

Executive Summary

The effects of the global recession have not been felt as painfully in Albania as in many other countries in the region in 2011, although money transfers from Albanians working abroad to their families have diminished. Unfortunately, government expenditure in certain areas has been shrinking as well, disproportionately affecting children. Under these circumstances, the expansion of the national child wellbeing monitoring mechanism within the public administration system is of particular importance. Child Rights Units are now present in 11 of the country's 12 Regional Councils. Enforced by law, the CRUs' main task is to collect information, provide inputs into local plans and control their implementation by duty bearers.

In all of Albania's regions, civil society is closely monitoring public authorities to determine whether they are fulfilling their obligations towards children. This year, mobilized under the aegis of the Child Rights Observatories, civil society has produced its first monitoring report. The active participation of both the government and civil society organizations in the preparation and discussion of Albania's periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols (scheduled for hearings in Geneva in June 2012) raises hope that the focus on children, especially the most vulnerable ones, will be strengthened in national policies.

In an attempt to be strategic in its programmatic choices, the UNICEF office prioritized the production of quality data and analytical materials to inform decision-making processes, reveal the disparities and attract the attention of duty bearers to the invisible and marginalized segments of the population, including impoverished families, women-led households, families of internal migrants, children and adolescents in rural areas, and ethnic minorities.

Regional, income, gender and other disparities that might be camouflaged behind the GDP per capita average figures call for a reinvigoration of the human rights agenda that remains pertinent in the context of Albania. UNICEF-supported analysis of the national social inclusion challenges suggests that the country's relatively well developed political and economic agenda of the EU integration must be strongly supported by an adequate set of comprehensive social inclusion and social protection policies. Particular focus must be placed on those who will not be able to cope with the transition to the liberal market realities on their own. The year 2011 was the last one in the programme cycle that piloted the "Delivering as One" model in Albania. Lessons learned so far must be taken into consideration by the new programme of cooperation between the Government of Albania and the UN in 2012-2016. The responsibility of the "One UN" should be moved from the joint bureaucracy to joint action, supported by the consolidation of the agencies' knowledge base and articulation of common positions on key national policies, budgets and programmes.

Country Situation

In 2011, Albania continued to confront challenges associated with its impressive transformation from a centralized socialist regime into a liberalized market economy. The EU membership ambition molded the socio-economic reform agenda, although challenges persisted around the effective implementation of reform-oriented measures prescribed in the country's multiple strategies and action plans. The boycott of the Parliament by the political opposition resulted in several months of political deadlock and was only lifted in September. [The European Commission report on Albania issued in October 2011](#) criticized the country's slow progress towards the EU integration criteria, especially in such areas as the work of the parliament, electoral procedures, public administration, the judiciary, anti-corruption policy, property rights, and living conditions of the Roma community. On the positive side, the EC report noted progress in improving the treatment of detained persons in prisons and in combating organized crime. Still, the Commission failed to support Albania's application for the EU candidate-country status as a result of incomplete reform measures.

Children's rights were also mentioned by the EC report as an area where progress is being made. Unanimously approved by the Parliament in November 2010, a new law "On the Protection of Children's Rights" entered into force in June 2011, offering a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for child rights promotion, monitoring and protection. The adoption of this breakthrough legislation has crowned

years of UNICEF's advocacy and consistent support to the child rights structures within the government (such as Child Rights Units in 11 of the country's 12 regions and Child Protection Units in 28 municipalities) and civil society (with public oversight effected through the Child Rights Observatories).

Though a critically important development, the promulgation of new legislation is just one step among many to overcome barriers to social inclusion and development. Although the global recession has had a milder effect on the Albanian economy so far ([according to the World Bank](#), Albania's real GDP was expected to grow by 3% in 2011, against 2.5% across the countries of South-East Europe), the concentration of Albanian emigrant workforce in crisis-hit Greece and Italy already converted into sizeable economic losses, with remittances from abroad continuing to decrease (down by approximately 8% on the year-to-year basis, according to the Central Bank) and migrant workers returning back home. Still, [Albania is among the 10 countries with the highest proportion of emigrants to the total population](#), globally.

High emigration and low fertility rates are among the main factors explaining a 7.7% decrease in Albania's population, from 3.1 million in 2001 to 2.8 million in 2011, as revealed by this year's [Population and Housing Census preliminary results](#). For the first time in the history of demographic censuses in the country, more people (53.7%) were registered in urban locations than in rural areas (46.3%). Population density in the mountainous East continues to decrease, in contrast to the Central and Coastal zones which are attracting internal migration flows. Today, almost 45% of the country's population is concentrated in twenty largest municipalities, with more than 20% residing in Tirana and its suburbs. On the other side of the spectrum, of the 300 communes (administrative units in rural areas), two thirds account for less than 5,000 inhabitants. Each commune, in turn, includes 10 villages on average, implying a greater degree of isolation from education, health, social protection and other services for those living in the countryside. Index, that can be used as a proxy measure of such isolation (measuring the share of rural dwellers living less than two kilometers away from the nearest all-season road), remains one of the lowest in the CEE/CIS region. The [Multidimensional Poverty Index](#) in rural areas is more than two times higher than in urban locations.

Scarcity of economic opportunities and quality services in rural areas translates into markedly worse outcomes for children, as reflected in the [2008-2009 Demographic and Health Survey](#) complemented by the secondary DHS data analysis released in 2011. Rural/urban disparities in infant and under-five mortality rates are well pronounced, with both indicators being two times higher in the countryside than in the cities. For example, in the Mountain zone of Albania, the IMR and U5MR reach 38 and 42 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, which is almost double the national average of 18 and 22. Similarly, children in rural areas are at much higher risk of missing out on their educational targets. The net compulsory school completion rate (age cohort of 6-14) stood at 82% in the Mountain zone compared to 97% in Tirana. The first national report published by Albania's Child Rights Observatory in 2011 (based on data collected from nine out of 12 regions) is warning that school enrollment for the compulsory cycle in many rural locations may be well under-registered. Far fewer children in villages continue their education after the age of 14 into the secondary cycle; corresponding school attendance rates drop to 46% in the Mountain region compared to 71% in the capital.

Further analysis is needed of the deprivation in peri-urban areas resulting from intense internal migration. Available evidence suggests that access to services may be limited and overall life conditions harsh in the settlements that represent recently added "belts" to the main cities. [FAO-supported research on the situation of households that migrated from rural to peri-urban areas of Tirana](#) reveals that while gains in monetary income are evident, actual consumption levels are not necessarily higher. Living conditions are poor, access to sanitation and clean drinking water is problematic and employment opportunities are often irregular. Particularly striking is that school attendance of migrant children in the suburbs was found to be lower than that of their rural peers at both primary (compulsory) and secondary levels.

Who are the deprived children in your country context?

In the dynamic context of Albania, awareness of social exclusion and inequity is neither sufficient nor systematized, although available information suggests rather distinct patterns of deprivation affecting the following population categories:

a. [families who reside in remote, economically depressed rural areas](#): most of them are likely to live in poverty; many would have at least one family member working elsewhere and supporting the family with

remittances; logistically difficult access to or poor quality of schooling prevent every second child in the countryside from continuing their education beyond the basic compulsory level; almost one third of all schools nationwide have less than 21 students, with most of these under-populated facilities located in villages;

b. internal migrants to the overcrowded sub-urban periphery: at least one quarter of urban dwellers live in informal settlements which take little or no account of people's needs in terms of basic infrastructure (space, electricity, heating, water and sanitation, access to health care, education facilities, etc.); school absenteeism and child labor are often reported anecdotal phenomena;

c. Roma and Balkan Egyptians ethnic minorities: for this group, the risks of deprivation are likely to be the highest and translate into appalling living conditions in makeshift settlements, missing personal registration papers, poor health status, interrupted education, lack of permanent jobs, etc. Based on data collected by UNICEF in 2011, there are about 15,000 Roma (including 5,000 children) scattered among some 108 settlements across the country.

Data/Evidence

UNICEF Albania CO's strategy in building and using knowledge on inequities and their determinants can be described as including several streams of: data collection, data analysis, and advocacy for action-oriented data utilization. Examples of activities falling under the first stream comprise support to routine data collection using a standard set of child wellbeing indicators by Child Rights Units at the sub-national (regional) level, information gathering (also at the sub-national level) by the Child Rights Observatories through the lens of civil society, nation-wide mapping of Roma settlements, assistance to the MoES in operationalizing its Education Management Information System (EMIS) in two regions, and assistance to MoLSAEO in assembling a registry of NGOs active in the area of child protection.

The UNICEF CO contributed to the analysis of a series of data sets and reports, including the DHS 2008-2009 Secondary Data Analysis project (where key health and nutrition outcomes were analyzed with additional disaggregation by geographic zones), the annual round of the EC reporting on "potential candidate" countries, preparations for the CRC Committee's periodic review of Albania's national reports (scheduled for summer 2012), and the national pro-poor cash assistance program ("*ndihma ekonomike*") and its impact on the most impoverished families and children.

As part of its advocacy for policy-oriented data utilization, UNICEF presented the Roma mapping findings and data tool to the inter-ministerial Technical Secretariat of the National Roma Action Plan and to the EU consultations on Roma.

Unfortunately, staffing changes in the Institute for Statistics (INSTAT) suspended Albania's participation in the TransMonEE project. As part of the new Programme of Cooperation between the Government of Albania and the United Nations, the potential and forms of UNICEF's collaboration with the key national statistical entity will be reviewed in order to strengthen the focus on the most marginalized in national data collection and management.

In terms of internal data management and better identification of particular deprivation profiles in relation to UNICEF-supported results, the Office has initiated the preparation of thematic data sheets for each programme that are expected to include precise information on respective types of vulnerability and deprivation. The principal objective is for government partners and UNICEF to achieve better targeted action. In the absence of a dedicated M&E/Statistics specialist in the Office, the utilization of available capacity in social policy, socio-economic analysis and database management will be maximized to build a solid understanding of equity issues in the context of Albania. The RBM Advisory Committee institutionalized as part of the "Delivering as One" UN programme management structure will assist in promoting inter-agency knowledge sharing and joint analysis.

Monitoring Mechanism

The presence of a large variety of international development assistance actors in the country is accompanied by intensive data collection activity. However, this also generates a lot of statistical and qualitative information that often gets lost once respective donor projects close down. Administrative data

collection systems are still weak which leads to difficulties of reconciliation with survey-based information. In addition, high rates of internal migration negatively reflect on data reliability. An important new channel of regular supply of statistical data on families and children at the sub-national level is offered by the network of Child Rights Units and Child Rights Observatories established by the recent child rights legislation and already operational in nine out of 12 regions. Data collection and analysis for child policy planning intended to take place within the state-run Child Rights Units is complemented by civil society oversight through the Observatories.

Most of the M&E activities of UNICEF Albania CO are part of the "Delivering as One" set up, which has developed elaborate mechanisms for financial activity and results reporting. These mechanisms are time consuming and rarely used for quality assurance or strategic course directions. In late 2011, the Office participated in the independent evaluation of the "Delivering as One" modality in Albania. A draft report has been shared, indicating persisting misconceptions about the most effective and efficient way to contribute to the achievement of results in an inter-agency setting.

However, it should be admitted that the tendency to monitor *activities* instead of *situation changes* is still prominent among national and even international development practitioners. Work planning for the new cycle of cooperation between the Government of Albania and the UN takes note of this challenge. The UN RBM Advisory Committee's major task will therefore be to ensure that government partners and assisting UN agencies are increasingly capable of linking the delivery of activities (most of which are recorded in the Donor Assistance Database run by the Government's Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination) with higher level indicators that capture outcomes for beneficiary populations (or at least prove that sustainable institutional shifts are progressively taking place). The exact architecture of this monitoring mechanism is still undetermined as the move from monitoring processes to monitoring impact has yet to happen in the mentality and practices of the "One UN" in Albania.

An in-house version of DevInfo database is maintained by the Office. In 2011, it went online at <http://www.odf.al/devinfo>. Although not fully ready for public use, it was appreciated by state authorities and civil society organizations that started using it for their regular situational monitoring. The database was activated relying mainly on the CO's internal programme assistance capacity (with technical support from the DevInfo team). As of today, it contains 17,200 entries for 205 indicators collected in eight regions. In 2012, sub-national data collection will be expanded to all 12 regions in Albania.

