Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

▪ On November 26, 2019, an earthquake of 6.4 magnitude struck at 03:54 a.m., 34 kilometers northwest of Tirana, Albania’s capital. The earthquake caused significant damage in Durrës, Tirana and Lezha municipalities. The other affected areas include Vore, Shijak, Kruje, Mirdites, Kurbin, Kavaja and Kamza.

▪ A total of 1,600 aftershocks have been felt since November 26th, including the largest of 5.3 magnitude on November 27, 2019. This is expected to continue in the next few weeks.

▪ Immediate assistance has been provided during the emergency phase by the local authorities and international partners, such as EU-ECHO, UN, Red Cross and IFRC and others.

Highlights

▪ Following the major earthquake on 26 November, government sources estimate that about 14,000 inhabitants have been displaced, of which about 60% have been accommodated in tents and 40% in hotels. Hundreds of buildings have been seriously damaged, while many more sustained moderate damage. Durrës, Tirana and Lezha municipalities were most affected while Vore, Shijak, Kruje, Mirdites, Kurbin, Kavaja and Kamza were also impacted.

▪ Over 700 children have benefited from the UNICEF emergency response intervention, mainly through 6 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and 4 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS).

▪ UNICEF is co-leading the Education Working Group (WG), Child Protection Sub-WG, and Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT) WG along with its key partners, and is an active member of the Health WG, which includes nutrition.

▪ UNICEF has deployed an Emergency Specialist and Child Protection in Emergency Expert (CPiE) to Albania to support UNICEF response operation.

Situation in Numbers

52 (including 6 children)
# of human casualties
2,000
# of people injured
30,000
# of people directly affected
14,000
# of people displaced
36
# of school severely damaged
24
# of health institutions severely damaged

UNICEF requires:
$ 2,850,000

Education: $ 250,000
Child Protection: $ 500,000
Humanitarian Case Transfer: $ 2,000,000
Child Vulnerability Assessment: $ 100,000
Damage assessment of buildings in the affected areas remains for the GoA number one priority. EU Civil Protection Team, UN and UNDAC, in cooperation with representatives of the Albanian government, has dispatched international structural engineers along with Albanian engineers, to the field for damage assessment.

**Humanitarian Strategy and Response**

The Government of Albania (GoA) leads the overall emergency response and coordinates it through the Crisis Response and Relief Center under the Prime Ministers’ Office. Three Regional Crisis Response Centres have been established in Durrës, Lezhë, and Tiranë prefectures. UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) / EU Civil Protection Team (EUCPT) is supporting the technical secretariat with coordination, damage assessment and verification.

The GoA activated a request for a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), to be led by the EU, United Nations and the World Bank, to assess the impact of the earthquake and to define a recovery strategy including estimating its financial costs: from restoration of services to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure, livelihoods and economy while ensuring resilience to future disasters.

In 2020, the GoA will allocate USD 182,6 million for reconstruction (including USD 119 million from state budget and USD 63,6 million from donations). The EU, UN and Turkish Government have also pledged to support the GoA with recovery and reconstruction programmes.

The European Union stands in solidarity with Albania in light of the recent earthquake. The European Council welcomes the Commission’s announcement to provide humanitarian assistance and to organise a donors’ conference.

**UNICEF Response**

UNICEF’s work in Albania is guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and implemented in partnership with the GoA. UNICEF has supported the GoA to address the emergency since November 27th, with a focus on addressing critical child protection and education needs. Preparedness measures, including key NGO/Government partnerships already in place before the earthquake allowed for the early deployment of assessment teams in the disaster affected areas for the identification of key response sites and children’s core protection needs.

UNICEF is actively engaging within the HCT alongside key partners and participating in all relevant coordination mechanisms. This includes co-leading the Education WG and Child Protection Sub-WG, and as an active member of the Health WG, which includes Nutrition.

In terms of the PDNA, UNICEF will be the lead for the education sector and active in the social protection and health sectors. UNICEF emergency response capacity has been reinforced through deployment of an Emergency Specialist from Tajikistan Country Office and the Global Cluster Child Protection in Emergency Expert (CPiE) to Albania.

