

Other Contributions (donors)

(if applicable)

TOTAL: 388,070

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

A Mid-Term Review Report of the UN Programme of Cooperation with the Government of Albania was completed in 2014, and an external Evaluation of the Programme of Cooperation – in 2015.

Expected Financial Closure date⁸:

30 June 2018

Report Submitted By

- Name:
- Title:
- Participating Organization (Lead): UNICEF
- Email address:

⁸ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the Certified Final Financial Statement and Report.

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UN support to the national development agenda during the implementation of the Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016, inclusive of the contribution of all UN agencies—specialized and non-specialized, resident and non-resident—was aligned with national priorities. The UN supported Government efforts to pursue national priorities by building capacities at all levels and strengthening national ownership. In doing so, it helped Albania work towards its ambitions to join the European Union, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and meet its international commitments.

Key 2012-2016 results of this active partnership under Outcome 1.3 Juvenile Justice, Migration and Fight Against Corruption are laid out below:

- ✓ Development of the national Anti-corruption strategy and Action Plan 2015–2020.
- ✓ Preparation of the first national report on chapters 2 and 3 of the UN Convention against Corruption.
- ✓ Amendment to the Criminal Code to strengthen the prosecution of human trafficking. Systems to identify and refer victims of trafficking are working more effectively with > 15% increase in the number of victims identified between 2011 and 2016.
- ✓ Establishment of a national anti-corruption portal for citizens to report corruption and service delivery failures, with > 10,000 cases reported annually.
- ✓ Establishment of the Container Control programme in the Port of Durrës, with 80% increase from 2013 in the number of seizures of drugs and other illicit goods. Commitment reached in 2016 for gender mainstreaming in container control programmes' future guidelines
- ✓ Development of the law on 'Whistle-blowers' to ensure that it addresses the concerns of women, migrants and people in conflict with the law.
- ✓ Preparation of 4 annual national surveys on "Trust in Governance".
- ✓ Development of the law on aliens (108/2013) to conform to EU acquis and international standards.
- ✓ Social and Economic Profile of the Return Migrants in Albania
- ✓ Policy Document on "engagement of Albanian Communities Abroad to the development of Albania" and Action Plan
- ✓ Establishment of a migration crisis group headed by the deputy prime minister.
- ✓ Government's internal contingency plan in case of a mass influx
- ✓ 1,942 individuals arrived in 2016 bringing to 2,745 the number of Iranian individuals currently residing in the country.
- ✓ Direct reintegration assistance to 525 migrants returning from abroad

I. Purpose

This outcome focusses on the support to government to meet international obligations and standards for juvenile justice, managing migration and the fight against organized crime and corruption.

Establishing accountable governance that can ensure the protection of rights and guarantee the rule of law requires strong democratic institutions. Albania's efforts to improve its public administration are recognized by a European Parliament resolution on the 2016 Commission Report on Albania that confirms efforts made "towards a more citizen-friendly public administration and steady progress in the implementation of public administration reform" though calling "for further progress in strengthening the application of the Civil Service Law and the Code of Administrative Procedures." Modernization of public service delivery is considered as a key instrument for improving the overall efficiency of the public administration, strengthening the transparency of the operations of institutions and curbing corruption. Efforts in this area are anchored in the development and implementation of several national strategies, frameworks and stated

priorities. Albania has made progress with implementation of the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in several areas, including strengthening of the legal framework. However, further steps are needed to prevent human trafficking, including by combating GBV and gender discrimination, and discouraging demand for the services of trafficked persons for all forms of exploitation. While, in the end, the migrant crisis of 2015-2016 affected Albania much less than feared, government nevertheless managed a small influx of several hundred migrants. Albania also accepted the complete relocation of Ashraf Iranian ex-residents.

This outcome supports GoA in achieving the NSDI II priorities 1) EU membership and 2) Consolidating good governance, democracy, and the rule of law. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve SDGs 5, 10, and 16.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

The following is a comprehensive assessment of the latest progress attained under Outcome 1.3.

