

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

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Outcome 3.2: The public, including marginalized groups and communities, better receive equitable, inclusive and accountable decentralized services from regional and local governments. Programme Number: n/a MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 82441 	<p>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> Country/Region ALBANIA</p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results</p> <p>Governance and Rule of Law</p>						
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme <p>UNWOMEN, UNAIDS, UNDP</p>	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations 						
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 280,000 MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) <table border="0"> <tr> <td>UNWOMEN</td> <td>10,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNAIDS</td> <td>40,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td>230,000.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) <p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p>	UNWOMEN	10,000.00	UNAIDS	40,000.00	UNDP	230,000.00	<p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (60 months) Start Date⁵ (01.01.2012)</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ (31.12.2016)</p> <p>Actual End date⁷ (31.12.2016)</p> <p>Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
UNWOMEN	10,000.00						
UNAIDS	40,000.00						
UNDP	230,000.00						

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](#)

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](#).

Other Contributions (donors)
(if applicable)

TOTAL: 280,000

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

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

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 3.2 Decentralisation and Local Governance are laid out below:

- ✓ Law on Territorial Administrative Reform drafted and endorsed by Parliament. UN supported preparation of several analytical assessments and organization of an extensive nationwide public awareness campaign, holding 62 structured meetings with 3,000 representatives.
- ✓ Improvement of the legal framework and mandate of the National Agency for Implementation of TAR.
- ✓ Preparation of the legal framework for amalgamation of the existing LGUs. Nationwide training of 61 local working groups on due diligence and amalgamation approaches took place, involving > 240 officials from the local administrations.
- ✓ 26 municipalities⁹ were supported in formulating their short-term engendered Local Development Operational Plans, which serve as blueprints during their first 2–3 years of operation.
- ✓ Preparation of the National Cross-cutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance 2014–2020.
- ✓ OSS practices piloted in 2 LGUs in Durres and Elbasan, offering up to 9 services through a single desk.
- ✓ A Data Management System and Digitalization of Archives piloted in one LGU in Durres. 120 specialists from 61 LGUs trained in use of established GIS.
- ✓ Signature of the second phase, STAR2, programme (2016–2019), building the capacities of the newly established local governments and focusing on management, development planning and improved service delivery.
- ✓ National Local Governance Mapping exercise in 61 LGUs

I. Purpose

This outcome focusses on the public, including marginalized groups and communities, receive better equitable, inclusive and accountable decentralized services from regional and local governments.

The fundamental territorial reform undertaken in 2015 – and several related policy developments including a new Strategy on Local Governance and Decentralization, a new Law on Local Government and delegation of additional competences and functions to local governments – have created significant momentum for positive change in local governance. Based on the Law on Local Governments,¹⁰ entered into force in January 2016, 22 additional competencies¹¹ were transferred to local governments. Further to the reform

⁹ Belsh, Bulqiza, Delvine, Devoll, Dropull, Finiq, Fushe-Arrez, Gramsh, Has, Kamza, Kelcyra, Kolonja, Libohova, Maliq, Mallakaster, Memaliaj, Mirdita, Patos, Peqin, Permet, Puka, Pustec, Roskovec, Selenica, Tepelena, and Vau-Dejes

¹⁰ It redefines the structures and authority of the local governments, identifies new competencies to be decentralised, establishes legal requirements for a more accountable, open and participatory local government and refines relationships between vertical levels of government.

¹¹ Establishment and administration of social services at the local level for the poor, disabled, and vulnerable categories; Establishment, in collaboration with the Ministry for Social Welfare, of a social fund to finance social services; Construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of pre-university education system buildings (including administration of maintenance staff); Management and regulation of preschool education system (including kindergartens' education staff); Development of health related educational and promotional activities and management of health centers and services at the local level; Development, protection and promotion of cultural heritage of local interest and their infrastructure; Organization of cultural activities and promotion of national and local identity as well as managing the related infrastructure; Protection measures from air pollution at local level; Protection measures from soil pollution at local level; Protection

efforts of the Ministry of Urban Development and the National Territorial Planning Council, the year 2016, saw the development and approval of 31 General Local Plans for Municipalities. Twelve GLPs will be completed during 2017 and the remaining eighteen by the end of 2018. Additional legislation related to specific services and competencies is in preparation. An important piece of legislation, initially planned for adoption in 2016, was the formulation and approval of a Law on Local Finances that would complete and reform the legal and financial framework of local government. As of early 2017, however, the law remains in draft form and subject to ongoing discussion.

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 3.2.

Throughout 2016, initiatives of international partners working in the country were key to supporting consolidation of the new local governments, in complementarity with GoA support. The major assistance programmes include UNDP's STAR1 (Support to Territorial and Administrative Reform) pooled fund, which ended in mid-2016, Swiss DLDP, USAID's PLGP and Italy's Debt Swap programmes. GoA, on the other hand, continued support for local investments in several municipalities through its programme of urban revival, in parallel with increasing governmental transfers to municipalities to a record 3.1 percent of GDP. The increased amount, however, needs to also cover the newly transferred competencies. In addition, GoA, in partnership with UNDP, led the efforts of several partners in formulation of a new pooled fund arrangement: STAR2. This new initiative, launched in the second half of 2016, focuses on improving local government capacities, local service delivery and local democracy.

