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# **UN ALBANIA COVID-19 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY & RESPONSE PLAN**

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**JULY 15, 2020**

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## Acronyms

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| ACRP     | Agency for Child Rights and Protection                                 |
| ASLG     | Agency for Support of Local Governments                                |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus Disease of 2019  |
| CRPD     | Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities                   |
| CSOs     | Community-based Organizations  |
| DV       | Domestic Violence  |
| EBRD     | European Bank of Reconstruction and Development                        |
| FAO      | Food and Agriculture Organization                                      |
| GBV      | Gender-based Violence  |
| GDP      | Gross Domestic Product   |
| GoA      | Government of Albania  |
| HIV      | Human Immuno-deficiency Virus  |
| ILO      | International Labour Organization                                      |
| IMF      | International Monetary Fund  |
| INSTAT   | Albania Institute of Statistics  |
| IOM      | International Organization for Migration                               |
| LFS      | Labour Force Survey  |
| LGBTIs   | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex                       |
| MARD     | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development                          |
| MEFA     | Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs                                 |
| MoFE     | Ministry of Finance and Economy  |
| MoHSP    | Ministry of Health and Social Protection                               |
| MSMEs    | Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises                              |
| NACE     | National Classification of Economic Activities                         |
| NGOs     | Non-Governmental Organizations   |
| NHRI     | National Human Rights Institutions                                     |
| OECD     | Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development                   |
| PDNA     | Post-Disaster Needs Assessment   |
| PWDs     | Persons with Disabilities  |
| RMSA     | Refugees and Migration Services in Albania                             |
| SDGs     | Sustainable Development Goals  |
| SME      | Small and Medium-size Enterprises                                      |
| UN       | United Nations   |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| UNDP     | United Nations Development Programme                                   |
| UNESCO   | United National Education Science and Culture Organization             |
| UNFPA    | United Nations Population Fund   |
| UNHCR    | United Nations High Commission for Refugees                            |
| UNICEF   | United Nations Children's Fund   |
| VET      | Vocational Education and Training                                      |
| WB       | World Bank   |
| WHO      | World Health Organization  |

## INTRODUCTION

The present plan sets out the United Nations (UN) consolidated socio-economic recovery and response plan, which complements the Government of Albania National Response Plan and the National Strategic Preparedness & Response Plan (SPRP), issued in February 2020 and updated in May 2020.

COVID-19 has the potential to cause three waves of morbidity and mortality: the first is due the disease itself; the second to the inability of health systems to maintain health services,<sup>1</sup> and the third is due to increased levels of unemployment, poverty, economic repercussions, disruption to social services and social systems, and increasing inequalities. Based on current evidence, the most plausible scenario for the evolution of the pandemic may involve recurring epidemic waves interspersed with periods of lower-level transmission<sup>2</sup>. The challenge for the government and the health system in a recurring epidemic wave scenario with compounding waves of mortality and morbidity is to remain ready to provide the full range of services needed to prevent, diagnose, isolate and treat COVID-19 patients, while providing the full spectrum of health services and strengthen its health system towards Universal Health Coverage. This requires a dual track health system response which will test many countries<sup>3</sup>. In addition, it is imperative to plan and implement well-coordinated social and economic measures, responses and strategies that reduce the negative far-reaching socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on people, the economy, social systems and local delivery of services.

The UN Recovery and Response Plan will support the government in its recovery across five pillars, namely, health response and systems strengthening, pro-poor social systems, resilient economies, macro-economic and fiscal management, and social cohesion and community resilience. It takes guidance from the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, and is anchored in the core objectives and principles of saving lives, and protecting people's rights during the pandemic with a focus on the most vulnerable groups, and people who risk being left behind.

Implementation of this Plan requires contextualizing and adapting to the COVID-19 situation, and will involve the following steps:

1. **Health First: Strengthening public health, and the health and social system from emergency to recovery.** This can be accomplished by:
  - a) maintaining COVID 19 preparedness and response; ensuring safe delivery of health services and strengthening the health system towards Universal Health Coverage.
2. **Strengthen and expand resilient and pro-poor social protection systems reducing poverty and inequality and supporting inclusive and sustainable growth.** This can be accomplished by:
  - a) A comprehensive and shock-responsive social protection system is established that protects people's lives and livelihoods and mitigates adverse economic consequences during the crisis and in the recovery period.
  - b) Vulnerable women, men, girls, boys and children who risk being left behind are supported to continue to access social support services (including education, social care, violence prevention and child protection) even in the new circumstances created by COVID 19.
3. **Developing a resilient economy,** through:
  - a) increased public-sector investment in labour-intensive development schemes for immediate, short-term job creation in sectors of high priority such as trade, agriculture, rural infrastructure development, etc.
  - b) targeted incentives packages for vulnerable productive sectors and MSMEs through policy, regulatory measures, and financial measures to protect and sustain private sector jobs, enterprises, domestic production, and exports.

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<sup>1</sup> Forthcoming: WHO (2020) WHO internal briefing: Health equity and the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19

<sup>2</sup> WHO (2020) Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19 Interim guidance April 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331773/WHO-2019-nCoV-Adjusting\\_PH\\_measures-2020.1-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331773/WHO-2019-nCoV-Adjusting_PH_measures-2020.1-eng.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/440037/Strength-AdjustingMeasuresCOVID19-transition-phases.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/440037/Strength-AdjustingMeasuresCOVID19-transition-phases.pdf?ua=1)

4. **Managing a fiscal and financial surge** through efficient financial and resource planning, management, and mobilization for COVID-19 response. This implies:
  - a) estimating the potential financial impact of COVID-19 and identifying COVID-19 response priorities for allocation of financial and budgetary resources.
  - b) identifying macroeconomic policy options to create fiscal space for financing COVID-19 response and promoting efficiency-saving measures including austerity measures, etc.
  - c) introducing measures for promoting global partnerships, private sector engagement and development cooperation to mobilize and leverage financial, technical, and advisory support to implement the response to COVID-19.
5. **Inculcating principles of social cohesion and community resilience** for the socio-economic response to COVID-19 by:
  - a) establishing systems and processes through which citizens and communities can participate in and benefit from local government emergency and development programmes, including well-tailored social dialogue and political engagement, grounded in fundamental human rights<sup>4</sup>.

The COVID-19's UN Socio-economic Recovery and Response Plan includes:

- **Short term measures**, to minimize, manage and mitigate the adverse, most pressing, and urgent impacts of COVID-19 on the lives and livelihoods of the people including their access to essential services and fundamental rights.
- **Medium to long term measures**, to ensure a structural response - focusing more on sustainable development and 'building back better' than before – to address the negative impacts of COVID-19. These include policy, regulatory and institutional measures as well as social and economic transformation policies.

## GOAL

To promote socioeconomic development in Albania by minimizing and mitigating the negative impact of COVID-19 and building forward better post-COVID on a sustained path to the achievement of the SDGs.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Ensure a concerted, collaborative and all-inclusive effort to address the multidimensional impacts of the COVID-19, and to protect the needs and rights of people living under the duress of the pandemic, with focus on the most vulnerable groups, and people who risk being left behind.

## OUTCOMES

The key outcomes pursued in this Recovery and Response Plan are:

- Albania's COVID-19 public health preparedness and response are maintained and reinforced, capacity of ensuring safe delivery of essential health services and recovery boosted, and the health system strengthened towards integrated Universal Health Coverage;
- Social protection and social services are provided to people at risk to cope with adversity;
- Decent-work and economic recovery programmes are enacted for protecting jobs, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and safeguarding the most vulnerable productive sectors;
- Macroeconomic policies are adopted to manage the expected surge in fiscal and financial stimulus in favour of the most vulnerable, and in coherence with multilateral and regional responses; and
- Social dialogue, political engagement, and investment in community-led resilience and local government response systems are enhanced in order to promote social cohesion.

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<sup>4</sup> See the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

## COUNTRY CONTEXT

### SITUATION ANALYSIS

COVID-19 is a communicable respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus. The first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in the European Region on 24 January 2020, and on 30 January 2020 the World Health Organization declared the new coronavirus epidemic (COVID-19) a public health emergency of international interest. Albania reported its first case of COVID-19 on March 8, 2020. As of WHO definition, the country has both a cluster-based transmission and community transmission in major cities. This is critical to the future control of the disease. COVID-19 is a health crisis, with significant socio-economic impacts on the entire society. Still reeling from a devastating November 2019 earthquake, Albania is faced with two back-to-back shocks, that are likely to cumulate into severe economic and social hardship for the country, as well as more restricted fiscal space, in the context of dwindling global financial resources. This global crisis is challenging the existing governance models and amplifying the necessity to put citizens and resilience as core ingredients for institutional development and economic growth. Caring for the most vulnerable, maintaining and ensuring access to equitable service delivery, addressing the digital divide, experimenting with alternative working options, and providing uninterrupted basic services for the most affected population are among key challenges to overcome for increased resilience to shocks.

The Government-imposed preventive and precautionary measures succeeding in avoiding the overstretching of the health system and keeping the parameters of the pandemic to relatively low levels compared to many other countries. However, the restrictive measures put in place, although necessary for containing the virus and saving lives, have produced a heavy toll on the population, particularly the economically vulnerable individuals and households, with direct consequences felt by those working informally, the daily wagers and the self-employed, and those socially marginalised.

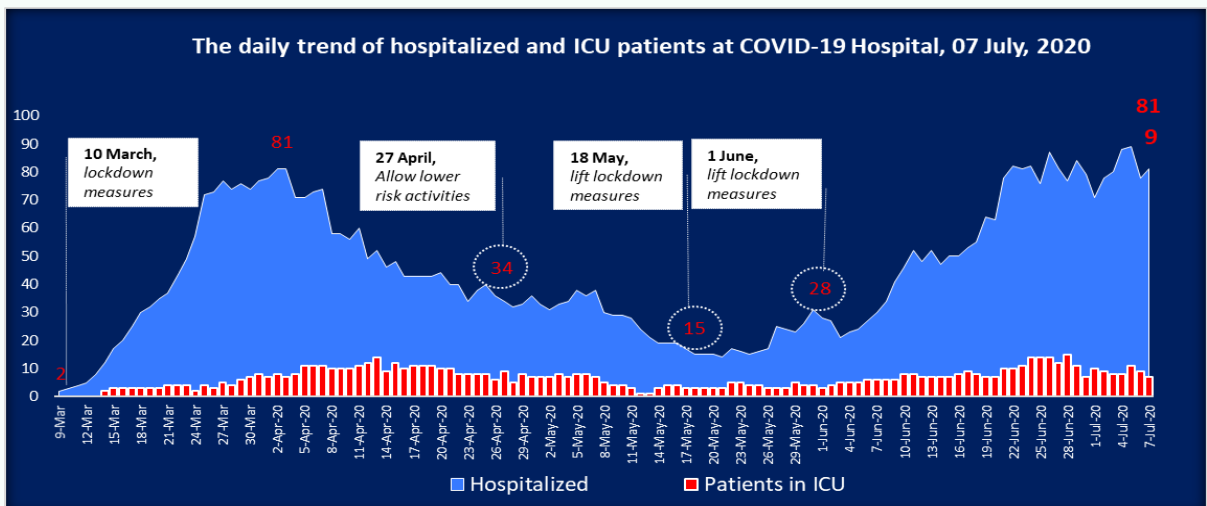
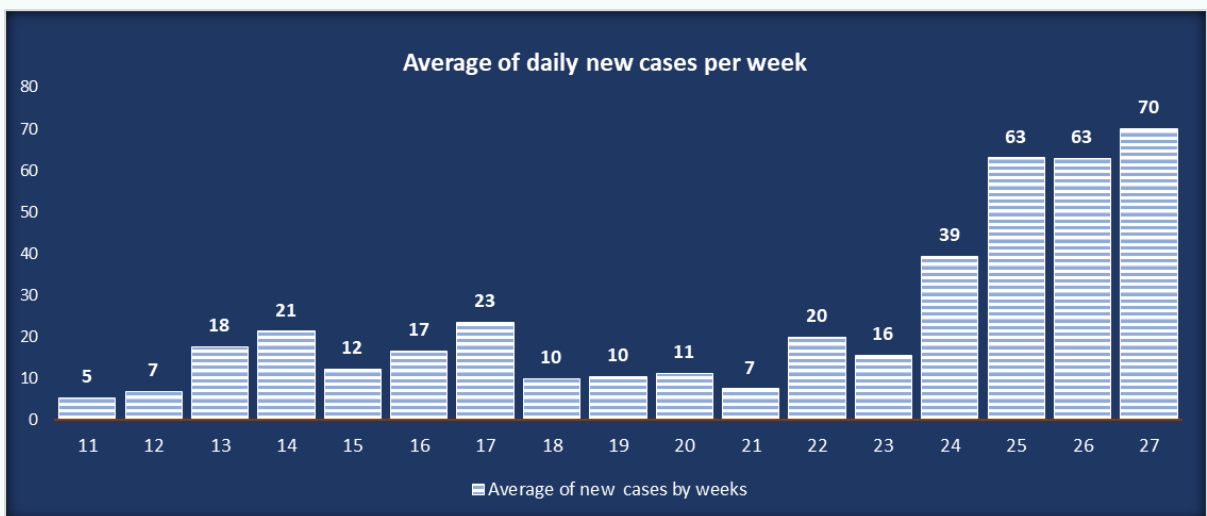
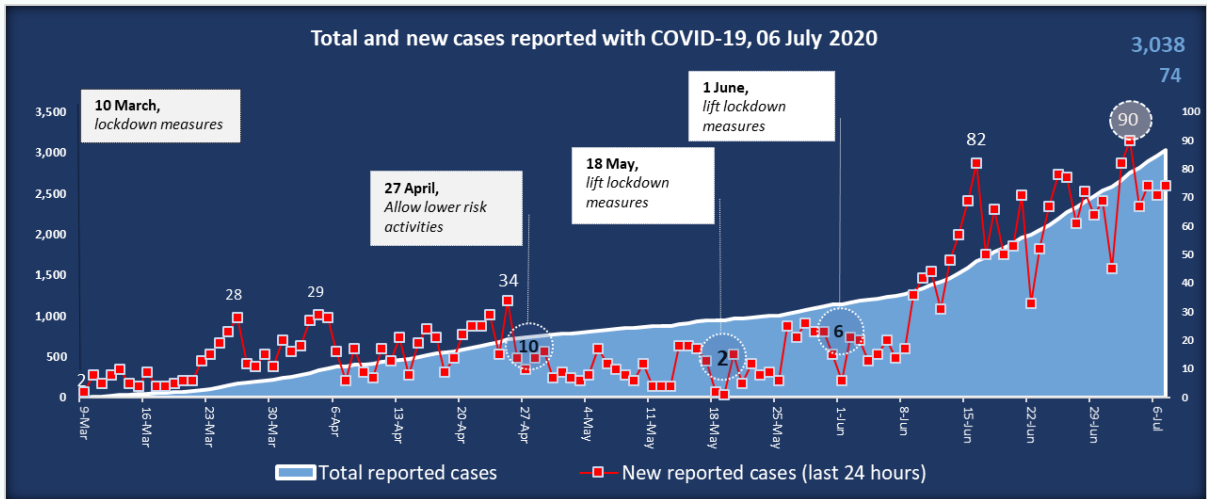
The shutdown of several public services first hit the marginalized and vulnerable groups, who already had difficulties in accessing such services and are less reachable by communication channels. With all schools nationwide closed, and although alternative online learning options were adopted, these closures of educational facilities had an impact on the quality of learning, especially on most of the vulnerable groups who lack connectivity and adequate equipment for online options. Households also needed to adjust to new childcare responsibilities, with added extra burdens especially for women<sup>5</sup>. The adoption of social distancing and forced confinement also became a real threat to social cohesion and a challenge to usual social norms, which in turn places significant psychological burden on individuals, and affects individual behaviour, well-being, and mental health.

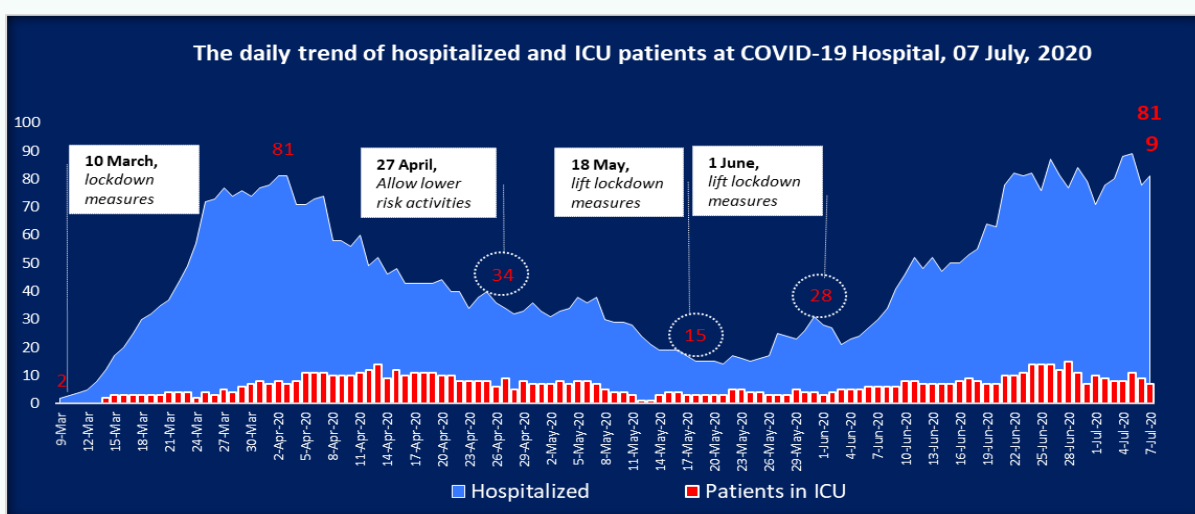
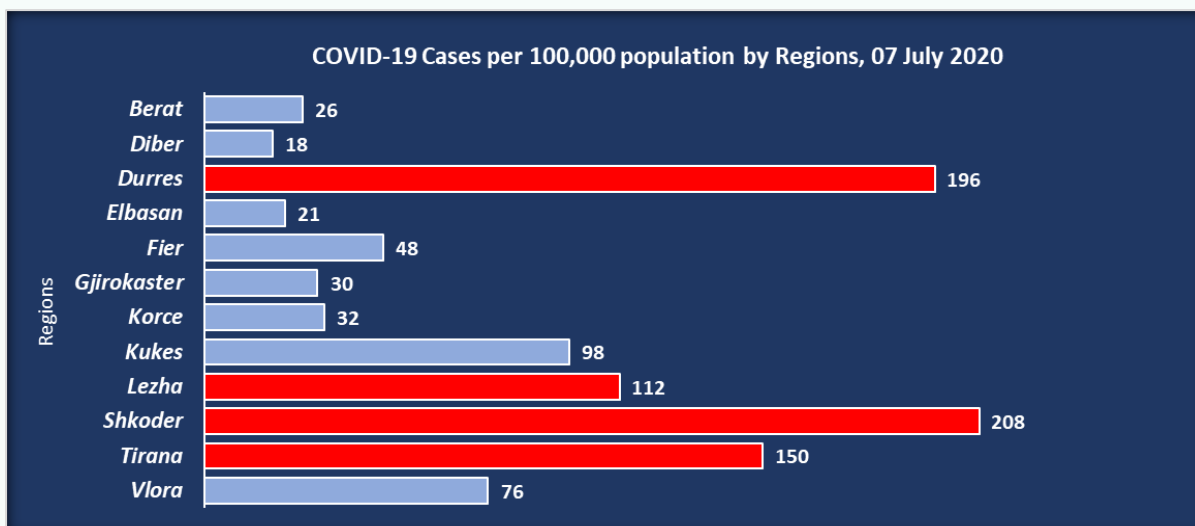
### Impact on the Health of the Population

As of the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, a total of 3,038 cases are confirmed. After an initial decline of the numbers in May, and some stabilization after the lock down measures, an acute resurgence of cases occurred over the last three weeks of June, when lock down measures were lifted. Thus, the country must deal with an acute public health emergency while opening all socio-economic activities. Cases are being reported from all regions in the country; the most affected regions are Tirana, Durrës and Shkodra. The total number of lab tests performed as of 21<sup>st</sup> of June is 26,239, with the daily testing capacity standing at 400. The sample positivity has significantly increased over the last four weeks of June from an average of 8% to over 20%. As of WHO guidance, testing positivity should be below 5%. 81 deaths have been reported as of 7<sup>th</sup> of July, with a case fatality rate of 2.7 %. The hospital occupation rate is currently two third of beds, of the COVID-19 Hospital 1 (total 120 beds). The number of health care professionals who tested positive has become worrisome.

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<sup>5</sup> See Rapid Gender Assessment by UN Women at <https://albania.unwomen.org/en>





Importantly, the country has shown a capacity of rapid and intensive health system governance and response actions: from legal acts, early identification, testing and tracking of cases, transfer and shifting of funds, reorganization of services and the health workforce, and monitoring and information services. These need to be continued and even strengthened.

However, during the lockdown a number of public health services have been affected, with potential “waves” of non-COVID related diseases: at the in-patient level, all services were suspended except emergency and follow-up/treatment for certain categories of patients; and at the outpatient level, the contacts of health personnel with patients was minimized. Specific attention will need to be given, for example, to resuming immunization, cancer screening, case management of chronic patients, HIV and TB patients, and public health programs.

Budget allocation for COVID -19 will have long term effects on health services and health care provision as well as affect other sectors: USD 25 million were transferred from other sectors<sup>6</sup>, funds from specific budget health programs were shifted to COVID-19 activities, and a range of health contracts were suspended. This is translated in loss, in terms of missed diagnosis, missed prevention, missed treatment, missed gain of healthy life years.

It is to be noted, that public spending on health as a share of GDP is lower in Albania (2.97%) than in most South Eastern European countries, and projections for 2020–2022 show a slight decrease to

<sup>6</sup> Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 205 of 9 March 2020: "On an additional fund in the 2020 budget approved for the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to take measures to meet the initial needs because of COVID - 19"



2.94% by 2022. This tendency is particularly worrisome, if we need to build back better and invigorate the health system. WHO projection for 2020–2022 show that Albania will spend for the next three years less than 10% on health from the overall public monies. The decline in the resources to primary care is concerning. The strategy on the development of primary care in Albania<sup>7</sup> calls for an increased budget to 25%. The important role of primary care in the COVID 19 response and recovery is significant.

Measures were taken to increase or maintain the availability of health workers.<sup>8</sup> These include bringing health workers back from retirement, mobilizing them from various medical fields, and engaging students and residents<sup>9</sup>. This additional health workforce is important to continue effective health response. Unfortunately, an estimated 8% of health care workers (HCW) are infected with COVID-19 virus, providing an additional strain to the health workforce.

Numerous services on accessibility and medicine provisions have been affected, such as: difficulties in the circulation of local produced goods, importation, increased lead times, and the access of people to medicines was restricted because of the hesitancy of people to go out. Procurement procedures from State and public health care institutions, suffered from delays, although no shortages of essential medicines in hospitals have been reported<sup>10</sup>.

## **Impact on the Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups**

There is global evidence that COVID-19 is exacerbating poverty, inequality and vulnerability experienced by families and their children. Social protection schemes are among the most effective interventions in the fight against child poverty and vulnerability and are key in creating a more protective environment for children. However, the crisis has revealed the inability of the social protection systems to provide adequate assistance. A significant number of families risk to be left without protection from economic shocks due to the structure of the social protection systems. Paid leave and unemployment insurance are only available to the formally employed, which virtually excludes the reach of the schemes to farmers, rural areas, and many informal workers. Although social assistance programme has proved effective at targeting the poorest, they still might end up excluding several vulnerable groups such as the working poor (especially informal workers), minorities, refugees, and those with assets and income just above the eligibility threshold.

A recent assessment by the World Bank reveals that extreme poverty in Albania could double in the short term, assuming self-employed people lose 100% if their income and wage employees lose 50% in affected sectors. Without response measures, poverty could increase from 40% (yearly average) to 44% (based on the two scenarios) which is equivalent to the situation back in 2012 and 2005, or with additional 115-230 thousand persons brought in poverty in the country. World Bank's projections show that even under optimistic scenarios, the Albanian economy would contract by 5 percent during 2020, creating further pressure on public debt and fiscal vulnerability while exposing to risks workers losing their incomes, particularly in the most affected sectors, such as tourism and hospitality, manufacturing, and nonessential trade.

In response to the crisis, the government doubled the amount of the cash assistance per recipient and expanded the pool of the eligible persons. Following the declaration of state of emergency, an inter-ministerial committee chaired by Ministry of Defence was established to organize and deliver food and other support items for about 600,000 individuals identified by local governments as vulnerable. The government provided financial compensation for the self-employed, and subsidies were provided to small business to be able to pay their employees. The approach chosen by the government was designed to deliver the financial support for the unemployed persons from the COVID-19 situation,

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<sup>7</sup> Council of Ministers Decision No. 405, dated 20.05.2020

<sup>8</sup> Order No. 174 of the Minister of Health and Social Protection of 15 March 2020: "On the appointment of the coordinator responsible for organizing the intensive care service in the context of the treatment of COVID-19".

<sup>9</sup> Order No. 175 of the Minister of Health and Social Protection of 15 March 2020: "On the appointment of the coordinator responsible for the administration of medical, nursing and volunteer personnel in the health system for the treatment of COVID - 19".

<sup>10</sup> Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 243 of 24 March 2020: "On the declaration of the state of natural disaster". Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 203 of 26 February 2020: "On the procedures used for concluding contracts that are dictated by the essential interests of the state"; Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 242 of 22 March 2020: "On some additions to Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 203 of 26 February 2020".

through the financial compensation delivered to the affected businesses in the country, although this proved problematic in implementation and the government was forced to revise the approach and make direct payments to the employees.

The first support package (March 27th, 2020), totalling 6.4 billion ALL targeted businesses with annual turnover up to 14 million ALL, closed down as a result of the imposed restrictions by the government – this measure targeted 30,000+ enterprises whose employees are to receive monthly payments equal to the minimum wage (26,000 ALL) over the months of April, May and June 2020. Individuals with annual personal income over 2 million ALL are not eligible to receive such support. This measure targeted both the self-employed and unpaid family members who would not otherwise benefit from unemployment benefits, and informal sector employees, including the rural farmers were excluded from the scheme. The package included also the above-mentioned support for economic assistance, targeting 60,750 families, recipients of Ndihma Ekonomike (cash transfer program), which will received double the amount of benefit in April, May and June 2020 and the unemployment benefits targeting 3,100 beneficiaries of unemployment benefits, who will also receive double the amount of benefits in April-June 2020.

The second support package (April 16th, 2020) extended the support to all workers in companies that were directly affected by business close downs, recently unemployed, workers in the tourism sector, and all workers in companies with an annual turnover of less than 14 million ALL which faced reduction in economic activity due to the COVID-19 crisis. The package consisted in a 40.000 ALL lump sum payment for all the employees and laid-off employees in enterprises with annual turnover higher than 14 million, closed down by the imposed government restrictions and the employees dismissed during the period until April 10th (starting from the time the restrictions applied) in all enterprises allowed to operate by the government restrictions, as well as for all the employees (in enterprises with annual turnover up to 14 million, allowed to operate by the government restrictions, with the exception of certain activities (lawyers, notaries, food industry, pharmaceuticals, etc.) and including active accommodation structures and specific companies (Ballshi refinery).

The COVID-19 outbreak poses a very real threat to children's education. About 572 thousand students from preschools to higher education in Albania were disrupted from their learning since March 9, 2020. School closures have been linked with interrupted education and limited social interaction. For the most vulnerable children, it also limits their access to essential services like information on disease prevention, water and sanitation, measures against violence, psychological support etc. At least 11 thousand students have been identified as not having access to online learning, many of them living in remote and rural areas with no internet or devices at home. Roma children and children with learning difficulties and disabilities have also not accessed online learning.

