

# Albania Progress Report 2025



UNITED NATIONS  
ALBANIA



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# Foreword



United Nations Resident Coordinator in Albania Ingrid Macdonald presenting her credential papers to H.E. President of Albania Bajram Begaj

Photo: President.al

We are pleased to present the 2025 Results Report of the United Nations (UN) in Albania, showcasing the collective progress in advancing sustainable development, social inclusion and national priorities under the Government of Albania–United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022–2026. The achievements highlighted in this report reflect the strength of partnerships at the heart of UN engagement the country, with government institutions at national and local levels, civil society organizations, youth and women’s groups, the private sector, academia, and international partners working together to translate policy commitments into tangible results for people and communities.

Progress across the four Cooperation Framework outcomes was translated into tangible gains in inclusive growth, social protection and human capital development. UN supported Albania in strengthening its human capital, economic resilience and governance systems in support of sustainable development and national priorities. Efforts focused on future-ready skills, stronger education-to-employment linkages and expanded access to essential services, contributing to improved learning outcomes, increased labour-force participation, particularly among women and youth, and reduced poverty and exclusion. A major milestone was the launch of the joint programme Lifelong Empowerment and Protection in Albania, funded by the UN

Joint SDG Fund under the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, where Albania, as a pathfinder country, is catalysing system-level reforms by linking employment, skills and care economy pathways with social protection, introduction of a Universal Child Benefit and strengthened long-term care services.

In parallel, the UN supported Albania’s transition towards a more competitive, green and digital economy capable of generating decent work and strengthening resilience. Support to climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, sustainable livelihoods and circular economy practices reinforced Albania’s climate commitments and competitiveness, while joint UN–EU advocacy elevated climate resilience as a national priority. These efforts contributed to integrating environmental sustainability and equity into Albania’s development and its EU accession agenda.

Significant strides were also made in strengthening governance, human rights and social cohesion. Support strengthened public administration, justice and oversight institutions, advanced anti-corruption and rule of law efforts, expanded access to justice and protected civic space. A human rights-based approach, with gender equality and labour rights at its core, helped ensure that reforms translated into tangible improvements in people’s lives and strengthened trust between institutions and citizens.

Across all outcome areas, disability inclusion, gender equality, youth engagement, and human rights remained central cross-cutting priorities. Flagship joint programmes, including Leave No One Behind, Multistakeholder Engagement to Implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass (M-GA), are expanding community-based services, strengthening inclusive social protection systems and ensuring that persons with disabilities and marginalized groups actively shape the design and delivery of services. These efforts reflect the UN’s continued commitment to leaving no one behind while supporting the country progress toward EU integration and sustainable development.

The year 2025 also marked important moments of reflection and accountability. An independent final evaluation of the Cooperation Framework was conducted, confirming the UN as a trusted, relevant and normatively grounded partner in Albania’s SDG pathway.

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UN supported Albania in strengthening its human capital, economic resilience and governance systems in support of sustainable development and national priorities.

The evaluation highlighted strong alignment with national strategies and EU acquis priorities, effective joint programming and the added value of the repositioned Resident Coordinator system, while providing clear recommendations to sharpen strategic focus, strengthen national ownership and scale sustainable solutions in the next Cooperation Framework 2027–2031, currently under preparation with all partners.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Albania and all partners for their trust, leadership and collaboration. As the Cooperation Framework enters its final year, we remain committed to building on these results, strengthening national ownership and supporting Albania in achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development for all.

We invite you to explore this report and learn more about the progress achieved together in Albania in 2025.



Ms. Albana Koçiu  
Deputy Prime Minister  
of Government of Albania



Ms. Ingrid Macdonald  
United Nations Resident  
Coordinator in Albania

## CHAPTER 1

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

## 1.1. Overall Country and Regional Context in 2025

**Albania**, an upper-middle-income country, continued to demonstrate progress and reform momentum in 2025, despite ongoing structural challenges, demographic pressures and global challenges. Macroeconomic performance remained robust and increasingly stable. Nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reached United States Dollars (USD) 29.9 billion, while nominal GDP per capita rose sharply to USD 11,108, underscoring the country's steady convergence towards higher income levels. Real GDP growth moderated to 3.36%, reflecting post-pandemic normalization, while inflation remained at 2.68%.

Prudent fiscal management continued to yield results, with general government gross debt declining to 54.1% of GDP, strengthening macro-fiscal sustainability and policy credibility.

Growth remained driven primarily by services, especially tourism and real estate, while agriculture and industry continued to face headwinds, highlighting the need for further productivity-enhancing structural transformation. The private sector remains dominated by micro, small and medium enterprises, employing more than 80% of the workforce, while informality remains significant. Unemployment declined gradually, though youth and long-term unemployment remain high. Poverty affects around 19% of the population, with 36.5% vulnerable people falling into poverty, particularly children and women.

Demographic trends remain a critical long-term challenge. Declining fertility rates and sustained emigration has resulted in a cumulative population decline of more than 420,000 according to the 2023 Census compared with that

of 2011. The demographic shift is shrinking the labour force and intensifying pressures on pensions, healthcare and social protection systems. Public investments in education (2.4% of GDP) and health (2.8% of GDP) remain well below European Union (EU) benchmarks (~5% for education and >7% for health), constraining Albania's capacity to build and protect human capital. Significant gains were recorded in education outcomes: the upper secondary net enrolment rate reached 98.72% in 2024, and the number of out-of-school primary-age children fell sharply to 617, reflecting a major progress in access and retention. Youth labour market outcomes also improved, with declining rates of those not in employment, education or training (NEET) and rising female labour force participation, though skills mismatches and school-to-work transitions remain key challenges.

Governance reforms advanced further in 2025, supporting transparency, accountability and EU accession priorities. Implementation of the 2024–2030 Anti-Corruption Strategy continued alongside judicial and rule-of-law reforms, building on the vetting process and justice sector restructuring. Albania recorded a notable improvement in the Corruption Perceptions Index, rising from 98th in 2023 to 80th in 2024, reflecting perceived progress in anti-corruption efforts, though challenges remain in institutional trust, enforcement capacity and inter-agency coordination. Risks related to money laundering and illicit financial flows, particularly in cash-intensive sectors such as construction and tourism, remain an important concern. Digital governance innovations featured prominently, including the introduction of the Minister of

State for Artificial Intelligence Diella and the expansion of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), now covering 59% of public programmes, strengthening inclusive public financial management. The country EU accession process accelerated markedly in 2025, becoming an even stronger anchor for reforms. In November, Albania completed the opening of all six negotiating clusters and all chapters, positioning the country among the frontrunners in the enlargement process, with negotiations targeted for completion by 2027 and EU membership envisioned by 2030. Alignment with the EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the National Reform Agenda increasingly shapes national policy priorities. Financial and regulatory integration advanced further with Albania's participation in the European Automated Clearing House Association and entry into Single Euro Payments Area, strengthening connectivity with the EU single market.

On the international stage, Albania elevated further its diplomatic profile, showing leadership through its diplomatic posts in both Geneva and New York, as well as at home. Hosting the 6th European Political Community Summit in Tirana underscored the country's growing convening power and regional role. Albania continued to align closely with EU foreign and security policy positions, marked 70 years of United Nations (UN) membership and strengthened global efforts including through active representation in the UN Human Rights Council and at the Second Global Summit for Social Development held in Doha, Qatar. Together, these developments reflect the country's increasingly active role in multilateral diplomacy and regional stability, reinforcing its international standing alongside accelerated EU integration.

### ALBANIA AT A GLANCE<sup>1</sup>

AREA: 28,748 KM<sup>2</sup>

MACROECONOMICS <sup>2</sup>	2023	2024	2025
NOMINAL GDP (\$BN)	23.633	27.084	<b>29.939</b>
REAL GDP GROWTH (%)	4.015	4.046	<b>3.358</b>
GDP PER CAPITA (CURRENT \$)	8,594.203	9,948.352	<b>11,108.18</b>
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	9.5	8.8	<b>8.7</b>
INFLATION (%)	3.95	2.117	<b>2.675</b>
REVENUES (% GDP)	27.225	28.212	<b>28.585</b>
GENERAL GOVERNMENT GROSS DEBT (% GDP)	57.975	56.03	<b>54.117</b>

DEMOGRAPHY AND HEALTH <sup>3</sup>	2024	2025
POPULATION (MILLION)	2.39 <sup>4</sup>	<b>2.36</b>
AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO (% YOUNG)	23.9	<b>23.8</b>
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH (% GDP)	2.80	
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, MALE	78.6	
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, FEMALE	82.5	
UNDER-5 MORTALITY RATE (DEATHS PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS)	9.0	

SELECTED GLOBAL RANKINGS	2023	2024
RULE OF LAW INDEX RANK	91	<b>89</b>
CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX RANK	98	<b>80</b>
DEMOCRACY INDEX (TRANSITIONAL OR HYBRID REGIME)	46/100	<b>46/100</b>
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANK	71	
SDG INDEX RANK	42	45

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL <sup>5</sup>	2023	2024
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION (% GDP)	3.33	<b>2.41</b>
TOTAL NET ENROLMENT RATE, UPPER SECONDARY, BOTH SEXES (%)	88.74	<b>98.72</b>
NUMBER OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE	17,039	<b>617</b>
SHARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NEET <sup>6</sup> MALE (%)	22.3	<b>19.7</b>
SHARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NEET, FEMALE (%)	27.8	<b>24.7</b>
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, MALE (15–64 YEARS)	81.0	<b>81.9</b>
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, FEMALE (15–64 YEARS)	68.4	<b>69.3</b>
AT-RISK OF POVERTY RATE IN ALBANIA (%)	19.8	<b>19.2</b>

1. Figures for recent years, depending on the source, are still mostly projections.  
 2. International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook database, October 2025.  
 3. Source 1, Source 2, Source 3, Source 4, UNICEF, Other online sources.  
 4. The break in population figures is on account of figures prior to 2024 being INSTAT estimates, while the 2024 figure is based on the latest national census.  
 5. Source 1, Source 2, Source 3, Source 4.  
 6. NEET: Not In Employment, Education Or Training.

## 1.2. Key partnerships and support to financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2025, the UN in Albania continued implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022–2026, deepening partnerships that accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advance Albania’s EU accession priorities. Close collaboration with national institutions, international partners, the private sector, civil society and academia, through joint planning, steering mechanisms and coordinated advocacy, helped to strengthen coherence, impact and reforms aligned with EU standards and the 2030 Agenda.

Building on structured engagement with government institutions and development partners, the UN Country Team (UNCT) sustained regular, coordinated dialogues with key international partners, particularly

around EU approximation priorities, social and economic reforms, human capital and inclusive governance. Collaboration with the EU remained a central pillar for coordinated development support. Through EU–UN cooperation, new and ongoing initiatives strengthened rule of law and justice reform, cultural heritage and EU-aligned governance reforms, including the launch of the EU4Digital Justice project and the ongoing EU4Culture programme. The strategic partnership between the EU Delegation, the UN and the World Bank (WB) was further reinforced through a joint opinion piece and conference that set out a shared agenda on human capital investment as a driver of sustainable growth and EU integration, linking policy reform, financing and evidence-based investments in early childhood development, skills, jobs and social protection.

The UN Country Team in Albania, together with representatives from the Government and the EU, kicks off the ‘16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence’ campaign.

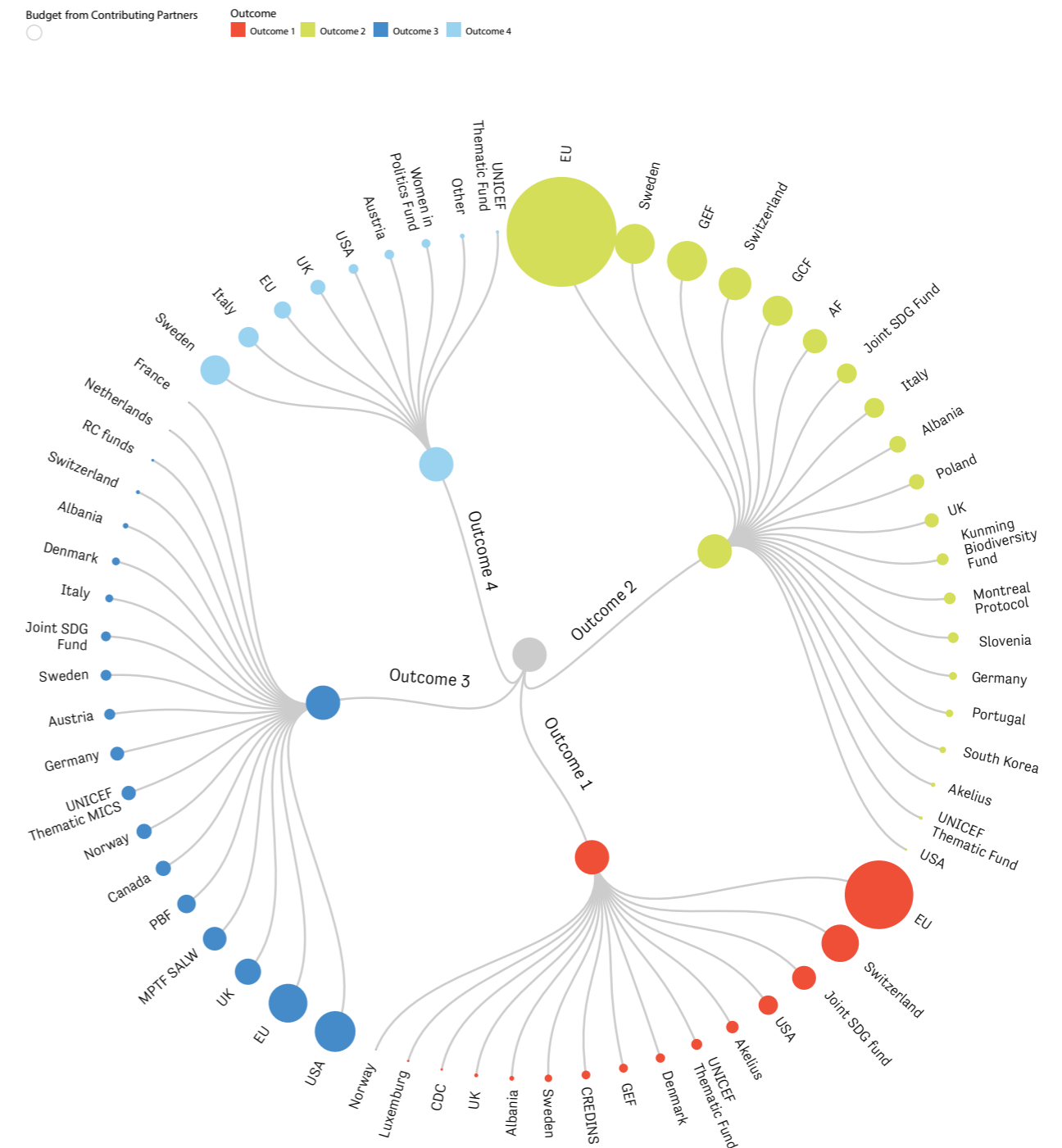
Photo: UN Albania



Bilateral partners continued to play an important role in sustaining priority reforms and scaling inclusive programming. Switzerland’s support enabled the launch of the third phase of the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) programme, reinforcing collaboration with national and local institutions to expand access to services for vulnerable groups and strengthen systems for inclusive delivery. Sweden deepened its partnership with the Government of

Albania and the UN to end violence against women (VAW), extending collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) and UN partners to strengthen prevention, response and survivor-centred systems. This partnership was complemented by EU support for publication of the 2025 Country Gender Equality Profile, which provides a shared evidence base for advancing gender equality and EU-aligned reforms.

### 2025 Contributing Partners



**Collaboration** through multi-partner mechanisms around the SDG financing agenda enlarged, particularly via high-impact joint programmes (JPs) supported by the UN Joint SDG Fund. Digital Agriculture and Rural Transformation (DART) advanced as a flagship partnership bringing together the UN with key national counterparts alongside partners including the EU and national coordination institutions.

Strategic partnerships also grew through structured engagement with academia and the sporting community to advance inclusion and social cohesion. This included a Memorandum of Understanding with the Albanian Football Association to promote inclusion through sports and a cooperation agreement with the Mediterranean University in Albania to strengthen research, evidence and policy dialogue on refugee protection.

Support to SDG financing and data-informed decision making remained closely linked to partnerships. In late 2025, the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), UN and international partners launched a household migration survey and a qualitative study

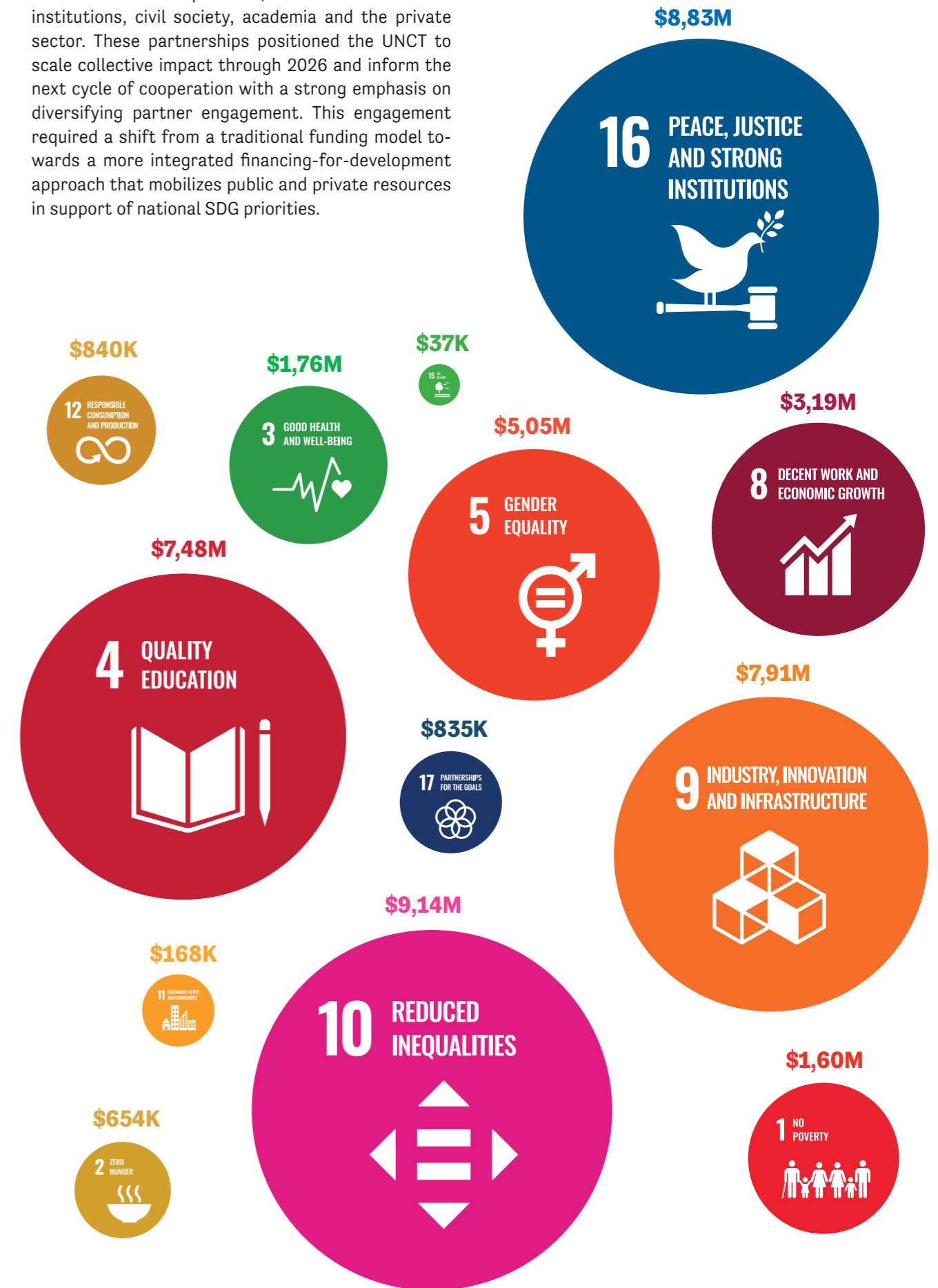
on migration, return and diaspora engagement. This joint work strengthened the evidence base for policy, programming and financing decisions. Collaboration with the WB was further broadened through thematic networks that support policy dialogue and knowledge exchange, including the launch of an Economist Network for Albania.

Private-sector and innovation-oriented partnerships remained an important dimension of SDG acceleration. UN-supported initiatives promoted responsible business practices, sustainable production, decent work and entrepreneurship for youth and women. Engagement with the private sector advanced through dedicated partnership platforms connecting responsible business with SDG acceleration. A key milestone was the second edition of the Business #2030 Conference, which convened business leaders, policymakers and international partners to explore how sustainable business practices can drive competitiveness, innovation and growth.

Overall, partnerships in 2025 remained central to aligning financing, policy reform and programme delivery for the SDGs. The alignment is anchored in

national priorities and strengthened by collaboration with bilateral partners, international financial institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector. These partnerships positioned the UNCT to scale collective impact through 2026 and inform the next cycle of cooperation with a strong emphasis on diversifying partner engagement. This engagement required a shift from a traditional funding model towards a more integrated financing-for-development approach that mobilizes public and private resources in support of national SDG priorities.

**Resource contribution to SDGs**



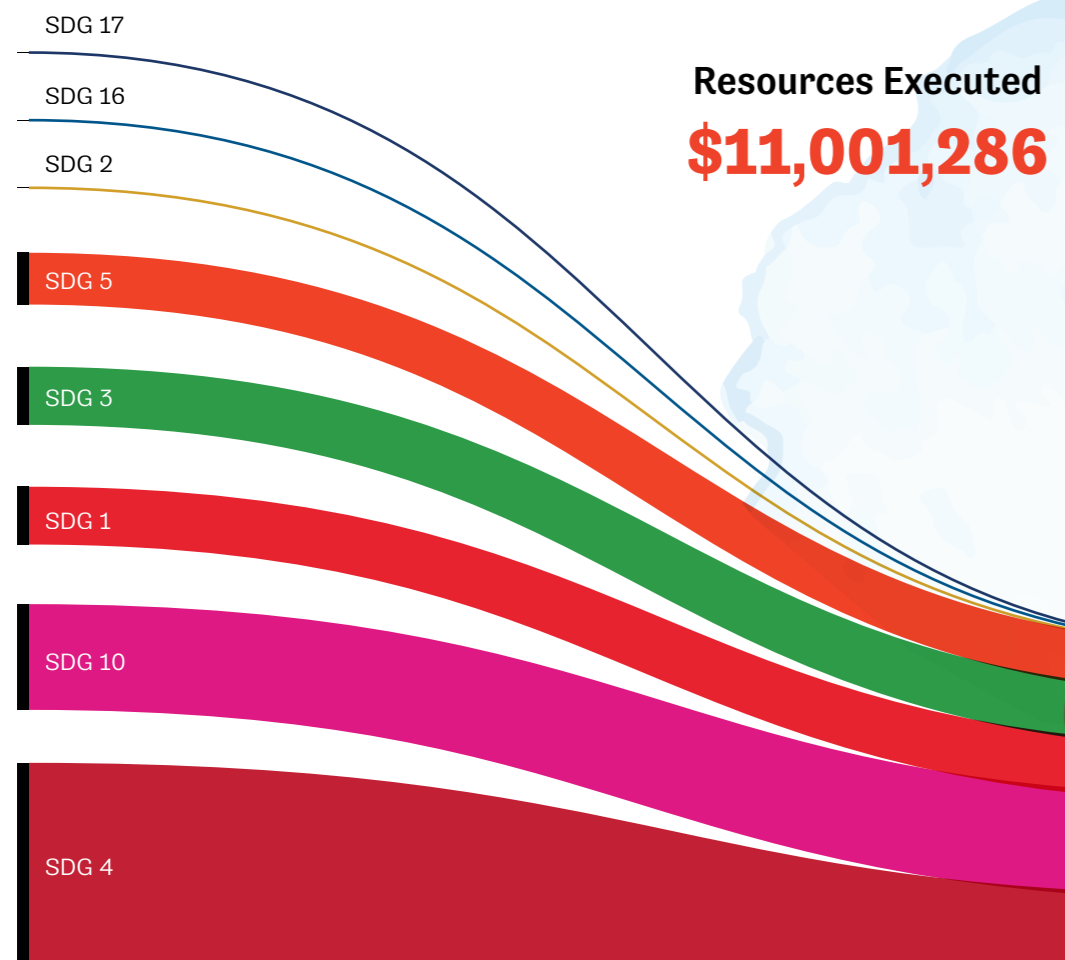
An annual dialogue on Jobs and Social Protection with partners working together to strengthen employment opportunities and social protection systems in Albania, reinforcing joint commitment to inclusion and leaving no one behind

Photo: UN Albania




# 1 Human Capital Development


## Contribution to SDGs



 Alignment with National Development Goals  
**3**

 Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas  
**19 23 24 26 28**

 Alignment with SDGs  
**1 2 3 4 5 10 16**

 UN Contributors

- ILO
- UNDP
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- UNESCO
- UNICEF
- UN WOMEN
- WHO

Contributing Partners

- 
- 
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Photo: UNHCR Albania

## AT A GLANCE

**47,326**  
**PEOPLE** were able to access basic services with UN support

**4,100**  
**PEOPLE** were reached through expanded social protection and care services

**72,600**  
**PUPILS** were reached through revised curricula & extended school hours

**22,500**  
**STUDENTS AND TEACHERS** have benefited from better education services provided by reconstructed education facilities

**UN AGENCIES:**

ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women

**SDG TARGETS:**

1.1, 1.3, 1.3.1, 1.4, 3.8, 5.1, 5.4, 5.4.1, 5.c.1, 5.5, 10.2, 10.3, 10.7, 11.10, 16.3, 16.6

Aligned with High Impact Initiative (HII) Jobs and Social Protection)

**OUTPUT 1.1**

## Social protection systems and mechanisms are strengthened to increase coverage, quality and services

**Albania** continued to advance social protection, care and inclusion through targeted reforms that expanded access to quality social services and benefits, strengthened policy and legal frameworks, and improved equity for vulnerable groups. These efforts were further reinforced through two flagship UN JPs: **LNOB**, implemented jointly by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women, and **Lifelong Empowerment and Protection in Albania**, implemented jointly by UNDP, UNICEF, ILO and UN Women and which played a catalytic role in piloting integrated models, strengthening local systems and scaling inclusive social protection approaches nationwide.

**Integrated social support reached more than 340 households** in the economic aid scheme, reinforcing prevention, protection and family strengthening outcomes. MoHSW developed the **National Plan on Child Guarantee 2026–2030**, aligning with the EU policy framework that addresses child poverty and exclusion. A new area for UN engagement was the development of integrated long-term care (LTC) models, designed to enhance dignity, independence and quality of life for older people and persons with disabilities, while generating decent employment in the care economy.



Inaugurating a Community Centre in Divjakë under the 'Leave No One Behind' joint programme, funded by Switzerland.

Photo: UNDP Albania



### Inclusive Work and Social Protection for All

This programme puts people at the centre—from early childhood to old age, strengthening both dignity and opportunity throughout life.

[READ MORE](#)



President Begaj calls for stronger global action on social justice during the UN World Social Summit in Doha, urging collective efforts to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive development.

Photo: President.al

**Integrated LTC services reached 200 households** and created employment opportunities for **146 women and adults in receipt of economic aid**.

A **human capital development policy dialogue** process took place through preparation of a human capital development paper developed jointly by the UN, EU and WB that was informed by broad partner consultations and followed by a conference with academia as the catalyst for human capital development in Albania. The country joined the **SDG Accelerator on Social Protection and Jobs and Multistakeholder Engagement** to Implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass (**M-GA**). Albania is one of 14 global pathfinder countries focusing on expanding social protection through child benefit modelling, integrated social care, LTC, inclusive disability protection and increased fiscal space for children with disabilities. The social protection system was strengthened by advancing dialogue on universal child benefit, expanding services for children with disabilities, establishing **Local Social Funds in 15 municipalities** and integrating shock-responsive tools into local social planning. MoHSW prepared a **Roadmap for EU Accession, Chapter 19**, followed by key legal and policy reforms aligning disability and social protection legislation with the EU *acquis*, including the table of concordance for **Directive (EU) 2019/882** on accessibility.

Expanded social protection and care services benefited **4,100 people across 22 municipalities** through 27 new community-based and five

### KEY RESULTS

**340+**

**households** reached through integrated social support within the economic aid scheme

**146**

**women and adults** receiving economic aid gained employment opportunities in the care economy

**200**

**households** received integrated long-term care services

## KEY RESULTS

**4,100**

people in 22 municipalities benefited from expanded social protection and care services

**3,500+**

people accessed integrated social service models in 4 municipalities

**200+**

social care and social protection workers enhancing their capacities



### From Dream to Reality

How a Full-Day Kindergarten Changed Women's Lives. Supported by UN Women, the "Today for the Future" Community Development Center has empowered parents to advocate for their needs and influence public budgeting.

