

Joint Programme title:	End Violence Against Women in Albania Phase II
Outcome(s):	Cooperation Framework Outcome 4: Gender Responsive Governance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Output 4.1: End Violence Against Women and Children ▪ Output 4.2: Addressing Gender Stereotypes and Harmful Norms and Practices Project outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women and girls enjoy more effective preventive measures against violence in Albania 2. All women survivors and those at risk are better protected from all forms of violence and have equitable access to services in Albania 3. Responsible institutions and actors implement national policies and legislation on VAW in a more comprehensive, inclusive and coordinated way in Albania
Duration	30 months
Anticipated start and end dates:	Start: January 2023 End: July 2025
JP Team: <i>Lead PUNO:</i> <i>PUNOs:</i>	UN Women UNDP, UNFPA
Fund management modality: (Parallel; Consolidated; Pass-through)	Pass-through
» Managing Agent: (Consolidated only)	n/a
» Administrative Agent: (Pass-through only)	Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II, administered by the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office. Focal point: Mari Matsumoto mari.matsumoto@undp.org Fund Portfolio Manager (Development)
» Convening Agent: (Pass-through only)	UN Women
Total estimated budget:	USD 2,300,000.00¹
Out of which:	
» Funded	USD 2,300,000.00²
» Un-funded	0
Source of funds:	
» Donor	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) represented by the Embassy of Sweden in Tirana

¹ The amount in USD is indicative and based on the exchange rate from the committed amount in the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA), i.e. SEK 25,000,000.00.

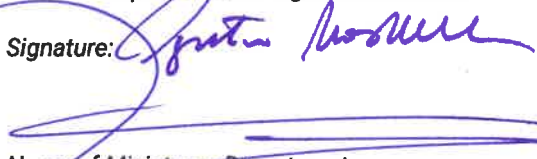
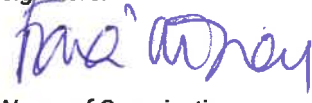



² The amount in USD is indicative and based on the exchange rate from the committed amount in the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA), i.e. SEK 25,000,000.00.



The **legal basis** for the joint programme is the Legal Annex for the signed United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2026). It refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Albania and Participating UN Organizations.

Declaration of commitment and signatures

By signing this Joint Programme document, all signatories commit to work together in a spirit of partnership to achieve the results identified in the **results framework, work plan and budget**.

Co-Chairs of Steering Committee	
<p>Government</p> <p>Name of Representative: Ogerta Manastirliu</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name of Ministry or Department: Ministry of Health and Social Protection</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>United Nations Country Team</p> <p>Name of Representative: Fiona McCluney</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name of Organization: UN Resident Coordinator Office</p> <p>Date: NOV-25-2022</p>
UN Organizations	
<p>Name of Representative: Michele Ribotta</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name of Organization: UN Women</p> <p>Date: 25/11/2022</p>	<p>Name of Representative: Monica Merino</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name of Organization: UNDP</p> <p>Date: NOV-25-2022.</p>
<p>Name of Representative: Manuela Bello</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Name of Organization: UNFPA</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p></p> <p>NOV. 25-2022</p>

1. Executive Summary

In recent years, Albania has made progress in improving its legal, policy and institutional framework to end domestic violence and violence against women (VAW). Comprehensive legislation has been adopted to ensure coordinated response from all relevant government agencies to domestic violence. Positive developments at the institutional level include expansion of the Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRMs) in all 61 municipalities of Albania, improvements in the local information system for registration of cases of domestic violence (REVALB), and more recently a threefold increase of the monthly cash payments for survivors of domestic violence under protection orders. Despite progress, [violence against women continues to be a significant challenge in Albania](#). According to the 2018 National Survey on Violence against Women and Girls in Albania, the prevalence of violence against women remains high: one out of three women, had experienced violence over the 12 months prior to the survey¹. The number of cases reported to authorities continues to be very low compared to the actual number of women who experience violence (4591 in 2018², 4629 in 2019, 4701 in 2020, and 5312 in 2021³). During the lockdown period in 2020, the number of calls to the national counselling hotline tripled compared to the same period a year prior, but the number of domestic violence reports to the police was lower than in previous years for the same period⁴.

The main gaps and the relevant causes of the persistency of violence against women include challenges in preventing such violence; ensuring effective protection of victims and the availability of services; prosecute cases of violence; and adopting policies and laws aligned with international standards and best practices on VAW.

To address these challenges, UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA propose to build on the successful collaboration on addressing violence against women in the context of the Joint Programme “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Albania” (JP EVAWIA) (2019-2022), generously supported by Sida, to ensure that all women and girls in Albania live a life free of violence. To do so, the agencies will work together to achieve the following results:

1. Women and girls enjoy more effective preventive measures against violence in Albania
2. All women survivors and those at risk are better protected from all forms of violence and have equitable access to services in Albania
3. Responsible institutions and actors implement national policies and legislation on VAW in a more comprehensive, inclusive and coordinated way in Albania

¹ National Population Survey: Violence Against Women and Girls in Albania, INSTAT, Albania, 2019
<http://www.instat.gov.al/media/6123/publication-violence-against-women.pdf>

² Administrative data shared by the General Directorate of State Police with file No. 185/1, date: 31.01.2022, addressed to the Center for Civic Legal Initiatives.

³ Ibid.

⁴ According to a Gender Rapid Survey, 16% of women have felt more unsafe at home as a result of the pandemic; 23% reported that conflict between adults in their home has become more frequent since the pandemic; 29% of women respondents think physical harm, harassment and abuse has gotten worse since the start of the pandemic; 79% believe that the experience of verbal and/or physical abuse at the hands of a partner has become worse during the pandemic. This was in addition to 51% of the entire survey respondents who believed that these forms of violence are common in their communities, thus confirming previous survey results on the prevalence of violence. Measuring-shadow-pandemic-Albania, UN Women, 2020, <https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Measuring-shadow-pandemic-Albania.pdf>

These efforts are directly aligned with and contribute to the implementation of the [National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2030](#) and the [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework \(UNSDCF 2022-2026\)](#), especially [UNSDCF Outcome 4 on gender responsive governance and output 4.1 on Ending Violence Against Women and Children](#). The intervention will aim to target all women and girls survivors of violence in Albania, with a focus on women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination including LGBTI women, women with disabilities and Roma and Egyptian women. The project will also work with men and boys as key agents of change when it comes to promoting gender equality, as well as civil society organizations and national institutions.

The UN Agencies will work closely with national partners including the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Interior, State police, selected municipalities, National Human Rights Institutions, media, civil society and grassroots organizations, amongst others.

This proposed intervention draws from the findings and recommendations emerging from the evaluation report of the JP EVAWIA Phase I, leveraging lessons learned and aiming to replicate best practices. The project is planned to last for 30 months with a 3-months inception period which will be utilized to:

- **Select municipalities:** carry out consultations with stakeholders including the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and civil society organizations; complete a mapping of existing and past interventions on VAW at local level; carry out assessment of CRMs to identify which municipalities to prioritize in the context of the intervention (to be led by UNDP). The project will focus on up to ten municipalities.
- **Select responsible parties:** develop TORs and carry out selection of the key project partners.
- **Finalize Performance Monitoring Framework:** finalize indicators and finalize baseline data collection and target setting, as well as finalize the budget.

2. Situation Analysis

In recent years, Albania has made progress in improving its legal, policy and institutional framework to end domestic violence and violence against women (VAW). Comprehensive legislation has been adopted to ensure coordinated response from all relevant government agencies to domestic violence. Positive developments include expansion of the Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRMs) at the local level in all 61 municipalities of Albania, improvements in the local information system for registration of cases of domestic violence (REVALB), and more recently a threefold increase of the monthly cash payments for survivors of domestic violence under protection orders.

Despite progress, [violence against women continues to be a significant challenge in Albania](#). According to the 2018 National Survey on Violence against Women and Girls in Albania, the prevalence of violence against women remains high: one out of three women, had experienced violence over the 12 months prior to the survey⁵. The COVID 19 pandemic has resulted in a noticeable rise in specific indicators associated with VAW and exacerbated existing tensions and safety issues for many women. Based on research conducted by UN Women, about 51% of women in Albania think that the experience of verbal or physical abuse at the hands of a partner is common for women in their community, and 79% of women thought that this had gotten worse during the pandemic. While most women in Albania felt that their safety was not significantly impacted by COVID-19, the study indicates that the pandemic has negatively impacted safety concerns for the most vulnerable women who had already been facing hardships. Further, the study suggests that food insecurity, loss of income and unemployment, have worsened concerns and experiences of safety, and have had a negative impact on women's overall well-being⁶.

Women survivors of violence belonging to marginalized groups continue facing multiple challenges in fully accessing and benefiting from the full set of services they are entitled to, including social services, economic assistance, education, health and employment. Research supported by UN Women in 2018 demonstrates that women with disabilities, Roma and Egyptian women and women from the LGBTQI+ community experience the same forms of violence as other women, compounded with additional forms of violence and discrimination due to their disability, sexual orientation or belonging to cultural minorities in Albania.⁷ However, this violence is barely identified or reported. According to data from the REVALB system, between June 2019 and June 2022, out of 3,355 cases of domestic violence reported in the system, 47 cases referred to violence against Roma and Egyptian women, and 33 against women with disabilities. Reported cases of violence against non-nationals were 22, and there were no cases reported against LGBTQI women.

Women from marginalised groups are not informed about reporting options, largely dependent on the perpetrator, and completely lack support services that would help them live self-sufficiently.⁸ Even when services are available, women from this groups have difficulties in accessing them either because they are inaccessible (for example for women with disabilities), or because of persisting prejudice and stigma among service providers.

⁵ National Population Survey: Violence Against Women and Girls in Albania, INSTAT, Albania, 2019
<http://www.instat.gov.al/media/6123/publication-violence-against-women.pdf>

⁶ <https://albania.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/Measuring-shadow-pandemic-Albania.pdf>

⁷ https://www.adrf.al/images/publications/Raporti-Dhuna_ndaj_Grave_Vajzave.pdf

⁸ Evaluation Report: Violence against women and girls from disadvantaged communities- An overview of the phenomenon of violence against women and girls from Roma, LGBT and disability communities in Elbasan, Vlora and Shkodra municipalities, developed by Albanian Disability Rights Foundation, Roma Women Center and LGBTI Alliance with the support of UN Women and EU, 2018

Building on this analysis, this project document aims to target all women and girls survivors of violence and improve prevention, service provision and the overall policy framework on violence against women. The project also builds on an analysis of gaps and root causes of violence against women along the four key pillars of the Istanbul Convention, which is an essential basis developing an adequate and comprehensive response to gender-based violence. Such gaps include the following:

Prevention of violence against women:

- **Lack of a comprehensive legislative system to address all forms of violence, including stalking, harassment, and sexual violence:** the current legal framework does not create space for victims of these other forms of violence to benefit from protection and prevention measures, as well as from services normally available for victims of domestic violence.
- **Limited focus on early education on gender equality and healthy lifestyles:** topics related to gender equality, elimination of VAW, sexual education, and others are not taught comprehensively in the education system, including tertiary education and some of these topics remain still taboo for both educators and parents. Equally, there is limited focus on engagement of men and boys in preventing violence.
- **Deeply rooted gender stereotypes and harmful social norms** persist, including persisting toxic masculinity and widespread sexism, as well as a widespread acceptance culture around VAW: despite the increased efforts to increase awareness around VAW, some, including women, still justify violence and particularly domestic violence. This is exacerbated for women from disadvantaged communities, such as Roma and Egyptian women, women with disabilities, women from LGBTI communities, migrant women and others, whose level of reporting of violence is very low. In addition, there is a lack of ability to recognize other forms of violence beyond domestic violence- which also limits the extent to which victims and survivors of these other forms of violence seek support.
- **Perpetrator rehabilitation programmes are neglected among institutions and are rarely seen as part of the systemic solution to GBV:** even though enrollment of perpetrators in these programmes is mandatory to be included courts' orders for protection measures, there is a lack of such programmes in many areas of the country, which makes the relevant legal provision non applicable in practice.⁹

Protection of victims and service provision:

- **There is a low level of reporting of cases of violence against women:** according to the 2018 National Survey on Violence against Women and Girls in Albania, one out of three women, or 34 percent, had experienced violence over the 12 months prior to the survey.¹⁰ However, in the year of the survey (2018), the number of reported cases of domestic violence to the Police was just 4591.¹¹ In 2019, 4629 cases were reported to the police, in 2020, it was 4701 cases, and 5312 in

⁹ There are only two CSOs offering rehabilitation programmes: in Tirana and Shkodra.

¹⁰ <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/6123/publication-violence-against-women.pdf>

¹¹ Administrative data shared by the General Directorate of State Police with file No. 185/1, date: 31.01.2022, addressed to the Center for Civic Legal Initiatives.

2021.¹² In addition, the reports of other forms of violence, such as sexual violence remains very low: in 2018, 92 women were reported as victims of sexual crimes; in 2019, 127 and in 2020, 114 women.¹³ These number remain low compared to prevalence of these forms of violence¹⁴ and are even lower when it comes to reporting of violence against women from minority groups such as women with disabilities, Roma and Egyptian women, LGBTQI women and others.

- **Lack of execution and monitoring of measures protecting victims of violence:** in recent years there have been improvements in the legislation as well as institutional response to provide adequate protection to many women¹⁵. However, the number of cases for which Protection measures (PO/IPO) are requested remains low compared to reported number of cases. An analysis of data made public indicates that the ratio of requests to the courts by the Police on issuing of protection measures vis a vis reported cases of violence varied from 53% to 61% during 2014-2021.¹⁶ In addition, there is lack of information on implementation and monitoring of protection measures by the Police and local authorities, which are required to collaborate and conduct regular monitoring of protection measures.
- **The government's gaps in response to GBV becomes more evident in times of emergency, as it was the case through the COVID-19 pandemic.**¹⁷ During the lockdown period in 2020, the number of calls to the national counselling hotline tripled compared to the same period a year prior, but the number of domestic violence reports to the police was lower than in previous years for the same period. CSOs monitoring of the local response to DV during lock-down in 11 municipalities revealed not only a disturbing rate of violence against women and children, but also a gloomy situation of the general capacity of duty bearers to provide services in immediate response to violence and to ensure women's access to services and help¹⁸.
- **Lack of adequate budgeting for service provision and over-reliance on international organizations for technical and financial assistance:** in 2021, only 6 specialized services were supported by the State budget, accounting for 26% of the budget allocated for social services. In addition, as acknowledged by the Government, these services have limited human resources, infrastructure and do not effectively apply international and national standards.¹⁹ Overall, the majority of services for victims of VAW, as well as human trafficking and rehabilitation of

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Women and Men in Albania, 2021, INSTAT

¹⁴ According to the national survey on GBV in 2018, 2,4 % of women over 15 had experienced non-partner physical and sexual violence during the same year as the survey.

¹⁵ These include the introduction of Orders for Preliminary Immediate Protection Measures (OPIPM), which are issued by the Police for immediate protection until a court hearing (which may take up to 48 hours).

¹⁶ Analysis of data made public by the Police

¹⁷ According to a Gender Rapid Survey, 16% of women have felt more unsafe at home as a result of the pandemic; 23% reported that conflict between adults in their home has become more frequent since the pandemic; 29% of women respondents think physical harm, harassment and abuse has gotten worse since the start of the pandemic; 79% believe that the experience of verbal and/or physical abuse at the hands of a partner has become worse during the pandemic. This was in addition to 51% of the entire survey respondents who believed that these forms of violence are common in their communities, thus confirming previous survey results on the prevalence of violence. Measuring-shadow-pandemic-Albania, UN Women, 2020, <https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Measuring-shadow-pandemic-Albania.pdf>

¹⁸ GADC & AWEN Network (2020). Monitorim i punës së mekanizmat e koordinuar të referimit gjatë periudhës pandemike COVID-19. See: https://www.gadc.org.al/media/files/upload/Raporti%20Final%20i%20Perbashket_UnW_COVID-19.pdf

¹⁹ A recent monitoring visit of the Ombudsperson in NSVDV and Lilium Center revealed that the treatment of victims of domestic and sexual violence in both institutions posed serious infringement of relevant standards adopted on the functioning of these centers.

perpetrators of GBV are provided by CSOs, which rely on international organizations and donors for financial support.

- **Limited accessibility of services:** In 2022, the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF) conducted a study on accessibility of services for women with disabilities survivors of violence. The four shelters that were assessed as part of the study resulted inaccessible for women with disabilities both in terms of the physical space, as well as in terms of the accessibility of information for women with disabilities. In the framework of the EVAWIA Joint Programme Phase I, and as part of the regional programme on EVAW funded by the European Commission, UN Women has supported more than 1,500 women with services including psycho-social counselling, economic reintegration, free legal aid, information, referral amongst others. At least 200 women belonged to marginalized groups. Such interventions have confirmed that women from marginalized communities experience additional challenges both in terms of prevalence of violence, but also in terms of their ability to access services and be informed about most appropriate avenues for reporting.

