



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



United Nations
ALBANIA

Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021



UN Sustainable Development Framework



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Acronyms and abbreviations

National institutions

CPD	Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination
DDFFA	Department for Development, Financing and Foreign Aid
GoA	Government of the Republic of Albania
INSTAT	National Institute of Statistics
IPMG	Integrated Planning and Management Group
KSSH	Confederation of Trade Unions
LGU	Local Government Unit/ Municipality
MARDWA	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration
MEDTTE	Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship
MEI	Ministry of European Integration
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIPA	Minister of Innovation and Public Administration
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEI	Ministry of Energy and Industry
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of Interior Affairs
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoSLG	Minister of State for Local Government
MoSWY	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth
MoUD	Ministry of Urban Development
PMO	Prime Minister's Office

United Nations Agencies and Bodies

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
OMT	Operations Management Team
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WHO	World Health Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration

Other

CCA	Common Country Assessment
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DaO	Delivering as One
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HRBA	Human Rights-based Approach
IFI	International Financial Institution
JEC	Joint Executive Committee
JWP	Joint Work Plan
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
LGU	Local Government Unit
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MIC	Middle Income Country
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
OG	Outcome Group
OWG	Output Working Group
PoCSD	GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development, 2017-2021
RBM	Results Based Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

Executive summary

In June 2014, Albania received EU candidacy status. In September 2015, Albania adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), alongside all other Member States of the United Nations. In early 2016, the Government issued its National Strategy for Development and (European) Integration (NSDI II) 2015-2020. These key events and ambitions underpin the United Nations' Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) with the Government of Albania for sustainable development. Albania's objective of European integration is a main driver of a broad programme of reform and is a shared political priority. The UN System will assist Albania achieve its SDG targets by supporting the pursuit of full European integration, as expressed in the NSDI, with a rights-based and inclusive approach.

Albania has made much progress over the last five years. Key reforms include a territorial reorganization alongside new local elections in 2015, a decriminalization law and a package of constitutional reforms focused on justice. The Government either met or registered significant progress towards nearly all of the Millennium Development Goals.

Nevertheless, much remains to be done in order for all Albanians to benefit from progress. Governance and management challenges, combined with the global and regional economic downturn since 2008, have negatively affected the economy and employment opportunities, and they have weakened the social fabric of the country. Albania remains one of the poorest countries in Europe and disparities affect the enjoyment of basic health, education, and social care and protection¹. The country's Gini coefficient of 34.5 (2013) is the third highest in the region and the pattern indicates growing inequalities².

1. Analysis of policies and reforms affecting the situation of children in Albania, UNICEF, November 2014 (not published)

2. Analysis of policies and reforms affecting the situation of children in Albania, UNICEF, November 2014 (not published)

The Government of Albania-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) for the period 2017-2021 is a framework for attaining results that focuses on upstream support and is strategic, forward looking and fully aligned to country strategic priorities. This framework builds on the successes of the previous Programme, and continues the *Delivering-as-One* approach^[3]. It describes how the Government and the UN, drawing on the full range of expertise and resources of the UN system agencies, will work in partnership to achieve development results.

Four major results, or *outcomes*, were identified jointly by the Government, the UN, civil society and development partners. The outcomes respond to priorities that are aligned with the NSDI II and with the SDGs and targets:

Priority	Outcome
I. Governance and Rule of Law	State and civil society organisations perform effectively and with accountability for consolidated democracy in line with international norms and standards.
II. Social cohesion: Health, education, social protection, child protection, and gender-based violence	All women, men, girls and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights; and more effective and efficient investments in human and financial resources are being made at central and local levels to ensure social inclusion and cohesion.
III. Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture	Economic growth priorities, policies, and programmes of the GoA are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development.
IV. Environment and Climate Change	Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

[3]. At the request of the Government, Albania was one of 8 "Delivering as One" pilot countries that sought to capitalize on the strengths and comparative advantages of the different members of the UN family to increase the UN system's impact through more coherent programmes, reduced transaction costs for governments, and lower business operating costs. The Delivering as One approach is guided by Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

These outcomes serve as a mutual accountability framework between the Government and UN system agencies.

The outcomes will be achieved through the ongoing application of a 'Delivering-as-One' approach. Key elements include:

- A Joint Executive Committee comprising senior Government and UN representatives that provides overall strategic guidance and oversight;
- A single 'one programme' that consolidates and strengthens the coherence of the programme of cooperation between the Government and UN system agencies; and
- Outcome and Output Working Groups comprising members of Government sector ministries and UN system agencies. They are responsible for joint work planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting against planned results.

This PoCSD reinforces the strong partnership between the Government and UN system agencies to achieve country priorities. The Government has the primary responsibility and accountability for achieving the planned PoCSD outcomes. Based on their comparative advantages in Albania, UN system agencies will contribute with policy advice, in accordance with international norms, standards, and best practices, and build capacity at national and local levels – both within and beyond Government institutions – to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of national strategies, policies and plans. Emphasis is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, and that provides the fundamental basis for cooperation with UN system agencies³.

The PoCSD budget framework provides the GoA, UN system agencies, and other development partners

3. Indicators for the outcomes in this PoCSD and the outputs to be formulated as part of the joint work plans will be reviewed and aligned, as appropriate, with the forthcoming SDG indicator framework.

with an overview of the required and available resources to support implementation, and any funding gaps. It is a basis for joint mobilization of resources and contributes to better coordination and delivery of support from the GoA and UN system agencies. Full implementation of the PoCSD will require an estimated total of USD \$108,918,481. This includes USD \$15,340,000 from regular or core resources and USD \$22,587,481 from other or non-core resources. The total estimated funding gap is USD \$70,991,000. The Government will support efforts by UN system agencies to raise funds required for the implementation of this PoCSD. As a middle income country, it is expected that the Government will increasingly leverage investment of partners by allocating its own catalytic resources into the PoCSD.

This PoCSD represents a joint commitment by the Government and UN to work together in a spirit of cooperation with the people of Albania to secure the changes that will help them to live longer, healthier and more prosperous lives.

Map of the Republic of Albania and basic data



* All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

Location	Southeastern Europe
Area	28,748 km ²
Land boundaries	Total: 691 km (Greece 212 km, Kosovo* 112 km, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 181 km, Montenegro 186 km)
Capital	Tirana (418,495 inhabitants)
Provinces	12 (Berat, Diber, Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Korce, Kukes, Lezhe, Shkoder, Tirane, Vlore)
Municipalities	61
Constitution	Approved by referendum and promulgated in 1998, followed by subsequent changes in 2016
Political system	Republic
Population	Total 2.8 million; 49.8% Female and 50.2% Male (2011 Census)
Annual pop. growth	-0.001% / -2,942 inhabitants (2014, INSTAT)
Mean/Median age:	Total: 35.2/33.5 years; Female: 35.9/34.7 years; Male: 34.6/32.3 years (2011 Census)
HDI	0.716 (2014 Human Development Index value, UNDP)
Life expectancy at birth	Female: 80.3 years; Male: 76.4 years (2014, INSTAT)
Total fertility rate	1.78 births per woman (2014, INSTAT)
Nationality	Albanian
Ethnic groups	Albanian 82.6%; Greek 0.9%; Roma 0.3%; undeclared or unknown 15.5% (2011 Census)
Religion	Muslim 56.7%, Catholic 10.0%, Orthodox 6.8%, Believers without denomination 5.5%, Atheist 2.5%, Bektashi 2.1%, Other 0.2%, undeclared or unknown 16.2% (2011 Census)
Languages	Albanian 98.8% (official), Greek 0.5%, Other 0.6%, undeclared 0.1% (2011 Census)
EU status	Candidate country, 2014
Labour force	1,256,858 (2014 Labour Force Survey, INSTAT)
Income Level	Upper middle income
GDP per capita	\$4,619; Growth rate: 1.9% (2014, World Bank)
Inflation rate	1.6% (2014, World Bank)
Unemployment rate	17.3% (aged 15-64, Q2 2015, INSTAT)
Budget	Revenues: 366.7 billion ALL (26.3% of GDP) Expenditures: 438.8 billion ALL (31.5% of GDP) (2014, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Albania)
Public debt (% GDP)	71.6% (2014, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Albania)
Main issues	EU accession; Comprehensive institutional, political, economic approximation, in line with the chapters of the Acquis; Disparity reduction
Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Refugees: 104 IDPs: 0
Terrain	Stateless persons: 7,443 (2014, UNHCR)
Natural resources	Mostly mountains and hills; small plains along coast Oil, gas, coal, bauxite, chromite, copper, iron ore, nickel, salt, timber, hydropower, arable land

Sources: EU enlargement; Facts about Albania – Government of Albania; Ministry of Finance; National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT); UN; World Bank; World Fact-book

Declaration of commitment

The Government of the Republic of Albania (GoA) and the United Nations are committed to working together to achieve the country's national vision of “*a vibrant democracy on the path to integration with the European Union, with a competitive, stable and sustainable economy, with guarantees of fundamental human rights and liberties*”⁴.

This GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) is a framework that will guide the work of the GoA, the UN Country Team (UNCT)⁵, and their partnerships until 2021. This framework builds on the successes of the previous PoC and continues the *Delivering-as-One* approach. It bolsters the strong relationships between the partners to work in concert to achieve national strategic priorities⁶, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁷, and the country's human rights commitments and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations.

The four expected outcomes of this PoCSD were identified jointly by the GoA, the UN, development partners including civil society. They concern:

- I. Governance and Rule of Law;
- II. Social Cohesion: Health, Education, Social Protection, Child Protection, and Gender-Based Violence;
- III. Economic Growth, Labour, and Agriculture;
- IV. Environment and Climate Change.

Building on lessons from past cooperation, the outcomes are achievable, relevant, and measurable. Together with mechanisms for joint steering and coordination and effective results monitoring and reporting, this PoCSD represents a mutual accountability framework between the GoA and the UNCT. Noting the changing development assistance architecture globally, innovative mechanisms for funding of the PoCSD based on partnerships including with the GoA will be sought.

The results expected from this Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development will expand capacities, opportunities, and human development in Albania.

**Government
of Albania:**

Mr. Niko Peleshi
Deputy Prime Minister

**United Nations
Country Team:**

Mr. Brian Williams
UN Resident Coordinator

Tirana, Albania
24 October, 2016

4. Government of Albania-Council of Ministers, National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI II), 2015-2020.

5. The UN Country Team (UNCT) refers to the totality of UN operations in Albania by resident and non-resident agencies, funds and programmes.

6. *Ibid.*, NSDI II, 2015-2020..

7. Sustainable Development Goals and targets, November 2015.

Signatures

In witness thereof the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Government of Albania-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development for the period 2017-2021 on 24 October, 2016, in Tirana Albania, and underscore their joint commitment to its priorities, expected outcomes, and strategies.

For UNDP

Ms. Limya Eltayeb
Country Director

For UNICEF

Ms. Antonella Scolamiero
Representative

For UN Women

Mr. David Saunders
Representative

For UNFPA

Ms. Rita Columbia
Country Director

For UNHCR

Ms. Marie-Helene Verney
Representative

For WHO

Ms. Nazira Artykova, WHO
Representative and Head of Country
Office

For FAO

Mr. Raimund Jehle
Representative

For IOM

Ms. Alma Jani
Head of Office/Resource
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For IAEA

Mr. Martin Krause
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Ms. Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores
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Mr. Jacek Cukrowski
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Mr. Alexandre Schmidt
Chief, Regional Section for Europe,
West and Central Asia
Regional Representative for South
Eastern Europe
Division for Operations

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1. Introduction

Purpose of the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development

The Government of Albania-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) 2017-2021 is a framework for achieving results that will contribute to the country's strategic priorities as spelled out in the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI II), 2015-2020, and the Government's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The four major results, called *outcomes*, were identified jointly by the GoA, the UN, civil society, private sector and development partners. This framework builds on the successes of the previous PoCSD and continues the *Delivering-as-One* approach⁸. It describes how the GoA and UN will work together to deliver on these commitments, including jointly-managed coordination and implementation arrangements, partnerships, joint resource mobilization, and effective monitoring, reporting, and evaluation.

As an upper middle-income country⁹, traditional sources of financing for development assistance are decreasing. At the same time, Albania's EU accession process is making available new forms of assistance, such as budget support, pre-accession grants, and twinning arrangements. In this context, the GoA and the UN must strive for results that are as relevant as possible to country priorities and challenges, that complement the work being supported by the EU for the accession agenda, and that are specific and measurable. The GoA has the primary responsibility and accountability for achieving the planned PoCSD outcomes. Based on their comparative advantages in Albania, UN system agencies will contribute policy advice, in accordance with interna-

8. At the request of the Government, Albania was one of 8 "Delivering as One" pilot countries that sought to capitalize on the strengths and comparative advantages of the different members of the UN family to increase the UN system's impact through more coherent programmes, reduced transaction costs for government, and lower business operating costs. The Delivering as One approach is guided by Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

9. World Bank, Country and lending groups, November 2015, <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups>

tional norms, standards, and best practices, and build capacity at national and local levels – both within and beyond Government institutions – to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of national strategies, policies and plans. Emphasis is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, and that provide the fundamental basis for cooperation with UN system agencies¹⁰.

Structure of the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development

The Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) contains the following sections:

- Section 1 continues to describe the partnership values and principles that underline the PoCSD, the process used to prepare the PoCSD, and a summary of the current development context and lessons from the current programme;
- Section 2 is the core of the document. It describes the priorities and expected outcomes of GoA-UN cooperation for the period 2017-2021;
- Section 3 describes the financial and human resource commitments of the UN system agencies to support PoCSD implementation. It also outlines the key mechanisms and approaches for mobilizing resources;
- Section 4 describes the mechanisms and processes for coordination and implementation of the PoCSD, including decision making roles and responsibilities of the GoA and UN system agencies;
- Section 5 outlines the arrangements for monitoring, reporting and evaluation of PoCSD results, based on the results matrix and joint work plans;
- Section 6 offers a brief summary of the communication strategy; and
- Sections 7 and 8 provide the legal basis for the PoCSD.

The full results matrix tables are provided in **Annex A**.

10. Indicators for the outcomes in this PoCSD and the outputs to be formulated as part of joint work plans will be reviewed and aligned, as appropriate, with the forthcoming SDG indicator framework.

1.1 Partnership principles

This Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) reinforces the strong relationship between the GoA and the UN to work in concert to achieve national development priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals¹¹, and the country's human rights commitments and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations.

As a strategic programme document, this PoCSD underscores the principles of transparency, partnership, and accountability. It demonstrates the commitment of the GoA, UN system agencies, and civil society partners to work together in a coordinated and coherent manner. The concrete outcomes expected from this partnership and the agreed strategies will advance equitable economic growth and reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen accountability systems and support the delivery of qualitative, inclusive social services. Specific results and strategies also focus on reaching vulnerable groups.

This PoCSD will, in respect of each of the signatory UN agency, be read, interpreted, and implemented in a manner that is consistent with the **basic agreements** between United Nations organisations and the Government of Albania. These basic agreements are the legal basis for the relationship between the Government and each UN agency. They are provided in **Annex B**.

1.2 Process to develop the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development

This Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) is aligned with the national de-

velopment planning process and priorities expressed in the NSDI II as well as the SDGs. Strategic guidance for the preparation of this PoCSD was provided by the Joint Steering Committee, with technical support from current PoCSD Results Groups, Outcome and Output Working Groups, and advisors from the GoA. The process involved the following steps:

- The Road Map for PoCSD 2017-2021 development was prepared by UNCT and endorsed in January 2015 by the Department of Development, Financing and Foreign Aid (DDFFA) in the Prime Minister's Office;
- An independent evaluation of the current GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016 was conducted from March to June 2015¹². The evaluation provided lessons and a set of forward-looking recommendations for the development of this PoCSD;
- This was followed by a Common Country Assessment (CCA)¹³, produced from June to mid-September 2015, which offered a concise analysis of country development challenges, the comparative advantages of the UN in Albania, and potential areas of support for UN cooperation;
- In parallel, with funds secured from the UN-DAF Design Innovation Facility, a series of public engagement components, including face-to-face public consultations and on-line surveys using crowdsourcing techniques, was carried out to generate input about development challenges and priorities for GoA-UN cooperation from the general public. These events took place in two phases, in July and September 2015 respectively, to support the preparation of both the CCA and the Programme of Cooperation

11. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks to realize human rights of all (Preamble) and is grounded in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties and other instruments, including the Declaration on the Right to Development (para 10), whilst emphasising the responsibilities of all States to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind (para 19). Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

12. Evaluation of the Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) 2012-2016: Final Report, 29 June, 2015, Mr. Alexander MacKenzie, Ms. Sabina Ymeri.