[READ MORE](#)

specialized services, while more than **3,500 people accessed integrated social service** models in four municipalities. Disability inclusion advanced through expanded sign language resources, graduation of **12 interpreters**, piloting of personal assistance services, improved access to assistive technologies and strengthened capacity of 37 multidisciplinary disability assessment commissions nationwide. Approval of the **Second National Action Plan on Older Persons (2025–2030)** established a framework for ageing and integrated care, alongside progress in access to civil documentation for **12 persons granted international protection**.

Institutional capacity and governance were strengthened to support readiness for EU-related reforms through functional and institutional reviews of the State Social Services and the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection. **Social Services Mapping 2025** informed national and local social policy priorities, expansion of the Social Fund, and operationalization of the electronic social care register. **A new National Plan for transforming residential care into community- and family-based services** advanced Albania's deinstitutionalization agenda, while, at the local level, Tirana developed and costed key local action plans. Targeted support strengthened local governance and frontline delivery. **Needs Assessment and Referral Units (NARUs) were expanded** and operationalized, with 489 municipal staff and service providers capacitated in 15 municipalities. By the end of 2025, 66 NARUs had been established nationwide, guided by a national roadmap for scale-up. Albania also strengthened shock-responsive social protection through an integrated academic and operational package, including the **first such accredited university-level course**.

Workforce development and inclusive governance enabled reform implementation, with more than **200 social care and social protection workers** enhancing their capacities, while progress was made on the **national biopsychosocial disability assessment**, through professional training, child-friendly guidance and accredited multidisciplinary curricula. Participatory budgeting engaged **910 community members** across seven municipalities, strengthening inclusive local decision making, by amplifying the voices of women, girls and young people, helping turn local priorities into real action and visible change.

Targeted pilots improved **disability-inclusive and gender-responsive services**, enhancing mobility, independence, digital access, leadership and psycho-social support. In three municipalities 160 women and girls with disabilities, including mothers of children with disabilities, gained greater opportunities to live more independently. Meanwhile, **inclusive employment pathways** were advanced in the care, tourism and hospitality sectors, addressing care burdens, stigma and digital exclusion. An **inclusive online platform for persons with disabilities** was established, providing a safe space for sexual and gender education, peer exchange and professional support.

UN support also strengthened Albania's **care-economy evidence base and policy readiness**, including piloting a standardized academic training module, finalizing a policy note aligned with the **EU Care Strategy** and completing a costing study covering early childhood, pre-primary education and LTC, laying the foundation for increased investment in 2026 in support of national priorities and LNOB.

## SUCCESS STORY

# A Difficult but Hopeful Journey

**For** Alesia, 12 years old, and Ana, 10, childhood has not been easy, but more of a constant battle. Their lives changed for ever when their father was sent to prison. Their mother, after forming a new relationship, left home, leaving the girls in the care of their grandmother, who did her best to provide them with a normal life.

Her love and dedication helped alleviate their situation, but this changed when she became ill and was hospitalized. The mother and her partner took Ana to Tirana, where she was forced to beg on the streets, a painful, traumatic experience.

When the grandmother returned from hospital and learned what had happened, she reported the situation to the authorities and, thanks to their intervention, Ana was reunited with her sister.

### Life-changing support

The grandmother knew that the granddaughters needed a more stable and secure life. The project implemented by NISMA Arsis and Durres Municipality, with the support of the EU4Social Care programme, guided the extended family into taking responsibility for the girls' care.

Through meetings and counselling, the family was supported and empowered to understand their importance in helping the girls, to provide them with a healthy environment, prevent their separation from the family and protect them from all forms of abuse.

The story of Alesia and Ana is a **powerful reminder** that every child has the right to live in an environment of **love, protection and safety**. With the right support, this is always possible.

[READ FULL STORY](#)



With support from the EU through the #EU4Schools programme implemented by UNDP Albania, 63 schools were rebuilt or repaired to provide safe and modern learning spaces.

Photo: UNDP Albania

**UN AGENCIES:**  
UNDP, UNESCO,  
UNFPA, UNICEF

**SDG TARGETS:**  
4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4,  
4.4.2, 4.6, 4.7, 16

Aligned with  
HII Education

**OUTPUT 1.2**

Education institutions have improved policy, digital knowledge, tools and budgets to offer inclusive learning and 21st century skills

**Albania** continued advancing education system transformation in 2025, with a strong focus on inclusion, quality and modernization aligned with SDG 4 and national EU integration priorities (Cluster 3). UN support strengthened evidence-based planning through improved tracking of SDG 4 indicators on inclusion, equity, learning outcomes and financing, enabling more informed policy decisions.

Key system reforms were advanced, including revision of the **Pre-University Education Strategy 2021–2026** and the **National Pre-University Curriculum**, aligned with the EU framework on 21st-century skills, together with new guidance on embedding green skills into the curriculum. The new **National Curricular Framework and Programmes** were piloted in grades I, VI and X, reaching **72,600 pupils nationwide**, supported by a **costed Action Plan for Extended School Hours** and a **costing study for the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Roadmap**.

**Sixty-seven education facilities** damaged by the 2019 earthquakes were repaired or reconstructed, benefiting more than **25,000 teachers and students**, while **110 IT and science laboratories** were established, inclusive didactic materials provided and transparency ensured through the [EU4Schools](#) portal.

Inclusive education remained a priority, with targeted pre-service and in-service teacher training, dropout prevention in vocational education and training (VET) schools, and implementation of the roadmap to transform special schools into resource centres, with 230 staff capacitated to support the transformation. More than **720 teachers** were further capacitated in media and information literacy. School safety and well-being were reinforced through implementation of the **National Action Plan for Safe Schools**, reaching approximately **300,000 students** nationwide.

System-wide modernization progressed through digital and curricular innovation, including development of a **new national Comprehensive Sexuality Education curriculum** for children of age 6–18 years; improved school connectivity under the **Giga initiative**, enabling appearance of schools in the giga map and real-time connectivity monitoring; and piloting of the **Eduten initiative**, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered digital mathematics platform. The digital language platform **Akelius reached 4,259 children**, and **270 teachers were trained in blended learning and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills**. The innovative use of AI has advanced, laying the groundwork for more equitable access to digital learning opportunities.

Strategic policy dialogue on ECEC was strengthened, with **two national symposia convened** in collaboration with the WB and the French Development Agency, supporting prioritization of investments and reforms.

Overall, Albania made measurable progress towards a more inclusive, resilient and future-ready education system, supported by modernized curricula, improved infrastructure, strengthened teacher capacity and enhanced data systems, while continued investment and coordination remain critical to closing equity gaps and improving learning outcomes for all learners.

**KEY RESULTS**

**72,600**

**pupils** reached by the new National Curricular Framework

**300,000**

**students** reached through the National Action Plan for Safe Schools

**25,000+**

**teachers and students** benefited from reconstructed schools

An information session at Ismail Qemali High School in Tirana introduced students to the U-Report platform, empowering young people to share their opinions and engage in key social issues.

Photo: UNICEF Albania



**Youth Guarantee supports a career**

Evestina Cinaj, a 28 years old from Vlora, has always been deeply passionate about the beauty and haircare industry.

[READ MORE](#)

**UN AGENCIES:**  
UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

**SDG TARGETS:**  
2.1, 3.d.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3,  
3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 17.18

### OUTPUT 1.3 Healthcare

### OUTPUT 1.4 Shock responsive systems for effective disaster and pandemic preparedness and response

**Albania** continued to strengthen its health system in 2025, with a focus on primary healthcare, prevention, equity and resilience, aligned with universal health coverage (UHC) commitments and national EU integration objectives. Progress was recorded across immunization, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), system governance and emergency preparedness, though persistent access gaps, workforce constraints and rising non-communicable and environmental health risks underscore the need for sustained investment.

Primary healthcare and preventive services were strengthened significantly, particularly for vulnerable children and families. Under the Universal Programme of Home Visiting (UPHV), **18,158 home visits reached 5,482 people, including 658 Roma and Egyptian (R&E) children younger than five years**, supported by standardized tools, monitoring and coaching. The closed partnership between MoHSW, operator of health services, local health units and local governments was on the basis of UPHV implementation in seven regions. A total of **247 accredited health professionals** (48 doctors and 199 nurses) strengthened competencies in child development, screening, parenting support, mental health referral and cross-sectoral collaboration. The programme was embedded in the Child Guarantee National Plan of Action, enhancing sustainability.

The quality of maternal and newborn care improved, with **eight maternities** receiving critical equipment alongside updated national protocols and capacity development, with follow-up strengthened through primary healthcare. Targeted interventions also addressed child and adolescent mental health, lead exposure prevention and early childhood health risks.

Public health preparedness was reinforced, with Albania conducting its second Joint External Evaluation, assessing **56 indicators across 19 technical areas** under International Health Regulations. Preparedness was further strengthened through the Zoonotic Disease Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan, enhancing capacity to manage emerging health threats.

Health system governance and financing were strengthened through the institutionalization of **Health Accounts**, formalized by a ministerial order, enabling routine health expenditure tracking and evidence-based budgeting. Immunization systems advanced towards elimination goals, with Albania achieving **hepatitis B control (<0.5%) and elimination (<0.1%) targets** and remaining on track for elimination by 2030. Capacity was strengthened through updated immunization guidelines, academic curricula and the **Blue Book on Immunization**, with **398 health professionals trained across nine districts**.



UN Albania staff donating blood to help save the lives of children living with thalassemia.

Photo: UN Albania



### UNFPA: Zero preventable maternal and infant deaths by 2030

Among the demographic data of the 2023 Census of the Albanian population, there are two that stand out due to their continuous improvement.

[READ MORE](#)

SRHR was strengthened with endorsement of the **National Action Plan on Contraceptive Security** and finalization of the **National SRHR Communication Strategy**. **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) screening was extended to women of age 35–65 years**, increasing early detection and prevention. In parallel, boys were included in the HPV vaccination programme, advancing UHC and improving long-term population health outcomes.

Maternal and newborn services were further reinforced through updated neonatology protocols, **training of 260 health professionals**, and provision of essential equipment via public–private partnerships. Inclusive community-based service delivery was expanded with the **community model for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health** services in eight municipalities with increased access for vulnerable groups, including women with disabilities.

Community-based child and adolescent mental health services were expanded with an integrated multisectoral model piloted in Elbasan and Tirana that identified and supported **84 children and adolescents** through coordinated care plans, while **2,000 students** benefited from system-level interventions. Workplace mental well-being was also strengthened through the training of **48 psycho-social staff**, with a focus on frontline vaccinators. National leadership on mental health was reinforced through development and consultation of a **Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2026–2030**.

Overall, these interventions contributed to a more preventive, resilient and people-centred health system, with stronger governance, improved service quality and enhanced preparedness, while continued reforms remain essential to achieving equitable and sustainable progress toward UHC.

### KEY RESULTS

**18,158**

**home visits** reached 5,482 children

**398**

**health professionals** trained in immunization

**2,000**

**students** benefited from mental health interventions

# 2 Green Growth, Innovation and Climate Change



Alignment with National Development Goals

2 3



Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas

2 11 12 19 20 23  
24 25 26 27



Alignment with SDGs

1 2 3 4 5 8 9  
11 12 13 15 16 17



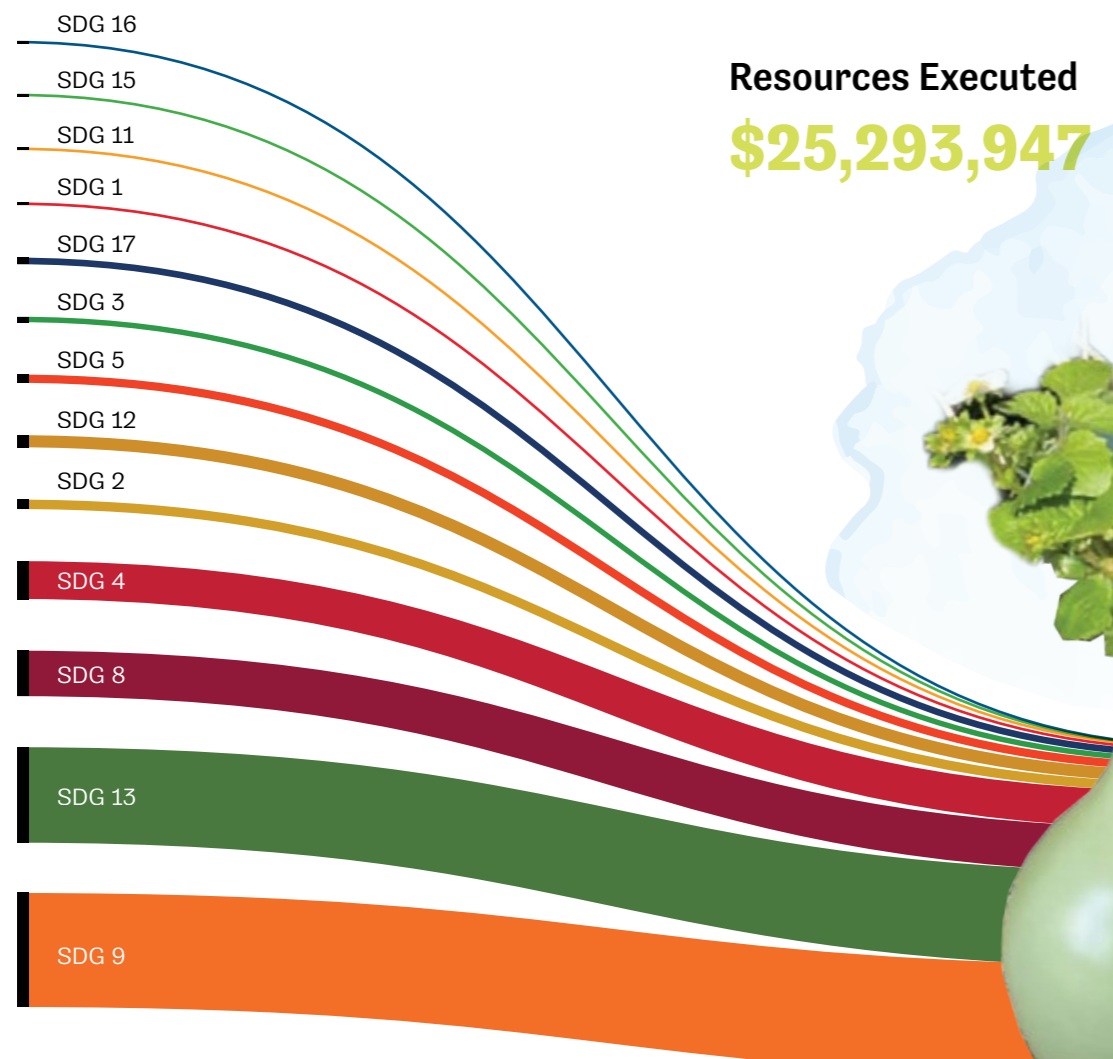
UN Contributors

- FAO ILO ITU UNDP
- UNECE UNEP UNHCR
- UNIDO UNICEF UNOPS
- UN WOMEN

Contributing Partners



## Contribution to SDGs



Resources Executed  
**\$25,293,947**



Photo: UNDP Albania



**1,138**  
**VULNERABLE JOBSEEKERS** enrolled in Active Labour Market Programmes

**2,207**  
**NEET YOUTH** enrolled in the Youth Guarantee pilot

**590,000**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE** benefited from new Youth and Volunteerism Laws

**32**  
**ENTERPRISES** across textile, clothing, footwear and leather (TCLF) and agro-food sectors adopted circular economy solutions

**UN AGENCIES:**

ILO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**

1.3, 2.3, 2.a, 3.9, 3.c, 3.d, 4, 4.3, 4.5, 5.a, 5.1, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8

Aligned with HII Jobs and Social Protection

**OUTPUT 2.1****Employment and skills development**

**In 2025**, Albania advanced inclusive labour market and skills reforms aligned with EU accession benchmarks, strengthening governance and evidence-based policymaking under the National Employment and Skills Strategy 2030 and EU *acquis* (Chapters 19 and 26), while expanding access to employment, VET and social services for youth, women, refugees and persons with disabilities.

A Skills Needs Assessment was completed, and a Digitalization Impact Assessment, accompanied by **improved policy coordination** through the Integrated Policy Management Group on Human Capital Development, strengthened the effectiveness of Active Labour Market Programmes through evidence-based reforms and the rollout of new measures targeting vulnerable jobseekers. Progress was also achieved in **reinforcing VET quality** and **lifelong learning foundations**, including expanded **accreditation** of VET providers and strengthened institutional capacities and the regulatory framework for implementation of the validation of non-formal and informal learning, contributing to more inclusive and labour-market-relevant skills pathways.

Youth legal and policy frameworks were significantly strengthened, with approval of the revised laws on Youth and on Volunteerism, expanding participation, protection and recognition for **590,000 people of age 15–29 years** nationwide. The Youth Guarantee was successfully piloted in Shkodra, Tirana and Vlora, enrolling **2,207 NEET young people**, reaching **46,000 youth** with service information, and engaging more than **500 young people** through Youth Guarantee Ambassadors. These results informed development of the National Youth Guarantee Action Plan 2026–2028, providing a government-owned roadmap for national scale-up.

Employment and service delivery for vulnerable groups improved at the national and local levels. A total of **1,138 vulnerable jobseekers** (800 women) enrolled in **Active Labour Market Programmes** that included intensive re-integration counselling and basic skills development. Some **581 jobseekers completed job-relevant training** and **136 individuals secured employment** in the public or private sector.

At the local level, the Journey Towards Employment programme was implemented in **15 municipalities**, directly benefiting **1,041 individuals**, over half of whom were unemployed 16–29-year-olds from the Economic Aid schemes, with an additional **128 young people** supported through the Youth Guarantee. Preventive and soft-skills interventions in VET schools reached **500 vocational students**, reinforcing sustainability through a training-of-trainers model.

Inclusive employment systems and LTC were strengthened through evidence generation, skills development and labour market integration. The national LTC study *Ageing in Albania* informed the design of **three innovative LTC service models** (home-based, community-based, and mobile teams) and a national vocational training curriculum on **Assistance in LTC**. A total of **131 professionals** were trained in LTC models and curricula, while pilot LTC employment initiatives across **six municipalities** enabled **93 women** to transition from unpaid or informal caregiving into **paid care jobs**.

Knowledge and awareness of labour market actors increased, with **215 stakeholders** (70% women), including **62 employers across 12 municipalities**, strengthening understanding of inclusive employment, active ageing, disability inclusion and the national legal and policy framework. In parallel, access to formal employment pathways for **refugees and asylum-seekers** improved, with **20 individuals** registered in job placement services and enrolled in certified skills training, reducing reliance on informal work.

Employability in tourism and hospitality was enhanced through skills development, employer partnerships and formalization efforts. Support to municipal and sectoral roadmaps, training and placement initiatives contributed to employment pathways for more than **147 women and vulnerable jobseekers** in care, tourism and hospitality, promoting **decent work** and **social insurance coverage** in highly informal sectors.

Gender equality and rural economic inclusion were strengthened through evidence-based planning, with **Gender-Sensitive Value Chain Analyses** finalized in four northern municipalities. The participatory process engaged **266 stakeholders** (218 women), validated findings with **37 women entrepreneurs** and consulted **29 institutional representatives**, generating actionable priorities for women's economic empowerment.

Women's entrepreneurship and market access were accelerated through **Women's Entrepreneurship EXPO 2025**, which convened **70 women entrepreneurs**, including **40 first-time participants**. More than **80% of participants** established new professional connections and engaged in direct **B2B exchanges** with financial institutions and development agencies, strengthening visibility, investment readiness and cross-sector collaboration for women-led enterprises. With practical skills, the right tools and the confidence to move forward, **women are building 32 small businesses** and strengthening their independence, while, at the same time, supporting their families.

**KEY RESULTS****590,000****people (age 15–29)** covered by the revised Youth and Volunteerism laws**2,207****NEET young people** enrolled in the Youth Guarantee pilot**1,138****vulnerable jobseekers** (800 women) enrolled in Active Labour Market Programmes

A woman working in a textile enterprise benefiting from the ILO SCORE Programme, which has contributed to improved workplace conditions.

Photo: ILO Albania



EU Ambassador to Albania and Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sports during the Bashtova Castle inauguration event talking with a local ceramic artisan.

Photo: UNOPS Albania

**UN AGENCIES:**

FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNECE, UNIDO, UNOPS, UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**

1, 2, 3, 3.9, 4, 5, 5.1, 5.a, 6, 7, 8, 8.2, 8.3, 8.9, 8.10, 9, 9.1, 9.4, 10, 10.2, 10.4, 11.4, 11.6, 12, 12.b, 12.2, 12.5, 12.7, 12.b, 13, 13.3, 13.b, 15, 16.6, 17, 17.7, 17.9, 17.17

Aligned with HII Food Systems and Digital Connectivity

**OUTPUT 2.2**

**Sustainable and resilient economic growth and green and blue economy transition**

**Albania** made strong progress in advancing green, digital and inclusive economic transformation in 2025, strengthening capacities in e-Mobility, quality infrastructure, sustainable tourism, cultural industries and circular economy practices, while reinforcing alignment with EU standards and market requirements.

Under the Joint Project **Business Partnerships & Solutions for SDGs**, implemented by UNDP, FAO, ILO and UNIDO, Albania's private sector was further supported in advancing sustainable, competitive and EU-aligned business practices. Measurable results were delivered in strengthening sustainable competitiveness across agro-processing and the TCLF sectors. More than 350 companies were engaged through sustainability initiatives, including the **Business #2030 Conference** and the **SDG Business Pioneers Award**, attracting 100 applications. Four knowledge products were published, strengthening the evidence base for future sustainability-related dialogue and policy.

In agro-processing, **12 enterprises improved performance** and market readiness through the **Growing with Your Business methodology**, while mobilizing EUR 200,000 in counter-investment. Climate-resilient agriculture was advanced through SDG Demonstration Farms and a Farmer Field School, equipping **35 farmers with sustainable production practices**. Support to chestnut value chains further enhanced rural incomes while contributing to improved environmental outcomes and sustainable land use.

Quality infrastructure modernization and agri-food compliance capacity were strengthened significantly, advancing alignment of **standardization, metrology, accreditation and laboratory systems** with EU and international requirements. Digital access to standards were improved, accreditation schemes expanded and laboratory capacities reinforced was through the **Albanian Lab Network**. Compliance among SMEs and farmers improved through **Local Action Groups in 14 municipalities**, targeted certification support and the introduction of **digital and AI-based tools** for medicinal and aromatic plants production.

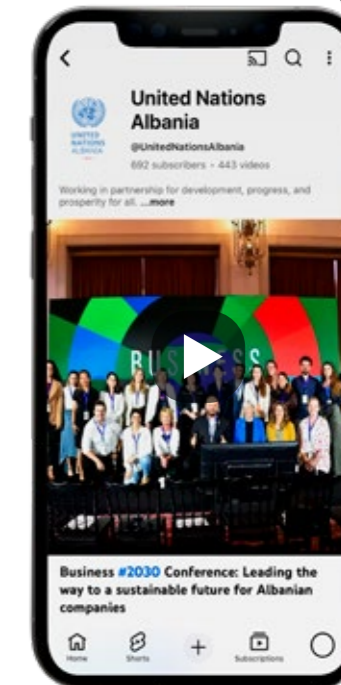
Albania's transition to a green and circular economy accelerated, with **Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production practices applied in 32 enterprises** across the TCLF and agro-food sectors. **Sixty-five concrete efficiency measures** were identified, covering energy and material savings, waste reduction, renewable energy integration, and process optimization, delivering **clear economic and environmental benefits** with short investment payback periods. A national culture of quality was promoted at scale, reaching **more than 100,000 stakeholders** through educational partnerships, including the development of a master's programme with the Agricultural University of Tirana. e-Mobility and critical raw materials governance were strengthened, with the delivery of a country-specific e-Mobility **strategy assessment**, providing a high-level analysis of infrastructure readiness and policy frameworks. Targeted national workshops adapted **regional e-Mobility recommendations** to the Albanian context and advanced sustainable critical raw materials management.

Regional digital trade and data-sharing cooperation advanced through policy dialogue in the Western Balkans, supporting the design of **pilot projects for multimodal data exchange** aligned with **UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business Standards**, strengthening compliance with multilateral trading system requirements.

Gender equality was mainstreamed across quality infrastructure institutions, with **Gender Action Plans** under development for standardization, metrology and accreditation bodies, promoting gender-responsive outputs and improved gender balance in management and technical committees. Cultural heritage, tourism and creative industries delivered tangible economic results. **9 cultural heritage sites were restored**, bringing to **21 the total of revitalized or digitally enhanced sites**, attracting approximately **70,000 visitors** and generating **around ALL 20 million in revenue** through innovative ticketing and cultural products. Some **22 cultural and agro-tourism enterprises** integrated new digital platforms, supporting employment and sector growth.

Civil society-led cultural innovation expanded, with **nine new grant initiatives** involving **41 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs; 60% women-led)**. These projects generated **227 culture-related products** and five major digital outputs, reaching **3,303 direct and 9,424 indirect beneficiaries** across seven municipalities.

Together, these results strengthened Albania's competitiveness, sustainability and EU market readiness, demonstrating the value of integrated approaches linking digitalization, gender equality, quality infrastructure and circular economy practices to inclusive and sustainable industrial development.



**KEY RESULTS**

**350+**

**companies** engaged through sustainability initiatives

**22**

**cultural and agro-tourism enterprises** integrated digital platforms

**35**

**farmers** trained in climate-resilient agriculture

**UN AGENCIES:**  
FAO, ITU, UNICEF,  
UNIDO, UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**  
2.3, 2.4, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7,  
5.5, 8.3, 8.6, 9.c,  
11.4, 12.b

Aligned with HII  
Digital Connectivity

## OUTPUT 2.3 Innovation

**Albania** continued to advance its digital transformation and innovation agenda, positioning digitalization as a key driver of inclusive growth, youth innovation and improved service delivery, yet gaps in rural connectivity, digital skills and gender equality continued to limit equitable access to digital and innovation opportunities.

Albania strengthened digital governance and innovation ecosystems, with finalization of a **Digital Innovation Profile and Implementation Report**, updated **Digital Development Country Profile** and ongoing work for **upgrading the national spectrum monitoring system** supporting more coherent digital infrastructure planning and policy implementation.

The new flagship UN JP **DART**, implemented by FAO, ILO and ITU, is positioning **digital agriculture as a governance and service delivery reform** rather than a standalone technology intervention. Through a nationwide survey of 800 farmers, and comprehensive system assessments, DART is contributing to formulation of the **forthcoming National Digital Agriculture Strategy**, strengthening cross-sector coordination across agriculture, digital government, connectivity, education and innovation actors, and advancing user-centred digital service design and institutional ownership.

Planting crops in celebration of FAO's 80th anniversary on World Food Day 2025 at Fustanella Farm in Petrelë, Albania.

Photo: FAO Albania



### KEY RESULTS

**800**

**farmers** surveyed through the DART UN Joint Programme

**2,000**

**young people** reached through social innovation initiatives

**100**

**young people** trained to design AI-based solutions



UNIDO and Switzerland driving smarter agriculture through AI empowering quality, traceability and global market access for Albanian SMEs.

Photo: UNIDO Albania

Evidence-based policymaking on digital inclusion was strengthened through the development of a **policy paper on closing the rural connectivity gap**, complemented by an **assessment of e-Government systems** for digital agriculture. The capacities of more than 60 public officials were enhanced, enabling them to address rural connectivity challenges and contribute to the formulation of the forthcoming national Digital Agriculture Strategy.

Regional, evidence-based cooperation on innovation and SME competitiveness was reinforced through surveys and focus groups engaging **business support organizations, academic institutions and Small or Medium Enterprises** in Albania, North Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, generating actionable insights to inform policy dialogue, capacity building and targeted innovation support. Youth innovation and AI literacy were significantly expanded through the **AI Hustle Hub**, including the development of an **AI literacy course supported by Harvard University lecturers, three social-impact bootcamps**, and hands-on training for **100 young people (60 girls)** to design AI-based solutions. In total, **2,000 young people** were reached through youth-led digital and social innovation initiatives addressing economic and social challenges.

Women's economic empowerment in rural areas was strengthened through **six gender-responsive interventions** launched in four municipalities, informed by a **Gender-Sensitive Value Chain Analysis**. Priority value chains of **dairy, medicinal and aromatic plants, handicrafts and agriculture** were identified where women's participation is high but largely informal and under-recognized.