Prosecution of cases:

- **Remaining incompatibilities of criminal legislation with international standards:** despite significant improvements in recent years, the Albanian Criminal legislation still needs to be brought fully in line with international standards. The definition of rape, which currently remains forced-based needs to change to consent-based, according to the Istanbul Convention, General Recommendation of CEDAW Convention²⁰ and jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.²¹ ²²Other forms of violence such a female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, forced abortion, violence against women in politics/elections and others need to be introduced or revised accordingly in the criminal legislation.
- **Limited legal and psychological support to victims during the investigation and prosecution of cases of VAW:** women victims of violence do not always benefit from legal provisions that allow for compensation. According to GREVIO's assessment report to Albania in 2017, there was no available information to indicate that any victim of violence against women, including domestic violence, ever instituted or benefited from such proceedings.²³ A state compensation scheme available to victims of violence against women in Albania has yet not been established, as required by the Istanbul Convention.²⁴
- **Risks of lower access to justice for victims of VAW following the new judiciary territorial organization:** Challenges of women victims of violence to access justice may exacerbate in view of a recent reform proposal on a new territorial distribution of first instance courts and reduction of their number from 22 to 12, which would require women victims of violence to participate in court hearings taking place in districts far from their residence.²⁵

²⁰ General Recommendations No.35 on Gender-based violence

²¹ Standards of the ECtHR are mandatory on Albania, according to its Constitution

²² MC v. Bulgaria, ECHR, 2014, https://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/resources/M.C.v.BULGARIA_en.asp

²³ Baseline Evaluation Report on Albania of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), 2017

²⁴ Shadow Report of the Center for Civic Legal Initiative and the Monitoring Network submitted to the UPR third cycle of review on Albania, 2019 http://www.qag-al.org/ang/publication/upr_shadow_report_eng.pdf

²⁵ <http://klgj.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/NJË-HARTË-E-RE-GJYQËSORE-.pdf>

- **Lack of due diligence to effectively prosecute VAWG cases:** During investigation and prosecution, the judicial system faces challenges to protect, and guarantee the rights of victims of crime, including victims of VAW. Because of the trauma they have been through, in a gender blind justice system, victims of VAW run the risks of revictimization. Based on information from CSOs working in the field and data analysis from the General Prosecution Office, there is some improved performance of the prosecution offices and courts²⁶. Yet, the much lower ratio of registered investigations v. reported cases of domestic violence (38% in 2018, 28% in 2019 and 32% in 2020)²⁷ puts into question the effectiveness of investigations through these years.

Integrated policies:

- **Lack of a comprehensive legal framework and system to address all forms of VAW (including violence and harassment in the workplace and violence against women in politics):** while Albania has made important progress, including through the adoption of comprehensive legislation to ensure coordinated response from all relevant government agencies to domestic violence. However, the country continues to lack a comprehensive legislative system to address all forms of violence, including stalking, harassment, and sexual violence.
- **Limited financial and human resources in the gender equality machinery:** improvements have been made at the national and particularly at the local level. However, the existing national gender machinery remains under-resourced (both financially and in terms of human resources), resulting in limited effectiveness and implementation capacity of the system²⁸.
- **Lack of a synchronized system for data collection:** data limitations related to GBV remains a persisting issue, and it's linked to challenges in the entire statistical system. The system is characterized by a significant gap between the data and information collected by institutions on the one hand, and the indicators required for monitoring international commitments to gender equality and tackle GBV. There is a lack of a synchronized system for data collection, which is currently inconsistent and not sufficiently rigorous, making it difficult to monitor the same GBV indicator over time. Data is mainly collected on domestic violence while other forms of violence are often categorized in generic terms as sexual crimes. In addition, there are limitations in the capacities of stakeholders to regularly collect data and use it for policy making. Finally, there is little formal evidence about the ways in which marginalized women and girls are affected by violence.
- **Limited funding for VAW activities:** the legal and institutional framework on gender responsive budgeting has improved and the main expenditures at the central level are dedicated to three national centers (for victims of DV, victims of trafficking and sexual violence), the national counselling hotline, and support to a few CSOs which offer services at the local level. In addition,

²⁶ Annual reports of the General Prosecution Office, https://www.pp.gov.al/Dokumente/RAPORTE_T_PROKURORIT_T_P_RGJITHSH_M/

²⁷ Based on the calculation of data provided by the Government of Albania Action Plan on the execution of a domestic violence judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (Tërshana Albania), [https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng#%7B%22fulltext%22:%5B%22Tërshana%22%2C%22EXEIdentifier%22:%5B%22DH-DD\(2021\)746E%22%5D%7D](https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng#%7B%22fulltext%22:%5B%22Tërshana%22%2C%22EXEIdentifier%22:%5B%22DH-DD(2021)746E%22%5D%7D)

²⁸ According to a 2021 Evaluation Report of the Implementation of the NSGE 2016-2020, conducted by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP), its Sector on Policies and Strategies on Social Inclusion and Gender Equality (PSSI) is composed of five staff members, including the head of section. But, in addition to gender equality, the structure deals with minorities' rights, diversity, LGBTI+, persons with disabilities, child rights etc. Similarly, the gender equality focal points in other ministries are also entrusted with additional tasks, while the local level gender equality officers often serve both as Local Coordinator for Domestic Violence and Child Protection specialist.

a few municipalities have applied and benefited from the Social Fund for establishment of emergency shelters, mainly as part of community centers, through a competitive process. However, these funds, together with the economic aid provided to women victims of violence are not sufficient and remain far from the real financial needs, which have been lately detailed in the new National Strategy on Gender Equality and its Action Plan (2021-2030). At the local level, planning and expenditures on VAW services remain very limited and difficult to track as such funds are often included in the overall budget planning on social protection, making it difficult to identify real expenditures for services to survivor of violence.

UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA have already worked jointly to address these challenges and have implemented the United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP) End Violence Against Women in Albania (EVAWIA) from January 2019 to June 2022, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Sweden. Building on this intervention and on the lessons learned and good practices that emerged, the UN Agencies proposes a new Phase of the Joint Programme which will aim to achieve the following results:

- Women and girls enjoy more effective preventive measures against violence in Albania
- All women survivors and those at risk are better protected from all forms of violence and have equitable access to services in Albania
- Responsible institutions and actors implement national policies and legislation on VAW in a more comprehensive, inclusive and coordinated way in Albania

Beyond the recently concluded Joint Programme, the three agencies have a long history of collaboration when it comes to fighting violence against women. Past initiatives include efforts to improve access to justice for survivors of violence; promoting the availability and accessibility of social services and social inclusion, promoting sexual and reproductive health for all, working with youth and other populations that are historically marginalized. The new [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#) (UNSDCF) includes a dedicated output on Ending Violence Against Women and Children, which well-positions UN agencies to work jointly in this thematic area. In addition, the UN agencies jointly and successfully cooperate in other projects including the Leaving No One Behind Joint Programme, the EU for Gender Equality Joint Programme and the regional PBF-funded regional joint programme “Strengthening the role of youth in promoting increased mutual understanding, constructive narrative, respect for diversity, and trust in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Kosovo (1)”, which is part of CF output 4.2 on Addressing Harmful Social Norms and Stereotypes.

Each of the three agencies has its own unique comparative advantage when it comes to addressing violence, as explained in **Annex E: Comparative Advantages of Participating UN Agencies**. Leveraging such collaboration, and in the spirit of enhancing synergies and avoiding duplications, the JP will aim to complement and build synergies with other programmes to enhance impact and results of UN-wide efforts to end violence against women in Albania.

This proposal builds on the UNJP on EVAW, Phase I, the EU funded Regional Programme on EVAW and other initiatives that have led to tangible results in addressing violence against women, both as stand-alone project and as complements to initiatives led by the Government of Albania in the area of VAW. These include:

- Increase in economic aid to survivors of violence
- Increase availability of free legal aid

- Ensure that municipalities include, as part of their staff, a full-time local coordinator for domestic violence
- Financially support the national hotline for reporting violence against women
- Support the set-up and functioning of the LILIUM, a crisis management centre for survivors of sexual violence
- Gender responsive budgeting remains central to the overall planning and design of state budget, noting an increase of the total budget allocations for gender equality to 9% in the next MTBP 2022-2024 compared to 8 % in the previous year
- Increased allocations to addressing VAW as part of the NSGE 2021-2030: 50% of the NSGE budget is dedicated to EAW, compared to the 33.9% allocated in the previous one. The funding gap for EAW was also reduced to 15% compared to 64% in the previous NSGE.

In addition, the second JP Phase builds on the work done directly with survivors of violence. Many of the CSOs involved in the first phase of the programme and in the regional project have conveyed the needs and priorities of survivors of violence through meetings, consultations and reports, which have been considered for developing this proposal. In addition, the proposal builds on the findings and lessons learned of the UNJP Phase I Evaluation Report, which included comprehensive consultations with CSOs and grassroot organisations providing direct services to victims, including to women and girls from disadvantaged communities. Individual meetings and a consultation was organised with key CSOs working in the area of gender equality and VAW and National Human Rights Institutions prior to the finalization of the proposal to validate the areas of focus of the intervention. Additional consultations will be organized during the inception phase of the project.

3. Rationale and theory of change

The proposed programme aims to address several if the above-mentioned causes that hinder efforts towards: (i) prevention of all forms of VAW; (ii) effective protection and provision of adequate services for survivors and (iii) development and implementation of effective and integrated policies on VAW.

The theory of change of the proposed programme is built on the assumption that successful interventions to fight violence against women have to be comprehensive and multi-sectorial, covering all key measures that have proven to work in Albania and other countries. The international human rights framework on gender equality and EAW, and particularly the Istanbul Convention ,are the basis of the following theory of change:²⁹

If

- Women and girls enjoy more effective preventive measures against violence in Albania;
- Women survivors and those at risk are better protected from all forms of violence and have equitable access to services in Albania; and
- Responsible institutions and actors implement national policies and legislation on VAW in a more comprehensive, inclusive and coordinated way in Albania;

Then

²⁹ <https://rm.coe.int/coe-istanbulconvention-brochure-en-r03-v01/1680a06d4f>

Women and girls in Albania will live a life free from all forms of violence against women, have agency, voice and choice to exercise & enjoy their human rights.

Because

- CSOs and NHRIs promote accountability of service providers, including in the justice system, and have increased capacities to influence the GEWE agenda
- Men and boys are included in VAW prevention and existing perpetrators' programmes are strengthened
- State and non-state actors (CSOs, UN system, private sector, donors) are systematically engaged in prevention and protection of survivors of VAW and in raising overall awareness on EVAW
- Service providers and local response mechanisms to DV, including the coordinated mechanisms have increased capacities and tools to provide basic and specialized services to all survivors of VAW and inform women and girls about VAW reporting mechanisms
- State and non-state actors have strengthened capacities and resources to establish long-term rehabilitation and reintegration services for victims of VAW
- State institutions and actors have increased knowledge to improve the legal framework and policies on VAW so that they are comprehensive of prevention and protection measures for victims of all forms of violence and are in line with international standards
- State and non-state actors at national and local level have improved coordination mechanisms in addressing VAW.

Some important **crosscutting principles** driving the proposed programme include:

- Mainstreaming of priorities and needs of rural women and women from disadvantaged communities, ensuring an intersectional approach throughout the programme;
- Reaching out to men and boys to ensure real transformative changes of patriarchal norms and practice;
- Using innovative approaches in preventive, capacity building and other interventions;
- Extending and strengthening partnerships with all possible actors, which directly or indirectly are responsible to address VAW especially at the local level.

A detailed description of outcomes, outputs and activities is available in **Annex A: Results Framework**. To achieve the planned results, UN Agencies will partner with existing and new stakeholders that include, but are not limited to, the following:

Government of Albania:

- Ministry of Health and Social Protection
- State Police
- Ministry of Justice

- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Youth
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Finance and the Economy
- Selected municipalities

Civil Society Organisations

Others:

- National Human Rights Institutions
- Albanian Parliament
- Media

A detailed overview of the partnership approach and project partners is available in **Annex D: Partnerships**.

Key assumptions and risks include:

Assumptions	Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There is already solid groundwork/actions to build up upon in the field of VAW in Albania; ✓ The obligation to implement the NSGE 2021-2030 will leverage government's availability to collaborate for the proposed programme; ✓ There is continuous international support, but also accountability in the area of VAW (in the context of EU accession, UN Human Rights Mechanisms, GREVIO) ✓ Institutions are generally open to work collaboratively across different levels to end VAW ✓ Collaboration with CSOs will continue to be effective and efficient ✓ Existing capacities of CSOs on monitoring and supporting human rights are solid and will continue to be strengthened ✓ There are solid existing capacities and openness of institutions to comply with and implement human rights standards ✓ Donors will continue to be interested in supporting GBV related interventions ✓ Stakeholders are willing to integrate perpetrators' programme as part of interventions on VAW as part of the latest legal provisions 	<p><i>Resources-related risks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lack of funding opportunities; ✓ Public financial resources are allocated for emergencies rather than specifically for GE or using a gender-mainstreaming approach, which will be deprioritized (covid, economic crisis etc.) ✓ Lack of interest to invest on perpetrators' programme ✓ Continuous limitations in allocation of human resources in key institutions ✓ Diminished visible impact of the proposed intervention due to lack of focus in all key priority areas on EAW, conditioned by the available funding. The programme will therefore not tackle all pillars of the Istanbul Convention nor address all recommendations emerging from the JP evaluation but just the most critical and urgent ones, where the Implementing Partner have the highest comparative advantage. <p><i>Public opinion-related risks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ VAW continues to be socially acceptable and traditionally harmful norms still persist;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ It will be possible to leverage existing best practices in different aspects of the proposed intervention (perpetrator programs, etc) ✓ The Government of Albania at central and local level will allocate funds to work on preventing VAW, providing services to survivors, and continuing to improve its framework in line with international standards. The Joint Programme is well-aligned with the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2030, which has been costed and for which the Government of Albania is expected to provide funds. This would further contribute to the implementation of the proposed areas of interventions of this Joint Programme. In addition, the work foreseen in this JP with civil society and national human rights institutions will increase their lobbying to the government to ensure adequate budgetary allocation for the implementation of key priority areas for EVAW. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Public resistance towards progress in the GE agenda; ✓ Lack of self-regulatory mechanisms for the media; ✓ Push back against GEWE in the region, anti-gender narrative ✓ Lack of public understanding of the gendered dimension of violence <p><i>Judiciary-related risks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Slow progress of the judicial reform and difficulty to collaborate with members of the judiciary due to increased workload as the result of removal a high number of judges and prosecutors from the system; <p><i>Political risks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Volatile political climate and upcoming local elections, which diverts the focus of local government partners;
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The intervention is fully aligned with, and directly contribute to, priorities of several existing UN and government commitment in the country, including: the [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework \(UNSDCF\) 2022 – 2026](#), particularly Outcome C2 on Gender-Responsive Governance, outputs 4.1 on Ending Violence Against Women and Children and 4.2 on Addressing Stereotypes and Harmful Social Norms and Practices; the [National Strategy on Gender Equality and Action Plan 2021 – 2030](#), particularly Policy Area III “- Reducing all forms of harmful practices, gender-based violence, and domestic violence”, and the [EU Gender Action Plan III \(GAP III\)– 2021-2025](#), thematic area “Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence”. In addition, this intervention contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality and target 5.2 “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”.