COVID-19 pandemic shocks to the education systems will have negative short- and long- term impact. Like in many other countries, Albania's education system was not built to deal with extended shutdowns like those imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers, administrators, and parents have worked hard to keep learning alive; nevertheless, these efforts are not likely to be as effective as an education delivered in the classroom. Learning loss will be unavoidable and considerable, disproportionately affecting the disadvantaged, with a larger share of students likely to fall back into functional illiteracy and potentially dropping out of school altogether. Estimates suggest that the percentage of "low performers" is likely to increase by about 8% due to school closures from mid- March to June. This means that the pandemic will likely deepen the equity challenges for the most vulnerable students who will consequently require additional resources. Schools, teachers, parents, and caregivers found themselves mostly unprepared neither for digital literacy support, nor for guidance to online safety with the increased exposure to online risks for children. A recent assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on the well-being of children from World Vision in Albania has found that 1 in 10 children cannot access education activities online, while this is true for 1 in 2 children with disabilities<sup>11</sup>. Furthermore, the national study on children's experience online carried out by UNICEF Albania during 2018-2019 "One Click Away" has found that parents' digital skills are much lower than those of children's, with parents from low socio-economic groups being most affected.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.worldvision.al/gjetjet-kryesore-te-vleresim-mbi-ndikimin-e-covid-19-ne-mireqenien-e-femijeve-dhe-familjeve-ne>

This pandemic has increased and differentiated the notion of vulnerability. Individuals with a chronic health condition, people living with HIV/AIDS and TB, persons with disabilities, individuals with high predisposition to develop mental health conditions or exacerbation of prior MNH conditions, the elderly, adolescents, youth, and children, women and victims of domestic violence, Roma and Egyptian minorities, those affected by earthquake, and people living in remote rural areas, and refugees are most at risk. These marginalized people tend to be unemployed or depend heavily on the informal economy, including women working to provide care to others. They have inadequate access to social services, limited capacities and opportunities to cope and adapt, and limited or no access to technologies. They also tend to live in areas prone to shocks.

Disasters and pandemics pose significant risks to physical and mental health, especially within the vulnerable communities living in overcrowded camps (e.g. Roma communities.) Disruption in education and eLearning could increase the number of children who drop out of school and reduce the quality of education. For socio-economically disadvantaged children, ethnic minorities, children with special needs, and for children struggling academically in school, such changes could have greater negative effects.

COVID-19 disrupted the normal environment in which children used to live and grow and drastically affected their access to critical services. Country wide lockdown left those who had homes, residential care placement or shelter in a quarantine and those whose livelihood was already linked to working and living in the street, in even worse and uncertain situation. COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk for child labour and child exploitation, as many families see their income and livelihood sources diminish. For children already living, working or spending most of their time in a street-connected situation, this risk is extremely high, and demands for immediate support to provide support services to these children and their families, while helping them keep the pace of their education, access to vocational training and other developmental opportunities.

Children who were victims and witnesses of domestic violence are now in even more ominous state, because from one hand they are possibly locked in together with the abusers and secondly even if they manage to reach out for help, the child protection system is also very limited to respond to their needs.

COVID-19 has the potential to impact significantly the mental health and psychosocial well-being of a child or adult, with particular groups being at increased risk of experiencing social and/or psychological problems, such as children with disabilities, children without parental care, unaccompanied or separated children, teenage girls, people with pre-existing mental health problems, people that have gone through traumatic events, etc. As reports of the Child Helpline and the web-based counselling service [nukjevetem.al](http://nukjevetem.al) show the number of requests for mental health and psychosocial support and counselling has increased significantly directly or indirectly linked to COVID-19 (30% increase).

Similarly, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are heavily impacted by COVID-19 in Albania. The restricted measures imposed by the pandemic situation coupled with several barriers imposed by their types of disabilities strongly influence PWDs access to information on outbreaks and availability of support services as per their needs. Furthermore, PWDs are socially isolated as they cannot access the community regularly through community-based services, education and employment.

Until the onset of the COVID-19 emergency, Albania has experienced a sustained increase in arrivals of migrants and asylum seekers. However, following the closure of Albania's land borders in mid-March, a decrease in movement was noted and as such the dynamic of Albania's asylum-seeker population changed from being transitory to static. A gradual increase in migrants' arrivals and asylum requests was noted towards the end of May, although not at the same levels as previously due to continued additional border management both in Albania and the wider region. While the Albanian Government has progressively improved the legal framework on refugees and asylum-seekers to ensure access to, and exercise of rights granted to them, shortcomings are still noted in the implementation of legal and administrative dispositions. The most urgent priority - as it affects access to multiple rights and social-protection schemes - is addressing the ongoing issue of incompatible personal ID numbers, which hinders refugees from fully accessing social protection and reliable employment. A Decision of Council of Ministers issued in April 2019 to ensure this target group can fully access rights afforded to them in Albanian legislation has yet to be fully implemented. An additional shortcoming is the issuance of ID cards for those persons who are granted subsidiary protection (in lieu of full refugee status), a right which is established in the Law on Foreigners and related sub-legal acts.

Further, children deprived of liberty (24 in the beginning of the pandemic – all boys), already with many rights limited due to detention, have not been able to meet their parents and family members for the past three months and the situation may continue to be the same. Even outside visits by teachers or vocational trainers have been suspended. This has put an additional strain on their emotional and mental wellbeing. While they did have a free-of-charge telephone number available to call People’s Advocate, the staff of the latter has not been able to conduct monitoring visits to the juvenile detention facility. Absence of any exposure to “outsiders”, may potentially allow violations of child rights to emerge or continue. Children in conflict with the law (over 200 – the majority being boys), who, as part of their individual treatment plan need to access services, to attend school/vocational training, to engage in community activities, or to find or maintain employment as part of their reintegration, have been and will continue to be negatively and disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Similarly, children victims and witnesses of crime, children with disabilities, children living in poverty, those in residential care institutions, those living in rural/remote areas, etc. are also affected by the interruptions in continuity of provisions of crucial services to them, most of which are provided by local government units or other public authorities at the local level. For these children, the continuity of the services/remedies provided by the NHRIs is similarly crucial. The experience of children’s interaction with the justice system is usually frightening, confusing and traumatic. While online hearing sessions may potentially reduce some of the negative effects of this interaction, the fact that many administrative and technical obstacles are on the way to making online hearings a reality, leaves these children with this emotional burden.

### **Impact on Gender and Women’s Rights**

The impacts of COVID-19 and other natural disasters are exacerbated for women and girls who are generally earning less, saving less, and holding insecure jobs or living close to poverty. Evidence show that many women in Albania are employed in informal, low-wage activities that are disrupted due to COVID-19 quarantined measures. This situation has a direct economic impact on women and girls and could be long-term and widespread. Women engaged in care and domestic work are experiencing grave economic consequences. With the quality and extent of water, sanitation, and hygiene services varying greatly, women and girls often find that their access to hygiene and sanitary materials is reduced due to decreased household income or increased household competition for scarce hygiene resources, impeding their ability to conduct household-level disease prevention efforts or to attend to their own hygienic needs.

Furthermore, unpaid care work has increased, with children out-of-school, heightened care needs of older persons and overwhelmed health services. Women and girls are more likely to assume increased caregiving roles for the children who are forced to be home due to schools’ closings, and for the sick and the elderly. These additional burdens not only reduce opportunity to engage in work and education, they increase the potential for exposure to the virus. Also, legal barriers persist that challenge women’s access to work and promotion of gender equality in the workplace.

The rapid gender assessment conducted by UN Women confirmed that COVID-19 risks to deepen gender inequalities, disproportionately affecting women livelihoods. The assessment reveals, for example, that the pandemic impacted psychological and mental health of women at higher rates compared to men (69% vs. 57%), with a widening gap among active working women (72% vs 58%) and in rural areas. In addition, more frequently than men, women experience limited access to basic health services.

Gender-based violence also tend to rise during emergency situations. Domestic violence (DV) may be the most common type of violence that women and girls experience during emergencies, resulting in profound physical and psychosocial harm. The pandemic has confined survivors and witnesses of violence in close proximity with their perpetrators, and such a situation that can be both traumatising and high risk. Furthermore, during the time of restricted measures, survivors of violence or those with protection orders could not readily access legal, social or other support and services.

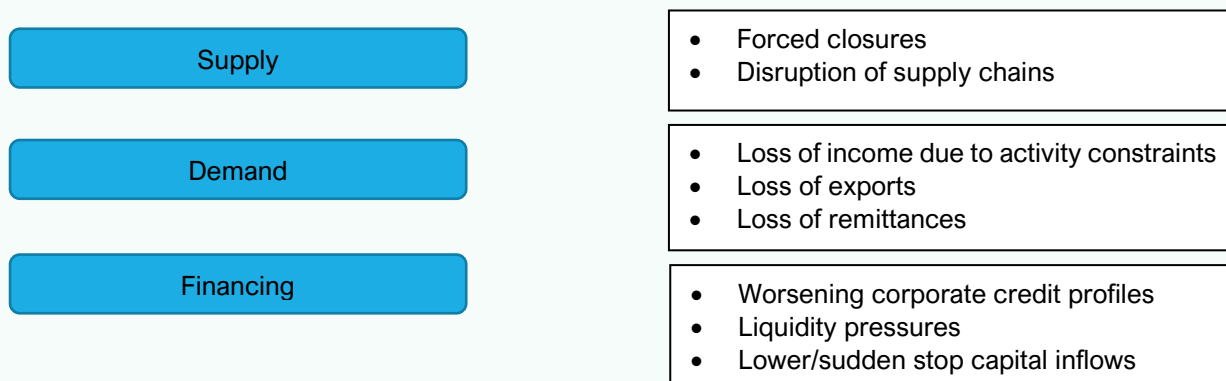
The pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social, political, and economic systems which are in turn amplifying its impacts.

### **Overview of the Macroeconomic Situation**

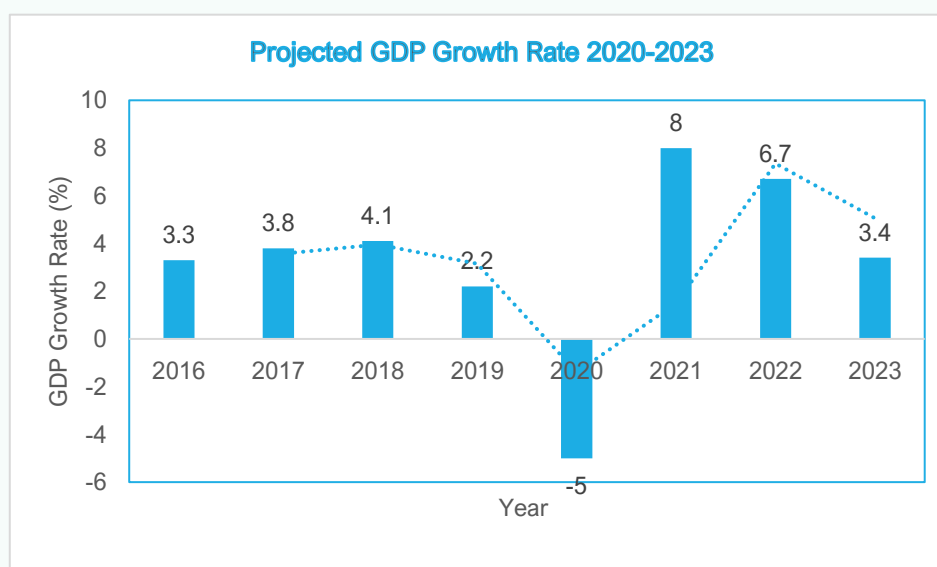
In Albania, the total number of COVID-19 cases was initially relatively low, following the strong containment measures imposed by the Government. However, they have since increased significantly. As in every country around the world, the containment measures, however, have interrupted the normal functioning of the economy and health services as people could not go to work, large parts of the productive sector faced shutdowns and borders closed for travel and tourism.

In addition, Albania has confronted unique challenges, making it more fragile for the economic downturn. The pandemic follows the severe earthquake that devastated the country and its economy in November 2019. Albania's economy's strong reliance on tourism and close trade relations with Italy, which has been one of the hardest hit countries in the world, have led the country to be highly vulnerable to this unprecedented crisis.

Albania is facing multiple external and domestic shocks that compound the situation (see table below). Simultaneous shocks on demand, supply and financing will put the budget and balance of payment under growing pressure. Increasing the fiscal deficit and the public debt will be necessary measures to enter the path of recovery and reconstruction.



For Albania, COVID-19 has radically changed its economic outlook. At the end of 2019 the economy was projected to grow at 3.5 per cent in 2020, but now the real GDP is expected to contract by 5 per cent in 2020 (see table below).<sup>12</sup> The demand for goods and services, both in the domestic and foreign markets, has experienced a rapid decline. In April 2020, exports had decreased 44 per cent from April 2019, and imports by 37%.<sup>13</sup>



<sup>12</sup> IMF Country Report No. 20/118 – April 2020

<sup>13</sup> INSTAT data on Imports – Exports (<http://www.instat.gov.al/en/>)

Source: IMF, modified by UNRCO

COVID-19 has also created massive uncertainty in global capital flows. The impact on FDI at global level has been revised and it is now suggested that the downward pressure on FDI flows could range from -30 per cent to -40 per cent during 2020-2021.<sup>14</sup> Similarly, it is estimated that remittances would be hit strongly by the contraction of economic activity in host countries. Traditionally, remittances have played an important role in the Albanian economy and in 2019, were equal to 9.4 per cent of GDP. Inflation in Albania has remained well below the target level of 3 per cent. Despite a significant increase in February and March, inflation declined again to 1.9 per cent in April.

Before the twin crises hit Albania, the government had continued to reduce the level of public debt at a faster pace than originally planned. In 2018, the public debt was 69.5 per cent of the GDP, decreasing further to 67.8 per cent in 2019. According to the estimates by IMF, it is expected that the public debt will rise above 75 per cent of GDP in 2020.<sup>15</sup> Once the crisis is over, it is important to return to the pre-COVID-19 situation of declining trend in the public debt. Both COVID-19 and earthquake recovery efforts are expected to provide a boost to support these efforts.

The IMF also estimates that the fiscal deficit will rise to about 5,5 per cent of GDP in 2020. Tax revenues have already declined by 12,2 per cent in April 2020 compared to April 2019 levels. The current-account deficit had continued to narrow before the crisis, mainly due to foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, remittances and rising exports of both goods and services. However, the current account deficit is now expected to rise due to falling FDI globally, lower level of remittances and decrease in exports.

According to EBRD, resilience of emerging economies reflects the structure of output and labour markets, the extent of exposure to various external shocks, availability of fiscal space and the ability of their finance systems to absorb a rise in non-performing loans. EBRD's latest monitor<sup>16</sup> indicates that Albania performs at low to moderate levels of resilience with respect to its health care system. This is characterized by low public health care spending and typically fewer doctors for populations. The overall resilience to external shocks is rated as moderate.

Albania is implementing important broad-based structural reforms that are also spurred by negotiations to access the European Union (EU). Reforms aim to support equitable growth; guarantee macroeconomic and fiscal sustainability; raise productivity and competitiveness in the economy; territorial decentralization; social assistance ; and public service delivery.

Albania's fiscal ability to implement fiscal measures is ranked as moderate due to a relatively high gross general government debt (69.9% of the GDP). However, levels of net government borrowing (1.6% of GDP) and bond yields (2.3% of GDP) are far below the critical thresholds, which then again allows for some more borrowing capacities. Indeed, compared to the other sectors, the financial system shows strength, with a low level of non-performing loans (8.3%) as of March 2020. Further, on the production side, food supply has been stable and secure to a certain degree and domestic production for the most part has been resilient to the COVID-19 crisis.

In the end, Albania has had to confront two consecutive crises in a short period of time. The expected COVID-19 related global economic downturn will compound the effects of the two shocks and will require that the government and development partners act quickly to soften their macroeconomic impacts on the country's economy and society.

## **Impact on Economic and Trade Policies and Regional Cooperation**

The current global pandemic effects go beyond national and regional boundaries. As much as it is a crisis of public health, the pandemic threatens the economies of the Western Balkans, especially the sectors dependent on trade. World merchandise trade is expected fall by 13 per cent to 32 per cent in 2020. While this is largely a reflection, and not a cause, of the underlying economic contraction, rising trade costs — from transport, logistics and supply chain disruptions, as well as trade restrictions — are

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<sup>14</sup> UNCTAD, Global Investment Trend Monitor, No. 35, March 2020.

<sup>15</sup> IMF Country Report No. 20/118 – April 2020

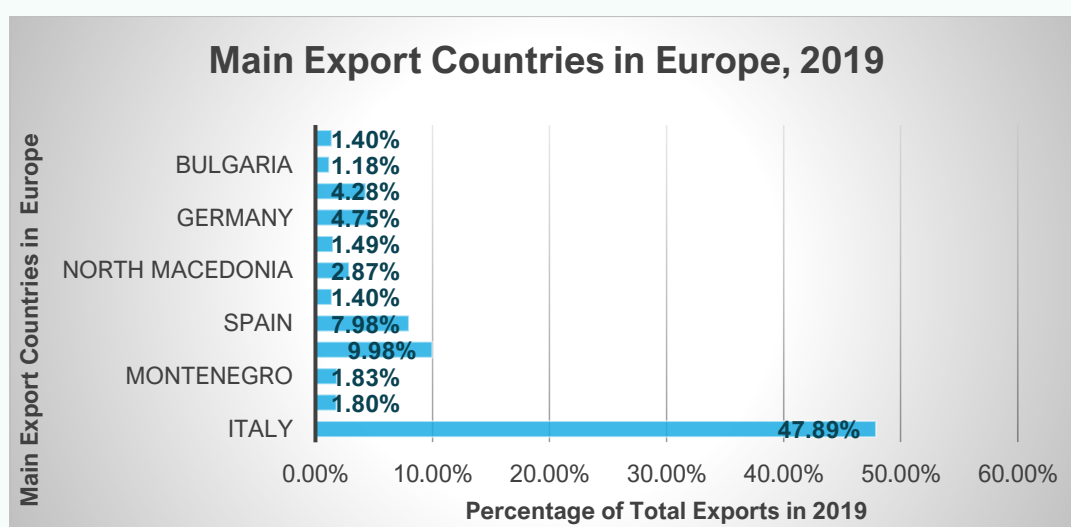
<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-monitor-assesses-resilience-of-emerging-economies-to-covid19.html>

estimated to account for more than a third of the decline in world trade<sup>17</sup>. Moreover, trade costs multiply along the supply chain as production stages take place in various countries.

As the UN Secretary-General has noted, “a large scale, coordinated and comprehensive multilateral response is needed now more than ever”<sup>18</sup>. Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 will require global and coordinated efforts supported by regional initiatives and regional institutions.

Similarly, the global hardships will spill over to the region, and Albania has already witnessed a sharp decline in foreign trade in goods. Albania has close trade relations with the EU countries, which have been hard hit by the pandemic and the following containment measures. In January 2020, trade with the EU countries represented 65.4 % of total trade. Exports to EU countries accounted for 82.2 % of total export and imports from EU countries accounted for 56.1 % of total imports. The main trade partners were Italy (32.8 %), Greece (8.4 %), Germany (7.1 %) and Turkey (7.0 %).

By April, the impact of the pandemic had severely disrupted the trade patterns, and value of exports had decreased by 44.4 per cent compared with April 2019, and the value of imports had decreased by 36.7 per cent respectively. Compared to April 2019, the exports from key trading partners had decreased significantly in April 2020: Italy (-50.0 %), Kosovo (-61.9 %) and Greece (-35.5 %).<sup>19</sup>



Coordinated trade policies to lower the cost of fighting the crisis and set up the scene for a quicker economic recovery can pave the way out of the crisis. Trade policy measures that impact on supply chains and connectivity need to be coordinated and harmonised at the regional level, especially those targeting production and access to priority products related to COVID-19 pandemic.

As a small open economy, with limited economic diversification, Albania remains considerably exposed to external and domestic risks. The country is especially vulnerable to an aging population combined with the ongoing emigration of skilled workers, and spill overs from lower growth in key trading partners. Furthermore, as a result of still high public debt, relatively large financing needs, and rising contingent liabilities, severe adverse shocks to growth or a deterioration in regional financial conditions could quickly undermine Albania’s public balance sheet and impair its access to affordable financing.

### Impact on Employment, Businesses & MSMEs

Initial analysis by the Bank of Albania indicates that around 100,000 jobs are at risk due to the lockdown and social distancing policies, and that the annual unemployment rate could increase by 7.4% due to the combined impacts of COVID-19 and the earthquake disaster. Furthermore, several forecasts have projected negative impacts of COVID-19 on Albania’s labour market, and a rise in unemployment rates. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has estimated the number of employed Albanians to be 1,266,000 people; further in 2019, 36.4% of the employees in Albania were active in the agricultural sector, 20.1% in industry and 43.5% in the service sector. The lockdown measures have meant an eroding of

<sup>17</sup> WTO, Remarks by DG Roberto Azevêdo 8 April 2020, WTO Press Release 855.

<sup>18</sup> Shared Responsibility, Global Responsibility: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, March 2020.

<sup>19</sup> INSTAT: Foreign Trade in Goods, January 2020 and April 2020.

employment, but further analysis is needed to estimate the level of vulnerability among employers and employees. There are several ways the coronavirus pandemic has affected businesses, especially MSMEs, on both the supply and demand sides. On the supply side, companies have experienced a reduction in the supply of labour, as workers become sick or need to look after children or other dependents while schools are closed, and movements of people are restricted. Measures to contain the disease with lockdowns and quarantines have led to further and more severe drops in capacity utilization.

On the demand side, a dramatic and sudden loss of demand and revenue for MSMEs has severely affected their ability to function, and/or caused severe liquidity shortages. Furthermore, consumers have experienced loss of income, fear of contagion and heightened uncertainty, which in turn reduces spending and consumption. These effects have been compounded by workers being laid off and firms not being able to pay salaries. Some sectors, such as tourism and transportation, have been particularly affected, contributing to reduced business and consumer confidence. MSMEs are more vulnerable to 'social distancing' than other companies. The impact of the virus has potential spill over into financial markets, with further reduced confidence and a reduction of credit. These various impacts affect both larger and smaller firms. However, the effect on MSMEs is especially severe, particularly because of higher levels of vulnerability and lower resilience related to their size.

With respect to the export sector, more than three thousand enterprises, totalling more than eighty thousand employees, are exporters. Italy, the most affected country in Europe, is the destination for half of the Albanian export products, putting at risk more than half of these enterprises. Garments producers are among the hardest hit.

Tourism as one of the growing labour intense sectors in Albania is affected by COVID-19 pandemics, while facing post 2019 earthquake challenges. The government has endorsed the protocols for the operators in line with the gradual re-opening strategy focusing on domestic demand as the one expected to recover and respond faster based on previous crises. The official tourism season is launched 1 June-15 November, and during the 1-15 June period the tourism operators are requested to apply online to get a permission on beach stations according to a system of classification in place.

## **Impact on Agriculture**

Agriculture in Albania is one of the main sectors of the economy. It contributed 18.4% in 2018 and 18.5% in 2019 of the country's GDP and is the main source of income for the rural population. The total area of cultivated agricultural land is about 500 thousand ha. The main crops planted are vegetables, fruit trees, vineyards, olive groves, cereals and forage crops. Livestock products (such as milk, meat and their by-products, as well as eggs) are provided by animal husbandry (cattle, small ruminant and poultry). Currently, there are about 350 thousand family farms, where the average farm size is about 1.2 ha. About 37 % of the country's labour force are employed in the agricultural sector.

Most farms in Albania are family-owned and operated, meaning farm production is mainly for self-consumption and have limited surpluses available for the market. Only 10-12% of the total number of farms are formalized with the Tax Identification Number (NIPT) that would allow them to produce mainly for the markets. In the early days of the restrictive measures, there were uncertainties whether they were applicable to the agricultural sector. As a result, cases of lack of manpower have been reported, as for example in the collection/harvesting of greenhouses production, planting, and services for medicinal plants, and lockdown-related breakdowns of distribution and logistics have been registered. Public transport disruptions and inability to process travel authorization through the e-Albania platform. remains a considerable problem for many farmers.

Inputs supply chains have not been disrupted as no shortages have been identified in the markets. Most of the inputs are constantly sourced through import, with minor exceptions, especially planting material (seeds and seedling/saplings). In some districts, the retail price of chemical fertilizers (mainly nitrate and urea) has increased by 5-15%, as well as prices of concentrate-based feeds for livestock, compared to the period before the start of the measures taken against COVID-19 spread. The price increases have been identified as mostly related to a weakening of the Lek toward EUR and USD.

Farm gate prices information of agricultural (mainly seasonal agriculture products - vegetables in greenhouses and open field, strawberries and potatoes) and livestock products have been collected daily by the Regional Agricultural Extension Agencies. The daily selling prices of vegetables by farmers



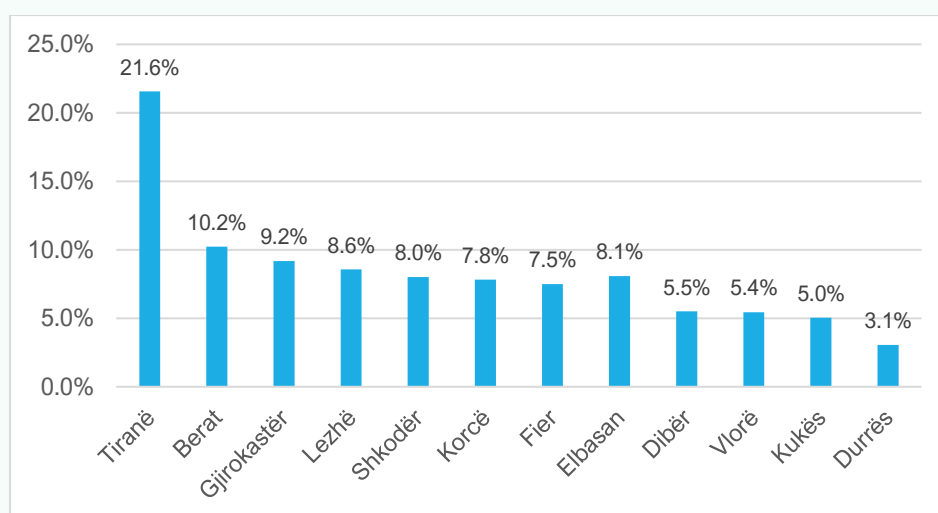
have been relatively stable, but in some cases the price has decreased. Livestock product prices have been stable, while the milk price has had a slight upward trend compared to last year.

Due to the COVID-19 measures, temporary difficulties have been reported in accessing export markets for green house crops such as cucumbers and strawberries at the beginning of the implementation of restrictive measures. Flights suspension measures have disrupted the export market for specialized farm production such as spices meant for export.

## Impact on Local Governance

The pandemic highlighted that local governments need strong disaster management systems that can identify vulnerable segments and respond to challenges quickly. This would help also set a clearer division of roles between national and local government which is a pre-requisite for a well-coordinated and targeted response in future situations. COVID-19 reminded policymakers that the local government level is the closest to citizens and thus the best positioned to respond to their specific challenges.

As of 29 May 2020, the total number of families assisted during the pandemic is 73,287. Tirana (15,801) has the largest number of assisted families. In the remaining eleven Qarks (or regions) the average number of assisted families ranges from 5,900 to only around 2,200 (Durrës). Overall, 68.8% of assistance was provided to families in need, whereas 31.2% was provided to the elderly (see figure below).



Source: Mol/ASLG (2020)

The restricted working regime and the focus on emergency response and management has also led to a reduction on the scope of functions and services provided by local government units (LGUs). The result is that 20 functions, or 50% of the total functions of local government were halted during the lockdown period as illustrated in the table below:

| Field  | Functions per Field | Exercised | Not Exercised | Partially Exercised |
|--|---------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Infrastructure of Public Services  | 14                  | 6         | 7             | 1                   |
| Social Service   | 4                   | 1         | 1             | 2                   |
| Culture, Sport and Entertainment   | 4                   | 0         | 4             | 0                   |
| Environmental Protection   | 3                   | 0         | 3             | 0                   |
| Agriculture, rural development, forests and public pastures, nature and biodiversity | 6                   | 0         | 3             | 3                   |
| Local Economic Development   | 6                   | 1         | 2             | 3                   |

|               |           |           |           |          |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Public Safety | 4         | 4         | 0         | 0        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>41</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>9</b> |

Source: ASLG (2020)

The pandemic response has already proven to be costly and has also generated significant fiscal risks and an placed considerable strain on local financial resources. For example, local governments' own and shared revenues have shrunk, and the available funds have been re-oriented towards priority actions, putting in jeopardy the provision of usual public services to the poor and vulnerable. Local governments need to access emergency funding not only to ensure the continuity of response activities, but also for the sustainability of their fiscal space throughout the year.

The pandemic also brought to light, as during the November 2019 earthquake, the weakness of non-public entities, such as CSOs, volunteer groups, and business community, to engage in the immediate response to vulnerable groups. This indicates the need for strengthening future collaboration between the public and non-public spheres, which might foster higher efficiency and effectivity in crisis response, as well as provide additional response capacity and mechanisms.

## Impact on the Environment

Whilst the immediate priority for action against the COVID-19 pandemic is the health crisis and economic fall-out from the lockdown, we must not underestimate the importance of the environment aspects, since the reasons for such pandemics in the first place, lays in the anthropogenic alteration of the environment. The deterioration of ecosystems, and the biodiversity within, as a result of habitat loss, fragmentation and modification, particularly coming from urban and agricultural development, climate change, pollution, and overexploitation of nature, is increasing the risk of infectious zoonotic diseases. This shows how human health and the health of our planet are intimately connected.

