

**ALBANIA ONE UN COHERENCE FUND
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM 01.01.2012 TO 31.12.2016**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Outcome 4.1: The rights of disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally ensured through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions. Programme Number: n/a MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 82442 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> Country/Region ALBANIA</p> <hr/> <p>Priority area/ strategic results</p> <p><i>Inclusive Social Policies</i></p>														
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme <p><i>IOM, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNDP</i></p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth; Local Government Units (Permet, Kruja, Erseka, Roskovec, Perrenjas, Bulqize, Diber, Gjirokaster, Sarande). Together for Life Association; Me, the Woman; Community Development Center, Today for the Future; Meridia; National Center for Community Services (NCCS); Women Forum Elbasan; Center Femijet Sot. 														
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 3,389,965.41 MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <table border="1"> <tr><td>IOM</td><td align="right">100,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>UNAIDS</td><td align="right">100,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>UNODC</td><td align="right">105,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>UNICEF</td><td align="right">343,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>UNWOMEN</td><td align="right">390,951.64</td></tr> <tr><td>UNFPA</td><td align="right">409,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>UNDP</td><td align="right">1,942,013.77</td></tr> </table>	IOM	100,000.00	UNAIDS	100,000.00	UNODC	105,000.00	UNICEF	343,000.00	UNWOMEN	390,951.64	UNFPA	409,000.00	UNDP	1,942,013.77	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration <i>(60 months)</i> Start Date⁵ <i>(01.01.2012)</i></p>
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¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

⁴ The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see MPTF Office GATEWAY

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

Agency Contribution

- by Agency (if applicable)

Government Contribution
(if applicable)

Other Contributions (donors)
(if applicable)

TOTAL: 3,389,965.41

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.

Original End Date⁶ (31.12.2016)

Actual End date⁷(31.12.2016)

Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system? **Yes** No

Expected Financial Closure date⁸:

30 June 2018

Report Submitted By

- Name: Limya Eltayeb
- Title: Country Director
- Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP
- Email address: limya.eltayeb@undp.org

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

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 4.1 Social Inclusion are laid out below:

- ✓ Legislative framework development, with Orders on Social Workers, the Psychologist, Social Enterprises, and Inclusion of and accessibility for PWD.
- ✓ Key Strategic & Policy Framework development: Social Protection Strategy 2015–2020; Social Inclusion Policy Document 2015–2020; Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015–2020; Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities 2016–2020; New Social Housing Strategy 2015–2025; Policy Paper for Social Inclusion 2014–2020 including a set of national indicators on social inclusion based on qualitative analysis on the most vulnerable categories of the population.
- ✓ Studies and research for evidence-based policymaking include: social worker job description; review of disability assessment system in Albania; analysis of 2011 Census data on PWD and Roma population; maps of vulnerabilities in the 12 administrative divisions for use as a social protection planning tool by central and local administrations.
- ✓ Definition of roles and functions of the new municipalities in planning, budgeting and delivering social care services. Municipalities of Lezha, Lushnja Pogradec and Saranda each prepared and approved a Local Action Plan for Inclusion, Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- ✓ Four local community development plans focusing on Roma and Egyptian communities prepared by municipalities of Korca, Bucimas, Novosela and Berat, benefitting a total of eight neighborhoods in these regions.
- ✓ Social care planning processes piloted in 7 municipalities (Durrës, Shkodër, Tirana, Elbasan, Berat, Korca and Kukës), with a standard format of the plan developed and initial skills of the respective staff built.
- ✓ More than 70 public hearings held in Roma settlements, resulting in > 1,300 legalization and land entitlement applications.
- ✓ Development of vulnerability profiling and mapping in the various administrative divisions for use as a social protection planning tool by central and local administrations.
- ✓ SIIG establishment along with guidelines & work plan defining its focus
- ✓ Improvement in quality of vocational education for at least 40 hearing-impaired students
- ✓ Knowledge gain on providing care services to PWD for 220 in-service judges & prosecutors, 216 SSS personnel and 53 public institutions staff
- ✓ Income generation and employment coaching for 92 Roma youth, 20 fully employed
- ✓ 73 R/E benefited from 4 employment promotion measures in Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra and Berat
- ✓ “Local Partnerships” establishment in Vlore, Elbasan, Berat
- ✓ Participatory budgeting initiatives in Fier, Berat & Tirana municipalities – over USD 10 million commitment
- ✓ Recommendations to SSS on improving institutional mechanisms to provide services/address needs of vulnerable categories
- ✓ Web-based RomAlb system operationalization through MoSWY Order No. 276/30.12.2016
- ✓ 246 family assessments in the context of origin of unaccompanied migrant children