The intervention will build upon and leverage the [key lessons learned](#) from the previous phase of the Joint Programme 2019-2022. The Evaluation of Phase I highlighted several recommendations for future programming in this area, including:

- The importance to continue working with civil society organizations for service delivery, accountability and advocacy;
- More strategic interventions to address comprehensively all forms of violence against women;
- Include strategies to better target women from disadvantaged communities;
- Further build the capacities of key public actors at national, regional and local level addressing GBV;

- Continue supporting local stakeholders in addressing complex cases of violence, including from marginalized communities.
- Importance of capitalization of best practices in effectively preventing and managing cases of violence through an inter-disciplinary approach of local response mechanisms, supporting sustainability and increasing government ownership and commitment in this area.
- Addressing in a comprehensive way other forms of violence against women, including stalking, harassment, and sexual violence (GREVIO, 2017) will remain key.
- CRMs are understaffed and under resourced, and not tailored to address all forms of gender-based violence and all groups of persons in need. Therefore, the consolidation of multi-sectorial and institutional networks supporting cooperation between different CRMs, central governments, CSOs and other service providers, was a key result and enabler of the EVAWIA UNJP and remains key for the follow-up UNJP.
- Importance to continue working with civil society as a strong partner for ensuring service provision as well as advocate for legal and policy changes in the area of VAW

Overall, the evaluation concluded that the JP was relevant and contributed to key national and international commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment. Key lessons learned include:

- The importance to provide evidence base to understand conditions of vulnerability for women and improve advocacy accordingly
- Organize consultations with different stakeholders through the implementation process of the programme to identify areas in which increasing coordination is needed or to identify smaller initiatives and best practices to be brought within the programme to complement or expand efforts already initiated
- Continue to foster partnerships with experienced CSOs and promote cross sectorial response and partnerships to be able to address both prevention and protection aspects of VAW.
- Continuing with the provision of a “cross-sectorial coordinated response model of action to tackle VAW” was very effective because it distributed the responsibility of tackling GBV across all the actors in the system, created cross-efficiencies and promoted dialogue and sharing of expertise.
- The framework and monitoring systems need to continue to support the process of assessing and comparing delivery approaches across municipalities.
- Implement new and innovative pilots help to consolidate new best practices and involve new stakeholders
- Ensure complementarity with other ongoing initiatives implemented by the UN agencies added value to the programme results and increases the impact and outreach of stakeholders and communities.
- Intersectional approaches remain key to interventions addressing human rights along with a stronger understanding of the needs of each group.
- Building on existing initiatives, and particularly pilots that are focused on awareness raising and work with perpetrators.
- Engage with the public officials as implementing partners helps ensure government ownership and responsibility in implementing and institutionalizing reforms.
- Obligatory training in SOPs, protocols, and REVALB still requires further government ownership and leadership to ensure that the capacity development of all responsible institutions is

sustained, particularly amid the clear risk of staff turnover. Institutionalization of the training curricula means that the support provided can be sustained.

- Financing essential services, such as those for survivors of violence requires interventions within the broader framework of all social protection, including the needs of persons with disabilities (particularly mental disabilities) and other vulnerable groups. More reflections and efforts are required to improve the current services in ensuring the provision of accessible and adequate services for all categories.

4. Steering and management arrangements

A **Steering Committee (SC)** will be established to oversee and coordinate the operations of this intervention. The SC oversees the JP's implementation and takes all necessary strategic decisions based on the JP's initial plan and budget, as well as monitoring data. It will provide policy guidance and recommendations regarding the JP's strategy and objectives, receive and comment on annual reports, approve annual plans of operation and reports. The SC will meet at least twice a year and as needed. The SC will be composed of Sida's representative, the UNRC senior representatives of the participating UN agencies, a senior representative of MoHSP, a representative of the EU Delegation to Tirana, a LGU representative and at least two representatives of CSOs. Every effort will be made to link the SC to both the government-led coordination structures that address GB-VAW, and the UN Delivering as One structures. Secretariat functions are provided by UN Women.

A **Technical Team** will also be established, composed of representatives of each PUNO, to guide project implementation, coordinate implementation of interventions and ensure that results are delivered timely and efficiently. The Technical Committee will meet at least 4 times per year. Meetings of the Technical Committee will be called by the Leading Agency, which will also be responsible for documenting the proceedings of the meetings. Progress updates will be provided by all UN agencies one week prior to the Technical Committee meeting. The proposed JP will be implemented through the modality of the DaO mechanism, under the framework of the UN Albania Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, with the joint participation of three PUNOs, including UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA, which are highly involved in gender related issues and VAW. These Agencies will work in close partnership with relevant governmental bodies at the central and local levels, and CSOs. Implementation of the JP will be integrated into the overall architecture of the DaO approach, ensuring that activities are coordinated with Outcome 4 output 4.1 and 4.2 deliverables, in support of the Cooperation Framework 2022-2026. The JP log frame provides for the general framework and indicative deliverables that will be further fine-tuned and annualized in relevant annual work plans over a time frame of 30 months.

UN Women will be the lead PUNO for the overall implementation and coordination of the JP, responsible for the effective management of JP resources and accountable for the delivery of results. UN Women will engage relevant staff and expertise to ensure effective coordination, quality assurance, monitoring and reporting. This will include a UN Joint Programme Coordinator, a project officer, and additional support staff, including communications capacities and monitoring and reporting support. Each participating UN agency will implement activities as defined in the JP joint work plan, drawing on Agencies responsibility identified in the JP results framework (Annex A), and on their comparative advantage reflected in Annex D.

The JP will ensure a cohesive and coordinated UN approach through internal coordination mechanisms in strategically targeting municipalities to ensure a critical mass of support and increased chance of success. It will ensure strategic integration and cohesion with other UN agencies as well as with development

partners working in Albania in the areas of social inclusion and protection, public administration and local governance.

In terms of **communication**, the project will seek to raise awareness on the impact of violence against women and girls in Albania and hold duty bearers accountable for their commitments to ending violence against women. In this respect, various communications and advocacy initiatives will be carried out to increase the project's visibility and raise awareness about violence against women, including targeting the most excluded groups of women. Human interest stories, testimonials by project partners and beneficiaries, communication assets showcasing key results and media briefs will be regularly shared through UN Albania, UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA's country, regional and global websites, social media channels as well as partners' and donor's websites and platforms. The project also includes dedicated activities for communications and awareness raising, including advocacy efforts on harmful practices, as well as supporting national awareness raising campaigns such as the 16 days of activism to end violence against women, and engage media through improved media reporting around VAW.

All communication and visibility products will comply with Sida and UN Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II as well as PUNOs' visibility guidelines.

5. Fund management modality

The overall budget for this JP is funded by Sida, and will be allocated through the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II. The JP results framework (Annex A) provides the general framework and indicative deliverables that will be funded through Sida's contribution alone. The Steering Committee will serve as the authority to provide strategic direction and oversight on the JP and provide relevant justification and advice to the One UN Joint Executive Committee for fund allocation decision making. The Administrative Agent is responsible for administering funds received in the SDG Acceleration Fund. Each Participating UN Organization retains programmatic and financial responsibility on the use of funds allocated from the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II.

The funds for the implementation of the JP will be allocated through the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II structure. As the three participating UN Agencies (UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA) have agreed to utilize the ongoing Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II, where the UNDP Multi-partner Trust Fund Office acts as the Administrative Agent (AA), the funds assigned to these PUNOs under the JP Document will be channeled through the SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II. When making the final decision for allocation, the One UN Joint Executive Committee will request the signed joint annual workplans and request for funds.

The Administrative Agent will: (1) prepare and sign a Standard Administrative Arrangement with Sida; (2) charge a standard administrative agent fee of one per cent (1%) of the total contribution made to the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund for this JP, for its costs of performing the AA's functions.

The Lead PUNO and Participating UN Organizations will: (1) assume full programmatic and financial responsibility and accountability for the funds transferred by the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund Phase II for this JP; (2) deduct their indirect costs on contributions received according to their regulations and rules, including direct programme charges, considering the size and complexity of the JP. Each PUNO will deduct 7% overhead costs of the total allocation received for the Agency.

A clear breakdown of roles and responsibilities is available in the results framework (Annex A) as well as in the description of agencies' comparative advantages (Annex E).

6. Monitoring, learning, and reporting

Monitoring and evaluation are integral parts of programme management. They will be conducted in accordance with the UNSCF 2022-2026, and especially Output 4.1 on ending violence against women and children, as well as Sida's Regional Strategy for the Western Balkans and Turkey. The monitoring and reporting processes for the proposed JP will involve gathering data to make timely and informed judgments and assessments of progress, including among others, the identification of strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of the JP.

The purpose of the JP's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is fourfold: (1) **JP steering**: data is collected and processed in view of central dimensions of the JP's steering –both at the strategic and operational level; (2) **quality assurance**: detailed information on the JP and its context, and on the JP's implementation for continuous monitoring; (3) **learning**: data is collected for the programme's own learning, to improve interventions of similar actions by other actors, and to develop capacities of its implementers and target groups. Effective and efficient learning from JP data and experience requires that lessons learned be identified and communicated in appropriate forms; (4) **accountability**, including reporting: monitoring data and findings will be continuously use evidence to answer questions and provide explanations for decisions and the achievement of results at all levels of programming.

Monitoring is a continuous task of JP management. It provides both quantitative and qualitative data, and it is based on indicators defined in the log frame. Whenever suitable, beneficiaries will be involved in monitoring activities. This especially applies to the level of local service provision. However, CSOs shall also be involved in the monitoring of performance by central and local government actors.

Monitoring data will be collected and processed mainly by the UN Agencies involved in the implementation of this JP. However, all other stakeholders will also be involved in programme monitoring –as observers of context and implementation. Data is then made available to the SC. Monitoring data will also provide an important basis for evaluations and reviews of the programme –both internal and external ones.

The fields of observation covered by the JP's monitoring include:

(1) **Context**: the institutional, social and economic conditions under which the JP is being implemented will be observed in order to allow for seizing opportunities (for involving additional actors, for supporting interesting local initiatives, etc.), for reacting to newly emerging risks, for adapting the policy dialogue led with authorities, etc.

(2) **Results**: the regular monitoring of and reporting on achievements is based on evidence provided by monitoring data, mainly the indicators defined in the results framework.

(3) **Efficiency**: the JP's efficiency will be assessed primarily financially, comparing budget with expenditures. Additional dimensions of efficiency (but not only) can be observed by also monitoring the quality of cooperation between the involved actors and processes necessary for implementing the JP.

(4) **Cooperation**: the many actors involved in the JP at different levels requires intense, continued, and sometimes punctual cooperation between them. The monitoring of the quality of these types of

cooperation (in the field, at the level of the Steering Committee, among the implementing actors (UN organizations, CSOs, municipal services, etc.) can support the understanding of the JP regarding qualitative dimensions.

(5) **Processes:** the quality of processes of the JP's implementation, e.g., the introduction of new practices for providing social services at the local level, will be monitored to have a more complete, and again, qualitative understanding of the implementation of the JP.

The main instruments for monitoring are:

(1) The **JP's results framework**, which will allow for assessing progress in the implementation, achievement of objectives and foreseen outputs and outcomes. The indicators and target values defined by the different outcomes and outputs are the main means for assessing the JP's effectiveness and impact.

(2) **An annual work plan** (AWP) sets out activities to be implemented by each Agency, along with associated budgets/resources in line with the Results Framework. It will describe in detail the required inputs and the expected results within the given timeframe. In addition, AWP's will provide information on contributing partners. The JP's AWP will be approved by the SC and will be the basis for programmatic activities throughout the year.

(3) **An annual JP progress report** will be prepared jointly by the participating UN Agencies and shared with the SC and Sida along with the updated workplan for the following year.

(4) **JP budget** (structured in line with the results framework) and its comparison with actual expenditures. This will allow for assessing the utilization of financial resources, delays in expenditures and shortages of funds if disbursements are made rapidly;

(5) **(Joint) field visits** of members of the SC will allow for observations that can contribute to their understanding of the context, of the conditions under which the programme is implemented, and of the programme itself; these will importantly feed into the SC deliberations.

7. Sustainability:

Sustainability of results will be pursued through a series of approaches that intend to improve Albania's prevention and response to VAW. These include: (1) Full alignment with national and local policies and strategies: the proposed intervention is aligned with the strategic priorities of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2030, and, to the extent possible, it will support the implementation of measures against gender-based violence foreseen in the Local Gender Action Plans developed by targeted municipalities, signatories of the European Charter for Equality of women and men in local life. (2) Investments in actors, processes and persons: the strengthening of organizations (for service provision, monitoring and adapting policies, funding services, etc.), the introduction and improvement of mechanisms for cooperation between actors (at central and local government levels as well as between the two levels, state and civil society, recipients and providers of social services, civil society and national human rights institutions), and the development of capacities of individuals (service providers, policy makers etc.), should have effects beyond the duration of this second phase of the JP. (3) The continued support to developing standard economic reintegration for survivors of violence would have lasting impact on the extent to which survivors can successfully live a life free of violence and contribute to Albania's socio-economic life beyond the timeframe of the JP. (4) Building synergies with other donors and projects supporting the prevention of and response to VAW is of paramount importance in order to maximize the use of financial resources for lasting interventions and avoid

duplication. The JP will coordinate closely with other ongoing intervention in the area of Gender-Responsive Budgeting and the EU-funded Gender Equality Facility project (EU for Gender Equality project), to ensure maximum cross-fertilization of results especially when it comes to promoting budget allocations to gender equality and women's empowerment at central and local level, and ensuring that gender is mainstreamed across policy sectors. (5) Building on and scaling up the good practices that emerged from the Phase I of the Joint Programme. These include the financial support to the national helpline, the increase of economic aid for survivors of violence, enhancing municipalities' support to CSOs, integrating DV coordinators as part of the municipalities' teams, promote legal aid to all survivors of violence and increase the availability of emergency shelters such as the LILIUM center. Whilst the project could have also included more prominently elements such as early childhood education and GRB, the limited funding available would not allow to cover these areas. However, the Ministry of Finance and the Economy as well as the Ministry of Education will be engaged in the implementation of the project as part of awareness-raising efforts and to ensure coordinated policy development and implementation.

In addition, in the context of the outcome on prevention, the work with men and boys and on awareness raising will lead to behavioural changes that will last beyond the timeframe of the project. Working with actors at the local level is also amongst the key priorities for the EAW JP Phase II, as well as increasing capacities of service providers to respond to cases of women and girls from marginalized groups. Finally, as mentioned above, the activities focused on policy change and alignment of national frameworks with international standards will have a lasting impact on addressing EAW in Albania. The JP has been developed in full alignment with the strategic priorities of the National Strategy for Gender Equality (2021-2030), and many of the planned activities will require funding from the Government of Albania in line with its commitments in the National Strategy. The purpose of the JP is to complement such efforts.

Annex A: Results Framework

Joint Programme: Ending Violence Against Women in Albania													
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Albania CF Outcome 4: Gender responsive governance CF Output 4.1 End Violence Against Women and Children													
Outcome 1: Women and girls enjoy more effective preventive measures against violence in Albania.													
Indicator		Baseline		Target		Means of Verification							
1A: SOP for services that work with perpetrators of violence is adopted		0		1		Published reports from MoHSP							
1.B: Number of journalists who produce gender-sensitive media content		0		TBD during inception phase		Media reports and monitoring							
1.C: Number of reports/recommendations issued by CSOs and NHRIs on compliance with international and national standards on VAW		At least 2 (2021)		At least 3 new reports		NHRI reports; CSO reports							
Output 1.1: CSOs and NHRIs promote accountability of service providers, including in the justice system and have increased capacities to influence the GEWE agenda													
Key partners involved in the implementation of the output: Monitoring Network Against Gender-Based Violence, other CSOs including Faith-Based Organizations; Media; INSTAT													
Indicator		Baseline		Target		Means of Verification							
1.1A: Number of CSO that benefitted from capacity building through the JP's support		At least 4 (2022)		TBD during inception phase		Training agendas and list of participants Training material							
1.1.B: Amount of funding disbursed annually in support of civil society organizations, especially women's organizations, working towards the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment, through UN programmes and grant-giving		USD 906,865.15 (2021)		TBD during inception phase		Internal records							
1.1C: Number of advocacy initiatives to improve EAW-related legislation, policies and implementation conducted by CSOs with UN support		5 (2021)		At least 2 new advocacy initiatives by end of project		CSO reports and advocacy initiatives							
Sub-outputs/activities & lead agency	Geographical focus	Timeline		UN Agencies	SDG Target	Implementing partners	Source of funds	HR Market	GE Marker	QCPR function	Funding framework (indicative budget)		
		Start	Finish								Total required (Annual)	Available (Annual)	TBM (Annual)
1.1.1: Raise capacities of women's grassroots organizations to meaningfully influence gender equality laws and policies in Albania following up from CEDAW and GREVIO recommendations on EAW (UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP)	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP	5.5.2	CSOs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$ 37,400.00 (UNW: 10,000.00; UNDP: 22,400.00; UNFPA 5,000.00) 2024: \$48,600.00 (UNW: 20,000.00; UNDP 23,600.00; UNFPA 5,000.00) 2025: \$15,000.00 (UNDP: 10,000.00; UNFPA: 5,000.00)	2023: \$ 37,400.00 2024: \$ 48,600.00 2025: \$15,000.00	0
1.1.2: Collaborate with NHRIs and CSOs to increase their monitoring role on the treatment of victims of VAW	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women, UNFPA	5.5.2	CSOs, NHRIs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$ 8,000.00 (UNW: 3,000.00; UNFPA: 5,000.00)	2023: \$ 8,000.00 2024:	0

