

**ALBANIA ONE UN COHERENCE FUND  
FINAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE REPORT  
PILLAR 2 – PARTICIPATION  
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM Jan 2007 TO Dec 2011**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: PARTICIPATION</li> <li>• Programme Number (if applicable) N/A</li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> 65653, 65654, 65655, 65657, 65658</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p>(if applicable) Country/Region ALBANIA</p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results PARTICIPATION</p>
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme</li> </ul> <p>UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWOMEN</p>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National counterparts (government, private, NGOs &amp; others) and other International Organizations</li> <li>• Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal opportunities; NGOS;</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 2,429,267</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by Agency (if applicable)</li> <li>• UNDP – 900,380</li> <li>• UNFPA – 258,600</li> <li>• UNICEF – 727,007</li> <li>• UNWOMEN – 543,280</li> </ul> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable)</p> <p><b>TOTAL:</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration (60) Start Date<sup>5</sup> (01.01.2007)</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> (31.12.2011) Actual End date<sup>7</sup>(31.12.2011)</p> <p>Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system? Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Expected Financial Closure date<sup>8</sup>: 30 June 2014</p>

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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](#).

<sup>4</sup> The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>5</sup> 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](#)

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

<sup>7</sup> 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](#).

<sup>8</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

**Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.**

Evaluation Completed –

Yes  No Date- May 2009

Evaluation Report – Attached with hyperlink:  
Empowering the Vulnerable Communities in  
Albania : Support to the Implementation of the  
National Strategy for Improving Roma Living  
Conditions

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

**Report Submitted By**

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

## **FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT FORMAT**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2011 local elections introduced the gender quota at local levels for the first time. Political parties adopted the quota on the lists of council candidates with 31.52 percent being women, even though only 12.4 percent were elected. Overall media coverage and public debate on the issue of gender equality and women's engagement as candidates and voters was considerable, but not as strong as during the last national elections of 2009. There was important coverage of gender issues in the media in three main areas, namely the implementation of the 30 percent quota in the electoral lists, women as candidates and women as voters. Thanks to civil society organisations' advocacy based on the priorities identified in the Community Based Scorecards, candidates from different political parties increasingly addressed women issues in the electoral platforms.

The issue of social inclusion of minorities continued to be part of GoA's political agenda. Following the adoption by the Council of Ministers (CoM) of the National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion in November 2009, the Technical Secretariat for Roma at MoLSAEO, with support of the Empowering Vulnerable Local Communities programme, introduced specific measures in ten regions with functioning meetings of the Regional Committees for Assessing Social Needs and their subcommittees on Roma. In addition, for the first time, the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) established a quota for Roma students in public universities and, for a second year, the Roma Education Fund provided scholarships to Roma university students. Despite these achievements, less significant progress was made in the area of employment, housing and health. While no Roma political party has been created, Roma candidates have in a few cases been supported by mainstream political parties (usually small ones). During the May 2011 local elections, a few Roma—mostly in rural areas—were elected as members of city councils, though not specifically as Roma representatives. However, in bigger cities, their election as members of city councils was not successful.

#### **I. Purpose**

The participation of marginalized groups in political, economic and social life in Albania is central to this pillar. This is about the rights of every individual of men, women, youth and children. Participation is about being heard and ensuring your voice is heard as well as about a vibrant civil society that has the capacity to play its role in the democratic processes of Albania.

#### **II. Assessment of Programme Results**

##### **Greater Participation in Public Policy and Decision Making**

In Albania, the UN contributed to the promotion of the participation of vulnerable groups in all societal aspects, thereby providing specific support to women, vulnerable groups, youth and minorities. Emphasis was also placed on encouraging participation of these groups in the 2011 local elections.

##### **Supporting the rights and voices of women**

In the lead-up to the May 2011 local elections, UN Women provided support to Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) to launch wide advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns with women, media, youths and local political party branches on the importance of women as voters and candidates. Through this intervention, a network of at least 35 NPOs was able to reach more than 10,000 women and girls in 20 municipalities, four mini-municipalities and 42 communes in urban, rural and informal areas in seven regions (Kukes, Shkodra,

Tirana, Elbasan, Gjirokastra, Korça and Vlora). The initiative helped shape the public debate during the pre-election period by raising the issues of quota, family and group voting, and commitments of the political parties to gender equality. During their advocacy campaigns, NPOs used data generated from the survey on the Situation of Women Leaders at the local level which was supported by UN Women and launched in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Tirana, with participation of more than 200 first time voters, academicians, civil society organisations and the presence of media.

