



Country Fact Sheet

| The MDG-F in Albania | |
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| Joint Programmes: 4 | Total Budget: USD 12,626,285 |
| National Steering Committee Members: Director of the Department for Strategy and Donor Coordination of the Government of Albania, UN Resident Coordinator, and the representative of the Spanish government – the Ambassador. | |
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| Joint Programmes Information | |
| Joint Programme | <i>“Albania’s Cultural Transformation: From Isolation to Participation”</i> |
| Thematic Window | Culture and Development |
| Budget | USD 3,259,733 |
| Participating Agencies | UNDP, UNESCO. |
| Participating Government Agencies | Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education and Science; National History Museum; Institute of Monuments of Culture; Institute of Education Development; National Tourism Agency; National Film Archive of Albania; National Centre of Cultural Assets Inventory; National Centre of Folk Events; National Centre for Albanian Studies; Municipality of Berat; Municipality of Gjirokastra; Administrative Offices of Archaeological Park of Apollonia; Administrative Offices of Archaeological Park of Antigonea; Tirana University; World Federation of Tour Guide Associations; Albanian Forum of Alliance of Civilizations (NGO); Albanian Media Institute (NGO); Institute of Dialogue and Communication (NGO); International Centre for Albanian Archaeology (ICAA); Albanian Artisan Association (NGO); Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Office (NGO); Interarts (NGO, Spain); Tourism Development International (Private company, Ireland) |

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| Dates | 13 August 2008 – 06 December 2011 |
| Regions of Intervention | National level, and Tirana, Gjirokastra, Berat, archaeological parks Antigonea and Apollonia. |
| Programme in Brief: The joint programme was designed to strengthen the capacities of Albania in the area of culture and development, and to boost the role of Albania’s cultural identity and heritage in the promotion of the country’s image abroad. In doing so, it made an important contribution to Albania’s national priority of accession to the European Union. Specifically, the programme supported the development of cultural policies and improved Albania's capacities for the protection, promotion and management of cultural assets, and for the safeguarding the most valuable cultural heritage monuments and sites. It is also strengthened the cultural industries sector so as to contribute to Albania's socio-economic development and its achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). | |
| Main Achievements¹ | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JP supported the renovation or development of several museums and heritage sites including the National History Museum and the archaeological Museum of Apollonia, which reopened after 20 years. • Two tourism information centres to facilitate access to Albanian cultural heritage were created. • A successful business incubator was established in Gjirokaster, Albania, aimed at empowering artisans, mostly women, to enrich their scope of activities, to better promote their works and to increase income generation from artisan works by, among others, raising awareness of artisans that their products need to find a market. Over 250 artisans in Gjirokaster and surrounding areas have directly benefited from the centre, whereas over 500 micro- and small entrepreneurs participated or attended the annual artisan fair, which was enhanced in the context of the JP and has become an attractive tourist proposition. • The JP also supported new Cultural and Resource Management Master’s course, provided by the University of Tirana and fully accredited within the public higher education system. It provided both bachelor students and existing cultural employees (including public sector staff) with an opportunity for skill development at home, rather than abroad. Visiting professors and a scholarship programme for non-resident Albanian students also contributed to the reputation and visibility of this initiative. The first two editions of this Master’s programme witnessed the enrolment of 13 and 11 students respectively. | |
| More information | http://www.mdgfund.org/program/albania%E2%80%99sculturaltransformationisolationparticipation |
| Joint Programme | <i>“Economic Governance. Regulatory Reform Pro-poor Development in Albania”</i> |
| Thematic Window | Democratic Economic Governance |

¹ Aigner D (2011) Independent Final Evaluation Report: *Albania’s Cultural Transformation: From Isolation to Participation*

