

Albania SDG Acceleration Fund DOCUMENT

Cover Page

Country: Albania

Programme title: Empowerment through Self-Defence programme (ESD)

UN PoCSD (2017-2021) Outcome 4 – Environment and Climate Change

Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction

Programme Outcome: Women in the crisis-affected areas access and benefit from GBV protection mechanisms

<p>Programme Duration: 8 months</p> <p>Anticipated start/end dates: August 2022 – March 2023</p> <p>Managing or Administrative Agent: Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF)</p>	<p>Total estimated budget*: 84,535.62 USD</p> <p>Out of which:</p> <p>1. Funded Budget: 84,535.62 USD</p> <p>2. Unfunded budget: 0 USD</p> <p>* Total estimated budget includes both programme costs and indirect support costs</p>
<p>Sources of funded budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government N/A • UN Org.... N/A • Donor ... 84,535.62 USD • NGO... N/A 	

Names and signatures of (sub) national counterparts and participating UN organizations

UN organizations	National Coordinating Authorities
<p><i>Ms. Fiona McCluney</i></p> <p><i>Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Albania</i></p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 200px; height: 30px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <p><i>Signature (UNRC a.i.)</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal 24 August 2022</i></p>	<p><i>Mr. Michele Ribotta</i></p> <p><i>Country Representative, UN Women in Albania</i></p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 200px; height: 30px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <p><i>Signature</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal 24 August 2022</i></p>

Project Title: Empowerment through Self-Defence programme (ESD)

Implementing Agency: UN Women

The project aims to strengthen resilience by reducing inequalities and the vulnerability of women and girls in the main areas affected by the earthquake that hit Albania 2019. Under this project, UN Women has been engaged in diverse awareness raising activities that challenge harmful gender stereotypes and prevent gender-based violence. To this aim, *UN Women collaborates with many CSOs that focus in different areas related to gender equality and EAW, including those that use innovative methods, such as Empowerment through Self-Defense (ESD), as key violence prevention strategy for women.*

Empowerment through Self-Defense is an innovative violence prevention educational tool that has been proven to successfully reduce the incidence of abuse by teaching how to recognize abuse and boundary violations; communicate assertively and physically protect oneself from violence perpetrated by strangers and familiar people. In Albania, since 2019, under the lead of UN Women in Albania and in a joint coordination between ESD Global and Aikido Albania, a diverse team of 41 ESD instructors has been trained and more than 2000 women and youth have been empowered through community outreach sensitizing and educational interventions. Through the intervention initiated in 2021 (ongoing until 31 July 2022), 500 women and girls were trained in person in 12 municipalities affected by the earthquake during the ESD Bus tour and over 500.000 women and girls were outreached via online communication channels. These efforts have been supported by the Minister of Education and Sports, Minister of Health and Social Protection, as well as LGU representatives, CSOs and Embassies.

Intense advocacy efforts during the project implementation, with the Ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Youth and Children have resulted in *institutional commitment to include ESD classes in the National Strategy for Extra-curricular Activities in public schools*, as a tool that addresses gender equality, helps build healthy interpersonal relations and strengthens resilience by reducing inequality and the vulnerability of girls and young women. This commitment includes also the covering of the costs for the fees of the teachers that will teach ESD going forward, as part of the extra-curricular programme. This institutional commitment and in view of the roll-out of the ESD integration in extra-curricular activities starting from the new school year in September 2022 has brought up *an emerging need to train an initial pool of 60 teachers working in 60 public schools to start applying ESD methodology all over Albania, during the upcoming academic year 2022-2023 and beyond.*

In order to make use of this important momentum and immediately build on the above-mentioned advocacy results, UN Women aims to finalize an official curriculum in collaboration with the relevant ministries and professionally train and mentor an initial group of 60 teachers (1 per school, 60 public schools in total) as ESD instructors, in order to transmit ESD tools and knowledge to the students in their schools and communities as part of the extra-curricular hours.

