
| Number of joint missions undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for MDG-F JPs | 0 | 1 | Internal reporting system | Internal meetings / reports |

The JP makes use of the nine Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) that have been put in place by the UN in Albania. This allows the JP to benefit from economies of scale as well as minimize administrative burdens in key procurement areas. The JP also shares a vehicle and driver with another MDG-F JP, minimizing costs and maximizing the utilization of the joint vehicle.

The JP inception report was jointly carried out by UNDP and the World Bank.

During one of the World Bank missions in Albania some of the meetings were joint World Bank/UNDP meetings. They resulted in the identification of areas of joint work.

3 Development Effectiveness: Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action

Are Government and other national implementation partners involved in the implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs?

Not involved false
 Slightly involved false
 Fairly involved true
 Fully involved false

In what kind of decisions and activities is the government involved?

Policy/decision making

Who leads and/or chair the PMC?

The PMC is co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy and the Resident Coordinator.

Number of meetings with PMC chair

Over 5

Is civil society involved in the implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs?

Not involved false
Slightly involved false
Fairly involved true
Fully involved false

In what kind of decisions and activities is the civil society involved?

Management: service provision

Are the citizens involved in the implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs?

Not involved false
Slightly involved true
Fairly involved false
Fully involved false

In what kind of decisions and activities are the citizens involved?

Policy/decision making

Where is the joint programme management unit seated?

UN Agency

Current situation

The JP is directly implemented, meaning that procurement, budgeting and reporting is carried out by UNDP in close consultation with the Government. This ensures that the objectives and related outputs are fully owned by the government. The activities of the programme support the achievement of government objectives as formulated in government policy and strategic documents. As regards civil society, the programme actively cooperates with the Albanian Association of Water Utilities. Also, in the second half of 2011 the EG programme implemented a joint activity with the Albanian Foundation for Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

4 Communication and Advocacy

Has the JP articulated an advocacy & communication strategy that helps advance its policy objectives and development outcomes?

Yes true
No false

Please provide a brief explanation of the objectives, key elements and target audience of this strategy

The JP has an integrated advocacy and communication strategy to advance its policy objectives and development outcomes. The implementation of this strategy continued in the second half of 2011. Two TV spots on consumer rights were prepared and aired on 3 national TV channels from 30 November to 20 December 2011 (every day and twice a day on each of the 3 national TV channels). Another 3 TV spots are currently being prepared and will be aired in 2012. In addition, the EG programme distributed nationally 500,000 brochures and leaflets on consumer rights. The brochures and leaflets had been prepared under an EU project which ended. The Ministry of Economy Trade and Energy had no resources to distribute these brochures and leaflets to the consumers and businesses. The EG programme supported this activity.

Consumer protection issues continued to be an important topic in the media during the second half of 2011.

What concrete gains are the advocacy and communication efforts outlined in the JP and/or national strategy contributing towards achieving?

Increased dialogue among citizens, civil society, local national government in relation to development policy and practice
Media outreach and advocacy

What is the number and type of partnerships that have been established amongst different sectors of society to promote the achievement of the MDGs and related goals?

Faith-based organizations
Social networks/coalitions
Local citizen groups
Private sector
Academic institutions
Media groups and journalist
Other

What outreach activities do the programme implement to ensure that local citizens have adequate access to information on the programme and opportunities to actively participate?

Focus groups discussions
Household surveys
Use of local communication mediums such radio, theatre groups, newspapers
Capacity building/trainings

The (household) survey of consumers' perceptions of the quality of electricity and water services is currently being conducted. The objective is to give the consumers more voice as regards these vital public services. Six focus groups were implemented, 3 covered both electricity and water and 3 focused on water only.

As already mentioned, it has been agreed with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to publicize locally, through regional/local workshops, the results of the above-mentioned survey but also to present the new water strategy developed with WB support. The implementation of this activity was delayed due to the finalization of the above-mentioned survey. The survey and the regional/local workshops will be organised in 2012 during the extension of the programme.



As already reported a (household) survey on willingness to pay for water services has been implemented under the World Bank led component. This will also give voice to the consumers and help shape government policies aiming at supporting the poorest segments of the population.

As already indicated above, 2 TV spots on consumer rights were prepared and aired and 500,000 leaflets and brochures on the same topic were distributed with the support of the EG programme.