The UN supported the development of a new National Strategy on the fight against human trafficking and trafficking in children (2014-2017), as well as helped to launch a 24-hour free telephone line 116006 which offers support and services to victims of crime, primary victims, potential victims of trafficking with the ultimate goal of curbing the number of trafficked women and children in Albania.

In the area of countering organized crime, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), through its Container Control Programme, assisted government in strengthening and making sustainable the inter-agency Port Control Unit (PCU) at the Port of Durres. In 2016, the Unit succeeded in seizing around two tons of marijuana, 1.2 kg of cocaine, 35.4 kg of heroin and various counterfeit goods. In addition, 24 law enforcement officers were trained in gender-mainstreaming in the container control area, supported by UNODC, and commitment was reached for future guidelines to ensure gender mainstreaming, not only in Albania and south-east Europe, but globally across the various container control programmes.

Albania is an active member of the UNODC Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe (2016–2019), including its priority area of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing. Albania is also a member of two UNODC regional initiatives on addressing the challenge of foreign terrorist fighters, including through development of a respective curriculum for the national judicial training institution. The country is a participant of the UNODC project Measuring and Assessing Organized Crime in the Western Balkans: Supporting Evidence-Based Policy Making, and participated in the establishment of national technical groups as well as mapping the way forward for the development of a statistical framework for examining organised crime and the identification and assessment of relevant data sources. The anti-corruption area saw completion of the first cycle of the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) for Albania, Chapter III on Criminalization and Law Enforcement, and Chapter IV on International Cooperation, and the development of the final country review report.

Regarding migration and asylum, a total of 915 foreigners were intercepted by the border and migration authorities, and assisted by UNHCR and partners in the registration process, as well as with food and non-food items, provision of information about procedures in several languages, medical referrals, temporary accommodation and transportation to Tirana when required. Of this number, 240, mainly Syrian and Afghan nationals, sought asylum in the country. All the cases were provided with free legal counselling and representation and assisted and followed up through status determination procedures by the Albanian authorities. UNHCR conducted 27 monitoring missions to all border crossings of the country and increased its presence through establishment of a field office in Gjirokaster and the establishment of a new partnership with Caritas Albania. UNHCR focused on empowering civil society organizations to monitor human rights situation at the border and to foster engagement with local authorities in delivering services and protection to

new arrivals. Through actions designed at addressing and reducing statelessness, UNHCR enabled the registration of 120 cases across the country. UNHCR also supported government in the relocation of Ashraf Iranians, of whom 1,942 individuals arrived in 2016, bringing the total number of Iranians currently residing in Albania to 2,745.

IOM continued to monitor the flows at the southern border with Greece, providing regular updates on the number of detections of irregular crossings, as well as on the regional flow. From the second half of 2016, IOM has supported the government in its efforts to ensure that migrants and refugees entering the country have access to shelter, medical support and services according to their various needs, through an on-going project which foresees expansion of available capacities at the Kakavija Border Crossing Point for the reception and registration of migrants, as well as enhancing capacities for the transportation of vulnerable migrants and refugees and communication between migrants and refugees and the authorities through the use of interpreters and multi-language communication materials. IOM continued its provision of direct reintegration assistance to migrants returning from abroad. In all, 525 returnees and potential returnees were assisted in 2016. Capacity building of border and migration continued in the framework of regional projects. Moreover, 289 Albanian returnees were registered in the Migration Counters⁹ compared to 16,601 forced Albanian returnees in the same period of 2014, equivalent to 1.7 percent.

Regarding the national framework, UN Albania, led by UNHCR and IOM, with the participation of UNICEF and WHO, as well as NGOs, supported the development of GoA's internal contingency plan in the event of a mass influx. A key development was noted in 2016, when Parliament ratified the amended Law on Social Services and Care in Albania, including for the first time persons granted international protection as a beneficiary category enjoying all the rights and services under the auspices of this law. The Social and Economic Profile of Return Migrants in Albania was developed by IOM with the specific focus of supporting policy development by aiding GoA in identifying their needs. The profile was consulted with all stakeholders and published at the end of December. Furthermore, IOM supported the government in developing a Policy Document on the Engagement of Albanian Communities Abroad for the Development of Albania, and Action Plan.

