



Albania

Progress on SDG Target 8.7

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Annual progress on roadmap priorities

Let's look at i) your national priorities to eliminate child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery, and ii) the next steps outlined in your Pathfinder Country Report from last year.

1. Since May 2022, what progress has been made to your #1 national roadmap priority "Prevent the economic exploitation of children, including children in street situation"? *

The State Agency for Child Protection Rights in cooperation with the Child Protection Unit during the period May 2022-2023 has conducted the following awareness and sensitizing activities against child labor and exploitation:

- On June 12, 2022, ASHDMF (State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child) in the framework of World Child Labor Day, in the municipality of Berat in cooperation with the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator organized an awareness-raising activity. The activities are attended by representatives such as: the local police, the labor inspectorate of Berat municipality, the Employment Offices, school psychology, social work and psychologists of community centers and other local actors who are part of the Intersectoral Technical Group. The meeting discussed the proactive identification work of the teams, prevention of child labor, protection and access to the field for economically exploited children.
- On April 12, 2023, the State Agency for Children's Rights and Protection in cooperation with the municipality of Vlora, the Child Protection Unit organized an activity within the framework of the International Day of Street Children near the Center of Support Services for Children and the Family, Municipality of Vlora. The purpose of this activity was to inform and raise awareness of everyone and more about the protection and reporting of cases of children in street life. The meeting is attended by parents of children who have been supported by NJMF

2. Since May 2022, what progress has been made to your #2 national roadmap priority "Ensure protection and intervention according to the needs of children at risk or in economic use"? *

The following interventions took place during the reporting period

- Taking into protection and managing the cases of children in street situations, who are children exploited for work and begging by the Child Protection Units. For 2022, according to the reports of the Child Protection Workers at the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of Children, 229 children exploited for work and begging were managed (numbers are very much in line with 2021 when 228 children were managed).
- The organization of informative and awareness-raising activities organized by ASHDMF in conjunction with the Child Protection Unit, against the work and exploitation of children with professionals, parents and children. During the meetings, sensitizing messages were conveyed about the need for protection, safety, love and care for children. Every citizen has the responsibility not to stay silent if he sees a child in a street situation who needs help to contact the Child Protection Unit. The place where children should grow up is the home, not the street. The responsibilities that parents have to protect their children by providing them with safety, care and enrollment in school. Establishment of field teams for the identification and referral of economically exploited children, 20 field teams established.

3. Since May 2022, what progress has been made to your #3 national roadmap priority "Increasing the number of successful criminal cases related to the economic exploitation of children, the obligation to work"? *

No information

4. Since May 2022, what progress has been made to your #4 national roadmap priority "Social and cultural barriers that promote economic exploitation have decreased"? *

No information

Progress on the identified next steps

In your 2021-2022 annual report, the following next steps were identified for the period May 2022-April 2023.

5. What's the status of your next step #1 "Capacity building of cross-sectoral teams on prevention and protection of child victims / potential victims of trafficking"?

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

6. What's the status of your next step #2 "Awareness raising activities on Child Labour and Human Trafficking"?

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

7. What's the status of your next step #3 "Trainings of field teams about case identification"?

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

8. Please tell us more about the progress of the next steps you've identified.

Next Step #1: Capacity building of cross-sectoral teams on prevention and protection of child victims/potential victims of trafficking

In the first half of 2022, the State Agency for Children's Rights and Protection, in collaboration with the Responsible Authority, conducted meetings in 10 municipalities: Kukës, Dibër, Berat, Kamëz, Korçë, Bulqizë, Elbasan, Vlorë, Shkodër, and Tirana. These meetings involved employees of the Child Protection Units and local actors representing the Intersectoral Technical Group. The main objective was to promote cooperation at the local level, particularly with PMF (Prevention of Minors' Fund), traffic specialists, and other relevant actors. The discussions focused on the progress made in managing cases related to VT/VMT (Victims of Trafficking/Vulnerable to Trafficking) children and addressing associated challenges.