Support to National Planning

Two key national planning frameworks that have been the focus of UNICEF's attention and support are the national Social Inclusion Strategy and the Strategy and Action Plan for Children.

The Social Inclusion Strategy (2007-2013) is a component of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (currently under revision to extend its planning horizon until 2017) representing a compendium of measures stemming from the social protection, health, education, employment, justice, urban planning, water supply and transport development sector-specific policies. It also takes into account the inclusion dimensions of other inter-sectoral frameworks addressing rural development, decentralization, gender equality, youth employment, combating domestic violence and trafficking. In 2010, UNICEF supported the MoLSAEO with progress reporting on the Strategy implementation and in late 2011, the Strategy evaluation process was started. As agreed with counterparts, the focus of the evaluation will be on the effectiveness of such a synthesized framework to capture progress made in very specific areas by a large variety of duty bearers. The evaluation will also shed light on the capacity of the MoLSAEO to effectively play its prescribed coordinating and monitoring role. In this context, the assessment of the Ministry's statistical data management systems (ongoing with UNICEF support) is particularly important, not only for the MoLSAEO's own multiple accountabilities in the social sector but also as a pre-requisite for the Social Inclusion Strategy to influence national planning decisions based on evidence.

The new Strategy and Action Plan for Children is being drafted (following the expiry of the 2005-2010 plan), with substantive contributions from UNICEF assisting national partners to clearly articulate, operationalize, manage and monitor their desired results, continually keeping focus on the most deprived children.

The same purpose of "delivering results for the marginalized" was behind UNICEF's commitment to support other exercises feeding into national policy planning processes. These include:

- Routine data collection on the most deprived children by the National Agency for Children, Child Rights Units and Observatories (the value of this data being in its sub-national disaggregation and origin from administrative records);
- UNICEF/WHO/FAO baseline survey on nutrition and food security (another example of critically needed disaggregated information to address regional and rural/urban disparities);
- Nation-wide mapping and inventories of ECD and child protection services and facilities (important, in particular, for planning the collaboration of state institutions with NGO-run services);
- The first complete GIS mapping and household survey of Roma settlements (the survey provides headcount numbers of Roma population and links the locations where Roma live with the nearest health, education and protection services);
- Assessment of EMIS utilization in two targeted regions (already resulting in increasing numbers of newly discovered cases of school drop-out and absenteeism);
- Assessment of security measures, investigation and judiciary procedure deadlines applied to juvenile offenders to inform the newly drafted Justice for Children Strategy (a special costing tool tailored for Juvenile Justice measures to help in policy planning from the fiscal perspective).

Any other relevant information related to data/evidence?

List of background documents and links to electronically available versions:

- Albania 2011 Progress Report. European Commission. October 2011. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2011/package/al_rapport_2011_en.pdf
- Conclusions on Albania. Extract from the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2011-2012". Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2011/package/al_conclusions_en.pdf
- Civic Monitoring Report 2011: The Action Plan to Address the 12 Priorities of the EC Opinion for Albania (adopted 10/06/2011). Available at: <http://www.soros.al/2010/foto/uploads/File/Final%20Report%20-%202012%20Priorities%20-%20Eng.pdf>
- South-East Europe – Regular Economic Report. World Bank, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit, Europe and Central Asia Region. November 15, 2011. Available at: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ECAEXT/Resources/publications/454763-1321298251856/11411_01_fullreport.pdf
- Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011. World Bank. Available at: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLAC/Resources/Factbook2011-Ebook.pdf>
- Albania Population and Housing Census preliminary results. December 2011. Available at: <http://census.al/census2011/Temp.aspx>
- Albania Multidimensional Poverty Index. Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. December 2011. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/external/mpi/Albania-OPHI-CountryBrief-2011.pdf>
- Alkire, Sabina; Jose Manuel Roche; Maria Emma Santos & Suman Seth (2011). Albania Country Briefing. Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) Multidimensional Poverty Index Country Briefing Series. Available at: www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/mpi-country-briefings/
- Albania Demographic and Health Survey 2008-2009 Final Report and Fact Sheet. Available at: <http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR230-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>
<http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-GF16-General-Fact-Sheets.cfm>
- Beyond Transition; Towards Inclusive Society. UNDP Regional Human Development Report. 2011. Available at: <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/BCD10F8F-F203-1EE9-BB28DEE6D70B52E1>
- Are internal migrants in Albania leaving for the better? ESA Working Paper No. 09-08. FAO, 2009. Available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/ak332e/ak332e00.pdf>
- Albania School Inventory and Conditions Survey. EU Western Balkans Investment Framework project. 2011. Available at:

<http://www.wbif-ipf.eu/?p=1079>

--- Children's Social Inclusion Policies and Financing in Albania. UNICEF, 2011. Available at:

<http://www.unicef.org/albania/Social-Inclusion2011-eng.pdf>

--- External assistance in Albania. 2009-2010. Available at:

http://www.dsd.gov.al/dsd/EA_Progress_Report_41_2.php

Country Programme Analytical Overview

From the spectrum of UNICEF strategies, knowledge generation, advocacy, strategic partnerships and alliance building are of particular relevance to the context of Albania. Typically for the operational environment of a middle-income country, the value of UNICEF's contribution is in the presentation and visualization of new information, quality of analysis, and the ability and courage to ask sensitive questions without fear of becoming unpopular.

The global legacy of UNICEF and its strong positive image in the country allow the Albania office staff to sit at the table with the largest international actors, such as the European Union, the World Bank and bilateral donors, and have the authority to influence their thinking about large-scale investments, which still appear to be mostly focused on infrastructure projects.

Direct advocacy with the government through close daily contact with the technical level of decision-making to constantly infuse new ideas and encourage child-centered (versus bureaucracy-centered) approaches is another fundamental strategy that proved its effectiveness over the years. This is especially the case in light of the Albanian government's eagerness to comply with the EU accession criteria in the part related to social inclusion, social protection and human rights.

UNICEF will also help to strengthen national and local accountability mechanisms, including through public oversight bodies such as Parliament, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, and through identifying ways where policy makers and constituents can hold public officials accountable for delivery of services to those who need it most.

While prioritizing policy work, it is critical for UNICEF to remain connected to the opinion, moods and aspirations of children and young people, especially in a country where the dynamic of socio-cultural transformation has been among the most overwhelming in the entire region. Whenever affordable budget-wise, interventions targeting behavior change will be supported and communication will be heavily used to help strengthen the sense of national identity among young people.

Effective Advocacy

Mostly met benchmarks

The high profile of the UNICEF corporate mandate in Albania, the weight of the CO running the second largest UN programme in the country, and the perseverance of the Office in being vocal on child rights issues and actively connected to the analytical work of other development assistance actors have positioned the Albania CO as a powerful advocate for social inclusion, more equitable development and prioritization of the marginalized. Although effective implementation of equity-focused policies does not necessarily follow the adoption of new strategies and action plans mushrooming as a reflection of the EU membership strive, it is as important as ever that UNICEF plays the role of a custodian for the child rights agenda. Part of this entails highlighting at any possible occasion the situation of those who may not have enough opportunities and means to "join the club" and benefit from new social and economic realities that Albania's historic transformation of the past two decades has been accompanied with.

The request of the government for UNICEF to lead the on-going evaluation of the national Social Inclusion Strategy (2007-2013) offers one such opportunity. Although not free of design flaws typical of a mega-plan combining very different issues under one cover, the Strategy is still a good "loudspeaker" tool for UNICEF

to bring attention to the human dimension of tectonic changes that shake the country's traditionally patriarchal social landscape.

Obviously, such changes would rarely be free from political complications. The developments in Albania in 2011 confirmed this through the tension between the ruling and opposition political factions which was high throughout the year, with a peak in January 2011 when mass protests in the streets lead to casualties. In this context, it is worth mentioning that children's issues have been perhaps the only exception when political barricades were disregarded. The unanimous vote of the then divided Parliament for the new child rights law in November 2010 was a testimony to that. Furthermore, the development of a new National Plan for Children (the previous one expired in 2010) is increasingly perceived as a common platform for nation-wide action for the country's future.

However, having secured political consensus around child rights and protection issues is not considered enough by UNICEF Albania; rather, the CO has been doing its utmost to bring solid arguments of statistical evidence to the table to feed into equity-sharpened policies. In this sense, the advocacy potential of the first assembled volume of regionally disaggregated child wellbeing data collected by the Child Rights Observatories is enormous; similarly, other research products of UNICEF and its partners were used to emphasize the danger of overlooking the "invisible populations" in the context of a middle-income country.

Changes in Public Policy

Of the most recent additions to the list of positive public policy shifts, the UNICEF Albania CO can add the approval by the Council of Ministers of the foster care procedures and regulations. Among other aspects, this new set of policies establishes the rates of the government's financial support to foster families (around \$90 per child/per month, in addition to \$250 as the annual subsidy for clothing, textbooks and other expenses). Full operationalization of the system is expected by the second half of 2012. This is a breakthrough development that was made possible thanks to UNICEF's advocacy for (and pilot support of) the forms of care that would not lead to the institutionalization of children. Although the magnitude of the problem in Albania is much less than in other parts of the CEE/CIS region (with about 600 children living in orphanages), the formalization of national policies in this regard is a matter of human rights observance and, thus, of highest principle.

Another example of influential advocacy that helped to seal the commitment of the government was the visit of a prominent human rights advocate and former Minister of Justice in France Robert Badinter. The three messages cutting through Mr. Badinter's advocacy as a "fil rouge" emphasized the necessity of: a. concrete steps to minimize the time juveniles spend in detention awaiting trial; b. education and psychosocial support for offenders under the age of criminal responsibility; and c. quality education and social reintegration measures to be made available in all facilities where children are being held. These considerations came as a timely reinforcement of UNICEF's position towards Albania's new Justice for Children Strategy (awaiting endorsement in early 2012).

In February 2011, the Council of Ministers approved the National Action Plan for combating the trafficking of human beings. A separate Action Plan to combat child trafficking, protecting children as victims of trafficking, was part of the package. Also, five new normative acts are being prepared under the umbrella of the Law "On the Protection of the Rights of the Child". These regulate such issues as the collection and exchange of statistical information on children at and between central and local levels, sanctions against those violating children's rights, coordination between central and local government entities dealing with children, cooperation with NGOs in local service delivery, and inter-sectoral referral mechanisms for children in danger. UNICEF remains closely involved in policy making debates in all of the above areas; fresh impetus to this work will be given by the CRC Committee's review of Albania's periodic reports on the implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols scheduled for 2012.

Leveraging Resources

The UNICEF Albania CO's efforts in leveraging resources for children are associated with two levels of action. The first addresses national policies and budgets as a major long-term solution that UNICEF is ultimately seeking to achieve. With this objective in mind, a study was commissioned by UNICEF from two

reputable research institutions in Albania to estimate the proportion of public expenditure related to children.

[table converted to list]

Year| Total budget (000 ALL)| Budget for children (000 ALL)| Children's share (%) of total budget

a| c| b| d = (b / c)

2006| 183,400,198| 39,046,563| 21.29

2007| 196,171,594| 42,736,365| 21.79

2008| 239,200,429| 51,964,942| 21.72

2009| 375,718,000| 45,348,261| 12.07

2010| 410,720,452| 51,658,340| 12.58

(Data were sourced from the Ministry of Finance and are expressed in Albanian Lek (ALL), 100 Lek approximately equaling 1 US Dollar. Information for the year 2010 is an estimate).

Alarmingly, the findings indicate that the proportion of the budget that can be considered in support of children's rights has decreased significantly, particularly in the period 2008-2009. The same study provided the first attempt to analyze the relationship between central and local budgets through the lens of their focus of children. Taking into account the fact that the government has not conducted any assessment on how its budgetary, policy or legal decisions impact children (a methodology for such an assessment in Albania has just been commissioned by UNICEF), the study paves the way for a broad discussion on how national resources are being distributed and invested. Again, the recommendations of the CRC Committee hearings this summer should help bring UNICEF's concerns to the due level of attention.

