



United Nations

Delivering as One for Development

2011 One UN Programme Annual Report



United Nations
ALBANIA

The following UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes are participating in the One UN Programme:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
World Health Organization (WHO)

This report has been prepared by the Office of the Resident Coordinator, UN Agencies implementing the One UN Programme, and the Administrative Agent of the One UN Coherence Fund. The report covers One UN Programme progress and results in 2011 as well as the status of the reform process within the Delivering as One Pilot. It also contains narrative and financial Administrative Agent Report.

UNITED NATIONS
 DELIVERING AS ONE FOR DEVELOPMENT
 2011 ONE UN PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT
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Acronyms

ACPD/IPPF	Albanian Centre for Population and Development/International Planned Parenthood Federation
AIDA	Albanian Investment Development Agency (formerly AlInvest)
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ALPM	Active Labour Market Policies and Programmes
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BFHI	Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative
BIO BSS	Biological Behavioural Surveillance Study
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCPD	Common Country Programme Document
CEC	Central Electoral Commission
CHC	Centre for Healthy Childhood
CLEEN	Child-Led Environmental Education
COM	Council of Ministers
COMBI	Communication for Behavioural Impact
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CRO	Child Rights Observatory
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRU	Child Rights Unit
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DEVINFO	Database system and software tool for monitoring human development
DSDC	Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EDMS	Electronic Document Management System
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FAF-DC	First Albanian Financial Development Company
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOA	Government of Albania
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus

ICD	International Classification of Disease
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IED	Institute of Education Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMCI	Integrated Management of Child Illnesses
IMWG	Inter-Ministerial Working Group
INSTAT	National Institute of Statistics
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPA	Instrument of Pre-Accession
IPH	Institute of Public Health
IT	Information Technology
JP	Joint Programme
JPGE	Joint Programme on Gender Equality
KASH	Agribusiness Council
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LGU	Local Government Unit
LMIS	Logistics Management Information System
MADA	Mountain Areas Development Agency
MAFCP	Ministry of Agriculture and Consumer Protection
MARA	Most At-Risk Adolescents
MCH	Mother and Child Health
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
METE	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy
MII	Minister for Innovation and ICT
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MOES	Ministry of Education and Science
MOEFWA	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOLSAEO	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
MOTCYS	Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Aids Programme
NCPP	National Cleaner Production Programme
NBN	National Broadband Network
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHDR	National Human Development Report

NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
NSGE-GBV&DV	National Strategy on Gender Equality and against Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence
OECD–DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation / Development–Development Assistance Committee
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	Operations Management Team
PASS	Stimulating Social Alternatives Programme
PHD	Public Health Directorate
QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
RBM	Results Based Management
RD	Regional Development
RDF	Regional Development Fund
RECP	Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production
RED	Regional Education Directorate
RH	Reproductive Health
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SME	Small or Medium Enterprise
SSI	Strategy for Social Inclusion
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
SWH	Solar Water Heating
TOT	Training of Trainers
TUS	Time Use Survey
TVSH	Albanian State Television Channel
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNICEF	UN Fund for Children
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organization
UNRC	UN Resident Coordinator
UNRCO	UN Resident Coordinator’s Office
UNV	UN Volunteers
WHO	World Health Organization
YEM	Youth Employment and Migration
Y-TEP	Territorial Employment Pact for Youth

Introduction

In 2011, with the piloting phase of Delivering as One coming to an end, the efforts of the Albanian government, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and international partners to lay the foundations for a new way of working together showed concrete results, including increased alignment with national priorities, improved joint programming, increased efficiency gains and cost savings. Systems and mechanisms to support Delivering as One, such as the One Programme, One Fund and One Budgetary Framework continued to provide a clear overview of the UN's work in Albania. This has further increased the ownership of the One UN Programme by the government.

Covering approximately 85 percent of the UN's development assistance in Albania under the 2007–2011 cycle, the One UN Programme brought together the expertise of fourteen participating agencies, funds and programmes. Combining specific interventions of individual UN agencies and targeted interventions through Joint Programmes (JPs), the One UN Programme achieved concrete results through its implementation, with the UN delivering approximately **USD 25 million** in 2011 and **USD 92 million** under the 2007–2011 programme cycle.

The UN continued to support the strengthening of national capacities to deliver sustainable and equitable development and further accelerate Albania's progress towards European Union (EU) integration. The UN's interventions were focused in the areas of transparent and accountable governance, greater 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.

The UN Team in Albania works through the operationalisation of the Delivering as One approach, with a deepening of joint planning and implementation. The strength of UNCT has proven to be of fundamental importance to the continued success of the reform process. Among the many benefits, common advocacy on key policy areas yielded results that individual agencies would not have been able to achieve alone.

The success of Delivering as One UN in Albania was to a large extent due to the vision and leadership of the Government of Albania (GoA). The government is involved in key decisions concerning the One UN Programme, including funding allocations, and plays a central role in guiding priority areas in which the UN system works in the country. The UN Team is highly appreciative of the support and close partnership extended to the UN agencies by GoA.

The One UN Coherence Fund, traditionally an important channel for funding of the One UN Programme, was, in the last year of the programme cycle, affected by decreasing contributions due to the changing donor landscape in the country and to the impact of the global financial crisis. In this context, it is critical that the level of contributions of predictable un-earmarked funding to the One Fund recovers and is subsequently maintained. In the context of an increasingly resource-constrained environment we are grateful to our international partners—Austria, the European Commission, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland—, which

have come forward in support of our UN reform efforts and provided funding to the One UN Coherence Fund in Albania. We value the partnership extended to the UN in the country by these donors and other international partners and count on continued close partnership in the years ahead.

In 2011, the focus remained on quality implementation of the One Programme while conceptualisation and formulation of the next One UN Programme, taking into account national priorities and the role of the UN in a pre-EU accession middle-income country, culminated in the signing of the Government of Albania–United Nations Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016. Government has affirmed its commitment to the continuation of the Delivering as One approach and reiterated that there is no going back to business as usual. Building on lessons learnt and results of the Country-Led Evaluation and of the Independent Evaluation of Delivering as One, the UN Country Team, under the new programme cycle, will work together with partners towards further strengthening of the systems put in place to date.

The unified Annual Report of the One UN Programme covers progress and results in both programme implementation and the reform process in 2011. It also contains the narrative and financial Administrative Agent Report of the One UN Coherence Fund. In order to provide a holistic overview of progress under the One UN Programme the report covers work carried out through other UN resources during 2011, in addition to covering the use of One UN Coherence Fund allocations. The report is intended for our national and international partners and donors that contribute to the Coherence Fund.

Changing Perspectives

Chapter 1: Key Reforms and Development Trends in Albania



Chapter 1: Key Reforms and Development Trends in Albania

The year 2011 was an important one for Albania in terms of its political, economic and social development. While the country enjoyed growth rates averaging six percent between 2003 and 2008, the economy slowed with the onset of the global economic crisis. Estimated growth in 2011 lay between two and four percent. Falling growth rates affected public spending, which may determine ensuing budget cuts during 2012, with an impact on service delivery. 2011 witnessed a significant fall in remittances driven by the crisis, with many Albanians returning from countries such as Italy and Greece. The impact of the global financial crisis was also felt in the resource mobilisation prospects for the UN.

On 8 May 2011, local government elections were held in a transparent and competitive manner, though the overall electoral process unfolded in a politically polarised environment. In addition to the challenges posed by an increasingly resource-constrained environment, implementation of UN-assisted initiatives was affected to some extent by the local elections process.

In 2011, Albanian nationals were granted visa-free travel into the Schengen zone, directly impacting their lives as they no longer have to obtain visas and can freely travel within a number of EU countries for up to three months.

The country's effort towards EU integration continued to progress in 2011. However, the EU progress report cited a series of challenges where the lack of collaboration between government and opposition, and the resulting legislative and reform backlog, was highlighted as a key impediment towards the granting of candidate status.

Albania's population size has declined over the last decade. Preliminary results from the 2011 Census provided by the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) indicate a 2011 population of 2.8 million, compared with 3.1 million in 2001. Significantly, the Census confirmed a significant trend towards urbanisation. At present, 54 percent of Albanians live in urban areas and, for the first time in the history of the Census, the urban population outweighs the rural one.

Democratic governance

Albania continues to make progress in consolidation of democratic governance, including in the areas of human rights and protection of minorities, though further efforts are needed to improve enforcement of the existing legislation in several areas.

In 2011, further progress was made in government policy and strategy planning, with the Integrated Planning System continuing to provide a platform for modernisation, linking policy programming and medium-term budgeting with the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), which sets out the strategic direction of the country's development and reforms.

The global economic crisis left Albania fairly unscathed, recession was avoided and the growth shock was less severe than elsewhere in Europe. However, economic performance has not yet fully recovered to pre-crisis levels

and the International Monetary Fund has adopted a more cautious forecast for growth. The downward revision took into account signs of poorer economic performance in the second quarter, including much slower export growth and a decline in domestic consumption. In this context, measures were taken to revitalise trade and industrial growth. In July 2011, Parliament abolished customs duties on finished products and raw materials in the textile and footwear industries with the purpose of making Albanian manufacturing more competitive, and to encourage textile and footwear producers. Government also revised the 2011 budget halfway through the year to meet the projected full-year deficit of 3.5 percent of GDP in light of the shortfall in the planned revenue. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (METE) led the preparation of the first national Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) report and progressed well in implementing its Strategy on Consumer Protection, including through the launch of a Consumer Complaints Management System.

In other policy domains, the Strategy for Gender Equality and Against Domestic Violence was revised and approved while efforts were made to mainstream gender in the Justice Strategy. Implementation of the National Action Plan for Youth Employment 2010–2013, launched by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO), continued to progress. The National Plan of Action for Children 2012–2017 was finalised, approved by the Council of Ministers and launched. The juridical package with regard to the implementation of the Law 10347 On the Protection of the Rights of the Child was also approved and adopted by the Council of Ministers. Preparation of the 2011 Population and Housing Census made good progress with the Census expected to provide Albania with updated demographic, economic and social data.

Participation

The 2011 local elections introduced the gender quota at local levels for the first time. Political parties adopted the quota on the lists of council candidates with 31.52 percent being women, even though only 12.4 percent were elected. Overall media coverage and public debate on the issue of gender equality and women's engagement as candidates and voters was considerable, but not as strong as during the last national elections of 2009. There was important coverage of gender issues in the media in three main areas, namely the implementation of the 30 percent quota in the electoral lists, women as candidates and women as voters. Thanks to civil society organisations' advocacy based on the priorities identified in the Community Based Scorecards, candidates from different political parties increasingly addressed gender issues in the electoral platforms.

In 2011, the issue of social inclusion of minorities continued to be part of GoA's political agenda. Following the adoption by the Council of Ministers (CoM) of the National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion in



Voter, Tirana

November 2009, the Technical Secretariat for Roma at MoLSAEO, with support of the Empowering Vulnerable Local Communities programme, introduced specific measures in ten regions with functioning meetings of the Regional Committees for Assessing Social Needs and their subcommittees on Roma. In addition, for the first time, the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) established a quota for Roma students in public universities and, for a second year, the Roma Education Fund provided scholarships to Roma university students. Despite these achievements, less significant progress was made in the area of employment, housing and health. While no Roma political party has been created, Roma candidates have in a few cases been supported by mainstream political parties (usually small ones). During the May 2011 local elections, a few Roma—mostly in rural areas—were elected as members of city councils, though not specifically as Roma representatives. However, in bigger cities, their election as members of city councils was not successful.

Basic services

During 2011, developments in the area of basic service provision (in health, education, social protection and administration of justice) included the issuance of enabling legislation, as part of the government's effort to promote social reforms. In this context, the Health Insurance Institute was identified as the sole purchaser of services in order to overcome the fragmentation in health sector financing. Nevertheless, limited access to quality health care by the most vulnerable social groups and continuing out-of-pocket payments remain a concern.

Public health expenditure of 2.9 percent of GDP continued to be low in comparison with other European countries. Although the latest estimates for neonatal, infant and under-five mortality in Albania, published by the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality, confirm a further reduction in these indicators, to nine, 16 and 18 deaths per 1,000 live births respectively, disparities persist, with children from poor families and those living in rural and mountainous areas lagging behind.

In education, access to pre-schooling (key to school readiness and further performance) remained at 50 percent on average and was much lower in poor communities. The age group zero to three years remained largely underserved with Early Child Development support (such as better parenting education, access to crèches and integrated health and development services), especially for the most vulnerable children. The Law on Pre-university Education was revised to emphasise disparity barriers, allow schools to add, depending on the needs, a pre-primary year to compulsory education cycle and focus on equitable access of children to quality education. To improve the quality of teaching in schools, MoES issued a regulation on teaching qualifications and professional practice, and streamlined accreditation of training services that is expected to organise teaching services on a national scale. Standards have also been drafted on evaluation of school quality that includes well-defined areas to investigate, benchmark indicators and standard measurement tools.

In November 2011 the Albanian Government signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. This "landmark" Convention puts emphasis on prevention and on ensuring access to critical services for women and girls who have suffered violence. While the signature represents a sign of commitment by the Albanian Government in its efforts to reduce violence against

women and domestic violence, a number of measures still need to be taken in order to ratify the Convention.

Alongside concrete institutional improvements, policy implementation constraints related to the capacity of service providers to plan, manage, finance and monitor their work remained significant, especially at the decentralised level. The resources that local authorities are able to mobilise in order to comply with what is expected from them in terms of reaching the most-in-need populations were limited. Service delivery faced many challenges, especially in rural areas. The concept of social protection that would go beyond the distribution of economic aid to include individual case management, counselling and referral to specialised assistance remains to be realised.

Regional development

In 2011, the local election process impacted local governments' functioning, while lower revenue collection and significant government spending cuts generated a decrease in public sector investment and constraints on local administrative running costs.

The pace of reforms for building up the necessary institutional framework stalled, particularly in the field of regional development policy. Despite the assistance available for the articulation of a domestic policy harmonised with preparations for management of EU Instrument of Pre-Accession (IPA)-3 funds for regional development, concrete results are still dependent on the achievement of institutional change.

In the context of the preparations for obtaining candidate status, GoA submitted an advanced draft of the Strategic Coherence Framework for IPA 3 and 4, as well as an Operational Programme on Regional Development to the EU. Both documents were developed through a participatory process involving relevant line ministries and public consultations.

In the domain of domestic regional development policy limited progress was achieved. The institutional setting for such policy proved to require a strengthened strategic focus. The need for capacity development remained high at the regional and local levels. Local authorities, endowed with financial resources, strived to develop the organisation, resources and capacities needed for an effective and efficient management of their tasks. Furthermore, the role, responsibilities and resources of the regional councils (especially as it concerns cooperation among local government units in efficient provision of local services benefiting from economies of scale) are not yet fully developed.



Valbona valley

Environment

In the environmental domain, progress in 2011 was made in the area of horizontal legislation and approximation with the EU environmental *acquis*. The new laws on Environmental Protection, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Waste Management were approved and a National Strategy for Waste Management was prepared, together with Regional Waste Management Plans for three regions. Management and control of landfills and uncontrolled dumpsites is in process.

Two new protected areas were established in 2011, increasing the proportion of total national territory covered by protected areas in Albania from 12.6 percent to 13.2 percent.

As part of governmental policy towards climate change mitigation and promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy, a package of four new laws are in the final stage of approval: On Renewable Energy, On Energy Efficiency, On Power Generation and On Concessions are fully in line with the respective EU directives.

CoM has approved the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency and the National Plan for Renewable Energy, both fully compliant with the obligations the country has as a party to the energy community and the Stabilisation and Association Agreement under the EU accession process.

Albania is in the early stages of preparing and adopting the climate change *acquis* and government is currently conducting a gap analysis. Internationally, the country aligned itself with the Copenhagen Accord and, as a follow up to formulation of pledges on greenhouse gases, a reduction in emissions is expected.

An Albanian delegation participated in the UN Climate Change Conference COP 17/CMP 7, at which they delivered the Albanian statement and closely followed the EU positioning in the climate change talks.

Aiming at development of a strategic shared vision document for management of the Drin river basin and a plan of action for the promotion of multilateral coordination and cooperation, the ministers of environment of Albania, Kosovo, Greece and FYR of Macedonia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the management of an extended trans-boundary Drin basin.

In 2011, progress was registered in relation to the establishment of a national monitoring system. National reference laboratories and centres were established for air, soil, waste and waste water, biodiversity, bio-monitoring and water. The laboratories and centres fall under the auspices of the Agency of Environment and Forests and are currently undertaking a process of capacity building, including staff training.

Strength through unity

Chapter 2: One UN Programme: Delivering as One for Greater Development Impact in Albania



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2.1 More Transparent and Accountable Governance

The United Nations continued to support the strengthening of Albania's public sector capacities to respond to citizen's needs, accelerate EU integration and enhance the state's ability to comply with international norms and standards. The effort included the provision of support for improved statistics capacity and evidence-based policy making, and for e-governance through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The UN also continued to assist the country in addressing gender equality and the needs of socially excluded people. Another key area of UN assistance included supporting Albania's efforts to mobilise its full human potential (youth, diaspora and migrants) to advance reform and development goals.

Strengthening statistics and data management for evidence-based policy making

In 2011, UN agencies agreed that in the area of statistics increased support was required to strengthen dissemination capacities and generate demand for statistics. Assistance has in the past focused mainly on preparing surveys with government and the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT). Agencies have therefore begun to explore ways to support the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO) in managing social statistics in close coordination with INSTAT. In this context, UN agencies jointly developed terms of reference to support the assessment of MoLSAEO's statistical management capacities and prepared an analytical paper addressing critical areas related to social statistics. This will be further pursued in the context of the new Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016.

During the first half of 2011, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) support was provided in collaboration with UN Women and United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF) with a focus on developing national capacities to advance data analysis. A dynamic programme of training and technical assistance was provided to around twenty researchers from INSTAT, Institute of Public Health (IPH), academic institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Researchers were trained in advanced statistical techniques, analysis and interpretation of results and drafting papers for publication. Technical guidance was also



Conference on Census, Tirana

provided to the researchers for each step of the Demographic Health Survey data analysis and authoring.

With UNFPA support, educators across the country informed school children about the Population and Household Census. The activity was an integral part of the Census Communication Plan Project to encourage participation in the 2011 Census. The Census in School programme was implemented in 36 secondary and high schools across the country. In parallel, UN Development Programme (UNDP) focused on facilitating registration of Roma for the Census in coordination with other donors.

UNFPA and UN Women further assisted INSTAT to complete the first ever national Time Use Survey (TUS) with a sample size of 2,250 households. Training was provided throughout every phase of TUS to help INSTAT build capacity on gender data collection, processing and analysis. The preliminary report of this survey was launched in July 2011. The report provides information on how Albanian women and men organise their everyday life, including how they allocate time to paid and unpaid work. The report also analysed issues such as gender equality, caregiving and balancing family and paid work responsibilities. The information obtained unveiled gaps between women and men correlated to the existing differences in their position in the labour market and their participation in education, cultural activities and other spheres of life. The final report was published in December 2011.

Child rights data, statistics and information were developed further with UNICEF support, addressing the recent policy developments of the Albanian government in the context of EU integration, with a focus on improving knowledge about inequalities. This included support to routine data collection by regional Child Rights Units, using a standard set of child wellbeing indicators, as well as information collection by regional civil-society-run Child Rights Observatories. Moreover, assistance was provided to conduct a nation-wide mapping of Roma settlements and for the improvement of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) in two regions. With UNICEF support, MoLSAEO capacity to prepare a registry of NGOs involved in child protection was strengthened and the first report of the Child Rights Observatories was published.

With the aim to improve social assistance for children, an analysis of the national cash transfer system (“ndihma ekonomike”) was completed with UNICEF support, resulting in recommendations to complement the current system with multi-sector social care services and non-cash entitlements to directly benefit children. With UN support, a DevInfo (<http://www.odf.al/devinfo>) database with 17,200 entries for 205 indicators collected in eight regions become available to state authorities and civil society organisations for situation monitoring.

With ILO support, the capacities of INSTAT, MoLSAEO and other line ministries to analyse labour market information were improved through the establishment of a working group on the Labour Force Survey (LFS), with particular focus on the nexus between informal employment and youth migration. The Youth Employment and Migration (YEM) capacity building programme on labour market statistics facilitated the addition of more than 30 variables to the LFS needed for monitoring implementation of the National Aids Programme (NAP), in order to integrate measurable targets on youth employment and migration in NSDI.

UN Women, with the technical support of UNFPA Albania and the Gender Working Group of the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality, supported the production of the Harmonised Indicators on Gender Equality and the Status of Women in Albania. This set of harmonised indicators will serve as a basic manual for data collection

to better support gender analysis and development of improved assessment and monitoring of women's participation in several development sectors. The Harmonised indicators will also be used to produce regular reports on the Status of Women and Gender Equality in Albania.

Strengthening the capacity of the public sector

The UN continued to support the implementation of the Paris Declaration in 2011 by contributing to the preparation of an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee (OECD–DAC) survey and of its Gender Equality Optional Module. In support of the implementation of the Paris Declaration principles, UN Women enabled the participation of representatives of the Government and civil society to the fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan.



Introducing ICT at local level

UNDP also continued to support the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination (DSDC) with formulation of a roadmap for the update of Albania's NSDI. In parallel, UNDP helped the Council of Ministers (CoM) review its current business processes, in order to promote administrative efficiency. UNDP continued to support the Brain Gain programme to facilitate the return of qualified Albanian nationals to take up key public and academic positions through provision of incentive packages, while also exploring measures to ensure sustainability of the programme's impact. In 2011, 140 individuals were supported by Brain Gain incentive packages and contributed to teaching, research and policy making in universities and central government. Moreover, GoA granted a contribution of USD 500,000 to the programme in order to sustain its activities in 2012.

With ILO support, the National Employment Service (NES) employment and training capacities were strengthened and a critical shift in the nature of its services realised by introducing Active Labour Market Policies and Programmes (ALPM). In this context, following a piloting phase for four ALPM, the NES will continue to work towards increasing their number.

In addition, ILO provided assistance to the State Labour Inspectorate for the implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Law, recently approved by the Albanian parliament, particularly for risk assessment, in order to strengthen prevention measures and increase safety in the work place. The Social Insurance Institute capacity to manage the social insurance scheme was also strengthened. In this context, an actuarial assessment was conducted to measure the payment power of the social insurance fund and to improve its budget management.