The public administration sector benefitted from approval of NSDI II, supported by UNDP in the development of 21 governance indicators to monitor attainment of the SDGs. Examples of other UNDP-supported initiatives in this area include the development and approval of a long-term policy document on service delivery, which helped in drafting the Law on Front-Office Service Delivery and triggered the first disbursement of the World Bank's budget support to the service delivery reform. The first integrated citizen service centre was launched in Kavaja in November and three additional locations were identified for expansion in 2017. The citizen feedback on service provision is a major aspect of the reform, where UNDP engages civil society to regularly assess the overall level of satisfaction of citizens with service delivery and trust in institutions. In this framework, the annual edition of the national survey *Trust in Governance 2016*¹⁰, supported by UNDP, was undertaken in November. Findings reveal a low level of trust in governmental institutions in general, however with improvements as compared to 2015. The survey has become an integral part of UNDP's assistance for service delivery reform.

⁹ Migration Counters (MC) are structures established near the public offices for employment to assist returned Albanian citizens in order to facilitate their re-integration upon return in the country, as well as provide potential migrants with information on regular migration opportunities and assist immigrants in Albania through the issuance of work permits. There are 36 MC throughout the country.

¹⁰ <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/02/09/-findings-of-the-opinion-poll-trust-in-governance-2016-presented-in-tirana/>

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

The goal of the 2012–2016 Programme of Cooperation was to promote sustainable and equitable development, social inclusion and adherence to international norms and fulfilment of international obligations, in support of the integration of Albania into the EU. The following are examples of UN Albania's contribution, under the Programme, to the achievement of the country's priorities.

Indicator based performance information is available at UN Albania Annual Progress Reports 2012-2016, accessible at:

http://www.un.org.al/publications?field_publication_type_value=Reports

<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>

iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

A number of challenges remain with the juvenile justice system. Revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure is stalled, while long delays in investigations and court procedures result in 64 percent of juvenile offenders spending the term of their sentence in pretrial detention. In the absence of a computerized information system, follow up and monitoring of the movement of cases within the judicial system is difficult and tends to mask the systemic inefficiencies. The present functioning of only six sections for juveniles across the entire country has hampered access to justice for juveniles and their families. Establishment of a section for juveniles in all upper courts would be a quick-fix requiring no extra funding while having a direct impact, in particular on marginalized and rural communities.

With regard to organized crime, the legal framework in the area of anti-trafficking is advancing (e.g. changes in the Criminal Code, Law 144/2013), though challenges remain in relation to victim compensation and protection. A new country strategy on the fight against trafficking in persons was approved and launched by government in December 2014. Local identification of victims of trafficking has increased thanks to effective support of civil society actors, though the need to further enhance this service remains.

As Albania continues to be a country of concern in terms of its national capacities in the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotics, UN support for green (land) border control and piloting cooperation for blue (sea) borders under a container control intervention is extended to address further challenges in this area.

Note: The certification on operational closure reflects the figures after the refund by PUNOs.

CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT 82437 - OUTCOME 1.3

MPTF Project ID	Project Description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
00082437	Outcome 1.3: Government meets international obligations and standards for juvenile justice, managing migration and the fight against organized crime and corruption	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	IOM	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	105,000.00
00082437		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNODC	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	105,000.00
00082437		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNICEF	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	178,070.00
TOTAL							388,070.00

By signing, Participating UN Organization certify that the project 82437 - Outcome 1.3, has been operationally completed.

IOM
Ms. Alma Jani
Head of Office

Signature: 

Date: 31/10/2017

UNODC
Ms. Ela Banaj
National Programme Officer

Signature: 

Date: 27.10.2017

UNICEF
Mr. Ezio Gianni Murzi,
Representative *a.b.*

Signature: 

Date: 27/10/2017