REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

United Nations
ALBANIA

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION 2012-2016

2016 Progress Report





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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



United Nations
ALBANIA

GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA AND UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION 2012-2016

2016 Progress Report

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ACRONYMS

ACEEEO	Association of European Election Officials
ADISA	Agency for the Delivery of Integrated Services Albania
AIDA	Albanian Investment Development Agency
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AKIS	Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System
ALL	Albanian Lek
ALMM	Active Labour Market Measures
AMMCO	Albanian Mines and Munitions Coordination Office
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
ASPA	Albanian School of Public Administration
ATTC	Agricultural Technology Transfer Centre
CBS	Community-Based Scorecard
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCR	Community Coordinated Response
CDIS	Culture for Development Indicators Suite
CEC	Central Elections Commission
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CEMR	Council of European Municipalities and Regions
COM	Council of Ministers
COMBI	Communication for Behavioural Impact
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPD	Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRO	Childs Rights Observatory
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DDFFA	Department of Development, Financing and Foreign Aid
DIP	Development and Integration Partner
dldp	Decentralisation and Local Development Programme
DoPA	Department of Public Administration
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DV	Domestic violence
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

GB-DV	Gender-Based and Domestic Violence
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GE	Gender Equality
GEE	Gender Equality Employee
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
GM	Gender Mainstreaming
GoA	Government of Albania
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
GSIM	Gender-Sensitive Indicators for the Media
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HR	Human Resource
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IED	Institute of Education Development
IGEWE	Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSTAT	National Institute of Statistics
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession
IPARD	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development
IPH	Institute of Public Health
IPMG	Integrated Policy Management Group
JWP	Joint Work Plan
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
LGU	Local Governance Unit
MCH	Mother and Child Health
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEDTTE	Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship
MIL	Media and Information Literacy
MIS	Management Information System
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
MoARDWA	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEDTTE	Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship

MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoSWY	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTBP	Medium-Term Budgeting Programme
NAVETQ	National Agency for Vocational Education, Training and Qualification
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NES	National Employment Service
NESS	National Employment and Skills Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSDI II	National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020
NSGE	National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality
OOSC	Out-of-School Children
OSH	Occupational Health and Safety
OSS	One-Stop-Shop
PAR	Public Administration Reform
PCU	Port Control Unit
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
PGFC	Parliamentary Group Friends of Children
PGRFA	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
PHC	Primary Health Care
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PLGP	Planning and Local Governance Project
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PoC	Programme of Cooperation
PoCSD	Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development
PWD	People with Disabilities
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
RMNCH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
SACRP	State Agency for Child Rights Protection
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEECP PA	South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly
SEI	State Education Inspectorate
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SIIG	Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPC	Strategic Planning Committee
STAR	Support to Territorial and Administrative Reform
TAP	Trans-Adriatic Pipeline
TAR	Territorial and Administrative Reform
TI	Transparency International
TLAS	Tirana Legal Aid Society
TNC	Third National Communication
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV–AIDS
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VAC	Violence Against Children
VET	Vocational Education Training
VSD	Vocational Skills Development
WB	World Bank
WEAP	Water Evaluation and Assessment Planning
WHO	World Health Organisation
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

FOREWORD

We trust you will find information contained in the report comprehensive and illustrative of the impact the Program has achieved and the challenges that still lie ahead

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Joint Executive Committee, we are pleased to present the 2016 Annual Progress Report for the Government of Albania- UN Program of Cooperation 2012 -2016.

But away from the headlines, progress has been made in many other areas. Sixty-one municipalities began their new lives with additional decentralized functions for service delivery. Community coordinated response mechanisms to enhance multi-sectoral protection of women against violence are now in place in half of the Municipalities. A new law on social care services was passed, setting the foundation for improved social protection in years to come, both nationally but especially by municipalities.

A new law on Vocational Education and Training has been approved. The Municipality of Tirana modernized its data management, setting the stage to open its data to the public. The Government launched its Roma and Egyptian Action Plan. Teachers nationwide have received trainings to enhance their student-centred inclusive approaches.

A citizen centric service delivery reform of the Government and the Law on Front-Office Service Delivery led to the establishment of the first integrated citizen service center – separating front and back office functions- in Kavaja, with several more planned for 2017. A multi-country effort to improve management and protection of the Drin river basin was launched. A new National Health Strategy was developed after broad consultations. Parliament ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate change, committing Albania to reduce 11.5% of CO_2 emissions. The first action plan for socio- economic reintegration of victims of trafficking was developed and launched…

…and much, much more.

This report – organized around the four pillars of the 2012-2016 Programme of Cooperation – provides the details of the progress that was made, by the United Nations system and the Government, in collaboration with our development partners, civil society organizations and communities across the country. It provides detailed financial information, demonstrating our belief that partnerships flourish when they are underpinned by trust and transparency.

Finally, in January 2016, Albania and the world started the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development –the transformative plan of action based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals. During

2016 we have reviewed all 17 Goals and where and how they will be addressed in the National Strategy for Development and Integration, how INSTAT and its partners can collect data, and how existing structures can be used to ensure SDG achievement. In the years to come, the Goals will provide a lens through which we will view our development progress, on the path to European Union membership and building a society of shared prosperity and respect for human rights. The next cycle of Government-UN partnership - the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 – will, in particular, use the SDGs as a vehicle to orient planning, track progress and identify gaps.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships hold the key to success. Our gratitude extends to our international development partners who have worked hand in hand with us to advance common goals, catalyze commitments and bring tangible differences to people's lives in Albania. We value greatly our partnership with Albania's non-governmental organizations, scholars, private sector and citizens, which have proven vital to our work.

We trust you will find information contained in the report comprehensive and illustrative of the impact the Program has achieved and the challenges that still lie ahead.



Majlinda Dhuka
Deputy Secretary General, Director, Department of Development and Foreign Aid, Prime Minister's Office

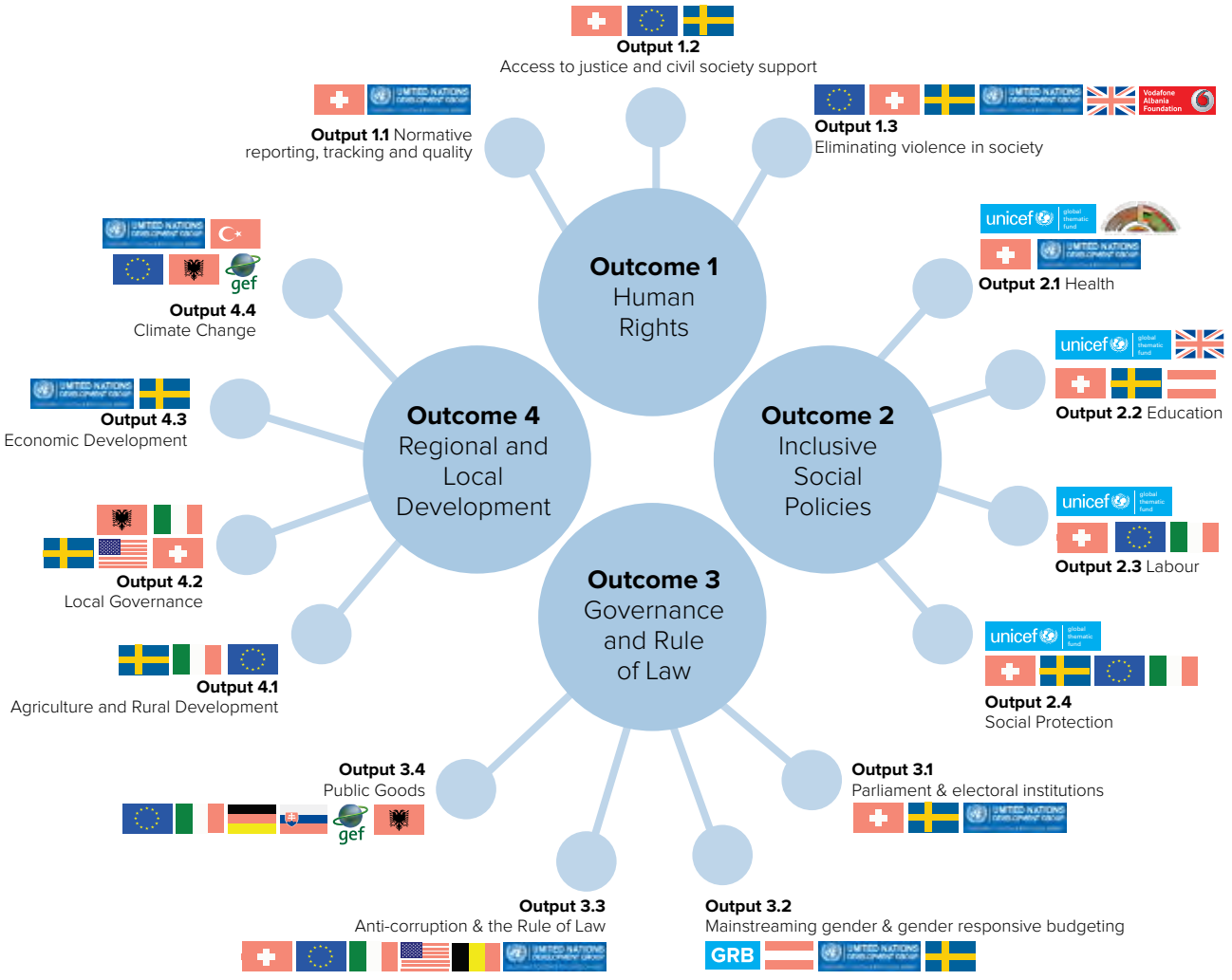


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CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS IN 2016

- European Union
- Government of Albania
- Government of Austria
- Government of Belgium
- Government of Germany
- Government of Italy
- Government of Slovenia
- Government of Switzerland
- Government of Sweden
- Government of Turkey
- Government of United Kingdom
- Government of United States of America
- Delivering Results Together Fund
- Global Environment Facility
- UNICEF Global Thematic Fund
- Arab Gulf Programme For United Nations Development Organizations
- Vodafone
- GRB Regional

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION 2016





KEY TRENDS AND AGENDA 2030

KEY TRENDS

On 9 November 2016, Albania received the recommendation of the European Commission for conditional opening of accession talks with the European Union (EU). This recommendation was based on the 2016 Annual Report for Albania assessing progress against five key priorities: public administration reform, judicial reform, reduction of corruption, improved efforts against organised crime, and improved protection of human rights. The opening of negotiations was subject to making credible and tangible progress in the implementation of judicial reform, in particular the re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors ('vetting'),[1] with two additional criteria presented for implementation in 2017: i) electoral reform for the upcoming parliamentary elections in June to meet European standards, and ii) a law for decriminalisation of Parliament and local and central institutions.

The positive recommendation towards accession was aided in particular by the unanimous passage in July 2016 by parliament of constitutional amendments underpinning judicial reform. Though the amendments required months of polarized negotiation, with strong support from the EU, the US and other partners, the constitutional changes were ultimately agreed. Together with a package of follow-on legislation, new structures for appointment and oversight of judges and prosecutors are being established along with a new National Bureau of Investigation and a one-time vetting process for judicial officials. Challenges to some of the laws required further constitutional review and appeals for advice from the Council of

1. European Commission, Press release *2016 Enlargement Package: credible enlargement process key to driving transformation and anchoring stability in Southeast Europe*, Brussels, 9 November 2016

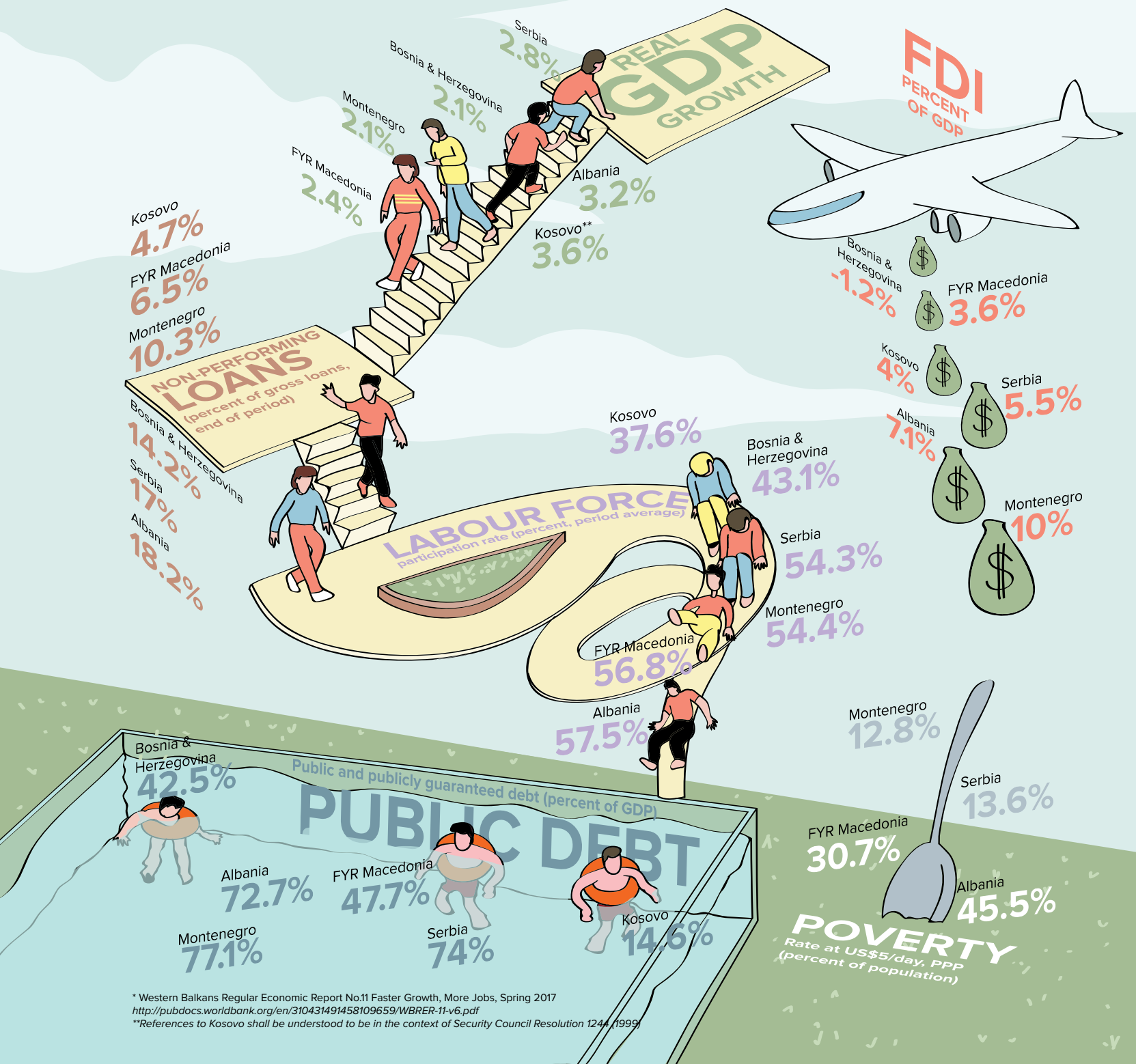
On 24 October 2016, **GoA and UN Albania signed a new five-year Programme of Cooperation** for Sustainable Development that lays out how the UN will help Albania achieve Agenda2030

Europe's Venice Commission, and occupied the second half of 2016. Finally, the 'Transitional Reassessment of the Judges and Prosecutors of the Republic of Albania' ('Vetting' Law) came into effect on 18 January 2017, allowing the Albanian authorities to start the evaluation of judges and prosecutors, accompanied by international observers.

Public administration reform (PAR) saw moderate progress in 2016. The National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 (NSDI II) was approved by the Council of Ministers in May, 2016. Supported by the UN, the NSDI 2015-2020 includes the linkage of SDGs to main NSDI policy areas (see Agenda2030 below). Policy coordination improved with establishment of Integrated Policy Management Groups (IPMG) in four pilot sectors - Integrated Water Management, Good Governance and Public Administration, Employment and Social Sector, Competitiveness and Innovation - with the aim of further expansion in 2017. The IPMGs will have a major role in the oversight of SDG achievement (see below). The UN is currently the Lead Development Partner for the IPMG Employment and Social Sector as well as chairs four IPMG Thematic Groups (out of 19 or 22%). Furthermore, the UN is aligning its own Delivering as One management structure to these IPMGs to enhance cross-sectorial policy development and SDGs mainstreaming.

The Department of Public Administration (DoPA) ensured steady implementation of the Law 'On the Civil Servant', increasing transparency in the recruitment procedures of civil servants. Under the PAR reform, facilitation of procedures for service delivery is one of the tools used by the Government of Albania (GoA) to promote transparency and fight corruption. In this regard, service

Albania in the Region - Key Development Trends for 2016*



* Western Balkans Regular Economic Report No.11 Faster Growth, More Jobs, Spring 2017
http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/310431491458109659/WBRER-11-v6.pdf
***References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)*

delivery to citizens and businesses was further advanced through the adoption by the government of a citizen-centred service delivery reform policy document and entering into force of a new law on the Delivery of Front Office Services. Work is ongoing to construct a number of public buildings that will include One-Stop-Shops (OSSs) for the delivery of public services (currently piloted in five municipalities), to be combined with the provision of online services and the separation of front- and back-offices.

This year, local and regional development witnessed implementation of new territorial and administrative reform as the new Law on the 'Organisation and Functioning of Local Governance' entered into force in January. The 61 municipalities assumed the responsibilities and challenges of managing local public matters, including delivery of many services previously managed centrally. Accordingly, in 2016, Local Governance Units (LGUs) received the largest budget ever allocated to local governments in Albania (3.2% of Gross Domestic Product, GDP). A new law on local finances and local taxes is being drafted for adoption by Parliament and implementation in 2017. The government new impetus to regional development policy advanced through the establishment of four Regional Development Areas in the country along with the National Agencies for Regional Development - present in Tirana, Shkoder, Vlore and Korce - serving as a joint platform for projects that go beyond boundaries of single municipalities. Moreover, the General National Plan for Territory is approved in December 2016 by DCoM No.881.

The Opinion Poll "Trust in Governance 2016"[2], conducted across 61 municipalities of Albania for the 4th consecutive year (2013-2016), shows that over the past 4 years, there has been an overall upward trend among the Albanian public regarding the extent to which they trust public institutions. Only five out of thirteen (5/13) domestic institutions enjoy more than 50% of public trust - Police (61%), Education system (59%), Religious Institutions (58%), Media (58%) and Armed Forces (55%).

Albania has made progress in the fight against corruption. A law on whistle-blower protection was adopted in June. By end 2016, implementation of the decriminalisation law led to the exclusion of at least three senior public officials, one mayor and two members of Parliament, from public posts. Prosecutors and police gained increased access to national electronic public registries[3], with a view to exchanging sensitive information and increasing the efficiency of investigations. New training curricula for public officials on good governance and anti-corruption were introduced at ASPA. These steps are reflected in an improvement of three points on Transparency International's corruption perception index (from 36 in 2015, to 39 in 2016) and an increase in country ranking (83rd in 2016 compared to 88th in 2015 from a list of 168 countries).[4] Despite such progress, corruption remains a major concern, and its detrimental effects are felt by ordinary citizens.

Albania has achieved steady progress in the fight against organized crime, including unlawful production of cannabis. Late in 2016, the Prime Minister ordered the development

2. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/opinion-poll--trust-in-governance-2016--.html

3. Examples include: the register of civil status, the register of judicial status (criminal records), the court integrated case management information system, etc.

4. 2016 Transparency International Report http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016

of a national, multi-ministerial National Anti-Cannabis Action Plan[5], under the direction of the Deputy Prime Minister, to be focused on law enforcement, prevention of cultivation, alternative development and anti-trafficking measures

Twenty-seven years after the fall of communism, Parliament established an Authority for Information on Former Communist Police Secret Files. This is a significant step that opens the way to a deeper societal reflection on the transition from communism in Albania and on steps that might fall broadly under the rubric of transitional justice. The importance of setting up the authority, amongst other aspects, were reflected in the conclusions of the United Nations Working Group on the Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances mission that took place in December 2016.[6]

Albania has identified stability and improving relations in the Western Balkans as a diplomatic objective. The country cooperates over a range of issues, including police operations, arrests and joint investigations, the fight against cultivation and trade in narcotic substances, investigation of criminal assets, and others. Work has advanced in 2016 with the establishment of the Western Balkans Fund[7] and regional Youth Cooperation Office[8], both of which will have their headquarters in Tirana.

Albania has marked important legal and policy advances in human rights. The legal framework for the protection of human rights is broadly in line with European standards and the country has ratified most international human rights conventions. In July, supported by UN Albania, a delegation comprising representatives from the Albanian Government and civil society reported for the first time to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on the status of women in Albania, as well as achievements made and challenges to gender equality. CEDAW's concluding observations to Albania regarding women's rights and equality, access to justice and territorial reform, sexual and reproductive health, and women's economic empowerment and employment fed into the new National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016–2020. Nonetheless, implementation of the recommendations continues to remain weak and enforcement of human rights institutional protection mechanisms remains insufficient. The Ministry of Foreign affairs has established a mechanism to track the implementation of recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review, CEDAW and the Committee on the Rights of the Child with support from the UN.

The year 2016 saw the strengthening of the office of the Ombudsman in his efforts to hold decision makers to account on a number of issues related to Roma and Egyptian communities, migration, and environmen-

5. Approved by DCoM, No.248 in March 2017.

6. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/ENACARegion/Pages/ALIndex.aspx A final report on the visit will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in September 2017.

7. WBF is an international organization established by the governments of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia. The governing bodies of the Fund are the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Council of Senior Officials, the Executive Director and the Secretariat. The seat of the Fund Secretariat is in Tirana. WBF will finance small and medium projects with the objective of increasing regional and cross-border cooperation and strengthening regional cohesion in these key areas: Cultural cooperation; Education; Research and Scientific exchanges; Sustainable Development; Cross-border and Youth cooperation.

8. RYCO aims to further encourage youth cooperation, mutual understanding and exchange of experiences, with a view to strengthening stability, sustainable development and progress in the Western Balkan region. This will be made possible through the intensification of relations among young people and institutions dealing with youth issues, the implementation of joint youth programs in areas of democratic governance, education and innovation, the promotion of reconciliation spirit and display of the best cultural values between our peoples.

tal protection among others. In September, an international conference 'Challenges for Ombudsman institutions with respect to mixed migratory flows' was hosted in Tirana with participation of the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights as the keynote speaker and concluding with adoption of the Tirana Declaration on Migration.[9] In December, the Ombudsman dedicated its annual conference to the topic of Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), resulting in preparation of a joint Ombudsman–UN Albania Declaration,[10] recommending steps forward for implementation of Agenda2030 in Albania.

Efforts to mainstream gender equality considerations into planning and budgetary processes made important sustainable progress. Government is paying more attention to gender equality, increasing the number of women in leadership positions. This year, the first female general in the Albanian armed forces was appointed, 104 years after their creation. The decision of the Council of Ministers to mainstream gender into the Medium-Term Budgetary Programme (MTBP) represents also a significant institutional change, credited to UN advocacy and support.

Regarding migration, while Albania has not been part of the Balkan route for migrants and refugees, measures have been taken to ensure additional capacities and control and management of any possible influx. A migration crisis group headed by the deputy prime minister is already established. The Ministry of Internal Affairs cooperates closely with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to improve capacities at border points and inside the country. The country has the necessary institutions and procedures in place to handle asylum claims but needs to strengthen its reception capacity for asylum seekers.

Government's macroeconomic policies during the year were geared toward fiscal consolidation and strengthened public expenditure management, reduction of infrastructure deficits, regulatory and institutional reform and improvement of social protection systems. The fiscal consolidation programme that began in 2014 and is included in the medium-term fiscal framework contains a reduction in the public debt-to-GDP ratio starting in 2015. Results were visible in 2016 with public debt reaching 71.8 percent of GDP compared to 72.6 in 2015.[11] The ongoing structural reforms have improved the business environment for firms and boosted the country's economic potential. Albania's GDP grew by 3.4 percent in 2016 supported mainly by improved activity in the sectors of construction and industry. The growth created more jobs, reflecting the priority focus of government on expansion of employment in the country, and recorded a decrease in total unemployment, to 14.5 percent in 2016 compared to 17.7 percent in December 2015.[12] Net foreign direct investment registered average growth of about 11.3 percent,[13] attributed to the government's measures to ease doing business in the country, the commencement of judicial

9. 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

11. https://www.bankofalbania.org/web/PRESS_RELEASE_7635_2.php?kc=0,41,8,0,0

12. www.instat.gov.al

13. https://www.ata.gov.al/en/boa-net-foreign-direct-investment-inflow-increases-by-11-3-in-q3/

reform as well as ongoing works in the energy sector[14], the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) project and other projects in hydroelectric power generation.

Albania's reform efforts moved the country up 32 positions in the World Bank's *Doing Business Report*, ranking it 58th compared to 90th in the previous year.[15] Nonetheless, continuous efforts are required to maintain fiscal consolidation aimed at reducing explicit and implicit contingent liabilities (such as in the energy sector, the pension system, property restitution, and compensation for formerly expropriated land). Regarding the business environment, despite recent progress, improvements are necessary to address the institutional and regulatory barriers faced by entrepreneurs (small and medium-sized enterprises, SMEs, account for more than 80% of employment in Albania). The labour market situation necessitates a broader inclusion of social and gender groups, as well as the development of programmes in support of vocational education training (VET).

The agriculture sector, known for its traditional contribution to economic growth (one-fifth of GDP) and employment opportunities (half of the country's employment), continues to face obstacles and challenges—low competitiveness, lack of well-defined rules and regulations, and weak capacities at the local level—reducing the ability to achieve higher standards and quality in this sector. Given the importance of this sector towards sustainable long-term development, the government established the National Agricultural Guarantee Fund, aiming to unlock financing to the agribusinesses and enable them to complete their investment projects, contributing even more to the economic growth and employment in the country.

AGENDA 2030

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN summit—officially came into force. Having endorsed the 2030Agenda, the Government of Albania (GoA) is aiming to embark upon a comprehensive implementation in line with the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 (NSDI II) and the EU integration agenda. Its commitment is evidenced by the integrated sector approach to development through the Integrated Policy Management Groups mechanism; ongoing work on introducing strategic monitoring and a formal regulatory impact assessment framework; as well as structural reform of public finance management and the introduction of digitalised systems for financial management, external assistance coordination and integrated planning[16]. The UN has made, and will continue to make, an effort to ensure that Agenda2030 is part of the agenda of each IPMG.

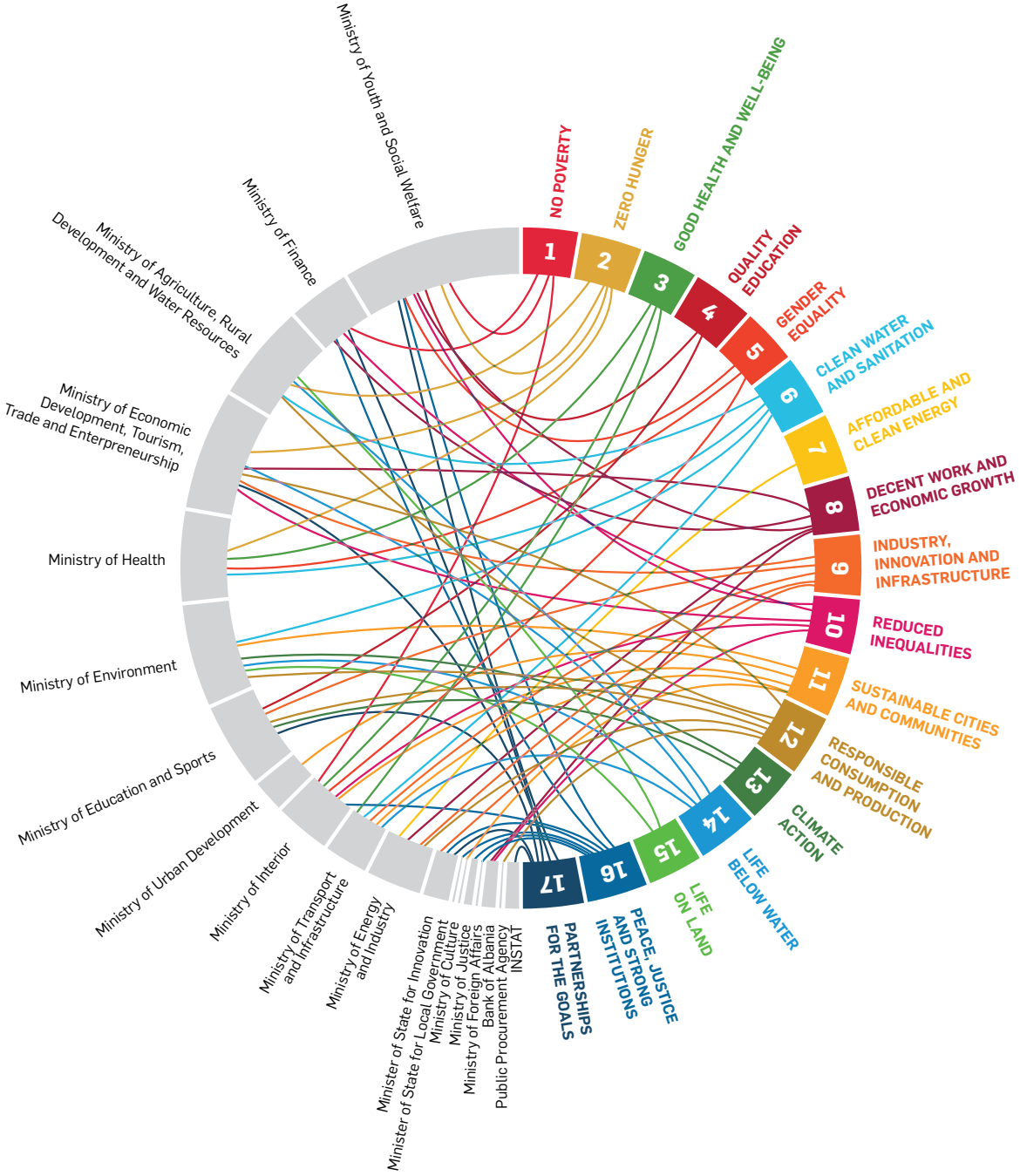
The government has initiated a number of efforts to implement the global development goals. In 2015, the Strategic Planning Unit and the Department of Development, Financing and Foreign Aid (DDFFA) within the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) implemented, with the support of UNDP, a pilot project to develop and test SDG16 targets

14. Efforts include the finalization of the "Gas Master Plan for Albania", which is expected to be implemented until 2040. The study of this master plan takes into account the needs for investments in the development of the gas distribution network, necessary for the expected gasification of the country in the period 2020-2040.

15. World Bank, *Doing Business 2017 Report*

16. Draft National Action Plan for the coordination and monitoring of SDG achievement in Albania – April 2016

SDGs and Institutional Responsibilities



and indicators prior to the adoption of Agenda2030. Last year, as a result, a set of 21 governance indicators, along with targets, baseline data and sources of data, were integrated into the NSDI II pillars.

In July 2016, a stock-taking exercise was carried out, using a UN Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) tool, to assess the level of integration of SDG goals and targets into NSDI II and sectoral programmes. The analysis involved assessments at the goal, target and indicator levels of the NSDI II and related strategic frameworks, comprising a set of more than 50 national strategies, national plans and policy documents. The assessment found that, despite a certain amount of overlap, a substantial number of SDG targets and indicators were not covered by the current Albanian policy framework. Coordination of efforts and mobilisation of institutional resources (human and financial) at both the national and the local level are therefore necessary. A close working relationship with INSTAT is part of this effort. The outcome of the RIA was the subject of discussion of the UN–GoA Joint Executive Committee meeting held in November with participation of DDFFA, line ministries and UN agencies.

On 24 October 2016, GoA and UN Albania signed a new five-year Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development that lays out how the UN will help Albania achieve Agenda2030. All UN agencies active in Albania regard the SDGs as the key framework for their respective activities.

Under the UN's strategy Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support, the UN will assist the government to develop its implementation strategy for Agenda2030. In the first half of 2017, the Prime Minister's office will prepare a baseline report, collecting available data against the SDG indicators and an action plan that outlines how Albania intends to pursue SDG achievement. A key step will be to collect and use data and statistics. This will allow proper design of actions, inclusion of key stakeholders and the setting of responsibilities, timeframe and approximate financial costs, based on evidence- and context-sensitivity. Also, talks have been held with INSTAT to include SDG indicators as much as possible in their new five-year statistical work plan.

The government's Action Plan for SDGs will include the establishment of an inter-ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development. This inclusive Committee will consist of the ministers that head the Integrated Policy Management Groups (IPMGs) and invite representatives from civil society, academia, the business community, development partners and parliamentary commissions. An advocacy plan and means to engage civil society, the private sector and municipal level actors will also be included. Local governments are an essential player in this process and special attention has been and will be paid to involving them.

Steps have been taken to engage partners from the international community in the longer-term strategy for implementation of the SDGs. This has mainly been done around the formulation of the four outcomes of the new UN Sustainable Development Framework, and with respect to efforts -together with the GoA- on SDG mainstreaming in the country.

Our extensive network of civil society organisations is a natural ally in our endeavours in spreading the message of Agenda2030. UN has also worked with the Albanian Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) network and the Albanian Association of Banks in this regard and will continue to do so.

CHAPTER 1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The present Annual Progress Report for Albania covers the period January–December 2016. Covering the last year of the five-year cycle, the report, prepared jointly by the Government of Albania (GoA) and the United Nations, also aims to summarize results and lessons learned from implementation of the Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016

UN support to the national development agenda during the Programme, inclusive of the contribution of all UN agencies—specialised and non-specialised, resident and non-resident—was aligned with national priorities in four strategic areas: i) Human Rights; ii) Inclusive Social Policies; iii) Governance and Rule of Law; and iv) Regional and Local Development. 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 results of this active partnership are laid out below.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In July 2016, GoA participated in the 64th Session of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in Geneva. The government received UN Women and UNFPA support for preparation of the report and consultations held in this regard, as well as the organisation of a three-day training and mock session, led by a CEDAW Committee expert. The year's submission to CEDAW included shadow reports from the Om-

80%

of Albania's recommendations reflected in CEDAW Concluding Observations

50%

of municipalities with CCR mechanisms to prevent and respond to GB–DV cases

27,000

calls received in ALO 116 Child Helpline to report and address cases of violence against children

budsman and civil society, as well as the UN Country Team confidential report. The major points flagged in these reports (80% of all points) were reflected in the Committee's conversation with the State Party and more importantly became part of the CEDAW Concluding Observations on Albania. Additionally, UN Women, in collaboration with 100 stakeholder representatives, supported the Ombudsman Office to establish a follow-up Action Plan to implement the CEDAW Committee recommendations and prepared a mapping of Universal Periodic Review recommendations along with a draft action plan for implementation. Another positive development is the ongoing work for establishment of a tracking mechanism for implementation of the norms and recommendation of the Universal Periodic Review, CEDAW and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, identified as an essential requisite for the country.

The establishment of six new multi-disciplinary Community Coordinated Response (CCR) mechanisms[17] in the country and the strengthening of existing CCRs[18] to prevent and respond to Gender-Based and Domestic Violence (GB–DV) cases is another key achievement, supported by UNDP. Now 50 percent of municipalities are covered, up from 44 percent. More than 155 police officers, CCR members and local GBV coordinators participated in learning how to provide coordinated assistance to victims and their children, including through the use of a new national online tracking system. Due to an increased level of awareness, victims of DV and their families reported 4,163 cases to the state police in 2016, compared to 3,866 cases in 2015 and 94 cases in 2005. Furthermore, more than 500 GB–DV cases were recorded in the national online tracking mechanism REVALB, under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, and handled by CCR members in 2016. In a similar vein, pursuant to the Istanbul Convention requirements, UNDP and UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth in the preparation and adoption of a regulatory framework and launching of a national telephone helpline for domestic violence victims. Likewise, UNICEF supported the capacity of the national ALO 116 Child Helpline to report and address cases of violence against children, with more than 27,000 calls received in 2016, representing a growing culture to acknowledge and report violence. UNICEF also supported general psycho-social counselling to 610 cases, while 127 cases were referred for specialist assistance. The state-run national shelter for GB-DV victims increased its attention to rehabilitation and reintegration programmes with both state and non-state service providers, resulting in nearly 55 percent of those in shelter being successfully integrated through employment, social housing and legal empowerment in 2016, compared to 38 percent in 2014. As part of UN Women's gender-responsive planning and budgeting support at the local level, local authorities in four municipalities—Tirana, Vlora, Fier and Berat—committed themselves to establishing several services[19] in support of DV survivors in 2017.

17. In the municipalities of Roskovec, Patos, Perrenjas, Gjirokaster, Bulqiza and Diber

18. In the municipalities of Kruja, Saranda, Kavaja, Erseka, Burrel, Permet, Kruja, Saranda, Kavaja, Erseka, Burrel and Permet

19. Services include budget allocation for setting up emergency centres for sheltering DV survivors up to 24 hours, and for existing centres, such as Vatra in Vlora and the NGO Centre in Berat, to host women at risk of DV and continue provision of counselling services through dedicated DV coordinators and social workers in the municipalities

Major legislative achievements addressing juveniles in 2016 include the drafting of a Criminal Justice for Children Code, a draft Law on Child Rights and Protection and the new legislation on social housing, rendering juveniles in conflict with the law eligible to receive public housing and hence removing them from situations of extreme risk. Additionally, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice in developing the Justice for Children Strategy 2017–2020, currently in the process of consultations, addressing the status of children in relation to the criminal justice system and other areas of law. Diversion from judicial procedures and alternatives to detention were used in more than 65 percent of juvenile cases, while time spent in detention fell from 140 days in 2014 to 126 in 2015 and 92 in 2016.