UNDP continued its support for ICT and e-services at both the central and local levels. Support was provided to the Ministry for Innovation and ICT (MITIK) for the establishment of a National Broadband Network (NBN) for Albania. Serious attempts were made to prepare Geographic Information System (GIS) policies and legislation.

Progress was achieved in the implementation of Rights of Way to further promote Internet use. MITIK has also been supported in introducing reforms in the postal service making use of the best experiences available in this sector. At the local level, the municipalities of Kamza and Elbasan were assisted with development of an Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) for processing requests and complaints from citizens and correspondence with other institutions. In addition, e-portals for the two municipalities were developed with the aim of enhancing the participation of citizens in processes concerning administration, policy making, decision making and service delivery.

Strengthening policy and legal frameworks for social inclusion

In late 2011, an evaluation of the Social Inclusion Strategy (2007-2013) was initiated with UNICEF support. The Social Inclusion Strategy comprises measures related to social protection, health, education, employment, justice, water supply and transport specific policies. The review of this strategy will focus on the effectiveness of the social inclusion framework to capture progress by a variety of stakeholders in specific areas, and will assess the coordination and monitoring capacity of MoLSAEO, including in the area of data management systems.



Roma Community members identifying their development priorities, Elbasan

As a part of UN's support for Albania to ratify and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), UNDP assisted MoLSAEO in conducting a review of the disability-related legislation and policy documents with a view to assess their compliance with CRPD. The findings and recommendations of the assessment were endorsed by the relevant stakeholders. Meanwhile, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG), established with UNDP support to improve the legal framework on disability, produced a draft Disability Act aiming at regulating rights and issues specific to persons with disabilities. The IMWG members also agreed on necessary amendments to be introduced to other legislation to align it with the CRPD and mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities. A participatory and consultative process among various national stakeholders, including government officials, representatives of independent human rights institutions and of civil society, was also facilitated.

UNICEF supported the preparation of a new plan of action for children in line with NSDI and the Strategy for Social Inclusion (SSI). In this context, newly established institutions at the national and regional level were strengthened, laying the foundations for evidence-based policy analysis with regard to realisation of the rights of the child.

In June 2011, the Law number 10347 On the Protection of the Rights of the Child entered into force. The law regulates the establishment of a comprehensive nation-wide mechanism for the monitoring and promotion of children's rights. The law institutionalises the accountability of specific government authorities for the enforcement

of children's rights. A National Agency for the Protection of the Rights of the Child has been established. Regional Child Rights Units (CRUs) are introduced as an integral part of the Regional Councils. With UNICEF support, CRUs have been established in 11 regions.

The Municipality of Tirana Social Housing Report, prepared with UNICEF assistance, assessed possible solutions vis-à-vis the current situation of housing needs in the municipality, especially for the most vulnerable families and children, and lays the foundations for a public policy on social housing. The report provides valuable and documented public policy solutions, which both address housing provision based on social criteria and suggest social development plans for the area. The report can serve as a guideline for other big municipalities, and for central government for adoption of a cohesive social policy on housing.

Policy advice was provided by ILO to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MAFCP) to support formalisation of agricultural sector workers based on a similar approach used by other government programmes (such as Mountain Areas Development Agency, MADA) and by those implemented with donor funding. These measures are expected to lead to a two percent reduction in informal employment in agriculture.

With UNFPA support, around 200 social service employees and care providers for older people and persons with disabilities were trained in 'Communication process and means of communication' as part of SSI.

Gender equality

With UN support in the context of the Joint Programme on Gender Equality, GoA finalised and adopted the National Strategy on Gender Equality and against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence 2011–2015 and its Action Plan, with revised priorities reflecting recent developments and challenges. The revised strategy focuses on four priority areas: strengthening institutional and legal mechanisms on gender equality; increasing women's participation in decision making; advancing women and girls economic empowerment; and reducing violence against women. With UN Women's support, the strategy action plan was costed, enabling proper resourcing and more effective implementation. As of December 2011, three new legal proposals, that better reflect Albania's international and EU commitments on gender equality and against gender-based violence, were discussed in parliamentary committees for the Criminal Code, the Electoral Code and Regulation of Parliament.

In the context of revision of the Justice Strategy, UN Women provided technical support to include gender equality obligations in this strategy for the first time. With UNDP support, and based on successful local



Gender equality campaign in school, Tirana

pilots, CoM adopted a Decision 'On the Set up and Functioning of the Coordination and Referral Mechanism of Domestic Violence Cases' in 2011. This reflects an increased awareness and institutional commitment towards implementing the national obligation on gender equality and women's rights in Albania.

In this context, UNDP, in collaboration with MoLSAEO, continued to organise training and updating sessions to a multitude of professionals and authorities to strengthen their capacities. UN Women and UNDP provided technical and financial support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to identify and calculate the costs (to the justice system, police and women survivors) of protection orders for survivors of domestic violence. The findings of the report will support government and non-government institutions to better plan and allocate financial resources needed for the implementation of the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations. The report will also be used by civil society to advocate and monitor the effective allocation of the requisite resources.

Under the leadership of MoLSAEO, and with UN Women support, work on the first national report on the Status of Women and Gender Equality in Albania was initiated, by taking advantage of the recently adopted set of "National Harmonised Indicators on Gender Equality and Status of Women in Albania". The main theme of the 2011 report is women's economic empowerment, one of the priorities of the newly adopted NSGE-GBV&DV (2011–2015). The report presents a comprehensive picture of the actual situation of women in Albania in several social-economic sectors and will serve as a baseline to measure progress in advancing gender equality and women's rights in the coming years.

UNFPA assisted MoES in cooperation with the NGO partner Albanian Centre for Population and Development to improve pre-university school curricula on sexual and reproductive health. A group of experts identified five cross-curricula main topics (health, sexuality, HIV and AIDS, nutrition and drugs, alcohol and tobacco) and are supporting the updating of the respective curricula for grades one to six and seven to nine, as well as preparation of a teacher's manual for these grades.

Exposure to international best experience of gender mainstreaming in policies and budgets has been crucial in building capacities of the government officials. Seven government officials were exposed to Austrian Government's mechanisms to achieve gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting. As a result of the visit, at the initiative of MoLSAEO and Ministry of Finance (MoF) a draft decision of the Council of Ministers was prepared, with the aim of legally binding each line ministry to set up a gender related objective in the Medium-term Budget Programme 2012-2014.

Youth employment and migration

The UN continued to provide support to MoLSAEO in the context of the NAP on Youth Employment 2010–2013, which targets around 64,000 individuals aged between 15 and 29 years of age. NAP envisaged 44 policy options to enable youth employment and school-to-work transition.

The decentralised implementation of youth employment programmes in collaboration with the Regional Employment Boards in Kukes and Shkodra contributed to an increased ownership of the interventions in the two pilot regions, in terms of implementation of both the innovative youth employment programmes and the necessary financing mechanisms.

A new employment philosophy for the youth of Albania

“An employment service office? But where does one find a job in Albania?” This is the initial reaction you get from people when you first start talking about the new initiative of the United Nations, YES (Youth Employment Services), which has started to take shape in Shkodër and Kukës. As by employment they first understand finding a job. While for YES, employment is only the starting point of a lengthy journey. It aims to bring a new employment philosophy for the youth, a philosophy that first helps them take the right decision appropriate for their age, knowledge, skills and the current labour market conditions.

It seems that Eni, Amela, Enkeleida, Jeta, Denaldi, Briselda, Ilirjana, Gazmara, Xili, Erisa, Marku and many others that we met in the YES offices in Shkodër and Kukës, all between the ages of 18 and 26, need exactly this. Some decide to take short career training courses, others browse the official websites of national and international institutions looking for jobs and planning their futures.

YES offices are located in the vicinity of the regional employment office in order to complement the career counselling frame that starts with the school and concludes with the National Employment Service. Through the career counselling training, the youngsters learn to formalise their requests and later follow the necessary steps to achieve successful employment. This is very important in a country like Albania, where rates of informal employment are very high and the state is the biggest employer.

On the other hand, the presence an increasing number of young job-seekers that can easily use information technology puts regional employment office under pressure to be more efficient in collecting information on vacancies from private and public entities, and increases transparency in institutional employment procedures. Thus, the YES offices provide an incentive for coordination amongst career counselling institutions in Albania, including educational institutions, community organisations and state agencies. The chair of the Regional Council in Kukës, for example, is planning to turn the YES office into a model centre for information and databases, which will serve both jobseekers and the employers in real time.

They often say that one cannot change others but only oneself. It seems like YES is doing both: it is changing these youngsters but also the environment they live in. After a few years the programme can proudly say: YES, we did it!

YES centres are established initially in Kukes and Shkoder and then in 3 other regions by UNICEF, one of the programme implementing agencies of the Youth Employment and Migration Joint Programme financed by the MDG Achievement Fund. Direct youth employment services were provided to 640 youth in two regions. Orientation and career development sessions were organised involving 3,600 young people in secondary schools over the project life cycle. 240 youth received livelihood and life skills extensive courses.

The Kukes Regional Employment Board has adopted and is implementing the 2011 Territorial Employment Pact for Youth (Y-TEP), targeting around 1,000 young people—informal workers and contributing family workers in particular. The Kukes Regional Employment Board has also undertaken development of the 2012 Y-TEP for the region.

With UN support, a suitable administrative solution for the Shkodra Regional Employment Fund was found. UNICEF supported the establishment of Youth Employment Services (YES) centres in three districts. At present YES

services, initially planned in two regions, are delivered in five as part of the regional employment offices. They provide youth with information and counselling services on employment. Direct youth employment services were provided to 640 youth in two regions. Orientation and career development sessions were organised involving 3,600 young people in secondary schools over the project life cycle. 240 youth received livelihood and life skills extensive courses. Moreover, orientation and career development sessions were organised involving around 400 young people in secondary schools.

The work-training and wage subsidies schemes implemented in a public private partnership framework highlighted the critical role that the private sector can play in finding effective solutions to the youth employment challenge. Through this intervention, 328 disadvantaged youths received on-the-job training in 37 private sector enterprises in 2011, and of these nearly 90 percent were subsequently formally employed. This piloted measure equipped the National Employment Service with a new modality of collaboration with the private sector. An intermediary assessment report has recommended replication of this measure in other regions in a decentralised approach to active labour market measures, as it better responds to the needs of the local labour market.

In addition, the online mapping tool of Albanians who recently graduated abroad became fully operational. Through this tool, more than 800 such graduates were identified and their profiles made available to private enterprises seeking interns. By the end of 2011, 65 new internships were realised, matching the competence profiles of these young people with in-country employment opportunities.

An information campaign on regular migration and the risks of irregular migration was successfully carried out with the support of academic institutions, agencies and civil society. The first of a series of four out-of-country events was delivered with the aim of reaching out and mobilising the Albanian diaspora. The Regional Employment Boards also participated in the design and implementation of this initiative.

In a complementary project, UNDP and ILO started working together in 2011 with funding from the Austrian Development Cooperation to support MoLSAEO in equipping the vocational education and training system in three regions of Albania (Fier, Elbasan and Lezha) with the necessary capacities and skills to address the training needs of vulnerable groups in these three regions.

Economic development and inclusive growth

With UNDP and UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) support, the new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Agency (AIDA) started its preparations for the Foreign Direct Investment Report 2011. The World Investment



Youth Employment Services centre, Shkoder

Report 2011 was launched in Albania, showing that FDI flows in Albania in 2010 rose to more than USD 1 billion for the first time ever, making it the second largest FDI recipient in south-east Europe after Serbia.

UNDP also supported the international exposure of AIDA. In this context, the capacity of AIDA staff was strengthened to better define and elaborate their services on business promotion.

Through the Spanish Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Achievement Fund contribution, the Economic Governance Joint Programme, supported by UNDP in cooperation with the World Bank, contributed significantly to the visibility of consumer issues in Albania. Regional awareness raising events with journalists were organised, successfully attracting media attention. Meanwhile, the website of the Consumer Protection Commission at METE was developed. This site constitutes an access portal to the Consumer Complaints Management System, which was launched publically on 15 March 2011, consumer rights day. Within the framework of the programme, a model water contract that regulates many elements of the country's water policy was prepared and later approved by the Water Regulatory Authority. In addition, a study on the customer services of the water utilities was completed, establishing a benchmark in line with international best practices of customer services. An awareness campaign was developed to raise awareness of citizens of their rights as consumers and advocate for implementation of the consumer protection law. Training in alternative resolution of disputes between consumers and businesses in European countries was provided.

METE, with technical support from UNDP, finalised a detailed NAP on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The action plan, launched at a joint UNDP–METE event in December 2011, underpins the clear vision with which Albania promotes CSR with the intention of developing the sustainable competitiveness of companies, creating social value for the long-term prosperity and welfare of Albanian citizens and protecting the environment for future generations.

Culture and development

With United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNDP support, and financed through the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund, rehabilitation of the ethnography pavilion at the National History Museum (NHM) and the works for reopening the Apollonia archaeological museum were completed, while those for renovation of the NHM conference room continued to progress. Visitor information tools produced for the archaeological site of Antigonea and for the city of Berat have improved the visitor's experience. Meanwhile, the artisan incubator in Gjirokastra continues to operate. Visitor information quality has improved with completion of a cultural heritage signage project in the historic centre of Gjirokastra and the opening of a new tourism



Apollonia archaeological site

Apollonia re-opens after 20 years

“Cecilia from Bylis married Lartidi from Naisosi. They stayed married and lived happily, without ever arguing”.

This writing was found on a grave headstone dating back from the 4th century in Apollonia. Displayed on the walls of the wonderful monastery, this plaque is admired by three smiling Japanese tourists, while Arjan Dimo accompanies them and translates for them.

Arjan is an archaeologist. As passionate as his father about Apollonia, a historical and natural wonder, he shows the visitors around stopping by every statue and telling their story.

Apollonia archaeological museum had been a lost destination since closing down for safety reasons in 1992. The monastery and one of the most breath-taking parks in Albania were almost completely forgotten, while the archaeological findings were taken to Tirana.

Very few visitors set foot in the museum for almost 20 years until 6 December 2011, when it reopened thanks to UN support and the devotion of the people who love and work in Apollonia.

Numerous interventions were performed to restore Apollonia to its former greatness. First of all, a security system was installed. In a place where even the guards had been scared to stay in the past, everything changed after a lighting system was installed inside and outside the archaeological site, along with a fire prevention system. And following the renovation of the museum’s internal premises, all the archaeological findings were returned to their original location.

Today, even on a Sunday in January, visitors can reach the Apollonia archaeological site by car, drive through a road adorned with orange trees and enter the gate of history; a history that is much more distant than the one shown in the World War II movies that had been shot in this area. A centuries-long history, in which Cecilia from Bylis married Lartidi from Naisosi to live happily and die together without ever arguing.

This intervention is part of the UN Joint Programme Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development. The programme worked to harness the potential of Albania’s cultural heritage to strengthen its national identity, create economic opportunities for poor and rural communities, enhance investment, and position the country positively in Europe and the rest of the world. The programme is financially supported by the Spanish Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund and is implemented by UNDP and UNESCO.

information centre. The capacity of civil servants to implement the UNESCO convention on intangible heritage was enhanced with a national conference on the subject, exposing participants to, e.g., international best practices. The first year of an MA level programme on Culture Resource Management was successfully concluded with a field trip to Greece, enabling students to validate their historical, cultural and management knowledge.

UNDP supported the drafting of a cultural marketing strategy and a strategy on cultural diplomacy to be adopted by GoA, along with recommendations related to the fiscal mechanism in the area of culture in general and archaeological parks in particular.

With UN support, a publication entitled *Heritage in Albania—Centre for Restoration of Monuments in Tirana* was printed and distributed to promote transformation of the centre into a regional centre for restoration of monuments in south-eastern Europe. Additionally, UNESCO supported the preparation of new courses at the centre, beginning in October 2011.

News ideas on conservation and protection of cultural monuments were shared successfully with local communities, civil society and the private sector through UNDP-led public seminars in the cities of Gjirokastra and Berat. The recommendations from these activities are being published in the form of a user's manual to serve as an orientation tool in future revitalisation efforts. In addition, UNDP provided support to MoYCTS for the finalisation of terms of reference for a feasibility study on rehabilitating and improving the tourism potential of the Plepa–Perroi i Agait area in Durres, for which an international company was contracted.

2.2 Greater Participation in Public Policy and Decision Making

In Albania, the UN contributed to the promotion of the participation of vulnerable groups in political and economic and social life and helped strengthen the voice of women, youths and minorities. Emphasis was also placed on encouraging participation of these groups in the 2011 local elections.

Supporting the rights and voices of women

In the lead-up to the May 2011 local elections, UN Women provided support to Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) to launch wide advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns with women, media, youths and local political party branches on the importance of women as voters and candidates. Through this intervention, a network of at least 35 NPOs was able to reach more than 10,000 women and girls in 20 municipalities, four mini-municipalities and 42 communes in urban, rural and informal areas in seven regions (Kukes, Shkodra, Tirana, Elbasan, Gjirokastra, Korça and Vlora). The initiative helped shape the public debate during the pre-election period by raising the issues of quota, family and group voting, and commitments of the political parties to gender equality. During their advocacy campaigns, NPOs used data generated from the survey on the Situation of Women Leaders at the local level which was supported by UN Women and launched in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Tirana, with participation of more than 200 first time voters, academicians, civil society organisations and the presence of media.

UN Women supported the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) to enhance its media strategy to minimise family and group voting, increase women's participation as candidates and voters and call for political parties to implement the 30 percent quota set in the Electoral Code. This support resulted in (i) a revised and stronger CEC media strategy on prevention of malicious family and group voting, and increased participation of women in elections, (ii) a summary report *Good practices on anti-family voting*, and (iii) for the first time, the provision by CEC of sex-disaggregated data on voters.

Supported by UN Women and UNDP, NPOs managed to identify and put women's concerns on the election agenda by developing 67 Community Based Scorecards on Gender Equality. The scorecards, applied in Albania for the first time, served as a tool to advocate for women's main concerns and priorities in key areas, and for women's participation in different local development discussions, analysis and initiatives. Scorecards were prepared with broad community participation and ensuring the inclusion of women and men, local decision makers and political parties, civil society and youth. The initiative inspired the participants to speak out, work together and advocate with representatives from local government to ensure they were responsive to gender and social inclusion issues.

NPOs also used the scorecards to influence programmes and platforms of local parties and candidates, as well as to monitor political party and government commitments to gender equality in line with national and international obligations. According to NPO reports, thanks to their advocacy and lobbying strategy, several priorities identified in the scorecards became part of the political discussions of municipality candidates in their public electoral meetings.

NPOs advocating for women's political participation networked with other local CSOs, youth groups, and women forums, often beyond political affiliations, to develop common strategies to address local gender inequalities and gender-based violence, as well as to promote a greater role for women in decision making, particularly in high level public offices.

The programme managed to mobilise thousands of women voters and increase their turnout in the local elections. NPOs encouraged women from the seven regions covered by the initiative to participate in the electoral process and also trained and educated them as voters. As a result, the public awareness of thousands of women was increased through TV programmes aired ahead of the elections, door-to-door campaigns and educational and informational material produced and distributed, leading in turn to an improvement in the situation of family voting and group voting. Young volunteers from local universities and high schools played an active role in mobilising women from their communities to go out to vote, using door-to-door campaigns. In addition, representatives of the local youth parliaments participated in the process of developing and advocating for the scorecards.

UN Women promoted the effective use of media and communication tools by NGOs to strengthen their capacity to promote women's leadership, women's rights and gender equality. As a result, NPOs organised (i) national and local talk shows where scorecards, quota, family voting and women participation in decision making were discussed, (ii) local and national press conferences to launch the results of the community-based scorecards, and (iii) a national press conference to request implementation of the quota by political parties. Moreover, with UN Women support, a network of NPOs signed a framework of cooperation with the Union of



Raising awareness among youth on gender based violence, Tirana

Journalists (the largest such organisation, with at least 800 members) to ensure better coverage of gender issues before, during and after the elections. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between one NPO and the Union of Journalists (Elbasan branch) to provide training to journalists on how to report on gender issues.

UN Women supported, for the first time, the use of social media by NPOs. Through the website www.vota2011.com, direct access to various sources of information in a timely and impartial manner was ensured. Women were trained in the benefits of using technology to influence policy makers, and more than 10,400 unique users accessed the website. In this online platform, three direct and interactive channels of virtual communication—Facebook, blogs and Youtube—were used to discuss women's participation as voters, quota implementation and family voting. UN Women and UNDP supported the documentary series *Women in Politics*, aired before the local elections and covering these same topics. The documentary was aired during activities organised by NGOs, such as open forums, workshops, trainings, and community meetings, as well as in the local media of 7 regions. In the lead up to the elections, UN agencies prepared a detailed media plan to increase public attention and debate on gender equality issues.

During the election period, UN Women supported ten NPOs in playing a role in the monitoring process. The creation of the Forum of Local Observers to Monitor Women's Participation in Elections enabled the accreditation and training of 40 long-term and 280 short-term observers. The forum observed 272 voting centres and focused on women's participation, family voting, women commissioners and the overall environment. Due to the active monitoring role played by informed and trained local women at polls on the day of elections, the phenomenon of family voting decreased considerably.

In order to support civil society advocacy efforts for setting standards of services related to violence against women and domestic violence, including public funding for service implementation, the UN Women sub-regional office for Central and South-Eastern Europe conducted a regional expert meeting on financing services in response to violence against women and domestic violence. As a result, a common regional strategy for civil society advocates will be developed further in 2012 with UN Women support.

In 2011, to facilitate exchange of experiences among municipalities on engendering local policies, MoLSAEO, with UN Women support and within the framework of the Austrian-funded Equity in Governance project, held a conference on gender equality and local governance. As local government represents the closest level to the people and is best positioned to directly address inequalities, the conference gathered more than one hundred representatives from local governments, civil society activists, donors and partners to share best practices on how local government can better respond to the needs of women and men and make central and local policies, processes and structures more gender sensitive. The conference stressed the role of local government in embracing the concept of equality as a distinguished marker of good governance, a commitment to the implementation of national gender equality legal and policy frameworks, and the building of capacities and skills required for taking action.