When it comes to the second level of more limited action linked with certain programmes or projects, an example of resource leveraging from the private sector could be mentioned. As in previous years, the UNICEF Representative continued to play a key role in the Board of the Vodafone Foundation. Funded by the Albania Vodafone business and by Vodafone England, the Foundation disburses around 600,000 Euro every year to projects and initiatives that are very closely aligned with UNICEF's interests. In particular, projects related to early childhood, health issues and solutions for children, programmes for people with disabilities, and women's health and empowerment programmes are typically supported. Given the overall funding situation for development programmes in Albania, this contribution is a substantial addition and complements UNICEF's work in several areas. The Board is made up of Vodafone employees, the British Ambassador to Albania and the UNICEF Representative. Through his presence and participation, the latter has been able to demonstrate and build the capacity of the Board members related to identifying suitable selection criteria, appraisal of project proposals and final selection of the grantees according to sound management and human rights principles and sustainability concerns.

In recognition of the quality of its charitable activities, the Vodafone Foundation received the (symbolic) Annual Philanthropic award in Albania, provided for the first time by the Rockefeller Foundation. It can be expected that in future more private companies in Albania may engage in philanthropic activities.

Capacity Development

Mostly met benchmarks

Developing national capacity for better governance is the central theme of UN assistance to Albania and the main pre-requisite for the country's successful move towards EU integration. Together with Kosovo and

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania is ranked the lowest in the region by the [WB's Governance Effectiveness Index](#). Although a new Law on the Organization and Functioning of the State Public Administration was prepared in 2011, the boycott of the Parliament by the opposition did not allow the required three-fifths majority vote to take place. Across the sectors, functional constraints related to the capacity of civil servants to plan, budget, manage and monitor their work remain pertinent. High degree of politicization behind most appointments leads to frequent staffing changes detrimental to institutional memory and capacity accumulation. In light of the governance decentralization efforts (with the entire reform dragging on since early 2000s), these constraints become even more vital since the resources that local duty-bearers can identify and mobilize in order to reach the populations most in need are obviously not sufficient. While there is no deficit of general strategies and/or planning frameworks developed at the national level for children, youth and women, the actual service delivery is lagging behind. This is especially the case when it comes to rural areas and/or necessity to respond with socially and culturally customized models to newly emerging needs, such as care for children of labor migrant parents or protection of young people from unhealthy life styles.

In this context, the UNICEF Albania CO has been consistently prioritizing the need to orient, train and coach the staff involved in both policy planning and service delivery for children. Civil servants in entities established by the recently adopted child rights legislation, such as the National Agency for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, Child Rights Units and Child Protection Units, have all been exposed to various forms of training related to human rights, child wellbeing measurement and analysis, action planning, collaboration with civil society institutes (including Child Rights Observatories), professional networking, and communication with the media and public at large. Study visits were organized for key decision makers and experts to become familiarized with social care approaches and practices in Italy; contact between the regional TransMonEE team and the national Institute for Statistics was also facilitated (but was unfortunately interrupted due to some key staff rotation in INSTAT).

Government ownership of capacity development initiatives is also secured through formal accreditation of the content and methodologies used in UNICEF-supported trainings. Good examples are provided by the Health programme where newly introduced modules on nutrition and integrated management of child illnesses were accredited by the National Center for Continuous Health Education, with appropriate certification of trained professionals being in place.

It is expected that the new GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation (2012-2016) will bring a more systematic and coherent approach of UN agencies to capacity building activities, with joint Annual Work Plans for 2012 specifically highlighting areas where consolidation of UN resources and better targeting of beneficiary audiences is possible.

Communication For Development

Mostly met benchmarks

A few years back, the UNICEF Albania CO engaged the expertise of a communication expert who assisted in developing full tailor-made packages of Communication for Behavioral Impact (COMBI) initiatives for programmes in the area of environmental awareness, HIV/AIDS prevention, school violence reduction and juvenile justice standards promotion. COMBI initiatives have been encouraging changes in behaviors with objectives as simple as plastic garbage collection to as complex as social acceptance of juvenile offenders sentenced to community work instead of imprisonment (details on these initiatives were provided in the Annual Reports in previous years).

The largest COMBI initiative ongoing in 2011 has been addressing bullying and violence in schools. It aims to achieve a 50% reduction of violence by 2013, and another 30% by 2015. These results are expected to be achieved thanks to non-violent disciplining measures to be used by all 38,000 teachers in pre-primary, secondary and high schools across the country, as well as all caregivers in child care institutions (including the ones for disabled children). Self-management and violence control techniques will be presented to more than 600,000 schoolchildren; among the most active teachers and children, 12,000 anti-violence advocates

will be mobilized to promote New Way Discipline.

Another large component of communication for behavior change is included in the Joint UN Programme for Child Nutrition. Promoting new and better ways of infant and young child feeding at the community level through trainings, counseling and mass media campaigns will form the bulk of the JP activities in 2012. Special role in peer communication is given to women, including mothers-in-law, older family members and community leaders.

In general, UNICEF-supported C4D initiatives are well accepted and help to raise the profile of key issues in the society, as well as to positively reflect on the corporate image. At the same time, a few warning points can be highlighted from the lessons learned during their implementation:

- Most of C4D/COMBI undertakings are rather expensive; predictability of dedicated funding for more than one year in a row is a great challenge, especially for the UNICEF CO in Albania where, until 2012, the joint UN programme format was limiting the freedom of individual agencies for bilateral fundraising;
- Monitoring incremental shifts in target audience behavior is a separate professional task and should be prioritized and budgeted accordingly; normally, it would require a specialized institution to be contracted to "accompany" the COMBI (the same way consumer brands constantly measure the effectiveness of their advertising by regularly looking at the market penetration rates);
- Good networking and alliances with printed and electronic media can mobilize a lot of creative potential; this may also reduce costs, which could be a particular bonus in Albania where TV companies have not been offering their air time free of charge for socially important programs; it also adds to the spirit of a joint commitment that may help ensure that the subject remains on the public agenda after the withdrawal of UNICEF's support.

Service Delivery

Mostly met benchmarks

Programmatically, service delivery has not been central in the work supported by UNICEF Albania, although the financial weight of some activities directly linking beneficiary populations with services on the ground remained relatively substantial in 2011.

Gradual replacement of UNICEF's financial contribution by government resources is expected to take place for now in formally institutionalized Child Protection Units, where the task of social support, counseling and referral assistance to families and children in need becomes part of the municipal CPU staff's terms of reference in their capacity as civil servants. What remains part of UNICEF's concern and long-term commitment is the technical support to a comprehensive reform of the entire system of social care. Its aim is to infuse new content in the existing network of the State Social Services, based on the modern notion of social work understood as a face-to-face interaction with families and "case management" of problems whenever these occur. This would mean a radical upgrade of the SSS' current role, far beyond what they are doing today as local offices administering the distribution of cash assistance allowances to impoverished families.

As a general rule, the rationale for UNICEF's continued limited involvement in service provision would stem from the need to take particular care of the most vulnerable. In ECD, for example, family visits, medical checkups, parenting education sessions, and pre-school classes registration would primarily target families in constrained life circumstances (living in poverty, led by single mothers, belonging to minorities, etc.). Supporting legal assistance services for Roma families in birth registration procedures for their children is another example within the same programming logic. For the time being, these remaining commitments are operationalized mainly through partnerships with NGOs, but the progress in social care reform should bring longer-term solutions, either through the state-run or state-contracted services.

In other cases, such as with "ALO 116" Child Helpline, UNICEF has been trying to identify alternative funding channels for the service through private sector sponsorship. To this end, a special marketing campaign was designed in 2011 to mobilize funds for this 24/7 telephone line helping children in crisis situations. While funding is needed to cover the costs of the round-the-clock professional counseling

expertise, all phone calls to "ALO 116" are free of charge, as a contribution of Albania's telephone operators to the service.

Strategic Partnerships

Mostly met benchmarks

Fostering partnerships and leveraging common action is probably one of the most important strategies that UNICEF can apply in Albania, taking into account its own modest share of material programmatic investment. Even for the entire UN system, in comparison to the EU and key bilateral donors, the financial weight of its contribution to the country's transformation agenda does not exceed 3% (with about 47 million Euro put into the basket of "multilateral and bilateral grants" during the decade of 2000-2010, according to the [government report on external assistance issued in 2011](#)). Against this background, the more important function of UNICEF is as a broker and convener that inspires and maintains the attention of other big players to the equity agenda. As an example, pooling resources with the World Bank (that has been the main driver of the national education system repair), UNICEF managed to infuse its comprehensive ECD content into the pre-school preparatory year (recently added by the MoES to the nine-year obligatory schooling cycle) in an effort to encourage school administrations to actively search for vulnerable kids and ensure that they are registered first. As a reflection of Albania's middle-income country status and strong aspiration towards the EU membership, UNICEF's government partners usually play a leading role in the implementation of the programme of cooperation. Even when the technical capacity may not be sufficient for certain activities, the political will, leadership and commitment are usually quite strong. Collaboration with the Ministries of Public Health, Justice, Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs and Labor offer examples of genuine partnerships. (The one with the MoPH, for example, has been highly appraised in the recent evaluation of the Joint UN Project on Child Nutrition managed by UNICEF). Bilateral relations with line ministries are complemented by UNICEF's participation in various Sector Working Groups, functioning with more or less success as part of the donor coordination mechanism. In theory, they are natural instruments for networking and partnership building while in practice, their effectiveness varies considerably and depends on the leading agency commitment. Still, the WGs provide opportunities to meet with donors, key government officials and keep the networking alive, sometimes more on the margins of such meetings than during their formal parts. Whenever opportunities emerge, UNICEF is contributing its data and opinion to the analyses undertaken by other partners; as in previous years, inputs from UNICEF were directly included in the EC progress report on Albania which is important for unifying positions and messages conveyed by the EU and UN partners. Involvement with the private sector includes UNICEF's cooperation with the Vodafone Foundation (described in the "resource leveraging" section) and telephone companies providing free of charge traffic for the Child Helpline calls. The anti-violence programme in schools has recently attracted the attention of some large national companies, with more concrete opportunities for engagement to be identified in 2012.

Mobilizing Partners

While various public administration bodies would be UNICEF's naturally identified key counterparts, based on respective sectoral accountabilities, their actual program delivery capacity may not always be sufficient, thus calling for additional human and technical resources that can be found in the non-governmental sector. Albania has a growing number of civil society organizations, many of which are funded by foreign aid (although the presence of international NGOs is very small). Many organizations were originally involved in anti-trafficking work, as reflected in the name of the national NGO coalition "All Together Against Child Trafficking" (Se Bashku Kunder Trafikimit Te Femijeve - BKTF). Over time this aspect has given way to the provision of social services in support of other child protection issues. Albanian Children's Alliance is another network bringing together about 150 NGOs and civil society groups working for children. Good

cooperation also exists between the Child Rights Units operating in the Regional Councils and the parallel mechanism of Child Rights Observatories run by the civil society.

Still, there is room for improvement when it comes to coordination among NGOs in programming matters as well as in ensuring that relationships are focused on joint advocacy positioning. NGOs are often invited by the government for consultation on specific draft policies and several national ones are very outspoken, in particular around children's and women's rights. Most of these dialogues are very constructive, even though there have been instances of NGOs complaining that their proposals were not taken into account in the final policies or legislation. UNICEF has actively engaged the BKTF and Children's Alliance in the preparations for the CRC Committee hearings of the national periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocols in June 2012.

Direct collaboration with civil society exists in several municipalities where government encourages NGOs to pursue their work, including that of strengthening the capacity of civil servants. While the government recognizes the crucial role of NGOs in the provision of services, going forward, additional financing will be needed from the government to support these efforts.

A possibility of outsourcing some of the government services to NGOs, through competitive selection processes, is one of the aspects of the social care system reform suggested by UNICEF on a national scale in collaboration with MoLSAEO. UNICEF has also initiated discussions with the Tirana Municipality for the preparation of guidelines, including budget estimates, to formalize NGOs sub-contracting for social work. This would be a major shift in the organization of social care in Albania and will remain among UNICEF's priorities in the years to come.