											2024: \$12,000.00 (UNW: 7,000.00; UNFPA: 5,000.00) 2025: \$ 8,000.00 (UNW: 3,000.00; UNFPA: 5,000.00)	\$ 12,000.00	
1.1.3: Support CSOs to conduct regular monitoring of court's judgement and practices and activities of prosecutors in the area of VAW	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women	5.5.2	CSOs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$20,000.00 2024: \$ 25,000.00 2025: 0	2023: \$ 20,000.00 2024: \$ 25,000.00 2025: 0	0
1.1.4: Support tailored awareness and advocacy on harmful practices aiming at faith-based organisations, community leaders and parental communities	National	2023	2025	UNFPA	5.3.1	INSTAT	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$10,000.00 2024: \$ 10,000.00 2025: \$10,000.00	2023: \$ 10,000.00 2024: \$ 10,000.00 2025: \$10,000.00	0
1.1.5 Update Data and Evidence on Gender biased Sex Selection	TBD	2023	2024	UNFPA	5.3.1	CSOs, Admin Units	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$10,000.00 2024: \$5,000.00 2025: 0	2023: \$10,000.00 2024: \$5,000.00 2025: 0	0
Output 1.2: Men and boys are included in VAW prevention and existing perpetrators' programmes are strengthened													
Key partners for the output: Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, CSOs currently offering perpetrators' programmes, women and youth CSOs.													
Indicator		Baseline				Target			Means of Verification				
1.2A: Number of existing perpetrator programmes strengthened		3				3			Activity reports				
1.2B: Number of men and boys engaged in shaping non-harmful narratives		TBD				TBD			Activity reports				
1.2C: Number of new initiatives and/or existing ones scaled up targeting the engagement of men and boys in addressing VAW by UN support		TBD				TBD			Activity reports				
Sub-outputs/activities & lead agency	Geographical focus	Timeline		UN Agencies	SDG Target	Implementing partners	Source of funds	HR Market	GE Marker	QCPR function	Funding framework (indicative budget)		
		Start	Finish								Total required (Annual)	Available (Annual)	TBM (Annual)
1.2.1: Finalize SOPs and guidelines on reintegration of	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women	5.5.2	MoJ, MoHSP, CSOs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$5,000.00	2023: \$5,000.00	0

perpetrators based on international practices and raise awareness for the establishment of perpetrator programmes											2024: \$5,000.00	2024: \$5,000.00	
											2025: 0	2025: 0	
1.2.2: Pilot SOPs on perpetrators	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women	5.5.2	MoJ, MoHSP, CSOs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$10,000.00	2023: \$10,000.00	0
											2024: \$30,000.00	2024: \$30,000.00	
											2025: \$10,000.00	2025: \$10,000.00	
1.2.3: Strengthen Be a Man Club initiative at national level endorsing the methodology in partnership with the MoE and ASCAP	TBD	2023	2025	UNFPA	5.5.2		Sida	3	3	Other	2023: \$15,000.00	2023: \$15,000.00	0
											2024: \$7,500.00	2024: \$7,500.00	
											2025: \$7,500.00	2025: \$7,500.00	
1.2.4: Implement the Boys on the Move non-formal curriculum designed for unaccompanied and separated male adolescents displaced by conflict, poverty or related causes							Sida/Embassy of Sweden			Other	2023: \$5,000.00	2023: \$5,000.00	0
											2024: \$5,000.00	2024: \$5,000.00	
											2025: 0	2025: 0	
1.2.5: Address toxic masculinities in everyday practices and identify men role models across sports, arts and other fields to increase awareness on positive masculinities, and pilot successful initiatives on positive fatherhood	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women	5.5.2	CSOs	Sida	3	3	Other	2023: \$20,000.00	2023: \$15,000.00	0
											2024: \$25,000.00	2024: \$20,000.00	
											2025: \$15,000.00	2025: \$10,000.00	
1.2.6: Support mobilization of young men and boys as partners for violence prevention and challenging discriminatory norms and stereotypes and gender inequalities through informed innovative tools and prototypes	TBD	2023	2025	UNDP	5.5.2	CSOs	Sida	3	3	Other	2023: \$18,000.00	2023: \$18,000.00	0
											2024: \$18,000.00	2024: \$18,000.00	
											2025: \$9,000.00	2025: \$9,000.00	
Output 1.3: State and non-state actors (CSOs, UN system, private sector, donors) are systematically engaged in prevention and protection of survivors of VAW and in raising overall awareness on EVAW													
Key partners for the output: Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of State for Youth and Children, Selected municipalities, CSOs, NHRIs, Media, Youth and Women's Rights Organizations													
Indicator		Baseline			Target			Means of Verification					
1.3A: Number of people reached through campaigns on VAW		14600 (2021)			TBD			Social media analytics Events reports and sign-up sheets					

1.3B: Number of media forums organized to raise awareness on ethical reporting on VAW		3 (2022)			TBD		Media Forum agendas and records						
1.3C: Number of awareness raising initiatives conducted with and by: - CSOs - Private sector - Government (central and local level)		2 (IWD and 16 Days) (2021)			TBD		Campaign records						
Suboutputs/activities & lead agency	Geographical focus	Timeline		UN Agencies	SDG Target	Implementing partners	Source of funds	HR Market	GE Marker	QCPR function	Funding framework (indicative budget)		
		Start	Finish								Total required (Annual)	Available (Annual)	TBM (Annual)
1.3.1: Support and coordinate organization of national awareness raising activities in the context of international campaigns such as 16 Days of Activism and International Women Day	TBD	2023	2025	UNFPA and UN Women and UNDP	5.5.2	MOHSP, CSOs, private sector/ local government	Sida	3	3	Other	2023: \$86,000.00 (UNW: 32,500.00, UNDP: 36,000.00, UNFPA: 10,000.00) 2024: \$86,000.00 (UNW: 32,500.00; UNDP: 36,000.00; UNFPA: 10,000.00) 2025: \$28,000.00 (UNDP: 18,000.00; UNFPA: 10,000.00)	2023: \$86,000.00 2024: \$86,000.00 2025: \$28,000.00	0
1.3.2: Provide coaching and support services for the roll-out of the ESD approach at the national level and monitor the effectiveness of the module	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women	5.5.2	Ministry of Education, CSOs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development and technical assistance	2023: \$20,000.00 2024: \$20,000.00 2025: 0	2023: \$20,000.00 2024: \$20,000.00 2025: 0	0
1.3.3: Raise awareness among women from disadvantaged communities, including women with disabilities, and service providers, about accessible mechanisms to report violence and accessible services	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women and UNFPA	5.5.2	CSOs	Sida	3	3	Other	2023: \$15,000.00 (UNW: 10,000.00; UNFPA: 5,000.00) 2024: \$20,000.00 (UNW: 15,000.00; UNFPA: 5,000.00) 2025: \$5,000.00 (UNFPA)	2023: \$15,000.00 2024: \$20,000.00 2025: \$5,000.00	0
1.3.4: Organise targeted awareness campaigns on Girl Child and Gender biased Sex Selection	TBD	2023	2025	UNFPA	5.5.2	CSOs	Sida	3	3	Other	2023: \$5,000.00 2024: \$5,000.00 2025: \$5,000.00	2023: \$5,000.00 2024: \$5,000.00 2025: \$5,000.00	0
1.3.5: Engage the media, including through the media forum, to raise awareness about VAW and improve media	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women	5.5.2	Media, private sector	Sida	3	3	Other	2023: \$5,000.00 2024: \$5,000.00	2023: \$5,000.00 2024: \$5,000.00	0

reporting, based on the revised Broadcasting code													2025: \$2,000.00	2025: \$2,000.00	
Outcome 2: All women survivors and those at risk are better protected from all forms of violence and have equitable access to services in Albania															
Indicator		Baseline			Target			Means of Verification							
Outcome indicator 2A: Number of DV cases addressed through the CRM (CF indicator output 4.1)		1489 (2021)			TBD in inception phase			REVALB							
Outcome indicator 2.B: Model for socio-economic reintegration adopted		No			Yes			Official reports from MoHSP							
Outcome indicator 2C: Number of domestic violence cases/ violence against women cases reported to the police		5,312 (2021) (DV cases)			At least 1% increase			Police reports							
2D; Number of cases where CSOs deployed strategic litigation skills		0			At least 1			CSO reports							
Output 2.1: Service providers and local response mechanisms to DV have increased capacities and tools to provide basic and specialized services to all survivors of VAW and inform women and girls about VAW reporting mechanisms															
Key partners for the implementation of this output: Ministry of Health and Social Protection, State Police, Ministry of Education; Local offices and DV coordinators, CRMs, staff at the LILIUM centre, CSOs															
Indicator		Baseline			Target			Means of Verification							
2.1A: # of service providers/professionals with increased capacities to respond to the needs of survivors of violence (disaggregated by sector, type of service provider, sex)		851			TBD			Training materials including pre- and post-assessment							
2.1B: No. municipalities supported to provide emergency services to victims of domestic and sexual violence		TBD following CRM assessment			TBD following CRM assessment			CRM assessment							
2.1C: Number of coordinated referral mechanisms that fully operationalized the standard operating procedures for multisectoral prevention and response to gender-based violence		7 (2021)			TBD in inception phase			CRM reports							
Suboutputs/activities & lead agency	Geographical focus	Timeline		UN Agencies	SDG Target	Implementing partners	Source of funds	HR Market	GE Marker	QCPR function	Funding framework (indicative budget)				
		Start	Finish								Total required (Annual)	Available (Annual)	TBM (Annual)		
2.1.1: Carry out innovative capacity building activities, including mentoring and coaching with key service providers at the national and local levels from the social services, police, health, education, employment and local DV coordinators and improve overall coordination to address all forms of VAW at local level and provide integrated services for all women and girls	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP	5.5.2	DV coordinators, CRM	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$74,000.00 (UNW: 20,000.00; UNDP: 44,000.00; UNFPA: 10,000.00)	2023: \$74,000.00	2024: \$74,000.00	2025: \$32,000.00	0

2.1.2: Support capacities of central and local authorities to improve VAW standards of service provision and coordinate and monitor the implementation of the VAW components of the NSGE.	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women	5.5.2	MoHSP	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$20,000.00 2024: \$20,000.00 2025: 0	2023: \$20,000.00 2024: \$20,000.00 2025: 0	0
2.1.3: Conduct an assessment of CRM functionality across all 61 municipalities in collaboration with MOHSP and relevant institutional partners	TBD	2023	2023	UNDP	5.5.2	CRMs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$30,000.00 2024: \$0,000.00 2025: \$0,000.00	2023: \$30,000.00 2024: \$0,000.00 2025: \$0,000.00	0
2.1.4: Based on the assessment, support relevant CRMs through mentoring and multi-sectoral trainings	TBD	2023	2025	UNDP, UN Women	5.5.2		Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$64,400.00 (UNW: 50,000.00; UNDP: 14,400.00) 2024: \$114,400.00 (UNW: 100,000.00; UNDP: 14,400.00) 2025: \$7,200.00 (UNDP)	2023: \$64,400.00 2024: \$114,400.00 2025: \$7,200.00	0
2.1.5: Support relevant central and local state authorities in establishing relevant response mechanisms that address effectively other forms of violence	TBD	2023	2025	UNDP and UN Women	5.5.2	MoHSP, LGUs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$16,000.00 (UNW: 10,000.00; UNDP 6,000.00) 2024: \$16,000.00 (UNW: 10,000.00; UNDP: 6,000.00) 2025: \$18,500.00 (UNW: 15,000.00; UNDP: 3,500.00)	2023: \$16,000.00 2024: \$16,000.00 2025: \$18,500.00	0
2.1.6: Support consolidation of LILIUM Center services provided to sexual violence victims and under MoHP leadership support scaling up of LILIUM Centers in other regions in the country	TBD	2023	2025	UNDP	5.5.2	LILIUM staff	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$10,000.00 2024: \$15,000.00 2025: \$5,000.00	2023: \$10,000.00 2024: \$15,000.00 2025: \$5,000.00	0
2.1.7: Update and review guidelines and protocols on Multi Sectoral Response to GBV with focus health and psychosocial care including the GBV in Civil Emergencies	TBD	2023	2025	UNFPA	5.5.2		UNFPA	3	3	Normative Support	2023: 0 2024: 0 2025: 0	2023: 0 2024: 0 2025: 0	0

SoP, based on the new NSGE 2021-2030													
Output 2.2: State and non-state institutions have strengthened capacities and resources to establish a long-terms rehabilitation and reintegration services for all victims of VAW													
Key partners for the output: Ministry of Health and Social Protection; selected municipalities; CSOs, NHRIs													
Indicator		Baseline			Target			Means of Verification					
2.2A: Number of CSO with increased capacities in strategic litigation		0			TBD			Records from relevant activities including pre and post-assessment					
2.2B: Number of municipalities supported to implement socio-economic reintegration plans for women and girls victims of VAW		6 (2021)			TBD			Municipality's records and internal records					
Suboutputs/activities & lead agency	Geographical focus	Timeline		UN Agencies	SDG Target	Implementing partners	Source of funds	HR Market	GE Marker	QCPR function	Funding framework (indicative budget)		
		Start	Finish								Total required (Annual)	Available (Annual)	TBM (Annual)
2.2.1: Support the approval of a national standard model on social and economic integration schemes/plans for women and girls, fostering a reintegration approach based on previous models (building on CMD)	TBD	2023	2023	UN Women	5.5.2	MoHSP	Sida	3	3	Normative Support	2023: \$5,000.00 2024: 0 2025: 0	2023: \$5,000.00 2024: 0 2025: 0	0
2.2.2: Support selected municipalities (training and mentoring) to implement social and economic integration schemes/plans for all women and girls victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence, including women with disabilities, Roma/Egyptian and LBT, based on existing models and experience	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women, UNDP	5.5.2	LGUs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$146,408.00 (UNW: 100,000.00; UNDP: 46,408.00) 2024: \$176,408.00 (UNW: 130,000.00; UNDP: 46,408.00) 2025: \$23,235.00 (UNDP)	2023: \$146,408.00 2024: \$176,408.00 2025: \$23,235.00	0
2.2.3: Support CSOs to pursue strategic litigation for cases of VAW	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women	5.5.2	CSOs	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$15,000.00 2024: \$15,000.00 2025: 0	2023: \$15,000.00 2024: \$15,000.00 2025: 0	0
Outcome 3: Responsible institutions and actors implement national policies and legislation on VAW in a more comprehensive, inclusive and coordinated way in Albania													
Indicator		Baseline			Target			Means of Verification					
3A: No. of laws/by-laws and policies adopted/implemented on VAW aligned with		16 (2020)			TBD in inception phase			Parliament website National reports					

international and regional standards (Derived from CF output 4.1)													
3B: Level of implementation of accepted recommendations from the UPR and human rights treaty bodies (Rating 4-point scale: 4. Fully implemented; 3. Partially; 2. Inadequately; 1. Not/Poorly implemented) (UNSDCF C1/c)	Partially	TBD during inception phase		NHRI reports UN reports									
3C: Proportion of CEDAW Committee concluding observations related to VAW issued in 2023 integrated in national plans	0	At least 50%		National reports, national plans									
3D: Number of monitoring reports on NSGE implementation prepared	1	At least two additional reports		National reports by MOHSP									
Output 3.1: State institutions improve the legal framework and policies on VAW so that they are comprehensive of prevention and protection measures for victims of all forms of violence and line with international standards and commitments													
Key partners for the output: Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Albanian parliament, National Human Rights Institutions, CSOs, Academic Institutions including ASPA, selected municipalities, School of Magistrates, Academy of State Police													
Indicator	Baseline		Target		Means of Verification								
3.1A: Number of advocacy activities conducted on CEDAW concluding observations pertaining to VAW	0		At least 3		CSO reports, UN reports, NHRI reports								
3.1B: Training modules on implementation of GBV legislation are available for ASPA. School of Magistrates and Police Academy	No		Yes		ASPA, Academy of State Police and School of Magistrates website and records								
3.1C: Number of institutions/partners engaged in implementing/adopting policies in compliance with ILO C 190	3 (DOPA, ASP, Ministry of Defence)		TBD		Partners' reports and policies								
Suboutputs/activities & lead agency	Geographical focus	Timeline		UN Agencies	SDG Target	Implementing partners	Source of funds	HR Market	GE Marker	QCPR function	Funding framework (indicative budget)		
		Start	Finish								Total required (Annual)	Available (Annual)	TBM
3.1.1: Conduct advocacy with relevant stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the analysis conducted on the legal framework addressing all forms of VAW	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA	5.5.2	MoHSP, MoJ, Parliament	Sida	3	3	Normative support	2023: \$22,800.00 (UNW: 5,000.00; UNDP: 12,800.00; UNFPA: 5,000.00) 2024: \$22,800.00 (UNW: 5,000.00; UNDP: 12,800.00; UNFPA: 5,000.00) 2025: \$11,400.00 (UNDP: 6,400.00; UNFPA: 5,000.00)	2023: \$22,800.00 2024: \$22,800.00 2025: \$11,400.00	0
3.1.2: Organize a series of dialogues at national and local level on the CEDAW Concluding Observations relevant to Violence Against Women	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women	5.5.2	MOHSP	Sida	3	3	Normative support	2023: \$4,000.00 2024: \$4,000.00 2025: 0	2023: \$4,000.00 2024: \$4,000.00 2025: 0	0