A reduction was also noted in the number of children in detention, down to 191 boys in 2016 compared to 208 in 2015. With support from UNICEF, a ground-breaking way to track cases of children in conflict or contact with criminal law has been enabled through the development of a prototype online tracking system. Notable progress was made towards protection of children from online risks through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by four ministries,[20] development of a national action plan for online child safety and establishment of Albania's first online platform ISIGURT[21] to report online abuse and offences, with more than 100 cases reported in 2016. Online safety activities reached more than 10,000 schoolchildren by the end of 2016, bringing, for the first time to the public in Albania the topic of internet safety. Likewise, through UNICEF support, the role of the parliamentary group Friends of Children was strengthened and sustained by its Strategic Document and Action Plan 2016–2018 and an internal regulation framework, adoption by Parliament in the first half 2016. Moreover, for the first time since its establishment, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination engaged in monitoring judicial decisions in relation to disadvantaged children, while the People's Advocate expanded his role in monitoring child rights and treatment in detention and in residential facilities.

Evidence-based policymaking in the country has been reinforced through UN support towards data collection and monitoring frameworks. For example, UNICEF supported the mainstreaming of child-relevant indicators as a cross-cutting priority in all relevant chapters of Albania's Official Statistics Programme 2017–2021. In close collaboration with the Albanian National Institute of Statistics, UN Women and UNICEF supported the production of several important publications in 2016 such as the *Country Analytical Report on Disaggregation of Data on Children by Ethnicity* and *Women and Men in Albania 2016*. UNICEF support to child-related data has helped increase the extent of data collected: in 2016, 60 percent of a nationally agreed child-relevant indicators have data, compared to 40 percent previously. These improvements in the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data have enabled the development and revision of laws and policies such as amendments to the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations to ensure compatibility with Istanbul Convention provisions, and drafting of the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2016–2020, to name but two.

48

less days spent in detention – 140/2014 to 92/2016

10,000

schoolchildren aware on online/internet safety

20. Social Welfare and Youth; Education and Sports; State Minister for Innovation and Public Administration; Internal Affairs

21. www.isigurt.al

309

Roma and Egyptian received free legal aid services

388

persons aware on human trafficking

10+

legislative and policy advances in social sectors

Access to justice for the Roma and Egyptian communities, advocated and supported by UNDP, resulted in free legal aid services provided to 309[22] Roma and Egyptian individuals in six municipalities. Similarly, UNFPA supported civil society[23] awareness-raising efforts on access to services, including access to justice for the most vulnerable youth and key population through combining free legal counselling with health services and information for vulnerable groups (injectable drug users; commercial sex workers; lesbian, gay bi-sexual, transgender and intersex, LGBTI; people living with HIV–AIDS; people living with Hepatitis B or C). For victims of trafficking, capacities of the Albanian National Referral Mechanism were strengthened through IOM's development of a comprehensive multidisciplinary training module and organisation of twelve trainings across country that reached 388 persons. UN Albania also collaborated with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to implement a Free and Equal Campaign[24] in partnership with LGBTI civil society activists. Meanwhile, the UN Albania Communications Team continued to implement a national public awareness campaign around the advancement of gender equality and the fight against domestic violence by reaching out to one million people through traditional and social media, as well as public events organised across the country.

22. 183 females and 126 males; 226 under 18 years of age; 207 of these cases were assisted through administrative complaint processes and 102 cases obtained legal assistance in court procedures.

23. Civil Society Organisations include Aksion+ and Stop AIDS

24. The campaign raises awareness on homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination, and mobilizes people in Albania to stop violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

INCLUSIVE SOCIAL POLICIES

Joint work in this area sought to advance the protection of rights of disadvantaged individuals and groups through a combination of legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions. The areas of health, social protection, social care and social inclusion saw many legislative and policy advances, supported by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and UNAIDS, including the National Health Strategy 2016–2020, Strategy for Social Protection 2015 – 2020, Social Inclusion Policy Paper 2016–2020, Social Housing Strategy 2016–2025, National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2016–2020, National Strategic Document on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2017–2021, the law on Social Enterprises, on Social Care Services, and on Local Self-Governance, among many others. The social areas also saw stronger data production and usage through innovative approaches such as, among others, the establishment of a national coordination mechanism for maintenance and update of International Classification of Diseases,[25] operationalisation of coordination mechanisms to address HIV in key populations in several regions of the country, introduction and piloting of several indicators related to mothers and children, and population aging and population health status. UNICEF advocacy efforts addressed child nutrition surveillance and the use of selected child nutrition indicators on a regular basis by all health institutions, as stated in Minister of Health Order No.

25. Established by Order of the Minister of Health No. 326, dated 29.07.2016. It includes 6 experts from the Ministry of Health, Institute of Public Health, INSTAT and the Mother Tereza University Hospital Centre, Tirana. The coordinating mechanism is a principle requirement for establishing any ICD. The objective is to move soundly towards the adoption of ICD10.

242, dated 14.06.16. Six new child nutrition indicators were introduced for nationwide monitoring in all primary and secondary health care facilities. Approximately 1,600 health care professionals and specialists of health statistics departments, accounting for more than 85 percent of eligible personnel at the national level, learned how to monitor and use them. More than 1,000 women benefited from a new cervical cancer screening service. Using the universal progressive home-visiting model, 565 home visits were conducted by trained health personnel in target areas using standard checklists based on national protocols and UNICEF's regional home-visiting package, reaching about 455 Roma and other vulnerable children under five years of age.

Supported by UNICEF, seven municipalities[26] were each equipped with a social care plan that will ensure the establishment of social care services for vulnerable families and children, establish new social welfare structures and train teams of social workers.[27] Meanwhile, UNDP assisted three municipalities in developing for the first time social inclusion action plans, outlining key local actions. In this regard, UNDP undertook data collection and analysis of the housing needs of vulnerable groups in the 61 municipalities, establishing a reliable tracking system at the national and local level and strengthening the capacities of 140 housing specialist from all 61 municipalities. UNDP also had actions focused on vocational education for disabled groups, for example for hearing-impaired students in Tirana and Lushnja. Similarly, 220 in-service judges and prosecutors from the School of Magistrates, 216 personnel[28] from the State Social Services and 53 public institution staff providing care services to people with disabilities gained knowledge from UNDP-delivered training on the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the rulings and standards of the European Court on Human Rights.

The UN has also supported making education more inclusive for vulnerable children. Government introduced a universal pre-primary school year along with a new programme for the professional development of teachers, based on early learning and development standards that were validated nationally by more than 400 teachers and head teachers. In line with the inclusive education roadmap prepared with UNICEF support, a series of newly designed policies[29] were developed, including an Inclusive Teacher Profile that is expected to re-shape requirements to be an effective teacher in Albania and improve the content of the pre-service and in-service teacher training programmes. Inclusive education modules were incorporated into the Ministry of Education and Sports teacher training programme, reaching 11,000 teachers in 2016 (all teachers from grades 2 and 7). Through the *Every Roma Child in Pre-school* initiative, a total of 1,264 children have been enrolled in pre-school over the last three academic years, contributing to a more than 70 percent increase in the number of Roma chil-

85%
of health care professionals capacitated in monitoring child nutrition indicators

1,000+
women benefited from a new cervical cancer screening service

7
Municipalities equipped with Social Care Plans

26. Tirana, Shkodra, Durres, Kukes, Korca, Elbasan and Berat

27. Training focused on local needs assessment, budgeting and outsourcing of services to non-governmental providers, in order to plan the transformation of existing residential institutions into modern community-based facilities guided by the new national Standards for Community-Based Care Services.

28. 72 disability focal points newly appointed at ministerial and municipality level, 22 state social service staff at regional level, 122 professionals

29. https://www.unicef.org/albania/sq/resources_28006.html

10
schools in five regions of Albania promoted inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding

170
teacher trainers in all Regional Education Directorates of Albania capacitated on Sexual Education

11,000
teachers capacitated in inclusive education

dren attending pre-school from 2011–2016. Albania Education Policy Review, supported by UNESCO, assessed the system's strengths and weaknesses and proposed recommendations for improved forward policy making in this field. Promotion of inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding was piloted in ten schools in five regions of the country, also with UNESCO support, along with a dedicated teacher training programme. Meanwhile, efforts in promoting and disseminating the Curricula on Sexual Education along with the training of 170 teacher trainers in all thirteen Regional Education Directorates in the country advanced through UNFPA support in collaboration with the Institute of Development of Education.

ILO supported the government's Decent Work Agenda through development of an EU Sectoral Approach Document and a Sectoral Reform Contract for Employment and Skills 2016–2018. This is a prerequisite for 2016 EU IPA funding cycle, with an estimated budget of EUR 30 million for the period 2016–2018 in support of the implementation of the National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014–2020 (NESS). Government was also supported in establishing a monitoring system, as well as in completing a first full cycle of annual reporting for NESS, as a precondition for the signature of the Sector Reform Contract. Additionally, ILO's expertise enabled the establishment of the government's Integrated Policy Management Group[30] on the Employment and Social Sector, aiming to improve policy coordination, oversight and monitoring of implementation of the sectoral strategies. Other noteworthy developments supported by ILO and UNDP include adoption of the Occupational Health and Safety Policy Document and Action Plan 2016–2020, drafting of a new law on Vocational Education and Training (VET) and revision of the National List of Occupations, along with elaboration of all occupational descriptions.

UN Women undertook a technical review of the Albanian Labour Code, capturing all changes related to legal amendments and provisions impacting women in the workplace. Additionally, UNDP supported the development and approval of five active labour market measures, paving the way for implementation of one new employment promotion programme targeting orphans and two programmes targeting women single heads of household. Moreover, a process mapping of the licensing and inspection procedures for private vocational training providers in Albania was carried out and a database and online portal of public and private vocational training providers and their offers was developed, leading to preliminary recommendations with regards to quality assurance of VET provisioning.

30. Due to the need for an integrated, comprehensive and streamlined system to manage the overall policy cycle in key sectors, government has adopted the establishment of Integrated Policy Management Groups (IPMGs), a new nexus or system to guide policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and to strengthen sector and donor coordination. The IPMGs will provide a formal structure that brings together senior representatives of the relevant ministries, agencies and development partners in priority sectors, particularly those requiring cross-ministerial cooperation, allowing them to oversee the entire policy cycle and decide upon adjustments. The IPMG system aims to provide the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and other high-level government committees (e.g. the Inter-Ministerial Committee on European Integration Coordination) with the necessary recommendations for key policy decisions affecting those sectors deemed a priority and that require cross-ministerial cooperation. IPMGs are officially established in four priority sectors: Integrated Water Management; Good Governance and Public Administration Reform; Employment and Social Policy, Competitiveness and Social Innovation.

GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

Highlights related to UN assistance this year include implementation together with government of the anti-corruption and smuggling programmes and improved management of trafficking and migration-related issues. Under the area of countering organised crime, UNODC, through its Container Control Programme, assisted government in strengthening the inter-agency Port Control Unit (PCU) at the Durres Port, considered as a gold standard unit. In 2016, this PCU succeeded in seizing around two tons of marijuana, 1.2 kg of cocaine, 35.4 kg of heroin and various counterfeit goods. The anti-corruption area saw completion of the first cycle of the review of implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) for Albania, including Chapter III, on criminalization and law enforcement, and Chapter IV, on international cooperation, and the development of the latest Country Review Report of Albania[31].

Regarding migration and asylum, a total of 915 foreigners were intercepted by the country's border and migration authorities and assisted by UNHCR and partners with the registration process and with food and other items. Of this number, 240, mainly Syrian and Afghan nationals, sought asylum in the country. Twenty-seven monitoring missions were conducted to the country's borders and UNHCR's presence increased through the establishment of a field office in Gjirokaster and a new partnership with Caritas Albania. Through its actions, designed at addressing and reducing statelessness, UNHCR achieved the registration of 120 cases at the national level and supported government with the relocation of 1,942 Ashraf Iranian ex-residents in 2016, bringing to 2,745 the number of Iranian individuals currently residing in Albania. IOM continued its provision of direct reintegration assistance to migrants returning from abroad, and a total of 525 returnees and potential returnees were assisted in 2016. The national framework was strengthened through the development of the government's internal contingency plan in the event of a mass influx, supported by UN Albania, led by UNHCR and IOM with the participation of UNICEF and WHO, and NGOs. A key development was also noted in 2016 with the ratification of the amended Law on Social Services and Care in Albania, including for the first time persons granted international protection in the country as a beneficiary category enjoying all the rights and services under the auspices of this law.

This year, the public administration sector benefitted from the adoption of the National Strategy for Development and Integration II 2015-2020[32], a guide for monitoring the implementation of government's reforms. By the end of 2016, 25 strategies part of NSDI II were adopted, while five are in their drafting stage and expected to be finalised in 2017. Amongst other efforts, the UN supported the inclusion of key indicators, for example 21 governance indicators (UNDP) and four gender-sensitive objectives[33] and six gender-sensitive indicators (UN Women). Gender equality is now a

2,745
Iranians reside in Albania

21
governance indicators, 4 gender-sensitive objectives & 6 gender-sensitive indicators included in NSDI 2015-2020

31. https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/CountryVisitFinalReports/2016_04_11_Albania_Final_Country_Report.pdf

32. DCM 348, dt.11.5.2016

33. Objectives under the Gender Equality section of NSDI II include: i) Promotion of economic empowerment of women and increase in their economic independence, ii) Increase in women's representation in political and public decision making, iii) Strengthening of the legal and institutional mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality and the guaranteeing of human rights for Albanian citizens, regardless of gender, and iv) Reduction in gender-based violence and domestic violence.

$90

million of 11 ministries' 2017 budgets focus on gender-sensitive investments

2

Mayors (Gjirokaster & Korça) signed European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life

26

LGUs equipped with gender-responsive Local Development Operational Plans

core principle in the new Organic Budget Law of 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. USD 90 million, or 2.3 percent of the 2017 budgets of eleven ministries will focus on women through gender-sensitive investments. UNDP-supported development and approval of a Long-Term Policy Document on service delivery helped government in drafting the Law on Front-Office Service Delivery and triggered the first disbursement of World Bank budget support to the government's service delivery reform. Consequently, the first integrated citizen service centre was launched in Kavaja with three additional locations already identified for expansion in 2017. Another key achievement was the drafting and approval of the new National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016–2020, supported by UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF, with concrete actions to advance the gender agenda in the country. On a different but equally important note a National Strategy for Culture was drafted by the Ministry of Culture with UNESCO assistance during 2016 that will also support implementation of the new law on cultural heritage planned for Parliament approval in 2017.

At the municipal level, key achievements include the application of gender-responsive planning and budgeting of local services in five municipalities, focused on addressing the needs of vulnerable women and girls, and approval of 20 percent of the municipal council budgets towards their implementation. Additionally, since the dissemination of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life in early 2016, the mayors of Gjirokaster and Korca officially have signed the Charter, committing to pursue gender equality goals in local governance. UN Women, in partnership with USAID, supported the establishment of ten Community-Based Scorecards (CBS)[34] through a network of CSOs and Citizen Advisory Panels (CAPs), prioritising needs of women and men in ten municipalities and 28 administrative units.

Regional and Local Development: The first phase of UNDP's Support to Territorial and Administrative Reform (STAR1) project—a donor-pooled fund project in support of the historic reform—was successfully concluded in mid-2016. A second phase, STAR2, will continue through 2019, building the capacities of the newly established local governments and focusing on management, development planning and improved service delivery. During 2016, the STAR project helped develop 26 gender-responsive local development operational plans and assisted in preparation of standard rules and regulations for the functioning of the new municipal administrations. In late 2016, UNDP launched a national local governance mapping exercise in all 61 municipalities, involving around 12,000 citizens, aiming to assess their perceptions and expectations on local government performance, local democracy and responsiveness. The results of the mapping will be available in the first half of 2017 and serve as both STAR2 baselines and a guide for further assistance to local governments by UNDP and other partners.

Implementation of the Territorial Admin-

34. 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 are 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.

istrative Reform 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, supported by FAO, aiming to promote farmers' vertical and horizontal cooperation, with a focus on supporting rural women. The regulatory framework on organic farming and quality schemes has been aligned with EU standards and relevant institutional capacity strengthened. Stronger cooperation was established between INSTAT and the Sector for Statistics at MoARDWA, 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.

Rural women's economic empowerment improved in 2016 through income diversification and programmes aiming to close the gender gap in rural areas, a key link in the chain for reducing poverty in Albania. In particular, UN Women supported MoARDWA in designing a dedicated subsidy scheme for women entrepreneurs engaged in agri-processing in rural areas. Additionally, two clusters[35] of agri-tourism were operationalised in Elbasan, consisting of 30 Gjinar women involved in bee-keeping activities as part of *Gratë Bletërritëse të Shpatit* and 15 Belsh women providing various services in the area, to enhance women self-employment and financial opportunities. A Competitive Fund for Women Entrepreneurs[36] to an amount of ALL 6 million was established and operationalised by the Municipality of Tirana. Other municipalities have taken a genuine interest in applying this intervention in their territories, with the support of UN Women. For the first time in Albania, eleven private companies that contribute to the capital's economic development signed the Women's Empowerment Principles—seven steps on how women's empowerment can be achieved in the workplace, market place, economy and community. The report *Gender, agriculture and rural development in Albania,*[37] prepared by FAO and validated by MoARDWA, identifies some of the major gender inequalities to be considered by policymakers and project managers for better informed, targeted and gender-sensitive actions in agriculture and rural development.

A milestone for environmental action this year was the establishment by the Government of the National Agency of Protected Areas, supported by UNDP in its short- to mid-term strategy implementation and its functionality at the local level. The Agency has launched activities already in Tirana and Vlora. Economic evaluation of the ecosystem was undertaken in the protected areas of Karaburun Sazan, highlighting options to be further explored for financial sustainability, interactions with the local community (compensation schemes) and municipal management. Additionally, the World Heritage Committee[38] acknowledged the need to extend to Albania the World Heritage property '*Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid*', already inscribed in the

6
million ALL operationalized from Tirana Municipality "Competitive Fund for Women Entrepreneurs"

2
clusters of agri-tourism operationalised in Elbasan - 30 Gjinar women involved in bee-keeping activities & 15 Belsh women providing various services in the area

35. 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.

36. Funded by public sources and designed to support the creation or expansion of viable business activities by women, capable of being successful in a competitive market.

37. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5413e.pdf

38. Decision 33 COM 8B.40

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

UNDP support in the climate agenda culminated with ratification of the Paris Agreement by the Albanian Parliament in July 2016 and launching of the Third National Communication to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco on November 2016. The Third National Communication focuses on mainstreaming climate change into sector policies as reflected in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sources – setting a biding target related to energy efficiency (9%) and renewable energy sources (38%) in 2018 and 2020 respectively compared to 2009[39].

Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas incorporated in Strategic Document for Biodiversity Protection and Action Plan

These mitigation targets form part of the backbone of the Albanian National Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement, especially the 11.5% reduction of CO_2 emissions. Another key achievement during the year was the presentation of a Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas—incorporated in the Strategic Document for Biodiversity Protection and approved by government by a decision of Council of Ministers[40] and presented at a meeting of parties to the convention on biodiversity, thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, COP 13.

Strategic Environmental Assessment examines implications of ongoing development of small hydropower plants for sustainable development

UNDP played a pivotal role in the development of a draft renewable energy law and related action plan. Throughout 2016, promotion of legal and market-based approaches to increase the use of energy efficient and innovative solar water heating technology continued through the small grants scheme co-founded at the municipal level and associated with advocacy and capacity-building activities (benefiting 10 public institutions in Vlora and Durres). An Energy Management Tracking Tool was piloted in Durres Municipality and energy benchmarking was conducted whose results will support institutionalization of an energy management information system covering all municipalities. Responding to the government's need, UNDP undertook a policy-based Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) examining implications of the ongoing development of small hydropower plants for sustainable development, as well as strengthening the capacity of government to integrate environmental issues into energy-related decision making.

Albania is better equipped to respond to flooding situations following UNDP's support for finalisation of 16 major river protection infrastructure works[41]and related drainage channels for the rivers Vjosa, Osum and Drino. An estimated 160,000 people living within several hundred metres of reconstructed or newly built river and irrigation and drainage canal embankments, dykes, cascades and river banks are no longer vulnerable to flooding. The work will continue until mid-2017 with the final operations undertaken for testing and calibration of the works along with some anticipated corrective and additional protection measures.

At least 4,000 farmers and around 200 households/ agribusinesses in the flooded area received compensation and investment grants for damage restoration and resilience enhancement, supported through FAO's technical expertise. An analysis is conducted

39. http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/files/userfiles/Ndryshimet_Klimatike/TNC_COMPLETE.pdf

40. Approved with DCM No. 31, dated 20.01.2016

41. This work is part of the broader EU Flood Infrastructure Rehabilitation Programme set up in response to the devastating floods that hit south-eastern regions of Albania in early 2015.

on the role and capacity of local authorities in the management of disasters in agriculture and respective amendments were proposed in the legal framework. A unified methodology was developed for post disaster recovery in agriculture and delivered for endorsement by the Government of Albania.

WAY FORWARD IN 2017

2017 will be an important year for the country as it will hold parliamentary elections in June. For the UN agencies, this translates into maintaining programme momentum throughout the campaign period, as well as exploring opportunities for using the campaign to advocate for key issues on governance and policy development in line with NSDI II, the EU Integration Agenda and Agenda 2030. It will be a priority for UN Albania to build relations rapidly with the new government, starting in September.

The new Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017–2021 becomes operational in January 2017, and provides a strategic framework for UN to advocate for increased equality of opportunity, social inclusion, respect for human (including environmental) rights and improved governance.

The Programme will employ an adjusted management structure, focused on four Ministerial-level Outcome Groups and biannual Outcome-level workplans. Outcome groups are aligned to the Government's own coordination structure, and will facilitate participation of development partners about government policy and UN support.

Discussions with all partners in the country, both at the central and local level, as well at the regional level, will continue for the advancement of Agenda 2030 aligned with EU integration. Particular attention will be paid to the development of the country's SDG baseline and Government action plan, establishment of a high-level multi-constituency SDG coordination forum, as well as advocating and widening partnerships within government and beyond, including the legislative branch, and independent human rights institutions. Partnership with INSTAT will be strengthened as this remains critical in implementation of Agenda 2030, considering that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and ensure that no one is left behind.



CHAPTER 2
DELIVERING RESULTS
FOR ALBANIA

OUTCOME 1 – HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights and gender equality considerations guide interactions between citizens and institutions

Coordinated by UN Women, bringing together the efforts of UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA and IOM

Output 1.1: Government of Albania meets its international ahuman rights reporting obligations and application of normative standards through tracking implementation
Available Budget -694,062 USD

Output 1.2: Ministry of Justice, state institutions and civil society channel public demand for justice and ensure support services are established and accessible to provide resolution
Available Budget - 326,034 USD

Output 1.3: Mandated line ministries and state institutions ensure that their practices and policies effectively prevent and address violence (against women and children) in society
Available Budget - 1,175,396 USD

This outcome supports the Government of Albania in achieving the following priorities of the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020: **1) EU membership with reference to ensuring the protection of human rights**, and **2) Consolidate good governance, democracy, and the rule of law with reference to the establishment, respect and safeguards for human rights and guarantees**. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve **SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8** and **16.**

The total available budget for implementation of Outcome 1 in 2016 was 2.2 million USD from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the Governments of Switzerland and Sweden, the EU, the Delivering Results Together Fund, the Swedish National Committee for UNICEF, the UK National Committee for UNICEF and Vodafone Albania.

Assessment against progress made towards achievement of indicators shows that out of ten indicators, seven (70%) have been fully met, two (20%) are partially on track, and one (10%) has not progressed. For further details on progress made against the indicators please check Annex A of this report.



Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016
Fundamental Rights Index	2012 2014: 0.58	2016: 0.65	0.60 (ranking 55/113)
Extent to which justice system is affordable and accessible to women and men	2012: 2014: 0.58	2016: 0.60	0.53 (ranking 68/113)
Number of cases brought to Anti-Discrimination Office	2012: 104 complaints filed 14 by the Commissioner herself	2016: 600 report complaints filed and tracked, sex-disaggregated	CPD handled 113 cases (52 cases brought by women, 49 by men and 13 by CSOs) CPD issued 10 ex officio cases CPD issued 172 decisions on various grounds of discrimination

ON TRACK PARTIALLY ON TRACK NO PROGRESS

KEY RESULTS

- UPR recommendations mapping & draft Action Plan for implementation
- Tracking platform on international HR instruments
- 2nd report on Albania ICRMW implementation
- Revision of SoPs for identification referral and assistance of VoT & PVoT
- Methodology for Ombudsman to conduct annual monitoring of human rights exercise for foreign migrants workers in Albania
- National Action Plan (Agenda) for Children 2016-2020
- Country Analytical Report on Disaggregation of Data on Children by Ethnicity
- Inclusion of child-relevant indicators in the country's Programme of Official Statistics 2017-2021
- "Protect Children from Violence" Guide for Parliamentarians - a tool to advance child rights
- Establishment of "Children and Youth in Parliament" group

Output 1.1
Normative reporting, tracking and quality

Government of Albania meets its international human rights reporting obligations and application of normative standards through tracking implementation

Albania has ratified a considerable number of conventions, one of the first being the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in 1992, and the latest being the Istanbul Convention, in 2012, committing to put into place domestic measures and legislation compatible with treaty obligations and duties. Albania became a Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in February 2013. Credited to UNICEF advocacy and support, the Parliamentary Group Friends of Children (PGFC) was established in 2014. In 2014 and 2015, UN Women and UNFPA supported government in preparing the 4th National Periodic Report on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and UNDP assisted in the preparation of an initial report on measures taken.

Furthermore, Albania is signatory to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property supporting the country in its efforts to implement it. Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Along with its corollaries of freedom of information and press freedom, freedom of expression serves as an enabler of all other rights. In order to make press freedom a reality, a legal and regulatory environment must exist that allows for an open and pluralistic media sector to emerge.

Over the years, UN Albania has supported the government in meeting its international human rights reporting obligations. The establishment of a tracking mechanism has become a necessity to monitor implementation of recommendations, and report effectively. The need for quality reporting and tracking has been addressed in various ways by UN agencies in collaboration with respective responsible ministries. In the first half of 2016, UN Women and UNFPA engaged in assisting GoA participate in the 64th Session of CEDAW in Geneva in July 2016. This included provision of advice during the report preparation process, support to consultations and a three-day training and a mock session, led by a CEDAW Committee member expert. An extract of recommendations linked to the Convention was prepared and shared with the Ombudsman's Office in Albania to coordinate monitoring of implementation of the concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee. In the same vein, a mapping of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations was prepared, along with an implementation draft action plan. Another positive development is the ongoing work since 2015 of UNFPA and UN Women for establishment of a tracking mechanism for implementation of the norms and recommendation of the UPR, CEDAW and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, identified as an essential requisite for the country.

IOM supported the government in submitting the second report[42] on implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Mem-

42. The report highlights the engagement of the Albanian Government in the fulfilment of international obligations arising from the human rights conventions.



16 days of activism activity with youth against Gender Based Violence

bers of Their Families. Progress highlighted in the report included the measures undertaken to facilitate reintegration of returnees as well as integration of immigrant workers in the country. Moreover, the report highlighted UN support for assessing migrants' rights in the country. IOM also helped revise the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for identification referral and assistance of victims and potential victims of trafficking, ensuring that international standards for any action taken to combat trafficking in persons is taken into consideration by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) and the National Anti-trafficking Office. Furthermore, support was provided to the Ombudsman to develop a methodology to conduct annual monitoring of human rights exercises for foreign migrant workers in Albania.

Concerning the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural heritage and following the 2015 UNESCO specialised training[43] for development and strengthening of the professional and institutional capacities of the main relevant authorities, the Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with MoIA, started to monitor and register cases of illicit trafficking of cultural property, in line with the National Action Plan for fighting illicit trafficking of cultural property (decision dated 27.04.2016). In 2016, one case was registered.

UNICEF's has consistently advocated for greater stakeholder action to enact child

43. Relevant authorities include the Ministry of Culture, MoIA and Police, MoJ, and the Customs Agency. The training was organised in cooperation with the Italian Carabinieri–Cultural Heritage Protection Department (Comando Tutela Patrimonio Culturale, TPC).

and human rights principles and norms. The agency provided extensive support to the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection in the preparation of Albania's draft National Action Plan (agenda) for Children for 2016–2020, structured and drafted in alignment with the CRC chapters and the latest set of CRC recommendations on Albania (issued in 2012).

Supporting Albania in strengthening its child rights monitoring systems and mechanisms remained one of the core roles of UNICEF. In collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics, INSTAT, child-relevant indicators, aligned with UNICEF's TransMonEE datasets, were included in the country's Programme of Official Statistics for 2017–2021.

At least five parliamentary hearings on child rights took place. The members of PGFC, with UNICEF support, have been active in increasing the level of accountability of government towards its citizens, and facilitating the participation of civil society organisations (CSOs). A Protect Children from Violence Guide for Parliamentarians was drafted, in consultation with PGFC as a tool to advance child rights. A group of 20 children and youths in Parliament was established to facilitate and strengthen dialogue between children in Albania and parliamentarians, and to advise PGFC in relation to child rights and child participation.

Priorities of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been strongly advocated, with nationwide involvement of young people and women from marginalised and vulnerable groups. For example, UNFPA supported the strengthening of the Youth Voice Network[44] and its advocacy work and Annual Human Rights Academy, which bring together representative from ethnic and social minority groups. Furthermore, the National Youth Networks, Parliamentary Commission on Health and Population, PGFC and CSOs, among many partners, were supported with continuous capacity development in the use of a tracking and monitoring platform on international HR instruments, reporting on CRC, UPR and CEDAW, as well as advocating for policy change. Evidence of such support includes, for example, PGFC being assisted in child rights-related issues by the provision of continuous information on the situation of children in Albania (at least 20 reports, best practices, models, research progress reports shared with members), organising hearing sessions, open days and other meetings with children and child rights activists, and updating the Parliament website with official information and documents on PGFC (https://www.parlament.al/kuvendi-dhe-femijet).

44. Youth Voice Network, is a ground-breaking and comprehensive youth-to-youth network of youth-led organisations, supported by UNFPA in Albania. It consists of around 18 national non-profit organizations and ca. 1,200 young volunteers spread in ca. 17 municipalities working in many areas, including adolescent sexual and reproductive health, comprehensive sexuality education, especially for out of school young people, awareness raising with parent and teachers to end child marriage, fight violence against women and engage men and boys in this fight and other ICPD/SDG based issues. Youth Voice network also builds partnerships between young people and adults by advocating for policies and services, such as: national youth development strategies; increased access to information, knowledge, and services on sexual and reproductive health; and the sharing of lessons learned across borders and between cultures.

Output 1.2
Access to justice and civil society support

Ministry of Justice, state institutions and civil society channel public demand for justice and ensure support services are established and accessible to provide resolution

Throughout 2016, Parliament maintained a focus on reform of the justice system as the country's key priority in the path towards EU integration. Through UN support, the constitutional amendments, providing for comprehensive and in-depth judicial reform, were adopted unanimously by Parliament in August 2016, opening the door to revision of some 40 laws with the potential to contribute to advancements towards equitable access to justice for especially vulnerable persons and groups. Children interacting with the justice system, whether as alleged offenders or seeking remedies for violations of their rights, are faced with a system that treats them as adults and does not ensure their equitable access. Likewise, the access Roma and Egyptians have to various basic services is hampered by a lack of documents, of formal residence transfers, illiteracy, highly complicated procedures, and lack of land ownership documents, among others.

The development of Albania's draft Criminal Justice for Children Code and expansion of measures alternative to detention of children and young people in conflict with the law, credited to UNICEF's advocacy and support, was guided by the CRC Committee recommendations, in line with international standards. It strengthened national ownership and enabled wide application for the majority of juvenile cases— of 601 convicted juveniles, 65 percent of them received non-custodial sentences in 2015, compared to 56 percent in 2014. UNICEF ensured alignment of the draft Code with the draft Law on Child Rights and Protection and the new legislation on social housing, rendering juveniles in conflict with the law eligible to receive public housing, thus removing them from situations of extreme risk often associated with a street child lifestyle and reducing recidivism. Additionally, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in developing the Justice for Children Strategy (2017–2020), currently in the process of consultation.

Children and young people in conflict or contact with the law received a diverse variety of services through UNICEF support, including victim–offender mediation. In this regard, 76 of 83 cases (92%), handled by the Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation of Disputes, were resolved positively, while programmes for parents of children in conflict or contact with the law, established for the first time in Albania by the Community Centre "Today for the Future", reached 45 families. Meanwhile, psycho-social counselling and economic reintegration services accompanied 68 children—85 percent of all those released from detention—to community reintegration, and 46 children through the probation process, while 178 juveniles and their families were provided with legal and psychological assistance. To ease the social reintegration of juveniles upon their release, multi-sectoral collaboration amongst institutions was strengthened, through UNICEF facilitation. For example, a detention centre in Vlora City entered into a MoU with Vlora Municipality, while Gjirokastra Probation Office was supported in conducting screening of community service centres, and the State Probation Service started testing a mechanism

KEY RESULTS

- Justice for Children Strategy 2017-2020
- Analysis of Access of Health Care Services by Vulnerable Population
- For the first time, establishment of programmes for parents of children in conflict/ contact with law
- Provision of legal and psychological assistance to 178 juveniles and families
- 83 out of 76 cases (92%) of victim-offender mediation resolved positively
- Provision of free legal aid services to 309 R/E families in 6 municipalities -Korça, Berat, Cërrik, Lushnja, Tirana, Shkodra, Durrës



One of the winning entries of a children's competition "Justice through my eyes".

for sub-contracting non-governmental service providers for socio-economic re-integration and restorative justice services for juvenile offenders. Institutional coordination among the MoIA (police), MoJ and the Prosecutor's Office was further strengthened through development of an online tracking system, from the moment a child enters into contact with the law until they leave the justice system, with the first cohorts of authorised users from the courts, prosecution, police, probation and prisons already trained in its use. This UNICEF-supported initiative will reduce gaps and inconsistencies in official statistics, aiding the country to design evidence-based policies and improve accountability.

Although pre-trial detention is still widely applied in juvenile cases, the average duration continued to decrease in 2016, following the trend first observed in 2015, with the smallest number of children affected by this measure since 2012, down to 191 boys in 2016 compared to 208 in 2015. There are no provisions for offering secondary education programmes to imprisoned children, while the quality and regularity of primary school classes in detention facilities was questioned by the Ombudsman Office in Albania during its 2016 monitoring round supported by UNICEF. Safety and security concerns prompted the Ombudsman to recommend closure of the Lezha pre-trial detention facility for juveniles.

To support children's demand for justice, UNICEF, in partnership with Tirana Legal Aid Society, invested in strategic litigation[45]

45. The topics range from social benefits for de facto orphans, foster care, removal of parental rights from abusive parents, prosecution of online child abuse, the right to education, etc. These cases have the potential to pro-

for children's rights; eight new cases were initiated in 2016, in addition to the ongoing five transferred from 2015, while one case was successfully completed with the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination. It is worth noting the recommendation issued by the CPD that not only the particular school but also the entire Regional Education Department of Tirana provide assistant teachers to children with disabilities, as maintaining a lack of teachers constituted discrimination against children with learning disorders and with disabilities.

Direct provision of legal and paralegal civil registration services was provided to vulnerable Roma families and their children, supported by UNDP in partnership with national NGOs (TLAS). In this regard, in 2016, 309 Roma and Egyptian individuals[46] in Korca, Berat, Cerrik, Lushnja, Tirana, Shkodra and Durres received free legal assistance in the form of representation in court for civil and administrative cases. An advocacy forum dedicated to civil registration issues resulted in clear recommendations[47] for improving implementation of the legislation. Civil society[48] awareness-raising efforts on access to services, including access to justice for the most vulnerable youth and key populations, were supported by UNFPA. Discussions advocated combining free legal counselling with health services and information for vulnerable groups: Injectable Drug Users, Commercial Sex Workers, Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI), People living with HIV and AIDS, People living with Hepatitis B or C. In the same vein, UNFPA supported an Analysis of Access to Health Care Services by Vulnerable Populations, the findings of which will be disseminated in 2017 to be used as a baseline for well-informed and evidence-based interventions over the next five years.

Output 1.3
Eliminating violence in society

Mandated line ministries and state institutions ensure that their practices and policies prevent and address violence effectively (against women and children) in society

The prevalence of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) increased from 56 percent in 2007 to 59 percent in 2013. More than half of Albanian women of age 15–49 years have experienced at least one form of domestic violence in their lifetime, though only 15 percent of survivors reported seeking help from institutions, with the majority seeking protection from family networks. The costs and consequences of domestic violence are significant and it cuts across all socio-economic groups and educational strata. Albania is signatory to a number of important and binding international documents that guarantee the equality of men and women and prohibit gender-based discrimination.[49] In 2016, GoA committed itself to

tect the rights and wellbeing of not only those individual children impacted by such situations but also of other children in similar life circumstances, thus expanding the range of legal child protection instruments.

46. 183 female,126 male; 226 under 18 years of age; 207 of these cases were assisted through administrative complaint processes, and 102 cases obtained legal assistance in court procedures.

47. These include: Establishment of a provisional civil register accessible by all civil registration offices in the country with data and information of all citizens; Establishment of the electronic data entry system for childbirth; Capacity building for all civil registration offices staff and of nurses, midwives, statisticians and other staff dealing with data entry should be considered as a priority and should be supported by awareness-raising or guidance materials.