This emerging need was not foreseen in the actual intervention that UN Women is implementing and required for an additional financial support considering the costs of the capacity building activities that need to be undertaken in response to the opportunity to include ESD as part of the extra-curricular activities of public schools as of September 2022.

This intervention will pave the way to the extension of ESD extra-curricular classes for at least 400 schools within 3 years, for which additional resource mobilization efforts are ongoing. UN Women remains committed to consolidating the ESD approach in the Albanian educational system, based on the experiences at the global and national level related to prevention of violence by using Empowerment through Self Defense methodology.

Key Activities of the intervention are:

1. Train with advanced skills and techniques a pool of minimum 60 Albanian teachers to become ESD trainers, who following up, will be involved as trainers for a group of 60 teachers;
2. Train 60 school teachers overall Albania to become ESD instructors in 60 respective schools;
3. Consolidate the newly trained 60 ESD instructors' knowledge and teaching skills through the face to face and online mentorship program;

This intervention is a continuation of the project interventions as per concept note in Annex. A

ANNEX A.

Project title: Women and girls in affected communities recover from the November 2019 earthquake in Albania and increase their resilience to natural hazards, including pandemics.

Project background

Past experiences show that women and girls are differently and often disproportionately affected by disasters and crisis and have different and uneven levels of resilience and capacity to recover. Learning from past outbreaks have shown that a pandemic magnifies all existing inequalities, including economic status, ability, age and gender.

This was also confirmed by the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) conducted in Albania following the deadly earthquake of November 2019, which points out the disproportionate impact of the earthquake on women and girls in the affected areas. Their economic empowerment will stagnate as they will be pushed further towards traditional roles and activities, including caretaking for children and elderly, family members with disabilities and engaging in agriculture to support their household. They also have less mobility to search for casual jobs, which further aggravates the inequality gap and constrains their ability to recover quickly and to build back better.¹ Women and girls in these communities are now faced also with the impact of COVID 19 pandemic, which is expected to further widen gender inequalities and exacerbate their socio-economic situation and exacerbating any existing vulnerabilities.

Analyses and evidence shows that women and girls are at risk of increased exposure to intimate partner violence due to tensions in the home in the face of dwindling family resources and under confinement conditions, while the economic impact can place women and girls at higher risk of sexual violence and exploitation.² Moreover, Women are hit harder by economic impacts caused by the earthquake and COVID-19 because they are more often engaged in short-term, part-time or informal employment which offers limited social security, pension and health insurance. In addition, women are also faced by unequal burden of care leading to increased vulnerability of COVID-19 transmission and they have low access to life-saving health information, especially women and girls most left behind. And finally, policy response mechanisms often do not incorporate gender analytical data or gender-responsive plans.

The Albanian legal framework pertaining to disasters risk reduction (DRR) has gaps and the country does not have a comprehensive and countrywide disaster risk management strategy. Relevant organizational and technical capacities at national and local levels are extremely low.³ Moreover, the DRR and management/recovery frameworks and systems lack gender responsive measures and there are gaps in systematically mainstreaming gender in the design, planning and implementation stages of relevant programmes and initiatives.

Proposed approach

¹ Albania Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, Tirana, February 2020

² Case Management, GBVIMS/GBVIMS+ and the COVID-19 pandemic, <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/case-management-gbvmsgbvims-and-covid-19-pandemic>

³ Joint Workplan between the Government of Albania and UN, 2010-2021, Outcome 4, Environment and Climate Change

Therefore, the purpose of this intervention is to use the earthquake recovery process as an opportunity to strengthen resilience by reducing inequality and the vulnerability of women. It also aims to provide support to the Albanian government to mainstream gender in DRR and crisis response frameworks and ensure the authorities and society are well prepared to address gender-specific capacities and needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population. At the same time, the project will be formalizing women's role in the earthquake and COVID 19 recovery process and help allocate roles and resources to affected women for more resilient recovery. Finally, it will support the government to address gender-based violence as one of the greatest threats to women affected by the earthquake and health crisis.