As government respond to the economic fallout from COVID-19, there is a growing demand to “build forward better”, ensuring that the money spent on recovery packages are used to invest in a low-carbon and resilient economy, i.e. clean, green, sustainable and resilient investments. This would significantly contribute to making progress in the fight against climate change, in this crucial year for climate action, given that Albania like other countries is now preparing to submit revised national climate action plans, known as NDC, under the Paris Agreement and that the response by government to the pandemic will influence.

The rural population is greatly affected by the COVID-related environmental impacts, but at the same time has the potential to greatly contribute to the response. While meeting their basic needs and rights , it is very important to take into consideration the necessity for the conservation of nature that supports the rural population. Sound environmental regulations and policies can contribute greatly to securing rural income, and to building back better, resilient and sustainable service and supply chains, while in parallel ensuring food production and genetic diversity conservation. Nature also plays a significant role in easing the impacts of climate change, including by absorbing local air pollutants and by mitigating the urban heat island effect.

Albania is considered a biodiversity hotspot in Europe. To protect the remarkable biodiversity and valuable natural resources, the government has put under protection about 18% of the territory, including 58 protected areas covering a range of categories under IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature. Nevertheless, much still needs to be done to protect and improving these unique habitats and protected areas. The potential distribution of the Natura 2000 Sites of Community Interest has identified 43 proposed sites.

As the government focuses on solving the economic crisis, sustainability and preservation should be enforced, investments in biodiversity conservation maintained, financing and implementing the management plans and budgets of protected areas given priority, and rare species and habitats should be protected. This will also increase economic gains, attract tourists, and create new business opportunities.

Travel and Tourism sector constitutes 10.3% of global GDP and creates 1 in 4 jobs, while wildlife tourism supports over 22 million jobs, contributing \$ 340 billion to the world GDP. In Albania the number of

tourists in Protected Areas increased by 30% in 2019 (+916,660 visitors) compared to 2018 creating a need for more investments in human and eco-friendly infrastructure as well as enforcement of environmental regulations.

## Impact on Culture and Creative Sectors

Culture and creative sectors have been rapidly expanding in the past decade in Albania. In 2014, the value added at factor cost of enterprises active in cultural and creative industry was 2.95% of their market share, which indicates that culture is responsible for an important part of national production, and that it helps generate income and sustain the livelihoods of its citizens. Household expenditure on cultural activities amounts to 3.10% of GDP.

Beside contribution to the creation, production, transmission and enjoyment of symbolic content, culture and creative industries also create non-economic benefits. For instance, they contribute to the expansion of peoples' opportunities to participate in cultural life and to the promotion of cultural diversity. Cultural infrastructure in Albania consists of 55 Museums, Exhibition Venues Dedicated to the Performing Arts (37 cultural centres and 12 theatres), and 46 Libraries and Media Resource Centres with 145 employees. However, the COVID-19-related restrictive measures meant that enterprises and entrepreneurs in the cultural sector as well as public cultural institutions were closed, and their operations ceased, thereby affecting their income generation potentials. Resilience will depend on several factors: the way of doing business, market orientation or dependence on the state budget, the degree of digitalization, the type of cultural content and the way it is distributed, the cultural habits of the audience / consumers and the seasonal nature of business. In the short and medium term, financial investment in cultural heritage sector will be strategic for economic recovery.

## GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Government of Albania responded quickly with the objective of containing as much as possible the spread of the pandemic, to avoid the danger of a likely exponential growth of infections, which would be disastrous, given the fragility of the national health system. Phase 1 of the measures taken by the government is characterized by extensive rigorous public health measures during the first two months of the epidemic. Phase 2 is characterized by a gradual transition, beginning in mid-May based on the assessment every 14 days of the trend of new cases, total hospitalized cases, and cases in intensive care (see figure below) All people residing in the Republic of Albania are entitled to all available COVID-19 related care. Entitlement is not linked to contributions. There is no out-of-pocket payment for COVID-19 care (Law No. 15 of 2016: "On the Prevention and Fight against Infections and Infectious Diseases").

| LOW RISK  | MEDIUM RISK  | HIGH RISK  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Under 12 new cases diagnosed per day (above the weekly average) with a decreasing trend for the last two weeks</p> <p>and / or less than 90 hospitalized COVID-19 patients</p> <p>and / or less than 10-15 patients in intensive care.</p> | <p>13 - 25 new cases diagnosed per day (above the weekly average) with a tendency to increase, for the last two weeks</p> <p>and / or 91 - 150 hospitalized COVID-19 patients</p> <p>and / or 16 - 25 patients in intensive care</p> | <p>Over 25 new cases diagnosed per day (above the weekly average) with a tendency to increase, for the last two weeks</p> <p>and / or over 150 hospitalized COVID-19 patients</p> <p>and / or over 25 patients in intensive care</p> |
| <p><b>PROCEED WITH THE RE-OPENING STAGES</b></p>  | <p><b>CANNOT CONTINUE TO THE SECOND PHASE OF REOPENING</b></p>   | <p><b>EMERGENCY BREAKS – RETURN TO RESTRICTING MEASURES</b></p>  |

The government has also instituted a range of support measures aimed at protecting the population and businesses during the pandemic. These include:

- Welfare benefits and other support to individuals, including sick pay, cash transfers, housing relief;
- Protection for vulnerable people in households at risk of abuse;
- Financial support / guarantees for businesses; and
- Home education support.

In this respect, the Government has enacted a package of fiscal stimuli in the form of two sets of economic policy measures (on 21 March 2020, and 13 April 2020) consisting of budget spending, sovereign guarantees and tax deferrals. The fiscal packages amounting to about 2.8 per cent of GDP, also included a mixture of tax moratoriums, loan guarantees and wage subsidies for those businesses and individuals in dire economic distress. These fiscal measures have been adopted on top of the existing earthquake relief and recovery package included to the 2020 budget, totalling 1.2 per cent of the GDP.<sup>20</sup>

Implementation of the financial packages started with a focus on supporting the most vulnerable first. The delivery rate for the measures in the first package, which included minimum wage support for small businesses forced to close during the lockdown and unemployment and social benefits, stands high. However, in some areas the measures announced have not been implemented to the same extent, including credit lines to SMEs. Prior to 22 May, of the 128,929 approved beneficiaries, 128,814 have received the support. Similarly, out of the 38,672 small businesses approved for the support, 38,643 have been paid.<sup>21</sup>

Regarding the second package, the delivery rate remains equally high. The below table presents the support approved and disbursed until 22 May.

| Financial Packages  | Approved Requests   |                  |                 | Disbursed Requests |                 |                      |
|---|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|   | No of Requests      | No of Businesses | No of Employees | No of Businesses   | No of Employees | Total Disbursed Fund |
| <b>Package 1</b>  |                     |                  |                 |                    |                 |                      |
| Package 1- 1st Tranche ("War Salary")                             | 38,545              | 38,672           | 65,078          | 38,643             | 64,964          | 1,687,478,000        |
| Package 1- 2nd Tranche ("War Salary")                             |                     |                  |                 | 38,114             | 63,344          | 1,646,944,000        |
| Package 1- Double payment of unemployment payment – First tranche | Automated procedure |                  | 3,100           |                    | 3,100           | 86,120,000           |
| Package 1- Double payment of unemployment payment – 2nd tranche   |                     |                  | 3,100           |                    | 3,100           | 86,120,000           |
| Package 1- Double Economic Aid                                    |                     |                  | 60,750          |                    | 60,750          | 334,000,000          |
| <b>Sub- Total 1</b>   |                     |                  | <b>128,928</b>  | <b>38,643</b>      | <b>128,814</b>  | <b>4,174,662,000</b> |
| <b>Package 2</b>  |                     |                  |                 |                    |                 |                      |
| Package 2 – Measure 1   | 809                 | 692              | 8,145           | 34,283             | 107,668         | 4,316,800,000        |
| Package 2 – Measure 2   | 4,972               | 4,268            | 27,755          |                    |                 |                      |
| Package 2 – Measure 3   | 29,203              | 28,609           | 60,057          |                    |                 |                      |
| Package 2 – Measure 4   | 914                 | 854              | 4239            |                    |                 |                      |
| Package 2 – Measure for oil companies' employees                  | 2                   | 2                | 720             | 2                  | 720             | 18,720,000           |
| <b>Sub-Total 2</b>  | <b>35,900</b>       | <b>34,425</b>    | <b>100,916</b>  | <b>34,285</b>      | <b>108,388</b>  | <b>4,335,520,000</b> |
| <b>Total Disbursed Fund</b>                                       |                     |                  |                 |                    |                 | <b>8,510,182,000</b> |

Source: Ministry of Finance and Economy, May 2020

Regarding monetary policy and macroeconomic measures introduced, in March 2020, the Central Bank of Albania cut the interest rate to a record low of 0.5 per cent from 1.0 per cent, to support the economy and to alleviate the impact of the pandemic. The Central Bank has also allowed borrowers affected by the pandemic to postpone their debt service payments. The exchange rate has remained stable after an initial depreciation and no measures regarding the exchange rate have been announced. However, it remains to be seen whether such temporary measures will be enough to mitigate the longer-term impacts of COVID-19 without additional structural measures.

Furthermore, the Parliament of Albania suspended its activity for close to one month. After the complete lockdown, the Parliament resumed the parliamentary commissions meetings via online platforms and gradually also reinstated the physical plenary meetings. The offices of the National Human Rights

<sup>20</sup> IMF Country Report No. 20/118 – April 2020.

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of Finance and Economy, <https://financa.gov.al/raporte-per-covid-19/>.

Institutions sent their personnel to work from home for more than two months and suspended the monitoring visits to detention facilities or residential care institutions, but have kept their telephone numbers operational, with a view to allow children, their families and other vulnerable groups to present complaints over violations of their rights. The Ministry of Justice has taken some positive measures to control the spread of the virus among children (and adults) deprived of liberty, the staff of the Ministry and its subordinate entities, children under probation measures, as well as among various vulnerable individuals and groups (including children) that need to access the justice system.

While the Central Government was focused on the overall management of the crisis, municipalities were at the frontline of implementing the preventive measures and providing first-hand support to the local populations. Considering the social distancing protocols and lockdown measures, several local government units (LGUs) and municipal councils had to find innovative ways of conducting business. For example, they have increased the use of various digital tools as the only effective means available to maintain continuity of doing business, making decisions, and connecting with central institutions.

Local government units, under the Civil Protection Law no.45/2019, have the responsibility to identify the populations at-risk and provide them with humanitarian aid in times of emergency, in coordination with higher levels of government. This competency was extensively tested during the crisis period, even though, a deeper analysis of LGUs' performance has not yet been conducted.

Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRMs), with a tailored protocol endorsed by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP), managed urgent and non-urgent cases of domestic violence in the COVID-19 situation. More concretely, this DV case management protocol aims to assist CRM members in adequately handling domestic violence cases during the period of the pandemic caused by COVID-19. The MoHSP Gender Equality Department shared this protocol with all municipal mayors and 61 Local Domestic Violence Coordinators (LDVC), to encourage adoption by each CRM responsible structure.

Similarly, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection issued a Ministerial instruction (nr 253 of 10 April 2020) which ensures continuation of protection services for the most at-risk children during COVID-19 emergency, confirming the child protection workforce as a core service during COVID-19. The Instruction introduces measures for Child protection system that ensure that Child Protection Workers will continue life-saving interventions to protect children at risk of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect while ensuring that they are supported with the necessary personal protection equipment and the required logistics to make home visits for high-risk cases. The instruction also elaborates on the types of emergency protection measures and alternative care arrangements required during COVID-19 emergency.

Several municipalities informed women and men in local communities on the potential rise of gender based and domestic violence cases under the COVID-19 containment circumstances, provided them with safety tips for GB&DV victims and relevant emergency local and national help lines available. An internal regulation on managing urgent sexual violence cases in COVID-19 situation is drafted also by LILIUM Center, the only one-stop centre for sexual violence victims, in close cooperation with MoHSP and UNDP support. This internal regulation is shared among the relevant multidisciplinary actors for recommendations and is currently being finalized. UN support to municipalities to address GBV/DV is carried out by several entities, including the UN ERAW JP.

Whilst the responsibilities of LGUs are shared among different levels of government, a coordination mechanism at central level was set up through an Inter-institutional Working Group (IWG) for the COVID-19 Emergency situation. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Defence, the IWG aimed to help vulnerable populations with special focus on families in need and the elderly. The Agency for Support of Local Governments (ASLG), the institution of the Prefect, and the LGUs were part of the IWG. ASLG served as the technical secretariat, whose task was to coordinate the work between LGUs, deconcentrated central institutions at Prefect level, and Central Government.

## INITIAL RESPONSE OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Development partners and donors have been convening, and discussing technical collaboration in response to the needs of the country facing COVID-19. Concrete commitments include support to the

health sector through the procurement of essential equipment and gear, including PPE, ventilators, ambulances and other medical devices.

Further, IMF has provided US\$190.5 million financial assistance under the Rapid Financing Instrument. This support provides critical resources for the health care sector and supports jobs and businesses. It also limits the decline in international reserves. Unlike the IMF's standard financial packages, there are no programmes attached to the Rapid Financing Instrument.

The European Union will support Albania with EUR 50 million to fight COVID-19. Out of this amount EUR 4 million supports the health sector, and EUR 46 million consists of budget support to assist the social and economic recovery. As part of the budget support, the EU is currently negotiating indicators with the Government.<sup>22</sup> The EU will also provide support at the macro-economic level, through an additional amount of EUR 180 million in favourable terms loans. The aim of these funds is to contribute to enhancing macro-economic stability to allow resources to be channelled towards protecting citizens and mitigating the consequences of COVID-19.

Several bilateral donors, including China, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, the United States (list not exhaustive), have provided diagnostics and medical supplies to Albania during the pandemic.

The United Nations, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and technical lead of UNDP, is developing this joint Response Plan, and international financial institutions (IFIs) are invited to join the effort. The Response Plan is aligned to the Government of Albania Response Plan and aligned to ongoing discussions on Albania Vision 2030.

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<sup>22</sup> EU's budget support indicators to be added once approved.

# RECOVERY & RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

## PILLAR 1: HEALTH FIRST

The Albania health systems can quickly become overwhelmed by the COVID-19 outbreak, if not adequately supported. As pointed out in the Situation Analysis, deaths from the outbreak itself can quickly be exceeded by deaths from preventable or treatable conditions, no longer managed by a failing health system. The UN Response in support of Health first, is delineated below.

### 1.1 STRENGTHEN COVID-19 RESPONSE

Considering the current rise in cases, there is an urgent need to maintain COVID-19 response measures, and to strengthen specific gaps in the current response.

#### SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES

- Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring: emergency operational unit in IPH, interaction and after-action review of the response, etc.
- Strengthen national laboratories, testing capacity, trained lab workforce.
- Improved surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation.
- Enhanced risk communication and community engagement, behavioural survey, etc.
- Strengthening points of entry strengthening according to IHR (airports, seaports, land borders).
- Infection prevention and control, throughout all levels of health care.
- Strengthened COVID-19 case management.
- Operational support and logistics (in-country inventory, supply database, etc).
- Support delivery of vaccine

### 1.2 SAFE DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND RECOVERY

COVID-19 has the potential to increase morbidity and mortality through the inability of health systems to maintain and strengthen health services. Detailed action includes:

#### SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES

- Establish governance and coordination mechanisms for dual track health system management.
- Country- context specific upscale of health services.
- Strengthen service delivery settings and platforms.
- Establish effective patient flow (screening, triage, and targeted referral) at all levels.
- Increasing health workforce capacity, including re-assignment and task sharing.
- Maintaining safety for staff and patients.
- Maintain availability of essential medications, equipment, and supplies.
- Strengthen communication and use information technologies to support appropriate use of essential services.

### 1.3 INCREASE HEALTH SYSTEM RESILIENCE TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH

COVID-19 has the potential to increase the current health determinants, affect vulnerable populations in their access to health care, and be not ready to cope with any forms of outbreaks or emergencies. A full system strengthening is therefore required, including primary health care.

#### SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES

- Improve governance and health financing.
- Strengthen primary health care, by reinforcing human resources, infrastructure and diagnostics, services and roll out the new model of PHC, integrating health and social care at the community level, financing and financial protection and quality of care.
- Strengthening services to women and young people with specific focus on SRH.

## MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM MEASURES

- Strengthen the vertical coordination of health services, across all levels, redefining clinical governance, and creating the culture of continuous quality improvement.
- Strengthen resilience to emergencies – strengthen country IHR core capacities for epidemics: Prevent – Detect – Respond.
- Actions to prevent future outbreaks and emergencies: National Legislation, Policy, and Financing, IHR coordination, Communication, and Advocacy for food, water, zoonotic and vector borne diseases, antimicrobial resistance, increase biosafety and biosecurity and Immunization.
- Strengthen early detection capacity: Strengthen National Laboratory System, Real time surveillance, Reporting, workforce Development, increase response capacity, emergency Response Operations, Linking public health and security authorities, Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment, Risk communication, and contact tracing.
- Strengthen preparedness and response to all hazards, points of Entry (PoE), natural events, Chemical events, Radiation emergencies.
- Support the strengthening of the infrastructure of healthcare facilities as well as local municipal level institutional capacity building.

## 1.4 HEALTHCARE WASTE MANAGEMENT

It is possible and encouraged to consider provision of new waste treatment capabilities in the immediate post-crisis context. UN will work to advance a multisectoral approach to ensuring better health outcomes through support to environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient health care systems. This work will include a focus on communicable and non-communicable diseases through improved healthcare waste management better access to water and sanitation, and other efforts that address the links between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment and climate.

### SHORT-TERM MEASURES

- Conduct mapping of the available capacity for treating healthcare waste nationwide.
- Train and raise capacities of landfill, management companies and other relevant local stakeholders, including municipalities to prepare for the informed disposal of the healthcare waste.
- A separate cell within landfills can be prepared for the waste generated by the epidemics. Apply Rules for transportations of infectious waste (and measures specific to crisis conditions).

### MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES

- Support to policy based on the principles of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (in particular the Stockholm Convention on POPs or the Minamata Convention on mercury), development of guidelines and SOPs.
- Analysis of economic dimensions and of the business models for operation of Healthcare waste management to promote public private partnerships.
- Training particularly in segregation/collection/transportation of waste, selection of Healthcare waste management technologies, installation and operation of the equipment.
- Support the maintenance of the equipment.
- Awareness raising and other dimensions (human rights, gender mainstreaming), south-south cooperation.
- Support to the integration of best available technologies and best environmental practices in procurement, and support to the sustainable procurement processes.
- Strengthening the policy, legal and institutional framework of Mercury management.
- Reducing the use of Mercury containing products and environmentally sound management of mercury waste.
- Building institutional capacity and raising awareness on Mercury management.
- Strengthening engagement of the health sector with the sound management of Mercury.

### LONG-TERM MEASURES

- Undertake an in-depth study, which will assess the situation of production and treatment of hospital waste throughout the country. This will not only provide a clear picture of the amount produced, the



possible ways and places of treatment, the costs and fees associated with them, but will also help reduce informality in the sector.

- Initiate a national planning process in this area, which can provide the institutional and legal framework for the management of Healthcare waste especially hospital waste (this is especially for treatment structures).
- Based on best available options and technologies, develop a plan for the treatment of pharmaceutical waste in the country, such as providing an institutional framework for the management of this waste stream associated with the provision of management and education alternatives for manufacturing entities).
- Improve infrastructure and increase human capacity for proper administration of hospital waste.
- Prioritize budgeting of the sector's needs for long-term investments in hospital waste management.
- Train inspectors for conducting inspections in waste production and treatment entities, as well as to conduct frequent inspections (at least for the first 5 years) on all public and private entities. The inspection should stimulate the implementation of the law.
- Strengthen inter-institutional cooperation as well as stimulate support between local institutions that control and monitor the situation of hospital waste).
- Sector information, inspection, monitoring and self-monitoring reports should be transparent and accessible to the public.

## **PILLAR 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE**

### **2.1 SCALE UP AND EXPANDING RESILIENT AND PRO-POOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND SERVICES**

For children and families, social protection systems and services are an essential element of realizing children's rights, ensuring their well-being, breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability, and helping all children realize their full potential. Social protection ensures income security for women and men of working age and the right to income security in old age. Access to proper social protection contributes to enhance human capital and productivity, stimulate aggregate demand and promote decent and productive employment. Against this background, UN proposes the following measures

#### **SHORT-TERM MEASURES**

- Support the integration HCT as part of transitory social protection schemes to alleviate the burden of COVID-19 left out of any government supported financial package.
- Support policy development to establish a comprehensive and shock-responsive social protection system by assessing the social protection responses to COVID-19.

#### **MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM MEASURES**

- Strengthening the national social protection system to respond to the crisis, including developing and costing scenarios for shock responsive social protection system, and implementing humanitarian cash transfers.
- Expanding social protection packages to women by advocacy and support efforts to ensure that emergency social protection packages and related allocated budget address the needs of vulnerable girls and women, including self-employed women, non-standards workers, and more broadly women in the informal economy.
- Support identifying national policy measures which can enable equal sharing of the burden of care in the recovery phase of COVID-19 (i.e., family leave and care economy policies) through support for policy formulation and information and awareness raising campaigns.
- Social mobilisation campaign to promote redistribution and recognition of unpaid care and domestic work CSO-led awareness raising campaigns through social and traditional media, leveraging on existing networks, including HeForShe network.
- Provision of integrated health and social services and promotion of social protection and inclusion for the most vulnerable groups – elderly, population in prison etc.
- Build the local institutional capacities at municipal level and social workers to be able to provide information and support to families under Economic Aid to better access additional support and care services (cash and care) in the situation post COVID-19.

- Development of nationally approved standards of operation for community care social services that can be used by LGUs in COVID-19 and similar crisis.
- Strengthen participation of vulnerable groups for inclusive COVID-19 social protection measures by establishing/updating an information base (knowledge products such as guidance notes, protocols, lessons learned, best practices) on issues for social protection and inclusion
- Support local structures with strengthened capacities to effectively respond to the poorest and most vulnerable needs with a keen focus on Roma and Egyptian communities and persons with disabilities through support to LGUs for the continuity of operations and services for people with disabilities (PWD): psychosocial care, personal assistance and day care, transportation services specialized for PWD
- Support to LGUs to establish and maintain community-based social protection services and local safety nets to complement or to fill gaps when national/local responses do not suffice in times of emergency
- Strengthen the role of social workers in COVID-19 response
- Support those in need, through livelihood and income-generating programmes, with a special focus on Roma and people with disabilities PWD and ensure that they have access to essential services and at least a minimum level of income and food security.
- Support Roma and Egyptians, PWDs and other vulnerable people lead income generation activities to recover after COVID-19 crises
- Develop crisis response integrated social care services institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms functional with clear roles and responsibilities at local level in all municipalities, linking social protection, skills and employment, housing, free legal aid, inclusive education and other sectors via social care plans and through accessing the Social Fund.
- Design regulations and instructions to establish workflows, protocols and mechanisms that enable access of vulnerable communities to quality integrated social care services in times of crises, through mobile and home modalities.
- Innovative models of integrated social care services piloted at the local level in 50% of municipalities, including established local linkages between health, social protection, inclusive education and employment services reaching all, including the most vulnerable segments of the population to recover from COVID-19.

## 2.2 SUPPORT ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

Like in many other countries, Albania's education system was not built to deal with extended shutdowns like those imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which have negative short- and long- term impact. Teachers, administrators, and parents have worked hard to keep learning alive; nevertheless, these efforts are not likely to be as effective as education that's delivered in the classroom. Learning loss will be unavoidable and considerable, disproportionately affecting the disadvantaged, with a larger share of students likely to fall back into functional illiteracy and potentially dropping out of school altogether. Estimates suggest that the percentage of "low performers" has likely increased by about 8% due to school closures from mid- March to June, which means that the pandemic will deepen the equity challenges for the most vulnerable students who will consequently require additional support and resources. While UN (UNICEF specifically) took measures immediately to support MoES to adopt to new learning modalities, measures are required to support the system with medium- and longer-term solutions.

### MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM MEASURES

- Support government with education sector risk assessments, contingency and response plans. Advocate and support governments to prepare schools, teachers and families for school closures and school re-opening.
- Implement safe school operations and risk communication by operationalizing safe school guidance, helping equip schools with minimum hygiene packages, circulate live-saving information material on handwashing and recommended behaviours, and sensitize teachers and care givers.
- Develop and promote free and open digital tools to support large-scale remote learning; including educational TV and radio programmes, online content, internet-based and learning, supported by increased teacher capacities in ICT in education.

## 2.3 WOMEN, GIRLS AND CHILDREN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE (DOMESTIC, GENDER BASED AND SEXUAL)

Global evidence suggest that public health outbreaks directly impact gender-based violence and domestic violence. Children, girls and boy, so as young girls and women in Albania who were victims and witnesses of domestic violence are now in even more ominous state, because they might be possibly locked in with the abusers and even if they manage to reach out for help, protection systems face limitations and challenges to respond to their needs. Therefore, the following measures are proposed.

### SHORT-TERM MEASURES

- Child Protection services are considered essential services with clear instructions on how to operate during COVID-19 restrictions, to ensure intervention and protection for all cases at high risk and follow up and close monitoring of all other cases. Child protection workers are supported to implement these guidelines.
- Emergency services are functional and adopt protective measures in respect of COVID-19 protocols.
- Protection of children without parental care is prioritize, currently placed in residential care institutions during the COVID19 pandemic and the restrictive measures adopted to contain the disease outbreak. In line with global guidance on children in alternative care during COVID-19 establish clear referral and admission instructions for residential care centres and child protection workers, to ensure that immediate emergency services are prioritized, and clear gatekeeping procedures were respected for new admissions.
- Mental health and psychosocial support services are available for children and families to address the growing concerns of child well-being and mental health during lockdown and COVID-19 impact, including for vulnerable children affected from the 2019 earthquake.
- Child Helpline continues to function to ensure that even in lockdown children and adolescents have a means to report violence, including violence in the home, and that effective and swift referrals are enabled with responsible authorities.
- Child protection information materials are made available to children with disabilities.

### MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM MEASURES

- Prevention of GB&DV promoted at the national scale in crisis and recovery settings through national campaigns on advancing gender roles during public health crisis, aiming to reach out to women and girls, victims of GB&DV
- Support to national authorities in developing policies and provide oversight free from triggering or aggravating incidents of GB&DV and developing tools and innovative approaches on triggering normative changes on power relations.
- Improvements in regulatory/legal policy framework for adequate prevention and response to GB&DV cases through capacity building support for police, prosecutors, judges, relevant line ministries/dependent central institutions staff on effective handling of GB&DV cases in pandemic and other types of crisis, and development processes of legislation/policy/GE strategy, especially legal/policy framework related to emergency/natural disasters to ensure preventive and response mechanism to GB&DV.
- Support institutions (ministries, one stop centre for sexual violence victims and all related institutions) to provide specialised support services to GB&DV victims in pandemic/other types of crisis situations.
- Support multi sectorial services providers at local level to strengthen cooperation across all CRM members to provide safe home/ necessary administrative assistance/ safe transport, emergency and post emergency support services to GBV/DV victims.
- Provide support with rapid assessments of current shelters and support the immediate expansion of shelters and case management services by mapping needs and constraints of women's organizations working directly with women impacted by the crisis, provision of safety kits and protective equipment to centres that serve women and girls, training of staff on protocols developed by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and provision of support to government centres that serve women and girls (e.g. safe spaces) including health care essentials to safely remain open/reopen for women and girls.