Knowledge Management

Mostly met benchmarks

National capacity in Knowledge Management needs strengthening, especially when it comes to data dissemination, analysis and utilization for evidence-based planning. Research expertise tends to be concentrated in NGOs, academia and private companies, and much less in the public sector. International development assistance agencies produce myriads of documents researching each possible aspect of life in Albania, but a lot of this valuable and unique information does not reach the right audience and is instead archived long before its potential is fully exploited. The language barrier is clearly a significant factor impeding a larger internalization of available knowledge by both national and international stakeholders. Some examples of UNICEF's support extended to Albanian partners in this area in 2011 can be clustered as follows:

- **Knowledge generation:** contribution to the secondary analysis of DHS 2008-2009 data, food security survey in selected underserved areas, child poverty measurement and analysis of cash assistance impact on child wellbeing, analysis of child-oriented budgets at the central and local level, Roma household survey and mapping, Child Protection NGO services mapping, costing analysis of ECD and juvenile justice interventions;
- **Knowledge consolidation and management:** release of the first on-line version of the DevInfo database; development of a national on-line database of legal/normative documentation on child rights and child-related issues;
- **National capacity for all of the above:** MoLSAEO's statistical system and capacity assessment, support of the CRUs/CPUs/Child Rights Observatories for better data collection and management; the perennial challenge, however, is to connect the newly established knowledge generation channels to moments and places where the actual policy making is taking place – i.e. to bridge the supply and demand, not forgetting that the latter also needs to be cultivated;
- **Consolidation of UN approach to KM:** using the existing mechanisms of "Delivering as One" UN coordination (eleven UN Outcome Working Groups, RBM Advisory Committee, Joint UN Projects and the UNCT) to enhance knowledge sharing within the UN system and promote joint substantive analysis (through thematic consultations, brainstorming sessions, peer reviews, etc.) of issues addressed by the

new GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation.

To the extent possible, priority is given to easy-to-use web-based ways of packaging knowledge – in the form of Google Earth maps or databases that can be easily converted in publicly accessible tools. VISION-based applications for IR monitoring are also being actively explored as part of the CO's effort to enhance its internal KM system. The Annual Management Plan for 2012 will prioritize activities in this area.

Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Mostly met benchmarks

With the EU integration being in the public spotlight and the fact that Albania has already joined most of the international human rights frameworks (the country has signed but not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability), the human rights agenda has not been awarded due attention. In this context, the role of UNICEF is to call attention to the fact that as long as even the smallest islands of marginalization and exclusion remain, the human rights quest is not finished; moreover, constant independent monitoring of the duty-bearers' performance is an inalienable feature of a truly democratic society.

The appointment of the Ombudsman is one of the important developments in 2011. According to Albania's recent progress report released by the EC, the number of complaints to the Ombudsman's Office in 2010 amounted to 1651, which represented a fall of 54% since the previous year, with the largest single category of complaints relating to the judicial system. The UNICEF CO has already established contact with the newly appointed Ombudsman and confirmed its commitment to support the Child Rights section of the Ombudsman's Office (in the absence of a special Child Rights Ombudsman in Albania).

UNICEF has also been closely aligning its work with the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination. An awareness campaign in schools on the Law on Protection from Discrimination was supported and complaint mechanisms tested. More efforts are needed to strengthen the capacity of the Commissioner's Office while at the same time raising public awareness of the possibilities to appeal to the Commissioner as the number of cases brought before this institution remains low.

Support to the recently established child rights machinery was provided at the level of the National Agency for Children and its regional branches of Child Rights Units. Particular emphasis was placed on data collection and management so as to ensure effective planning and monitoring of duty-bearers' action for children. The parallel mechanism of Child Rights Observatories guarantees that public authorities are monitored by the civil society, while the mindset of the Albanians is gradually absorbing the culture of active citizenship.

The human rights approach has been weaved into virtually all programmatic interventions and has become a conceptual corner stone with regard to ECD (early development as the best social "equalizer" and economically smart investment), Roma minorities (household situation mapping, birth registration, special outreach and support measures), and youth in conflict with the law (education and development chances for all).

Various media and public fora have been actively used to promote the human rights "face" of the country's socio-economic transformation. Albania's International Human Rights Film Festival (where UNICEF is a co-chair) was one of the highlights of the year, with a poignant story on children affected by the tradition of blood feud violence presented as the title movie.

Gender

Partially met benchmarks

The UNICEF Albania CO programming with a gender lens is shaped by a number of national and UN frameworks. The synergy with other stakeholders and donors is secured through the Sector Working Group on Gender led by MoLSAEO. On a national scale, an extension of the National Strategy on Gender Equality, Reduction of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence until 2015 was approved in summer 2011. A comprehensive costing analysis was undertaken by MoLSAEO with the objective of streamlining donor contributions against the existing national Mid-Term Budget Framework for 2012-2014, and a decree on gender budgeting is currently being prepared. MoLSAEO is strengthening their contact with the Ministry of Finance and other line ministries to make sure that at least one gender-focused objective is included in the ministries' plan and is properly budgeted. As part of the national mechanism to track gender-sensitive investments, a "gender marker" is being introduced in the public finance system.

Still, these and other institutional developments have not yet translated into visible gains in terms of women's empowerment and the rebalancing of traditional gender roles. For example, in spite of the 30% minimal quotas introduced for women in local elections in May 2011, out of the 872 mayoral candidates, only 14 (or 2%) were female. Ultimately, only five women were elected as mayors, with two as heads of communes. Although the gender parity principle in access to education is generally ensured throughout all schooling cycles, women continue to be the main workforce in agriculture. They are also likely to be disproportionately represented in the informal sector (partially explaining the gender gap in the official economic participation rates reaching 70% for men and being only 50% for women).

Domestic violence remains widespread and the protection of women against all forms of violence needs to be considerably strengthened. Elements of the future National Referral Mechanism for victims of domestic violence were established in 17 municipalities, and the first shelter was open in Tirana, with substantial support from the UN. UNICEF's particular contribution to gender-based violence prevention is channeled through its school-based COMBI programme engaging boys and girls, students and teachers, children and parents in the dialogue on various forms of violence and cultural roots that regrettably make such behaviors socially acceptable. The UNICEF-supported Youth Parliaments network in all 12 regions has also been used to generate youth reflection and debate on violence and ways to combat this phenomenon. As a follow up on the gender self-assessment and gender audit in 2009-2010, the Office introduced a "gender marker" in the formal review of its draft project cooperation agreements. The CO Gender Focal Point regularly advises programme colleagues on ways to make their respective activities more gender-focused, emphasizing statistical disaggregation and qualitative analysis requirements. In the new GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation, five Outputs are identified as having distinct gender content; UNICEF will be using its participation in the Output Working Groups to stimulate joint analysis to better understand the drivers and possible hidden aspects of gender inequality in modern Albania.

Environmental Sustainability

Mostly met benchmarks

For a country programme with relatively little field presence, no infrastructural projects and low emergency risks, the involvement of UNICEF Albania with environmental issues may not be that direct. Still, it proves to be important if/when environmental conditions are factored in the multi-dimensional analysis of deprivations that Albanians face. The [Multidimensional Poverty Index constructed for Albania in 2011](#) (based on the DHS 2009 data) can be used to illustrate the link between the quality of the environment and the quality (and possible deprivations) of household living conditions when it comes to the family's basic needs in terms of safe drinking water, proper sanitation, reliable electricity supply, and fuel for cooking purposes or heating.

The same parameters of WASH, electricity and heating could be used to analyze the situation in public institutions catering to children, such as schools. According to a recent [EU-supported School Inventory and Conditions Survey](#), only half of the 4,817 schools in the country enjoy water supply at all times or at least during 75% of school days. The availability of functioning toilets in urban schools meets about 60% of the

needs (per standard headcount ratio) for boys and only 40% for girls. In rural areas, the corresponding figures drop to as low as 25% and 17%, respectively. Even though Albania has almost universal electric network coverage, 36% of rural schools do not have artificial light in the classrooms. For heating purposes, about 80% of rural schools and 40% of urban schools rely on wood, with each classroom being heated separately.

Although UNICEF is not likely to become an important investor in hardware projects addressing the above needs, sitting at the table when policy choices are being discussed by the government with other big international or bilateral donors is important, and efforts will be made in this direction using, to the extent possible, UNICEF's participation in the UN Working Group for environmental outcomes established as part of the new Programme of Cooperation.

UNICEF's own activity in this area in 2011 was limited to the CLEEN (Child-Led Environmental Education) project. Introduction of environmental education modules in grades 1-5 and complementing textbook-based knowledge with a lot of outdoor activities enriched the classroom experience of young children and even reflected in better grades in subjects other than science (such as math and reading), as confirmed by the project evaluation. Collection and recycling of plastic garbage was part of the project and was greatly appreciated by children and school personnel. Within the limits of its present scope and available budget, the project has now entered its final phase. Continuation and expansion to more schools will be dependent on availability of funding from interested donors since the cost of the project is above the affordability ceiling of the education authorities.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

No particularly remarkable examples can be identified in 2011 to be described in the present report.

Country Programme Component: Social advocacy, planning and information

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Harmonization of child rights policies to lay the ground for development of a children's code.	3	FA5OT8
Participation of civil society, communities and families in selected disadvantaged areas in improving the availability and quality of services.	3	FA5OT9
Prioritization of issues of disadvantaged children in national social and economic plans supported by adequate budgetary allocation.	3	FA5OT3, FA5OT6, FA5OT7
Regular production of information and knowledge on children and young people for effective monitoring at all levels.	3	FA5OT1, FA5OT2, FA5OT5

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OR-R	400000.00	944943.00	522098.00	55.25
RR	200000.00	203150.00	203100.00	99.98
Total	\$600,000.00	\$1,148,093.00	\$725,198.00	

Results Achieved

In June 2011, the Law 10 347 "On the Protection of the Rights of the Child" entered into force as a document of fundamental importance for the establishment of a comprehensive nation-wide mechanism for child rights monitoring and promotion. The Law institutionalizes the accountability of the government for the enforcement of child rights in Albania. To this end, the National Council and National Agency for the Protection of the Rights of the Child are established, the Agency being the central element of the entire system intended to coordinate national action for children, with the Chairman appointed by the Prime Minister, based on the proposal from the coordinating Ministry (i.e. the MoLSAEO).

Further down the hierarchy, Child Rights Units (CRUs) are introduced as an integral mandatory part of all the Regional Councils that embody government authority at the local level. With UNICEF's support to the national child rights machinery in the past few years, CRUs have already been established in 11 out of 12 regions. By the end of 2012, all regional action plans will be developed, in line with the new National Plan of Action for Children (currently being drafted for 2012-2017), offering a "united for children" platform for government and civil society actors.

At the lowest administrative level of municipalities (in cities/towns) and communes (in villages), the Child Protection Units (CPUs) come into the picture as front liners in reaching out to families and children, identifying their needs and concerns, interacting with local service providers and facilitating referral connections. Although the network of CPUs is just emerging (operating in less than 10% of territorial units), it covers the largest municipalities and communes.

In 2011, UNICEF completed an analysis of the national cash transfer system ("ndihma ekonomike" – NE). The study found that NE needs to be modified in order to become a more effective tool for alleviating child poverty and deprivation. Making social assistance work better for children is possible if the existing cash disbursement scheme is complemented by a system of comprehensive social care services and non-cash entitlements that would directly target and benefit children.

In 2011, UNICEF continued to work closely with the media in bringing to light the situation of the most vulnerable children and women. Ten articles were published by well-known journalists on socio-economic

exclusion in remote villages, challenges of education for Roma children, discrimination of women, etc. UNICEF's support continued to be offered to the International Human Rights Film Festival in Albania that helps channel the often unheard voices of the marginalized and foster the "children come first" mindset in the society, with strong media coverage mobilized this year. "Young voices against discrimination" was the theme of one-minute video features produced in collaboration with the Marubi Film School to be used in different fora to stimulate public debate about accepting and embracing social and cultural diversity. Within the same spirit, the Roma TV program started broadcasting in the Romani language. Reaching more than 8,000 viewers, it connects Roma communities to issues affecting their lives, helps in overcoming stereotypes and improving social perceptions of the Roma minority.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

The ultimate effectiveness of the child rights machinery in Albania is dependent on the ability of local government units to perform their planning, service delivery, coordination and monitoring functions or – in other words - to comply with the standards of good governance. Given limited progress of both decentralization and civil service reforms, this remains a challenge. A new Law on Organization and Functioning of the State Public Administration has been drafted in 2011, now pending its adoption by the Parliament with a necessary 3/5 majority vote. The civil service is faced with a number of challenges, including weakness of technical expertise and management skills, high staff rotation and insufficient resource base.

