

**ALBANIA ONE UN COHERENCE FUND**  
**MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINALPROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: FROM 01.01.2012 TO 31.12.2016**

<p><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: Outcome 1.1: Strengthen public oversight, civil society and media institutions make authorities more accountable to the public, and better able to enforce gender equality commitments in planning, programming and budgeting processes</li> <li>Programme Number: n/a</li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> <b>82435</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> Country/Region <b>ALBANIA</b></p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results <i>Governance and Rule of Law</i></p>														
<p><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>UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNESCO, UNWOMEN, UNDP</p>	<p><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-Discrimination Commissioner; People's Advocate; Parliament, Alliance of Women MPs, Commissions and Sub commissions members</li> </ul>														
<p><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: <b>1,308,803</b> MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>UNAIDS</b></td><td><b>10,000.00</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>UNFPA</b></td><td><b>20,000.00</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>UNICEF</b></td><td><b>44,450.00</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>UNODC</b></td><td><b>53,500.00</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>UNESCO</b></td><td><b>60,000.00</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>UNWOMEN</b></td><td><b>513,570.00</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>UNDP</b></td><td><b>607,282.62</b></td></tr> </table> <p>Agency Contribution</p>	<b>UNAIDS</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>44,450.00</b>	<b>UNODC</b>	<b>53,500.00</b>	<b>UNESCO</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>	<b>UNWOMEN</b>	<b>513,570.00</b>	<b>UNDP</b>	<b>607,282.62</b>	<p><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration (60 months) Start Date<sup>5</sup> (01.01.2012)</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> (31.12.2016)</p>
<b>UNAIDS</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>														
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<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.

- *by Agency (if applicable)*

Government Contribution  
(if applicable)

Other Contributions (donors)  
(if applicable)

**TOTAL: 1,308,803**

#### **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.

Actual End date<sup>7</sup>(31.12.2016)

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

Expected Financial Closure date<sup>8</sup>:

30 June 2018

#### **Report Submitted By**

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

<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](#).



## **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 1.1 Strengthen Public Oversight are laid out below:

- ✓ Adoption by Parliament of the Law ‘On the Civil Servant’ professionalizes the civil service and provides for stronger management and accountability practices.
- ✓ Development of NSDI 2015–2020 with strong gender analysis and indicators and introduction of governance indicators and a governance monitoring framework to monitor SDGs attainment
- ✓ Development of the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2015–2020.
- ✓ Establishment and operation of ASPA. ASPA’s tailored course ‘Strengthened leadership skills and performance in decision making for councilwomen and women employees in the administration of the newly amalgamated municipalities’ – trained 102 councilwomen and women in leading positions in LGUs

### **I. Purpose**

This outcome focusses on enabling line ministries and public service delivery institutions to mainstream gender and conduct gender-responsive planning and budgeting and evidence-based policy making at all levels.

The National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016–2020 (NSGE), adopted in 2016, and NSDI II call on central and local-level actions for gender mainstreaming into legislative and policy development initiatives and for implementation to be equally beneficial to men and to women. In line with the public finance reform, the Public Finance Management Strategy 2015–2020 reinforces gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) through the annual budgeting process. Similarly, Albania, along with other member states, approved the global UNESCO Gender Equality Action Plan for 2014–2021. For the first time, the EU is requesting countries address gender equality prior to accession, seeking to ensure that government reforms and strategies meet the EU directives and legislation on the issue, referred to as the GE acquis. In this context, the need for technical assistance in mainstreaming gender equality in priority government reform areas was explicitly articulated across sectors and levels of government, including the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), MoSWY, Ministry of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism and Entrepreneurship (MEDTTE), Ministry of Urban Planning, Minister of Local Issues, and other state institutions.

The technical assistance of the UN helped in drafting and approval of the new NSGE with concrete actions to advance the gender agenda in the country, focusing on enhancement of the national mechanisms on gender equality, economic empowerment of women and girls, and of women participation in decision making, and preventing domestic violence.

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 1.1.

Gender equality is now a core principle in the new Law on the Organic Budget (2016), enabling Albania to stand out among many European countries, credited to UN Women advocacy and technical support to government in partnership with the IMF and members of the Albanian Parliament. In support of this initiative, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) issued several instructions<sup>9</sup> guiding the application of GRB and providing requirements for gender-sensitive reporting. USD 90 million or 2.3 percent of the budgets of eleven ministries for 2017 will focus on women through gender-sensitive investments. Gender-responsive financial markers are set in the respective budget programmes influencing 24 sector programmes, compared to 19 in 2015. Around 35 public officials—planning and budgeting specialists—from twelve line ministries received coaching in the application of GRB in the medium-term budget programme (MTBP), resulting in 24 gender-responsive programmes for 2017–2019. Five municipalities (Tirana, Vlora, Saranda, Berat, and Fier) applied gender-responsive planning and budgeting of local services, focused on addressing the needs of vulnerable women and girls, through a consultative process that engaged many citizens and municipal authorities in a constructive dialogue. GE and GRB results in the country were duly shared with the CEDAW Committee during the 64th Session held in July 2016.