48. Civil Society Organisations include Aksion+ and Stop AIDS

49. These include Council of Europe's Social Charter, the CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), the

KEY RESULTS

- Expansion of CCR Mechanisms – 50% CCR country coverage
- Standardization of national telephone helpline services to GBV victims
- Reinforced capability of national ALO 116 Child Helpline
- 55% of GB&DV victims integrated through employment, social housing and legal empowerment
- Commitment by 4 LGUs —Tirana, Vlora, Fier and Berat—to establish supportive DV survivors services in 2017, credited to GRB at local level
- Noticeable reduction in school violence credited to COMBI programme -threatening and insulting of children by teachers reduced respectively by 8% and 6%
- National Action Plan for Online Child Safety
- Albania's first online platform ISIGURT www.isigurt.al for reporting internet abuse and offences
- For the first time, inclusion of child protection provisions in "MCH care standards/service delivery protocols" in-service training programmes
- SoPs and Essential Guidelines for multi sectoral Response to GBV
- Yearly media monitoring report on trafficking, reaching almost 500,000 people
- 5 policy papers guide municipal interventions on violence against women & girls with disabilities
- Nationwide campaign "I choose to live without violence" reached over 30,000 people and produced 6,000 GBV awareness-raising materials
- HeForShe campaign reached 50,000 football fans in stadia and 1.1 million people through social media, engaging them in making concrete commitment to GE and EVAW

prioritising Gender Equality (GE) and elimination of GBV in the newly approved National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality, 2016–2020. Traditional patriarchal attitudes are still prominent, with gender inequalities present in all spheres of social and economic life, and violence against women still widespread.

Improvements in the tracking, reporting and addressing of violence against women and children were witnessed in 2016, with significant support from UNDP, through the expansion of Community Coordinated Response (CCR) mechanisms. Six new CCRs were established in the municipalities of Roskovec, Patos, Perrenjas, Gjirokaster, Bulqize and Diber, and existing CCRs strengthened in the municipalities of Kruja, Saranda, Kavaja, Erseka, Burrel and Permet. Nearly half of municipalities have functioning CCRs with real-case management installed at the local level. More than 155 police officers, CCR members and local GBV coordinators were trained in providing coordinated assistance to GBV victims and their children and in tracking cases through the national online tracking system. Due to an increased level of awareness, victims of domestic violence and their families reported 4,163 cases to the state police in 2016 compared to 3,866 cases in 2015 and 94 cases in 2005. Furthermore, more than 500 GB–DV cases were recorded in the national online tracking mechanism REVALB, under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MoSWY), and handled by CCR members in 2016. Furthermore, UNDP supported the state-run National Shelter for DV victims to improve

European Convention on Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

focus on the adoption of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes with both state and non-state service providers resulting in nearly 55 percent of GB–DV victims successfully integrated through employment, social housing and legal empowerment, compared to 38 percent in 2014.

With UNDP support, MoSWY standardised services with a national telephone helpline for GBV victims and addressed the need to ensure basic support shelters for survivors. In the same vein, UNICEF continued to support the capacity of the national ALO 116 Child Helpline to report and address cases of Violence Against Children (VAC). Regular reports prepared by the ALO 116 team with reliable evidence portraying manifestations of VAC have stimulated a timely and comprehensive response to identified cases. A new MoU signed by the Helpline with a number of child protection actors facilitated the provision of assistance to children in need. During the year, more than 27,000 calls were received, and although most calls (up to 80%) were exploratory, they positively represented a growing culture to acknowledge and report violence. General psycho-social counselling was offered in 610 cases, while 127 cases required a referral for specialised assistance.

Maintaining the momentum of the Summit on Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Online, held in Abu Dhabi in 2015, and GoA's formal commitment to the summit action points, UNICEF facilitated the development of an inter-ministerial MoU between the ministries of Social Welfare and Youth, of Education and Sports, of Internal Affairs, and of Innovation and Public Administration to promote national actions for child safety online. Relevant national legislation and policy frameworks have



Young People designing innovative campaign against Domestic Violence

been mapped, informing amendments suggested to the country's penal code and child-specific inputs to the draft Law on Cyber Security. Albania's first online platform ISIGURT (www.isigurt.al) for reporting Internet abuse and offences was launched, with more than 100 cases already reported since early 2016. A nationwide Open Your Eyes communication campaign reached an estimated 90 percent of the adult audience and 70 percent of the child audience during a school-break period in December 2016, thus bringing for the first time into Albania the topic of child Internet safety to wider public attention.

The Communication for Behavioural Impact (COMBI) programme to address VAC in schools, supported by UNICEF, contributed to a noticeable reduction in some forms of violence, such as threatening and insulting of children by teachers, by eight and six percent, respectively, since 2015. However, the overall incidence of violence used by teachers as a disciplinary method remains high, with as many as seven percent of students stating that they do not feel safe at school. To guide the in-service training programme, a COMBI manual for teachers is in the process of being accredited. Meanwhile, the State Education Inspectorate (SEI) finalised a review of checklists to monitor disciplinary practices in schools nationwide. For the first time, in-service training programmes on Albania's new Mother and Child Health (MCH) care standards and service delivery protocols included specific child protection provisions, obliging health care professionals to observe and report instances of child abuse and maltreatment, including during home visits to families at risk.

As part of gender-responsive planning and



Children during the HeForShe campaign in "Selman Stermasi" Stadium

budgeting at the local level, local authorities in four municipalities—Tirana, Vlora, Fier and Berat—committed themselves to establishing several services[50] in support of DV survivors in 2017. The issue of safety from violence and harassment for women and girls in public spaces was explored for the first time as part of the Tirana Smart City initiative. A perceptions study was piloted in three Tirana neighbourhoods (Porcelani, Shkoze and Student City), using the methodology of the UN Women Global Safe Cities[51] programme with information gathered from primary and secondary beneficiaries,[52] generating a wealth of data that were presented to local councillors and administrators of Tirana Municipality, as well as to the Albanian State Police and other partners. The municipality committed to integrate the study findings in Tirana Smart City platform, publish the study data on the municipal webpage, discuss findings at municipal budget meetings, repeat the scoping study in Shkoze, where it plans to invest in infrastructure, and request tailored training on the study's methodology for all social administrators.

A standard operating procedure for the multi-sectoral response to GBV, the health

50. Including budget allocation for setting up emergency centres for up to 24 hours for sheltering DV survivors, for existing centres such as Vatra in Vlora and an NGO Centre in Berat to host women at risk of DV, and continue provision of counselling services through dedicated DV coordinators and social workers in the municipalities.

51. A safe city is one that facilitates and ensures the elimination of gender-based violence, while at the same time providing equal opportunities for men and women in all the spheres of social, economic, cultural and political life. http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/237-what-are-safe-cities-and-communities-for-women-and-girls-.html

52. Women and girls in poor communities that are actual and potential users of the public spaces where interventions to improve safety will be focused.

sector, social services, police and legal services, as well as an essential guidelines package, were developed and disseminated with UNFPA support among stakeholders and CSOs working in areas related to GBV. The new SOPs will be a mandatory component to strengthen the existing and new CCRs. To contribute to implementation of the National Action Plan for Male Involvement to address GBV in Albania, UNFPA undertook advocacy to stop gender-biased sex selection and early marriage. Young people, and especially young men in school settings, were the target of activities including theatre productions in 17 schools across the country and the publication of the photo-novel *A Failed Marriage*.

Increased awareness of, and provision of economic opportunities for, Victims of Trafficking was supported by UN Women, UNDP and IOM. Technical assistance and supervision was provided for three social businesses during the initial start-up phase, including business plan management and marketing. These businesses employed nine women survivors of trafficking in 2016. A yearly media monitoring report on trafficking, launched in the audio-visual media in February, and awareness-raising efforts of UN Women and partners, reached almost 500,000 people in the country.

The UN is one of the leading voices in Albania to prevent violence against women. To explore in depth the phenomenon of violence against women and girls with disabilities, UNDP published '*Invisible Violence, an overview on the phenomenon of violence against women and girls with disabilities in Albania*', gathering data in the municipalities of Shkodra, Diber, Elbasan, Kukes and Korca. Recommendations focus on improving the legal and policy framework, data collection and reporting systems, enhancing cross-institutional cooperation and coordination, developing capacities of professionals to address issues related to this phenomenon, and refining access to information and delivery of services. Five policy papers were drafted and agreed with by actors at the local level to guide specific municipal interventions in this regard.

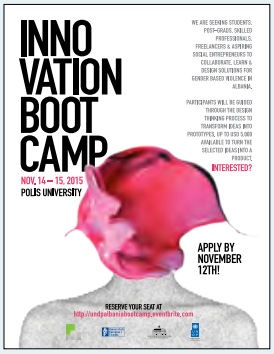
The Ministry of Social Welfare led several nationwide campaigns focused on ending violence against women such as 'I choose to live without violence' and '16 Days of Activism', supported by UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA, reaching more than 30,000 people and producing 6,000 awareness-raising materials with key messages against such violence, and increasing knowledge among citizens. 'Not only 8th of March'[53] was the winning prototype video[54] of a UNDP-supported innovation boot camp that involved Tirana University students, academia and civil society to design a public awareness campaign against domestic and GBV as part of the UNiTE worldwide campaign. The video went viral on social media and traditional media and is one of the most effective campaigns on violence against women in Albania.

Under the HeForShe campaign, private sector partners such as the Football Federation, Olympic Committee, private banks and individual artists were mobilised and

53. www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/03/08/on-international-women-s-day-students-launch-an-innovative-campaign-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html

54. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/03/08/on-international-women-s-day-students-launch-an-innovative-campaign-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6io6dDvOWAQ

"'Not only 8th of March' was the winning prototype video of a UNDP-supported innovation boot camp"



Innovation is not an end in itself. It is about the process of making use of the most up-to date concepts, data and means available and it is more about cooperation to get to the best results possible. In 2 days, during 20 hours UNDP Albania brought together 50 young, who in an inspiring environment, designed a product aiming at raising awareness of young people and the general public about putting an end to gender-based violence using the innovative methodology of Design Thinking. 8 prototypes were designed by students. The wining prototype is called "Not only 8th of March" A family camper, equipped with audio and visual effects to improvise a violent exchange between family members, was located in the center of Tirana. The camper was constantly filmed by several cameras capturing the reactions of people who would pass by the camper. A video, showing the reactions of bystanders when confronted with a violent scene, is also produced.

Anisa Gjini one of the members of the winning team says:
"What we strive to achieve through this campaign is to raise the voice for women to be respected and loved not only on March 8th, but every day. "There were a few cases when passersby tried to call the police. We believe these reactions are positive, showing a good example. This is what we want to achieve by the end of this".



jointly implemented innovative initiatives reaching football fans in stadiums and engaging them in making concrete commitment to GE and EVAW. 50,000 football fans were reached during ten football matches of the Super League in Albania, while the HeForShe Fan Appointment mobile application[55] to raise awareness was downloaded 10,800 times, where 79 percent were men and boys, and more than 800 commitments and messages in support of gender equality were shared on the wall of the application, and 1.1 million people were reached through social media with the promo-video seen 378,000 times.

UNFPA engaged the youth voice network to carry out advocacy work and to communicate messages related to GBV, child marriage, among others. One example of this work was 'Schools Theatre Festival', which focused on Child Marriage and engaged 47 schools across the country, producing one photo novel.

A massive 'I Protect Children' communication campaign was conducted by MoSWY and the State Agency for Child Rights Protection (SACRP) during the first half of 2016, supported by UNICEF. In addition to the nationwide campaign coverage in print and online media, 26 municipalities (43%) were visited by the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth and the Head of SACRP, meeting with local authorities, communities, children and parents and raising public awareness on child protection issues.

55. http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/10/in-albania-football-and-a-mobile-app-get-men-to-commit-to-gender-equality

CHALLENGES AND THE WAY AHEAD

Challenges

In the area of **human rights**, translation of intent into actual practices, based on appropriate capacities, in the provision of public services remains an ambitious task for the years to come. UN agencies are working to fill the gap in terms of capacity development and supply of sector-focused data.

Under **access to justice**, adoption of the Constitutional Amendments for the Justice Reform were unquestionably a victory for the country. However, important human rights provisions (such as the best interests of the child principle, and the expanded non-discrimination clause), initially integrated into the text of the draft Constitution through advocacy efforts of the UN, the international community and human rights activists, were dropped by Parliament at the moment of deliberation and voting. While this represents a missed opportunity for the country, UN agencies have continued advocacy and support for inclusion of these provisions in the draft laws of the justice reform.

Another challenge in this area remains sustainability of the NGOs providing services to boys and girls, vulnerable women, Roma, persons with disabilities and other socially excluded groups. Contracting of NGOs and allocation of funds for these services need to be gradually taken over by the public authorities. For example, while the UN supported the General Department of the Probation Service to pioneer subcontracting of some NGOs to provide such services, difficulties with the national legislation on public procurement were observed throughout and ultimately produced delays in implementation and provision of the services. To this end, GoA may wish to revisit procurement legislation with a view to facilitate collaboration with NGOs and build on the valuable expertise that these organisations have built up over the years in offering specialised and unique services to vulnerable groups interacting with the justice system. The establishment of a National Council on Civil Society in 2016 was a positive step that affords an opportunity to advance this issue.

A key concern remains dissemination and implementation of guidelines, protocols and standards developed for the provision of Sexual Reproductive Health services, where coordination and engagement with key stakeholders remains a challenge. State institutions must provide leadership in fostering collaboration and coordination among key stakeholders. Additionally, reaching out and working with the Men having Sex with Men community has been challenging as these individuals do not gather in accessible places given the stigma and discrimination they face. Hence, systematic awareness and outreach work is essential, along with provision of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials for primary health care (PHC) provision and free legal services that need to be developed and distributed on a regular basis.

Programming in the area of **Gender-Based and Domestic Violence** would also benefit from much stronger cross-sectoral collaboration. The UN is undertaking a facilitation role in engaging various ministries, such as those of Social Welfare and Youth, Health, Education, and Internal Affairs to plan, coordinate and take action to improve the situation regarding women victims of

GB–DV[56]. The UN will take the opportunity presented by the territorial reform and decentralisation to expand the mechanisms of coordination and referral on GBV across the entire country. In this regard, the organisation will strengthen existing, and focus on developing new, partnerships between central and local government, as well as increasing relevant capacities and resources. One important lesson learned is the need to ensure involvement of local authorities at the earliest stage of the implementation of local initiatives that aim at women's economic empowerment and the building of resilient lives for women free from violence.

Albania's knowledge and grasp of the practical aspects of case management are still weak, with many social workers requiring on-the-job training and mentoring to be able to quickly and effectively spot and respond to a violent situation, especially involving children and women. Fine-tuning of work flows between the moment the case of abuse or violence is identified to when a solution is found for the affected individual or family needs to take place, with opportunities to articulate and strengthen respective mechanisms and accountabilities opened by adoption of the Law on Social Care Services (November 2016) and the Law on Child Rights and Protection (February 2017).

56. Focus areas include: supporting the national line on advising the victims of violence against women, campaigns to raise awareness on this issues, services for the victims of violence, gender based data collection system and index, etc.

Way Ahead

In the area of **human rights**, IOM will finalise the process of approval by the Council of Ministers of the SOPs for identification, referral and assistance of victims of trafficking. A stronger evidence base and more regular presentation of facts and figures on children in Albania is expected to generate stronger political engagement by Parliament and human rights institutions to strengthen public accountability mechanisms and pursue unmet obligations emanating from the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Parliament and HR institutions' increased monitoring role in relation to the national development targets specific to children will go hand in hand with their CRC custodian and monitoring functions.

The oversight role of Parliament, in addition to its legislative role, will be emphasised in UNICEF's interaction with a wide range of partners. The web-based monitoring of the already developed Action Plan for CEDAW, and for UPR will be developed. In addition, UNESCO will finalise the national consultation on media and information literacy, and also continue to assist national efforts to protect the country's rich and diverse heritage. The proposed assistance is an integral part of global efforts to protect cultural heritage and diversity against human-induced and natural hazards, including looting, pillaging and other deliberate hostile acts, especially considering that there is growing evidence and wide international recognition of the link between the looting and trafficking of cultural objects, and the financing of terrorism and armed conflicts, making illicit trafficking in cultural goods an issue for the global security agenda.

The UN will continue to support the **justice reform** throughout 2017 and during implementation of the new Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development, 2017–2021. Planned interventions include integration of children's rights and gender equality into all pillars of the judicial reform process, along with context and policy improvement in the justice sector, in accordance with CEDAW, UPR and other upcoming UN body recommendations. This legislative and policy development work will then lay the foundations for future support with focus on the most vulnerable (through, e.g., capacity building for implementation, strengthening data collection, dissemination on level of access to services by the most marginalised groups, and monitoring and accountability systems, change of practices, increase in level of demand), with a view to ensuring an overall more efficient and accessible justice system, particularly for the most vulnerable children and adults.

UN support will continue to contribute to the overall goal of eliminating **violence against women and children** aiming to reform the legislative and policy framework to better respond to and prevent violence against women, girls and children, as well as reduce the incidence of trafficking of women and girls by addressing the root causes (e.g., limited awareness, domestic violence, and lack of economic alternatives). Work will focus on implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016 – 2020, recommendations issued in the National Action Plan for Involvement of Men and Boys as Partners to Women and Girls for Gender Equality and against Gender-Based Violence pursuant to the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW, National Action Plan on LGBTI 2016-2020, etc. Specific interventions include (i) support for GBV survivors and vulnerable women, including survivors of trafficking in persons, with new and quality access services and reintegration programmes and building their resilience with established networks of mutual support; (ii) strengthening capacities of key ministries and LGUs to regularly review, reform and efficiently implement legislation, normative standards and policies on EVAW including victims of trafficking, in partnership with media and CSOs; (iii) consolidation of multi-disciplinary responses and referral mechanisms for GBV victims, including adoption and dissemination of SOPs; (iv) inclusion and design of GBV-related protocols and guidelines in the basic package of human rights-related protocols for PHC and establishment of missing services for Violence Against Women and DV survivors, i.e. sexual violence services; (v) awareness raising of citizens and professionals, various communities centred around men and boys for prevention purposes; and (vi) support for further development of Albania's normative framework to operationalize the provisions of the new Law on Child Rights and Protection and the Law on Social Care Services, to ensure that there is sufficient supply and quality of services at the local level, to protect children, women and families from violence and abuse. Respective training needs of the social and child protection workers will be assessed and supported. Violent attitudes and treatment of particularly vulnerable children—such as those in the Roma community, with disabilities, affected by migration, living in poverty, etc.—will be revealed, with appropriate advocacy and public sensitisation responses developed.

OUTCOME 2 – INCLUSIVE SOCIAL POLICIES

The rights of individuals and groups are ensured through equitable, inclusive and evidence-based sectoral policies

Coordinated by UNICEF, bringing together the efforts of WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UN Women, UNDP, UNODC, IAEA, ILO and IOM

- **Output 2.1:** Health care policies and sector reform enabled towards equitable universal health coverage
  Available Budget - 1,094,024 USD
- **Output 2.2:** Early childhood development and education policies ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for individuals and groups
  Available Budget - 1,337,548 USD
- **Output 2.3:** Improved social dialogue leads to active employment and skills development policies and decent work for men and women
  Available Budget - 1,240,313 USD
- **Output 2.4:** Social protection and inclusion mechanisms ensure that social needs of disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally met
  Available Budget - 3,278,280 USD

This outcome supports GoA in achieving priority 5 of NSDI II: **Investing in people and social cohesion**. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve **SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10** and **16**.

The total available budget for Outcome 2 implementation in 2016 was 6.9 million USD, from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the Governments of Switzerland, Sweden, Italy and Austria, the EU, the Delivering Results Together Fund, the Swedish National Committee for UNICEF, the UK National Committee for UNICEF, and The Arab Gulf Programme for UN Development Organisations.

Assessment of progress made against achievement of indicators shows that of the fourteen indicators all have been fully met. For further details regarding progress made against the indicators please check Annex A of this report.



Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016
Sector-specific policies have explicit social inclusion targets	X policies out of Z	Y policies out of Z	- NSDI 2015-2020 approved by Council of Ministers (CoM) - National Programme and Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2016–2020 approved by the Minister of Health - Strategic Document and Action Plan On Reproductive Health 2016–2020 approved by Minister of Health - National Action Plan of Contraceptives Security 2017–2020 approved by Minister of Health - National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2016–2020 approved by CoM - National Health Strategy 2020 Framework drafted, opened to public for consultation, consulted with stakeholders. Official approval by CoM pending - Social Inclusion Policy Document (SIPD; 2016–2020) approved by CoM - Social Housing Strategy (SHS; 2016–2025) approved by CoM - National Action Plan for PWD (2016–2020) approved by CoM - Law on Social Care Services approved by Parliament - Law on Social Enterprises approved by Parliament - Minister of Social Welfare and Youth Order on social support for children living with HIV finalised - RomAlb system operational through Order no. 276 dated 30.12.2016 of Minister of Social Welfare and Youth
Social inclusion of Roma, Egyptians and other disadvantaged groups is increasingly achieved	Rated 2 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated at least 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated at least 3 - 45% increase in R/E benefiting from employment promotion measures - 426 R/E registered as unemployed job seekers and mediated for employment, and among them 73 R/E (40M and 33F) citizens employed by December 2016 - 4 ALMM designed, tailored to the needs of the R&E communities and implemented - 3 community upgrading infrastructure projects initiated, benefiting R&E families - 165 R/E with full access to basic services - Disaggregated indicators on R/E available for each sector of National Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015–2020 in the RomAlb system - RomAlb system upgraded and functional; 91 public officials trained in RomAlb system - Social and Economic Profile of Return Migrants in Albania developed and finalised in December 2016 - 95 victims of trafficking assisted - 246 family tracing/assessments prepared on unaccompanied migrant children - 466 returning Albanian migrants supported

ON TRACK PARTIALLY ON TRACK NO PROGRESS

Output 2.1
Health

Health care policies and sector reform enabled towards equitable universal health coverage

Albania has undergone large generally positive political, economic and social changes over the past 25 years and has reached an upper middle-income country status. Despite the progress achieved, the country still faces many challenges to fulfil its aspiration of EU accession. New reforms have been undertaken to improve local government functions and service delivery. Confidence in health services has increased to 50 percent, according to 2016 polls[57], and out-of-pocket expenditures for health have fallen below 50 percent of total health care expenditures. Spending on health care is about 2.9 percent of GDP and ten percent of the national budget. Disparities and inequalities persist among some groups of the population in Albania, notably between urban and rural, and different population, groups (particularly with Roma and Egyptians). Escalation of health reforms in Albania necessitates financial sustainability for the health system, including an increase in the current low level of public financing for health. The demographic profile of Albania is changing, following an ageing population with rapidly changing health needs, and will need to be met by a wider range of capacities and competencies of health care providers. The health system also faces challenges to address the disparity in the health workforce availability and skills. The UN is supporting Albania in building a comprehensive health system that delivers equity, efficiency, access and affordability for all.

In 2016, the UN's continued focus on increasing equity in health and access to health care resulted in development of a national framework for a more resilient, responsive and transformative health system. WHO supported the drafting of a National Health Strategy for Albania, outlining the steps for materialising the Universal Health Coverage vision in the course of the next 5–10 years. UNICEF's advocacy and technical advice led to revisions[58] of Law No. 8528 'On Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding', adopted by Parliament in May, development of a package of by-laws, including a Prime Minister's Order, on labelling requirements for breast milk substitutes, and guidelines and inspection tools for monitoring law compliance. As a result of UNFPA advocacy efforts, a number of national policies and strategic documents were approved, endorsed and disseminated widely. Key examples include the development of guidelines, protocols and standards for the provision of youth-friendly services at the level of PHC, a National Strategic Document on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2017–2021, National Action Plan on Contraceptive Security 2017–2021, National Action Plan on Health Promotion 2017–2021, National Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance, a guideline on piloting selected health indicators, in accordance with the newly developed and approved Manual of Core Health Indicators (based on European Core Health Indicators), and guidelines and protocols for Primary Health Care provision of cervical cancer screening services. Regarding the last of these, a small-scale pilot programme was launched in the regions of Tirana and Fier, resulting in skills devel-

KEY RESULTS

- National Health Strategy 2016-2020
- Social Inclusion Policy Paper 2016-2020
- Social Housing Strategy 2016-2025
- National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020
- National Strategic Document on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2017 -2021
- National Non communicable Diseases Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020
- National Action Plan on Contraceptive Security 2017 – 2021
- National Action Plan on Health Promotion 2017 – 2021
- Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plan
- Revisions of law 8528 on Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding
- National Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance
- National Guidelines, protocols and standards for provision of Youth Friendly Services in PHC
- National Clinical Guidelines "Hypertension in pregnancy: management of hypertensive disorders during the pregnancy" and "Resuscitation of new-born baby"

57. 2016 Opinion Poll Opinion Poll "Trust in Governance 2016" http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/opinion-poll--trust-in-governance-2016--.html

58. The changes aimed to (i) expand the range of products covered under the scope of this law, (ii) clarify and strengthen labelling requirements, and (iii) strengthen administrative measures for law violations.

KEY RESULTS

- National Guidelines and protocols for PHC provision of cervical cancer screening services
- Over 1000 women received cervical cancer screening services from 3 PHC in Libofshe, Fier and Farke
- Introduction of six new child nutrition indicators in all primary & secondary health care facilities
- Capacity enhancement for 1,600 health care professionals of health statistics departments - over 85% national level eligible personnel
- 80% of eligible health personnel capable to plan and deliver holistic MCH services
- Development of a costing tool for MCH services
- Integration of the Minimum Initial Service Package into MoH Platform on Disasters and Risk Management
- 565 home visits - reaching over 455 Roma/other vulnerable children under 5 years
- Parliament ratification of grant by Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

opment for 92 PHC professionals on issues such as informing women, taking and handling samples, and referring positive cases and counselling. Additionally, three primary health centres, in Libofshe Commune (Fier), Fier Municipality, and Farke Commune (Tirana), were supported to provide cervical cancer screening services for more than 1,000 women. However, for prevention services such as this one to be scaled-up sustainably, public funding of health care will have to increase.

Major milestones were achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCD). WHO supported finalisation and approval of a National NCD Strategy and Action Plan 2016–2020[59] and development and approval of the Guidelines on Infection Control in Communities and Health Care Institutions.[60] National efforts in combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the country were supported by WHO through the drafting of an AMR National Action Plan, preparation of a survey on the knowledge, practices and attitudes of health providers on AMR, as well as raising awareness on the prudent use of antibiotics. Building on the progress made by Albania in enforcement of tobacco control legislation, WHO provided expert opinion[61] to the State Health Inspectorate on issues related to effective implementation of the Law 'On the Protection of Health from Tobacco Products'.

A policy dialogue to prevent child maltreatment in Albania, held in November with the support of WHO and the participation of 30 stakeholders representing key sectors, resulted in the issuance of seven recommendations[62] for inclusion in the National Action Plan (Agenda) for Children, 2016–2020. Supported with UNICEF's advocacy and data, Order of the Minister of Health No. 242, issued on 14.06.2016, created an administrative basis for the scaling up of child nutrition surveillance. Six new child nutrition indicators were introduced for nationwide monitoring in all primary and secondary health care facilities. Appropriate monitoring capacity was established for around 1,600 health care professionals and specialists of health statistics departments, accounting for more than 85 percent of eligible personnel at the national level.

More than 80 percent of eligible health personnel were provided with tools to plan and deliver holistic Maternal and Child Health services focusing on the most vulnerable, benefiting from UNICEF's training 'Building on past achievements, enforcement mechanisms for the new MCH regulatory framework', held in Durres as a target region identified jointly with the Ministry of

59. The drafting was technically supported by WHO EURO and WHO Country Office. It was approved by Ministerial Order No. 419, date 30.09.2016 'On the approval of the document of the National Programme and Action Plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCD) in Albania, 2016–2020'.

60. Pursuant to the requirements of Law No. 15/2016 'On the Prevention and Fighting of Infections and Infectious Diseases in the Republic of Albania'. The Guidelines were launched by the Ministry of Health of Albania during the World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2016 and were officially approved in 21 November 2016.

61. The technical assistance to the State Health Inspectorate was provided through meetings with Health Inspectorate officials, joint inspections in bars and restaurants, monitoring of the compliance with the law and a one-day workshop with 35 lawyers of the State Health Inspectorate.

62. Positive parenting training for parents and carers; social marketing to change norms regarding the use of violent discipline; capacity building for health and other professionals to detect and provide services for child victims; home visits to support parents, particularly in at-risk families; school-based training of children to recognise and resist sexual abuse; monitoring and evaluation; and violence-free schools.



Aspiring medical students practicing their skills through internship scheme

Health (MoH). Supportive supervision tools were developed in collaboration with MoH and the Institute of Public Health and used in monitoring the quality of service delivery. A collaboration framework between the regional health authorities and local government was developed and institutionalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Regional Department of Health and Durres Municipality, emphasising cross-sectoral collaboration and the new role of local government in health, in the frame of Albania's decentralisation reform. Equally important, the framework includes dedicated structures within local government to deal with mother and child health and public health issues, as well as modalities for regular information exchange. To ensure adequate resource allocation for maternal and child health, UNICEF assisted MoH and the Health Insurance Fund to design a tool to calculate the present and future costs. Plans to operationalize the use of the costing tool are under way for 2017.

For several consecutive years, UNFPA, in partnership with MoH, has supported initiatives[63] to improve perinatal care by incorporating higher standards of care into the regional maternity hospitals through the introduction of evidence-based best practices. Five regional maternity hospitals, in Durres, Kukes, Shkoder, Vlore and Fier, have benefited from quality improvement initiatives that have addressed capacities in effective perinatal care and introduction of Beyond the Numbers[64]. National clinical guidelines for

63. The objectives of these important initiatives are in accordance with the long-term strategy of MoH and the objectives of the National Centre for Quality Safety and Accreditation, achieving harmonisation with European standards for health care.

64. Beyond the Numbers' is a tool adopted by the World Health Organization as part of its campaign

Health Behavior in School-Aged Children in Albania



'Hypertension in pregnancy: management of hypertensive disorders during pregnancy' and 'Resuscitation of the newborn baby' were also developed this year, with UNFPA support. Additionally, UNFPA engaged in supporting key elements of quality improvement and demand generation for family planning: (i) development and endorsement of guidelines and protocols; (ii) strengthening the capacity development process through, among others, the establishment of a virtual learning platform accompanied by the first cohort of accredited trainees from the National Centre for Continuous Medical Education; and (iii) development and delivery of a training-of-trainers (ToT) package to a team of 30 health care professionals representing different regions of the country. Improved information and education on HIV and sexually transmitted infections, with focus on young key populations and increased coverage of comprehensive HIV services in prison settings, are some other key results, enabled with UNFPA support.

Recognising the importance of home visits and the key role the health sector plays in identifying and addressing vulnerabilities in the early years, UNICEF ensured that the new home visiting methodology prioritises the most vulnerable, fosters inter-sectoral collaboration and increases emphasis on monitoring child development. Using the universal progressive home-visiting model, 565 home visits were conducted by trained health personnel based on standard protocols for mother and childcare in target areas, Fier and Vlore, using standard checklists based on national protocols and the UNICEF regional home-visiting package. UNICEF supported the training of health personnel, based on standard training modules, to plan and conduct home visits to most at risk children and families, reaching some 455 Roma and other vulnerable children under five years of age. The content of the visits, in addition to health issues, focused on other vulnerabilities that influence poor health outcomes.

A Hospital Index Safety Training,[65] supported by WHO, took place in Tirana in October with national and regional participation, representing significant progress towards improving the safety of health facilities in the event of emergencies and disasters. Additionally, UNFPA supported integration of a Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) into the MoH's Platform on Disasters and Risk Management, accompanied by an Order of the Minister of Health approving its integration and assigning roles and responsibilities among public health structures for its implementation. Strengthening capacities of health care providers for the provision of reproductive health services in crisis or humanitarian settings was considered a key achievement of the year and a fulfilment of an MoH priority, in light of the regional context and migrations flows in the Mediterranean and the Western Balkans. Sixty health care professionals from Korca, Gjirokaster and

"Making Pregnancy Safer", supported by UNFPA and UNICEF at regional level in a number of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, used to guide professionals in reviewing maternal deaths and complications and create a surveillance system for such incidents. The package and its tools are designed to provide valuable recommendations for systemic improvements that strengthen maternal care at country level. See more at: http://eeca.unfpa.org/events/beyond-numbers-workshop-south-eastern-europe#sthash.x4clD2ns.dpuf

65. National experts were trained in how to apply the tool in hospital settings. The assessment consists of three essential elements: structural hospital safety, non-structural safety, and functional safety, including emergency and disaster management. The trainees were split into two groups for conducting an assessment in two hospitals: University Hospital, Tirana and the Regional Hospital, Durres.

KEY RESULTS

- Education Policy Review in Albania - assessing system's strengths and weaknesses
- Programme "Promotion of intercultural and interreligious understanding through education in Albania" piloted in 10 schools in 5 regions -Tirana Durres, Berat, Pogradec and Vlora
- Pre-school curricula & new programme for teachers' professional development, ELDS-based
- Inclusive Teacher Profile & inclusive education modules in MoES' teacher training programme - reaching 11,000 teachers/100% of teachers teaching grade 2 and 7
- Dissemination of Curricula on Sexual Education
- Curriculum development for teaching human trafficking prevention at pre-university level
- Development of study "The Cost of Underinvestment in Education: And ways to reduce it"
- Every Roma Child in Preschool" initiative across Albania reached a total of 1,264 children
- Mechanism for early identification of school drop-out risks designed/ tested in Tirana, Berat & Korca regions, part of School as Community Center initiative

Saranda counties received training in MISP in 2016.

Support for national leadership and increased participation of national stakeholders in decision making was continued in 2016 through support by UNAIDS for enhanced collaboration among MoH, Institute for Public Health and representatives of civil society in the Global Fund's Country Coordinating Mechanism and beyond. Advocacy efforts of UNAIDS in partnership with the regional departments of health resulted in an increased number of community events[66] organised by social workers and doctors of Voluntary Counselling and Testing in the regions of Elbasan, Shkoder, Vlora and Berat, reaching 2,722 women and men who are empowered to provide peer and community awareness.

Technical assistance from UNAIDS accompanied MoH as the Primary Recipient of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) New Funding Model Proposal through all the steps of the grant application process and resulted in ratification of a grant by Parliament in June 2016. UN, as a member of the Country Coordinating Mechanism in partnership with the GFATM Secretariat, contributed to the development of framework documents and procedures for establishment of the Project Implementation Unit.

WHO also worked on linkages between health and water supply. A workshop in September, with WHO support, aimed to advance Albania's work under the Protocol on Water and Health, introducing the objectives and provisions of the Protocol and positioning it as a practical instrument to achieve the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.

66. 130 sessions in total for each region with an average participation rate of 15 persons per session

Output 2.2
Education

Early childhood development and education policies ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for individuals and groups

The overall efforts made in the field of education are in line with Albania's aspirations to join the European Union. Over the years, the legal and policy framework as well as practices are becoming more aligned with EU standards. Albania impressively improved performance in PISA[67] reading, math and science assessments between 2012 and 2016, yet much remains to be accomplished in order to reach EU education benchmarks. More specifically, while access to all levels of education has increased, there is still room for improvement in development of an inclusive education system, enrolment of children and youth from ethnic and cultural minority backgrounds, as well as with special education needs, and increased access to quality pre-school education, among others. The country's intensive reform efforts are strongly supported by UN Albania, focusing on reducing disparities and aiming to achieve equity and quality learning for all.