In relation to the latter, in 2011, UNICEF published its first analysis of budgetary trends at central and local levels, making an attempt to specify the share allocated for children. The overall growth of public expenditure in 2006-2009 was accompanied by a decline rather than an increase in "child-focused" expenditure. Although the fiscal autonomy of municipal and communal government entities has been among the objectives of decentralization reforms for almost a decade by now, their financial resource base and appropriate fiscal management competencies need to be improved to secure better infrastructure, services and care for all citizens in their constituencies, including children.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

UNICEF's partnering with civil society is of key importance for securing public oversight of the government's duty to ensure that children's rights are systematically observed and protected. To this end, Child Rights Observatories (CROs) have been institutionalized and are now active in all 12 regions of the country. One of the CROs' cornerstone functions is data collection and consolidation at the sub-national level to fill gaps in centrally collected statistics and provide critical insight into the situation of the most disadvantaged and invisible populations. This way, the regularity and quality of independent reporting on the situation of children is expected to increase substantially. The first consolidated CRO report was produced in 2011 using a set of child wellbeing indicators customized for Albania's context from the generic DevInfo indicator menu. For each of the nine regions covered in this year's publication, unique information gathered from local administrative records of education, health and social protection authorities highlights areas where meeting the basic needs of children is at risk, thus providing an important body of evidence for further measures to address existing policy gaps.

Children from vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds were also at the centre of UNICEF's partnership with the National Olympic Committee and its "Sports for Development" initiative. More than 2,500 children were brought together in various tournaments and events that allowed the participants to experience the value of playing as a team, form new friendships, and strengthen self-respect and confidence in others.

On the level of inter-agency collaboration, the "Delivering as One" format of the UN programme in Albania implied UNICEF's participation in various DaO working groups that coordinated UN agencies' contributions to the outcomes of public governance, basic services, local development and civil participation. The UN Coherence Fund allocation to the Social Policy, Information and Advocacy Programme Component in 2011 amounted to USD 390,000 (out of UNICEF expenditure of USD 2.8 million made available through this joint UN funding facility).

Humanitarian Situations

N/A

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

Study: Reform of social assistance. From survival to investment into poverty reduction. The national household survey helps to obtain knowledge on social dimensions of poverty and its particular impact on children, assess the incidence of extreme poverty among beneficiaries of the cash assistance, analyze the impact of current social assistance payments, including their use by families and their ultimate value for children. The study estimates minimum social assistance amounts needed for families to allow children to be healthy and fully benefit from educational and developmental opportunities. It also recommends complementing cash benefits with material benefits for children from families who are poor, or privileges for the under-privileged.

Study: Measurement and analysis of child poverty in Albania. The datasets compile relevant information from MICS, DHS and LSMS surveys to draw a more comprehensive and accurate picture of the situation of children in Albania with regards to poverty and exclusion. This is particularly important for the next version of the National Strategy for Development and Integration, as well as to shape the priorities of the government and international organizations, including UNICEF. The data is disaggregated by gender, age and region.

Study: Children's rights in Albania. Report of the Child Rights Observatory. A first joint report of the eight regional Child Rights Observatories provides a snapshot of the situation of children in each of their respective regions according to a standard template for easy comparison. Often, data is further disaggregated to district or commune level, presented in a visually attractive way, and can be used for local/regional planning. The report presents the vision of children's rights in Albania through the lens of civil society.

Evaluation: Evaluation of the functioning of the Child Rights Units and Child Rights Observatories in Albania.

The evaluation analyzes various aspects of CRUs' and CROs' work. It serves to prepare a policy note for UNICEF and other key partners summarizing issues and challenges faced by the recently established child rights monitoring system. This will be used to formulate a medium and long term strategy for the improvement of regional mechanisms that deal with the protection of the rights of the child.

Assessment: MoLSAEO's statistical capacity review. A comprehensive review of statistical needs and data collection capacity in MoLSAEO combined with a list of priorities and recommendations, including necessary tools, instruments and IT platforms at the central and the local level, are compiled as a result of the above mentioned assessment. A capacity gap analysis of the legal framework, institutional arrangements, individual skills and processes was undertaken and a list of capacity development needs was elaborated.

Study: Youth and the Media. The purpose of the research started by the Albanian Media Institute in 2011 is to collect children's opinions on media coverage of issues pertinent to their lives, interests and needs, and make policy recommendations in this regard. It aims to support regulations related to public service announcements and their content and observance of established norms by the broadcasters.

Future Work Plan

UNICEF Albania work plans for 2012 are prepared as part of the GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation (2012-2016) within a format similar to that piloted during the "Delivering as One" in the previous programme cycle. Eleven Outcome Results correspond to jointly identified broad priorities, such as better governance, rule of law, transparency and democratic institutions, equity-oriented health, education and employment policies, strengthened social protection, gender equity, environmental sustainability, and regional development. Being the second largest UN agency in the country after UNDP, UNICEF has been playing an important role in setting the agenda for UN-supported work and advocating for programming approaches that highlight the human rights dimension, call for inclusive social policies and bring attention to the most marginalized – i.e. reminding about crucial "human face" aspects of development that sometimes disappear in the shadow of

multiple national strategies dealing with the political and economic infrastructure required by the EU accession conditions.

Converting UN programme outcomes into more specific UNICEF-supported results, the following priorities come to light:

- **Knowledge generation on child issues**

Key policy research and monitoring institutions – such as the State Agency for Child Rights, Child Rights Observatories, INSTAT, line ministries, national think tanks – will be assisted in effectively managing data related to children and periodically reporting on the situation of marginalized children, implementation of child-related legislation and international conventions;

- **Social protection system reform**

Specific activities will be developed in support of the national social protection system reform (beyond its current scope of cash assistance distribution) to effectively address the needs of the most vulnerable families and children. As a pre-requisite, UNICEF will continue promoting a shared understanding of the needs and possible strategies among national, UN and other international stakeholders (including through the donor coordination Sector Working Groups on Social Protection and Inclusion, and Social Insurance); national Social Inclusion Strategy will be assessed to better outline the potential of such a broad framework to mobilize and monitor policy efforts that would cut across the sectors;

- **Civil society oversight for better governance**

Specific activities will be developed to strengthen the capacity of oversight bodies related to children (including the Parliament, Ombudsman Office, civil society organizations and media) to increasingly demand accountability from those with public authority to act for and protect children;

- **Inclusive local policies**

Advocacy will continue for national policies on regional and local development to explicitly address the needs of children and youth and prioritize the marginalized and excluded; costing component of UNICEF-supported pilots in health, education, protection, and youth employment will be analyzed (with a view of standardization) to help produce “packaged” models tailored for urban/rural contexts and ready for national scaling up;

- **Human rights and gender equality in the focus of media attention**

Media products will support the analysis of child rights, equity and gender equality issues; Albania’s Human Rights Film Festival will offer a podium for UNICEF’s advocacy on the equity agenda; the voices of children, young people, and ethnic minorities will be channeled through various media channels.

Country Programme Component: Children’s health and development

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
A 20% reduction in micronutrient deficiencies of vitamin A and iron; achievement of universal salt iodization; and reduction in stunting among young children by 20%		2 FA1OT1, FA1OT2, FA1OT3, FA1OT6, FA1OT7, FA1OT8, FA1OT11
Gender parity attained in education, especially for disadvantaged groups and Roma		2 FA2OT3, FA2OT5, FA2OT7
In selected areas, 70% of marginalized children use quality ECD services and complete primary education with appropriate levels of learning		3 FA2OT1, FA2OT2

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OR-R	3300000.00	3843272.87	2599369.98	67.63
RR	200000.00	194000.00	193711.29	99.85
Total	\$3,500,000.00	\$4,037,272.87	\$2,793,081.27	

Results Achieved

In **Health**, the Joint UN Child Nutrition Programme managed by UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO and FAO, introduced new training modules on nutrition for primary health care providers (through accreditation by the National Center for Continuous Health Education) and trained the first group of 200 professionals from the predominantly rural Kukes and Shkoder regions, as well as from two suburban areas of Tirana. National flour fortification plans have been boosted by the high level advocacy mission of the global Flour Fortification Initiative in late 2011. The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative training programme expanded in Durres, Korca, Kukes, Gjirokaster, Saranda and Fier. Based on a newly accredited IMCI programme for MCH staff, 40 doctors and nurses in Korca district were trained. Recommendations of the South East Europe regional conference on vaccination in vulnerable populations translated into targeted interventions in Durres, Tirana, Fier and Elbasan to ensure that Roma children are reached with a basic package of immunization and other child health services.

In **Early Childhood Development (ECD)**, UNICEF supported the government in the enforcement of modernized procedures for birth registration (including assisting Roma families with necessary paperwork and in courts), introduction of comprehensive ECD training modules for professional caregivers, development of spatial/physical planning standards for nurseries (crèches) and production of a detailed costing analysis of services offered by crèches (including possible ways to optimize the existing system of day-care subsidies to better focus on the families most in need). UNICEF's support to 400 pre-primary classes, which correspond to about one quarter of all basic education schools, contributed to the increase in pre-school enrolment in the age group of five to six from 50% to 70%. Better parenting trainings and medical check-ups complemented this intervention in 44 locations in poor rural areas in the North and in six Roma communities. The "Albania Reads" children's libraries project exposed pre-school teachers to modern ECD approaches – a pragmatic alternative to address the gaps in the in-service teacher training system.

In **Basic Education**, UNICEF supported Regional Education Directorates in seven regions out of 12, equipping staff with data collection, analysis, action planning, quality monitoring, networking and other skills necessary to effectively perform their new roles defined by the ongoing decentralization reform. Better data collection (including through enhanced EMIS in Korça and Kukes regions, with some additional indicators to capture socio-economic marginalization) enabled school administrations to identify previously unknown cases of out-of-school children. UNICEF's child-friendly school norms and the MoES' "zero drop-out" policy provided the base for new guidance materials on school management. Subject-specific guides for engaging children with learning difficulties in the classroom work helped raise their average performance results by one-two grades in project schools. A national summer school programme for more than 4,000 children from vulnerable backgrounds (including Roma) brought many of them back to school in September. Education authorities and practitioners have been exposed to the benefits (and challenges) of open democratic interaction with their own students (members of Student Governments), parents (through Parent Boards) and local community activists mobilized around school issues.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

In Basic Education, the logic of UNICEF-supported interventions is guided by the National Education Strategy (NES) 2004-2015 linking the reform of the sector with improved governance in the MoES and its regional branches, greater school autonomy and independence, and establishment of accountability tracking

mechanisms that would involve parents and communities. Decentralization shifts initiated in mid-2000s transferred many operational tasks to Regional Education Directorates (REDs), municipal/communal authorities and school administrations, but failed to provide adequate support for managerial and technical capacity re-distribution – the gap that UNICEF aimed to highlight and at least partially fill through its direct cooperation with REDs. In seven regions out of 12 (Gjirokastra, Korça, Kukesi, Durres, Berat, Fier and Tirana), interventions targeting various factors (not necessarily related to school environment) that may contribute to increased drop-out have been developed. The challenge of decentralization emphasized the role of UNICEF in encouraging collaboration between various stakeholders at the local level. This newly emerging experience is being conveyed back to the MoES, Institute of Education Development, and Teaching Institute for appropriate reflection in policy documents (such as the new Law on Pre-University Education) and teacher training curriculum.

Decentralization trends have also impacted the delivery of ECD services. According to the existing division of accountabilities, nurseries fall under the jurisdiction of local authorities, many kindergartens are private and pre-primary classes operate under the MoES. However, even in the latter case, the pre-school education does not appear as a separate line in the MoES' budget and, consequently, in many of its operational plans. UNICEF is committed to exploring possibilities for optimizing the budgetary classification in this regard together with the MoES and the Ministry of Finance. In the meantime, UNICEF welcomed the establishment of the National Inspectorate for Pre-university Education (active since 2011) and supported the development of a pre-school evaluation framework to be used as a quality assurance tool when it comes to early inclusion of children in the education system.

Similarly, the newly established Inspectorate will be one of the main actors to ensure the application of child-friendliness, inclusiveness and equity norms in all schools across the country, based on UNICEF-supported assessment tools. Evidence collected by the Inspectorate will be important for activating a high-level discussion of decentralization effects in education (including its fiscal aspects) and the extent to which local government units are actually ready to confront huge challenges of depopulated rural periphery, overcrowded urban suburbs, migrating population, dilapidated school infrastructure, absent local transportation, and other factors that affect access to education, as well as its quality, including for the most marginalized.