I. Purpose

This outcome focusses on the rights of the disadvantaged individuals and groups in Albania and seeks to ensure that their rights are equally granted through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions.

It includes the protection of the rights and wellbeing standards of the most vulnerable social groups including children, women, those who live in poverty, the elderly, the disabled, Roma and Egyptian minorities, victims of human trafficking, and so on. Complementing the work led by the World Bank in reforming the system of cash assistance, the UN Agencies support the reform of care services. Examples of this work include the institutional set up analysis of the State Social Services and regional structures in view of the administrative–territorial reform. This also constitutes an attempt to support the professionalization of the “social work” function, based on the experience of Child Protection Units operational at the municipal and communal levels. In addition, analysis of financing mechanisms and budgeting systems have greatly informed the overall reform in this important area.

The technical assistance of the UN helped consolidate the knowledge on groups of particular vulnerability and marginalization such as Roma and Egyptian communities, persons with disabilities, street children, children in residential care, people living with HIV, drug users in order to inform policy making. The Government was also supported in producing more inclusive national policies.

The issue of violence in the Albanian society is considered as a national concern requiring the enforcement of specific measures for the protection of women and children against domestic, gender-based, peer and other forms of violence. The UN fight against gender based violence includes policy and legislation improvement; strengthening mechanisms and capacities for implementation of said legislation/policies at the central and local level; improving data collection for better policy-making as well as monitoring of progress; establishment and consolidation of community coordinated response mechanisms; investing in prevention through involvement of men and boys as allies in combating gender stereotypes, inequalities and violence.

This outcome supports GoA in achieving priority 5 of NSDI II: Investing in people and social cohesion. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

The following is a comprehensive assessment of the latest progress attained under Outcome 4.1.

The priorities of government to reduce poverty amongst the most vulnerable groups are set out in the Social Protection Strategy, 2015–2020 and the Policy Paper on Social Inclusion, 2015–2020, which are an integral part of NSDI II and responsive to the EU 2020 perspective of Increased Social Inclusion through Development of the Labour Market and Social Welfare. Even though the government is paying increasing attention to policies tackling poverty and social exclusion, a large segment of the population is still vulnerable and lives close to the poverty line. Certain vulnerable groups, namely Roma and Egyptian communities, people with disabilities, internal migrants living in suburb areas of big cities, returned migrants, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied children and elderly, continue to live in difficult conditions and often have limited access to services. Public spending for social inclusion programmes is modest with the bulk of expenditures devoted to staffing costs for monitoring of strategies and action plans, as well as awareness activities (for example: public health expenditure accounts for 2.9 percent⁹ of GDP, while education 3.3 percent¹⁰). Although some progress has been achieved with regard to the institutional mechanisms and capacities to address the needs of vulnerable groups, more efforts are needed to enable a combination of targeted and mainstreamed actions by national and local government authorities, to ensure that no one is left behind and that all have full access to quality public services. Supporting vulnerable

⁹ World Bank 2014 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.PUBL.ZS>; WHO 2014 <http://www.who.int/countries/alb/en/>

¹⁰ Ministry of Education and Sports 2016 Budget

individuals in ways to self-empowerment through opportunities for learning, skills development, employment, and community-based social services, while increasing access to mainstreamed public services, remains crucial and a focus of UN work in this area.