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| Budget | USD 2,097,200 |
| Participating Agencies | UNDP. (in partnership with World Bank, WB responsible for USD 743,650) |
| Participating Government Agencies | Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (METE); Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT); Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MLSAEO); Albanian Water Regulatory Entity (ERRU); Albanian Energy Regulatory Entity (ERE); Albanian Consumer Association (ACA); Office for Consumer Protection (ZMK); Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution Organisation (AFCR); Albanian TV Channels (Klan TV, TVSH, Ora News, ABC News, News 24); UN media group (composed of Albanian journalists); Institute of Contemporary Studies (ISB), Albania; Urban Research Institute (URI); INET Albania; NET VISION, Albania; IKEJ Albania; Italian Competition Authority; Bank of Italy; Zimmon Consulting, Greece |
| Dates | 14 August 2009 – 31 December 2012 |
| Regions of Intervention | Durres region. |
| <p>Programme in Brief: The sustainable supply of safe, sufficient and quality water is a priority for the government of Albania. While access to water has considerably improved in recent years, one of the persistent issues is poor service: the water pipes are old, the quality of water is low and there are frequent water cuts. The recent decentralization and commercialization of water supply services have pushed water prices up, but improvements in service are lagging behind. Ensuring appropriate regulation and access to public utilities is a key issue for the country as it tries to combat informality, reduce regional disparities, promote social inclusion, meet its Millennium Development Goals targets and prepare for accession to the European Union. Inclusive governance mechanisms are needed to ensure that competing interests concerning public utilities are articulated in a transparent manner, that the interests of all stakeholders are taken into account in decisions on investment and pricing, and that the trade-offs between economic growth, consumer protection, poverty reduction and environmental quality are appropriately managed. To this end, the programme was designed to help stakeholders to develop the individual and institutional capacity required to ensure the effective management, regulation and monitoring of key public utility sectors such as electricity and water and to strengthen the voice of consumers to promote and protect their rights and encourage accessible and affordable electricity and water services. The strategy was implemented through a set of three outcomes: 1: Enhance the capacities of electricity and water policy makers and regulatory bodies to better monitor the provision and efficiency of service delivery; 2: Provide a strong national voice for consumers by strengthening the relevant consumer associations and State bodies; 3: Promote pro-poor utility policies to benefit vulnerable groups, people in need and those living in informal areas.</p> | |
| <p>Main Achievements²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JP supported a model water contract which has been adopted by the Albanian authorities and is now being introduced by the 56 Albanian water utility companies. This model contract will impact the lives of over three million people. • A consumer complaints management system has been established and is being used by the | |

² Bellamy, J (2012) Independent Final Evaluation Report: *Economic Governance. Regulatory Reform Pro-poor Development in Albania.*

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| <p>competent ministry to receive and manage consumer complaints. A public web site for the Consumer Protection Commission has also been developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A methodology for prioritizing rural investments was drafted and it includes (a) an understanding of water use patterns and needs in rural areas; (b) the identification of technical solutions to reconcile both the shortfalls of supply in rural areas with rural needs with respect to water service provision. The analysis was conducted with respect to Durres and it is expected that other donors will apply these lessons in other context. • Assessed results in the implementation of the current power market model and suggested recommendations for improvement of monitoring functions by ERE. • Supported the development of business plans for the electricity supplier (KESH) and the transmitter (OST). | |
| More information | http://www.mdgfund.org/program/economicgovernanceregulatoryreformpublicparticipationandpropoordevelopmentalbania |
| Joint Programme | <i>“Reducing Malnutrition in Children”</i> |
| Thematic Window | Children, Food Security and Nutrition |
| Budget | USD 4,000,000 |
| Participating Agencies | UNICEF, FAO, WHO. |
| Participating Government Agencies | Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, Institute of Public Health, INSTAT, Institute for Development of Education, School of Medicine. |
| Dates | 22 January 2010 – 30 June 2013 |
| Regions of Intervention | National and Regional: Kukes and Shkodra Prefectures, and in 2 peri-urban Municipalities of Tirana. |
| <p>Programme in Brief: The programme's goal was to improve the nutritional status of Albania's women and children by strengthening the government's capacity to monitor, address and prevent the immediate and underlying causes of under-nutrition. It is providing better and more equitable child and maternal food, health and nutrition services and developing nutrition education modules for primary health care workers. The joint programme is contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular MDG1, by: i) Strengthening the Government of Albania's managerial and technical capacity to prevent and address the immediate and underlying causes of under-nutrition; ii) Delivering better and more equitable child and maternal food, health and nutrition services; iii) Developing and including a public health nutrition module in the ongoing education of primary health care workers; and iv) Improving the monitoring, surveillance and regulation systems in a more sustainable way.</p> | |
| <p>Main Achievements³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Food and Nutrition Action Plan in Albania, five ministries in Albania formally agreed in to take joint intersectoral action to improve the nutritional situation of the Albanian | |