- Engage grassroots and local organisations to ensure shelters and other services support for hard to reach women and women from marginalised groups.
- Support hotlines linked to existing protection hotlines, to address the likely increase in sexual exploitation and abuse considering increased vulnerability.
- Providing direct support to government to promote adherence to international standards to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse by establishing Situation Rooms for early warning and rapid response against increased violence against women and girls, and training staff of quarantine centres on international standards in preventing and responding to PSEA.
- Conduct active advocacy with the government, municipalities, public institutions and independent Human Rights bodies to recognize the lifesaving critical role social/child protection service and its work force plays in the response to violence/GBV, abuse and exploitation during COVID-19.
- Raise awareness through testimonies, human interest stories, on the challenges faced by children with disabilities during COVID-19.
- Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group re-focuses its work towards addressing COVID-19: Regular communication and coordination with government appointed institutions in charge of responding to COVID-19 situation (MoHSP, MoD, etc.) and Local Government bodies
- Develop standard tools and guidelines to inform the interventions of all members during COVID-19 and collect data on the impact for children and communities.
- Support availability of clear, simple, accessible and reliable information on COVID-19 and child protection, and develop child-led digital tools on the protection of children online, using innovative and interactive-audio visual technology to address peers and parents through media, social media, mobile applications, internet etc.
- Provide support to the government on Normative Framework and Capacity Building of Child Protection Workforce to develop/modify and adopt SOPs addressing the COVID-19 situation on case management of children in need for protection from violence/GBV abuse and exploitation;
- Provide capacity building of CPW and Social workers in residential care institutions on child protection during emergencies, GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and how to effectively respond to child protection needs during COVID-19 as per modified SoP/instruction, while capitalizing on the experiences in the field so far.
- Provide capacity building on child protection risks during emergencies and referral pathway for children in need for protection, for health, education and other professionals involved in the humanitarian response.
- Provision of basic PPE, Sanitation and Hygienic kits to residential care facilities, temporary shelters for victims of trafficking, abuse, domestic violence, etc.
- Ensuring protection and emergency response services for children at high and immediate risk by setting up temporary full scale and 24/7 emergency shelters or support adaptation of existing ones, to allow new cases of children who are victims or under immediate risk of violence/GBV, abuse or exploitation to find support, care and shelter which will also allow for the provision of 14 days quarantine period.
- Setting up mobile rescue and support units which will be on call to support the statutory CP services in the most critical situations of high risk.
- Support case management of children at high and medium risk during emergency situations, including the evaluation, family visits, and provision of essential services.
- Support to State Agency for Protection of Children's Rights in the conduct and preparation of the National Report on Child Labour following post COVID-19 pandemic.
- Prevention of family separation for vulnerable children and support to family re-unification or placement in a family-type environment; establishment of family-support hubs and development of professional foster family model; implementation of the De-Institutionalisation plan.
- Provide Mental Health and Psycho-social support for children and adolescents during COVID-19.
- Strengthen mechanisms to protect children from violence and exploitation – including sexual – in the digital environment: online child sexual abuse reporting and removal system is in place; law enforcement professionals trained and supported to investigate cases of online abuse; support governmental reporting platforms for child sexual abuse materials.

## 2.4 ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS

Greater awareness of the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers is needed across government authorities and institutions, in order to ensure their full integration in measures to address the COVID-19 emergency and subsequent recovery.

#### SHORT-TERM MEASURES

- Issuance of Personal ID Numbers for refugees and asylum seekers and ensuring the timely issuance of compatible documentation in order to facilitate unhindered access to rights and services. This includes the full implementation of two Decisions of Council of Ministers from spring 2019 related to personal ID numbers and work permits.
- Support to Directorate for Asylum and Citizenship (DfAC) in fully resuming asylum procedures during COVID-19 pandemic, with a view to determine permanent status of eligible cases.

#### MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM MEASURES

- Support Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (ONAC)/ Responsible Authority (RA) members in applying the SOP procedures during COVID-19 pandemic. permanent status of eligible cases.

### PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

#### 3.1 ECONOMIC MEASURES & ADDRESSING INFORMAL AND VULNERABLE WORKERS

##### Data Driven Policy Analysis and Strategic Support

The COVID-19 crisis is expected to impact both the supply and demand sides of the economy. The proposed initiatives focus mainly on Tourism (including agritourism), Manufacturing, and Commerce sectors and seek to support micro and small enterprises aimed at stabilizing both. Understanding the **value chain network** of the Albanian economy and its links to the local, regional, and international markets, in both its supply and demand sides would be particularly beneficial in that regard. Moreover, a data driven analysis of the food value chains and local agri-food operators, will provide an understanding of vulnerabilities to Albania's food security and related response activities.

There is evidence that the economic activities as per NACE rev 2, declared by many enterprises during registration, did not reflect their actual lines of business, reducing thereby their access to COVID-19-related Government funds. It is therefore crucial that relevant institutions are equipped with the operational procedures, tools, and skills to implement the NACE rev 2 **classification so that more businesses can benefit from the COVID-19-related Government measures**. In addition, preferential **public procurement policies** can be a powerful instrument for promoting market opportunities to support SME development.

In **tourism**, there is a need for assessing the economic impact of COVID-19 on the sector and designing a strategic roadmap on boosting post-COVID-19 tourism recovery in Albania. **Cultural and creative sector** play an important role and should contribute to marketing of Albania as a country of destination, and at the same time benefit from the development of tourism. Recovery and response activities will need to focus at developing a shared marketing strategy to increase cultural heritage investments, establishing new institutional capabilities, and implementing innovative governance patterns, able to reduce administrative, social and economic barriers among cultural heritage and potential investors.

In the **agricultural sector** immediate challenges and adaptation are being observed in **food supply chains** (covering domestic production, import-export, manufacturing and trade inclusive of agricultural inputs) as a result of COVID-19. Bolstering the existing connections or developing new ones between various market participants, such as crop and livestock farmers with processors, retailers and wholesalers will strengthen the resilience to shocks of Albania's food supply and distribution. Therefore, the need for **real-time information and data** to address these challenges is paramount.

Furthermore, fluctuating or increased food prices can have an impact on food security at household level and may even hamper Albania's competitiveness at the regional level. Therefore, instruments on how to **monitor food prices** are needed for effective food and trade policies.

With migrant workers highly concentrated in occupations and sectors expected to be particularly hard hit by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis Albania is expected to be significantly affected by the drop-in remittances. Thus, regular monitoring **of remittances' flows** and development of programmes designed to stimulate and incentivize the inflow of remittances will be necessary to alleviate the additional financial burdens likely faced by households.

## Digital Transformation and Innovation for Enhanced Productivity

**Digitalization** is quickly becoming a key driver of how to conduct business in the private and public sectors in the future. However, Albania remains a cash-based economy. Hence, post-COVID-19 economic recovery might necessitate digital transformation and increased use of **technology** which will require investment in the digital infrastructure and boosting the **e-capabilities of institutions and business enterprises**, including in the **cultural and creative sector and in agriculture**.

As **science, technology, and innovation** are considered to be fundamental factors for a **knowledge-based economy**, capacities to develop basic and applied scientific research, to adapt and implement technologies in economic structures, to creatively develop new products and services, using innovative technology and disseminate them to the public, will be even more fundamental for developing a competitive economy in a post-COVID-19 era.

Therefore, in the range of measures taken to address COVID-19-related disruptions in the labour market and skills mismatch, the role of smart specialization principle, requiring EU countries to build on their own strength in the context of national and regional research and innovation strategies in line with Europe 2020 strategy need to be integrated<sup>23</sup>. Innovation in all its spectrum provides an excellent opportunity to boost the public and the private sector recovery from COVID-19. In this regards, blockchain technologies, design thinking and behavioural insights, and gig economy as parts of the overall framework of the 4th industrial revolution need to be prototyped and scaled up to increase the productivity of Albania's economy and its overall competitiveness.

At the micro level, transformational change initiatives which support the micro and small enterprises, including in agriculture and cultural and creative sector, to ensure **innovation in business practises, re-skilling and up-skilling, and** behavioural insights will need to be implemented.

## Decent Work

In May 2020, after more than two months of lockdown, GoA gradually started to lift the quarantine measures. The risk of infection continues to exist until a vaccine or cure becomes available. The key challenge is to achieve both the resumption of economic activities and the prevention of the recurrence of pandemic. In getting out of the COVID-19 crisis, new ways of living and working must be adopted. When reopening the workplace and putting workers back to work, it is imperative to ensure **safe return to work**. Measures enabling safe return to work may consist of:

- a systematic use of work arrangements that incorporate social distancing,
- coverage of COVID-19 related morbidity by the workers compensation
- inclusion of COVID-19 into the risk assessment in the workplace OSH policy, and
- provision of proper PPE for essential workers including health care workers.

On the other hand, it is imperative that all the relevant measures are equally applied to **refugees and asylum seekers**. The ongoing issue of incompatible **personal ID numbers and the issuance of work permits**, which hinders refugees from fully accessing social protection and reliable employment needs to be addressed. This will further build on Albania's pledge at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum where it committed to, among other priorities, eliminate legal inconsistencies and administrative barriers preventing refugees and asylum-seekers from effectively accessing rights including those related to economic empowerment.

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<sup>23</sup> Rakhmatullin, B (2015). Global Value Chains and Smart Specialization Strategy

## Employment Programming

To address the new **vulnerabilities in the labour market**, it is crucial to identify the challenges that unemployed jobseekers face during the job search process, but also to understand the needs of the employers who are at the same time working on rethinking their business models. The interventions are proposed to address both the supply and the demand for skills.

As such, a **skill needs analysis** will need to be undertaken, by adapting the current methodology to the post-COVID-19 context. Furthermore, assessment will need to be carried out to measure the extent to which the available employment and skills development programmes respond to the newly identified vulnerabilities of the unemployed jobseekers, the newly unemployed due to COVID-19, or informal workers.

Action is therefore needed for the immediate creation of temporary jobs through **cash for work programmes**, employing predominantly unskilled labour for labour-intensive public works schemes or other short-term activities, prioritized for crisis affected communities. The objective of such emergency employment in crisis and post-crisis situations is to support immediate livelihoods stabilization for vulnerable communities.

Furthermore, **direct support to more vulnerable jobseekers with newly designed employment schemes will need to be provided**. This may include vouchers for training or retraining employees who have recently lost their jobs, support to self-employed workers, or community employment programmes. The diversification and greater flexibility of the **VET offer** will also need to be ensured by improving the collaboration of the public with the private VET, introducing new reskilling and upskilling measures.

Albania remains predominantly a country of emigration, with most Albanians abroad residing in Italy (severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic) and Greece. Many migrant workers, who are likely to have lost their jobs in their host countries as a result of the pandemic, might have no choice but to return to Albania, where they would eventually be counted as an additional unemployed workforce in the country. In addition, youth completing school and about to enter the labour market, many of whom will have planned to find work abroad, will now be confined to seek employment within the local labour market. The result is a surge in labour supply in the economy already struggling with un- and under-employment.

In view of the above analysis, the UN offers to assist Albania in reaching Pillar 3 objectives by carrying out the following actions:

### SHORT-TERM MEASURES

- COVID-19 prevention and mitigation actions at workplaces to ensure safe return to work.
- Training and products for affected enterprises on business continuity, OSH and digitalization as response to COVID-19.
- Support to the National Labour Council in the elaboration of informed policy options for economic recovery through effective social dialogue and activation of its technical subcommittees.
- Nation-wide campaigns to inform and to stimulate domestic demand and local value chains to galvanize community action, building on successful models elsewhere
- Identify the economic sectors with the highest potential to support economic recovery and growth through a local a regional economic network analysis
- Continue assessment in remote rural areas as a short-term activity.
- Diversified active labour market programmes to meet the needs of the unemployed jobseekers and address the challenges of the employers
- Implementation of cash for work schemes
- Ensuring timely issuance of work permits for refugees and asylum seekers
- Advocate that refugees and asylum seekers who have lost their jobs and/or incomes benefit from economic/material support provided by the government and Tirana municipality
- COVID-19 related information and protection is incorporated in the migrant workers recruitment procedures of Private Employment Agencies Collect updated information on the employment situation of Albanian migrants in Italy and Greece, with the purpose of collecting indications on the propensity of current migrants to return to Albania as a result of loss of jobs.

## MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES

- Technical assistance to NAES in improving inclusiveness of programmes and service delivery.
- Preferential Public Procurement as a tool for targeted socio-economic policy agendas.
- Identify and strengthen Smart Specialization of sectors with higher potential of growth in the long term.
- Develop innovative technologies (e-commerce, digitalization of business processes and value chain etc) for economic growth.
- Analyse food supply functionality, identify the bottlenecks and reduce COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 related disruptions in the food system, and along value chains
- Promotion of the Green Economy approach to address the current challenges in agricultural and food systems.
- Develop instruments for information and analysis on food prices, markets, agricultural trade, and food policies.
- Build food and agriculture systems taking account of shocks due to COVID-19 pandemic and reopening of the economies
- Implementation of Pilot programme on tackling undeclared work
- Digital skills needs' assessment to understand the varying skills needed by the private sector, with a special focus on Tourism and Manufacturing
- Direct implementation of employment promotion incentives to target enterprises who are heavily affected by the COVID-19 crises and employees who become redundant (voucher schemes, self-employment)
- Map and track the incidence and variety of atypical employment contracts and employment relations and design an employment promotion scheme for self-employed workers (homecare to elderly, babies and children, cleaners etc)
- Regularisation of informal workers among refugees and asylum seekers
- Effective dissemination of relevant legal and administrative dispositions among responsible institutions to improve awareness and clarity, strengthened procedures for issuance of documentation, internal monitoring mechanisms and related capacity building so that refugees get access to employment unit opportunities, unemployment schemes as well as business development support
- Provide reintegration support to returning migrants
- Promote and create facilitated corridors for seasonal migrant workers

## LONG-TERM MEASURES

- Transformational change initiatives to ensure innovation in business process, business model, technologies and productivity enhancement.
- Improved implementation of the integrated system of classifications of economic activities and products of the private sector (NACE rev.2) in Albania.
- Youth-led initiatives which promote entrepreneurship in co-working/co-creating spaces, with the participation of the local government.
- Sustainable and valuable mechanisms and platforms like Local Employment Partnerships, for improvement of the local value chains and identification of ways and networks for faster post-COVID-19 recovery
- Strengthen cultural industries as a vehicle for sustainable development.
- Strengthening the resilience of animal stock farmers to COVID-19 and post COVID-19 negative effects along the value chain
- Implementation of quality assured and flexible private and public skills development, as a response to the labour market needs in the post-COVID-19 context. Specifically, Re-skilling and Up-skilling programmes for the currently employed workforce, including digital skills to be offered.

## 3.2 BUILDING A POST-COVID-19 RESILIENT TOURISM SECTOR

UN support under this component will further emphasize increased resilience in the tourism sector through the following actions:

- Assessing the impacts of COVID-19 in the tourism sector in Albania (research based qualitative and quantitative)



- Preparation of country-specific Tourism Recovery Plans in cooperation with GoA
- Reorienting the Tourism Value Chain to Sustainable approaches (providing technical assistance and guidance in efficient practices of consumption: waste and water management; energy efficiency and renewable energy applications; eco-certification, etc identifying banking opportunities and investment)
- Marketing and promotion identifying and targeting market strategies that can help accelerate recovery, addressing product diversification, and recommendations and guidelines in terms of pricing and packaging.

### 3.3 WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Disasters can be a time of transformation in economic roles and opportunities, as well as major shifts in access to and control over economic resources. The recovery period can present an opportunity to 'build back better.' Gender responsive measures envisaged in this Pillar provide an opportunity to tackle underlying gender inequalities by ensuring that women are economically empowered and able to access a full range of livelihood options, enabling them to contribute to the broader economic recovery and growth.

Clear **disparities** exist between the experiences of women and men during the COVID-19 pandemic. As women are encouraged to take leave from the paid workforce to take on greater care work within the home, their jobs are likely to be disproportionately affected by cuts and lay-offs. This ultimately puts the fragile status of women's labour force participation and access to financial and other resources, while also limiting women's ability to support themselves and their families.

Removing **legal barriers** to ensure women's access to work and gender equality is equally necessary. This involves providing support to legislative and law enforcement authorities to take concrete actions to create an enabling legal environment for informal workers and recognising informal employment in its various forms: wage employment in informal establishments and households, self-employment, unpaid contributory family work, or informal wage employment in formal establishments.

**Local authorities** need to be strengthened to enhance vulnerable women's economic recovery and empowerment. Specifically, action is needed to **support municipalities to establish and use economic supportive schemes** for start-ups/small businesses run by women with a keen focus on vulnerable women and girls impacted by COVID-19 and earthquake. Support is also needed for municipalities to use **subsidy schemes** for local and intercity transport/creches/kindergarten in support of mothers with a keen focus on vulnerable women impacted by both pandemic and natural disaster; and to organize fairs for local products produced by small business run by women helping them to market their products and establish working contracts with bigger businesses.

Rural women are also disadvantaged in terms of services or state and donor financial support received. Based on FAO's assessment, only 5% of rural women have access to agricultural advisory services. Therefore, there is a need to improve rural women capacities to access services and financial support, especially in the remote areas.

Adverse norms that limit women's access to work need to also be tackled and positive role models promoted in achieving women's economic empowerment. This means supporting women organisations to conduct awareness raising campaigns to **challenge the stigmatization and attitudes** towards informal workers, **changing stereotypes gendering roles and abilities**, and **recognising care work** pressure in time of pandemic situation and call for redistribution of work and supporting those in need.

#### LONG-TERM MEASURES

- Adverse norms that limit women's access to work tackled and positive role models promoted in achieving women's economic empowerment.
- Removing legal barriers to ensure women's access to work and gender equality.

### 3.4 NATURE-BASED RESPONSE

The immediate priority for action against the COVID-19 pandemic is the health crisis and economic fall-out from the lockdown. However, we must not underestimate the importance of the environment aspects,

since the reasons for such pandemics in the first place, lays in the anthropogenic alteration of the environment. The deterioration of ecosystems, and the biodiversity within, as a result of habitat loss, fragmentation and modification, particularly coming from urban and agricultural development, climate change, pollution, and overexploitation of nature, is increasing the risk of infectious zoonotic diseases. This shows how human health and the health of our planet are intimately connected. Therefore, it is essential in this time, besides incorporating environmental sustainability into the COVID-19 response, not to put aside the need for nature protection.

There is a clear need for transformational change to address some of the current challenges in agricultural and food systems. **Green Economy** approach suggests an economic development path that is consistent with long-run environmental protection, using natural resources within their carrying capacity, while providing acceptable living standards and poverty reduction. The transition to a green economy is a turn from the traditional economic approach that depends heavily on fossil fuels, unsustainable resource extraction and environmental degradation. In this regard, the green economy agenda is highly relevant to food stability and utilization that can help alleviate the negative impacts of COVID-19 crisis. Green Economy creates new jobs, namely in green labelling, renewable energy systems, integrated and sustainable agricultural systems, usage of innovative technologies, bioplastic development.

For a transformational and green economy, the need to identify and take early actions to address climate change, avoid habitat loss and fragmentation, reduce pollution and improve waste management and infrastructure has arisen. Further is the necessity for building back better while integrating recommendations addressing the greening of economic recovery measures and greening government fiscal policies. Finally, post-COVID-19 environmental policies need to be based on investigation of how the investments in climate friendly actions will stimulate economies, create employment opportunities and increase resilience to a recurrent zoonotic threat.

COVID-19 calls for re-examining how global environmental governance can move with the times. UNEP is now reviewing legal, logistical, environmental, and political implications of modernizing methods of environmental governance and multilateralism, with a view of presenting analysis to Member States and Convention Parties for virtual (and thus low carbon, less footprint) formal meeting platforms. As this analysis and the associated experimentation mature, it is hoped that this can be of use to the broader UN and multilateral system<sup>24</sup>. UN will support action aimed at mitigating the risk and impact of zoonotic disease outbreaks by addressing their root causes including destruction and degradation of natural areas and ecosystem services, illegal wildlife trade, and risks associated with wildlife consumption and livestock farming, including through repurposing of Support phasing out of harmful subsidies, and “greening” stimulus packages.

UN will support action for the promotion of the Green Economy approach to prepare, address and build resilience against current and future shocks caused by pandemics, including climate change with the following response measures.

#### SHORT-TERM MEASURES

- Support the development of COVID-19 responses that include clean energy investments to enhance NDCs and long-term decarbonization strategies.
- Identify and assess high-risk factors for the emergence of zoonotic diseases linked to biodiversity loss, livelihoods, and wildlife consumption and trade.
- Map hotspots for integrated land use planning and disease- outbreak prevention and containment.
- Increase public outreach and knowledge of the zoonotic diseases, and links to illegal wildlife trade & consumption; biodiversity loss and nature degradation.
- Raising public awareness on the importance and value of people living in harmony with nature: biodiversity and health, wild species protection in natural healthy ecosystems, halting deforestation, land and other environmental degradation.
- Use existing platforms to map/indicate pollution with response to COVID-19 through raising awareness not to side-line environmentally sound regulations in order to avoid shocks from possible

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<sup>24</sup> The rapidity with which COVID-19 spreads shows that the UN needs to evolve its administrative processes. In addition to looking at environmental governance, therefore, it might prove useful to explore options for administrative transformation at large.

“bounce back” effects, where environmental degradation may be excused as post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

- Assistance in developing a Regional strategy for climate resilient infrastructure development, followed with an action plan identifying concrete climate proofing measures including green infrastructure with an emphasis on potential impact on ecosystems, species and human needs as post-COVID-19 response (under the current CLIMAPROOF project for the Western Balkans).

#### **MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES**

- Enhance the climate mitigation targets and translation of these into clean, green, sustainable and resilient plans and investments, i.e. (i) increase the penetration of renewable energy; (ii) make service, transport and industry more energy efficient; (iii) consider climate mitigation in the process of integrated waste management; (iv) increase the GHG removal potential of the Forestry Sector.
- Mobilize a group of partners to support Albania’s green growth trajectory in alignment with “building back better” and SDGs. Guide the Coalition to prepare a set of actions to support green recovery.
- Deploy emerging technologies for nature monitoring drones/remote/satellite tools and technologies to ensure continued monitoring of biodiversity trends and to support enforcement of illegal actions.
- Minimize negative impacts on conservation progress and community engagement.
- Support government and communities to minimize the roll-back of existing nature conservation actions and urge continued investment in protected and conserved areas and in conservation staff and communities.
- Facilitate improved collaboration between health, agriculture and conservation sectors for effective disease control and community support.

#### **LONG-TERM MEASURES**

- Identify opportunities for investments in long-term resilience building to address co-vulnerabilities of the climate and health crises.
- Support nature-based green economic & social stimulus packages.
- Assess proposed stimulus measures to harness power of nature for recovery and SDG including debt-for-nature/climate swap; minimize negative impacts on nature; structurally integrate nature; support ‘green new deals’; create ‘green’ jobs; promote ecological infrastructure; boost economic recovery through pro-nature incentives & public fund reallocation including subsidy repurposing.
- Prevent future disease outbreaks & reduce their impacts.
- Tackle illegal wildlife trade & risks associated with wildlife consumption and farming; support community resilience; conservation measures to address environmental change and habitat loss; improve the management of livestock to reduce zoonotic disease transmission; etc.
- Sustain livelihoods of vulnerable and at-risk communities - Assist tourism/nature-based tourism and small-scale agriculture-dependent communities; resilience building to cope with current and future shocks; mobilise financial support including micro & small grants.
- Support actions towards improvement of the protected areas network and effective management of the protected areas, as well as acceptance of sustainable management practices of nature resources, sustainable tourism and combat wildlife crime and illegal trade.
- Building back better while also integrating recommendations addressing the greening of economic recovery measures and greening government fiscal policies. Building back better while also integrating recommendations addressing the greening of economic recovery measures and greening government fiscal policies.
- Waste and chemicals management response.
- Building links between ecosystem stability, environmental and human health.

### **PILLAR 4: MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION**

The pandemic is causing major economic disruptions on a global scale, and in Albania. Given the uncertainties arising in the global economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is headed towards much tougher times. The containment measures threaten to have devastating impacts on countries with already weak economies and undo progress achieved towards sustainable development and SDGs. A massive counter-cyclical fiscal and financial effort is urgently needed. The UN Secretary-General has called for a comprehensive multilateral response amounting to the equivalent of 10 percent of global GDP.

While the overall economic impact remains highly uncertain, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated once more that preserving macroeconomic and financial sector stability is essential to improving resilience to economic shocks. The UN response outlined for pillar 4 is designed to support the recovery efforts of the Government. It is assumed that the earlier planned development activities will proceed in parallel, and thus, this is not an exhaustive list of UN's support in the area of macroeconomic stability and multilateral collaboration, but a set of additional actions to support the recovery efforts.

The UN response focuses on supporting macroeconomic stability after the immediate crisis is over. This also includes support to enhance public institutions' capacities to articulate, implement and review budgets to address the macroeconomic impacts of the disease while reflecting increased SDGs related spending as well. Other key areas include supporting statistics and conducting impact assessments.

The COVID-19 pandemic prompts regional collaboration after demonstrating how interconnected and interdependent regional economies are. Key areas for regional collaboration vary from trade to food systems, and from policy coordination to connectivity. Consequently, the UN response has also incorporated activities to support regional collaboration focusing on trade and food systems.

Considering the above analysis, the UN response plan under Pillar 4 will include the following actions:

#### **SHORT-TERM MEASURES**

- Coordinate advice on additional fiscal measures or extending current ones in case the pandemic and related confinement measures prolong, to ensure that the stimulus packages promote gender equality and support the most vulnerable, in collaboration with the WB, IMF and the EU.
- Provide technical assistance for gender analyses and engendering of strategic response plans of the Government.

#### **MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES**

- Enhance the capacities of relevant public institutions to develop the SDGs Investment Framework and apply the investment decision making and engagement for maximum SDGs return on investment (including the continued work on SDGs analysis, which will feed into the SDGs Investment framework).
- Assist and advise the Government to systematically analyse and assess the quality of gender-responsive effort by national governments in COVID-19 policy levers and response plans.
- Produce gender-disaggregated data that highlight the impacts on women and girls available to inform response including through the establishment of baseline data.
- Strengthen Albania's capacity to participate in regional preparedness and response to food systems challenges caused by disasters and emergencies (including COVID-19) through multi-sectoral approaches involving, among others, the food, agriculture, health, and education sectors.
- Assist reviewing fiscal regulations, which are impeding a wider formalization within the agricultural sector, including review of the current fiscal treatment of small and large farmers and cooperatives (as defined in the Tax Code) and proposal of amendments in line with best practices in other countries and coherent to the Albanian context.
- Policy advice on enhancing regional collaboration on trade and connectivity, in collaboration with the EU and other actors.

#### **LONG-TERM MEASURES**

- Support to INSTAT in building overall capacity in data collection (including gender disaggregated data) and reporting of specific information considering crisis such as the pandemic caused by COVID-19.

### **PILLAR 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

The present pillar is contextualized to complement and support the Government plans for recovery and furthering local governance reforms. The proposed support focuses on a dual approach: the way local business is done (efficiency) and the way local services are provided (effectiveness).

Local governments have been put under tremendous stress and assumed heavy responsibilities for humanitarian support, executing national measures at local level, and struggled to maintain at the same time adequate levels of service delivery for their constituencies. Likewise, local communities and

especially the vulnerable groups were directly and heavily impacted and in general caught by surprise in a situation calling for accurate information, guidance, support, and perspective.

In addition, assessments, sex-disaggregated data and information from the field speak of problems that need to be addressed for specific categories of vulnerable groups, including respecting democratic values and human rights for all, increased transparency and accountability of public institutions, still unsatisfactory levels of dialogue, and the lack of mechanisms for participation and civic engagement in decision-making.

In this context, the set of proposed measures unfolds along three key areas: 1) inclusive social dialogue, advocacy, and political engagement; 2) empowerment of community resilience, participation, and equitable service delivery; and, 3) support to governance, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

## 5.1 INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DIALOGUE, ADVOCACY, AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

The UN will contribute to strengthen an inclusive dialogue and support the advocacy and political engagement of the most vulnerable segments of the population. Local level service delivery mechanisms will be strengthened in response to COVID-19, through searching for alternative ways and best practices as well as pilot innovative models run by CSOs. Coping mechanisms will be developed to support the necessary behavioural changes of the COVID-19 affected population, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, and disadvantaged segments of the population (e.g. Elderly, Roma and Egyptians, Persons with Disabilities, homeless families and individuals, LGBTIs, long term unemployed, women in disadvantaged situation).

It is anticipated that the instability and economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 crisis and post-crisis recovery is likely to increase the number of labour disputes in Albania, in terms of employment and working conditions (e.g. individual and collective dismissals, non-payment of wages, unpaid overtime, unpaid leave, new working arrangements, sick leave or refuse to work because of lack of adequate occupational safety and health in the workplace). Social unrest can exacerbate the unprecedented strain on local labour markets and communities, as well as vulnerability of certain groups of workers (temporary, casual, seasonal, informal, self-employed, youth, women, old workers) and enterprises in particular MSMEs.

