



Delivering as One UN in Albania

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In the issue...

- » Celebrating United Nations Day
- » Historical centre of Berat becomes UNESCO World Heritage Site
- » UNICEF Representative in Albania Ms. Carrie Auer speaks about One UN
- » Donors support One UN Programme
- » UN Team's capacity assessed
- » One UN Programme well underway
- » Joint Programme on Youth, Employment and Migration in Albania



Photo: UN Resident Coordinator, Gülden Türköz-Cosslett speaking on United Nations Day

Dear partners and friends,

We are delighted to share with you the fifth edition of our newsletter "Delivering as One UN in Albania". It has been a very busy but exciting time for the UN Country Team since the signing of the One UN programme over a year ago. What has proved to be crucial to our work, has been the leadership shown by the Government of Albania and the strong commitment of our UN colleagues.

We are happy to note that the response from donors has been positive. To date, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria have provided funding to the One UN Coherence Fund.

We believe we have begun to deliver for development in Albania in a more strategic and effective way responding to national priorities.

Celebrating United Nations Day

This UN Day marked the first anniversary of One UN Programme signing. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, cabinet ministers, representatives of international organizations and other partners came together to celebrate United Nations Day. During her speech, the UN Resident Coordinator in Albania Ms. Gülden Türköz-Cosslett underlined "This UN Day reminds us that a year

ago today, we embarked on an important reform process, together with the Government of Albania and our international partners, to deliver as One UN when we signed the 'One Programme.' Over the past twelve months, twelve UN agencies have come together with increased synergy and efficiency to make the UN system a more focused development partner. I hope you have seen us work differently over this past year during which we have begun implementation of key programmes in support of Albania's national priorities such as Youth Employment, Gender Equality, Culture and Development and Economic Governance - all with a particular focus on supporting Albania's integration into the European Union."

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, who addressed the event, said "We are actively cooperating with the UN agencies to realize the 'One UN' concept by cultivating new partnership approaches and ways in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance, the promotion of human rights and the environment. We can confirm that the 'One UN' concept in our country responds perfectly to Albania's national priorities, therefore, we would like to once again extend our full support and cooperation to the UN agencies. As a pilot country, we are also aware of our responsibilities and we shall do the utmost, so that this initiative

becomes a success story.”

Historical centre of Berat becomes UNESCO World Heritage Site

The inauguration of the new UNESCO World Heritage site of the “Historical Centre of Berat” took place on 21 October. The City of Berat had been inscribed to the World Heritage List during the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Quebec City, Canada, in July 2008.

The official inauguration of the new World Heritage site “Historical Centre of Berat” was attended, amongst others, by the Prime Minister of Albania, Sali Berisha the Assistant-Director-General for Culture of UNESCO, Ms. Françoise Riviere, the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Ylli Pango, and a delegation from the UNESCO Venice Office – BRESCE headed by the Director of the Office, Mr Engelbert Ruoss, and the Mayor of Berat, Fadil Nasufi.

Promoting the cultural heritage of Berat and Gjirokaster is one of the priorities of the UN joint project, 'Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development'. The project is implemented by UNESCO and UNDP in the framework of the MDG Achievement Fund's Programme on Culture and Development in Albania funded by the Spanish Government. The programme aims to preserve, protect and promote Albania's cultural heritage and support Albania's participation in the Alliance of Civilizations. The joint project focuses on the promotion of cultural tourism and aims at creating added values for the heritage sites of Albania.

UNICEF Representative in Albania Ms. Carrie Auer speaks about One UN

Carrie Auer, UNICEF Representative has been working in Albania for 4 years. This is her last month in the country as she takes another assignment with UNICEF in Malawi. Prior to her departure she speaks about UNICEF and One UN Programme.

What does it mean for UNICEF to be part of the One UN Programme?

UNICEF, as part of the UN family, is 100 percent behind the UN coherence efforts that are taking place. In the eight pilot countries, and here in Albania, we see ourselves as part of an exciting process. Being part of the pilots allows us to experiment and explore what “Delivering as One” and “UN coherence” mean in practice. This offers UNICEF, and the other agencies, an opportunity to test in the field



Photo: UNESCO World Heritage Site of Berat

and to put into practice some theories that we think about and discuss. We get the opportunity to try new things to see if they work, or don't work.

In terms of working with other UN agencies, it allows us an opportunity to get to know them better. We are learning more about where our complementarities are, not only where the synergies can be, but also how we can come together as a stronger UN and how we can deliver all of our programmes better. We're more aware of who's doing what, and we can look for areas of cooperation to produce better results for Albania.

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What do you expect to gain from working together?

We expect to build a stronger constituency for children's rights – amongst UN agencies, which will then spill over to

other partners, in particular, the Government. This would give us a stronger voice, not only for human rights in general – we often have a saying that human rights begins with children’s rights. If you get things right for children, you start to get things right for everybody.

Also, building on the complementarities and synergies allows us to deliver more for children, not just using UNICEF resources, which can be limited, but harnessing all UN resources so that the UN Programme becomes much more aware of what it contributes to realizing children’s rights in Albania.

UNICEF maintains the mandate for children’s and women’s rights, but we don’t do it alone. We have to do it with all partners – including Government, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society and the general public.

What are the achievements of the One UN Programme that you feel most proud of?

All of the UN agencies have been able to come together and dialogue about substantive issues related to development, particularly social issues in Albania. I think that’s been a huge achievement. It’s helping all of us focus our attention more on what the priorities are, which is at the heart of why the UN is here.