³ Chiwara R (2013) Independent Final Evaluation Report: *Reducing Malnutrition in Children*

population. Through a signed Memorandum of Understanding on Malnutrition, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour, Social Assistance and Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Finance committed themselves to take joint, inter-sectoral action to improve the nutritional status of the Albanian population to reach the MDGs, to establish a national, sustainable, coordinating mechanism at the highest level of decision-making with the participation of the signatory parties and to work jointly in drafting and implementing a national inter-sectoral Food and Nutrition Action Plan.⁴

- i. Assessment of the economic costs of malnutrition among children in Albania, which showed that the burden of malnutrition to the national economy was about US\$107 million per year, which represented about 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). ii. Baseline Nutrition and Food Security Survey (BNFSS), which measured the prevalence of anemia and the weight of iron deficiency anemia among Albanian children 6 months -14 years old and women 15-49 years old, assessed the level of knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) on infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF), and the food security status and diversity of the diet at household level in three pilot areas of the JP prefectures of Shkoder, Kukes and peri-urban Tirana. iii. Qualitative study on the effects of gender issues and high food prices on household food security which was undertaken in 14 localities. iv. Linguistic adaptation of the Albanian food and nutrition security scale (AFNSS). v. Report on Data Inventory and Review of Food and Nutrition Security Data. vi. Better Diets for Health: Monitoring Dietary Diversity in Albania; which developed a tool to measure the dietary diversity at household and individual level.
- Capacity development of national and local government for food and nutrition surveillance by managing crop assessment, application of food balance sheets methodology, understanding the impact of food prices on food insecurity, application of Food Security Scale adapted for Albania within the project, monitoring dietary diversity in Albania to improve national nutritional status.
- An assessment for the fortification of flour was undertaken culminating with recommendations on the mix of vitamins and micronutrients required in flour fortification.
- The JP also partnered with KASH (Agribusiness Council) to develop models aimed at improving access to food and consumption of micronutrient rich foods. The models demonstrated approaches to diversify crops, with emphasis on fruits and vegetables.
- An analysis of cash transfer programmes from a child-rights perspective was undertaken to explore community perceptions on the use of Economic Aid.
- The JP supported the development of a national curriculum for nutrition education in basic education.

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| More information | http://www.mdgfund.org/program/albaniaeducingmalnutritionchildren |
| Joint Programme | <i>"Albania: Youth Migration: Reaping the Benefits and Mitigating the Risks"</i> |

⁴ Intersectoral Governance for Health in all policies (2012): http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/171707/Intersectoral-governance-for-health-in-all-policies.pdf