UN Women supported the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) to enhance its media strategy to minimise family and group voting, increase women's participation as candidates and voters and call for political parties to implement the 30 percent quota set in the Electoral Code. This support resulted in (i) a revised and stronger CEC media strategy on prevention of malicious family and group voting, and increased participation of women in elections, (ii) a summary report *Good practices on anti-family voting*, and (iii) for the first time, the provision by CEC of sex-disaggregated data on voters.

Supported by UN Women and UNDP, NPOs managed to identify and put women's concerns on the election agenda by developing 67 Community Based Scorecards on Gender Equality. The scorecards, applied in Albania for the first time, served as a tool to advocate for women's main concerns and priorities in key areas, and for women's participation in different local development discussions, analysis and initiatives. Scorecards were prepared with broad community participation and ensuring the inclusion of women and men, local decision makers and political parties, civil society and youth. The initiative inspired the participants to speak out, work together and advocate with representatives from local government to ensure they were responsive to gender and social inclusion issues.

NPOs also used the scorecards to influence programmes and platforms of local parties and candidates, as well as to monitor political party and government commitments to gender equality in line with national and international obligations. According to NPO reports, thanks to their advocacy and lobbying strategy, several priorities identified in the scorecards became part of the political discussions of municipality candidates in their public electoral meetings.

NPOs advocating for women's political participation networked with other local CSOs, youth groups, and women forums, often beyond political affiliations, to develop common strategies to address local gender inequalities and gender-based violence, as well as to promote a greater role for women in decision making, particularly in high level public offices.

The programme managed to mobilise thousands of women voters and increase their turnout in the local elections. NPOs encouraged women from the seven regions covered by the initiative to participate in the electoral process and also trained and educated them as voters. As a result, the public awareness of thousands of women was increased through TV programmes aired ahead of the elections, door-to-door campaigns and educational and informational material produced and distributed, leading in turn to an improvement in the situation of family voting and group voting. Young volunteers from local universities and high schools played an active role in mobilising women from their communities to go out to vote, using door-to-door campaigns. In addition, representatives of the local youth parliaments participated in the process of developing and advocating for the scorecards.

UN Women promoted the effective use of media and communication tools by NGOs to strengthen their capacity to promote women's leadership, women's rights and gender equality. As a result, NPOs organised (i) national and local talk shows where scorecards, quota, family voting and women participation in decision making were discussed, (ii) local and national press conferences to launch the results of the community-based scorecards, and (iii) a national press conference to request implementation of the quota by political parties. Moreover, with UN Women support, a network of NPOs signed a framework of cooperation with the Union of Journalists (the largest such organisation, with at least 800 members) to ensure better coverage of gender issues before, during and after the elections. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between one NPO and the Union of Journalists (Elbasan branch) to provide training to journalists on how to report on gender issues.

UN Women supported, for the first time, the use of social media by NPOs. Through the website [www.vota2011.com](http://www.vota2011.com), direct access to various sources of information in a timely and impartial manner was ensured. Women were trained in the benefits of using technology to influence policy makers, and more than 10,400 unique users accessed the website. In this online platform, three direct and interactive channels of virtual communication—Facebook, blogs and Youtube—were used to discuss women’s participation as voters, quota implementation and family voting. UN Women and UNDP supported the documentary series *Women in Politics*, aired before the local elections and covering these same topics. The documentary was aired during activities organised by NGOs, such as open forums, workshops, trainings, and community meetings, as well as in the local media of 7 regions. In the lead up to the elections, UN agencies prepared a detailed media plan to increase public attention and debate on gender equality issues.

During the election period, UN Women supported ten NPOs in playing a role in the monitoring process. The creation of the Forum of Local Observers to Monitor Women’s Participation in Elections enabled the accreditation and training of 40 long-term and 280 short-term observers. The forum observed 272 voting centres and focused on women’s participation, family voting, women commissioners and the overall environment. Due to the active monitoring role played by informed and trained local women at polls on the day of elections, the phenomenon of family voting decreased considerably.

In order to support civil society advocacy efforts for setting standards of services related to violence against women and domestic violence, including public funding for service implementation, the UN Women sub-regional office for Central and South-Eastern Europe conducted a regional expert meeting on financing services in response to violence against women and domestic violence. As a result, a common regional strategy for civil society advocates will be developed further in 2012 with UN Women support.

