



Albania

Annual Pathfinder Progress Report

May 2021-April 2022

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Introduction

Pathfinder countries are those that commit to going further and faster to achieve the objectives of Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are committed to accelerating efforts and willing to try new approaches from which others can learn to support Target 8.7's urgent deadlines. Pathfinder status is open to any country, regardless of development level.

As of April 2022, 29 countries globally have manifested interest to become pathfinder countries. Out of these 18 have established detailed roadmaps identifying priorities for action to achieve target 8.7.

To record pathfinder progress against established national roadmap priorities, the Alliance 8.7 SDG monitoring working group structured a voluntary reporting process for the Pathfinder countries. Through their 'Alliance 8.7 national focal points', pathfinder countries can respond to a set of 12 questions related to the implementation of their roadmaps.

This report provides the overview of Albania's responses to these questions. It is divided in 4 sections:

1. **Annual progress against roadmap priorities:** The first section looks into the national priorities to eliminate Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking and the next steps outlined in last year's pathfinder country report. Pathfinder countries provide a short progress report on each of their stated priorities and next steps and to report on challenges including but not limited to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. **Evidence of achieved progress:** This second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It allows Pathfinder countries to provide insights into how the progress between May 2021 and April 2022 was assessed.
3. **Value of the Pathfinder process:** The third section provides the opportunity to reflect upon the Pathfinder process and help putting the results reported into context. This section allows countries to report on how the Pathfinder process may have helped them progressing towards their national priorities between May 2021 and April 2022.
4. **Way Forward:** This section allows to have an outlook on the next steps on a 12 months horizon towards the achievement of the country's priorities and to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised.

Annual progress against Pathfinder's roadmap priorities

The first section looks at both the national priorities to eliminate Child Labour, Forced Labour, and Human Trafficking and the next steps outlined in last year's Pathfinder Country report. Pathfinder Countries will be asked to provide short feedback on all their stated priorities and next steps. Moreover, this section will allow Pathfinder Countries to report upon challenges they have encountered over the past 12 months.

Question 1.a: What progress has been made against the national roadmap priorities since May 2021?

- ▶ **Objective 1: Prevent the economic exploitation of children, including children in street situation.**

Tools to achieve the objective:

- National database design,
- Situation analysis,
- Review of procedures,
- Responsibilities,
- Job descriptions,
- Training,
- Mentoring,
- Awareness-raising meetings,
- Ethical code approval for employment of persons under 18 years of age.

Progress

In municipalities where there are cases of children in street situations, a database with the data of the identified cases has been set up and is functioning. There is no review of procedures.

The following acts have been drafted and approved by the Albanian Government in strengthening the fight against child labor: Law 18/2017 "On the rights and protection of the child" provides in its article 24 protection of the child from economic exploitation, according to the provisions of the Criminal Code and Labor Code. The child is protected from economic exploitation, as well as from performing any forced labor within his/her family, in school, rehabilitation and punishment institutions, or in cultural, artistic, sports, modeling or advertising activities, which poses a risk, impairs education, impairs his/her health or his physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

The latest development is the adoption of the National Agenda for the Rights of the Child 2021-2026 (NARC 2021-2026),¹ adopted on 3 November 2021, a policy document of the Albanian government, a commitment to achieving child rights in Albania between 2021 and 2026. The second Policy Goal of the National Agenda is “Elimination of all forms of violence and protecting children” which entails the following foreseen measures:

- Coordination of actions and human resources for managing cases of economically exploited children, children in street situation, and child victims of trafficking, through the establishment of a single field team to identify, refer, and then manage cases of children in need of protection, including children in street situation, economically exploited children, and child victims of trafficking;
- Capacity building of cross-sectoral teams on prevention and protection of child victims / potential victims of trafficking;
- Training of judicial structures to be specialized in criminal offenses of trafficking to proactively investigate cases of trafficking in persons, to effectively carry out criminal prosecution procedures, to use special techniques of investigation, to strengthen the conduct of financial investigations;
- Strengthening the capacities of the toll-free National Line 116-006, and the “Report and Rescue” Application to enable advising and reporting of possible Human Trafficking cases

▶ **Objective 2: Ensure protection and intervention according to the needs of children at risk or in economic use**

Tools to achieve the objective:

- Raising and strengthening of day-to-day services,
- Situational assessment,
- Situation monitoring,
- Meeting basic needs,
- Social responsibility of businesses,
- Capacity building of child protection structures.

¹ See here: http://femijet.gov.al/al/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NARC-2021-2026_ENG_FINAL-WEB.pdf

Progress

Services provided for cases identified in economic exploitation situations. During 2022, 228 cases of children in street situations were managed.

- Family visits and psychological, social and economic assessments
 - Food, clothing and sanitary packages
 - Rent payment
 - Concluding notarial contracts
 - Medications
 - Employment mediation
 - Psycho-social service
 - Assistance in preparing legal documents
 - Mediation and assistance in conducting medical examinations
 - Registration in nurseries, kindergartens, schools
 - Civil registration
 - Free legal service
 - Referral for attendance at day care centers for children
- **Objective 3: Increasing the number of successful criminal cases related to the economic exploitation of children, the obligation to work;**

Protection of children's rights by law enforcement structures.