To support performance monitoring of municipal budgets from a gender perspective, UN Women supported capacity building of local NGOs and local authorities in gender planning and budgeting processes. Good examples of gender budgeting tools in the last two years have been piloted in the municipalities of Elbasan and Kukes through wide participation of local NPOs.

In its efforts to increase women's participation in decision-making, UN Women supported the Albanian State Police and the Ministry of Interior to adopt and implement affirmative actions for the recruitment of police officers. As such, in 2011 amendments were made to the Personnel Regulation to facilitate women to enter police service and a Declaration on Diversity was adopted. The amendments introduced in the State Police regulations helped to remove some of the main barriers limiting women's and girls' chances of getting accepted into the police service, especially for those coming from rural areas. Moreover, a very successful two-month recruitment campaign targeting women and girls by the national and local media was also supported.

UN Women also supported women's advocates in Albania to participate actively in evaluation, revision and costing of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence, a common action platform that will guide the country through to 2015.

Youth Parliaments were strong and reliable partners for the national agenda for gender equality. With UNICEF support, Youth Parliaments in eleven districts adopted a representation parity principle and developed local plans to promote community awareness on the need to increase female participation, including of young girls, in public life. Tirana Youth Parliament supported the national communication campaign efforts against gender-based violence.

In this context, UNICEF supported the organisation of national youth debates on gender equality. The debates followed Karl Popper's method where young people are asked to research, obtain information, develop arguments, pro and contra, on selected topics and then defend these arguments. The topics developed for this programme were related to gender issues. More than 2,000 young boys and girls from all over Albania received information and expressed their views on gender equality and the position of girls and women at all levels of public life, by participating in local tournament debates.

Supporting the rights and voices of minorities

Working in four regions with large Roma populations, in Tirana, Elbasan, Fier and Durres, the UN provided support in the area of civil registration to contribute to the Government's efforts in addressing the issue of birth registration of Roma and Egyptians. With UN support, 1,703 civil registration cases were handled and resolved, enhancing community members' capacity to gain access to public services such as education and health. 256 personnel from civil registry offices have received relevant training on challenges and solutions to birth registration of vulnerable Roma/Egyptian communities.

In addition, as part of the 'Empowering Vulnerable Local Communities of Albania' programme jointly



Kindergarten, Fier

Bringing hope to Roma community

Ardian, a Roma community member in Fushe Kruja, says that their street was covered in mud last year and was often impassable for both children and adults due to flooding from the nearby river.

With UNDP support, and the municipality of Fushe Kruja, the street was paved with decorative concrete. The mud has been removed, bringing charm to the neighbourhood.

Ardian, employed for the road reconstruction, states: "I worked with great devotion for the reconstruction of this road and I'm pleased to see that it is improving our lives and helping our children reach school faster and safely".

As part of the intervention, the UN has also provided support to civil registration. 1,703 civil registration cases, including 144 registrations of birth, were handled and resolved. To further facilitate Roma and Egyptians' access to public services such as education and health, health and police mediators have acted as a bridge between the communities and local authorities in the areas of security and health.

Fatmira, a mother of three children, is employed by a Roma organisation which, assisted by the UN, is helping with the registration of births, identity and health cards, and registration in the employment offices. She says that civil registration will be of great benefit to the future of the community members.

Agron is a member of the Egyptian Community with green eyes that radiate kindness. "I want to thank the UN as it has helped us open our eyes. It has invited us to become more active and to recognise the reality we live in and seek to change it together. Schooling and education are fundamental as they teach you how to communicate."

Agron says that together with other members of the Roma and Egyptian community in Fushe Kruja, he was trained in some practical skills such as first aid, protection from drugs and alcohol, domestic violence, proper upbringing of children, infectious diseases, security and policing in the community. He has shared this knowledge via the various awareness campaigns he has been involved in, in cooperation with the Public Health Directorate and the Police Directorate in Durrës. "I've learnt a lot from these activities," says Agron, "such as where I can look for the solution to problems that concern my family, my neighbourhood, my community."

Meleqe from Elbasan gave birth to her son in Greece. "I gave birth in the maternity house," she states, "but did not receive the birth certificate as I was sent back to Albania". Meleqe's son is an unregistered child. If not registered, the child cannot access healthcare, attend nursery, kindergarten or primary and secondary school. Her son does not exist on paper and, as a result, is potentially easy prey for traffickers. Roma children have suffered a lot in this respect. According to a Roma household survey conducted by UNICEF in 2011, around 359 children ranging from 0 to 18 years of age were not registered. As part of the UN joint programme, UNICEF has provided support to the reform of legislation and administrative practices that facilitate the registration of children and enhance the capacities of civil registry office employees. All these interventions are implemented as part of the UN joint programme Empowering local vulnerable communities of Albania. Through this Programme, UN Agencies including UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV and UNHCR have joined forces with the Government of Albania to improve the life of local communities, by enabling the local people to identify what changes they would like in their area and how they would like to make these changes. It is the communities themselves, who work in close partnership with the local authorities, and bring about these changes. From the start of its activities in the summer of 2010, the Programme has been operational in 14 communities in Tirana, Durres, Fier and Elbasan, supporting the most vulnerable Roma and Egyptians.

implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNV, community participation in self-help activities has been supported by five UN Volunteers - one international and four nationals - mobilised to support and encourage social and economic development among vulnerable communities.

To further facilitate Roma and Egyptians' access to their rights, health and police mediators acted as a bridge between the communities and local authorities in the area of security and health. UN also supported the training of vulnerable Roma and Egyptian communities on health related issues, reproductive health, and peer education.

Child protection mechanisms for identification referral and management of children-at-risk cases from Roma communities were supported, while opportunities for young children to access early childhood and development were provided. In cooperation with the MoES, local governments and Roma communities, an integrated model of ECD was introduced through the provision of academic training in schools, health check-ups, good parenting programmes, etc. Immunisation campaigns were also supported by UNICEF in remote areas. To increase the employability of young Roma and Egyptians, the programme introduced an internship scheme in collaboration with the National Employment Office and the regional councils.

UN agencies supported MoLSAEO to implement and monitor policies aiming at social inclusion of minorities to build a favourable environment and improve minorities' livelihoods in line with SSI. In this regard, following preparation of the National Action Plan for the Roma Decade and its introduction at the local level, the Technical Secretariat for Roma was assisted in production of a progress report on the National Strategy for Roma and its Decade Action Plan. With UN support, the production of the internet-based reporting and monitoring system ensured that more than 80 central and local officials are now more familiar with the use and functions of a streamlined data reporting system aligned to the indicators of the National Action Plan. This system is ultimately expected to assist the Technical Secretariat produce a progress report on the plan.

The UN also provided Roma and Egyptian communities with the tools and skills necessary to advocate for their rights. In 2011, the increased participation of Roma and Egyptians in local decision-making processes resulted in increased attention to the needs of the most vulnerable communities. Fourteen Community Based Organisations (CBOs), far exceeding the initial target of eight such organisations, are actively engaged in identifying their development priorities. Gender balance being ensured, CBOs are now playing a central role in conducting 39 community mobilisation activities, including awareness-raising campaigns and self-help activities. As a result of their participation in local decision making, four out of nine small-scale infrastructure projects (renovation of a school yard and a community road, and construction of a community service centre) have been completed in collaboration with the respective local government units (LGUs).

Strengthening the role of civil society

To support civil society, and as a follow up to the recommendations made by the Civil Society Index Project, UNDP supported a new initiative—Empowering Civil Society in Rural Areas, ECSRA—to strengthen local CSOs. This initiative strives to revitalise civil society in rural and remote areas and to promote good governance and civic engagement

in Albania's most disadvantaged and peripheral regions. The ECSRA project has enabled the identification of key deficiencies in the third sector, mainly their concentration in a few urban areas, and a definition of a platform for a comprehensive strategy to boost civic engagement and participation in rural and remote areas. This comprehensive assessment is expected to become a guiding document for national policy makers and donors.

In 2011, with UNV support, a draft law on volunteerism, aiming at institutionalising an inclusive national volunteer infrastructure, was prepared on the basis of a series of civil society consultations, led by the Albanian Youth Council, and shared with relevant governmental institutions.

Supporting the rights and voice of youth

UNICEF continued to support Youth Parliaments at national and local levels to increase the access of youth to information and capacities to participate effectively in public decision making. Youth Parliaments were strengthened to act as a strong advocacy youth network, addressing youth concerns, by putting human rights and gender issues high on the public agenda. Youth Parliaments are now active members in the twelve regions, where they facilitate the creation of specific bodies or committees composed of representatives of youth and local authorities, enabling young people to express their opinions and have a say in public decision making. As examples, the Youth Parliament in Durres succeeded in introducing a specific budget line for youth activities, in Lezha, the Youth Parliament strongly advocated environmental issues, and in Shkodra, young people are collaborating with the Employment Services to ensure that youths more in need are reached, while in Gjirokastra, it has facilitated cross-border interaction with youth in Greece.



University students, Tirana

In this context, the capacity of young people, organisations and institutions to engage and develop volunteer activities in support of youth and community issues was strengthened through trainings organised by UNV, which involved approximately 50 youth leaders, community workers, local government representatives, journalists, and experts.

To improve the quality of media reporting and increase its capacities to address issues that affect the life of young people, including those from minorities, UNICEF has encouraged young people to take the lead and use the power of the media to support and denounce cases of discrimination against the Roma minority. In order to improve the situation, UNICEF and a Roma NGO came to an agreement to work together to produce a high-quality television programme for Roma children and young people. The programme—aired in the Roma language—aims to help overcome stereotypes about the minority and improve their social position.

UNFPA supported the strengthening of young people's skills to effectively participate in public, social and economic life of Albania. In 2011, training was provided for 25 young people—members of youth parliaments on youth policy and youth participation. This training programme mobilised the youth parliaments and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports (MTCYS) to hold a workshop to discuss a draft Strategy of Youth and the Law on Youth. As a result, those two important frameworks will be included in the 2012 MTCYS agenda.

With UNFPA support, MTCYS has been conducting awareness-raising activities on healthy lifestyles, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and youth leadership, through strengthening the peer educators' network, publishing a series of promotional materials and promoting cultural and sports events. 17 local and national NGOs conducted activities on healthy lifestyles with focus on the prevention of HIV. These activities took place around World Aids Day. To better address youth needs and concerns, UNFPA supported MTCYS in assessing the services it provides to young people.

Supporting social dialogue

To ensure effective and inclusive social dialogue on economic and social policies, ILO provided support to increase the capacities of representatives of the National Labour Council (high level officials from government and workers and employers organisations) concerning EU standards on operating economic and social councils. This support responded to a long-time request to transform the Albanian National Labour Council into an Economic and Social Council with a wider participation of civil society. ILO supported the exposure of the Albanian partners to the most advanced experiences in the development of efficient social dialogue.

With ILO support, the dialogue among the social partners made marked progress, with regular meetings (four in 2011) of the National Labour Council being held and with the realisation of a National Pact of Social Understanding among the social partners and government. Negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement on the composition of the future council, in line with international representativeness criteria, are still on-going. The institutional capacity of Trade Unions and Associations of Employers to expand their services and to conduct negotiations with the Government and other social partners was strengthened, thereby increasing their effectiveness in collective bargaining.

2.3 Increased and More Equitable Access to Quality Basic Services

UN support continued to focus on strengthening the capacity of government in the delivery of basic services, with particular emphasis on enabling the provision of quality affordable primary health care at all levels, child care reform and the promotion of inclusive quality education for all children (including those in disadvantaged groups). UN assistance also focused on the area of juvenile justice and ensuring the provision of integrated quality services, with emphasis on strengthening the social protection system.

Quality affordable primary health care at all levels

In the area of Reproductive Health (RH), UN agencies supported a number of initiatives aimed at ensuring better data supply for informed policy making. As part of the Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) surveillance system, UNFPA supported a national study on chlamydia that is expected to release data in 2012. Work has been progressing on the national surveillance systems for congenital malformations and abortions. The latter is now established across the country, with the plans for improved electronic reporting well on track. Enhanced reporting on RH-related cancer was also established. The national Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) has been increasingly in use to monitor the supply and utilisation of RH commodities. The RH Commodity Security Plan for 2012–2016 is currently being revised, under the overall guidance of the Ministry of Health (MoH), while procurement of basic medical equipment for all maternity hospitals in the country has been completed.

Based on a newly accredited programme on Integrated Management of Child Illnesses (IMCI), 40 doctors and nurses from Mother and Child Health (MCH) centres in Korça District were trained with UNICEF support. To make IMCI a two-way road, in five locations in this same district, Community Health Boards are being established to provide direct feedback to practitioners on public health management issues, while at the same time encouraging families to apply the most effective sick child care techniques. Recommendations of the south-east Europe regional conference on vaccination of vulnerable populations translated into targeted interventions in Durres, Tirana, Fier and Elbasan to ensure that Roma children are reached with a basic package of immunisation and other child health services.

The assessment of MCH consulting services was completed with UNICEF support and followed by a detailed implementation plan to introduce the changes recommended. Reorganisation and redefinition of roles in these services will improve the capacity of the consulting centres to deliver quality services in all main preventive MCH areas, including in child development and protection.

For Early Childhood Development (ECD), UNICEF supported GoA in modernising procedures for birth registration (including assisting Roma families with necessary paperwork and in courts), introduced comprehensive ECD training modules for professional caregivers, developed spatial–physical planning standards for nurseries (crèches) and produced a detailed costing analysis of services offered by crèches (including possible ways to optimise the existing system of day-care subsidies to better focus on the families most in need). UNICEF's support to 400 pre-primary classes, which correspond to about 25 percent of all basic education schools, was among the factors that contributed to an increase in pre-school enrolment among five–six year-olds, from 50 to 70 percent. Trainings in better parenting and medical check-



Health care centre

ups complemented this intervention in 44 locations in poor rural areas in northern Albania and in six Roma communities.

The Albania Reads children's libraries project supported by UNICEF provided more than 75 percent of Albanian pre-schools with quality books and book shelving, and exposed pre-school teachers to modern ECD approaches—a pragmatic alternative to address the gaps in the in-service teacher training system. A home-visit programme was established in two Roma-populated districts and a parenting education programme was set up in Tirana maternity home to equip young parents with knowledge of child development, thus creating the basis for a future national parenting education programme.

Promoting inclusive education for all children

In the area of basic education, UN-supported interventions are guided by the National Education Strategy 2004–2015, which links reform of the sector with improved governance in MoES and its regional branches, greater school autonomy and the establishment of accountability tracking mechanisms that would involve parents and communities. Decentralisation shifts initiated in the mid-2000s transferred many operational tasks to the Regional Education Directorates (REDs), municipal and communal authorities and school administrations, but adequate re-distribution of managerial and technical capacities lagged behind.



Education for all

The challenge of decentralisation emphasised the role of the UN in encouraging collaboration among various stakeholders at the local level. As part of MoES's zero drop-out plan, a joint action of central and local governments and cross-sectorial coordination in seven areas (Kukes, Durres, Berat, Korça, Gjirokastra, Fier and Tirana) enabled the school drop-out rate to decrease progressively, while in target schools students with learning difficulties raised their average performance results by one to two grades.

With UN support, a national summer school programme targeting more than 4,000 marginalised Roma children and other students in need of additional academic support helped improve enrolment results for the academic year 2011–2012. A newly emerging experience is being conveyed back to the MoES, via the Institute of Education Development (IED) and the Teaching Institute, for appropriate reflection in policy documents (such as the new Law on Pre-University Education) and in the teacher training curriculum.

Within the framework of the national education sector reform, UNICEF continued to support the National School of Trainers for Pre-University Education. A cohort of 200 education professionals trained as 'interactive education champions' has started sharing innovative methods of classroom management and teaching with other teachers across the country to encourage children to participate actively in the learning process, revealing in the process

the problem of hidden drop-out of chronic low performers. The principles of the 'child-friendly school' have been guiding the elaboration of quality and equity assessment tools currently being developed by the National Agency of Inspection and IED. A school-based Education Management Information System pilot has been evaluated by MoES in Kukes, Korça and Tirana regions, with the view of further scaling up.

Three Regional Parents Boards have been piloted as a new addition to the education sector management system by REDs in Kukes, Korça and Gjirokastra, who continued to play an important consultative role in education issues. Their feedback was also sought for review of a new law on pre-university education. A model of well-functioning interaction between student governments and the REDs in Kukes and Korça is under evaluation and providing encouraging results for the national scaling up.

In addressing violence in schools, kindergartens and child care institutions MoES, with UNICEF support, launched a COMBI plan in schools targeting up to 40,000 teachers and more than 600,000 school children. The initiative encourages teachers and caregivers to choose alternative disciplinary measures rather than resorting to physical or psychological violence. The aim is to contribute to a reduction in the current levels of reported violence by 80 percent by the end of the programme in 2014. All across the country, up to 40,000 teachers and more than 600,000 school children are the key targets and active agents of the programme.

Nutrition

In the area of child nutrition, the UN Joint Programme Reducing Malnutrition in Children implemented by World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNICEF supported the introduction of new training modules on nutrition for primary health care providers (through accreditation by the National Centre for Continuous Health Education) and trained the first group of 200 professionals from the predominantly rural regions of Kukes and Shkodra, and from two suburban areas of Tirana. The UN joint programme supported the development of new public health nutrition curricula and interactive teaching techniques, in collaboration with experts from the Tirana University faculties of Medicine and Nursing.

Findings from a baseline survey on nutrition and food security are being used to plan and target interventions, while active participation of key stakeholders was ensured through regional conferences held in Kukes and Shkodra. A food security scale was tested and validated statistically. With UN support, agriculture specialists built their capacities in policy analysis and decision making through participation in a training in crop assessment and forecasting. A communication plan for behavioural change for improved nutrition practices was prepared in collaboration with Albanian experts and officially approved by the Minister of Health.

National flour fortification plans were boosted, with UN support, by the high-level advocacy mission of the global flour fortification initiative in late 2011. The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) training programme expanded in Durres, Korça, Kukes, Gjirokastra, Saranda and Fier. In Durres BFHI spread beyond hospitals into communities, which committed themselves to establishing mother support groups to advocate for best practices in infant and young child feeding. The importance of encouraging healthier eating and nutrition habits among children of all ages inspired a cross-sectorial initiative between IPH and IED that produced an outline of the future curriculum

materials to be used by schoolchildren in all grades from one to nine.

In the context of the joint programme on nutrition, the UN continued to support GoA with the implementation of the Law on Universal Salt Iodisation aiming at the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders. Partnerships were built with the private sector, with more than 220 representatives of the food processing industry in four additional regions involved in capacity building and awareness-raising activities for the use of iodised salt in food processing.

Promoting the provision of integrated quality services

With UNICEF support, MoLSAEO launched a process of social service reform through a large international conference held in Tirana in November 2010. A roadmap for decentralised provision of statutory social services, and the roles of regulators and service providers, are currently being discussed based on technical advice offered by UNICEF. The overall aim of this collaboration is to establish an effective family outreach, individual case management and a referral system stretching beyond the current scope of economic aid disbursement. The mapping of available service delivery centres was completed, and its directory made available on the MoLSAEO website, in order to plan for an optimal balance between the geographical distribution of the services across the country and that of the beneficiaries, and to examine the current quality and outreach capacity.

Standards of foster care have been developed and approved by CoM. Two manuals for social workers and foster families have been tested and published. Government has begun, for the first time, the process of de-institutionalisation for 80 children in Tirana and Shkodra, out of the approximately 600 children in residential care. Advocacy for larger application of the UN guidelines on alternative care continues. In June 2011, a national conference was convened by MoLSAEO, in collaboration with UNICEF, to endorse a road map for government on further measures in this area.

The National Child Helpline, in its third year of implementation, remains an important component of the child protection system. It handles about 330 calls a day from children in need of counselling and referral, including emergency services. All phone companies in Albania provide the calls for free. A fundraising strategy was finalised with UN support to help 'ALO 116' raise more funds from the private sector.

As of 2011, Child Protection Units (CPUs) are operating in 28 municipalities or communities, identifying children and families at risk and referring them to health, education, legal aid and other services. UNICEF supported the design and start-up costs of the model, which is now funded by other donors and local governments. Service delivery protocols for child protection workers, endorsed by MoLSAEO, are now operational. Although the numbers are not alarmingly high, child abuse in connection with begging or trading remains a concern. In addition to the CPU, Tirana Municipality, with UN support, has established a multi-purpose centre to protect children from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation, with the target beneficiary population represented by seven Roma and Egyptian communities—a total of about 1,000 persons, half of them children. Families and children are supported with psychosocial, legal and health services, food distribution and educational activities.

Juvenile justice

In the area of juvenile justice the application of alternatives to detention (community services or probation orders, or both) in seven regions reached approximately 240 cases, approximately 25 percent of the total number of juvenile offence cases. Victim and offender mediation services, while in contact with the police, in penitentiary or during probation, were provided in 280 cases in six regions. Free legal assistance for juveniles in pre-trial detention was offered in approximately 120 cases in five regions. With UNICEF support, approximately 130 youths benefitted from the social rehabilitation programme at Kavaja Reintegration Institute and the aftercare programme The Sky is for All.

The visit by a prominent human rights advocate and France's former Minister of Justice Robert Badinter constituted an influential advocacy opportunity that helped seal the government's commitment in the field of juvenile justice. The three messages cutting through Mr Badinter's advocacy emphasised the necessity of: a) taking concrete steps to minimising the time juveniles spend in detention awaiting trial, b) providing education and psychosocial support for offenders under the age of criminal responsibility, and c) education and social reintegration measures to be made available, in good quality, in all facilities where children are held.

In this context, UNICEF provided technical support and expertise to the formulation of a draft Justice for Children Strategy, in close consultation with key stakeholders through the International Consortium and Juvenile Justice Sub-Committee. For the first time in Albania, the Justice for Children Strategy will address not only children and young people in conflict with the law but also those who are either victims or witnesses of crime. The findings of a UNICEF-commissioned assessment of security measures, investigation and judiciary process deadlines applied to juveniles in Albania *de jure* and *de facto* have informed the strategy, while a special costing tool specifically tailored for juvenile justice measures will help the action planning from the fiscal perspective. Adoption of the strategy and accompanying action plan is expected in early 2012, and is proceeding in parallel to Albania's Code of Penal Procedures being revised in terms of its responsiveness to juvenile justice issues.