Through assessments of progress and gaps, and making recommendations for improving delivery, the UN contributed to making education more inclusive for vulnerable children. In collaboration with the Institute of Education Development (IED) and the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), UNESCO conducted an education policy review, assessing both strengths and weak-

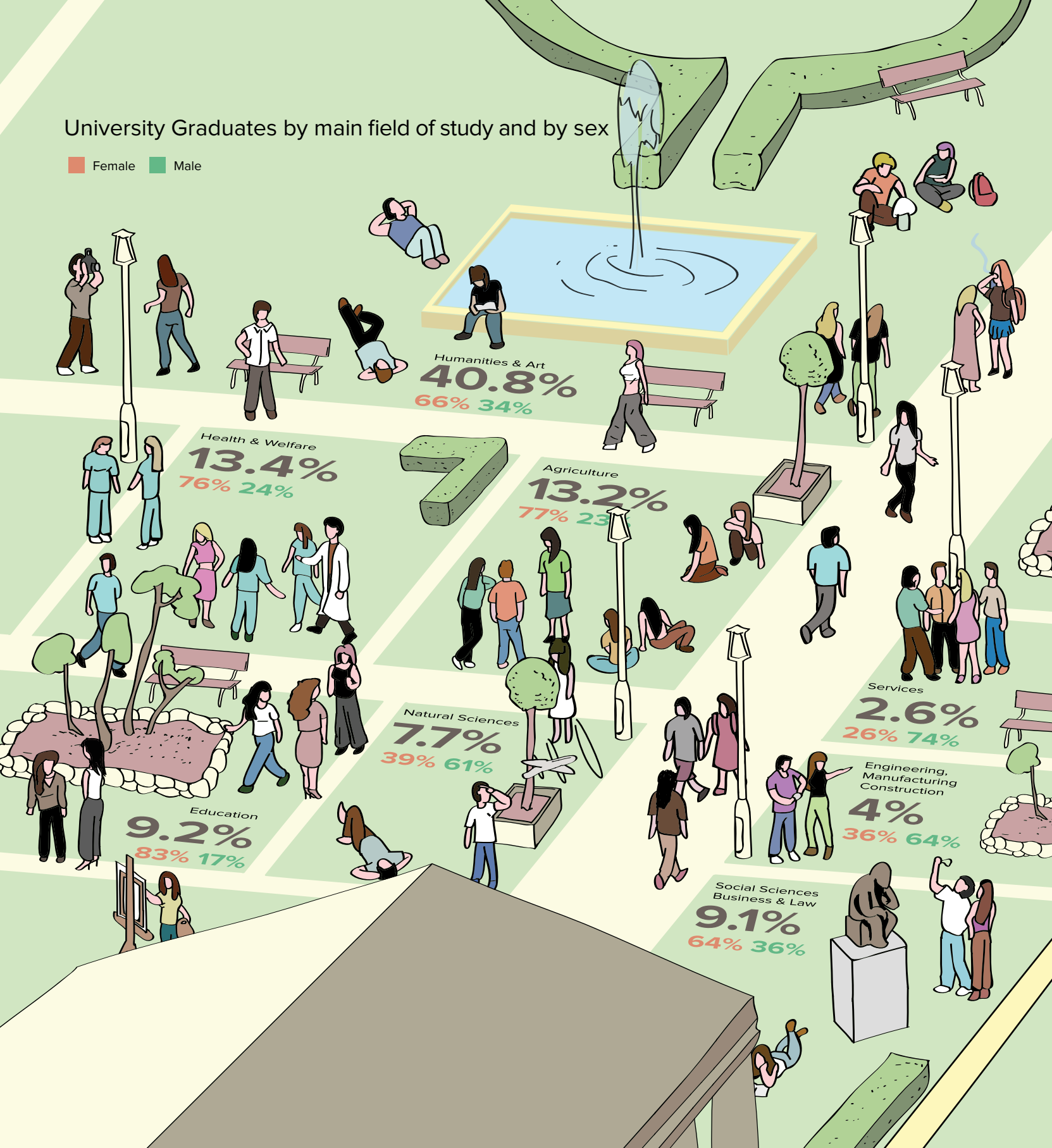
67. PISA reading (from 394 to 405), math (from 394 to 413) and science (from 397 to 427) between 2012 and 2016. http://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisa-2015-results-in-focus.pdf



Shakira, 3 years old, with Dajsler, 5. Roma and non-Roma children learning and playing together at Skenderbeg Kindergarten in Lezha ©UNICEF/Giacomo Pirozzi

nesses of the education system focused on three national priority policy areas—teachers, curriculum development and use of information technology. Additionally, through UNESCO support, government developed the programme 'Promotion of intercultural and interreligious understanding through education in Albania', introduced as a pilot in ten schools (5 primary and 5 secondary) in five regions—Tirana Durres, Berat, Pogradec and Vlora—in the academic school year 2016–2017 along with dedicated teacher training implemented since September 2016. Other examples of UNESCO's work include the development of an arts and culture educational programme of school exhibitions and education tours and preparation of a set of easily usable educational resources to support and facilitate efforts of Culture and Education regional directorates to promote cultural heritage in the country.

UN efforts towards strengthening Albania's policy framework and institutional capacity building for education included UNICEF support for development and approval by MoES of (i) the national preschool curricula, (ii) a new programme for professional development of teachers based on Early Learning and Development Standards, (iii) the Inclusive Teacher Profile and inclusive education modules, which were incorporated in the ministry's teacher training programme, reaching 11,000 teachers, 100 percent of those teaching grade 2 and 7. Based on the newly endorsed Inclusive Teacher Profile, three Albanian universities (Durres, Gjirokaster, and Tirana's Social Sciences Faculty) developed and approved a re-


University Graduates by main field of study and by sex
Female
Male
Humanities & Art
40.8%
66% 34%
Health & Welfare
13.4%
76% 24%
Agriculture
13.2%
77% 23%
Natural Sciences
7.7%
39% 61%
Services
2.6%
26% 74%
Education
9.2%
83% 17%
Engineering, Manufacturing Construction
4%
36% 64%
Social Sciences Business & Law
9.1%
64% 36%

vised syllabus on inclusive education for implementation during the academic year 2016–2017.

Dissemination of the curriculum on sex education and the training of 170 teacher trainers in thirteen regional education directorates in the country was supported by UNFPA in collaboration with IED. Further support was provided for the development of teacher–pupil materials for secondary education and initiation of preliminary work in this regard in the country's high schools. At year end, a seminar to share best practices and inform on the teacher–student materials produced to date was organised by MoES in collaboration with IED and UNFPA, with participation of around 200 teachers and education inspectors across the country.

Equally important, an IOM-developed curriculum for teaching human trafficking prevention in Albanian schools at pre-university level aimed to raise awareness of the phenomenon of human trafficking, helping to prevent human trafficking among Albanian youth. Piloting of this curriculum in schools is planned for 2017, in close cooperation with MoES and MoIA, and the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator.

Aiming to increase, and achieve more efficient, education financing, UNICEF supported the development of the study 'The Cost of Underinvestment in Education: And ways to reduce it', which will be followed by awareness and advocacy on the importance of investments in education during 2017. MoES efforts to enhance school leadership, identified as one of the gaps in the study on the quality of teaching undertaken by the ministry in 2016, were supported by UNICEF through the development of a capacity building programme and training for 214 school headmasters from pre-university education, primary and high schools.

Policy developments that facilitate more equitable access to early learning services and inclusive basic education were further advanced by the 'Every Roma Child in Pre-school' initiative across Albania, supported by UNICEF. The results from evaluation of this initiative indicate that the project was highly effective in accomplishing the intended results of building the capacities of key stakeholders, particularly of the different duty bearers (parents, service providers, public institutions) responsible for the equitable realisation of child rights. The initiative reached a total of 1,264 children enrolled in pre-school during the last three academic years.

Additionally, the Out-of-School Children initiative was piloted in Durres resulting in the identification of 36 such children in 2016. A new guide was developed by UNICEF on the implementation role of each actor and used by local authorities and service practitioners throughout the year. A mechanism for early identification of children at risk of school drop out was designed and tested in Tirana, Berat and Korca regions as part of the 'School as the Community Centre' initiative of government supported by UNICEF, aiming at improved evidence-based policy making in this area.

KEY RESULTS

- EU Sectoral Approach Document & Sectoral Reform Contract for Employment and Skills 2016-2018
- NESS monitoring system establishment and implementation
- NESS annual reporting
- IPMG "Employment and Social Sector" establishment and operationalization
- Occupational Health & Safety Policy Document and Action Plan 2016-2020
- Draft new law on Vocational Education and Training
- Draft new Labour Code
- National Employment Service operational guidelines revision
- Review of scoring system for allocation of ALMM funding
- Implementation of a self-employment measure via platform www.aftesi.info/vetepunesimi
- Elaboration of NAVETQ occupational descriptions, through inter-institutional collaboration and private sector outreach
- Initiating process on integrating MIL into education

Output 2.3
Labour

Improved social dialogue leads to active employment and skills development policies, and decent work for men and women

In 2016, Albania's labour force participation rate remained below European averages (71%) and above Western Balkan averages (51%), with women participation rates significantly lower than men's (65.7 overall, 57.6% for women and 73.8% for men)[68]. Despite a slight improvement in early 2016, youth participation rates are considerably lower than for the rest of the population (46% overall, with the gender gap above 15%) and data indicate that, since 2007, Albanian youth have faced increased difficulties in the labour market compared to adults. In a positive change, youth unemployment rate in the third quarter of 2016 declined to 27 percent, its lowest level since early 2013. Yet, Albania's vocational education and training (VET) and vocational skills development (VSD) system all too often fail to equip students with the requisite knowledge, competences and skills for a successful transition into the labour market. This results in an unsuitably qualified labour force, skills shortages and high youth unemployment that hamper the growth and modernisation potential of Albania's economy. Skills mismatch in the labour market and the associated inefficiencies of the country's education model emerged as a priority topic for the government and its development partners. GoA is committed to addressing jobs creation and skills development, with a focus on the employment of youth and women.

GoA's Decent Work Agenda was supported by ILO through development of an EU Sectoral Approach Document and a Sectoral Reform Contract for Employment and Skills 2016–2018, requisite for 2016 EU-IPA funding cycle in support of implementation of the National Employment and Skills Strategy (NESS) 2014–2020. A NESS monitoring system was established and implemented, and a first full cycle of annual reporting completed. Additionally, ILO's expertise enabled the establishment and operationalisation of an IPMG on Employment and Social Policies, aiming to improve coordination, oversight and monitoring of implementation of the sector's strategies. Other examples of ILO support in this sector include the finalisation, adoption and publication of the Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) Policy Document and Action Plan 2016–2020, the drafting of the new law on VET, as well as the new Labour Code and development of a methodological proposal to align labour force surveys to international labour statistics standards.

The employment promotion programmes portfolio of the National Employment Service (NES) expanded in 2016 with the support of UNDP. All of the service's operational guidelines were revised, related to the selection, implementation and monitoring of employment promotion programmes pertaining to NES and its regional and local employment offices. UNDP undertook a review of the scoring system for allocation of Active Labour Market Measures (ALMM) funding, aiming to. maximise the number of unemployed jobseekers benefiting from active labour market programmes and ensure greater participation of the most disadvantaged (e.g. women single heads of households, people with disabilities, youth, orphans) by positively scoring those en-

68. Western Balkans Regular Economic Report No.11 Faster Growth, More Jobs, Spring 2017 http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/310431491458109659/WBRER-11-v6.pdf



One of the participants that was supported by the self-employment incentive scheme, implemented by UNDP via the platform www.aftesi.info/vetepunesimi

terprises that seek to employ unemployed jobseekers from these groups. In March, UNDP started implementation of a self-employment incentive scheme via the platform www.aftesi.info/vetepunesimi. Over the one-month application window, 644 applications were received and reviewed, out of which 440 were deemed as complete and subject to further assessment on individual entrepreneurial skills and aptitude. By the end of December, 34 out of the 38 participants were supported by the programme through start-up grants.

The National Agency for Vocational Education, Training and Qualification (NAVETQ) was also supported by UNDP in the process of elaborating occupational descriptions through securing both inter-institutional collaboration and outreach to the private sector throughout the country. Whereas International Standard Classification of Occupations ISCO-08 sets the basis for defining all occupations, it is necessary for the descriptions to capture the realities of the Albanian labour market. Moreover, in the frame of the Skills Development for Employment Programme, MoSWY was supported in conceptualising and organising a skills fair that aimed to promote VET in the country. The fair took place from 20–22 May and aimed to i) expose young people and their parents to public VET providers and their offer, ii) organise up to eight thematic skills competitions among VET providers, iii) highlight and showcase the skills of the new generation that attend VET, iv) foster competition among providers and VET students, emphasising motivational elements such as self-confidence and commitment, and v) offer the possibility for representatives of the private sector

UNDP self-employment programme data



to meet and recruit new talent. The fair brought together 32 vocational schools, ten public VET centres, private VET providers and 18,000 visitors.

Capacities of the National Labour Inspectorate and the Office of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination were strengthened to accurately follow up and monitor labour code legal amendments, entered into force in 2015, and their impact on women in the workplace. In this regard, UN Women, in collaboration with the national labour inspectorate, conducted a technical review of the Albanian Labour Code, capturing all changes related to legal amendments and provisions impacting women in the workplace, and developed a capacity building plan targeting labour inspectorates that was duly implemented throughout 2016. A follow up monitoring process will be conducted in 2017 to measure the impact of trainings.

Moreover, with support from the EU, UNESCO provided training and support to journalists and media organisations, as key drivers for democratic, sustainable and peaceful development in the country, in order to strengthen freedom of expression, access to information, and free, independent and pluralistic media. For example, infringements of the labour rights of journalists in south-east Europe and Turkey were discussed and challenged during a regional ToT seminar organised in December in Tirana with thirteen participants from the region. Additionally, a national consultation on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) started in the country, aiming to enable a cross-sector debate on MIL and initiate the process of creating specific policy recommendations on integrating MIL into formal, non-formal and informal education.

Output 2.4
Social protection

Social protection and inclusion mechanisms ensure that social needs of disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally met

The priorities of government to reduce poverty amongst the most vulnerable groups are set out in the Social Protection Strategy, 2015–2020 and the Policy Paper on Social Inclusion, 2015–2020, which are an integral part of NSDI II and responsive to the EU 2020 perspective of Increased Social Inclusion through Development of the Labour Market and Social Welfare. Even though the government is paying increasing attention to policies tackling poverty and social exclusion, a large segment of the population is still vulnerable and lives close to the poverty line. Certain vulnerable groups, namely Roma and Egyptian communities, people with disabilities, internal migrants living in suburb areas of big cities, returned migrants, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied children and elderly, continue to live in difficult conditions and often have limited access to services. Public spending for social inclusion programmes is modest with the bulk of expenditures devoted to staffing costs for monitoring of strategies and action plans, as well as awareness activities (for example: public health expenditure accounts for 2.9 percent[69] of GDP, while education 3.3 percent[70]). Although some progress has been achieved with regard to the institutional mechanisms and capacities to address the needs of vulnerable groups, more efforts are needed to enable a combination of targeted and mainstreamed actions by national and local gov-

69. World Bank 2014 http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.PUBL.ZS; WHO 2014 http://www.who.int/countries/alb/en/

70. Ministry of Education and Sports 2016 Budget

KEY RESULTS

- Law on Social Care Services
- Law on Social Housing
- Law on Social Enterprises
- Social Housing Strategy 2016-2025
- Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities (2016 – 2020)
- Social Care Plans for 7 municipalities -Tirana, Shkodra, Durres, Kukes, Korca, Elbasan and Berat
- For the first time, Social Inclusion Action Plans for 3 municipalities
- Housing needs of vulnerable groups data collection & analysis in 61 LGUs
- Assessment on housing living conditions of Roma & Egyptians
- Social housing needs feasibility studies in Tirana and Durres municipalities
- SIIG establishment along with guidelines & work plan defining its focus
- Improvement in quality of vocational education for at least 40 hearing-impaired students
- Knowledge gain on providing care services to PWD for 220 in-service judges & prosecutors, 216 SSS personnel and 53 public institutions staff
- Income generation and employment coaching for 92 Roma youth, 20 fully employed
- 73 R/E benefited from 4 employment promotion measures in Tirana, Durres, Shkodra and Berat
- "Local Partnerships" establishment in Vlore, Elbasan, Berat
- Participatory budgeting initiatives in Fier, Berat & Tirana municipalities – over USD 10 million committment
- Recommendations to SSS on improving institutional mechanisms to provide services/address needs of vulnerable categories
- Web-based RomAlb system operationalisation through MoSWY Order No. 276/30.12.2016
- 246 family assessments in the context of origin of unaccompanied migrant children



73 Roma and Egyptians are employed until December 2016

ernment authorities, to ensure that no one is left behind and that all have full access to quality public services. Supporting vulnerable individuals in ways to self-empowerment through opportunities for learning, skills development, employment, and community-based social services, while increasing access to mainstreamed public services, remains crucial and a focus of UN work in this area.

In 2016, UNICEF's support to MoSWY in advancing reform of the social care services system culminated with adoption of a new Law on Social Care Services,[71] setting the foundation for a modern social protection system in Albania, focused on decentralised service delivery, and defining roles and accountabilities for government institutions to plan, budget, finance, deliver and monitor such services. Equally important, it mandates local governments to establish appropriate and skilled structures[72] able to develop social care plans and assist families and children through case management. While, this Law is the necessary pre-requisite for the system to be properly built and become functional, different institutions and segments of society have to take action so that the law is properly understood, implemented and monitored. In order to fill the capacity gap between prac-

71. For the first time, this law sets the foundations and provides the instruments for a system of integrated services to be planned and implemented at the local level for vulnerable families and children in Albania, allowing the country to take an essential step towards a modern social protection system.

72. By requesting local governments to establish social welfare directories and to hire social workers for 6,000–10,000 inhabitants, the law provides the instruments to develop local social care plans based on a standard basket of services with financial costs to be covered by the social fund, which will be a separate budget line with funds allocated from social protection central budget and from the LGUs' resources.

tice on the ground and the policy intent set out in the Social Protection Strategy and the new Law on Social Care Services, UNICEF supported seven municipalities—Tirana, Shkodra, Durres, Kukes, Korca, Elbasan and Berat—in the development of social care plans to establish social care services for vulnerable families and children, establish the new social welfare structures and train[73] the teams of social workers.

Additionally, MoSWY developed and led the Social Pact Campaign, supported by UNICEF, unfolding under the logo of "Social ImPact as an agreement with all 61 municipalities of the country, pledging to implement the Law on Social Care Services and build the necessary structures and systems. Moreover, credited to UNICEF's comprehensive set of technical recommendations, MoSWY is developing an integrated Management Information System (MIS) for social protection in the country.

Likewise, parallel to its engagement with the service-based component of the social protection system, UNICEF completed an in-depth analysis of monetary and non-monetary deprivation factors affecting the lives of children in Albania, already validated by national stakeholders and planned for dissemination in 2017, aiming to inform the development of specific policies in child-focused social protection at both the central and local level.

UNDP supported implementation of the National Social Inclusion policy, adopted in early 2016, through assisting three municipalities to develop for the first time social-inclusion action plans for vulnerable men and women. Further support was provided to mainstream social inclusion in sectoral policies through development of a new Social Housing Strategy 2016–2025, which will contribute to the advancement of this sector and serve the needs of the most vulnerable and excluded groups in Albania. In this regard, UNDP undertook data collection and analysis of the housing needs of vulnerable groups in the 61 municipalities, established a reliable tracking system at national and local levels and strengthened the capacities of 140 housing specialist from all municipalities. Additionally, government was supported in the development of a new Law on Social Housing, finalised in June, preparation of an assessment on housing living conditions of Roma and Egyptians, two feasibility studies on social housing needs in Tirana and Durres municipalities, and establishment of a Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group (SIIG) along with guidelines and a work plan defining its focus.[74]

An Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities, 2016–2020,[75] developed with UNDP support, was approved in June. UNDP has been improving the quality of vocational education delivered to at least 40 hearing-impaired students every academic year through establishment of a day-care centre in Lushnja Municipality, hosting at least 30 children with

73. Training focused on local needs assessment, budgeting and outsourcing of services to non-governmental providers, in order to plan the transformation of existing residential institutions into modern community-based facilities guided by the new national Standards for Community-Based Care Services.

74. The main focus is to ensure the integrity of data for measuring, monitoring and reporting on exclusionary forces, structural disadvantages and the limitations of capabilities that operate at all levels of policy and programme delivery as stated in the Social Inclusion Policy Document.

75. The plan addresses problems faced by persons with disabilities, and proposes activities to promote inclusion, prevent discrimination and eliminate barriers in accessing services and rights.

disabilities, a resource centre for the Blind Institute in Tirana, equipped with a Braille laboratory and audio recording studio aiding 65 students and 200 visually impaired youths, and rehabilitation of three workshops at the Institute of Deaf Children in Tirana. Moreover, six associations of persons with disabilities were supported in project implementation, capacity development in advocacy for disability rights, partnering and networking for a common cause, promoting the disability agenda and influencing policy and decision making on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Two hundred and twenty in-service judges and prosecutors from the School of Magistrates, 216 personnel[76] from State Social Services and 53 staff from public institutions providing care services to persons with disabilities gained knowledge from UNDP-delivered training on the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and European Court on Human Rights rulings and standards.

The rights of Roma and Egyptian individuals and groups were economically and socially advanced through concrete UNDP interventions. Free legal aid was provided to 309 Roma[77] in seven cities (Tirana, Shkoder, Korca, Berat, Lushnja, Durres, and Cerrik) and 92 Roma[78] youth were supported with income generation and employment coaching, of whom 20 became fully employed. From the Roma and Egyptian communities, 73 individuals benefited from four employment promotion measures targeting these communities directly, designed and made operational in Tirana, Durres, Shkodra and Berat in 2016. Five Roma and Egyptian employment mediators and coaches were trained and positioned within the NES. Community members were mobilised and became key partners in advancing the social inclusion agenda in the country, through the lens of the Community-Led Local Development approach,[79] with the aim of empowering communities to become actors in various local actions. In this regard, thirteen community counselling fora were established and made operational in Tirana, Durres, Berat and Shkoder, and 22 community mobilisation activities organised involving more than 250 Roma and Egyptian community members. These communities have prioritised four community-upgrading infrastructure projects in Tirana, Durres, Shkodra and Berat, with public works having started on three of them. Two models for inclusive education and desegregation—Early Part-Time Primary Adult Education and Schools as Community Centres—are mainstreamed into the public education system in Tirana, Durres, Shkodra and Berat, improving education outcomes for Roma and Egyptians. From these communities, 165 individuals in need of administrative or court support and civil registration were supported to access basic services of social care, health, education and housing. Government supported the operationalisation of the web-based RomAlb system[80] through Order No. 276 dated 30.12.2016 of the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, accompanied by a series of trainings for national and local government staff on the implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians in the

76. 72 disability focal points newly appointed at the ministerial and municipality level, 22 state social service staff at the regional level, 122 professionals

77. 183 women and 126 men

78. 51 men and 41 women

79. Under CLLD, local people take the reins and form a local partnership that designs and implements an integrated development strategy that builds on a community's social, environmental and economic strengths or 'assets' rather than simply compensating for its problems.

80. A web-based tool accessible internally by responsible staff in central and local government units.



Work on tailoring is challenging but this girl surprised her employers in Berat with the quality of her work and correctness

Republic of Albania, 2016–2020.

The access to basic services by at risk groups was voiced out through the participatory coordination mechanism "Local Partnerships" established in municipalities of Vlora, Elbasan, Berat and Shkodra, facilitated by the Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), UNFPA and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). These serve as a coordination mechanism to create an enabling environment and enable access of representatives from marginalised groups to be represented at local and regional government and institution level. In this regard, mapping of the work of NGOs in the four municipalities was carried out, along with establishment of social media tools to enhance the mechanisms' internal communication, annual coordinated planning of activities and engagement. Briefing on SDGs was held with local partners. The networks of local partnerships evaluated the social determinants on health in their respective regions and agreed to establish local mechanisms to monitor the impact of social policies at the local level.

Development of a law on Social Enterprises, supported by UN Women, was approved in Parliament in June 2016, maintaining social re-integration as a key rationale of the law and reflecting fully the core principles of social re-integration. UN Women supported the development of the law's secondary legislation, resulting in three draft decisions[81] of the Council of Ministers that define clear criteria and guidance for 1) inspection of social enterprises, 2) area of activity and operations of social enterprises; and 3) concrete categories of vulnerable groups, including vulnerable women. Moreover, UN Women participatory budgeting

81. CoM draft decisions were consulted with MoSWY but are pending PMO final approval.

initiatives[82] conducted in the municipalities of Fier, Berat and Tirana supported alignment of municipal plans and budgets with regional development plans. Social and economic assessments were prepared for Fier and Berat providing information and key recommendations on planning and budgeting of services. As a result, Fier Municipality committed USD 1.8 million and 19 million ALL for improving parks in the city, setting up recreational and green areas, reconstructing the city theatre and the centre for elders and youths, building the Horizon Multifunctional Centre for women in need and promoting initiatives for women entrepreneurship. Similarly, Berat Municipality committed USD 1.38 million and 50,000 ALL to, among other things, support families in the social aid and housing scheme, reconstruct the Lira Centre and several schools and kindergartens, allocate an emergency fund for DV survivors, and conduct social activities targeting social groups.

IOM supported MoSWY and the State Social Services with provision of recommendations on how to improve the institutional mechanisms to provide services and address the needs of vulnerable categories, including victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children and returned migrants. Host country authorities were supported to better follow the integration of minors and identify and uphold the child's best interests by assessing economic and social resources and opportunities available in the context of origin of unaccompanied migrant children. A total of 246 family assessments were held throughout 2016.

82. The participatory budgeting of local social services engaged a large number of citizens, women, men and municipal authorities in a constructive dialogue in all three municipalities, while local civil society organisations facilitated a constructive dialogue that led to improved service responses to citizens.

CHALLENGES AND THE WAY AHEAD

Challenges

The UN is supporting Albania to build a comprehensive **health** system that delivers equity, efficiency, access and affordability for all. However, several challenges were observed in the sector, including i) a lack of implementation tools for all policies and concrete models for effective inter-sectoral collaboration, ii) a need for supervision and follow up on capacity development interventions to ensure institutional change and sustainability, and iii) weak government capacities to deal with financial management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and strategies, as well as adequate budget allocations for the marginalised.

In the area of **education**, a lack of clear accountability for pre-school education among central and local governments challenged implementation of programmes at the local level throughout 2016. In this regard, UNICEF provided recommendations to amendments of the Law on Pre-university Education, which is expected to resolve and provide clarity on pre-school accountability regarding the teacher workforce. UNFPA and MoES together with the Institute for Educational Development are preparing plans to ensure sustainability of Comprehensive Sexuality Education through integration in teacher-training universities.

In the **employment** sector, the lack of trade unions in the private sector and the under-development of many of the existing workers and employers' organisations calls for the UN to play a greater role in this area. Much remains to be done to improve the bipartite social dialogue and strength-

en the autonomy of social partners at the local and enterprise levels. The legislative framework for the VET reforms is still incomplete, and more capacity-building would accelerate the implementation of all the VET-related reforms. Currently, legislative action in the areas of work-based learning, quality assurance and accreditation is moving too slowly. Furthermore, the governance structures and mechanisms for the management of VET are centralised and the training supply is still not aligned with labour demand.

At the end of 2016, there was a clear national vision to build a transformative system of **social protection and social inclusion** that provides to vulnerable families and children both cash and care that are embedded in the national strategies and legislation. Such policy intent, though, is hard to translate at the local level given the insufficient financial and human resources in the newly formed municipal governments. UN agencies will work with municipalities to build the structures required by the law on social care services and develop the needed capacities. Additional challenges include a weak culture of cross-sectoral collaboration, making it difficult to bring different ministries to the same discussion. Nonetheless, the creation of IPMGs is an important step to overcoming this obstacle and different UN agencies are contributing to advancing the processes. Meanwhile, a lack of data and identification of positive effects of the decision-making processes at local government are a concern, which will be addressed by UN agencies through establishment of good partnerships and networks and the development of monitoring tools to evaluate progress.

Way Ahead

In the **health** sector, the work of UN agencies, in collaboration with partners in the field, will address the various current challenges and advance the government's universal health coverage agenda through, among others, i) strengthening the monitoring and evaluation capacities of MoH and dependent institutions for implementation of the International Health Regulation and the NCD Action Plan, ii) establishing efficient and sustainable management mechanisms to expand application of the new Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) regulatory framework, in line with national service protocols and standards, iii) development and operationalisation of an appropriate financing formula for a comprehensive Continuum of Care for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH), iv) improving the quality of care for RMNCH, development or adaptation of rights-based clinical guidelines, protocols and standards, and strengthening mechanisms for monitoring the quality of RMNCH services, v) strengthening the implementation of the new action plan of the National Strategy on Prevention and Control of HIV–AIDS, scaled up at the local and national level, vi) engaging communities to demand quality health care services, with particular focus on PHC, vii) strengthening the health information system with alignment to international measurement standards and underpinned by disaggregated data, and viii) strengthening the preparedness of national response mechanisms in delivering sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian crises and emergencies, including services for adolescents.

The **education** sector will benefit from the results of the education policy review, which will be published and presented in an official report in the first half of 2017 along with follow-up activities to ensure alignment of Albania's planning in education with the SDGs. UNESCO will continue to support Albania in its efforts to train teachers within the programme 'Promotion of intercultural and inter-religious understanding through education in Albania', and expand the EU-funded project Ark of Inquiry to Albania, ensuring that selected Albanian science teachers are trained in how to apply the Inquiry cycle in the classroom, with special focus on empowering girls in science. UNFPA support will focus on monitoring of the quality of CSE teaching, alongside the development of teacher standards and protocols related to CSE, braced by enhanced advocacy in this area. UNICEF interventions will aim at improvement of inclusive education practices in schools, development of a path for inclusive education in the country, in line with comments of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on inclusive education, improvement of systems at national and local levels for identification and integration of out-of-school children, implementation of a teacher-driven scheme for professional development in preschool, as well as advocating for increased and more efficient education budgets that include new models for financing inclusive education at the municipal level and scaling up of enrolment of Roma children in preschool by working with the accountability of service providers.

The **employment** sector interventions supported by UNDP and ILO will embrace market integration, including the employability and self-employment of youths, women, disabled job seekers, Roma and Egyptian people, and other vulnerable groups. It will support national policies and regulatory frameworks on employment, education (VET and higher education) with special attention on quality assurance and market needs, labour market governance policies, including local level tripartite councils, and social dialogue. UNDP efforts will focus on supporting MoSWY in the optimisation of the VET system and the creation of a new National Agency for Employment and Skills and of a quality assurance system for VET, and implementation of the crafts law. The self-employment scheme will be continued and a skills needs analysis will be produced in 2017 to inform policy makers and VET providers of the anticipated skills in need. Additional employment measures, such as Territorial Employment Pacts, will be implemented in the rural areas of Tirana Municipality. IOM will pay attention to the reintegration of returning migrants and better access for them to employment and VET, improved capacities of migrations counters, and promotion of ethical recruitment standards for employment of migrant workers in Albania. Future work will be oriented towards expansion of active labour market measures and their out-reach, strengthening reform of VET. New lines of work, such as in the care economy, will be analysed for identification of intervention entry points. In the framework of the EU-funded Project Building Trust in Media in South-East Europe and Turkey, UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector will continue supporting the newly established Albanian Media Council to implement ethical audits in selected media

outlets of the country, for print, broadcast and online media. These audits are meant to be performed internally by media managers, owners and editors to assess their performance in applying ethical standards in managing conflicts of interest and handling their standards of good governance.

Social protection and social inclusion will be one of the main areas of UN agency support over the next five years, focusing on i) supporting the legal, regulatory and financing frameworks to strengthen the governance and responsiveness of the social protection system[83], ii) promoting an equity focus in planning and budgeting processes for the delivery of quality inclusive services, iii) strengthening social protection and child protection measures and mechanisms at national and local levels, with service standards, budgets, and clear targets that reflect equity and social inclusion standards, iv) strengthening LGUs to implement social inclusion and social protection policies, v) supporting the scaling-up of innovative service delivery models for persons with disabilities, older persons, and victims of violence, abuse and neglect, and vi) enhancing monitoring and supervision mechanisms for LGUs and CSOs providing social services.

83. Focusing on the implementation of the Social Protection Strategy 2016-2020, Policy document on Social Inclusion 2016-2020, National Action Plan on LGBTI 2016-2020, National Action Plan on Integration of the Roma and Egyptians 2016-2020, National Action Plan on Disability 2016-2020, National Action Plan on Youth 2015 - 2020.

OUTCOME 3 – GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

The Albanian State executes major governance processes following internationally agreed democratic principles and practices, while upholding the rule of law and eliminating key factors in the exclusion of women

Coordinated by UNDP, bringing together the efforts of UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNODC, UNHCR, UNECE, FAO and IOM

- **Output 3.1:** Parliament and electoral institutions have the capacity to perform core functions. **Available Budget - 342,649 USD**
- **Output 3.2:** Line ministries and public service delivery institutions are able to mainstream gender and conduct gender-responsive planning and budgeting and evidence-based policy making at all levels. **Available Budget - 585,316 USD**
- **Output 3.3:** State, market, non-state institutions enabled to deliver their statutory mandates, prevent corruption; enforce rule of law. **Available Budget - 10,558,004 USD**
- **Output 3.4:** Line Ministries ensure and enforce the conservation, sustainable use of public goods. **Available Budget - 1,447,503 USD**

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.**

The total available budget for Outcome 3 implementation in 2016 was 12.9 million USD from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the Governments of Albania, Austria, Belgium, United States, Slovenia, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Sweden, the EU, the Delivering Results Together Fund, and the Global Environment Facility.

Assessment against progress of achievement of indicators shows that out of ten indicators, eight (80%) have been fully met, one (10%) is partially on track, and one (10%) has not progressed. For further details regarding progress made against the indicators please check Annex A of this report.



Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016
Open Budget Index Score	UNDP: 47 in 2012 Open Budget Survey	UNDP: 60	38 (2015)
Sector policies include an evidence-based statement on gender inequality in relevant sectors and provide for measures to combat it	1	4	- National Strategy on Gender Equality 2016–2020 - National Programme of Official Statistics 2017–2021 - National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 - Curriculum on prevention of trafficking developed for Albanian schools Gender equality mainstreamed into EUD Action Documents on justice, anti-corruption, transport, fisheries, integrated water management, food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary issues, and consumer protection - Other
Transparency International Corruption Index	CPI: 31 (2013)	CPI: 50	39 (2016)

ON TRACK | PARTIALLY ON TRACK | NO PROGRESS

Output 3.1
Parliament and electoral institutions

Parliament and electoral institutions have the capacity to perform core functions

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 practised 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.

Parliament capacities were strengthened to perform core oversight and monitoring functions through several initiatives of UN agencies implemented throughout 2016. For example, in April, Albania hosted the meeting of the General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science of the South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly (SEECP PA), whose main report, reflecting UNICEF's perspective and expertise, influenced the resolution adopted by the General Committee on Protecting the Rights of Children on the Move. UNFPA supported the Parliamentary Commission on Health and Population and CSOs to advocate for the International Conference on Population and Development through the development of briefs on SDGs aiming to raise awareness of SDGs and improve accountability and monitoring mechanisms in this regard. The Annual Retreat of the Alliance of Women Parliamentarians, supported by UN Women for further strengthening its capacities to coordinate, establish, implement and monitor a yearly work plan, concluded with identification of key areas that require sturdier focus of the Alliance to i) support legal initiatives with special focus on gender and women rights, ii) increase the Alliance monitoring function on independent institutions for application of gender equality law and women representation, iii) advocate for 50 percent quota at the national level following its success at the local level, and iv) request equal representation in all parliamentary commissions among others.

The Alliance also committed itself to increased collaboration with Political Party Women Forums, Alliances of Women Counsellors and other powerful national and regional women bodies. Additional-

KEY RESULTS

- Alliance of Women Parliamentarians Retreat - identification of areas for AWP's sturdier focus
- Development of briefs on SDGs and ICPD based SDGs
- Ombudsman, CPD and CEC public oversight functions strengthening
- Thematic monitoring reports – "With the voice of children deprived of their liberty: monitoring of the conditions and treatment in the institutions of custody, pre-trial detention, and prisons " & "Children living in residential institutions"
- Preparation of Ombudsman Shadow Report to CEDAW and follow up Action Plan
- Strategy and Action Plan development for Tirana Municipality Alliance of Women Counselors
- Alliance of Women Counselors establishment in Berat and Korca municipalities
- Community Based Scorecards establishment in 10 municipalities - Berat, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokastër, Kamëz, Korçë, Kuçovë, Lushnjë, Vlorë and Shkodër - and 28 administrative units
- 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

ly, UN Women, in collaboration with the Alliance of Women Parliamentarians and OSCE, supported the organisation of the Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians, held in a special plenary session in the Albanian Parliament. Women Members of Parliament from south-east Europe, political women aspiring to central and local government, as well as representatives of civil society exchanged ideas and shared experiences about strengthening the role of women in politics, in economy and in the democratisation of society at the national and regional level.

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. 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 Migration[84], 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,[85] 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

84. 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

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



Albania welcomed the Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians in a special plenary session focusing on the role of women in politics, parliament and central government

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, 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 com-

KEY RESULTS

- Inclusion of 4 gender-sensitive objectives (15%) and 6 indicators (14%) in NSDI 2015-2020
- National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016–2020
- Gender Equality is now a core principle in "Organic Budget Law" (2016) - enabling Albania to stand out among many European countries
- Several MoF instructions guiding GRB application and reporting
- USD 90 million or 2.3% of 11 Ministries' 2017 budgets focus on women
- GRB application in 5 municipalities -Tirana, Vlora, Saranda, Berat and Fier
- European Charter for equality of women and men in local life signed by Gjirokastra & Korça Mayors
- Gender-sensitive assessment and review of ASPA's and State Police Academy training curricula
- Gender mainstreaming in action documents prepared for EU sector budget support to GoA
- Study "Gender Brief Albania 2016" - an analysis of current state of GE
- Commitment to incorporate GSIM into Albanian universities' curricula
- Albanian Women in Science Network website http://awenetwork.org establishment and launch

munity-based scorecards (CBSs)[86] 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.

86. 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.

Output 3.2
Mainstreaming gender and gender-responsive budgeting

Line ministries and public service delivery institutions are able 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 above country context called for the recently approved NSDI II to include an increasing degree of gender equality ele-

ments[87], supported by UN Women. Another key achievement was the drafting and approval of the new NSGE, supported by UNDP and UN Women, 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. The process of development of NSGE also benefitted from UNICEF technical expertise, in particular the gender equality challenges of boys and girls.

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[88] 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.