In this context, the UN will support mediators and conciliators employed in regional employment offices and tripartite offices for conciliation to understand and be prepared to deal with difficult situations and handle labour disputes during and in post-crisis recovery. In the short-term, this aspect will be addressed through adapting traditional to online delivery of specific training on how to deal with difficult situations triggered by the COVID-19 crisis. Moreover, as anti-COVID-19 restrictions regarding physical meetings and social distancing pointed out the need for adaptation of mediation and conciliation service delivery to the new circumstances, support will be provided for the introduction of alternative service delivery mechanisms by regional employment offices and tripartite offices for conciliation, respectively. This will include provision of necessary equipment and training of users on, for example, virtual conferencing platforms. Capacity building will be provided for managers and workers and/ workers' organizations to prevent and handle grievances involving vulnerable workers (temporary, casual, informal, women, youth, old workers) and to negotiate new or adapted work arrangements (SDG 8). Support will be provided for the establishment of regional tripartite consultative councils enabling social dialogue at regional level as an effective tool for labour market governance, especially in times of crisis (SDG 8 & SDG 16).

The UN will further ensure that women and girls affected by COVID-19 lead and participate in decision-making by ensuring that women leaders in a range of sectors (governmental, private sector, and civil society, including women health workers) have access to information to enable their fullest role in COVID-19 response. Quotas and affirmative action mechanisms to ensure participation of women in decision-making bodies for COVID-19 response will be promoted and supported and support will be provided to CSOs to play their fullest role, including through remote support. Furthermore, the role of the Parliament and particularly of the Group of Parliamentarians "Friends of Children" will be enhanced. And support will be provided to the NHRIs role in ensuring public oversight and access to remedies over violations of child rights, as well as NHRIs advocacy with the Parliament, regarding the limited resources of the former.

The responsiveness and resilience of governance systems that provides for meaningful participation of its constituencies, CSOs and interest groups through effective, accountable and inclusive mechanisms at all levels is a key determining factor in the COVID-19 response and aftermath. Through this proposed plan, UN- Albania will as part of the global COVID-19 response continue to strengthen national and local governance institutions and processes to help governments and communities to cope with the crisis, while fostering conditions for long-term stability and resilience to reduce the spill-over effects on peace, justice and inclusion.

The following measures will therefore be implemented:

#### **SHORT-TERM MEASURES**

- Strengthen the inclusive dialogue and support the advocacy and political engagement of the most vulnerable segments of the population.
- Support the work of mediators and conciliators employed in regional employment offices and tripartite offices for conciliation understand and be prepared to deal with difficult situations and handle labour disputes during and in post-crisis recovery.

#### **MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES**

- Institute online training on how to deal with difficult situations triggered by COVID-19 crisis (dismissals, non-payment of wages, unpaid overtime, etc.).
- Support to adaptation of mediation/conciliation service delivery via alternative arrangements (virtual conferencing etc).
- Capacity building of employers and workers/workers organizations to negotiate new work arrangements adapted to COVID-19 situation.
- Grievance prevention and handling procedures for labour disputes involving vulnerable workers implemented in 20 companies.

#### **LONG-TERM MEASURES**

- Strengthened solidarity in households and communities including between different generations.
- Survey/study on COVID-19 impact on labour relations and work arrangements.
- Support state oversight bodies, civil society organizations and media to ensure checks and balances on the exercise of power by the State, both in respect of the initial response to the crisis and in respect of medium-term recovery efforts.
- Advocate for and support community participation and bottom up transparency in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.
- Local and central authorities responsible for emergency preparedness and response have capacities to ensure equitable, cohesive, and inclusive response.

## **5.2 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, PARTICIPATION AND EQUITABLE SERVICE DELIVERY**

The response will focus on local governments' needs and gaps regarding service delivery and business continuity and related needs for strengthening local capacities to continue to deliver equitable, inclusive and unhindered support services to the most vulnerable populations, considering that local governments are at the forefront of the crisis and that the COVID-19 crisis is negatively impacting their local capacities and their available resources especially to effectively respond to the emerging needs of the most vulnerable women and men.

In this respect, the UN will closely collaborate with both the supply and demand sides to promote the spirit of participatory local governance and active civic engagement. Work with the local governments will focus on building or strengthening local service delivery systems, improve data collection and analysis, conduct vulnerability mapping as well as build local capacities for participatory resilience planning in accordance with the national standards and the legislation in place. Work with CSOs and communities will focus on analysing and developing community engagement and bottom up transparency solutions at local and citizen levels, with regard to selected resilience building interventions so that the access to information and participation in decision making of targeted beneficiaries are explicitly incorporated in the government planning and recovery actions.

Expert support will further be provided in identifying the most poor and vulnerable women and girls as well as promote gender sensitive community responses and engagement of women and girls in local decision-making. The UN will work to address the needs and constraints of smallholders regarding farm advisory service. This service is assessed as often dysfunctional, lacking basic resources, and often not focused on the specific needs of smallholders and small family farms. Interactions with municipal agricultural departments will be enhanced to build their knowledge and capacities to deal with the situation in rural areas.

#### **SHORT-TERM MEASURES**

- Conduct field assessments to understand level, challenges, and impact of pandemic on status of various vulnerable groups, the capacities, and ways of securing municipal business continuity and the service delivery solutions or needs to be addressed.

#### **MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES**

- Support municipalities to develop capacities and systems for collecting, maintaining, analysing, and using data for targeted responses both in case of disasters or regular development purposes.
- Tracking and mapping of at-risk population at municipal and administrative unit/village level.
- Expert support to local governments to identify the most poor and unregistered women and girls in emergency situations.
- Establishment and use of “persons of trust” in local communities to build community resilience in facing pandemics and crisis and ensuring that voices of members of the community are included in local decision-making.
- Expert support to Pilot at local level gender sensitive emergency response with clear guidelines and checklists.
- Building resilience of smallholders and small family farms through support to farm advisory services targeting the needs of small farms.
- Build upon international experiences and local lessons learned during the pandemic to promote and further develop business models for disaster response, resilience, and business continuity.
- Support municipalities review their financial situation in view of COVID-19 immediate and longer-term impact as well as in improving their forecasts while considering changing priorities and the obligation to ensure inclusion, equity and tailored service provision to all citizens.
- Conduct participatory budgeting processes with women including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable to voice their needs in COVID-19 response planning and budgetary processes.
- Strengthen national capacities for the development of evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development and to support the realization of the achievement of SDG 11.

#### **LONG-TERM MEASURES**

- Support municipalities develop their Local Civil Protection Plans in collaboration with the relevant DRR national authorities. Needs, priorities and roles shall be defined through participation and in consideration of needs of various interest and vulnerable groups and specific scenarios.
- Transforming service delivery moving from traditional paper-based service to integration of one-stop-shops front desks and where possible to e-services and/or mobile applications.
- Community resilience, participation and bottom up transparency ensured in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

### **5.3 GOVERNANCE, FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, AND RULE OF LAW**

The responsiveness and resilience of governance systems that provides for meaningful participation of its constituencies, CSOs and interest groups through effective, accountable and inclusive mechanisms at all levels is a key determining factor in the COVID-19 response and aftermath.

UN will also work on enhancing Media Information Literacy, crucial for youth and teachers, with the aim of increasing use of media and raising awareness on the necessity to ensure adequate elaboration and dissemination of correct information. Inclusive social dialogue, advocacy and prevention of hate speech are integral to effective COVID-19 crisis response and recovery. The chaotic landscape of digital media opens opportunities for spreading of misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech. Like a disease, these can be contagious and harmful; and during a pandemic such as COVID-19, this issue can become

a matter of life or death. Youth and other groups are exposed to an increasing number of online media that use social media to distort the media system, generate (dis)information and click-bait ecosystems. This risk is heightened in the COVID-19 crisis context when time spent in social isolation increases as well as on digital platforms. On the other hand, lack of access to technology and digital divide leaves economically vulnerable persons isolated in the COVID-19 crisis, this particularly affects children and the elderly.

#### SHORT-TERM MEASURES

- Ensure safe release of children from detention.
- Engage boys and girls in shaping the UN COVID-19 Recovery Plan through the U-Report platform and in bringing their perspective to the decision-makers in the Parliament and Government of Albania.
- Support targeted communication campaigns and implementation of GoA plans in promoting gender equality among boys and girls and reducing child marriage.
- In partnership with relevant institutions as INSTAT, municipalities, MHSP/ACRP explore the possibilities of shifting / adopting the tools/methodologies for data collection, reporting child rights implementation for children and adolescents.
- Ongoing support provided to refugees and asylum seekers by UNHCR and its partners during COVID-19, including financial assistance, case management, educational support and access to online vocational training.

#### MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES

- Local institutional response mechanisms and civil society supported, for increased capacities to ensure essential sustainable and equitable services for women's protection including gender-based violence victims in crisis and post crisis/emergency situations.
- Strengthen national and local governance institutions and processes to help governments and communities to cope with the crisis.
- Ensuring the right of the child to be heard in legal processes affecting them in a way that minimizes the child's presence in the court or justice institutions.
- Support to Parliament to uphold child rights, address the impact of the pandemic on boys and girls, and listen to the voice of children, including through both evidence generation and strengthening the dialogue between the Parliament with the executive or with the NHRIs.
- INSTAT will be supported with technical assistance to generate robust statistics to inform policy making and actions. The focus will be the improvement of administrative data reporting and generation of new indicators, including SDG related ones. Moreover, assistance will be provided to set-up technological solution to bring data closer to the user and increase the understanding and possibilities of data utilization.

#### LONG-TERM MEASURES

- Enhancing Media Information Literacy with youth with the aim to raise awareness on the necessity of ensuring the adequate elaboration and dissemination of correct information, especially during social isolation when there is an increase on use of digital platforms.

### 5.4 WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

In many countries around the world, the UN has the capacity to reach out to partners and actors, including **women leaders**, from all walks of life and ideological corners to **facilitate social dialogue and political consensus**, including over matters which may be unpopular or controversial. In this contest, the UN Development System will pay close attention to the impact of COVID-19 on fragile political transitions already facing weak health systems and climate change. Special attention is given to women's organizations to ensure that they are equally part of local assessments and solutions, leveraging the UN's access to CSOs. For this outcome, UN Women will ensure that women and girls affected by COVID-19 lead and participate in decision-making by ensuring that:

#### MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES

- Use Gender-Responsive Budgeting as a Monitoring Tool to monitor the design and impact of COVID-19 stimulus packages. The analysis and data these tools generate can support governments



and civil society in assessing how/the extent to which the stimulus package promotes gender equality

#### **LONG-TERM MEASURES**

- Advocacy and leadership of women in local planning, implementation and oversight processes strengthened
- Participation and leadership of women and women's organizations in crisis and recovery promoted at local level.

## IMPLEMENTATION & DELIVERY

The nexus between response, recovery and development has never been more relevant than in the case of this global crisis that has hit almost all countries of the world and many of the vital links of globalization. This UN Recovery and Response Plan not only complements Government efforts, who has the national ownership for the country's recovery and response and with whom the UN Agencies and all partners must work in tandem, but it is also an integral part of the global response to mitigate and overcome the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the scale of impact, the Government alone cannot deliver its response in all fronts. Therefore, the UN Recovery and Response Plan will be implemented in close coordination and collaboration with several national and local counterparts.

The governance and management of the response will involve multiple UN agencies and their traditional and possibly new national counterparts, starting with the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry for Reconstruction, who have the ownership of the country's recovery and response plan, and including the line Ministries of Interior, Defence, Health and Social Protection, Agriculture and Rural Development, Finance and Economy, Tourism and Environment, Culture as well as the independent human rights institutions, various civil society organizations, including those active on protection of human rights, gender mainstreaming, vulnerable groups and minorities like Roma and Egyptian, LGBTI, Persons with disabilities and youth. Furthermore, INSTAT plays a particular important role in this Recovery and Response as the natural lead on existing and required data.

Local governments and communities will be the closest collaborators in implementing the Plan's measures and the main beneficiaries of the assistance. The UN Recovery and Response will be oriented toward creating and strengthening local capacities and injecting innovative approaches and models to improve governance, strengthen social cohesion between communities and public institutions, respect human rights and meet the needs of citizens within an improved rule of law framework.

The Plan will be implemented under the framework of the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 (UNDAF), with the joint participation of the twelve contributing UN agencies as detailed in the plan alongside, relevant governmental bodies at the central and local levels, relevant international community and CSOs. Long-term activities will be incorporated in the new Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2022-2026.

The log frame of this Plan provides for the general framework and indicative deliverables that will be further fine-tuned and annualized in UNDAF/PoCSD Joint Work Plans 2020-2021, prepared by relevant UN agencies and government counterparts, and signed by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Heads of contributing UN agencies.

The necessary expertise and human resources will be provided through the identification and engagement of government experts and staff, the engagement of specialized civil society organizations or consulting companies, and UN agency experts.

The focus is on a twofold and integrated deployment of the socio-economic impact response, on one hand, through humanitarian and health interventions, and on the other, through building capacities, addressing gaps, adopting innovation and aiming for sustainable approaches. Furthermore, whilst Gender and Environment should always be looked at in a transversal manner, specific priority actions for both have been identified in the Framework and Workplan.

WHO has been leading the overall strategic preparedness and response, the country specific preparedness and response, and is now coordinating phase II. Key issues of support included country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring, daily reports, training on surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation, under IHR strengthen points of entry, international travel, and transport, review of the National laboratories capacities and carry out quality assurance, infection prevention and control training, case management, such as through the solidarity trial, contribution to quality assurance of operational support and logistics, assessing the maintenance of essential health services and systems, addressing discussion with the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Public Health, strengthening of primary health care, and a range of cross-cutting issues, such as workplace measures, school openings, etc.

UNDP has a solid programmatic portfolio, a nationwide presence and outreach to local governments and communities as well as extensive experience in service delivery modernization and provision. These advantages will be used for the implementation of the present measures, through further developing several successful practices in support of enhanced social dialogue, transparency, accountability, efficiency of local government operations and good governance. In this respect, the proposed interventions are not adjustments of ongoing programmatic work, but they will build on the latter and adapt to the context.

UNEP is adjusting their activities and discussing ways to address COVID-19 measures with their partners with regards to the on-going project Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Albania through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems, while also greening actions and administrative processes by reviewing legal, logistical, environmental and political implications of modernizing methods of environmental governance and multilateralism.

UNHCR has already reprioritized its programming and budget to allow for flexible response to the COVID-19 emergency and recovery phase. It works through four implementing partners<sup>25</sup> (three national NGOs and one State institution) who have a solid track record in rights and assistance for refugees, asylum-seekers and persons at risk of statelessness. The short and medium-term measures identified in this Response Plan will both complement UNHCR's reprioritized programming as well as require additional funding.

UNICEF is working with national partners to better understand the situation of children and families and what are the challenges they are facing to access rights and basic services, including increased risk to poverty, illiteracy, abuse and violence. Regular programme commitments of UNICEF do include support to national social protection, health, education and child protection so that they are all inclusive and accessible by all children, yet priorities and activities outlined here aim to respond quickly and effectively to the critical needs of children and families during and post COVID-19 crisis.

Based on social and demographic data, UNFPA is working with national partners to identify the most vulnerable people, including older persons, young people and pregnant women and what are the challenges they are facing to access rights and basic services, including increased risk to health, poverty, abuse and violence. UNFPA is supporting institutions to integrate Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights in the national Assessments of COVID-19 impact and include such in national strategies and response plans to ensure that especially vulnerable groups receive safe and quality SRH services at no cost and no barriers, and that prevention and response to GBV and domestic violence are in place, putting gender equality and violence against women and girls in the focus of responses. UNFPA at national level continues to engage young people on peer to peer risk communication, supports strengthening health systems by applying new online technologies.

### **Resource Requirements**

The Budget attached to the plan, provides an overview of the required (\$97,393,880) and available (\$4,719,380) resources to support implementation of planned outcomes and any funding gaps.

It serves as the basis for joint mobilization of resources, both at the local and global level, through the SDG Acceleration Fund, a joint well-established funding mechanism, while leveraging stakeholders' interest to respond to the recovery needs. In addition, it provides the opportunity for UN Agencies to mobilize resources directly depending on their instruments and agreements. Funding opportunity from dedicated COVID-19 global funds will also be sought.

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<sup>25</sup> Refugee and Migrant Services Albania, Caritas Albania, Tirana Legal Aid Society, Ombudsperson's Office.

## WORKPLAN: PRIORITIES OF ACTION UNDER FIVE PILLARS

| #                                       | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities   | Indicators   | Timeline        | Implementer   | Budget (USD)    |
|---|---|--|--|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Pillar 1: Health First</b>           |   |  |  |                 |   |                 |
| <b>1.1 Strengthen COVID-19 Response</b> |   |  |  |                 |   |                 |
| 1                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring:</li> <li>emergency operational unit in IPH, inter-action and after-action review of the response; etc.</li> <li>Enhanced risk communication and community engagement, behavioural survey, etc</li> <li>Improved surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation.</li> <li>Strengthening points of entry strengthening according to IHR (airports, seaports, land borders).</li> <li>Strengthen national laboratories, testing capacity, trained lab workforce.</li> <li>Infection prevention and control, throughout all levels of health care.</li> <li>Strengthened COVID-19 case management.</li> <li>Operational support and logistics (in-country inventory, supply database, etc).</li> <li>Making vaccine available</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint a lead, if not done so already, to coordinate and oversee the development and/or update of the COVID-19 national plan and the COVID-19 multiagency plan; •</li> <li>Map existing preparedness and response capacity, and identify key gaps based on the actions outlined in this document; •</li> <li>Engage with national authorities and key technical and operational partners to identify appropriate coordination mechanisms, including the health cluster, and assign roles and responsibilities to address key gaps to be addressed by the COVID-19 plans;</li> <li>Engage with local donors and existing programmes to mobilize resources and capacities to implement the COVID-19 plans; •</li> <li>Establish monitoring mechanisms based on key performance indicators to track progress, and review performance to adjust COVID-19 plans as needed; •</li> <li>Conduct regular operational reviews and adjust the COVID-19 response and preparedness strategies as required.</li> <li>Strengthen risk communication for population behavioural change and for specific risk groups</li> <li>Ensure that an increase of PCR testing can be activated, and include increased lab capacities, as well as increase the district level</li> <li>Regularly train all health care professionals and specific hospital and health care centres professionals</li> <li>Procure IPC supplies, where not available</li> <li>Ensure Albania to be within the first line procurement of the vaccine</li> <li>Continue solidarity trial and case management</li> <li>Regular continue to report on daily numbers</li> <li>Update the Point of entry plans</li> <li>Strengthen contact tracing</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 is mandated within national notifiable disease with requirements</li> <li>New cases can be identified, reported, and data included in epidemiological analysis within 24 hours;</li> <li>Information and data management systems are in place to manage contact tracing and other related data</li> <li>National risk communication and community engagement plan for COVID-19, updated and effectiveness monitored;</li> <li>90% of suspect cases are isolated and confirmed/released within 48 hours of symptom onset;</li> <li>At least 80% of new cases have their close contacts traced and in quarantine within 72 hours of case confirmation</li> <li>At least 80% of contacts of new cases are monitored for 14 days</li> <li>Points of entry public health emergency plan updated;</li> <li>The total number of laboratory tests conducted for COVID-19 virus is in the order of 1/1000 population/week and reported each day;</li> <li>Laboratory Information System at designated labs, developed;</li> <li>Biosafety risk assessment at designated laboratories, performed;</li> <li>Quality assurance mechanism for laboratory testing, developed.</li> <li>An Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) focal point is available in all health facilities (1 full-time trained IPC focal point per 250 beds) and at district level;</li> <li>All health facilities have screening for COVID-19;</li> </ul> | Short<br>Medium | WHO<br>MoHSP<br>IPH<br>University Hospitals<br>Operator of Health<br>Services<br>National Emergency<br>Service<br>UNICEF<br>UNFPA | Gap: 20,000,000 |

| #   | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline        | Implementer   | Budget (USD)   |
|---|--|---|--|-----------------|---|----------------|
|   |  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All acute health facilities have a mechanism for isolating people with suspected COVID-19;</li> <li>A national plan to manage PPE supply is developed;</li> <li>IPC risk assessment of facilities conducted;</li> <li>All COVID-19 patients can be managed according to national standard;</li> <li>Continuous decline in the number of hospitalization and ICU admissions of confirmed and probable cases;</li> <li>Decline in the number of deaths among confirmed and probable cases;</li> <li>The health system can absorb or can expand to cope with at least a 20% increase in COVID-19 case load;</li> <li>Supply chain control and management system, implemented;</li> <li>Procurement processes, reviewed;</li> <li>Staff surge capacity and deployment mechanisms reviewed and updated.</li> </ul> |                 |   |                |
| <b>1.2 Safe Delivery of Essential Services and Recovery</b> |  |   |  |                 |   |                |
| 1   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish governance and coordination mechanisms for dual track health system management</li> <li>Country- context specific upscale of health services</li> <li>Service delivery settings and platforms</li> <li>Establish effective patient flow (screening, triage, and targeted referral) at all levels</li> <li>Increasing health workforce capacity, including re-assignment and task sharing</li> <li>Maintaining safety for staff and patients</li> <li>Maintain availability of essential medications, equipment, and supplies</li> <li>Strengthen communication and use information technologies to</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regularly assess the non COVID related information</li> <li>Monitor pneumonia cases, based on ARIL protocol;</li> <li>Assist MOH in the service delivery updated protocols and the public information</li> <li>Mapping of health care workers;</li> <li>Regular publish and update information from the behavioural survey, and support MOH in acting accordingly</li> <li>Mapping health worker requirements, including adjustment potential of timely redistribution</li> <li>Scale up financing for PHC</li> <li>Create a platform for reporting inventory and stockouts, and for the coordination of re-distribution of supplies, created;</li> <li>Strengthen the vaccines and Immunization Information System strengthened;</li> <li>Develop E-health tools / platforms used efficiently by a larger proportion of the population and health service providers;</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All other patients with a severe non-COVID-19 condition can be managed according to national standard;</li> <li>There is no increase in intra-hospital mortality due to non-COVID-19 conditions;</li> <li>Decline in the age-stratified excess mortality due to pneumonia</li> <li>Plans to build on and resource PHC and other levels of care, developed and implemented;</li> <li>New guidance and protocols for service delivery in the recovery phase developed;</li> <li>Information for preparing the public for changes in service delivery platforms, disseminated regularly.</li> <li>The national guidance and protocols for targeted referral, updated;</li> <li>Acuity-based triage at all sites providing acute care, instituted;</li> </ul>   | Short<br>Medium | WHO<br>MoHSP<br>IPH<br>University Hospitals<br>Operator of Health<br>Services<br>National Emergency<br>Service<br>UNICEF<br>UNFPA | Gap: 8,000,000 |

| #  | Priority Actions/Activities                   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline                | Implementer   | Budget (USD)    |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------------|---|-----------------|
|  | support appropriate use of essential services |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient flows for infection prevention and control at system and at facility level, redesigned;</li> <li>• Population informed on the changes and new rules in patient flow.</li> <li>• Health worker requirements, mapped;</li> <li>• The roadmap for phased implementation and timely modulation of a workforce redistribution, developed;</li> <li>• Training mechanisms and job aids developed and implemented.</li> <li>• All health facilities have screening for COVID-19;</li> <li>• All acute health facilities have a mechanism for isolating people with suspected COVID-19</li> <li>• The platform for reporting inventory and stockouts, and for the coordination of re-distribution of supplies, created;</li> <li>• The online Vaccines and Immunization Information System strengthened;</li> <li>• E-health tools / platforms used efficiently by a larger proportion of the population and health service providers;</li> <li>• Behavioural insight tools used regularly.</li> </ul> |                         |   |                 |
| <b>1.3 Increase Health System Resilience Towards Universal Health Coverage</b> |   |   |   |                         |   |                 |
| 1  | Pursuing goals of universal health coverage   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve governance and health financing</li> <li>• Strengthen primary health care, by strengthening, human resources, infrastructure and diagnostics, services and roll out the new model of PHC, integrating health and social care at the community level, financing and financial protection and quality of care.</li> <li>• Strengthen the vertical coordination of health services, across all levels, redefining clinical governance, and creating the culture of continuous quality improvement;</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of the regional branches of the Operator of Health Services (OHS) have business plans and are equipped with instruments of monitoring work in the PHC and other services;</li> <li>• 50% of primary health centres assess systematically vulnerable groups and are supported by OHS and the institutions of public health to build intervention plans;</li> <li>• 100 Primary Health Care Centres receive support for maintenance by the local government</li> <li>• Proportion of family doctors in PHC (at least 50%);</li> <li>• Increasing trend of newcomers to Family Medicine;</li> <li>• Level of job satisfaction at PHC (higher);</li> </ul>  | Short<br>Medium<br>Long | WHO<br>IPH<br>MoHSP<br>National EIOS<br>GDI<br>INF<br>MoE<br>MOD<br>FNS<br>HIF<br>LGU<br>MoFE<br>IHR Agency of<br>Medicines and Medical<br>Devices<br>University<br>National Agency of<br>Information Society<br>UNICEF | Gap: 18,000,000 |

| # | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline                | Implementer   | Budget (USD)   |
|---|---|---|--|-------------------------|---|----------------|
|   |   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and level of complexity of tasks shifted to nurses in PHC;</li> <li>More than 75% of the population (including persons with disabilities) will have access to</li> <li>Rehabilitated PHC Centres which offer full diagnostics;</li> <li>The proportion of cases managed at PHC level increased by 10% and the proportion of hospitalized cases for some diseases decreased by 5%;</li> <li>75% of health needs are answered at PHC level;</li> <li>Less people report unnecessary travel or referrals for health care;</li> <li>75 % of PHC Centres have hired care coordinators;</li> <li>Percentage of funds allocated to PHC increased from 18% to 25%;</li> <li>Percentage of budget allocated for Home Care Services increased gradually on an annual basis:0.5%; 1%; 1.5%; 2%;</li> <li>Reduction of out of pocket expenses by vulnerable groups;</li> <li>Inclusion of one medical device each year in the reimbursement scheme;</li> <li>Decrease to 50% of the transportation related expenses of patients in dialysis and chemotherapy;</li> <li>Number of established Centres of Family Medicine (up to 10);</li> <li>Number of piloted Centres of Integrated Health and Social Services (4);</li> <li>Number of established organizational models in remote areas (up to 10);</li> </ul> |                         | UNFPA<br>UNDP   |                |
| 2 | Resilience to emergencies – strengthen country IHR core capacities for epidemics<br><i>Prevent – Detect - Respond</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actions to prevent future outbreaks and emergencies: National Legislation, Policy, and Financing, IHR coordination, Communication, and Advocacy, zoonotic Disease, Food water and vector borne diseases, antimicrobial Resistance, increase biosafety and biosecurity and Immunization</li> <li>Strengthen early detection capacity: Strengthen National Laboratory System, Real time</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The state can demonstrate that it has adjusted and aligned its domestic legislation, policies, and administrative arrangements to enable compliance with the IHR.</li> <li>Antimicrobial resistance detection;</li> <li>Surveillance of infections caused by resistant pathogens;</li> </ul>  | Short<br>Medium<br>Long | MoHSP<br>MoA<br>MoT<br>MoD<br>Mol<br>IPH<br>IFSVR<br>FSA<br>WHO | Gap: 8,350,000 |

| # | Priority Actions/Activities | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer                   | Budget (USD) |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--|----------|-------------------------------|--------------|
|   |                             | <p>surveillance, Reporting, workforce Development, increase response capacity, emergency Response Operations, Linking public health and security authorities, Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment, Risk communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen preparedness and response to all hazards, points of Entry (PoE), natural events, Chemical events, Radiation emergencies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare associated infection prevention and control programmes;</li> <li>Surveillance systems in place for priority zoonotic diseases/pathogens;</li> <li>Veterinary or animal health workforce;</li> <li>Mechanisms for responding to infectious zoonoses and potential zoonoses are established and functional;</li> <li>Mechanisms are established and functioning for detecting and responding to foodborne disease and food contamination</li> <li>Whole-of-government biosafety and biosecurity system is in place for human, animal and agriculture facilities;</li> <li>Biosafety and biosecurity training and practices;</li> <li>Vaccine coverage (measles) as part of national programme;</li> <li>National vaccine access and delivery;</li> <li>Laboratory testing for detection of priority diseases;</li> <li>Specimen referral and transport system;</li> <li>Effective modern point-of-care and laboratory-based diagnostics;</li> <li>Laboratory quality system;</li> <li>Indicator and event-based surveillance systems;</li> <li>Inter-operable, interconnected, electronic real-time reporting system;</li> <li>Analysis of surveillance data;</li> <li>Syndromic surveillance systems</li> <li>System for efficient reporting to WHO, FAO, and OIE;</li> <li>Reporting network and protocols in country;</li> <li>Human resources are available to implement IHR core capacity requirements;</li> <li>Field epidemiology training programme or other applied epidemiology training program in place;</li> <li>Workforce strategy.</li> </ul> |          | <p>UNFPA<br/>IOM<br/>UNDP</p> |              |