In 2016, UNICEF's support to MoSWY in advancing reform of the social care services system culminated with adoption of a new Law on Social Care Services,¹¹ setting the foundation for a modern social protection system in Albania, focused on decentralised service delivery, and defining roles and accountabilities for government institutions to plan, budget, finance, deliver and monitor such services. Equally important, it mandates local governments to establish appropriate and skilled structures¹² able to develop social care plans and assist families and children through case management. While, this Law is the necessary pre-requisite for the system to be properly built and become functional, different institutions and segments of society have to take action so that the law is properly understood, implemented and monitored. In order to fill the capacity gap between practice on the ground and the policy intent set out in the Social Protection Strategy and the new Law on Social Care Services, UNICEF supported seven municipalities—Tirana, Shkodra, Durres, Kukes, Korca, Elbasan and Berat—in the development of social care plans to establish social care services for vulnerable families and children, establish the new social welfare structures and train¹³ the teams of social workers.

Additionally, MoSWY developed and led the Social Pact Campaign, supported by UNICEF, unfolding under the logo of “Social ImPact as an agreement with all 61 municipalities of the country, pledging to implement the Law on Social Care Services and build the necessary structures and systems. Moreover, credited to UNICEF's comprehensive set of technical recommendations, MoSWY is developing an integrated Management Information System (MIS) for social protection in the country.

Likewise, parallel to its engagement with the service-based component of the social protection system, UNICEF completed an in-depth analysis of monetary and non-monetary deprivation factors affecting the lives of children in Albania, already validated by national stakeholders and planned for dissemination in 2017, aiming to inform the development of specific policies in child-focused social protection at both the central and local level.

UNDP supported implementation of the National Social Inclusion policy, adopted in early 2016, through assisting three municipalities to develop for the first time social-inclusion action plans for vulnerable men and women. Further support was provided to mainstream social inclusion in sectoral policies through development of a new Social Housing Strategy 2016–2025, which will contribute to the advancement of this sector and serve the needs of the most vulnerable and excluded groups in Albania. In this regard, UNDP undertook data collection and analysis of the housing needs of vulnerable groups in the 61 municipalities, established a reliable tracking system at national and local levels and strengthened the capacities of 140 housing specialist from all municipalities. Additionally, government was supported in the development of a new Law on Social Housing, finalised in June, preparation of an assessment on housing living conditions of Roma and Egyptians, two feasibility studies on social housing needs in Tirana and Durres municipalities, and establishment of a Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group (SIIG) along with guidelines and a work plan defining its focus.¹⁴

¹¹ For the first time, this law sets the foundations and provides the instruments for a system of integrated services to be planned and implemented at the local level for vulnerable families and children in Albania, allowing the country to take an essential step towards a modern social protection system.

¹² By requesting local governments to establish social welfare directories and to hire social workers for 6,000–10,000 inhabitants, the law provides the instruments to develop local social care plans based on a standard basket of services with financial costs to be covered by the social fund, which will be a separate budget line with funds allocated from social protection central budget and from the LGUs' resources.

¹³ Training focused on local needs assessment, budgeting and outsourcing of services to non-governmental providers, in order to plan the transformation of existing residential institutions into modern community-based facilities guided by the new national Standards for Community-Based Care Services.

¹⁴ The main focus is to ensure the integrity of data for measuring, monitoring and reporting on exclusionary forces, structural disadvantages and the limitations of capabilities that operate at all levels of policy and programme delivery as stated in the Social Inclusion Policy Document.

An Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities, 2016–2020,¹⁵ developed with UNDP support, was approved in June. UNDP has been improving the quality of vocational education delivered to at least 40 hearing-impaired students every academic year through establishment of a day-care centre in Lushnja Municipality, hosting at least 30 children with disabilities, a resource centre for the Blind Institute in Tirana, equipped with a Braille laboratory and audio recording studio aiding 65 students and 200 visually impaired youths, and rehabilitation of three workshops at the Institute of Deaf Children in Tirana. Moreover, six associations of persons with disabilities were supported in project implementation, capacity development in advocacy for disability rights, partnering and networking for a common cause, promoting the disability agenda and influencing policy and decision making on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Two hundred and twenty in-service judges and prosecutors from the School of Magistrates, 216 personnel¹⁶ from State Social Services and 53 staff from public institutions providing care services to persons with disabilities gained knowledge from UNDP-delivered training on the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and European Court on Human Rights rulings and standards.

The rights of Roma and Egyptian individuals and groups were economically and socially advanced through concrete UNDP interventions. Free legal aid was provided to 309 Roma¹⁷ in seven cities (Tirana, Shkoder, Korca, Berat, Lushnja, Durres, and Cerrik) and 92 Roma¹⁸ youth were supported with income generation and employment coaching, of whom 20 became fully employed. From the Roma and Egyptian communities, 73 individuals benefited from four employment promotion measures targeting these communities directly, designed and made operational in Tirana, Durres, Shkodra and Berat in 2016. Five Roma and Egyptian employment mediators and coaches were trained and positioned within the NES. Community members were mobilised and became key partners in advancing the social inclusion agenda in the country, through the lens of the Community-Led Local Development approach,¹⁹ with the aim of empowering communities to become actors in various local actions. In this regard, thirteen community counselling fora were established and made operational in Tirana, Durres, Berat and Shkoder, and 22 community mobilisation activities organised involving more than 250 Roma and Egyptian community members. These communities have prioritised four community-upgrading infrastructure projects in Tirana, Durres, Shkodra and Berat, with public works having started on three of them. Two models for inclusive education and desegregation—Early Part-Time Primary Adult Education and Schools as Community Centres—are mainstreamed into the public education system in Tirana, Durres, Shkodra and Berat, improving education outcomes for Roma and Egyptians. From these communities, 165 individuals in need of administrative or court support and civil registration were supported to access basic services of social care, health, education and housing. Government supported the operationalisation of the web-based RomAlb system²⁰ through Order No. 276 dated 30.12.2016 of the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, accompanied by a series of trainings for national and local government staff on the implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians in the Republic of Albania, 2016–2020.

The access to basic services by at risk groups was voiced out through the participatory coordination mechanism “Local Partnerships” established in municipalities of Vlora, Elbasan, Berat and Shkodra, facilitated by the Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), UNFPA and the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA). These serve as a coordination mechanism to create an enabling environment and enable access of representatives from marginalised groups to be represented at local and regional government and institution level. In this regard, mapping of the work of NGOs in the four municipalities was carried out, along with establishment of social media tools to enhance the mechanisms’ internal communication, annual coordinated planning of activities and engagement. Briefing on SDGs was

¹⁵ The plan addresses problems faced by persons with disabilities, and proposes activities to promote inclusion, prevent discrimination and eliminate barriers in accessing services and rights.

¹⁶ 72 disability focal points newly appointed at the ministerial and municipality level, 22 state social service staff at the regional level, 122 professionals

¹⁷ 183 women and 126 men

¹⁸ 51 men and 41 women

¹⁹ Under CLLD, local people take the reins and form a local partnership that designs and implements an integrated development strategy that builds on a community’s social, environmental and economic strengths or ‘assets’ rather than simply compensating for its problems.

²⁰ A web-based tool accessible internally by responsible staff in central and local government units.

held with local partners. The networks of local partnerships evaluated the social determinants on health in their respective regions and agreed to establish local mechanisms to monitor the impact of social policies at the local level.