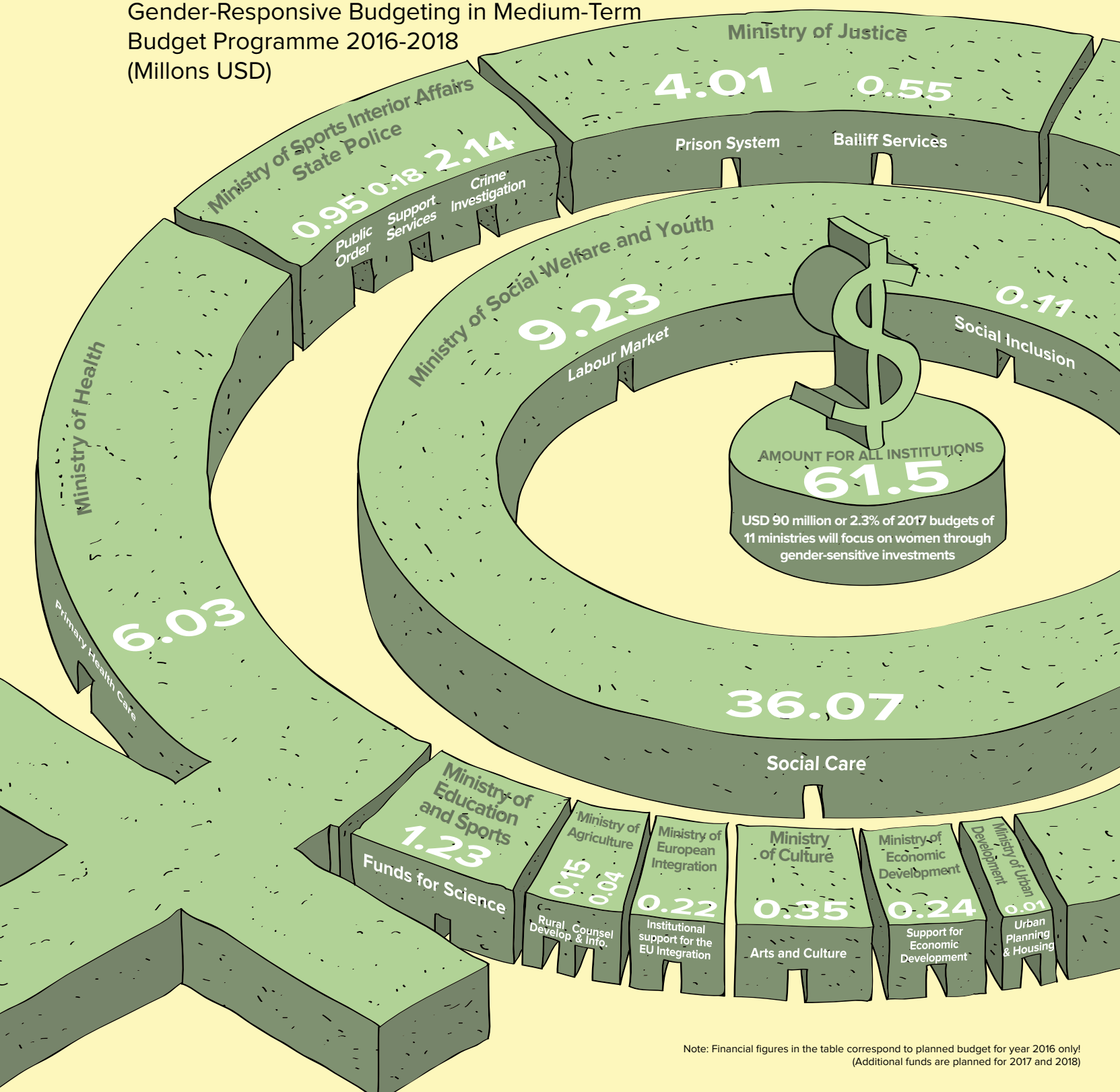
In the framework of EU IPA II programming, UN Women ensured gender mainstreaming in a range of action documents[89] prepared for sector budget support to GoA. Additionally, following the printing and dissemination of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life in early 2016, the 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 communi-

87. Four gender-sensitive objectives and six gender-sensitive indicators were included in the NSDI, resulting in 15 percent of the objectives and 14 percent of indicators being gender sensitive. Objectives under the gender equality section of the NSDI 2015–2020: i) Promotion of economic empowerment of women and an increase in their economic independence; ii) Increase in women's representation in political and public decision making; iii) Strengthening of the legal and institutional mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality and the guaranteeing of human rights for Albanian citizens, regardless of gender; and (iv) Reduction in GBV–DV

88. 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

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

Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Medium-Term Budget Programme 2016-2018 (Millons USD)



Note: Financial figures in the table correspond to planned budget for year 2016 only!
(Additional funds are planned for 2017 and 2018)

cated 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, Durres 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.

ASPA, 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[90] 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 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'[91] 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

90. 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.

91. http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/10/albania-gender-brief



Exploreing ways of incorporating gender-sensitive indicators for the media (GSIM)

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,[92] 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

92. 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.

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 primetime TV of a documentary[93] 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.

Output 3.3
Anti-corruption and the rule of law

State, market, non-state institutions enabled to deliver their statutory mandates, prevent corruption, enforce rule of law

Establishing accountable governance that can ensure the protection of rights and guarantee the rule of law requires strong democratic institutions. Albania's efforts to improve its public administration are recognised by a European Parliament resolution on the 2016 Commission Report on Albania that confirms efforts made "towards a more citizen-friendly public administration and steady progress in the implementation of public administration reform" though calling "for further progress in strengthening the application of the Civil Service Law and the Code of Administrative Procedures." Modernisation of public service delivery is considered as a key instrument for improving the overall efficiency of the public administration, strengthening the transparency of the operations of institutions and curbing corruption. Efforts in this area are anchored in the development and implementation of several national strategies, frameworks and stated priorities. Albania has made progress with implementation of the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in several areas, including strengthening of the legal framework. However, further steps are needed to prevent human trafficking, including by combating GBV and gender discrimination, and discouraging demand for the services of trafficked persons for all forms of exploitation. While, in the end, the migrant crisis of 2015-2016 affected Albania much less than feared, government nevertheless managed a small influx of several hundred migrants. Albania also accepted the complete relocation of Ashraf Iranian ex-residents.

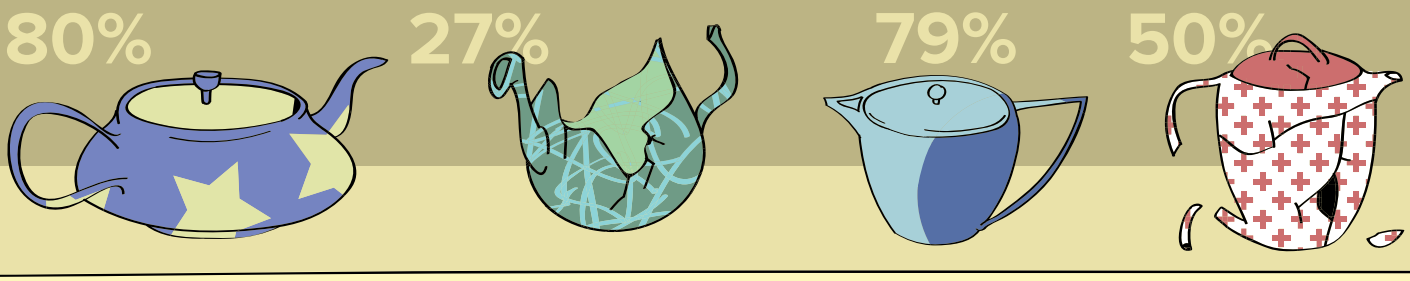
This year, the public administration sector benefitted from approval of NSDI II, supported by UNDP in the development of 21 governance indicators to monitor attainment of the SDGs. Examples of other UNDP-supported initiatives in this area include the development and approval of a long-term policy document on service delivery, which helped in drafting the Law on Front-Office Service Delivery and triggered the first disbursement of the World Bank's budget support to the service delivery reform. The first integrated citizen service centre was launched in Kavaja in November and three additional locations were identified for expansion in 2017. The citizen feedback on service provision is a major aspect of the reform, where UNDP

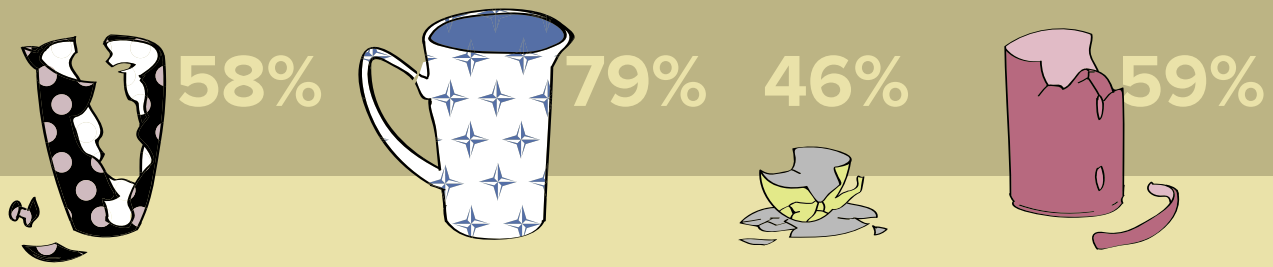
93. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG9_m8JgaQY

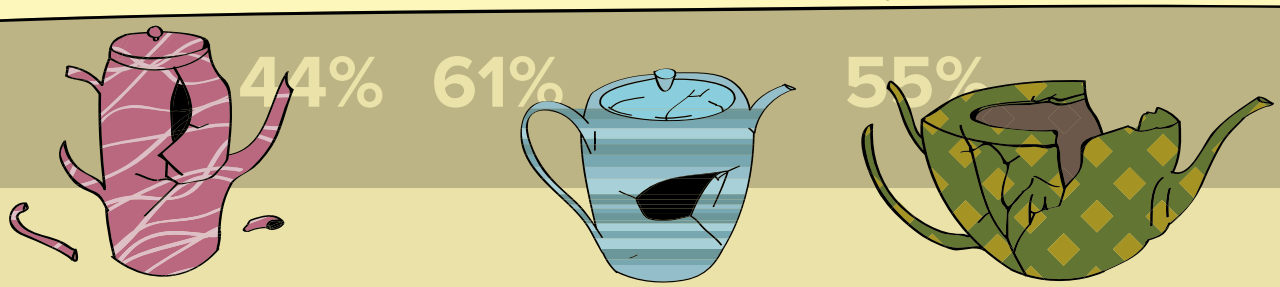
KEY RESULTS

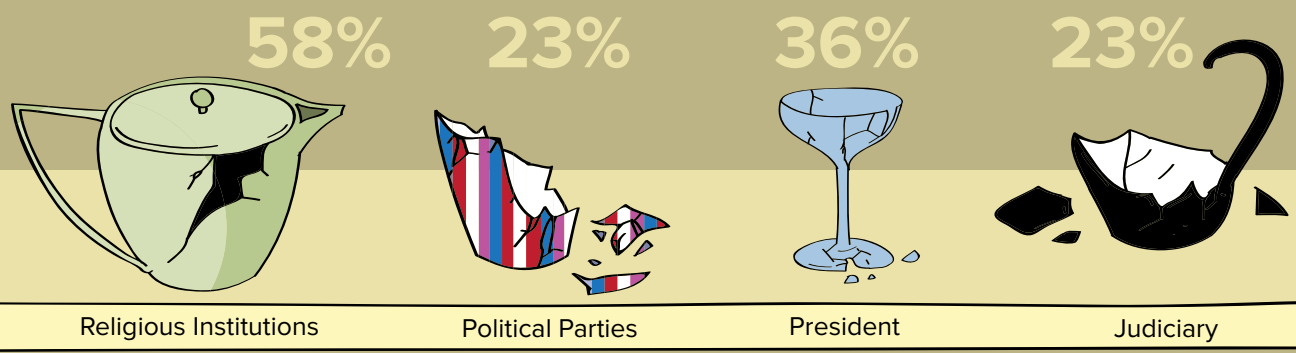
- Inclusion of 21 governance indicators in NSDI 2015-2020 to monitor SDGs attainment
- Long-Term Policy Document on service delivery development and approval
- Law on Front-Office Service Delivery
- First integrated citizen service center launching in Kavaja
- Annual edition of national survey "Trust in Governance" 2016
- Commitment reached for gender mainstreaming in container control programmes' future guidelines
- Completion of first cycle and final report of UNCAC implementation for Albania
- Government's internal contingency plan in case of a mass influx
- 1,942 Ex-Ashraf Iranian residents relocation- 2,745 total residing in Albania
- Direct reintegration assistance to 525 migrants returning from abroad
- Social and Economic Profile of the Return Migrants in Albania
- Policy Document on "engagement of Albanian Communities Abroad to the development of Albania" and Action Plan

Institutional Trust in 2016 in Albania*









* http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/opinion-poll--trust-in-governance-2016--.html

engages civil society to regularly assess the overall level of satisfaction of citizens with service delivery and trust in institutions. In this framework, the annual edition of the national survey *Trust in Governance 2016*[94], supported by UNDP, was undertaken in November. Findings reveal a low level of trust in governmental institutions in general, however with improvements as compared to 2015. The survey has become an integral part of UNDP's assistance for service delivery reform.

In the area of countering organised crime, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), through its Container Control Programme, assisted government in strengthening and making sustainable the inter-agency Port Control Unit (PCU) at the Port of Durres. In 2016, the Unit succeeded in seizing around two tons of marijuana, 1.2 kg of cocaine, 35.4 kg of heroin and various counterfeit goods. In addition, 24 law enforcement officers were trained in gender-mainstreaming in the container control area, supported by UNODC, and commitment was reached for future guidelines to ensure gender mainstreaming, not only in Albania and south-east Europe, but globally across the various container control programmes.

Albania is an active member of the UNODC Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe (2016–2019), including its priority area of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing. Albania is also a member of two UNODC regional initiatives on addressing the challenge of foreign terrorist fighters, including through development of a respective curriculum for the national judicial training institution. The country is a participant of the UNODC project Measuring and Assessing Organised Crime in the Western Balkans: Supporting Evidence-Based Policy Making, and participated in the establishment of national technical groups as well as mapping the way forward for the development of a statistical framework for examining organised crime and the identification and assessment of relevant data sources. The anti-corruption area saw completion of the first cycle of the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) for Albania, Chapter III on Criminalisation and Law Enforcement, and Chapter IV on International Cooperation, and the development of the final country review report.

Regarding migration and asylum, a total of 915 foreigners were intercepted by the border and migration authorities, and assisted by UNHCR and partners in the registration process, as well as with food and non-food items, provision of information about procedures in several languages, medical referrals, temporary accommodation and transportation to Tirana when required. Of this number, 240, mainly Syrian and Afghan nationals, sought asylum in the country. All the cases were provided with free legal counselling and representation and assisted and followed up through

94. http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/democratic_governance/opinion-poll--trust-in-governance-2016--.html

status determination procedures by the Albanian authorities. UNHCR conducted 27 monitoring missions to all border crossings of the country and increased its presence through establishment of a field office in Gjirokaster and the establishment of a new partnership with Caritas Albania. UNHCR focused on empowering civil society organizations to monitor human rights situation at the border and to foster engagement with local authorities in delivering services and protection to new arrivals. Through actions designed at addressing and reducing statelessness, UNHCR enabled the registration of 120 cases across the country. UNHCR also supported government in the relocation of Ashraf Iranians, of whom 1,942 individuals arrived in 2016, bringing the total number of Iranians currently residing in Albania to 2,745.

IOM continued to monitor the flows at the southern border with Greece, providing regular updates on the number of detections of irregular crossings, as well as on the regional flow. From the second half of 2016, IOM has supported the government in its efforts to ensure that migrants and refugees entering the country have access to shelter, medical support and services according to their various needs, through an on-going project which foresees expansion of available capacities at the Kakavija Border Crossing Point for the reception and registration of migrants, as well as enhancing capacities for the transportation of vulnerable migrants and refugees and communication between migrants and refugees and the authorities through the use of interpreters and multi-language communication materials. IOM continued its provision of direct reintegration assistance to migrants returning from abroad. In all, 525 returnees and potential returnees were assisted in 2016. Capacity building of border and migration continued in the framework of regional projects. Moreover, 289 Albanian returnees were registered in the Migration Counters[95] compared to 16,601 forced Albanian returnees in the same period of 2014, equivalent to 1.7 percent.

Regarding the national framework, UN Albania, led by UNHCR and IOM, with the participation of UNICEF and WHO, as well as NGOs, supported the development of GoA's internal contingency plan in the event of a mass influx. A key development was noted in 2016, when Parliament ratified the amended Law on Social Services and Care in Albania, including for the first time persons granted international protection as a beneficiary category enjoying all the rights and services under the auspices of this law.

The Social and Economic Profile of Return Migrants in Albania was developed by IOM with the specific focus of supporting policy development by aiding GoA in identifying their needs. The profile was consulted with all stakeholders and published at the end of December. Furthermore, IOM supported the government in developing a Policy Document on the Engagement of Albanian Communities Abroad for the Development of Albania, and Action Plan.

95. Migration Counters (MC) are structures established near the public offices for employment to assist returned Albanian citizens in order to facilitate their re-integration upon return in the country, as well as provide potential migrants with information on regular migration opportunities and assist immigrants in Albania through the issuance of work permits. There are 36 MC throughout the country.

Output 3.4
Public goods

Line ministries ensure and enforce the conservation and sustainable use of public goods

The protection of Albania's environment has not kept pace with the country's economic growth. The historical increase in demand for natural resources and their uncontrolled exploitation caused significant damage to the environment in Albania. In response, the country has doubled its protected areas over the last decade. Government key actions in this area aim to ensure and enforce the conservation and sustainable use of public goods and common goods, such as the air, biodiversity, recreational areas, coasts, parks, urban spaces, etc. UN supports an efficient management of protected areas that safeguards nature and cultural values, with a long-term vision of balancing natural and cultural protection with local economic benefits for communities. In this context, priority is given to enforcement and monitoring actions focused on marine and coastal protected areas, strengthening trans-boundary cooperation, increasing capacities for an effective management of natural assets, and supporting integrated management planning based on active cross-sectoral cooperation and public participation. Supporting the National Agency of Protected Areas as the newest institution within the environmental administration has been a priority with special focus at the local level.

Lake Ohrid possesses exceptional natural and cultural features and is a unique trans-boundary site in south-eastern Europe. It is protected under various agreements, but due to high levels of urbanisation and increased tourism, the shared natural and cultural heritage of Lake Ohrid and the surrounding areas is facing several threats. The World Heritage Committee[96] acknowledged the clear need to extend the World Heritage property inscribed as the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Lake Ohrid in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to the Albanian part of the lake. Similarly, government efforts to manage efficiently the country's natural and cultural sites, supported by UNESCO, recognise the need to define a national strategy for culture.

In 2016, the National Agency of Protected Areas marked its first year of establishment. UNDP supported its creation, and has been instrumental in defining at the local level, the agency's mid-term strategy through cooperation agreements with new municipalities for shared responsibilities on protected areas, with positive examples offered by Tirana and Vlora. One key achievement during the year was the presentation of a Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas—incorporated in the Strategic Document for Biodiversity Protection and approved by government by a decision of Council of Ministers and presented at a meeting of parties to the convention on biodiversity, thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, COP 13.

Albania's BioBlitz–iNaturalist initiative, part of the global national geographic initiative that aims at boosting scientific knowledge and mainstreaming the understanding and importance of biodiversity for the general public though promotion of citizen science-use maps and other geo-

96. Decision 33 COM 8B.40

KEY RESULTS

- World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of Lake Ohrid" extension to Albanian part of the Lake
- Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas incorporation in Strategic Document for Biodiversity Protection
- Draft National Strategy for Culture
- Preparatory work finalisation for Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of Extended Drin River Basin
- Clearance and certification of 100,238 square meters of contaminated land in 7 UXO hotspots - Gerdec, Gjeroven, Mbreshtan, Laç, Klos, Kordhoc, Picar
- Inspection and certification as free of ammunitions of 710,826 square meters of land in 4 former military ammunitions depots - Poshnje Berat, Zaranike Elbasan, Nuaj Kruje, Qafe Molle 1 Tirane)
- Draft local waste management plan for Municipality of Pogradec



UN supports an efficient management of protected areas that safeguards nature and cultural values

graphic representations, became part of the Ministry of Environment's annual school awareness programme. The information gathered to date is being used by the ministry to catalogue flora and fauna and fill the need for greater geographic coverage at no additional cost.

The preparatory work for the Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Extended Drin River Basin was finalised with UNDP support. The Drin Core Group (DCG)[97] and the technical working groups were established as trans-boundary instruments in decision-making processes, such as monitoring activities for pilot interventions in the frame of the MoU signed by Drin riparian countries. The decisions of the DCG are taken by the representatives of the Ministries of the riparian and the group meets twice per year.

The project 'Towards strengthened governance of the shared trans-boundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid

97. The Drin Core Group (DCG) is given the mandate by the Ministers of the Riparians to coordinate actions for the implementation of the MoU. DSG is comprised of duly nominated representatives of the: (a) Competent ministries of the Drin Riparians: Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Albania, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Greece, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the FYR Macedonia, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Montenegro, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo; (b) Joint Commissions/Committees: Prespa Park Management Committee, Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission; (c) UNECE; (d) Global Water Partnership Mediterranean; and (e) The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development.

Region' was designed to address the main threats affecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region shared between Albania and FYROM. Through seven thematic workshops organised within the framework of this project in 2016, UNESCO supported enhancement of the capacities of experts from various institutions of the country to strengthen integrated management among institutions[98] at the national, regional and local level, also covering thematic areas such as collaborative management, trans-boundary cooperation, sustainable development, value-based promotion, and people-centred approaches for conservation. In addition, the project supported awareness raising on the benefits and obligations under the World Heritage Convention for national and local authorities, including an active presence on social media, and the development of a detailed plan for installation of soft-tourism infrastructure in consultation and coordination with relevant authorities. A draft local waste management plan was also elaborated for Pogradec Municipality, including waste awareness-raising activities with local NGOs.

A National Strategy for Culture was drafted by the Ministry of Culture with UNESCO assistance during 2016 and will support implementation of the new law on Cultural Heritage planned for Parliament approval in 2017. The Strategy finalisation is pending elaboration of further analysis, which will be completed within 2017.

Through the UNDP-supported initiative Coordination, Monitoring, and Quality Control of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Hotspot in Albania the following were achieved in 2016: i) 100,238 m^2 of contaminated land was cleared and certified in seven unexploded ordnance hotspots (Gerdec, Gjeroven, Mbreshtan, Lac, Klos, Kordhoc, Picar), with a total of 79,594 items[99] of UXOs and small arms and ammunition found during the clearance process, ii) 710,826 m^2 of land was inspected and certified as free of ammunition in four former military ammunitions depots (Poshnje, Berat; Zaranike, Elbasan; Nuaj, Kruje; Qafe Molle 1, Tirana), with 146 quality assurance and quality control visits conducted by the project's quality management team, iii) five UXO hotspots (Mbreshtan, Gjeroven and Palikesht in Berat, Klos in Burrel, and Lac) were cleared and certified as free from ammunition by the Albanian Mines and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO). A hand-over ceremony was organised in each of Gjeroven, Klos and Lac with the participation of donor representatives, government officials and local authorities from Berat. Risk education and community liaison activities reached 13,500 inhabitants living around UXO hotspots in the country. In this regard, 7,100 leaflets with risk education messages were distributed to the relevant communities while government was supported in the preparation of six annual transparency reports related to the disarmament conventions Mine Ban Treaty, the Convention on Conventional Weapons, and Convention on Cluster Munitions.

98. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture, National Agency of Protected Areas, National Territorial Planning Agency, Institute of Cultural Monuments, Municipality of Pogradec

99. The main items found include fuses, grenades, electronic detonators, small arms and light weapons, and larger items such as mortars and projectiles.

CHALLENGES AND THE WAY AHEAD

Challenges

Key challenges related to the 2017 **elections** include the ability of the country to maintain the achieved level of women representation, human resources, in both the central and local administrations, and preservation and delivery of public services in order to avoid and mitigate disruption.

Although the legal and policy framework on **gender equality** has been strengthened, the main challenge lies in its implementation and appropriate budgeting at national and local levels. A key requirement for gender mainstreaming (GM) is a strong and stable national gender machinery, an administration with specific GM skills, and an integrated process of GM in all elements of governance reinforced repeatedly such that it becomes routine in policy making and implementation across Albania. While the Albanian Women in Science Network is now a solid reality, it still lacks the necessary recognition and support from the Albanian authorities that is fundamental for applying for funding to increase activities.

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 marginalisation and discrimination.

Restricted government budgets at both central and local levels limit funding for **protected area** management, with many protected areas chronically underfunded and understaffed. The fees collected by the respective municipalities and the revenues gained from tourist and recreational uses of a protected area usually neither contribute to the budget for nature protective measures, nor compensate for the damage to nature from intensive recreational uses.

Way Ahead

For the 2017 parliamentary **elections**, the CEC will be supported in conducting gender-sensitive voter education targeting women and first-time voters, improving election sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis, and preparing its first gender-sensitive report on electoral processes. Furthermore, UN Women will support election studies and monitoring in partnership with CSOs and research entities to inform the voting process and an understanding of structural barriers to equality in participation and representation. UN Women will build capacities of women leaders at the national and local level to support functioning networks that support women in elected positions, including support for the Alliance of Women MPs, and local alliances of women counsellors. Women's local engagement in political participation will be supported, alongside local governance projects, by women influencing the priorities determined through local participatory governance. UNFPA will continue to work with Parliament and CSOs to advocate for ICPD-based SDGs. The work will aim to strengthen the capacities of the Parliamentary Commission on Health and Population and the All-Party Parliamentary Group to raise awareness of SDGs that

will improve accountability and monitoring mechanisms.

Under the area of **gender equality** strategic interventions of UN agencies are aligned to government priorities for socio-economic development, as noted in NSDI II, and to EU integration which requires commitment to improving accountability and transparency of public policies and finance. Particular focus will be given to initiatives to improve legal and policy frameworks in public finance and the justice system to respond to gender equality commitments, partnering with key ministries, such as MoSWY, MoJ, MoF and other line ministries. Details of UN's work under this area are included under Outcome 1 Governance and Rule of Law biennial joint work plan of the PoCSD 2017-2021.

The EU accession agenda and its profound reform of governance architecture, procedure, policy and programmes requires specific support for government to implement EU gender equality legislation[100] and directives.[101] Cooperation with state partners involves targeted engagement and concerted coordination with institutions across sectors and at different levels of governance. Particular attention is paid to the fundamental importance of national gender mechanisms within these processes, and how to effectively support them. Coaching and provision of gender technical assistance and guidance are essential elements foreseen to ensure gradual capacity development and joint identification of particular managerial bottlenecks in implementing gender policy and legislation.

UNICEF will support a range of sectoral work with Management Information Systems (MIS) in the area of child rights, with particular interventions that enable the identification of gender inequities for boys and girls in fulfilling their human rights, with a view to supporting evidence-based sectoral policy changes that address those same inequities. As opportunities arise, UNICEF and UNFPA will support GM across various policy documents, planning and budgeting frameworks, and service monitoring tools. In particular, in 2017, UNICEF and UNFPA will continue its support to MoES and IED (launched in 2016) in preparing pre-university school principals with the awareness and knowledge to implement new curricula, and other normative framework in the education sector that has adequately integrated gender equality and non-discrimination elements. UNODC and UN Women will continue to focus on gender equality mainstreaming in law enforcement professions notably focusing on gender focal points operating within the customs, police, justice and corrections structures, as well as on female officers and senior managers. UNODC will incorporate gender equality strategies in operations and ensure programmes have a better defined strategic vision and plan for gender mainstreaming.

In the area of **governance and rule of law**, the UN will mainly continue activities already under way—building capacity of public institutions, advancing public administration reform and assisting anti-corruption and organised crime efforts—all of which are key for EU integration. UNDP

100. EU Gender Equality Law, 2013 Update, European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice, Unit JUST/D/1

101. For example, Directives 76/207/EEC, 2004/113/EC ('Gender Directive'), and 2006/54/EC, which introduces gender mainstreaming in Article 29. The full list of relevant directives is provided in Annex I.

will focus on efforts led by the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration, including expansion of ADISA-driven improved service delivery facilities, with three additional ADISA offices in 2017 and two more in 2018. In addition, co-location of One-Stop-Shops for integrated service delivery of central and local services will be piloted in 2017 and replicated in 2018, helping to link with municipal governance service delivery. UNDP will support regular citizens' perception surveys on various dimensions of governance, including through the annual Trust in Government survey.

In the area of human trafficking, IOM will build the capacities of the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to improve evidence-based planning and reporting. Awareness raising for prevention of trafficking will pay particular attention to unaccompanied children and child victims of trafficking. Other support aims to improve coordination between the Judicial Police Officers and District Prosecutors and the Serious Crimes Prosecutors.

UNHCR will maintain its presence and monitoring along the borders with a focus on strengthening capacity and coordination of national authorities, local actors and civil society to uphold refugee rights and provide robust case management. Reception capacity (shelter) will be supported, at both central and regional levels, while UNHCR will play a crucial role in enhancing capacities and facilitating coordination of stakeholders in the border areas. UNHCR will engage with UNICEF, IOM and international NGOs with expertise in child protection to address gaps in the current asylum system, including improving reception conditions, strengthening procedural safeguards and referral pathways, establishing legal guardianship mechanisms, making available specialised services, supporting family reunification, and designing standard operating procedures with a special focus on persons with specific needs, including women and children at risk. IOM will support the development of a new Policy on Migration Governance. Support to the capacity building of border and migration structures will continue through local and regional projects. The capacities of the migration counters in the country, a very important migration management structure at the field level, will also be improved, in order to ensure support is available for potential migrants, returnees and immigrants.

Concerning organised crime, a key output this year will be the new National Anti-Drugs Strategy 2017–2021 and the re-structuring of the Anti-Organised Crime Department, both receiving technical assistance from UNODC. In addition, UNODC will work to strengthen data collection and, depending upon consultations with government and the availability of funding, start addressing the challenges of cannabis cultivation, as well as launch a new drug-use prevention initiative. UNODC will continue its container control efforts focused on Durres Port, including the mainstreaming of human rights.

The **protection of natural resources** will remain a priority, and will be part of a stand-alone environmental Outcome in the new Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021. UNDP will be paying attention to innovative financing and co-management mechanisms for protected areas, combined with internationally comparable performance measure-

ments. UNDP will institutionalise Albania's partnerships with homologue institutions of the riparian countries of the Drin River (South–South cooperation) and develop implementing procedures for management of this trans-boundary basin. Support will be provided to EU integration processes related to nature protection monitoring and strengthening mechanisms, as well as horizontal legislation implementation and environment information and data for sustained decision making. UNEP will be involved in a GEF funded programme to combat land degration in Kolonja.

UNESCO will continue its programmes related to the definition and approval of a National Strategy for Culture in Albania and implementation of the Culture for Development Indicators Suite (CDIS), a pioneering research and advocacy initiative that aims to establish a set of indicators highlighting how culture contributes to development at the national level, fostering economic growth and helping individuals and communities expand their life choices and adapt to change. The process initiated in 2016 is to be finalised in the course of 2017.

OUTCOME 4 – REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Government of Albania implements policies that advance democratic, equitable and sustainable regional and local development

Coordinated by UNDP, bringing together the efforts of FAO, UN Women, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNECE, and UNESCO

Output 4.1: State institutions at regional and local levels have the capacity to implement rural development and modernisation of the agricultural sector .
Available Budget - 1,012,432 USD

Output 4.2: LGUs and governance institutions have the technical, financial and human resources to deliver equitable public and administrative services for men and women and render account of those services.
Available Budget - 1,776,232 USD

Output 4.3: National and sub-national government units have the capacity to generate and strengthen investments, employment and livelihood opportunities, especially for youth and women.
Available Budget - 445,982 USD

Output 4.4: Key ministries and local authorities adopt local, regional and national action on climate change adaptation (including short term e.g. DRR) and mitigation across sectors.
Available Budget - 4,537,746 USD

This outcome supports GoA in achieving the NSDI II priorities **4) Ensuring growth through increased competitiveness and innovation** and **6) Ensuring growth through connectivity and the sustainable use of resources**. It also contributes to government efforts to achieve **SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15** and **17.**

The total available budget for Outcome 4 implementation in 2016 was 7.8 million USD from UN core and global non-core resources and contributions from the Governments of Albania, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and Italy, the EU, USAID, GEF, and the Delivering Results Together Fund.

Assessment of progress made against achievement of indicators shows that out of nine indicators, seven (78%) have been fully met, while for two indicators (22%) there are no data available to measure progress. For further details regarding progress made against indicators please check Annex A of this report.



Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016
Open Budget Index Score	UNDP: 47 in 2012 Open Budget Survey	UNDP: 60	The adopted Strategy paved the way for approval of Law 139/2015 'On the Organisation and Functioning of Local Government' (new Organic Law), adopted in December 2015 and been in force since January 2016. 42% of the Decentralisation Strategy Action Plan is implemented. Implementation of another 21% of the activities is currently ongoing.

ON TRACK PARTIALLY ON TRACK NO PROGRESS

Output 4.1
Agriculture and rural development

State institutions at regional and local levels have the capacity to implement rural development and modernisation of the agricultural sector

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.

In addressing the above challenges, 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 analysing 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 clusters[102] of agritourism were operationalised in Elbasan, consisting of 30 women from Gjinar involved in bee-keeping activities,

102. 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.

KEY RESULTS

- Corporate statistical business process restructured and improved
- Enhanced institutional capacity in production/ usage of agricultural and labour force statistics
- National study on Rural Women and Economic Diversification in Rural Areas in Albania
- Operationalization of two clusters of agro-tourism - improved women self-employment in Elbasan
- Action Plan on reforming the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System
- Analysis on strengths and gaps of the institutional agriculture DRR system in Albania
- Road map on Agriculture Post Disaster Needs Assessments' development and implementation
- Farm and ecosystems based DRR and CCA interventions' methodologies and best practices



Herder with his flock

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 Korcë, 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.

Output 4.2
Local governance

LGUs and governance institutions have the technical, financial and human resources to deliver equitable public and administrative services for men and women and render an account of those services

The fundamental territorial reform undertaken in 2015 – and several related policy developments including a new Strategy on Local Governance and Decentralisation, 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,[103] entered into force in January 2016, 22 additional competencies[104] were transferred to local governments. Further to the reform 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.

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,

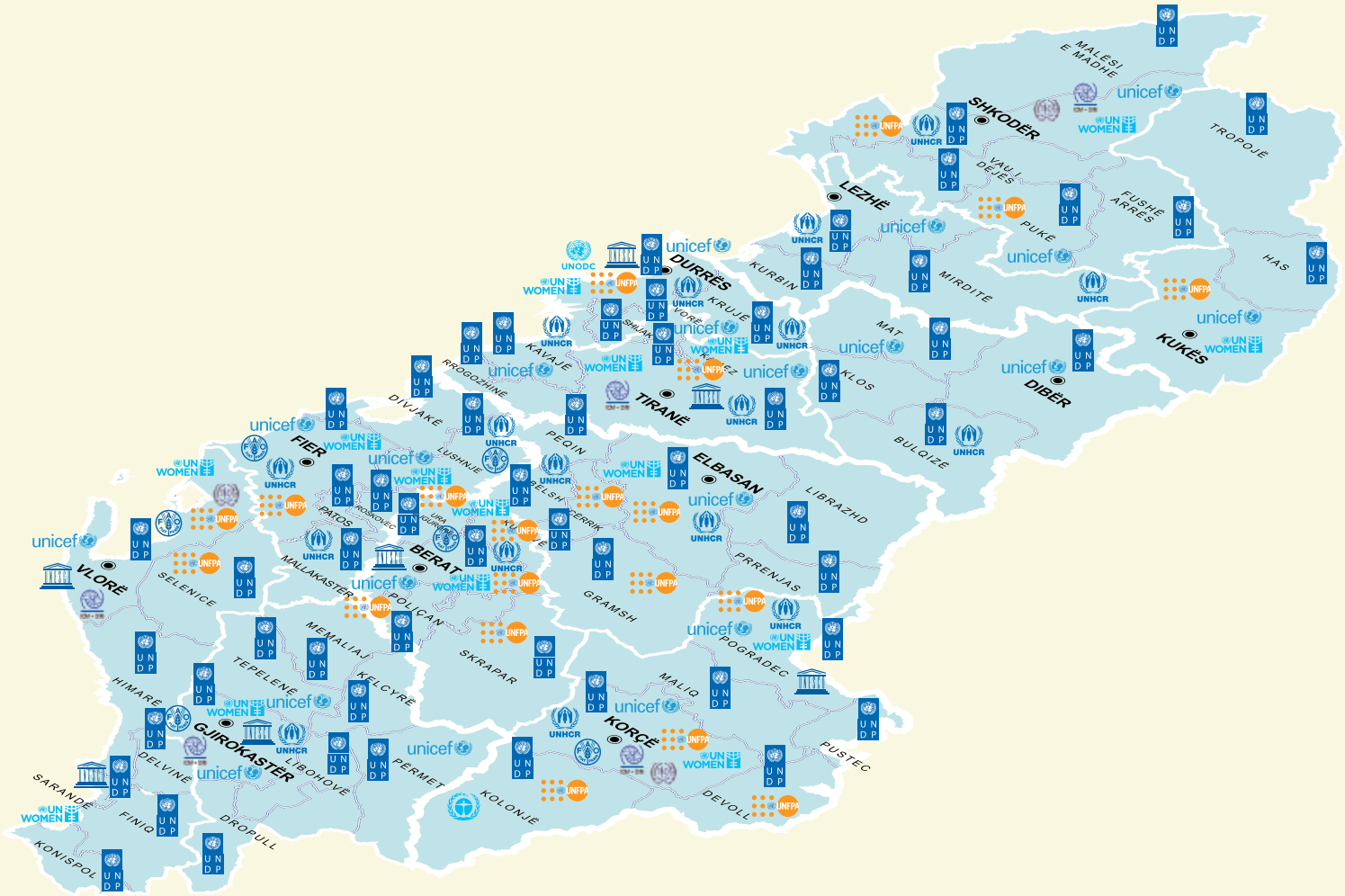
KEY RESULTS

- ✔ STAR2 formulation and signature
- ✔ National Local Governance Mapping exercise in 61 LGUs

103. 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.

104. 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 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.

UN Presence in Albania's Municipalities



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.

Output 4.3
Economic development

National and sub-national government units have the capacity to generate and strengthen investments, employment and livelihood opportunities, especially for youth and women

As an upper-middle income country, Albania is in the process of implementing an all-encompassing reform to foster national competitiveness and achieve greater integration into global value chains. Driving this reform is the imperative for fulfilling the requirements of the EU *acquis communautaire*, which gained new life in 2014 when Albania obtained membership candidate status. Trade has been at the centre of reforms to support consolidation of new growth poles that would allow for achieving growth with equity through greater specialisation of high value-added products. These reforms accord priority to removing regulatory and procedural trade barriers, which, by inflating transaction costs, have been undermining employment generation and overall competitiveness in domestic and global markets.