| # | Priority Actions/Activities | Sub-Activities | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer | Budget (USD) |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|--|----------|-------------|--------------|
|   |                             |                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-hazard national public health emergency preparedness and response plan is developed and implemented;</li> <li>• Priority public health risks and resources are mapped and utilized;</li> <li>• Capacity to activate emergency operations;</li> <li>• Emergency Operations Center operating procedures and plans;</li> <li>• Emergency operations program;</li> <li>• Case management procedures are implemented for IHR relevant hazards;</li> <li>• Public health and security authorities (e.g. law enforcement, border control, customs) are linked during a suspect or confirmed biological event</li> <li>• System is in place for sending and receiving medical countermeasures during a public health emergency;</li> <li>• System is in place for sending and receiving health personnel during a public health emergency;</li> <li>• Risk communication systems (plans, mechanisms, etc.);</li> <li>• Internal and partner communication and coordination;</li> <li>• Public communication;</li> <li>• Communication engagement with affected communities;</li> <li>• Dynamic listening and rumour management;</li> <li>• Routine capacities are established at points of entry;</li> <li>• Effective public health response at points of entry;</li> <li>• Mechanisms are established and functioning for detecting and responding to chemical events or emergencies;</li> <li>• Enabling environment is in place for management of chemical events;</li> <li>• Mechanisms are established and functioning for detecting and responding to radiological and nuclear emergencies;</li> </ul> |          |             |              |

| #                                      | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities   | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)   |
|--|---|--|---|----------|---|----------------|
|  |   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enabling environment is in place for management of radiation emergencies;</li> </ul>   |          |   |                |
| <b>1.4 Healthcare Waste Management</b> |   |  |   |          |   |                |
| 1                                      | Advance a multisectoral approach to ensuring better health outcomes through support to environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient health care systems. This work will include a focus on communicable and non-communicable diseases through improved healthcare waste management better access to water and sanitation, and other efforts that address the links between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment and climate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct mapping of the available capacity for treating Healthcare waste nationwide</li> <li>Train and raise capacities of landfill, management companies and other relevant local stakeholders, including municipalities to prepare for the informed disposal of the healthcare waste</li> <li>Support to policy based on the principles of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (the Stockholm Convention on POPs or the Minamata Convention on mercury), development of guidelines and SOPs</li> <li>Training in segregation, collection and transportation of waste, selection of Healthcare waste management technologies, installation and operation of the equipment</li> <li>Strengthening the policy, legal and institutional framework of Mercury management;</li> <li>Reducing the use of Mercury containing products and environmentally sound management of mercury waste;</li> <li>Initiate a national planning process in this area, which can provide the institutional and legal framework for the management of Healthcare waste especially hospital waste (this is especially for treatment structures).</li> <li>Develop a plan for the treatment of pharmaceutical waste in the country, such as providing an institutional framework for the management of this waste stream associated with the provision of management and education alternatives for manufacturing entities.</li> <li>Improve infrastructure and increase human capacity for proper administration of hospital waste.</li> <li>Train inspectors for conducting inspections in waste production and treatment entities, as well as to conduct frequent inspections (at least for the first 5 years) on all public and private entities. The inspection should stimulate the implementation of the law.</li> <li>Providing technical expertise on chemicals and hazardous waste management.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of facilities with Healthcare Waste Management protocols in place</li> <li># of facilities applying sound management practices phasing out mercury</li> <li># of inspection, monitoring and self-monitoring reports transparent and accessible to the public</li> <li># of long-term investments prioritized w supporting technical file</li> <li>Report produced</li> <li># of measures proposed</li> </ul> | Dec 2024 | UNDP<br>UNEP<br>Ministry of Environment and Tourism | Gap: 5,100,000 |

| #   | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities   | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)                      |
|---|---|--|---|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Pillar 1 Sub-Total</b>   |   |  |   |          |   | <b>59,450,000</b>                 |
| <b>Pillar 2: Protecting People</b>  |   |  |   |          |   |                                   |
| <b>2.1 Scale Up and Expanding Resilient and Pro-Poor Social Inclusion Protection Systems and Services</b> |   |  |   |          |   |                                   |
| 1   | Promote HCT as a transitory social protection schemes to alleviate the burden of COVID-19 for all men and women left out of any government supported financial package.         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish humanitarian cash transfer programme to poor households at municipal level based on nationally approved SOPs</li> <li>Technical support for innovative and digital HCT programmes for and for women who have left the paid labour market to undertake unpaid care work during the COVID-19 response</li> <li>Ensure emergency social protection packages address the needs of vulnerable girls and women, including women-heads of households, informal women workers, rural women without benefits and pensions, double-burden women.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of households reached</li> <li># of municipal staff trained on HCT</li> <li>Level of acceptance of SOPs</li> <li># women supported through mobile money distribution.</li> <li># women benefiting from stimulus packages</li> </ul>          | Feb 2021 | UNICEF<br>LGUs<br>MHSP<br>MoFE<br>UN Women          | Available: 95,000<br>Gap: 600,000 |
| 2   | Policy development to establish a comprehensive, risk informed and shock-responsive social protection system that reaches out to all vulnerable groups and is gender equitable. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of social protection responses and social protection system capacity to respond to COVID-19</li> <li>National policy dialogue on a shock responsive social protection and technical support for financing effective social protection measures, including developing and costing scenarios for shock responsive social protection system, and implementing humanitarian cash transfers.</li> <li>Expand the social protection programmes of fiscal stimulus packages to include provisions for self-employed women, non-standards workers, and more broadly women in the informal economy</li> <li>Support the integration of Early Warning Systems in the national social protection system.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of acceptance of the financing options for a shock responsive social protection system</li> <li># gender-responsive social protection packages for COVID-19.</li> <li># women accessing government social protection schemes.</li> </ul> | Dec 2021 | ILO<br>UNICEF<br>UN Women                           | Available: 55,000<br>Gap: 250,000 |
| 3   | Identify national policy measures which can enable equal sharing of the burden of care in the recovery phase of COVID-19 (i.e., family leave and care economy policies).        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical assistance to GOA in drafting specific policy measures</li> <li>Organize CSO-led awareness raising campaigns through social and traditional media, leveraging on existing networks, including HeForShe network on redistribution of care, and recognition of unpaid care and domestic work.</li> <li>Support the Government to conduct costing exercise of care services with focus on childcare - testing of increased investments on care services and related return on GDP</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># organisations engaged in social awareness raising.</li> <li># men and women reached through awareness raising.</li> <li>Demonstrated change in attitudes towards care work through use of basic, low-cost survey tools.</li> </ul>           | Dec 2021 | UN Women<br>MoHSP                                   | Available: 50,000<br>Gap: 100,000 |
| 4   | Integrated health and social services for the most vulnerable: population in prison settings  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of HIV/Hepatitis testing among prisoners and HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis/STIs and COVID-19 information and awareness sessions.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at least 50% of target population covered with monthly sessions with prison staff and prisoners.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UNFPA<br>Ministry of Justice<br>Prison Directorates | Available: 15,000<br>Gap: 150,000 |

| # | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities   | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer  | Budget (USD)                      |
|---|---|--|---|----------|--|-----------------------------------|
|   |   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 documents with information and behaviour change material prepared</li> <li>• Five VCT centres in prisons where they are not existent provided with HIV/STI testing &amp; information.</li> </ul>   |          |  |                                   |
| 5 | Support municipalities to deliver social protection services in COVID-19 and similar public health crisis.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support municipal social workers empower families under Economic Aid to better access additional support and care services (cash and care) in the situation post COVID-19 and build capacities on using standards of operation for community care social services in COVID-19 and similar crisis.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of families benefitting from information and support services in 3 LGUs</li> <li>• # standards and acceptance</li> <li>• # trained municipal staff</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UNICEF<br>MHSP<br>LGUs<br>CSOs<br>National Employment Agency | Available: 90,000<br>Gap: 200,000 |
| 6 | Strengthen participation of vulnerable groups for inclusive COVID-19 social protection measures.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish/update an information and knowledge base vulnerable people's realities and perspectives related to social protection and social inclusion.</li> <li>• Support communities to organize and articulate their needs and challenges to access services during COVID-19, including facilitation of joint CSO – government consultations.</li> <li>• Support CSOs and service providers to adapt services and activities that address the challenges that COVID-19 presents for the VGs.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testimonies of Persons with Disabilities and Roma and Egyptians and other VGs on the effectiveness of services are documented and used as evidence to show impact of livelihood- and income-generating interventions</li> <li>• # CSOs and partners supported with financial support and adequate capacity building, that provide services to VGs</li> </ul> | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>MoHSP<br>Relevant State Institutions<br>CSOs<br>LGUs | Gap: 380,000                      |
| 7 | Local structures with strengthened capacities to effectively respond to the poorest and most vulnerable needs with a keen focus on Roma and Egyptian communities and persons with disabilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to LGUs for the continuity of operations and services for people with disabilities (PWD): psychosocial care, personal assistance and day care, transportation services specialized for PWD.</li> <li>• Support LGUs to establish and maintain community-based social protection services and local safety nets to complement or to fill gaps when national/local responses do not suffice in times of emergency.</li> <li>• Strengthen the role of social workers through capacity building and provision of tools for case assessment and referral during COVID-19.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # Persons with disabilities identified and provided with adequate and quality service access over time.</li> <li>• Trained Social Workers deliver quality and relevant services to VGs as confirmed by targeted PWD and other VGs</li> <li>• # newly created community-based social protection services</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>MoHSP<br>Relevant State Institutions<br>CSOs<br>LGUs | Gap: 400,000                      |
| 8 | Livelihood and income-generating programme for VG with a special focus on Roma and people with disabilities PWD.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct support to vulnerable people to start and maintain income generation activities to recover after COVID-19 crises</li> <li>• Provide VGs with in kind transfers: Food, clothing, educational material, health packages -medication and others; materials and resources in support of productive undertakings.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testimonies of VGs on the effectiveness of such services are documented and used as evidence to show impact of interventions.</li> <li>• # Roma and Egyptians, PWDs and other vulnerable people supported.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>MoHSP<br>Relevant State Institutions<br>CSOs<br>LGUs | Gap: 500,000                      |
| 9 | Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms functional with clear roles and  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design regulations and instructions to establish workflows, protocols and mechanisms that enable</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # social care plans developed/ updated with the emergency response planning</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>LGUs<br>NGOs   | Gap: 200,000                      |

| #  | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer          | Budget (USD)                       |
|----|--|---|---|----------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
|    | responsibilities at local level in all municipalities, linking social protection, skills and employment, housing, free legal aid, inclusive education and other sectors via social care plans and through accessing the Social Fund.   | access of vulnerable communities to quality integrated social care services in times of crises, including establishment of hotlines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support municipalities in their role as the first gate to support of people who are isolated at home or of the elderly/disabled in need.</li> </ul>   | and recovery measure due to COVID-19 and other crises and pandemics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 8 municipality staff in each of the 61 municipalities trained on the new regulations</li> </ul>  |          |                      |                                    |
| 10 | Innovative models of integrated social care services piloted at the local level in 50% of municipalities, including established local linkages between health, social protection, inclusive education and employment services reaching all, including the most vulnerable segments of the population to recover from COVID-19. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and endorse standards and protocols for the models of integrated health, social care, inclusive education, and employment services.</li> <li>Support 30 municipalities to pilot innovative models of integrated social care services in response to COVID-19.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards and protocols for the models of integrated services are developed.</li> <li>50% of municipalities supported implementing and piloting innovative projects.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2022 | UNDP                 | Available: 100,000<br>Gap: 700,000 |
| 11 | Strengthen young populations at municipal level to demand provision of appropriate social & health services, & response to their needs incl. in emergency situations   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training &amp; practical guide on available services &amp; referral systems (HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis/STIs &amp; COVID-19 prevention among people who use drugs and their injecting / sexual partners through outreach work and peer to peer methodology).</li> <li>Strengthen community-based model to increase demand of the vulnerable for quality integrated health &amp; counselling services</li> <li>Strengthen/train network of health educators esp. among Roma &amp; Egyptian groups, incl. in emergency situations</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1000 young people are reached with positive messages on HIV prevention and antidiscrimination against drug use</li> <li>50 young key populations are trained as peer educators and skilled how to deliver risk reducing, health seeking behaviour and rights related information among their peers.</li> <li>Health community model expanded from 13 to 20 municipalities.</li> <li>Number of Roma and Egyptian Health Mediators from increased from 43 to 95</li> </ul>   | Dec 2022 | UNFPA                | Available: 40,000<br>Gap: 150,000  |
| 12 | Crisis response integrated social care services institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms functional with clear roles and responsibilities at local level including piloting of innovative models of integrated social care services piloted at the local level in 50% of municipalities                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design regulations and instructions to establish workflows, protocols and mechanisms that enable access of vulnerable communities to quality integrated social care services in times of crises, through mobile and home modalities.</li> <li>Assess negative aspects and unexpected opportunities for inclusive governance germinating from the crisis, including use of emergency powers.</li> <li>Enforce the mobilization of municipalities in their role of key actors for the support of people who are isolated at home or of the elderly/disabled in need.</li> <li>Provide technical assistance and actively encourage all local authorities to have a municipal</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross sectorial and inter-ministerial regulations and instructions on integrated social care services are available.</li> <li># social care plans developed/ updated with the emergency response planning and recovery measure due to COVID-19 and other crises and pandemics.</li> <li>At least 8 municipality staff in each of the 61 municipalities trained on the new regulations.</li> <li>Standards and protocols for the models of integrated services are developed.</li> <li>Support 50% of municipalities supported to pilot innovative models of</li> </ul> | Dec 2022 | UNDP<br>LGUs<br>NGOs | Available: 100,000<br>Gap: 900,000 |

| #   | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)                       |
|---|---|---|--|----------|---|------------------------------------|
|   |   | <p>hotline for persons who may need support and create awareness about it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate at regional level the procurement of personal protection equipment for social workers who are at high risk (especially in rural areas/small localities where the local authorities may not have the capacity in terms of money and influence to buy the small number of products they need).</li> <li>Support municipalities to pilot innovative models of integrated social care services in response to COVID-19.</li> </ul> | integrated social care services in response to COVID-19.   |          |   |                                    |
| <b>2.2 Support Access to Education and Learning Opportunities for Children</b>                  |   |   |  |          |   |                                    |
| 1   | Support governments on crisis response, systems for efficient delivery, and contingency planning: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Governments with education sector risk assessments, contingency and response plans. Strengthen local capacities of Ministry of Education officials to coordinate and monitor response.</li> <li>Advocate and support governments to prepare schools, teachers and families for school closures and school re-opening.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existence of planned and budgeted response for school continuation and - reopening</li> </ul> | Dec 2020 | UNICEF<br>MOESY<br>INSTAT   | Available: 50,000<br>Gap: 100,000  |
| 2   | Implement safe school operations and risk communication:  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operationalize the safe school guidance, help equip schools with minimum hygiene packages, circulate live-saving information material on handwashing and recommended behaviours, and sensitize teachers and care givers. Train teachers and caregivers in providing</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># minimum packages provided to the schools</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNICEF<br>MOESY   | Available: 100,000<br>Gap: 350,000 |
| 3   | Ensure the continuity of learning and provide access to remote learning programs:                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and promote free and open digital tools to support large-scale remote learning; including educational TV and radio programmes, online content, internet-based and learning. Develop, print and distribute learning materials, increase teacher capacities in ICT in education.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open access digital learning provided for all cycles of education</li> </ul>                  | Dec 2021 | UNICEF<br>MOESY   | Available: 100,000<br>Gap: 500,000 |
| <b>2.3 Women, Girls, and Children Affected by Violence (Domestic, Gender-based, and Sexual)</b> |   |   |  |          |   |                                    |
| 1   | Prevention of GB&DV promoted at the national scale in crisis and recovery settings                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National campaign on changing power roles and advancing gender roles during public health crisis such as COVID-19 aiming to reach out to women and girls, victims of GB&amp;DV</li> <li>Develop policies, tools and demonstrate innovative approaches on how to trigger normative changes in terms of power relations and how to advance new gender roles following a health or other types of crisis.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># women reached through innovative and digital communication channels,</li> </ul>             | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>MoHSP<br>MoJ<br>MoJ<br>Relevant Line Ministries<br>ASPA<br>CSOs | Gap: 200,000                       |
| 2   | Regulatory/legal and policy framework improved for adequate                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building for police, prosecutors, judges, relevant line ministries/dependent central</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated training packages on handling GBV in crisis</li> </ul>                                | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>MoHSP   | Available: 70,000<br>Gap: 180,000  |

| # | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities   | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)                      |
|---|--|--|--|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
|   | prevention and response to GB&DV cases   | institutions staff on effective handling of GB&DV cases in pandemic and other types of crisis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support relevant legislative and central law enforcement institutions in the review and development processes of legislation/policy/GE strategy, and especially legal/policy framework related to emergency/natural disasters to ensure preventive and response mechanism to GB&amp;DV.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of police, prosecutors, judges and representatives of national institutions skilled with appropriate capacities to handle GBV in crisis situations</li> <li># Legal, policy, strategy documents reviewed/developed ensuring prevention and response to GB&amp;DV in crisis situations.</li> </ul> |          | Mol<br>MoJ<br>School of Magistrate<br>ASPA                                    |                                   |
| 3 | Responsible state and non-state authorities with capacities to provide specialised support services to GB&DV victims   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support involved national institutions with knowledge and skills in providing sustainable and well -coordinated multi-sectorial support services to sexual violence victims in pandemic/other types of crisis situations.</li> <li>Support local actors to strengthen cooperation across all CRM members to provide safe home/ necessary administrative assistance/ safe transport, emergency and post emergency support services to GBV/DV victims.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># women, victims of GBV/DV supported in selected municipalities with specialised multi-sectorial services provided at local level.</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>MoHSP<br>Mol<br>MoJ<br>Relevant State<br>Institutions<br>CSOs<br>LGUs | Available: 50,000<br>Gap: 250,000 |
| 4 | Support the immediate expansion of shelters and case management services in COVID-19 crisis.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid assessment of shelters and organizations working directly with women impacted by the crisis</li> <li>Provision of support to government centres that serve women and girls (e.g. safe spaces) through capacity building and health care essentials to safely remain open/reopen for women and girls.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># state and NGOs shelters equipped and upgraded to be safely opened.</li> <li># staff trained and ready to respond in situations of crisis</li> </ul>   | Jul 2020 | UN Women<br>CSOs<br>Ministry of Health and<br>Social Protection<br>INSTAT     | Gap: 200,000                      |
| 5 | Engage grassroots and local organisations to reach women from remote and rural areas to ensure shelters and other help for hard to reach women and women from marginalised groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize national SMS campaign on reporting VAWG</li> <li>Conduct door to door meetings with women from vulnerable communities and from rural and remote areas through persons of trust in local communities.</li> <li>Training on digital literacy and advanced technological tools in situations when contacts are restricted for local government officials and civil society organizations.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># women and girls reached through mobile and other protection services.</li> <li># women from rural and hard to reach areas receiving key items to enhance their protection.</li> </ul>   | Apr 2021 | UN Women<br>CSOs  | Available: 40,000<br>Gap: 50,000  |
| 6 | Supporting hotlines, linked to existing protection hotlines, to address the likely increase in sexual exploitation and abuse considering increased vulnerability.                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support with additional resources and professional capacities for PSEA hotlines to respond to the increased reporting of violence and exploitation during the crisis situations</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># calls received on PSEA hotlines per month.</li> <li># women and girls reached through mobile and other protection services.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UN Women<br>Shelters and Hotlines   | Available: 50,000<br>Gap: 100,000 |
| 7 | Providing direct support to government promote adherence to international standards to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing Situation Rooms for early warning and rapid response against increased violence against women and girls.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existence of situation room (Yes/No)</li> <li># quarantine centres on international standards in preventing and responding to PSEA</li> </ul>   |          | UN Women  | Gap: 80,000                       |

| #  | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)                      |
|----|--|---|---|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
|    |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training staff of quarantine centres on international standards in preventing and responding to PSEA</li> </ul>  |   |          |   |                                   |
| 8  | Strengthening alignment of two protection systems (Child Protection and GBV/DV) which addresses violence against children and women. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop integrated training and deliver it to statutory child protection workers and those addressing Gender based violence at the local level; Training to be also available via online modules.</li> <li>• Review (of the existing normative basis) and improve the referral pathways (such as standard operating procedures) between the two systems.</li> <li>• Dedicated on-the-job coaching is provided to frontline protection workers</li> </ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By end of 2021, at least 50% of Municipalities with the existing CPU and GBV/DM response mechanism are trained jointly.</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNICEF<br>MoHSP<br>State Agency for Child Rights and Protection<br>LGUs<br>CSOs | Gap: 200,000                      |
| 9  | Advocate and facilitate central and regional coordination for child protection as a critical element of the effective response.      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate and call for recognition of the lifesaving critical role social/child protection service and its work force plays in the response to violence/GBV, abuse and exploitation during COVID-19.</li> <li>• Lead the Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group for regular coordination, timely information and monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 on child protection issues.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SP/CP system and workforce support increases from Gov. finds allocations for the COVID-19 response.</li> <li>• Bi-monthly meetings of the CPiE WG</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNICEF  | Gap: 50,000                       |
| 10 | Clear, simple, accessible and reliable information on COVID-19 and child protection measures during pandemic.                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Child-friendly, Disability adapted, and child led digital tools on COVID-19 risks and protective measures to children and families, including protection of children online.</li> <li>• Active communication through professionals delivering protection services and other social care services to most vulnerable children and families who don't or have limited access to social/media, internet.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of people children reached</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UNICEF  | Gap: 150,000                      |
| 11 | Normative Framework and Capacity Building of Child Protection Workforce  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop/adopt SOPs addressing case management of sexual abuse of children in need for protection from violence/GBV abuse and exploitation; including guidance on protection measures and provision of tools for child protection work force.</li> <li>• Implement the SoP through direct strengthening of the available services which are addressing sexual abuse, making them more child focused and engaged in overall child protection system work.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of COVID-19 specific SOPs related to child protection</li> <li>• # of CP professionals trained</li> <li>• # of professionals from health, education or other sectors trained on referral pathway for child protection and GBV</li> </ul> | Dec 2021 | UNICEF  | Gap: 120,000                      |
| 12 | Protection and Emergency Response services for children at high and immediate risk   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up full scale and 24/7 child protection emergency response service hubs regionally or support adaptation of existing ones, to allow cases of children who are victims or under immediate</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of emergency response centres</li> <li>• # of children rescued in the high-risk situation</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNICEF<br>ILO   | Available: 10,000<br>Gap: 600,000 |



| #  | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer  | Budget (USD)                       |
|----|---|---|--|----------|--|------------------------------------|
|    |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>risk of violence/GBV, abuse or exploitation to find support, care and shelter.</li> <li>Setting up mobile rescue and support units which will be on call to support the statutory CP services in the most critical situations of high risk.</li> <li>Support case management of children at high and medium risk during emergency situations, including the evaluation, family visits, and provision of essential services.</li> <li>Support to State Agency for Protection of Children's Rights in the conduct and preparation of the National Report on Child Labour following post COVID-19 pandemic</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of child protection and social welfare workers supported</li> <li># of at risk of or already out of school children supported with catch up classes and access to online schooling from a safe and child friendly setting</li> <li>National Child labour Report designed and validated</li> </ul> |          |  |                                    |
| 13 | Prevention of child family separation and support to children's reunification with their families or placement in a family type environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the national de-institutionalization plan;</li> <li>Development and modelling of Family strengthening hubs (which will replace the public residential care institutions)</li> <li>Development and implementation of Professional Foster Care model;</li> <li>Direct support to children and families who can re-unite</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># Family strengthening hubs</li> <li>Professional Foster Care model is designed, and implementation starts at least in 2 Municipalities</li> <li># of children who are re-united with their biological families or placed in a family type care.</li> </ul>   | Dec 2022 | UNICEF<br>MoHSP<br>State Social Service<br>State Agency for Child Rights and Protection<br>Local Municipalities and CSOs | Available: 100,000<br>Gap: 600,000 |
| 14 | Mental Health and Psycho-social support for children and adolescents during and beyond COVID-19   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support 24/7 provision of online psychological counselling for children, their parents and caregivers, through the child helpline the online platform <a href="http://www.nukjevetem.al">www.nukjevetem.al</a>, or similar.</li> <li>Mainstreaming tools and capacities of MHPSS among all key protection professionals</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of children, their care givers and professionals supported with direct psycho-social counselling online and via phone.</li> <li># of child protection professionals capacitated to provide non-specialised MHPSS in emergencies</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UNICEF<br>State Agency for Child Rights and Protection<br>Order of Psychologists<br>SCOs                                 | Available: 70,000<br>Gap: 300,000  |
| 15 | Addressing (sexual) violence and exploitation against children online   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development specific technical capacities to early identification of online (sexual) violence against children;</li> <li>Development and implementation of inter-agency protocol and technical system (platform) for the reporting and removal of harmful and illegal materials of child abuse nature;</li> <li>Technical capacity strengthening of special law enforcement groups for pro-active and undercover investigation that addresses crimes committed through dark web and paedophile rinks in Albania</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online child sexual abuse reporting and removal system is in place;</li> <li>#of special law enforcement professionals trained and supported to investigate cases of online abuse</li> <li># of reporting platforms supported by the State.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2022 | UNICEF<br>MoJ<br>MoHSP<br>State Agency for Child Rights and Protection<br>Prosecution and Judiciary                      | Available: 100,000<br>Gap: 400,000 |
| 16 | Local institutional response mechanisms and civil society supported, for increased capacities to ensure essential                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support CSOs, providers of specialized support services to GBV victims to contribute to strengthen Coordinated referral mechanism (CRMs) in selected municipalities.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># women, victims of GBV/DV supported in selected municipalities with specialized multi-sectoral services provided at local level.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>LGUs   | Available: 100,000<br>Gap: 400,000 |

| #   | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities   | Indicators  | Timeline      | Implementer | Budget (USD)                    |
|---|---|--|---|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
|   | sustainable and equitable services for women's protection including gender-based violence victims in crisis and post crisis/emergency situations.                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support multi sectoral services providers at local level to strengthen cooperation across all CRM members to provide safe home/ necessary administrative assistance/ safe transport, emergency and post emergency support services to GBV/DV victims.</li> <li>Support the roll out of information and campaigns designed in coordination with local authorities, women, girls, and those most at risk in the target groups/communities to strengthen disaster/health crisis prevention.</li> <li>Support specialized CSOs to extend quality accessible services to survivors of sexual and GBV through a multi-sectoral approach and existing local institutions response mechanisms at local level.</li> <li>In close partnership with CSOs strengthen support, knowledge sharing and safety for women and violence prevention interventions, as well as GBV prevention efforts.</li> </ul> |   |               | UNFPA       |                                 |
| <b>2.4 Access to Services for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants</b> |   |  |   |               |             |                                 |
| 1   | Support to Directorate for Asylum and Citizenship (DfAC) in fully resuming asylum procedures during COVID-19 pandemic.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support DfAC to hold interviews with asylum seekers through online modalities with a view to determine permanent status of eligible cases.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of interviews and No. of decisions taken</li> </ul>  | Dec 2020      | UNHCR       | Available: 11,180               |
| 2   | Issuance of Personal ID Number for refugees and asylum seekers  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pending issues discussed and way forward agreed with the Ministry of Interior and Border and Migration Police, and concrete actions agreed regarding the full implementation of the DCM on Personal ID Numbers for foreigners, with regards to refugees and other persons granted international protection, as part of their integration and durable solutions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which DCM is implemented and refugees and other persons granted international protection receive compatible Personal ID numbers</li> </ul>   | Dec 2020      | UNHCR       | Available: 5,000                |
| 3   | Eliminate legal inconsistencies and administrative barriers preventing refugees and asylum-seekers from effectively accessing rights. (Pledge from Albania in GRF 2019) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generation of a scoreboard reflecting the main inconsistencies and barriers, with actions to be taken, responsible authorities and outline of support needed by the UN.</li> <li>Drafting of a local integration strategy for refugees and other persons granted protection in Albania, in conjunction with the Ministries of Health and Social Protection and of Interior.</li> <li>Identification of gaps in resources and capacity in institutions responsible for refugees and asylum-related issues.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of meetings and monitoring reports</li> <li>Scoreboard developed and utilised</li> <li>Strategy consulted, drafted and finalised in conjunction with respective ministries</li> <li>Gaps in resources and capacity identified and communicated</li> <li>Relevant legal and administrative dispositions disseminated for greater awareness and clarity</li> <li>Process for establishing internal monitoring mechanisms consulted, drafted and finalised</li> </ul> | December 2021 | UNHCR       | Available: 19,200<br>Gap: 6,000 |