In the framework of EU IPA II programming, UN Women ensured gender mainstreaming in a range of action documents<sup>10</sup> prepared for sector budget support to GoA. Additionally, following the printing and dissemination of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life in early 2016, the mayors of Gjirokaster and Korca officially signed the Charter, committing to pursue gender equality goals in local governance. The signing event was promoted among a range of development actors in the capital, as well as communicated to the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and included in CEMR's online Observatory. The Charter's implementation was also promoted in a special Informative Session for seven NGOs.

UNICEF ensured the mainstreaming of a gender equality and non-discrimination perspective in the education sector through supporting the development of Albania's new pre-school curricula and the nationwide School Principals' Training Programme. Additionally, a parenting programme for 45 families of children in conflict or contact with the law was supported in Tirana, Durrës and Puka. The programme promoted i) the engagement of father-son pairs in family, group and community activities that seek to challenge those commonly held gender stereotypes that push (mainly) boys towards delinquency, ii) an overall sense of gender equality in the community, including the worth of women and girls, and iii) the model of engagement of men and boys in combatting GBV and gender inequality.

ASPAs, given its central role in equipping civil servants with the required knowledge and skills for ensuring efficient absorption and application of the EU GE acquis, was supported by UNDP and UN Women in conducting a gender-sensitive assessment and review<sup>11</sup> of the current curricula. The engendered curricula and training modules will be used going forward as ASPA's training programme, and the provided recommendations will be applied to ASPA's entire curricula and training modules. Similarly, the State Police Academy assessed and upgraded the training curriculum on GBV–DV in view of the latest legal improvements in the domestic legislation and newly ratified international treaties. 23 trainers from the academy were trained in acquiring pedagogical skills in their future capacity building work with police staff

<sup>9</sup> 1) instruction on the MTBP for all line ministries and state institutions, reinforcing mandatory GRB application across sector budget programmes; 2) instruction on the MTBP for all municipalities to guide on the application of GRB in the process of municipal budget preparation; 3) standard instruction on the monitoring and reporting procedures of the municipalities providing requirement for gender-sensitive reporting of municipal services and expenditures; 4) standard instruction on the preparation of the budget. <http://www.financa.gov.al/al/raportime/buxheti/udhezime/udhezime-standarde-te-buxhetit/udhezime-standarde-per-monitorimin-e-buxhetit>

<sup>10</sup> Action documents on justice; anti-corruption; transport; fisheries; integrated water management; food safety, veterinary & phyto-sanitary issues; and consumer protection.

<sup>11</sup> The Assessment of Critical Gender Gaps in the Training of Albanian Public Sector Employees assessed all the existing ASPA training modules from a gender perspective and identified 20 critical gender gaps in the existing documents. About 26 recommendations were issued to address these gaps and ASPA followed through with an update of its current curricula and training modules, targeting top-level ministry management.



using this upgraded training curriculum and modules. The first Woman Chief of Commissariat was appointed in Librazhd, after completing an eight-month training on strengthening police women's leadership skills, conducted by the Albanian State Police in partnership with US-supported International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program and UN Women.

The UN Women–UNDP 'Gender Brief Albania 2016'<sup>12</sup> was prepared in 2016, providing an overview and analysis of the current state of GE and progress made in implementing gender and socially-responsive measures as part of Albania's international and national commitments on GE and empowerment of women. With a view to absorbing the EU Gender Equality acquis, the publication captures ongoing work, identifies gaps and highlights areas requiring enhanced engagement. The document serves as a reference for all ministries and development and integration actors, and as an information and accountability tool for the wider public. Furthermore, it localises the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016–2020 and thereby supports EU member states engaging in Albania selecting priorities. The publication, produced in English and Albanian, exclusively uses administrative data, draws on recent reporting and monitoring work, and features easy-to-grasp info-graphics. Moreover, with support from UN Women, increased sex-disaggregated data sets across sectors are included in INSTAT's annual statistical publication Male and Female 2016. Additional UN Women support to INSTAT consisted in guaranteeing the extensive inclusion and disaggregation requirements of data collection across sectors and in the National Official Statistics Programme 2017–2021.