On the programme management side, it is worth noting that the Other Resources implementation rate was impacted by the following factors: a. arrival of Global Thematic funds that were not planned for utilization in 2011, but could not be re-phased into VISION during the year; and b. late release of the UN Coherence Fund allocations to UNICEF programmes (in June 2011).

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

In Health, effective synergy between health, agriculture, food safety and consumer protection sectors is demonstrated by the Joint UN Programme on Child Nutrition. Its recent mid-term evaluation by the MDG-F Secretariat commended the degree of national ownership and the MoPH's commitment, as well as the quality of programme management by UNICEF. Another example of complex inter-sectoral interaction comes from the flour fortification portfolio. Following the milling industry assessment in 2010, a technical working group was established under the MoPH to advise on the mix of vitamins and micronutrients to be used in fortification. A joint high-level advocacy mission of the Flour Fortification Initiative (FFI) and UNICEF RO visited Albania in October 2011. Discussions held with key stakeholders from health, agriculture, finance ministries, as well as milling industry, media, consumer associations and parliamentarians contributed to establishing a national alliance for flour fortification and boosted action planning in this area.

Valuable examples of alliance building could also be found at the local level. In Durres, the BFHI has spread beyond maternity wards into the communities that volunteered to establish mother support groups to advocate for best practices in infant and young child feeding. In Korça, five Community Health Boards were established to provide direct feedback to health care practitioners, while also encouraging families to apply most effective techniques of Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses.

In ECD, UNICEF's partnership with three ministries was instrumental in removing administrative barriers to further decrease the numbers of children without proper birth registration, including in Roma families. The MoFA agreed to instruct consular offices in Greece and Italy to help with the retrieval of maternity certificates; the Ministry of Health agreed to adjust the maternity registration forms in Albania to reduce the possibility of error, and the Ministry of Interior has been asked to introduce a simplified procedure for

recording the birth of an abandoned child.

This work was closely aligned with the Joint UN Programme on Roma which is guided by the National Action Plan for Roma population (2010-2015) and its Technical Secretariat that provides a coordination platform for representatives of health, education, social protection authorities, internal affairs and local administrations, CSOs and donor agencies. Birth registration, ECD and pre-school support to Roma were among the JP priorities, with special interventions, such as home visits by child care/family assistance services, targeting Roma families.

Collaboration with the World Bank allowed expanding pre-primary classes. The WB's financing totaling USD 1.2 million for 400 schools was a critical financial contribution to government, while UNICEF ensured the quality aspects of in-service training for teachers. Another example is the development of a pre-school (age 3-4) curriculum (the only still missing element in the pre-school programme) where UNICEF is partnering with Save the Children.

Overall, the Children's Health and Development Programme Component was the main element of the UN contribution to basic services, with USD 950,000 of its annual budget coming from the Coherence Fund.

Humanitarian Situations

N/A

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

Of particular value for national policy planning is the *secondary analysis of Albania's Demographic and Health Survey 2008-2009 data* to which UNICEF made significant contributions. The analysis covers the topics of maternal health, child nutrition, young people's lifestyle, family planning, fertility and emigration. From the equity perspective, the importance of data disaggregation by income groups, geographic location, age and sex provided in this publication must be emphasized. It clearly probes for further analysis of less obvious "zones" where marginalization and inequity may be concentrated, such as the suburban periphery where migration-fed demographic pressure is too high to be matched by even a minimal standard of basic services.

In addition to DHS data, programme planning in 2011 extensively relied on the findings of a *baseline nutrition and food security survey in targeted rural (Kukes and Shkodra) and sub-urban (Tirana) areas*. The survey provides first-hand data on how food budgets are managed in resource-poor households, what are the factors that may inhibit food insecurity, the dynamic of food shortages, women's dietary diversity and their changing roles in household food management within a society with such high rates of urbanization. Child nutrition and health outcomes were highlighted in the analysis of the *national cash transfer system of "ndihma ekonomike"*. Detailed screening of 3,750 households allowed quantifying the impact of monetary poverty on child health, nutrition, education and development, by income quintile groups. According to the study, only marginal gains could be associated with the cash transfers in their current form. More effective solutions that specifically target children in poor families and involve services from sectors other than just social protection are urgently needed.

Considerations of equity, quality, continuity and integration of care guided the design of the *baseline assessment of Mother and Child Health (MCH) consulting services*. A detailed action plan informed by the study is awaiting its endorsement by the MoPH. Reorganization and redefinition of roles in MCH services is expected to yield gains in quality and coverage, as well as to embrace broader aspects of child development and protection. Similarly, access to services for the most vulnerable children was at the centre of a *costing analysis of the new "crèches" standards*.

Also in 2011, and for the first time in Albania, UNICEF conducted a *nation-wide mapping of Roma settlements*, with 3,114 households surveyed about income, employment, civil registration status and access to social services (health, education and cash assistance). The survey indicates the total number of Roma in Albania being around 15,000 people (including 5,000 children). Using the GIS technology, precise location of each of the 108 settlements is plotted in Google Earth software, with a detailed information fiche attached to each location and easy to retrieve while navigating the map. The survey results packaged as a user-friendly IT-based product are expected to provide a solid baseline for establishing accountability of local policy makers and service providers, helping to translate national policy into practice.

Future Work Plan

In **Health**, a large-scale behavior change communication campaign for better nutrition practices is being designed. It will prepare the ground for the entire complex of nutrition interventions to be launched in 2012 at the community level. The nutrition and food security surveillance system is expected to strengthen evidence-based analysis and decision-making. Based on the plan of action for improved MCH preventive services developed in 2011, capacities of health providers will be built on public health approaches to maternal, newborn and child health. Further analysis will be conducted of the health insurance system, barriers to coverage and correlation with MCH service utilization. Costing analysis of child health services (as part of the basic benefit package) will be conducted. A legislative framework for flour fortification will be supported.

In **ECD**, advocacy will continue in support of UNICEF's position that investment in early years is not only the most effective human development "equalizer," but also a policy of high efficiency in terms of tomorrow's gains for today's inputs. Prioritization of ECD service coverage of the most vulnerable (poorest families, women-lead households, and ethnic minorities) will be strengthened to make sure that appropriate ECD support is available and free for these categories.

Alliance building will continue for the *crèches* model (*age group 0-3*) to be adopted on a larger scale, better defining appropriate accountabilities and resource base of local authorities, including the financing component. Mothers and children with vulnerable backgrounds will be the priority beneficiary group for parenting education programs and regular patronage by nurses through home visits. Remaining pre-school curriculum segments (*age group 3-4*) will be finalized and support to preparatory classes (*age group 5-6*) will continue (in collaboration with the World Bank), parallel to the national school preparedness standards revision. About 100 of unregistered Roma children (i.e. about one third of the remaining caseload) will receive necessary administrative and legal support. Data files of the Roma mapping will be handed over to the government and consolidation of this information with a UNDP-supported computerized data management system in MoLSAEO (expected to contain comprehensive household vulnerability profiles along more than 100 socio-economic indicators) will be encouraged.

In **Basic Education**, the new common programme of cooperation between the Government of Albania and the UN for 2012-2016 prioritizes education as one of its eleven outcome results, thus opening a window of opportunity for closer inter-agency coordination. Stronger alignment of UN-supported work with key international assistance actors (such as the World Bank, European Investment Bank and Council of Europe Development Bank, all contributing to a sector-wide Education Excellence and Equity Project) will be actively sought. Findings of a recent comprehensive School Inventory and Conditions Survey supported by the EU to screen all 4,817 educational institutions in the country (kindergartens, basic education schools for grades 1-9, and high schools) in terms of their demographics, location, physical infrastructure, student/teacher ratio, road accessibility, etc. (in total 410 indicators) will be used, in support to the MoES' "zero drop out" policy.

Country Programme Component: Child, youth and family protection

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
At least 80% of young people having access to information and services, especially on HIV/AIDS; a 50-percent increase in young people using "youth-friendly" services including voluntary confidential counseling and testing.		2 FA3OT6, FA3OT8
Decrease in the number of juveniles in conflict with the law, and an increase in the number of juveniles sanctioned without being deprived of their liberty.		3 FA4OT2
Increase in the number of at-risk children benefiting from an effective child protection system.		3 FA4OT1, FA4OT5, FA4OT9

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OR-R	1500000.00	2736209.71	2170566.91	79.33
RR	200000.00	205000.00	204577.15	99.79
Total	\$1,700,000.00	\$2,941,209.71	\$2,375,144.06	

Results Achieved

Developing a roadmap for a comprehensive reform of the State Social Services in Albania remained the backbone of the **Child Protection** programme in 2011. The ambition is to convert the existing structures (currently tasked primarily with the distribution of a means-tested income support allowance – *Ndihma Ekonomike*) into a case management/referral system effectively reaching out to families and children. International expertise is mobilized to support MoLSAEO in preparing an outline of suggested legislative and institutional changes, new methodologies, staff training and re-profiling needs, and inter-sectoral collaboration mechanisms. First contacts with the Ministry of Finance took place to discuss financial implications of the proposed upgrades in the social service format. Other results included: strengthening of Child Protection Units now operational in 28 municipalities, with many CPUs financed by local governments; increased utilization of the national Child Helpline; start of an anti-violence campaign in all schools of Albania; placement of the first 80 children (out of 600 in residential care) into foster families, based on approved national foster care standards; daily assistance to more than 230 Roma and Egyptian families offered by the multi-purpose child protection centre opened by the Municipality of Tirana in 2011. In **Juvenile Justice** (JJ) the application of alternatives to detention (community services and/or probation orders) in seven districts reached approximately 240 cases (or about one quarter of the total number of juvenile offence cases). Victim/offender mediation in contacts with the police, probation services and in penitentiary were provided in 280 cases in six districts. Free legal assistance for juveniles in pre-trial detention was offered in approx. 120 cases in five districts. Social rehabilitation programme in Kavaja Reintegration Institute and aftercare programme "The sky is for all" benefitted 130 youth. Among other important achievements is the formulation of a draft Justice for Children Strategy, with technical support and expertise provided by UNICEF, in close consultation with key stakeholders through the International Consortium/JJ Sub-committee. The Strategy has been enriched with the findings of a UNICEF-commissioned assessment of security measures, investigation and judiciary process deadlines applied to juveniles in Albania *de jure* and *de facto*. A special costing tool tailored specifically for JJ measures will help in action planning from the fiscal perspective. The adoption of the Strategy and accompanying Action Plan is expected in early 2012. This is taking place parallel to Albania's Code of Penal Procedures being revised in terms of its responsiveness to JJ issues.

In **HIV/AIDS prevention**, advocacy by the National AIDS Programme (NAP) and UNICEF urged the government to give priority attention to at risk adolescents in the forthcoming National HIV/AIDS Strategy (awaiting endorsement by the MoPH). Collaboration with NAP resulted in a gender sensitive National Action Plan for Most at Risk Adolescents (2011-2015). To mobilize increased awareness, a COMBI campaign is being developed as part of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. In close collaboration with the MoES, the campaign will be piloted among students of the eighth and ninth grades to convey elements of sexual education to adolescents.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

Given the cross-cutting nature of protection work, inter-sectoral coordination proves to be a critical factor of success. For example, one of the most difficult aspects of the social service reform proved to be the need for "socially-oriented" professions – of teachers, doctors, social workers - to "open up" towards each other, making a step beyond their sectoral functionalities and re-focus the attention on where problems occur, i.e.

directly on the family or individual(s) concerned. However, building appreciation for “case management” and “case referral” approaches proved to be challenging in Albania where the tradition of respective sectors tends to be vertically organized. Nonetheless, there is growing understanding of the importance of working together.

It has therefore become clear that the current under-utilization of the HIV Voluntary Testing and Counseling (VCT) centers can only be overcome if these medical facilities interact with local education and social protection networks, NGOs, media, youth organizations, and other local actors to effectively reach out to the most at risk groups. It is worth highlighting that the government-run VCT centers, as well as the Primary Health Centers, are ready to use the innovative experience originating from NGOs. Various techniques of harm reduction or minimization of the drug use initiation risk (such as piloted by the “Break the Cycle” project supported by UNICEF) attract professional interest of health care practitioners. The experience of the “Break the Cycle” will feed, among other elements, into the first national Strategy for Drug Prevention and Control for 2012-2016 that UNICEF is currently helping the government to develop.