| #   | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer | Budget (USD)                       |
|---|---|---|---|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|
|   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective dissemination of relevant legal and administrative dispositions among responsible institutions to improve awareness and clarity.</li> <li>Support in the establishment of internal monitoring mechanisms and provide capacity building.</li> <li>Inclusion of refugees in employment unit opportunities</li> <li>Advocacy for refugees and asylum-seekers to have full access to municipal social housing schemes</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which refugees and asylum-seekers are included in relevant social protection schemes (economic aid scheme, unemployment payment scheme etc)</li> </ul>   |          |             |                                    |
| 4   | Support Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (ONAC)/ Responsible Authority (RA) members in applying the SOP procedures during COVID-19 pandemic.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support ONAC/AP/CSOs to provide assistance and services in residential care institutions and reintegration services for victims, potential victims of trafficking.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of VOTs/PVOTs assisted</li> </ul>  | Sep 2020 | IOM         | Gap: 25,000                        |
| <b>Pillar 2 Sub-Total</b>   |   |   |   |          |             | <b>10,811,380</b>                  |
| <b>Pillar 3: Economic Response &amp; Recovery: Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Informal Sector Workers</b> |   |   |   |          |             |                                    |
| <b>3.1 Economic Measures and Addressing Informal and Vulnerable Workers</b>   |   |   |   |          |             |                                    |
| 1   | COVID-19 prevention and mitigation actions at workplaces to ensure safe return to work; Training and products for affected enterprises on business continuity, OSH and digitalization as response to COVID-19; Support to the National Labour Council in the elaboration of policy options for economic recovery; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the COVID-19 OSH protocols at the enterprise level by different sectors.</li> <li>Training of State Labour Inspectorate and State Health Inspectorate on monitoring, advising for and reporting on the Anti COVID-19 OSH compliance at the company level.</li> <li>Training of the enterprises and workers on OSH protocols.</li> <li>Support to establishing the anti COVID-19 OSH standards and protocols.</li> <li>Design in partnership with Business Albania for the delivery.</li> <li>Launch of on-line training platform. Presentation of evidence on the actual impacts of the ongoing policy packages.</li> <li>Design of policy options, cost-benefit analysis, policy dialogue.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of public officials trained</li> <li># of enterprises trained</li> <li># of enterprises supported to implement COVID-19 red protocols and standards</li> <li>Physical existence of training modules produced</li> <li># of trained workers and employers</li> <li>Assessment of the COVID-19 packages validated by NLC</li> <li>Policy options designed and validated</li> <li># of peer learning events</li> <li># of public officials trained.</li> <li>Policy recommendations proposed and endorsed.</li> </ul> | Dec 2021 | ILO         | Available: 280,000<br>Gap: 650,000 |
| 2   | Improved implementation of the integrated system of classifications of economic activities and products of the private sector in Albania. Introduction of Preferential Public Procurement as a tool for targeted socio-economic policy agendas.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose a model for the structured and standardized implementation of the National Classification of Economic Activities (NACE.REV2).</li> <li>Develop operational procedures for the implementation of the National Classification of Economic Activities (NACE.REV2).</li> <li>Train the relevant public officials on the implementation procedures.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational package proposed and endorsed.</li> <li># of public officials trained</li> <li># legal amendments</li> <li># of SMEs registered</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNDP        | Gap: 150,000                       |

| # | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)                      |
|---|--|---|---|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the use of public procurement by type of enterprises.</li> <li>Propose amendments of the legal and operational framework to ensure proper implementation of the preferential public procurement.</li> <li>Improve the capacity of SMEs to tender for public sector contracts, including through collaborative approaches.</li> <li>Encourage SMEs to register to the Government e-procurement platform to enable forthcoming procurement opportunities to be brought to their attention.</li> </ul> |   |          |               |                                   |
| 3 | Value chain approaches to support growth in selected sectors of the Albanian Economy.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skills needs anticipation in the milk value chain.</li> <li>Support to the Sectoral Skills Committees in NAVETQ.</li> <li>Conduct economic network analysis.</li> <li>Provide recommendations on key priority sectors.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical existence of the Market System Analysis in selected sectors underlying constraints and opportunities for decent work.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2020 | ILO<br>UNDP   | Available: 70,000<br>Gap: 30,000  |
| 4 | Support rural women businesses, economic activities and products (specific value chains) access support from Government in the recovery phase of COVID-19.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase rural women capacities to access services and financial support, especially in the remote areas.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of rural women and rural women groups supported to undertake business economic activities.</li> <li># of rural women with access to agricultural advisory services.</li> <li># of rural women accessing financial instruments (grants, microcredit)</li> </ul> | Dec 2021 | FAO           | Available: 30,000<br>Gap: 240,000 |
| 5 | Direct support to micro enterprises.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transformational change initiatives to ensure innovation in business process, business model, technologies, productivity enhancement, re-skilling and up-skilling through Self-Employment and In-motion Programmes.</li> <li>Promoting and financing innovative e-solutions in the private sector to stabilize supply and demand chains.</li> <li>Support youth-led initiatives which promote entrepreneurship in co-working/co-creating spaces, with the participation of the local government.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of start-ups supported</li> <li># of enterprises extended</li> <li># of micro business participating in the In-Motion programme</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>ILO   | Available: 50,000<br>Gap: 800,000 |
| 6 | Sustainable and valuable mechanisms and platforms like Local Partnerships for Employment, for improvement of the local value chains and identification of ways and networks for faster post-COVID-19 recovery. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid Market Assessment on potential sustainable value chains with the participation of the local authorities</li> <li>Support to sustainable, innovative and effective partnerships around potential local value chains.</li> <li>Technical assistance in order to establish dialogue and networking of LEPs and companies at the municipality level.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of local partnerships for employment established</li> <li># of new jobs created</li> <li># of jobs formalised</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | ILO<br>INSTAT | Gap: 300,000                      |

| #  | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities   | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)                      |
|----|---|--|---|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7  | Identifying and strengthening Smart Specialization of sectors with higher potential of growth in the long term.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth analysis of priority domains through an entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP).</li> <li>Development of the RIS3 for Albania (incl. financing and monitoring mechanisms).</li> <li>Financing mechanisms for smart specialization.</li> <li>Policy experimentation in selected priority domains.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy and action plan in place</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNDP          | Gap: 100,000                      |
| 8  | Digitalization and innovation in the private sector with attention towards diversified and improved local tourism supply.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of innovative technologies (e-commerce, digitalization of business processes and value chain etc) for economic growth.</li> <li>Develop the e-capabilities of the micro enterprises in the tourism sector through individualized skills development initiatives.</li> <li>Develop tourism products/activities for local demand.</li> <li>Support nation-wide campaigns on local tourism.</li> <li>Include the micro enterprises of the disappearing profession in the touristic map and support them to prepare tourist packages/products.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of enterprises equipped with e-capabilities</li> <li># of new tourist packages</li> <li># of women workers in selected sectors trained on/acquired digital skills</li> </ul>                                 | Dec 2022 | UNDP<br>ILO   | Available: 10,000<br>Gap: 550,000 |
| 9  | Analyse food supply functionality, identify the bottlenecks and reduce COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 related disruptions in the food system, and along value chains. Continue assessment in remote rural areas as a short-term activity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the impact in remote rural areas, as a short-term activity, to prepare recovery measures for the most vulnerable groups living in these areas. Build capacity of local government and advisory service to deliver service to the most vulnerable groups.</li> <li>Link food suppliers and smallholders to markets (including local networks linking consumers to smallholders, facilitating public-private engagement, understanding food quality and safety standards and compliance, improved logistics and distribution, etc).</li> <li>Strengthen Community Supported Agriculture and other short value chains by training farmers on how to use websites and online platform and communication tools to connect the farmers and the consumers.</li> <li>Pilot the provision of small grants along the VCs, backed up by technical multidisciplinary assistance to improve capacities and skills.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of farmers and food suppliers trained in marketing and networking.</li> <li># of grants provided to smallholders to develop their short value chains.</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | FAO<br>INSTAT | Available: 80,000<br>Gap: 350,000 |
| 10 | Develop instruments for information and analysis on food prices, markets, agricultural trade, and food policies. Build food and agriculture systems taking account of shocks due to COVID-19  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a system for price and market information of agri-food products and agriculture inputs.</li> <li>Develop and implement an e-commerce platform for agricultural products and inputs in cooperation with other stakeholders.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MIS Platform developed</li> <li>E-commerce platform developed and maintained</li> <li>Build capacities to MARD for use and maintenance of the MIS and support with analysis and forecasting models.</li> </ul> | Dec 2021 | FAO           | Available: 60,000<br>Gap: 320,000 |

| #  | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer           | Budget (USD)                         |
|----|--|---|---|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
|    | pandemic and reopening of the economies.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct price and market information collections and analysis and to improve the national capacity of national agricultural monitoring system and agricultural forecast.</li> </ul>   |   |          |                       |                                      |
| 11 | Strengthening the resilience of animal stock farmers to COVID-19 and post COVID-19 negative effects along the value chain.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smallholders' skills and capacities improved to prepare hay and silage as animal fodder, with improved nutritional value by applying simple practices and decrease the dependency on external inputs.</li> <li>Assistance to smallholders to improve access to markets.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of animal stock farmers benefiting from capacity building, best practices and improved access to markets</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | FAO                   | Gap: 260,000                         |
| 12 | Digital skills needs' assessment to understand the varying skills needed by the private sector, with a special focus on Tourism and Manufacturing.                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjusting the assessment methodology (questionnaire, data collection).</li> <li>Collecting data on the skills needed.</li> <li>Prepare the assessment report.</li> <li>Present the findings and recommendations to the relevant institutions and public.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post COVID-19 SNA produced</li> <li># Skills' anticipation assessments in selected value chains and sectors</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>ILO<br>INSTAT | Available: 50,000<br>Gap: 120,000    |
| 13 | Diversified active labour market programmes to meet the needs of the unemployed jobseekers.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the vulnerabilities of the registered unemployed jobseekers to assess how the reformed ALMPs address their needs: (On-the-job training, wage subsidy, internships, self-employment, community employment programmes).</li> <li>Propose amendments of the approved legal framework on the eligibility criteria for unemployment jobseekers and employers.</li> <li>Propose new measures to ensure the implementation of (1) the exit strategy for the beneficiaries of social aid, (2) to tackle informal workers, and (3) youth guarantee schemes.</li> <li>Technical support to the National Agency for Employment and Skills during the implementation process of the reformed ALMPs.</li> <li>Digital campaign to promote the ALMPs and the public VET network around the country.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># Action plan designed to tackle the new unemployment triggered by the pandemic outbreak</li> <li># of post COVID-19 ALMM drafted</li> </ul>                           | Dec 2020 | UNDP<br>ILO           | Available: 100,000<br>Gap: 40,000    |
| 14 | Direct implementation of employment promotion incentives to target enterprises who are heavily affected by the COVID-19 crises and employees who become redundant. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash for work programme.</li> <li>Voucher schemes for training of newly unemployed jobseekers.</li> <li>Self-employment programmes.</li> <li>Cash transfer program job retention (ILO)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of beneficiaries</li> <li># of laid off women workers supported through cash transfer schemes</li> <li># of enterprises supported in work force retention</li> </ul> | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>ILO           | Available: 500,000<br>Gap: 2,400,000 |

| #  | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities   | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer        | Budget (USD)       |
|----|--|--|--|----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 15 | Informality in employment relations.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map and track the incidence and variety of atypical employment contracts and employment relations.</li> <li>Provide recommendations and policies based on the findings.</li> <li>Design an employment promotion scheme (Subsidy scheme) for own-account workers (homecare to elderly, babies and children, cleaners etc).</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labour Code amendment</li> <li># of Policy options reducing informality designed and validated</li> <li># of recommended packages piloted</li> </ul>                  | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>ILO        | Gap: 200,000       |
| 16 | Quality assured and flexible private and public skills development offer, as a response to the labour market needs in the post-COVID-19 context. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of the entire private and public offer in the country – online platform for the users of the system.</li> <li>Re- and Up-skilling programmes for the currently employed workforce, including digital skills.</li> <li>Improve the licensing and monitoring procedures of the VET providers.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of private VET providers updated</li> <li># of people trained with digital skills</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UNDP               | Available: 300,000 |
| 17 | COVID-19 related information and protection is incorporated in the migrant workers recruitment procedures of Private Employment Agencies         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular meetings with the Private Employment Agencies, MFE and related agencies</li> <li>Recruitment procedures amended to include COVID-19 related dynamics</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of meetings held</li> <li># of procedures amended</li> </ul>  | Sep 2021 | IOM<br>MFE<br>PEOs | Gap: 100,000       |
| 18 | Issuance of work permits for refugees and asylum-seekers   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pending issues discussed and way forward agreed with the Ministry of Finance and Economy and General Inspectorate of National Employment Service, in order to fully implement the revised DCM on Work Permits for refugees and asylum seekers as part of their integration and durable solutions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which DCM is implemented and refugees, asylum-seekers and other persons granted international protection receive work permits in a timely manner</li> </ul> | Dec 2020 | UNHCR              | Available: 6,000   |
| 19 | Regularisation of informal workers among refugees and asylum seekers   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings with the Ministry of Economy and Finance and General Directorate of National Employment Service</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of advocacy meetings and reports</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNHCR              | Gap: 4,000         |
| 20 | Refugees and asylum seekers benefit from economic support provided by the government and Tirana municipality                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the Ministry of Economy and Finance and General Tax Directorate to include families of refugees and other persons granted protection in government financial aid packages</li> <li>Joint efforts with Tirana municipality to ensure inclusion of refugees and those with other forms of protection in the registry of vulnerable families, to allow access to monthly food packages according to their level of vulnerability</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which refugees and other persons granted protection are included</li> </ul>   | Dec 2020 | UNHCR              | Gap: 2,000         |
| 21 | Collect updated information on the employment situation of Albanian migrants in Italy and Greece, with the purpose of collecting                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish network of focal points within the Albanian Diaspora and migrant communities and collect updated information regularly</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of information briefs</li> </ul>  | Sep 2021 | IOM                | Gap: 80,000        |

| #  | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)                       |
|--|--|---|---|----------|---|------------------------------------|
|  | indications on the propensity of current migrants to return to Albania as a result of loss of jobs                                   |   |   |          |   |                                    |
| 22   | Provide reintegration support to returning migrants  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct reintegration support to returning migrants for income generation support</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of returning migrants supported</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | IOM   | Available: 100,000<br>Gap: 200,000 |
| 23   | Promote and create facilitated corridors for seasonal migrant workers  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the dialogue with the institutions in Italy and Greece in the definition of dedicated protocols for seasonal migrant workers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of meetings held</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | IOM   | Gap: 100,000                       |
| <b>3.2 Building a Post-COVID-19 Resilient Tourism Sector</b> |  |   |   |          |   |                                    |
| 1  | Increased resilience in the tourism sector   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessing the Impacts of COVID-19 in the tourism sector in Albania (research based qualitative and quantitative)</li> <li>Preparation of country-specific Tourism Recovery Plans</li> <li>Reorienting the Tourism Value Chain to Sustainable approaches (providing technical assistance and guidance in efficient practices of consumption: waste and water management; energy efficiency and renewable energy applications; eco-certification, etc identifying banking opportunities and investment)</li> <li>Marketing and promotion identifying and targeting market strategies that can help accelerate recovery, addressing product diversification, and recommendations and guidelines in terms of pricing and packaging.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tourism recovery plan/s reviewed</li> <li># interventions</li> </ul>   | Dec 2022 | UNDP<br>Ministry of Tourism and Environment<br>INSTAT<br>Economic Operators | Gap: 1,000,000                     |
| <b>3.3 Women's Economic Empowerment</b>                      |  |   |   |          |   |                                    |
| 1  | Adverse norms that limit women's access to work tackled and positive role models promoted in achieving women's economic empowerment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support women organisations organise awareness raising to challenge the stigmatization and attitudes towards informal workers; changing stereotypes gendering roles and abilities. and recognise care work pressure in time of pandemic situation and call for redistribution of work and supporting those in need.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of success stories of role models on women economic empowerment</li> </ul>   | Dec 2023 | UNDP<br>CSOs<br>LGUs  | Gap: 100,000                       |
| 2  | Strengthen local authorities with capacities and tools to enable vulnerable women economic recovery and empowerment.                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support municipalities to establish and use economic supportive schemes for start-ups/small businesses run by women with a keen focus on vulnerable women and girls impacted by COVID-19 and earthquake.</li> <li>Support municipalities use subsidy schemes for local and intercity transport/creches/kindergarten in support of mothers with a keen focus on vulnerable women impacted by both pandemic and natural disaster.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of municipalities with supportive start up and or subsidy schemes for the affected women from crisis.</li> <li># of women benefiting from these supportive local schemes.</li> </ul> | Dec 2023 | UNDP<br>LGUs  | Gap: 400,000                       |



| # | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer                                     | Budget (USD)                      |
|---|--|---|--|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support municipalities organize fairs for local products produced by small business run by women helping them to market their products and establish working contracts with bigger businesses.</li> </ul>  |  |          |   |                                   |
| 3 | Promote new sources of income security for marginalized women through policy interventions on mobile financial services and market-based opportunities.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical support to enhance economic resilience through unconditional cash distributions via digital wallets and mobile handsets to women headed households, and for women who have left the paid labour market to undertake unpaid care work during the COVID-19 response.</li> <li>Work with government service providers to target digital messaging for women to fully access government schemes targeting the economic impacts of the outbreak.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of gender-responsive social protection packages for COVID-19.</li> <li># of women supported through mobile money distribution.</li> <li>Sex-disaggregated data is available throughout the national response.</li> <li>National strategies include specific interventions to address gender vulnerabilities.</li> </ul> | Dec 2021 | UN Women<br>MoFE<br>LGUs                        | Gap: 150,000                      |
| 4 | Support women owned micro and small businesses, including rural women businesses, to become part of the economy through capacity building and by integrating their proposed solutions in procurement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical support to women SME entrepreneurs through unconditional cash distributions via digital wallets.</li> <li>Support E-commerce and digital solutions to allow secure access to services needed at the time of crisis, particularly by vulnerable groups – E-Trade for Women in the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.</li> <li>Advocate and support targeted efforts for increased government and private sector procurement targeting women-owned businesses.</li> <li>Government and private sector partners support women-owned enterprises and build their capacity including through procurement.</li> <li>Advocate for and support the design of support schemes and measures aimed at keeping businesses, occupations, and sectors to ensure that there is an equal distribution between businesses, occupations, and sectors where women are overrepresented.</li> <li>Support rural women businesses, economic activities and products (specific value chains) access support from Government in the recovery phase of COVID-19.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% increase in procurement from women-owned enterprises by key partners.</li> <li>% of registered women owned business</li> <li>% increase in procurement from women-owned enterprises by key partners.</li> </ul>   | Dec 2022 | UN Women<br>MoFE<br>Women Business Associations | Gap: 200,000                      |
| 5 | UNW/ILO joint efforts to promote Decent Employment for Women through Inclusive Growth Policies and development of social enterprises to be scaled up.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and capacitate Social Entrepreneurs to create sustainable business models and launch social enterprises</li> <li>Strengthen national framework for social entrepreneurship so that its legal framework</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of new social enterprises registered</li> <li># of women employed in SE</li> </ul>  | Dec 2023 | UN Women<br>ILO<br>MoHSP<br>MoFE<br>LGUs        | Available: 40,000<br>Gap: 400,000 |

| #                                | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer  | Budget (USD)                         |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|----------|--|--------------------------------------|
|                                  |   | <p>provides for favourable conditions for social enterprises development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance capacities of public stakeholders (at the central and local level) to support and promote social enterprises and inclusive economy in their respective mandates, in line with the national legal framework requirements and EU good practices;</li> <li>Raise public awareness about the potential and benefits of social entrepreneurship so that social enterprises could reach a well-developed stage and operational environment significantly contributing to continuous increase in economic empowerment and social (re)integration of vulnerable population categories with focus women</li> </ul>                                 |   |          |  |                                      |
| <b>3.4 Nature-Based Response</b> |   |   |   |          |  |                                      |
| 1                                | Promotion of the Green Economy approach to prepare, address and build resilience by the current and future shocks caused by the pandemics including climate change  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the climate mitigation targets and translation of these into clean, green, sustainable and resilient plans and investments, i.e. (i) increase the penetration of renewable energy; (ii) make service, transport and industry more energy efficient; (iii) consider climate mitigation in the process of integrated waste management; (iv) increase the GHG removal potential of the Forestry Sector;</li> <li>Identify opportunities for investments in long-term resilience building to address co-vulnerabilities of the climate and health crises.</li> <li>Support the development of COVID-19 responses that include clean energy investments to enhance NDCs and long-term decarbonization strategies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National determined Contribution (NDC) revised based on sectorial updates in line with Renewable and Energy Efficiency action plans</li> </ul> | Dec 2024 | UNDP Ministry of Tourism and Environment and line ministries | Available: 200,000<br>Gap: 2,800,000 |
| 2                                | Support Albania's green growth trajectory in alignment with "building back better" and SDGs to implement a set of actions through mobilizing a group of partners to support Albania's support green recovery and mobilizing financing, including by developing evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobilise an active coalition of stakeholders.</li> <li>Prepare a roadmap of possible interventions in support of green and resilient recovery.</li> <li>Support in implementation of the roadmap in support of green and resilient recovery and preparation of a project pipeline.</li> <li>Support access to access increased finance.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A coalition mobilised and roadmap prepared.</li> <li>Various funding mechanisms contacted for application process.</li> </ul>                  | Dec 2021 | UNDP<br>RCO<br>UNEP<br>UNECE                                 | Gap: 100,000                         |
| 3                                | Mitigate the risk and impact of zoonotic disease outbreaks by addressing their root causes  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and assess high-risk factors for the emergence of zoonotic diseases linked to</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report developed</li> <li># measures implemented</li> </ul>  | Dec 2023 | UNDP<br>Ministry of Tourism and Environment                  | Available: 500,000<br>Gap: 2,500,000 |

| # | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities   | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer  | Budget (USD)     |
|---|---|--|--|----------|--|------------------|
|   | including destruction and degradation of natural areas and ecosystem services, illegal wildlife trade, and risks associated with wildlife consumption and livestock farming, including through repurposing of Support phasing out of harmful subsidies, and “greening” stimulus packages. | <p>biodiversity loss, livelihoods, and wildlife consumption and trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map hotspots for integrated land use planning and disease- outbreak prevention and containment.</li> <li>• Deploy emerging technologies for nature monitoring drones/remote/satellite tools and technologies to ensure continued monitoring of biodiversity trends and to support enforcement of illegal actions.</li> <li>• Assess proposed stimulus measures to harness power of nature for recovery and SDG including debt-for-nature/climate swap; minimize negative impacts on nature; structurally integrate nature; support ‘green new deals’; create ‘green’ jobs; promote ecological infrastructure; boost economic recovery through pro-nature incentives &amp; public fund reallocation including subsidy repurposing</li> <li>• Tackle illegal wildlife trade &amp; risks associated with wildlife consumption and farming; support community resilience; conservation measures to address environmental change and habitat loss; improve the management of livestock to reduce zoonotic disease transmission; etc.</li> <li>• Sustain livelihoods of vulnerable and at-risk communities - Assist tourism/nature-based tourism and small-scale agriculture-dependent communities; resilience building to cope with current and future shocks; mobilise financial support including micro &amp; small grants</li> </ul> |  |          |  |                  |
| 4 | Raising public awareness on the importance and value of people living in harmony with nature: biodiversity and health, wild species protection in natural healthy ecosystems, halting deforestation, land and other environmental degradation.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include into planned public awareness event, materials and publications.</li> <li>• Modernize Albanian resource management legislation by including COVID-19 implications into forestry sublegal acts.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of publications, events,</li> <li>• # handbook with strategic objectives developed</li> </ul> | Dec 2020 | UNEP<br>Ministry of Tourism and Environment<br>Kolonja Municipality<br>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development | Available: 1,500 |
| 5 | Use existing platforms to map/indicate pollution with response to COVID-19 through raising awareness not to side-line environmentally sound regulations   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the South East European Platform to Beat Pollution to map and/or indicate links and risks of pollution as a response to COVID-19 for awareness raising and prevention.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of people reached by the platform</li> </ul>  | Dec 2020 | UNEP<br>South East European Region   | Available: 2,000 |

| # | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer                                 | Budget (USD)     |
|---|---|---|---|----------|---|------------------|
|   | in order to avoid shocks from possible “bounce back” effects, where environmental degradation may be excused as post-COVID-19 economic recovery.  |   |   |          |   |                  |
| 6 | Assistance in developing a Regional strategy for climate resilient infrastructure development, followed with an action plan identifying concrete climate proofing measures including green infrastructure with an emphasis on potential impact on ecosystems, species and human needs as post-COVID-19 response (under the current CLIMAPROOF project for the Western Balkans). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapt COVID-19 potential impact on ecosystems, species and human needs for inclusion in the Regional Strategy for Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development and Action Plan.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Strategy Developed</li> </ul>   | Dec 2020 | UNEP  | Available: 2,000 |
| 7 | Support actions towards improvement of the protected areas network and effective management of the protected areas, as well as acceptance of sustainable management practices of nature resources, sustainable tourism and combat wildlife crime and illegal trade.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include COVID-19 measures, in projects dealing with PA management and measures related to sustainable management practices for nature-based tourism, especially in mountainous areas.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of measures proposed</li> <li># publications</li> </ul>                              | Dec 2021 | UNEP<br>Ministry of Tourism and Environment | Gap: 10,000      |
| 8 | Building back better while also integrating recommendations addressing the greening of economic recovery measures and greening government fiscal policies.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expertise in addressing the greening of economic recovery measures and greening government fiscal policies.</li> <li>Investigate how investments in climate friendly actions can stimulate economies, create employment opportunities and increase resilience to a recurrent zoonotic threat.</li> <li>For a transformational and greener economy, identify and take early actions to address climate change, avoid habitat loss and fragmentation, reduce pollution and improve waste management and infrastructure.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report produced</li> <li># of measures suggested</li> <li># of publications</li> </ul> | Jan 2022 | UNEP<br>Ministry of Tourism and Environment | Gap: 50,000      |
|   |   | •   | •   |          |   |                  |

| #   | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities   | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer                       | Budget (USD)       |
|---|--|--|---|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Pillar 3 Sub-Total</b>   |  |  |   |          |                                   | <b>17,087,500</b>  |
| <b>Pillar 4: Macroeconomic Response &amp; Multilateral Collaboration</b>          |  |  |   |          |                                   |                    |
| <b>4.1. Macroeconomic Response</b>  |  |  |   |          |                                   |                    |
| 1   | Coordinate advice, in collaboration with the WB, IMF and the EU, on additional fiscal measures or extending current ones in case the pandemic and related confinement measures prolong, to ensure that the stimulus packages promote gender equality and support the most vulnerable.          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical assistance for gender analyses and engendering of strategic response plans of the Government. (UN Woman)</li> <li>• Assist and advise the Government to systematically analyse and assess the quality of gender-responsive effort by the government in COVID-19 policy levers and response plans.</li> <li>• Support in ensuring that the budgeting process takes into consideration the needs of the most vulnerable and women and girls.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal stimulus package and the recovery plan responds to the needs of the most vulnerable (number of vulnerable people included in the recovery plan)</li> <li>• Engendered budget in all government including local levels by 2021.</li> </ul> | Dec 2020 | RCO<br>UNDP<br>UN Women           | Gap: 200,000       |
| 2   | Enhance the capacities of relevant public institutions to develop the SDG Investment Framework and apply the investment decision making and engagement for maximum SDG return on investment (including the continued work on SDG analysis, which will feed into the SDG Investment framework). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to the Albanian Parliament's Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development to enhance mainstreaming of the SDGs framework in the national legislation and parliament's role in SDG financing.</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance and Economy supported to develop the SDG Investment Framework by prioritizing the SDGs in the national context through the SDG accelerators.</li> <li>• Support one selected municipality in the process of integrating the SDGs framework in the local government's budget planning process and trainings on social protection floor.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDG Investment framework in place by 2021</li> <li>• Pilot municipality selected and supported.</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | RCO<br>UNDP                       | Available: 100,000 |
| 3   | Support to INSTAT in building overall capacity in data collection (including gender disaggregated data) and reporting of specific information considering crisis such as the pandemic caused by COVID-19   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend improvements on data collection and reporting during a pandemic or other emergency.</li> <li>• Produce gender-disaggregated data that highlight the impacts on women and girls available to inform response including through the establishment of baseline data</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened capacities in data collection</li> <li>• Guidelines for emergency reporting</li> <li>• # gender disaggregated data produced</li> <li>• # of INSTAT staff members trained</li> </ul>   | Dec 2022 | RCO<br>Joint Data Group<br>INSTAT | Gap: 250,000       |
| <b>4.2. Multilateral and Regional Coordination, Trade Policy and Connectivity</b> |  |  |   |          |                                   |                    |
| 1   | Policy advice on enhancing regional collaboration on trade and connectivity, in collaboration with the EU and other actors   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity-building on Single Window and data sharing for the Western Balkans</li> <li>• Regional workshop on Trade as a means of implementation</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECE proposed framework of indicators revised considering feedback from stakeholders and ready for pilot testing</li> <li>• Experts from 6 Western Balkan countries increase their knowledge and</li> </ul>                                       | Dec 2021 | UNECE                             | Gap: 100,000       |