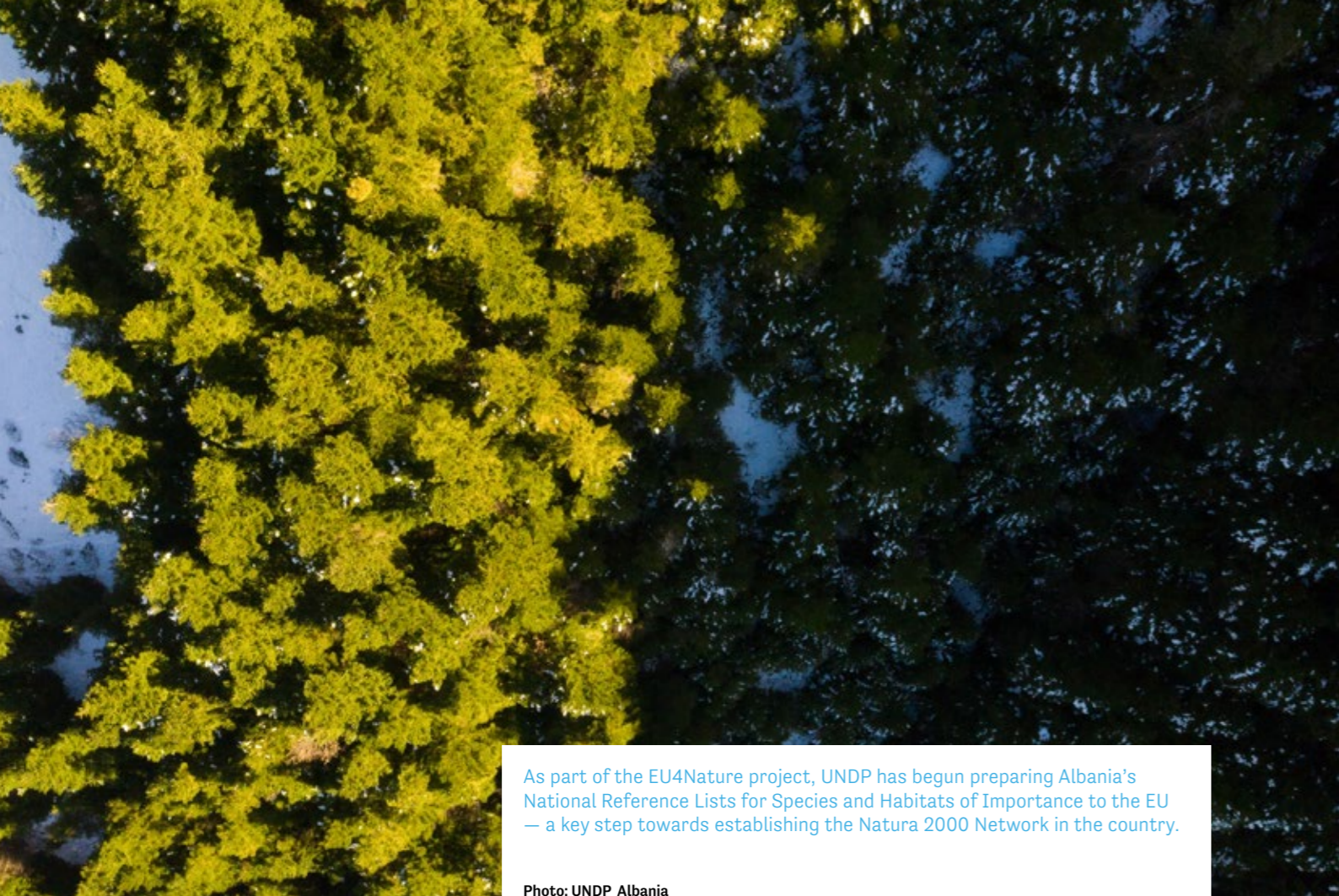
Albania has also emerged as a regional example of gender-responsive tourism through the country's first gender and tourism assessment, promotion of women's leadership in the sector, and self-defence training for more than 430 women and girls in hospitality. These efforts are helping ensure that Albania's rapidly growing tourism industry becomes safer, fairer and more inclusive.



### Business #2030 Conference Calls for Bold Action to Position Albania

The conference underlined that sustainability is no longer an aspiration but a decisive condition for competitiveness in the EU Single Market.

READ MORE



As part of the EU4Nature project, UNDP has begun preparing Albania's National Reference Lists for Species and Habitats of Importance to the EU – a key step towards establishing the Natura 2000 Network in the country.

Photo: UNDP Albania

**UN AGENCIES:**  
UNEP, UNDP,  
UNICEF, UNIDO

**SDG TARGETS:**  
3.6, 3.9, 4, 4.1, 9.1, 9.4,  
11.b, 12.c, 12.7, 13, 13.1,  
13.2, 13.3, 13.b

Aligned with HII Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution, and HII Energy Access and Affordability

#### OUTPUT 2.4

### Climate and ecosystem resources

**Albania** continued to advance its climate action and environmental sustainability agenda in 2025, strengthening adaptation, disaster risk management (DRM), and sustainable natural resource use. Progress was made across climate adaptation planning, energy transition and climate finance, biodiversity protection, and risk-informed infrastructure, while rising flood, wildfire and ecosystem risks underscore the need for sustained investment and coordination.

EU-aligned nature protection and biodiversity governance were strengthened, with advances in legal and administrative compliance and **Protected Area revenues increasing significantly**. Land-use revenues rose from **ALL 14.7 million (2021) to ALL 35.4 million (2025)**, while **ecotourism revenues increased from ALL 6.8 million to ALL 18.2 million**, supporting conservation financing and local development. Albania also advanced EU alignment through an **updated Red List**, development of **Access and Benefit-Sharing legislation** and adoption of a **National Forestry Programme**, contributing to **Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 3 and 13**.

Additionally, the country finalized the first draft of a valorisation study for the Albanian Alps National Park, strengthening the evidence base for improved management effectiveness, climate resilience and sustainable financing.

Climate adaptation planning and financing were substantially advanced through the development of the **Climate Change National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2026–2036**, with identification of 66 priority adaptation measures across six sectors and need for an estimated USD 9.8 billion investment by 2036. **Eight Local Adaptation Plans** supported subnational climate action. The NAP process directly informed **Albania's National Determined Contribution 3.0**, strengthening evidence-based adaptation priorities, institutional coordination, financing frameworks, and monitoring and transparency systems aligned with the Paris Agreement.

In parallel, climate mitigation and ozone protection were strengthened, advancing alignment with the Montreal Protocol, Kigali Amendment and EU environmental *acquis*. Albania consolidated **hydrofluorocarbon import quota enforcement**, promoted **Green Public Procurement** as a driver of low-emission markets, advanced **e-Mobility** and **low-carbon transport planning** under EU Chapter 27, and prepared deployment of **low global warming potential technologies**, including climate-friendly refrigeration and heat pumps. Preparatory work for the **Hydrochlorofluorocarbon Phase-out Management Plan Stage III (2026–2030)** set the pathway for full hydrochlorofluorocarbon phase-out by 2030, strengthening market readiness, skills and regulatory implementation. Flood risk management and climate-resilient infrastructure were strengthened, with **Flood Risk Management Plans developed** for areas of potential significant flood risk along the Drini River, aligned with the EU Floods Directive. Key infrastructure designs were finalized, including the **Murtemza Channel** linking drainage systems to Viluni Lagoon and the Adriatic Sea, while **rehabilitation of the 5 km KK-5 drainage channel** in Shkodra reduced flood risk for communities and 1,200 hectares of agricultural land. Regional preparedness was reinforced through a **cross-border initiative engaging more than 30 practitioners** from the Western Balkans and EU disaster risk experts.

Youth engagement and climate education were strengthened as key enablers of inclusive climate action. Environmental activism was supported across nine municipalities, engaging **508 young people (377 girls)** through strengthened youth advocacy, peer networks and empowered local youth watchdog groups. Nine youth-led air quality initiatives, implemented by **134 young people (90 girls)**, reached more than **5,526 peers**, while **revised climate education and green skills curricula** expanded capacities and resources for school-based climate action nationwide.

While these strategic interventions strengthen Albania's climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and alignment with EU and global climate commitments, sustained policy implementation, financing and regional collaboration remain essential for addressing long-term environmental and climate risks.

#### KEY RESULTS

# 66

**priority climate adaptation measures** were identified across six sectors under the National Adaptation Plan (2026–2036)

#### Protected Area revenues increased significantly:

land-use revenues rose from ALL **14.7 million** (2021) to ALL **35.4 million** (2025)



#### How Sweden's Support Helped Darsia Olive Oil Grow Beyond Lushnja

Everyone knows what defines the spirit of Lushnja's men and women: hard work and a deep love for their fertile land. The Kuqi family is no exception.

READ MORE

**UN AGENCIES:**  
UNDP, UNOPS

**SDG TARGETS:**  
1.5, 2.1, 6.5, 11.b, 11,  
11.4, 13.1, 13.3

## OUTPUT 2.5

### Disaster risk reduction

**Albania** made substantial progress in strengthening DRM and civil protection, consolidating institutional reforms, scaling local resilience systems and advancing alignment with EU and international standards, including EU accession requirements.

Preparedness and response capacities were significantly strengthened, with **seven local civil emergency plans endorsed** and **14 Continuity of Governance and Planning Frameworks developed**, supporting system-wide resilience across civil protection institutions. Albania also **strengthened engagement with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism**, enhancing interoperability, coordination and readiness to respond to climate-induced disasters.

National and local operational capacity was enhanced through delivery and use of **critical emergency assets**, including **Albania's first mobile emergency unit vehicle**, fully operational during wildfires and floods. **Training was delivered across 12 counties**, engaging **232 civil protection personnel** through **five standardized core modules**, strengthening knowledge of the civil protection system, legal framework and operational procedures. In parallel, **17 cultural and heritage sites**, including museums, theatres, castles and other cultural buildings, were retrofitted to withstand disaster shocks, strengthening resilience of critical public infrastructure.

Risk-informed planning and local resilience progressed, with **advanced DRM pilots initiated in five municipalities and Shkodra County**, including disaster risk assessments, disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies and action plans, and local civil emergency plans. **Local and regional risk assessments and emergency planning** were launched, supporting evidence-based preparedness.

Interoperability and EU-aligned coordination were reinforced through **civil protection exercises** conducted across **four regions**, engaging some **479 civil protection personnel** and strengthening scenario-based responses, cross-border cooperation and alignment with **EU Civil Protection Mechanism standards**. Initial steps were also taken toward establishing a **National Platform for DRR**.

Fire protection and emergency response infrastructure was strengthened with the **construction of Pogradec Fire Station**, improving response capacity for **more than 46,000 residents** and reinforcing national firefighting and rescue capabilities.

Overall, 2025 results demonstrate a strong national commitment and effective donor partnership in advancing a safer, more prepared and more resilient Albania.

## KEY RESULTS

232

**civil protection personnel** were trained across 12 counties through five standardized training modules

17

**cultural and heritage sites** (including museums, theatres, and castles) were retrofitted to withstand disaster shocks

479

**civil protection personnel** participated in regional civil protection exercises across four regions

## SUCCESS STORY

# #EU4Nature: Albania's Parks Go Digital: A Game-Changer for Nature and Tourism

**Albania's** pristine landscapes—think crystal-clear waters of the Vjosa River, the whispering pines of Bredhi i Hotovës-Dangëlli, and the rugged peaks of Lurë-Deja Mountain—are calling adventurers worldwide. More than five million tourists have visited Albania's protected areas in less than a year.

Thanks to the #EU4Nature project, exploring these natural wonders just got easier, smarter, and greener. Albania's Protected Areas have gone digital, and it is an important step that's set to revolutionize management, conservation and ecotourism.

Imagine this: you're standing at the edge of Shebenik National Park, ready to hike through its untouched forests. No cash in your pocket? No problem. The park will issue you an e-invoice, and you can pay by bank transfer from your phone. With the new Unified e-Invoicing and e-Ticketing System, you can now get a e-Ticket and pay for anchoring your boat in the pristine waters of Porto Palermo or for kayaking in Vjosa River with a quick tap on the portable POS devices set up in designated areas of each park. Tour operators, licensed guides, or event organizers can now contact the Park administration and have the e-Invoice accessed in real time from their phone.

Covering over 95 services, from scuba diving to eco-friendly camping, this system is designed for an easy visitor experience and access to all services and activities that Protected Areas can offer.

Less time fumbling with payments means more time soaking in Albania's breathtaking biodiversity.

This digital leap isn't just about convenience; it's a lifeline for conservation. The system will allow extend fee collection for activities and services offered in all Protected Areas.

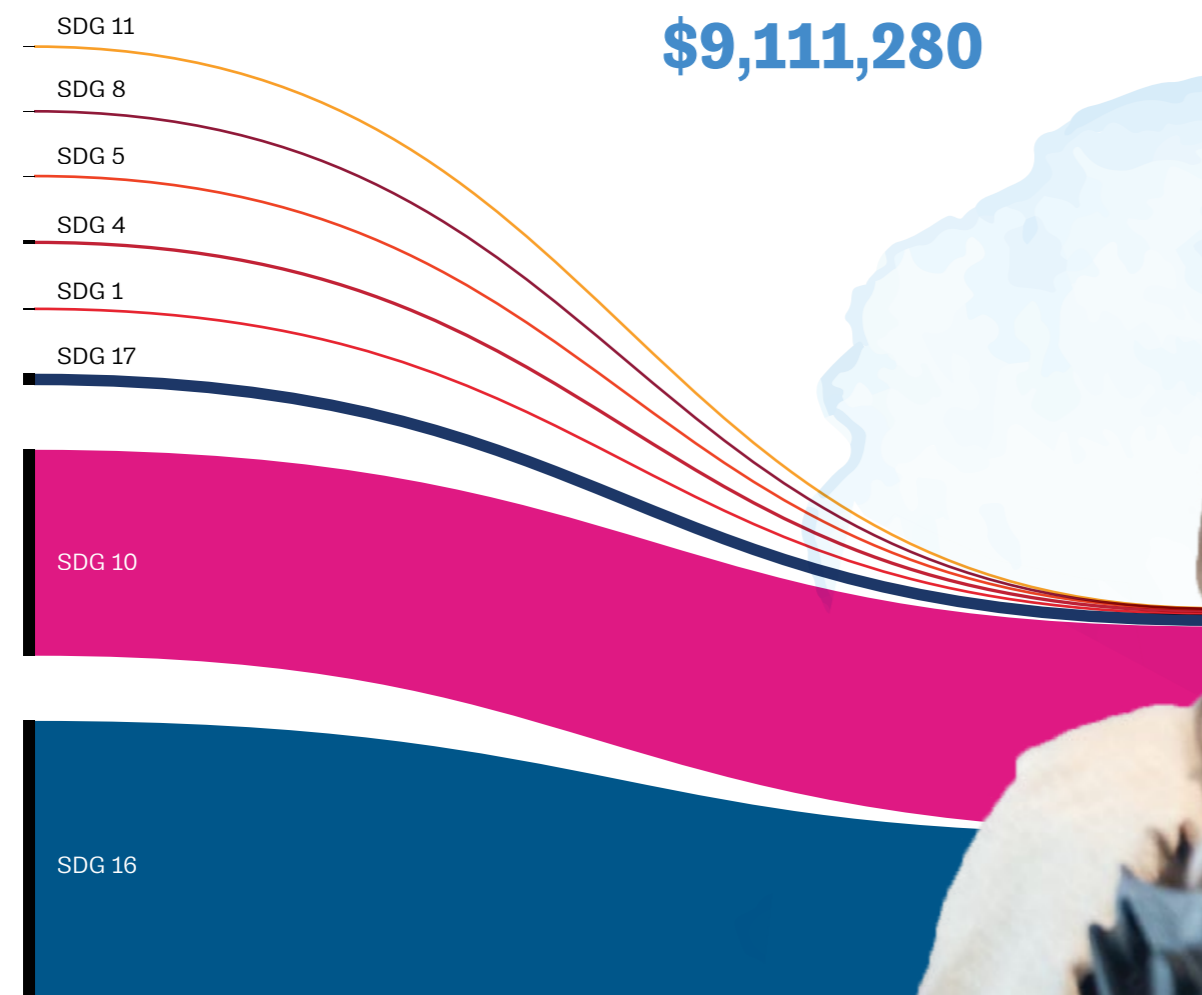
**“The digitalization of Albania's Protected Areas is a game-changer. By streamlining access to parks, we're not only making it easier for visitors to engage with nature but also ensuring transparency and formalization of funds.”**

[READ FULL STORY](#)



# 3 Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights

## Contribution to SDGs




Resources Executed  
**\$9,111,280**



 Alignment with National Development Goals  
**1**

 Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas  
**5 10 22 23 24 32**

 Alignment with SDGs  
**1 4 5 8 10 11 16 17**

 UN Contributors

- IOM UNDP UNESCO
- UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF
- UNODC UNOPS
- UN WOMEN

Contributing Partners

## AT A GLANCE

**1,227**  
**PEOPLE** have access to justice, with UN support. 375+ vulnerable individuals receiving legal aid

**1,500+**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE** engaged in 66 youth leadership and civic participation initiatives

**195**  
**MIGRANTS & REFUGEES** received legal assistance and counselling

**Census 2023 analysis** completed delivery disaggregated data on children, youth, R&E and persons with disabilities



Children in Tirana, Albania, raising their voices on World Children's Day with one message: HOPE.

Photo: UNHCR Albania

**UN AGENCIES:**

UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS

**SDG TARGETS:**

5.2, 5.5, 8.3, 8.5, 8.8, 16.3, 16.4, 16.6, 16.9, 16.a

**OUTPUT 3.1**

Access to justice

**Albania** continued to advance justice reform in 2025, strengthening legal frameworks, institutional capacities, and access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups, while addressing remaining gaps in inclusiveness, capacity and EU alignment. UN support focused on improving accountability, digitalization and rights-based justice delivery for women, children, persons with disabilities, R&E communities, and individuals at risk of statelessness.

Legal and policy alignment with international and EU standards progressed, with UN technical feedback provided on draft amendments to the **Criminal Code** from gender, child rights and cultural heritage perspectives, and support to revise the **Law on Cultural Heritage**, including measures to combat trafficking of cultural property. Justice institutions strengthened their capacities through regional learning and cooperation with Albanian policymakers participating in **three regional conferences** on diversion and restorative justice for children, Barnahus models for child victims of violence, and integrated justice and care responses, supporting and informing the design of new national strategies planned for 2026.

Digital transformation enhanced justice system efficiency and transparency. A **national digital database for free legal aid** was designed and piloted, standardizing procedures, improving coordination and strengthening accountability. The system was supported by **targeted training for 31 central and regional staff, NGOs and service providers**, enabling nationwide scale-up. Use of **child-friendly interview units in police departments increased by 8%** compared to 2024, and data entry into the **Integrated Data System for Justice for Children** was broadened to include judiciary. Progress was also achieved in justice interoperability, IT capacity strengthening, and hardware upgrades, paving the way for an integrated digital justice ecosystem.

Access to justice for vulnerable populations expanded nationwide. UN support strengthened **20 free legal aid centres**, enabling **more than 375 vulnerable individuals** to access legal assistance. Legal aid services also addressed statelessness risks, with **179 persons receiving legal support** and **181 confirming their nationality**, improving access to rights and essential services.

Child- and youth-focused justice initiatives enhanced rights awareness and rehabilitation through informative exchanges, reaching **71 adolescents** across three municipalities for strengthened knowledge of rights and prevention of juvenile criminality. At the Juvenile Penitentiary Centre in Kavaja, **29 boys deprived of liberty** benefited from the **Akelius language learning programme**, with their skills and future employability prospects improved.

Rule-of-law enforcement capacities, including efforts to combat illicit trafficking, were reinforced. Law enforcement and judicial professionals strengthened their capacities to address **trafficking of cultural property**, illicit firearms, and organized crime. The measures included **Dark Web and Open-Source Intelligence training for 18 officials**, training of **136 border police officers across seven border-crossing counties**, and a forensic study visit to Paris, supporting ballistic data exchange and regional cooperation. Operational border control was strengthened through delivery of specialized detection and surveillance equipment, including **drones, portable X-ray scanners, thermal cameras and five patrol vehicles**, enhancing detection and interdiction capacity.

Together, these interventions strengthened access to justice, digital readiness, and institutional accountability, contributing to a more inclusive and rights-based justice system. Continued investment, sustained digital transformation, and stronger inter-institutional coordination remain essential to ensure that justice reforms deliver equitable and lasting outcomes for all, particularly the most vulnerable.

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DOWNLOAD NOW!



STUDY ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ALBANIA



The EU and UNOPS Albania launching the project EU4Digital Justice: "Support to the Rule of Law through Digital Transformation".

Photo: UNOPS Albania

**KEY RESULTS**

**179**

persons at risk of statelessness received legal support

**375+**

vulnerable individuals accessed legal assistance through 20 strengthened free legal aid centres nationwide

**UN AGENCIES:**

UNDP, UNFPA,  
UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**

1.3, 4.4.2, 5.5, 10.2,  
10.3, 16, 16.7

**OUTPUT 3.2**

## Good governance, participation and voice

**In 2025**, Albania continued advancing inclusive governance, participation and accountability, while recognizing the need for sustained efforts to address complex challenges such as corruption, human trafficking, cybercrime and money laundering, and to further strengthen public trust and access to justice, particularly for women, youth and marginalized groups.

Participatory local governance and civil society engagement were strengthened, with **39 CSOs implementing 54 community-based projects across at least 12 municipalities**, contributing to environmental protection, tourism and cultural heritage promotion, and local policymaking. **Participatory planning and budgeting processes** enhanced citizen engagement, transparency and responsiveness of municipal governance. **Ethical standards in public discourse were reinforced** through support to the Albanian Media Council, strengthening professional ethics and responsible reporting.

Youth leadership and civic participation were significantly expanded through coordinated support to the **Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda**, with key results achieved under the regional UN JP **Youth 4 Inclusion, Equality & Trust**, implemented jointly by UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women and UNESCO.



EU and UNDP launch the third phase of ReLOaD3 in Albania: Strengthening Local Democracy for EU Integration.

Photo: UNDP Albania



Young leaders, educators and institutions contributed to shaping a regional vision for peace education through the "Youth for Inclusion, Equality and Trust" project, funded by the UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund.

Photo: UNFPA Albania

**More than 1,500 young people** engaged in **66 initiatives and 30 youth dialogues**, while **30 youth representatives, five government institutions and 30 CSOs** jointly advanced YPS priorities. Capacity development was scaled for Local Youth Councils, reaching **84 youth representatives from 18 municipalities**, complemented by a YPS mentorship programme. An additional **140 youth, youth workers and public officials** participated in YPS training under outreach of UN Security Council Resolution 2250.

Youth empowerment was further reinforced through integration of **Y-PEER and Bystander manuals** into out-of-school programmes, refresher trainings for national trainer pools, and strengthened collaboration with CSOs. Media integrity and youth voices were amplified through partnerships with the Faculty of Journalism and Faktoje.al, building young journalists' capacities to counter misinformation, promote gender-responsive reporting, and produce evidence-based content. In parallel, **seven Albanian youths** joined the first regional roster of **Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and YPS trainers** in the Western Balkans.

Gender equality and women's participation in governance were further reinforced, including through implementation of the **National Action Plan on WPS**. **Ten Local Gender Action Plans** were approved by municipal councils, embedding WPS and YPS commitments with measurable indicators. In addition, several municipalities incorporated safety audits and related actions to enhance safety in public spaces, address risks of harassment and create more inclusive urban environment.

These results reflect the UN's commitment to fostering **transparent, inclusive and participatory governance**, advancing Albania's progress toward the **SDGs** and stronger democratic institutions.

**KEY RESULTS**

**1,500+**

**young people** participated in 66 youth initiatives and 30 youth dialogues

**84**

**youth representatives** from 18 municipalities strengthened their capacities through Local Youth Council training and mentorship programmes

**UN AGENCIES:**

IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**

4.3, 4.5, 4.7, 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.a, 5.c, 8.3, 8.5, 11.4, 12.b, 16, 16.7, 17.8, 17.18, 17.19

**OUTPUT 3.3**

**Data and evidence**

**Significant** progress has been made with SDG monitoring and evidence-based governance, with strong performances in most areas though with notable gaps remaining for SDGs 8, 14 and 16. Albania's SDG index score of 75.16 places it 45th out of 167 countries. Key improvements in statistical performance are reflected in the rise of Statistical Performance Index, from 64.9 in 2016 to 85.1 in 2023. Nevertheless, challenges remain, including data gaps in rural-urban disaggregation, gender statistics and the lack of a culture of evidence-based policymaking.

To address the above challenges, the **national statistical systems and data-use for policymaking were reinforced** through UN support to advance data production and analysis, including **Census 2023 population projections and secondary analysis, MICS, Time-Use Survey, VAW surveys** and strengthened **gender statistics capacities at central and local levels**. In-depth Census analysis on **R&E communities and persons with disabilities** enhanced disaggregated evidence for inclusive policymaking.

Child- and youth-focused data systems were strengthened significantly as Albania advanced preparations for **MICS 2026**, with support to INSTAT and line ministries on indicator selection, questionnaire design and pre-testing, household listing, and deployment of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing systems. Continued support to **Steering Committees and Technical Working Groups** ensured strong institutional ownership, coordination and sustainability of national data systems, laying a solid foundation for high-quality data collection and the generation of timely, reliable evidence to inform policies, programmes and investments for children and adolescents.

High-value analytical products improved accountability and policy relevance, including publication of the **Census 2023 Thematic Report: Children and Youth in Albania**, one of the most comprehensive and disaggregated evidence bases on children and young people. The report highlighted demographic shifts, inequalities linked to poverty, disability, ethnicity, gender and geography, and informed child-centred policies aligned with the SDGs, Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) commitments, and national EU integration agenda.

Gender-responsive policymaking was strengthened with **67 government officials** trained in gender statistics and **14 municipalities** capacitated in gender-responsive indicator development and monitoring. Gender mainstreaming efforts also included a **gender review of the Agricultural census Law**, contributing to more inclusive sectoral policies. At the national level, the **Country Gender Equality Profile** was finalized and launched, providing a comprehensive evidence base to inform policy dialogue and reform.



**Albania Signs Agreement to Launch Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) for Children**

The initiative comes at a pivotal time as Albania continues to accelerate its accession to the European Union, positioning itself as a regional leader aligned with EU standards and values.

[READ MORE](#)

Migration governance was supported through the launch of a **household migration survey and a qualitative study on migration, return and diaspora engagement**, a joint partnership with INSTAT and WB, strengthening the evidence base for policy, programming and financing decisions. Furthermore, a **Local Migration Governance Indicators** profile for Tirana Municipality was conducted, with 70 indicators used to provide a comprehensive picture of the migration governance landscape.

**Thematic Indicators for Culture in the 2030 Agenda** was launched in February 2025 at the national level and for Berat city, to measure the contribution of culture to sustainable development (economic, environment, education, social cohesion), helping Albania advance its strategic planning in the culture sector.

Through these initiatives, Albania has taken significant steps to modernize its statistical systems and bridge critical data gaps, as essential efforts to advance equitable and sustainable development and ensure that no one is left behind.



MICS survey teams collecting data in the field to help build a clearer picture of children's and families' well-being across Albania.

Photo: UNICEF Albania

**KEY RESULTS**

**67**

**government officials** trained in gender statistics

**14**

**municipalities** strengthened in gender-responsive indicator development and monitoring



The side event “Mobilizing Human Rights-Centred Multistakeholder Action to Combat Hate” co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Albania in Geneva during the 59th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC59).  
 Photo: Permanent Mission of Albania in Geneva

**UN AGENCIES:**  
 UNODC, UNOPS

**SDG TARGETS:**  
 5.1, 5.2, 16, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.8, 16.10, 16.a, 17.1, 17.17

**OUTPUT 3.4**

## Public sector accountability and quality services

**Albania** continued to strengthen public administration and governance in 2025, advancing regulatory alignment, inter-institutional coordination, digital transformation, and rule-of-law capacities.

Justice and governance systems were modernized through digitalization, with progress in the operationalization and interoperability of key platforms. A **comprehensive needs assessment for the General Prosecutor’s Office case management system** was completed, while **two major procurements, an independent IT security audit** and an **upgrade of IT networking infrastructure**, strengthening data protection, system integrity and operational efficiency.

Rule-of-law enforcement, as well as anti-corruption and border management capacities were reinforced, particularly in addressing cross-border crime. Front-line officials benefited from **targeted training on risk-based border control, illicit trafficking, and detection of illegal goods**, while Albanian practitioners actively engaged in **regional workshops and operational exchanges**.

Regional cooperation on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling was strengthened, responding to risks linked to displacement and mixed migration flows. Through regional expert meetings and thematic workshops, practitioners advanced practical cooperation on technology-facilitated trafficking, digital evidence, victim-centred prosecution, and cross-border investigations.

Together, these results enhanced governance effectiveness, justice sector resilience and regional cooperation, reinforcing Albania’s capacity to respond to emerging security risks while advancing EU-aligned, accountable and digitally enabled institutions.

**OUTPUT 3.5**

## Accountability and oversight for human rights

**Albania** continued to strengthen alignment with international human rights standards, advancing legal and policy reforms on gender equality, child rights and non-discrimination, in line with Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), CRC, Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and the country’s EU accession priorities. Important progress was achieved in 2025, though implementation gaps remain, particularly with regard to strengthening institutional capacity and independence of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), such as the People’s Advocate and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, data availability and delays in appointing key officials.