3.1.3: Support the implementation of legislation and policies against sexual harassment in the workplace, in conformity with ILO 190 Convention against Violence and Harassment in the Workplace, including establishing procedures for safeguarding women and men in the workplace from all forms of violence	TBD	2023	2025	UN Women, UNFPA	5.5.2	Private sector, public sector partners	Sida	3	3	Normative support	2023: \$25,000.00 2024: \$20,000.00 2025: \$10,000.00	2023: \$25,000.00 2024: \$20,000.00 2025: \$10,000.00	0
3.1.4: Support development of relevant multisectoral protocol on the effective management of cases where victims are women/girls with intellectual disabilities	TBD	2023	2025	UNDP	5.5.2		Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$4,000.00 2024: \$4,000.00 2025: \$2,000.00	2023: \$4,000.00 2024: \$4,000.00 2025: \$2,000.00	0
3.1.5: Boost further the partnership with ASPA, School of Magistrates, Academy of State Police aiming to include in their training curricula, certified training modules on GBV related legislation	TBD	2023	2025	UNDP and UN Women	5.5.2	ASPA, School of Magistrates, Academy of State Police	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$13,000.00 (UNW: 5,000.00; UNDP: 8,000.00) 2024: \$13,000.00 (UNW: 5,000.00; UNDP: 8,000.00) 2025: \$4,000.00 (UNDP)	2023: \$13,000.00 2024: \$13,000.00 2025: \$4,000.00	0
3.1.6 Organize policy Dialogue with Agencies responsible for Training and Accreditation for Health and Social Care providers (QKEV, Health Operator) and State Social Service on the Capacity Development Plan for service providers.	TBD	2023	2025	UNFPA	5.5.2	QKEV, Health Operator) and State Social Service	UNFPA	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: 0 2024: 0 2025: 0	2023: 0 2024: 0 2025: 0	0
3.1.7: Boost partnership with ASCAP and Teacher training faculties to improve the teacher training curricula to include modules on GBV and related legislation.	TBD	2023	2025	UNFPA	5.5.2	ASCAP	UNFPA			Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: 0 2024: 0 2025: 0	2023: 0 2024: 0 2025: 0	0

3.1.8: Implement EU roadmap on child/forced and early marriage including advocating for the changes in the age of consent in partnership with NHRI	TBD	2023	2024	UNFPA	5.5.2	NHRIs	Sida	3	3	Normative Support	2023: \$2,000.00	2023: \$2,000.00	0
3.1.9: Support coordination among members of CRMs to address in a comprehensive way all forms of VAW at the local level and provision of adequate integrated services (joint trainings)	TBD	2023	2025	UNDP	5.5.2		Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$6,000.00	2023: \$6,000.00	0
Output 3.2: State and non-state institutions and actors (CSOs, donors, UN Agencies, public oversight bodies and members of the referral mechanisms) at national and local level have improved coordination in addressing VAW													
Key partners for the output: Local GE officers and DV coordinators, Education professionals, NHRIs, Albanian Parliament													
Indicator		Baseline			Target			Means of Verification					
3.2A: Number of parliamentary committee/subcommittee meetings/hearings/debates/constituency meetings on GB-VAW		7 (2020)			TBD			Parliament website and reports					
3.2B: Number of cross-municipal, cross-border multi-stakeholder networking and exchange initiatives conducted with UN support		8 (2022)			TBD			Meeting agendas and activity reports					
Suboutputs/activities & lead agency	Geographical focus	Timeline		UN Agencies	SDG Target	Implementing partners	Source of funds	HR Market	GE Marker	QCPR function	Funding framework (indicative budget)		
		Start	Finish								Total required (Annual)	Available (Annual)	TBM
3.2.1: Organize networking opportunities amongst members of the referral mechanism	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women	5.5.2	CRM members	Sida	3	3	Convening/Partnerships/Knowledge Sharing	2023: \$5,000.00	2023: \$5,000.00	0
3.2.2: Organize a national conference on EAW and the implementation of relevant provisions in the NSGE	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women	5.5.2	National stakeholders, CSOs, NHRIs, line ministries, local government	Sida/	3	3	Normative Support	2023: \$10,000.00	2023: \$10,000.00	0
3.2.3: Organize a study visit with another country/territory implementing VAW	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women	5.5.2	GE Focal points and DV Coordinators	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$10,000.00	2023: \$10,000.00	0
											2024: \$5,000.00	2024: \$5,000.00	
											2025: 0	2025: 0	
											2024: \$11,366.00	2024: \$11,376.00	

programmes (UN Women)											2025: 0	2025: 0	
3.2.4: Support the Albanian Parliament in reactivating its GE mechanisms and exercising an increased monitoring role of government's actions in fighting all forms of VAW (UN Women)	TBD	2023	2024	UN Women and UNFPA	5.5.2	Albanian Parliament	Sida/Embassy of Sweden	3	3	Normative Support	2023: \$5,000.00 2024: \$7,000.00 2025: 0	2023: \$5,000.00 2024: \$7,000.00 2025: 0	0
3.2.5: Support DV Coordinators network through peer-to-peer learning and identifying champions	TBD	2023	2025	UNDP	5.5.2	DV coordinators network	Sida	3	3	Capacity Development/Technical Assistance	2023: \$13,600.00 2024: \$13,600.00 2025: \$6,800.00	2023: \$13,600.00 2024: \$13,600.00 2025: \$6,800.00	0

Annex B: Indicative budget by outputs

Description	Total Sida contribution (\$)	UN Women				UNFPA				UNDP			
		2023	2024	2025	Total UN Women	2023	2024	2025	Total UNFPA	2023	2024	2025	Total UNDP
Outcome 1: Women and girls enjoy more effective preventive measures against violence in Albania													
Output 1.1: CSOs and NHRIs promote accountability of service providers, including in the justice system and have increased capacities to influence the GEWE agenda		\$ 33,000	\$ 52,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 22,400	\$ 23,600	\$ 10,000	\$ 56,000
Output 1.2: Men and boys are included in VAW prevention and existing perpetrators' programmes are strengthened		\$ 35,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 40,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 45,000
Output 1.3: State and non-state actors (CSOs, UN system, private sector, donors) are systematically engaged in prevention and protection of survivors of VAW and in raising overall awareness on EVAW		\$ 67,500	\$ 72,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 142,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 90,000

Total outcome 1	\$ 716,000	\$ 135,500	\$ 184,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 57,500	\$ 47,500	\$ 175,000	\$ 76,400	\$ 77,600	\$ 37,000	\$191,000
Outcome 2: All women survivors and those at risk are better protected from all forms of violence and have equitable access to services in Albania													
Output 2.1: Service providers and local response mechanisms to DV have increased capacities and tools to provide basic and specialized services to all survivors of VAW and inform women and girls about VAW reporting mechanisms		\$ 102,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 267,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 104,400	\$ 79,400	\$ 37,700	\$ 221,500
Output 2.2: State and non-state institutions have strengthened capacities and resources to establish a long-terms rehabilitation and reintegration services for all victims of VAW		\$ 120,000	\$ 145,000	\$ -	\$ 265,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,408	\$ 46,408	\$ 23,235	\$ 116,051
Total outcome 2	\$ 933,551	\$ 222,000	\$ 295,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 532,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 150,808	\$ 125,808	\$ 60,935	\$ 331,551
Outcome 3: Responsible institutions and actors implement national policies and legislation on VAW in a more comprehensive, inclusive and coordinated way in Albania													
Output 3.1: State institutions improve the legal framework and policies on VAW so that they are comprehensive of prevention and protection measures for victims of all forms of violence and line with international standards and commitments		\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000	\$ -	\$ 38,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 40,800	\$ 40,800	\$ 20,400	\$ 102,000
Output 3.2: State and non-state institutions and actors (CSOs, donors, UN Agencies, public oversight bodies and members of the referral mechanisms) at national and local level have improved coordination in addressing VAW		\$ 30,000	\$ 28,366	\$ -	\$ 58,366	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,600	\$ 13,600	\$ 6,800	\$ 34,000
Total Outcome 3	\$ 240,366	\$ 49,000	\$ 47,366	\$ -	\$ 96,366	\$ 17,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 54,400	\$ 54,400	\$ 27,200	\$ 102,000
Grand total for outcomes and outputs	\$ 1,889,917	\$ 406,500	\$ 526,866	\$ 45,000	\$ 978,366	\$ 97,000	\$ 82,500	\$ 67,500	\$ 247,000	\$ 281,608	\$ 257,808	\$ 125,135	\$ 664,551
Project management costs		\$ 58,571	\$ 76,888	\$ 38,444	\$ 173,902								
Communications		\$ 11,646	\$ 11,646	\$ 5,823	\$ 29,114								
Operating costs		\$ 9,124	\$ 7,924	\$ 4,262	\$ 21,310	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 36,000				
Management fee 7%		\$ 32,014	\$ 42,186	\$ 5,147	\$ 79,347	\$ 7,650	\$ 6,780	\$ 6,000	\$ 20,430	\$ 19,992	\$ 19,992	\$ 9,996	\$ 49,980
Admin agency fee 1%	\$ 23,000.00												

Total management and support costs	\$ 410,083	\$ 111,354	\$ 138,643	\$ 53,676	\$ 303,673	\$ 19,650	\$ 18,780	\$ 18,000	\$ 56,430	\$ 19,992	\$ 19,992	\$ 9,996	\$ 49,980
Grand total by agency	\$ 517,854	\$ 665,509	\$ 98,676	\$1,282,039	\$ 116,650	\$ 101,280	\$ 85,500	\$ 303,430	\$ 301,600	\$ 277,800	\$ 135,131	\$ 714,531	
	Sida contribution	UN Women Grand total				UNFPA Grand total				UNDP Grand total			
Grand total programme (estimated budget)	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 1,282,039				\$ 303,430				\$ 714,531			

Annex C: Lessons Learned from JP Phase I

The proposed UNJP will reflect on lessons learned from previous programmes in the area of gender equality and ending violence against women. In particular, some of the key lessons learned during the implementation of UNJP on EVAW 2019-2022, identified in its evaluation report will particularly guide the implementation process. These include:

- Providing evidence base to understand conditions of vulnerability for women and improve advocacy accordingly;
- Organize consultations with different stakeholders through the implementation process of the programme to identify areas in which increasing coordination is needed or to identify smaller initiatives and best practices to be brought within the programme to complement or expand efforts already initiated
- Continue to foster partnerships with experienced CSOs and promote cross sectorial response and partnerships to be able to address both prevention and protection aspects of VAW.
- Continue with the provision of a “cross-sectorial coordinated response model of action to tackle VAW” was very effective because it distributed the responsibility of tackling GBV across all the actors in the system, created cross-efficiencies and promoted dialogue and sharing of expertise.
- The framework and monitoring systems need to continue support the process of assessing and comparing delivery approaches across municipalities.
- Implementing new and innovative pilots helps to consolidate new best practices and involve new stakeholders
- Ensuring complementarity with other ongoing initiatives implemented by the UN agencies address value to the programme results and increases the impact and outreach of stakeholders and communities.
- Intersectional approaches remain key to interventions addressing human rights along with a stronger understanding of the needs of each group.
- Building on existing initiatives, and particularly pilots that are focused on awareness raising and work with perpetrators.
- Engaging with the public officials as implementing partners helps ensure government ownership and responsibility in implementing and institutionalizing reforms.
- Obligatory training in SOPs, protocols, and REVALB still requires further government ownership and leadership to ensure that the capacity development of all responsible institutions is sustained, particularly amid the clear risk of staff turnover. Institutionalization of the training curricula means that the support provided can be sustained.
- Financing essential services, such as those for survivors of violence requires interventions within the broader framework of all social protection, including the needs of persons with disabilities (particularly mental disabilities) and other vulnerable groups. More reflections and efforts are required to improve the current services in ensuring the provision of accessible and adequate services for all categories.

Annex D: Partnerships

The proposed programme will leverage partnerships which have proven to be successful in previous programmes on EVAW in Albania (particularly the latest UNJP on EVAW supported by the Government of Sweden, and EU funded regional programme on EVAW), as well as developing new partnerships based on best practices from other countries.

These approaches include:

- Strong and equal collaboration with both government and non-government partners;
- Engagement of CSOs, which will be considered strategic partners as they support UN agencies in the implementation of capacity building and awareness raising activities, and benefit from continuous technical support provided by these agencies, including to networks of CSOs;
- Prioritize work at the local level and engage not only members of CRMs but also of service providers across sectors; at the same time, the project will continue strengthen existing and new strategic partnerships with actors at the central level. (e.g. particular focus will be placed on the education sector at the central level, which has not been a partner in previous programmes, but requires transformative change of its education policies in the area of gender equality and elimination of VAW);

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection and CSOs will remain an important UNJP partner as the collaboration will focus primarily on coordination of activities that support the implementation of the NSGE 2021-2030, particularly activities at the local level. In addition, the programme will involve partnerships with other line ministries and independent institutions.

Coordinated Referral Mechanisms, including service providers from the police, justice, education, health, employment and social services will continue to be key partners in targeted municipalities. To this aim, UN agencies will collaborate simultaneously with municipalities and local departments of respective services in targeted municipalities to ensure that all actors have adequate knowledge about their legal and policy obligations in the area of VAW and capacities to fulfill these obligations.

Women rights' organizations are equally important partners of the UN on the achievement of all intended results, based on a mutual exchange of support and experience. On the one hand, women's rights organizations provide UN agencies with key insight information from the field, which we have been able to channel and reflect in many interventions related to support for improvement of legislation, policies and services in the areas of GBV. On the other hand, the UN provides women rights' organization with the necessary capacity support and accountability tools to ensure an effective and coordinated response to GBV, and often to fill in the gaps in government actions when needed, with the ultimate goal to ensure women victims of violence are protected and benefit from the services they are entitled to.

The EVAWIA programme will also continue to bolster its partnerships with NHRIs. Particularly, support will be provided to the People's Advocate in its mandate to monitor provision of services for victims of VAW, including monitoring visits in various institutions; and to the Commissioner for the Protection against Discrimination in its new role to monitor the Law on Gender Equality.

Below is an overview of the key project partners and their proposed strategic engagement:

Stakeholders	Level of project's impact on stakeholder	Level of stakeholder's influence on the project	Opportunities / In which outcomes can stakeholder be engaged	Risks/How could the stakeholder hinder the project	Capacity gap of stakeholder	Strategy for engagement
MoHSP	High	High MoHS is a key authority in planning and coordinating government's response to VAW, including improvement of legislation and service provision. The Ministry also plays an important role in supporting capacities strengthening of CRMs. The NSGE 2021-2030 clearly identifies all interventions where MoHSP has a leading or coordinating role in implementation of its planned interventions, which are in line with this proposal.	Directly involved in all Outcomes	Passive engagement in the implementation of activities, where the active role of MHSP is important due to low political will to prioritize the GE&VAWG (also as a consequence of merging these issues with health)	Lack of financial resources (no dedicated budgetary program for GE&VAWG) Lack of professional human resources (small staff part of GE Sector, not all of them are equipped with the needed knowledge) Slow reaction or no reaction due to many long bureaucratic procedures (to organize an awareness activity/campaign, or to get the approval for planning an intervention in terms of services, to organize a team for discussing on a new legislative change, etc.) Inability to act according to work plans (chaotic requirements, frequent new emerging priorities) Coordination and design of functional responsibilities	The strong link of the programme with priorities of NSGE 2021-2030 the implementation of which is direct responsibility of the MHSP will be used as a leverage to prompt this institutions' commitment The programme will also try to address issues related to funding of services through other programmes on GRB and social services.
State Police	High	Medium State Police's role is particularly important in protection of victims of VAW. They are the	Outcomes 2, 3	Insufficient collaboration from State Police department dealing with VAW and unavailability of police officers at the	Gender stereotyping among the police Lack of capacity to conduct proper risk assessment and to take urgent protection	Work will be based on the long term collaboration and good relations with State Police,

		main authority where violence is reported and required to take immediate protection measures, including risk analysis. Their role also continues for the monitoring of protection orders in collaboration with local coordinators.		local level for capacity building due to workload	measures according to the legislation Lack of coordinated data collection	which in general are very interested for capacity building support. Particularly on-the-job trainings which have been proven successful in some municipalities will be further replicated
Ministry of Justice	medium	Medium Ministry of Justice role and responsibilities are multi-folded, including initiating legal amendments of the legislation on VAW, provision of free legal aid for victims of violence, execution of protection orders, involvement in the implementation of perpetrators programmes, and others.	Outcomes 1, 3	Limited priority given to the need to improve legislation on VAW, including criminal legislation Lack of allocation of funding for legal aid for women victims of VAW, including for CSOs which are licensed and supposed to receive government funding ; lack of funding for psychologists needed in court proceedings	Lack of information and awareness about international standards on VAW legislation Lack of funding to provide secondary legal aid to women victims of VAW Complex procedures to obtain legal aid	Advocacy and technical support will take place in collaboration with CSOs to raise awareness about needed legislative amendments in accordance with Istanbul Convention and other international standards. The programme will create synergies with other programmes focused on increasing access to justice and legal aid to address challenges related to legal representation of women victims of violence.