| #   | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline                 | Implementer  | Budget (USD)      |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
|   |   |   | capacity to implement the Single Window and trade facilitation  |                          |  |                   |
| 2   | Improve national capacity for developing evidence-based trade regulatory and procedural policies aimed at the achievement of the SDGs.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey on impact of the COVID-19 safety measures and economic crisis is having on MSMEs.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A coherent evidence-based action plan developed for supporting MSMEs' sustained recovery, with reflect key measures that need to be undertaken for harnessing trade to support the rehabilitation and development of MSMEs in a manner that is consistent with the 2030 Agenda notion of trade as a means of implementation and principle of policy coherence</li> </ul> | Dec 2020                 | UNECE  | Available: 20,000 |
| 3   | Assist reviewing fiscal regulations, which are impeding a wider formalization within the agricultural sector, including review of the current fiscal treatment of small and large farmers and cooperatives (as defined in the Tax Code) and proposal of amendments in line with best practices in other countries and coherent to the Albanian context. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of existing fiscal legislation in Agriculture.</li> <li>Conduct broad consultations with stakeholders.</li> <li>Recommend improvements to the law and prepare the necessary by-laws.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drafting of changes to the existing law and corresponding by-laws.</li> <li>Submission of draft for parliamentary approval</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021                 | FAO  | Gap: 95,000       |
| 4   | Strengthen Albania's capacity to participate in regional preparedness and response to food systems challenges caused by disasters and emergencies (including COVID-19) through multi-sectoral approaches involving, among others, the food, agriculture, health, and education sectors  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical support to countries in a coordinated manner to strengthen countries' preparedness and response to food systems challenges caused by disasters and emergencies (including COVID-19).</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of issues identified,</li> <li># of issues addressed,</li> <li># of policy recommendations</li> <li># of trainings provided to institutional partners.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021                 | FAO<br>WHO<br>WFP<br>UNICEF                                      | Gap: 100,000      |
| <b>Pillar 4 Sub-Total</b>   |   |   |   |                          |  | <b>865,000</b>    |
| <b>Pillar 5: Social Cohesion &amp; Community Resilience</b>             |   |   |   |                          |  |                   |
| <b>5.1 Inclusive Social Dialogue, Advocacy and Political Engagement</b> |   |   |   |                          |  |                   |
| <b>Social Dialogue</b>  |   |   |   |                          |  |                   |
| 1   | Support strengthening of solidarity in households and communities including between different generations.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support with capacity building, good practices and grants' scheme civil society organizations, particularly those representing women, youth, R&amp;E, persons with disabilities, to advocate for human rights and solidarity, create (cross-) groups' coalitions and networks to voice needs and claims for services.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of capacity building activities conducted.</li> <li># of good practices disseminated.</li> <li># and typology of CSOs reached through training, good practices and grants schemes.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2023<br><br>Dec 2022 | UNDP<br>CSOs<br>LGUs<br><br>UNFPA<br>Youth & Elderly<br>Networks | Gap: 800,000      |

| #                                     | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities   | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer | Budget (USD)                      |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|----------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                       |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support marginalized groups/individuals through formal or informal community fora to create social capital and benefit from household' s and community's unity and solidarity.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and typology of coalitions and networks established.</li> <li># of claims for services voiced.</li> <li># and typology of fora created.</li> <li># of community members reached through for a.</li> <li>level of satisfaction of community members from household's or community's solidarity actions.</li> <li># of infrastructure created.</li> <li># of poor accessing the infrastructure to claim and receive support from fora, family and community members.</li> </ul> |          |             |                                   |
| 2                                     | Strengthen capacities of coalitions / CSO and Youth advocacy platforms at municipal level on policy dialogue & engagement with LGUs for local planning, budgeting & monitoring, incl. in emergency situations (esp. for youth & older people). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training on advocacy &amp; policy dialogue with LGUs</li> <li>Training on how to plan and budget for targeted groups (young people &amp; older people), including response in emergency situations.</li> <li>Expand youth voice advocacy platform in 61 municipalities</li> <li>Expand monitoring model for implementation of Youth policies (Youth Law/by-laws &amp; Youth Action Plan) in 61 municipalities, incl. communication &amp; volunteering in emergency situations.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of LGUs with budget provisions for youth &amp; older persons in emergency situations</li> <li># of LGUs where youth voice &amp; monitoring model is expanded</li> </ul>   |          | UNFPA       | Gap: 200,000                      |
| 3                                     | Support to adaptation of mediation/conciliation service delivery via alternative arrangements and to deal with difficult situations triggered by COVID-19 crisis (dismissals, non-payment of wages, unpaid overtime, etc.).                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online/training with regional mediators and conciliators of labour disputes how to deal with difficult situations triggered by COVID-19 crisis (dismissals, non-payment of wages, unpaid overtime, etc.).</li> <li>Technical advice on adapting procedures.</li> <li>Training of mediators/conciliators to deliver on-line services.</li> <li>Procurement of alternative delivery equipment</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of regional mediators/conciliators trained on handling labour disputes triggered by COVID-19 crisis</li> <li># of alternative arrangements in place</li> <li># of regional mediators/conciliators trained on on-line service delivery</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | ILO         | Available: 110,000<br>Gap: 60,000 |
| 4                                     | Capacity building of employers and workers/workers organizations to negotiate new work arrangements and to prevent and handle labour disputes involving vulnerable workers.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of industrial relations in 20 companies.</li> <li>Survey/study on COVID-19 impact on labour relations and work arrangements</li> <li>Practical guide on grievance prevention and handling of labour disputes.</li> <li>Training of workers and employers.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of employers and workers/workers organizations trained</li> <li># of tools developed</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | ILO         | Available: 135,000<br>Gap: 50,000 |
| 5                                     | Boys and girls are engaged in developing the post COVID-19 Recovery Plan and express their views on its implementation (SDG 5)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U-Report tool is frequently refreshed with questions pertaining to the Recovery Plan</li> <li>The views of boys and girls on issues that affect them (particularly considering the pandemic) are conveyed to decision-makers</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># boys and girls who are active U-Reporters</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UNICEF      | Gap: 30,000                       |
| <b>Advocacy and Capacity Building</b> |  |  |  |          |             |                                   |

| # | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities   | Indicators   | Timeline                 | Implementer                                      | Budget (USD)                      |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 6 | Support state oversight bodies, civil society organizations and media to ensure checks and balances on the exercise of power by the State, both in respect of the initial response to the crisis and in respect of medium-term recovery efforts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide state bodies (HRIs, parliament, municipal councils), media and civil society organizations with international/regional good practices on oversight of crisis response.</li> <li>Support the oversight of crisis response at all stages by ensuring that oversight bodies seek citizen participation in and feedback on service delivery and policy implementation.</li> <li>Convert Human rights monitoring mechanisms and systems into virtual space with active participation of human rights activists.</li> <li>Empower and mobilize networks of activists from vulnerable groups to promote accurate information on limiting the spread of COVID-19 and to appropriately address the related needs of their communities,</li> <li>NHRIs supported to put safety measures in place to enable them to perform their role during social distancing measures</li> <li>NHRIs supported to reach out to children and promote their increased demand for remedies for child rights violations</li> <li>NHRIs supported to provide remedies and make them publicly known in a child-friendly fashion</li> <li>Group of Parliamentarians "Friends of Children", Parliamentary Commissions and MPs are equipped with evidence and arguments to address the impact of the pandemic over boys and girls, and to advance the child rights agenda</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of activists trained.</li> <li># of info session delivered.</li> <li># of issues raised.</li> <li># of issues addressed.</li> <li>2000 people reached.</li> <li># child rights violation cases for which a remedy is provided by the NHRIs</li> <li># complaints presented directly from children to the NHRIs</li> <li># monitoring visits conducted by NHRIs in detention, residential care and other places of service provision to children</li> <li># laws and other normative acts integrating the child rights perspective discussed and approved in the Albanian Parliament</li> <li># public oversight events conducted by the Parliament on various aspects of child rights</li> <li># channels used by the Parliament to hear the voice of boys and girls</li> </ul> | Dec 2023<br><br>Dec 2022 | UNICEF<br><br>UNFPA                              | Available: 70,000<br>Gap: 340,000 |
| 7 | Child Rights monitoring and reporting (including publication) at national and subnational level – focuses at the most vulnerable children, adolescents, youth and the increased vulnerabilities caused by COVID-19                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collection and analysis</li> <li>Data publication</li> <li>Collection of information from local institutions and children</li> <li>Preparation of the reports/plans</li> <li>Set-up of the statistical dashboards.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># new indicators released annually</li> <li># municipalities with plans/reports on Child Rights situation</li> <li># municipalities with established statistical dashboard – children/adolescent/youth</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021                 | UNICEF<br>INSTAT                                 | Available: 25,000<br>Gap: 200,000 |
| 8 | Advocate for and support community participation and bottom up transparency in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening advocacy efforts with the local and national government institutions for the protection of vulnerable groups (Roma &amp; Egyptians and Persons with disabilities), those most affected by COVID-19.</li> <li>Support the creation of networks of advocates and capacitate them on advocacy actions.</li> <li>Support designing of advocacy plans for VGs</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local community platforms established and functional.</li> <li>Electronic systems available and accessible to citizens ensuring bottom-up transparency.</li> <li>90% of issues of transparency coming from citizens for discussion and solution through local platforms addressed accordingly.</li> </ul>   | Dec 2023<br><br>Dec 2022 | UNDP<br><br>UNFPA<br>Youth & Elderly<br>Networks | Gap: 1,900,000                    |



| #  | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline             | Implementer                      | Budget (USD) |
|--|---|---|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
|  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage local communities to prepare, respond and recover from crisis and disasters.</li> <li>Promote community participation through partnering with community-led organizations for prevention, support, and recovery services to the most vulnerable and most hard to reach people.</li> <li>Support at least 20 projects implemented by CSOs representing vulnerable groups, demanding rights and holding municipal service providers accountable for quality social care services in COVID-19 response and recovery.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of projects implemented by CSOs representing vulnerable groups, demanding rights and holding municipal service providers accountable for quality social care services in COVID-19 response and recovery.</li> <li>#of activists trained, # of advocacy activities, # of issues raised, # of issues addressed, 1500 persons reached.</li> </ul> |                      |                                  |              |
| <b>5.2 Community Resilience, Participation, and Service Delivery</b> |   |   |  |                      |                                  |              |
| <b>Assessments &amp; Data Systems</b>                                |   |   |  |                      |                                  |              |
| 1  | Field assessments to understand level, challenges, and impact of pandemic on status of various vulnerable groups, the capacities, and ways of securing municipal business continuity and the service delivery solutions or needs to be addressed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with relevant ministries, Moi and MoHSP, in fine tuning aspects to be assessed.</li> <li>Finalize assessment tools to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess 1) business continuity capacity of local governments in time of crisis; 2) ability and capacity of local governments to provide services to all in an accessible and equitable manner; and 3) level of community resilience and coping mechanisms.</li> <li>Analyse arising challenges and gaps in the local level service delivery (on health care, inclusive education, social care and protection, housing, civil registration, employment and skills) due to COVID-19, and the behavioural change of the COVID-19 affected population, with a focus on vulnerable groups.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Use assessment findings to improve response measures and provide recommendations to central and local governments.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments carried out and completed</li> <li>Findings being used by Government and useful to fine tune our plans</li> </ul>   | Dec 2020<br>Dec 2020 | UNDP<br>INSTAT<br>UNFPA<br>Youth | Gap: 150,000 |
| 2  | Support municipalities to develop capacities and systems for collecting, maintaining, analysing, and using data for targeted responses both in case of disasters or regular development purposes.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up of UNDP's support to develop a local data hub for local government data as well as defined sets of performance indicators that would enable municipalities to assess their own progress as well as compare them with other LGUs.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local capacities in place for data collection and sharing with national level</li> <li>A local data hub developed and linked with a national network of municipal data</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021             | UNDP                             | Gap: 400,000 |
| <b>Vulnerable Groups</b>   |   |   |  |                      |                                  |              |
| 3  | Tracking and mapping of at-risk population at municipal and administrative unit/village level.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the situation of data and records related to vulnerable groups.</li> <li>Based on the situation, develop alternative solutions that make use of best practices and</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodology for mapping at-risk populations developed</li> <li># of municipalities with mapping at-risk populations at least 10</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021             | UNDP<br>INSTAT                   | Gap: 500,000 |

| #                           | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)                       |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|----------|---|------------------------------------|
|                             |   | <p>technology for mapping and monitoring dynamics of the situation of vulnerable groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test the approach in municipalities, fine tune it and make it available to all.</li> </ul>  |   |          |   |                                    |
| 4                           | Expert support to local governments to identify the most poor and unregistered women and girls in emergency situations.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct analysis at the local level on lists of beneficiaries to different recovery plans</li> <li>• Identify through canvassing and available data unregistered women and girls</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of municipalities with available data on most poor and unregistered women and girls</li> <li>• # of girls and women identified and included in response plans</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UN Women  | Gap: 100,000                       |
| <b>Community Resilience</b> |   |   |   |          |   |                                    |
| 5                           | Establishment and use of “persons of trust” in local communities to build community resilience in facing pandemics and crisis and ensuring that voices of members of the community are included in local decision-making. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Info sessions/awareness raising meetings and trainings in 10 target municipalities with vulnerable women and girls, interest women groups and CSOs and women community leaders on participation in decision making processes, leadership and advocacy skills</li> <li>• Door to door campaigns by identified local women leaders</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of municipalities engaged in dialogue with communities</li> <li>• # individuals from communities, whose voice is included in local level responses to crises.</li> <li>• # of women serving as local leaders in connecting local level response to communities</li> <li>• # of local initiatives conducted</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UN Women<br>LGUs<br>CSOs  | Gap: 50,000                        |
| 6                           | Building resilience of smallholders and small family farms through support to farm advisory services targeting the needs of small farms.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilience of smallholders against the negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis can be strengthened by supporting development of well-functioning and effective farm advisory services.</li> <li>• The capacity of advisory services and then smallholders can be built up within the technical areas and topics that are impacted in the current situation taking into consideration the use of digital technology and solutions where relevant.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # trainings to Advisory Services</li> <li>• # trainings to small farmers to build resilience against impact of crisis (such as COVID-19)</li> <li>• # digital platforms and tools to farmers and advisory services provided to cope with crisis</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | FAO   | Available: 150,000<br>Gap: 350,000 |
| <b>Service Delivery</b>     |   |   |   |          |   |                                    |
| 7                           | Local and central authorities responsible for emergency preparedness and response have capacities to ensure equitable, cohesive, and inclusive response.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the national training curricula and module on mainstreaming gender into National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR, including pandemics) to enhance the national capacity to design and implement successful DRR initiatives which will reduce the women’s vulnerability.</li> <li>• Organize gender training to raise awareness of national and local policymakers and planners across sectors and “training for trainers” for Gender, Disaster Risk Management.</li> <li>• Support implementation of/review of local social plans interventions from the preparedness and responsive planning perspective to ensure inclusive and equitable service delivery at local level.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of training curricula with gender mainstreamed into the National Disaster Risk Reduction plan implemented by local actors.</li> <li>• Adapted existing actions of local plans such as social care plan, R&amp;E local plan, youth plan etc., in response COVID-19 impact, through participatory process.</li> <li>• # of modules provided.</li> <li>• # of professionals trained.</li> <li>• # of innovative services designed.</li> </ul> | Dec 2023 | UNDP<br>ASPA<br>LGUs<br>CSOs<br>CRMs<br>NHRIs<br>School of Magistrate<br>MoJ<br>MoHSP | Gap: 800,000                       |

| #                     | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer | Budget (USD)                      |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|----------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
|                       |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building of local service providers in the lockdown period and after lockdown in designing and using innovative services aiming to reach more beneficiaries.</li> <li>Good practices of social services during COVID-19 are identified through research and are implemented at local level.</li> </ul>  |  |          |             |                                   |
| 8                     | Transforming service delivery moving from traditional paper-based service to integration of one-stop-shops front desks and where possible to e-services and/or mobile apps.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuity of exploration of possible upgrades of local service provision from the level of OSS, where services are digitally recorded and monitored, to e-services, where the citizen receives the service without physical presence.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of municipalities operating OSS for service delivery at central offices, all municipalities</li> <li># of municipalities operating OSS for service delivery at their administrative units, at least 30</li> <li># of services provided as e-services through mobile apps, at least 5</li> </ul>   | Dec 2022 | UNDP        | Gap: 400,000                      |
| 9                     | Build upon international experiences and local lessons learned during the pandemic to promote and further develop business models for disaster response, resilience, and business continuity.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local governments globally face similar challenges and often responses resemble. The pandemic has triggered a wealth of ideas and solutions and increased knowledge exchange. The activity will consist in a regular monitoring of response experiences from the national and international level and a dissemination of a compendium of possibilities and options for treating similar problems in the local context.</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of compendiums of best practices developed and disseminated, at least 5</li> </ul>  | Dec 2021 | UNDP        | Gap: 100,000                      |
| 10                    | Strengthen LGUs staff & service providers capacities in planning, budgeting, providing and monitoring social services ensuring observance of rights & promotion of inclusion (esp. of older & young people), including in emergency.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen capacities of selected LGUs to include &amp; operationalize their functions related to youth and older people.</li> <li>Strengthen LGU capacities to include emergency response plans esp. for older and vulnerable youth.</li> <li>Facilitate LGUs establish a regular consultation mechanism for dialogue with CSO &amp; advocacy platforms working with youth &amp; older persons &amp; young girls and women</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of capacity building activities conducted.</li> <li># of LGUs with response plans for elderly &amp; vulnerable youth included</li> <li># and typology of groups (elderly, youth, women &amp; girls) reached through consultation mechanisms</li> <li>level of satisfaction of community members from community's solidarity actions.</li> </ul> | Dec 2022 | UNFPA       | Available: 50,000<br>Gap: 150,000 |
| <b>Local Finances</b> |   |   |  |          |             |                                   |
| 11                    | Support municipalities review their financial situation in view of COVID-19 immediate and longer-term impact as well as in improving their forecasts while considering changing priorities and the obligation to ensure inclusion, equity and tailored service provision to all citizens. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is in response to Government concern for understanding the effects on people, services and governance of the financial pressure caused by the COVID-19.</li> <li>The assessment is not purely financial, it will look at how reduced finances impact social and operational aspects of the LGU in the short and midterm and the optimal ways for coping with that situation for both local and central government.</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The assessment, providing findings and recommendations</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNDP        | Gap: 50,000                       |

| #  | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities  | Indicators  | Timeline | Implementer  | Budget (USD)                     |
|--|--|---|---|----------|--|----------------------------------|
| 12   | Conduct participatory budgeting processes with women including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable to voice their needs in COVID-19 response planning and budgetary processes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Info sessions; trainings and awareness activities with local communities in 10 target municipalities to increase their understanding of local municipal processes related to planning and budgeting, calendar and participatory processes</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• %of vulnerable women participating in town hall meetings</li> <li>• % of issues raised by women in town hall meetings</li> <li>• % of issues raised by women reflected in local MTBPs</li> </ul> | Dec 2023 | UN Women<br>CSOs<br>LGUs   | Available: 50,000<br>Gap: 80,000 |
| <b>5.3 Support to Governance and the Rule of Law</b> |  |   |   |          |  |                                  |
| <b>Human Rights</b>                                  |  |   |   |          |  |                                  |
| 1  | Support provided to Refugees and asylum seekers by UNHCR and its partners during pandemic COVID-19.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR and its partners continue in parallel to provide financial and case management assistance to refugees and asylum seekers until the time that refugees will be able to effectively access financial and social protection assistance from the government.</li> <li>• UNHCR and its partners continue to support children of refugee and asylum seekers in keeping up with their education and providing regular virtual Albanian courses in order to mitigate language barriers.</li> <li>• Support to refugees and asylum-seekers to follow online vocational courses.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # persons assisted.</li> <li>• # children of refugees and asylum.</li> </ul>   | Dec 2020 | UNHCR<br>RMSA  | Available: 28,000<br>Gap: 7,000  |
| <b>Rule of Law</b>                                   |  |   |   |          |  |                                  |
| 2  | Access to justice and effective supportive remedies that ensure inclusion, care and protection of vulnerable groups.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In coordination with NGOs Free Legal Aid (FLA) service providers support reach out of vulnerable groups in targeted communities to facilitate legal information and awareness on human rights and legal mechanisms that guarantee them.</li> <li>• In partnership with NGOs facilitate use of strategic litigation to address discrimination in access to services and free legal aid for most vulnerable individuals and groups.</li> <li>• Support in cooperation with legal clinics, community-based legal aid providers and universities providing legal education training on use of online services, as well as tailored courses on responding to the specific needs of victims of GBV and DV, LGBTI, Roma and PwD accentuated by the implications of COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Increase FLA providers with ICT capacities to ensure sustainable primary and secondary free legal aid services to the most vulnerable populations at local level.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # vulnerable women and men reached out through local FLA services.</li> </ul>  | Dec 2023 | UNDP<br>MoJ<br>CSOs<br>PA<br>CPD<br>LGUs<br>Community Based<br>NGOs<br>MoHSP | Gap: 200,000                     |
| 3  | Enhancing Media Information Literacy with youth with the aim to raise awareness on the necessity   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen media accountability and increasing media good governance</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # youth and teachers trained on proper use of social media, digital platforms with purpose to ensure adequate</li> </ul>   | Mar 2021 | UNESCO   | Available: 50,000                |

| #  | Priority Actions/Activities   | Sub-Activities   | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)                      |
|--|---|--|--|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
|  | of ensuring the adequate elaboration and dissemination of correct information, especially during social isolation when there is an increase on use of digital platforms   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening Media and Information Literacy (MIL) among youth</li> <li>Improving capacities of media outlets</li> </ul>  | elaboration and dissemination of correct information   |          |   |                                   |
| 4  | Support enabling policy/normative measures in place to ensure gender equality/equity and preservation/protection of human rights for boys and girls, including the pandemic effects   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Gender Equality normative and policy framework to properly consider the distinct issues faced by boys and girls (also considering the pandemic) and to counter harmful practices exacerbated by it.</li> <li>Support targeted communication campaigns and implementation of GoA plans in promoting gender equality among boys and girls and reducing child marriage</li> <li>Support children in conflict with the law with reintegration programmes to safely return and contribute to their community's social cohesion</li> <li>Support the capacity building and the programmes of the Juvenile Criminality Prevention Centre in mentoring and following up on the reintegration of children in conflict with the law and their building and maintenance of law-abiding behaviours</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># national policies properly integrating the gender perspective</li> <li># children supported</li> <li># children in detention</li> <li>Over 200 children in conflict with the law are supported with reintegration programmes to safely return and contribute to their community's social cohesion</li> <li>Juvenile Criminality Prevention Centre in place and functioning</li> </ul> | Dec 2021 | UNICEF  | Available: 75,000<br>Gap: 420,000 |
| 5  | Children participate effectively and safely in legal processes affecting them (SDG 16)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Courthouses supported with ICT solutions to introduce online hearing of children's testimony in legal processes</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># courts with child-friendly processes, premises, equipment in place</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNICEF  | Gap: 200,000                      |
| 6  | Support INSTAT to publish reliable official statistics to inform policy and actions – focus on vulnerable children, adolescents, youth  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collection and analysis</li> <li>Data publication</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># new indicators released annually</li> </ul>   | Dec 2021 | UNICEF<br>INSTAT  | Available: 50,000                 |
| <b>5.4 Women's Political Participation</b> |   |  |  |          |   |                                   |
| 1  | Apply Gender-Responsive Budgeting as a Monitoring Tool to monitor the design and impact of COVID-19 stimulus packages. The analysis and data these tools generate can support governments and civil society in assessing how/the extent to which the stimulus package promotes gender equality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support 10 LGUs to Produce "gender budget statement" in which the local governments set out how they expect the package to support women and promote gender equality;</li> <li>Support to parliamentarians in scrutinizing the package through parliamentary questions and committee hearings;</li> <li>A real time expenditure tracking system to monitor disbursements of the package and to issue reports on how far this is reaching women and supporting gender equality;</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of LGUs that include GRB in their MTBPs</li> <li># of performance-based audits issued by State Audit with gender lenses and recommendations</li> <li>% of gender budget allocations in the 10 target LGU local finances</li> </ul>  | Dec 2022 | UN Women<br>LGUs<br>CSOs<br>Parliament<br>MOFE<br>State Audit | Available: 50,000<br>Gap: 150,000 |

| # | Priority Actions/Activities  | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer                                    | Budget (USD) |
|---|--|---|--|----------|--|--------------|
|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expert support to 10 Pilot at local level gender sensitive emergency response with clear guidelines and checklists;</li> <li>• Expert support to 10 local governments to identify the most poor and unregistered women and girls in emergency situations</li> <li>• Support State Audit to conduct performance-based auditing of the expenditures with gender lenses by including an assessment of the gender equality impact of the expenditures disbursed.</li> <li>• Support for a social audit by civil society organizations to monitor service delivery on the ground and how well it is responding to women's needs and priorities.</li> <li>• Assess the extent to which packages include support for women's organizations, many of whom are engaged in frontline service delivery</li> </ul>   |  |          |  |              |
| 2 | Advocacy and leadership of women in local planning, implementation and oversight processes strengthened. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In partnership with CSOs and communities advocate for and raise awareness for introducing regulatory mechanisms in place in the upcoming local interventions aiming recovery, to enable a more human rights (with minority and disability lenses) and gender balanced decision-making process.</li> <li>• In partnership with CSOs and communities make use of score cards and other advocacy tools to increase accountability mechanisms at local level and increase community participation in the process.</li> <li>• In close partnership with CSOs advocate to increase vulnerable communities, including women representation in decision making processes at local level.</li> <li>• Increase advocacy skills of women's associations to address overall gender discrimination, promoting inclusive wage setting, pursuing specific gender pay equality measures and enhancing women's representation in decision-making.</li> <li>• In partnership with women organizations engage in awareness raising on critical gender related issues at local communities.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # women councillors trained on gender responsive local decision making and planning processes.</li> <li>• # regulatory mechanisms, affirmative actions, and initiatives taken at local level addressing women empowerment.</li> </ul> | Dec 2023 | UNDP<br>LGUs<br>CSOs<br>MoHSP<br>NHRIs<br>CSOs | Gap: 400,000 |
| 3 | Participation and leadership of women and women's organizations  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and provide mentoring to women and girls/women rights NGOs/women's groups on</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # local advocacy/support services initiatives for meaningful participation of</li> </ul>  | Dec 2023 | UNDP<br>LGUs                                   | Gap: 250,000 |

| #                         | Priority Actions/Activities                     | Sub-Activities  | Indicators   | Timeline | Implementer   | Budget (USD)      |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|----------|---------------|-------------------|
|                           | in crisis and recovery promoted at local level. | <p>women's leadership skills in disaster risk reduction and recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train women's groups and civil society organizations in disaster preparedness and response including in non-traditional areas, to ensure their engagement as partners in time of disaster/other crisis/health crisis such as COVID-19.</li> <li>• In close partnership with active CSOs, support public awareness on disaster/crisis risks through educational campaigns with gender-sensitive information, secured through women's inputs and with their active engagement through the awareness process.</li> <li>• Setting up women and girls volunteers' corpus in local level, including developing online prototypes for establishing online platform of volunteering reaching out to the most vulnerable women and girls;</li> <li>• Support women councillors at municipal councils in their advocacy, planning and decision-making processes for local actions to prevent and respond to GBV and harmful practices with adequate resources.</li> <li>• Support women organizations in providing specialized support services to vulnerable women, including victims of GBV/DV.</li> </ul> | women/NGOs to address gender related concerns at local level |          | CSOs<br>MoHSP |                   |
| <b>Pillar 5 Sub-Total</b> |   |   |  |          |               | <b>9,180,000</b>  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>        |   |   |  |          |               | <b>97,393,880</b> |