Institutional capacity and accessibility were strengthened, with UN supporting the **Human Rights Academy**, developing an **online platform promoting bodily autonomy, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive rights for persons with disabilities** and conducting a **National Inquiry in three municipalities** on accessibility of infrastructure, information and services across gender-based violence (GBV) response institutions. Collaboration with the **Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination** was enhanced to promote human rights compliance in the private sector. Parliamentary oversight and democratic accountability improved, supported by sustained UN engagement. On **International Children’s Day**, Parliament symbolically opened its plenary session with a child alongside the Speaker, reinforcing commitment to child participation. On **Human Rights Day**, Parliament reconstituted the **Friends of Children caucus with 28 MPs**, strengthening child-focused advocacy for the duration of the legislative mandate. MPs also engaged directly with adolescents from UN Advisory Groups, informed by **U-Report consultations** nationwide.

Access to remedies and complaint mechanisms expanded, particularly for children. In 2025, **27.5% of human rights complaints concerned child rights violations**, while **complaints submitted by women remained low (30%)**, highlighting ongoing barriers to reporting and the need for continued support. Public hearings, strategic remedies and civil society engagement strengthened institutional responsiveness and independent oversight.

Public awareness and advocacy were amplified, with Parliament, the People’s Advocate and UN agencies jointly marking key international days (e.g., 1 June, International Children’s Day; 20 November, children’s rights day; commemorative days within the 16-days of activism) through opinion pieces, academic dialogues and outreach events with universities and schools, focusing on child protection, inclusion of children with disabilities, prevention of abuse and child participation in policymaking. Together, the above-mentioned efforts strengthened a more inclusive, accountable and rights-based governance environment, reinforcing Albania’s progress toward fulfilment of international human rights obligations.

**UN AGENCIES:**  
 UNFPA, UNICEF, UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**  
 5.1, 8.3, 8.5, 8.8, 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16.a, 16.b, 17.9

**KEY RESULTS**

**27.5%**

**of all human rights complaints** in 2025 were related to child rights violations

**30%**

**of complaints** were submitted by women

**UN AGENCIES:**  
IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF

**SDG TARGETS:**  
3.8, 10.7, 16.2,  
16.3, 16.9, 17.18

### OUTPUT 3.6

## Migration and asylum

**Albania** continued to advance its migration and asylum management in alignment with the country's EU accession priorities and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Building on the National Strategy on Migration 2024–2030 and its Action Plan and on the National Action Plan for Combatting Human Trafficking (2024–2025), the Government of Albania made significant progress across governance, protection and integration frameworks, ensuring more coordinated, evidence-based and rights-oriented migration management.

Governance and institutional capacity was strengthened through enhanced policy development, technical improvements, and targeted capacity-building measures. Albania advanced institutional coordination and alignment with EU benchmarks, including adoption of the **national Contingency Plan for mixed migration flows**. Evidence generation was expanded through **Displacement Tracking Matrix operations**, enabling better monitoring of migrant profiles, mobility trends and emerging needs. Child-sensitive protection mechanisms were further consolidated, including through development of **Standard Operating Procedures for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)**.

Protection and services for migrants, refugees and displaced persons expanded across multiple systems. Integrated child protection, GBV and



One of the vehicles handed over to selected municipalities in Albania through the #EU4MIGRATION project implemented by IOM and UNHCR to support safe, timely, and dignified transport of children, in line with national standard operating procedures

Photo: IOM Albania

prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) services were provided for **Afghan refugee children and caregivers** until April 2025 with more than **4,200 individuals** accessing age-appropriate psycho-social support, case management and violence prevention. Parallel strengthening of municipal child protection systems ensured handover and sustainability. Additionally, **shelters and mobile units assisting child victims of trafficking** were supported, reaching vulnerable children and communities with prevention, referral and lifeskills support.

Border management and security were enhanced through proactive investigations into **migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings**, supported by the **Western Balkans Joint Actions**. Albanian authorities, including border and migration police, criminal units and child protection services, benefited from regional training and digital investigation initiatives. First- and second-line border officers were trained in **forged document detection, fraud prevention and data collection for national and regional analysis**. National antitrafficking efforts were supported through support to the Ministry of Internal Affairs' helpline (116 006) and through a national campaign to strengthen trafficking prevention and community engagement.

Digital and operational systems were further modernized with Albania advancing the **electronic Readmission Case Management System**, with the first digital connection with Belgium scheduled for 2026, marking a global first. Support to the **Passenger Information Unit** and border authorities included training on Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record modules, data protection and digital tools to improve migration monitoring and operational efficiency.

Migration governance, social inclusion and institutional coordination were further strengthened for improved migration management at the national and local levels. More than **150 migration and diaspora professionals** enhanced capacities in migration management and service de-

### KEY RESULTS

**150+**

**migration and diaspora professionals** engaged capacities in migration management and service delivery

**4,200+**

**Afghan refugee children and caregivers** received psycho-social support, case management, and violence prevention services



### From the shadows to citizenship: Alexander's journey out of statelessness

When Alexander arrived in Albania as a three-month-old infant from Greece with his dad, he came not only without memories, but without a birth certificate, and without existence in the eyes of the law.

READ MORE



At the offices of Refugee and Migrant Services in Albania, UNHCR partner Maiwand Mohamed Akbar takes part in a professional coaching session that helped him rebuild his career path and work toward self-reliance.

Photo: UNHCR Albania

## KEY RESULTS

260

young people engaged in a digital communication campaign promoting positive migration narratives

195+

migrants, refugees and displaced persons received legal assistance and counselling

730+

legal acts, policies and agreements reviewed or analysed through Diaspora Fellowship Scheme

livery, advancing **employment opportunities for internal migrants** and promoting **diaspora engagement and investment**. Additionally, public awareness and youth engagement were strengthened through an innovative digital communication campaign engaging more than **260 young people**, promoting positive narratives on migration.

Diaspora engagement was strengthened through ongoing support to the National Strategy on Diaspora (NSD) (2021–2025) and its Action Plan, while preparations were initiated for the new **NSD 2026–2030**. In parallel, the **Diaspora Fellowship Scheme** continued to deploy qualified experts to support EU accession priorities and institutional development across line ministries. More than **730 legal acts, policies and agreements** across 18 subject areas were mapped, reviewed or analysed as part of Albania’s legal EU harmonization process.

Protection and services for migrants, refugees and displaced persons were expanded, with more than **195 individuals receiving legal assistance and counselling** and seven applicants granted refugee status after seven years. Child rights safeguards, best interest procedures, age assessment and coordination between asylum and child protection systems were enhanced through the partnership with the European Union Agency for Asylum, as well as Albania’s engagement in high-level regional dialogue on UASC, contributing to improved interstate cooperation on reception, case management and durable solutions.

Through these combined efforts, Albania strengthened its migration governance, protection systems and operational capacity, enhancing its ability to manage migration effectively, safeguard the rights of vulnerable populations and advance EU-aligned reforms.



IOM Albania, together with the British Embassy in Tirana and the National Agency for Employment and Skills, organizes job fairs to connect local job seekers with businesses in regions such as Kukës and Dibër.

Photo: IOM Albania

## SUCCESS STORY

# #MyGreatStory: How Migration Shapes Lives, Cultures, and Development in Northern Albania

**Migration** is often spoken about in numbers, routes and policies. But at its heart, migration is made of people, of choices taken, skills learned, cultures shared and futures rebuilt. This International Migrants Day, under the theme “My Great Story: Cultures and Development,” we celebrate migration as a force that connects lives and communities, turning personal journeys into shared progress.

Across Albania and beyond, migrants, returnees and diaspora members are shaping development in ways that are deeply human – through creativity, entrepreneurship and a lasting connection to home.

For Kimete Toçi, migration was not just a journey abroad, but a journey inward, one that helped her rediscover her passion and turn it into a livelihood after returning home.

*“When I returned from Germany, I knew I wanted to work for myself and do what I truly love while, working with my hands is what makes me feel whole”* she says.

For Fation Bytyçi, migration has been a family history. Himself, he has been visiting, living and working across Albania and abroad helped him see both what was possible, and what was missing back home in Kukes.

Abroad, Fation noticed business models that could respond to changing lifestyles and demands in Kukes. With over 25 years of experience, he knew that tradition alone was not enough, adaptation was key.

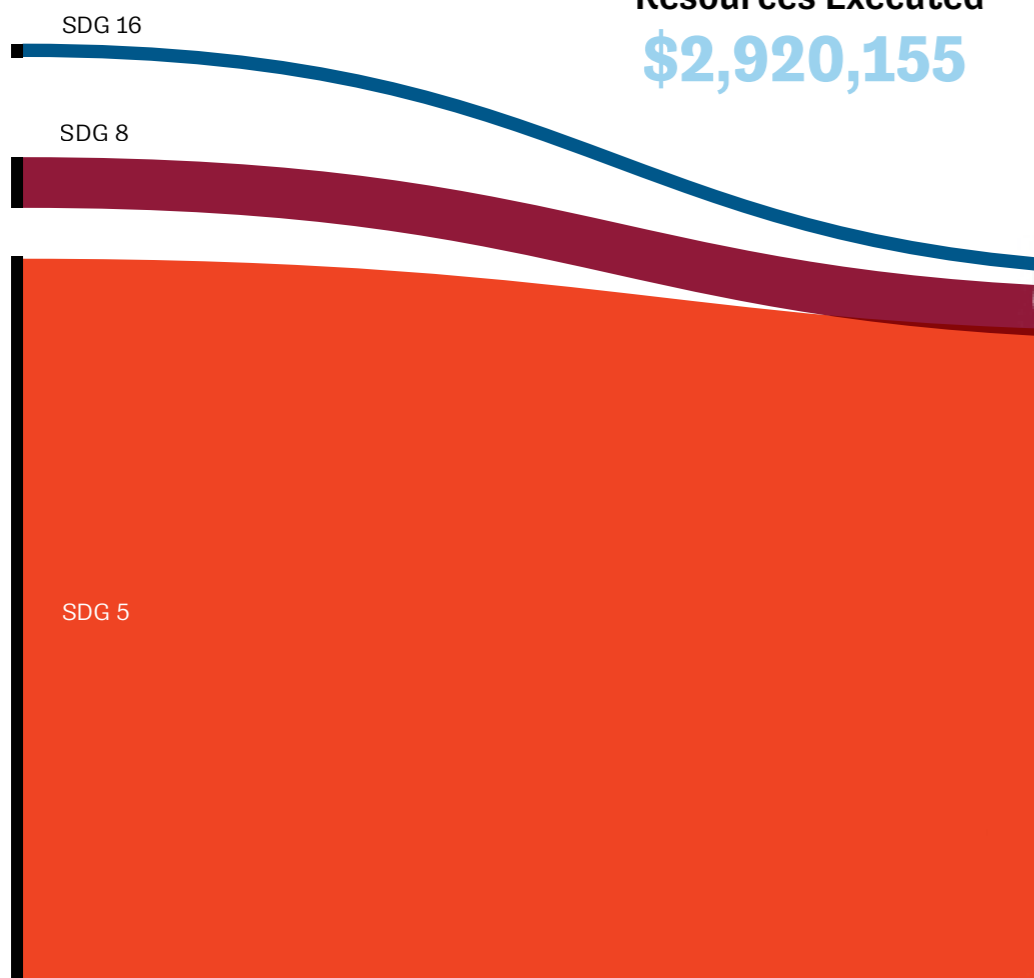
**“I truly grew and matured as a person in Tirana, I have also been to England and it helped me understand what my city really needed”**

Fation Bytyçi,  
Business Owner

READ FULL STORY

# 4 Gender-Responsive Governance

Contribution to SDGs



Alignment with National Development Goals  
**1 2 3**

Alignment with EU Integration Chapters & Priority Areas  
**5 10 22 23 24 32**

Alignment with SDGs  
**5 8 16**

UN Contributors  
UNDP UNFPA  
UNICEF UN WOMEN

Contributing Partners  
EU, Sweden, Italy, UK, Slovenia, USA, UN

## AT A GLANCE

**810**  
WOMEN SURVIVORS were supported

**600+**  
CHANGEMAKERS were empowered to lead local prevention initiatives

**937**  
STUDENTS were reached through self-defense & resilience programmes

**85 OF 131**  
NATIONAL BUDGET PROGRAMMES are now gender-responsive with 9.9% of national budget allocated to gender equality

**UN AGENCIES:**  
UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF,  
UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**  
4.4, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 8.3,  
8.5, 8.8, 11.6, 16.1, 16.2

**OUTPUT 4.1**

## End violence against women and children

**Albania** strengthened its response to VAW and Violence Against Children (VAC) in 2025, advancing legal reforms, expanding survivor services and reinforcing prevention and accountability mechanisms, though persistent underreporting and access gaps remain, particularly for marginalized groups. In this context, the UN JP **Ending Violence Against Women Phase II (EVAW II)**, implemented jointly by UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA, continued to support progress towards achieving SDG 5.2 in Albania, strengthening the prevention, response and policy environment around VAW and contributing to key normative reforms.

Legal and policy frameworks were advanced, with proposed amendments to the **Criminal Code** and the recently approved **Law on the Prevention and Protection from Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence** (January 2026) and approval of the **Law on Family-Based Alternative Care**, aligning national responses with EU and international standards. At the same time, implementation of ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the workplace expanded to **eight municipalities**, promoting safer and more equitable working environments. Survivor-centred services were expanded nationwide. A total of **810 women survivors**, including **198 rural women, 74 women with disabilities and 36 R&E women**, received legal, psychological and socio-economic support. Access to specialized sexual violence services was strengthened through the establishment of the **Lilium Centre in Vlora**, the second such centre in Albania.

Institutional capacity and accountability were reinforced, with more than **520 professionals** trained across Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRMs), health, police and social services. Perpetrator rehabilitation was strengthened through counselling for **324 offenders** across seven municipalities, capacity building of **166 professionals** and awareness raising reaching more than **88,000 people**.

**KEY RESULTS**

**810**

**women survivors** received legal, psychological, and socio-economic support

**88,000+**

**people** reached through awareness initiatives



Ambassador of Sweden in Albania Niklas Ström and United Nations Resident Coordinator in Albania Ingrid Macdonald signing extension of EVAW Joint Programme

Photo: UN Albania



Empowering newly elected municipal councilors in Shkodër and Malësi e Madhe, as UN Women provides training to strengthen their leadership and promote gender equality in local governance.

Photo: UN Women Albania

Prevention and social norm change initiatives were scaled up, including through **four new Be a Man Clubs that engaged 100 members**, community dialogues on alternatives to child marriage in five communities, school-based self-defence and empowerment programmes for girls, and youth-led media initiatives addressing toxic masculinity.

Child protection systems were strengthened significantly. The State Agency for Child Rights and Protection conducted an institutional functional review to enhance its role in the prevention and monitoring of child rights abuses. Integrated services reached more than **2,000 children, adolescents and caregivers**, while **93 child survivors or those at risk** received specialized case management. Needs assessment across 14 municipalities informed the establishment of four specialized services, including a trauma-informed care centre, the first of its kind, supporting **110 children, caregivers and community members**, alongside capacity building for more than **60 professionals** in trauma-informed approaches.

The care system reform advanced, with the drafting of a **costed National Action Plan for transforming residential care** into family- and community-based services. Transition pilots benefited **394 children and caregivers**, and **40 professionals** received specialized training. VAC was embedded in the **EU Child Guarantee Action Plan**, supporting Chapter 23 obligations. Safeguarding and coordination were strengthened, including PSEA training for more than **400 frontline professionals**, development of a **cross-sectoral action plan** to prevent school violence, and improved tracking of VAW & VAC cases and services. Together, these results strengthened Albania's survivor-centred protection system, improved accountability, and advanced alignment with EU standards, while underscoring the need for sustained investment to close remaining access and equity gaps.



### Digital Violence Is Real Violence

UN Albania Urges Stronger Protections for All Women and Girls. Marking the launch of the 16 Days of Activism to eliminate violence against women and girls, this year's campaign spotlights the growing threat of online abuse.

[READ MORE](#)

**KEY RESULTS**

**2,000+**

**children, adolescents, and caregivers** reached through integrated services

**400+**

**frontline professionals** trained on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

**UN AGENCIES:**

UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**

5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.A, 5.B, 8.3, 8.5, 8.8, 16.7, 16.10

**OUTPUT 4.2**

## Addressing gender stereotypes and harmful norms and practices

Despite its legal prohibition, **child marriage remains a concern in Albania**, particularly among R&E communities and in remote rural areas, driven by gender inequality, poverty and social exclusion. The year saw continued efforts to challenge and transform harmful gender norms and discriminatory practices in the country.

Legal and policy frameworks were strengthened through coordinated UN engagement and joint advocacy, crucial for approval of the **Gender Equality Law** in November 2025. Public consultations on the **new Criminal Code draft** reinforced provisions against **child and forced marriage, sexual violence against children, gender-motivated hate crimes, and trafficking and exploitation of children.**

Community-led prevention and norm change were scaled up nationwide. Four regional forums engaged **150 institutional representatives from 15 municipalities**, strengthening men's and boys' engagement on positive masculinities and gender equality. The **Say No to Early Marriage campaign** launched a year-long, multi-stakeholder effort and reached more than **100 community members** and empowered **400 community change-makers** using cultural advocacy, including a national theatre production *Grua për Shpi*, to shift social norms.



'No to early marriages' a message through a youth-led theatrical performance created through collaboration between UNFPA Albania and the Youth Voice Network of Organizations, using art to raise awareness on violence, power and social change.

Photo: UNFPA Albania

Youth, schools and media were mobilized as drivers of change. The school-based programme **Fatherhood Reinvented: Empowering Modern Dads** engaged students in gender stereotypes together with digital safety activities to increase awareness of technology-facilitated violence. Self-defence and resilience programmes reached **667 students**, while **46 teachers were trained and certified**. The programme was accredited by *Agjencia e Sigurimit të Cilësisë së Arsimit Parauniversitar* (Agency of Quality Assurance for Pre-university Education) for national scale-up. During the **16 Days of Activism**, school and community initiatives reached **300 students and more than 600 parents, teachers and community members**, strengthening awareness on digital violence.

Media and digital advocacy amplified the impact and regional cooperation around gender stereotyping. A regional initiative engaged **100 media, academia and youth representatives**, while **47 young journalists** received hands-on training in ethical, AI-informed and gender-sensitive reporting. National digital campaigns on online violence reached more than **300,000 people**, supported by influencers, creative content and **1,300 in-person participants**, reinforcing zero tolerance for violence in digital spaces.

UN Albania increased awareness for women living in rural areas with targeted campaigns on property rights and violence prevention. In commemoration of the International Day of Rural Women, the UN and partners led targeted awareness-raising activities, including a dedicated video and a **Rural Women's Declaration** advocating for stronger gender-responsive rural policies and increased access to property rights in rural areas, reaching **approximately 116,500 people** through social media.

Together, these efforts advanced the prevention of child marriage, dismantled harmful gender norms and strengthened youth and community leadership, laying the foundation for sustained progress towards gender equality and social cohesion.

**KEY RESULTS**

**667**

**students** reached through self-defence and resilience programmes

**150**

**institutional representatives** strengthened on positive masculinities and gender equality

**47**

**young journalists** trained in gender-sensitive reporting



Albanian artists and influencers joined the #Bodyright campaign, supporting UNFPA's call for equal protection of our bodies and images in the digital space, just as in real life.

Photo: UNFPA Albania

**UN AGENCIES:**  
UNFPA, UNICEF,  
UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**  
5.4, 5.A, 5.C

#### OUTPUT 4.3

### Gender-responsive planning and budgeting

**Government** institutions at central and local levels significantly strengthened their capacities to plan, budget, monitor, track expenditures and mobilize resources for gender equality and women's empowerment, representing a substantial increase from the baseline of ten entities in 2022. GRB remains a cornerstone of Albania's public financial management reforms, with progress achieved in embedding gender considerations into fiscal planning and decision-making processes.

GRB is now integrated across national budgeting processes. For **2026, 11 line ministries and 31 central institutions** applied GRB in at least one budget programme. **Of 131 national budget programmes, 85** now incorporate gender objectives, indicators and outputs, contributing to an increase in the **national budget allocation for gender equality to 9.9%**.

Institutionalization of GRB was secured at the policy level, with gender dimensions formally integrated into the **Public Finance Management Strategy**, approved by the Council of Ministers, ensuring long-term sustainability within national governance systems.

**More than 200 public officials from 11 ministries** strengthened their capacities in gender analysis and integration within the **Medium-Term Budget Programme**, improving the use of gender-sensitive key performance indicators and coordination between the Ministry of Finance and line ministries. Targeted training further enhanced capacities of the MoF and MoHSW to apply **Gender Impact Assessments** in policy and budgeting.

Local-level implementation also advanced substantially, with **12 municipalities** developing **costed Gender-Sensitive Local Action Plans** aligned with EU standards and **239 municipal staff** enhancing their expertise in gender mainstreaming. To further support this process, a **guiding document on Gender-Responsive Local Governance** was developed, assisting **nine municipalities** in aligning local plans and budgets with national gender equality objectives.

Through the EU4Social Care Programme 14 municipalities and their CSO partners are now capable of integrating gender equality perspectives into the local planning of social service provision, consulting vulnerable women and girls and ensuring PSEA and accountability towards beneficiaries.

By institutionalizing GRB at both national and local levels, Albania has reinforced its commitment to advancing SDGs 5 and 16. Continued investment in capacity building, cross-sectoral collaboration, and monitoring is essential to ensure that gender-responsive practices are applied consistently, resulting in more equitable and effective public resource management throughout the country.



Albania's PR to the UN, Ms Suela Janina, presenting Albania's progress in gender equality and women empowerment.

Photo: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the UN in NY (March 2025)



#### Handmade Hope - How Women Are Crafting Economic Independence

In Elbasan, one of Albania's largest cities, women are reclaiming their livelihoods through traditional crafts and local partnerships, proving that economic empowerment and gender equality are inseparable.

[READ MORE](#)

#### OUTPUT 4.4

### Gender equality mechanisms

#### OUTPUT 4.5

### Leadership and participation

**Albania** continued to make strong progress in promoting gender equality in 2025, consolidating achievements in **GRB and strengthened legal and policy frameworks**.

The legal and policy framework was further aligned with EU *acquis* and international standards. The new **Gender Equality Law** promotes equal opportunities for all in work, education, health and public life. This milestone reform lays the foundation for substantive equality for women and girls across the country, strengthening the family, communities and society at large.

Institutional capacities for gender mainstreaming were strengthened at the central level, with **49 central government officials** (43 women) enhancing their skills in **gender-responsive policy design** across key sectors, including agriculture and rural development, ICT and digitalization, and DRR and climate change, improving the systematic application and monitoring of gender equality commitments.

**UN AGENCIES:**  
UNDP, UNFPA,  
UN WOMEN

**SDG TARGETS:**  
5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.A, 5.C

## KEY RESULTS

# 272

**Local officials** (199 women) strengthened capacities in gender-responsive planning and budgeting

# 13

**Local Gender Action Plans** developed, costed and approved

Local gender-responsive governance advanced significantly, with **13 Local Gender Action Plans** developed, costed and approved, while signatories to the **European Charter for Equality between Women and Men in Local Life** increased from 18 to 25. Meanwhile, **272 local officials** (199 women) strengthened capacities in gender-responsive planning and budgeting.

Significant investments were made in building women's leadership and political participation. Across **42 municipalities**, **176 women councillors** received targeted support to strengthen leadership and decision making, while **135 women parliamentary candidates** enhanced their electoral competitiveness through dedicated training.

Engagement with media and the private sector supported normative change. Gender-sensitive media coverage promoted positive role models of women in leadership, while **ten private sector companies** adopted more **gender-responsive and family-friendly workplace policies**.

By embedding gender mainstreaming across laws, institutions and governance processes, Albania reinforced progress toward EU standards and SDG 5. Continued investment in leadership development, institutional capacity and public-private partnerships will be key to sustaining and scaling these gains into long-term systemic impact.



Participants at Women's Empowerment EXPO 2025 in Tirana.

Photo: UN Women Albania

## SUCCESS STORY

# Sindi Gjura, Youth Empowerment Advocate

**Born** in 2000, the year the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325, Sindi Gjura is a youth empowerment advocate, community organizer and creative visual storyteller from Tirana, Albania. Through her activism, she contributes to national and international initiatives that advance youth leadership, social change and the SDGs. In this quick quiz, Gjura reflects on the role young people play in building peace, and why their voices must be heard in decisions on peace and security.

**"If peace were a person, I imagine her like Te Fiti from Moana cartoons - radiant, glowing green, and healing. She would smile softly, welcoming everyone to reflect, reminding them that peace is both powerful and gentle."**

Sindi Gjura,  
Young activist from Albania

**Have you seen or felt the absence of peace? If yes, how did it feel?**

*I feel like my generation is online enough to feel the lack of peace at least once a day. There's always something happening somewhere, and you can choose not to inform yourself, but that doesn't stop it from happening. Ignorance never brought any good to light. We must advocate for what's right, whether it disturbs our own personal peace or not. If one branch of the tree is on fire, the rest will not come out unscathed.*

**What role do young people play in building peace where you live?**

*I believe young people are a key factor in building peace. They advocate, participate and engage in conversations about it. I see more and more of them creating spaces where inclusion and peace are the priorities.*

**What is your message to world leaders about peace, security and youth?**

*The inclusion of women directly affects the pace and success of the peacebuilding process: admit them into centres of decision making.*

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## BOX 1 Regional Programmes under implementation in 2025

Regional programmes continue to be catalytic to achieving results and fostering exchanges across the region. Their efforts contribute to results across the 4 Outcomes of the UNSDCF.

UNSDCF 2022–2026 Outcomes	Programme	Duration	Implementing Partners	Key Focus
<b>Outcome 1: Human Capital Development</b>	Roadmap for Health and Well-being in the Western Balkans	2021–2025	WHO/Europe, CEI, RCC, SEEHN	Strengthening health systems and investments in critical areas
	Strengthening Health Systems Resilience in the Western Balkans	2021–2023 (extended until June 2025)	WHO	Enhancing essential health services and increasing resilience
<b>Outcome 2: Environment, Climate Change</b>	Climate Proofing for Sustainable Development in the Western Balkans	2023–2027	UNEP	Integrating climate resilience into national policies
	Experience Exchange: Central Asia & Western Balkans on Climate & Biodiversity	2024–2025	UNEP	Transposing climate-informed biodiversity conservation strategies
	Subregional Intergovernmental Partnerships for Green Agenda	2025–2026	UNEP, IUCN	Advancing biodiversity protection (Pillar V of Green Agenda)
	Phasing out Mercury Measuring Devices in Healthcare	2024–2028	UNEP, WHO	Eliminating mercury-containing devices to reduce environmental impact
	Culture and Creativity for Western Balkans	2022–2026	EU, UNESCO	Strengthening cultural and creative sectors for socio-economic impact
	Employment and Social Affairs Platform	2024–2028	ILO, RCC	Promoting fair and well-functioning labour markets
<b>Outcome 3: Governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights</b>	Youth 4 Inclusion, Equality & Trust	2024–2026	UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, UNESCO	Countering divisive narratives and hate speech
	Local Democracy in Western Balkans (ReLOaD2)	2021–2025	UNDP	Supporting transparent public funding for CSOs
	Western Balkans Joint Actions against Smuggling of Migrants	2021–2025	IOM	Strengthening protection efforts against smuggling and trafficking
	Improving Reintegration Outcomes for Survivors of Modern Slavery	2024–2025	IOM	Mapping reintegration services in Albania, Brazil, China, India and Pakistan
	Western Balkans Integrated Border Management Facility	Ongoing	IOM	Enhancing border management and security
	Western Balkans Readmission Capacity Building Facility	Ongoing	IOM	Strengthening migration management and cooperation
	EU Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management Systems, Phase III	Ongoing	IOM	Improving migration policies and crisis response
	Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in the Western Balkans	Ongoing	IOM	Supporting migrant response and data collection
	Knowledge for Reform Action in the Western Balkans programme	Ongoing	UNOPS	Support for EU accession process
<b>Outcome 4: Gender-Responsive Governance</b>	Transformative Financing for Gender Equality	2020–2024 (extended until June 2025)	UN Women	Integrating gender equality into national policies and budgeting
	Making Every Woman and Girl Count in Europe & Central Asia, Phase II	2022–2025	UN Women	Enhancing gender data production and use

## 2.2. Results of the UN Working More and Better Together: UN Coherence, Effectiveness and Efficiency

In 2025, UN agencies worked jointly through the Results and Thematic Groups to deliver planned interventions using a coordinated, results-based approach under the UNSDCF 2022–2026 governance structure. The **four Results Groups**, operating under the strategic leadership of the **Joint Executive Committee (JEC)**, advanced implementation of the Cooperation Framework (CF) while ensuring strong alignment with Albania's national priorities. Collective action delivered tangible results, including enhanced social protection and inclusion, strengthened responses to violence against women and children, improved local governance and accelerated progress on the SDGs.