To facilitate exchange of experiences among municipalities on engendering local policies, MoLSAEO, with UN Women support and within the framework of the Austrian-funded Equity in Governance project, held a conference on gender equality and local governance. As local government represents the closest level to the people and is best positioned to directly address inequalities, the conference gathered more than one hundred representatives from local governments, civil society activists, donors and partners to share best practices on how local government can better respond to the needs of women and men and make central and local policies, processes and structures more gender sensitive. The conference stressed the role of local government in embracing the concept of equality as a distinguished marker of good governance, a commitment to the implementation of national gender equality legal and policy frameworks, and the building of capacities and skills required for taking action.

To support performance monitoring of municipal budgets from a gender perspective, UN Women supported capacity building of local NGOs and local authorities in gender planning and budgeting processes. Good examples of gender budgeting tools in the last two years have been piloted in the municipalities of Elbasan and Kukes through wide participation of local NPOs.

In its efforts to increase women’s participation in decision-making, UN Women supported the Albanian State Police and the Ministry of Interior to adopt and implement affirmative actions for the recruitment of police officers. As such, in 2011 amendments were made to the Personnel Regulation to facilitate women to enter police service and a Declaration on Diversity was adopted. The amendments introduced in the State Police regulations helped to remove some of the main barriers limiting women’s and girls’ chances of getting accepted into the police service, especially for those coming from rural areas. Moreover, a very successful two-month recruitment campaign targeting women and girls by the national and local media was also supported.

UN Women also supported women’s advocates in Albania to participate actively in evaluation, revision and costing of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence, a common action platform that will guide the country through to 2015.

Youth Parliaments were strong and reliable partners for the national agenda for gender equality. With UNICEF support, Youth Parliaments in eleven districts adopted a representation parity principle and developed local plans to promote community awareness on the need to increase female participation,

including of young girls, in public life. Tirana Youth Parliament supported the national communication campaign efforts against gender-based violence.

In this context, UNICEF supported the organisation of national youth debates on gender equality. The debates followed Karl Popper's method where young people are asked to research, obtain information, develop arguments, pro and contra, on selected topics and then defend these arguments. The topics developed for this programme were related to gender issues. More than 2,000 young boys and girls from all over Albania received information and expressed their views on gender equality and the position of girls and women at all levels of public life, by participating in local tournament debates.

### **Supporting the rights and voices of minorities**

Working in four regions with large Roma populations, in Tirana, Elbasan, Fier and Durrës, the UN provided support in the area of civil registration to contribute to the Government's efforts in addressing the issue of birth registration of Roma and Egyptians. With UN support, 1,703 civil registration cases were handled and resolved, enhancing community members' capacity to gain access to public services such as education and health. 256 personnel from civil registry offices have received relevant training on challenges and solutions to birth registration of vulnerable Roma/Egyptian communities.

In addition, as part of the 'Empowering Vulnerable Local Communities of Albania' programme jointly implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNV, community participation in self-help activities has been supported by five UN Volunteers - one international and four nationals - mobilised to support and encourage social and economic development among vulnerable communities.

To further facilitate Roma and Egyptians' access to their rights, health and police mediators acted as a bridge between the communities and local authorities in the area of security and health. UN also supported the training of vulnerable Roma and Egyptian communities on health related issues, reproductive health, and peer education.

Child protection mechanisms for identification referral and management of children-at-risk cases from Roma communities were supported, while opportunities for young children to access early childhood and development were provided. In cooperation with the MoES, local governments and Roma communities, an integrated model of ECD was introduced through the provision of academic training in schools, health check-ups, good parenting programmes, etc. Immunisation campaigns were also supported by UNICEF in remote areas. To increase the employability of young Roma and Egyptians, the programme introduced an internship scheme in collaboration with the National Employment Office and the regional councils.

UN agencies supported MoLSAEO to implement and monitor policies aiming at social inclusion of minorities to build a favourable environment and improve minorities' livelihoods in line with SSI. In this regard, following preparation of the National Action Plan for the Roma Decade and its introduction at the local level, the Technical Secretariat for Roma was assisted in production of a progress report on the National Strategy for Roma and its Decade Action Plan. With UN support, the production of the internet-based reporting and monitoring system ensured that more than 80 central and local officials are now more familiar with the use and functions of a streamlined data reporting system aligned to the indicators of the National Action Plan. This system is ultimately expected to assist the Technical Secretariat produce a progress report on the plan.