Closer interaction between the sectors for better protection of juvenile offenders’ interests was also emphasized in the recommendations of a prominent human rights advocate and former Minister of Justice in France Mr. Robert Badinter during his visit to Albania. To prevent repeated offences, he called the education system and social services to work hand-in-hand and assist children and young people in the family environment, at home and in their community. All children in detention, pre-trial detention or those sentenced must be supported by social work and educative measures. It must be ensured that these children are provided with compulsory education. At the same time, the conditions in pre-detention call for more use of alternatives and probation. For the children that are under the age of criminal prosecution, the system does not yet provide responses. Proper follow-up and educative measures must be considered for children below the age of 14 who are in conflict with the law. Appropriate laws, by-laws and services must be put into place. Overall, this high-profile visit was a great support to UNICEF’s advocacy for key measures needed to bring the country’s practices in line with UN norms and standards for juvenile offenders’ treatment.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

In **Child Protection**, efforts are being exerted to ensure the World Bank’s and EU interlocutors’ buy-in regarding the social service reform subject. Alliance with the Swiss and Austrian Development Cooperation offices is believed to make the dialogue with the “big players” more successful. Opportunities for private sector engagement in child protection issues were not missed either. One example is the national child helpline “ALO 116” supported by all phone companies in Albania through free of charge calls (the line is handling about 330 calls per day from children in need of counseling, referral or emergency assistance). In 2011, a fundraising strategy was prepared to seek private funding sponsorship for the entire helpline cost package, as exemplified by the best practices globally. Similarly, private sector donors have expressed interest in being part of the nation-wide COMBI initiative to reduce violence at schools, kindergartens and child care institutions (planning to engage 40,000 teachers and 500,000 children in promoting non-violent communication and disciplining to reduce levels of reported violence by 80% by end of 2013).

In **Juvenile Justice**, the role of the coalition of partners – members of the Juvenile Justice section (chaired by UNICEF) of the International Consortium for Justice Reform - has been pivotal in fostering and maintaining an adequate level of the state’s commitment to changes currently taking place in the legislation and law enforcement practices. More than 50 national and international organizations that participate in the work of the Consortium’s Juvenile Justice Section have been very active in commenting on newly developed legislative acts and monitoring the implementation of the existing ones, thus contributing to the gradual internalization of the human rights culture in the country.

In **HIV/AIDS prevention**, an example of bridging health and social protection sectors and institutional structures at the local level is provided by UNICEF’s cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana where social workers have been empowered to support families of adolescents and young people at risk of HIV infection. The Municipality’s social service departments will also act as a referral gate to expand social support for MARA. This pioneer work will help the National AIDS Programme to be better coordinated with respective activities of other sectors, such as the State Social Services, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior.

In **Life skills and Livelihood**, UNICEF supported, as part of the Joint UN Programme on Youth Employment

and Migration (YEM), the establishment of three additional Youth Employment Service centers in the government-run employment service offices in Elbasan, Fier and Durres, in addition to those established previously in Kukës and Shkodra.

The Child, Youth and Family Protection Programme Component was part of the UN-supported work in basic services and governance, with up to USD 1.5 million in its annual budget coming from the UN Coherence Fund (that is about one half of the total Coherence Fund's portion allocated to UNICEF in 2011 and more than 60% of expenditure under this Programme Component).

Humanitarian Situations

N/A

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

As a contribution to the knowledge base to accelerate the social service reform, a comprehensive *mapping of social services in Albania* was started in 2011 at the request of MoLSAEO. The mapping will provide information on the types of services, their beneficiary groups, profile of service providers, referral networks, criteria for obtaining the service, etc. A digitalized map accessible through Google Earth will also be produced in a format that allows the data files to be accessible and regularly updated on-line. Together with the Roma mapping tool (described as part of the previous Programme Component), this instrument should help the government strengthen its evidence-based programming for the most marginalized populations.

In the Juvenile Justice programme, an *assessment of security measures, investigation and judiciary process deadlines applied to juveniles in Albania* provided a very thorough and comprehensive description of existing law enforcement practices. The document also serves as a very strong advocacy instrument for further policy improvements in areas such as pre-trial investigations and court procedures.

In addressing the threat of HIV/AIDS, data collection and analysis continued to be one of the priorities. UNICEF supported an *analysis of the stigma and discrimination that families of children living with HIV face* and how it affects their access to services. The findings of the study were used to generate discussions and action planning at the sub-national level (pending its formal launch by the Ministry of Health) in relation to the HIV/AIDS Prevention Law and existing social and cultural barriers to its full operationalization. Other groups of particular concern – namely, *IDU and MSM populations* – have also been researched and results presented to the National AIDS Programme stakeholders and the Institute of Public Health. This not only helped to evaluate interventions supported through the GFATM facility but it also opened up a broader discussion of a largely unpublicized and tabooed subject. In terms of service availability monitoring, in 2011, UNICEF provided assistance to the National AIDS Programme and MoPH in conducting a thorough *assessment of the national VCT network* as a basis for longer term capacity planning to increase the utilization of services by vulnerable populations, including most at risk adolescents and young people.

Future Work Plan

In the first year of the new cycle of cooperation between the Government of Albania and the UN, UNICEF activities that are planned to be supported (subject to funding) in child protection, juvenile justice, youth empowerment and HIV/AIDS prevention will be contributing to a number of joint GoA-UN programme outcomes, with the following planned results:

- **Social Care Service reform**

Social care service reform roadmap developed in 2011 is progressively converted into concrete measures to effectively address the needs of the most vulnerable families and children;

- **Child Protection mechanisms**

Child protection mechanisms and services enhanced to effectively reach and support children and families in situations of particular vulnerability (Child Protection Units in largest municipalities and communes, national Child Help Line, Municipality of Tirana multi-functional child support centre, de-institutionalization and foster care expansion)

- **Child protection from trafficking and/or commercial exploitation**

National response mechanisms strengthened to protect children from trafficking, sale and/or commercial

exploitation, including in light of the CRC Committee recommendations (due in 2012) on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

- **Children with disabilities**

Situation of children with disabilities is analyzed;

- **National anti-violence COMBI programme**

All schools in Albania engaged in a multi-year behavior change programme to reduce social acceptance and recurrence of violence.

- **Justice for Children**

Juvenile offenders or victims of crime are treated in accordance with international standards, including: a. shortened pre-trial period; b. education opportunities for children below 14; and c. legal and psychosocial support in pre- and post-trial detention and re-integration; national Justice for Children Strategy finalized; the Code of Criminal Procedure revised (in particular, to address the issues of long time awaiting trial for juveniles); further support for alternatives to detention for juveniles and diversion will be extended.

- **HIV/AIDS prevention**

Key elements of national HIV/AIDS prevention policies are strengthened (VCT centers assessment and outreach capacity support, national antiretroviral drugs procurement process reviewed, IDU harm reduction programmes supported, technical expertise provided for national PMTCT planning).

- **Youth employment and civic participation**

Vulnerable youth have access to functioning employment services and are empowered to enter job market (four new YES outlets to open in Tirana, Vlora and Berat); standards for youth counseling and guidance formally certified and Youth Employment Service staff trained; livelihood and life skills training for disadvantaged youth provided; youth networks strengthened around Youth Parliaments in each of the country's 12 regions; National Youth Strategy and Action Plan evaluated.

Country Programme Component: Cross-sectoral costs

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Cross-cutting support to programme delivery.		0 FA6OT9

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OR-R	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RR	150000.00	151020.52	149983.16	99.31
Total	\$150,000.00	\$151,020.52	\$149,983.16	

Results Achieved

Functions of cross-cutting nature - such as programme assistance, office rent, supplies and some items in the travel budget were covered from the cross-sectoral envelope.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

The provision of the cross-cutting support to programme delivery was in line with the Annual Management Plan.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

N/A

Humanitarian Situations

N/A

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

N/A

Future Work Plan

No major changes are introduced to the Cross-Sectoral Programme and its role in UNICEF programme delivery in Albania. Annual Management Plan for 2012 will specify priorities in the area of office management and cross-cutting support, in line with the overall objectives of the new Programme of Cooperation between the Government of Albania and the United Nations (2012-2016).

Effective Governance Structure

UNICEF Tirana has an Annual Management Plan that describes in considerable detail the governance structure of the office. The AMP also describes agreed office objectives and priorities. In the 2011 staff survey, 100% of staff agreed that "the goals of my office are clearly shared among staff members and management".

Albania is not particularly emergency-prone with overall low risk levels of natural or human-made disasters. Combined with the middle income status of the country, which implies a small office and programme budget, this provides limited scope for possible emergency interventions. While the office updates its early warning/early action emergency information, no additional preparedness activities, such as stockpiling, were undertaken. This was also based on the experience of the 2009 flood emergency in a small part of the country where UNICEF was able to source relief items virtually overnight from local suppliers.

The oversight structures – as part of the governance system – are also described in the AMP, and the system of statutory committees is updated annually. The Representative discusses the functioning of the committees with other management staff, though in 2011, no staff retreat or formal review (self-reporting) of the functioning of committees took place. This will be done as part of the preparation of the audit due to take place in May 2012.

Aside from the periodic formal review of Business Information Report indicators, which were generated through the HQ hub, the CMT did not undertake any specific major initiatives to improve operations or programme management. The last audit took place in 2004 and all recommendations were closed. The year 2011 was one of programme preparation, and the CMT was briefed or actively involved in the preparation and necessary adjustment of the CPMP and related documentation. Likewise, the CMT took an active role in overseeing the preparation for VISION and IPSAS, and ensured that regular briefings and training took place for all staff.

Strategic Risk Management

The Office complied with the processes of the Enterprise Risk Management policy and updated its risk assessment and risk library in early 2011. For this, the Office used a slightly simplified procedure also endorsed by the Regional Office. Overall, the general environment of UNICEF Tirana operations is considered low-risk. High risks are identified in four areas that can be grouped in two clusters:

- a) The present "Delivering as One" approach led by the UN Resident Coordinator Office creates risks for (i) UNICEF's identity and the effectiveness of operations by adding bureaucratic procedures, and (ii) fundraising and donor relations. New work modalities need to be created to ensure a balance between greater interaction with the UNCT and RC and the promotion of UNICEF's mandate for children.
- b) Present support to knowledge management and the availability of top-notch expertise have also been identified as a high risk area. Greater efforts need to be undertaken to ensure quick access to experts in key programme areas and to improve the quality of evaluations (as assessed through the Evaluation Office).

Several other medium-risk areas were identified and corresponding actions plans were formulated.

Evaluation

The UNICEF Albania CO's comments made in earlier annual reports also remain valid for 2011. Most evaluations commissioned by the Office place emphasis on national policy or programmes rather than on UNICEF programme or support. As such, these evaluations provide an input into the programme of cooperation, and their timing and scope within a five-year plan of cooperation is often less predictable. The Office does not have a separate IMEP, as monitoring and evaluation activities are subject to and

incorporated into the common UN Monitoring Plan and Programme Results Framework.

Overall, the capacity of the CO and its partners needs further strengthening to ensure high quality evaluation and research work. Government and development agencies demand greater evaluation capacity than the country has available. Although the Office invariably follows strict competitive selection rules, the pool of available expertise is oftentimes lacking compared to what's needed; furthermore, some final products end up being too academic, with limited potential for action-oriented advocacy. The Office also found it difficult to source evaluation capacity from outside at reasonable costs.

For all office-led evaluations, as a standard practice, the ToRs are developed in close interaction with the Representative and Deputy Representative and are cleared by both.

As most evaluative work concerns the worth or effect of national policy or programmes, recommendations are mostly directed towards government counterparts and national or local policy makers. In such situations, the Office is unable to enforce a management response, though evaluation findings are routinely used in subsequent policy dialogue. An example of such evaluation comes in 2011 from the Basic Education programme where the work of student governments in 20 schools in the regions of Kukësi and Korça (a MoES' pilot during 2008-2010 in collaboration with UNICEF and national NGOs) was evaluated. The difficulty of examining "democracy outcomes" in evaluation literature is clearly evident in this project, making an interesting subject for discussion with government partners.