In 2016, opportunities and support for women entrepreneurs increased. MoARDWA designed drafted a dedicated subsidy scheme for women engaged in agri-processing in rural areas, with UN Women support, aiming to increase access for potential women entrepreneurs to financial and non-financial support. The scheme, officially endorsed by the ministry, will be operational in 2018. Equally important, a National Advocacy Strategy to promote women's role in agriculture was developed and a series of basic practical skills courses was provided to rural women groups in five regions of Albania on i) practical knowledge and know-how on opportunities for accessing markets, ii) better provision of quality products and

KEY RESULTS

- National Advocacy Strategy to promote women's role in agriculture
- 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
- National study on "the state of gender diversity on boards and in senior management of companies in Albania" - introduce binding quotas for government owned companies
- Tirana Municipality "Competitive Fund for Women Entrepreneurs" operationalisation
- 11 private companies sign Women's Empowerment Principles
- Assessment of non-Financial business services
- Study of leather and footwear industry
- Analysis of agri-tourism sector in Albania
- Policy recommendations on business practices in competition, consumer protection & trade facilitation aligned with international & EU standards
- Government's adoption of study "Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Albania: Needs Assessment" recommendations
- Trade Control Agencies sustained by execution of National Trade Facilitation Roadmap and UNECE recommendations

services according to needs of clients and communities in their places of operation, and iii) practical support and information on financial schemes in agriculture. The courses were followed actively by 400 rural women and more than 100 stakeholders and representatives from local authorities and agriculture extension offices.

MEDTTE placed women's entrepreneurship at the centre of their attention through the implementation of several core initiatives this year, including the design of a set of legal and policy measures that promote and strengthen women entrepreneurship and enable women entrepreneurs to access adequate resources and support, and ensure gender diversity on boards and in senior management of companies in Albania. Regarding the last of these, a national study, prepared with UN Women's support, examined the current state of affairs[105] and provided key recommendations that will introduce binding quotas for participation of women on Boards of government-owned companies, design and finance education packages for women entrepreneurs (Vocational and formal education) as well as provide access to finance.

At the local level, a Competitive Fund for Women Entrepreneurs was established by Tirana Municipality with 6 million ALL, with the support of UN Women, to spur the creation or expansion of viable business activities by women. For training, coaching and monitoring processes of the fund, UN Women partnered with stakeholders with niche knowledge of the field, such as Swiss Contact and GIZ. Twenty-two women entrepreneurs were supported by the fund in 2016, and the municipality intends to replicate the initiative in 2017, while other municipalities have taken a genuine interest in applying this intervention in their territories.

For the first time in Albania, eleven private companies that contribute to the capital's economic development signed the Women's Empowerment Principles: seven steps on how women empowerment can be achieved in the workplace, marketplace, economy and the community. These companies also highlighted the concrete actions that they will follow to promote gender equality, such as zero tolerance policies towards discrimination and violence against women in the workplace, train their employees and women entrepreneurs and use indicators to measure the professional development of women staff. In this context, Tirana Municipality was supported by UN Women in conducting a series of trainings for dozens of private companies operating in the city, acquainting them with concrete steps that need to be followed for inclusion of the Women's Empowerment Principles in their governance structures, demonstrating real practices on how to accomplish these principles, as well as on how to measure progress and achieve 'gender objectives'.

Eighty-eight women and their families in 6 rural and semi-rural areas (Erseka, Vithkuq, Hore Vranisht, Novosela and Burrel) are benefiting from expanded business capacity. UNDP supported training, workshops, fairs, sales events and coaching to build skills in learning appropriate methods of collecting,

105. Key findings of the study: 1) Women are not in the same level of presence in the decision-making positions (27.9% of Board members are women compared to 30.3% in 2011; 2) 43.3% of businesses have no women in Boards and only 0.7% of businesses with a Board have no men, which proves that enough Boards can easily function without a women, but can not exist without a man; 3) "Commitment to family responsibility" is the highest obstacle for women to advance in their career.

processing and marketing local and handicraft products, building sustainable partnerships and designing business plans for successful women-run social enterprises. These interventions increased i) awareness of the areas' products aiming to expand their trademark through private businesses operating in other parts of the country, ii) income for women, resulting in their economic empowerment, and iii) women's orientation towards private initiatives for self-employment. Through a participatory process, four business plans were developed and four cooperation agreements between women and local authorities were established. As a result 88 women from the above-mentioned areas are now employed full-time. Families of 88 women are benefiting (in all, 352 people of whom 90 are women and 106 are additional beneficiaries among men) from income generated from selling of products mainly in trade-fairs, youngsters being sent to school and young women expressing interest in participating in professional training to better obtain skills to further advance their business.

Additionally, UNDP provided insights into the sector's potential, key for Albania's competitiveness agenda, and recommendations on ways to better institutionalise business support services at the local level through development of three studies in cooperation with MEDTTE and AIDA: i) assessment of non-financial business services, ii) a study of the leather and footwear industry in Albania, and iii) analysis of the country's agritourism sector.

Fostering economic development requires an efficient regulatory environment, including alignment with the EU. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) supported the capacity of government in Albania, at both the national and the local level, to establish an improved regulatory framework, able to attract investment and support enterprise development with increased livelihoods opportunities, through targeted policy recommendations on business practices aligned with EU and other international standards in the area of competition, consumer protection and trade facilitation.. With regard to the competition policy framework, in 2016, UNCTAD strengthened the knowledge of the judiciary system on competition law and the capacities of the staff of the Albanian Competition Authority to enforce competition law and policy in line with EU requirements. UNCTAD delivered three judicial seminars[106] on the role of the judiciary in competition cases for judges and the staff of the Albanian Competition Authority, following the UNCTAD Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy,[107] on Albania's participation in the Seventh United Nations Conference to review all aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles, and on Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices. Four workshops were organised with the staff of the Albanian Competition Authority to improve the country's competition law, in particular in regard to economic analysis of antitrust and merger control. Additionally, UNCTAD policy recommendations were de-

106. The theme of these seminars revolved around the role of the judiciary in an effective enforcement of competition law, the standard of proof, calculation of fines and remedies, and judicial review.

107. UNCTAD peer review on competition law and policy is an exercise in which a country voluntarily has its competition legal framework and institutional set-up evaluated by other countries. It presents a unique opportunity to discover the strengths and weaknesses of the country's competition system, to draw lessons from past experiences, to examine risks and opportunities and propose improvements for the future. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditcclp2015d1_en.pdf

KEY RESULTS

- Albanian Parliament ratification of the Paris Agreement
- Third National Communication to UNFCCC in COP 22
- Strategic Environmental Assessment - implications of SHPP development on sustainable growth
- Legal and market based approaches to increase use of energy efficient & innovative solar water heating technology
- 16 major flood control restoration works, prioritized by government PDNA 2015 – benefiting 160,000 people
- Vjosa basin assessment
- Shkodra pilot - viable forecasting & warning system on hydro-meteorological risks and fires

livered to support the Authority in drafting Regulations on Party Commitments and on abolishment or simplification of the Notification Regime for identified categories of concentration between undertakings.

The recommendations of UNECE's study 'Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Albania: Needs Assessment'[108], published in 2016, were adopted by government to support implementation of Albania's development strategies, including the National Plan for European Integration for the period 2014–2016, the Inter-sectoral Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development in Albania for the period 2014–2020, and the Business and Investment Development Strategy 2014–2020. The recommendations are focused on the substantive areas addressed in the study, including trade facilitation, logistics and transport, technical regulations, standardization policies, conformity assessment, metrology with a view to support national and regional integration efforts associated with Albania's efforts to join the EU.

UNECE's training workshop "Improved capacity of governmental trade control agencies in Albania to implement Single Window" increased knowledge on relevant international recommendations, standards and agreements and various instruments, along with their application, aiming to reduce delays at borders, as well as strengthen business analysis performance for a single window. Likewise, capacities of trade control agencies in Albania were strengthened with the development and implementation of a National Trade Facilitation Roadmap and increased access to UNECE recommendations.

108. https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44673&L=0

Output 4.4
Climate change

Key ministries and local authorities adopt local, regional and national action on climate change adaptation (including in the short term, e.g. Disaster Risk Reduction) and mitigation across sectors

More than 90 percent of electricity production in Albania is from hydropower, and agriculture is critically dependent on irrigation. Irrigation, energy production and industrial activities place serious constraints on the country's water resources. Albania is one of the most vulnerable countries in the region to changing climate and it is estimated that summer rainfalls will decline by about ten percent by 2020, and 20 percent by 2050. Energy production and agriculture will be acutely impacted, with an estimated loss of 60 percent of power generation capacity. Currently, Albania is a low emitter of greenhouse gases, at 2.76 tons CO_2 per capita compared to 9.9 tons per capita in the EU, but such gases are projected to increase in the coming years, mainly from transport, agriculture and waste. Economic risk in Albania is one of the highest in the world, from multiple hazards, with 86 percent of its territory prone to two or more disasters. Legislative gaps remain and Albania does not yet have a comprehensive and countrywide disaster risk management strategy. The floods of 2010 and 2015 showed that the country's national disaster preparedness is reactive rather than preventive. Investments are needed to develop measures to adapt to changing climate conditions and reduce risks from future disasters.

The ratification of the Paris Agreement by the Albanian Parliament in July and launching of the Third National Communication (TNC) to UNFCCC in COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco in November were



Coastal erosion

critical milestones achieved in 2016. The TNC process has been extremely important for mainstreaming and integrating climate change into sectorial strategies and policies and the main tools for mobilising climate finance. Albania's TNC has integrated gender issues into the national communication process. It designed a comprehensive guideline on mainstreaming gender into climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes and plans in Albania, using the UNDP Toolkit on Gender-responsive National Communications and other relevant UN tools and methodologies on GE. The municipal energy tracer platform, tested in the second largest municipality in the country through East–East cooperation with UNDP Croatia, is contributing to the establishment of an energy management information system in Albania.

The small hydro-power sector is important to Albania, with many concessions in the pipeline alongside a growing recognition of the need to protect the environment. In support of the Ministry of Energy, UNDP undertook a policy-based Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) examining the implications of the ongoing development of small hydro-power plants on sustainable development and recommending ways to strengthen government capacity to integrate environmental issues into energy-related decision making. The SEA development is twofold, i) strengthening the capacity of government to integrate SEAs into energy and environmental decision making, and ii) providing valuable information urgently needed by all stakeholders.

Another way to keep carbon emissions low is through increased energy efficiency. UNDP's promotion of legal and market-based approaches to increase the use of innovative solar water heating technology continues through the small grants scheme

co-founded at the municipal level and associated with advocacy and capacity-building activities. The solar upscale has resulted in a total installed cumulative surface area of 186,472 m^2, annual sales of 21,602 m^2 and 990,000 t of CO^2 reduction.

Following the flooding in in early 2015, UNDP completed in 2016 implementation of all 16 major flood control restoration works[109] prioritised by government during the post-disaster needs analysis prepared in 2015. An estimated 160,000 people living within several hundred metres of the reconstructed or newly built river and irrigation and drainage canal embankments, dykes, cascades and river banks are no longer vulnerable to flooding. The work will continue until mid-2017 with the final operations of testing and calibration of works and some anticipated corrective and additional protection measures.

In partnership with the Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE) and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), UNDP assessed the risks and pressures along the Vjosa river basin, in accordance with the applicable scenarios of climate change, developing hydro-ecological and socio-economic potential situations using Water Evaluation and Assessment Planning (WEAP), a scenario-based modelling system. Within this framework and through the expertise provided by SEI, UNDP applied a twinning-based approach to enhance the capacities of IGEWE staff to process data and build different scenarios with WEAP. The capacity building and knowledge transfer activities will continue in 2017.

Increased effectiveness in Disaster Risk Management of floods and fires was enabled through UNESCO support in capacity development in hazard monitoring and real-time reporting and alerting. For example, establishment of a viable forecasting and warning system for communities exposed to hydro-meteorological risks and fires, based on inter-operationalisation of the flood information system FLOODIS and the DEWETRA system, has been put at the service[110] of Albania. Such innovation has been introduced into the provincial and municipal authorities of Shkoder, including implementation of a fully-fledged demo with deployment, monitoring and reporting on the rivers Buna, Drin and Kir. The drill demonstrated that the new real-time reporting and alerting functionalities were operational and effective in supporting emergency and relief operations and in enhancing coordination and communication of emergency responders. A final report in the form of a concise and user-friendly policy document will be issued at the end of March 2017.

The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project 'Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition'[111], implemented by UNECE, delivered a fact-finding mission and prepared a draft outline of Albania's road safety performance review, agreed with national focal points.

109. This work is part of a broader EU Flood Infrastructure Rehabilitation Programme set up in response to the devastating floods that hit south-eastern regions of Albania during the early part of 2015

110. Through technical work necessary to make the above systems inter-communicative

111. The project aims to assist Albania in strengthening the road safety management capacities and effectively address and improve national road safety records. Government will be supported in identifying the most critical road safety aspects and priority needs by preparing a road safety performance review and offering capacity building training in the identified critical areas.

CHALLENGES AND THE WAY AHEAD

Challenges

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 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.

Main challenges in **economic development** include a need for the country to improve the quality of regulations affecting daily business operations In view of the accession into the European common market, informality – despite positive efforts of government – is still a major concern for economic growth, competitiveness and public finances, and negatively affects new investments in the country. Developing policies for women entrepreneurs—running some 27 percent of the total number of active enterprises in Albania—remains a real challenge for government. Considering the ownership and type of activities of these businesses, their representation is still limited and requires special attention from the government. Involvement in the activities of an enterprise means more economic freedom, ownership, decision making and thus further empowerment of women in the country. Inclusion of women in the economy is a fundamental element of inclusive growth.

In the **environment** sector, ongoing challenges include lack of financial resources, low management capacity of local governments, legal enforcement, shortage of qualified scientific staff and lack of data and analysis of trends concerning protected species, as well as poor community involvement in protection, and lack of trust in local administrations. Weak law enforcement – including around the undertaking and verification of environmental impact assessments – reflects concerns with broader governance and rule of law. Albania still needs a more efficient and effective coordination between civil protection authorities and the entities in charge of weather forecasting and environmental monitoring, also considering the inclusion of professional volunteers and skilled users from local communities to enhance the safety of persons and property. Therefore, central and—foremost—local disaster risk management plans should be duly conceived and implemented with the inclusion of the assets developed under the DEWETRA–FLOODIS interface, within the disaster risk management cycle.

Way Ahead

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.

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, Durres, Shkoder, Berat, Elbasan, Korca and Kukes) 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.

UN agencies' work in the area of **economic development** will focus towards regulatory policy and legal framework for women entrepreneurs in urban and rural areas through national and local support programmes, supported mainly by UN Women and FAO. Furthermore, UNCTAD will continue to support GoA and relevant institutions to strengthen its trade policy framework to adapt to EU standards in key areas such as debt management, investment promotion, trade facilitation, enterprise development and competition. UNECE and UNCTAD support for single-window facilities will continue along with UNECE support for housing and urban development and the delivery of a road safety performance review. UNDP and UN Women will explore other lines of work and dedicate funding to areas such as private sector development and support to tax administration, among others.

In the **environment** sector, UN agencies will focus on building institutional capacity, data and knowledge to integrate environment and climate considerations more fully into the national regulatory framework, and to develop new capacities and systems for implementation and compliance monitoring across major sectors. UNDP will support broader ownership of the climate agenda and work with the ministries of Environment and Energy, as well as others, and build inter-institutional partnerships.

This will provide a governance basis for establishment of innovative funding mechanisms that can incentivize and help pay for improved energy efficiency and renewable solutions. It will also help Albania to access global climate financing. Synergies and partnerships with international and regional financial institutions will underpin such financing mechanisms and help build market uptake for solutions. Additionally, UNDP will work with the scientific community to map climatic risks, and work with local communities, especially women and youth, so that local authorities are incentivized to identify and manage the trade-offs between practices, e.g. gravel extraction or informal settlements, and the inevitable disaster damage and loss that ensues from such uncontrolled exploitation. UNESCO will support GoA efforts for the integration of DRR, risk assessment and formulation of climate change adaptation frameworks in the Drin and Vjosa river basins.

CHAPTER 3
UN DELIVERING AS ONE IN ALBANIA



The 2030 Agenda and the interconnected nature of the SDGs require the UN to work jointly and in a more integrated way than ever before

The Programme of Cooperation *One Programme* unifies the comparative advantages of UN Albania in support of the country's priorities as expressed in the national development strategy, NSDI II. The *Common Budgetary Framework–One Fund* provides performance-based support to UN Albania efforts under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team *One Leader*. Through *Operating as One,* UN Albania opts towards a more cost-effective common operations and service support in the country, while *Communicating as One* facilitates coherent UN messaging and advocacy on normative issues and delivery of results.

One Programme

In 2016, implementation of the Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation (PoC) 2012–2016 was supported by the work of fourteen UN agencies (8 resident and 6 non-resident) and implementing line ministries of Government in the four Outcomes: Human Rights, Inclusive Social Policies, Governance and Rule of Law, and Regional and Local Development.

Four Outcome Groups (Result Groups)[112] and

112. Established in line with the generic terms of reference for Result Groups of the Standard Operating Procedures for countries adopting the Delivering as One approach, August 2014

15 Output Working Groups led the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting for the Programme. These groups drew on and shared resources and capacities from across the UN Albania system, ensured common understanding of working together and promoted UN staff cohesion. Likewise, government ownership of the Programme, through interactions of the implementing line ministries and the Joint Executive Committee, was critical for accelerating UN actions.

The alignment of UN support with national priorities has been strengthened through development of common programme tools, such as the Joint Work Plans (JWPs) and joint Programmatic Reviews and Reports. The totality of UN support to Albania is planned through the 15 Output level Joint Workplans. These plans were signed jointly by relevant implementing government authorities and heads of UN agencies. All the Workplans include indicators associated with baselines, targets, means of verification and assumptions and risks, as tools to assess progress and hold implementing parties accountable for results. Furthermore, gender, institutional capacity building and policy development were a crucial part of JWP strategic deliverables.

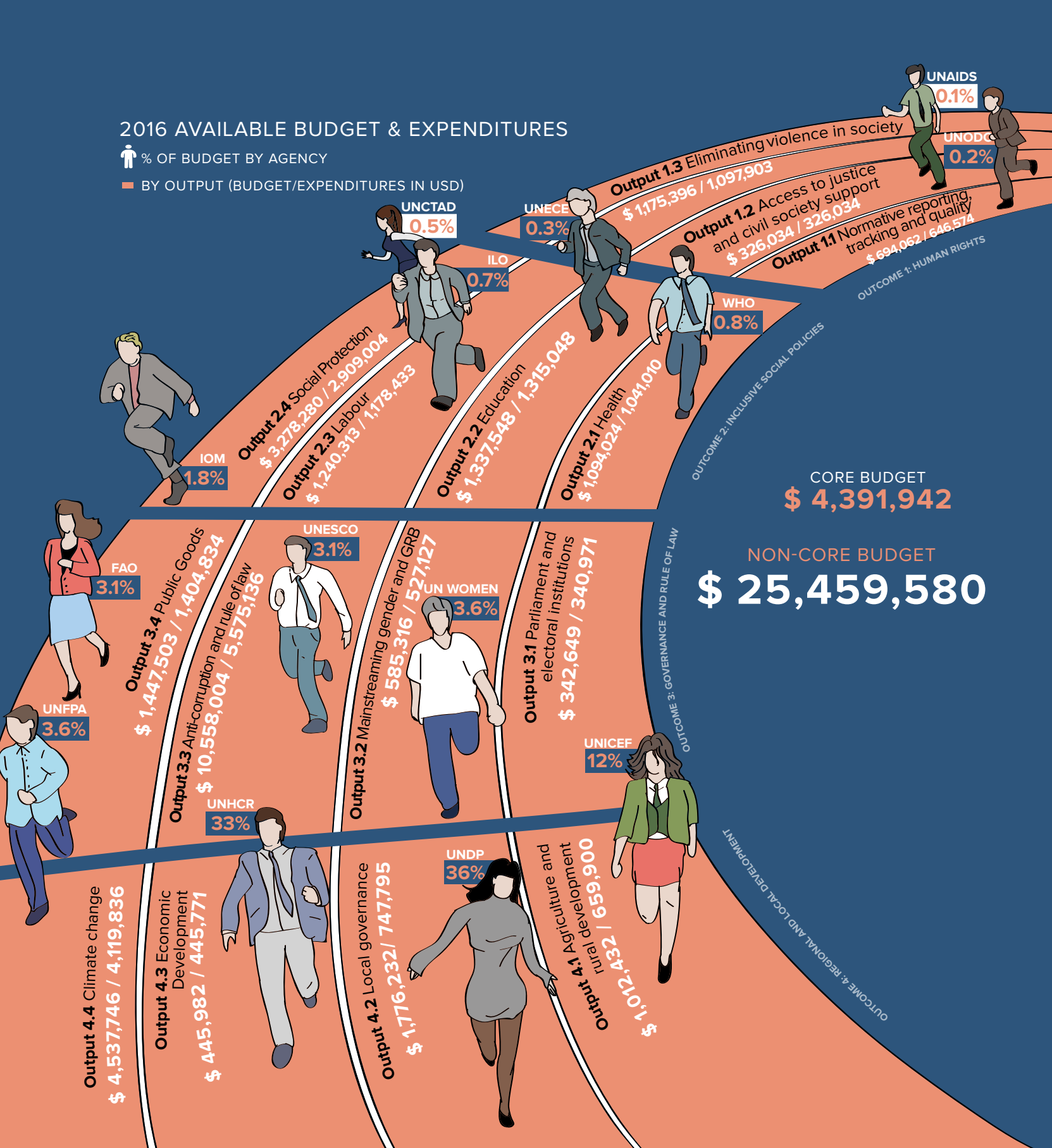
In 2016, 90 percent of the Programme's Results Framework was achieved and approximately 81 percent programme delivery was evidenced by end of the year. Progress was captured in continuous reviews and reporting, such as the mid-year review, UN Country Team (UNCT) work plan reporting for 2016, and specific reporting to PoC contributing donors and global funds: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for their gender-equality investment, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for their social inclusion investment, and the Delivering Results Together Fund from UN headquarters.

In 2016, the UN finalised preparations for a new GoA–UN PoC for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) 2017–2021 and received endorsement from the government's Strategic Planning Committee. The new Programme was signed on the occasion of UN Day, 24 October 2016, by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC). The new programme embeds the global 2030 Agenda, as well as the national priorities articulated in NSDI II. The latter presents the vision of government in advancing the EU integration agenda. The work of UN agencies under the new programme will ensure that central policies are extended to local development and affect all people, especially vulnerable communities in line with the UN mandate and 2030 Agenda. In total, the programme aims to deliver USD 108 million worth of technical assistance and investments over five years, using core resources from the global UN system but also drawing on local financial support from development partners and the government.

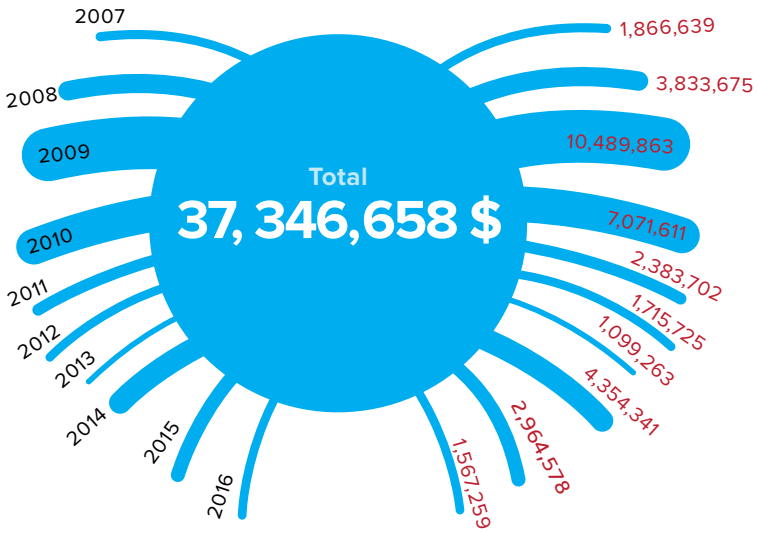
Common Budgetary Framework–One Fund

UNCT's agreed costed results are presented in a single financial framework, showing each UN agency's planned input, together with the funding source. Biennially, mid- and end-of-year, UNCT Albania and implementing government partners provide information on progress made against the planned results and actual expenditures.

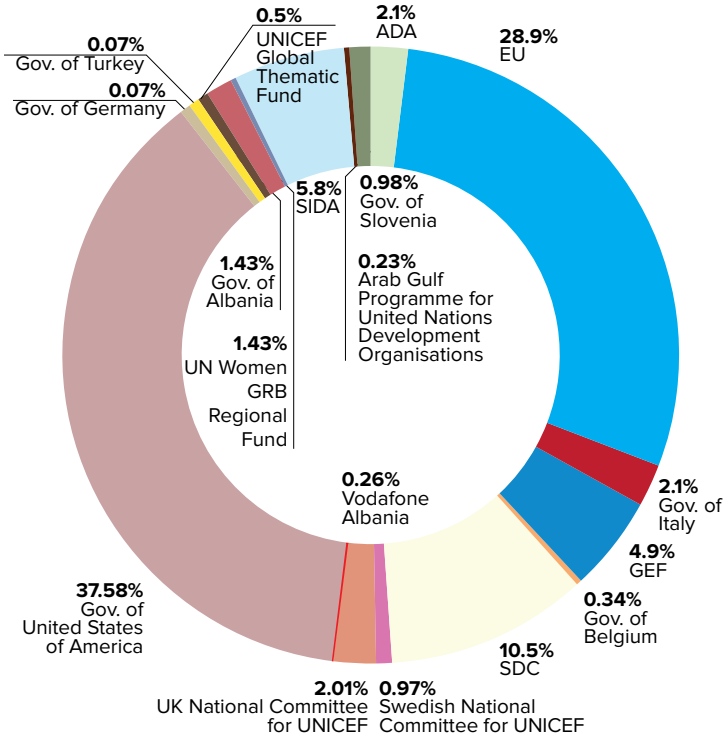
The PoC for 2016 had an available bud-


2016 AVAILABLE BUDGET & EXPENDITURES
% OF BUDGET BY AGENCY
BY OUTPUT (BUDGET/EXPENDITURES IN USD)
UNAIDS 0.1%
UNODC 0.2%
UNECE 0.3%
UNCTAD 0.5%
ILO 0.7%
WHO 0.8%
IOM 1.8%
FAO 3.1%
UNESCO 3.1%
UNFPA 3.6%
UN WOMEN 3.6%
UNICEF 12%
UNHCR 33%
UNDP 36%
Output 1.3 Eliminating violence in society
$ 1,175,396 / 1,097,903
Output 1.2 Access to justice and civil society support
$ 326,034 / 326,034
Output 1.1 Normative reporting, tracking and quality
$ 694,062 / 646,574
OUTCOME 1: HUMAN RIGHTS
Output 2.4 Social Protection
$ 3,278,280 / 2,909,004
Output 2.3 Labour
$ 1,240,313 / 1,178,433
Output 2.2 Education
$ 1,337,548 / 1,315,048
Output 2.1 Health
$ 1,094,024 / 1,041,010
OUTCOME 2: INCLUSIVE SOCIAL POLICIES
CORE BUDGET
$ 4,391,942
NON-CORE BUDGET
$ 25,459,580
Output 3.4 Public Goods
$ 1,447,503 / 1,404,834
Output 3.3 Anti-corruption and rule of law
$ 10,558,004 / 5,575,136
Output 3.2 Mainstreaming gender and GRB
$ 585,316 / 527,127
Output 3.1 Parliament and electoral institutions
$ 342,649 / 340,971
OUTCOME 3: GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW
Output 4.4 Climate change
$ 4,537,746 / 4,119,836
Output 4.3 Economic Development
$ 445,982 / 445,771
Output 4.2 Local governance
$ 1,776,232/ 747,795
Output 4.1 Agriculture and rural development
$ 1,012,432 / 659,900
OUTCOME 4: REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Coherence Fund 2007–2016 (USD)



Contributing Donors in 2016 – Outside One UN Fund



get of USD 30 million with core resources of USD 4.4 million (15%) and non-core resources of USD 25.6 million (85%). *The high value of the non-core resources highlights the importance of resource mobilization initiatives in PoC implementation*. By end-year, the programme reached an average delivery rate of 81 percent, with the balance carried over into 2017. For a financial overview of the 2016 total budget, including all sources of funding, see Annex C.

The UN Albania One Fund[113] is an important element of the non-core resources (coherence funds utilised in 2016 amounted to 18% of total non-core resources). Besides the funding received from bilateral donors in the country, such as Sida and SDC, the One Fund includes global pooled funding such as the Delivering Results Together Fund. It has led to greater UN coherence and efficiency in support of the highest strategic priorities of the One Programme, as determined jointly by GoA, UNRC and UNCT.

In 2016, in addition to the One Fund mechanism, UN agencies, based on their areas of expertise, engaged in individual resource mobilisation initiatives in Albania, as well as regionally and globally, reaching an amount of USD 21 million from 18 contributing funding sources. The delivery rate of this non-core funding amounted to 71 percent by the end of 2016.

One Leader

The UN Resident Coordinator led the UN Country Team Albania through the 2016 One Programme (PoC 2012–2016) implementation, aiming to create a set of strate-

113. Refer to Annex B for detailed information on the Coherence Fund

gic results based on national priorities. The Resident Coordinator led successful joint resource mobilization efforts and supported agency resource mobilization initiatives enabling UN Albania to work together towards strengthening and deepening the normative policy work in the country and increased the support provided to government in the development and implementation of various policies in key sectors.

Partnerships have been successfully maintained and built, including an agreement of key partners Sweden and Switzerland to continue future (earmarked) investments in the new programme One UN Fund 2017–2021. Much more effort will be needed to secure government investment into UN action in Albania.

The Resident Coordinator's Office is staffed with key functions to support the coordination and implementation of the Delivering as One agenda in Albania, including facilitation of the participation of Non-Resident Agencies in the DaO processes, among others.

Operating as One

Eight UN agencies—UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, UNHCR, UNODC, UNAIDS and UNDSS—and several UN agency projects reside in common premises designated by the UN Secretary General as UN House in Albania on 25 November 2013. UN Women is located in satellite premises close to the central building.

In 2016, UN Albania achieved improvements in managing its operational costs and processes through the support of the Operations Management Team. As a result of efforts to maximize value for money and quality through the use of joint Long-Term Agreements with suppliers, savings from additional discounts in conference services, event management and mobile services reached six percent. In addition, an estimated 167,000 USD in labour costs associated with procurement of travel, conference and event management, and Internet and mobile services are currently being saved.

In preparation for drafting a joint Business Operating Strategy – part of the Delivering as One approach – the UNCT commission in June-July 2016 a detailed operational analysis of procurement, expenditures and business processes.

The UN's Harmonised Approach on Cash Transfer implementation also progressed in 2016. A 'macro-assessment' of the financial management environment was conducted in July 2016 and duly shared with government. This was followed by a preparatory process for undertaking micro-assessments of individual implementing partners, to be conducted in 2017.

In 2016, UN Albania's Green Office actions resulted in the recycling of 442 kg of waste paper, avoiding CO^2 emissions of about 0.6 tons and 1.5 m^3 of landfill space. UN Albania will continue this good work, in support also of the promotion of SDGs 12 and 13 in Albania.

Communicating as One

Year 2016 marked the final year of the GoA–UN PoC 2012–2016, and the Communications Team used infographics, charts, stories and pictures, to bring the joint UN efforts to life, both for development partners and the public at large. A digital UN Albania newsletter, *Delivering for Develop-*

ment, reached around 25,000 key partners. The three issues produced throughout the year helped raise awareness and provide updates on the UN's key activities, interventions and partnership with Albania to achieve the SDGs.

Partnership with media and especially with the UN Press Club remained a priority throughout the year. More than 200 media reports generated from a combination of meet-the-press events, media field trips to the programme sites and attendance of UN-related events, helped the public gain insight into the work of the UN in the country and strengthen its image as a results-focused organisation. The organisation of media field trips to project sites proved to be particularly successful. For example, one field trip comprised ten reporters visiting the Gender Programme areas and resulted in substantive stories in the printed and electronic media about the issue of women's empowerment in Albania, including GBV and how the UN is partnering with government to advance the GE agenda in the country. The trip also served to enable reporters to gain insights into gender-related issues and challenges at the local level, as well as highlight the role of our partners, in this case Sweden.

human rights issues are almost always at the centre. The UN Communications Team continued to implement a national public awareness campaign around the advancement of gender equality and the prevention of domestic violence. The key message of the campaign *I Choose to Live Without Violence* reached and rallied half a million people through traditional and social media and public events organised across the country. Heads of UN agencies featured in a video spot underscoring that Albania cannot progress without full and equal rights for half of the country's population, in law and in practice. UN agency heads called on people to report incidents of gender-based violence, including to the authorities for eventual prosecution. The spot was viewed by 65,000 people on social media.

A particular point of pride in 2016 was the launching in Albania – with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – of the Free and Equal Campaign in partnership with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) civil society activists. The campaign raised awareness of homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination and mobilizes people in Albania to stop violence and discrimination against LGBTI people. The Free and Equal campaign released a variety of multimedia content calling on all people to respect the rights of the LGBTI community, and included media training sessions on how to ethically and adequately report issues related to LGBTI rights.

Other efforts to communicate about results included a social media campaign around the results featured in the UN Progress Report. The hashtag #UNProgress Report in Albania 2015 earned 40,000 impressions on Twitter. And a Fair held on UN Day acquainted partners with the new Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Social media platforms remain key communication channels for UN followers and increased by 15 percent in 2016. Throughout the year some 200,000 people were reached through UN posts highlighting its work and conveying its advocacy messages.

To increase awareness about the SDGs Agenda, and connect and engage with people across the country, the UN organised an SDG Week. This included a Social Good Summit that brought together around 170 people to talk about the role of technology and social media as powerful forces for change and for achievement of the SDGs. As part of the week, UN partnered with a number of schools across in Albania to educate students about the Goals using the World's Largest Lesson.

This helped 1,000 students in Tirana and the regions understand the significance of the new global goals in their futures, and the crucial role they can play in realising them. To make the SDGs widely known in Albania, the UN established a ground-breaking partnership with the Millennium Cinemas Networks and Cineplex to air an SDG public service announcement ahead of each and every movie screened during a period of one week. Some 20,000 people learned about the goals through this activity. A video spot produced about the initiative helped increase further awareness of the 17 SDGs.

CHAPTER 4
ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED— PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION, 2012–2016



As this was the final year of the 2012-2016 Programme of Cooperation, this section presents key achievements, shortcomings and lessons learned across the full five years, in order that they can be followed-up in the next cycle.

Overview

The Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016[114] was signed on UN Day 2011 by 19 UN Agencies and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). It was the second 5-year programme developed under the Delivering-as-One approach.

The initial Results Framework outlined 11 Outcomes and 41 Outputs. As a result of the Mid-Term Review[115] in 2014, however, they were reduced to 4 Outcomes and 15 Outputs in an effort to focus more on strategic results. The programme was operationalized through joint annual Output level work plans, delivering a total of USD 121 million over five-years. More than 90 percent of the results planned at the beginning of the programme were achieved. The alignment of UN support with national plans was strengthened through monitoring of indicators against the results framework, joint annual reviews and reports[116] and periodic dialogue with government and other partners, through regular JEC meetings and Output Working Groups meetings.

114. http://www.un.org.al/editor-files/file/news/GoA-UN-Cooperation-ProgrammeSIGNED.pdf

115. https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Albania-MID-TERM-REVIEW-25-September-2014.pdf

116. http://www.un.org.al/subindex.php?faqe=details&id=64&mnu=32

22.2%

more women in municipality councils. Currently represent 34.7% of municipality councilors, from 12.5% in 2010.

9/61

Mayors are women in 2015 (15%), a significant improvement compared to 0.7% in 2010

6.3%

increase of women in parliament, from 16.7% in 2013 to 23% in 2015

Flagship Results 2012–2016

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.

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 64th 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.

Equally importantly, through UN support, 'due process' has been established in Albania, informed by international standards, in helping government to progressively realise the rights of especially vulnerable groups (including Roma and Egyptians, LGBTI, persons with disabilities, minorities, etc.). It is evidenced an enhanced role of independent human rights institutions in the country and more effective work of oversight mechanisms and processes to identify and address cases of discrimination. The number of cases brought to the Ombudsman increased from 110 in 2010 to more than 1,000 in 2016, and to the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination from 15 in 2011 to more than 300 in 2016.

Coverage and validity of mechanisms and obligatory core curriculum for tracking, reporting and addressing all forms of violence against women and children and trafficking in human beings has improved substantially. By end 2016, at least six mechanisms[117] are in place and operational for reporting and addressing Violence against Children and this phenomenon is addressed in the obligatory core curriculum of professional education for police, social workers, health practitioners and magistrates, compared to none in 2012. Community coordinating mechanisms for violence against women have expanded to 50% country coverage and the increased level of awareness enabled victims to report over 4,000 cases an-

117. State Police, CPUs, State Education Inspectorate, MCH care centres, ALO 116 Helpline, ISUGURT online platform (www.isigurt.al)

nually to state police, compared to only 94 in 2005.