HIV & Aids

In addressing the threat of HIV & Aids, data collection as a base for evidence-driven decisions continued to be a priority. A UNAIDS-supported study to estimate the size of injecting drug users (IDUs) and men having sex with men (MSM) was conducted and the results presented to stakeholders in the National AIDS programme at IPH. Similarly, UNAIDS funds supported research into the uptake of services among the Roma population, with the results expected to be released in 2012. The Biological Behavioural Surveillance Study (BIO BSS) was jointly supported by UNDP and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 2011. The data, focusing on most at-risk populations in Tirana, have been collected, to feed into the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) report in 2012.

In planning the response, attention focused on groups of particular vulnerability, such as most at-risk adolescents

COMBI – Communication for Behaviour Change on HIV prevention

Saimja is a biology teacher who started teaching sex education after the 1990s.

“We felt embarrassed to mention the name of the subject we were teaching,” she remembers. After the year 2000, when the “Life skills” subject was introduced in secondary school, Saimja was again one of the first teachers to teach it. She is a bit reserved but has great experience in the teaching of the new social and public education subjects in a country in social and moral transition.

One day, she received a phone call from the Education Directorate in Tirana, regarding training. She said “yes” to the training with a meek voice, without knowing that the week of training would become the most important week of her career and beyond.

A group of 500 teachers across the country have undergone a sexual education training.

“The training made me confident,” says Saimja “it enabled me to talk freely not only with my students, but also with my family. The training had an impact on me as a woman, as a mother and as a teacher. Now my students are more open as well. After the training I’m fully aware that there are no embarrassing questions and that communication is fundamental”.

In 2011, the United Nations and the Government of Albania launched a very comprehensive campaign on HIV prevention and healthy life styles based on the philosophy of Communications for Behaviour Impact (COMBI). The campaign, designed according to COMBI model, focuses on two desired behaviours: the postponement of first sexual intercourse among youngsters and increase of the condom use. In this context, TV and radio spots aired nationally and locally and educational materials were distributed to Albanian high schools. The campaign targeted urban and rural populations using the expertise of Health Departments in regions.

“It was not easy to talk about sexuality,” says Agron who teaches in Bathore in the outskirts of Tirana “and it still isn’t. But I am different now. I do not feel the same embarrassment which used to make me blush. Thanks to the training, I have now realised the importance of communication. Without reservations, without embarrassment and without blushing. And just like things changed for me, they changed for my students as well”.

The programme, jointly supported by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, lasted for 18 months and will continue in 2012 with the key word COMMUNICATION. Through communication one can convey one’s objectives and realise that positive outcomes are only one word way.

The United Nations Agencies are supporting the Government to halt the spread of the HIV epidemic, and raise awareness about the need to care for those infected. Access to essential information, prevention services, treatment, care and support to those suffering from HIV/AIDS is a human right.

(MARA)¹. At-risk adolescents constitute one of the priorities in the forthcoming National HIV and Aids Strategy. Both this Strategy and the National Action Plan for MARA 2011–2015 will include the principle of gender sensitivity. UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA supported the development of a Communication for Behavioural Impact

1 Includes adolescent IDUs and MSMs, trafficked adolescents forced to engage in transactional sex, and adolescents engaged in sex work.

(COMBI) campaign targeting young people. In close collaboration with MoES, the COMBI initiative will be piloted among grade eight and nine students, as a way of conveying elements of sexual education to adolescents. Albania's network of Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres has been encouraged to interact closely with local education and social protection services, NGOs, media and youth organisations to increase their outreach effectiveness vis-à-vis most at-risk groups.

In this context, UNICEF supported various techniques of harm reduction or minimisation of drug use initiation risk, such as the project Break the Cycle, which will feed, along with other elements, into the first national Strategy for Drug Prevention and Control 2012–2016, which UNICEF is currently assisting government to develop.

In terms of medical supplies, UNICEF supported MoH in procuring anti-retroviral medicines (offered by government free of charge to about 140 HIV patients). In 2011, UNICEF and UNAIDS initiated discussions with MoH, offering their expertise in streamlining public procurement processes, facilitating access to the international market of medicines and assessing the feasibility of sustainable long-term procurement arrangements.

World Aids Day 2011 was commemorated as an awareness-raising event, with participation of high-level officials from GoA and UN agencies. Participation of civil society was active, with presentation of its work on prevention and control of HIV in Albania, and the involvement of young people was particularly remarkable. In recognition of UNFPA's distinguished contribution in the fight against HIV and AIDS, a special Hippocrates Prize was awarded to the agency by the President of the Republic of Albania, Mr Bamir Topi.

Combating gender-based violence

In combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Public Health Directorates (PHDs) became a driving force in 2011 in expanding the knowledge on GBV contained in an accredited training programme introduced successfully by UNFPA in 2010 in the 36 districts of Albania (mainly targeting the structure of the primary health care women's consulting centres). Using a cascade approach and the network and Training of Trainers (ToT) in six regions (Durrës, Lezha, Dibra, Elbasan, Korça and Fier), PHDs managed to reach about 800 practitioners, illustrating local MoH structures' leadership and commitment to building the capacity of services is directly benefitting the communities.

In June 2011, GoA, with UNDP support, opened the first national shelter for survivors of domestic violence. This represents a considerable investment, in terms of infrastructure work and purchase of equipment and furniture, but, more importantly, also as a solid legal and institutional framework in which the shelter will operate. To this end, UNDP provided technical assistance for: i) MoLSAEO to develop a



Poster produced for Violence Against Women campaign

regulatory framework for the shelter, including advocacy related to a CoM Decision on the standards of services to be offered by shelters designed to host women and children subjected to domestic violence, ii) a thorough regulation over licensing of shelters, iii) a professional and detailed manual for shelter employees, and iv) a series of MoUs among different public agencies to facilitate local services availability. A comprehensive training programme for shelter staff was also an integral part of the package. In June 2011, the newly appointed staff of the shelter underwent an eight-day training on the legal framework and the basics of the phenomenon of domestic violence, and built initial skills in treating domestic violence survivors. Staff also benefited from the extensive experience of a psychologist who conducted a more advanced training in counselling to address the challenges of supporting survivors.

The community-coordinated response systems built with UNDP support in Korça, Durrës and Kamza have progressed well. In particular, the municipalities of Korça and Durrës established free-of-charge telephone numbers for reporting incidents of domestic violence, continued to provide domestic violence prevention coordinators' salaries and established positive models of cooperation with local NGOs with a view to outsourcing services such as psychological counselling, transportation to a safe place, legal assistance, etc. The coordinated handling of cases resulted in an increase in the number of domestic violence reports as public confidence in the authorities grows. Electronic databases are maintained regularly and constitute a solid base for effective information sharing among agencies.

The positive UN-supported practices of these municipalities convinced CoM of the benefits of applying the same model in all LGUs in Albania. This led to approval of the CoM Decision on the setting up and functioning of a National Referral Mechanism against Domestic Violence. This decision follows up on the latest improvements in the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations.

All of these interventions have run parallel to public awareness campaigns supported by UNDP and UNFPA in order to raise the issue of gender equality and domestic violence and of the legal remedies and institutional arrangements available to survivors. Throughout 2011, UNDP provided numerous cross-discipline or specially tailored training sessions for various categories of professionals on the requirements of the Law on Measures against Family Relations and the newly adopted CoM Decision on the Referral Mechanism, in order to create a common understanding of the duties and responsibilities of all public authorities concerned, while UNFPA prepared doctors and nurses with specialised skills to detect, record, treat and refer GBV and domestic violence cases.

2.4 Regional Development to Reduce Disparities

UN assistance continued to focus specifically on helping government to elaborate a national framework for regional development (RD), incorporating domestic concerns and EU requirements for absorbing pre-accession funds. In this context, assistance was extended to the regional and local levels, supporting capacity development for planning, design, implementation and monitoring of locally identified development projects.

Implementation of the regional development strategy

The main challenge for RD in Albania is reflected in the need for a more strategic focus in the current institutional set-up and in the tools and resources that address regional disparities and sub-regional competitiveness, in order to seize the forthcoming EU RD opportunities. In 2011, both institutional building for Instrument of Pre-Accession (IPA)-3 management preparedness and domestic RD policy advice remained high on the UN agenda. Following the local elections, and subsequent delays that impaired continuity of the work, the situation improved with local governments increasingly focused on service delivery and development issues.

Within the framework of the UN-supported project Integrated Support to Decentralisation, the capacity of 30 high-level officials (including 24 women) from relevant ministries and government agencies was strengthened, including through tailored EU RD training.

Based on initial comments received from the EU, UN agencies supported the drafting of a second version of the Strategic Coherence Framework, completed in February 2011, along with finalisation of a first draft of the Operational Programme of Regional Development. These documents were subsequently reviewed, with their final completion expected in early 2012.

On the domestic RD policy front, challenges were encountered in relation to difficulties to promote major legislative changes in the field of RD. Government considered it appropriate to start the process within the framework of NSDI revision, i.e. during 2012. Meanwhile, UNDP engaged in talks with government representatives from Ministry of European Integration and DSDC, with the aim of conceptualising an approach that would introduce RD policy without legislative changes but through practice. In addition, UNDP advocated with DSDC in particular to ensure alignment of RD policy with EU cohesion instruments and to centre RD policy on the existing financial instrument for the Regional Development Fund (RDF) coordinated by DSDC. A new RDF design was initially agreed with DSDC in July 2011, and confirmed in late 2011, while technical work will start in early 2012 to develop a modern Information Technology (IT) system for RDF management.

With UN support, the RD work has expanded in four pilot regions—Kukes, Dibra, Elbasan and Berat—with kick-off meetings held in February 2011 and followed by intensive training and interaction with regional and local stakeholders for elaboration of specific RD strategies. These will be finalised by May 2012. In parallel, UNDP assisted DSDC in finalising a list of RD infrastructure projects expected to be implemented in 2012.

Significant progress has been made in implementation of, and obtaining results from, the project ArtGold 2, a UNDP-supported initiative promoting local development through partnerships among decentralised cooperation actors across countries and their collaboration and exchange of experiences. Within the framework of this programme, a major international conference on the strategic role of decentralised cooperation in the context of European integration was held in mid-January 2011.

By June 2011, respective strategic plans were developed for the regions of Shkodra and Vlora, with active participation of local stakeholders, and submitted to GoA for final comments and endorsement. During the first half of 2011, UN supported the county partnership councils of Vlora and Shkodra to identify several pilot

Supporting decent work opportunities for young Albanians

Over the past 15 years, Albania has experienced one of the highest emigration rates in the world. It is estimated that more than 40 percent of Albanian workforce works abroad. Approximately 60 per cent of migrant workers are aged 18-29 at the time of migration. The absence of decent work opportunities and the hope of a better future are the main motivations for youth to migrate internally or abroad.

The Youth Employment and Migration Programme was developed to support the National Employment Service in addressing unemployment issues. The programme, financed by the MDG Achievement Fund, is designed as an active labour market measure, and combines on-the-job training, vocational training and wage subsidies for disadvantaged youth. The main goal is to make young people more employable in the current job market, especially those with little or no formal education. The Programme is implemented by the Albanian government, local authorities and four UN agencies (ILO, IOM, UNDP/UNV and UNICEF).

Since the start of the programme, more than 300 young and unemployed jobseekers have been placed in work-training programmes. To date, nearly 90 percent of those involved in the training programme have been employed by 37 Albanian companies participating in the programme. One of them is the "Venice Art" company. The "Venice Art" company employs around 70 people, several of whom are employed with UNDP support.

"Thanks to this project I was trained and then I got employed at this factory. It is so fantastic to produce Venetian masks. This is something good not only for me but for my family as well. I also think that this job and working with other painters will contribute to my future professional career"—says Ilir Domi, one of the workers at the mask factory.

During the employment training programme, participating companies pay social insurance for each worker and retain the worker for a period that is at least equal to the number of months for which they received training.

"After many efforts to find a job, I had the opportunity to be part of a vocational training at Bella Confex factory. Following a 6 month vocational training programme, I got a job and with the monthly income I support my family too."-says Kristian, a worker at Bella Confex Factory.

Albania has the youngest population in Europe, and for youth in urban areas it is much harder to gain employment than the average adult. This employment programme implemented in six Albanian regions is giving them not just hands on training but hope and greater chances in getting their first full time job.

interventions in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, tourism and cultural heritage, in line with their strategic planning exercises. Some of these priorities have already been tendered out and the actual work will start in early 2012. As gaps in local capacities for project development and writing among local stakeholders were identified, the UN secured support through the coherence fund for the training of approximately 200 stakeholders in the two ArtGold regions.

UNDP continued to provide assistance in Kukes Region to promote tourism and build local capacities, through

two projects co-financed by the EU. The Kukes Regional Strategy for Tourism Development was published in early 2011 and appeared in various local events, together with a set of national tourism area maps. Development actors from Kukes were also supported to undertake a study tour to a tourism mountain area in Slovenia to exchange experiences with a local development agency there.

Significant attention was given to implementation of infrastructural interventions, in line with the priorities set by the regional, municipal and communal governments. The EU-funded project Kukes Region Tourism and Environment Promotion was extended until November 2012, allowing use of the remaining project funds for completion of a museum for Kukes. As the Kukes Region Cross-Border Cooperation Programme was due to close at the end of 2011, completion of the museum in Bajram Curri will depend on mobilisation of other resources.

Empowering communities in mountain areas

Within the framework of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) loan-financed programmes, MADA and First Albanian Financial Development Company (FAF-DC) supported private sector initiatives in rural mountain areas through a combination of credit, co-financing for capital investments, training and capacity building, and co-financing for rehabilitation of small-scale rural infrastructure.

FAF-DC provided credit to an amount of USD 4.7 million to nearly 500 smallholding farmers and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for investments in primary agriculture production (36 percent), agro-processing (19 percent), trade and services (34 percent), and agro-tourism and handicrafts (11 percent). Through MADA support, training was provided to 240 smallholder farmers and SMEs, and to 74 women to improve crop and animal husbandry practices, to upgrade processing equipment and technologies and to improve marketing and management. Of the women that received MADA support, 32 have been employed by SMEs while the others are self-employed. The credit guarantee scheme for rural mountain area SMEs under MADA became operational in the second half of 2011.

With co-financing from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development, a number of rural infrastructure investments were completed in 2011. These included eleven irrigation schemes covering an area of about 870 hectares, ten rural roads and a bridge, 15 livestock watering points, and a combined water supply and irrigation system. Overall, these investments will benefit more than 4,280 households in terms of increased productivity and improved access to services and markets.

Within the framework of enhancing participation of stakeholders and local governments from mountain areas



Northern Albania

in development and implementation of local development strategies, an institutional assessment of mountain area fora was undertaken by MADA and a capacity building and institutional strengthening plan was designed for further development of the fora into EU LEADER type Local Action Group institutions. Six small Leader-type projects were awarded and implemented by forum, focusing mainly on tourism development and the promotion of local and territorial products.

Agricultural policy, land consolidation and food safety

The on-going support provided to the livestock sector has made progress in several directions. The livestock association Ionian Lambs, established in 2010 thanks to the UNDP-supported Livestock project, increased its membership from an initial 28 to a current size of 50 members. With the primary focus on creating conditions for a sustainable association, the UN work in this area continues to provide both organisational and technical assistance. For this purpose, a detailed association business plan was elaborated in April 2011, along with an operational manual *Good Practice Rules and Regulations* for the meat value chain. With UN support, the association board is monitored and assisted to function properly, with five meetings held since January 2011 to discuss issues and take decisions in areas of common interest. In this context, in collaboration with Saranda Municipality and MAFCP, and in support of the newly established association, UN intensively supported completion of a city slaughterhouse, which was inaugurated in August 2011.



Prespa Lake

The UN has also contributed directly to the national objectives of harmonisation and modernisation of livestock databases and establishment of a farm register. In collaboration with MAFCP, the software components of a Ruda sheep database were developed and handed over to the national counterparts in June 2011, to produce 350,000 template data questionnaires for the National Farm Register.

The capacity of MAFCP to work on national agricultural policies, approximate them with EU legislation and enable them to follow EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and instruments was strengthened. To this end a European integration workshop was organised by FAO and Hungary's Ministry of Rural Development in September 2011 with a focus on agricultural policy and rural development and establishing EU CAP-compliant national institutions.

Extension of the joint project 'Assessment of current agricultural research and extension system, stakeholder information and communication needs and gaps for providing effective and relevant services to Albanian smallholder farmers', made possible by the coherence fund, ensured the continuation of UN support towards

strengthening stakeholders' involvement and effective interaction within the framework of the Agricultural Knowledge and Information System in Albania.

The ICT network 'Agricultural network for innovation, research and extension', established with UN support, continues to foster the exchange of information through an experimental version of its virtual platform available in Albanian. In addition, a network-supportive institutional action plan was prepared to address sustainability of the suggested changes and linked to the initiative communication strategy.

In addition, FAO continued to provide assistance to increase capacity to design and implement modern land consolidation projects, and for preparation of a national programme and strategy on land consolidation, including through pilot activities in selected communities and through institutional capacity building for nationwide implementation of land consolidation policies.

Mine action

In the security sector, based on the local capacities built during the humanitarian mine action programme in north-east Albania, UNDP continued re-orienting these capacities to help achieve GoA's programme on stockpiled and obsolete ammunition disposal, while providing assistance for completion of residual mine action activities. These efforts were made official through a MoU between UNDP and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) that defines the relationship and nature of the support to be provided within the framework of ammunition disposal, based on the available national capacities.

In close consultation with MoD and other relevant partners, restructuring and conversion of the technical structure took place during the first part of the year, and initial field assessments in hotspot areas were undertaken with UN support, with particular emphasis on awareness of upgrading disposal standards to international levels and on enlargement of the demilitarisation framework to include civil community safety and participation elements. However, since the approach is innovative and supplemental to operations of the armed forces, it has encountered some difficulties in resource mobilisation, temporarily mitigated by the support jointly provided by UNDP and the Coherence Fund to cover the operations in 2011. Nevertheless, the future of this initiative remains highly dependent on resource mobilisation.

2.5 Environmentally Sustainable Development

UN support for the environment is closely linked with national priorities and focused on the introduction and enforcement of EU standards, improvement of environmental conditions and sustainable use of natural resources. UN has supported introduction of fiscal instruments to finance environmental activities, promoted environmentally friendly investments, enabled conservation and development of areas of natural values, rehabilitated hotspots and raised awareness on the environment.

Support to climate change adaptation and mitigation

Addressing the need of government to comply with EU requirements under the environmental *acquis*, UNDP has supported the environmental administration in the areas of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environment Assessment, Economic Instruments for Environment, and Environment Inter-Ministerial Coordination. Under the EIA component, the existing legislative gaps were identified and related by-laws, procedures and recommendations in relation to public participation in decision making within the EIA process are in process. A full set of recommendations and guidelines on establishment and functioning of the environment fund in Albania, and the respective draft legislation, have been prepared. Once created, the fund will contribute to the financial self-sustainability of environmental initiatives in the country.

Within the framework of the first climate change project in the region—Identification and implementation of adaptation measures in the Drin–Mat area—UNDP supported Lezha Regional Council to integrate climate change and adaptation into development of new sectorial strategies, including tourism, agro-tourism and forestry. In addition, UNDP supported new development plans for three communes in the locality. As a follow up to regional and communal adaptation plans, a GIS map of the communes' adaptation measures was prepared, supported by the economic estimates of the adaptation measures based upon a vulnerability and risk assessment analysis of the area. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MoEFWA) was supported by UNDP to include climate change adaptation in the management plans of protected areas. An Integrated Monitoring System was established with UN support. As a conceptual framework, the system includes a detailed set of indicators to be monitored in order to understand ecosystem responses to climate change and the effectiveness of the adaptation measures.



Climate change impact, Lezhe

In the framework of Solar Water Heating (SWH) initiative, UNDP supported METE in drafting a National Plan on Renewable Energies and other parts of legislation related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. This draft legislation, now in the final stage of approval, takes into account all sources of renewable energy and includes specific targets for solar energy. It also provides for technical and legislative measures for the country until 2018, in line with the relevant EU directives, obligations the country has as a party to the Energy Treaty, and the objectives of the National Energy Strategy.

Software for dimensioning and calculating the economic and financial feasibility of solar thermal systems for production of sanitary hot water was finalised and released online, with the intention of it being used by all interested persons in the residential and service sectors. Curricula on SWH systems for Professional Vocational Training Centres was prepared with direct support provided to MoLSAEO. The initial testing of three types of solar

collectors produced by Albanian manufacturers was conducted by an internationally certified testing centre. The testing provides recommendations for technological improvements, with the aim of the final tests being undertaken by the end of 2012.

Following the good experience gained with preparation of the first and second national communications to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNDP initiated support for GoA in its preparation of the third national communication.

Protected areas

The Management Committee for Prespa Park was established by a ministerial order and UNDP supported the committee in its initial activities. Meanwhile, as a result of a UNDP-assisted project, the first marine protected area of Albania was declared, for Karaburun–Sazan. Based on this experience, a new project on expansion of marine protected areas began in 2011.

Reducing threats from environmental hotspots

Under the UNDP-supported Hot Spots project, in-depth assessments, including EIA, environment statement and a costed remediation action plan, were prepared for the following fourteen sites: battery factory (Berat), textile factory (Berat), tailing dams (Guri i Kuq, Pogradec; Fushe-Arrez), mine site (Perrenjas), film studio (Tirana), pesticides dump (Rreshen), Dajti Enterprises (Tirana), mine site (Bitinska), part of a ferrochrome smelter (Elbasan), mining village (Rehove), phosphate factory (Laç), copper factory (Laç), agricultural storehouse (Lushnja). The total amount needed for remediation of these sites amounts to approximately USD 141 million.

Promoting cleaner production

The joint United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)–United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) National Cleaner Production Programme (NCPP) in Albania, launched in March 2010, continued along the three tracks of capacity building, industry demonstrations and policy support. The industry and capacity building components completed the first cycle of expert trainings in plant demonstrations and awareness and industry outreach. A total of twelve enterprises from the food and beverages, quarrying and hotel sectors benefited from detailed assessments conducted by national trainee experts, under supervision of international experts. For all enterprises, practical solutions were identified for cost-effective reduction of energy and water consumption and of waste, effluents and emissions. In September 2011, the second round of expert training and industry demonstrations commenced, with participation of 20 enterprises from the sectors of hotels, olives, wine and related foods, mostly located in rural areas. Moreover, a start was made with preparation of a Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) primer for enterprises, sector guidelines and success stories in RECP (in both Albanian and English).