UNDP achieved two main results in this output in 2016: i) a successful conclusion to its ongoing assistance through STAR1, and ii) formulation of a new phase, STAR2. The former was instrumental in delivering a series of tools for the reorganisation of municipal governments, including due diligence reports for each of the new 61 municipalities, prototypes of organograms, standard policies and procedures and codes of conduct, etc. In partnership with GoA, UNDP engaged in partner consultations for identifying new joint assistance, leading to approval of STAR2 in July 2016. Following approval, STAR2 mobilised the necessary human resources and, in late 2016, launched a nationwide mapping of all 61 municipalities, involving some 12,000 citizens. The mapping aims to assess citizen perceptions and expectations of local government performance, local democracy and responsiveness. The results of the mapping will be available in the first half of 2017 and serve both as a STAR2 baseline and guide further assistance to local governments from UNDP and other partners.

STAR2 will unfold along the three project pillars: i) the launch of a new system of One-Stop-Shops for service delivery and a modern and digitalised document management system for local government records across municipalities, ii) the design of a system for municipal performance assessment and municipal integrity action plans, and iii) a series of capacity building modules for strengthening the administrative efficiency, output effectiveness, accountability and transparency of local governments.

Partnership around STAR2 has also been an excellent instrument for collaboration, including during both the design stage and in implementation, ensuring complementary and coordination.

measures from water pollution at local level; Protection measures from acoustic pollution at local level; Development of environment related educational and promotional activities at local level; Protection of nature and biodiversity; Management, operation and maintenance of irrigation and drainage infrastructure transferred to local ownership; Land management and protection; Establishment and administration of local information and rural extension systems; Establishment and administration of grant schemes for local agriculture and rural development initiatives; Management of public forest fund; Management of public pastures fund; Provision of fire protection and response services; Allocation of financial grants to support small business activities at local level; Construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of local road signposts.

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

In general, the transfer of functions and responsibilities from the previous, smaller **local government units** into the newly amalgamated municipalities, as well as the transfer of new competences from central to local control, is still a challenge for local administrations. Reorganisation is necessary in the area of human resources, also in consideration of implementation of the Civil Service Law at the local level to ensure stable and adequate professionalism of local administrations. In parallel, there is need to reorganise and optimise local services to ensure territorial coverage, accessibility, inclusiveness and equity. The Law on Local Finance needs to come to a conclusion that promotes local ownership and provides sufficient resources to enable municipalities to become the engines of inclusive development.

UN's multi-sectoral assistance to **local governance** will be nationwide and focus on strengthening local administrations and their internal functionality, as well as a more participatory interaction with citizens. Many administrative processes should be simplified or even automated, while the quality of and access to services—in line with citizen's rights—will be expanded. The UNDP STAR2 programme, addressing all 61 municipalities, is built upon three pillars: i) administrative capacity building, ii) improved local service delivery through One-Stop-Shops and other innovative tools, and iii) promotion of local democracy and participation. Nationwide local governance mapping in 2017 will serve as a baseline and provide a view of effectiveness as seen by the public. A One-Stop-Shop service delivery model will be developed and deployed in at least 30 municipalities by the end of 2018 and more than 50 by the end of 2019. Innovative approaches with regard to reorganisation of local services and service standards will be piloted, leading to national benchmarks for the performance of local governments in 2018. Capacity building will cover themes that will include leadership, transparency, accountability, integrity and communication, as well as the application of pertinent legislation, such as the Civil Service Law, the Code of Administrative Procedures, the Labour Code, and the Law on the Right to Information.

UN Women's interventions at the local level will strengthen the capacities of local governments to ensure programmes, services and budgets increase gender equality. Through proven successful methodologies such as Community-Based Scorecards (CBS), UN Women will help empower grassroots women to participate in decisions that affect their life. In 2017, CBS will be implemented in another six regions, enabling women to advocate with local decision makers and political candidates prior to the national elections.

Citizens monitor local governance performance in four areas: the quality and efficiency of public services, local economic development, local democracy and good governance and human rights. UNICEF will work with local governments in seven target areas (Tirana, Durrës, Shkoder, Berat, Elbasan, Korça and Kukës) to build the capacities of local administrations and de-concentrated health, education and social protection structures to plan, budget and deliver social care services for vulnerable families and children. Subject to the

availability of funds, UNICEF-supported interventions will include: capacity building of municipal staff in service planning, budgeting and monitoring; support to establish outreaching mobile family counselling services; development of programmes to target families and help them build resilience skills to cope with poverty and vulnerability and gain better access to services; awareness-raising activities and public hearings on social protection at the local and national level; and development and implementation of good parenting education programmes. Also focusing on service quality, UNFPA will support strengthened capacity to provide equal access to quality integrated sexual and reproductive health services at the municipal level and improve performance monitoring. Mechanisms will be promoted to enhance the participation of young people in policy and decision making related to sexual and reproductive health, including HIV and sexually transmitted infections. Increased capacity, better monitoring of budget allocations and increased engagement with clients should not only expand access but also encourage a higher level of government investment in the future.

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

CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT 82441 - OUTCOME 3.2

MPTF Project ID	Project Description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
00082441	Outcome 3.2: The public, including marginalized groups and communities, better receive equitable, inclusive and accountable decentralized services from regional and local governments	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P3 Regional & Local Development	UNAIDS	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	40,000.00
00082441		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P3 Regional & Local Development	UNWOMEN	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	10,000.00
00082441		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P3 Regional & Local Development	UNDP	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	230,000.00
TOTAL							280,000.00

By signing, Participating UN Organization certify that the project 82441 - Outcome 3.2, has been operationally completed.


UNAIDS
Ms. Bujana Hoti
UNAIDS Focal Point

Signature: 
Date: 27.10.2017

UNWOMEN
Mr. Giuseppe Belsito
Representative

Signature: 
Date: 27/10/17

UNDP
Ms. Limya Eltayeb
Country Director

Signature: 
Date: 30/10/17