13. United Nations Country Team – Albania, Common Country Assessment, September 2015.

- for Sustainable Development¹⁴;
- A series of trainings were held for UN representatives and staff, Government and civil society related to the preparation of the Government-UN development assistance framework, gender mainstreaming, environmental sustainability, and results-based management;
- The evaluation, the country assessment and consultations, and the in-country trainings set the stage for the organization of a strategic planning retreat in October 2015 with over 160 participants from Government, UN Agencies, civil society, private sector and development partners. This produced the outcomes, implementation strategies, and management arrangements as described in this PoCSD.

1.3 Country context

In June 2014, Albania received EU candidacy status and adopted a road map for approximation with EU laws and standards. The drive for European integration is a main driver of reform in the country and a shared political priority. Prior to the 2008 global financial crisis, poverty in Albania fell by half to about 12% and the country reached upper middle-income status¹⁵. Governance and management challenges, combined with the global and regional economic downturn since 2008, have negatively affected the economy and employment opportunities and weakened the social fabric of the country. The poverty rate increased in 2012 to 14% and extreme poverty in both urban and rural areas doubled to 2%¹⁶. The proportion of children living in absolute poverty or in families with less than US \$125 a month is 17% or

147,432 children¹⁷. Albania remains one of the poorest countries in Europe and disparities affect the enjoyment of basic health, education, and social care and protection¹⁸.

The overall unemployment rate of people aged 15-64 rose to 18% in 2014¹⁹ and 1 in 3 young persons aged 15-29 are unemployed²⁰. Women's participation in the labour market increased to 51% in 2014 from a low of 39% in 2003, but average salaries are 18% lower those of men²¹. The wage gap in rural areas is double that of urban areas²². Agriculture accounts for 1/5th of GDP and half of total employment. The low share of employment in other sectors is a concern for diversified growth and employment.

Environmental protection has not kept pace with economic growth. Demand for natural resources has caused significant damage: air pollution is a major concern in cities, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, waste management is poor and the contamination of freshwater and marine resources is poorly controlled. Deforestation has led to soil erosion and Albania is one of the few European countries with a recent decline in forested areas. A 10-year moratorium on logging is aimed at reversing the deforestation process. Vulnerability to climate change is high and decreases in summer rains are projected to have major negative impacts by 2050 on power generation and agriculture²³.

14. In the second phase (September 2015), consultations were held in Tirana, Shkodra and Korca with 152 representatives of local government, civil society, communities (including women, youth and children, minority groups, especially Roma and Egyptian, and people with disabilities), businesses, media and academia. An online survey reached 330 citizens.

15. Albania: Macroeconomic Policies, Policy Brief, World Bank, July, 2013, p.1

16. Albania: Trends in Poverty 2002-2005-2008-2012, INSTAT and World Bank, 2013.

17. *Ibid.* Nearly 2% or 15,252 children are living in families with zero income. *Ibid.*

18. The Gini coefficient is 34, the 3rd highest in the region. Analysis of policies and reforms affecting the situation of children in Albania, UNICEF, November 2014 (not published.)

19. From 14% in 2012. Current rates are: 17.3% in total, 17.5% for males and 17.2 for females. Labour force survey, 2nd Quarter 2015 (INSTAT, 2015 <http://www.instat.gov.al/en/themes/labour-market/publications/books/2015/labour-force-survey-q2-2015.aspx>)

20. Labour force survey, 4th Quarter 2014 35.6% for males and 27.4% for females (INSTAT, 2015 <http://www.instat.gov.al/en/themes/labour-market/publications/books/2014/quarterly-labour-force-survey-q4-2014.aspx>)

21. Gender inequalities in pay: an Albanian case, Gender Alliance for Development Centre / Open Society Foundation, 2012 at: http://www.millennia2015.org/files/files/Publications/Gender_Inequalities_Pay_1_1_.pdf

22. Trends and determinants of women's labour force (draft), ILO, 2014

23. Climate change in Albania, World Bank, September 2013, at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/albania/brief/climate-change-in-albania>



The population is 2.8 million, evenly split between urban and rural areas, and life expectancy is 80 and 76 years for females and males, respectively. In the past two decades, economic forces prompted many Albanians, mainly men, to migrate for work²⁴. In 2011, nearly 1 million Albanians resided in Italy and Greece²⁵. Overall, the population has decreased by 9% since 2001 and the share of children under age 15 dropped to 21% leading to a decline in the dependency ratio from 62% to 47%. This provides a demographic dividend of about 10 years when the majority of people will be in their prime working years. Seizing this dividend will require sound policies and effective implementation to generate decent, productive employment deliver quality, inclusive services and social care and protection. It will be particularly important to seize this oppor-

tunity for increasing investments directly benefiting health, education, developmental opportunities and the overall wellbeing of Albania's children and youth, especially in light of the relatively low levels of the current state expenditure on early education, preventing and primary health care, social care and child protection services²⁶.

While infant mortality has decreased to 13 deaths per 1,000 live births, it is three times higher than the EU average²⁷. According to the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME), in 2015, Albania's IMR and U5MR declined to, respectively, 13 and 14 per 1,000 live births – which is still the highest level in South East Europe (SEE)²⁸. There is a considerable discrepancy with the nationally-gener-

24. <http://www.indexmundi.com/g/r.aspx?c=al&v=27>. With net migration of -3.3 per 1000 persons, Albania ranked 183rd among 221 countries.

25. <http://www.albania.iom.int/images/2.e%20Italian%20Statistics.pdf>; <http://www.albania.iom.int/images/2.f%20Greek%20Statistics.pdf>

26. United Nations Country Team – Albania, Common Country Assessment, September 2015

27. <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat> as well as figure 15 of the CCA. The use of differing methodologies has led to vast discrepancies in data.

28. UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME) data can be accessed at: http://www.childmortality.org/files_v20/download/IGME%20report%202015%20child%20mortality%20final.pdf

ated data, including, due to widespread undercounting of child deaths in national vital statistics²⁹. In the underserved areas of mountainous Albania the infant and child mortality rates are twice the national average³⁰. Maternal mortality has decreased to 21 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013, the highest in the region³¹. Between 2006 and 2012, the use of modern contraceptives was 69% with an average unmet need for contraception of 13%. Albania is not a high HIV prevalence country but there is an upward trend in the number of new cases and 70% of people living with HIV and AIDS are younger than 34 years. HIV is concentrated among high risk populations including sex workers, men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, and prisoners³². Cases of tuberculosis have been increasing slowly. Albania has joined the majority of European countries with an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases including cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease³³. Spending on health care is about 2.6% of GDP, lower than countries with similar income (4.5% of GDP). Household out-of-Pocket expenditures are estimated to be around 60-70% of total health expenditures.

In education, primary and lower secondary enrolment are nearly universal. In 2013, pre-primary net enrolment was 79% and upper secondary enrolment was 92%. However, there are severe disparities in access to education for vulnerable groups, including low income families, Roma, Egyptian, street children, and children with disability. Despite an

increase in education spending to 3.8% of GDP in 2009, the proportion of expenditures on education, currently around 3%, remains below the EU average of 5%³⁴. Albania's social care and protection system struggles to protect people from poverty or enable them to escape it. Social protection mainly involves economic aid and the current scheme does not address multiple deprivations in education, health, and housing. For example, 3 in 4 children receiving economic aid do not attend school and their families are unable to meet their fundamental needs. Other vulnerable groups are also being left behind³⁵.

Governance and rule of law is an area where Albania is lagging, with a rank of 53 out of 102 countries in the 2015 WJP Rule of Law Index³⁶. Public administration is a priority of the Albanian government and is one of five priorities for EU accession but planning and administrative capacities at central level and in 61 newly amalgamated municipalities need attention. The lack of coordination between ministries and departments, limited technical capacities, high staff turnover, and fragmented ways of providing services all affect the speed at which legislation and regulations are implemented. A culture of decision-making based on data and evidence has yet to emerge and there is need for effective policy monitoring and evaluation.³⁷

The judicial system in Albania is still characterised by limited accountability, poor inter-institutional cooperation and backlogs³⁸. Representatives of the Roma and Egyptian community report limited in-

29. More information can be found in the recent National Health Report (2015) and the INSTAT publication on Albania's population dynamics: <http://www.ishp.gov.al/ishp03/wp-content/uploads/2015/materiale/Health-report-English-version.pdf> and (http://www.instat.gov.al/media/242042/population_and_population_dynamics_-_new_demographic_horizons.pdf)

30. Ibid.

31. United Nations Country Team – Albania, Common Country Assessment, September 2015 and WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA/WB estimates; WHO 2014.

32. A major issue for Albania to resolve is the transition from international to national funding of the HIV response, sufficient to achieve the goal of ending the HIV epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.

33. NCDs are estimated to account for 89% of total deaths, with the probability of dying between ages 30 and 70 from the 4 main NCDs of 19%. The prevalence of tobacco smoking among people aged 15 and above is almost 30%. NCD Global Status Report 2014.

34. Progress Report 2015 of the European Commission for Albania.

35. 75% of children in families in receipt of economic aid are unable to meet any of the five needs considered to be fundamental- including health and education. 77% of children in the age group 16–18 years of age do not attend school, while 65% of children who do not attend school come from families with very low levels of expenditure. Access to social protection is particularly limited for Roma families due to the lack of birth registration.

36. Albania's score was 0.52/1 (with 1 indicating strongest adherence to the rule of law). WJP Rule of Law index, 2015

37. Progress Report 2015 of the European Commission for Albania.

38. In Albania, these are, in particular, children, Roma and Egyptian communities, disadvantaged women, persons with disabilities and groups that are socially stigmatised such as drugs users, HIV+, sex workers, and LGBTIIL.

formation on the judicial system functioning and no practical access to justice for these communities³⁹. There is a lack of counselling and legal aid services, especially for women from ethnic and linguistic minorities and rural areas, and survivors of domestic violence. Juvenile delinquency is on the rise in Albania, especially among street children and other children exposed to discrimination, family poverty, and domestic abuse. Times for investigation and processing are unacceptably long and up to 65% of juveniles complete their sentence in pre-trial detention.

Albania is a state party to all main UN human rights treaties. From February thru September 2014, Albania completed its second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and endorsed all but 4 of 168 recommendations⁴⁰. Human rights *accountability* mechanisms have been strengthened: the Office of the People's Advocate (Ombudsman), the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, and the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data. The legislative and institutional framework for the observance of international human rights law is in place, but implementation is under-funded and inconsistent. Labour unions are weak, and both the authorities and private companies discourage collective bargaining efforts. Civil society is under-developed, especially outside Tirana. Civil society was named as a key component of the EU integration process, and the government acknowledged the need to establish an environment and mechanisms for inclusive policymaking.

An overview of the MDG targets and achievements in 2015, indicates that Albania has virtually fulfilled the expectations for MDG4 (child mortality), MDG5 (maternal health), and MDG6 (HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis). Significant progress has been made in achieving targets for MDG7 (sustainable

environmental development), while mixed results are obtained in MDG1 (extreme poverty and social exclusion), MDG2 (high quality basic universal education), MDG3 (gender equality and empowerment of women). Relatively less progress has been achieved in addressing the challenges of MDG8 (global partnership for development), and MDG9 (governance for all citizens and particularly for most disadvantaged groups).

Albania was a pilot country for an additional MDG on governance, and is also one of the focus countries for implementing SDG 16, for which a broad set of specific indicators has been developed. With the new Agenda2030, unfinished business and new challenges lie primarily (but not exclusively) in the field of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 16 and 17. Hence the focus remains on social cohesion, sustainable economic growth, and environment and climate change.

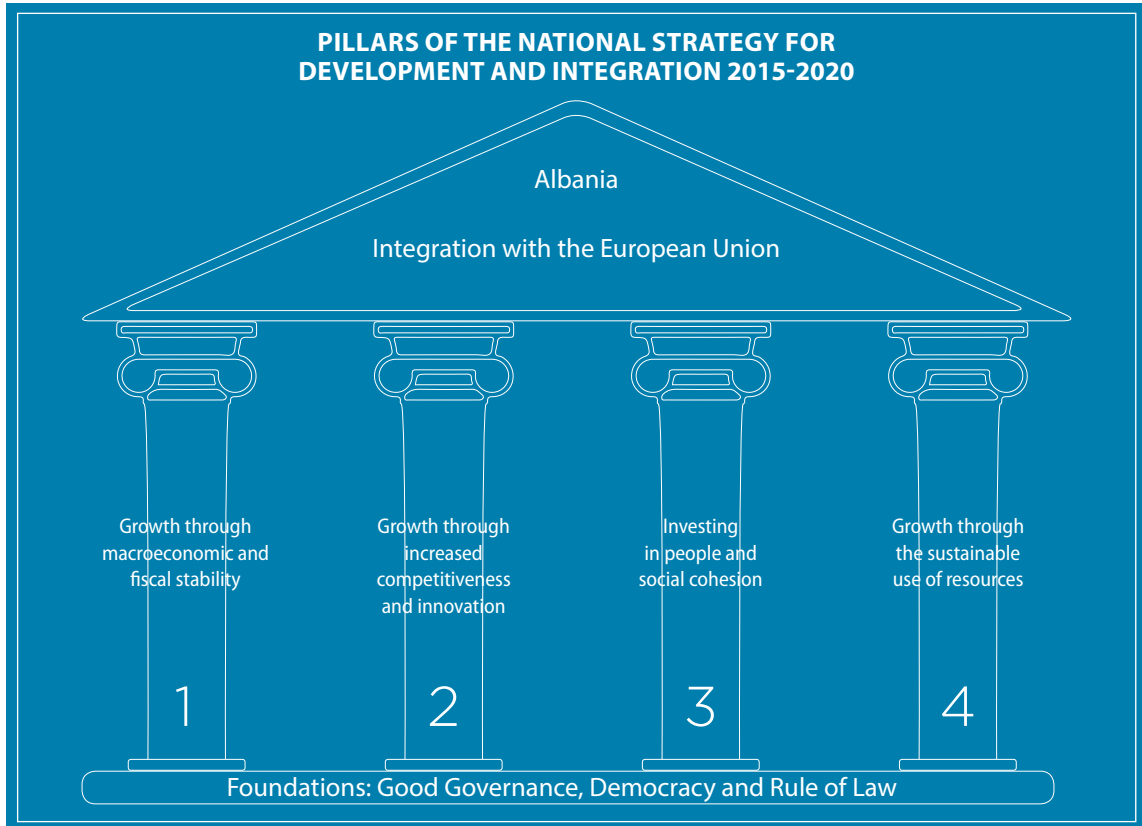
The public consultations and on-line surveys conducted in 2015 suggest that major development challenges as perceived by the people of Albania are: (1) Employment and business opportunities; (2) Corruption and organised crime, (3) Health care; (4) Education; (5) Justice system reform; (6) Local and regional governance; (7) Violence against women and children; (8) Social benefits and allowances system; and (9) Environment and climate change. Respondents highlighted the situation of vulnerable groups in Albania, especially families living in poverty, persons with disabilities, minorities, the elderly and some groups of children and women. Respondents also identified a set of common issues that prevent or impede sustained action and progress for these priorities:

- Weak or underperforming institutions;
- Corruption and mismanagement of public resources;
- An inadequate legal framework; and
- Poor infrastructure and a lack of investment⁴¹.

39. Report on public consultations for the preparation of the Common Country Assessment (Partners Albania for Change and Development, July 2015), p. 13

40. See UPR documentation for Albania: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ALSession19.aspx>

41. Report on public consultations for the preparation of the Common Country Assessment, Partners Albania for Change and Development, July 2015; Report on online survey conducted by UN-commissioned crowdsourcing, UN Albania, July 2015.



The second **National Strategy for Development and Integration** (NSDI II), which is informed and aligned by global commitments to SDGs, is a key driver of this PoCSD. It offers a vision for its national social, democratic and economic development over the period 2015-2020, and its aspirations for European integration.

The NSDI II has six strategic priorities:

1. EU membership, with objectives related to public administration reform, a modern, professional and depoliticized civil service, more independent and accountable judicial institutions, addressing corruption, and protecting human rights;
2. Consolidating good governance, democracy and the rule of law with strong, effective and democratic institutions and a fully functional and open judicial system;
3. Ensuring growth through macroeconomic and fiscal stability;
4. Ensuring growth through increased competitiveness and innovation;
5. Investing in people and social cohesion with objectives related to a modern educational system, a universal and quality health care system, expanded employment opportunities, a stronger social protection system, gender equality and social inclusion; and
6. Ensuring growth through connectivity and the sustainable use of resources and territorial development.