Albanian Businesses Build a Greener Future

United Nations Agencies in Albania are helping dozens of food production, tourism and industrial companies make more efficient use of their resources and reduce waste.

The National Cleaner Production Programme in Albania (NCP), which is part of the One UN Programme, is jointly managed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO, and the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP.

“At the international level this project falls under the Global Programme of UNIDO and UNEP on resource efficiency and cleaner production,” explains Rene Van Berkel, the programme leader from UNIDO.

The NCP strives to build permanent national capacities for improving resource efficiency and cleaner production while fostering a knowledge base for more effective greener public policies.

The programme has three main components: train a group of national consultants and experts in resource efficiency and cleaner production in order to assist enterprises; demonstrate success stories related to business benefits generated from modern techniques and technologies; develop a framework for mainstreaming RECP into the relevant Albanian policies and regulations.

The center strives to foster the uptake of resource efficiency and cleaner production concepts, methods, techniques and policies through the establishment of national capacities for raising awareness, providing training, undertaking plant assessments and providing policy advice.

“We have worked with companies in the field of food processing, tourism and mining, which are the main priority development sectors for the country,” says Marieta Mima, the National Programme Director of ECAT Tirana.

A group of national experts, trainees and representatives from the olive oil and wine production industry in the country participated in an industry workshop held in Tirana.

“This country has about 250 mainly small olive oil production companies that are currently environmental hot spots, but which can be turned round into green businesses with a small investment, and that in turn would significantly reduce the quantity of waste they emit,” explained Dritan Topi, one of the experts being trained in cleaner production mechanisms.

“This industry generates a lot of waste, which if leaked in rivers and streams, will diminish the quantity of wildlife there,” he underlined.

The programme auditors/trainees are urging these companies to upgrade to a different process, which helps produce a better quality olive oil generating only a fraction of the waste. The businesses taking part in this project are identifying the opportunities on offer and currently are moving forward to improve their technology.

“I am currently trying to add new pieces of equipment in my production lines, which will allow me to [automatically] separate the olive seeds and sell them for heating. Thus, I generate a new product from the waste, instead of dumping it in the field,” says Shpresa Shkalla, who runs a small olive oil processing plant just outside Tirana.

Shkalla believes that with the help of the national experts trained by the UN, she will not only have a new product, which will increase her revenues, but she will also create a more environmentally-friendly business, which will attract more customers.

“My olives are grown biologically,” she said, while adding that reducing waste and protecting the environment, for which this programme is giving a helping hand, “will empower” her brand.

The National Cleaner Production Programme is being implemented over a three year period. More than two dozen companies from mining to food production and tourism have benefited from the best international expertise.

However, the importance of such programme goes beyond its projected timeframe, in preparing Albanian businesses for EU environmental regulations, as the country moves closer in its accession path toward Brussels.

Under the policy component implemented by UNEP, existing policies and strategy frameworks were reviewed and priority RECP policy instruments were identified and consolidated in the report *Policy Instruments for the Promotion of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production in Albania*, which was shared and validated through a national workshop that took place in June 2011. National awareness-raising workshops and conferences, including a dedicated event for the national media, were organised and involved the various stakeholders. Building capacity for development and implementation of sub-sector development strategies was singled out as priority, with the tourism sector as the top priority.

Education, awareness and participation in environmentally sustainable development

The United Nations Office for Project Services–UNDP small grants programme supported activities of NGOs and CBOs towards climate change abatement, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation while generating sustainable livelihoods. Eleven projects were implemented in 2011 with a total budget of USD 122,116, with significant examples including re-establishing the continuity of the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) migration in the Lake Ohrid hydrological system (project consists in capturing young eels entering the Buna River and transporting them alive in oxygenated tanks to Lake Ohrid), recycling solid waste arising from olive oil extraction as a renewable source of energy (the project will heat a kindergarten in the outskirts of Tirana using the dry olive pomace produced by local olive oil production factories) and reintroducing the common pheasant (*Phasianus cholchius*) and grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*), a project that consists in repopulating 420 hectares with 250 pheasant and 50 partridge.

UNICEF provided support in the area of environmental education for children, to develop an integrated series of environmental competencies in a teaching–learning environment that promotes active learning and where community institutions are open to child environmental action. The teacher training and the methodology were recognised and accredited by the Institute of Curriculum and Training, enabling additional teachers to request the training from their school budget. With UN support, a communication for behavioural change—*My Albania, Beautiful and Clean*—was carried out and involved children, schools, media and private businesses. Regular collection of plastic waste was carried out in 40 schools in cooperation with the private sector, which then sent the collected waste (including 800,000 bottles) to recycling facilities. The evaluation results showed an increased environmental awareness in children from the experimental schools compared to those from the control group, and that 44 percent of children have adopted at least one environmentally friendly action. Eighty school grants were allocated and implemented by schools and communities in order to gain knowledge and assist the communities act to improve the situation.

Reflection brings clarity

Chapter 3: The UN Reform Process in Albania



Chapter 3: The UN Reform Process in Albania

3.1 Key Developments

In 2011, focus remained on implementation of the One Programme 2007–2011, as well as on preparation and finalisation of the new Government of Albania–UN Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016. The previous One UN Programme was extended by one year, to the end of 2011, and took into account the need to ensure completion of programme results.

At the request of the Government, the new Programme of Cooperation was designed to expand and deepen the UN Delivering as One approach. As such, the process of formulation of the programme built on previous experience, including the recommendations of the 2010 country-led evaluation of Albania's Delivering as One piloting phase.

The Programme of Cooperation is the result of a comprehensive consultation process started with strategic prioritisation work and technical consultations to define the areas where the UN would be well positioned to contribute. In this context, a Common Country Programme Document (CCPD) 2012–2016, which defines the outcomes of the new GoA–UN Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016, was finalised in early 2011, submitted and approved by the executive boards of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA. Further consultations sharpened precise outcomes and outputs with a range of stakeholders, including line ministries, civil society, and development partners. Finally, the signing ceremony of the programme was organised on UN Day, 24 October 2011, and attended by senior government officials including the prime minister and several members of his cabinet, UN agencies, and development partners.

In October 2011, the General Assembly-mandated Independent Evaluation of the Delivering as One pilot experience was carried out in Albania, building upon the 2010 country-led evaluation and the lessons learnt. The evaluation covered the experiences in the eight pilot countries (Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay and Vietnam), while addressing Delivering as One at the systemic level. The overall objective of the evaluation was to assess the contribution and added value of the Delivering as One approach and draw lessons learnt in this context that are significant for the UN system as a whole. The evaluation findings and conclusions will feed into the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) on Operational Activities for Development in the fall of 2012, as well as other inter-governmental processes concerning system-wide coherence.

Key government counterparts, the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the UN Women Representative participated in the fourth Inter-governmental High-Level Conference on Delivering as One in Montevideo (November 2011) to review progress achieved in the piloting. The Montevideo conference also reaffirmed the principles of Maputo and Ha Noi that 'there is no going back to doing business in the manner prior to the Delivering as One initiative'. The conference affirmed that Delivering as One offered a new way of doing business, increased national ownership and leadership, and spurred UN's coherent support to national priorities. At the

Montevideo conference, GoA offered to host the next inter-governmental meeting on Delivering as One in Tirana from 27–29 June 2012.

The Coherence Fund had constituted an essential vehicle to mobilise resources for the One UN Programme 2007–2011. With the global economic crisis and the end of the Delivering as One piloting phase, donor contributions to the Coherence Fund saw a significant decline. The current resource-constrained environment increasingly represents a critical challenge for the implementation of the GoA–UN Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016 that needs to be addressed in close collaboration with Government and development partners in order to make this programme a reality on the ground.

3.2 Progress in UN Reform Agenda

The year 2011 saw both the end of the piloting phase of Delivering as One and the formulation and launch of the second One UN Programme in country, building upon the experience, lessons learnt and achievements of the first cycle.

The first One UN Programme ran from 2007–2011 covered approximately 85 percent of the UN’s work in Albania and brought together fourteen participating UN agencies, funds and programmes, which collectively delivered approximately **USD 25 million** in 2011 and more than **USD 92 million** for the whole programme cycle.

The second One UN Programme, (GoA–UN Programme of Cooperation) will run from 2012 to 2016, as a common action plan for 19 UN agencies, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and GoA over this period. The Programme of Cooperation represents a single, coherent plan for all UN-system agencies in Albania, in which each, together with national counterparts, is responsible for delivering on a set of key actions that contribute jointly to shared results. Supporting the national development agenda of the Government of Albania and its European integration ambitions, the programme substantiates the UN’s contribution to national priorities in four priority areas: Governance and rule of law, Economy and environment, Regional and local development, and Inclusive social policy.

3.2.1 UN Country Team programming

The formulation of the Programme of Cooperation and related management arrangements has been underpinned by the Country Team’s operationalisation of the identified lessons learnt from implementation of the first cycle of Delivering as One. As such, UNCT has sought greater coherence and simplification of the programme management arrangements (including work processes) at the strategic and operational level.

Before 2012	After 2012
Common Country Assessment (CCA)	UN Common Country Programme Document
UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)	
Agency-specific Country Programme Documents	
Agency-specific Country Programme Action Plan One UN Programme 2007–2011	GoA–UN Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016
JPs and agency-specific Project Documents	Joint Annual Work Plans

At a strategic level, the current Programme of Cooperation represents a significant simplification in the overall country programming process. CCPD², together with the Programme of Cooperation, merges the work on Common Country Assessment, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and agency-specific country programme documents and action plans into one document and one process.

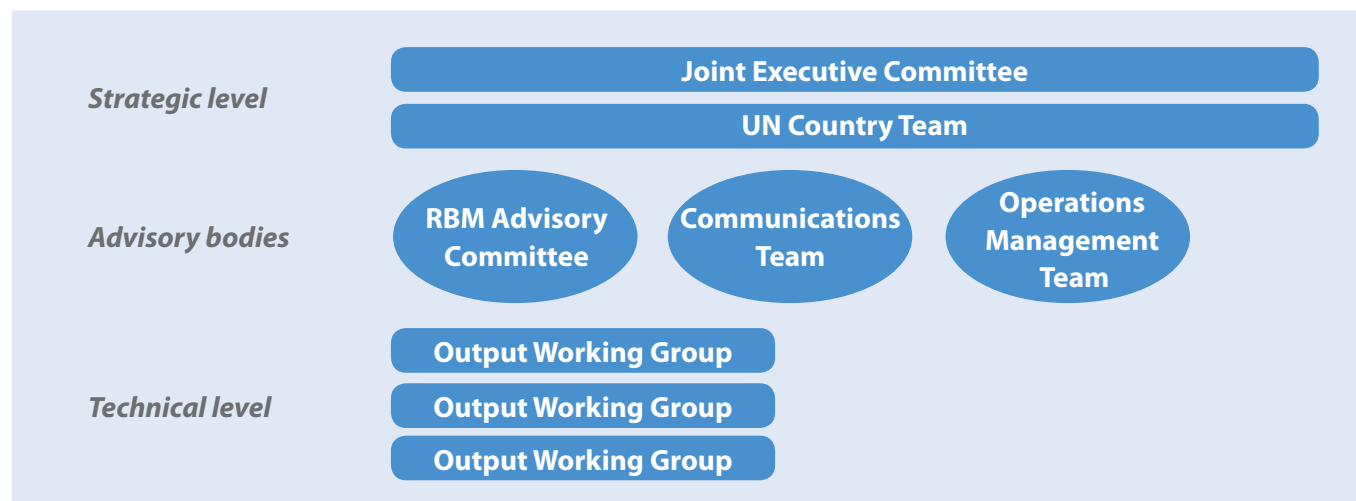
As reported in the table below, simplification and harmonisation of the joint country programming processes and products has contributed to a reduction in planning workload for agencies.

3.2.2 Programme of Cooperation management arrangements

In line with the simplification of the programming processes, the main intent of the new Programme of Cooperation management and coordination arrangements, identified by the Country Team in its May 2011 retreat, is as follows:

- To strengthen government ownership at the technical level;
- To reduce parallel processes and harmonised procedures;
- To advance from joint programme preparation to joint programme implementation by Government and the UN, through programme outputs operationalised by joint AWP;
- To establish a direct linkage of the programme management and coordination bodies to the results matrix of the Programme of Cooperation.

The new coordination arrangements, organised around the programme results (outcomes and outputs), are operationalised by the programme management bodies across the strategic and technical levels, with increased government participation in decision making at both levels, as showed in the graph below.



² Although the CCPD constitutes a requirement only for UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNDP, the other 17 agencies participated in the exercise as a first step toward the formulation of the full-fledged Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016.

At the strategic level, the Joint Executive Committee, co-chaired by the Government of Albania and by the UNRC, makes executive decisions necessary for implementation of the Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016, including One UN Coherence Fund allocations decisions. At the technical level, the output working groups, comprised by the relevant implementing partners and UN agencies, are responsible for joint coordination and design of activities under a joint AWP. In addition, the work of the UN Country Team is supported by three inter-agency advisory committees: the Operations Management Team; the Communications Team; and the RBM Advisory Committee.

Although members of the programme management bodies have responsibilities vis-à-vis the signed commitments of a group of UN agencies, their primary supervisor, and therefore their accountability, remains within the line management of their respective agency. The Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016 is operationalised by output-level joint AWPs, describing the specific deliverables to be produced for achievement of the programmatic results. The annual work plans form an agreement between the UN agencies and each implementing partner on the use of resources. Combining the inputs of all relevant UN agencies, the work plans are signed by the national counterpart under the respective outputs and relevant UN agencies. A single annual work plan can operationalise multiple outputs that are led by the same implementing partner if this serves government. A combined annual work plan will significantly lighten the management process for all partners involved.

At the operational level, in order to further concretise the programme management arrangements designed in the Programme of Cooperation, a series of tools and mechanisms have been developed under the new programme cycle, as follows:

- One UN Coherence Fund Guidelines;
- Terms of Reference of programme management bodies:
 - a. Results Based Management (RBM) Advisory Committee;
 - b. Outcome coordinators; and
 - c. Output working groups.
- a. The RBM Advisory Committee advises UNCT on programme management aspects and develops a common RBM approach methodology and implementation strategy.
- b. Outcome coordinators (members of the RBM Advisory Committee) are tasked to ensure that the work of the output working groups is substantively coordinated and directly contributes to achievement of the overall outcome. In addition, they coordinate, analyse and summarise the inputs from the output working groups on the progress made with the deliverables for the mid-year and annual reviews, and resource allocation meetings.
- c. The output working groups consist of the technical experts responsible for coordination and design of activities under a joint AWP, monitoring and reporting, as well as resource mobilisation and preparation of request for funds from the Coherence Fund.

The Programme of Cooperation seeks to lighten the reporting burden by re-designing the mid-year review and ensuring that reports are linked to results. The AWPs generate information that directly feeds into reporting processes. In turn, the information generated through reporting is also used by the new programme's management bodies, including for Coherence Fund resource allocation.

3.2.3 One UN Coherence Fund and budgetary framework

The One UN Coherence Fund, underpinned by the Expanded Delivering as One Funding Window for Achievement of MDGs, was established in late 2007 to provide development partners with a mechanism to channel un-earmarked contributions into a single pooled fund to support national developmental priorities without the need to deal with multiple UN agencies separately.

In accordance with aid harmonisation principles, the multi-year un-earmarked funding provided by donors to the One UN Programme through the Coherence Fund has been allocated to support the achievement of national priorities. Decisions on fund allocations have been taken by the Joint Executive Committee, which is co-chaired by a senior government official and the UNRC, and functions as a key decision-making body at the strategic level for the One UN Programme. To date, the Committee has allocated approximately **USD 22.2 million** from the One UN Coherence Fund. During the 2007–2011 programme cycle, allocations were made according to a set of criteria adopted in 2008, providing guidance to the Committee on activities eligible for funding and promoting quality programming which addresses national priorities.

The UNDP Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office has been appointed as the administrative agent of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund. The functions of the agent include receipt, administration and management of contributions from donors, disbursement of funds to the participating UN organisations in accordance with the approved annual work plans and programme documents, and compiling of consolidated narrative and financial reports on the use of the Fund. Some of these functions have been delegated to UNDP Albania and its country director.

Contributor/Partner	Contributions to the Coherence Fund 2007–2011 (USD)					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007-2011
AUSTRIA, Government of		387,675	296,500	276,400	254,162	1,214,737
EUROPEAN UNION			3,011,951	446,705		3,458,656
Expanded DaO Funding Window			1,070,000	2,243,000	295,000	3,608,000
FINLAND, Government of					394,240	394,240
NETHERLANDS, Government of		507,600	1,858,260	1,479,840		3,845,700
NORWAY, Government of	1,081,276	1,414,227		842,886		3,338,389
SPAIN, Government of	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000			4,000,000
SWEDISH INT'L DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION			1,380,100	1,345,400	1,440,300	4,165,800
SWITZERLAND, Government of	285,363		873,052	461,553		1,619,968
Total	2,366,639	3,309,502	10,489,863	7,095,784	2,383,702	25,645,490

Source: MDTF Albania One UN Coherence Fund <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>

Contributions to the Coherence Fund in support of the One Programme 2007–2011 amounted to **USD 25,645,490**. Austria, the European Union, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland have contributed resources to the fund, as shown in the table below. In 2011, the government of Sweden provided soft-earmarked funding to the Coherence Fund for the gender outputs contained in the GoA–UN Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016 to the amount of **USD 1,440,300**.

Contributions to the Coherence Fund have decreased over the last two years in line with the evolution of donor country strategies following Albania’s attainment of middle-income country status and it being a potential candidate country for EU accession.

The fund is important for the One UN Programme. In 2011, the Coherence Fund contributed approximately 22 percent of the total programmable funds for the One Programme, compared to 27 percent in 2010, 31 percent in 2009 and 24 percent in 2008. For the period 2007–2011, the Fund contributed an average of 25 percent of the total programme funding, with a cumulative delivery rate of 86.3 percent. The Coherence Fund, rather than gradually becoming the primary source of pooled funding for the entire One UN Programme as originally planned, has proved to constitute an important source of supplemental funding to strengthen coherence.

The table below reports the total amount of funds that each agency committed to the One UN Programme for

Agency	Programme budget 2007–2011 (USD)			Coherence Fund allocations 2007–2011 (USD)	Percentage of Coherence Fund allocations against Total budget
	Core funds	Non-core funds	Total Core and Non-core funds		
FAO	606,155	846,659	1,452,814	315,300	22
IFAD	169,737	-	169,737		
ILO	283,300	3,119,110	3,402,410		0
UNAIDS	372,387	57,400	429,787		0
UNDP	3,548,318	32,168,609	35,716,927	8,990,931	25
UNEP	170,000	349,500	519,500	254,244	49
UNESCO	271,621	4,398,487	4,670,108	414,750	9
UNFPA	2,729,471	3,891,822	6,621,293	3,319,341	50
UNHCR	1,096,830	-	1,096,830		
UNICEF	1,529,357	19,586,527	21,115,884	6,951,039	33
UNIDO	137,000	493,000	555,000	493,000	78
UNV	526,500	175,000	701,500		0
UN WOMEN	991,982	1,614,042	2,606,024	950,220	36
WHO	566,000	9,714,540	10,280,540	570,000	6
Total	12,998,658	76,339,695	89,338,354	22,258,825	25

Source: One UN Budgetary Framework (May 2011); MDTF Albania One UN Coherence Fund; <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>

the period 2007–2011, as well as the total amount of funds received from the Coherence Fund during the same period. The ratio of the Coherence Fund allocations to the total programme budget illustrates how the Fund has significantly enhanced the support provided to the programme by UN agencies, particularly by smaller and non-resident agencies, expanding UN-system contribution to the achievement of national development priorities.

Under the 2007–2011 programme cycle, the single budgetary framework for the UN provided a clear and comprehensive picture on the funding required, the funding available and the amount still needed to be mobilised for implementation of agreed priorities. It comprised information on core and non-core resources (or those mobilised by individual agencies), and the funding gap that was then filled through resource mobilisation efforts. By providing a comprehensive overview of funding, the budgetary framework supports the government to exercise stronger ownership and leadership of the UN's assistance to Albania.

The new Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016 outlines the basic features of the UN Coherence Fund and how it is fully integrated with the overall joint management arrangements that formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate the programme. A set of allocation criteria have been further refined around three key principles of eligibility, performance and exceptional priority, in order to progressively strengthen the reward for good performance in the distribution of funds for the new programme cycle.

3.2.4 Common set of management practices

In view of the increasingly joint implementation of programme activities, adoption of common management practices remains a priority for the UN in Albania. Therefore, the use of common services under Delivering as One aims to promote efficiencies in UN procurement, maximise the use of funds in support of differing agency mandates and operations, and acquire locally commonly procured commodities and services more effectively and efficiently through collaboration, thereby reducing transaction costs and improving value for money.

Transparent open communications and fair and consistent information sharing has contributed to the success and sustainability of the common services approach.

An inter-agency Operations Management Team (OMT) comprised of Operations Officers/Managers has been in place for UN Albania since 2006 to support the harmonisation of common business practices, including the provision to the UNCT of operational updates and information on a regular basis. Adequate inter-agency mechanisms continued to ensure the management of Common Services.

In the area of Common Services, the OMT has focused on management coordination, guidance on operational decisions and quality control. In the area of procurement for common services, with the support of an inter-agency Committee on Procurement, established in 2006, Common Procurement Strategy Teams have initiated joint tendering processes recognised as a good practice by the other Delivering as One pilot countries. Participating agencies jointly develop the specifications and evaluation criteria and undertake joint evaluation of the offers, with one agency leading the procurement process according to its own procurement rules and processes. As part

of this exercise, agencies endorse the results of the tender, according to their own procedures, and finalise the recommendation for award, subsequently reviewed by the Local Advisory Committee on Procurement. Finally, the OMT submits the procurement case for UNCT endorsement.

Nine areas have been identified for cost savings from collective negotiations and joint procurements, through common Long Term Agreements. By end of 2011, long term agreements were concluded for eight areas: (i) communications, (ii) travel services, (iii) interpretation, (iv) translation, (v) fuel consumption, (vi) event management, (vii) printing and (viii) banking.

