

Government Contribution
(if applicable)

Other Contributions (donors)
(if applicable)

TOTAL: 2,176,574.94

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 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

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- Title: UNDP Country Director
- Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP
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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](#).

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 1.2 Public Administration 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
- ✓ Government’s reform of the public services and their citizen-centric orientation includes equipment for the newly established ADISA to become operational and able to oversee implementation of the service delivery reform, and development of a long-term government policy document on public services in Albania and a provisional Results Framework of the reform strategy.
- ✓ Law on Front-Office Service Delivery
- ✓ First integrated citizen service center launching in Kavaja

I. Purpose

This outcome focusses on the support to public administration to enhance capacities, practices and systems for effective delivery of national development priorities and international obligations.

The Public Administration Reform (PAR) remains one of the EU’s key priorities to be pursued by Albania. The country has shown progress in a number of areas, such as adoption of a new Civil Service Law, establishment of the Albanian School for Public Administration, introduction of new concepts and practices of governance, and efforts for the modernization of public service delivery.

In recent years, Albania has seen an improvement in the position of women’s representation in the political leadership with 42 percent women ministers in cabinet. Whilst 23 percent of Members of Parliament are women, this has in large part not been achieved through direct election of 2013 National Elections, but rather implementation of quotas through the replacement of the vacancy disposition in the Electoral Code. With the ongoing focus of government on the de-concentration to 61 municipalities, the role and importance of mayors is critical (where 9 of the 61 mayors are women) and counsellors (where 35% are women) increasingly important. At the local level, the importance of women and community participation in local governance has been increasingly practiced across Albania, leading to more sensitive decision making by many municipalities. Furthermore, there is a movement to increase the quota of women as party candidates for Parliament to 50 percent.

The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) has supported improved equality in electoral processes. The year 2015 saw the first nationwide elections conducted with fully disaggregated data, thanks in large part to UN support in the last few years. The 2017 national elections provide a further opportunity to improve first-time voter and women voter engagement in elections, and the availability of disaggregated data. However, the proportion of women in leadership is not reflected in senior civil service positions.

The public oversight functions of the People's Advocate Institution and the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination were further strengthened to monitor, report and redress violations of rights especially of vulnerable groups such as women and children.

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 1.2.

With UNICEF assistance, the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination engaged, for the first time, in monitoring over 100 judicial decisions (criminal, civil/family and administrative) in relation to disadvantaged children, to reveal bias and point out practices resulting in inequitable outcomes, thus undermining vulnerable children's access to justice.

The People's Advocate office – an 'A' rated independent human rights institution by the Paris standards – was outspoken throughout 2016 on a number of issues, in particular in defense of Roma populations but also on migration, the environment and other issues. It hosted in Tirana an International Conference 'Challenges for Ombudsman institutions with respect to mixed migratory flows' with participation of the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights as the keynote speaker, concluding with adoption of the Tirana Declaration on Migration⁹, which took stock of UNICEF's body of evidence and advocacy. With UN Women support, the People's Advocate contributed for the first time to implementation of CEDAW in Albania, through preparation of a shadow report and direct advocacy by the Ombudsman in the 64th CEDAW session. More than 80 percent of the Ombudsman's recommendations became part of the CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations on Albania. UN Women supported the institution to establish a follow-up action plan to implement the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee in collaboration with 100 representatives from a wide range of stakeholders. Moreover, in December, the Ombudsman dedicated its annual conference to the topic of Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, resulting in preparation of a joint Ombudsman–UN Albania Declaration,¹⁰ recommending steps forward for implementation of Agenda2030 in Albania.

Thanks to UN Women support, CEC collection of gender-sensitive data in electoral processes has improved. In this regard, CEC was able to analyse the 2016 non-electoral year results and set targets and strategies for the 2017 national elections. Additionally, the institution was introduced to a wide range of national and regional stakeholders during the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO) annual conference hosted in Albania in September 2016.

Being aware of the urgent need to empower women in decision-making bodies at the local level, the Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA), with UNDP support, developed a tailored course on 'Strengthened leadership skills and performance in decision making for councilwomen and women employees in the administration of the newly amalgamated municipalities'. Further on, in close collaboration with Shkoder, Roskovec and Patos municipalities and the National Democratic Institute,

⁹ [http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy/ombudsman/ombudsman.nsf/All/DC783D0396BB22DBC2258034002A70ED/\\$file/Conference%20brochure%207-8.9.2016.pdf](http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy/ombudsman/ombudsman.nsf/All/DC783D0396BB22DBC2258034002A70ED/$file/Conference%20brochure%207-8.9.2016.pdf) <http://www.ombudsman-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/TIRANA-DECLARATION-ENG-08-09-16.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/en/content/14122016-joint-declaration-%C2%A0peoples-advocate-and-office-united-nations>

UNDP used this training module in two workshops on women empowerment in local decision making. This training course, consulted with women in local municipal councils and administrations, trained a total of 102 councilwomen and women in leading positions in local government entities. In addition, ASPA has introduced this module as part of their training programme.