A two-day workshop was organised in Tirana by UN Women and UNESCO, attended by 35 participants,<sup>13</sup> followed by another UN Women technical workshop with more than 40 universities and media representatives, to explore ways of incorporating gender-sensitive indicators for the media (GSIM) into the curricula of universities in Albania, as well as in the editorial and human resources practices of media houses. As a result, the Departments of Social Work and Journalism of Tirana University agreed to include these indicators in their curriculum, the application of which was evidenced in two open lectures attended by more than 70 students. Similarly, all participating journalists committed to apply the philosophy of GSIM in their daily work. Equally importantly, INSTAT agreed to produce a new chapter on Women and Men in Media, referring to GSIM indicators, as part of their yearly publication on Women and Men. Meanwhile, the Audio-visual Media Authority, which is legally responsible for monitoring the media for any content of hate or discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, ethnicity or nationality, or any other form of discrimination, agreed to sign an MoU on GSIM, which will be implemented during 2017.

Awareness of the importance of the roles played by women in the Albanian scientific community has been strengthened with UNESCO support through: i) establishment of a website of the Albanian Women in Science Network that further enhances the network's visibility, ii) airing on prime-time TV of a documentary<sup>14</sup> relating the story of how the network came into being thanks to the support of UNESCO, and highlighting some of the personalities of the network, and iii) organising a conference and producing a publication on the Albanian Women in Science Network in Sustainable Development Objectives.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/10/albania-gender-brief>

<sup>13</sup> Journalists from the different regions of the country and different forms of media (television, radio, print and online), journalism students, professors of the University of Tirana, and representatives of civil society.

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG9\\_m8JgaQY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG9_m8JgaQY)



## **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://www.un.org.al/publications?field_publication_type_value=Reports)

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

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

Over the five years, the Government noticeably increased its responsiveness to human rights concerns and took action to meet its gender-equality commitments. The Government significantly improved its reporting during the 64<sup>th</sup> CEDAW Session (2016), and established a new mechanism to track Universal Periodic Review recommendations and international human rights instruments. In cooperation with partners in the country, results produced by UN Albania have contributed to an improved Fundamental Rights Index (from 0.58/2014 to 0.6/2016) and a higher Gender Inequality Index (from 0.245/2013 to 0.217/2015).

Government is paying more attention to gender equality, including significant advancement in women in leadership positions and political representation: percentage of women in parliament increased from 16.7% in 2013 to 23% in 2015; women currently represent 34.7% of municipality councillors, from 12.5% in 2010; 9/61 mayors (15%) are women, a significant improvement compared to 0.7% in 2010. Gender Equality is now a core principle in “Organic Budget Law” (2016) - enabling Albania to stand out among many European countries, representing a significant institutional change. Similarly, a wide array of sector policies include an evidence-based statement on gender inequality in relevant sectors and provide for measures to combat it. USD 90 million or 2.3% of 11 Ministries' 2017 budgets focus on women.

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

**CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT 82435 - OUTCOME 1.1**

MPTE Project ID	Project Description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
00082435	Outcome 1.1: Strengthen public oversight, civil society and media institutions make authorities more accountable to the public, and better able to enforce gender equality commitments in planning, programming and budgeting processes.	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNAIDS	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	10,000.00
00082435		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNODC	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	53,500.00
00082435		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNESCO	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	60,000.00
00082435		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNFPA	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	20,000.00
00082435		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNICEF	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	44,450.00
00082435		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNWOMEN	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	513,570.00
00082435	<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>607,282.62</b>

By signing, Participating UN Organization certify that the project 82435 - Outcome 1.1, has been operationally completed.

**UNAIDS**  
Ms. Bujana Hoti  
UNAIDS Focal Point

Signature: 

Date: 27.10.2017

**UNODC**  
Ms. Ela Banaj  
National Programme Officer

Signature: 

Date: 27.10.2017

**UNESCO**  
Ms. Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores  
Director

Signature: 

Date: 25.10.17

**UNFPA**  
Ms. Manuela Bello  
Assistant Resident Representative

Signature: 

Date: 27.10.2017

**UNICEF**  
Mr. Ezio Gianni Murzi  
Representative

Signature: 

Date: 27 Oct 2017

**UNWOMEN**  
Mr. Giuseppe Belisio  
Representative

Signature: 

Date: 27/10/17

**UNDP**  
Ms. Limya Elayeb  
Country Director

Signature: 

Date: 30/10/17