Common LTAs facilitate a more efficient procurement process and save time for UN agencies' staff. Preliminary efficiency gains and measurable savings have already become evident in certain areas: the estimated time required by staff to procure services for event management has been reduced by more than 60 percent, while efficiency gains have been generated in terms of better quality services, thanks to significant economies of scale.

In a combined effort to address coordination needs in the area of human resources, important progress was made during 2011 with the establishment of UN Common Local Consultants Rates and UN common roster for translation services.

Inter-agency recruitment panels have been established for JPs and agency positions with UN system profiles. All vacancies are advertised on the One UN website, supported by a team of IT specialists.

In line with the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, the UN in Albania has strived towards greater alignment and use of national financial and procurement systems. Implementation of a Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer by UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA is expected to lead to lower transaction costs for government.

During 2011, a process of identifying commercial options was initiated for those agencies interested in pursuing a common premises solution.

3.2.5 Empowered UNRC and UNCT

In 2011, the leadership role provided by UNRC proved to be critical in driving the UN reform in Albania and in setting a vision for Delivering as One beyond the piloting phase. As the overall manager of Delivering as One, UNRC brought together a broad range of analytical capacities and developed synergies among the various UN assets and mandates in support of national priorities. UNRC continued to guide the strategic direction of the overall One UN Programme and led resource mobilisation efforts and partnership building. Together with other agency heads, UNRC advocated for the broader UN agenda and human rights.

In this context, UNCT, functioning as an inter-agency coordination and decision-making body, continued to plan and work together to ensure delivery of tangible results in support of the national development agenda.

The difference in the way UNCT works through Delivering as One is notable. Each member has taken on a lead role in moving the One UN Programme and reform effort. Agencies have also taken on leadership roles in the JPs. The UNCT programmatic activity is supported by interagency advisory bodies, such as the Monitoring and

Evaluation Working Group and the Gender Working Group, which, in the context of the formulation of the new Programme of Cooperation, contributed to the development of the programme results framework and to gender mainstreaming respectively. Moreover, in the area of simplification and harmonisation of business practices the UNCT is supported by an interagency Operations Management Team, while a joint Communications Group contributes to foster joint communication on the results achieved under the One UN Programme and in the context of the Delivering as One experience.

3.2.6 Communicating as One for development results

In addition to increased coordination in programming and implementation, Delivering as One has greatly enhanced the UN's ability to advocate with a stronger voice on policy issues relevant for Albania. Advocacy and policy work on human rights, social inclusion, minority rights, gender equality, environment and climate change had greater impact with UN agencies speaking as One in a coordinated manner. Coming together in a more unified manner strengthened the UN's voice and its influence, in a way a single agency would not have been able to do as effectively.

In 2011, increased emphasis was placed on strengthening the alignment of programming processes, programme implementation, resource mobilisation and partnership building with strategic communication for results.

Delivering as One UN is continuously helping project a public image, both internally and externally, of a united family of agencies jointly delivering for development results in Albania and advancing national priorities and the MDGs.

In this context, the UN Communications Group is playing a critical role in enabling UNCT to jointly communicate more strategically, coherently and effectively on the One UN Programme results. Delivering as One has increased UN issue-based advocacy communication focused on environment, gender equality and social inclusion, and population issues.

Joint communication focused on reporting on development results, increased visibility for donors, and impact stories produced and disseminated widely, while continuing to support joint resource mobilisation efforts. In this regard, a Friends of One UN donor group field visit to gender equality programme areas was organised to meet the beneficiaries and see programme results on the ground. The trip included a visit to a domestic violence shelter that serves victims of domestic violence, women and their children. Civil society members briefed the Friends of One UN on the challenges that women in their areas face with participation in decision making, and underlined the visible fading of the family voting phenomenon during the May 2011 local elections and the increased participation of women in the voting process.

Moreover, in October 2011, the Austrian State Secretary met the beneficiaries of the UN gender programme in Kukes, one of the target areas. Beneficiaries spoke about progress made on gender budgeting in Kukes Municipality and the efforts made to offer better social protection to women, crowned with adoption of gender-sensitive amendments to the Economic Aid Law, improvement of the response to domestic violence cases and

efforts put in place to build a system of referral against domestic violence.

The result of this joint communication on the Joint Programme on Gender Equality contributed significantly to the UN Country Team resource mobilisation efforts by facilitating a better understanding of the programme achievements and challenges among donors, leading to the Swedish decision to provide a contribution of approximately 3 million USD to the Coherence Fund soft-earmarked to gender equality initiatives under the new Programme of Cooperation.

3.3 Increased National Ownership and Alignment with National Priorities and Development Strategies

The government of Albania continued to demonstrate increased ownership of the One UN Programme throughout 2011, guiding UN agencies on where, in line with their respective comparative advantages, they were best suited to contribute to achievement of national priorities. As co-chair of the Programme Joint Executive Committee, DSDC remained fully engaged in the strategic decision making on fund allocation to the programme.

The on-going strong national ownership and leadership helped ensure that external assistance remained closely aligned with the country's developmental priorities, as defined in NSDI 2007–2013, and avoided overlap among donors. This also entailed the government playing a lead role in guiding and facilitating the formulation of the Programme of Cooperation.

The Delivering as One initiative, its tools and mechanisms, such as the One UN budgetary framework and the programme work plan, provided a coherent and strategic perspective of the UN's work and resource allocation, helping government in its effort to strengthen and harmonise donor assistance. While additional effort is needed to increase the use of national financial systems, the coordination role of government was strengthened vis-à-vis the UN family. Government sees the Delivering as One UN effort as contributing to implementation of the Paris and Accra agendas, as all participating UN agencies jointly provide assistance in line with national priorities through the Programme-based approach of the One UN Programme.

In 2011, interaction between the Office of UNRC and DSDC continued to be the main channel of communication on the GoA-UN Programme matters common to most agencies. The Office served as a one-stop shop for government for broader UN system support. Agencies continued to work closely with line ministries and national institutions.

The level of involvement of line ministries during the first programme cycle of the Delivering as One initiative was determined by their varying capacities. Ministries with stronger teams and more strategic leadership were more involved and led the prioritisation of the UN's work. Overall coordination on the government side was conducted by DSDC, consulting regularly with line ministries to ensure that their on-going and up-coming programmes were well represented.

To ensure increased leadership by the government and line ministries, extensive consultations were conducted for formulation of the new Programme of Cooperation and its management arrangements. As part of this process, UN agencies met with the respective line ministries as One, allowing counterparts to have a holistic view of the proposed areas of cooperation, as well as to provide guidance on a more strategic level. Efforts to better link with the donor coordination mechanisms under CoM and with the national sector working groups also continued.

To strengthen the technical level and increase national ownership, the Programme of Cooperation management arrangements were organised around programme results (outcomes and outputs), with increased government participation in decision making at both the strategic and technical levels.

At the strategic level, government will continue to exercise overall leadership, including in resource allocation, by co-chairing the Joint Executive Committee. At the operational level, line ministries will participate in the work of the output working groups—the technical committees that formulate the output-level joint AWP operationalising the Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016.

The new Programme of Cooperation will further deepen the line ministries coordination in planning and implementation. The programme AWPs will be clustered programmatically around line ministries, in order to strengthen the sectorial perspective and avoid fragmentation, while output working groups will become Standing Steering Committees in charge of implementation in a JP modality.

3.4 Way Forward

With the end of the piloting phase, 2012 will be a decisive year for Delivering as One, both in Albania and worldwide.

At the country level, the implementation phase of the GoA–UN Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016 will focus on advancing the Delivering as One experience in Albania beyond the piloting phase, with UNCT building on the lessons learnt in order to operationalise and fine-tune the systems designed for the new programme cycle.

In 2012, efforts will be placed on capitalising the comparative advantages of an expanded UNCT—comprising 19 UN agencies plus IOM—to ensure quality implementation of the Programme in an increasingly resource-constrained environment determined by the global financial crisis. In this context, the Programme of Cooperation outputs will be operationalised through AWPs that are jointly formulated, implemented and monitored. Efforts will be made to continue the process of alignment of the UN programme cycle with the national development cycle.

At the global level, publication of the Final Report of the General Assembly-mandated Independent Evaluation of Lessons Learnt from Delivering as One will inform QCPR of the UN system Operational Activities for Development.

In this context, the Albanian government has reiterated its commitment to continuing and deepening the Delivering as One approach by offering to host the fifth High-level Inter-governmental Conference on Delivering as One in Tirana in June 2012. The conference will draw on the overall outcomes, achievements, challenges and lessons learnt to provide recommendations for the second generation of Delivering as One.

Looking to the future

Chapter 4: Key Implementation Lessons Learnt and Challenges



Chapter 4: Key Implementation Lessons Learnt and Challenges

4.1 Reform Lessons Learnt and Challenges

The political uncertainties linked to the 2011 local elections represented a challenge (in a few instances) for implementation of the One UN Programme. The UN team responded to this challenge by realigning some of the interventions and conducting deepened consultations with relevant counterparts.

Albania continues to make progress in passing laws and enacting legislation. However, the real challenge remains in their implementation and enforcement. This situation is partly a capacity issue and partly one related to budgetary allocations. Nevertheless, the UN team continued to advocate for national resourcing of initiatives funded by the UN, and for the implementation of reforms to ensure sustainability of the interventions.

High turnover of staff in the public administration, at both central and local levels, has continued to impact implementation of some areas of the One UN Programme, and has at times required UN agencies to dedicate additional resources to brief or train new staff in order to ensure full awareness and support for on-going interventions.

Meanwhile, long-term financial support from donors should be planned at the outset of programmes, along with plans for progressive government cost-sharing in order to ensure the sustainability of the reforms supported by the UN system.

4.2 Implementation Lessons Learnt and Challenges

Success for UN reform efforts at the country level depends on three main factors: a government committed to guiding and aligning external assistance with national priorities; a UN team working in a harmonised manner for improved development results, supported by its headquarters; and international partners and donors contributing to the key principles of the Paris Declaration.

In 2011, formulation of the Government of Albania–United Nations Programme of Cooperation 2012–2016 and its management arrangements were underpinned by the UNCT operationalisation of the wide array of lessons learnt from implementation of the first cycle of Delivering as One. As such, the programme seeks greater coherence and simplification through the results-oriented programme management arrangements at both the strategic and the operational level, with the aim of strengthening national ownership, reducing the reporting burden, and increasing the harmonisation of procedures. However, and while participating actively in the formulation of the common programming process and instruments, a number of agencies have maintained their specific planning documents in parallel to those of Delivering as One.

The UN team in Albania also made considerable progress in identifying innovative ways to harmonise UN practices, making use of existing agency rules and regulations and identifying common best practices and

solutions. However, as recognised by the Montevideo Conference outcome document, the scope for further reforms at the country level remains limited. In spite of pilot countries having gone as far as they could in harmonisation of procedures, the overall Delivering as One process remains heavy, as many agency-specific reporting requirements continue to exist alongside newly-developed Delivering as One mechanisms and tools. The need for major efforts to harmonise and simplify practices therefore remains primarily at the headquarters level.

Non-resident and regionally based agencies have significantly increased their country assistance under the One UN Programme, and are expected to play an increasing role in the next country programme cycle. While the number of non-resident agencies has increased, adequate capacity will be required to bring together the additional technical support from the UN system in an effective and coherent way.

The Spanish MDG Achievement Fund, funding four JPs in Albania, continued to play an important role in supporting Delivering as One UN. In addition to supporting achievement of the MDGs, this support has led to increased joint planning and implementation, and served as a catalyst for change.

It is critical to have sufficient donor commitments to the Coherence Fund early on in the One UN Programme process to enable predictability and strategic quality in the UN's assistance in Albania. Sufficient resources would also provide flexibility and allow government to exercise leadership in deciding upon and prioritising fund allocations. If the UN is to remain coherent and strategic, it needs strong support through predictable funding that is both multi-year and flexible enough to respond to national priorities. In the early implementation phase of the new Programme of Cooperation, the resource-constrained environment and the decreased contributions of multi-year un-earmarked funds (due to the in-country changing donor landscape) represent considerable challenges for fund allocation and prioritisation.

Moreover, the Coherence Fund has thus far enabled focus to be given to national developmental priorities and issues pertaining to the UN normative agenda, and to provide the country with additional expertise from the UN system. However, under the current constraints, closing the programme funding gap represents a challenge and limits the UN system's capacity to effectively provide coherent and coordinated support to a broad spectrum of national priorities.

As far as donor preferences are concerned, the trend observed during the early implementation phase of the new Programme of Cooperation shows that donors are currently either channelling their contributions through agencies or—at best—providing soft earmarked contributions to the Coherence Fund.

In spite of the need for development cooperation in Albania, bilateral donors are phasing out, often citing the EU accession process and re-prioritisation of donor government efforts away from the Western Balkans. The present context of the global economic crisis and changing donor environment in Albania, given the country's middle-income country status and European integration prospects, suggests that a new resource mobilisation strategy is required to develop partnerships with new donors, including bilateral and multilateral organisations, and to explore new ways of collaborating with the private sector for mutual benefit.

Annex 1:

Narrative overview on programmes funded by One UN Coherence Fund in 2011

Annex 2:

Administrative Agent Financial Report on One UN Coherence Fund for 2011

Annex 3:

One UN Budgetary Framework (status of March 2012)

Annex 1:

Narrative overview on programmes funded by One UN Coherence Fund in 2011

The following narrative tables provide an overview of all projects that received funding from the One UN Coherence Fund in 2011. In all, **USD 6,845,344** were disbursed from the One UN Coherence Fund to Participating various participating UN organisations. The tables are reported by programme area and structured around the outcomes and results of the One UN Programme.

1. GOVERNANCE

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 1.1.1							
Support to census, Roma registration component	UNDP	UNDP assisted INSTAT to conduct the 2011 Population and Housing Census and promoted the participation of Roma in this process, so that the 2011 Census will be the first to provide data on Roma in Albania. In this context, UNDP supported a communication and awareness-raising strategy to include Roma in the registration process. Roma participated as members of the enumerating teams, and community representatives were invited to facilitate access to Roma families. Awareness-raising activities also took place in schools, through focus groups discussions and the use of local media.	Tirana	INSTAT	2009–2012	\$ 281,232	\$ 250,000
NHDR 2012	UNDP	During 2011, UNDP formulated a concept note for the preparation of NHDR, as well as a questionnaire that will be used for the survey. Discussions with MoLSAEO and INSTAT to promote a better use of NHDR data and policy recommendations were facilitated. NHDR, drafted in 2012 on the basis of a survey conducted by INSTAT, will provide information for the revision of the Social Inclusion Strategy.	Tirana	INSTAT, MoLSAEO	January 2011 December 2012	\$37,575	\$30,000

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
National strategy for children, regulatory framework for child rights law, data analysis, monitoring and reporting	UNICEF	The Draft National Strategy for Children for 2012–2015 was developed, drawing upon the experience of the Strategy and Action Plan for 2005–2010. Law No. 10347 On the Protection of the Rights of the Child in Albania entered into force in June 2011 and development of subordinate legislation began. CRUs in charge of child-focused local policy planning at the regional council level were established and are now functional in 11 of the 12 regions. Analysis of the national cash assistance programme and its impact on child well-being was completed and recommendations were shared with government.	Tirana	State Agency for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, MoLSAEO, regional councils	2007–2011	\$1,100,000	\$215,000
Strengthening the health information system	WHO	This activity was postponed until 2012 and, as the project was extended, the funds were carried over. The main objective is the piloting of ICD-10.	Tirana	MoH	2011–2012 (June)	\$35,000	\$35,000
Result 1.1.2							
Brain Gain	UNDP	With UNDP support, Brain Gain has become a part of the policy vernacular in Albania and a successful government strategy, leading to shifts in thinking about the role of the diaspora in the country's development. 550 individuals living abroad are included in the database maintained by the programme. In 2011, 140 such individuals were supported with Brain Gain incentive packages and contributed to teaching, research and policy making in universities and central government. In 2011, GoA granted a contribution of \$500,000 to the programme for 2012.	Tirana	MoES	2006–2012	\$1,346,776	\$150,000
Support to strategy on science and higher education	UNESCO	The National Agency for Technology and Innovation was established to support implementation of the National Science Strategy. A working group for management of a project on R&D statistics was established under the leadership of INSTAT at the inaugural meeting of the second phase of the project organised in Tirana on 14 December 2011.	Tirana	MoES	2008–2012	\$200,090	\$20,000

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 1.1.3							
Monitoring and evaluation, UNRC	UNDP	A fully fledged GoA–UNProgramme of Cooperation 2012–2016 was prepared, including frameworks for the results and resources. The work included facilitation of consultations among UN, GoA, civil society and the donor community. The programme management arrangements were designed and organised around results. A series of tools and mechanisms to operationalise the programme management arrangements were developed and made operational: Terms of Reference of the RBM Advisory Committee, Outcome Coordinators and Output Working Groups, and One UN Coherence Fund Guidelines.	Tirana	UNRCO	2011–2012	\$200,000	\$200,000
Supporting GoA to improve ICT infrastructure, broadband network and capacity building	UNDP	Together with MII, UNDP supported the establishment of anNBN for Albania. Progress was made to prepare GIS policies and legislation, as well as to implement rights of way. With UNDP support, MII introduced reforms in the postal service, based on the sector's best experiences.	National	MI	June 2011 June 2013	\$200,000	\$200,000
Supporting CoM administrative procedures	UNDP	UNDP assisted CoM to enhance its administrative efficiency by reviewing its current business processes and recommending improvements, currently being followed up by both CoM and UNDP.	Tirana	CoM	June 2011 June 2012	\$100,000	\$100,000
ICT at the local level	UNDP	Kamza and Elbasan municipalities were supported in developing an EDMS for processing requests and complaints from citizens, and correspondence with other institutions. In addition, e-portals for both municipalities are being developed with the aim of enhancing citizens' participation in the processes of administration, policymaking, decisionmaking, service delivery, information provision and consultation.	Tirana, Elbasan	Municipalities of Kamza and Elbasan	April 2010 December 2012	\$200,000	\$50,000
Result 1.1.4							
Youth-friendly employment services	UNICEF	As part of the Joint UN Project on YEM, five Youth Employment Service offices were established in five cities, to be part of the National Employment Service, to offer information on local job markets and advise on how to enhance and present individual skills and capacities, in close contact with educational establishments.	Kukes, Shkodra, Elbasan, Fier, Durrës	MoLSAEO, National Employment Service	2009–2011	\$663,000	\$60,000

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 1.2.1							
Disability rights	UNDP	<p>The existing legal and policy framework was assessed against the requirements of CRPD (which has not yet been ratified in Albania). Civil society organisations, consulted in four regions, endorsed the assessment report and its recommendations on aligning the legislation to CRPD.</p> <p>IMWG produced a draft Disability Act that aims to regulate the rights and issues specific to persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Relevant government officials and DPO representatives were exposed to best practices of implementation of CRPD. More than 730 disability-related stakeholders and around 600 students in various regions were trained in human rights of persons with disabilities and in CRPD.</p> <p>The existing accessibility guidelines were assessed against relevant CRPD and EU accessibility standards, while the university syllabus for architects was reviewed to ensure it includes disability awareness training. A number of designs were prepared for public buildings to make them accessible for persons with disabilities.</p>	National	MoLSAEO	July 2010 December 2012	\$820,104	\$370,000
Support to DSDC on Paris Declaration and NSDI monitoring	UNDP	The UN continued to support implementation of the Paris Declaration including preparation of an OECD–DAC survey. In this context, UNDP and DSDC began to conceptualise a roadmap for updating Albania's NSDI.	National	DSDC	September 2009 December 2012	\$450,000	\$150,000
Social housing, statistics and DevInfo	UNICEF	In 11 Albanian regions, regional council CRUs collect statistical information on child well-being using a standardised set of indicators adjusted to the context of Albania from the DevInfo generic package. The first non-governmental national report on the situation of children was published by CROs (a civil society tool used to emphasise the accountability of the government) using disaggregated data they collected in eight regions; capacity for annual reporting was established.	National	State Agency for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, MoLSAEO, regional councils, CROs	2007–2011	\$580,000	\$202,500

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 1.2.2							
Gender JP	UNDP	<p>The revised National Strategy on Gender Equality and against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence was adopted by CoM in 2011 and will inform the interventions by government and NGOs, and donor support, through 2015.</p> <p>In all, 137 professionals have been equipped with skills and knowledge on proper application of legislative framework on domestic violence, including the above-mentioned CoM Decision.</p>	National	MoLSAEO	August 2008 December 2011	\$537,640	\$55,000
SRH curriculum development	UNFPA	UNFPA in collaboration with MoES and ACPD, an IPPF-affiliated NGO, started work on development of an SRH curriculum for pre-university education. The draft for grades five to seven has been developed and is ready to be piloted, along with the training of teachers in 2012.	National	MoES	April 2011–2016	\$240,000	\$30,000
Result 1.3.1							
Support to METE and FDI promotion agency	UNDP	Support to FDI focused on building the capacities of the new FDI agency, AIDA. The national FDI team prepared its 2011 report with the support of UNCTAD. The capacities of AIDA staff to report on FDIs and to better define and elaborate services for SMEs were strengthened through international exposure and training.	National	METE	August 2009 December 2012	\$200,000	\$150,000
Result 1.3.4							
Culture and heritage for social and economic development	UNDP	Significant progress was made in the National History Museum component of the JP through establishment, renovation and refurbishment of the ethnography pavilion.	National	MoTCYS	August 2008 December 2011	\$757,000	\$48,000
Cultural heritage of Albania	UNESCO	<p>Anational conference on illicit trafficking of cultural heritage property was held in November 2011.</p> <p>The work to convert the National History Museum conference room into a multi-purpose hall was completed.</p>	National	MoTCYS	March 2010 June 2012	75,000	\$75,000

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 1.3.5							
Global compact	UNDP	UNDP supported METE in preparing a detailed National Action Plan on CSR to develop the sustainable competitiveness of Albanian companies, create social value for the long-term prosperity and welfare of Albanian citizens and protect the environment for future generations. Private sector representatives were engaged through a national workshop organised in December 2011 to present and discuss the Action Plan.	National	METE, private sector	January 2003 December 2012	\$55,000	\$25,000
TOTAL							\$ 2,415,500