Ground breaking achievements can be seen in child rights and juvenile justice. Major results include significant advancements in legal and policy frameworks, for example those encouraging alternatives to detention, now used in more than 65 percent of juvenile cases. The average time juveniles spent in pre-trial detention fell from 135 days in 2012 and 140 days in 2014 to 92 in 2016, while the number of children in detention continues to diminish slowly but steadily, down to 191 boys in 2016 from 338 in 2014 and 232 in 2012.

UN's efforts to the development of Albania's **social system**, through significant advancements in the legal and policy framework, including explicit social inclusion targets incorporated in most sector-specific policies, contributed to an increased public ownership of vulnerability in Albania and more empowered vulnerable persons and groups.

For example, key results in the education sector attributed to government's intensive and effective reform efforts towards a more inclusive environment, many supported by UN Albania, include: significantly increased access to all levels of education (primary and lower secondary enrolment are nearly universal (respectively 99.4% and 95.66%), and between 2009 and 2016, pre - primary net enrolment shot up from 65 to 88%[118]; more than 70 percent increase in the number of Roma children attending pre-school from 2011–2016; a turnaround in effectiveness of vocational training with a 30% increase in the number of women and men receiving professional training during the last five years[119]; and a 65%[120] post-VET graduation employment rate in 2016 compared to 59% in 2012. Similarly, Albania showed an improved performance in PISA scores, from 2012 to 2016, for reading (from 394 to 405), math (from 394 to 413), and science (from 397 to 427) assessments.

Increased effectiveness and outreach of employment promotion, including more targeted interventions for vulnerable communities, resulted in a considerable increase in the number of women benefitting from employment programme schemes. Women accounted for 65% of beneficiaries in 2015 and enterprises owned or run by women are currently at 30–31% from 22.9% in 2005. Similarly, Roma and Egyptians individuals benefiting from employment promotion measures increased by 45% from 2012 to 2016.

In health care, over the life of the Programme, the UN supported improvements in more than 20 policies, strategies, guidelines and protocols, with an emphasis on health inequities and a functional health information system. Significantly, out-of-pocket health expenditure decreased to 37% in 2016 from 60% in 2012. UN's contribution in this regard focused in the provision of technical assistance for improved national health financing strategies aimed at moving towards universal health coverage, support in developing institutional capacities to analyze, develop and implement options for health financing, which incorporate lessons learnt from other countries,

45%

increase of Roma and Egyptians individuals benefiting from employment promotion measures from 2012 to 2016

31%

enterprises owned or run by women in comparison to 22.9% in 2005

147

less children in detention centers - down to 191 boys in 2016 from 338 in 2014

118. https://www.unicef.org/albania/2016_ALB_study_report-Facing_the_challenges_of_inclusive-education.pdf

119. Gender Brief Albania 2016 http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/10/albania-gender-brief

120. INSTAT 2016Q2

23%

growth of children pre - primary net enrolment between 2009 and 2016, from 65 to 88%

6%

growth of post-VET graduation employment rate, 65% in 2016 compared to 59% in 2012

65%

improved performance in PISA scores, from 2012 to 2016, for reading (from 394 to 405), math (from 394 to 413), and science (from 397 to 427) assessments

or regional and global experiences, and promotion of successful approaches, at the national and local level, based on public health principles to reduce inequalities, prevent diseases, protect health and increase well-being through different models of care delivery harmonized with infrastructures, capacities and other resources.

Improved standards for justice, addressing trafficking of humans and reducing corruption, especially in the context of public service delivery modernisation, were areas of focus in ***governance and the rule of law***. This resulted in increased adoption of systems that promote transparency, with a considerably improved position in the Transparency International corruption index, up to 83 (2016) from 116 (2013). An estimated 90% of cases in the anti-trafficking were discovered, and addressed[121]. Enhanced migration and asylum management practices were evidenced by a 40 percent increase from 2011 in the number of Albanian returnees registered and accessing re-integration services supported by the UN, while more than 300 asylum seekers enjoyed adequate protection and services in Albania, up from 150 in 2011, as well as the relocation of 2,745 Ashraf Iranian ex-residents in Albania.

Regional and local development was a priority in the last Programme, emphasizing improvements in local democracy building, equity and sustainability. In the area of local governance, UNDP invested heavily in helping to craft and implement the law on the administrative and territorial reform, resulting in the new map of 61 municipalities with directly elected mayors and councils, down from a nearly unworkable 373 communes. Government has maintained attention to this long-term effort, with continued attention to financial decentralization, dialogue structures between central and local government, and regional development. Other UN action, such as UN Women, has built on these efforts, focusing on improved community participation in planning, and gender-based budgeting. The UN's role in this process reveals how the UN's impartiality can be an advantage when engaging in very complex political challenges.

Concerning environmental protection, the Government increased its commitment to integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into the country's development agenda, and improving governance and financial sustainability of protected areas. The first Marine Protected Area was designated with UN support as the "Karaburuni-Sazani" Marine National Park (124.3 km2/10.57% of the total coastal areas). By end 2016, 24% of protected areas were equipped with management plans and administrative structure in place compared to 17% in 2012.

Albania participated actively during the lead-up to the Paris climate discussions of December 2015, voluntarily committed to reducing CO_2 emissions by 11.5%, and formally ratified the agreement within six months. A set of climate change indicators are now part of the National Environment Monitoring Program ensuring systematic monitoring and observation of ecosystem response to climate change as well as effectiveness of adaptation measures. Climate change mitigation or adaptation measures are included as a crosscutting strategy in NSDI and mainstreamed in two

121. UNODC Albania/Container Control Programme 2016 statistics

sectors[122] in 2016 compared to none in 2012.

Albania is better equipped to respond to flooding situations following UNDP's support for the finalization of 16 major river protection infrastructures and related drainage channels across the rivers Vjosa, Osum and Drino impacting 160,000 people in Albania.

With regard to agriculture and rural development, the UN's efforts focused mostly on women's economic empowerment. By end 2016, the country registered 15 percent of female beneficiaries of extension services compared to 10 percent in 2012. Likewise, the net number of new enterprises created, and proportion owned by women doubled by end 2016 compared to 2012.

Lessons Learned

The independent evaluation of the PoC 2012–2016 concluded that i) there was near consensus in the perceptions of government and civil society partners that the results of UN cooperation had been achieved with little waste and duplication and ii) the PoC was able to achieve results efficiently and with manageable transaction costs.

The following key lessons from the implementation of the PoC 2012-2016, were taken into consideration while formulating the new Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021.

- *Country leadership of the programming process and the responsibility of senior and mid-level managers in government for achievement of results is an essential ingredient of success*

The GoA-UN PoC achieved significant results where there was clear alignment with national priorities and there was strong ownership of the initiative by national authorities during the planning and implementation stages.

- *An enduring appeal of strong management and programme procedures*

The role of the UN to support the GoA's reforms, i.e territorial reform agenda, was important and confirms that the UN's neutrality and impartiality can be a major advantage when engaging in complex challenges. The management capacity, well designed and fully functional management structures of the PoC along with a solid track record of procurement and recruitment earned trust of Government and international partners that came to the UN for its perceived competence as a trustee of funds. These advantages are equally relevant to be taken forward in the next PoCSD for the sector budget approach being implemented by the EU and GoA.

- *Value of Partnerships*

Widened partnership with legislative branches of government and independent human rights institutions were equally critical for an effective implementation of the current programme.

Equally importantly, the UN's relations with development partners were crucial in advancing the implementation of the DaO initiative in the country, as they are an important source of development funding and account for a large portion of UN Albania non-core funding. UN pursued a close relation with development partners in the PoC implementation, as well as through engagement in the country's donor coordination mechanisms and strategic conversations with individual

23%

decrease of Out-of pocket health expenditure, from 60% in 2012 to 37% in 2016

33

positions improved in the Transparency International corruption index, up to 83 (2016) from 116 (2013)

7%

of growth of protected areas equipped with management plans and administrative structure in place compared to 17% in 2012

122. Climate Change considerations introduced in the Integrated Plan for Coastal Zone Management; Energy Efficiency standards introduced in the Housing Sector.

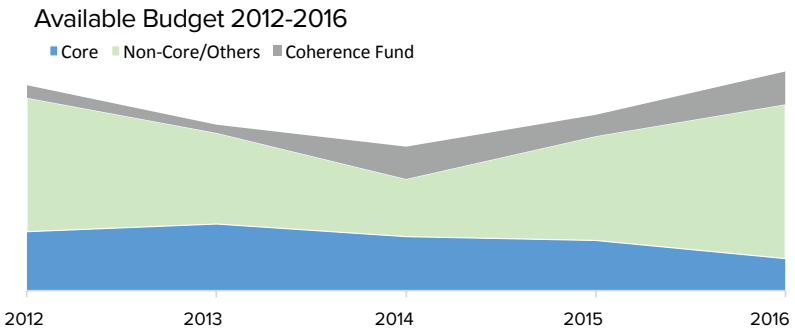
donors related to the country's development priorities, serving to divulge potential for a stronger partnership in the future.

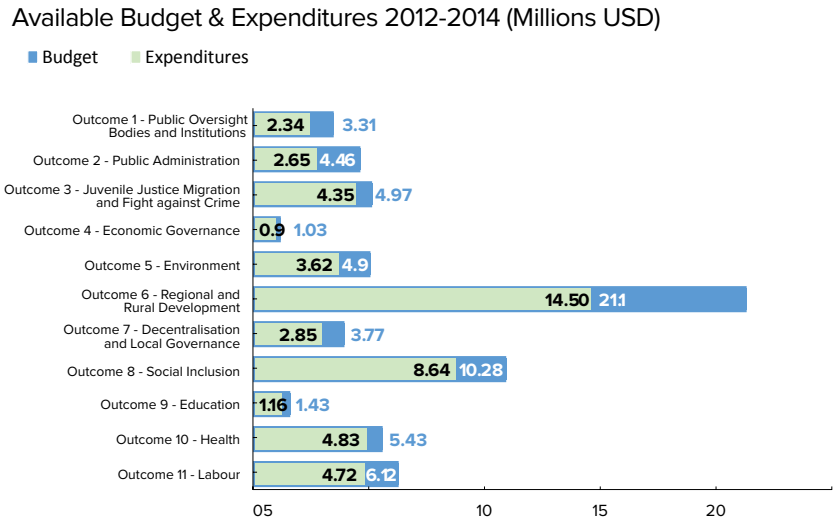
- *Harnessing the power of data for decision making*

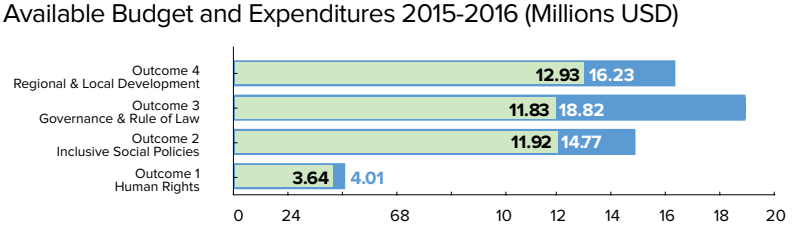
The GoA–UN programmatic cooperation focused strongly on legal and policy development based on international standards and on evidence. During the programme cycle, the UN was invested in helping improve the quality and availability of data at all levels. Highlights of data generation from 2012–2016 included national and local situation analyses, studies and reports on various vulnerable groups in the country, providing a strong foundation for the UN to make evidence-based recommendations with one credible and compelling voice. In this context, a stronger UN–INSTAT engagement was evidenced during programme implementation, resulting in establishment of a joint Data Group in 2016. This will help the UN system provide an increased integrated support to develop statistical and other data gathering and analysis systems in mid-term future.

Financial Overview 2012–2016

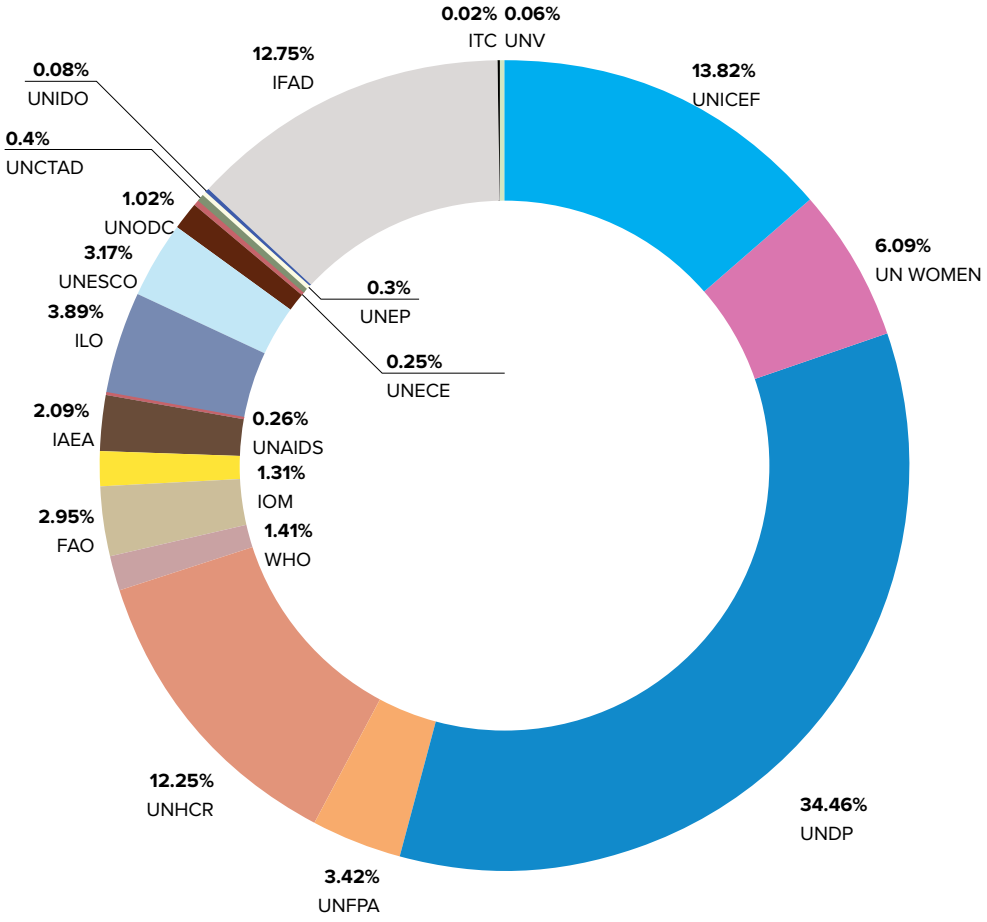
Full implementation of the PoC required an available budget of USD 121 million. This includes USD 35.6 million (29%) from regular or core resources and USD 85.5 million (71%) from other or non-core resources. Only fourteen percent of the non-core funding was allocated to the Coherence Fund, which has declined sharply from 2013 and has since kept a steady pace to an amount of almost USD 2 million per year. The story of PoC 2012–2016 budget and delivery is illustrated below. As of December 2016, the average programme delivery rate was 85 percent.







UN Agencies Contributions (USD), PoC 2012–2016



ANNEXES



ANNEX A:
PROGRESS AGAINST PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION RESULTS FRAMEWORK

ANNEX B
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE ONE UN COHERENCE FUND FOR 2016

ANNEX C
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2016 TOTAL AVAILABLE BUDGET, INCLUDING ALL SOURCES OF FUNDING

ANNEX D
KEY NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS, PARTICIPATING UN ORGANISATIONS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES, ACRONYMS AND WEBSITES

ANNEX E
UN ORGANISATIONS PUBLICATIONS IN 2016

ANNEX A: PROGRESS AGAINST PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION RESULTS FRAMEWORK

ON TRACK | PARTIALLY ON TRACK | NO PROGRESS

Outcome 1: Human Rights					
Participating Agencies	**Indicator**	**Baseline 2012**	**Target 2016**	**Means of Verification**	**Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016**
UNICEF UN Women UNDP IOM UNFPA UNHCR WHO	Fundamental Rights Index	2012 2014: 0.58	2016: 0.65	World Justice Project (WJP): Rule of Law Index	0.60 (ranking 55/113)
	Extent to which justice system is affordable and accessible to women and men	2012: 2014: 0.58	2016: 0.60	WJP: Rule of Law Index	0.53 (ranking 68/113)
	Number of cases brought to Anti-Discrimination Office	2012: 104 complaints filed; 14 by the Commissioner herself	2016: 600 report complaints filed and tracked, sex-disaggregated	Records of the Anti-Discrimination Office	CPD handled 113 cases (52 cases brought by women, 49 by men and 13 by CSOs) CPD issued 10 ex officio cases CPD issued 172 decisions on various grounds of discrimination
Output 1.1: Government of Albania meets its international human rights reporting obligations and application of normative standards through tracking implementation					
UNICEF UN Women UNDP IOM UNFPA UNHCR	Estimated degree of integration and implementation of normative reporting recommendations in policies and legislation	CEDAW: 30% CRC: 20% Conv. Prot. Rights of Migrant Workers, partial integration Family Planning HRP: 0% Conv. on Status of Refugees, Protocol on Status of Refugees: 40%	CEDAW: 70% CRC: 70% Conv. Prot. Rights of Migrant Workers, complete integration Family Planning HRP: 70% Conv. on Status of Refugees, Protocol on Status of Refugees: 70%	MoSWY MoJ MoH MoIA	- International standards for actions taken to combat trafficking in persons fed into the 2016 revision process of Standard Operating Procedures for identification, referral and assistance for victims of trafficking. - Submission of 2nd report on MWC convention to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers. - Methodology developed for Ombudsman to conduct annual monitoring of human rights exercises for foreign migrants workers in Albania.
	Existence of national mechanism to track human rights obligations	Zero	One	MFA MoIA MoSWY MoJ	- An Action Plan for UPR and CEDAW recommendations was developed. - A tracking mechanism on human rights obligations is under development.
Output 1.2: Ministry of Justice, state institutions and civil society channel public demand for justice and ensure support services are established and accessible to provide resolution					
UN Women UNICEF UNFPA UNHCR UNDP	Number of free legal aid cases annually supported by government; noting women: men ratio	2012: zero	10 Ratio: at least 1:1	MoJ	Based on reports from Legal Aid Commission, 290 applicants assisted with free legal aid in 2015; only one is a DV case. Statistics were not reported in a disaggregated form and the report is not publicly available.
	Length of pre-trial detention for male and female juveniles	5–7 months; 46% stay in detention > 6 months	2–4 months	MoJ	3.06 months

Output 1.3: Mandated line ministries and state institutions ensure that their practices and policies prevent and address violence effectively (against women and children) in society					
Participating Agencies	**Indicator**	**Baseline 2012**	**Target 2016**	**Means of Verification**	**Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016**
UN Women WHO UNFPA IOM UNDP UNICEF	Existence of obligatory core curriculum as part of professional education for police, social workers, health practitioners and magistrates on all forms of violence against women and children and trafficking in human beings	Police: No Social workers: No Health practitioners: No Magistrates: Yes	Police: Yes Social workers: Yes Health practitioners: Yes Magistrates: Yes	Records from ASP, MoSWY, MoH, School of Magistrates	- Essential package and multi-sectoral response to GBV SOPs disseminated among stakeholders, including the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery - Modules related to implementation of SOPs for identification, referral and assistance of victims of trafficking integrated into the obligatory curriculum of new staff entering duty and ongoing professional education for police, social workers, health practitioners (doctors, nurses and others) and magistrates Statistics 95 victims and potential victims of trafficking identified: victims of trafficking 33; potential victims of trafficking 62; children 44; adults 51; female 84; male 11; Albanians 57; and foreigners 8. More than 1,330 DV cases registered from 2014–2016 through the CCR online tracking system. Over 500 cases recorded and handled through REVALB system of GBV cases. 4,163 cases reported to the state police in 2016 compared to 94 in 2005.
	Coverage and validity of mechanisms for tracking, reporting and addressing violence against women and children	Functioning Community Coordinated Response (CCR) mechanisms: 30% of municipalities Number and type of national mechanisms collecting evidence and addressing violence against children (VAC; child helpline, information gathering by social protection services, anti-VAC programmes in schools, etc.)	Functioning CCR: 50% of municipalities	MoSWY	CCRs established in nearly 50% of municipalities. At least six mechanisms report and address VAC: State Police, CPUs, State Education Inspectorate, MCH care centres, ALO 116 Helpline, ISUGURT online platform (www.isigurt.al).
	Proportion of men and women who think that abuse or violence against women is acceptable or tolerable	2013 perceptions from 'Fjale Burri' study; 59% of men and boys, and 80% of girls believe a man should never raise his hand against a woman	65% of men and boys 85% of girls	Perception Survey MoSWY INSTAT	2016 perceptions from 'Fjale Burri' study[123] - 61.5% of men and boys and 75% of girls believe a man should never raise his hand against a woman

123. The sampling in Diber and Durres included more rural areas than the 2013 sampling of the respondents. The findings will be published in 2017 Q1.

Outcome 2: Inclusive Social Policies					
Participating Agencies	**Indicator**	**Baseline 2012**	**Target 2016**	**Means of Verification**	**Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016**
WHO UNICEF UNDP UNFPA UNAIDS UN Women IAEA ILO IOM UNESCO	Sector-specific policies have explicit social inclusion targets	X policies out of Z	Y policies out of Z	Line ministries' policy documents NSDI 2015–2020 monitoring framework	- NSDI 2015-2020 approved by Council of Ministers (CoM) - National Programme and Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2016–2020 approved by the Minister of Health - Strategic Document and Action Plan On Reproductive Health 2016–2020 approved by Minister of Health - National Action Plan of Contraceptives Security 2017–2020 approved by Minister of Health - National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2016–2020 approved by CoM - National Health Strategy 2020 Framework drafted, opened to public for consultation, consulted with stakeholders. Official approval by CoM pending - Social Inclusion Policy Document (SIPD; 2016–2020) approved by CoM - Social Housing Strategy (SHS; 2016–2025) approved by CoM - National Action Plan for PWD (2016–2020) approved by CoM - Law on Social Care Services approved by Parliament - Law on Social Enterprises approved by Parliament - Minister of Social Welfare and Youth Order on social support for children living with HIV finalised - RomAlb system operational through Order no. 276 dated 30.12.2016 of Minister of Social Welfare and Youth
	Social inclusion of Roma, Egyptians and other disadvantaged groups is increasingly achieved	Rated 2 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)[124]	Rated at least 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	UN, EU and stakeholders qualitative assessments	Rated at least 3 - 45% increase in R/E benefiting from employment promotion measures - 426 R/E registered as unemployed job seekers and mediated for employment, and among them 73 R/E (40M and 33F) citizens employed by December 2016 - 4 ALMM designed, tailored to the needs of the R&E communities and implemented - 3 community upgrading infrastructure projects initiated, benefiting R&E families - 165 R/E with full access to basic services - Disaggregated indicators on R/E available for each sector of National Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015–2020 in the RomAlb system - RomAlb system upgraded and functional; 91 public officials trained in RomAlb system - Social and Economic Profile of Return Migrants in Albania developed and finalised in December 2016 - 95 victims of trafficking assisted - 246 family tracing/assessments prepared on unaccompanied migrant children - 466 returning Albanian migrants supported

124. 1, no progress or steps taken towards achieving the target; 2, some limited or fragmented measures, or both, towards achieving the target are taken; 3, consistent progress is made at systems level towards achieving the target; 4, critical systemic changes are in place to ensure the target will be met.

Output 2.1: Health care policies and sector reform enabled towards equitable universal health coverage					
Participating Agencies	**Indicator**	**Baseline 2012**	**Target 2016**	**Means of Verification**	**Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016**
WHO UNICEF UNFPA UNAIDS IAEA	National policy addressing health inequities established and documented through functional health information system	Rated 2 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy documents NSDI 2015–2020 monitoring framework UN qualitative assessment	Rated 3 - Order of Minister of Health no. 242, issued on 14.06.2016 creates the administrative basis for the scaling up of the child nutrition surveillance - 6 new child nutrition indicators introduced in the health system - Guideline on piloting selected health indicators, as per the newly developed and approved Manual of Core Health Indicators (based on European Core Health Indicators) developed; - Consolidated final version of ICD10 updated, translated and endorsed by Commission of Coordination and Unit of Maintenance of Systems of the International Classification of Diseases in MoH, during its meeting held on 7.11.2016 - National Programme and Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2016–2020 approved by Minister of Health - National Strategic Document on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2017–2021 finalised, costed and endorsed by Minister of Health - National Action Plan on Health Promotion 2017–2021 finalised and costed - National Action Plan on Contraceptive Security finalised and endorsed by Minister of Health
	Mechanisms established to ensure access and utilisation of the Basic Package of Services (in line with evidence-based clinical guidelines and protocols)	Rated 2 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy documents and health sector strategy monitoring framework UN qualitative assessment	Rated 3 - Tools for health care providers to plan and deliver holistic MCH services developed - Collaboration framework between regional health authorities and local government developed and institutionalized through MoU - Quality improvement initiatives at PHC level include: Guidelines and protocols developed/endorsed in area of Family Planning, Cervical Cancer, Youth Friendly Services; Capacities of PHC providers strengthened on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights; Teams of health educators consolidated in 8 regions - Two courses, on Staying Fit and Safer Food for Better Health, implemented in Albania - six schools - 3 public and 1 private school in Tirana, 2 public schools in Durres; 24 teachers included in the pilot phase and 2,608 students followed Health Academy Programme courses.
	Out-of-pocket health expenditures of private households as a proportion of total health expenditure	60%	40%	MoH policy documents NSDI 2015–2020 monitoring framework UN qualitative assessment MoF data INSTAT	37%
	Disease registries for Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs: cancer, CV, diabetes) and rare diseases, established and functional	Rated 2 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy document MoH–MTUHC–IPH Cancer Registry IAEA Project Progress Assessment Reports (PPARs) expert meetings and reports	Rated 3 - Registry of National Programme of Check-ups for Albanian citizens 35–70 years of age functional - Registry of cardio-vascular diseases (CHD and stroke) piloted in Durres and being rolled out in other regions of the country

Output 2.2: Early childhood development and education policies ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for individuals and groups					
Participating Agencies	**Indicator**	**Baseline 2012**	**Target 2016**	**Means of Verification**	**Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016**
UNICEF UNFPA UNESCO	National ECD policy exists	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents	- Pre-school strategy developed, with education goals and targets part of NSDI 2015–2020 and pre-university education strategy - National Action Plan (Agenda) for Children 2016-2020 includes multi-sectoral goals for early learning and development
	Policies and solutions developed to ensure equal access to kindergarten and pre-schooling across income quintiles	Rated 1 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents LGUs administrative records	Rated 3 Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015–2020 and Strategy of Pre-university Education set goals for increase in access of Roma children to pre-school
	National comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Education curricula in line with international standards	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents	National comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Education curricula developed in line with international standards. Training of 170 teachers undertaken and teaching materials for secondary education developed. 20% of secondary public schools reached.
Output 2.3: Improved social dialogue leads to active employment and skills development policies and decent work for men and women					
ILO UNDP UNESCO UN Women IOM	Social dialogue mechanism established through meetings of National Labour Council	Once a year	Quarterly	MoES policy and monitoring documents LGU administrative records	National Labour Council meeting held quarterly
	No. of active labour market measures (ALMMs) implemented (including ones targeting women and rural populations)	6 (vulnerable groups, youth, women, apprenticeships, recent graduates, disability)	8 (6 from baseline + entrepreneurship, rural)	MoES policy and monitoring documents LGU administrative records	Comprehensive assessment of 6 ALMMs from 2008–2014 completed. All 6 existing ALMMs under implementation, with additional increases in budget and number of beneficiaries. The 6 ALMMs reviewed, and undergoing changes in both implementation modalities and levels of compensation for beneficiary enterprises and job seekers. The most significant changes drafted for programme targeting youth and women from vulnerable groups. 7th ALMM drafted, targeting orphaned youths.
	VET programmes introduced that ensure equal opportunities, with special orientation towards lifelong learning skills, for urban and rural communities	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents LGU administrative records	National Employment and Skills 2014–2020 Strategy and Action Plan launched and being implemented. Monitoring procedures and processes defined for preparing mid-term review 2017 and annual progress reports.
Output 2.4: Social protection and inclusion mechanisms ensure that social needs of the disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally met					
UNICEF UNDP UN Women WHO UNFPA UNAIDS ILO IOM	System of social care services in place	Rated 1 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents LGU administrative records	Law on Social Care Services approved in November 2016, encompassing 100% of Social Care Services reform pillars. 7 municipalities developed social care plans in establishing all necessary care services for all categories in need as provided in the law.
	Social inclusion coordinating and monitoring system in place	Rated 1 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated 3 (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents LGU administrative records	- Guidelines and work plan in place for establishment and running of Statistical Indicators and Integrity Group. - 3 municipalities developed for the first time social inclusion action plans. - Fier and Berat Municipality committed 3 m USD and 69 m ALL for social activities targeting vulnerable groups, thanks to GRB process. - Participatory partnerships among LGUs, civil society and delegated structures developed and strengthened in 4 municipalities with focus on healthy lifestyles and access to services.

Outcome 3: Governance and Rule of Law					
Participating Agencies	**Indicator**	**Baseline 2012**	**Target 2016**	**Means of Verification**	**Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016**
UNDP UNICEF UN Women UNODC UNHCR UNESCO UNEP UNFPA UNECE UNCTAD IOM	Open Budget Index Score	UNDP: 47 in 2012 Open Budget Survey	UNDP: 60	UNDP Open Budget Survey 2014	38 (2015)
	Sector policies include an evidence-based statement on gender inequality in relevant sectors and provide for measures to combat it	1	4	UN Women Transparency International	- National Strategy on Gender Equality 2016–2020 - National Programme of Official Statistics 2017–2021 - National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 - Curriculum on prevention of trafficking developed for Albanian schools Gender equality mainstreamed into EUD Action Documents on justice, anti-corruption, transport, fisheries, integrated water management, food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary issues, and consumer protection - Other
	Transparency International Corruption Index	CPI: 31 (2013)	CPI: 50	UN Women Transparency International	39 (2016)
Output 3.1: Parliament and electoral institutions have the capacity to perform core functions					
UNICEF UNDP UN Women UNFPA UNODC	Public perception of trust in Parliament, Election Management Bodies, political parties	Opinion Poll Trust In Governance 2013: Government: 30% Parliament: 24% Police: 37% Civil society: 39% European Union: 70% NATO: 74%	Government: 30% Parliament: 24% Police: 37% Civil society: 39% European Union: 70% NATO: 74%	Public Perception Survey	Government: 44% Parliament: 27% Police: 61% Civil society: 46% European Union: 80% NATO: 79%
	No. of Parliamentary sessions and hearings for oversight of international and national human rights and gender equality obligations	2 topics on child rights and gender equality	3 discussions in parliamentary standing committees per topic	UN Women records	At least 2 Parliamentary sessions, 4 hearings and 2 discussions on child rights and gender equality issues.
Output 3.2: Line ministries and public service delivery institutions are able to mainstream gender and conduct gender-responsive planning & budgeting and evidence-based policy making at all levels					
UNICEF IOM UNFPA UN Women UNDP UNESCO	Number of national policies with gender-specific objectives and indicators	1	4	Department for Development Planning, Financing, and Foreign Aid (DDPFFA) and Delivery Unit (DU)	- National Strategy on Gender Equality 2016–2020 - National Programme of Official Statistics 2017–2021 - National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 - Curriculum on prevention of trafficking developed for Albanian schools Gender equality mainstreamed into EUD Action Documents on justice, anti-corruption, transport, fisheries, integrated water management, food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary issues, and consumer protection - Other
	Number of ministries and public institutions with gender equality objectives and targets in national planning and budgeting	0	6	MTBP	- 12 line ministries and 1 independent institution (Albanian State Police) - 24 MTBPs - GRB applied in 5 municipalities: Tirana, Vlora, Saranda, Fier and Berat

Output 3.3: State, market, non-state institutions enabled to deliver their statutory mandates, prevent corruption, enforce rule of law					
Participating Agencies	**Indicator**	**Baseline 2012**	**Target 2016**	**Means of Verification**	**Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016**
UNDP UN Women UNECE UNCTAD IOM UNODC UNICEF UNHCR	Perception of trust in and satisfaction with public service delivery institutions (e.g. judiciary, health, education)	Opinion Poll Trust In Governance 2013: Judiciary: 19% Health system: 30% Education system: 38%	Judiciary 19% Health system 30% Education system 38%	Public Perception Survey	Judiciary: 23% Health system: 50% Education system: 59%
	Percentage of migrants and asylum seekers receiving protection and integration services	20% (2013, asylum seekers and refugees) 4% of returning migrants contacted Migration Counters during 2012 and 2013	50% 20%	National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters) INSTAT–IOM national survey on return migration	289 Albanian returnees registered in the Migration Counters compared to 16,601 forced Albanian returnees in the same period of 2014, equivalent to 1.7%. Of 915 persons intercepted trying to enter Albania illegally, 689 were from refugee-producing countries (Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq) and 240 sought asylum. UNHCR and its partners increased their presence at the border and provided assistance to all asylum seekers.
Output 3.4: Line ministries ensure and enforce the conservation, sustainable use of public goods					
UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UNESCO UNEP FAO UNECE	Percentage of protected areas with management plans and administrative structure in place (proxy indicator for public or common goods, protection)	17%	25%	National Reports to the Convention on Biological Bio-diversity http://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?type=nr-04	24% of the protected areas have approved management plans in place. Implementation of priority actions has initiated.

Outcome 4: Regional and Local Development					
Participating Agencies	**Indicator**	**Baseline 2012**	**Target 2016**	**Means of Verification**	**Value of Indicator, 31 December 2016**
UNDP UN Women ILO UNEP UNCTAD UNECE UNIDO FAO UNESCO UNICEF	Decentralisation strategy adopted and commences implementation	Policy being formulated	Policy adopted	UNDP monitoring	The adopted Strategy paved the way for approval of Law 139/2015 'On the Organisation and Functioning of Local Government' (new Organic Law), adopted in December 2015 and been in force since January 2016. 42% of the Decentralisation Strategy Action Plan is implemented. Implementation of another 21% of the activities is currently ongoing.
Output 4.1 State institutions at regional and local levels have the capacity to implement rural development and modernisation of the agricultural sector					
UNDP UNEP UNCTAD UNECE FAO UNIDO UN Women IFAD	Percentage of female beneficiaries of extension services	10%	20%	Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2020	15%
	Productivity in agri-processing given by Gross Value Added (GVA) and Agricultural Working Units (AWU)	5,010,105 ALL	7,000,000 ALL	Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2020	GVA: Data is unavailable AWU: Data could not be made available because Farm Register is not created
	Labour productivity in agricultural sector	447,000 ALL	715,000 ALL	Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2020	Data is unavailable
Output 4.2: LGUs and governance institutions have the technical, financial and human resources to deliver equitable public and administrative services for men and women and render an account of those services					
UN Women UNDP	Proportion of LGUs using Community-Based Scorecards to chart experiences of their citizens (proxy for local participatory democracy)	13 LGUs, or 3%[125]	26 LGUs, or 7%	Community-Based Scorecards (UN Women records)	100% [126]
	Ratio of total social, investment and service expenditure to total LGU expenditure (management efficiency ratio; proxy for effectiveness and local technical, fin. HR capacity)	32%	35%	MoF	62%
	Share of local revenue collection to total revenue (revenue collection efficiency ratio)	49%	53%	MoF	51%
Output 4.3: National and sub-national government units have the capacity to generate and strengthen investments, employment and livelihood opportunities, especially for youth and women					
UNDP UN Women ILO IOM FAO UNCTAD UNECE UNIDO	Net number of new enterprises created, and proportion owned by women	8,650 (2013)	10,000 gov. target: 5% increase	QKR (National Registry)	2015 Data: 16,731 new businesses 1,520 (11.6%) owned by women
Output 4.4: Key ministries and local authorities adopt local, regional and national action on climate change adaptation (including in the short term e.g. DRR) and mitigation across sectors					
UNIDO UNDP UNICEF UNEP UNECE UNESCO FAO	Number of sectors mainstreaming climate change mitigation or adaptation measures	0	2	Climate change national communications	DCM No. 949, dated 30.3.2016 approves in principal Paris agreement, while Law No. 75/2016 dated 14.07.2016 ratifies it National climate change adaptation planning process progressing

125. The ratio is derived from the share of 13 LGUs of the total of 373 LGUs.
126. The National Local Governance Mapping, carried out under the "Support to Territorial and Administrative Reform" (STAR 2) Project, has applied the approach of Community-Based Scorecards to all LGUs as part of the assessment of local governance.

ANNEX B: ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE ONE UN COHERENCE FUND FOR 2016

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2016 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund

INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **Albania One UN Coherence Fund** is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors. The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and SAAs with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to contributors.

2016 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2016 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100).