CRMs	High	<p>High</p> <p>CRMs are the backbone of the Albanian management system of cases of violence. Composed of service providers from all key sectors, CRMs are responsible for all steps of case management, starting with identification of cases, provision of immediate protection and support to victims to continue with the implementation of protection orders and provision of long-term rehabilitation services.</p>	Outcome 2	<p>Lack of commitment from DV Local Coordinators, who are the key actors in coordinating the work of CRMs, due to their workload and the fact that they cover more than one function in municipality.</p>	<p>Lack of political commitment from mayors of municipalities, particularly of those with recently established CRMs to empower and support CRMs;</p> <p>Lack of capacities of local DV coordinators and other members of CRMs to perform their duties in accordance with legislation;</p> <p>Lack of local budgeting for services for victims of VAW to allow CRMs offer services as per the legislation requirements;</p> <p>Lack of regular and coordinated data collection on case management</p>	<p>UNDP and UN Women have been working with a considerable number of CRMs either directly or through partner CSOs. Both modalities have proven to be effective, modalities will be used depending on the local capacities of the selected municipalities and their full commitment for taking ownership for their engagement in making CRMs fully effective and operational. Good practices of the previous EVAWIA UNJP with CRMs will be used and lessons learned from previous experience with CRMs will guide the work of Agencies. Other CRMs will also be engaged as well through the support the UNJP will be given to the network of LDVCs across 61 municipalities which will serve as a platform for peer to peer</p>
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						learning and support
CSOs	High	High CSOs are considered as key partners of the government in provision of services to victims of violence, including long-term rehabilitation services. They also play an important role in awareness raising and monitoring of government's response to VAW.	All outcomes	CSOs that work on advocacy and monitoring may be hesitant to be very proactive to avoid possible confrontation with the government	Lack of capacities of CSOs that offer service provision to ensure adequate implementation of approved standards on services; Often CSOs which engage in advocacy and monitoring are also involved with service provision, which does not allow them to dedicate sufficient time and resources to both aspects of VAW response. Lack of co-funding from CSOs on joint projects; Possible conflict of interest for CSOs which may receive state funding to engage in advocacy and monitoring activities	As in previous interventions, CSOs will remain the one of the main partners on the implementation of the UNJP's activities. However, additional technical support will be involved on issue that require specific expertise
NHRIs (People's Advocate, Commissioner for Protection from discrimination)	Medium	Medium NHRIs with their independent monitoring role are key in increasing government's accountability in addressing violence against women. They also play an important role in monitoring service delivery to ensure adequate standards, in accordance with international and national legal frameworks.	All outcomes	Lack of human resources to ensure meaningful collaboration and participation in joint activities Possible change of leadership of the People's Advocate	Lack of active engagement from NHRI to become more active in monitoring provision of serviced for victims of violence (PA) and play a more active role in monitoring the GE equality legislation and initiate ex officio investigation gender-based discrimination cases (CPD) Lack of focus on issues related to accountability of public officials for failure to fulfill their duties Lack of human and financial resources	UN agencies have very good collaboration with PA, which is expected to continue under the proposed programme. On the other hand, collaboration with the CPD need to be further strengthen. The recent responsibility to monitor the implementation of the anti-discriminatory

						legislation in the area of GE will be used as a leverage.
Albanian Parliament	Medium	Low Albanian Parliament is responsible to ensure the adoption of adequate legislation in the area of VAW, in accordance with international standards. The Parliament plays also an oversight role in government's actions.	Outcome 3	Non-reestablishment of the sub-committee on GE and VAW	Lack of a structure within the current parliament dedicated to GE issues Lack of interest on VAW Lack of knowledge among members of the parliament on GE and VAW framework	UNJP will continue to advocate for the re-establishment of a parliamentary body on GE and VAW, which in the previous legislation proved to be an effective gender sensitive body for monitoring government's measures in the area of VAW and proposing important improvements in the legislation.
School of Magistrates, judges, prosecutors, High Inspectorate of Justice (HIJ)	Medium	Medium The School of Magistrate is responsible for continues training of members of the judiciary to ensure judges and prosecutor have the necessary capacities to consider cases of violence.	Outcome 3	Slow progress with vetting process and lack of interests among members of the judiciary in capacity building on VAW due to workload	Gender stereotypes among members of the judiciary	EVAWIA UNJP has built solid ground for the continuation of the support to be provided to all these actors. Cooperation with School of Magistrates will be further strengthened in this UNJP through supporting SM in leading the efforts to increase professional capacities of

						judiciary officials through certified trainings. The developed commentary of the DV will serve as a leverage.
Media	Medium	Medium Media has an important responsibility to raise awareness on gender equality and elimination of violence and ensure ethical reporting which does not inflict further victimization of survivors of violence	Outcome 1/prevention	Victimization of women survivors on TV; perpetrates, rather than tackles, gender stereotypes	Lack of capacity to report on VAW following a human rights based approach and in line with best practices	Engagement of journalists, especially women journalists, in media forum; raise awareness about the non-discrimination chapter of the broadcasting code, increase capacities of journalists to report on VAW following best practices
Academia	Medium	Medium Academia plays a role in generating data, analysis and recommendations on root causes of violence against women and provide recommendations, particularly at the need for change on the behavioral level.	Outcome 2			Engagement of academia and involve young people in school through innovative campaigns; engagement of ASPA to institutionalize gender equality modules

Annex E: Comparative advantages of UN Participating Agencies

UN Women is the United Nations' Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. A central part of its mandate is to end violence against women and girls everywhere.³⁰

In Albania, EVAW has been among UN Women's key interventions, through regional and national programmes focused solely on addressing violence against women, as well as by including components addressing violence in the contexts of other projects and engaging the most marginalized groups. In addition, UN Women has been leading advocacy efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Albania, including the annual, national [16-days campaign](#) and the [HeforShe](#) campaign. Thanks to its normative mandate, UN Women provides technical expertise to national actors and National Human Rights Institutions to promote the alignment of the national policies and legal framework with international standards on Violence Against Women, as well as support to monitoring and reporting on key international and regional human rights instruments.

Across its interventions, UN Women has developed a strong partnership with women's organizations providing them with technical and financial support to influence and advocate for improved legislations on VAW and providing services to victims and survivors.

UNDP Albania has been a trusted partner to the GoA with its support in promoting and enforcing gender equality agenda in the country with its contribution to the adoption of new or amended policies and laws to bring them in line with international standards. Improvement of Domestic Violence Law, Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Free Legal Aid Law, policy and procedures to prevent and handle harassment, sexual harassment and violence in workplace among public administration officials and academic institutions are some examples.

UNDP Albania has been instrumental in creating the enabling environment to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls through functional institutional response mechanisms at municipal level. During the last decade, with UNDP support, 37 local Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRMs) are established and further strengthened that ensure effective integrated specialised support services to gender violence survivors. With UNDP support, LILIUM Center is the first state run one stop center providing integrated support services to sexual violence victims setting forth a good model to be replicated in other regions in the country.

Partnering with CSOs and National Human Rights institutions UNDP contribution has been key in engaging in nationwide campaigns combating gender stereotypes and raising awareness of women, men, boys and girls in preventing violence against women and girls.

UNFPA is the best qualified UN agency in Albania to support government's efforts towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights enabled by evidence and population expertise, focusing on empowerment of women, young people – especially adolescent girls, and older persons, including in humanitarian settings. A critical part of UNFPA's mandate is gender equality, with a main focus on fostering an enabling environment for human rights, especially reproductive rights and gender equality. Empowering vulnerable groups, women, young people, and key populations to exercise their right to quality reproductive health services and education is among the top priorities. As a key social determinant of health, gender equality and the empowerment of women are central to achieving universal access to reproductive health.

In Albania, UNFPA has been instrumental in strengthening the Multi Sectoral Response to GBV through Essential Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures including GBV in Civil Emergencies and initiated the training of 195 health and social care providers on SoPs for Health and Psycho-Social Care Response to GBV involving 7 municipalities and State Social Services in 4 regions.

³⁰ See UN Women Strategic Plan 2022-2025: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/un-women-strategic-plan-2022-2025>

UNFPA is a key partner of INSTAT and Institute of Public Health to collect and disseminate gender - disaggregated data with focus young people, very vulnerable key population and older persons. To mention just a few the national report “Adolescent and Youth Abuse in Albania - In-depth analysis” provided more evidence why investing in Comprehensive Sexuality Education including GBV modules in and out of school are vital to educating young people and addressing all forms of gender based violence.

UNFPA is the lead agency to address harmful practices of child marriage, gender biased and sex selection (and in some countries genital female mutilation) that fundamentally undermine the achievement of SDG5. It has provided the evidence for policy dialogue and advocacy for policy and legal reform and the need for a holistic social norms and behavior change communication.

Addressing gender social norms and stereotypes by engaging boys and men through a comprehensive approach is also one of the key strategic interventions of UNFPA at national, regional and global level.

Annex F: Extended context analysis

In recent years, Albania has made progress in improving its legal, policy and institutional frameworks to end violence against women (VAW). This Annex explains in greater details such improvements, following the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Integrated Policy Advice.

With regards to the **legislation**, comprehensive legislation has been adopted to ensure coordinated response from all relevant government agencies to domestic violence. The Law on Measures Against Violence in Family Relations of 2006 (DV Law), and its subsequent amendments in 2018 and 2020, is aligned with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention. The Law includes provisions for better protection of women and children in situations of immediate danger; adding preliminary protection measures by the police; more effective judiciary procedures; and extension of protection to victims of violence who are not necessarily cohabitating but involved in an intimate relationship with their perpetrators. Amendments of 2020 refer primarily to the requirement for the courts to remove the perpetrator from the house³¹, the obligation for perpetrators to enroll in perpetrators’ rehabilitation programmes and others. In addition, the Criminal Code, as amended in 2020, criminalizes psychological violence in family relations and including intimate or former intimate partners - regardless of cohabitation - in the category of victims of domestic violence. These amendments also impose harsher punishment for perpetrators of domestic violence.

Secondary legislation has also been developed *inter alia* to ensure better functioning of the local system of management of cases of violence, coordination among members of the local referral mechanism, adequate budgeting for services, procedures to conduct an effective risk assessment of cases of violence, and regular monitoring of protection orders. The most recent legislation addresses the situation created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic for specific measures during state emergencies both with regards to protection and services for victims of violence.

At the **policy** level, in 2021 Albania launched its new National Strategy for Gender Equality (NSGE) 2021-2030. The new Strategy includes very comprehensive measures and planned resources to address many of the shortcomings in the current response to GBV. Other important and recently developed policies which address or should address gender-based violence among disadvantaged communities, include the National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025,

³¹ Except for the cases when the perpetrator is minor, a person with disability or an old person

the National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion, and Participation of Roma and Egyptian in Albania 2021 – 2025, the National Action Plan on LGBTI+ persons 2021-2027 and the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) 2021-2023.

Positive developments at the institutional level include expansion of the Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRMs) at the local level in all 61 municipalities of Albania, improvements in the local information system for registration of cases of domestic violence (REVALB), and more recently (in January 2022) a threefold increase of the monthly cash payments for victims of domestic violence under protection orders (and human trafficking) from 3000 ALL to 9000 ALL (around 85 USD).

Despite progress, which is the result of support from various international organizations and donors, including UN agencies, Government of Sweden and the European Union, there are many remaining challenges, particularly with regards to the implementation of the improved legislation and policies. According to the latest National Survey on Violence against Women in 2018, conducted by the National Statistics Office (INSTAT), 1 out of 3 (or 36.6 percent) women ‘currently’ experienced violence and 2 out of 3 (or 61.8 percent) women (those who were never been married and never lived with a male partner, but had been involved in a relationship with a male without living together, such as dating or engaged) ‘currently’ experienced dating violence.³² A more recent study amongst youth in Albania found that almost 1 out of 10 girls respondents have been forced to perform sexual intercourse for the first time against their will. Women are almost three times more likely, as compared to men, to be forced to perform sexual intercourse due to fear from their partner/former partner. Two out of three respondents that have experienced violence, reported that did not seek any type of help, regardless of the type of violence they experienced due to the lack of trust at different institutions (police and other services), feeling of shame and confusion, as well as fear of damaging their family’s reputation. The same study found that 1 out of 10 respondents (12 per cent women and 5 per cent men) have reported that at least once, photos/videos or other materials with sexual content were used to blackmail them.³³

The main gaps and the relevant causes of these problems (immediate, underlying and root causes) are discussed in more detail below, along the four key pillars of the Istanbul Convention, essential for an adequate and comprehensive response to gender-based violence (prevention, protection, prosecution and coordinated policies). This analysis is based on different recourses, including:

- Recommendations of human rights mechanisms addressed to Albania that remain very relevant (CEDAW Concluding Observations 2016 and the list of issues as sent to the Albanian Government on March 2022; GREVIO First Baseline Assessment Report 2017 as well as Urgent recommendations sent from the Committee of Parties in January 2018, and the Conclusions for the implementations of recommendations from Albania, 2021; Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Albania 2019)
- Input received from, and reports developed by, Albanian women’s rights organizations working in the area of GBV, which are key partners of UN agencies in the fight against GBV and have “hands-on” experience on the ground with regards to government’s performance and service provisions for victims of GBV.
- Reports of National Human Rights Mechanisms (NHRIs), such as the Albanian Ombudsperson and Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination, which have

³² National Population Survey: Violence Against Women and Girls in Albania, INSTAT, Albania, 2019 <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/6123/publication-violence-against-women.pdf>

³³ Intimate partner violence and sexual violence among young people in Albania, AWEN, 2021 https://awenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/AWEN-Dhuna-EN-pages-web_compressed.pdf

been engaged in independent monitoring processes in the area of GBV and/or other relevant areas.

- Evaluation report of the NSGE and Action Plan 2016-2020 and other government sources that provide an adequate assessment of the Albanian context when it comes to violence against women.

i. Prevention:

In recent years, there has been an increase of visibility of messages against violence against women. Yet, the issue continues to receive far less attention than it deserves from the public, media and government, despite being one of the main human rights concerns in Albania. Most of **awareness raising** activities take place in the context of international campaigns and with the support of international organizations and donors, and very limited government funding is dedicated to this issue. There is a general lack of interest among the population on the topic and some, including women, still justify violence, particularly domestic violence. This is exacerbated for women from disadvantaged communities, such as Roma and Egyptian women, women with disabilities, women from LGBTI communities, migrant women and others, whose level of reporting of violence is very low.

The focus of current efforts to raise awareness is mainly focused on domestic violence, with other forms of violence such as sexual violence and rape, stalking, harassment, child and forced marriages receiving less attention both from a legal and institutional perspective. In general, women continue to have limited information on the means for legal redress and services available when suffering/becoming victims of gender-based violence. There is a lack comprehensive analysis on the main reasons that drive such a high level of violence: while socio-economic challenges are cited as a justification, women from all socio-economic backgrounds experience violence, including women in politics.³⁴

Another serious gap in the area of prevention is the lack of progress with regards to **early education on gender equality**, which is key to ensure that future generations are free from gender-based violence. Topics related to gender equality, elimination of VAW, sexual education, and others are not taught comprehensively in the education system, including tertiary education and some of these topics remain still taboo for both educators and parents. Equally, there is limited focus on prevention work with men and boys, where Albanian CSOs and international organizations remain the main contributors in relevant interventions.

Finally, **perpetrator rehabilitation programmes** are neglected among institutions and donors and rarely seen as part of the systemic solution to GBV. Despite enrollment of perpetrators in these programmes is mandatory to be included courts' orders for protection measures, lack of such programmes in many areas of the country makes the relevant legal provision non applicable in practice.³⁵ In fact, a monitoring of the court of the district of Tirana during 2021 revealed that in spite of 30% of persons convicted for domestic violence are alcohol abusers and drug users, in none of these cases the court ordered enrollment in alcohol or drugs rehabilitation programmes.³⁶ Even for the existing rehabilitation programmes, there is a lack of monitoring mechanisms to assess their effectiveness.

³⁴ First Assessment Evaluation Report, GREVIO, 2027

³⁵ There are only two CSOs offering rehabilitation programmes: in Tirana and Shkodra.