Albania is a country heading to EU accession so I think we need to keep a focus on the social and development agendas. As a team, the UN has had more substantive dialogue, which leads to better analysis and hopefully better programming, which will address the needs of Albanians on their road to EU accession. For me, that’s been one of the most important changes in the last year.

When you start to think outside of your agency a bit more, when something new comes up, or an issue comes up, you try to look at it from a UN perspective: What other agencies might need to be brought in? How do we look at it from another perspective, and then given that, what is required? Can UNICEF do it by ourselves? Or do we need to include another agency? And would it be better to bring in another agency that has different strengths in that area, or complementarities that might make it better? It’s changing the ways we think.

It’s the way forward. The UN has to become more coherent. I think in Albania we’ve taken it seriously, and the Government has taken it very seriously. I think we’ve been able to contribute to the global knowledge base on how coherence can happen, and what changes can happen. We have lessons learned, both positive and negative from our experiences. And we’re moving along. As a country team, I think we’re very cohesive, and work very well together, and I think that’s been a real benefit. It’s been a pleasure to be a part of it.



Photo: UN Resident Coordinator, Gülden Türköz-Cosslett with UNICEF Representative in Albania Ms. Carrie Auer

Donors support One UN Programme

The Governments of Switzerland, the Netherlands and Austria have recently contributed funds to support the One UN Programme in Albania. Switzerland is contributing CHF 1.5 million (approx. US\$ 1.3 million), the Netherlands EUR 900,000 (approx. US\$ 1.2 million) and Austria EUR 250,000 (approx. US\$ 400,000) to the One UN Coherence Fund. In the past year, Government and the UN Team have jointly allocated of over USD 4 million from the Coherence Fund to projects of high national priority under the One UN Programme.

The total budget of the One UN Programme for 2007-2010 currently stands at USD 86 million. Although the size of the programme grew by USD 11 million since the signing, mainly due to WHO’s recent inclusion within the One UN, the funding gap of the One UN Programme 2007-2010, which stood at USD 35 million at the time of its signature, has been reduced to USD 19 million. This reduction is thanks to contributions made to date to the Coherence Fund, funds allocated to the joint programmes as well funds from other sources, primarily bi-lateral. Thanks to donors, key programmes and targeted initiatives under the Delivering as One UN are underway.

UN Team’s capacity assessed

As part of the support activities for UN reform, the UN Team in Albania conducted a Joint Capacity Assessment for all the agencies delivering on the One UN Programme, in order to understand the types of capacity – resident and non-resident – available across the UN System in the country. This served as a basis to consider what the principal capacity needs might be to achieve the “Delivering as One” vision and meet Albania’s future needs. This exercise will assist the UN Team in developing and prioritizing possible solutions and actions to address key capacity issues.

One of the main findings is that the UN system has the capacity to deliver on the One UN Programme, counting on full-time staff, including non-resident and remote support. The Joint Capacity Assessment was also used as an opportunity to foresee the changes in capacities in the next 5 – 10 years and to draw lessons and insights for the upcoming programming cycle.

The Joint Capacity Assessment included two missions of the global Change Management Support Team during which a number of qualitative and quantitative data on UN system capacities were collected and analysed.

One UN Programme well underway

The One UN Programme aims to maximize the UN's impact in five main areas: more transparent and accountable governance; greater inclusive participation in public policy and decision-making; increased and more equitable access to quality basic services; regional development to reduce disparities; and environmentally sustainable development.

In July this year, five new joint programmes were signed with the Government of Albania on: Gender Equality; Culture and Development; Economic Governance; Youth Employment and Migration and Regional Development. These programmes are primarily funded by the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund, and the European Commission and the One UN Coherence Fund.

The One UN programme is supporting the government to carry out two statistical surveys such as the Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS) and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) which will provide evidence necessary for national policy making and monitoring of key reforms. The surveys will provide quality data on poverty between regions in the country and on population, health and nutrition. UN agencies will use the analysis and data to target programmes in the area of social inclusion.

With resources from the Coherence Fund, the UN is also promoting the modernization of Albania's administration and education system by supporting the establishment of the National Agency on Information Society, which sets the standards and procedures for Information and Communication Technology. Support is also going towards the e-Schools programme, which will provide all primary and secondary schools in Albania with computer labs by the end of 2008.

Supporting Youth, Employment and Migration in Albania

The Joint Programme on Youth, Employment and Migration, funded with USD 3,100,000 from the Spanish MDG

Achievement Fund, will begin its implementation phase before the end of the year. The programme, led by ILO, will be jointly implemented by IOM, UNDP and UNICEF, to enhance decent work opportunities for young people and migration management in Albania through better alignment of national strategies on youth, employment and migration.

The Programme will target under-employed and informal young workers engaged in subsistence agriculture in the regions of Shkodra and Kukes, highly affected by informal employment and youth migration. The programme will also support the return to Albania of young professionals working abroad and the mobilization of resources through public-private partnerships for youth employment.

The programme builds on three outcomes that aim to i) strengthen the capacity of labor market institutions to integrate and operationalise national policy priorities through a coherent youth employment action plan, ii) devise strategies that minimize the risks of migration of youth from rural areas; and iii) increase the positive impact of migration through better allocation of resources for youth employment.

News at a glance...

World Health Organization joins the One UN Programme

WHO has joined the eleven UN agencies (FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNV) who signed up to the One UN programme initially. Additional UN agencies are expected to join the One UN programme in Albania based on the Government's request and their comparative advantages to address national priorities.



Joint working principles, monitoring and evaluation system

A joint UN Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which is aligned with national monitoring systems has been completed. The UN Team has also agreed to a set of working principles which will guide their cooperation and working practices.

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