The governance structure continued to ensure strong government leadership and oversight, with line ministries serving as co-chairs of the Outcome Groups alongside UN agency representatives, guiding implementation of the Joint Work Plans (JWPs) and contributing to the Annual Performance Review. The JEC, co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), convened in early January 2026 to review 2025 progress, provide strategic guidance and confirm priorities for the year ahead, further reinforcing national ownership, accountability and strategic coherence. Furthermore, the JEC reviewed and provided initial validation of the emerging priorities for the next CF, to be followed by extensive partner consultations in early 2026.

### Gender Thematic Results Group (GTRG)

The **Gender Thematic Results Group (GTRG)**, chaired by the UN Women representative and including 14 UN entities, played a key role in advancing gender equality across UN Albania's portfolio, ensuring coordinated, accountable and visible action. The GTRG convened regular quarterly meetings and provided technical leadership for normative processes, advocacy campaigns and capacity-building initiatives.

tegic initiatives advancing legal and policy reforms on gender equality, child rights and non-discrimination in line with CEDAW, CRC and UPR recommendations. UN support strengthened institutional capacity, accessibility and accountability through initiatives such as the Human Rights Academy, an inclusive online platform promoting bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights for persons with disabilities and a national inquiry on accessibility of GBV response services. **Access to remedies and independent oversight improved**, with UN support enhancing complaint mechanisms, public hearings and civil society engagement, particularly for children, who accounted for 27.5% of human rights complaints in 2025. Joint advocacy and public awareness campaigns marking key international human rights days further strengthened rights-based dialogue and participation.

### Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

UNCT Albania took significant steps in promoting and protecting **human rights** through various stra-



UN Day reception at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in Tirana.

Photo: UN Albania

## Disability Inclusion

Guided by the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, UNCT Albania demonstrated strong, visible leadership and system-wide commitment to **disability inclusion**, embedding it as a strategic priority across policy dialogue, joint programming and public advocacy. UN leadership actively championed the rights of persons with disabilities through high-level engagements, including the inauguration of inclusive community-based services for children with disabilities under the LNOB JP. Disability inclusion was systematically mainstreamed across the CF and JWPs, notably through the LNB and M-GA flagship programmes, which advanced disability-inclusive social protection and integrated care services. Sustained engagement of organizations of persons with disabilities ensured a rights-based, participatory approach, with such persons directly shaping service design, national consultations and formulation and validation of LNB Phase 3, officially endorsed in November 2025.

## System-wide PSEA

UNCT Albania, under the leadership of the RC, continued to strengthen **system-wide PSEA**

through coordinated inter-agency action and robust accountability mechanisms. Building on establishment of the Inter-Agency Task Force, UNCT updated and operationalized Standard Operating Procedures for reporting, referral and response to SEA allegations, fully aligned with global UN guidance and a **Zero-Tolerance Policy**. Ongoing efforts have focused on consistent monitoring of complaints and potential abuses of power. Regular Task Force meetings and performance monitoring informed the development of a **forward-looking 2026 Action Plan**, ensuring that lessons learned translate into strengthened prevention, timely response and a safe, rights-based and violence-free environment across all UN operations.

## United Nations Albania Youth Advisory Group (UNYAG)

In 2025, a new cohort of the **United Nations Albania Youth Advisory Group (UNYAG)** was elected, reinforcing the UN's commitment to meaningful youth participation and leadership in line with Youth2030. Chaired by UNICEF and with support from the Resident Coordinator Office, UNYAG delivered concrete results in amplifying youth voices, strengthening civic engagement

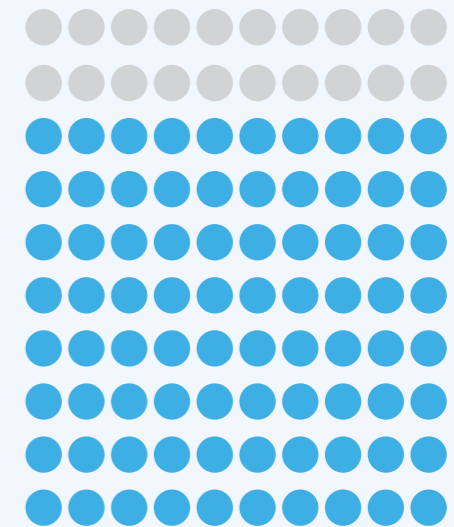
and linking national youth priorities to regional and global platforms. UNYAG members actively contributed to UN processes, participated in national youth dialogues and engaged as UN Volunteers. UNYAG-led outreach promoted **U-Report** in universities and at national youth events, while during the **16 Days of Activism** members led discussions on gender stereotypes and online violence affecting girls and young women. Three UNYAG girls completed one-month UN Volunteer assignments, amplifying youth voices through digital engagement and advocacy, while one member joined the **Youth Guarantee Ambassadors Programme**, supporting outreach to NEET youth. UNYAG contributed to the global **#YouthLead Dialogues**, feeding into a report reflecting inputs from more than 75,000 young people in 67 countries.

## UN Albania Communications Group

The **UN Albania Communications Group** continued to deliver coordinated, results-oriented joint communications, with a strong focus on showcasing impact through people-centred narratives and evidence of results across Albania. Four editions of the *Delivering for Development* newsletter were produced, featuring more than **300 multimedia products** highlighting results, advocacy messages and partnerships. Joint campaigns successfully supported UN Day, International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism, generating strong public engagement and consistent messaging. UN Day 2025 marked a particularly significant milestone, with a high-level event marking **80 years of the UN and 70 years of Albania's UN membership** delivered in partnership with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Communications amplified a special message from the **UN Secretary-General**, highlights of youth engagement and high-level advocacy for multilateralism and the SDGs. Complementary cultural programming under the **Better Together** initiative, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, reinforced messages of peace and solidarity. As part of continued UN-EU joint strategic advocacy, communications also amplified a joint **UN-EU Op-Ed on climate adaptation**, reinforcing shared calls for accelerated action on climate resilience.

## SCORECARDS

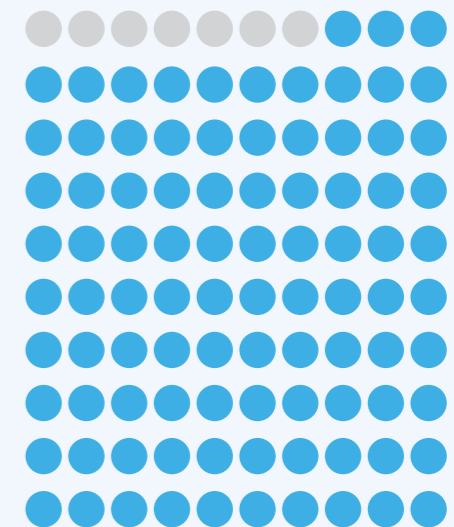
### Gender Scorecard



80%

12 out of 15 indicators meet or exceed minimum requirements

### Disability Scorecard



93%

13 out of 14 indicators meet or exceed minimum requirements



UN Albania with SASPAC Albania, the Office of the EU Chief Negotiator and the Office of the Prime Minister running a Prioritization Workshop on UN Support to Albania's SDG Acceleration and EU Path.

Photo: UN Albania

### World Summit for Social Development 2025

Strategic communications supported Albania's engagement in global fora, including the **World Summit for Social Development 2025** in Doha, where the **Resident Coordinator and the President of the Republic of Albania, H.E. Bajram Begaj**, highlighted Albania's progress in aligning national social policies with international standards, emphasized the importance of collaborative action to address inequality and promote inclusive growth, and reaffirmed Albania's dedication to advancing social integration and deepening international partnerships as part of its broader development agenda.

### Operations Management Team (OMT)

In 2025, the UN **Operations Management Team (OMT)** in Albania delivered measurable progress in strengthening operational efficiency, cost control, inclusivity and service quality, building on

the Business Operations Strategy and prior-year reforms. Through coordinated procurement and contract management, the OMT achieved **USD 169,154 in Long-term Agreement (LTA)-related savings**, supported by positive results from the LTA Performance Survey confirming value for money and service reliability. UN Business Operations Strategy implementation generated further efficiencies, including **USD 30,000 in direct savings**. Significant cost optimization was also realized at UN House, where monthly security costs were reduced, resulting in **USD 41,622 in annualized savings for July–December 2025**, while fully maintaining UN Minimum Operating Security Standards compliance. In parallel, Daily Subsistence Allowance survey findings informed fairer and more accurate cost structures, while Disability and Inclusion survey results guided practical measures to enhance accessibility and inclusive workplace practices. These financial results and evidence-driven improvements reduced administrative burdens, improved predictability and service delivery, and strengthened the enabling environment for effective programme implementation across the UN system in Albania.

## 2.3. Cooperation Framework 2022–2026 Evaluation

An independent final evaluation of Albania's UN-SDCF was conducted in 2025, covering implementation from January 2022 to June 2025, in line with UN Evaluation Group norms and Development Coordination Office guidance. The evaluation assessed relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability to strengthen accountability and inform UNSDCF 2027–2031.

Drawing on consultations with 209 stakeholders (from 528 reached), across government, municipalities, NHRIs, UN entities, civil society, development partners, academia, and vulnerable communities, the evaluation confirmed that the UN is a **highly relevant, trusted and normatively grounded partner** in Albania's SDG pathway.

The UNSDCF demonstrated **strong alignment with national strategies**, effectively bridging the SDG agenda with EU-driven reforms and delivering over two-thirds of planned outputs by end-2024, particularly in social protection, governance, education, gender equality and DRR. JPs generated tangible benefits for vulnerable groups and improved service delivery, while the repositioned RC system strengthened UN coherence, convening power and integrated financing.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sharpen the UN's value added and mandated role in support of national reforms aligned with Albania's EU-accession priorities, upper-middle-income context, and SDG acceleration with emphasis on reaching the most vulnerable.
- Refocus on system-level advisory work, with policy dialogue, institutional strengthening and normative leadership aligned to national reforms.

- Shift from direct implementation to building national and local capacity with emphasis on LNOB, equity-focused approaches and reaching the most vulnerable through strengthened national and sub-national systems.
- Reinforce the UN's convening role by expanding strategic partnerships, enabling inclusive dialogue, policy coherence and coordinated action in support of national priorities and SDG acceleration.
- Leverage the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund to drive integrated programming and reinforce transparency and national ownership.
- Promote scalable and sustainable approaches that go beyond pilots, with stronger sub-national engagement and solutions.
- Undertake evidence-based, risk-informed and adaptive programming, leveraging strengthened data, analytics and foresight to address critical SDG data gaps and enhance resilience to economic, climate, disaster and other systemic shocks.
- Boost national absorption capacity for EU funds, especially in planning, procurement and results-based management.
- Position innovation as a driver of systemic change, embedding public-sector innovation across CF interventions.

To address the above recommendations, UNCT has developed a management response outlining actions to be taken in 2026 and in the design and implementation of the new CF.

## 2.3. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

For implementation of UNSDCF 2022–2026 in 2025, the 19 UN agencies in Albania delivered interventions worth USD 48.3 million (Figure 1), with core resources of USD 3.9 million (8%) and mobilized resources of USD 44.3 million (92%). The largest financial portfolio was that of Green Growth, Innovation and Climate Change, followed by, in decreasing

order of portfolio size, Human Capital Development; Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights; and Gender-Responsive Governance.

Figure 1. Outcome delivery, 2025 (USD)

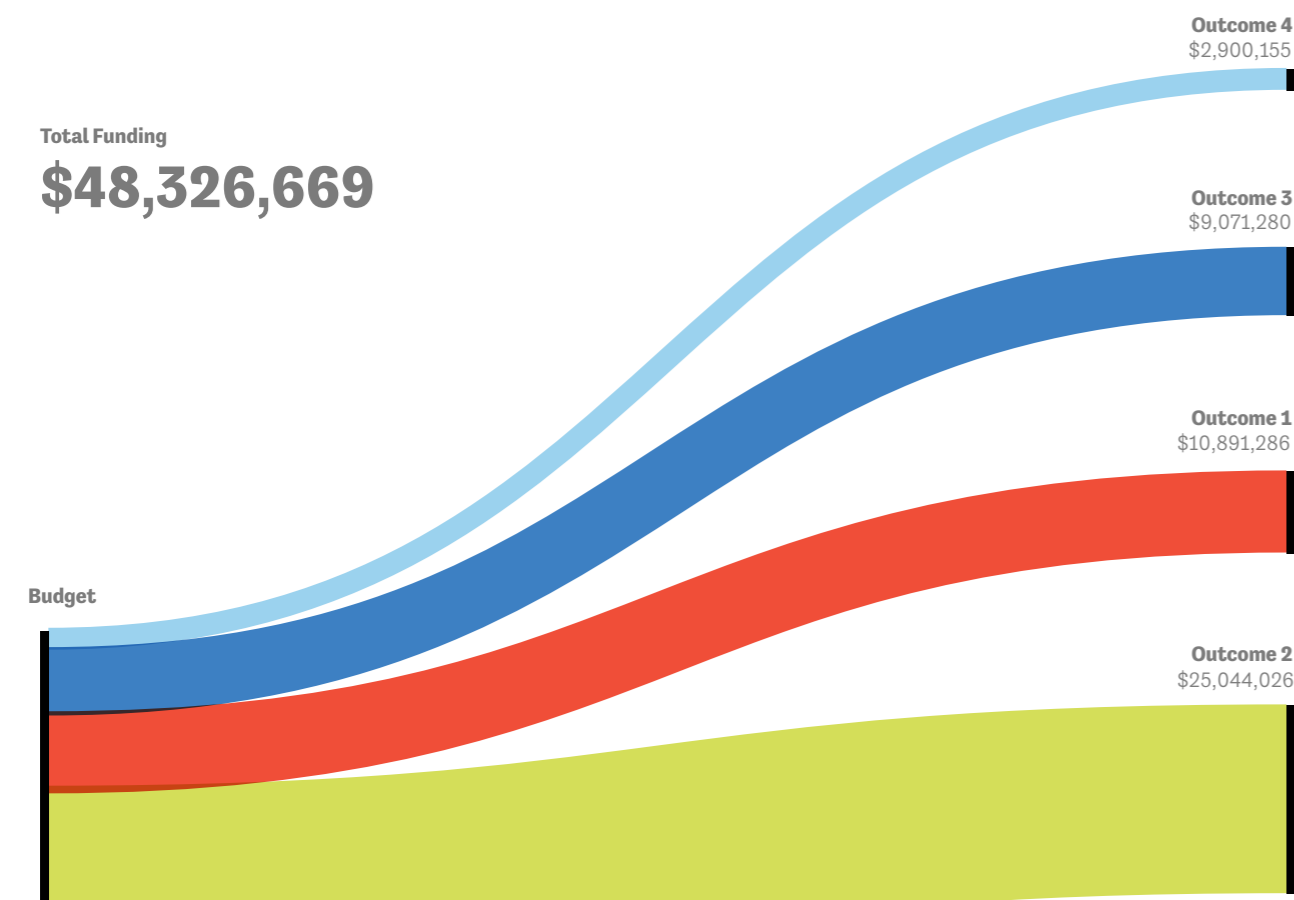
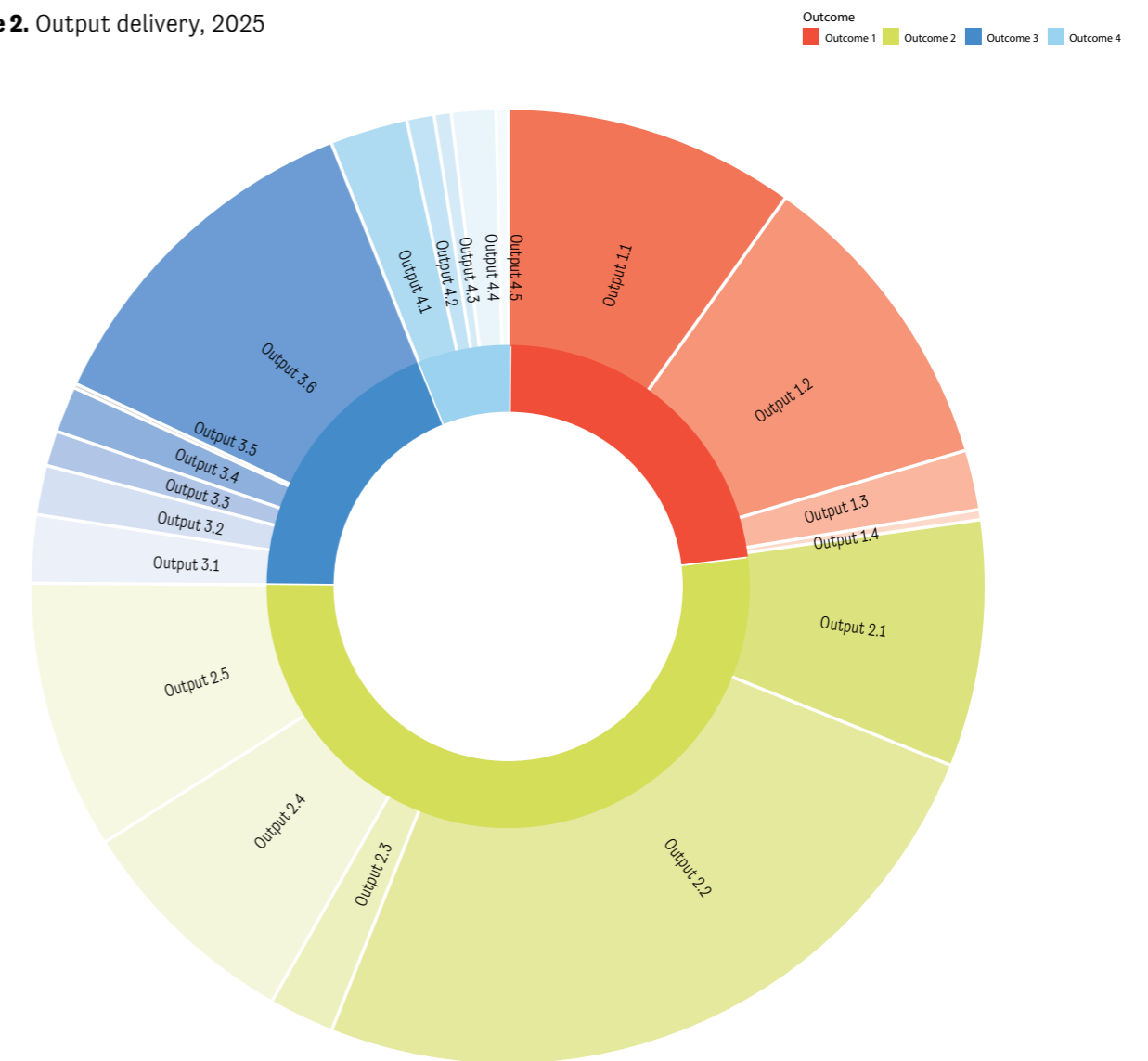


Figure 2. Output delivery, 2025



At the output level, delivery was largest for Output 2.2 Sustainable and resilient economic growth and transition, followed by 3.6 Migration and asylum and 1.2 Education (Figure 2).

UNDP remains the UN agency with the largest portfolio of funds delivered (31%; Figure 3) and activities implemented across all four strategic areas in 2025, followed by UNOPS and UNICEF.

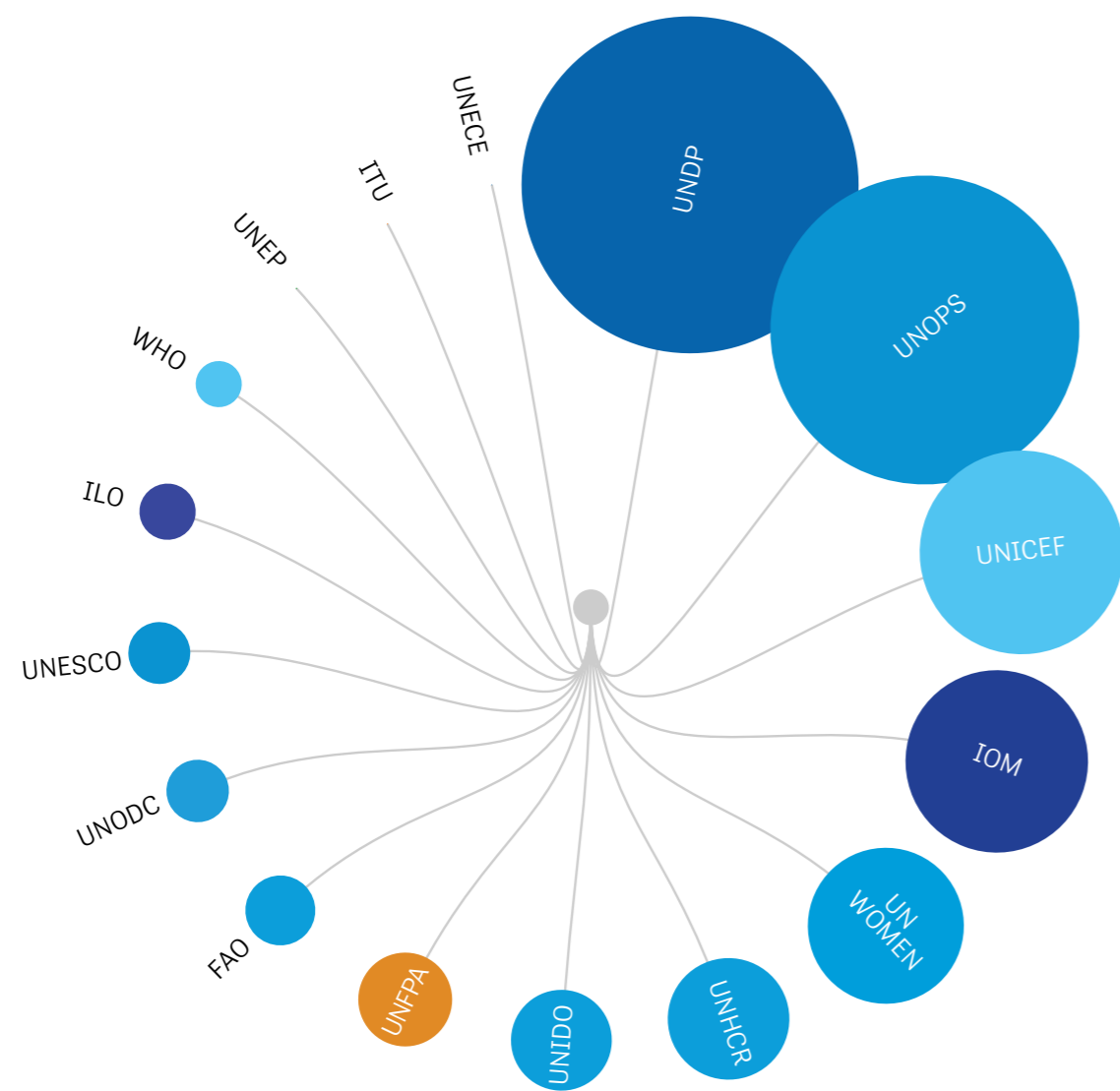
The non-core budget in 2025 consisted of contributions to the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund (ASDG-AF) and bilateral contributions mobilized through agreements with individual UN agencies at the country, regional and global levels. ASDG-AF has been instrumental in enhancing the strategic alignment and concerted UN efforts towards SDG acceleration. Both phase I and phase II Funds have played a crucial role

since 2019, especially in supporting post-earthquake recovery initiatives in areas of education, social protection, gender, child protection, economic recovery and resilience, agriculture, DRR and community infrastructure, generating increased interest from partners as a cost-effective vehicle.

From 2007 to 2025, overall contributions from 16 partners to the Fund reached USD 81.28 million (Figure 4). By the end of 2025, three joint projects continued to be implemented with support from phase II of the Fund, ensuring strengthened UN coherence, coordination and collaboration.

The details of the joint projects' main results for the year, focusing on significant highlights rather than providing an exhaustive list of results, are reported in Annex A of the present report.

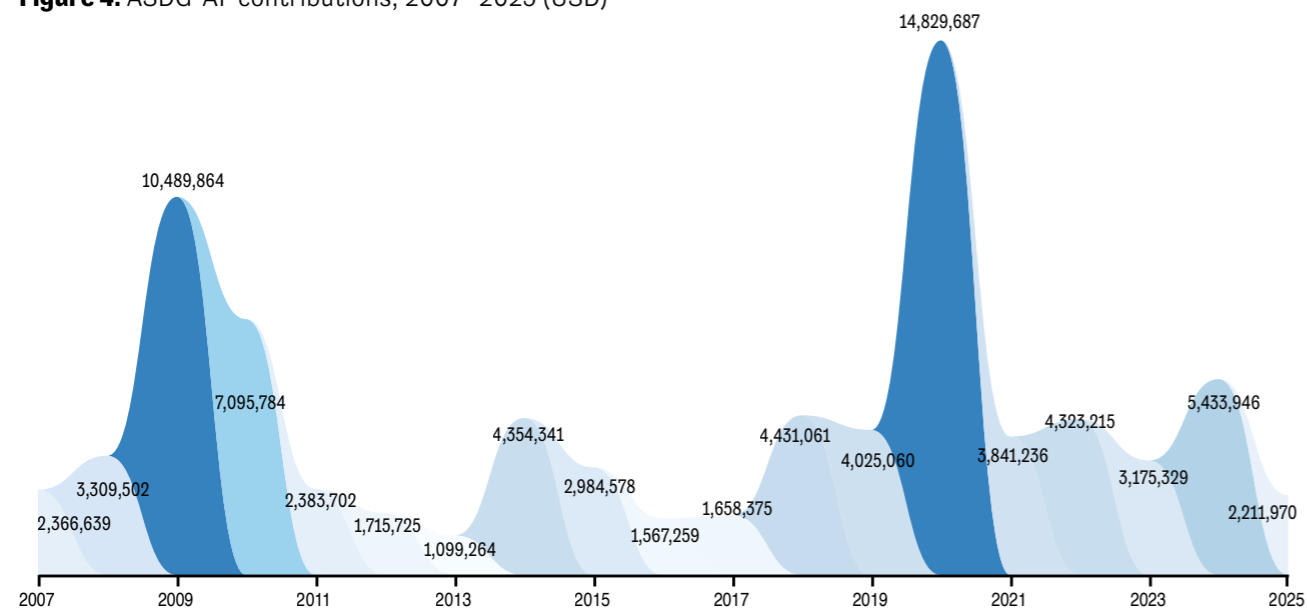
**Figure 3.** Expenditure per UN agency, 2025



**Figure 5.** Contributions of partners 2025



**Figure 4.** ASDG-AF contributions, 2007–2025 (USD)



The EU remains the strongest institutional partner of the UN system in Albania (Figure 5), while numerous other bilateral donors have supported the UN interventions with a total of USD 37.9 million.

The UN in Albania raised in addition USD 7.7 million of the UN’s core, pooled and thematic funds and USD 4 million from global vertical funds such as the Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, and Global Environment Facility.

Four years into implementation of the UNSDCF, UNCT has significantly outperformed initial resource mobilization estimates. Of the projected USD 282 million budget (funding gap of USD 117 million), USD 19.6 million in core resources have been secured (89% of the

total estimated for 2022–2026) leaving a USD 2.4 million gap for the remaining period. Non-core resources reached USD 281 million, more than doubling the estimated USD 134 million, with notable increases under all four outcomes, particularly for Outcome 3: Governance and Outcome 4: Gender-Responsive Governance, which saw 3–4-fold growth. The progress reported above is attributed largely to increased contributions from key donors, including the EU, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Italy and the USA. With total, secured funding exceeding estimates by USD 147 million, the funding gap has been reduced to USD 26 million, positioning the UNCT to focus its resource mobilization efforts to closing the remaining shortfall over the final implementation year of the UNSDCF.

## CHAPTER 3

# UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2026

**In 2026,** the UNCT in Albania will enter the final year of implementation of the UNSDCF 2022–2026, while advancing preparations for the next Cooperation Framework 2027–2031. Building on the strong results achieved in 2025, the UN will focus on consolidating impact, scaling proven solutions and strengthening national and local systems in support of Albania’s priorities and SDG acceleration. Planned actions will be guided by the JWPs 2026, endorsed by the JEC and aligned with national reforms.

A key focus will be operationalizing the recommendations of the independent UNSDCF evaluation completed in 2025, which confirmed the UN as a trusted and relevant partner in Albania’s development and EU integration pathway, while calling for sharper system-level support, stronger national ownership and greater impact at scale. These insights will guide final-year implementation and underpin the design of the new CF during the first half of 2026. The new Framework is being developed through a system-wide process, including a comprehensive contextual analysis, joint prioritization and an emerging theory of change, based on inclusive consultations with government, civil society, development partners, academia, youth, the private sector and vulnerable groups.

In 2026, the UN will further strengthen its strategic focus by consolidating support around high-impact, interconnected platforms and expertise aimed at accelerating SDG achievement while reinforcing national reform priorities and EU convergence. Priority attention will be given to advancing the flagship areas jointly identified with the Government in 2025 under the project UN Albania Support to EU Accession and SDG Acceleration, through the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. These priorities include future-ready skills and learning, next-generation social protection systems, and green economy and competitiveness, with digitalization, innovation gender equality and data-driven policymaking mainstreamed across all interventions. Support will continue to Albania’s engagement in high-impact global and regional initiatives, including the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection, where Albania is a path-

finder country, digital transformation in agriculture and rural development, national education and food systems reforms, and implementation of Albania’s commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In parallel, the UN will support preparations for Albania’s second Voluntary National Review and its presentation at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum, while strengthening SDG coordination, data systems and accountability mechanisms. Attention will be given to reinforcing linkages between SDG implementation and EU accession benchmarks to support coherent policy alignment.