Section III: Millenium Development Goals

Millenium Development Goals

Additional Narrative Comments

Please provide any relevant information and contributions of the programme to de MDGs, whether at national or local level

The component of the JP dealing with water and sanitation (and that dealing with energy as well) is not about increasing access to water and sanitation but rather improving the quality of water and sanitation services. The interventions of the programme are therefore focused on the institutional strengthening of the government departments dealing with the monitoring of water and sanitation services and designing objective criteria for the prioritization of water and sanitation investment in rural areas. Also, a large component of the programme is about mapping the quality and water sanitation services provided in Albania, strengthening the voice of customers vis-a-vis water utility suppliers and promoting a dialogue between them and customers. All the above activities will have a national impact

Please provide other comments you would like to communicate to the MDG-F Secretariat

The "model" contract for water between the water utility companies and their customers has started to have a national impact. It is gradually being introduced by the 58 Albanian water utility companies. It is expected by 2013 all the customer of the water utility companies (households, businesses and public institutions) will use the "model" contract.

Section IV: General Thematic Indicators

1 Strengthen national and local governments' capacity to manage and monitor water supply and sanitation services

1.1 Number of institutions, civil servants and/or citizens trained to take informed decisions on water management and sanitation issues

Public institutions

Total 58

Private Sector Institutions

Total

NGOs

Total

Community based organizations

Total

Civil servants

Total

Women 181

Men 381

Citizens

Total

Women

Men

Other, Specify

Total

Women

Men

1.2 Increase in the coverage the water supply and sanitation monitoring systems due to the JP Intervention

Water supply system

% increase over the total system extension 0

Sanitation system

% increase over the total system extension 0

Level of analysis of the information compiled

1.3 Budget allocated to provide water and sanitation services before the implementation of the Joint Programme

National Budget 41,176,471 USD
Corresponds to 3.5 billion Lek (data from 2008)
Total Local Budget
Corresponds to 3.5 billion Lek (data from 2008)

1.4 Variation (%) in the Budget devoted to provide water and sanitation services from the beginning of the joint programme to present time

National Budget

% Overall
% Triggered by the joint programme

Local Budget

% Overall
% Triggered by the joint programme

Comments

No data available

1.5 Number of laws, policies or plans supported by the programme that explicitly aim to improve water and sanitation policies and management

Policies
National 2
Local

Laws
National
Local

Plans
National
Local

1.6 Please briefly provide some contextual information on the law, policy or plan and the country/municipality where it will be

In an unexpected development, the Government requested the WB to support the formulation of a new water strategy. The WB funded part of the activities for the preparation of the strategy from JP resources.

The EG programme (under the World Bank led component) is currently developing a methodology to prioritize water investment in rural areas which will be applied/tested in the Durres region. It is expected that provided that the methodology works and produces the expected results, it will be adopted by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, which is responsible for water resources in Albania, and applied nationally

1.7 Sector in which the law, policy or plan is focused

Access to drinking water

Comments

The new water strategy outlines the strategic goals of the government in the water sector over the next 4 years and provides the policy framework for the preparation of an investment master plan.

1.8 Number of citizens and/or institutions to be affected directly by the law, policy or plan

Citizens

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Total | 3,000,000 |
| No. Urban | 1,500,000 |
| No. Rural | 1,500,000 |

National Public Institutions

| | |
|-------|---|
| Total | 1 |
| Urban | |
| Rural | |

Local Public Institutions

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Total | 380 |
| No. Urban | 80 |
| No. Rural | 300 |

Private Sector Institutions

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Total | |
| No. Urban | |
| No. Local | |

2 Improve access to safe drinking water

2.1 Number of citizens that gained access to safe affordable drinking water with the support of the JP

| | |
|--------------|---|
| No. Citizens | 0 |
| No. Women | 0 |
| No. Men | 0 |

2.2 Variation (%) of the population who gained access to drinking water in the region of intervention from the beginning of the

programme to present time

% 0

2.3 Number of municipalities/communities/cities with access to safe drinking water through the JP

Total number 0
No. Urban Communities 0
No. Rural Communities 0

2.4 Type of improvements produced on the wellbeing of the population through the access to potable water

Comments

3 Community empowerment and participation in the water management decision processes

3.1 Number of community organizations strengthened or created to increase the civil society participation in the decision making processes

No. Organisations 1
No. Women
No. Men
% from ethnic groups

3.2 Number of citizens sensitized in hygiene and sanitation issues

Total No. 0
No. Children
No. Women
No. Men
% from Ethnic groups

4 Strengthening water supply and sanitation services providers

4.1 Number and type of water and sanitation services providers strengthened

Public institutions 58
Private institutions
Community organizations
Public Private Partnership
Other: Specify

National Level No.
Local Level No. 58

4.2 Indicate the type of intervention used to strengthen water and sanitation services providers

Training
Knowledge transfer

4.3 Number of water and sanitation service providers mentioned above that have developed a financial plan and sustainability system

Total Number

Type of financial plan