

ALBANIA

Albania's Cultural Transformation: From Isolation to Participation (MDGF-1805)

Culture and Development



Total Budget:	USD 3,260,000		
Budget by Agency:	UNDP:	1,866,850	
	UNESCO:	1,393,150	
Participating Gov. Entities:	Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Minister of Foreign Affairs		
Start Date:	13 August 2008		
End Date:	13 February 2011		
Extension:	6 December 2011		
Disbursements:	First Disbursement:	13 August 2008	USD 1,910,855
	Second Disbursement:	7 April 2010	USD 1,329,145
In Brief:	<p>The proposed joint programme is designed to strengthen the capacities of Albania in the fields of culture and development and to articulate Albania's cultural identity and heritage to the promotion of the country's image abroad. Achieving the goal will represent an important contribution to Albania's national priority of accession to the European Union. Interventions will include provision of policy support, improvement of capacities in the field of the protection, promotion and management of cultural assets, safeguarding of the most valuable cultural heritage monuments and sites, and strengthening the cultural industries sector for socio-economic development and achievement of the MDGs. The programme will utilize a participatory approach at the policy, state and local intervention levels. The relevant Millennium Development Goals that are being targeted in Albania are MDG's 0, 1, 7 and 8. The agencies involved in the programme are UNDP and UNESCO.</p>		

Outcomes:

- A transparent and accountable government, developing and implementing effective national policies on culture and culture-related issues;
- An enabling environment is in place to ensure people's access to cultural heritage and participation in cultural heritage decision-making at the local, regional and national levels;
- Increased capacities to manage, preserve and present cultural heritage and cultural industries in an efficient, transparent, accountable and equitable manner;
- An increased role of cultural heritage in social and economic opportunities and in engaging community participation in regional and local development strategies; and,
- An increased awareness of Albania's cultural heritage internationally as a means to promote cultural understanding and religious tolerance.



Regions of Intervention:	National level, and Tirana, Gjirokastra, Berat, archaeological parks Antigonea and Apollonia,
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MDGs	MDG1 T1.B, MDG3 T3.A, MDG7 T7.A, MDG8 T8.F, MDG9																										
Beneficiaries	Direct	Indirect																									
• No. Institutions	29	110																									
• No. Women	90	260																									
• No. Men	115	145																									
• No. ethnic groups	0	0																									
Project coordinator:	Erkan Ozcelik																										
RCO Focal Point:	Nils Taxell																										
Web page:																											
Status	The programme is generally on track; except for some delays with the national history museum component. Changes in government are also causing some delays in the incorporation of key advise to policies and plans.																										
Estimated financial execution status as of the June 30, 2011 semi-annual report:	<table border="1"> <caption>Financial Execution Status (as of June 30, 2011)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Transferred</th> <th>Committed</th> <th>Disbursed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009-2</td> <td>3,260,000.00 (100.00%)</td> <td>1,932,855.00 (59.29%)</td> <td>1,275,123.00 (39.11%)</td> <td>797,839.00 (24.47%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-1</td> <td>3,260,000.00 (100.00%)</td> <td>3,260,000.00 (100.00%)</td> <td>1,966,808.00 (60.95%)</td> <td>1,358,567.00 (41.67%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-2</td> <td>3,260,000.00 (100.00%)</td> <td>3,260,000.00 (100.00%)</td> <td>2,160,716.00 (66.28%)</td> <td>1,877,833.00 (57.60%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-1</td> <td>3,260,000.00 (100.00%)</td> <td>3,260,000.00 (100.00%)</td> <td>2,860,660.00 (87.75%)</td> <td>2,445,357.00 (75.01%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Period	Total	Transferred	Committed	Disbursed	2009-2	3,260,000.00 (100.00%)	1,932,855.00 (59.29%)	1,275,123.00 (39.11%)	797,839.00 (24.47%)	2010-1	3,260,000.00 (100.00%)	3,260,000.00 (100.00%)	1,966,808.00 (60.95%)	1,358,567.00 (41.67%)	2010-2	3,260,000.00 (100.00%)	3,260,000.00 (100.00%)	2,160,716.00 (66.28%)	1,877,833.00 (57.60%)	2011-1	3,260,000.00 (100.00%)	3,260,000.00 (100.00%)	2,860,660.00 (87.75%)	2,445,357.00 (75.01%)
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Main Achievements: By outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of policies the JP has contributed to the Government's Strategy on Culture, the National Tourism Agency's cultural marketing strategy, management and Governance policies on Archaeological Park Systems in Albania, revised governance and management structure for the National History Museum, three operational plans on presentation, conservation and security for the objects in the National History Museums, risk mitigation plans for the two JP pilot national archaeological parks Antigonea and Apollonia. In terms of laws, the JP has contributed to the amendment of the Law on Intangible Heritage. In connection to the above, four key policy documents (Governance and Management Structure Plan; Fiscal Study on Cultural Heritage Sector; Draft Strategy on Cultural Marketing; and Fiscal Management Study of the Archeological Park System) have been developed. News ideas on conservation and protection of cultural monuments have been successfully shared with local communities, civil society and private sector through public seminars. The publication in Albanian and English of the report and recommendations on the best management of the Archaeological parks system in Albania gave rise to a broad debate at all levels of the Culture heritage management pyramid. The Government needs to take measures to implement the recommendations from all of the JP policy papers. Consensus reached around the future of the National History Museum - the strategic output of the project will be the re-conceptualization and design of the Museum's different sections and pavilions, realized a through a roadmap document that includes the recommendations of the AB and international experts that must lead the project in the next steps and will give Government an overall context for the re-conceptualized NHM. As a pilot case for replication throughout the remainder of the museum, the Ethnography Pavillion will be developed by a team of experts, museologist and Architects. This activity is underway. The renovation works for the reopening of the Archaeological Museum of Apollonia are also on-going. Visitor information quality and visitor information facilities are improved with the completion of the cultural heritage signage project in the historic centre of Gjirokastra and the publication of a series of map guides for Antigonea in Albanian. The CRM MA level program is considered to be one of the best contributions for the preparation of the future managers of the Albanian culture heritage. In addition, a number of Culture Heritage Institutions have been provided with important equipments to assure for their best professional performance. The CRM MA level program has run smoothly to the end of the academic year. The work has progressed significantly, with respect to increases in awareness of Albania internationally, through capacity building interventions in the area of cultural diplomacy. JP has effectively supported the implementation of the National Strategy on the Alliance of Civilizations through the implementation of numerous projects which gave great public visibility and interest both to the AoC debate and the JP. Examples include: the AoC library; a 30' documentary film produced on AoC and Albania "Island of Peace" and was aired at primetime on one of the best national TV Stations in Albania; and essay competitions 																										