The proposed outcomes for UN cooperation in Albania address national priorities that are closely aligned with the SDGs. All outcomes will contribute to goal 5 to achieve gender equality and goal 16 to build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions. Section 2.2 (below) offers a detailed description of the specific links between programme results and strategies, and their contribution to the achievement of NSDI II priorities and relevant SDGs and targets.

1.4 Lessons from past cooperation and UN comparative advantages

Building on the Mid-Term Review (MTR)⁴² in June 2014, the evaluation of the PoC, 2012-2016, highlighted several important lessons⁴³:

- The GoA-UN PoCSD achieved significant results where there was clear alignment with national priorities and where there was strong ownership of the initiative by national authorities during both planning and implementation;
- A successful One Programme approach must involve joint programming by stakeholders, but it does not necessarily have to include joint implementation by two or more UN Agencies and their partners. In addition, the joint work plans pioneered in Albania provide a strong vehicle for joint programming by PoCSD partners;
- The achievement of significant gender equality results confirms the importance of a well-led and resourced inter-agency Gender Theme Group. In Albania, the experience highlights a niche for the UN to help pre-accession governments and the EU to mainstream gender into legislation, national policy and plans, and sector budget programmes;
- Successful efforts to assist the GoA to move forward the territorial-administrative reform agenda offers a role model of how the UN's neutrality and impartiality can be a major advantage when engaging very complex challenges. The successful engagement also highlights the UN's strong programme management capacity and procedures to enhance the Government's delivery requirements;
- GoA-UN programme of cooperation for sustainable development focused strongly on legal and policy development based on international

standards and evidence. This depends on effective information and data gathering frameworks and analysis.

The MTR and subsequent evaluation highlighted the following comparative advantages of UN Agencies:

- Implementation capacity and provision of expertise to address complex social, economic, and environmental challenges;
- A global perspective and application of international norms, standards, and principles, international conventions, treaties, and other global initiatives;
- Capacity to address the situation of vulnerable groups in society and the root or structural causes of exclusion and disparity; and
- A trusted, neutral partner and '*honest broker*'.

Through its support for the achievement of national development priorities and related SDGs and targets, the UN also complements the Government's EU integration agenda. GoA-UN Programme cooperation offers a set of unique strengths to address key gaps in national and local capacity for national policy and programme implementation and monitoring. The evaluation of the previous PoCSD points to several dimensions of support that inform the expected results and strategies of this PoCSD (2017-2021), including:

- Greater coherence with GoA-EU sector programmes in areas of policy development and implementation that align with the SDGs and are a best fit for UN programme support;
- A bridging role for UN support to ensure that GoA-EU sector policies and programmes are designed and implemented in open, consultative, and gender-responsive ways, involving CSOs and communities;
- Use of structured capacity assessments to ensure that capacity development results and interventions are clearly targeted and supportive of sector ministries and departments at national and local levels;

42. MID TERM REVIEW Report, Government of Albania-United Nations Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016, 25 June 2014.

43. Evaluation of the Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation (PoC) 2012-2016, .

- Support for the convergence and implementation of quality basic services at local level through 61 new local government units (LGU) and efforts to ensure they reach vulnerable groups; and
- A stronger outcome monitoring framework, with explicit, contributing links to NSDI II priorities and indicators and to the indicator framework for the SDGs.

CHAPTER 2

Priorities, outcomes and strategies

2. Priorities, outcomes and strategies

The Government of Albania-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) 2017-2021 is a strategic programme framework that responds to country priorities. It contains four expected results, called ‘outcomes’ that were identified jointly by the GoA, the UN, civil society, private sector and development partners. The outcomes build on achievements and lessons from the previous programme and utilise the comparative advantages of the UN in Albania.

This is the main section of the document. It describes the overarching programme strategies and the expected outcomes. The complete results matrix including indicators, baselines, targets, means of verification, and risks and assumptions is provided in **Annex A**.

Table: Overview of priorities and outcomes

Priority	Outcome
I. Governance and Rule of Law	State and civil society organisations perform effectively and with accountability for consolidated democracy in line with international norms and standards.
II. Social cohesion: Health, education, social protection, child protection, and gender-based violence	All women, men, girls and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights; and more effective and efficient investments in human and financial resources are being made at central and local levels to ensure social inclusion and cohesion.
III. Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture	Economic growth priorities, policies, and programmes of the GoA are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development.
IV. Environment and Climate Change	Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

2.1 Programme strategies

To support the achievement of outcomes, the following general programme strategies will be employed. Each outcome has specific strategies, partners, and vulnerable groups expected to benefit from programme results. These are described below in section 2.2:

1. Promote fundamental human rights

A human rights-based approach (HRBA) to development aims to support better, more sustainable development outcomes by analysing and addressing inequalities and discriminatory practices. At country level, a HRBA proceeds from the commitments of the state on the basis of its ratified human rights conventions. It works to ensure that human rights standards and principles guide development cooperation with a focus on developing the capacities of ‘duty-bearers’, primarily the state, to meet their obligations and of ‘rights-holders’, especially vulnerable groups, to claim their rights. Albania is a state party to all main UN human rights treaties. And while the legislative and institutional framework for the observance of international human rights law is mostly in place, implementation is under-funded and inconsistent. Further efforts are needed to ensure full implementation of the legal framework and international instruments. Across all priorities, the UN support will help to develop and institutionalise new capacities to implement the recommendations of both UN human rights mechanisms as well as recommendations from independent state oversight bodies⁴⁴.

2. Ensure gender equality

The goal of gender equality and the practice of gender mainstreaming focus on how females and males experience problems in society differently, and how they relate to the societal forces that shape power

44. This is in line with the UN Secretary-General’s Rights Up Front Action Plan

relationships. It aims to identify the societal behaviors and structures that sustain gender inequality and make changes that are institutional and systemic. Albania is a signatory to a number of important and binding international documents, which guarantee the equality of men and women and prohibit gender-based discrimination⁴⁵. Gender equality has a prominent place in the NSDI II, yet despite the progress that has been made to establish a legal and policy framework for the advancement of women's rights and gender equality, inequalities are pervasive. Traditional patriarchal attitudes are still prominent, gender inequalities are present in all spheres of social and economic life, and violence against women is still widespread. In 2013, Albania ranked 44th out of 149 countries in the Gender Inequality Index⁴⁶. To accelerate implementation, the UN will work with the GoA to establish a centralised national entity for the advancement of women with a clearly defined mandate, responsibilities, and resources. The UN will also support the mainstreaming of gender-sensitive analysis, indicators, and monitoring instruments in the NSDI II and in legislation, policies, and programmes.

3. Promote environmental sustainability

Insufficient progress has been made in the areas of environment and climate change. Significant additional efforts are needed to further align with the SDGs and EU policies in areas such as water, waste management, air quality, and biodiversity protection⁴⁷. In Albania, over 90% of energy production is from hydropower and agriculture, which accounts for 1/5th of GDP and half of total employment, is critically dependent on irrigation. Albania is one of the most vulnerable countries in the region to a

45. These include: The Council of Europe's Social Charter, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), the European Convention on Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

46. The index reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions – reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity.

47. *Ibid.*, NSDI II, 2015-2020, 28; 164.

changing climate and it is estimated that summer rainfalls will decline by about 10% by 2020 and 20% by 2050⁴⁸. Energy production and agriculture will be acutely impacted. The rural poor, in particular poor women and older, poor women and men, will be disproportionately affected because of their greater dependence on agriculture and their relatively lower ability to adapt. Capacity development is needed in relation to *Acquis*⁴⁹ elements in environment, sustainable development, and energy efficiency, especially when it comes to implementing and enforcing existing legislation. The UN will support GoA efforts to develop and institutionalise key capacities that promote environmental sustainability and resilience.

4. Develop country capacities and strengthen cross-sectoral coordination

A capacity development approach in all elements of the PoCSD will support Albania to achieve the vision and priorities described in the NSDI II and related to SDG targets. The GoA and UN will base capacity development initiatives on sound capacity assessments that will focus on key institutions and major institutional bottlenecks. Capacity development initiatives will be as technically relevant as possible to the specific tasks at hand to produce actionable results, such as policy recommendations, draft regulations, codes, and the skills to see them implemented. The GoA and UN will continue to promote stronger, deeper engagement with civil society groups to sustain their support and services for vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind as the country progresses to EU membership.

In comparison to the MDGs, Agenda 2030 was constructed with a more explicit emphasis on cross-sectoral linkages. Accordingly, the UN in Albania – using this PoCSD as a framework and through the

48. Climate change in Albania, World Bank, September 2013, at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/albania/brief/climate-change-in-albania>

49. The EU *acquis communautaire* is the accumulated legislation, legal acts, and court decisions which constitute the body of European Union law.

Delivering as One management structure – will draw upon its wide spectrum of expertise to identify ways in which the Government’s programmes can benefit from cross-sectorial analysis, policy formulation and implementation.

5. Partnership

In keeping with the focus on capacity development and coordination, partnership is a key theme of this PoCSD.⁵⁰ Partnership was highlighted in the evaluation of the previous Programme of Cooperation as a critical ingredient of success. The previous PoC was found to be highly relevant to the priorities expressed in the NSDI I 2007-2013, and effective in terms of the achievement of most planned PoC results and their plausible contribution to country priorities. Programme partners, including donors, valued the partnership between the GoA and UN and the Delivering as One (DaO) approach. The strategies and expected results in this PoCSD can only be achieved if there is ongoing mutual commitment by the GoA and the UN system agencies. The PoCSD enables more efficient and effective coordination and delivery of UN assistance. The management arrangements will ensure that UN support for the achievement of the outcomes is delivered in a coherent way that enhances joint programming, reduces duplication, and ensures a convergence of support in targeted areas and for vulnerable groups⁵¹. This is in line with the SDG agenda and the key message to ‘*leave no one behind*’ and to ‘*reach the furthest behind first*’⁵².

50. Evaluation of the Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation (PoC) 2012-2016: Final Report, 29 June, 2015, Mr. Alexander MacKenzie, Ms. Sabina Ymeri.

51. For this PoCSD, ‘vulnerability’ is understood as a state of high exposure to certain risks, combined with a reduced ability to protect or defend oneself against those risks and cope with their negative consequences. Based on this definition, specific vulnerable groups are determined for outcome.

52. Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly Resolution, 21 October, 2015, A/RES/70/1. Para 4.

6. Provide effective results-based management

Results-based management is a strategy that requires clearly defined accountability for results and monitoring of progress towards results, and reporting on performance. Outcome Groups (OG) and Output Working Groups (OWG) are important mechanisms to secure national ownership of the PoCSD and mutual accountability for the expected results. These groups, described in more detail in section 4, support the implementation, management, monitoring and reporting of progress towards the expected PoCSD outcomes. Indicators for the outcomes aligned with NSDI II, listed in Annex A as part of the Outcome joint work plans will be reviewed after the first year of PoCSD implementation to ensure alignment, as appropriate, with the SDG indicator framework. This will ensure that the expected results of cooperation are coherently aligned with and contribute efficiently to the strategic results in both the NSDI II and the country adopted SDGs.

7. Improve the quality and availability of data

Albania is adopting EU and international standards and definitions for the collection, analysis and reporting of socio-economic data. For all priorities, the UN will work with the GoA, especially the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), to strengthen the quality and availability of data for effective policy-making and programme implementation. Support will also be provided to effectively monitor Albania’s national policy and programme implementation as well as indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals. Particular attention will be given to support the capacity of line Ministries and INSTAT to produce data that is disaggregated by sex and sub-population groups and to strengthen the dissemination and use of data and statistics at national and local level for evidence-based policy formulation and planning, and to ensure that disparities in services and conditions are being addressed.



2.2 Expected outcomes⁵³

This section describes the expected outcomes of the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD), including the links with NSDI II priorities and related SDGs, the rationale, the main strategies to be employed, and key partners to be involved in planning, implementation, progress monitoring and reporting.

Priority I. Governance and Rule of Law

Outcome 1.

State and civil society organisations perform effectively and with accountability for consolidated democracy in line with international norms and standards.

Links with NSDI priorities and the SDGs




The outcome is expected to support the GoA to

achieve priority 1 **EU membership with reference to public administration reform** and 2 **Consolidate good governance, democracy, and the rule of law** of the NSDI II. The NSDI II places emphasis on well-functioning legal and regulatory frameworks for businesses, social groups and individuals, leading to greater transparency, accountability, and public participation⁵⁴. The expected outputs and initiatives of UN programme support under this outcome will deliver expertise and support the application of international norms and standards, and encourage analysis and planning to reach vulnerable groups. New skills, systems, and institutional capacities will focus on:

- A functional and open judicial system with equal access for all;
- Stronger legislative and electoral processes, that are more inclusive of vulnerable groups and women;
- Integrated border management;
- The strengthening of mechanisms to safeguard the State's human rights commitments;

53. All data and information related to the outcomes are from: (1) United Nations Country Team – Albania, Common Country Assessment, September 2015. (2) NSDI II.

54. *Ibid.*, NSDI II, 2015-2020, 18-19.

SDG	Target ⁵⁶
 <p>Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p>5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life</p> <p>5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels</p>
 <p>Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>	<p>10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status</p> <p>10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard</p> <p>10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies</p>
 <p>Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>	<p>16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</p> <p>16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p> <p>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</p> <p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p> <p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>

- A reformed public administration and modern, professional civil service;
- A more integrated and concerted approach in the fight against corruption;
- Decentralized government services and empowered local government;
- The provision of quality and comparable statistical information; and
- Better cooperation and partnership between government and civil society.

UN programme support will also contribute to GoA efforts to achieve several **SDGs**⁵⁶ and targets from the above list.

Rationale

Governance and rule of law is an area where Albania is lagging, with a rank of 53 out of 102 countries in

the 2015 WJP Rule of Law Index⁵⁷. Public administration is a priority of the Albanian government and is one of five priorities for EU accession but planning and administrative capacities at central level and in 61 newly amalgamated municipalities need attention. The lack of coordination between ministries and departments, limited technical capacities, high staff turnover, and fragmented ways of providing services all affect the speed at which legislation and regulations are implemented. A culture of decision-making based on data and evidence has yet to be cemented and there is need for more effective policy monitoring and evaluation.

The strategic objective of ensuring good governance and rule of law for the ultimate aim of EU accession is a cross cutting objective of the NSDI and underpins all other strategic objectives. This strategic emphasis on governance and rule of law is supported by an ambitious reform agenda for EU accession. However, Albania's institutions still struggle with

55. Indicators for the outcome and outputs formulated as part of the joint work plans will be reviewed and aligned, as appropriate, with the forthcoming SDG indicator framework.

56. Sustainable Development Goals and targets, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>, Oct2015.

57. Albania's score was 0.52/1 with scores ranging from 0 to 1 (with 1 indicating strongest adherence to the rule of law). WJP Rule of Law index, 2015

ensuring trust. More than half of Albanian citizens think that the judiciary and electoral management bodies are politicized.^[1] A third of Albanians report that they have witnessed corruption of some sort in their dealings with Government. The figure is higher for transactions at local government levels.^[2] Overcoming this challenge is at the heart of the five political criteria which must be met in order for Albania start negotiations for EU accession.^[3] They are the functioning of a professional and de-politicized public administration and an independent judiciary; measurable results in the fight against corruption and crime; and protection of rights, notably property rights and rights of Roma.

The Government's reform agenda for de-politicization of the administration and of the judicial, electoral processes and oversight mechanisms must be accompanied by systematic functional improvements in institutional capacities so that citizens, especially women, can turn to them for redress. Strengthening effectiveness, transparency, accountability and service orientation of public institutions is the main pathway towards building trust in institutions and enabling their developmental functionality. More inclusive and gender responsive, evidence based policy making and legislation are required for reducing inequities and corruption risks. Civil society needs space and systems so that they can hold public institutions to account.^[6] At the local level, Albania undertook historic reforms of its administrative and political structure by consolidating 373 local administration units into 61 functional municipalities which are increasingly led by women mayors and councillors, thanks to a visionary gender quota. They now shoulder the principal responsibility for service delivery but lack the financial and human resources needed to fulfill them.^[7] Municipal revenue is planned for

[1] Trust in Government Survey, 2015

[2] Quoted in Business, Corruption and Crime in Albania, 2013. UNODC. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/corruption/Albania_Business_Corruption_2013_EN.pdf

[3] EU Progress Report, 2015

increase by twofold by 2020.^[8] Transparent and inclusive decision making, where women have equal voice especially over redistributive investments is essential for creating real-life benefits for families.^[9] It is also essential for building trust in institutions.