The UN also provided Roma and Egyptian communities with the tools and skills necessary to advocate for their rights. In 2011, the increased participation of Roma and Egyptians in local decision-making processes resulted in increased attention to the needs of the most vulnerable communities. Fourteen Community Based Organisations (CBOs), far exceeding the initial target of eight such organisations, are actively engaged in identifying their development priorities. Gender balance being ensured, CBOs are now playing a central role in conducting 39 community mobilisation activities, including awareness-raising campaigns and self-help activities. As a result of their participation in local decision making, four out of nine small-scale

infrastructure projects (renovation of a school yard and a community road, and construction of a community service centre) have been completed in collaboration with the respective local government units (LGUs).

### **Strengthening the role of civil society**

To support civil society, and as a follow up to the recommendations made by the Civil Society Index Project, UNDP supported a new initiative—Empowering Civil Society in Rural Areas, ECSRA—to strengthen local CSOs. This initiative strives to revitalise civil society in rural and remote areas and to promote good governance and civic engagement in Albania’s most disadvantaged and peripheral regions. The ECSRA project has enabled the identification of key deficiencies in the third sector, mainly their concentration in a few urban areas, and a definition of a platform for a comprehensive strategy to boost civic engagement and participation in rural and remote areas. This comprehensive assessment is expected to become a guiding document for national policy makers and donors.

With UNV support, a draft law on volunteerism, aiming at institutionalising an inclusive national volunteer infrastructure, was prepared on the basis of a series of civil society consultations, led by the Albanian Youth Council, and shared with relevant governmental institutions.

### **Supporting the rights and voice of youth**

UNICEF continued to support Youth Parliaments at national and local levels to increase the access of youth to information and capacities to participate effectively in public decision making. Youth Parliaments were strengthened to act as a strong advocacy youth network, addressing youth concerns, by putting human rights and gender issues high on the public agenda. Youth Parliaments are now active members in the twelve regions, where they facilitate the creation of specific bodies or committees composed of representatives of youth and local authorities, enabling young people to express their opinions and have a say in public decision making. As examples, the Youth Parliament in Durrës succeeded in introducing a specific budget line for youth activities, in Lezha, the Youth Parliament strongly advocated environmental issues, and in Shkodra, young people are collaborating with the Employment Services to ensure that youths more in need are reached, while in Gjirokastra, it has facilitated cross-border interaction with youth in Greece.

In this context, the capacity of young people, organisations and institutions to engage and develop volunteer activities in support of youth and community issues was strengthened through trainings organised by UNV, which involved approximately 50 youth leaders, community workers, local government representatives, journalists, and experts.

To improve the quality of media reporting and increase its capacities to address issues that affect the life of young people, including those from minorities, UNICEF has encouraged young people to take the lead and use the power of the media to support and denounce cases of discrimination against the Roma minority. In order to improve the situation, UNICEF and a Roma NGO came to an agreement to work together to produce a high-quality television programme for Roma children and young people. The programme—aired in the Roma language—aims to help overcome stereotypes about the minority and improve their social position.

UNFPA supported the strengthening of young people’s skills to effectively participate in public, social and economic life of Albania. In 2011, training was provided for 25 young people—members of youth parliaments on youth policy and youth participation. This training programme mobilised the youth parliaments and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports (MTCYS) to hold a workshop to discuss a draft Strategy of Youth and the Law on Youth. As a result, those two important frameworks will be included in the 2012 MTCYS agenda.

With UNFPA support, MTCYS has been conducting awareness-raising activities on healthy lifestyles, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and youth leadership, through strengthening the peer educators’

network, publishing a series of promotional materials and promoting cultural and sports events. 17 local and national NGOs conducted activities on healthy lifestyles with focus on the prevention of HIV. These activities took place around World Aids Day. To better address youth needs and concerns, UNFPA supported MTCYS in assessing the services it provides to young people.

### **Supporting social dialogue**

To ensure effective and inclusive social dialogue on economic and social policies, ILO provided support to increase the capacities of representatives of the National Labour Council (high level officials from government and workers and employers organisations) concerning EU standards on operating economic and social councils. This support responded to a long-time request to transform the Albanian National Labour Council into an Economic and Social Council with a wider participation of civil society. ILO supported the exposure of the Albanian partners to the most advanced experiences in the development of efficient social dialogue.

With ILO support, the dialogue among the social partners made marked progress, with regular meetings (four in 2011) of the National Labour Council being held and with the realisation of a National Pact of Social Understanding among the social partners and government. Negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement on the composition of the future council, in line with international representativeness criteria, are still on-going. The institutional capacity of Trade Unions and Associations of Employers to expand their services and to conduct negotiations with the Government and other social partners was strengthened, thereby increasing their effectiveness in collective bargaining.