Two external evaluations in 2011 were about joint UN efforts: the mid-term evaluation of the UNICEF-led multi-agency Child Nutrition programme (funded by the Government of Spain through the MDG-F facility and managed by UNICEF), and the "independent Delivering As One evaluation". Evaluations of Joint UN projects usually follow the standard and guidelines of the donor, though agency-specific requirements have been considered during the development of the evaluation's Terms of Reference for the Child Nutrition programme.

Both evaluations are not yet finalized, but UNICEF ensured timely submission of comments. The draft report of the evaluation of the Child Nutrition programme was overwhelmingly positive, especially when it comes to ensuring national ownership and good management practices. However, for the DAO evaluation, the office was concerned that key discussions with the evaluators were not reflected in the draft report. The Annual Management Plan for 2012 will suggest mechanisms to foster the internal culture of evidence-based programming, better utilize the materials already produced and encourage joint data analysis and cross-fertilization between various programmes in the Office.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

Since May 2011, the Office has been using a new firewall system, with secure keys for increased security in accessing UNICEF's network. This solution allowed staff to work remotely not only depending on CITRIX but also through VPN by ensuring continuance of business. It also enabled the ICT Officer to monitor and manage all services remotely while being away for seven weeks on a duty assignment in another Country Office. Participation in the emergency preparedness and response capacity building workshop organized for field staff by the ITSS Emergency Telecommunications Unit has contributed to in-house expertise. Measures to ensure Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery standards were taken, such as a new backup tape drive device with higher capacity and the purchase of brand new Motorola VHF radios for key staff. Often acting as a pilot office, UNICEF Albania ICT implemented a virtualized solution of many servers in very few physical servers. This has reduced the greenhouse footprint to the environment thanks to lower electricity consumption, less noise and decreased cooling needs for the data centre.

As part of coherent management approaches among UN agencies, UNICEF ICT has played a role in the UN Operations Management Team board to finalize a common long-term contract arrangement for mobile communications, with the aim of reducing cost and increasing quality of services. In addition, a second Internet Service Provider was contracted to ensure backup connectivity in case of the fail-over scenario. On top of the usual IT/telecom management duties, the contribution of the ICT staff member to programme work is particularly noteworthy, as he has been involved with and assisted to create a virtual map of beneficiary schools for the "Albania Reads" project. Another prototype GIS-based mapping was developed of all the Roma communities in the country through the Google Earth platform. The latter is still being improved and will continue for the next year. The product is expected to guide decision makers towards optimal policy solutions, relying on very precise and conveniently visualized data.

Fund Raising and Donor Relations

As documented in UNICEF Business Information Reports, the Country Office had no overdue donor reports at any time. Feedback from donors who elected to respond indicated general satisfaction with UNICEF reporting.

In 2011, the Office met its fundraising targets. It should be noted that the OR ceiling of the Country Office was twice amended upwardly during the previous programme period, and that the extension of the programme for the sixth year (2011) included yet another increase in the OR proportion of the total budget. In 2011, about half of the funding raised came from the UN Coherence Fund (CF), amounting to more than three million USD. However, a time series comparison shows that the CF funding substituted or crowded out bilateral funding. It also demonstrates that this CF allocation to UNICEF made use of an evident "coherence dividend" – essentially, funding that bilateral donors pooled into the Coherence Fund so as to spurn reform. Particularly noteworthy is that much of the funding paid out to UNICEF in mid-2011 was raised in early 2010 or earlier. At the time of this report's preparation, the Coherence Fund pool currently staying with the Administrative Agent (UNDP) still contains contribution made by donors in early 2010 or earlier. Overall, donor contributions to the coherence pool have dramatically decreased since 2009/2010, with a very uncertain trajectory.

This poses a challenge for UNICEF as the regulations surrounding the DAO experiment, especially the "UNCT/RC working principles" and Coherence Fund procedures, led to the weakening of dialogue between individual UN agencies and donors. There was little incentive or interest by donors to discuss the merits or details of specific programme interventions which led to limited interaction in terms of proposals, discussions, progress reporting, and evaluative work. Going forward, additional effort is needed on the part of UNICEF staff to revive such relationships.

There were no issues for the Office in terms of non-utilization of PBAs or undue or late extensions of contributions. The office continued to participate in three of five UN Joint Programmes, with the UNICEF-led Child Nutrition programme being awarded most recognition for national ownership and efficient management arrangements.

Management of Financial and Other Assets

The Office has met all financial and asset management indicator targets. Regular Resources were spent close to 100 per cent. All donor reports were sent on time. The last audit was done in 2004, with the next audit planned to take place in May 2012. While Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) levels are within the target range at key calendar dates, including year-end, greater attention needs to be paid by management to DCT review and liquidation of advances. DCTs remain a perennial item in the Country Management Team agenda. While regularly reviewing key management indicators, the CMT did not recommend further efficiency gains (except for DCT management) or cost reductions. LTAs common with the UN system were used or renewed, with some cost savings negotiated for the use of telecommunication services.

Supply Management

In 2011, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health in procuring antiretroviral medicines distributed free of charge to about 140 patients diagnosed with HIV. The Office has also facilitated the MoH's contact and inter-action with the Supply Division during the procurement of vaccines, injection devices and cold chain equipment, for a total estimated amount of USD 1.2 million (funds received from the Government and GAVI). New antigens, such as pneumococcus, were added to the national immunization schedule, in addition to BCG, DTP, HepB, MMR and Hemophilus Influenza. Consultations on vaccine forecasting process and documentation were also provided.

In relation to ARV drugs procurement, a discussion was initiated with the Ministry offering UNICEF's institutional expertise to streamline the MoH's procurement processes, facilitating access to the international pharmaceutical market and assessing the feasibility of sustainable long term procurement arrangements.

Other supply items provided by UNICEF programmes to the beneficiaries included textbooks and ECD kits for pre-school facilities, few items of library furniture for the "Albania Reads" project, and office and IT equipment for newly established Child Rights Units and Youth Employment Centers.

Human Resources

The Office prepared a new Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) for the 2012-2016 programme cycle, and the PBR subsequently approved a new organigram. The new organigram replaced the L3 operations officer with a NO-C position, enabling considerable costs reduction which benefited the regional portfolio. The L3 Operations Officer departed in August 2011 and the new Operations Officer resumed her work on 2 January 2012 when the new position came into effect.

Few reporting lines were adjusted to better reflect the reality of staff portfolios. Being a small-size country team, the Office pursued a programme staff management policy where subject matter experts are also responsible for the budgets of their portfolios, reducing the need for an overly hierarchical structure. Reflecting over the past three years, the general consensus is that this has led to greater but less formalized programme staff interaction and closer networking. For 2012, the Office will continue to strengthen inter-office communication, especially on key programme matters. There are also plans to improve the mapping and clarity of the responsibilities of focal points and contributing staff in cross-sectoral matters.

Performance management through the formal PER process is accepted as part of the office routine. Delays in completion of the 2011 PERs are expected at the turn of 2011/2012 due to the reassignment of the Deputy Representative and Operations Manager. Furthermore, delays in the determination of assignments for 2012 are expected due to the new programme structure that requires harmonization with the common UN/DAO structure and processes.

The 2011 staff survey shows above average motivation and satisfaction levels for most indicators for the Tirana Office. It also shows areas where improvement is possible, and actions will be discussed in the JCC and CMT. UNICEF Tirana remains the only office among the UN organizations in Albania with a staff association. Overall, it is thought that staff members in UNICEF Tirana enjoy a tolerant and respectful relationship with each other.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

At the time of its renewal, the lease for UNICEF Tirana Office premises was fixed in US Dollar instead of Euro as was previously done. This resulted in cost savings for most of the year, though currency fluctuations at the end of 2011 may impact the overall balance sheet. Through a common LTA for telecommunications services, costs for telephone services with the preferred provider were reduced. Otherwise, no direct cost savings could be observed through common services with other UN agencies. Because of their relative seniority, UNICEF staff - and UNDP staff - carry an over-proportional share of the workload for common services or undertakings (e.g. participation in working groups, interview panels, review of common documentation and so on).

Changes in AMP and CPMP

Senior management in UNICEF Albania considers the AMP to be a good example or practice, describing key office governance structures and mechanisms and their role in risk management. It is linked to the UN Security Plan and the Business Continuity Plan. The 2012 AMP will take note of the changing office priorities (in light of the new programme cycle), some key work processes that will have changed as a result of the introduction of VISION, including the Role Map and IPSAS, strengthened and better defined focal point responsibilities in view of a flattened staff structure, a new set of management indicators (taking note of indicators more readily available in VISION), and key principles for guiding staff in the notorious post-DAO environment. Naturally, some standard sections of the AMP, such as the ToRs and membership of statutory committees, will have to be updated.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

List of acronyms:

AMP	Annual Management Plan
BFHI	Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative
BKTF	Bashku Kunder Trafikimit Te Femijeve (“All Together Against Child Trafficking”) NGO coalition
CEE/CIS	Central and Eastern Europe / Commonwealth of Independent States
CF	Coherence Fund
CMT	Country Management Team
CO	Country Office
COMBI	Communication for Behavior Impact
CPMP	Country Programme Management Plan
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRO	Child Rights Observatory
CRU	Child Rights Unit
CSO	Civil Society Organization
C4D	Communication for Development
DaO	Delivering as One
DevInfo	Development Information
DCT	Direct Cash Transfer
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EC	European Commission
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFI	Flour Fortification Initiative
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GIS	Geographic Information System
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDUs	Injecting Drug Users
IMCI	Integrated Management of Child Illnesses
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accountancy Standards
JCC	Joint Consultative Committee
JP	Joint Programme
KM	Knowledge Management

LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
LTA	Long-term Agreement
MARA Most at Risk	Adolescents
MCH	Mother and Child Health
MDG-F	Millennium Development Goals Fund
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoLSAEO	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MSM	Men having Sex with Men
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NCCHE	National Center for Continuous Health Education
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NO	National Officer
OR	Other Resources
PBA	Programme Budget Allotment
PBR	Programme Budget Review
PER	Performance Evaluation Report
RED	Regional Education Department
RBM	Result-Based Management
RR	Regular Resources
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
U5MR	Under-five Mortality Rate
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
VISION	Virtual Integrated System of Information
VPN	Virtual Private Network
WHO	World Health Organization

Document Centre

Evaluation

	Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
1	Reform of social assistance. From survival to investment into poverty reduction.	01	Study
2	Measurement and analysis of child poverty in Albania.	02	Study
3	Children's rights in Albania. Report of the Child Rights Observatory.	03	Study
4	Evaluation of the functioning of the Child Rights Units and Child Rights Observatories in Albania.	04	Evaluation
5	Assessment of statistical capacities of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	05	Study
6	Secondary analysis of Albania's Demographic and Health Survey data (2008-2009).	06	Study
7	Baseline nutrition and food security survey in targeted rural (Kukes and Shkodra) and sub-urban (Tirana) areas.	07	Survey
8	Baseline assessment of Mother and Child Health consulting services.	08	Study
9	Mapping of Roma settlements in Albania.	09	Survey
10	Costing analysis of the new "creshes" standards.	10	Study
11	Student Governments in Basic Education (pilot project evaluation).	11	Evaluation
12	Assessment of applied security measures, investigation time-frames and length of judiciary process for juveniles in conflict with the law.	12	Study
13	Budgeting tool for Juvenile Justice system components.	13	Study
14	Situation of children and families living with HIV in Albania.	14	Study

Other Publications

	Title
1	Children's Rights in Albania, 2009-2010. Report of the Observatory on the Rights of the Child.
2	Justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crime. Handbook for professionals and policymakers (in Albanian).
3	Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators Manual (in Albanian).
4	Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime. Model Law and Related Commentary (in Albanian).
5	Thematic information packages (8 subjects) for youth employment services on career guidance and counseling (in Albanian).
6	UN Guidelines on Alternative Care for Children.
7	Social service reform in Albania. 2010 National Conference materials.
8	Children's social inclusion policies and financing in Albania.

Lessons Learned

Programme Documents

	Title	Document Type
1	Albania CPD 2006-2011	CPD
2	Albania Common CPD 2012-2016	CPD
3	Government of Albania-UN Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016	CPAP