³⁶ Monitoring Study: Judicial system and protection of the rights of victims of gender-based violence and victims of domestic violence, 2021, Human Rights in Democracy Center, <https://www.hrhc.al/index.php/al/sherbime/studime>

Causes: All these and other gaps in prevention measures are rooted in harmful gender stereotypes and strict gender roles, which are reinforced by misogynistic attitudes and behaviors even among high level officials (for example during elections) or through media outlets. Violence against women is justified and accepted as normal. Sexuality is considered a taboo and while a strong feminist movement plays an essential role in advancing gender equality, the feminist movement in Albania has traditionally not been strong. Disadvantaged women are more affected by violence and lack access to services due to intersecting forms of discrimination they continue to experience.

ii. Protection:

When it comes to protection mechanisms and availability of services for survivors of violence, several gaps persist, starting with the **reporting of cases of violence**. Despite some increase in recent years, the number of cases reported to authorities continues to be very low compared to the actual number of women who experience violence.³⁷ According to the 2018 National Survey on Violence against Women and Girls in Albania, one out of three women, or 34 percent, had experienced violence over the 12 months prior to the survey.³⁸ However, in the year of the survey (2018), the number of reported cases of domestic violence to the Police was just 4591.³⁹ In 2019, 4629 cases were reported to the police, in 2020, it was 4701 cases, and 5312 in 2021.⁴⁰ Number of reports of other forms of violence, such as sexual violence remains very low. For example, in 2018, 92 women were reported as victims of sexual crimes; in 2019, 127 and in 2020, 114 women.⁴¹ These number remain low compared to prevalence of these forms of violence⁴².

Police remains the main authority receiving reports on cases of violence against women, while the level of reporting to other providers of services including Local Coordinators against Domestic Violence (LCDV) appointed in Municipalities and to other members of the Coordinated Referral Mechanisms (CRM) is very low.

The low level of reporting is attributable to several factors, including prevailing gender stereotypes that normalize violence even among women, lack of trust in the judicial system, lack of information about protection mechanisms and very importantly lack of legal aid and other services that would help women to come forward and report violence. Many of them report violence only when it escalates to life threatening levels.

With regards to **protection measures for victims of violence**⁴³, in recent years there have been improvements in the legislation and in the institutional response to provide adequate protection to many women, including the introduction of Orders for Preliminary Immediate Protection Measures (OPIPM), which are issued by the Police for immediate protection until a court hearing (which may take up to 48 hours). However, data tracking these measures is not made available by the Police and monitoring reports of CSOs indicate that police started to issue OPIPM only in February 2020, despite

³⁷ According to INSTAT Pc-Axis Population data, in 2018, the overall number of women in the respectively corresponding age group (20-74) among Albania's population was 1,008.533. See: <http://databaza.instat.gov.al/pxweb/en/DST/>

³⁸ <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/6123/publication-violence-against-women.pdf>

³⁹ Administrative data shared by the General Directorate of State Police with file No. 185/1, date: 31.01.2022, addressed to the Center for Civic Legal Initiatives.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Women and Men in Albania, 2021, INSTAT

⁴² According to the national survey on GBV in 2018, 2,4 % of women over 15 had experienced non-partner physical and sexual violence during the same year as the survey.

⁴³ The Albanian legislation on domestic violence includes three types of protection measures - Protection Orders (PO) and Immediate Protection Orders (IPO) issued by the Court and Orders for Preliminary Protection Measures (OPPM) issued by the police and subject to review by the Court within 48 hours, linked with the risk assessment procedure

the fact that the relevant legal provisions that were adopted in 2018.⁴⁴ Risk assessments – a key tool for measures to prevent further violence, including extreme forms such as femicide – do not take place regularly and consistently around the country, and despite efforts to train the police on relevant procedures, there are still knowledge and technical gaps among the police.⁴⁵

In terms of protection Measures (PO/IPO) issued by the Courts, the number of cases for which PO/IPO are requested remains low compared to reported number of cases. An analysis of data made public indicates that the ratio of requests to the courts by the Police on issuing of protection measures v. reported cases of violence varied from 53% to 61% during 2014-2021.⁴⁶ A further significant reduction occurs on the number of actual requests accepted by the Court: from 2014 to 2017 a large number of cases – around 60% of the proceedings for PO/IPO – were dismissed with no final court decision.⁴⁷ The situation has not been very different in more recent years. In 2020, there were 4701 reports of domestic violence, 2836 requests (60%) brought to the Court for protection measures and 1596 (56%) accepted by a court order.⁴⁸ Furthermore, out of the 1596 Court Orders, the Bailiffs Office informs that in 2020, 566 executive protection orders were registered for execution, out of which 189 IPO and 339 PO.

In addition, there is lack of information on implementation and monitoring of protection measures by the Police and local authorities, which are required to collaborate and conduct regular monitoring of protection measures. In 2020, the removal of the perpetrator from the household became a mandatory measure for courts. However, because perpetrators often do not have alternative accommodation, there is some hesitation in implementing such decision.

Femicide (i.e., killing of women) is also not effectively prevented. Women are the main victims of murders in family relations. In 2020, out of 52 homicides, about 13.5 percent were killings within family relations (article 79/c of the Criminal Code), with 88.9 percent of victims being women.⁴⁹ In 2021, 20 women were killed by their spouse or other members of their family, six women in 2020, 12 in 2019, and 11 in 2018.⁵⁰ These numbers do not include the women killed by non-partners or non-family members. In addition, different institutions often provide diverging figures on prevalence of violence, highlighting the need to increase data harmonization and regular data collection.

In terms of **services available to women victims of violence**, according to government data, there are around 22 specialist support services for victims of gender based violence, including a national counselling hotline, 11 emergency shelters at municipal level, a state run National Shelter for Victims of DV (NSVDV), a National Shelter for Victims of Trafficking, a Shelter for LGBTI+ persons, state run crisis management center for sexual violence (Lilium), and two rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators.⁵¹ The majority of these services are established, managed or supported financially by CSOs and international organizations. Only 6 specialized services were supported in 2021 by the State

⁴⁴ Monitoring Report on the implementation of the 2018 amendments to the Law No. 9669, 18.12.2006: On Measures against Violence in Family Relations for the period January 2019-December 2020, Centre for Civic Legal Initiatives, Tirana, August 2021, http://www.qag-al.org/ang/publication/report_law_monitoring.pdf

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Analysis of data made public by the Police

⁴⁷ Shadow Report of the Center for Civic Legal Initiative and the Monitoring Network submitted to the UPR third cycle of review on Albania, 2019 http://www.qag-al.org/ang/publication/upr_shadow_report_eng.pdf

⁴⁸ Data analyzed based on information made public by the Police and Ministry of Justice Annual Statistics <https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Vjetari-2020-i-plote-per-publikim-1.pdf>

⁴⁹ INSTAT (2021). Women and Men in Albania.

⁵⁰ INSTAT, <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/8713/burra-dhe-gra.pdf> Data collected by UN Women on Femicide also.

⁵¹ Evaluation report of the NSGE and Action Plan 2016-2020

budget with an approximate amount of ALL 39 million (around 367,000 USD) or 26% of the budget allocated for social services. In addition, as acknowledged by the Government, these services have limited human resources, infrastructure and do not effectively apply international and national standards.

Overall, most services for victims of VAW, as well as human trafficking and rehabilitation of perpetrators of GBV are provided by CSOs, which rely on international organizations and donors for financial support. The government's support to them is limited and hampered by lack of funds and clear and transparent contracting procedures. Furthermore, these services (with the exception of Lillium Center) are serving mainly to victims of domestic violence, and few of them to victims of trafficking, excluding women and girls, victims of other forms of violence. There are also challenges with regards to accessibility, availability and quality of services provided by both public and non-public service providers, which need to be delivered based on approved international and national standards, as well as to be tailored according to needs of victims/survivors of different groups. Despite support from the United Nations Joint Programme on EVAW 2019-2022 and donors' support to the area of anti-trafficking in some areas of the country, long-term reintegration services are limited, leading women to relapse into the cycle of violence. Women from rural and disadvantaged communities in particular are more affected due to lack of information and very often lack of access to these services.

The institutional gap in response to GBV becomes more evident in times of emergency, as it was the case during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵² During the lockdown period in 2020, the number of calls to the national counselling hotline tripled compared to the same period a year prior, but the number of domestic violence reports to the police was lower than in previous years for the same period. CSOs monitoring of the local response to DV during lock-down in 11 municipalities revealed not only a disturbing rate of violence against women and children, but also a gloomy situation of the general capacity of duty bearers to provide services in immediate response to violence and to ensure women's access to services and help⁵³. However, UN agencies and other international organisations intervened rapidly with direct support services through partner CSOs. The government was also very open to collaboration, which resulted with the adoption of a normative framework to respond to the situation and ensure continuation of services. In addition, in March 2020, the government approved the granting of a double payment of economic aid to existing beneficiaries. Among the 63.508 recipient families, there were 482 victims of domestic violence with protection order/immediate protection order.

Causes: Several factors impact the effective implementation of protection measures and provisions of services to women victims of violence. Based on information received from women CSOs, some of the reasons for the difference between number of cases reported and those on which protection orders are requested, include institutionalized misogyny, lack of knowledge about relevant legislation and the role of the police, lack of human resources, and social pressure and fear of retaliation from perpetrators, especially in small communities. Similarly, among the main reasons why cases do not go through the legal system is the lack of support to the victims to provide evidence, including medical

⁵² According to a Gender Rapid Survey, 16% of women have felt more unsafe at home as a result of the pandemic; 23% reported that conflict between adults in their home has become more frequent since the pandemic; 29% of women respondents think physical harm, harassment and abuse has gotten worse since the start of the pandemic; 79% believe that the experience of verbal and/or physical abuse at the hands of a partner has become worse during the pandemic. This was in addition to 51% of the entire survey respondents who believed that these forms of violence are common in their communities, thus confirming previous survey results on the prevalence of violence. Measuring-shadow-pandemic-Albania, UN Women, 2020, <https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Measuring-shadow-pandemic-Albania.pdf>

⁵³ GADC & AWEN Network (2020). Monitorimi i punës së mekanizmat e koordinuar të referimit gjatë periudhës pandemike COVID-19. See: https://www.gadc.org.al/media/files/upload/Raporti%20Final%20i%20Perbashket_UnW_COVID-19.pdf

report⁵⁴, lack of psychological assessment reports⁵⁵, and lack of legal aid. According to a recent monitoring report of the activity of Tirana district court during 2021, only 41 per cent of victims of domestic violence were represented by a lawyer during court proceedings for protection orders, of which 60 per cent of cases were represented by CSOs, 38% by private lawyers and only 2% by lawyers appointed by the State, based on the 2017 Legal Aid Law.⁵⁶

Lack of appropriate resources (funds, human, infrastructure) to establish general and specialist support services around the country is one of the main reasons for shortcomings in service provision. Particularly, lack of funding affects the establishment of several services and their availability around the country even for key and strategic services for immediate protection such as emergency shelters and the national counselling hotline. In addition, lack of knowledge among providers of services about national and international standards affects the quality of these services. Women's rights organizations are better equipped with knowledge and experience on case management to fill in the gaps from public services, but they depend largely on donor's support and receive limited government funding, which affects services' sustainability.

On the other hand, women lack information about reporting and services as information is not harmonized nor centralized. Particularly affected are women in remote rural areas, women with disabilities and Roma and Egyptian women, for whom the information about services is largely inaccessible. Lack of access to these services is also a serious issue for women from disadvantaged communities, particularly for women with mental disabilities, as well as rehabilitation programs for perpetrators with mental health problems.

There continues to be limited civil and criminal accountability among law enforcement and other officials when they fail to comply with legal obligations regarding protection of women from violence, even in extreme cases when women have lost their life as the result of negligence from authorities to take seriously reports of threats and provide adequate protection measures. Furthermore, there is reluctance to focus on accountability related actions among key stakeholders, including CSOs and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

iii. Prosecution:

Despite significant improvements in recent years, the Albanian Criminal legislation still needs to be brought fully in line with international standards. In particular the definition of rape, which currently remains forced-based needs to change to consent-based, according to the Istanbul Convention, General Recommendation of CEDAW Convention⁵⁷ and jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.^{58,59} Other forms of violence such a female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, forced abortion, violence against women in politics/elections and others need to be introduced or revised accordingly in the criminal legislation.

During investigation and prosecution, the judicial system faces challenges to protect, and guarantee the rights of victims of crime, including victims of VAW. Because of the trauma they have been

⁵⁴ Although the Court is required to request evidence from other institutions (Article 15 of the Law on Domestic Violence), in practice this does not take place, and the burden of proof remains mainly with the victims (these are civil proceedings).

⁵⁵ A monitoring of decisions of Tirana District Court on protection measures during January-June 2020, revealed that in only 11% of cases such assessments were prepared.

⁵⁶ Monitoring Study: Judicial system and protection of the rights of victims of gender-based violence and victims of domestic violence, 2021, Human Rights in Democracy Center, <https://www.hrdc.al/index.php/al/sherbime/studime>

⁵⁸ Standards of the ECtHR are mandatory on Albania, according to its Constitution

⁵⁸ Standards of the ECtHR are mandatory on Albania, according to its Constitution

⁵⁹ MC v. Bulgaria, ECHR, 2014, https://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/resources/M.C.v.BULGARIA_en.asp

through, in a gender insensitive justice system, victims of VAW run the risks of revictimization. Based on information from CSOs working in the field and data analysis from the General Prosecution Office, there is some improved performance of the prosecution offices and courts⁶⁰. Yet, the much lower ratio of registered investigations v. reported cases of domestic violence (38% in 2018, 28% in 2019 and 32% in 2020)⁶¹ puts into question the effectiveness of investigations through these years.

CSOs report that protection measures for victims of DV and other forms of VAW during a criminal investigation are not always effectively implemented due to several reasons, including a certain practice from the police in some districts, where the victim is expected to approve the initiation of investigation, which is not a legal requirement.⁶² Often there is a prolongation of investigations which compels sometimes victims to withdraw from the process. Victims are also expected to provide evidence, but they face difficulties in this regard due to lack of legal counselling, lack of proper expert examination including forensic evidence, difficulties in providing evidence for psychological violence and others.⁶³

A recent monitoring study of the district Court of Tirana noticed improvements in terms of the length of investigations for such cases compared to previous years. However, the monitoring process also revealed that not all court orders have a gender sensitive approach. For example, in some of these court decisions, the Court uses some attenuating factors on the final conviction which are not in conformity with the Istanbul Convention as well as the Albanian legislation, such as repentance of the perpetrator, reconciliation of relationship between the victims, the socio-economic situation of the family and others.⁶⁴

Victims of VAW do not benefit adequately from legal aid, despite improvements in the state legal aid system. In 2020, out of a total of 4100 cases that benefited primary legal aid (legal counseling) 157 were victims of domestic violence.⁶⁵ For 2021, out of 8002 cases benefiting primary legal aid (5644 directly and 2059 online or through the phone) 259 were victims of domestic violence. As for secondary legal aid (court representation) and/or exemption from court fees, this includes 65 victims of domestic violence.⁶⁶ These are very low numbers compared to reported cases of violence and the overall beneficiaries of legal aid. Even when legal aid is provided, it is mainly offered during civil proceedings for protection orders and not criminal proceedings, although victims of DV are entitled to be represented by a lawyer, based on the Criminal Legislation and Free Legal Aid law. Obtaining fee waivers and payments for court fees and experts' fees remains very difficult.⁶⁷ CSOs report that victims without access to legal aid are more likely to withdraw their case, failing to understand the importance of a protection order, finding it difficult to collect evidence or, submitting to the court's harmful

⁶⁰ Annual reports of the General Prosecution Office, https://www.pp.gov.al/Dokumente/RAPORTE_T_PROKURORIT_T_P_RGJITHSH_M/

⁶¹ Based on the calculation of data provided by the Government of Albania Action Plan on the execution of a domestic violence judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (Tërshana Albania), [https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng#%7B%22fulltext%22:%5B%22Tërshana%22%5D,%22EXECIdentifier%22:%5B%22DH-DD\(2021\)746E%22%5D%7D](https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng#%7B%22fulltext%22:%5B%22Tërshana%22%5D,%22EXECIdentifier%22:%5B%22DH-DD(2021)746E%22%5D%7D)

⁶² Based on Article 24 of the 2016 Law on Domestic Violence, amended, the police ipso facto is required to refer all reported cases of violence for investigation to the Prosecution Office and the later to initiate investigation for cases of domestic violence and sexual violence *ex officio*

⁶³ Submission of the Monitoring Network against Gender Based Violence to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the execution of the judgement Tërshana v. Albania, developed with the support of UN Women, January 2022 (not yet published)

⁶⁴ Monitoring Study: Judicial system and protection of the rights of victims of gender-based violence and victims of domestic violence, 2021, Human Rights in Democracy Center, <https://www.hrhc.al/index.php/al/sherbime/studime>

⁶⁵ Annual report of the Free Legal Aid Department of the Ministry of Justice of Albania, 2020, <https://ndihmajuridike.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/RAPORT-VJETOR-MBI-VEPRIMTARINË-E-DNJF-RIPUNUAR...pdf>

⁶⁶ Data from the Monitoring Report of the Ombudsperson on the situation of VAW in Albania 2020-2021 addressed to the Albanian Parliament, January 2022 (unpublished)

⁶⁷ Common Country Analysis, UN Country Team in Albania, 2020; Albania Country Gender Equality Brief, UN Women Albania, 2020

conciliation practices (which was common until the 2018 amendments of the Law on Domestic Violence).⁶⁸

In general, women victims of violence do not benefit from legal provisions that allow for compensation. According to GREVIO's assessment report to Albania in 2017, there was no available information to indicate that any victim of violence against women, including domestic violence, ever instituted or benefited from such proceedings.⁶⁹ The situation does not seem to have changed in this respect since 2017, which in part is due to lack of legal advice to women to submit requests for compensation and high court and expert fees, on which women find it difficult to be exempted, despite being entitled to, based on the legal aid legislation.⁷⁰ A state compensation scheme available to victims of violence against women in Albania has yet not been established, as required by the Istanbul Convention.⁷¹

Challenges of women victims of violence to access justice may exacerbate in view of a recent reform proposal on a new territorial distribution of first instance courts and reduction of their number from 22 to 12, which would require women victims of violence to participate in court hearings taking place in districts far from their residence.⁷²

Causes: Limited capacities of judicial officials with regards to implementation of improved legislation and international jurisprudence in the area of VAW is one of the main reasons for gaps in this sector. During the past five years, because of the ongoing justice reform and uncertainties caused by the vetting process of judges and prosecutors, there have been limited capacity building activities targeting the judiciary. Now this has become an urgent necessity. Furthermore, the new accountability mechanisms within the judiciary established in the context of the judicial reform have yet to be put in motion for investigating and monitoring cases of failure from relevant authorities to provide adequate protection to women victims of violence resulting in serious harm, including femicide.