Progress

No new cases were reported during the last year.

- **Objective 4: Social and cultural barriers that promote economic exploitation have decreased.**

Means to achieve the objective:

- Awareness campaign,
- Information dissemination in the institutions serving children,
- Campaigns in public areas frequented by children;
- Use of audio-visual and print media, social media, etc.
- Evaluation and review of curricula of pre-university education

Progress

Informative and awareness-raising campaigns were organized at national and local level by State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child as well as by Child

Protection Workers in cooperation with different institutions and NGO in the framework of the marked days such as 12 of April (International Days for Street Children),² 12 of June (World Day Against Child Labor)³ and 20 of November (World Children`s Day). Children, parents and public have been informed about all forms of economic exploitation, the risks it brings to the child, ways how and where to report cases of child exploitation, as well as information about services.

Question 1.b: What progress has been made against the next steps that Albania identified for the period May 2021-April 2022?

In Albania`s 2020-2021 annual report, the following next steps were identified for the period May 2021-April 2022.

- ▶ **Next step 1: Increase the number of field teams that work for the identification of children in street situation**

Ongoing/partially achieved

- ▶ **Next step 2: Training of local professionals that are involved in child protection issues**

Achieved

- ▶ **Next step 3: Trainings of field teams about case identification**

Completed

Question 2: Overall, looking at the progress made vis-à-vis your roadmap priorities, how would you classify your progress over the past 12 months?

We have made **some progress** towards our roadmap priorities

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https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0WUvEMbHbsjMgZS52jmSdZrVr82onf1mb7njrV3wK781FMQ1ErZFS7uQKdwLrye9ol&id=100044605351778

3

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid028iLcr6FsitEdRs8yvvsGFzUBNZWY13vP2NER69q69VykqSU4SVxHve92tf5qvi8qGl&id=100069004546422

Question 3: Looking at your progress regarding your national priorities and next steps, what are the main successes between May 2021 and April 2022 you would like to highlight?

Adoption of the National Agenda for the Rights of the Child 2021-2026

Question 4: Would you like to mention other meaningful successes and opportunities toward the achievement of the target 8.7 that are not part of the main roadmap priorities (e.g. laws enacted, events, partnership arrangements, additional resources)?

Not applicable.

Question 5: What challenges, including COVID-19 if relevant, did you face to implement the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities?

Staff professional capacities to manage complex cases.

Evidence of achieved progress

The second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It allows Albania to provide insights into how the progress that occurred between May 2021 and April 2022 was assessed.

Question 6: How have you examined the progress against the national priorities identified in the Pathfinder country roadmap priorities?

Formal evaluation process

What formal evaluation tools were utilized to determine success/failure of the national priorities identified?

Surveys

Please elaborate on the survey tools that have been used to determine success/failure of the national priorities?

It was drafted an evaluation report on the implementation of the former Agenda, before drafting the National Agenda on Child Rights 2021-2026

Question 7: Were any other stakeholders like government agencies/ social partners/ civil society organisations involved in assessing progress?

Yes.

Please specify who and how other stakeholders were involved in assessing progress.

Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in collaboration with the State Agency for Child Rights and Protection, and in consultation with other responsible ministries, local government units, independent institutions, civil society organizations, and international organizations working in the field of child rights and protection.

Value of the Pathfinder process

The third section provides you with the opportunity to reflect upon the Pathfinder process and help put the results you reported upon into context. This section allows Albania to report how the Pathfinder process may have helped them progress towards their national priorities between May 2020 and April 2021.

Question 8: What are the main highlights around the pathfinder process for Albania?

Increased collaboration on SDG 8.7 with domestic partners

With which domestic partners did Albania collaborate to achieve its priorities?

- Domestic civil society organization(s),
- Other ministries

Please specify the name and how you collaborated with civil society organization(s) on a domestic level?

OSCE : Including the transfer of technical expertise and best practices.

Please specify the name and how you collaborated with other ministries on a domestic level?

Ministry of Interior (responsible ministry), Ministry of Education (responsible ministry for school enrollment of children in street situations)

Future /Now what ?

This section allows pathfinder countries to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised and to have an outlook on the next steps to achieve your priorities on a 12-month horizon. Please note that the next steps will be used for the pathfinder report next year.

Question 9: Is there a need to revise the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities?

No

Question 10: What next steps are you planning to undertake until April 2023?

2 next steps.

- ▶ **Next step 1: Capacity building of cross-sectoral teams on prevention and protection of child victims / potential victims of trafficking**

Based on what evidence will you be able to determine that you achieved this step?

% of trained staff

Under which work area does this next step fall?

Human Trafficking

- ▶ **Next step 2: Awareness raising activities**

What are your targets until April 2023 for this next step?

3 National activities

Under which work area does this next step fall?

Child Labour, Human Trafficking.