

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

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|--|---|------------------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| <p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Outcome 3.1: Institutional capacities, frameworks and policies meeting international standards promote equitable and sustainable regional development focusing on land use and livelihoods for women and men, agriculture, tourism and cultural and natural heritage management. Programme Number: n/a MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 82440 | <p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> Country/Region ALBANIA</p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results <i>Governance and Rule of Law</i></p> | | | | |
| <p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme <p>UNESCO, UNDP</p> | <p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Culture, Institute for the monuments of Culture and its regional offices, Regional center for restoration of Monuments, Museums | | | | |
| <p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 212,523.10 MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) <table border="0"> <tr> <td>UNESCO</td> <td>78,614.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td>133,909.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) <p>Government Contribution</p> | UNESCO | 78,614.10 | UNDP | 133,909.00 | <p align="center">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> |
| UNESCO | 78,614.10 | | | | |
| UNDP | 133,909.00 | | | | |

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](#).

(if applicable)

Other Contributions (donors)

(if applicable)

TOTAL: 212,523.10

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.

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

Expected Financial Closure date⁸:

30 June 2018

Report Submitted By

- Name: Limya Eltayeb
- Title: Country Director
- Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP
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⁸ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the Certified Final Financial Statement and Report.

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UN support to the national development agenda during the implementation of the Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016, inclusive of the contribution of all UN agencies—specialized and non-specialized, resident and non-resident—was aligned with national priorities. The UN supported Government efforts to pursue national priorities by building capacities at all levels and strengthening national ownership. In doing so, it helped Albania work towards its ambitions to join the European Union, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and meet its international commitments.

Key 2012-2016 results of this active partnership under Outcome 3.1 Regional and Rural Development are laid out below:

- ✓ Development of the cross-cutting Inter-sectoral Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2014–2020 in line with the framework of Europe 2020 strategy, within the context of specific development needs of the agriculture and rural areas of Albania.
- ✓ Approximation to EU standards of regulatory framework on organic farming and quality schemes.
- ✓ Action Plan on reforming the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System
- ✓ National Advocacy Strategy to promote women's role in agriculture
- ✓ Access to markets of rural communities in northern Albania, with emphasis on increasing productivity and agricultural products value chains through small credits to farmers, training and infrastructure improvements.
- ✓ National study on Rural Women and Economic Diversification in Rural Areas in Albania.
- ✓ Draft subsidy scheme for women engaged in agro-processing in rural areas
- ✓ Women's socio-economic empowerment in Erseka, Vithkuq, Hore Vranisht, Novosela and Burrel
- ✓ Several studies prepared that identify key economic clusters as entry points for income diversification, rural development and rural women's empowerment in the regions of Berat, Korca and Vlora. Two Women's Cluster Models piloted in two communes in Elbasan region.
- ✓ Preparation of analysis 'Situation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture'. Establishment of a national web portal, serving as dissemination and aggregation platform for Albania's PGRFA community. The system stores, inter alia, information on the entire ex situ collection of plant genetic resources (4,105 accessions), as well as information on 305 crop varieties recently released in the country and > 400 references to publications addressing plant genetic resources in Albania.
- ✓ Institutional capacity development for the agricultural technology transfer centers and extension services for rural diversification projects.
- ✓ Enhanced institutional capacity in production/usage of agricultural and labour force statistics.
- ✓ Corporate statistical business process restructured and improved.
- ✓ Report 'Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in Albania', prepared by FAO and validated by MoARDWA identifies some of the major gender inequalities to be considered by policymakers for better informed, targeted and gender-sensitive actions in agriculture and rural development.
- ✓ Analysis on strengths and gaps of the institutional agriculture DRR system in Albania.
- ✓ Road map on Agriculture Post Disaster Needs Assessments' development and implementation.
- ✓ Development of farm and ecosystems based DRR and CCA interventions' methodologies and best practices
- ✓ Capacities of the specialist from the institutions concerned with the preservation of cultural monuments and objects developed

- ✓ Capacities of Institute for Monuments and Culture and the Regional center for restoration of monuments enhanced

I. Purpose

This outcome focusses on the Institutional capacities, frameworks and policies meeting international standards promote equitable and sustainable regional development focusing on land use and livelihoods for women and men, agriculture, tourism and cultural and natural heritage management.

The government's implementation of the Territorial and Administrative Reform (TAR) has impacted land and water management, including extension services related to agriculture and rural development. A national programme to increase investments in agriculture is currently being implemented in Albania, supported by FAO, aiming to promote farmers' vertical and horizontal cooperation, with focus on support for rural women, and improvement of the inclusiveness and efficiency of food systems in the country. Its implementation is supported by a national network of Integrated Services to Farmers, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance to Rural Development (IPARD), and the Bank of Albania Guarantee Fund.

Albania is prone to numerous natural hazards, including hydro-meteorological and geological ones, such as floods, landslides, droughts, forest fires and earthquakes. Many of these hazards are expected to increase in frequency and severity as a result of climate change. The existing institutional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) system for agriculture in Albania is currently transitioning from a reactive emergency response towards a more proactive approach that focuses on prevention and mitigation of the impacts of natural disasters on agriculture, as well as enhancing preparedness for response.

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 3.1.