The initiative is based on existing UN Women initiatives at the global and national levels related to gender mainstreaming in disaster resilience and humanitarian interventions and adopts tools and knowledge products already developed on gender analyses and mainstreaming in DRR and recovery plans. The project is aligned to UN Women's Strategic Plan (2018-2021) Outcome 5: Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and from humanitarian action. Furthermore, the interventions (particularly Outcome 2) follow the recommendations of the Albania PDNA related to gender mainstreaming in earthquake recovery process. The proposed interventions are aligned with relevant outcomes and outputs of the UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development and the Joint Workplan between the Government of Albania and UN, 2020-2021 (in particular for Output 1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Gender Responsive Budgeting, Output 2.5 Gender-Based Violence, Output 4.1 DRR and Climate Change).

The intervention will focus on some of the most affected communities, agreed on by the Government for the PDNA process: Shijak, Durres, Kruja, Tirana, Kamza, Vora, Kavaja, Rogozhina, Kurbin, and Mirdita. The interventions will be implemented in coordination with ongoing UN programmes related to DRR, Gender-based Violence, Women's Economic Empowerment and Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting. UN Women will particularly capitalize on its strong collaboration with the Government, UN System and women's rights organizations and use the opportunity to leverage women's capacities and agency along with men's and provide an opportunity to promote gender relations that improve the resilience of individuals, families, and communities.

The following is an initial and brief outline of the logframe, including proposed outcomes, outputs and indicative activities.

Objective: Women and girls recover from the November 2019 earthquake in Albania and increase their resilience to natural hazards, including pandemics.

Outcome 1: Disaster risk reduction, pandemic and crisis response are gender-responsive

Output 1.1 Knowledge and evidence are generated and applied for policy making of DRR and resilience

Act. 1.1 Support the development of knowledge products and tools on gender assessments, analyses and mainstreaming to inform current UN ongoing support in Albania for capacity and institutional development on gender-responsive risk reduction, preparedness and emergency response (including Post Disaster Need Assessment);

- Develop and/or adjust existing knowledge products and tools on gender assessments, analyses and mainstreaming to inform current UN ongoing support in Albania for capacity and institutional development on gender-responsive risk reduction, preparedness and emergency response (including Post Disaster Need Assessment);

- Include gender equality commitments in relevant legal frameworks, institutional commitments, organizational arrangements, and capacity development/Revise the National Disaster Plan, including DRR plans at the local level, to include specific provisions on gender equality and resilience of women and girls to shocks;
- Advocacy for the inclusion of issues of specific groups of women with intersecting vulnerabilities or disadvantages in the gender assessments.

Output 1.2. National, UN & aid coordination mechanisms have technical capacity to identify, address and monitor the needs of women and girls in humanitarian crisis, including pandemics

Provide technical assistance to National, UN & aid coordination mechanisms to identify, address and monitor the needs of women and girls in humanitarian crisis, including pandemics

- Organize trainings for key humanitarian actors⁴ to use of gender analytical tools, gender audit or assessment tools and gender-responsive design, planning, and monitoring frameworks in humanitarian interventions, including pandemics;
- Strengthen the national capacity and systems for collection of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data in post-disaster assessments and Covid-19 response plans.

Output 1.3. Women's organisations & national gender equality machinery are able to effectively engage in disaster/crisis prevention, preparedness and crisis response with a focus on earthquake recovery process.

Support through capacity building Women's organisations & national gender equality machinery to effectively engage in disaster/crisis prevention, preparedness and crisis response with a focus on earthquake recovery process.

- Trainings and mentoring support to local authorities, gender equality mechanisms and women's associations on mainstreaming gender equality considerations in DRR planning documents and crisis response;
- Advocacy, and networking events to promote participation of women in the earthquake recovery process;
- Involve women's organisations including community-based organizations representing marginalized women, and national gender machinery in decision-making processes and consultations of the earthquake recovery process relevant to housing, land, property, and agriculture.