In line with the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights and Albania’s international commitments, the UN will continue to strengthen rights-based governance, gender equality and social cohesion. Priorities include addressing UPR recommendations, preventing violence against women and children, combating discrimination and hate speech, strengthening child protection and migration governance and advancing disability inclusion.

Resource mobilization and financing for impact will remain a critical focus amid a constrained donor environment. The UN will leverage the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund as a platform for integrated financing, national co-ownership, and scaling of effective solutions, while expanding strategic partnerships with the EU, International Financial Institutions, the private sector and foundations to support reform implementation.

Internally, UNCT Albania will continue to enhance operational efficiency, coherence and sustainability. The OMT will further harmonize business practices, strengthen transparency and risk management and expand green operations, including energy efficiency and sustainable procurement, to reduce the UN’s environmental footprint. Through these priorities, the UNCT will focus in 2026 on consolidating results, accelerating reforms and laying a strong foundation for the next CF, ensuring progress toward inclusive, resilient and sustainable outcomes for all people in Albania.

# Annex A

## Albania SDG acceleration fund and associated joint programmes

Albania has been a Delivering-as-One country since the start of the pilot phase in 2007 and by 2021 had completed three One UN programme cycles. The year 2025 saw the fourth year of implementation of the fourth Government of Albania–United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2022–2026.

### ALBANIA UN COHERENCE FUND/SDG FUND (2007–2024)

The Coherence Fund was initiated on 24 October 2007 to support coherent resource mobilization, allocation and disbursement of donor resources to the One UN Cooperation Framework. In response to the 2030 Agenda call for action to achieve the SDGs, the pooled fund was rebranded in 2019 to the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund, initially covering the period until 31 December 2021 and extended twice to allow closure of activities with an end date of 31 December 2024. The Fund advanced the 2030 Agenda by driving progress towards achievement of the SDGs while respecting human rights, promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and using similar crosscutting issues to multiply sustainable and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and social development.

### ALBANIA SDG FUND PHASE II (2021–2028)

In 2021, phase II of the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund was established to accompany UNSDCF 2022–2026 implementation, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2021, and will come to operation closure on 31 December 2028.

The JEC,<sup>7</sup> in its role as overseer of the overall contribution of the UN to Albania’s development via the One Programme, decides on specific allocations of resources from the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. The allocation decisions are based on the relevant priority activities, including respective budgets and implementation partners, set out in the cooperation frameworks and government strategies in place.

On behalf of the UN in Albania, accountability lies with

7. Co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN RC, and composed of members of government and the UNCT.

the UN RC for overall management of the Fund, with the RC Office serving as Secretariat. It is administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in UNDP in New York, as Administrative Agent. All actions of the UN in Albania are organised through four Outcome workplans, corresponding to the four Outcomes of the One Programme. Actions financed by the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund, both Phase I and Phase II, are included in these workplans, which are prepared jointly with the government counterparts and signed by the RC, and government Outcome Co-Chairs. Government has a critical role in the discussion of priorities, monitoring of progress and mid-course adjustment.

The Albania SDG Acceleration Funds have been instrumental in enhancing the strategic alignment and concerted UN efforts towards SDG acceleration. Both Phase I and Phase II Funds have played a crucial role post-2019, especially in supporting post-earthquake recovery initiatives in areas such as education, social protection, gender, child protection, economic recovery and resilience, agriculture, DRR and community infrastructure, and generated increased interest from partners as a cost-effective vehicle.

In 2025, the UN in Albania engaged the Government through a whole-of-government approach to jointly prepare a flagship SDG acceleration project, to be financed through national co-financing under the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. This milestone reflects strengthened national ownership, alignment with EU accession and SDG transitions, and the operationalization of UN reform through pooled financing and joint programming. The project is expected to start implementation by the end of 2026.

Throughout its operational period, the Fund received contributions from a broad coalition of international partners, including the EU, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark, Norway, the UK and Finland, among others, alongside contributions from the Government of Albania. From 2007 to 2025, overall contributions from 16 partners to the Fund reached USD 81.28 million.

By the end of 2025, three joint projects continued to be implemented with support from the Phase II, ensuring strengthened UN coherence, coordination and collaboration. The details of the joint projects’ main results for the year, focusing on significant highlights rather than providing an exhaustive list of results, are reported below.

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND PHASE 2 (LNB2)

#### ➤ OUTCOME 1 HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

The reporting period marked the final year of implementation of the LNB2 Programme, before its transition to the exit phase. This year was shaped by Albania’s evolving political and socio-economic landscape. The general elections of May 2025 brought continuity in governance policy directions, while the EU accession process advanced, with 24 out of 33 EU *acquis* chapters opened, including Chapter 19 on Social Protection and Employment. Despite moderate economic growth of 3.9% in 2024, challenges persist: the share of the population ‘at risk of poverty or social exclusion’<sup>8</sup> remains widespread, affecting 42.1 per cent of people in 2023, double the EU average, with rural and minority communities, women, persons with disabilities, and R&E populations most affected. These dynamics highlight the importance of LNB2’s mission to strengthen Albania’s social protection system and ensure no one is left behind.

In this crucial year, the programme focused on sustainability, systemic reforms, and transferring successful models to national and local authorities. While several initiatives were successfully completed, new actions were launched to support implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy 2024–2030, enhance municipal social funds and prepare Albania for EU integration in the areas of social inclusion and social protection.

Under **Outcome 1** a key development was the launch of Albania’s first digital sign language dictionary, featuring 310 signs, and the graduation of the first 12 certified interpreters, significantly improving communication for the deaf community. An innovative personal assistance service model for persons with disabilities was piloted and is now available online, while a volunteer-based model for support to persons with disabilities has been established in Korça. Additionally, 36 municipal staff were trained and a needs assessment for 330 individuals with disabilities informed local planning.

8. At risk of poverty or social exclusion, abbreviated as AROPE, corresponds to the sum of persons who are either at [risk of poverty](#), or [severely materially and socially deprived](#) or [living in a household with a very low work intensity](#). People are included only once even if they are in more than one of those situations.

Integrated social services reached 3,300 individuals (640 families) in four municipalities, including 1,155 R&E community members. Among them, 671 children received educational support, 31 youth completed vocational training and 38 families started income-generating activities. A total of 3,804 students benefited from scholarships to prevent school dropout. Services for older persons were expanded and new community centres were opened in two municipalities.

Civic engagement grew through participatory budgeting, involving 1,200 individuals, including 680 women and 299 youth, resulting in 32 civic actions and five watchdog reports. Legal reforms were supported, including amendments to the Public Procurement Law, to increase civil society’s role. The Community-Based Social Services Grants Scheme funded 27 projects in 22 municipalities, benefiting a total of 4,100 individuals for the duration of the programme.

Health services were strengthened through an expanded community-based healthcare model in seven municipalities, with 43 providers trained and 565 people reached through awareness sessions. Efforts to prevent drug use and improve sexual and reproductive health reached 753 youth, including 231 who received Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Sexually Transmitted Infection testing. These actions strengthened community resilience, accountability and sustainable service delivery.

Under **Outcome 2** the programme focused on building municipal capacities and improving the planning and delivery of quality social services. A key milestone was the finalization of the 2023–2025 Mapping of Social Services, which provides critical evidence for future policy planning. In Tirana, three participatory local planning documents were developed and costed: the Local Social Care Plan, the Plan for Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptian Communities.

The Needs-Based Registration Tool for the Elderly, first piloted in Sukth, is now being promoted in other municipalities to improve targeting and support for older population groups. Significant investments were made in capacity building, with 46 social workers and psychologists trained and 13 professionals participating in a study visit to Switzerland. In Divjaka, the municipal social services sector was restructured and reorganized to better meet community needs. Additionally, 74 professionals from 16 LNOB-supported community centres received training, coaching and mentoring to improve services for children and youth with disabilities, benefiting some 350 children.

Support to disability reform included training of 122 professionals on child-friendly bio-psycho-social assessments and introducing new tools and protocols to 496 social administrators and 153 social workers to improve individualized service planning and monitoring. The UPHV model continued to expand, with 6,700 visits reaching 2,300 under five-year-olds, including 1,173 girls, and early intervention services provided to 34 at-risk children.

The programme also promoted peer learning and best practices through a national forum on integrated health and social services attended by 200 representatives, and a conference on best practices on the implementation of the integrated services model, which brought together 60 professionals from 17 municipalities to exchange lessons learned and adapt Swiss practices to the Albanian context. These efforts have strengthened the foundation for sustainable, equitable and community-driven social service delivery across the country.

Under **Outcome 3** the Programme focused on driving systemic reforms, strengthening national policy frameworks and preparing for the programme's transition to its exit phase. Following adoption of the new Social Protection Strategy (2024–2030), work shifted towards the implementation process with a functional review of the State Social Services to assess its compatibility with the new policy framework. Albania advanced its EU accession process in the areas of social inclusion and protection, with finalization of a roadmap for Chapter 19: Social Policy and Employment and support provided for drafting of the Table of Concordance for EU Directive 2019/882 on accessibility requirements. The opening of Cluster 3 negotiations marked a major milestone in the country EU integration.

The programme also strengthened accountability and inclusion mechanisms. A progress report on the National Action Plan for Older Persons (2020–2024) was completed and a new Action Plan for 2025–2030 was drafted alongside a manual on Primary Healthcare for Older Persons. In education, LNB2 advanced inclusive practices by training 654 assistant teachers through 20 professional networks and contributing to mid-term evaluation of the National Education Strategy (2021–2026). Universities in Elbasan, Shkodra and Tirana improved their social studies curricula and research capacities, benefiting 255 social workers and psychologists, while the Order of Social Workers became fully operational with 723 licensed professionals.

Key reforms also included the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities, with assessments of six public development centres for 39 children to establish family and parenting support services. Volunteerism was promoted as a tool for social cohesion, cul-

minating in a 2025 national conference showcasing initiatives across 15 municipalities. Additionally, a joint commitment was made with the University of Tirana to develop Albania's first open-access university textbook on gender equity and GBV. These efforts, along with integration of gender perspectives across legal and policy frameworks, have built a solid foundation for sustainable, inclusive and rights-based social policies in the country. A mid-term evaluation, completed in December 2024, reviewed progress, challenges and lessons from the programme's first three years, providing recommendations to strengthen impact and guide a potential final phase. In follow-up, a comprehensive LNB3 exit strategy was developed to ensure continuity and sustainability of results. Launched in early 2025, this process is supported by the LNB3 programming exercise and informed by a June 2025 planning and validation workshop with programme partners, as well as the November signing of the fully financed LNB3 exit phase agreement for 2026–2027.

#### LNB2 contribution to SDGs

LNB2 continues to remain among the development programmes in Albania with the strongest contribution to the SDGs, as a result of its wide-ranging focus across multiple areas and targets. Guided by the SDG principle of Leave No One Behind, the programme prioritizes the identification and active engagement of the most marginalized groups, ensuring they are at the centre of interventions. Its primary beneficiaries include women and men with low incomes, people living in rural areas, persons with disabilities, R&E communities, the elderly, at-risk youth and other vulnerable populations.

During the reporting year, LNB2's impact on advancing the SDGs was demonstrated through several concrete initiatives, as follows:

- SDG 1 and SDG 10: Respectively, Poverty eradication (targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.3) and Reduced inequalities, through activities offering integrated social services and empowering disadvantaged communities, adoption of inclusive social care planning at the local levels, improving the social service functionality, supporting improvement of implementation of the social fund mechanism, among others.
- SDG 3: Good health and nutrition (targets, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8), through support for implementation of UPHV taking a holistic approach for child health and

development; implementation of the integrated health model, reaching out with information on health disadvantaged communities; provision of information and services to youth and other drug-users; information and services related to reproductive and sexual health; implementation of standard protocols on child growth and development monitoring; and support to social services targeting the elderly and others.

- SDG 4: Quality education (targets 4.1, 4.b), through support to inclusive education, including a reduction in dropping out of pupils from schools and efforts to ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
- SDG 5: Gender equalities, by increasing civic participation of vulnerable women and girls in participatory budgeting and decision-making processes, piloting inclusive social services and providing technical assistance to institutionalize gender-responsive policies. The programme has strengthened local governance, expanded access to social protection and embedded equity into service delivery frameworks. These efforts have aligned with Albania's broader reforms in social inclusion and public sector accountability, while complementing national strategies and legislative changes that enhance institutional responsiveness and civic engagement.
- SDG 10: Reduced inequalities (targets 10.2, 10.3), through activities that aim to empower and ensure equal access to services for persons with disabilities and by focusing on empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, regardless of gender.
- SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals, through activities aiming at building a wide partnership with national and local-level institutions, academia and CSOs toward advancing the agenda on social inclusion.

#### Key Challenges

- Limited fiscal capacity of municipalities, restricting sustainable financing and expansion of social services
- Insufficient Social Fund resources to meet increasing demand for social care

- Limited staff capacity, and high staff turnover in social care services, exacerbated by comparatively low wages

#### Mitigation Measures

- Support integration of social services into municipal budgets and advocate for increased domestic financing
- Strengthen capacity building and retention strategies for social care staff, including continued training and institutionalization of skills
- Increase investment in staff training, rehabilitation capacities and logistical support (e.g. transportation) for children in remote areas

#### SDG4BUSINESS

➤ **OUTCOME 2 GREEN GROWTH, INNOVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

➤ **SDG TARGETS:** 2.4, 7.2, 8.2, 8.3, 8.8, 9.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.8, 13.2, 17.6, 17.9, 17.11, 17.16, 17.17

In 2025, the UN Joint Project [Business Partnerships & Solutions for SDGs](#) (Business4SDGs), with earmarked funding to Outcome 2 from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and implemented by UNDP, FAO, ILO and UNIDO, continued to support Albania's private sector in advancing sustainable, competitive and EU-aligned business practices. Building on results achieved in 2024, the project focused on scaling proven methodologies, deepening value-chain integration and strengthening institutional sustainability as Albania progresses towards EU accession.

**In the agro-processing sector**, UNDP completed implementation of the [Growing with Your Business \(GYB\)](#) methodology in Lushnja, supporting 12 enterprises with tailored business consultancy and integrated a dedicated [sustainability curriculum](#) within the programme bringing it closer to EU alignment and standards. By integrating this sustainability curriculum, GYB contributes to improving operations, reducing costs, increasing revenues and enhancing the environmental and social footprint of beneficiary businesses (SDGs 8, 12, 13).

Close coordination with FAO ensured a full value-chain approach linking farmers and processors. This coordi-

nation continued with the launch of a new intervention in Belsh that is currently supporting 12 olive oil producers and many farmers. FAO further strengthened climate-resilient agriculture through establishment of SDG Demonstration Farms, delivery of farmer training using the Farmer Field School methodology, and preparatory work on access to finance and professionalization of farm-level business models. These interventions enhanced productivity, reduced environmental impacts and strengthened local value chains.

To improve capacity of local experts in introducing sustainable production practices in this sector, UNIDO launched a comprehensive training programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) for 12 national experts. The programme includes representatives from 12 agro-processing SMEs that are being assessed with regard to efficiency of their production practices. More than 50 enterprises were surveyed to identify issues in their business operation and analyse the options for potential improvements, which will be provided as a part of forthcoming UNIDO report to be launched in early 2026.

Several municipalities were invited to host the RECP clubs of enterprises with two selected by UNIDO for the programme (Berat and Shkodra) based on the number and type of agro-businesses located there. More than 30 companies were visited to assess their potential of productivity increase through the RECP club programme, resulting in about 15 companies becoming club members in Berat and Shkodra. In the latter, academic support to the initiative was ensured through the engagement of Shkodra University as a host institution for a four-month club programme rolled out at the end of 2025.

**In the industrial sector,** UNIDO advanced RECP and sustainability in the TCLF sector. A survey of 150 enterprises provided evidence for policy planning and EU alignment, while enterprise-level RECP interventions identified EUR 800,000 cost savings due to increase in productivity and significant reductions in waste and emissions. Concrete business cases from enterprises assessed by certified experts of RECP in the TCLF Centre at the Polytechnic University of Tirana (PUT) and a national RECP platform strengthened awareness and uptake of cleaner production practices. Three RECP clubs engaging about 30 enterprises were created across two sectors to strengthen sustainability capacities in the regions of Berat, Durres and Shkodra. ILO reinforced decent work and skills development in the TCLF sector. A comprehensive sector mapping and tripartite validation process resulted in jointly endorsed recommendations for a sustainable sector roadmap. The

Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises Programme supported enterprises across multiple regions, improving productivity, quality and working conditions for more than 1,200 workers, while national capacity on occupational safety and health was significantly strengthened. The certification of trainers will ensure continued delivery of the programme once the project ends.

**At the ecosystem level,** the programme strengthened sustainability awareness and coordination through national convening and visibility actions. The [Business #2030 Conference – Edition II, A Sustainable Future Made in Albania](#), convened more than 250 participants and 49 speakers, positioning agro-processing and TCLF as drivers of sustainable competitiveness. Knowledge sharing and outreach were further enhanced through the launch of the [RECP platform](#), broadcasting of [Business4SDGs reality check reportage](#), production of the virtual reality film *Threads of Progress*, and launch of the [3rd SDG Business Pioneers Award](#), recognizing private-sector leadership and accelerating SDG adoption (SDGs 12, 17). The last of these gathered 100 applications from companies whose core business operations are in the tourism sector, of which five received an award for outstanding contributions to sustainability, assessed on criteria such as environmental impact, sustainable operations, and corporate social responsibility initiatives within Albanian territory. The event was further promoted by a [communication campaign involving the winners from the previous edition](#), publication of a [booklet on sustainable practices. Edition II](#) dedicated to Albanian businesses and [a dedicated website](#) increasing the reach to the [business community](#). A series of [#Greening the TCLF Sector articles](#) was launched to reinforce the ‘inspiring by example’ mode of the project. A national urban consumer survey was conducted in autumn 2025 to understand how people in Albania perceive sustainability and how they do or do not translate these perceptions into everyday consumption choices. Additionally, key informant interviews were conducted over the same period with business representatives to better understand how 54 selected businesses engage with sustainability. Both reports will be published in January 2026.

### Challenges

- Limited business awareness and uptake of sustainability tools: Many businesses hesitated due to unfamiliarity with sustainable practices or scepticism about the tangible benefits of participating in the project. This was addressed through targeted outreach, practical demonstrations (GYB, RECP, SDG Demo Farms), and visibility actions showcasing tangible business benefits.

- Technological and Digital Gaps in SMEs. The UNIDO survey revealed that 96% of TCLF firms lack modern technologies, hindering sustainability efforts. The project implemented training in Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing technologies and developed a sector-specific database to help firms plan evidence-based technological upgrades and align with EU requirements.
- Embedding sustainable practices into established operations was particularly challenging for Micro, Small or Medium Enterprises and agricultural producers facing resource constraints, rigid structures and production-cycle dependencies. These challenges were addressed through strengthened collaboration with stakeholders and supported an enabling environment and alignment with EU standards and requirements. ILO embedded the work it has accomplished by partnering with the Albanian Investment Development Agency, AIDA, to ensure sustainability of the Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) programme once the project ends, together with certification of trainers to ensure national capacity to continue delivery of the programme at the national level. Also, certified RECP Trainers of the RECP Centre established in PUT are not only teaching RECP to Bachelor and Master students in TCLF but also providing consultancy services to businesses interested in assessing their own efficiency potential.

## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ALBANIA PHASE II

### ➤ OUTCOME 4 GENDER-RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

EVAW II continued to support progress towards achieving SDG 5.2 in Albania, strengthening the prevention, response and policy environment around VAW in the country. The year 2025 witnessed strong normative advances on gender equality and addressing VAW, with fast progress being made in developing a new Law on the Prevention and Protection from Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, and the new Criminal Code, which are being supported by the UN JP.

At the local level, more municipalities<sup>9</sup> have committed to addressing VAW and adopted with UN support

9. Municipalities of Skrapar, Berat and Malësi e Madhe.

anti-sexual harassment policies in line with ILO Convention no. 190. The UN also continued to support the collection and availability of evidence and comparable data on the impact of femicide in Albania following the UN Statistical framework and noting a decline in the number of such killings, with three cases in 2024 compared to eight in 2023, five in 2022 and eleven in 2021, corresponding to a rate of 0.25 per 100,000 women and girls, down from 0.84 in 2023. Specialized services for survivors of sexual violence were strengthened through establishment of the Liliu Crisis Management Centre in Vlora, the second such centre in Albania, expanding access to integrated services beyond Tirana. Operating within a medical institution, the centre provides a one-stop, survivor-centred response, including medical care, forensic examination, psycho-social support, and referrals, with 24/7 emergency services available for up to 72 hours. Finally, the UN supported an increased availability of evidence on the extent to which the justice system adequately responds to cases of VAW, with the monitoring report on the courts proceedings published by the UN and its partners during the reporting year.

Despite these efforts, the UN noted little year-to-year variation in the number of reported cases of violence. The national Hotline reported 4,088 calls from women and girls in 2025, compared to 4,658 in 2024 and 3,871 in 2023. Similarly, Recording Violence in Albania (REVALB) recorded 632 cases in 2025, compared to 775 in 2024. Of these cases, 533 were reports of cases of VAW (with 99 cases of violence against men), 245 were reported from rural areas and 387, from urban areas. Seven (6 women) cases were reported within the R&E community and 5 were cases of violence against women with disabilities. There was no report from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex community, confirming that this form of violence is rarely reported and identified in that community. The data highlight persistent gender and geographic disparities in reporting, as well as significant under-reporting among marginalized groups, underscoring the need for inclusive and targeted approaches to improving access to protection and reporting mechanisms. During the reporting year, the UN continued to provide services for women survivors,<sup>10</sup> with 783 women (171 from rural areas, 74 with disabilities and 36 from the R&E community) supported with legal and psychological advice, as well as socio-economic reintegration services such as food items, medical support and employment support among others. The UN also continued to increase capacities at the

10. UN JP EVAW II: UN Women: 716, UNDP: 68.

local level to respond to cases of violence, including through strengthening of the DV coordinators' network and capacity building initiatives conducted with 540 members of the CRM, health professionals and police officers, including at least 127 men. Awareness raising continued as an area of focus for the UN, with more than 900,000 people reached through social media and more than 750 engaged through in-person activities during the 16 Days of Activism to end GBV, including dedicated activities on technology-facilitated violence.

Engagement of men and boys continued to be strategic, with four new Be a Man Clubs established and more than 324 perpetrators in Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Lushnja, Shkoder, Tirana and Vlora<sup>15</sup> supported through psycho-social counselling, and 166 members of the CRMs, councillors and members of the penitentiary systems with increased capacities to implement the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on perpetrators.<sup>12</sup> In addition, more than 88,000 people were reached with information on perpetrator rehabilitation programmes through dedicated radio spots, social media and in-person activities.<sup>13</sup> Additionally, engagement of Faith-Based Organizations continued to be strengthened, with such organizations in Korca Municipality being formally part of the CRM.

The UN aims to continue building on best practices and lessons learned during the cost extension period of the UN JP. Extension will then follow up on the main findings of recent exercises such as the court-monitoring report and other ongoing work by UN agencies, to strengthen the focus on the judiciary in order to enhance the capacity of judges and prosecutors to adequately adjudicate VAW cases. The extension will continue other areas of critical work, including important technical assistance to legal and policy reform processes in the context of EU accession, as well as prevention and response to all cases of violence.

11. The perpetrator's programme continued to engage perpetrators in the municipalities of Elbasan, Fier, Lushnja and Vlora, and provided psycho-social counselling to 169 men and boys, while an additional 155 men in Durres, Shkoder and Tirana were supported.

12. 60 representatives of the CRMs in the municipalities increased their knowledge on how to handle perpetrators of violence, including 56 in Durres, Shkoder and Tirana. Members of the penitentiary system: 29 councillors (20 women and 9 men) trained in SOPs on perpetrators

13. 78,000 people were reached through a radio spot informing on perpetrators programmes and 10,000 through media outreach, while 139 youth were informed on issues of VAW and perpetrators' programmes.

## Challenges

Despite strong progress and evident commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, the [EU report for Albania](#) 2025 highlights that violence against women and girls and CV remain of critical concern, with high levels of under-reporting due to social norms and associated stigma. Key concerns include weak enforcement and accountability of the police in handling cases of violence, and insufficient support services, including shelters, free legal aid, and reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of violence, available for survivors. Key challenges include the following:

- Continuing issues with reliability and coherence of data on VAW. To address this persistent challenge, the UN will leverage the cost extension of the programme to further improve the REVALB system and enhance the accuracy of data entry through a dedicated capacity building initiative. In addition, INSTAT confirms that the new Prevalence Survey on Violence Against Women will be conducted in 2026, supporting increased availability of comparable data on all forms of VAW.
- Judicial and territorial reforms, which have decreased the number of courts available across Albania, have negatively impacted the extent to which survivors of violence can access the justice system. In addition, the court monitoring report highlights limited effectiveness of the judiciary when it comes to implementing existing legal obligations on VAW, as highlighted in the recently published court monitoring reports and the first femicide watch report. The UN will work during the cost extension of the project to address this challenge with increased focus on working with the judiciary and the School of Magistrates to increase capacities of judges and prosecutors on the legal requirements when it comes to addressing all forms of VAW.
- Persisting stereotypes around women's rights and VAW continue to limit long-term changes in mentalities at the community level, especially in rural areas, where the phenomenon continues to be normalized and where survivors refrain from reporting cases. The UN will continue to work with men and boys, faith-based organizations and communities across municipalities to address gender stereotypes and increase awareness raising on VAW.

# Annex B

## Cooperation Framework Indicators

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Outcome 1. By 2026 there is increased and more equitable investment in people, removing barriers and creating opportunities for those at risk of exclusion.<sup>14</sup></b>				
% of total government spending on essential services as a proportion of total government spending (T) and GDP: i) education; ii) health; iii) social protection; iv) adequate housing	i) T: 11.4; GDP: 3.3 ii) T: 10; GDP: 2.99 iii) T: 32.5; GDP: 9.5 iv) T: 1.8; GDP: 0.05	i)–iv) T, GDP: greater than baseline value	INSTAT MoF GoA Housing Department Global Health Expenditure Database (who.int)	i) T: 11.4; GDP: 3.3 ii) T: 9; GDP: 3 iii) T: 32.6; GDP: 9.6 iv) T: 1.8; GDP: 0.05
Gross early childhood education enrolment ratio in pre-primary education (children 3–6 years), disaggregated by sex <sup>15</sup> (SDG 4.2.2)	T: 79.9 M: 81.9 F: 77.9	Increase by 5pp	INSTAT	82.9 (M: 84.3; F: 81.5)
Average PISA score of 15-year-old students, in reading, mathematics, and science, disaggregated by sex (SDG 4.1.1 <sup>16</sup> , proxy)	Reading: T: 405; M: 387; F: 425 Maths: T: 437; M: 435; F: 440 Science: T: 417; M: 409; F: 425	Reading: 410 Maths: 437 Science: 422	PISA, Albania	Reading: 358 Maths: 368 points compared Science: 376
Coverage of essential health services (UHC; SDG 3.8.1 <sup>17</sup> ); proportion of children under 1 year that received measles vaccine (→SDG 3.2.1)	64% 94%	65–70% >95%	WHO–GHO UHC report INSTAT MoHSP	UHC Service Coverage Index (2023): 71% Coverage with Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) 1st dose: 81% (2024; data for 2025 will become available after April 2026)
Out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of total expenditure on health	44.5%	35–40%	WHO–GHO INSTAT MoHSP Global Health Expenditure Database (who.int)	48.3% (2023)
% of infants under 6 months exclusively fed with breast milk (SDG 2.2.1, 2.2.2.)	37%	>40%	INSTAT MoHSP (Demographic and Health Survey, DHS–MICS)	37 (DHS, 2017–2018)
Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women in the age group 15–19 years	14.2	11	INSTAT	13 (2023)
Country Preparedness index & Operational readiness index to respond to pandemics <sup>18</sup> (→ SDG 3.8.1; 3.d.1) (Level 1, <=30; Level 2, <=50%; Level 3, <=70%; Level 4, <=90%; Level 5, > 90%)	73%	75%	WHO–SPAR <sup>19</sup>	88% (2024)
i) No. of households, ii) no. of persons with disabilities, and iii) % of refugees and persons granted temporary protection covered by social protection system (SDG 1.3.1)	i. 66,269 ii. 72,711 iii. 2.3%	i. 65,000 ii. 70,000 iii. 1.5%	MoHSP UNHCR	i. 52,886 ii. 77,100 iii. 2.1, UNHCR

14. UN system contribution to 'investment' is two-fold: to 1) strengthen the quality and coverage of essential social services, and 2) offer policy options for more effective and efficient social sector spending. Specific outputs and activities will address education and life skills, healthcare, social care and social protection, housing and livelihoods.