**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP**s - provide details of the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why.

Reporting, based on progress towards outcomes, through contributing outputs, is available in the Annual Reports of the Program for 2007-2011, reachable at <http://www.un.org.al/subindex.php?faq=details&id=64&mnu=32> Progress towards outcomes was not reported in a single results framework with corresponding indicators.

### iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The project “**Empowering the Vulnerable Communities in Albania: Support to the Implementation of the National Strategy for Improving Roma Living Conditions (April 2008-April 2010)**” EVC was evaluated in 2009. The evaluation looks at the changes that have happened in communities’ life due to their participation in the EVC project. The evaluation used participatory methodology involving beneficiaries, project staff as well as partner organizations and institutions as an important source for information.

#### Summary of the evaluation findings:

##### **Relevance**

The consultant finds the project objectives and design to be highly relevant to the needs and priorities of the Roma/Egyptian communities as confirmed by the Government and other partners. The participation of Roma community in development of the project components and activities is of a paramount importance for the Roma communities in these regions, because they felt included and appreciated and proved that the cooperation between actors State-Community-Donors is indispensable for the achievement of effective results that benefit all parties.

The project is also relevant due to the involvement of UNV volunteers who were instrumental in helping Roma/Egyptian communities understanding the concept of voluntary action and self-help.

The EVC project proposes a two-folded development model involving, **alleviation of the poverty** and **creation of an inclusive environment** for Roma and Egyptians. This is reflected particularly in the employability component, where in addition to supporting Roma and Egyptians for attending training courses and equipping them with the necessary tools, assistance has been offered to public vocational training centers and regional employment offices to make their services more inclusive towards vulnerable Roma and Egyptian communities.

##### **Effectiveness**

Refer to Objectives, the EVC project management framework has provided direct and indirect benefits for Roma and Egyptian community in three regions. There were various methodologies followed to community development – starting from information provided through campaigns, leaflets, “street law campaigns”, training and capacity development, as well as intervention in infrastructure. Although each methodology is unique, they all have been based on a similar approach: participation and volunteerism of community members. The project has affected the infrastructure of the areas, improving living conditions of Roma families. Direct evidence of achievements includes the tangible results which by and large tally with the plans according to the Log frames provided by EVC project.

##### **Efficiency**

The EVC project has identified the most relevant areas and adequate means for the realisation of the activities of the project. Fieri and Tirana have a big number of Roma population, and that’s why it is more easily to reach a high number of beneficiaries.

The activities have been implemented in an efficient manner and the staff recruited to work with Community has a high level of competence and motivation. This is not always true for the partners, especially for the public institutions. We can not say the same thing for Local government (Tirana case) and some public agencies (labour office). Civil society measured efficiency based on both tangible and intangible results, for Public institutions, efficiency simply relates to cost per beneficiary. This is evident in the answers taken by representatives of vocational training centers

## **Participation**

Roma community members are encouraged to participate in all phases of the EVC project and are provided with full access to project information. They are also responsible and authorise for the development and implementation of a number of project activities through established CSO-s. The primary goal of the Citizen Participation was to provide all members of our community specially women and young people with adequate opportunities to participate in the defining of priorities and problems of the community. The second is to involve as much as we can the community members in the implementation of the project activities.

## **Voluntarism**

With regard the voluntarism, the project has contribute in accomplish a long-term social goal. Evaluation results indicate that project had a high capacity to communicate volunteer opportunities and recognize volunteers.

## **Sustainability**

Sustainability of EVC project is ensured due to the following factors:

- Maintaining the community feeling and keeping alive the participatory spirit of the community is a prerequisite for the sustainability of the project, since the philosophy of the project is based on participatory approach
- The commitment of Local Government to hear the community voice is the second prerequisite.
- The ability of the municipalities and communes to integrate Roma minority into the economic development and social services.
- Through the very thorough preparation process, EVC staff has done its best to secure that the Roma Community members had all available information about the project activities, being transparent and not too much generous in promises as the others have done with this community.
- Through the selection process (with regard vocational training, civil registration), EVC has attempted to identify committed and interested people.
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## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

- The EVC project was a very positive learning experience for all involved. This includes the realisation that it's easier to motivate people by making them participate in addressing their concerns.
- EVC project have had clear objectives and outcomes. This is true for management staff as well as for all stakeholders involve in the project implementation.
- The project team has a high level of competence and motivation. The participation of the representatives from Roma/Egyptian communities has significantly impacted on the trustfully relationship established between management staff and community itself.
- The EVC project have partially realised its main goal at increasing and strengthening confidence, capacities and dignity of vulnerable ethnic minorities in Albania, reducing poverty, social exclusion and vulnerability, but it proves that it is a good way to do it successfully.
- The EVC project is in relevance with the main policy document “The National Strategy for Improving Roma Living Conditions”. The project was hailed as a positive step in addressing Roma real concerns by all actors (state, local government, civil society) and by Roma minority itself.