2. PARTICIPATION

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 2.1.1							
Empowering civil society in rural areas	UNDP	The project identified key deficiencies of the third sector, predominantly concentrated in three to five major urban areas. It also provided a platform for a comprehensive strategy to boost civic engagement and participation in policy and decision making in rural and remote areas.	National	Institute for Democracy and Mediation	July 2011 December 2012	\$100,000	\$100,000
Result 2.1.2							
Model UN	UNDP	During 2011, UNRCO maintained close relations with project counterparts through various meetings and updates on the work plan and the subsequent steps. Due to several technical difficulties faced by UNRCO, the process for sub-contracting a national NGO - begun in October 2011 - was extended and will be implemented in 2012.	National	UNRCO, MoES, US Peace Corps, US Embassy	September 2009 July 2012	\$174,850	\$55,000
Strengthening advocacy work on youth, support MoTCYS to strengthen access to information and strengthen peer education on ASRH	UNFPA	25 members of youth parliaments were trained in Youth Policy and Youth Participation. With support of UNFPA, MoTCYS conducted awareness raising activities on healthy lifestyles, ASRH and youth leadership, including through the strengthening of a peer educators network, publication of a series of promotional materials and organisation of cultural and sporting events. 17 local and national NGOs conducted activities on healthy life styles, focusing on HIV and Aids prevention, particularly on the occasion of World Aids Day. MoTCYS capacities to better understand the typology of support and services offered to youths in this area were improved.	National	MoTCYS, NGOs	2008–2011	\$250,000	\$30,000
National Youth Strategy, access to information and services, capacity building of the youth	UNICEF	In 2011, youth parliaments in Tirana, Shkodra, Gjirokastra and Durres were strengthened. The youth parliament national network continued to represent the youth at the prefecture level, bridging between local elected officials and young people. Effective participation and exchanges between youth from various prefectures were supported. The focus of youth initiatives in 2011 was on protection of the environment, volunteering and safer schools.	National	MoTCYS, NGOs	2007–2011	\$920,000	\$116,250

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 2.2.1							
Raising professional skills of Albanian journalists in a globalised world	UNDP	<p>The signing of the GoA–UN Programme of Cooperation was widely publicised in the traditional and social media networks. Around 20 news articles were produced.</p> <p>UN Days—UN Day, World Aids Day, Environment Day, UNV Day, International Women’s Day, Roma Day, 16 Days of Activism against Domestic Violence, and Consumer Protection Day—were strategically used to convey information about the UN’s areas of interventions in Albania, highlighting results in support of the country’s national priorities.</p> <p>Communications support was provided to resident and non-resident agencies, including launch of the World Investment Report, UNV Report, TUS, Support to World at 7 Billion Campaign and COMBI campaign, and support provided to OHCHR through the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.</p> <p>Seven video stories highlighting UN’s work were produced. UN’s updated website attracted around 1,584,729 hits. Over the year, 38 news stories were produced, 28 articles were published on UN social media networks, and five press trips were organised to UN project sites.</p>	National	UN Communication Group	April 2011 June 2012	\$50,000	\$50,000
Young reporters	UNICEF	The TV programme TROÇ, made by young TV reporters for young audiences, produced 150 reports on issues ranging from school management corruption, drugs and alcohol abuse to gender equity from the youth perspective.	National	Youth Media Network, TVSH, Media Institute	2007–2011	\$245,000	\$45,000
Result 2.2.2							
Gender JP	UNDP	Local communities in seven regions implemented a citizen’s scorecards process to highlight gender equality issues and increase women’s participation in local decision making, particularly around the local elections of May 2011. Women in these communities pointed out their needs and concerns, engaged in dialogue with candidates and presented those needs to them, while scoring the degree of responsiveness of local authorities to their needs. This process will continue after the elections in order to hold elected officials accountable for electoral promises and increase local demand for gender needs to be taken into account.	National	MoLSAEO	August 2008 December 2011	\$328,530	\$30,000
TOTAL							\$ 426,250

3. BASIC SERVICES

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 3.1.1							
HIV & AIDS	UNDP	The Biological Behavioural Surveillance Study (BIO BSS) was undertaken by IPH and the team of experts established by this institution. The National Aids Programme is preparing the final report.	National	MoH, IPH	September 2011 July 2012	\$40,000	\$40,000
Support to strengthening health systems performance; Capacity building on gender-based violence of health care providers; Communication for behaviour impact to increase percentage of condom use	UNFPA	<p>As part of the STI Surveillance system, UNFPA supported a national study on chlamydia (with data expected to be released in 2012). The national LMIS was increasingly used to monitor the supply and utilisation of RH commodities. MoH was supported in developing the RH Contraceptive Security Strategy for 2012–2016, while the procurement of basic medical equipment for all maternity hospitals in the country was completed.</p> <p>In close collaboration with MoES, UNFPA launched the COMBI campaign to increase condom use targeting grade nine and high school students and males of reproductive age. In the context of the Joint UN Programme on HIV & Aids (involving UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA), elements of sexual education, family planning and protection to couples were conveyed to adolescents.</p> <p>In 2011 PHDs became a driving force combating GBV through expanding knowledge on the issue. This was done with the accredited training programme successfully introduced by UNFPA in 2010 in the 36 districts of Albania, mainly targeting the structure of the Primary Health Care Women's Consulting Centres. Using a cascade approach and a network of ToTsin six regions (Durrës, Lezha, Dibra, Elbasan, Korça and Fier) the PHDs managed to reach about 60 health care providers as ToTs. As a result, 1,030 health care providers were trained in GBV, offering an inspiring example of the leadership and commitment of MoH local structures to building the capacity of services directly benefitting the communities.</p>	National	MoH	2007–2011	\$1,500,000	\$276,000

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Improve quality of child health services	UNICEF	The data collection to support evidence-based policy planning for a comprehensive upgrade of Mother and child health services was completed. Promotion of breastfeeding continued through expansion of the BFHI network to maternity facilities in Durres, Korça, Kukes, Gjirokastra, Saranda and Fier. A partnership with private-sector food processing industries was formalised for the universal utilisation of iodised salt, as a mandatory element of healthy nutrition policy.	Combination of national and regional	MoH, CHC, KASH, regional PHDs	2007–2011	\$2,100,000	\$128,750
Strengthening the health system performance; Improving coverage and quality of health services	WHO	<p>A number of health institutions, public and private hospitals, health centres, dental services, pharmaceutical services and medical laboratories were accredited on a pilot basis following the government formulation of a regulation for the accreditation process.</p> <p>In the area of healthcare waste management, under the Technical Assistance Programme Phase II, hospital administration capacities in waste management were strengthened, including by supporting waste management performance audits and establishing waste working groups. Draft infection control plan guidelines at TUHC were developed. In this context, a cost benefit analysis of infectious healthcare waste management services was performed and a status report on the Hydroclaves was prepared.</p> <p>A pilot survey to assess exposure to indoor air pollution in schools was conducted to test the proposed survey design and data collection methods and to produce preliminary data characterising the levels of pollution exposure of Albanian children, and school-to-school variability in the exposure due to air quality.</p> <p>WHO and MoH conducted and presented a situation analysis during the launch of the road safety decade in November, with the participation of several stakeholders.</p>	National	MoH	2011–2012 (June)	\$185,000	\$185,000

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 3.1.2							
Community based interventions for child health	UNICEF	Support was provided to community-driven interventions, such as awareness and behavioural change initiatives and mother support groups in the Durres area, to promote optimal feeding practices for infants and young children. The integrated management of child illnesses, combined with active preventive approaches, was tested in five communes in Korça district through the Community Health Boards.	Target communities in Durres and Korça, as models	MoH, CHC, regional PHDs	2010–2011	\$500,000	\$37,500
Result 3.2.1							
Zero drop-out and pre-school/ ECD access	UNICEF	CFS principles have provided the base for drafting CFS standards and recommendations that were reflected in the new Pre-University Law. Specific curriculum (one to nine grade) on Roma history was developed too. REDs in seven of the 12 regions were supported in equipping staff with skills in data collection, analysis, action planning and monitoring of school attendance, drop outs and learning outcomes, in line with the ongoing decentralisation reform. A national summer school programme targeted round 3,000 children with vulnerable backgrounds (including Roma) helped improve enrolment coverage for the academic year of 2011-2012. Support to 400 pre-primary classes (corresponding to about 25 percent of all basic education schools) contributed to an increase from 50 percent to 70 percent of pre-school enrolment in the age group of five to six years.	Target regions	MoES, REDs in Gjirokastra, Korça, Kukes, Durres, Berat, Fier and Tirana	2007–2011	\$1,400,000	\$372,500
Result 3.2.2							
In-service training for teachers	UNICEF	200 education professionals were trained as 'interactive education champions' to share with other teachers innovative methods of classroom management and teaching that would encourage children to actively participate in the learning process and reveal the arcane drop-out group of chronic low performers.	National	MoES, Institute for Education Development, Teaching Institute	2007–2011	\$1,000,000	\$97,500

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 3.2.3							
Parents boards and Student Governments	UNICEF	Three regional parents boards, attached to REDs in Kukes, Korça and Gjirokastra, were established in addition to the school boards. The new school governance model enables parents' boards participation in matters affecting the learning environment and extracurricular opportunities. A model of well-functioning of Student Governments/SG and interaction between and REDs in Kukes and Korça was evaluated. It provides encouraging results for the national scaling up. Recommendations for new Normative provisions were provided by SG project pilot. The Pre-University Law of 2011 was revised with inputs from the parents' boards as they increasingly provide advice to education policy makers.	National	MoES, REDs	2007–2011	\$530,000	\$22,500
Result 3.3.1							
HIV & AIDS	UNDP	Support was provided to MoLSAEO to establish a team, comprising people living with HIV/AIDS and representatives from MoH and IPH, for drafting subordinate legislation to the Law on HIV. The departments of Social Work and of Sociology developed a process for integration of HIV issues in the annual revision of school curricula by faculties.	National	IPH, universities, MoLSAEO	October 2011 October 2012	\$50,000	\$50,000
Protection services and mechanisms, including foster care and protocols for HIV prevention, families living with HIV	UNICEF	A detailed roadmap for comprehensive reform of the State Social Services was developed in 2011, aiming to establish a case management and referral system effectively reaching out to families and children. CPUs became operational in 28 municipalities, with financial support of LGUs. Use of the National Child Helpline 'ALO 116' increased in volume. In line with the approved national foster care standards, the first 80 children out of a total of 600 in residential care were placed into foster families. Daily assistance to more than 230 Roma and Egyptian families was provided by a multi-purpose child protection centre opened by the Municipality of Tirana in 2011.	National	MoLSAEO, State Social Services, Mol	2007–2011	\$4,400,000	\$812,500

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 3.3.2							
Juvenile justice	UNICEF	In 2011, the application of alternatives to detention (community services, probation orders) in seven districts reached approximately 240 cases (or about 25 percent of the total number of juvenile offence cases). Victim and offender mediation and probation services in penitentiary were provided in 280 cases in six districts. Free legal assistance for juveniles in pre-trial detention was offered in approximately 120 cases in five districts. Some 130 youths benefited from the social rehabilitation programme in the Kavaja Reintegration Institute and from the aftercare programme 'The Sky is for All'. A draft Justice for Children Strategy was formulated and a special costing tool was provided to help the action planning from a fiscal perspective.	National	MoJ	2007–2011	\$2,510,000	\$325,000
Result 3.3.3							
Healthy lifestyles and HIV & Aids communication	UNICEF	The NAP advocacy effort to prioritise at-risk adolescents in the forthcoming National HIV&Aids Strategy (awaiting endorsement by MoH) was supported. The collaboration with NAP also produced a gender-sensitive National Action Plan for Most at-Risk Adolescents (2011–2015).	National	MoH, MoES	2007–2011	\$6,260,000	\$150,000
Result 3.3.5							
Reducing violence in schools	UNICEF	A nationwide COMBI initiative was launched to reduce violence in schools, kindergartens and child care institutions. The initiative is planning to engage 40,000 teachers and 500,000 children to promote non-violent communication and disciplining and to reduce the levels of reported violence by 80percent by the end of 2013.	National	MoES	2010–2013	\$1,000,000	\$150,000
Gender JP	UNDP	CoM approved a Decision 'On the set up and functioning of the Community Coordination and Referral Mechanism against Domestic Violence' obliging all local authorities to respond in a coordinated and inter-disciplinary way to cases of domestic violence. UNDP supported GoA to open a shelter for survivors of domestic violence, by providing furnishings, equipment and technical assistance for development of the related regulatory framework, and by building capacities of the shelter's staff.	National	MoLSAEO	August 2008 December 2011	\$630,522	\$68,000
TOTAL							\$ 2,715,250

4. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 4.1.2							
Cross border cooperation—tourism feasibility study, Durres	UNDP	In 2011, the Terms of Reference for a study on cross-border cooperation were finalised and calls for proposals initiated. The selection of the winning company took place and the work was completed in 2012.	Durres	MoTCYS	October 2011 December 2012	\$100,000	\$100,000
Result 4.1.3							
ArtGold 2	UNDP	In the regions of Vlora and Shkodra, the capacities of local actors (i.e. LGU staff, civil society, local businesses) in writing project proposals and in mobilising resources were strengthened through training delivered by a national NGO, with the aim of developing ten project proposals in the context of a \$100,000 competitive grant scheme.	Shkodra, Vlora	MoI, METE, MoH, MoES, LGUs, Local Economic Development Agency in Vlora and in Shkodra	December 2009 December 2012	\$2,438,484	\$150,000
Result 4.1.4							
Mine action	UNDP	Based on a MoU signed between UNDP Albania and MoD, a framework of assistance and plan of action was developed for the Albanian Mines and Ammunition Coordination Office (AMMCO). Technical and socio-economic impact assessments were completed for 14 Unexploded ordnance hotspots throughout Albania and 1.7 million square metres were identified as dangerous in ten of these hotspots. The clearance operations started in Ura e Gjadrit, Shkodra, hotspots are being monitored by the AMMCO Quality Management Team, which is also coordinating donor activities related to mine victims' assistance.	National	MoD, Albanian Armed Forces, LGUs, Sterling Int./Danish ChurchAid, International Trust Fund in Slovenia, Albania Red Cross, University Rehabilitation Institute Slovenia, ICRC, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Regional Hospitals	January 2011 December 2013	\$114,000	\$160,000

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 4.2.2							
Marine fisheries and aquaculture	FAO	<p>This project was signed in December 2011 with the aim of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) supporting the drafting of a strategic plan for practical implementation, monitoring and evaluation of fisheries technical measures in line with EU legislation and GFCM, with particular emphasis on the trawler fleet (ii) supporting workshops and training for research institutes and the fishing industry in appropriate Bycatch Reduction Devices (iii) supporting aquaculture development in Albania. 	National	Albanian Fishery Policy Directorate, MoEFWA	1 January 2012 31 December 2012	\$146 000	\$146,000
TOTAL							\$ 556,000

5. ENVIRONMENT

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 5.1.2							
National cleaner production	UNEP	In 2011, the capacities of a first group of national experts in RECP were strengthened through provision of training that included completion of audits in 12 demonstration companies (five from the accommodation sector, five from the food and beverages sector and two from the quarrying sector). Two awareness workshops on RECP were organised for national experts in southern and northern regions. A national workshop that took place in June 2011 validated the priority RECP Policy Instruments identified and consolidated in the report <i>Policy Instruments for the Promotion of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production in Albania</i> .	National	MoEFWA, METE	2009–2011	\$194,450	\$39,844
National cleaner production programme	UNIDO	<p>Between March 2010 and March 2011, the industry and capacity building component of NCPP completed its first cycle of expert trainings, in-plant demonstrations and awareness and industry outreach. A total of 14 enterprises from food and beverages, quarrying and hotels sectors, benefited from the detailed assessments conducted by national trainee experts, supported by international experts. For all enterprises, practical solutions were identified for cost effective reduction of energy and water consumption, and reduction of waste, effluent and emissions. In addition, the NCPP host institution (Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology, ECAT), developed into a national RECP focal point, through contributions to awareness workshops, industry and policy consultations.</p> <p>In September 2011, the second round of expert training and industry demonstrations started, with participation of 20 enterprises from hotel, olive, wine and related food sectors, mostly located in northern, southern and eastern Albania. Moreover, preparation of an RECP primer for enterprises, sector guidelines and success stories on RECP in enterprises was also started.</p>	National	MoEFWA, METE	2009–2012	\$ 642,579	\$75,000

Project	Agency	Summary of achievements in 2011	Location	Implementing partners	Programme duration	Total budget by project	One UN funds received during 2011
Result 5.1.4							
UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme	UNDP	Through the Small Grants Programme, financial and technical support was channelled directly to NGOs and CBOs to improve hosting conditions in the context of guest-house tourism in the remote village of Theth, and in the small mountainous communities of Cemi, Doberdol and Rragam, as a sustainable model for fighting poverty in low-income communities in northern Albania. In addition, the use of solar photovoltaic-powered irrigation pumps and olive pomace burners on small agricultural farms was supported and a bike sharing system in Tirana was promoted.	Tirana, Theth, Cemi, Doberdol, Rragam	Institute for Development Research and Alternatives, PASS, Together for Life, Credits and Savings Association (HABA)	2011-2012	\$150,000	\$150,000
CLEEN	UNICEF	This project introduced environmental education modules to school grades one to five and complemented textbook-based knowledge with outdoor activities, including the collection and recycling of plastic waste. The project enriched the classroom experience of young children, which was reflected in achievement of better marks.	National	MoEFWA, MoES	2007-2011	\$2,200,000	\$387,500
Result 5.2.1							
Disaster preparedness	UNESCO	The capacities in risk preparedness and management of cultural heritage sites of stakeholders in the three WHSs and in Apollonia Archaeological Park, Mol, MoCTYS, park staff, LGUs, and the civil emergency department were strengthened through a one-week training organised in Berat in November 2011. The first draft of a study on the seismic vulnerability of Albania's WHSs was prepared.	National	Mol	January 2010 June 2012	130,000	\$80,000
TOTAL							\$ 732,344

Annex 2:

Administrative Agent Financial Report on One UN Coherence Fund for 2011

The Albania One UN Coherence Fund is administered by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in New York, with certain functions delegated to UNDP at country-level. Established in 2006, the MPTF Office is the fund administrator for the UN system when UNDP is selected to administer donor funds intended for multi-agency operations established in the context of humanitarian, transition, reconstruction and development programmes.

The pass-through fund-management mechanism used for the transfer of funds enhances UN transparency and accountability, a direct application of the Aid Effectiveness Agenda and UN Reform initiative “Delivering as One”, and is consistent with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, including national ownership and alignment with national priorities, harmonisation and coordination, effective and inclusive partnerships, and achieving development results and accounting for them.

The MPTF Office uses this arrangement to enable partnerships between donors, Governments and UN organisations. As per the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between Participating UN Organisations and the Administrative Agent (AA), as well as the Standard Administrative Arrangement concluded between donors and the AA, the responsibilities of the AA include the receipt, administration and management of contributions from the donors, disbursement of such funds to Participating UN Organisations in accordance with the approved programmatic documents, and provisions of consolidated reports, based on the reports submitted by Participating UN Organisations.

Transparency and Accountability

A major vehicle for ensuring the public transparency of operations under the Albania One UN Coherence Fund during the reporting period was the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

Launched in 2010, the UNDP MPTF Office GATEWAY serves as a knowledge platform providing real-time data from the MPTF Office accounting system (Atlas) on financial information on donor contributions, programme budgets and transfers to Participating UN Organizations. It is designed to provide transparent, accountable fund-management services to the United Nations system to enhance its coherence, effectiveness and efficiency. Each

MPTF and JP administered by the MPTF Office has its own website on the GATEWAY with the extensive narrative and financial information on the MPTF/JP including its strategic framework, governance arrangements, eligibility and allocation criteria. Annual financial and narrative progress reports and quarterly/semi-annual updates on the

results being achieved are also available. In addition, each programme has a factsheet with programme -specific facts, figures and updates.

The MPTF Office GATEWAY provides easy access to more than 9,000 reports and documents on MPTFs/JPs and individual programmes, with tools and tables displaying related financial data. By enabling users in the field through easy access to upload progress reports and related documents, it also facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN agencies. The MPTF Office GATEWAY is already being recognized as a 'standard setter' by peers and partners.

Financial Performance of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund

This Financial Performance section includes key financial data on the Albania One UN Coherence Fund. It has been consolidated by the MPTF Office, the Administrative Agent of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund Expenditure data is consolidated on the basis of reports submitted by Participating Organisations. Financial information is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Due to rounding, totals in the tables may not add up.

The present financial report covers resources transferred from the One UN Coherence Fund to Participating UN Organisations between 1 January and 31 December 2011. A total of USD 6,845,344 was transferred to Participating UN Organisations in 2011. The expended amount of USD 7,323,805 is higher than the transferred amount due to carry over from previous years³. The Joint Executive Committee (JEC), co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Director of the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination within the Council of Ministers, allocated resources on 21 April 2010 as funds became available. Tables 5 and 6 provide detailed information on delivery rates.

³ Participating UN Organisations are entitled to deduct up to 7% as indirect costs from transfers made from the One UN Coherence Fund.

1.1 Financial Overview

The table below provides a financial overview of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund as of 31 December 2011, highlighting the key figures as well as the balance available, both with the Administrative Agent (MPTF Office) and Participating Organisations.

Table 1: Sources, Uses and Balance of Fund, as of 31 December 2011

USD 000	2007 - 2010	2011	TOTAL
Source of Funds			
Gross Contributions	23,262	2,384	25,645
Fund Earned Interest Income	220	32	252
Participating UN Organization Earned Interest Income	56	30	87
Total - Source of Funds	23,538	2,446	25,985
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating UN Organizations	15,413	6,845	22,259
Administrative Agent Fees	233	24	256
Bank Charges	197	220	418
Total - Use of Funds	15,646	6,869	22,516
Balance of Funds Available with Administrative Agent	7,892	(4,423)	3,469
Transfers to Participating UN Organizations	15,413	6,845	22,259
Expenditure by Participating UN Organizations	11,894	7,324	19,217
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations	3,520	(478)	3,041

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP

1.2 Donor Contributions

The table below displays the breakdown of the contributions (deposits) received. In 2011, USD 2,383,702 was received in donor contributions. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2011, donor contributions to the Albania One UN Coherence Fund amounted to USD 25,645,490.