Outcome 2: Strengthen women's resilience by reducing gender inequalities in the post-earthquake and COVID-19 recovery process

Output 2.1 Capacities and tools are in place to use gender-responsive planning and budgeting for reconstruction efforts in affected areas to ensure that the different needs and priorities of women are met

Support capacities development of national and local level authorities to use gender-responsive planning and budgeting for reconstruction efforts in affected areas to ensure that the different needs and priorities of women are met

- Assess the needs of women affected by the earthquake in relation to the housing and infrastructure reconstruction projects, including for those most affected by Covid-19 impact;

⁴ Staff from government, nongovernment or other UN agencies and international organisations.

- Develop tools and guidance to ensure women benefit equally from the design stage through to construction of housing and other infrastructure projects, as well as the recovery of schools, social and children's services, and safe houses so that women can retain their employment;
- Increase capacities of key authorities at the central and local levels in charge of supervising coordination of infrastructure projects to take into consideration the needs of women and girls during the reconstruction process.

Output 2.2 Transparency in the distribution of recovery funds is ensured, and resources as well as property rights are equitably provided to women and men

Provide

Provide guidance, tools capacity support and mentoring to local authorities to ensure transparency and equal distribution of recovery funds and other resources, as well as property rights are equitably provided to women and men

- Provide guidance, tools capacity support and mentoring to local authorities based on GRB to ensure transparency and equal distribution of recovery funds and other resources, including compensation for unpaid work of women and loss of informal employment, including for the most affected by Covid-19 pandemic;
- Increase capacity of public notaries, officials of local offices for registration of immovable property to ensure that women (who are entitled to, based on the Albanian legislation) are fully registered as co-owners in the registration process of property, including land and housing;
- Increase capacity of women's rights organizations operating in the targeted areas or at the national level to monitor and advocate for an equitable distribution of resources in the earthquake-affected community with lens to Covid-19 impact.

Output 2.3. Women affected by crisis, including pandemics, have increased skills and capabilities to participate in and access livelihood opportunities

Support the increase of skills and capabilities of women and girls to participate in and access livelihood opportunities

- Establish women's empowerment hubs and organise livelihoods skills trainings for women and girls tailored to their needs and the characteristics of the areas where they are located (e.g. tourism);
- Provide mentoring business start-up financing for income/livelihood opportunities for women from disadvantaged communities, with special focus on women who lost their jobs for Covid-19 pandemic or unemployed women.

Outcome 3: Women in the crisis-affected areas access and benefit from GBV protection mechanisms

Output 3.1. Women and men in affected communities have increased knowledge on root causes of GBV, ways to address these, and on protection and response mechanisms available to them in targeted communities:

Raise awareness in affected communities on root causes of GBV, ways to address these, and on protection and response mechanisms available to them in targeted communities

- Raise awareness and implement behavioural change activities, also using on-line tools, on GBV in the affected communities, including in schools, with the participation of men and boys;
- Organise information sessions to inform women about different forms of GBV, protection measures and services they are entitled to access;
- Provide support services, including psycho-social counselling and legal aid to women victims of GBV in targeted communities.

Output 3.2 Protection actors have increased skills to prevent GBV and support GBV survivors

Support capacity development of the existing coordinated referral mechanisms of domestic violence on case management to service providers from the police, social, health, education and judicial sector in the targeted areas

- Provide capacity support on case management to service providers from the police, social, health, education and judicial sector in the targeted areas;
- Support existing local mechanisms for referral of domestic violence cases and establishment of such mechanisms in municipalities where they are missing.

Output 3.3 National and local institutions have the policies, systems and technical and financial capacities to address GBV in crisis settings

Support the revision of the existing legislation, policies/strategies and protocols on GBV to ensure measures to address GBV in humanitarian/crisis situations

- Revise existing legislation, policies and protocols on GBV and provide recommendations to ensure they include provisions and measures to address GBV in humanitarian/crisis situations;
- Advocate and provide support to authorities to include special attention to the issue of gender equality and GBV of the communities affected by the earthquake in the forthcoming Strategy on Gender Equality in Albania.