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| Thematic Window | Youth, Employment and Migration |
| Budget | USD 3,269,352 |
| Participating Agencies | UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, IOM. |
| Participating Government Agencies | Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; Ministry of Culture, Tourism, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; National Employment Service and its local branches; Ministry of Education and Science; Albanian Investment Development Agency; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Employers' (Business Albania) and business organizations, chambers of commerce (the Albanian British Chamber of Commerce and Industry, local chambers at regional level), and their members (enterprises); INSTAT; Public Vocational Education Training Centres; Multi-stakeholder Regional Coordination Mechanisms in Kukes and Shkodra; Trade Unions (particularly BSPSH and KSSH); Youth organizations, particularly the Albanian Youth Council and Asan; CSOs active in the target regions (such as ACLI and Don Bosco Institute); Producers' associations and specialised agencies in agro-business |
| Dates | 06 November 2008 – 31 December 2012 |
| Regions of Intervention | National level, and Kukes and Shkodra. |
| <p>Programme in Brief: The absence of jobs for youth in Albania has fueled one of the highest emigration rates in the world. The Joint Programme, aimed at creating decent work opportunities for marginalized youth by combining employment and social policy objectives and integrating them into long-term national development goals. The aim of the Joint Programme was to address the youth employment and migration challenges of the country by combining employment and social policy objectives and integrating them into long-term national development goals. The Programme also targeted under-employed youth and young people working informally in subsistence agriculture in the regions of Shkodra and Kukes. The programme's approach was to: i) strengthen the capacity of labour market institutions to integrate and put into practice Albania's national policy priorities through a coherent youth employment action plan; ii) devise strategies that minimize the risks of migration of youth from rural areas; and iii) increase the positive impact of migration through better allocation of resources for youth employment. The Programme also supported the return to Albania of young professionals working abroad and the mobilization of resources through public-private partnerships for youth employment.</p> | |
| <p>Main Achievements⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process of developing the National Action Plan on Youth Employment revealed a scarcity of statistical data of sufficient quality. After the Joint Programme facilitated an initial survey of the 20 employment statistics available, an Interdisciplinary Working Group on Labour Market Information Analysis (LMI) was created including different ministries, as well as workers' and employers' organizations. Under the leadership and guidance of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO) and the Albania Institute for Statistics (INSTAT), | |

⁵ Salzano C. (2013) Youth, Employment and Migration MDG-F Thematic Study: Review of Key Findings and Achievements

the Working Group elaborated an ad-hoc youth survey module aimed at young LFS respondents (15-29) who had left continuous formal education and training. Coaching was provided to INSTAT, MoLSAEO and national partners to implement the more technical dimensions of the ad-hoc survey. Pointing to the sustainability of this initiative is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) prepared between MoLSAEO and INSTAT, which now guarantees that MoLSEAO will receive regularly updated information and statistics from the LFS in an anonymous format that can be used to generate evidence-based policy making. Other Albanian institutions are pursuing similar agreements (based on the sample MoU) with INSTAT to expand access to labour market data and other information

- The Territorial Employment Pact for Youth (Y-TEP) in Albania was elaborated in one of the pilot regions, Kukes, as part of a strategy to stimulate job creation within different links of the agricultural value chain. This policy encouraged workers to formalize their activities in the informal economy as a way of stimulating new enterprise creation. The Y-TEP represents an important institutional innovation as it was based on negotiated planning between the Regional Employment Board, local authorities, public employment services, business associations, trade unions, cultural and environmental associations, professional bodies, financial institutions and private enterprises. All of these actors contributed to the design phase and assumed complimentary roles and responsibilities in the realization of the Pact. The Y-TEP established six service lines to promote labour market insertion, or to ease the transition from informal agricultural sector activities into the formal economy: i) entrepreneurship and business advisory services with a particular focus on women; ii) skills training grants; iii) access to credit opportunities; iv) subsidised employment; v) organisation building and vi) regulatory environment. Over 40 partners signed the Kukes Y-TEP, committing to the implementation of these service lines. By the completion of the Joint Programme, it is estimated that the Y-TEP had helped to increase agricultural growth by 2% in the Kukes region and over 900 youth had benefitted from activities organized within the framework of the Y-TEP. In the long-term, institutional change was triggered due to the embedding of more systematic coordination among different stakeholders at sub-national level.
- The National Youth Council worked with the trade unions and the Ministry of Education on a nation-wide multi-media campaign focusing on Youth Rights at Work (YR@W). Launched officially on May 1st 2012, the campaign is based upon an adaptation of the ILO 'Manual for the Promotion of the Rights of Young People in the World of Work.' The trade unions helped to transform the tool on people's rights at work into short videos (posted on YouTube) showing examples of violations of young workers' rights. In addition, during a television broadcast on national television, NTV, a group of youth leaders discussed employment, migration, and other issues of interest to Albanian youth.

More information

<http://www.mdgfund.org/program/youthmigrationreapingbenefitsandmitigatingrisks>