UN Albania supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration (MoARDWA) in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ISARD 2014-2020, approximation of national marketing standards with EU Common Marketing Organization guidelines and regulatory documents, and adaptation of EU framework for quality policy, including geographic indications, seal of quality, and organic production. Furthermore, administrative capacities of MoARDWA's newly established Sector for Statistics were further strengthened, through FAO support, in collecting and analyzing data for sustained policy making in the agriculture sector. Stronger cooperation was established between INSTAT and this sector, and a joint action plan was developed for implementation in 2017. The corporate statistical business process has been redesigned and improved, and institutional capacities in the production and usage of agricultural and labour force statistics enhanced.

In support of rural women's economic development, UN Women conducted a national study, Rural Women and Economic Diversification in Rural Areas in Albania. The study assessed the socio-economic status of rural women and identified capacity building and awareness raising as critical for women's socio-economic empowerment in rural life. Additionally, two clusters⁹ of agritourism were operationalized in Elbasan,

⁹ An economic cluster is a geographical concentration of businesses where enough resources and competences amass to reach a critical threshold, giving the cluster a key position in a given economic branch of activity, with a decisive sustainable competitive advantage over other places, even top position in the world in that field.

consisting of 30 women from Gjinar involved in bee-keeping activities, as part of ‘Gratë Bletërritëse të Shpatit’, and 15 women from Belsh who provided various services in the area to enhance women’s self-employment and financial opportunities. UN Women supported the establishment of clusters, including drafting of business plans to ensure sustainability.

To promote equal access to land, forests and water resources in the districts of Shkodër, Berat, and Korçë, FAO supported three groups of rural women (a total of about 60 farmers) in gaining increased access to credit and extension services in specific value chains, respectively vegetables, olives, and small ruminants. An action plan was developed on reforming the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) to promote women and other vulnerable groups as beneficiaries of the activities of the extension services and Agricultural Technology Transfer Centres (ATTCs).

The institutional and legal framework of DRR in agriculture was further advanced through specific recommendations provided by FAO, including an analysis of the role and capacity of local authorities in the management of disasters in agriculture as well as concrete proposals on legal framework amendments. Likewise, MoARDWA capacity for Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and DRR interventions has been strengthened through the development of a road map to develop and implement Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) in the agriculture sector, as well as methodologies and best practices for farm- and ecosystem-based DRR and CCA interventions, in particular to reduce natural hazards such as floods, droughts and landslides. The development of a national agricultural insurance policy is currently ongoing.

Through the component of the project managed by UNESCO, the capacities of the specialist dealing with the management and restoration of cultural heritage were significantly enhanced. An total number of 65 specialist were trained through target training courses on restoration of ceramics, paper, textile metal and glass, in addition to the courses on restoration and management of cultural heritage took place.

The particular activities were focused to assist the Government of Albania and SEE region countries to develop knowledge and capacities of specialist working in public administration, concerned with the protection of monuments and mobile artefacts, in order to ensure the safeguarding of monuments

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 the **agriculture** sector, the institutional structure at the central and local level have weak capacities and resources for proper implementation of territorial reform, as well as the various elements of the DRR system. In cooperation with various relevant stakeholders, FAO is advising government on implementation of the

Integrated Service to Farmers, as well as on potential DRR interventions in the agriculture sector that can help build the resilience of agriculture-dependent communities.

In the **agriculture** sector, FAO will increase collaboration with local government for sustained implementation of the network of Integrated Service to Farmers and contract farming, and increase financial support to farmers through collaboration with financial institutions. FAO will continue identifying potential DRR interventions for the agriculture sector, as well as advising government on steps forward, helping to build the resilience of agriculture-dependent communities to current and future shocks. Awareness raising, along with enhanced knowledge and skills of relevant stakeholders on climate change and DRR, are the main tools that will be used by FAO to address the impacts of floods, landslides and droughts in agriculture. Thirteen climate change and DRR awareness-raising training sessions are tentatively planned in the regions of Berat, Fier, Gjirokaster, Vlore and Korca in 2017. Support for rural women, provided by UN Women and FAO, will promote pro-active policy instruments that address women's rights to natural and financial resources, employment creation, diversification of rural economies and provision of relevant extension services for women.

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

CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT 82440 - OUTCOME 3.1

| WPTF Project ID | Project Description | Country | Fund | Theme | Organization | Period | Budget |
|-----------------|--|---------|-------------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 00082440 | Outcome 3.1: Institutional capacities, frameworks and policies meeting international standards promote equitable and sustainable regional development focusing on land use and livelihoods for women and men, agriculture, tourism and cultural and natural heritage management. | Albania | Albania One UN Coherence Fund | ALB 2012 P3 Regional & Local Development | UNESCO | 01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016 | 78.272,28 |
| 00082440 | | Albania | Albania One UN Coherence Fund | ALB 2012 P3 Regional & Local Development | UNDP | 01.01.2012 - 31.12.2016 | 133.909,00 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | 212.181,28 |

By signing, Participating UN Organization certify that the project 82440 - Outcome 3.1, has been operationally completed.

UNESCO

Ms. Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores
Director

Signature: _____

Date: 25.10.17

UNDP

Ms. Limya Elkayeb
Country Director

Signature: _____

Date: 30.10.17