Table 2: Total Donor Deposits, cumulative as of 31 December 2011

USD 000	GROSS DONOR DEPOSITS		
DONOR NAME	2007 - 2010	2011	TOTAL
Austria	961	254	1,215
European Union	3,459	-	3,459
Expanded DaO Funding Window ⁴	3,313	295	3,608
Finland	-	394	394
The Netherlands	3,846	-	3,846
Norway	3,338	-	3,338
Spain	4,000	-	4,000
Sweden	2,726	1,440	4,166
Switzerland	1,620	-	1,620
TOTAL	23,262	2,384	25,645

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP

⁴ The Expanded Delivering as One Funding Window for Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (EFW) is a global funding facility established to support Delivering as One countries. Current donors to the EFW are the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom.

1.3 Transfer of Approved Funding to Participating Organisations

As of 31 December 2011, the Albania One UN Coherence Fund had funded approved programme-funding of a net total of USD 22,258,825. The distribution of approved funding by Participating Organisations is summarised in the table below.

Table 3: Transfer of Funds by Participating UN Organisation, cumulative as of 31 December 2011

USD 000	FUNDS TRANSFERRED		
PARTICIPATING UN ORGANIZATION	2007 - 2010	2011	TOTAL
FAO	169	146	315
UNDP	6,260	2,731	8,991
UNEP	214	40	254
UNESCO	240	175	415
UNFPA	2,983	336	3,319
UNICEF	3,829	3,123	6,951
UNIDO	418	75	493
UNWOMEN	950	-	950
WHO	350	220	570
TOTAL	15,413	6,845	22,259

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP

1.4 Expenditure

As of 31 December 2011, a total of USD 19, 217,413 was reported by Participating Organisations as expenditure, which is the equivalent to a delivery rate of 86.34%.

All expenditure reports were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organisations through the MPTF Office's UNEX Financial Reporting Portal, and extracted and consolidated by the MPTF Office. The tables below provide different cuts on this expenditure data. Additional tables on expenditure, including expenditure tables by Participating Organisation with breakdowns by budget category are available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

Any over-expenditure reported by Participating Organisations, and reflected in the tables below, will be corrected in Participating Organisations' 2012 financial reporting.

Table 4 below displays transfers and expenditures of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund in 2011 and presents the financial delivery rates. Financial delivery rates are measured in terms of expenditure as a proportion of the amount transferred.

Table 4: Transfer of Funds and Expenditure by Participating UN Organisation and One UN Programme Results, cumulative as of 31 December 2011

USD 000	Agency	Total Transfers	2008 - 2011 Expenditure	Delivery Rate (%)
One UN Programme Results				
GOVERNANCE				
Result 1.1.1 - National capacities for collection, analysis and use of data strengthened	UNFPA	1,638	1,736	105.99
	UNICEF	645	608	94.29
	UNWOMEN	110	100	90.90
	WHO	55	40	72.73
	UNDP	1,118	1,032	92.33
Result 1.1.2 - National Capacity strengthened to retain required human resources in public sector and academia	UNESCO	85	60	71.26
	UNDP	869	840	96.70
Result 1.1.3 - Government systems are modernized and public administration increases effectiveness	WHO	60	60	100.00
	UNDP	1,009	635	62.93
Result 1.1.4 - Migration Management is enhanced through better alignment	UNICEF	60	60	100.00
	UNDP	20	-	-
Result 1.2.1 - Support mechanisms are in place to coordinate, implement and monitor the NSDI with strong emphasis on social inclusion	UNICEF	525	525	99.91
	UNDP	1,010	633	62.69
Result 1.2.2 - Government effectively resources and implements gender equality commitments	UNFPA	30	25	82.31
	UNICEF	60	60	99.99
	UNWOMEN	296	277	93.48
	UNDP	478	-	-
Result 1.3.1 - Government and national institutions address challenges of WTO, SAA	UNDP	350	340	97.25
Result 1.3.2 - Government puts in place legal and economic reforms necessary to reduce informality	UNDP	417	417	100.00
Result 1.3.4 - Government better able to protect cultural heritage and promote eco-tourism	UNESCO	200	136	68.19
	UNDP	48	-	-
Result 1.3.5 - Government puts in place socially inclusive policies and regulatory framework	UNDP	55	47	86.20

PARTICIPATION				
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	UNICEF	75	74	100.00
	UNWOMEN	152	151	99.69
	UNDP	235	133	56.50
Result 2.1.2 - Increased dialogue between duty bearers and women, children and youth	UNFPA	259	280	108.43
	UNICEF	493	418	84.93
	UNDP	120	118	98.59
Result 2.1.3 - Roma participation in decision making and access to services increased	UNDP	107	107	100.00
Result 2.2.1 - Media reports on development issues more systematic and of better quality	UNICEF	160	155	96.66
	UNDP	110	79	71.87
Result 2.2.2 - Government increasingly promotes women's participation in politics, public debate	UNWOMEN	392	379	96.69
	UNDP	329	317	96.44
BASIC SERVICES				
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	UNFPA	1,363	1,238	90.82
	UNICEF	343	293	85.31
	WHO	455	379	83.37
	UNDP	40	31	78.40
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	UNICEF	117	117	99.77
	UNDP	57	57	100.00
Result 3.2.1 - The Ministry of Education encourages the inclusion of children from marginalized groups	UNICEF	655	654	99.91
Result 3.2.2 - The Ministry of Education puts in place relevant standards for sector reform	UNICEF	239	239	100.00
Result 3.2.3 - Children and parents participate more actively in school administration and governance	UNICEF	118	117	99.95
Result 3.2.4 - Educational and employment opportunities are expanded through the introduction of ICT in schools	UNDP	568	568	100.00
Result 3.3.1 - Child protection legislation policies, standards and protocols are in place	UNICEF	1,751	1,732	98.93
	UNDP	50	-	-

Result 3.3.2 - A child oriented juvenile justice system is established	UNICEF	545	532	97.69
Result 3.3.3 - Civil society and users groups able to demand quality social services	UNICEF	450	334	74.30
Result 3.3.4 - Stateless persons, in particular Roma, are registered and legalized to benefit from basic services	UNICEF	40	40	99.99
Result 3.3.5 - Institutional, legal and community services on domestic violence are improved and awareness raised on negative impact of domestic violence	UNICEF	250	250	99.99
	UNDP	690	1,126	163.14
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT				
Result 4.1.2 - Comprehensive regional development strategies are developed and implemented in three disadvantaged pilot regions	UNDP	100	1	1.14
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	UNFPA	30	7	24.60
	UNDP	222	72	32.46
Result 4.1.4 - Economic development is expanded in three pilot areas	FAO	169	146	86.07
	UNDP	160	100	62.23
Result 4.2.2 - Fisheries legislation, food control and related agro-processing methods animal genetic resources adhere to EU standards.	FAO	146	-	-
ENVIRONMENT				
Result 5.1.1 – Ministry of Environment has greater capacity to raise the profile of environment in national policies	UNEP	80	30	37.14
	UNDP	105	90	85.97
Result 5.1.2 - Legal and regulatory mechanisms and fiscal incentives in place	UNEP	145	101	70.04
	UNIDO	493	350	71.02
	UNDP	150	44	29.19
Result 5.1.3 - MoE has greater capacity to raise the profile of environment in national policies	UNDP	100	44	43.59
Result 5.1.4 - Civil society provides increasingly substantive support in mainstreaming environment	UNICEF	428	377	88.26
	UNDP	275	77	27.86
Result 5.2.1 - Decision making for energy sector investment includes climate change risks	UNESCO	130	97	74.35
Result 5.2.3 - Risk reduced to human and environmental health by remediation of hot spots	UNEP	30	30	100.00
Result 5.2.4 - Enhanced capacities to improve air quality, solid waste and drinking water access	UNDP	200	101	50.49

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP

Table 5: Financial Delivery Rates, as of 31 December 2011⁵

USD 000	Previous Years		2011		TOTAL		
	2007 - 2010 Transfers	2008 - 2010 Expenditure	Transfers	Expenditure	2007 - 2011 Transfers	2008 - 2011 Expenditure	Delivery Rate (%)
Governance	6,722	5,371	2,415	2,261	9,137	7,632	83.52
Participation	2,003	1,604	426	608	2,429	2,212	91.04
Basic Services	5,015	4,359	2,715	3,349	7,730	7,708	99.71
Regional Development	271	125	556	201	827	326	39.39
Environment	1,402	434	732	906	2,135	1,340	62.78
TOTAL	15,413	11,894	6,845	7,324	22,259	19,217	86.34

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP

⁵ While 2007 transfers to Participating UN Organisations have been recorded, 2007 expenditure has not been recorded in the above official table. Of USD 500,000 transferred to participating UN Organisations (UNDP) in 2007, USD 499,907.21 have been spent that year. If 2007 expenditure was to be included, cumulative delivery rate in Table 5 would increase to 88.56%.

Table 6: Expenditure by Category and Reporting Period, cumulative as of 31 December 2011

USD 000	EXPENDITURE			
Category	2008 - 2010	2011	TOTAL	% of Total Programme Costs 2008 - 2011
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport	866	970	1,836	10.24
Personnel	4,254	1,970	6,224	34.72
Training of Counterparts	140	232	372	2.07
Contracts	4,988	3,289	8,277	46.17
Other Direct Costs	818	400	1,217	6.79
Programme Costs Total	11,066	6,860	17,926	100.00
Indirect Support Costs	828	464	1,292	7.21
TOTAL	11,894	7,324	19,217	

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP

Table 7: Expenditure by Participating UN Agencies 2008 - 2011, with breakdown by Category, cumulative as of 31 December 2011

USD 000	Expenditure 2008 - 2011 by CATEGORY									
Participating UN Agency	2007 - 2011 Transfers	2008 - 2011 Expenditure	Supplies, com, equipment	Personnel	Training	Contracts	Other Direct Costs	Total Programme Cost	Indirect Costs	% of Total Programme Costs
FAO	315	146	4	77	43	0	12	136	10	7.00
UNDP	8,991	7,009	286	3,813	12	1,650	773	6,534	475	7.27
UNEP	254	161	-	88	1	61	-	150	11	7.00
UNESCO	415	293	8	89	10	160	7	274	19	7.00
UNFPA	3,319	3,286	1,166	868	288	534	217	3,073	213	6.94
UNICEF	6,951	6,586	344	483	16	5,161	151	6,155	431	7.00
UNIDO	493	350	-	157	2	160	8	327	23	7.00
UNWOMEN	950	907	18	399	-	380	41	838	70	8.34
WHO	570	479	10	249	-	172	7	439	41	9.26
Grand Total	22,259	19,217	1,836	6,224	372	8,277	1,217	17,926	1,292	7.21

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP

1.5 Balance of funds

As per the Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2011, a net amount of USD 22,258,825 had been transferred to Participating Organisations. This is 87% per cent of gross donor contributions to the Albania One UN Coherence Fund, with the remaining 1% representing the AA-fee.

The balance of USD 339,229 represents the interest earned by the Administrative Agent and Participating Organisations as of 31 December 2011, and may be allocated by the appropriate governing body to programmatic activities. The unutilised balances remaining with Participating Organisations as of 31 December 2011 was USD 3,041,413 (or 13.7% of transferred amount).

1.6 Cost Recovery

The cost recovery for the Albania One UN Coherence Fund is guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organisations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Donors.

Cost recovery, as of 31 December 2011, was as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent fee:** 1% charged at the time of donor deposits and is for the entire duration of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund. In the reporting period USD 23,837 was deducted as AA-fee. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2011, USD 256,454 has been deducted as AA-fee.
- **Indirect costs** are limited to 7 per cent of amount transferred. However, Participating UN Organisations may charge indirect support costs on total project budget amounts at the time of receiving the allocation, instead of on actual expenditures, as permissible by their regulations and rules, with appropriate adjustments to be made upon project completion and/or before the end year closure. Total average of indirect costs is 7.21% as shown in table 7.

Annex 3: One UN Budgetary Framework (status of March 2012)

The One UN Budgetary Framework provides a results-based financial overview on: (a) core/regular resources; (b) existing extra-budgetary or non-core resources; and (c) funding gap. It is structured by the five outcomes of the One UN Programme. The amounts reflected in the One UN Budgetary Framework are estimates only and do not reflect binding commitments by Participating UN Organisations.

According to the Budgetary Framework as of March 2012, the total amount of the One UN Programme 2007-2011 is USD 92 million. Delivery of the One UN Programme was approximately USD 15 million in 2008, USD 18 million in 2009, USD 23 million in 2010, and USD 25 million in 2011. The remaining funding gaps of 2011 add up to USD 675,000.


USD 000	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011			Total for 2007-2011			Totals per Outcome/ Output
	Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		
	Core	Received/ Pledged/ Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged/ Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged/ Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged/ Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged/ Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged/ Non-core funds	Unfunded	
OUTCOME 1: GOVERNANCE																			
Result 1.1.1 National capacities for collection, analysis and use of data strengthened	132	75	0	157	1,120	0	126	1,585	0	115	1,162	0	193	1,099	35	723	5,041	35	5,798
Result 1.1.2 National Capacity strengthened to retain required human resources in public sector and academia	125	10	0	94	138	0	62	399	0	0	406	0	0	211	0	281	1,165	0	1,446
Result 1.1.3 Government systems are modernized and public administration increase effectiveness	16	34	0	75	267	0	11	121	0	10	141	0	0	365	0	112	928	0	1,041
Result 1.1.4 Migration Management is enhanced through better alignment	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	418	0	0	919	0	0	1,503	0	0	2,852	0	2,852
Result 1.1.5 Asylum laws and National Action Plan implemented by Government in line with EU standards	290	0	0	300	0	0	257	0	0	150	0	0	180	0	0	1,177	0	0	1,177
Result 1.2.1 Government has systems in place to implement NSDI with emphasis on social inclusion	115	366	0	86	98	0	49	95	0	112	415	0	138	1,134	0	500	2,108	0	2,608
Result 1.2.2 Government effectively resources and implements gender equality commitments	37	90	0	26	227	0	34	304	0	80	342	0	167	278	0	344	1,240	0	1,584
Result 1.3.1 Government and national institutions address challenges of WTO, SAA	56	50	0	19	318	0	37	240	0	0	165	0	0	141	0	112	914	0	1,026
Result 1.3.2 Government puts in place legal and economic reforms necessary to reduce informality	632	453	0	30	160	0	20	14	0	20	141	0	0	0	0	702	767	0	1,470
Result 1.3.3 Government and Social Partners effectively implement international labor and other human rights standards	30	50	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	60	73	0	133
Result 1.3.4 Government better able to protect cultural heritage and promote eco-tourism	155	304	0	52	833	0	0	906	0	4	1,846	0	45	1,335	0	256	5,225	0	5,481
Result 1.3.5 Government puts in place policies, regulatory framework that are socially inclusive	45	137	0	65	20	0	0	521	0	0	419	0	0	937	0	110	2,033	0	2,143
Totals per column/year	1,634	1,567	0	934	3,191	0	596	4,602	0	491	5,980	0	722	7,005	35	4,377	22,346	35	26,758
Totals per year	3,202			4,125			5,198			6,471			7,762			26,758			

USD 000 One UN Programme Outcomes and Results	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011			Total for 2007-2011			Totals per Outcome/ Output
	Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		
	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	
OUTCOME 2: PARTICIPATION																			
Result 2.1.1 Civil society (including Roma, women, migrants, person with disabilities, youth) has the capacity and mechanisms to monitor performance of state institutions, and be part of the decision making and policy process.	46	100	0	60	271	0	15	159	0	9	95	0	35	31	150	165	656	150	971
Result 2.1.2 Increased dialogue between duty bearers and women, children, persons with disabilities and youth in the decision making processes that impact their lives	22	303	0	173	266	0	108	400	0	76	208	0	135	219	0	515	1,396	0	1,910
Result 2.1.3 Roma participation in decision making and access to services increased	2	6	0	163	100	0	397	70	0	90	262	0	0	915	0	653	1,353	0	2,006
Result 2.1.4 Tripartite social dialogue between employers' and worker's organizations and national authorities enhanced	5	75	0	15	51	0	15	38	0	15	287	0	20	86	0	70	537	0	607
Result 2.2.1 Media reports on development issues more systematic and of better quality	5	0	0	0	9	0	57	51	0	119	80	0	115	60	0	296	200	0	497
Result 2.2.2 Government increasingly promotes women's participation in politics, public debate	19	202	0	48	31	0	140	260	0	119	286	0	147	368	0	473	1,146	0	1,619
Totals per column/year	99	686	0	460	728	0	733	977	0	429	1,219	0	452	1,678	150	2,172	5,288	150	7,610
Totals per year	785			1,188			1,710			1,647			2,280			7,610			

USD 000 One UN Programme Outcomes and Results	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011			Total for 2007-2011			Totals per Outcome/ Output
	Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		
	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	
OUTCOME 3: BASIC SERVICES																			
Result 3.1.1 MoH puts in place inclusive policies, regulatory and institutional frameworks	410	635	0	507	1,344	0	429	1,969	0	598	2,387	0	640	3,058	85	2,584	9,392	85	12,061
Result 3.1.2 Civil society and user groups demand quality health care services	73	80	0	0	146	0	0	415	0	21	186	0	15	60	0	109	887	0	996
Result 3.2.1 The Ministry of Education encourages the inclusion of children from marginalized groups	15	176	0	0	350	0	15	130	0	103	597	0	128	818	0	260	2,071	0	2,330
Result 3.2.2 MoEs puts in place relevant standards for sector reform	11	299	0	18	618	0	35	91	0	0	922	0	0	631	0	64	2,560	0	2,624
Result 3.2.3 Children and parents participate more actively in school administration and governance	23	40	0	0	168	0	0	10	0	0	225	0	0	21	0	23	464	0	487
Result 3.2.4 Education and employment opportunities are expanded through ICT	30	290	0	23	279	0	48	270	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	101	841	0	942
Result 3.3.1 Child protection legislation policies, standards and protocols are in place	35	828	0	45	1,078	0	45	485	0	97	864	0	38	1,012	50	260	4,267	50	4,577
Result 3.3.2 A child oriented juvenile justice system is established	0	470	0	0	638	0	0	523	0	14	191	0	0	295	0	14	2,117	0	2,131
Result 3.3.3 Civil society and users groups able to demand quality social services	9	80	0	0	110	0	11	216	0	14	63	0	16	43	0	50	512	0	562
Result 3.3.4 Stateless persons in particular Roma are registered and legalize to benefit from basic services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	265	0	0	265	0	265
Result 3.3.5 Institutional legal services on domestic violence improved	10	70	0	65	158	0	0	267	0	0	267	0	97	400	0	171	1,162	0	1,333
Totals per column/year	615	2,968	0	658	4,888	0	583	4,376	0	846	5,703	0	933	6,604	135	3,635	24,540	135	28,310
Totals per year		3,583			5,547			4,958			6,550			7,672			28,310		

USD 000	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011			Total for 2007-2011			Totals per Outcome/ Output
	Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		
	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	
OUTCOME 4: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT																			
Result 4.1.1 Relevant Government institutions implement Regional Development strategy with adequate human and financial resources.	0	0	0	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	0	73	116	0	188
Result 4.1.2 Comprehensive regional development strategies are developed and implemented	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	94	0	147	444	0	143	1,210	0	415	1,747	0	2,162
Result 4.1.3 Central and regional governments are strengthened to design and implement	182	486	0	10	141	0	150	910	0	200	1,781	0	50	1,512	0	592	4,829	0	5,421
Result 4.1.4 Economic development is expanded in 3 pilot areas through enhanced human security and locally appropriate initiatives	138	2,533	0	90	1,285	0	1	612	0	91	693	0	171	747	160	492	5,870	160	6,522
Result 4.2.1. Modern land consolidation improved through development of pilot design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	207	0	0	228	0	0	228
Result 4.2.2. Fisheries legislation, food control and agro-processing, animal genetic resources adhere to EU standards	0	150	0	53	160	0	213	526	0	13	1,542	0	0	373	50	280	2,751	50	3,081
Totals per column/year	320	3,168	0	226	1,586	0	490	2,141	0	473	4,459	0	570	3,958	210	2,079	15,313	210	17,602
Totals per year	3,488			1,812			2,631			4,932			4,739			17,602			

USD 000 One UN Programme Outcomes and Results	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011			Total for 2007-2011			Totals per Outcome/ Output
	Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		Regular	Other		
	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	Core	Received/ Pledged Non-core funds	Unfunded	
OUTCOME 5: ENVIRONMENT																			
Result 5.1.1 MoE has greater capacity to raise the profile of environment in national policies	30	15	0	20	60	0	40	13	0	0	163	0	30	65	0	120	315	0	435
Result 5.1.2 Legal and regulatory mechanisms and fiscal incentives in place	0	274	0	69	284	0	65	297	0	75	460	0	184	449	75	392	1,764	75	2,231
Result 5.1.3 MoE has increased capacity for Environmental Assessment and information	0	0	0	27	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	20	27	54	20	101
Result 5.1.4 Civil society provides increasingly substantive support in mainstreaming environment	0	250	0	0	716	0	0	671	0	0	948	0	0	417	50	0	3,002	50	3,052
Result 5.2.1 Decision making for energy sector investment includes climate change risks	0	199	0	7	113	0	0	282	0	71	480	0	51	744	0	129	1,817	0	1,946
Result 5.2.2 Capacities and legal framework in place for accessing Carbon financing opportunities	0	15	0	2	142	0	15	124	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	22	284	0	306
Result 5.2.3 Risk reduced to human and environmental health by remediation of hot spots	0	18	0	0	612	0	0	1,054	0	0	1,267	0	0	400	0	0	3,351	0	3,351
Result 5.2.4 Enhanced capacities to improve air quality, solid waste and drinking water access	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	30	0	0	140	0	15	470	0	485
Totals per column/year	45	771	0	124	1,937	0	120	2,741	0	151	3,351	0	265	2,258	145	704	11,058	145	11,907
Totals per year	816			2,061			2,860			3,502			2,668			11,907			
Grand Total	2,713	9,161	0	2,403	12,331	0	2,520	14,837	0	2,389	20,712	0	2,943	21,503	675	12,968	78,544	675	92,187
	11,874			14,734			17,357			23,101			25,121			92,187			

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a man's face, focusing on the right side. The image captures the man's eye, which is looking slightly to the right. His skin is fair and has a natural texture. He has dark hair and a well-defined ear. The background is a solid, dark color, possibly black or dark blue, which makes the subject stand out. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the contours of his face.

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