The National Strategy on Gender Equality, Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence (2011-2015) calls for gender-mainstreaming structures within all ministries, departments and agencies as mechanisms to implement and monitor national laws and policies and regional and global commitments for gender equality and women's empowerment. Budget resources, advisory and technical support are needed to accelerate implementation and monitoring, especially at local levels.

The costs and consequences of domestic violence are significant and it cuts across all socio-economic groups and educational strata. Nearly 62% of children reported having experienced at least one form of psychological violence during their lifetime and nearly 70% reported having experienced at least one form of psychological violence during the past year⁵⁸. No government body at national or local level has authority to remove a child from an abusive environment and, aside from one-off local government initiatives, the national government has not earmarked funds for public and private entities involved in preventing violence against children.

[6] Opinion Poll: Trust in Government 2015 <http://idmalbania.org/?p=6920>

[7] USAID, Planning and Local Governance Project (PLGP) In Albania: Policy Paper: Creating an Equitable, Transparent, and Predictable Unconditional Grant Formula, September 2015 http://www.plgp.al/images/pdf/files/USAID_Unconditional%20Grant%20Policy%20Paper%20September%202015-ENG.pdf and 2nd Narrative Report on Cumulative implementation progress of STAR

[8] Target: 12% of revenues in 2016, but overall revenue is only 22% of GDP in 2015 although optimistically forecasted to increase to 27.5% in 2016. While the government objective is to strengthen the local governments' fiscal power through increasing the overall local budget to 6% of GDP by 2020, this level is now only at 3.1% http://www.financa.gov.al/files/userfiles/Buxheti/Buxheti_ne_vite/buxheti_2016/tabelat/Tabela_6_shoqeruese_-_Treguesit_fiskale.pdf; Decentralization Strategy http://www.ceshjtjetvendore.gov.al/files/pages_files/15-04-20-02-59-36Decentralisation_Strategy_Final_-_Feb_2015_-_English.pdf

[9] Opinion Poll: Trust in Government 2015 <http://idmalbania.org/?p=6920>

58. Cenko E et al Balkan Epidemiological Survey on Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) in Albania, CRCA 2013.

Juvenile delinquency is on the rise in Albania: in 2013, almost 3 times more juvenile offenders per year were registered than in the first half of the 2000s. Street children are most at risk as they are exposed to multiple vulnerabilities such as discrimination and exclusion, family poverty, and domestic abuse. Investigations and the process of sentencing takes unacceptably long and up to 65% of juveniles complete their sentence in pre-trial detention facilities.

Organised crime remains a considerable challenge undermining confidence of the population in the state and inhibiting the effectiveness of the state itself. Albania needs to increase its efforts to build up a consistent track record of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in all areas and at all levels. Albania remains a country of origin and transit for the trafficking of narcotics. The number of drug seizures and arrests increased dramatically in 2014. Albania remains a source and transit country for trafficking in persons - overwhelmingly women and girls. The situation of street children who are exploited for begging purposes is also a concern. Progress is slow in tackling organised crime. The number of prosecuted and convicted perpetrators is small and information and data are absent on measures to prevent trafficking, the number of prosecutions, and types of sentences.

Mixed migration flows, transiting through Albania, to reach EU countries are at considerable risk of increasing. These flows are comprised of, inter alia, refugees and asylum seekers, economic migrants, stranded migrants, vulnerable migrants, particularly trafficked persons, unaccompanied and separated children, stateless persons and undocumented migrants. Some of the people on the move fall into more than one category. They comprise many nationalities, the majority being Syrian and Afghan, and enter the country illegally. In most cases, there is at least some degree of compulsion and vulnerability involved, whether it is as a result of the situation from which they fled or due to the harsh conditions

or exploitation and abuse suffered along the routes. There is also an emerging trend of Albanian families returning from Greece or Italy because of the economic crisis, while irregular migration flows from Albania have increased considerably since 2013 and reached new peaks in 2014 and 2015. Albanian authorities are expected to step up efforts to effectively address the negative phenomenon of unfounded asylum applications lodged by its citizens to EU Member States and Schengen-associated countries and to promote the reintegration of those who return⁵⁹. Continued efforts to counteract migration-related organized crimes, in particular trafficking in persons, are also needed. Overall, growing mixed transit migration flows put pressure on the migration and asylum systems, increasing the urgency of addressing existing gaps in these areas and creating new needs and challenges. An effective response aimed at ensuring protection and assistance to all migrants in need and providing support in developing and implementing planned and well-managed migration policies requires strong partnerships involving national authorities, the UN system agencies and other international partners, and sustained engagement of civil society at both the national and local levels.

With justice reform underway, the judicial system in Albania is still characterized by limited accountability, poor inter-institutional cooperation, backlogs and widespread corruption⁶⁰, and it is not equipped to cater to the needs of marginalised and excluded segments of society⁶¹. Access to justice is hampered by procedural, economic and conceptual impediments: court capacities are low and fees are high, legal aid services are under-funded, and judicial procedures take too long. There is a lack of counselling and legal aid services available to women; especially from ethnic and linguistic minorities, women in ru-

59. Progress Report 2015 of the European Commission for Albania.

60. Progress Report 2015 of the European Commission for Albania.

61. In Albania, these are, in particular, children, Roma and Egyptian communities, disadvantaged women, persons with disabilities and groups that are socially stigmatised such as drugs users, HIV+, sex workers, and LGBTI.

ral areas, and survivors of domestic violence. Once women have access to the justice system, the burden of proof often lies with them. Vulnerable groups, especially, have unequal access to the justice system and cannot fully exercise their rights granted by the Constitution and recognised by law. Representatives of Roma and Egyptian communities report limited information on the judicial system functioning and no practical access to justice⁶². Children's equitable access to justice is also hampered by various barriers related both to the system and the position of children in Albanian society as rights holders⁶³.

Albania is a state party to all main UN human rights treaties. From February thru September 2014, Albania completed its second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and endorsed all but 4 of 168 recommendations. Albania has put in place and made efforts to strengthen a number of human rights *accountability* bodies: the Office of the People's Advocate (Ombudsman), the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, and the Child Rights Observatories. And while the legislative and institutional framework for the observance of international human rights law is mostly in place, implementation is under-funded and inconsistent. In addition, executive and legislative bodies do not pay sufficient attention to the recommendations from oversight bodies⁶⁴.

The civil society sector in Albania is growing but with still constrained organizational capacity, independence and political influence. Labour unions are weak, and both the authorities and private companies are typically hostile to organizing and collective bargaining efforts. Civil society outside the capital remains especially underdeveloped. Civil society

was named as a key component of the EU integration process, and the government acknowledged the need to establish an environment and mechanisms for more inclusive policymaking.

Strategies

To respond to these governance and rule of law challenges, programme strategies are closely aligned with those of the NSDI II for the delivery of more effective, efficient, and people-centered services. Specific strategies and initiatives will:

- Reinforce the work of constitutional and independent oversight mechanisms to improve identification and reporting of human rights violations and make stronger links with national policy processes;
- Strengthen national and LGU public administration capacity to support the implementation and monitoring of existing policies and strategies, strengthen the delivery of essential services, improve access to information, and engage CSOs and the general public in local governance and decision-making processes;
- Support stronger institutional responses to violence against children in line with national and international commitments;
- Increase access to quality inclusive legal aid services for children and seek remedies for violations of their rights and support the building of a child-friendly justice system, that would be in full conformity with the international standards, using imprisonment as the measure of last resort, widely applying measures alternative to detention, curbing the current practice of long pre-trial detention of juveniles, cooperating with the national social care services to support social re-integration of young law offenders;
- Increase access for children in contact with the law (including, victims and witnesses of crime, but also children involved in administrative/family law proceedings) to professional free legal aid; promote measures of legal protection of

62. Report on public consultations for the preparation of the Common Country Assessment (Partners Albania for Change and Development, July 2015), p. 13

63. UNICEF, The Regional Office for CEE/CIS, Children's Equitable Access to Justice, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF, Geneva, 2015

64. Report on public consultations for the preparation of the Common Country Assessment (Partners Albania for Change and Development, July 2015), p. 13

- children from cyber-crime, violence and abuse;
- Strengthen national and local capacities to mainstream gender equality considerations into policy making, planning, and budgeting processes;
- Support further development and implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies and bolster asylum systems;
- Effect a stronger, more unified response to organised crime, corruption, irregular migration and trafficking in human beings; and
- Strengthen capacity of national institutions and LGUs to improve data quality and collection, reporting, and use, especially for the production and dissemination of internationally comparable demographic, social, economic, and environmental statistics that comply with international and European guidelines and recommendations, including the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPs) and the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP).

To accelerate implementation of Albania's human rights commitments, specific programme strategies will focus on the development of systems to monitor and report on progress to implement recommendations from UN and regional human rights mechanisms and recommendations from independent state oversight institutions to state and public institutions. This will require investments in the capacities of human rights bodies: the Office of the People's Advocate (Ombudsman), the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (CPD), the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data, and the strengthening of the public oversight role of the Parliament.

Vulnerable groups

This outcome will respond to: Children; Women (survivors of domestic violence, rural women, female heads of households, women in politics); Youth (unemployed, youth on the move, youth not em-

ployed and not in education); Persons with disabilities; Minorities; Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTi) persons; Refugees/Asylum seekers; Returning migrants and other categories of vulnerable migrants; Survivors of human trafficking; People in penitentiary system; Victims of environmental degradation; Youth affected by drug use.

Partners

Successful implementation of this outcome will require the efforts of multiple partners, including

- National Human Rights Institutions
- Parliament
- Civil Society
- Electoral Bodies
- Political Parties
- National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
- Line Ministries (Minister of Innovation and Public Administration; Ministry of Interior Affairs; Ministry of Justice; Minister of State for Local Government; Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth; Ministry of Foreign Affairs etc.)
- Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
- Media
- Local Governments
- Regional Authorities
- Justice Institutions
- Refugee Organisation
- State Probation Services

UN Agencies that will contribute to outcome 1 are: UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNESCO, UNECE, UNCTAD, UN Women and IOM.

**Priority II. Social Cohesion:
Health, education, social protection, child
protection, and gender-based violence**

Outcome 2. All women, men, girls and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights; and more effective and efficient investments in human and financial resources are being made at central and local levels to ensure social inclusion and cohesion.

Links with NSDI priorities and the SDGs

The outcome is expected to support the GoA to achieve NSDI II priority 5 to **invest in people and greater social cohesion**. The NSDI II asserts that people are the country's greatest resource and their security and well-being are a central under-pinning for economic growth and prosperity⁶⁵. To contribute to this outcome, the expected outputs and initiatives of UN programme support will provide access to good practice global policies and models, expertise and support for the implementation of international norms and standards, and will promote new skills, and more inclusive systems and ways of working that can help to reach vulnerable groups. Key elements of the NSDI II targeted for support are:

- A modern educational system that has students' needs and interests at its core;
- Universal, quality health care system accessible to all resident Albanians;
- Expanded employment opportunities, especially for women;
- Systems to help measure and support decision-making for the financial sustainability social security system;
- A stronger social protection system;
- Social inclusion where society enables all Albanians equal access;
- Gender equality and equality of opportunity; and

65. *Ibid.*, NSDI II, 2015-2020, 19-20.

- Processes and strengthen cooperation and partnership between government and civil society.

UN programme support will also contribute to GoA efforts to achieve several SDGs⁶⁶ and targets from the list on the right.

Rationale

Overall, the population has decreased by 9% since 2001 and the share of children under age 15 dropped from 33% to 21% leading to a decline in the dependency ratio 62 to 47%. This provides Albania with a demographic dividend of about 10 years where the majority of the population will be in their prime working years. At the same time, the poverty rate increased in 2012 to 14% and extreme poverty in both urban and rural areas doubled to 2%⁶⁷. The proportion of children living in absolute poverty or in families with less than US \$125 a month is 17% or 147,432 children⁶⁸. Albania remains one of the poorest countries in Europe and disparities affect the enjoyment of basic health, education, and social care and protection⁶⁹. In this context, seizing the demographic dividend will require sound policies and effective implementation that reaches all areas and groups in the country and involves investments in children, efforts to prepare and support people for productive employment, and increasing inclusive social care and protection. It will be particularly important to seize this opportunity for increasing investments directly benefitting health, education, developmental opportunities and the overall wellbeing of Albania's children and youth, especially in light of the relatively low levels of the current state expenditure on early education, preventing and primary health care, social care and






66. Sustainable Development Goals and targets, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>, Oct2015.

67. Albania: Trends in Poverty 2002-2005-2008-2012, INSTAT and World Bank, 2013.

68. *Ibid.* Nearly 2% or 15,252 children are living in families with zero income. *Ibid.*

69. The Gini coefficient is 34, the 3rd highest in the region. Analysis of policies and reforms affecting the situation of children in Albania, UNICEF, November 2014 (not published.)

70. Indicators for the outcome and outputs formulated as part of the joint work plans will be reviewed and aligned, as appropriate, with the forthcoming SDG indicator framework.

SDG	Target ⁷⁰
 <p>Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p>	1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
 <p>Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p>	3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, other communicable diseases 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services
 <p>Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
 <p>Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
 <p>Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>	10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
 <p>Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.</p>	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

child protection services⁷¹.

While infant mortality has decreased to 13 deaths per 1,000 live births, it is three times higher than the EU average⁷². According to the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME), in 2015, Albania's IMR and U5MR declined to, respectively, 13 and 14 per 1,000 live births – which is still the highest level in South East Europe (SEE)⁷³. There is a considerable discrepancy with the nationally-generated data, including, due to widespread un-

dercounting of child deaths in national vital statistics⁷⁴. In the underserved areas of mountainous Albania the infant and child mortality rates are twice the national average⁷⁵. Maternal mortality has decreased to 21 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013, still the highest in the region⁷⁶. Between 2006 and 2012, the use of modern contraceptives was 69% with an average unmet need for contraception of 13%. Inadequate communication and a lack of access for all women to quality information about family planning options is

71. United Nations Country Team – Albania, Common Country Assessment, September 2015

72. <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat> as well as figure 15 of the CCA. The use of differing methodologies has led to vast discrepancies in data.

73. UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME) data can be accessed at: http://www.childmortality.org/files_v20/download/IGME%20report%202015%20child%20mortality%20final.pdf

74. More information can be found in the recent National Health Report (2015) and the INSTAT publication on Albania's population dynamics: <http://www.ishp.gov.al/ishp03/wp-content/uploads/2015/materiale/Health-report-English-version.pdf> and (http://www.instat.gov.al/media/242042/population_and_population_dynamics_-_new_demographic_horizons.pdf)

75. Ibid.

76. United Nations Country Team – Albania, Common Country Assessment, September 2015 and WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA/WB estimates; WHO 2014.

a challenge and contribute to poor health outcomes⁷⁷. And while Albania is not a high HIV prevalence country, While Albania is not a high HIV prevalence country, there is an upward trend in the number of new cases diagnosed and about 70 per cent of HIV positive cases are younger than 34 years old. Knowledge amongst young people about modes of transmission of HIV is only 29%, attributed to the lack of comprehensive sex education. Cases of tuberculosis have been increasing slowly with 18 new cases per 100,000. The low rates of detection and cure are due to difficulties in administering the Directly Observed Treatment, particularly in rural and remote areas. Albania has joined the majority of European countries that face an increasing burden on non-communicable diseases (NCD) including cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease⁷⁸. Premature death or chronic illness related to a NCD has grave socioeconomic consequences. Reduced incomes can push households into poverty and increased demands for social care and welfare support contribute to surging health care costs.

Spending on health care is about 2.6% of GDP, substantially lower than the average 4.5% of GDP spent by countries with similar levels of income. Household out-of-Pocket expenditures are very high, estimated to be around 60-70% of total health expenditures. Limited resources in the health sector as well as high out-of-Pocket expenditures negatively impact health and wellbeing outcomes of the Albanian population as well as offer little protection from impoverishment due to health expenditures, with a disproportionate effect on poor families. Poor governance is a major cause of inefficiency and mismanagement in the sector. The unequal distribution of health care services, and weak performance monitoring and incentive systems for health care workers contribute to the poor quality of health services.

77. National Health Report, IPH, 2014. Women in urban areas are more likely to use contraception than women in rural areas (74 and 66%, respectively). The likelihood of using contraception increases with the level of education.