In the same vein, women counsellors are linked together across municipalities, through UN Women support, to better advocate for women empowerment. In this regard, UN Women supported the development of a strategy and action plan for the Alliance of Women Counsellors of Tirana Municipality. Consequently, the Alliance established a Gender Equality Commission within the municipality, responsible for review of all municipal decisions through the gender lens, and a strong advocate for the Gender Equality Fund supporting women entrepreneurs through a total budget of \$45,000. Based on these Tirana successes, UN Women supported the establishment of an Alliance of Women Counsellors in each of Berat and Korca.

UN Women, in partnership with USAID, supported the establishment of ten community-based scorecards (CBSs)¹¹ by a network of CSOs and Citizen Advisory Panels (CAPs), prioritising needs of women and men in ten municipalities (Berat, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Kamza, Korca, Kucova, Lushnja, Vlora and Shkoder) and 28 administrative units. The ten CBS reports produced were used to advocate and lobby with the local decision makers to integrate citizens' priorities into local policies, plans and budgets. The CBSs engaged 1,013 persons (455 men and boys, and 558 women and girls) through 52 focus groups and ten public fora held in both urban and rural areas. A national conference on the CBS process and results was held in 2016, introducing findings and recommendations to high-level participants, mayors, the international community and donors, other stakeholders and beneficiaries. The final ten CBS reports were shared with the local authorities, advocating for increased attention on men and women priorities. This resulted in several issues being addressed immediately such as the water system malfunctioning in the commune of Mollas or construction of a much-destroyed road in the remote area of Roshnik. The CBS will be implemented in six new municipalities in 2017 in partnership with Citizen Advisory Panels, responsible to follow up the findings of the CBS with the local authorities. The CBS reports will also serve as a baseline to evaluate the performance of local government.

¹¹ The CBS reports present how women and men scored the performance of their municipality in four main areas: public services, economic empowerment, local democracy (good governance) and human rights. The main issues identified by women were the need for clean running water and good sanitation, safe transport to enable children to get to school, street lighting, employment and better working conditions.

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

There are observable improvements in the capacity of administrative staff on collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data, child social exclusion data, environmental data, gender statistics, and the population and housing census, among others. For instance, in March 2014, the Ministry of Finance introduced new gender equality requirements in the Mid-Term Budget Programme (MTBP) 2015–2017. It also introduced eight budgetary programmes—on employment, vocational training and education, agriculture subsidy, agriculture information and technology, social protection, state police, education, and ranks in the armed forces—as well as on entrepreneurship and the environment, with respective policies improved from the gender perspective. Meanwhile, in April, Lezha Municipality published its Sustainable Development Strategy 2013–2030 with clear gender mainstreaming objectives. And, in October, a two-day Regional conference on gender statistics was held with the participation of 60 representatives from the countries of the region, from government, academia, civil society and statistics institutions, among others.

Despite government commitment for advancement, the area of governance and rule of law needs adequate capacities in place, both at the central and the local level, and stronger coordinated inter-institutional cooperation among national partners to ensure smooth and proper implementation of reform initiatives. UN support to this sector of overhauling reform will focus on improving governance, strengthening institutions and reducing vulnerability to corruption, taking into account the specific needs of women, children and people who may be subjected to marginalization and discrimination.

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

CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT 82436 - OUTCOME 1.2

MPTF Project ID	Project Description	Country	Fund	Theme	Organization	Period	Budget
00082436	Outcome 1.2: Public administration will be supported to enhance capacities, practices and systems for effective delivery of national development priorities and international obligations	Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNECE	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	17,939.98
00082436		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	ILO	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	20,000.00
00082436		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNESCO	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	32,232.70
00082436		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNFPA	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	132,050.00
00082436		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNICEF	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	105,000.00
00082436		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNWOMEN	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	381,131.64
00082436		Albania	Albania One UN Coherence Fund	ALB 2012 P1 Governance	UNDP	01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016	1,486,032.00
TOTAL							2,174,386.32

By signing, Participating UN Organization certify that the project 82436 - Outcome 1.2, has been operationally completed.

UNECE
Ms. Zamira Eshmambetova
Director, Prog. Management Unit

Signature: _____
Date: _____

ILO
Ms. Zhuljeta Harasani
ILO National Coordinator

Signature: _____
Date: 30/10/2017

UNESCO
Ms. Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores
Director

Signature: _____
Date: _____

UNFPA
Ms. Manuela Bello
Assistant Resident Representative

Signature: _____
Date: 27.10.2017

UNICEF
Mr. Ezio Gianni Murzi
Representative

Signature: _____
Date: 27/0ct/2017

UNWOMEN
Mr. Giuseppe Belsito
Representative

Signature: _____
Date: 27/10/17

UNDP
Ms. Limya Eltayeb
Country Director

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ILO
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ILO National Coordinator

Signature: _____
Date: _____

UNESCO
Ms. Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores
Director

Signature: 
Date: 25.10.17

UNFPA
Ms. Manuela Bello
Assistant Resident Representative

Signature: _____
Date: _____

UNICEF
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TOTAL							

By signing, Participating UN Organization certify that the project 82436 - Outcome 1.2, has been operationally completed.

UNECE
Ms. Catherine Haswell
Acting Director, Program Management Unit

Signature: 
Date: 14.11.2017

ILO
Ms. Zhuljeta Harasani
ILO National Coordinator

Signature: _____
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UNESCO
Ms. Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores
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Date: _____

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