UNICEF, together with the government and other partners, remains focused on addressing the urgent, life-sustaining needs of children and their families, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

**Child Protection**: UNICEF currently runs 6 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), providing psycho-social support to 205 children (104 girls and 101 boys). UNICEF continues to build capacity among frontline workers on child protection standards, including psychological first aid and child safeguarding. Psychologists, social workers, social animators and teachers, mobilized by UNICEF, are being engaged in addressing variety of issues such as edutainment, supporting children in preparation of school work, psycho-social counselling and provision of positive parental skills. They also register cases of more serious child protection concerns, such as signs of anxiety or potential abuse and referring cases to state child protection workers. So far, there were no confirmed cases of (sexual) violence identified among the children.

Actions are coordinated between different partners, and advocacy to establish response protocols for protection risks is taking place through the activated Child Protection Sub-WG, led by UNICEF.
**Education:** UNICEF is maximizing its efforts to ensure continuation of education process for affected children. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (MoESY) efforts to get children back to their regular school routine through the installation of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and the distribution of basic school supplies to children. A rapid assessment mission, conducted by UNICEF in the affected areas, enabled UNICEF and the MoESY to identify immediate education needs and set up 4 TLSs (two pre-schools and two schools for grades 1-5), which are currently serving 200 children, and additional 200 students have been provided with bags and school materials as part of UNCEF response. Tailored training sessions have been conducted for TLS teachers and school’s psychologists to ensure that they can offer needed social and emotional support for children experiencing traumas and distress. MoESY has also provided text books and deployed a team of teachers and psychologists to pre-schools and primary schools in some of the affected areas.

UNICEF has been coordinating the education response together with the MoESY, local education authorities and other partners. Furthermore, UNICEF has committed to support the MoESY in minimising the impact of the emergency situation on the sector in the longer run through further mainstreaming DRR in the education sector.

**Humanitarian Cash Transfer (HCT):** UNICEF and IFRC have been requested by the international agencies and donors to establish and co-lead HCT WG to define, coordinate, and implement HCT programme to respond and improve the situation of the affected population (families, boys, girls, men and women). In longer term, this WG will be used to advocate for stronger links between humanitarian cash and social protection laying the ground for a shock-responsive social protection system in Albania, for which the technical support will be required.
Media and Communication

- UNICEF supported hundreds of children to catch-up on their education, UNICEF Education Specialist TV interview on TVSH Education
- UNICEF emergency earthquake response in AlbaniaDailyNews; UNICEF website; and ATA.
- UNICEF Child Protection Specialist TV interview on psychosocial services for children on A2 CNN
- UNICEF partner TV interview Child Friendly Space Euronews TV:
  - [#AlbaniaEarthquake] In Albania, reeling from a deadly earthquake, a family takes things one day at a time (also on UNICEF global homepage and linked on Twitter)
  - [#AlbaniaEarthquake] Supporting child-friendly services, post
  - [#AlbaniaEarthquake] Supporting child-friendly services, tw
  - [#AlbaniaEarthquake] Amplified CO post,
  - [#AlbaniaEarthquake] DepRep’s to-camera from Durres and tw from Durres
  - [#AlbaniaEarthquake] Deputy Representative Twitter

Funding

As of December 2019, UNICEF Albania has received only US 150,000 from USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. UNICEF requires additional US 850,000 to provide and sustain a response to address critical needs of children and their families affected by the earthquake in Albania. Additional US 2,000,000 will be needed for the early stages of recovery. Without additional flexible funding, particularly in the areas of education, child protection and HCT, it would be difficult to address major humanitarian needs of vulnerable children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Budget (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Child-Friendly Spaces</td>
<td>$ 500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary learning spaces (schools)</td>
<td>$ 250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Vulnerability Assessment</td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Recovery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programme</td>
<td>$ 2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>$2,850,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who to contact for further information:

Roberto De Bernardi
Representative, UNICEF Albania
Email: rdbernardi@unicef.org

Jawad Aslam
Deputy Representative, UNICEF Albania
Email: jaslam@unicef.org