15. Data are available at municipal level following Census 2023.

16. SDG 4.1.1 Proportion of children or young people: a) in Grade 2 and 3; b) at the end of primary; and c) at the end of lower secondary, achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading, and (ii) mathematics, by sex.

17. SDG 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services is defined as the average coverage of the 14 SDG 3.8.1 tracer interventions.

18. This indicator measures the level of preparedness and operational readiness based on the implementation of IHR capacities.

19. WHO. State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR) tool consists of 24 indicators for the 13 IHR capacities needed to detect, assess, notify, report and respond to public health risk and acute events of domestic and international concern.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
Socio-economic gaps between Roma (R) and non-Roma (NR), by sex (reflected in employment, registration, and access to services; RF, Roma females)	Employment NR: 27%; R: 18%; RF:11% Possession of ID NR: 97%; R: 90%; RF:91% Youth (18–24) NEET NR: 42%; R: 78%; RF:90% Use of preventive healthcare NR: 68%; R: 44%; RF:49%	Gap decreased by at least 2%	Regional Roma Survey	No change from Baseline Survey will be conducted in 2026
No. of children in residential care at end of the year, per 100,000 population age 0–17 years, by sex	T: 96.6 M: 98.4 F: 94.6	T: 50 M: 51 F: 49	State Social Services INSTAT	Total: 105.8 (M: 105.3; F: 102). Although there is a decrease in total no. of children in residential care the rate has increased in respect of the total no. of children. This can have many explanations linked with a decrease in birth, migration, etc.; values stand for 2024.
No. of visits for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health at Public Healthcare (PHC) level	1,000,285 annually (15% of total visits to PHC)	Greater than baseline value	UNFPA reports	1,238,236 (INSTAT, 2023)
<b>Output 1.1 Social Protection</b> Social protection systems and mechanisms are strengthened to increase the coverage, quality and monitoring of cash benefits and social care services and affordable housing for vulnerable groups.				
Output Indicator Framework—SDG 1.1 No. of new or revised national social protection policies to extend coverage, enhance comprehensiveness and/or increase adequacy of benefits, with UN support <sup>20</sup>	2022: 0	2025: 3	MoHSP Website, Reports UN Reports INSTAT	UNICEF: 3 (NPA Child guarantee 2026–2030; Plan of transformation of residential institutions into family and community based; Law on Family-based Alternative Care; Roadmap for Chapter 19)
Output Indicator Framework—SDG 1.4 No. of people accessing basic services, with UN support <sup>21</sup>	2022: 36,364	2025: 48,195		47,326 UNDP: 24,560; LNB2: 500; UN JP LEAP UN Women: 1,182 (512 women & girls and 256 youth in gender-responsive participatory budgeting; 290 women beneficiaries of disability-inclusive and gender-responsive services; 124 rural women engaged in employment and skill development) UNHCR: 84 (those assisted with cash assistance + accommodation) UNICEF: 21,000 households
National government measurement of child poverty using multidimensional measures	Score 1 (none)	2025: Score 3		UNICEF: Score, 3 (EUSILC data published on at-risk poverty and exclusion, by gender and age; in 2024, at-risk of poverty rate: 19.2%; at-risk poverty and exclusion: 40.5%)
% of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings' officials who report improved victim-centred approach in their unit attributable to activities under this outcome (IOM)	0	2025: 80		90
% of targeted childcare professionals, caregivers, relevant frontline workers in selected municipalities with improved knowledge and skills to provide alternative care	0	2025: 100		80 (refers to social workforce of 2 targeted municipalities: Durres, Korca)

20. UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women report on this indicator. Baseline for 2022 is zero.

21. UNDP, UN Women, UNHCR and UNICEF report on this indicator. Baseline for 2022 is 35,664, reported from: UNDP, 13,750 vulnerable people access to basic services and 21,914 vulnerable families' access to Social Housing Programmes; UNHCR, 200; UN Women, 500 vulnerable women and girls; UNICEF, N/A.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 1.2 – Education</b> Education institutions have improved policy, digital knowledge, infrastructure, tools and budgets to offer inclusive learning and 21st century skills <sup>22</sup> to boys and girls and especially vulnerable groups (all education levels and including in emergencies).				
No. of students and teachers benefiting from better education services provided by repaired or reconstructed education facilities	7,400	2025: 23,732	UN and partners reports and PISA results	22,500
Coverage of schools providing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)	70%	2025: 90%		85%
Scope and degree of digital learning ecosystems at primary and secondary level	2 initiating	2025: 3 established		3 established 4 of the 6 pillars of eco-system are working: digital platform, teacher skilling, Internet, digital content
Performance in PISA	Reading, 405 Maths, 437 Science, 417	PISA 2022–2023: Reading, 410 Maths, 457 Science, 422 PISA 2024–2025: Reading, 410 Maths, 457 Science, 422		OECD 2023: Reading 358 Maths 368 Science 376 PISA survey is periodical and new, annual targeting & reporting are constrained; PISA 2025 pending: to be released in 2026
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education	55%	2024–2025: 60% 2026–2027: 83%		81.9%; as of end-2025, latest available data are for 2024: <a href="https://hepo.iesalc.unesco.org/pc/policy/countrygraph/cp/ALB/">https://hepo.iesalc.unesco.org/pc/policy/countrygraph/cp/ALB/</a>
Education infrastructure facilities repaired or reconstructed	63 education facilities repaired or reconstructed	2025: 67		67 completed
Tools (furniture, laboratories)	63 education facilities furnished 41 education facilities with laboratories	2025: 67 (100%)		67 education facilities completed 110 laboratories (IT, biology, chemistry, physics) completed
IT laboratories	41 education facilities with IT laboratories	2025: 57		48 IT laboratories 58 education facilities with laboratories
Digital knowledge (assessment of teachers' needs on IT and digital literacy and online training platform)	No	2025: Yes (100%)		Yes 600 teachers trained in ICT and blended learning
No. of teachers benefiting from Media and Information Literacy capacity development activities education facilities	B (2022): 240	T (2025): 600 (additional 180)		600

22. 21st century transversal skills (e.g. communication, teamwork and networking, critical thinking and problem solving, initiative and resilience) and deep skills in one or more trades: e.g., ICT, boilermakers, millwrights, welders. EC, Skills for Industry Strategy 2030, 2019. See also: ILO, [Skill-up](#), November 2019; AES, [What are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills](#), 2020.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 1.3 – Healthcare</b>				
Health system has increased capacities to achieve SDG 3 and UHC targets, providing quality people-centred services <sup>23</sup> at an affordable cost, including during emergencies, and improving the social, economic and environmental determinants of health.				
Output Indicator Framework—SDG 2.3 No. of governmental and non-governmental institutions having increased capacity to design, implement and fund policies preventing and reducing malnutrition and promoting healthy diets, with UN support <sup>24</sup>	2022: 0	2023: 4 2024: 3 2025: 3	UN project reports MoHSP other institutions' reports	UNICEF continued to promote infant and young child feeding and healthy child nutrition through UPHV, Bebbo, activities of parenting month and during Global Breastfeeding Week Bebbo app continued to be promoted through public service delivery systems including maternities & home visiting, registering ~28,113 new users and 7,478 returning users
No. of healthcare institutions that have conducted self-assessment on the compliance to approved Quality of Care Standards.	41 (11 hospitals and 30 PHC centres)	2025: 87 healthcare institutions 2026: 96 (16 hospitals and 80 PHC centres)		71 PHC centres; 2 municipality hospitals
No. of neonatal intensive care units applying or implementing quality standards for neonatal care	0	2025: 1 2026: 3		8 maternities (Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Librazhd, Peshkopi, Puka, Tirana) benefited from supply assistance of 10 incubators, 2 mobile ventilators and 1 continuous positive airway pressure machine, contributing to improved quality of care for sick newborns
% of health providers providing home visiting services with adequate skills to effectively engage with parents and promote nurturing care, gender socialization, early detection and intervention for children with developmental risks, delays or disabilities	0	2025: 45% 2026: 70%		45% fully achieved (in 2025, trained health personal conducted 18,158 home visits reaching ~5,482 children under 5 (2,746 female), including 658 R&E children (300 female), using standard guidelines & tools and supported through monitoring & coaching sessions; 597 cases of children at risk were identified during home visits and then discussed in multisectoral teams while benefiting from early intervention services
No. of regions with modelling of a non-obesogenic environment for children in place in schools (UNICEF)	0	2025: 1 2026: 3		2 (Elbasan and Tirana)
Contraceptive prevalence rate for modern methods	4%	2023–2024: N/A (indicator measured only through Demographic and Health Survey, DHS) 2026: increased by 30%		4% (as per latest DHS 2017–2018)
Unmet need for family planning for all women 15–49 years of age	12%	2023–2024: N/A (indicator measured only through DHS) 2026: 7%		~15% of currently married women and 11.3% of sexually active unmarried women
% of people from most vulnerable and marginalized groups who do not use primary healthcare, though needing the services	30% women, 76% R&E communities, 58% poor individuals	2023–2024: N/A (indicator measured only through studies) 2026: Reduction by 10%		To be reported in 2026
No. of PHC centres that provide quality integrated sexual and reproductive health services accredited by the National Centre for Quality, Safety and Accreditation of Health Institutions	3	2025: 225 2026: All PHC centres accredited		225
No. of women of age 25–65 covered with cervical cancer screening	15,000	2025: 17,000 2026: 19,500 annually		10,000

23. Health services include sexual and reproductive health, maternal health, newborn, child and adolescent health, non-communicable diseases and mental health, infectious diseases, and nutrition and immunization services. Services also address access for persons with disabilities (e-Health and telemedicine) and capacities to treat drug-use disorders in line with international standards. Additional support will support enhanced coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psycho-social and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance-use disorders.

24. UNICEF reports on this indicator. Baseline for 2022 is zero.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 1.4 – Shock-responsive systems for effective disaster and pandemic preparedness and response</b>				
Health and social protection systems have increased capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies and pandemics and to promote increased community resilience.				
No. of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control	1,900	2025: 0	UN agencies and government reports	Indicator closed
Coordination mechanisms and teams on Minimum Initial Service Package implementation established at national and sub-national levels	1	2025: 3	Hand over and acceptance of MoHSP certificates WHO/Europe Covid-19 vaccine programme monitor (shinyapps.io)	1
No. of people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies	5,000 adults 6,000 children	2025: 2,000 adults, 1,000 children		5,562 adults; 4,567 children
Infrastructure for disease prevention and control upgraded; Infectious Disease Clinic renovated and furnished and masterplan for Institute of Public Health (IPH) developed	No	2022: Infectious disease hospital renovated; IPH masterplan developed; 14 imaging rooms in healthcare facilities equipped with testing & imaging equipment		Target achieved by end of 2022
Covid-19 vaccination coverage (complete regimen)	42% (2 doses)	2022: 45.8% (2 doses); 13.2% (2 doses + booster) 2024: 70% medium priority groups (primary vaccination), 100% high priority groups (primary vaccination or revaccination), 100% sub-populations with special considerations (primary vaccination or revaccination)		Indicator closed
<b>Output 1.5 – Inclusive community engagement</b>				
Communities and CSOs enjoy greater capacities and working mechanisms to participate in planning, service delivery and monitoring to enhance the quality of services and improve access for vulnerable groups.				
Socio-economic gaps between Roma and non-Roma, by sex (reflected in employment, registration and access to services)	Employment NR: 27%; R: 18%; RF: 11% Possession of IDs NR: 97%; R: 90%; RF: 91% Youth (18–24) NEET NR: 42%; R: 78%; RF: 90% Use of preventive healthcare NR: 68%; R: 44%; RF: 49%	2024: Gap decreased by at least 1%	Regional Roma Survey UN reports Government reports Group contract	Survey will take place during 2026
Enhanced organization of local communities (including vulnerable groups) to articulate their needs and fully benefit from socio-economic opportunities for reconstruction and recovery	NA	2024: 19 small projects (grants provided) to activists and NGOs on returnee's reintegration		Indicator closed
No. of farmers groups and/or community-supported agriculture	0	2025: 0		Indicator closed

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Outcome 2.</b> By 2026, innovative and integrated policy solutions accelerate sustainable, productive and inclusive economic development, enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation and transition to a green and blue economy.				
Value of production per ha. of agricultural land (proxy, SDG 2.3.1)	USD 4,056.9	USD 4,868.28	FAO	USD 3,889 (2022, exchange rate, 114.94 ALL/USD; latest INSTAT data; 2023 data released in Q2 2024) <sup>25</sup> Baseline set in 2021: exchange rate 109.95 ALL/USD
Labour force participation rates, by sex, age (→SDG 8.5.2; 8.6.1) <sup>26</sup>	T: 69.6; M: 77.6; F: 61.6 YP (15–24) <sup>27</sup> T: 3; M: 43; F: 30	T: 69.7; M: 77.7; F: 61.6 YP (15–24) T: 38; M: 44; F: 31	INSTAT	Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2024 T: 75.7; M: 82.3; F: 69.3 YP (15–24) T: 37.1; M: 45.9; F: 31.7 LFS Q3 2025 (Quarterly Indicators) T: 76.5; M: 82.9; F: 70.2 YP (15–24) T: 37.5; M: 44.9; 29.8
% of NEET youth (age 15–24 years), by sex (SDG 8.6.1)	T: 26; M: 26; F: 25	T: 21.4; M: 21; F: 22	INSTAT	T: 20.9; M: 19.5; F: 22.3
% of youth and adults with at least one ICT skill, by sex and age group (SDG 4.4.1)	T: 41; M: 22; F: 19 YP (15–24) T: 57; M: 56; F: 58	T: 45; M: 24; F: 21 YP (15–24) T: 60; M: 59; F: 61	INSTAT	Eurostat indicator (derived by ICT survey, INSTAT): Individuals who have basic or above basic overall digital skills in 2019: Population 16–74 years: 21.48% Male: 22.8% Female: 20.15 Population 16–24 years: 45.97% Male: 44.75% Female: 47.21% (UN Women)
% of informal employment in non-agricultural sectors, by sex (SDG 8.3.1)	T: 30; M: 36; F: 22	T: 27	LFS 2019 (INSTAT)	INSTAT, 2022 T: 28.2; M: 33.3; F: 21.1
Availability of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change (based on energy efficiency and renewable energy source targets) (SDG 13.2.1)	NDC	Yes	GoA reports UN programme reports	Target already achieved
No. of new or amended laws, policies and regulations approved for environmental protection and sustainable green and blue growth <sup>28</sup> incorporating GE considerations and sex disaggregated data	3	9	GoA reports, strategies and legal framework UN programme reports	8
Degree of integrated water resources management <sup>29</sup> (SDG 6.5.1)	47 (0–100)	52	UN Water	47 (0–100) (2023)

25. Total land, 2,875k ha; Agricultural land, 686.4k ha; Agricultural land productivity, *chain linked*, ALL/ha 447,011. All data for 2022.

26. Note: Labour force participation (choice or behaviour) is instrumental for movement in *overall employment rate* (SDG 16.6.1).

27. For young persons: [ILOSTAT, modelled ILO estimate](#), January 2021.

28. In sectors water resources management, biodiversity conservation, air pollution, waste management, land management, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.

29. Integrated water resources management is lynchpin of sustainable development policy. *MAPS*.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
Proportion of the country covered by protected areas and under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (SDG 15.1.2, proxy)	18.5%	23%	National Agency for Protected Areas, MoTE <sup>30</sup>	23%
Availability of i) National DRR strategy and updated national emergency plan, and ii) % of municipalities with DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework and incorporating gender equity and child rights considerations and sex disaggregated data <sup>31</sup> (SDG 11.b.1)	i) No ii) 1	i) Yes ii) 5	GoA reports UN programme reports	Yes ii) 6 National assessment for 6 types of risk and consolidated report developed: DRR strategy and Action Plan developed and in place; National Civil Emergency Plan, in final stages of approval Albania became part of EU Civil Protection Mechanism
No. of cities implementing green and smart action plans providing access to safe, healthy, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities (SDG 11.7)	4: Durres, Korca, Tirana, Vlora	30	GoA reports UN programme reports	5: Diber, Durres, Korca, Tirana, Vlora
<b>Output 2.1 – Employment and skills development</b> Government institutions have increased capacities to strengthen policies and services that address the skills mismatch and increase labour force participation and decent work, especially for young people, vulnerable groups and the long-term unemployed.				
Output Indicator Framework—SDG 4.3 No. of people directly benefiting from improved access to skills and lifelong learning programmes, including for CSE, developed and implemented with UN support <sup>32</sup>	2022: 17	2025: UNHCR: 15 UNFPA: 12,000	Official Gazette and Annual Progress Reports Minister's Orders published on NAVETQ website and Annual Progress Reports	UNHCR 20
No. of Employment Promotion Programmes (EPP) designed and implemented for vulnerable groups	5	2025: 12 (New EPPs on Supported Employment) 2026: 9		8
No. of VET providers accredited or in the process of accreditation	0	2025: 20 (5 additional) VET providers accredited		18 (13 accredited + 5 additional VET providers going through accreditation in 2025)
% of refugees & asylum seekers who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	5%	2025: 7%		UNHCR: 14%
% of refugees & asylum seekers (working age) who are unemployed	71%	2025: 55%		UNHCR: 53%
No. of interventions targeting women and young people, with aim of improving their access to the labour market	0 (Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis conducted and ready for use to design interventions during 2022)	2025: 4 (Shkoder, Malesi e Madhe, Diber, Bulqiza; UN Women)		UN Women: 8 (initiatives in enhancing women and youth engagement in selected value chains in Shkoder, Malesi e Madhe, Diber and Bulqiza)

30. All protected areas comprise: National Park, 46%; Nature Managed Reserve, 29%; Land/maritime protected areas, 5%; Resource Reserve/ Multiple Use Area, 4%; Ramsar network of wetlands, 3%; Strict Nature Reserve/Scientific Reserve, 1%; Biosphere reserve, 1%.

31. Minimum standards: UNISDR, [Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines](#) (section 5.6).

32. UNDP and UNHCR report on this indicator. Baseline for 2022 is 17. In October 2022, DCM no. 646, dated 5.10.2022 approved a new programme that allows NAES to outsource training provision to private providers offering short-term trainings courses, targeting employed and unemployed jobseekers.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
Ethical recruitment standards enforced with Private Employment Agencies (PEAs)	No	2023: Yes		Indicator closed
No. of identified NEET youth with mapped needs and characteristics (profiles)	2023 UNDP & UNICEF: 130	2026 UNDP & UNICEF: 5,000 (cumulative)		2,252
No. of vulnerable NEET who participated in outreach measures delivered by local level YG partnerships, benefiting from EU support	2023 UNDP & UNICEF: 0	2026 UNDP & UNICEF: 1,500 (cumulative)		To be reported in 2026
No. of vulnerable NEET who participated in activation measures (pre- and post-placement) delivered by local level YG partnerships, benefiting from EU support	2023 UNDP & UNICEF: 0	2026 UNDP & UNICEF: 800 (cumulative)		To be reported in 2026
<b>Output 2.2 – Sustainable and resilient economic growth and green and blue economy transition</b>				
Economic policy measures and programmes are designed, piloted and tracked to promote sustainable, climate resilient, green and blue economic growth and women’s economic empowerment with focus on ‘building back better’.				
Output Indicator Framework—SDG 9.2 No. of private sector entities (including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, MSMEs) that innovated their business practices, by mainstreaming environmental, social or economic sustainability elements, with UN support <sup>33</sup>	2022: 63 businesses supported by In Motion and 7 businesses supported by Supplier Development Programme (SDP)	2025 UNOPS: 20 supported by EU4Culture’s grant scheme	Official acceptance of sites, management plans, regular monitoring of grantees UN reports Government reports	22 through UNOPS EU4Culture
Output Indicator Framework – SDG 17.1 No. of policies developed or improved for the benefit of MSMEs with business sector input, and promulgated or implemented, with UN support <sup>34</sup>	2022: 0	2025: 0		0
Output Indicator Framework – 17.4 Existence of a national SDG-financing strategy in country developed with UN support <sup>35</sup>	2022: No financing strategy in place	2025: 0		Development Finance Assessment published
No. of private sector entities exposed to SDG positive business practices	50	2025: 100		Indicator completed in Phase I of Business4SDGs
No. of private sector entities that demonstrate integration of ESG principles and SD into their business models	0	2025: 11		Indicator completed in Phase I of Business4SDGs
No. of local value chains engaged	2023: 1	2025: 3 (cumulative)		2 (cumulative)
No. of business representatives trained	2023: 19	2025: 66 (cumulative)		46
No. of companies engaged through enabling ecosystem activities	2023: 120	2025: 270 (cumulative)		253
No. of sites fully rehabilitated and revitalized employing a ‘building back better approach’ and accessible to the public	0	2025: 22 (cumulative)		21 (cumulative)

33. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 63 businesses supported by In Motion and 7 businesses supported SDP.

34. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is zero.

35. UNDP and UNICEF report on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is no financing strategy in place.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
No. of interventions targeting women and young people, with aim of improving their access to the labour market	1	2025 UNOPS: At least 3 interventions of which 2 targeting women and 1 young people		At least 3 interventions of which 2 targeting women and 1 young people (UNOPS)
No. of administrative acts prepared to strengthen producers and businesses competitiveness in domestic and export markets	0	2023: 10		Target achieved in 2023
% of companies, signatories of WEPs, actively engaged in advancing gender equality	2023: 25%	2025: 25%		UN Women: 30% (25 signatories)
No. of reports on the nexus between climate change and gender equality in Albania (UN Women)	2024: 0	2025: 1 report		Report not yet finalized; to be completed by mid-2026
No. of networks of women active on addressing climate change in Albania (UN Women)	2024: 0	2025: 1 network		0
No. of technical guidelines developed per value chain	2024: 0	2025: 1		0
Established SDG Demo Farms	2024: 0	2025: 1		3
<b>Output 2.3 – Innovation</b> Policies and programme measures are developed to promote digital economy, entrepreneurship and growth of competitive SMEs/SMAEs, and increased spending on R&D.				
UNCT Digital Development Country Profile for Albania	0	2025: 0	ITU Report	Target completed and will be submitted in 2026
Implementation plan for Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN)	0	2024: 1	UNCT Albania Report FAO Report; FADN implementation plan	1
Development of Digital Agricultural Strategy	0	2025: 0	UN Women Reports	1
No. of policies, programmes or strategies aiming at boosting digital economy that specifically consider women's economic empowerment	0	2025: 0	ITU Report	Target achieved; Digital Innovation profile finalized and will be submitted in 2026

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 2.4 – Climate and ecosystem resources<sup>36</sup></b> Planning and coordination mechanisms are strengthened for climate change adaptation and mitigation and enhanced environmental management, conservation and protection, ensuring integration of gender equality commitments.				
Output Indicator Framework—SDG 6.2 No. of trans-boundary water bodies in which cooperation and joint management is strengthened with UN support: a) river and lake basins, and b) aquifers <sup>37</sup>	2022: 2	2025 UNDP & UNESCO: 2	METT score (UNDP & NAPA), Fourth National Communication finalized that is gender sensitive, UN and Government reports Site accomplished investments, as well as studies and reports available with project office National Agency for Protected Areas, MoTE (Protected areas comprise: National Park, 46%; Nature Managed Reserve, 29%; Land or maritime protected areas, 5%; Resource Reserve or Multiple Use Area, 4%; Ramsar network of wetlands, 3%; Strict Nature Reserve, Scientific Reserve, 1%; Biosphere reserve, 1%)	2: Rehabilitation of the KK-5 drainage channel in Shkodra region: a critical 5-km-long drainage system intended to reduce flood impacts on communities and 1,200 ha of agricultural land. Hands-on practice through a regional preparedness initiative that brought together >30 practitioners and decision makers from Albania, N. Macedonia and Montenegro, alongside disaster risk experts from Romania, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands, tailored to preparedness and Drin Flood risk management
Output Indicator Framework—7.3 No. of people who, with UN support: a) gained access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy; and b) benefited from services from clean, affordable and sustainable energy <sup>38</sup>	2022: 150	2025 UNDP: ~7,500		2,124

36. Including integrated water resources management, biodiversity conservation and *sustainable land and forest management*.

37. UNDP and UNESCO report on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 2.

38. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 150 *persons*.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
Output Indicator Framework – SDG 14.2 Level of implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas, with UN support <sup>39</sup>	2022: 2 3 Plan Adoption/Designation DK National Park: 27,866.95 ha Narta–Vjosa Landscape PA 2022: 39,342.46 ha. KS MPA	2025: Divjaka-Karavasta National Park 2025: 27,866.95 ha Narta–Vjosa Landscape PA 2025: 39,342.46 ha Karaburun-Sazan marine protected area	METT score (UNDP & NAPA), Fourth National Communication finalized that is gender sensitive, UN and Government reports Site accomplished investments, as well as studies and reports available with project office National Agency for Protected Areas, MoTE (Protected areas comprise: National Park, 46%; Nature Managed Reserve, 29%; Land or maritime protected areas, 5%; Resource Reserve or Multiple Use Area, 4%; Ramsar network of wetlands, 3%; Strict Nature Reserve, Scientific Reserve, 1%; Biosphere reserve, 1%)	Proclaimed: DCM no. 155, dated 13.3.2023 Surface area: 12,727 ha. Proclaimed: DCM no. 155, dated 13.3.2023 Surface area: 12,727 ha
Output Indicator Framework – SDG 15.2 Area (ha.) of terrestrial and marine protected areas created or under improved management practices, supported by UN <sup>40</sup>	2022: 80,985 ha. (809.85 km2)	2024: 103,922 ha. (1,039.22 km2) 2025 UNDP: 103,922 ha UNEP: 82,844.65 ha (Albanian Alps)	National Agency for Protected Areas, MoTE (Protected areas comprise: National Park, 46%; Nature Managed Reserve, 29%; Land or maritime protected areas, 5%; Resource Reserve or Multiple Use Area, 4%; Ramsar network of wetlands, 3%; Strict Nature Reserve, Scientific Reserve, 1%; Biosphere reserve, 1%)	UNDP: A total of 90 protected area staff (39 women) completed structured training and e-Learning modules in 2025, with 239 cumulative participations recorded across all EU4Nature workshops and trainings delivered A certified e-Ticketing and e-Invoicing system became operational in 12 RAPAs and 3 controlled access points in 2025, enabling real-time revenue tracking and standardized fee collection for >95 ecosystem services Spatial and biodiversity data were consolidated and mapped for ~36,000 ha across selected pilot sites, supporting management planning and future Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms Management effectiveness was assessed and updated using METT-4 in 10 pilot protected areas, covering 172,988.62 ha, with scores increasing from a 31.7% baseline to 36.53% in 2025 UNEP: Draft Valorisation study finalized 82,844.65 ha (Albanian Alps National Park)
Fourth Communication to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Biennial Update Report (BUR) in place	Third National Communication No BUR	2025: 0		Target achieved
Strategic adaptation intervention options identified and organized by sector and location, based in the stocktaking report on updated climate vulnerability analysis	NAP Strategy detailing mid- and long-term Common Country Analysis (CCA) action plan not in place	2025: • NAP Strategy detailing mid- and long-term CCA action plan in place • NAP Implementation Plan • NAP financing strategy • NAP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning • NAP Gender Action Plan • NAP stakeholder engagement and communication Plan Albanian Alps National Park territory valorised and likely climate change scenarios assessed	UNDP website	At the national level, Albania finalized NAP and Implementation Plan, identifying 66 priority adaptation measures across five key sectors. Measures were prioritized using Multi-Criteria Analysis, with 21 infrastructure-related actions undergoing Cost-Benefit Analysis. Each priority measure includes an implementation framework with budgets, institutional roles, and monitoring indicators. Supporting documents: Gender Action Plan, Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Financing Strategy and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning framework were validated through national workshops. Complete NAP package, including Implementation Plan and supporting documents, was endorsed by the IMWGCC and recommended for adoption by the Council of Ministers, ensuring formal national-level approval. At the subnational level, 8 Local Adaptation Plans were developed (Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Kruja, Kukës, Permet, Vlora) based on local risk and vulnerability assessments, stakeholder consultations and gender-sensitive approaches, with 6 formally adopted by municipal councils. Municipalities were supported to pilot priority adaptation actions, including nature-based solutions, urban climate toolkits, and costing of interventions.

39. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 3 Plan Adoption/Designation.

40. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 80,985 ha.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 2.5 – Disaster risk reduction</b> Policies, capacities and mechanisms are enhanced for effective disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response at all levels.				
Output Indicator Framework – SDG 13.3 Existence of a national DRR strategy adopted with UN support and implemented by government in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR <sup>41</sup>	2022: national risk assessment and DRR strategy completed	2025: 7 Pilot interventions at local and regional levels of civil protection completed, and all sets of DRR strategic planning documents prepared and endorsed by authorities. 6 national, regional and local institutions strengthened capacities for DRR strategic planning and management	Position paper with recommendations for gender mainstreaming in DRR frameworks NS and Action Plan on DRR Local DRR plans Revised Local Budgets Project documents Media campaign products and visibility records Physical monitoring Handover documents Subnational INFORM risk index results published online Gender-responsive practical manual for strengthening resilience in local DRR produced and distributed to all 61 municipalities in Albania	Strengthened implementation of national and local DRR frameworks through pilot interventions at local and regional civil protection levels, including Phase I sites (Fieri region) and the launch of Phase II in the Shkodra region covering the Prefecture and 5 municipalities; strengthened local disaster preparedness; finalization and operationalization of key DRR planning documents; contribution to national DRR frameworks and delivery of 4 civil protection exercises across 4 regions; and production of comprehensive monitoring, visibility, and compliance documentation aligned with national law and the Sendai Framework.
No. of institutions with strengthened capacities to improve provision of essential services, goods and resources for women during and in post-emergency situations	0	2025: 0		Indicator closed
No. of households restoring agricultural production and dependent livelihoods	50	2025: 0		Indicator closed
No. of cultural heritage sites retrofitted to withstand disaster shocks	0	2025: 18 (cumulative)		17 (cumulative)
No. of DRM plans prepared for cultural heritage sites	0	2025: 10 (cumulative)		10 (indicators reached since 2024)
No. of municipalities provided with firefighting equipment or facilities	0	2025: 3		New fire station handed over to Pogradec Municipality
INFORM risk index calculated	0 municipalities, 12 regions	2025: 0		Calculated for all 61 municipalities in 12 counties According to INFORM Risk Index 2025, Albania's score is 3.2 (medium), 3rd in Europe; 99th in world (191 states)
<b>Output 2.6 – Sustainable cities</b> Capacities of urban municipalities are increased to implement sustainable development policies and programmes.				
No. of studies that screen legislation and capacities on unfunded mandates at the local level	N/A	3 studies	Internal documentation, publications	1 study published <sup>42</sup>

41. UNDP reports on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is a national risk assessment and DRR *strategy completed or in the final stage of approval*.

42. [ECE HBP 226\\_CPAIbania\\_E.pdf](#)

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Outcome 3.</b> By 2026, governance is more transparent and accountable, enabling people (women and girls, men and boys, and persons at risk of exclusion), to enjoy quality, inclusive services, enhanced rule of law and access to justice in line with Albania's human rights commitments.				
Proportion of population who believe institutional transparency and accountability are satisfactory, by sex, age, disability and population group (disaggregated by central and local levels) (SDG 16.6.1, proxy)	Central: T, 35%; A, 35% Local: T, 37%; A, 37%	Central: T, 50%; A, 60% Local: T, 50%; A, 60%	Trust in Governance annual survey (UNDP)	Central: T, 38%; A, 33.6% Local: T, 36.3%, A, 36.4%
Proportion of population who believe there are sufficient opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes of public institutions (disaggregated by sex, age group, central and local levels) (SDG 16.7.2, proxy)	Central: 28% Local: 39%	Central: 40% Local: 50%	Trust in Governance annual survey (UNDP)	Central: 27.3% (F, 26%; M, 29%) Local: 36.9% (F, 35%; M, 39%)
Level of implementation of accepted recommendations from UPR and human-rights treaty bodies (rating, 4-point scale: 4, fully implemented; 3, partially; 2, inadequately; 1, not or poorly implemented)	3, Partially implemented	4, Fully implemented	NHRI reports UN reports	GoA approved Gender Equality Law, a key priority recommendation emerging from CEDAW Concluding Observations in 2023; and approved Alternative Care Law, another fundamental milestone in meeting CRC Concluding Observations regarding the child's right to a family
No. of human rights complaints registered, by sex (note: effectiveness of remedial action assessed by routine annual programming monitoring with NHRI) <sup>43</sup>	T: 1,384 M: 919; F: 338 M & F: 127	2022: 10% increase annually; reported improvement in remedial actions	INSTAT; NHRI reports UN reports	T: 1,696 complaints + cases initiated at Ombudspersons' initiative 57% of cases solved in favour of complainant or of persons whose rights were violated M: 25% F: 11% M & F: 63%
Rate of (pre-trial) detention for children (per 100,000 population of age 14–17 years, disaggregated by sex) (SDG 16.3.2)	T: 12.3 M: 24; F: 0	T: 8	INSTAT; General Department of Prisons, Ministry of Justice	T: 4.8 INSTAT data reported to TransMonEE in 2024 M: 9.2 F: 0.0
Extent to which laws, policies and practices relating to migrants, refugees, stateless persons are consistent or aligned with international standards (SDG 1.2.1; 1.2.2; 1.4.1) (rating, 4-point scale: 4, fully aligned; 3, partially; 2, inadequately; 1, not or poorly aligned)	Migrants: Partial Refugees: Partial Stateless persons: Partial	100% approximation of Albanian migration legislation and policy with EU legal framework and international law and standards	GoA reports IOM reports UNHCR reports	Migrants: Partial Refugees: 67% Stateless persons: 67%
Extent to which measures of Action Plan of the National Strategy on Migration 2019–2022 are implemented	20%	100%	GoA periodic reports on implementation of NSM	Evaluation of the Migration Strategy and its action plan is under way
Existence of an approved comprehensive migration policy (Y/N)	No	Yes	DCM on approval of new policy	Yes, National Migration Strategy 2024–2030 and its Action Plan 2024–2026 is in place
World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law index, Civil Justice Sub-factor: 7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination	0.51	0.56 (regional; global avg.)	WJP Rule of Law index	0.51
Proportion of seized assets used for public social purposes <sup>44</sup> (SDG 16.4, proxy)	4 properties confiscated for social use	+12%	GoA reports	

43. Ombudsman, People's Advocate and Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination.

44. Pursuant to article 37 of Law no. 10 192 (2009): On the prevention and crackdown on organized crime, trafficking and corruption through preventive measures against property. Seized or confiscated assets are to be re-directed toward social services and projects (e.g., centres for rehabilitation of victims of *organized crime, violence, trafficking*).

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 3.1 – Access to justice</b> Law enforcement and justice institutions have improved capacities, structures, tools and evidence to address gaps in legislation and strengthen justice system performance in line with international and national standards.				
Output Indicator Framework – SDG 16.6 No. of people who have access to justice, with UN support <sup>45</sup>	2022: 2,608	2025 UNDP: 1,500; UNICEF: additional 50 children and youth in conflict or contact with law UNHCR: 300 UN Women: 20	Ministry of Justice annual report UN programme reports National Labour Council or tripartite meeting report Monthly statistical report	375 vulnerable people, 190 women, received free legal aid (FLA) from FLA centres (UNDP) 492 people (5 men) provided with legal aid by UN Women through JP EAW and Italian Agency for Development Cooperation 360 people at-risk of statelessness assisted in 2025 (UNHCR)
No. of Free Legal Aid centres established to ensure equitable and unhindered access to justice to the most vulnerable women and men	8	2024: N/A as indicator completed in 2022	Albanian State Police data and Project reports	Fully achieved in 2022
No. of justice professionals that have been trained in dealing with a) child offenders, and b) child victims of crime	50	2025: At least 40 (additional, sex disaggregated)		7 (females) additional
Existence of specialized justice for children systems, such as capacity building and standards setting within criminal and civil justice systems	3 of 6 criteria met	2025: 4 of 6 criteria met		4 out of 6 criteria met: i) Criminal Code, ii) Law on Legal Aid guaranteed by the state, Child Rights and Protection Law and Criminal Justice for Children Code (CJCC), iii) and iv) 286 professionals trained, v) CJCC and pilots in 2 municipalities
No. of justice professionals trained in GB–VAW issues	60	2025: 15 (sex disaggregated)		UNDP: t.b.d. UN Women: 7 police officers trained
Tripartite policy recommendation and roadmap on enhancing access to justice for all workers prepared and adopted by tripartite constituents	No strategy or roadmap in place	2025: N/A as indicator completed in 2022		Indicator closed
Proportion of PoC (for statelessness) enrolled in National Social Registries	29%	2025: 11%		16% (UNHCR)
Rate of standard-compliant Albanian State Police arms and ammunition storages vs. total	48%	2025: 85%		65% compliant with standards (11 from South-Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, or state budget, and 10 from UNDP)

45. UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and UN Women report on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 2,608 people.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 3.2 – Good governance, participation and voice</b> Integrated multi-sector mechanisms will be created and strengthened to support dialogue and strengthen policy formulation, based on good governance principles. (Cooperation efforts will promote inclusion and build higher levels of trust in society, and enable rights holders, especially from excluded groups, to have greater access to information and services (including FLA), enabling them to voice their concerns, claim their rights in legal processes and seek remedies for violations.)				
No. of local governments with more efficient and transparent system of funding of CSOs from public sources	12	2025: N/A	Formal agreements or MoU and contracts between local governments and CSOs in participating IPA beneficiaries\ Action field monitoring reports, CSO reports for implementation of projects indicating beneficiaries, statistics and data from beneficiary CSOs UN project reports and publications	18
No. of women and men receiving benefits and support from CSOs supported by the action	28,000	2025 UNICEF: at least 5,000		33,500
No. of CSOs promoting youth engagement in local policymaking	2021: 0	2025 UN Women: 4		Indicator closed Part of 1st phase of Peacebuilding Fund and closed in May 2024
No. of new partnerships between youth and other stakeholders in advocating for positive social change	2021: 0	2025: 12 (UNICEF)		5
No. of young people (disaggregated by gender) in target group who indicate to have acquired new skills to effectively address hate speech	0	2025: t.b.c.		252 youth (152 girls; 100 boys)
No. of youth engaged in activities that address toxic masculinities, GBV, social cohesion challenges that post positive stories on social media	0	2025 UNICEF: at least 100		325 youth (87 male; 238 female; UNFPA)
<b>Output 3.3 – Data and evidence</b> Cooperation Framework partners have increased capacities to generate quality disaggregated data to strengthen policies and programmes.				
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) implemented	No	2025: Data collection initiated	UN agencies annual reports INSTAT publications	Full preparation for the MICS survey completed
No. of data producers and users with strengthened capacities in the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics	15	2025 UN Women: 70 (Women Count)		165 (133 F; 32 M)
National profiles developed and published annually to inform national priorities on: i) gender equality, ii) children, adolescents, young people's well-being, and iii) older persons	Yes	2025 UN Women: Yes		Country Gender Equality profile published <sup>46</sup>
Report on implementation of Agenda 2030 indicators completed (culture 2030 indicators)	0	2025 UNESCO: 1 report completed		Indicator completed
No. of data collection tools on agri-food sector for improved SDG monitoring	0	2025: 0		Indicator completed
Availability of data and information on labour migration to inform policy development	No	2025: 1 (National Strategy on Migration 2024–2030 and Action Plan)		Yes
No. of in-depth analyses based on Census 2022 for vulnerable groups prepared	N/A	2025: Working groups for thematic publications defined		2 Census based in-depth Analysis: persons with disabilities, R&E 2023 Census thematic report for children and youth published <sup>47</sup>

46. <https://albania.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/11/country-gender-equality-profile-albania>

47. <https://www.instat.gov.al/media/s3ulezgj/children-and-youth-in-albania-thematic-insight-report-census-2023.pdf>

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 3.4 – Public sector accountability and quality services</b> Institutions at national and municipal level have enhanced capacities and ‘open government’ mechanisms to deliver quality services, promote consultation and participation, carry out integrity planning, fight corruption and organized crime, and strengthen participation of civil society and citizens, in line with good governance principles, the Open Government Partnership and international standards.				
No. of municipalities adopting integrity plans as a corruption prevention tool	6	2024: Likely further increase not due to direct UNDP support	STAR3 Project Reports Municipalities Reports Trust in Governance annual opinion poll (UNDP) Reports from Container Control Programme (CCP) Coordinator National statistics Annual report from UN agencies and relevant institutions	28 (UNDP followed supporting sustainability of Integrity Planning practice until June 2024 building capacities at central and local levels to take over and advance Integrity Planning)
No. of administrative units operating One-Stop Shops for service delivery	15	2024: 15 (cumulative); target changed due to changes in government priorities in 2022 and new vision related to digital transformation of services		Not relevant since May 2022 with decision to provide services on-line UNDP focus shifted in support of GoA new vision of Digital Transformation of services at local level
No. of STAR3 municipalities applying planning and reporting cycle of public consultations	0	2024: N/A (consultation platform will not be further supported, because, as per new government vision, this aspect might be centralized under unique integrated central–local government platform)		22 (consultation platform continues, and 15 additional municipalities have started using it in absence of platform for consultations at local level)
Proportion of women and men aware of e-Albania portal	69.1%	2024: 95%		90.7% (no follow up since last year)
No. of multi-disciplinary practitioners with increased knowledge, understanding and capacity to use relevant national and regional tools for conduct effective victim-centred and trauma-informed investigations and prosecutions of Trafficking in Persons	0	2025: 50		20 practitioners participated in 8 regional events in 2025 (UNODC)
CCP Unit officials trained to detect illicit goods from examined containers, based on profiling and risk assessment (subject to availability of resources)	2 trainings	2025: At least 3 trainings per year (subject to availability of resources)		2 Mentoring training activities (Durrës Port Control Unit (PCU) and Tirana Airport Control Unit (ACU)) 2 Exchange visits, within mentoring training events, with participation of officers from PCU Durrës and ACU Tirana 7 Regional capacity building & training activities 1 Regional Study visit 1 Interregional workshop 1 Regional Steering Committee meeting 1 consultative meeting at managerial level (UNODC)
No. of asset recovery knowledge products developed	0	2025: 5		Report on Regional Expert Meeting on Asset Recovery in December 2025 (UNODC) SOPs for internal functioning of Asset Recovery Office

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 3.5 – Accountability and oversight for human rights</b> Parliament, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) and CSOs have strengthened capacities and mechanisms to assess the implementation of human rights and gender equality legislation, policies and strategies and to promote and protect the realisation of Albania’s human rights and gender equality commitments.				
No. of public hearings organized by Parliament with public institutions and other stakeholders on child and adolescent rights	2	2025: 3 2026: 3 annually	Parliament website Annual NHRI reports CRC and UPR recommendations EU Albania Reports	6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hearing session with Minister of Health and Social Protection on 2026 budget at Commission on Economy, Labour and Finance</li> <li>Opening of plenary session on November 19, 2026 with symbolic commemoration of 20 November, World Children’s Day</li> <li>Constitutive meeting of Friends of Children on 10 December, 2026 and dialogue with adolescents, who presented their key requests to parliamentarians on child rights and protection</li> <li>Discussion of Annual Report of the People’s Advocate, including on violations of child rights</li> <li>Gender Equality reports to parliamentary commissions addressing rights of girls and youth to access social services</li> <li>Albanian Media Authority annual reporting and discussion on child protection from harmful contents in the media</li> </ul>
No. of complaints brought by children to independent human rights mechanisms during the year	1	2025: 35 2026: 40		UNICEF: 50 (data from 2024; those from 2025 are not yet processed) UNHCR: 0
<b>Output 3.6 – Migration and asylum</b> Government has increased capacities to i) Strengthen policies and legislation for effective migration and asylum governance, ii) Enhance the management of mixed movements of refugees and migrants including reception and identification of persons with special needs, ii) Offer effective protection for unaccompanied, separated foreign children, minors and women, and iv) Strengthen mechanisms for diaspora engagement.				
Output Indicator Framework – SDG 10.3 No. of people who are internally displaced, migrants, refugees or part of the host communities, or communities left or affected populations benefiting from integrated and targeted interventions, including on strengthening social cohesion, with UN support <sup>48</sup>	2022: 8,913	2025 UNHCR: 9,600 persons, 864 women and girls UNICEF: 1,700 UN Women: 0	UN project reports DCM on approval of the policy Department of Border and Migration, Albanian State Police reports UN project reports	UNHCR: 778, as of 31 Dec UNICEF: 4,200 individuals from the Afghan population
Existence of coordination and monitoring system in place and functioning	No	2025: Yes	UN project reports DCM on approval of the policy Department of Border and Migration, Albanian State Police reports	Yes
Border management and readmission frameworks aligned with international standards	No	2025: Yes	Department of Border and Migration, Albanian State Police reports	Yes
Proportion of refugees and migrants arriving as part of mixed movements who are referred to the asylum procedures	0.8%	2025: 30%		13%, 100 persons out of 778 as per 31 December
Proportion of individuals undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal advice or representation	100%	2025: 100%		100%
Existence of an approved comprehensive migration policy	No	2025: Yes		Yes (in May 2024, government adopted National Strategy on Migration 2024–2030, and its Action Plan 2024–2026)

48. UNHCR, UNICEF and UN Women report on this indicator. Baseline for 2022 is 8,913 people.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Outcome 4.</b> By 2026, gender-responsive governance strengthens equality and non-discrimination, promotes women's empowerment and human rights, and reduces violence against women and children.				
Rate of child victims of criminal offences, per 100,000 child population (0–17 years), last 12 months	T: 203.1 F: 106.9 M: 294.8	20% decrease	INSTAT, Ministry of Interior	289.4 (absolute value of 1,447 compared to 1,057 for year 2022)
Proportion of children 1–14 years who experienced any physical punishment or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month, disaggregated by sex and age group (SDG 16.2.1)	Total: 47.5% 2–4 years: 43 5–9 years: 51 10–14 years: 46 Male: 49 Female: 45	30 pp decrease	INSTAT (DHS/MICS)	Data will be available after MICS is implemented and data processed in 2026
Proportion of women of age 18–74 years subjected to i) intimate partner DV, ii) non-partner violence, and iii) sexual harassment, in the previous 12 months (SDG 5.2.1; 5.2.2)	i) 33.7 ii) 2.4 iii) 8.5	i) 32 ii) 2 iii) 8	INSTAT	No change in 2024
Proportion of women of age 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 (SDG 5.3.1)	1.4 (<15) 11.8 (<18)	1 (<15) 11 (<18)	INSTAT (DHS/MICS)	New figures will be available after secondary analysis of Census 2023 data (subject to analysis of INSTAT)
Existence of systems to track and make public allocations for GEWE (SDG 5.c.1) <sup>49</sup>	Approaches requirement	Meets requirement	GoA reports UN reports <sup>50</sup>	Yes
Proportion of seats held by women in Parliament and local government (SDG 5.5.1) and national dialogue mechanisms	29.5%	>32%	INSTAT	Central level: Following the 11 May 2025 parliamentary elections, women hold 35 per cent of seats in the Albanian Parliament (49 women). Local level: After the 2023 local elections, 8 women were elected mayors. Women represent 42.2 per cent of elected municipal councillors. A significant number of mandates were revoked before taking office, with withdrawals disproportionately affecting women compared to men.
<b>Output 4.1 – End violence against women and children</b> Government institutions at central and local levels and CSOs service providers have increased capacities to prevent and respond to all forms of violence and exploitation against women and children, with focus on vulnerable groups and multidisciplinary, specialized services for the rehabilitation of children suffering sexual abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, and mental health challenges.				
Output Indicator Framework – SDG 5.1 No. of laws and regulations based on international human rights norms and standards developed with UN support to: a) EVAWG, including harmful practices, and b) promote equal access to SRH care, information and education <sup>51</sup>	2022: 10	2025 UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA: 1 (Family code)	Parliament website CM Website UN and Government reports and website REVALB State Agency of Child Rights and Protection	Drafting of new Law on Prevention of and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
No. of DV cases addressed through CRMs	994	2025: 632		632 (data from REVALB)
No. of child victims of violence registered by child or social welfare authorities during the year	1,020	2025: 1,400		2,451 (data for 2024, since full reporting of 2024 not available from State Agency for Child Rights and Protection)
No. of institutions with strengthened capacities to improve the provision of essential services, goods and resources for women	17	2025: 30 (total no. of UN JP EVAW, UNDP: 10 municipalities)		UNDP: 10 municipalities UN Women: 14 municipalities UNFPA 9 municipalities

49. Methodology for measuring progress against indicator 5.c.1 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-0c-01.pdf>

50. <https://data.unwomen.org/country/albania>

51. UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA report on this indicator. Baseline in 2022 is 10.

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 4.2 – Addressing gender stereotypes and harmful norms and practices</b> Influential leaders, communities, families, men and boys, women and girls have improved knowledge and capacities to address harmful norms, stereotypes, and behaviours that drive gender discrimination, violence against women and children, and child marriage.				
No. of knowledge products by youth articulating the linkages between masculinities, GBV and social cohesion challenges in the region	1	2025: 0	PBF Project monitoring activities UN Report	1 research into GE and sports in Albania 1 national survey (perceptions on why men and boys do not engage in GE) 1 survey on teenage pregnancies.
No. of new media platforms and social media actors producing articles and reports on cross-related issues of gender norms and social cohesion challenges	1	2025: 1		9 influencers, 1 video from N. Macedonia on Youth, Peace and Security Agenda; 1 TV show on gender and sports; 5 online media outlets published IMAGINE campaign impact stories ( <i>Anabel</i> in Albania, <i>Nacionale</i> in Kosovo, <i>Danas</i> in Serbia, <i>Mia.MK</i> in NM and <i>Radio Sarajevo</i> in BiH)
No. of actions that raise awareness on rural women's roles and rights in agriculture and rural economy	5 nationwide campaigns to disseminate information on rural women's rights	2025: 0		2 (16 days and dedicated campaign conducted on occasion of International Day for Rural Women)
No. of rural women and men informed through awareness raising and trainings	700	2025: 0		>140 rural women with increased awareness on property rights, participatory local planning and budgeting processes, etc., 500 people reached in 16 days campaign in rural areas.
No. of legal acts and policy documents addressing child marriage as a harmful practice	4 (Family Code and Criminal Code, Gender Equality Strategy and Agenda for Child Rights)	2025: 3 2026: 6		7 (3 new: National Plan for EU Integration, and Code of Ethics in Broadcasting, Gender Equality Law)
No. of communities engaged in dialogue and consensus building on alternatives to child marriage (including education), the rights of adolescents' girls and GE	4	2025: 5 2026: 7		4 new BMCs (Klos, Selenica, Konispol, Pogradec)
Number of men and boys engaged in promoting gender equality	2022: 250	2025: 250		325 youth (87 men & boys; 238 women & girls; UNFPA)
<b>Output 4.3 – Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting</b> Government institutions at central and local levels have increased capacities to plan, budget, monitor, track expenditures, and leverage resources for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in targeted sectors.				
% of national budget allocated to GE and women's empowerment out of total budget	9	2025: 9.8	Medium Term Budget Program Ministry of Finance	9.9% of 2026 Albania's national budget addressing gender equality
No. of national partners with capacities to apply Gender-Responsive Budgeting tools in budget cycle	17: 10 line ministries, 2 oversight institutions, 5 municipalities	2025: 24 (11 line ministries, 3 oversight institutions)	UN Women Report FAO project report on Rural Advisory Services capacity building	42 (11 line ministries and 31 central institutions)
Existence of roadmap for gender-responsive value chain development in pilot municipalities, and technical trainings and advice provided by Rural Advisory Services (RAS)	0	2025: 0		0
Tailored capacity development events conducted for rural advisory services and related partners on gender-responsive services and social behavioural change	0	2025: 0		0

Indicator	Baseline, all indicators, 2021 Output Indicator Framework B, 2022	Outcome Target, 2026 Output Target, 2025, annual	Source	Status (end-December 2025)
<b>Output 4.4 – Gender Equality Mechanisms</b>				
National Gender Machinery and public administration at central and local levels have increased capacities support and monitor implementation of international and national commitments and EU priorities for gender equality.				
No. of partners that have increased capacities to i) promote or influence gender-responsive legislation and its implementation, and (ii) advance GE and women's empowerment through national or local (multi)sectoral strategies, policies or action plans	(i) 10 (ii) 4	2025: 2 (MoHSP and Parliament)	Membership lists of monitoring network against GBV: CLCI, HRDC, ADRF, WFE, GADC, <i>Refleksione, Sot për të ardhmen</i> , CDTF, CRCA, <i>Qendra Psiko-Sociale Vatra</i>	PMO, MoARD, MoHSP, KSHI, INSTAT, MSLG, MoE, municipalities of Bulqiza, Diber, Divjaka, Dropull, Elbasan, Kamza, Klos, Korca, Lezha, Lushnja, Maliq, Mat, Pogradec, Roskovec, Shkodra, Vlora
No. of institutions that have increased capacities to design and implement institutional reforms, strategies, policies that promote GEWE	1	2025: 2 (EU4GE target municipalities)	Relevant UN project documents and monitoring reports	MoARD, MoHSP, AKSHI, INSTAT, MSLG, MoE, municipalities of Bulqiza, Diber, Divjaka, Dropull, Elbasan, Kamza, Klos, Korca, Lezha, Lushnja, Maliq, Mat, Mat, Pogradec, Roskovec, Shkodra, Vlora
No. of training and capacity development events for monitoring and reporting on SDG indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2, and on advancing towards target 5.a and CEDAW article 14	0	2025: 0		0
<b>Output 4.5 – Leadership and Participation</b>				
Women and girls and gender equality advocates have increased capacities and opportunities to lead, participate, and influence decision-making processes at the national and local level.				
No. of rural women who participate in LAGs	0	2025: 0	UN agencies project reports	0
No. of rural women who participate in agribusiness incubators	0	2025: t.b.c.		0
No. of private-sector companies that integrate gender-responsive family-friendly policies in the workplace	6	2025: 2 (non-cumulative)		10 UNFPA
No. of initiatives that increase the capacities of journalism professionals to produce gender-sensitive reports on gender equality issues, with a focus also on women in leadership and politics	2023: 4 (media forum, CB interventions, others)	2025: 2		3 media forums
No. of women, with increased capacities and access to tools to access and better exercise political leadership at local level and central level	2023: 0	2025: 250 (100 local councillors and 150 potential candidates for parliamentary elections)		311 (176 women local councillors and 135 women potential candidates for central elections)

# Acronyms

<b>ACU</b>	Airport Control Unit	<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology	<b>PCU</b>	Port Control Unit		Cultural Organisation
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation	<b>PEA</b>	Private Employment Agency	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>ALL</b>	Albanian Lek	<b>INSTAT</b>	National Institute of Statistics	<b>PHC</b>	Public Healthcare	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>ASDG-AF</b>	Albania SDG Acceleration Fund	<b>IOM</b>	International Organisation for Migration	<b>PSEA</b>	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Analysis	<b>IPH</b>	Institute of Public Health	<b>R&amp;E</b>	Roma and Egyptian (community)	<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
<b>CCP</b>	Container Control Programme	<b>IT</b>	Information Technology	<b>RC</b>	Resident Coordinator	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>CEI</b>	Central European Initiative	<b>ITU</b>	International Telecommunication Union	<b>RCC</b>	Regional Cooperation Council	<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>CGEP</b>	Country Gender Equality Profile	<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature	<b>REVALB</b>	Recording Violence in Albania	<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child	<b>JEC</b>	Joint Executive Committee	<b>SCORE</b>	Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises	<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>CRM</b>	Coordinated Referral Mechanism	<b>JP</b>	Joint Programme	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal	<b>UNYAG</b>	United Nations Albania Youth Advisory Group
<b>DART</b>	Digital Agriculture and Rural Transformation	<b>JWP</b>	Joint Work Plan	<b>SDP</b>	Supplier Development Programme	<b>UPHV</b>	Universal Programme of Home Visiting
<b>DCM</b>	Decision of the Council of Ministers	<b>LFS</b>	Labour Force Survey	<b>SEEHN</b>	South-Eastern Europe Health Network	<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Survey	<b>LNB2</b>	Leave No One Behind Phase 2	<b>Sida</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management	<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind	<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure	<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>LTA</b>	Long-term Agreement	<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	<b>VAC</b>	Violence Against Children
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence	<b>LTC</b>	long-term care	<b>TCLF</b>	Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear	<b>VAW</b>	Violence Against Women
<b>ECEC</b>	Early Childhood Education and Care	<b>M-GA</b>	World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass	<b>UASC</b>	Unaccompanied and Separated Children	<b>VET</b>	Vocational and Education Training
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey	<b>UHC</b>	Universal Health Coverage	<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>EVAW</b>	Ending Violence Against Women	<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance	<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>FADN</b>	Farm Accountancy Data Network	<b>MoHSW</b>	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Protection	<b>UN</b>	United Nations	<b>WJP</b>	World Justice Project
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	<b>MSME</b>	Micro-, small or medium-sized enterprise	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team	<b>WPS</b>	Women, Peace and Security
<b>FLA</b>	Free Legal Aid	<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan	<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	<b>YPS</b>	Youth, Peace and Security
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence	<b>NARU</b>	Needs Assessment and Referral Unit	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme		
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>NEET</b>	not in employment, education or training	<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe		
<b>Giga</b>	Joint initiative of UNICEF and ITU to connect every school to Internet	<b>NHRI</b>	National Human Rights Institution	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme		
<b>GoA</b>	Government of Albania	<b>NSD</b>	National Strategy on Diaspora	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and		
<b>GRB</b>	Gender-Responsive Budgeting	<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team				
<b>GTRG</b>	Gender Thematic Results Group						
<b>GYB</b>	Growing with Your Business						
<b>HII</b>	High Impact Initiative						
<b>HPV</b>	Human Papillomavirus						



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