- The participation of Roma community in development of the project components and activities is of a paramount importance for the Roma communities in these regions, because they felt included and appreciated and proved that the cooperation between actors State-Community-Donors is indispensable for the achievement of effective results that benefit all parties. Roma people understand that their participation in activities as well as in defining priorities is important to change their life and as direct beneficiaries of the EVC project inspire others (Roma community members) to participate
- The EVC project has contributed significantly in empowering the Roma community and especially women and youth through establishment of CBO-s and providing training in several issues.
- The EVC project proposes an alleviation of the poverty problem through employment and professional development. It gives priority to women and girls with social problems making use of adequate legislation for employment and vocational training services.
- Despite the friendly and a cordial atmosphere, surrounded the EVC project in three areas, there were evident signs of prejudices that private companies, as well as any staff of employment offices have against vulnerable Roma/Egyptian individuals. It makes difficult the successful implementation of some activities such as employment.
- The EVC project has identified the most relevant areas and adequate means for the realisation of the activities of the project in an efficient manner. Fieri and Tirana have a big number of Roma population which has helped to reach a high number of beneficiaries in both areas.
- The project team should identify components of the project that have great potential for further development, but also interventions that need to change radically or even phase out.
- Some of the comments were about the possible stakeholders such as private companies and NPO should pay more efforts to involve them in the project activities
- A better coordination of funding opportunities is needed, which would take into account the needs and priorities formulated by Roma community as well as those outlined in this report.
- Coordinate better the work with other agencies responsible for the implementation of the strategy in the areas of social services and social inclusion such as Department for Social Protection within Qarku (district) establishment recently in most of Regional Councils.
- The EVC project should find new ways or adopt new incentives to facilitate the employment or self-employment such as providing micro grants.

**CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECTS - PILLAR II PARTICIPATION**

**Result 2.1.1 - Civil society**

MPTF	Project ID	Project description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
	00065653	ALB Result 2.1.1 - Civil society	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNDP	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	232,000.00
	00065653	ALB Result 2.1.1 - Civil society	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNICEF	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	74,500.00
	00065653	ALB Result 2.1.1 - Civil society	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNWOMEN	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	161,690.00
								<b>461,190.00</b>

**Result 2.1.2 - Women, Children and Youth**

MPTF	Project ID	Project description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
	00065654	ALB Result 2.1.2 - Women, children and youth	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNDP	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	119,850.00
	00065654	ALB Result 2.1.2 - Women, children and youth	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNFFPA	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	258,600.00
	00065654	ALB Result 2.1.2 - Women, children and youth	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNICEF	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	492,557.00
								<b>871,007.00</b>

**Result 2.1.3 - Roma participating**

MPTF	Project ID	Project description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
	00065655	ALB Result 2.1.3 - Roma participating	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNDP	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	107,000.00
								<b>107,000.00</b>

**Result 2.2.1 - Media**

MPTF	Project ID	Project description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
	00065657	ALB Result 2.2.1 - Media	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNDP	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	110,000.00
	00065657	ALB Result 2.2.1 - Media	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNICEF	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	159,950.00
								<b>269,950.00</b>

**Result 2.2.2 - Supporting the Rights and Voices of Women**

MPTF	Project ID	Project description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
	00065658	ALB Result 2.2.2 - Women in elections	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNDP	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	328,530.00
	00065658	ALB Result 2.2.2 - Women in elections	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	Participation	UNWOMEN	01.01.2007 - 31.12.2011	391,590.00
								<b>720,120.00</b>

**GRAND TOTAL PARTICIPATION**

**2,429,267.00**

By signing, Participating UN Organizations certify that the projects under Pillar II - Participation have been operationally completed.

**UNDP**  
Ms. Yesim Onuc  
Country Director

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 9 June 2014

**UNFFPA**  
Ms. Manuela Bello  
Assistant Representative

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 9 June 2014

**UNICEF**

Mr. Dettlef Fatim  
Representative

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 9.6.2014

**UNWOMEN**

Mr. David Saunders  
Representative

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 9/6/2014