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2016, 11 contributors deposited US$ 37,347 in contributions and US$ 397 was earned in interest. The cumulative source of funds was US$ 37,743 (see respectively, Tables 2 and 3). Of this amount, US$ 36,770 has been net funded to 17 Participating Organizations, of which US$ 34,898 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US$ 373. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund as of 31 December 2016.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2016 (in US Thousands)

	Annual 2015	Annual 2016	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	2,965	1,567	37,347
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	5	4	277
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	1	1	119
Total: Sources of Funds	**2,971**	**1,571**	**37,743**
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	3,105	1,143	39,587
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	-6	-39	-2,817
Net Funded Amount	**3,099**	**1,105**	**36,770**
Administrative Agent Fees	30	16	373
Bank Charges	0	0	1
Total: Uses of Funds	**3,129**	**1,120**	**37,144**
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	**-159**	**451**	**599**
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	306	148	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	**148**	**599**	**599**
Net Funded Amount	3,099	1,105	36,770
Participating Organizations' Expenditure	3,380	3,918	34,898
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations			**1,872**

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

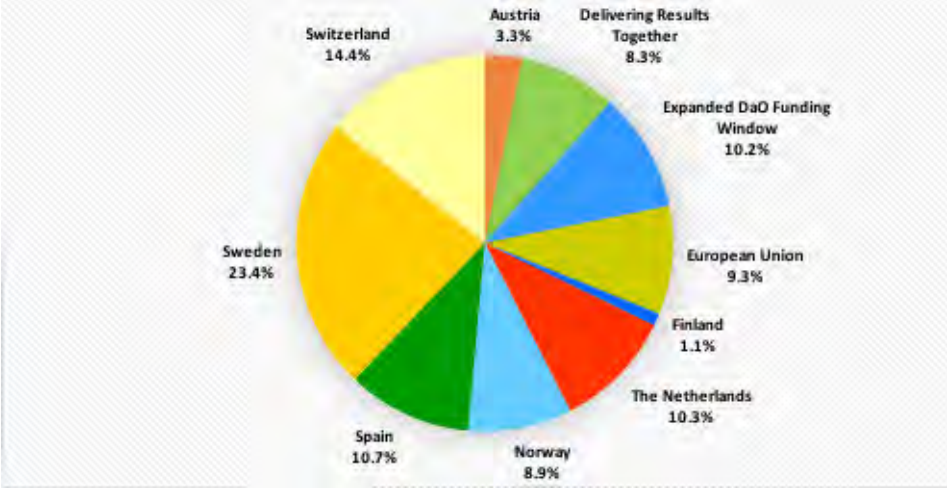
Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December 2016.

The Albania One UN Coherence Fund is currently being financed by 11 contributors, as listed in the table below. The table below includes commitments made up to 31 December 2016 through signed Standard Administrative Agreements, and deposits made through 2016. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond 2016.

Table 2. Contributors' Commitments and Deposits, as of 31 December 2016 (in US Thousands)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2015 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2016 Deposits	Total Deposits
Austria	1,215	1,215	-	1,215
Delivering Results Together	3,117	2,942	175	3,117
Expanded DaO Funding Window	3,825	3,825	-	3,825
European Union	3,475	3,475	-	3,475
Finland	394	394	-	394
The Netherlands	3,846	3,846	-	3,846
Norway	3,338	3,338	-	3,338
Spain	4,000	4,000	-	4,000
Sweden	8,742	7,859	882	8,742
Switzerland	5,396	4,886	510	5,396
Grand Total	**37,347**	**35,779**	**1,567**	**37,347**

Figure 1: Deposits by contributor, cumulative as of 31 December 2016



3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA. As of 31 December 2016, Fund earned interest amounts to US$ 277. Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US$ 119, bringing the cumulative interest received to US$ 397. Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2016 (in US Thousands)

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2015	Current Year Jan-Dec-2016	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	274	4	277
Total: Fund Earned Interest	**274**	**4**	**277**
Participating Organization			
UNDP	84		84
UNIDO	4	0	4
FAO	0	0	1
UNFPA	22		22
UNWOMEN	7		7
UNESCO	1	0	1
UNODC	0		0
Total: Agency earned interest	**119**	**1**	**119**
Grand Total	**393**	**4**	**397**

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2016, the AA has transferred US$ 39,587 to 17 Participating Organizations (see list below).

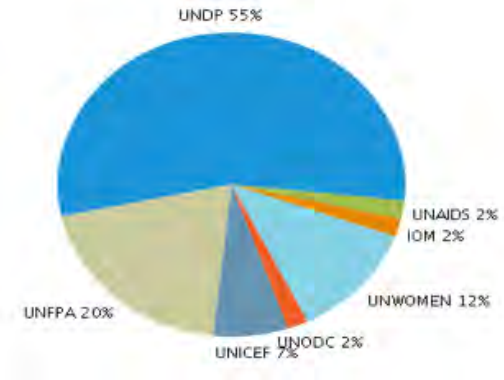
4.1 Transfer by participating organization

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2016 (in US Thousands)

Participating	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2015			Current Year Jan-Dec-2016			Total		
Organization	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNECE	80	-1	78				80	-1	78
FAO	315	-1	314		-36	-36	315	-37	278
IAEA	94		94				94		94
ILO	75		75		-3	-3	75	-3	72
IOM	275		275	20		20	295		295
ITC	30	-2	28				30	-2	28
UNAIDS	160		160	26		26	186		186
UNCTAD	179		179				179		179
UNDP	16,993	-1,975	15,018	629		629	17,621	-1,975	15,646
UNEP	439		439				439		439
UNESCO	934	-123	811				934	-123	811
UNFPA	4,652	-33	4,619	223		223	4,876	-33	4,843
UNICEF	8,501	-365	8,135	80		80	8,581	-365	8,215
UNIDO	666	-144	522				666	-144	522
UNODC	363		363	26		26	388		388
UNWOMEN	3,798	-43	3,755	140		140	3,938	-43	3,895
WHO	891	-91	800				891	-91	800
Grand Total	**38,443**	**-2,778**	**35,666**	**1,143**	**-39**	**1,105**	**39,587**	**-2,817**	**36,770**

Figure 2: Transfers amount by Participating Organization for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2016



5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year 2016 were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2016 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100.

5.1 Expenditure reported by participating organization

In 2016, US$ 1,105 was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US$ 3,918 was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US$ 36,770 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US$ 34,898. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 95 percent. The agencies with the three highest delivery rates are: FAO (100%), IAEA (100%) and ILO (100%)

Table 5. Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2016 (in US Thousands)

Participating Organization	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
		Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2015	Current Year Jan-Dec-2016	Cumulative	
UNECE	78	29	45	74	94.32
FAO	278	278		278	100
IAEA	94	94		94	100
ILO	72	72		72	100
IOM	295	197	71	268	90.76
ITC	28	28		28	100
UNAIDS	186	72	66	137	73.81
UNCTAD	179	28	145	173	96.95
UNDP	15,646	12,851	1,828	14,678	93.81
UNEP	439	414	17	430	97.95
UNESCO	811	582	208	790	97.4
UNFPA	4,843	4,182	563	4,745	97.99
UNICEF	8,215	7,595	488	8,084	98.4
UNIDO	522	492	-8	484	92.67
UNODC	388	335	25	361	92.84
UNWOMEN	3,895	2,968	434	3,401	87.33
WHO	800	763	37	800	100
Grand Total	**36,770**	**30,980**	**3,918**	**34,898**	**94.91**

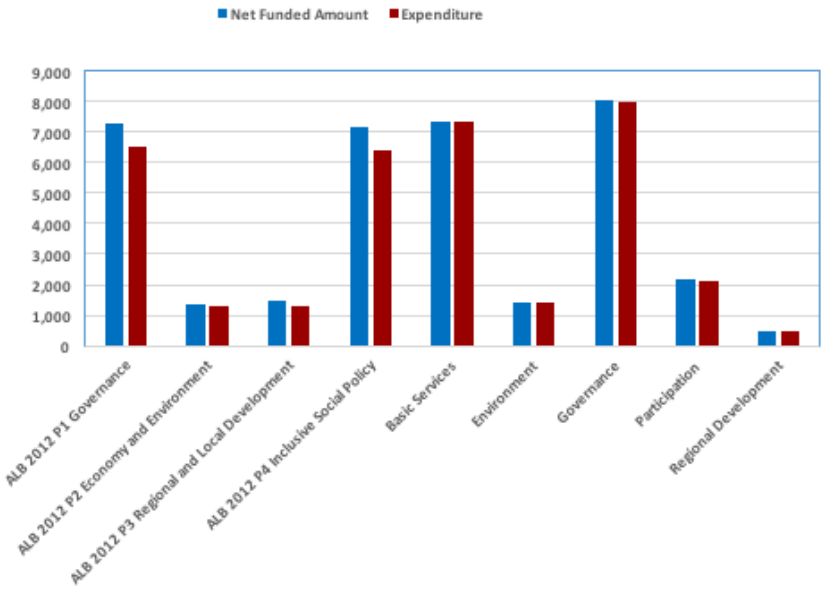
5.2 Expenditure by undaf outcome

Table 6 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures incurred and the financial delivery rates by UNDAF Outcome.

Table 6. Expenditure by UNDAF Outcome, as of 31 December 2016 (in US Thousands)

Country/Sector	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2015		Current Year Jan-Dec-2016		Total		Delivery Rate %
	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	
Albania							
ALB 2012 P1 Governance	6,878	5,362	424	1,185	7,301	6,547	89.67
ALB 2012 P2 Economy and Environment	1,371	1,297	-1	8	1,370	1,304	95.22
ALB 2012 P3 Regional and Local Development	1,349	682	98	587	1,447	1,269	87.68
ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy	6,582	4,292	620	2,138	7,201	6,430	89.29
Basic Services	7,322	7,322	-	-	7,322	7,322	100
Environment	1,387	1,387	-	-	1,387	1,387	99.96
Governance	8,070	8,024	-	-	8,070	8,024	99.42
Participation	2,190	2,135	-	-	2,190	2,135	97.49
Regional Development	517	481	-36	-	481	481	99.94
Grand Total:	**35,666**	**30,980**	**1,105**	**3,918**	**36,770**	**34,898**	**94.91**

Figure 3: Cumulative Net Funded Amount and Expenditure with Breakdown by Sector



5.3 Expenditure reported by category

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditure incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditure are reported in the new eight categories. See table below.

2012 CEB Expense Categories	2006 UNDG Expense Categories
1. Staff and personnel costs	1. Supplies, commodities, equipment & transport
2. Supplies, commodities and materials	2. Personnel
3. Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	3. Training counterparts
4. Contractual services	4. Contracts
5. Travel	5. Other direct costs
6. Transfers and grants	6. Indirect costs
7. General operating expenses	
8. Indirect costs	

Table 7. Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2016 (in US Thousands)

Category	Expenditure			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2015	Current Year Jan-Dec-2016	Total	
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	1,836	-	1,836	5.63
Personnel (Old)	6,224	-	6,224	19.08
Training of Counterparts(Old)	372	-	372	1.14
Contracts (Old)	8,277	-	8,277	25.38
Other direct costs (Old)	1,217	-	1,217	3.73
Staff & Personnel Cost (New)	1,328	215	1,543	4.73
Supplies, Commodities, Materials (New)	-93	62	-31	-0.09
Equipment, Vehicle, Furniture, Depreciation (New)	272	140	412	1.26
Contractual Services (New)	5,481	1,955	7,437	22.8
Travel (New)	730	186	916	2.81
Transfers and Grants (New)	1,569	627	2,196	6.73
General Operating (New)	1,721	492	2,214	6.79
Programme Costs Total	**28,934**	**3,678**	**32,612**	**100**
[1] Indirect Support Costs Total	2,045	240	2,286	7.01
Total	**30,980**	**3,918**	**34,898**	

[1] **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

Table 8: Transfer of Funds and Expenditure by Project within Sector 2007 - 2016 (in US$ Thousands)

Sector / Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Project Status	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
ALB 2012 P1 Governance					
82435 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.	UNAIDS	On Going	10	10	100
	UNDP	On Going	607	594	97.87
	UNESCO	On Going	60	52	86.5
	UNFPA	On Going	20	20	99.97
	UNICEF	On Going	44	44	100
	UNODC	On Going	54	53	100
	UNWOMEN	On Going	514	514	100
Total Outcome 1.1			**1,309**	**1,287**	**98.32**
82436 Outcome 1.2: Public administration will be supported to enhance capacities, practices and systems for effective delivery of national development priorities and international obligations	UNECE	On Going	18	18	100
	ILO	On Going	20	20	100
	UNDP	On Going	1,486	1,421	95.65
	UNESCO	On Going	32	32	100
	UNFPA	On Going	132	132	100
	UNICEF	On Going	105	105	100
	UNWOMEN	On Going	381	381	100
Total Outcome 1.2			**2,174**	**2,109**	**97.01**
82437 Outcome 1.3: Government meets international obligations and standards for juvenile justice, managing migration and the fight against organized crime and corruption	IOM	On Going	105	105	100
	UNICEF	On Going	178	178	100
	UNODC	On Going	105	105	100
Total Outcome 1.3			**388**	**388**	**100**
92621 ALB 2014 OC 1: Human Rights and gender equality considerations guide interactions between citizens and institutions.	UNDP	On Going	808	725	89.65
	UNESCO	On Going	31	28	89.46
	UNFPA	On Going	502	411	81.88
	UNICEF	On Going	69	69	99.86
	UNWOMEN	On Going	402	316	78.71
Total ALB 2014 OC 1 Human Rights			**1,812**	**1,549**	**85.49**
92624 ALB 2014 OC 3: Governance and Rule of Law. The Albanian State executes major governance processes following internationally agreed democratic principles and practices, while upholding the rule of law and eliminating key factors of exclusion of women.	ECE	On Going	50	45	91.02
	IOM	On Going	40	13	31.88
	UNCTAD	On Going	149	160	108.04
	UNDP	On Going	646	429	66.38
	UNFPA	On Going	32	31	97.2
	UNICEF	On Going	50	49	98.3
	UNODC	On Going	99	99	100
	UNWOMEN	On Going	553	387	69.88
Total ALB 2014 OC 3 Governance and Rule of Law			**1,619**	**1,213**	**74.92**
Total: ALB 2012 P1 Governance			**7,301**	**6,547**	**89.67**

ALB 2012 P2 Econ & Environment					
82438 Outcome 2.1: Government, trade organizations and the private sector support inclusive and sustainable economic growth through enhanced regulatory frameworks, trade facilitation and investment promotion	ITC	On Going	28	28	100
	UNCTAD	On Going	30	13	42.06
	UNDP	On Going	90	90	99.99
Total Outcome 2.1			**148**	**131**	**88.51**
82439 Outcome 2.2: National authorities and institutions, the private sector and the general public protect, preserve and use natural resources more sustainably, with consideration to the impacts of climate change and to the achievement of European environmental standards.	UNECE	On Going	11	11	100
	IAEA	On Going	15	15	100
	ILO	On Going	19	19	100
	UNDP	On Going	730	729	99.89
	UNEP	On Going	185	176	95.19
	UNESCO	On Going	39	39	100
	UNICEF	On Going	50	50	100
	UNIDO	On Going	173	134	77.81
Total Outcome 2.2			**1,222**	**1,173**	**95.99**
Total: ALB 2012 P2 Economy and Environment			**1,370**	**1,304**	**95.22**

ALB 2012 P3 Regional and Local Development					
82440 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.	UNDP	On Going	134	134	100
	UNESCO	On Going	78	78	100
Total Outcome 3.1			**212**	**212**	**100**
82441 Outcome 3.2: The public, including marginalized groups and communities, better receive equitable, inclusive and accountable decentralized services from regional and local governments.	UNAIDS	On Going	40	37	92.58
	UNDP	On Going	230	230	99.88
	UNWOMEN	On Going	10	1	6.54
Total Outcome 3.2			**280**	**268**	**95.71**
92625 ALB 2014 OC 4: Regional and Local Development. Government of Albania implements policies that advance democratic, equitable and sustainable regional and local development.	IOM	On Going	50	50	100
	UNDP	On Going	486	398	81.85
	UNESCO	On Going	89	82	92.13
	UNWOMEN	On Going	330	259	78.63
Total ALB 2014 OC 4: Regional and Local Development			**955**	**789**	**82.62**
Total: ALB 2012 P3 Regional Local Development			**1,447**	**1,269**	**87.68**

ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy					
82442 Outcome 4.1: The rights of disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally ensured through legislation, inclusive policies, social protection mechanisms and special interventions.	IOM	On Going	100	100	100
	UNAIDS	On Going	100	80	80.11
	UNDP	On Going	1,942	1,934	99.59
	UNFPA	On Going	409	409	100
	UNICEF	On Going	343	292	85.2
	UNODC	On Going	105	103	98.1
	UNWOMEN	On Going	391	311	79.57
Total Outcome 4.1			**3,390**	**3,229**	**95.25**
82444 Outcome 4.3: Health insurance is universal and quality, gender sensitive and age appropriate public health services available to all including at-risk populations.	IAEA	On Going	79	79	100
	UNAIDS	On Going	10	10	100
	UNFPA	On Going	33	33	100
	UNICEF	On Going	151	151	100
	WHO	On Going	217	217	100
Total Outcome 4.3			**490**	**490**	**100**
82445 Outcome 4.4: All people better realize fundamental rights at work, have greater and inclusive employment opportunities, and can engage in a comprehensive social dialogue.	ILO	On Going	33	33	100
	UNDP	On Going	106	106	100
	UNWOMEN	On Going	287	263	91.75
Total Outcome 4.4			**426**	**402**	**94.37**
92626 ALB 2014 OC 2: Inclusive Social Policies. The rights of individuals and groups are ensured through equitable, inclusive and evidence based sectoral policies.	UNAIDS	On Going	26	-	0
	UNDP	On Going	1,365	975	71.43
	UNESCO	On Going	188	185	98.55
	UNFPA	On Going	429	423	98.72
	UNICEF	On Going	565	485	85.84
	UNODC	On Going	26		0
	UNWOMEN	On Going	120	62	51.88
	WHO	On Going	104	104	100
Total ALB 2014 OC 2 Inclusive Social Policy			**2,823**	**2,234**	**79.14**
82443 Outcome 4.2: Boys and girls over the age of 3 (including youth), especially from marginalized groups, participate in quality formal and informal education.	UNICEF	Financially Closed	74	74	100
Total: ALB 2012 P4 Inclusive Social Policy			**7,201**	**6,430**	**89.29**

Basic Services					
65660 ALB Result 3.1.2 - Civil society and user groups, with special focus on excluded and marginalized groups, are better able to demand quality health care services.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	57	57	100
	UNICEF	Operationally Closed	117	117	100
Total ALB Result 3.1.2			**174**	**174**	**100**
65665 ALB Result 3.3.1 - Relevant government departments and Ministry of Health put in place inclusive policies, regulatory and institutional frameworks and standards for delivery of services.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	-	-	0
	UNICEF	Operationally Closed	1,732	1,732	100
Total ALB Result 3.3.1			**1,732**	**1,732**	**100**
65669 ALB Result 3.3.5 - Institutional, legal and community services on domestic violence are improved and awareness raised on negative impact of domestic violence.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	647	647	100
	UNICEF	Operationally Closed	250	250	100
Total ALB Result 3.3.5			**897**	**897**	**100**
65659 ALB Result 3.1.1 - Relevant government departments and Ministry of Health put in place inclusive policies, regulatory and institutional frameworks and standards for delivery of services.	UNDP	Financially Closed	31	31	100
	UNFPA	Financially Closed	1,330	1,330	100
	UNICEF	Financially Closed	293	293	100
	WHO	Financially Closed	379	379	100
Total ALB Result 3.1.1			**2,033**	**2,033**	**100**
65661 **ALB Result 3.2.1** - The Ministry of Education encourages the inclusion of children from marginalized groups.	UNICEF	Financially Closed	654	654	**100**
65662 **ALB Result 3.2.2** - The Ministry of Education puts in place relevant standards for sector reform.	UNICEF	Financially Closed	239	239	**100**
65663 **ALB Result 3.2.3** - Children and parents participate more actively in school administration and governance.	UNICEF	Financially Closed	117	117	**100**
65664 ALB **Result 3.2.4** - Educational and employment opportunities are expanded through the introduction of ICT in schools.	UNDP	Financially Closed	568	568	**100**
65666 ALB **Result 3.3.2** - A child oriented juvenile justice system is established.	UNICEF	Financially Closed	532	532	**100**
65667 ALB **Result 3.3.3** - Civil society and users groups able to demand quality social services.	UNICEF	Financially Closed	334	334	**100**
65668 ALB **Result 3.3.4** - Stateless persons, in particular Roma, are registered and legalized to benefit from basic services.	UNICEF	Financially Closed	40	40	**100**
Grand Total: Basic Services			**7,322**	**7,322**	**100**

Environment					
65677 ALB Result 5.1.2 - Legal and regulatory mechanisms and fiscal incentives in place.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	44	43	98.94
	UNEP	Operationally Closed	145	145	99.92
	UNIDO	Operationally Closed	349	349	100.02
Total ALB Result 5.1.2			**538**	**537**	**99.81**
65683 **ALB Result 5.2.4** - Enhanced capacities to improve air quality, solid waste and drinking water access.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	55	55	**100**
65676 ALB Result 5.1.1 - Ministry of Environment has greater capacity to raise the profile of environment in national policies.	UNDP	Financially Closed	90	90	100
	UNEP	Financially Closed	80	80	100
Total ALB Result 5.1.1			**170**	**170**	**100**
65678 **ALB Result 5.1.3** - Ministry of Environment has greater capacity to raise the profile of environment in national policies.	UNDP	Financially Closed	44	44	**100**
65679 ALB Result 5.1.4 - Civil society provides increasingly substantive support in mainstreaming environment.	UNDP	Financially Closed	77	77	100
	UNICEF	Financially Closed	377	377	100
Total ALB Result 5.1.4			**454**	**454**	**100**
65680 **ALB Result 5.2.1** - Decision making for energy sector investment includes climate change risks.	UNESCO	Financially Closed	97	97	**100**
65682 **ALB Result 5.2.3** - Risk reduced to human and environmental health by remediation of hot spots.	UNEP	Financially Closed	30	30	**100**
Total: Environment			**1,387**	**1,387**	**99.96**

Governance					
65641 ALB Result 1.1.1 - National capacities for collection, analysis and use of data strengthened.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	1,032	1,032	99.98
	UNFPA	Operationally Closed	1,638	1,638	100
	UNICEF	Operationally Closed	608	608	100
	UNWOMEN	Operationally Closed	100	100	100
	WHO	Operationally Closed	40	40	100
Total ALB Result 1.1.1			**3,418**	**3,418**	**100**
65642 ALB Result 1.1.2 - National Capacity strengthened to retain required human resources in public sector and academia.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	840	840	100
	UNESCO	Operationally Closed	60	60	100
Total ALB Result 1.1.2			**900**	**900**	**100**
65643 ALB Result 1.1.3 - Government systems are modernized and public administration increases effectiveness.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	681	635	93.28
	WHO	Operationally Closed	60	60	100
Total ALB Result 1.1.3			**741**	**695**	**93.79**
65644 ALB Result 1.1.4 - Migration Management is enhanced through better alignment.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	20	20	100
	UNICEF	Operationally Closed	60	60	100
Total ALB Result 1.1.4			**80**	**80**	**100**
65646 ALB Result 1.2.1 - Support mechanisms are in place to coordinate, implement and monitor the NSDI with strong emphasis on social inclusion.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	633	633	99.91
	UNICEF	Operationally Closed	525	525	100
Total ALB Result 1.2.1			**1,158**	**1,158**	**100**
65647 ALB Result 1.2.2 -Government effectively resources and implements gender equality commitments.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	478	478	100
	UNFPA	Operationally Closed	30	30	100
	UNICEF	Operationally Closed	60	60	100
	UNWOMEN	Operationally Closed	277	277	100
Total ALB Result 1.2.2			**845**	**845**	**100**
65651 ALB Result 1.3.4 - Government better able to protect cultural heritage and promote eco-tourism.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	4	4	100
	UNESCO	Operationally Closed	136	136	100
Total ALB Result 1.3.4			**140**	**140**	**100**
65652 **ALB Result 1.3.5** - Government puts in place socially inclusive policies and regulatory framework.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	31	31	**100**
65648 **ALB Result 1.3.1** - Government and national institutions address challenges of WTO, SAA.	UNDP	Financially Closed	340	340	**100**
65649 **ALB Result 1.3.2** - Government puts in place legal and economic reforms necessary to reduce informality.	UNDP	Financially Closed	417	417	**100**
Total: Governance			**8,070**	**8,024**	**99.42**

Participation					
65653 ALB Result 2.1.1 - Civil society (including Roma, women, migrants, youth) has capacity and mechanisms to monitor performance of state institutions and be part of the decision-making and policy process.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	188	133	70.71
	UNICEF	Operationally Closed	74	74	100
	UNWOMEN	Operationally Closed	151	151	100
Total ALB Result 2.1.1			**413**	**358**	**86.68**
65654 ALB Result 2.1.2 - Increased dialogue between duty bearers and women, children and youth.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	63	63	100
	UNFPA	Operationally Closed	259	259	100
	UNICEF	Operationally Closed	418	418	100
Total ALB Result 2.1.2			**740**	**740**	**100**
65655 **ALB Result 2.1.3** - Roma participation in decision making and access to services increased.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	107	107	**100**
65658 ALB Result 2.2.2 - Government increasingly promotes women's participation in politics, public debate.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	317	317	100
	UNWOMEN	Operationally Closed	379	379	99.99
Total ALB Result 2.2.2			**696**	**696**	**100**
65657 ALB Result 2.2.1 - Media reports on development issues more systematic and of better quality.	UNDP	Financially Closed	79	79	100
	UNICEF	Financially Closed	155	155	100
Total ALB Result 2.2.1			**234**	**234**	**100**
Total: Participation			**2,190**	**2,135**	**97.49**

Regional Development					
65672 ALB Result 4.1.3 - Central and regional governments are strengthened to design and implement regional development strategies and to coordinate the implementation of national and sub-national development agendas in line with NSDI and EU Accession process.	UNDP	Operationally Closed	72	72	99.64
	UNFPA	Operationally Closed	30	30	100
Total ALB Result 4.1.3			**102**	**102**	**100**
65673 ALB Result 4.1.4 - Economic development is expanded in three pilot areas.	FAO	Operationally Closed	168	168	100
	UNDP	Operationally Closed	100	100	99.98
Total ALB Result 4.1.4			**268**	**268**	**100**
65671 **ALB Result 4.1.2** - Comprehensive regional development strategies are developed and implemented in three disadvantaged pilot regions.	UNDP	Financially Closed	1	1	**100**
65675 **ALB Result 4.2.2** - Fisheries legislation, food control and related agro-processing methods animal genetic resources adhere to EU standards.	FAO	Financially Closed	110	110	**100**
Total: Regional Development			**481**	**481**	**99.94**

Grand Total	**36,770**	**34,898**	**94.91**

6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2016, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US$ **16** was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2016**, US$ **373** has been charged in AA-fees.

- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US$ **240** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US$ **2,286** as of 31 December **2016**.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (http://mptf.undp.org). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

DEFINITIONS

Allocation
Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

Approved Project/Programme
A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

Contributor Commitment
Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

Contributor Deposit
Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

Delivery Rate
The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the 'net funded amount'.

Indirect Support Costs
A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs.

Net Funded Amount
Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

Participating Organization
A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

Project Expenditure
The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

Project Financial Closure
A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

Project Operational Closure
A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

Project Start Date
Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTF Office to the Participating Organization.

Total Approved Budget
This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

US Dollar Amount
The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

ANNEX C: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2016 TOTAL AVAILABLE BUDGET, INCLUDING ALL SOURCES OF FUNDING

Status as of 31 December 2016	Available Budget		Total Available Budget	Total Funding Gap	Expenditures		Total Expenditures
	Core/Regular	Non-Core/Other			Core/Regular	Non-Core/Other	
Outcome 1: Human Rights	595,214	1,600,278	2,195,492	1,268,562	585,798	1,484,713	2,070,511
Outcome 2: Inclusive Social Policies	1,104,580	5,845,585	6,950,166	1,713,480	1,021,001	5,422,494	6,443,495
Outcome 3: Governance and Rule of Law	1,554,252	11,379,220	12,933,472	5,528,919	1,071,060	6,777,008	7,848,068
Outcome 4: Regional and Local Development	1,137,895	6,634,497	7,772,392	1,990,000	777,568	5,195,734	5,973,302
Programme of Cooperation: TOTAL in USD	**4,391,942**	**25,459,580**	**29,851,521**	**10,500,961**	**3,455,427**	**18,879,949**	**22,335,376**

Outcomes and Outputs	Available Budget	Total Expenditures
Output 1.1 Normative reporting, tracking and quality	694,062	646,574
Output 1.2 Access to justice and civil society support	326,034	326,034
Output 1.3 Eliminating violence in society	1,175,396	1,097,903
Outcome 1: Human Rights	2,195,492	2,070,511
Output 2.1 Health	1,094,024	1,041,010
Output 2.2 Education	1,337,548	1,315,048
Output 2.3 Labour	1,240,313	1,178,433
Output 2.4 Social protection	3,278,280	2,909,004
Outcome 2: Inclusive Social Policies	6,950,166	6,443,495
Output 3.1 Parliament and electoral institutions	342,649	340,971
Output 3.2 Mainstreaming gender and GRB	585,316	527,127
Output 3.3 Anti-corruption and rule of law	10,558,004	5,575,136
Output 3.4 Public goods	1,447,503	1,404,834
Outcome 3: Governance and Rule of Law	12,933,472	7,848,068
Output 4.1 Agriculture and rural development	1,012,432	659,900
Output 4.2 Local governance	1,776,232	747,795
Output 4.3 Economic development	445,982	445,771
Output 4.4 Climate change	4,537,746	4,119,836
Outcome 4: Regional and Local Development	7,772,392	5,973,302
TOTAL in USD	**29,851,521**	**22,335,376**

ANNEX D: KEY NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS, PARTICIPATING UN ORGANISATIONS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES, ACRONYMS AND WEBSITES

Key implementing partners

AIDA	Albanian Investment Development Agency	www.aida.gov.al
CEC	Central Election Commission	www.cec.org.al
CPD	Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination	www.kmd.al
DDFFA	Department of Development, Financing and Foreign Aid	www.kryeministria.al
INSTAT	National Institute of Statistics	www.instat.gov.al
MIPA	Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration	www.inovacioni.gov.al
MLG	Minister of State for Local Government	www.kryeministria.al
MoARDWA	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration	www.bujqesia.gov.al
MoC	Ministry of Culture	www.kultura.gov.al
MoD	Ministry of Defence	www.mod.gov.al
MoE	Ministry of Environment	www.mjedisi.gov.al
MoEDTTE	Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship	www.ekonomia.gov.al
MoEI	Ministry of Energy and Industry	www.energjia.gov.al
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports	www.arsimi.gov.al
MoF	Ministry of Finance	www.financa.gov.al
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	www.mfa.gov.al
MoH	Ministry of Health	www.shendetesia.gov.al
MoIA	Ministry of Interior	www.punetebrendshme.gov.al
MoJ	Ministry of Justice	www.drejtesia.gov.al
MoSWY	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth	www.sociale.gov.al
MoUDT	Ministry of Urban Development	www.zhvillimiurban.gov.al
Ombudsman	People's Advocate	www.avokatipopullit.gov.al

Participating UN organisations, funds and programmes

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	www.fao.org
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	www.iaea.org
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	www.ifad.org
ILO	International Labour Organisation	www.ilo.org
IOM	International Organisation for Migration	www.iom.int
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	www.unaids.org
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	www.unctad.org
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	www.undp.org
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	www.unece.org
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	www.unep.org
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	www.unesco.org
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	www.unfpa.org
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	www.unhcr.org
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	www.unicef.org
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation	www.unido.org
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	www.unodc.org
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	www.unwomen.org
WHO	World Health Organisation	www.who.int

ANNEX E: UN ORGANISATIONS PUBLICATIONS IN 2016

- ✓ Analysis of Access to Health Care Services by Vulnerable Populations – UNFPA
- ✓ Sexual and Reproductive Health strategic document and action plan 2017-2021 (Dokumenti Strategjik dhe plani i veprimit për shëndetin seksual dhe riprodhues) – UNFPA http://www.un.org.al/editor-files/file/DSKomb-ShSR%202017%20-%202021_c.pdf
- ✓ European study on the use of alcohol and other drugs among youth in Albania (Studimi Europian mbi përdorimin e alkoolit dhe drogave të tjera midis të rinjve në Shqipëri ESPAD 2015) – UNFPA http://www.un.org.al/editor-files/file/Raporti%20ESPAD%202015_c.pdf
- ✓ Albanian National Contraceptive Security Strategy 2017 – 2021 – UNFPA http://www.un.org.al/editor-files/file/Contraceptive%20Security%20Strategy%202017-2021.pdf
- ✓ Contraceptive Security Action Plan (Plani i veprimit për sigurinë e kontraceptivëve) 2017 – 2021 – UNFPA http://www.un.org.al/editor-files/file/SKONTRACEPT2017-2021.pdf
- ✓ Photo-novel A Failed Marriage – UNFPA https://issuu.com/fotoromance/docs/nje_martese_e_deshtuar
- ✓ The Cost of Underinvestment in Education: And ways to reduce it – UNICEF
- ✓ With the voice of children deprived of their liberty. Monitoring Report of the conditions and treatment in the institutions of custody, pre-trial detention and prisons – People's Advocate and Child Rights Observatory, with UNICEF support http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Raport_monitorimi_jj_15March2017.pdf http://observator.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Monitoring_report_jj_13March2017.pdf
- ✓ Rural Women and Economic Diversification in Rural Areas in Albania – UN Women
- ✓ Gender Brief Albania 2016 – UN Women and UNDP http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/10/albania-gender-brief
- ✓ Report on the Implementation of CEDAW Convention in Albania – UN Women http://un.org.al/editor-files/file/CEDAW-Avokati-EN.PDF
- ✓ Women Property Rights in Albania 2016 (Te drejtat pronesore te grave ne Shqiperi 2016) – UN Women http://un.org.al/editor-files/file/TeDrejtatPronesore2016.pdf
- ✓ Men and Women in Albania 2015 - UN Women http://un.org.al/editor-files/file/INSTAT_Femra%20dhe%20meshkuj%202015_Sh&En.pdf
- ✓ Audio-visual media monitoring for reporting on trafficking of women and girls, 2015 (Monitorimi i medias audio-vizive për raportimin e trafikimit të grave dhe vajzave, 2015) – UN Women http://un.org.al/editor-files/file/MonitorimiMedias2015.pdf
- ✓ Women Empowerment Principles (Parimet e Fuqizimit te Gruas) – UN Women http://un.org.al/editor-files/file/WEN-Albanian.pdf
- ✓ Gender Sensitivity Indicators for Media (Tregues me Ndjeshmëri Gjinore për Mediat) – UN Women http://un.org.al/editor-files/file/UNESCO%20Gender%20Sensitive%20Indicators%20for%20Media%20-%20ALB.pdf
- ✓ National Action Plan for the Socio-Economic Re-Integration of Women and Girls Victims of Trafficking in the Republic of Albania – UN Women http://un.org.al/editor-files/file/National_Action_Plan_eng%20_Web.pdf
- ✓ Inclusive Electoral Processes: A Guide for Electoral Management Bodies on Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Participation – UN Women http://un.org.al/editor-files/file/EMB-AL-web.pdf
- ✓ Invisible Violence, an overview on the phenomenon of violence against women and girls with disabilities in Albania – UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/_invisible-violence--an-overview-on-the-phenomenon-of-violence-a.html

- ✓ National Hotline for Victims of Domestic Violence Services Standards - UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/standartet-e-sherbimit-te-linjes-kombetare-te-keshillimit-per-vi0/

- ✓ National Strategy on Gender Equality and its Action Plan (2016–2020) - UN Women and UNDP http://awenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/SKGJB-EN-web.pdf

- ✓ Public Perceptions & attitude towards gender equality in Albania – UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/public-perceptions-and-attitude-towards-genedr-equality-in-alban.html

- ✓ Integrated Community Based Social Services in Albania to address the needs of the Roma and Egyptian Communities- UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/-integrated-community-based-social-services-in-albania-to-addres/

- ✓ Mapping of Skills, Employment Opportunities and Undertaking by Roma and Egyptian Communities in the Municipalities of Tirana, Durres, Berat and Shkodra - UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/mapping-the-skills--employment-opportunities-and-undertaking-by-.html

- ✓ Compilation of case-law on persons with disabilities in the Strasbourg Court Jurisprudence (only in Albanian language): Përmbledhje e rasteve mbi aftësinë e kufizuar në jurisprudencën e Gjykatës së Strasburgut - UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/-permbledhje-e-rasteve-mbi-aftesine-e-kufizuar-ne-jurisprudencen.html

- ✓ Equal recognition before the law and independent living of persons with disabilities (only in Albanian language): Njohja e barabartë para ligjit dhe jetesa e pavarur e personave me aftësi të kufizuara – UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/njohja-e-barabarte-para-ligjit-dhe-jetesa-e-pavarur-e-personave-.html

- ✓ Updated Review of the Albanian legislation conformity to the UNCRPD (only in Albanian language): Raport i përditësuar i përputhshmërisë së legjislacionit shqiptar me konventën e OKB-së për të drejtat e personave me aftësi të kufizuara - UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/raporti-i-perputhshmerise-se-legjislacionit-shqiptar-me-konvente.html

- ✓ Social Housing in Albania (only in Albanian language): Strehimi Social në Shqipëri) - UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/strehimi-social-ne-shqiperi-.html

- ✓ Opinion Poll Trust in Governance 2016 – UNDP http://idmalbania.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/IDM-OpinionPoll-2016-EN.pdf

- ✓ Assessment of non-financial business services - UNDP

- ✓ Study of the leather and footwear industry in Albania - UNDP

- ✓ Analysis of the country's agritourism sector – UNDP

- ✓ The Third National Communication of Albania to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNDP http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/environment_energy/third-national-communication-to-the-united-nations-framework-con/

- ✓ Strategic Environmental Assessment of small hydro sector in Albania – UNDP

- ✓ Social and Economic Profile of Return Migrants – IOM

- ✓ Curricular Module on trafficking of human beings in pre-university level - 2016 IOM

- ✓ Assessment of the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Albania – IOM http://albania.iom.int/publications/reports/Assessment%20of%20the%20Protection%20of%20the%20Rights%20of%20Migrant%20Workers%20in%20Albania.pdf

- ✓ Assessment of recruitment framework of Private Employment Agencies – IOM http://albania.iom.int/publications/reports/assessment_of_recruitment_framework_of_peas_en.pdf
- ✓ Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Albania: Needs Assessment – UNECE
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