on the topic "Instead of Clashes, Alliance of Civilizations" among high school students.

Does the JP incorporate gender considerations in the **activities/outputs/outcomes**?

The review of gender balance on the CHSED JP indicates that the programme maintains a participatory and gender sensitive approach. Gender issues have been deeply explored during the consultation process for programming CHSED JP. Adequate provisions were made to ensure gender balance. Final beneficiaries, in particular artists and artisans are characterised by a high percentage of women.

Observations

Paris Declaration

Leadership of national and local governmental institutions:

- The Government fully owns the JP and steers its implementation according to national priorities. This is also reflected in the alignment of the JP to both the UN/Government One UN Programme and other National Sectoral strategies.
- Constant communication with the central and local government counterparts in all activities at all the levels of their implementations has empowered the Government and ensured a smooth implementation.

Involvement of CSOs and citizens:

Civil society institutions have been instrumental in defining a number of activities related to AoC national strategy implementation, the compilation of the How-to-Guide for revitalization of historic centers and so on.

Alignment and Harmonization:

The decision-making process within national institutions on a number of issues related to the recommendations provided by MDG-F JP concerning the fiscal mechanisms of the cultural heritage sector in general and on the fiscal management and governance structure of the archaeological park system and the National History Museum has been slower than expected.

Innovative elements in mutual accountability:

- Implementing partners and the JP are mutually accountable in implementing activities through a number of MOUs and agreements and regular meetings are held under the supervision of the PMC to ensure a smooth implementation.
- The Programme Management Committee, which meets on a quarterly basis and is co-chaired by the Director of UNESCO Venice Office, leading agency, the Government partner, provides oversight and guidance to the two UN agencies participating in the joint programme.

Delivering as One

Innovative elements in harmonization of procedures and managerial practices:

Quote from MTE Report: "The CHSED JP reveals that effective joint work is possible and successful. Agreements between UN organisations operating in JPs should reflect their systemic asymmetries. The process of developing agreements between the UNDP and non-resident agencies that aim at combining the advantages of UNDP country presence with the headquarters-based specialized competence of the non-resident agency has been well demonstrated in the case of the CHSED JP. Flexibility in adapting a harmonized approach has been particularly demonstrated by the UNESCO Venice Office, as the non-resident agency."