Development of a law on Social Enterprises, supported by UN Women, was approved in Parliament in June 2016, maintaining social re-integration as a key rationale of the law and reflecting fully the core principles of social re-integration. UN Women supported the development of the law's secondary legislation, resulting in three draft decisions²¹ of the Council of Ministers that define clear criteria and guidance for 1) inspection of social enterprises, 2) area of activity and operations of social enterprises; and 3) concrete categories of vulnerable groups, including vulnerable women. Moreover, UN Women participatory budgeting initiatives²² conducted in the municipalities of Fier, Berat and Tirana supported alignment of municipal plans and budgets with regional development plans. Social and economic assessments were prepared for Fier and Berat providing information and key recommendations on planning and budgeting of services. As a result, Fier Municipality committed USD 1.8 million and 19 million ALL for improving parks in the city, setting up recreational and green areas, reconstructing the city theatre and the centre for elders and youths, building the Horizon Multifunctional Centre for women in need and promoting initiatives for women entrepreneurship. Similarly, Berat Municipality committed USD 1.38 million and 50,000 ALL to, among other things, support families in the social aid and housing scheme, reconstruct the Lira Centre and several schools and kindergartens, allocate an emergency fund for DV survivors, and conduct social activities targeting social groups.

IOM supported MoSWY and the State Social Services with provision of recommendations on how to improve the institutional mechanisms to provide services and address the needs of vulnerable categories, including victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children and returned migrants. Host country authorities were supported to better follow the integration of minors and identify and uphold the child's best interests by assessing economic and social resources and opportunities available in the context of origin of unaccompanied migrant children. A total of 246 family assessments were held throughout 2016.

²¹ CoM draft decisions were consulted with MoSWY but are pending PMO final approval.

²² The participatory budgeting of local social services engaged a large number of citizens, women, men and municipal authorities in a constructive dialogue in all three municipalities, while local civil society organisations facilitated a constructive dialogue that led to improved service responses to citizens.

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

At the end of 2016, there was a clear national vision to build a transformative system of social protection and social inclusion that provides to vulnerable families and children both cash and care that are embedded in the national strategies and legislation. Such policy intent, though, is hard to translate at the local level given the insufficient financial and human resources in the newly formed municipal governments. UN agencies will work with municipalities to build the structures required by the law on social care services and develop the needed capacities.

Additional challenges include a weak culture of cross-sectoral collaboration, making it difficult to bring different ministries to the same discussion. Nonetheless, the creation of IPMGs is an important step to overcoming this obstacle and different UN agencies are contributing to advancing the processes.

Meanwhile, a lack of data and identification of positive effects of the decision-making processes at local government are a concern, which will be addressed by UN agencies through establishment of good partnerships and networks and the development of monitoring tools to evaluate progress.

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

CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT 82442 - OUTCOME 4.1

MPTF Project ID	Project Description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
00082442	Outcome 4.1: The rights of disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally ensured through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions.	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	IOM	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	100,000.00
00082442		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	UNAIDS	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	100,000.00
00082442		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	UNODC	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	105,000.00
00082442		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	UNFPA	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	409,000.00
00082442		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	UNICEF	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	343,000.00
00082442		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	UNWOMEN	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	390,951.64
00082442		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	UNDP	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	1,942,013.77
TOTAL							3,389,965.41

By signing, Participating UN Organization certify that the project 82442 - Outcome 4.1, has been operationally completed.

IOM
Ms. Alma Jani
Head of Office

Signature: 
Date: 27/10/2017


UNAIDS
Ms. Bujana Hoti
UNAIDS Focal Point

Signature: 
Date: 27.10.2017

UNODC
Ms. Ela Banaj
National Programme Officer

Signature: 
Date: 27.10.2017

UNFPA
Ms. Manuela Bello
Assistant Resident Representative

Signature: 
Date: 27.10.2017

UNICEF
Mr. Ezio Gianni Murzi
Representative

Signature: 
Date: 27/10/2017

UNWOMEN
Mr. Giuseppe Belsito
Representative

Signature: 
Date: 27/10/17

UNDP
Ms. Limya Etayeb
Country Director

Signature: 
Date: 30/10/17