Next Step #2: Awareness raising activities on Child Labour and Human Trafficking

Furthermore, during this period, The State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child, in partnership with the OSCE, organized a technical consultative workshop. This workshop brought together member institutions of the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking and service providers. The workshop's primary aim was to identify institutional needs related to the identification, investigation, and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

Next Step #3: Trainings of field teams about case identification

Within this technical workshop, approximately 60 representatives from various agencies participated. These representatives included law enforcement agencies, State Social Service, Child Protection Workers, the field team responsible for children who beg in the street, prosecutors, and service providers. Under the guidance of international and national experts, these participants gathered essential data regarding the challenges associated with investigating and prosecuting cases of Human Trafficking.

Additionally, during this meeting, discussions were held regarding children at risk who engage in street vending and begging, as well as the problems identified by the field teams.

Overall progress in the last 12 months

9. How would you rank your progress made on your roadmap priorities? *

No progress  Great progress

10. Considering the progress on your national priorities and next steps (you have reported), what would you like to highlight between May 2022 and April 2023 on the Alliance 8.7 homepage and reports? *

- Establishment of Structures for Child Protection: Established 20 field teams for the identification and referral of economically exploited children.
- Managed and supported cases of children exploited for work and begging, with 229 cases reported in 2022 and the involvement of Child Protection Units.
- Held meetings in various municipalities to discuss and encourage cooperation in managing cases of vulnerable children, involving the Child Protection Units and local actors from the Intersectoral Technical Group.
- Conducted awareness and sensitization activities against child labor and exploitation in collaboration with the State Agency for Child Protection Rights and the Child Protection Unit.
- Organized meetings and activities on the International Day of Street Children to raise awareness, provide information, and promote the protection and reporting of cases involving street children.

11. Were there any other meaningful successes as a result of efforts made to achieve target 8.7?

Please also consider aspects of SDG 8.7 that are not covered by your roadmap (i.e., child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery).

Yes

No

Not applicable

12. What challenges did you face when implementing your roadmap priorities and next steps? *

Impact of COVID-19 on Child Protection Professionals: The emergency situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on professionals in the field of child protection.

Continuous Training and Capacity Building Needed: Training and capacity building for professionals is an ongoing process, and it was recognized that it doesn't have an endpoint. Professionals at the local level require frequent training to enhance their skills in case management and to encourage collaboration among local actors.

Lack of Daily Community Services: The absence of daily community services in municipalities with cases of children begging and selling in the streets raised concerns.

13. How did you overcome the challenges? What are the lessons learned?

Addressing the Impact of COVID-19: To address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, an initiative was taken to draft and approve Directive 253, dated April 10, 2020, titled "Management of cases of children in need of protection during the period of natural disaster due to the epidemic caused by Covid-19." This directive defined procedures and specific actions for child protection structures to manage cases of children in need of protection during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Continuous Training and Capacity Building: The solution to the challenge of continuous training and capacity building is ongoing. Awareness-raising and training of local-level structures and professionals are consistently planned in the annual plans of the Ministry of Interior and the State Agency for Children's Rights and Protection. This emphasizes the importance of keeping professionals up-to-date and skilled in their roles.

Addressing the Lack of Daily Community Services: Efforts are being made to address the lack of daily community services in municipalities with cases of children begging and selling in the streets. Temporary emergency centers are being

established in municipalities with a high number of such children. Additionally, criminal prosecution of child exploiters is pursued to deter such activities.

Child Protection System Development: Albania has made significant efforts to establish a child protection system in recent years. Initiatives have been undertaken to create a comprehensive system for child protection. The legal framework for children's rights and protection has been updated, including the adoption of the "Law on the Protection of Children's Rights" and its related legislation. The Council of Ministers' Decision (VKM) on economically exploited children (VKM 129-2019) has defined procedures for referral and immediate protection of children.

Importance of Local Authorities: Local authorities play a crucial role in child protection and the provision of services to children in need of protection. Child Protection Units, established within municipalities, are key players in identifying, referring, and managing cases of children at risk and those economically exploited.

Coordination and Collaboration: Protecting children from economic exploitation, including activities like begging in the streets, is an institutional obligation. Effective coordination and collaboration between central and local actors are essential to fulfill this responsibility and address the challenges effectively.

Assessment of achieved progress in the last 12 months

14. Which of the following formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence were used to assess the progress of your national priorities? *

Please select all that apply.

- Surveys
- Case studies
- Focus group discussions
- Interviews
- Anecdotal evidence
- Information from third parties

- Not applicable
 Other

15. If applicable, please tell us more about the formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence that you used to assess the progress of your national priorities.