Role of the RCO and synergies with other MDG-F JPs:

At the invitation of the Resident Coordinator the joint programme CTA/coordinator have been meeting to share lessons learned and experiences to improve and strengthen the work of all JPs in the country.

Inter-agency coordination:

The JP is part of the One UN Programme in Albania and is structured under the Governance Pillar. Therefore, activities are part of the standard planning and reporting cycle foreseen by the One UN Programme along with those of all other JPs active in the country.

The activities of the Joint programme have been structured in order to complement each other and are closely interlinked to prevent the various components of the JP from running in parallel as separate sub-programmes. A Joint Programme office hosting all participating agencies was set up to facilitate coordination and foster a sense of belonging among staff and opportunities for cross learning and brainstorming.

<p>Sustainability (concrete actions and strategic partnerships)</p>	<p>Sustainability Plan in place?</p> <p>The conferences, trainings at home and abroad, the publications and media coverage have been structured to get the attention of all the relevant stakeholders: the Government, civil society, private sector and donors. As a result there is actually a well informed discussion and debate in the country around crucial issues related to the fiscal and management structure of the culture heritage in general but also on specific systems which have been in the focus of the MDG-F JP like archaeological parks. This momentum will lead to final well informed decisions.</p> <p>The structures established in the framework of the MDG-Joint Program constitute a good basis for the continuation of the respective activities and impacts. Worth mentioning are the MA-Program on Cultural Resource Management, Artisans' incubator, the new post established in the MoTCYS on the UNESCO Conventions etc.</p> <p>The two implementing agencies have already managed to incorporate culture in the upcoming UN-GoA cooperation plan for 2012-2016. They focussed their efforts in creating greater understanding of specific issues and outputs beyond the lifetime of the joint programme. The programme has been attentive to maintaining a logical balance in its support to both governmental and non-governmental counterparts. An ongoing dialogue is being maintained with the Government throughout all the stages of decision-making and implementation of activities, in order to ensure continued national ownership over policy changes that are being generated by the JP.</p> <p>On other more technical interventions such as the support given to artists and artisans, specific apprenticeship models are being created through the masters and the young professionals. JP has provided close technical support to build the capacities within the relevant culture heritage institutions at different levels of the national culture management hierarchy.</p> <p>Mainstreaming activities into the already established structures is another means to ensure for the sustainability of the intervention. That is the case with the CRM Master's Program fully accredited by the MoES.</p>
<p>Innovation and Scale-up</p>	
<p>External Factors and mitigation</p>	<p>Unstable political situation due to the local elections of May 2011 has strongly affected the work of the cultural institutions. The main counterpart, the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports resigned to run for office in the local elections. Therefore, the Ministry is currently being led by an acting minister.</p> <p>This political climate and the various changes of key staff in the partner institutions have made it difficult to introduce evidence-based policy instruments and mechanisms that have been recommended by the Joint Programme which would benefit the less tangible sectors of culture and heritage.</p> <p>Some of the policy documents developed by the Joint Programme still require concrete feedback from the JP counterparts for their incorporation into the day-to-day practices of the government.</p>
<p>Communication and Advocacy</p>	<p>C&A plan in place? Yes</p> <p>To ensure that Government, partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders are adequately informed about the progress on the CHSED Programme activities, but also bearing in mind that a general awareness needs to be raised with regard to culture being part of development, a communications strategy was developed in coordination with the UN Communications Team, aligned with the One UN Communications Plan, "Communicating as One".</p> <p>This communications strategy focuses on both internal and external communication for the joint programme. While the internal communications plan works to mobilize increased support of different stakeholders at different moments of the programme's implementation, such as line ministries, civil society, and other UN agencies, the external communications plan manages public relations for the joint programme.</p> <p>Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise general public awareness and understanding about the CHSED Programme • Through the CHSED Programme, raise awareness and understanding about the One UN Programme in Albania • Raise awareness about the issue of Culture and Heritage and its potential for social and economic development • Build partnerships/networks in the field of Culture and Heritage • Keep the UN agencies, MDG-F, the Albanian Government counterparts and other programme partners well informed about progress and programme status

M&E	M&E framework is very complete and comprehensive. It lacked some baseline information, generally included qualitative aspects in its targets.	
Missions from MDG-F Secretariat:	Date: February 2010	Members: Paula Pelaez
Evaluation:	Evaluator: Dietmar Aigner Period: July-August 2011 <i>[Link to final report and improvement plan]</i>	