78. UN system support in Albania will be guided by the UNGA high level resolution on NCDs.

Albania has significantly increased access to all levels of education. Primary and lower secondary enrolment are nearly universal, and between 2009 and 2013, pre-primary net enrolment improved from 47 to 79% and upper secondary enrolment from 76 to 92%. There is no gender disparity in the pattern of access to primary and secondary education for girls and boys, with the respective Net Enrolment Rates (NER) being 94.8% and 96.2% (in primary school), and 84.5% and 86.0% (in secondary school). The rate of transition from primary to secondary education is equal for girls and boys, at 99.8%⁷⁹. However, there are severe disparities in access to education for vulnerable groups, including low income families, Roma, street children, and children with disability. Despite an increase in education spending to 3.8% of GDP in 2009, the proportion of expenditures on education remains low at currently around 3% compared to EU country averages of 5%⁸⁰. Despite progress in improving quality of education, Albania's overall performance remains low. Albania's PISA 2012 scores are the lowest in all of Europe and Central Asia and among the lowest of all PISA-participating countries. Key education challenges involve ways to increase the efficiency of public education spending, improve the quality of teaching and learning, and implement inclusive education policies. There is no gender disparity in the pattern of access to primary and secondary education for girls and boys, with the respective Net Enrolment Rates (NER) being 94.8% and 96.2% (in primary school), and 84.5% and 86.0% (in secondary school). The rate of transition from primary to secondary education is equal for girls and boys, at 99.8%⁸¹.

Albania's social care and protection systems are neither able to protect people against poverty shocks nor to help them escape poverty. Social protection in Albania is narrowly defined as the provision of economic aid

79. Data for 2013-2014, by UNESCO Institute of Statistics. Accessed on 25/02/2016 at: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/DataCentre/Pages/country-profile.aspx?regioncode=40530&code=ALB>

80. Progress Report 2015 of the European Commission for Albania.

81. Data for 2013-2014, by UNESCO Institute of Statistics. Accessed on 25/02/2016 at: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/DataCentre/Pages/country-profile.aspx?regioncode=40530&code=ALB>



(EA). The current scheme does not take into account the multiple and intersecting dimensions of poverty and deprivation: education, health care, and housing conditions. It does not address social care and does not address deep-rooted gendered social determinants of poverty and related economic, social, cultural and environmental risks. Vulnerable groups, in particular, are being left behind⁸². Elderly people in Albania are faced with multidimensional exclusion. In particular old-age people who rely on economic assistance are most excluded, followed by rural pensioners. Public spending on cash assistance is currently at only 1.6% of GDP.

The prevalence of gender-based violence has increased from 56% in 2007 to 59% in 2013⁸³ and more than half of Albanian women (aged 15-49) have experienced at least one form of domestic violence in

their lifetime. National and local institutional capacities for child protection are not providing adequate support to groups of children already excluded or at risk of exclusion from the enjoyment of their rights. Albanian legislation does not deal with all aspects of violence against children in a comprehensive manner and the government has not earmarked funds for public and private entities that serve children in difficult circumstances. The punitive nature of the criminal justice system, the weak child protection system - underpinned by legislation that is not in compliance with international juvenile justice standards - and the lack of parental and family accountability are some of the driving factors of child vulnerability. Stronger linkages are needed between social assistance measures, social services, and the justice system to enhance the ability of parents to care for their children and avoid formal care. Creating these linkages is an important step in using social protection as a tool for enhancing child protection outcomes. Specific areas of need include: social work standards that address the situation of children at risk, a national child helpline as a main referral mechanism, and targeted communication and behaviour change initiatives in communities and schools to address violence and abuse.

82. 75% of children in families in receipt of economic aid are unable to meet any of the five needs considered to be fundamental- including health and education. 77% of children in the age group 16-18 years of age do not attend school, while 65% of children who do not attend school come from families with very low levels of expenditure. Access to social protection is particularly limited for Roma families due to the lack of birth registration.

83. Domestic Violence Survey 2013, INSTAT Albania. Note that a small increase in gender-based violence could be attributed to increased awareness and better reporting.

Strategies

To respond to these challenges and achieve results for greater social cohesion in Albania, programme strategies will:

- Generate evidence and arguments that support reform of legal, regulatory, and financing frameworks to strengthen the governance and responsiveness of the health, education and social protection systems;
- Develop data and skills that bring an equity focus in planning and budgeting processes for the delivery of quality, inclusive services;
- Augment health, education and social protection information systems to bolster the collection, dissemination, and use of data and evidence for policy formulation and decision-making;
- Promote changes in Social and Child Protection laws in line with EU and international standards;
- Strengthen social protection and child protection measures and mechanisms at national and local levels with service standards, budgets, and clear targets that reflect equity and social inclusion standards;
- Strengthen LGUs to implement social inclusion and social protection policies;
- Support the introduction of quality improvement measures such as public feedback and rating systems;
- Support the scaling-up of innovative service delivery models for persons with disabilities, older persons, and victims of violence, abuse and neglect;
- Support stronger institutional responses to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect in relation to children, in line with national and international commitments;
- Assist national stakeholders, both at national and local levels and from government and non-governmental sectors, in scaling the application of effective models of support to families as primary care givers aiming to prevent incidences of abuse, exploitation, violent treatment or neglect of children;
- Strengthen families' capacities to cope with various socio-economic hardships to prevent parents' sending their children to residential care institu-

tions, work or to the street; and

- Enhance monitoring and supervision mechanisms for LGUs and CSOs providing social services.

Vulnerable groups

This outcome will respond to: Children; Youth; Women; Minorities; People/Children with special needs or disabilities; Elderly people; Poor households; Single parent households; Families without shelter; Rural population; Migrants, refugees, people/children on the move, returning migrants; Victims of violence and human trafficking; Children exploited, abused, neglected, trafficked, and involved in labour, unregistered children; People living with HIV/AIDS; Men who have sex with men (MSM); Injecting drug users (IDU); Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTi) persons; Victims of environmental degradation.

Partners

Successful implementation of this outcome will require the efforts of multiple partners, including:

- Line Ministries and relevant institutions (Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Interior Affairs)
- Local Governments
- Local Child Protection Units
- Development Partners
- Parliament
- Civil Society
- Professional Associations
- Academia
- Media
- EU
- National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
- Institute of Public Health (IPH)
- Health Insurance Fund

UN Agencies that will contribute to outcome 2 are: UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, IAEA, UNAIDS, WHO and IOM.

Priority III. Economic Growth, Labour, and Agriculture

Outcome 3.

Economic growth priorities, policies, and programmes of the GoA are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development.

Links with NSDI priorities and the SDGs

This outcome cuts across and contributes to NSDI II priorities to ensure growth through: **increased competitiveness and innovation (priority 4) and greater connectivity in country infrastructure and the sustainable use of resources (priority 6)**. To capitalise on the EU accession process and greater access to regional and international markets, the GoA has stressed the need to increase the productivity and competitiveness of Albanian workers and businesses⁸⁴. To contribute to this outcome, the expected outputs and initiatives of UN programme support will: Develop the capacities of central and local governments to deliver effective economic support services, draw on the convening skills and expertise of the UN to enhance labour market governance, including tripartite dialogue and collective bargaining, strengthen policies and strategies for sustainable rural development and agricultural modernization that also empower rural women, and introduce measures to promote cultural diversity and heritage as a vehicle for increased and sustainable tourism. Strong links with the NSDI II include:

- The promotion of business and foreign direct investment;
- Safe and competitive markets;
- A cost-effective and sustainable energy system based on market principles;
- Diversified agricultural and agro-food sector;
- Dynamic and balanced regional development; and
- A recognized and attractive tourism industry.

84. *Ibid.*, NSDI II, 2015-2020, 19-20.

UN programme support will also contribute to GoA efforts to achieve several SDGs⁸⁵ and targets from the list on the next page.

Rationale

Prior to the 2008 global financial crisis, poverty in Albania fell by half to about 12% garnering the country upper middle-income status.⁸⁶ Despite these achievements, Albania is one of the poorest countries in Europe. The number of people living in poverty increased to 14% in 2012 and child poverty rose from 18% to 20%⁸⁷. In addition, the benefits of economic development have not been evenly distributed. The country's Gini coefficient of 34.5 in 2013 is the third highest in the region and trends suggest growing inequalities⁸⁸. There was a relatively high level of FDI inflow into Albania over recent years (equivalent to 8.8% of GDP in 2014, up from 7.7% in 2012), despite recent uncertainty in the Euro zone. Albania's private sector development and regulatory reforms are expected to result in an increase in FDI.

The overall unemployment rate for the age group 15-64 rose from 13% in 2012 to 18% in 2014⁸⁹. Young people from 15 to 29 years old are the most disadvantaged, with a 34% overall unemployment rate.⁹⁰ The proportion of young people who are not in employment, education or training exceeds 30%, and has increased by 6% in 2014. Women's participation in the labour market fell during the 1990s, from 78% in 1989 to 39.1% in 2003⁹¹, due to the loss of state-supported child care and unemployment,

85. Sustainable Development Goals and targets, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>, Oct2015.

86. Albania: Macroeconomic Policies, Policy Brief, World Bank, July, 2013, p.1








87. *Ibid.*

88. Analysis of policies and reforms affecting the situation of children in Albania, UNICEF, November 2014 (not published)

89. 19.7% for males and 15.5% for females. Labour force survey, 4th Quarter 2014 (INSTAT, 2014 <http://www.instat.gov.al/en/themes/labour-market/publications/books/2014/quarterly-labour-force-survey-q4-2014.aspx>)

90. Labour force survey, 4th Quarter 2014 35.6% for males and 27.4% for females

91. Women and children in Albania: the double dividend of gender discrimination, UNICEF Albania, 2007.

SDG	Target ⁹²
 <p>Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere Goal</p>	1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions
 <p>Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
 <p>Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
 <p>Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of MSMEs, including through access to financial services 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value 8.6 By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training. 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment
 <p>Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</p>	9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all 9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes
 <p>Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
 <p>Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

particularly in the public sector. While it has since increased to 51% in 2014, the average salary of women is almost 18% lower than the salary of men⁹³. In rural areas, the wage gap is almost twice as high as compared to urban centres⁹⁴.

Employment is predominantly in agriculture, which accounts for 1/5th of GDP and half of total employment, and services. The relatively low level of em-

ployment and share of employment in manufacturing, construction, mining quarrying and utilities overall is a concern for future diversified growth and employment prospects. The overall share of employment in these sectors was below 9% in 2014. It also shows marked gender disparities. Less than 1% of women's jobs are in construction, extractive industries and utilities, while 10.4% of them were in manufacturing, compared to 7.3% of men. The proportion of youth who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) exceeds 30%, and has increased by 6, 5% in 2014 (32, 5%) compared to 2012 (26%).

A major constraint for the generation of decent work opportunities is the inconsistent implementation and

92. Indicators for the outcome and outputs formulated as part of the joint work plans will be reviewed and aligned, as appropriate, with the forthcoming SDG indicator framework.

93. Gender inequalities in pay: an Albanian case, Gender Alliance for Development Centre / Open Society Foundation, 2012 at http://www.millennia2015.org/files/files/Publications/Gender_Inequalities_Pay_1_.pdf

94. Trends and determinants of women's labour force (draft), ILO, 2014



monitoring of approved national strategies for employment and skills, business development and entrepreneurship, and the youth action plan. There is also an absence of systematic inter-sectoral coordination and management. In addition, recommendations to amend the labour code have not been followed, training and awareness campaigns at local level are missing, and public awareness of the law on protection against discrimination and of the complaints mechanism are low.

Albania has implemented a series of reforms, including streamlined procedures for starting and closing a business, improved access to credit, strengthened competition laws, and improved contract enforcement. However, the 2015 Ease of Doing Business Index ranked Albania 97th of 189 economies and 24th of 25 European and Central Asian economies⁹⁵, suggesting significant scope for improvement in the business environment. In particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) still face significant regulatory burdens and red tape. There are limited policies and measures to support green economy programmes and the greening of Albania's economy could have positive impacts on job creation, in addition to environmental benefits, such as a reduction of CO₂ emissions.

In the area of trade, more needs to be done to harness

95. www.doingbusiness.org/rankings, June 2015

trade for inclusive economic growth. While the Government has achieved important progress in aligning its overall trade regulations and procedures with the EU *Acquis Communautaire* requirements, capacity shortfalls within Government agencies impede full realization of reform benefits. These shortfalls manifest themselves in regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, which inflate transaction costs and, thereof, undermine the competitiveness of manufacturing and agribusinesses in local and global markets with adverse consequences for employment generation and poverty levels. There is also a need to further develop the country's overall system of standardization, quality assurance and metrology⁹⁶.

In agriculture there are complex patterns that affect the ability of rural Albanians to secure sustainable livelihoods. Root causes can be traced to customs and conventions which endure from the Communist era: small farm sizes and land fragmentation, poor rural credit markets, weak rural planning, and inefficient targeting and use of agricultural inputs have contributed to low productivity. The ageing agricultural workforce and weaknesses in the education system are not helping to prepare the next gener-

96. See UNECE Study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Republic of Albania (forthcoming, second quarter of 2016). Study will be made available at: <http://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/studies-on-regulatory-and-procedural-barriers-to-trade.html>.

ation of Albanian farmers to grasp the opportunities from EU agricultural markets. In addition, the gender dynamics of the rural and agricultural economy put women at a disadvantage in terms of land ownership and access to credit and other agricultural inputs. Land and agriculture-related information and registration systems are not well developed and insufficiently sensitive to gender-based and other forms of discrimination. Harmonisation with EU legislation in areas of food safety, veterinary services, and agricultural chemicals will be a major challenge.

Strategies

To respond to these challenges, programme strategies will make economic growth priorities, policies and programmes more inclusive, sustainable, and gender responsive, and address major structural constraints related to decent job creation especially for young people and other vulnerable groups, business competitiveness, and rural development. Strategies will:

- Strengthen the delivery of economic support services at national level and local levels that promote gender equality and green economy and contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development;
- Support further reform of regulatory and tax policies to reduce red tape for entrepreneurs,
- Improve governance of the labour market, and support tripartite dialogue between government, industry, and labour;
- Enhance the employability of youth, women and other vulnerable groups;
- Address gaps in occupational health and safety policies and standards;
- Develop new capacities to design and implement policies and strategies for sustainable rural development and modernisation of the agricultural sector that are gender-sensitive and empower rural women;
- Enhance agricultural production and value chain development, with focus on small rural households;
- Enhance capacity to build/revitalize infrastruc-

ture inter alia through public-private partnerships and foster innovation sector;

- Improve access to adequate housing including for those with special needs and vulnerable population groups;
- Support integration of traders into regional and global value chains;
- Strengthen cultural industries, promote cultural diversity and management of cultural heritage as a vehicle for sustainable development.

Vulnerable groups

This outcome will respond to: Unemployed young men and women (15 – 29); Roma and Egyptians; Persons with disability; Returning migrants; Women single heads of households; Victims of trafficking and/or domestic violence.

Partners

Successful implementation of this outcome will require the contributions of multiple partners, including:

- Line Ministries (Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship; Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration; Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth; Ministry of Urban Development; Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Culture etc.)
- Albanian Investment Development Agency
- Local Governments
- Social Partners (employers' and workers' organisations)
- Business Associations, Chambers of Commerce
- Public and Private Universities
- National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
- Trade Unions
- Banking Service

UN Agencies that will contribute to outcome 3 are: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNIDO, UN Women, IOM and IAEA.

Priority IV. Environment and Climate Change

Outcome 4.

Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

Links with NSDI priorities and the SDGs

The outcome is expected to support the GoA to achieve NSDI II priority 6 for **greater connectivity in country infrastructure and the sustainable use of resources**. The NSDI II adopts a broad definition of ‘infrastructure’ comprising energy, transport, natural resources and the environment, agriculture, mining, tourism, and water. Investments are central to meeting the standards of the EU Acquis and are expected to expand opportunities for business and the economy, and to increase people’s well-being⁹⁷.

To contribute to this outcome, the expected outputs and initiatives of UN programme support will support the GoA to find greater balance in the use of ecosystem resources. The UN will promote knowledge and awareness about sustainable development and support the government at national and local levels to anticipate and cope with the effects of climate change, emergencies and disasters. Strong links with the NSDI II include:

- Dynamic and balanced regional development;
- A healthy and sustainable environment;
- A cost-effective and sustainable energy system;
- Expanded and improved water supply and waste management systems; and
- Strengthened territorial, spatial, and urban planning.

In addition, the UN will support the GoA to reduce fragmentation and strengthen coordination with the

97. *Ibid.*, NSDI II, 2015-2020, 20.

system for emergency preparedness and disaster risk management, which is under NSDI II priority 1⁹⁸.