Not applicable

16. If applicable, please tell us more about the formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence that you used to assess the progress of your national priorities.

Not applicable

17. Please specify the names of other stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, social partners, civil society organizations) and their involvement, if any, in assessing your progress.

Not applicable

Collaboration with international partners

18. Did you collaborate with any international partners? *

Please select all that apply.

- Other Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder countries.
See more <<https://www.alliance87.org/pathfinder-countries/>>.
- ILO
- United Nations Agencies (other than ILO)
- International civil society organizations
- Other

19. Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your international partners.

ASHDMF has cooperated with OSCE ALBANIA for trafficked children. The State Agency for the Rights and Protection of Children has coordinated the work with the OSCE for the organization of a technical, consultative workshop with member institutions of the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking and Service Providers, with the aim of providing the necessary institutional sections in relation to identification, investigation and prosecution, to be further addressed by the OSCE. In this seminar, representatives of the state agencies of the law, ASHMDF, SHSSH, Child Protection Workers, Workers of the field teams, prosecutors and special providers, under the guidance of international and national foreigners, took part to play against the challenges. of the investigation and prosecution of cases of the Trafficking in Human Beings.

20. Have you supported any sub-regional/regional/global initiatives, including South- South initiatives, on the elimination of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

21. Did you collaborate with any domestic partners? *

- Private sector
- Employers' organizations
- Workers' organizations
- Local civil society organizations
- Ministries within your government

Other: Municipalities

22. Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your domestic partners.

The State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child has collaborated with the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator at the Ministry of the Interior, primarily concerning the exploitation of children for trafficking. In the first half of 2022, the State Agency, in partnership with the Responsible Authority, organized meetings in 10 municipalities, including Kukës, Dibër, Berat, Kamëz, Korçë, Bulqizë, Elbasan, Vlorë, Shkodër, and Tirana. These meetings involved employees of the Child Protection Units and local actors representing the Intersectoral Technical Group. The main objective of these meetings was to facilitate close discussions and promote cooperation at the local level, engaging PMF, traffic specialists, and other relevant actors who are part of the Intersectoral Technical Group. The discussions centered on the progress of case management for VT/VMT children and addressing the challenges faced in this area.

Additionally, in 2023, meetings were conducted in the municipalities of Dibër, Kukës, and Shkodër, bringing together child protection workers and trafficking specialists. The purpose of these meetings was to deliberate on cases, challenges, and issues related to the management of child victims of trafficking or potential victims of trafficking.

23. Compared to last year, do you think there was increased collaboration with domestic stakeholders? *

- Yes
 No

24. Please tell us what has improved in your collaboration with your domestic collaborator(s) and efforts.

The collaboration with the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator has improved through the

organization of technical meetings for the management of cases involving VT/VMT children. Additionally, efforts have been made to enhance awareness through annual informational and awareness-raising activities on child trafficking. These activities are carried out by Child Protection Workers in all 61 districts of the country during the month of October.

25. Was the pathfinder process considered useful? *

- Yes
 No

Future prospects

26. Is there a need to revise your country's roadmap priorities? *

- Yes
 No

Next steps in the next 12 months (until April 2024)

27. Until April 2024, what are the next steps for your country to achieve the roadmap priorities? *

Next step 1: Implementation of the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2021-2026 and the Annual Work Plan

The National Agenda for Children's Rights (AKDF) 2021-2026, approved by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 659, dated 3.11.2023, is the important strategic document of the Albanian Government for the realization of children's rights in the country. The agenda focuses on all children, paying special attention to those who are most excluded from services and those most in need. The agenda has a cross-

sectoral nature that includes goals, objectives and measures, which aim to:

- a) To influence the lives of children, through improving the quality of services at all levels;
- b) To promote a culture of children's rights and lay the foundations for meaningful participation of children in Albania;
- c) Enable protection from all forms of violence;
- ç) Provide quality data in order to improve the policies and programs designed for them;
- d) To carry out education in the function of protecting children online, thus guaranteeing the well-being and a better future for children

For more information, please click on the link where you will find the Agenda

https://femijet.gov.al/al/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/AKDF-2021-2026_ALB_FINAL-WEB.pdf

28. Which challenges would you anticipate in this process? *

Challenges that have been identified before.

29. Thank you! This is the end of the form. Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

No