UN programme support will also contribute to GoA efforts to achieve several SDGs⁹⁹ and targets from the list on the next page.

Rationale

Albania is State Party to all the three Rio Conventions, on climate change, desertification and biodiversity. In addition, Albania is a party to the following Environmental Conventions: Convention of Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The protection of Albania’s environment has not kept pace with its economic growth. The increased demand for natural resources and uncontrolled exploitation has caused significant damage to the environment.

Some 36% of the territory of Albania is forested, providing significant livelihood resources. The decline in forest area is due to clearance for agriculture, overgrazing, and woodcutting for fuel and building. More than 60% of forest and pasture lands are under municipal or commune management. This provides local incentives to improve the management and protection of forest, land and water resources. An important challenge is to recognise and strengthen the role of women in forestry value chains and non-timber forest products (NTFP), as well as women’s representation in the regional and local boards of communal forests and pastures.

98. *Ibid.*, NSDI II, 2015-2020, 52.

99. Sustainable Development Goals and targets, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>, Oct2015.

SDG	Target ¹⁰⁰
 <p>Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
 <p>Goal 6 Ensure access to water and sanitation for all</p>	6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
 <p>Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency
 <p>Goal 11 Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	11b. By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
 <p>Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
 <p>Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
 <p>Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
 <p>Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, ..., halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements 15.3 By 2020, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

Albania has doubled its protected areas over the last 10 years. Ongoing challenges include: lack of financial resources, low management capacity of LGUs and legal enforcement, shortage of qualified scientific staff and lack of data and trend analysis about protected species, poor community involvement in protection, and lack of trust in local administration. Weak law enforcement reflects broader governance and rule of law concerns.¹⁰⁰

Over 90% of energy production is from hydropower,

100. Indicators for the outcome and outputs formulated as part of the joint work plans will be reviewed and aligned, as appropriate, with the forthcoming SDG indicator framework.

while agriculture is critically dependent on irrigation. Irrigation, energy production, and industrial activities place serious strains on the country's water resources. Most electricity generated in Albania has been produced by hydropower, although increased demand has led to regular power shortages. Irregular supply and outages blights the living conditions of low income families who lack physical and economic access to modern energy services¹⁰¹. The Government is committed to diversify its en-

101. The LSMS 2012 reveals that only 69% of households have uninterrupted electrical energy supply and 30% face between 1 and 5 hours of interrupted supply per day.



ergy supply and promote other forms of renewable energy – such as solar energy and biomass energy.

The national MDG target of 98 per cent of people with access to safe drinking water by 2015 is unlikely to be reached. This is despite the increase in access to safe drinking water from 69 to 82% between 2002 and 2009. The pollution of water resources and the marine environment is a serious problem, mainly due to insufficient wastewater collection and treatment, leaking sewers and waste dumps. Sanitation is a persistent problem in the country with about one half of the urban population having a sewer connection. In rural areas, only a small proportion of the areas with piped water supply is equipped with sewer networks. The risks and costs of water pollution on health and nutrition are not addressed, nor factored into disaster preparedness planning. Municipal waste management has become another major source of pollution due to poor planning and budgeting, inadequate taxation for waste management services at local level, no attempt to implement the national waste strategy, illegal dumpsites, and a very low level of recycling. Industrial pollution is concentrated in 35 hotspots where copper, chromium, iron-nickel and oil industries have produced sev-

eral million tons of industrial waste. Remediation costs for 14 hotspots are estimated at 112 million Euros.

Albania is one of the most vulnerable countries in the region to a changing climate and it is estimated that summer rainfalls will decline by about 10% by 2020 and 20% by 2050. Energy production and agriculture will be acutely impacted with an estimated loss of 60% of power generation capacity. The rural poor, in particular poor women and older, poor women and men, will be disproportionately affected because of their greater dependence on agriculture, their relatively lower ability to adapt, and the high share of income they spend on food. Currently Albania is a low emitter of greenhouse gases with 2.76 tons CO₂ per capita compared to EU 9.9 tons per capita but they are projected to increase in the coming years, mainly from transport followed by agriculture and waste sector.

Albania ranks as one of the countries with the highest economic risk in the world from multiple hazards, with 86% of its territory prone to two or more disasters. Impacts fall disproportionately on vulnerable women and children. Legislative gaps remain and Albania does not yet have a compre-

hensive and countrywide disaster risk management strategy. Organisational and technical capacities at national and LGU levels to anticipate and manage for disaster risks, and to respond effectively to emergencies are extremely low. The floods in 2010 and 2015 showed that Albania's national disaster preparedness is reactive rather than preventive and that investments are needed to develop and implement national and local measures to adapt to changing climate conditions and reduce risks from future disasters.

Strategies

In line with the cross-sectoral linkages in SDGs, the overall programme strategy will build institutional capacity, data, and knowledge to integrate environment and climate considerations more fully into the national regulatory framework, and to develop new capacities and systems for implementation and compliance monitoring across major sectors. These changes will also support the GoA to align national laws, policies, and regulations with the requirements of the EU Acquis¹⁰². Specific efforts will:

- Support the implementation of environment policies and strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, with a specific focus on the poor and (female) farmers;
- Support the development of LGU capacities for environmental protection planning and budgeting;
- Support the improvement of the management of protected areas and biosphere reserves;
- Assist in the formulation of action plans regarding land degradation and deforestation;
- Scale-up action on DRR and climate change mitigation and adaptation across sectors and support the development of a national disaster

risk reduction strategy and local disaster early warning systems, that adheres to international and Hyogo Framework standards, with particular attention being paid to vulnerable groups living in areas affected by climate change;

- Support LGUs to prepare high quality, costed DRR plans, including for world heritage sites, and including rural areas;
- Support LGUs, school administrations, civil society organizations, youth and children in promoting environmental education and developing initiatives aimed at natural resources preservation;
- Promote innovative technologies for renewable energy;
- Enhance local capacities for sustainable forest management, taking into consideration the needs of poor households regarding bio-fuels;
- Promote integration of health and environmental considerations into transport policies - particularly when it comes to city dwellers suffering from air pollution- including strengthening national capacity in road safety management;
- Support ministries and departments to incorporate sustainability and low emission measures into sector policies, strategies, and regulations;
- Support the GoA to fulfil its international reporting commitments to Multilateral and Regional Environmental Treaties, including transboundary water management in the Drin river basin.

Efforts will be made to mainstream environmental considerations into other areas of the PoCSD as follows:

- Outcome 1: Support for enforcement of environmental legislation
- Outcome 2: Inclusion of education on environment and sustainable development
- Outcome 3: Measures to safeguarding natural & cultural heritage, such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental

102. EU Acquis Chapter 27 on Environment contains over 200 major legal acts covering horizontal legislation, water and air quality, waste management, nature protection, industrial pollution control and risk management, chemicals, and forestry

Impact Assessment (EIA), and the inclusion of environmental sustainability and climate resilience in agricultural policies.

Vulnerable groups

This outcome will respond to: Poor population; Farmers; Women; Communities, elderly that live in areas affected by climate change and environmental degradation; City dwellers; Children.

Partners

Successful implementation of this outcome will require the contributions of multiple partners, including:

- Line Ministries (Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Energy and Industry; Ministry of Interior Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration; Ministry

of Urban Development; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth)

- Local Governments
- Academia
- Civil Society
- Communities
- Networks on sustainability
- Schools and teachers
- Business community
- Development partners
- Man and Biosphere Committee
- Environmental Inspectorate
- National Environmental Protection Agency
- Prosecutors' offices
- Local courts

UN Agencies that will contribute to outcome 4 are: FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO and IAEA.

CHAPTER 3

Resource requirements and resource mobilisation

3. Resource requirements and resource mobilisation

Resource requirements

This budget provides the GoA, the UN system agencies, and bilateral and multi-lateral development partners and donors with an overview of the required and available resources to support implementation of planned outcomes and any funding gaps. It is a basis for joint mobilisation of resources and contributes to better delivery of development cooperation by the GoA and UN system agencies.

Sources of funding from UN Agencies include regular, or core resources and other, or non-core resources that UN Agencies are able to mobilize on the strength of the expected results and strategies. Budgets are indicative and may be subject to changes by the governing bodies of UN Agencies and by internal management decisions. Regular and other resources are exclusive of funding received in response to emergency appeals.

Full implementation of the PoCSD will require an estimated total of USD \$108,918,481. This includes USD \$15,340,000 from regular or core resources and USD \$22,587,481 from other or non-core resources. The total estimated funding gap is USD \$70,991,000. This will need to be mobilised over the period of the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development. The overall resource requirements are summarised in the Table on the next page.

Resource mobilisation

The GoA and UN system agencies will jointly develop a resource mobilization strategy to address the funding gaps. The strategy will include both joint and individual UN Agency fundraising initiatives. It will provide responsibilities and guiding principles, mechanisms for fund-raising, indicators and reporting arrangements.

Types of support

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system agencies' support may be provided to civil society organisations as agreed within the framework of the joint work plans (JWP).

Additional support may include access to UN organisation-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN Specialised Agencies, Funds and Programmes. The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in implementation, the funds of UN system agencies are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with this PoCSD. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the joint work plans. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN system agencies, funds not earmarked by donors to the UN system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

Cash Transfers

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies. Cash transfers for activities detailed in the joint work

Table: Resource Requirements by Outcome in the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (2017-2021)¹⁰³

Priorities and Outcomes	Common Budgetary Framework Indicative Budget (USD)				
	UN Agencies	Core/Regular Resources (Secured)	Non-core/Other/extra budgetary Resources (Secured)	Resources to be Mobilised (funding gap)	Total
I. Governance and rule of law					
Outcome 1 State and civil society organisations perform effectively and with accountability for consolidated democracy in line with international norms and standards	UNDP	415,000.00	-	10,800,000.00	11,215,000.00
	UNICEF	1,800,000.00	-	3,000,000.00	4,800,000.00
	UNFPA	1,500,000.00		500,000.00	2,000,000.00
	UNWOMEN	350,000.00	1,900,000.00	2,900,000.00	5,150,000.00
	UNESCO	25,000.00	110,000.00	150,000.00	285,000.00
	UNODC		133,000.00	1,200,000.00	1,333,000.00
	UNHCR	750,000.00			750,000.00
	UNECE			50,000.00	50,000.00
	IOM		650,000.00	1,500,000.00	2,150,000.00
UNCTAD		1,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	5,000,000.00	
Total Outcome 1		4,840,000.00	4,293,000.00	23,600,000.00	32,733,000.00
II. Social cohesion: Health, education, social protection, and child protection					
Outcome 2 – Social Cohesion All women, men, girls and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights; and more effective and efficient investments in human and financial resources are being made at central and local levels to ensure social inclusion and cohesion.	UNDP	415,000.00	3,900,000.00	8,000,000.00	12,315,000.00
	UNESCO	10,000.00	10,000.00	525,000.00	545,000.00
	UNFPA	1,000,000.00		500,000.00	1,500,000.00
	UNHCR				-
	UNICEF	2,300,000.00	500,000.00	7,500,000.00	10,300,000.00
	UNWOMEN	150,000.00	500,000.00	500,000.00	1,150,000.00
	IAEA	800,000.00	700,000.00		1,500,000.00
	UNAIDS	100,000.00		250,000.00	350,000.00
	IOM		350,000.00	350,000.00	700,000.00
	WHO	2,200,000.00			2,200,000.00
Total Outcome 2		6,975,000.00	5,960,000.00	17,625,000.00	30,560,000.00
III. Economic growth, labour, and agriculture					
Outcome 3 Economic growth priorities, policies, and programs of the GoA are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development	UNDP	415,000.00	972,000.00	5,000,000.00	6,387,000.00
	FAO	800,000.00	900,000.00	2,700,000.00	4,400,000.00
	ILO	450,000.00		450,000.00	900,000.00
	UNESCO	35,000.00	10,000.00	700,000.00	745,000.00
	UNCTAD		500,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,500,000.00
	UNECE			100,000.00	100,000.00
	UNWOMEN	100,000.00		600,000.00	700,000.00
	IOM		200,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,200,000.00
	IAEA	150,000.00			150,000.00
Total Outcome 3		1,950,000.00	2,582,000.00	11,550,000.00	16,082,000.00
IV. Environment and climate change					
Outcome 4 Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction	UNDP	505,000.00	7,212,481.00	2,366,000.00	10,083,481.00
	FAO	550,000.00	160,000.00	6,750,000.00	7,460,000.00
	UNESCO	125,000.00	80,000.00	1,500,000.00	1,705,000.00
	UNEP		2,300,000.00	6,000,000.00	8,300,000.00
	IAEA	150,000.00			150,000.00
	UNICEF	245,000.00		1,000,000.00	1,245,000.00
	UNIDO				-
	UNECE			600,000.00	600,000.00
Total Outcome 4		1,575,000.00	9,752,481.00	18,216,000.00	29,543,481.00
Communication budget	CT				-
TOTAL Indicative Budget 2017-2021		15,340,000.00	22,587,481.00	70,991,000.00	108,918,481.00

103. These figures are indicative only. They are estimates as of February 2016 and will depend on the availability of regular and other resources from UN Agencies and contributions from donors.

plans can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred to a national institution for forwarding to the Implementing Partner:
 - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer); or
 - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement).
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; and
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Where cash transfers are made to a national institution, the national institution shall transfer such cash promptly to the Implementing Partner.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN¹⁰⁴ Implementing Partner. A qualified

consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in five days.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within five days.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third party vendor. Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

104. For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

CHAPTER 4

Management and accountability

4. Management and accountability

The Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) is nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of a **Joint Executive Committee (JEC)** chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator. In order to ensure effective ownership over the Programme, the government authorities are involved at all levels of management structures. The Government coordinating authorities for specific programmes of UN system agencies are noted in Annex B. Government Ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities. The PoCSD will be made operational through the development of joint work plan (JWPs)¹⁰⁵ which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner on the use of resources. To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed PoCSD and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the PoCSD and joint or agency-specific work plans project documents¹⁰⁶.

105. As per the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for countries adopting the "Delivering as One" approach, rolling 2-year JWPs will be prepared.

106. In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted AWP. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in the joint work plan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified as who will have responsibility for convening, co-ordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the AWP to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the AWP.

Outcome Groups will be established to ensure efficient planning and coordination and the timely delivery of development results. Members will represent the GoA ministries, departments, and state agencies, CSOs, development partners UN Agencies, and other partners as deemed necessary for the achievement of planned results. The OGs will be supported by the Output Working Groups. Other management groups are: The Operations Management Team (OMT), the Gender Theme Group, and the UN Communications Team.

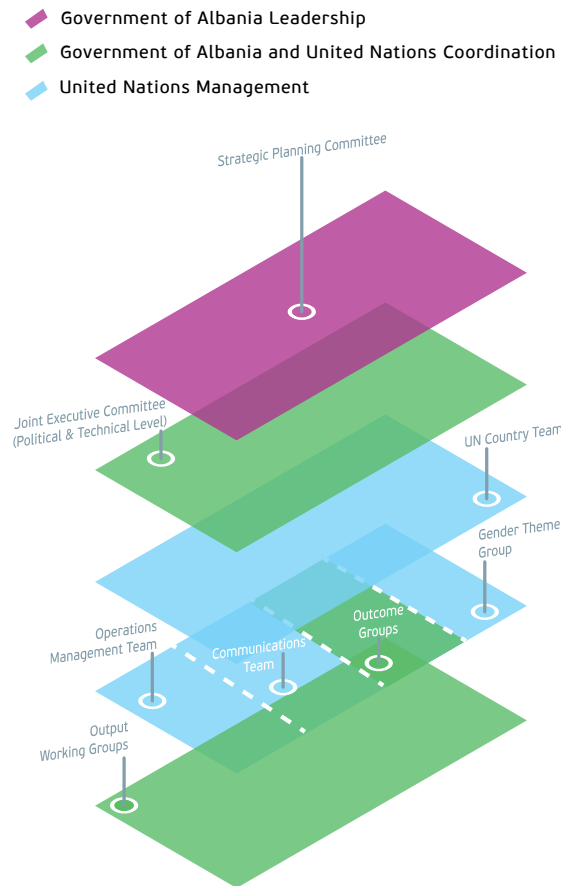
With the introduction of **sector programmes**, accompanied by EU direct budget support and Integrated Planning and Management Groups (IPMGs)¹⁰⁷ there is a need for stronger engagement between the IPMG Secretariats and the PoCSD management structure to ensure effective coordination and efficient use of GoA and UN resources. The sector programme approach offers the *potential* to lever the knowledge and experience gained from GoA-UN cooperation for:

- The design of sectoral programmes and capacity development for IPMG secretariats related to policy analysis, planning, monitoring, and reporting, as well as gender-responsive approaches, that are linked to the SDGs and targets;
- Building the capacity of implementing sector ministries and departments at national and local level to absorb the expected IPA II funding;
- A 'bridging role' to ensure that sector programmes are designed and implemented in open and consultative ways involving CSOs and community consultation; and
- Supporting the convergence and delivery of quality services in 61 new municipalities and regions.

The specific roles and responsibilities of the different groups and a diagram of the management structure are provided below:

107. IPMG Secretariats are to be established to ensure coordination and communication within government departments as well as with other development partners.

Management Structure of Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (2017-2021)



Joint Executive Committee

The Joint Executive Committee provides strategic guidance and oversight over the programme. The JEC is co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator. The JEC meets once a year with the participation of Ministers, Prime Minister's Office and UN Country Team members and reports to the GoA Strategic Planning Committee. In addition, the JEC will be convened on a regular basis under the leadership of the Director of the Department for Development, Financing and Foreign Aid (DDFFA)¹⁰⁸ and the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC). Members are representatives from line

108. Under the previous Government this was the Department for Strategy and Donor Coordination, as also referred to in the Programme of Cooperation

Ministries, heads of the participating UN agencies, or authorised representatives. It meets at a minimum three times a year, but it may be convened by the co-chairs if and when necessary. Key responsibilities are to:

- Assess overall progress against planned outcomes and their contribution to NSDI II priorities and related SDGs;
- Ensure ongoing alignment and coordination between PoCSD results and strategies and those of the NSDI II including sector programmes and implementation mechanisms such as the IPMGs;
- Conduct the annual review and review and endorse major changes to results and strategies;
- Advise and assist the outcome groups and output working groups, as required; and
- Allocate financial resources of the Coherence Fund, based on performance-based allocation criteria.¹⁰⁹

The work of the JEC will be supported by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office acting as Secretariat.

Outcome Groups

Outcome Groups (OGs) are mechanisms intended to contribute to specific PoCSD outcomes through coordinated and collaborative planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. They are defined at the strategic planning stage and are aligned to the PoCSD results matrix. They advise the JEC and UNCT, as appropriate, on opportunities and challenges linked to PoCSD implementation, specific programme management issues, and they coordinate training for staff and national partners. The OGs also support knowledge management initiatives and supply the Communications Team (see below) with results information.

109. Reference is made to Guidelines of the UN Coherence Fund

Outcome Groups are led by Ministers or designated representatives from the line-Ministries involved in the PoCSD and two Outcome Co-Chairs, who are Heads of Agencies and members of the UNCT. The Outcome Groups are comprised by UN Output Working Groups with the participation of the development partners that contribute to the specific outcome.). There are four OGs under this PoCSD (2017-2021). The UN Outcome Co-Chairs are appointed by the UNCT and empowered to lead the OG together with the Government counterparts and take appropriate decisions for the effective coordination and implementation of the joint work plans. The Outcome Co-Chairs are responsible and accountable for driving joint approaches for results as well as monitoring and reporting within a harmonised and coordinated framework.

Key responsibilities are to:

- Prepare rolling 2-year joint work plans that include short-term outputs, indicators, baselines, targets, means of verification, and assumptions and risks, in consultation with all members of the Outcome Group. Each joint work plan is paired with an annual Common Budgetary Framework and prepared in line with the national budget planning processes;
- Outputs included in the rolling outcome joint work plan can be UN agency-specific (originating from the respective Country Programme Documents) or joint UN Outputs (agreed by the partners during the rolling JWPs formulation);
- Undertake joint policy analysis of key development issues and emerging trends;
- Contribute to the development of common UNCT advocacy messages and communication products, and support policy dialogue with government counterparts, civil society and other development partners with substantive inputs;
- Mainstream normative programming principles and relevant crosscutting themes;
- Share information on proposed and ongoing initiatives of national and international part-

ners, including IPMGs, in relation to the PoCSD priorities for improved synergy and to address gaps in programming;

- Track progress against planned results in the PoCSD and joint work plans and contribute to the preparation of the mid-year and annual reviews and reports; and
- Support planning and reporting requirements of the One UN Coherence Fund.

The Outcome Group Co-Chairs report results at two levels:

- *Contribution* to development progress (through the use of a common monitoring and evaluation framework for results at the Outcome level (i.e. collective accountability of the team towards results); and
- *Attribution*, i.e. individual accountability of each agency towards activities/Outputs carried out through monitoring of the Output-level results spelled out in the annual joint work plans.

Output Working Groups

Output Working Groups (OWGs) are a key mechanism to support the work of the Outcome Groups. OWGs are technical committees comprised of representatives of Implementing Partners, including partners from civil society¹¹⁰, and UN Agencies responsible for the achievement of one or more specific outputs that contribute to outcomes in the PoCSD¹¹¹. The OWG are organized around the outputs defined in the rolling Outcome-tied JWPs. The OWG is co-chaired by technical experts from the GoA and the UN. The UN chair is proposed by the UN members of the OWG and elected by the Outcome Groups for a term of one year. They are expected to provide

110. Upon signature of the JBWP, the implementing partner(s) assume responsibilities for the achievement of deliverables and the appropriate use of resources.

111. The members of the output working groups are the staff at the appropriate level from the implementing Partner, responsible parties (e.g. contractors) and participating UN agencies that are attached to one or more outputs.

technical support to the Outcome Co-Chairs. The Outcome chair's agency provides secretariat support for the year.

Key responsibilities are to:

- Support the work of the Outcome Co-Chairs to discuss, draft and negotiate the joint work plan for signature ahead of the 1st January of the year that the JWP will be implemented. To the extent possible, OWGs will align the preparation of the JWP with the national budget process, with guidance and support from GoA members;
- Ensure that the JWP implementation is monitored based on an indicator framework to effectively track and report on the progress of Outputs (and activities, wherever appropriate) against the strategic Outcomes;
- Draft a status update for the mid-year review and a progress report for the annual review for the specific Output within the JWP;
- Prepare the requests for funding for the annual round of resource allocations of the Coherence Fund and facilitate superior's approval for submission to the Joint Executive Committee; and
- Support the effective functioning of the Outcome Group and the work of the Outcome Co-Chairs.

OWGs are expected to meet as and when appropriate for the effective performance of their tasks. At a minimum, OWG will meet formally at least 3 times, prior to JEC meetings in order to prepare inputs for OG, UNCT, and JEC consideration.

Operations Management Team

The Operations Management Team (OMT) provides support and advice to the UNCT on efforts to harmonize business operations and contribute to the delivery of PoCSD results. The OMT will pursue higher quality, more effective, and cost-efficient common services in procurement, human resources,

ICT, finance, logistics and transport. The OMT is chaired by a Head of Agency as appropriate and consists of each UN Agency's most senior Operations or Administrative Officer. OMT responsibilities are to:

- Implement common business solutions, such as common procurement systems for tendering and bidding, long term agreements (LTAs) for joint procurement, common ICT platforms, banking arrangements, office security and cleaning services;
- Monitor and report to the UNCT about progress to achieve higher quality, more effective, and cost-efficient business support services; and
- Communicate effectively about the aims and expected results of common business solutions to all UN staff and concerned country partners.

Gender Theme Group

The Gender Theme Group works to mainstream Albania's gender equality commitments into the implementation, review, monitoring and evaluation of the PoCSD. Its members support the outcome groups, output working groups, and provide advice to the UNCT and JEC, as appropriate. Key responsibilities are to:

- Keep UNCT and UN agencies abreast of and share knowledge about Albania's gender equality commitments;
- Facilitate informed and substantive discussions among UN agencies on national gender equality commitments and implementation measures;
- Provide technical support on gender issues to UN agencies and ensure that gender equality commitments are fully reflected in PoCSD results and indicators and joint work plans;
- Strengthen UN staff capacities;
- Serve as the custodian of the UNCT Gender Scorecard and performance indicators; and
- Organise and promote UNCT coordinated and joint advocacy activities for gender equality.

The group is composed of Gender Focal Points of all

agencies signatories of the PoCSD. It is chaired by UN Women and prepares an annual work plan, approved by the UNCT.

The role, responsibilities, and composition of the **UN Communications Team** is described in section 6.

CHAPTER 5

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

5. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

An effective monitoring, reporting, and evaluation system enables stakeholders involved in implementation of the PoCSD to compare actual progress against expected results. The primary responsibility for assessing performance rests with the JEC and UNCT on the basis of routine monitoring and reporting by Outcome Groups (OG) and Output Working Groups (OWG). At each step in the M&E process, ownership and leadership by the GoA, through its leadership of the JEC and technical role as co-chair of OWGs, is essential to sustain the demand for performance information about the PoCSD and to use performance information for learning, managing, and adjusting strategy and resources for greater impact.

As noted above in section 2.1 particular attention will be given to develop the capacity of GoA Ministries and INSTAT to produce data that is disaggregated by sex and sub-population groups and to strengthen the dissemination and use of data and statistics at national and local level for evidence-based policy formulation and planning. On an annual basis the Outcome and Output Working Groups will consider the sufficiency of statistics and data to measure expected results and propose measures to strengthen country data collection and analysis systems.

The main steps involved in monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of this PoCSD are:

- **Routine progress monitoring and reviews** by OGs and OWGs, including partners from civil society, to share information, highlight implementation progress and constraints against planned outcomes, outputs, and activities and identify key issues for the consideration of the JEC.
 - **Annual reviews** that are focused on assessing progress towards expected PoCSD outcomes. OWG annual reports will describe actual outputs or the results of major activities delivered against those planned in joint work plans and use data from monitoring efforts.
- Preparation of an **annual progress report**¹¹², on the basis of routine monitoring and the annual review. The progress report will describe actual outputs delivered against those planned in joint work plans and progress towards the outcomes in this PoCSD, using specified indicators.
 - An **evaluation** in the penultimate year of the programme cycle to support the formulation of the next PoCSD. The evaluation will assess the relevance of the PoCSD outcomes, the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation by partners, and their sustainability and contribution to country priorities in the NSDI II. The evaluation will also gauge the performance of the JEC, OGs, and other management groups.

Assurance and audit of cash transfers

Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives,
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

¹¹² The progress update will follow the UNDG Standard Operational Format and Guidelines for Reporting Progress on UNDAF.

CHAPTER 6

Communications

6. Communications

Successful implementation of this PoCSD requires effective communications. A UN Communications Team assists UN Agencies and the GoA to communicate in a more coordinated way to explain the work of the UN in Albania, demonstrate results, support policy advocacy and resource mobilisation, and help raise awareness about key development challenges. It is guided by a joint communication strategy.

The UN Communications Team is comprised of communications experts and focal points from UN Agencies. It is chaired by a Head of Agency as appropriate who reports directly to the UNCT on the group's planned activities and results. Communications focal points are appointed for each OWG. Priorities for joint communications and advocacy will be identified by the JEC and UNCT.

Results expected from effective joint communications are:

- Coherent communication and effective joint advocacy about country development challenges.
- Increased awareness among PoCSD stakeholders, the donor community, and the interested public about PoCSD results.
- Increased awareness by the public of the results of the Government of Albania and civil society organizations, as supported by the United Nations.
- Increased visibility and profile of the United Nations in Albania.
- Strengthened partnerships to accelerate development in Albania and give voice to Albanian views on development issues.

CHAPTER 7

Commitments by all parties

7. Commitments by all parties

Joint leadership and ownership of this Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development by the GoA and the UN system agencies is essential to ensure the quality of the process and the full achievement of planned results.

The commitments of UN system agencies with regard to partnerships, results and strategies, indicative resource requirements, and arrangements for management, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation are specified in sections 1 through 6 (above).

The GoA commits to:

- Co-lead through the JEC and support the planning, review, and reporting process for the PoCSD and to address or mitigate against major institutional, partnership or logistical constraints that may impede the achievement of PoCSD results
- Maintain and strengthen country development coordination structures, and promote the fullest possible links between these structures and those for management and implementation of the PoCSD
- Support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this PoCSD and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including:
 - Encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme;
 - Endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from the private sector both internationally and in Albania; and
 - Permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Albania to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the Donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

- Provide monetary and/or in-kind contribution to the programmatic and operational activities of the PoCSD budgeted/approved in the joint work plans.
 - As a middle income country, it is expected that the Government will increasingly leverage investment of partners by allocating its own catalytic resources into the PoCSD.
- Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).
- As per the basic agreements listed in Annex B, be responsible for the clearance, receipt, warehousing, distribution and accounting of supplies and equipment made available by the UN agency. No taxes, fees, tolls or duties shall be levied on supplies, equipment, or services furnished by the UN agency under this PoCSD. UN Agencies shall also be exempt from Value Added Tax (VAT) in respect of local procurement of supplies or services procured in support of the PoCSD.

With regards to harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT)¹¹³:

- A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of joint work plans will be used by Implementing Partners (IPs) to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that the UN organization will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. IPs will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the IP.
- Cash transferred to Implementing Partners

113. Currently, the HACT is used by UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF.

should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the WPs only.

- Cash received by the Government and national NGO IPs shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN organization within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures is not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.
- In the case of IPs that are international NGOs, CSOs, and IGOs, cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the UN organization within six months after receipt of the funds.
- To facilitate scheduled and special audits each IP receiving cash from a UN organization will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:
 - All financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by a UN system agency, together with relevant documentation
 - All relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partners' internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed
- The findings of each audit will be reported to the IP and [UN organization]. Each IP will furthermore:
 - Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors
 - Provide a timely statement of the accep-

tance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the UN organization that provided cash, and to the SAI, before submitting it to the UN Agency.

- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations
- Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations, to the UN system agencies and to the SAI, on a quarterly basis or as locally agreed.

CHAPTER 8

Other provisions

8. Other provisions

In the event of any significant change in the situation requiring a change in PoCSD results or a need to extend the duration and scope of programme, the GoA will make a formal request to the Resident Coordinator and UNCT. An appropriate amendment to this PoCSD will be negotiated.

In the event of a failure by one party to fulfill any of its obligations under this PoCSD:

- Where the defaulting party is a UN system agency, the GoA may either (i) suspend the discharge of its own obligations vis-à-vis the defaulting party by giving written notice to that effect to the defaulting party or (ii) terminate the PoCSD vis-à-vis the defaulting party by giving written notice of sixty (60) days to the defaulting party; and
- Where the defaulting party is the GoA, the UN system agency may either (i) suspend the discharge of its own obligations by giving written notice to that effect to the defaulting party or (ii) terminate the PoCSD by giving written notice of sixty (60) days to the defaulting party.

Any dispute between the GoA and a UN Agency shall be resolved in accordance with the provisions of that Organization's basic agreement referred to in Annex B. Any dispute among the UN system agencies shall be resolved exclusively among the UN system agencies through approaches identified in the UNDG-endorsed dispute resolution mechanism.

The GoA will honor its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the basic agreements with the UN Agencies. The GoA shall apply the provisions of the Conventions on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations agencies to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to its officials and

consultants. In addition the GoA will accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the GoA. The GoA will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of Agencies and its officials, advisors and agents. None of the Agencies nor any of their respective officials, advisors or persons performing services on their behalf will be held responsible for any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, The GoA shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the GoA.

Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organization of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement.

Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

Annexes

ANNEX A. Results Matrix

Government of Albania-UN Results Framework [2017-2021]				
Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Partners	UN Agencies
Priority I. Governance and Rule of Law				
National Development Goals¹¹⁴ : Accession to the European Union; Good Governance, Democracy and the Rule of Law SDGs¹¹⁵ 5, 10, 16				
<p>Outcome 1. State and civil society organisations perform effectively and with accountability for consolidated democracy in line with international norms and standards.</p> <p>*Vulnerable groups most relevant for this outcome are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Children » Women (survivors of domestic violence, rural women, female heads of households, women in politics) » Youth (unemployed, youth on the move, youth not employed and not in education) » Persons with disabilities » Minorities » LGBT » Refugees/Asylum seekers » Returning migrants and other categories of vulnerable migrants » Survivors of human trafficking » People in penitentiary system » Victims of environmental degradation » Youth affected by drug use 	<p>1.1 % MPs, municipal councillors, and senior positions in the public sector held by women <u>Baseline (2015):</u> 21% <u>Target:</u> 30%</p> <p>Municipal Councillors 35% 50%</p> <p>Public Sector 44.6% no less than 30%</p> <p>1.2 Annual rating of democratic change in Albania (composite) <u>Baseline (2015):</u> 4.14/7 <u>Target:</u> 3.9 (2021)</p> <p>1.3 Perceptions of performance of public institutions <u>Baseline (2015):</u> CEC 8% Parliament 10% Government 14% Local Government 13% <u>Target:</u> CEC 20% Parliament 25% Government 35% Local Government 50%</p> <p>1.4 Rate of children in detention (per 100,000 population aged 14–17) <u>Baseline 2014:</u> 179 <u>Target:</u> 105</p>	<p>Parliament Central Elections Commission Department of Public Administration</p> <p>Albania Democratic Governance Country Report, Freedom House</p> <p>MOV: Periodic citizen survey undertaken in the framework of Open Government Partnership</p> <p>Ministry of Justice Records</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » National Human Rights Institutions » Parliament » Civil Society » Electoral Bodies » Political Parties » INSTAT » Line Ministries (Minister of Innovation and Public Administration; Ministry of Interior Affairs; Ministry of Justice; Minister of State for Local Government; Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth; Ministry of Foreign Affairs etc.) » Prime Minister's Office (PMO) » Media » Local Governments » Regional Authorities » Justice Institutions » Refugee Organisation 	<p>UNCTAD UNDP UNECE UNESCO UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF UNODC UN WOMEN IOM [See indicative requirements in section 3.0]</p>

¹¹⁴ NSDI II

¹¹⁵ Sustainable Development Goals and targets, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>, Oct2015.

Government of Albania-UN Results Framework [2017-2021]			
Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Partners
			UN Agencies
	<p>1.5 Out of all child-related valid complaints, proportion of complaints for which a remedial action was taken by the People's Advocate, annually</p> <p><u>Baseline 2014:</u> 65%</p> <p><u>Target 2021:</u> 5 % points increase, annually</p>	People's Advocate Office records	
<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government retains its commitment to the EU agenda, including the five key priorities for the opening of accession negotiations. - Democratic structures and institutions move forward and continue to develop positively. - The decentralisation of functions to Local Government Units continues. - Central government institutions sustain commitment and budgets to strengthen migration management and improving asylum system. 			
<p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political undermining of recently initiated Government reforms. - Political instability in the region and future course of the refugee & migrant crisis. 			
<p>Priority II. Social cohesion: Health, education, social protection, child protection, and gender-based violence</p>			
<p>National Development Goals¹¹⁶: Accession to the European Union; investing in People and Social Cohesion; Good Governance, Democracy and the Rule of Law</p>			
<p>SDGs¹¹⁷: 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16</p>			
<p>Outcome 2 – Social Cohesion All women, men, girls and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights; and more effective and efficient investments in human and financial resources are being made at central and local levels to ensure social inclusion and cohesion.</p>			
<p>Health</p> <p>2.1 Private household out-of-Pocket expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure</p> <p><u>Baseline (2015):</u> 55% (WB)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 40%</p>		<p>World Bank reports</p> <p>INSTAT</p>	
<p>2.2 Infant mortality per 1,000 live births</p> <p><u>Baseline (2015):</u> Total 13</p> <p>Female 12</p> <p>Male 14</p>		<p>UN IGME</p>	
		<p>» Line Ministries and relevant institutions (Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Interior Affairs etc.)</p> <p>» Local Governments</p> <p>» Local Child Protection Units</p> <p>» Development Partners</p> <p>» Parliament</p>	
		<p>UNDP</p> <p>UNESCO</p> <p>UNFPA</p> <p>UNHCR</p> <p>UNICEF</p> <p>UNWOMEN</p> <p>IAEA</p> <p>UNAIDS</p> <p>WHO</p> <p>IOM</p> <p>[See indicative resource]</p>	

¹¹⁶ NSDI II

¹¹⁷ Sustainable Development Goals and targets, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>, Oct 2015.

Government of Albania-UN Results Framework [2017-2021]			
Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Partners
<p>*Vulnerable groups most relevant for this outcome are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Children » Youth » Women » Minorities » People/Children with special needs or disabilities » Elderly people » Poor households » Single parent households » Families without shelter » Rural population » Migrants, refugees, people/children on the move, returning migrants » Victims of violence and human trafficking » Children exploited, abused, neglected, trafficked, and involved in labour, unregistered children » People living with HIV/AIDS » Men who have sex with men (MSM) » Injecting drug users (IDU) » LGBT » Victims of environmental degradation 	<p>2.3 Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 deliveries) <u>Baseline (2015):</u> 29 (UN IGME) <u>Target:</u> 20 (30% reduction)</p> <p>Education</p> <p>2.4 Net enrolment rates</p> <p><u>Baseline Pre-Primary 2014</u> Total: 81.34% Girls: 80.6% Boys: 82% Roma Children: 55%</p> <p><u>Target Pre-Primary 2021:</u> Total: 98% Girls: 98% Boys: 98% Roma: 75%</p> <p><u>Baseline Primary 2013</u> Total: 95.92% Girls: 94.8% Boys: 96.2% Roma Children: 61.4%</p> <p><u>Target Primary 2021</u> Total: 100% Girls: 100% Boys: 100% Roma: 80%</p> <p><u>Baseline Children with Disabilities Basic Education 2014</u> 3,201 students</p> <p><u>Target Children with Disabilities Basic Education 2020:</u> 25% increase (based on Pre-university Education Strategy)</p>	<p>UN IGME</p> <p>MoE reports INSTAT UNESCO Institute for Statistics UNHCR Annual Reports OECD Biannual report of MoSWY</p>	<p>UN Agencies</p> <p>Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Civil Society » Professional Associations » Academia » Media » EU » INSTAT » Institute of Public Health (IPH) » Health Insurance Fund
			<p>requirements in section 3.0]</p>

Government of Albania-UN Results Framework [2017-2021]		
Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	UN Agencies
	Means of Verification	Partners
	<p><u>Baseline Child refugees and asylum seekers</u> <u>% Access to formal education 2015</u> Total 0 Female 0 Male 0</p> <p><u>Target Child refugees and asylum seekers</u> <u>% Access to formal education 2021</u> Total 50 Female 20 Male 30</p> <p>2.5 Schoolchildren's learning outcomes (as measured by PISA) <u>Baseline (2012):</u> Reading 394 <u>Target*:</u> 494 Math 394 496 Science 397 501 * Values for the target refer to 2012 mean score in OECD countries.</p> <p>Social Protection 2.6 % Low income families and children with disabilities with access to adequate cash benefits <u>Baseline 2014:</u> <u>Target 2021:</u> Total(% of households living in extreme poverty receiving cash assistance) 56% 26%</p> <p>2.7 Number of sector-specific policies with explicit social inclusion targets <u>Baseline 2014:</u> <u>Target 2021:</u> "X" policies "Y" policies out of "Z" out of "Z"</p> <p>2.8 Level of implementation of National Action Plan on Roma and Egyptian Integration <u>Baseline 2014:</u> <u>Target 2021:</u> Rated "2" Rated at least "3"</p>	
	<p>INSTAT Biannual report of MoSWY Line ministries policy documents, NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring framework</p>	
	<p>UN, EU and stakeholders qualitative assessment(s), sector and country progress reports MoSWY and SSS records</p>	

Government of Albania-UN Results Framework [2017-2021]			
Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Partners
	<p>(based on estimated rating from 1 to 5)¹¹⁸</p> <p>Child Protection</p> <p>2.9 Rate of children (age 0-17) in residential (public and non-public) care per 100,000 child population <u>Baseline 2015:</u> 84 <u>Target:</u> 42</p> <p>2.10 Number of national mechanisms collecting evidence and addressing violence against children <u>Baseline 2015:</u> 4 (police, Child Protection Units (CPUs), schools, helpline) <u>Target:</u> at least 6 (police, CPUs, schools, helpline, health centres, online and web-based platform)</p> <p>Gender-Based Violence</p> <p>2.11 % Women who have experienced physical violence during their lives <u>Baseline (2013):</u> 23.7% <u>Target:</u> 21% (2018)</p>	<p>State Agency for Child Rights Protection annual reports</p> <p>INSTAT</p>	<p>UN Agencies</p>
<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2015-2020 is approved. » Universal Health Coverage (Reform) remains key government priority. » Pre University Education Strategy is approved and implemented. Pre University Law is implemented. » Political and budget commitment to social protection policies and measures are sustained (with EU 2020 agenda as driver). » The decentralization reform provides clarity on the division of labour and functions for social policy planning. <p>Risks</p> <p><u>Governance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reorganization of and lack of attention to social services due to territorial-administrative reform and decentralization » Non-participation in international assessments (e. g. PISA) » Resistance to change of relevant institutions <p><u>Human Resources:</u></p>			

¹¹⁸ "1" – no progress or steps towards achieving the target are made; "2" – some limited and/or fragmented measures towards achieving the target are taken; "3" – regular progress is made at systems level towards achieving the target; "4" – advanced progress is made at systems level towards achieving the target; "5" – critical systemic changes are in place to ensure the target will be met.

Government of Albania-UN Results Framework [2017-2021]

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Partners	UN Agencies
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- » High turnover of skilled professionals
- » Low salaries and little attractiveness of social professions

Spending:

- » Decreases in health, education, social protection spending
- » Fiscal policy and austerity measures

Priority III. Economic Growth, Labour and Agriculture

National Development Goals¹¹⁹ and measures: Accession to the European Union; Growth Through Increased Competitiveness; Investing in People and Social Cohesion; Growth Through Sustainable Resources & Territorial Development

SDGs¹²⁰: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12

<p>Outcome 3. Economic growth priorities, policies, and programs of the GoA are inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development.</p> <p>*Vulnerable groups most relevant for this outcome are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Unemployed young men and women (15 – 29) » Roma and Egyptians » Persons with disability » Returning migrants » Women single heads of households » Victims of trafficking and/or domestic violence 	<p>3.1 Ease of Doing Business distance to frontier (score) <u>Baseline (2016):</u> 60.5 <u>Target:</u> 72.13 (2020)</p> <p>3.2 N^o new businesses established by sex of owner <u>Baseline (2014):</u> Total 16,731 Female 1,947 Male 14,784 <u>Target:</u> Annual 10% increase Annual 10% increase Annual 10% increase</p> <p>3.3 Youth unemployment rate (young men and women (15 – 29) who are: without work; available for work; and seeking work) <u>Baseline (2014):</u> Total 34.2% Female 35.9% Male 33.3% <u>Target:</u> 20.5% (by 2020) 21% 20%</p>	<p>World Bank: Doing Business Report</p> <p>National Registration Centre – Annual reports</p> <p>INSTAT Labour Force Survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Line Ministries (Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship; Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration; Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth; Ministry of Urban Development; Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Culture; etc.) » Albanian Investment Development Agency » Local Governments » Social Partners (employers' and workers' organisations) » Business Associations, Chambers of Commerce » Public and Private Universities 	<p>UNDP UN Women ILO FAO UNCTAD UNIDO UNECE IOM UNESCO IAEA</p> <p>[See indicative requirements in section 3.0]</p>
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¹¹⁹ NSDI II

¹²⁰ Sustainable Development Goals and targets, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>, Oct 2015.

Government of Albania-UN Results Framework [2017-2021]				
Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Partners	UN Agencies
	<p>3.4 Growth of agriculture sector 2016 - 2020 <u>Baseline (2014):</u> 2.25% <u>Target:</u> 20%</p> <p>3.5 Agriculture Export – Import ratio in 2020 <u>Baseline (2015):</u> 1:4.5 <u>Target:</u> (1:3)</p> <p>3.6 Global Innovation Index Rank <u>Baseline (2015):</u> 87 <u>Target: 2020:</u> 75</p>	<p>INSTAT</p> <p>INSTAT</p> <p>MoV: (Cornell, INSEAD, WIPO) www.globalinnovationindex.org/</p>	<p>» INSTAT</p> <p>» Trade Unions</p> <p>» Banking Service</p>	
<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » NESS 2014-2020 is fully funded and under implementation. » A Sector Reform Contract is to be established between EU and MoSWY/Government of Albania for providing budget support to the Employment and Skills sub-sector. » A National Economic Reform Program is to be prepared and submitted by the GoA to the EC as part of the accession of Albania to the EU (specific chapter on Employment and Social inclusion policies). » Political commitment to the VET and Labour Market reforms. » Political commitment to reduce Gender gap in access to affordable finance and insurance. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Limited articulation with other sectoral policies (fiscal policy, macroeconomic policy, etc.) » Limitations on state budget increasing to support the needed reforms. » Social and cultural attitudes, and political will cannot be changed in favour of increasing women’s equal access to finance. » Macroeconomic policies do not support women farmers in national value chains. » Social protection and non-discriminatory policies are not translated into practice. » Women are not included in the design of end products, which reduces adoption rates by women. 				
<p>Priority IV. Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>National Development Goals from NSDI II: Accession to the European Union; Growth Through Sustainable Resources & Territorial Development; Investing in People and Social Cohesion; Good Governance, Democracy and the Rule of Law (Strengthening Public Order and Emergency Preparedness)</p> <p>SDGs: 3, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15</p>				
<p>Outcome 4. Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change</p>	<p>4.1 Extent to which comprehensive measures - plans, strategies, policies, programmes and budgets - are being implemented to achieve low-emission and/or climate-resilient development objectives <u>Baseline:</u> (NSDI, 2013) Current RES in energy portfolio (34.22%) <u>Target:</u></p>	<p>EU report, National communication to UNFCCC, MoE State of Environment report, GEF tracking tool</p>	<p>» Line Ministries (Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Energy and Industry; Ministry of Interior Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration);</p>	<p>UNDP UNEP FAO UNICEF UNIDO UNESCO UNECE</p>

Government of Albania-UN Results Framework [2017-2021]				
Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification	Partners	UN Agencies
<p>mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>*Vulnerable groups most relevant for this outcome are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Poor population » Farmers » Women » Communities, elderly that live in areas affected by climate change and environmental degradation » City dwellers » Children 	<p>38% RES in energy mix (Energy Community Treaty Target)</p> <p>4.2 Number of hectares of land that are managed sustainably as protected areas under a conservation, sustainable use or access- and benefits-sharing regime <u>Baseline:</u> 9,424 ha (2015) <u>Target:</u> 73,219 ha (2020)</p> <p>4.3 Number of farmers accessing disaster early warning system <u>Baseline (2015):</u> 0 Female 30% <u>Target</u> (10%) 2017 (20%) 2018 (30%) 2019 (40%) 2020</p> <p>4.4 Gender action plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation prepared <u>Baseline (2015):</u> No plan <u>Target:</u> Action plan at national level</p>	<p>National Agency for Protected Areas, local environmental inspectorates and agencies, environmental departments in local government units. CBD reports</p> <p>MARDWA - Early Warning Platform to be established during 2016 (FAO-MARDWA)</p> <p>Ministry of Environment reporting</p>	<p>Ministry of Urban Development etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Local Governments » Academia » Civil Society » Communities » Networks on sustainability » Schools and teachers » Business community » Development partners » Man and Biosphere Committee » Environmental Inspectorate » National Environmental Protection Agency » Prosecutors' offices » Local courts 	<p>IAEA</p> <p>[See indicative resource requirements in section 3.0]</p>
<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EU continues its work to support strengthening of environmental legislation. - Implementation of the territorial-administrative reform continues. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parliamentary elections bring about high staff turnover at central and local level. - Fiscal decentralization policy is not implemented. - Inadequate resources to deliver the outcome. 				

Annex B. Basic Agreements

This Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

	Agency	Agreement	Date signed
1	FAO	National Medium Term Priority Framework	13 December 2009
2	IAEA	Revised Supplementary Agreement Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Government of Albania	12 November 1983
3	UNAIDS	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Albania and UNDP applies	17 June 1991
4	UNDP	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Albania and UNDP	17 June 1991
5	UNFPA	Exchange of letters stating that mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Albania and UNDP applies	15 November 1996
6	UNHCR	UNHCR Branch Office Agreement (BOA) with the Government of Albania	22 June 1994
7	UNICEF	Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) with the Government of Albania	23 July 1993
8	UNODC	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Albania and UNDP applies	17 June 1991
9	UN WOMEN	Exchange of letters stating that mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Albania and UNDP applies	17 June 1991
10	WHO	Biennial Collaborative Agreement (BCA) between the Ministry of Health of Albania and the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization for the period 2016-2017.	19 May 2016
11	IOM	Agreement between Albania and the International Organization for Migration in relation to the juridical status, privileges and the immunity of this organization in Albania	2 October 1992

GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA
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