As in other areas, at the root of problems in the justice sector remain lack of willingness of authorities to conduct timely and effective investigations and existing gender stereotypes among judicial police and prosecutors.

iv. Coordinated policies

As a party to the Istanbul Convention, Albania is required to implement comprehensive and coordinated policies involving government agencies at the central and local levels, CSOs as well as parliamentarians, local counselors, national human rights institutions. The aim is that policies to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence are carried out at all levels of government and by all relevant agencies and institutions. Issues related to integrated policies, such as legislation to address all forms of violence against women, institutional capacities and coordination,

⁶⁸ Stakeholder Report for the United Nations UPR, submitted by the Advocates for Human Rights and Human Rights in Democracy Center, 2019

⁶⁹ Baseline Evaluation Report on Albania of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), 2017

⁷⁰ Communication by the Albanian Monitoring Network Against Gender-Based Violence regarding the execution of the judgment in the case *Tërshana v. Albania* (Application No 48756/14) in accordance with Rule 9.2. of the Rules of the Committee of Ministers regarding the supervision of the execution of judgements

⁷¹ Communication by the Albanian Monitoring Network Against Gender-Based Violence regarding the execution of the judgment in the case *Tërshana v. Albania* (Application No 48756/14) in accordance with Rule 9.2. of the Rules of the Committee of Ministers regarding the supervision of the execution of judgements

⁷² <http://klgj.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/NJË-HARTË-E-RE-GJYQËSORE-.pdf>

funding, data collection and challenges of women facing intersecting forms of discrimination are crosscutting and relevant to all other measures related to prevention, protection and prosecution.

In this regard, Albania has made important progress, including through the adoption of comprehensive **legislation** to ensure coordinated response from all relevant government agencies to domestic violence. However, the country continues to lack a comprehensive legislative system to address all forms of violence, including stalking, harassment, and sexual violence. The current legal framework does not create space for victims of these other forms of violence to benefit from protection and prevention measures as well as from services normally available for victims of domestic violence. The coordinated referral mechanisms rarely manage and deals with cases of non-family and non-partner violence, although the prevalence of many of these forms of violence remains high (see information on non-partners violence above⁷³). In the context of the EVAWIA UNJP 2019-2022, a dialogue involving a wide range of relevant state and non-state actors started on the need for legal improvements of the national legislative framework that would holistically and comprehensively address all other forms of gender based violence.⁷⁴ Similarly, the legislation on election and political parties fails to address violence against women in politics, which as recent studies have shown, continues to be very present in Albanian society, particularly during elections. A media monitoring initiative to identify forms of violence against women and gender stereotypes during the 2021 national elections, revealed that the social media landscape in Albania is generally hostile for women in politics and may impact their engagement.⁷⁵

Improvements are needed also in the labour legislation in view of the recent ratification from Albania of ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) which aims at preventing and eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work. A gap analysis has shown that the legal framework, although advanced, still needs improvements with regards to the definitions, inconsistencies among the terms used in different laws and the need to integrate violence and harassment in specific areas such as occupational safety and health. Furthermore, the EVAWIA UNJP 2019-2022 supported development of policies and procedures that safeguard the workplace from harassment, sexual harassment and all forms of violence in several state and educational institutions such as Ministry of Defense, Department of Public Administration and University of Tirana. There is a need to scale up this good practice in other legislative, executive and judiciary bodies⁷⁶.

As for **institutional mechanisms** to address violence, improvements have been made at the national and particularly at the local level. However, the existing national gender machinery remains under-resourced (both financially and in terms of human resources), resulting in limited effectiveness and implementation capacity of the system. According to a 2021 Evaluation Report of the Implementation of the NSGE 2016-2020, conducted by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP), its Sector on Policies and Strategies on Social Inclusion and Gender Equality (PSSI) is composed of five staff members, including the head of section. But, in addition to gender equality, the structure deals with minorities' rights, diversity, LGBTI+, persons with disabilities, child rights etc. Similarly, the gender equality focal points in other ministries are also entrusted with additional tasks, while the local level

⁷³ Studies conducted by UN Women in several municipalities of Albania in 2018 and 2019 indicate high level sexual harassment of women and girls in public spaces and very low reporting rates, <https://albania.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/sexual-harassment-gender-based-violence-in-albania>; <https://albania.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/10/sexual-harassment-and-other-forms-of-gender-based-violence-in-urban-public-spaces-in-albania>

⁷⁴ EVAWIA UNJP reports, funded by Sida.

⁷⁵ Monitoring Report: Violence against women during elections (VAWE) and gender bias in media coverage of the 2021 elections in Albania, Observatory for Children and Youth Rights with the support of UN Women, Albania, November 2021.

⁷⁶ EVAWIA UNJP reports, funded by Sida.

gender equality officers often serve both as Local Coordinator for Domestic Violence and Child Protection specialist.

For the first time in 2021, Albania was able to establish CRMs in all its 61 municipalities, years after the adoption of the DV Law in 2006. But these mechanisms have different level of capacities and the majority rely on international organizations and CSOs. According to a recent monitoring report of the People's Advocate, there are several shortcomings with regards to management of cases, data collection, coordination and cooperation among members of the CRMs, including the Police, particularly in the recently established CRMs, which have not yet been consolidated.⁷⁷

In general, service providers from different sectors (police, social services, health, education, judiciary) continue to face limited capacity in providing both emerging and long-term integrated services to women victims of violence. Often these providers lack knowledge on their legal obligation with regards to reporting and services, as well as collaboration modalities to ensure an effective coordinated response to cases of GBV, as required by the legislation.

Institutional response mechanisms for prevention and effective protection of other forms of violence, beyond DV, are totally lacking. The need for legal and policy framework providing for effective institutional response mechanisms at local level is, therefore, imperative.

Data limitations related to GBV remains a persisting issue, and it's linked to challenges in the entire statistical system. The system is characterized by a significant gap between the data and information collected by institutions on the one hand, and the indicators required for monitoring international commitments to gender equality and tackle GBV. There is a lack of a unified system for data collection, which is currently inconsistent and not sufficiently rigorous, making it difficult to monitor the same GBV indicator over time. Data is mainly collected on domestic violence while other forms of violence are often categorized in generic terms as sexual crimes. More regular data on prevalence of violence needs to be collected and analysed, as well as studies on the economic cost of gender-based violence.

Funding remains a delicate issue in the overall response to VAW as well as within gender equality context in Albania. The legal and institutional framework on gender responsive budgeting has improved and the main expenditures at the central level are dedicated to three national centers (for victims of DV, victims of trafficking and sexual violence), the national counselling hotline, and support to a few CSOs which offer services at the local level. In addition, a few municipalities have applied and benefited from the Social Fund for establishment of emergency shelters, mainly as part of community centers, through a competitive process. However, these funds, together with the economic aid provided to women victims of violence are not sufficient and remain far from the real financial needs, which have been lately detailed in the new National Strategy on Gender Equality and its Action Plan (2021-2030). With regards to social fund, there is limited capacities of municipalities to absorb and apply them adequately for victims of GBV and limited supervision on how the funds have been used. In this context, adoption of Social Plans at the local level are key conditions to apply for the social fund, which means that municipalities must be very carefully planning priorities linked with efforts to address VAW as part of these plans.

At the local level, apart from some main municipalities, planning and expenditures on VAW services remain very limited but also difficult to track because it is often included in the overall budget planning

⁷⁷ Monitoring Report of the Ombudsperson on the situation of VAW in Albania 2020-2021 addressed to the Albanian Parliament, January 2022 (unpublished)

on social protection, making it difficult to identify real expenditures for services to survivor of violence. The main tracked expenditure in most municipalities is the salary of gender equality/local DV coordinator staff. Overall, the majority of services for victims of gender-based violence, as well as human trafficking and rehabilitation of perpetrators of GBV are provided by CSOs, which rely on international organizations and donors for financial support. The government's support to these organizations, which ultimately are more specialist and, in most cases, have the capacities needed to offer quality services, is limited and hampered by lack of funds and the absence of clear and transparent contracting procedures. In December 2021 the Council of Ministers Decision no. 768 date 15.12.2021 "On social services and other types of specific services for which CSOs have the right to participate in public procurement process, and of the detailed rules for their procurement" was approved, which is expected to enable CSOs receive public funding for provision of services. However, awareness on the existence of the new DCM and specific information on its application into practice is necessary

Causes: There are several reasons for gaps in integrated policies in Albania, including lack of political will to address in a comprehensive way all forms of violence against women and allocate more financial resources in this area. Institutional capacities and effective coordination are affected not only by lack of knowledge but also motivation among government officials working in the area of GBV. This issue is combined with lack of accountability and civil responsibility among members of local coordinated referral mechanism and other local providers of services who fail to comply with their legal obligations. On the other hand, civil society organizations, while being more invested in-service provision, are not very active in playing a stronger monitoring and advocacy role to influence government's policies, including budgetary commitment in the area of gender-based violence. Harmful gender stereotypes, discrimination and stigma against women from disadvantaged communities lay at the core of their challenges in accessing services.

Lastly, across these three areas, there is limited information and studies available on violence affecting **women from rural areas** and **women from disadvantaged communities**, facing intersecting forms of discrimination. Data is not collected and disaggregated regularly. A 2018 evaluation report showed that women and girls from Roma, LGBTI+ and disability communities do experience violence, though this is barely identified or reported. Forms of violence against them are quite the same as those experienced by other women and girls, but they experience additional types of violence, related to stereotypes, tradition, culture and health, social or economic status. Women from these groups are not informed about reporting options, are economically dependent on the perpetrator, and lack access to support services that would help them live self-sufficiently.⁷⁸ Violence against elderly women is another very problematic aspect of the broader issue of violence against women and it is almost not considered in previous interventions supported by the government and international institutions. There is no age disaggregated data and no information on the scale of violence among these groups, which remain very vulnerable to both physical and psychological violence. Provision of services to migrant women and asylum seekers who have been victims of violence, including through their identification during pre-screening procedures is also an issue that requires immediate attention. Therefore, the proposed programme will adopt an intersectional approach across all its three key pillars of intervention both in terms of carrying out activities and

⁷⁸ Evaluation Report: Violence against women and girls from disadvantaged communities- An overview of the phenomenon of violence against women and girls from Roma, LGBT and disability communities in Elbasan, Vlora and Shkodra municipalities, developed by Albanian Disability Rights Foundation, Roma Women Center and LGBTI Alliance with the support of UN Women and EU, 2018

providing services for women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and also collect and monitor the programme’s impact on the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Annex G: Environmental screening

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	United Nations Joint Programme to End Violence against Women in Albania, Phase II
2. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Albania

Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability

1. Could the programme offer opportunities for positive contributions to an environmentally sustainable development? Which are these opportunities? Which of them are most relevant to address? Has the programme been adjusted to enhance these opportunities?

In March 2022, the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) focused on the priority theme “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”. According to the latest report of the UN Secretary General, gender inequality coupled with climate change and environmental crisis represent the greatest sustainable development challenge of the present time. Barriers that prevent developing gender responsive actions include lack of data, the assumption of ‘gender neutrality’ for the issue of climate change, and low level of women’s engagement in decision-making processes.

In Albania, despite the important progress made on promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, the deadly 2019 earthquake in Albania inflicted disproportionate consequences on the most vulnerable segment of the population especially rural women, women survivors of violence, single mothers, Roma and Egyptian women, women with disabilities and all other marginalized groups.

Participating UN Agencies of this Joint Programme have accumulated ample experience in addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls suffering from disasters and environmental crisis. A Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) conducted in Albania by UN Women following the deadly earthquake of November 2019, points out the disproportionate impact of the earthquake on women and girls in the affected areas. Their economic empowerment will stagnate as they will be pushed further towards traditional roles and activities, including caretaking for children and elderly, family members with disabilities and engaging in agriculture to support their household. They also have less mobility to search for casual jobs, which further aggravates the inequality gap and constrains their ability to recover quickly and to build back better.⁷⁹ Women and girls in these communities are faced also with the impact of COVID 19 pandemic, which is expected to further widen gender inequalities and exacerbate their socio-economic situation and exacerbating any existing vulnerabilities.

⁷⁹ Albania Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, Tirana, February 2020

Analyses and evidence shows that women and girls are at risk of increased exposure to intimate partner violence due to tensions in the home in the face of dwindling family resources and under confinement conditions, while the economic impact can place women and girls at higher risk of sexual violence and exploitation.⁸⁰ Moreover, women are hit harder by economic impacts caused by the earthquake and COVID-19 because they are more often engaged in short-term, part-time or informal employment which offers limited social security, pension and health insurance. In addition, women are also faced by unequal burden of care leading to increased vulnerability of COVID-19 transmission and they have low access to life-saving health information, especially women and girls most left behind. And finally, policy response mechanisms often do not incorporate gender analytical data or gender-responsive plans.

In this context, the proposed Joint Programme aims to address violence against all women and girls, including those most vulnerable to climate and environmental crisis. The Joint Programme is also coordinated and builds on the results of the Earthquake recovery support project, which is currently implemented and aims to, inter alia, placing the needs of women and girls at the centre of disaster risk reduction efforts. The Joint Programme will aim to create an enabling policy environment to address all forms of violence against women, including during emergency situations, and ensure availability of services for all women and girls in Albania, including those living in rural areas who are most vulnerable to climate change. The project will also address persisting social norms and stereotypes and improve prevention of all forms of violence against all women and girls, which would have positive results when it comes to violence against women in the context of climate change. In addition, civil society partners already engaged in the Earthquake Recovery project will be involved in the inception phase of the project and will take part in consultations. Which will ensure that the perspective of women and girls most affected by climate change and environmental disasters is included in the final project document.

2. Could the programme have any negative impacts on the environment, including the climate, or increase vulnerability to disasters? What are the current and projected impacts of climate change and other environmental degradation in the area where the programme is operating?

The JP itself is not expected to have negative consequences on the environment. The selection of specific municipalities where the project will be implemented will be based on a mapping of existing interventions and existing best practices that could be replicated and further scaled up. Municipalities where the Earthquake Recovery project is being implemented, specifically its component on addressing gender-based violence, will be considered as potential locations for implementation of the project.

3. Are environmental concerns and opportunities addressed in management plans for the programme's implementation, monitoring and evaluation?

The project will pay particular attention to respecting environment when it comes to transportation, energy efficiency, printing and other activities that may negatively impact the environment.

4. Does the leading agency have capacity for environmental management, in terms of staff capacity, policies, guidelines, environmental management system?

UN Women is the lead UN agency for the overall implementation and coordination of the JP. UN Women has recently increased its experience and capacity to work on the issue of climate change and the environment through the implementation of the Sida component of the Earthquake recovery project. In addition, the Agreed Conclusions of the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which focused on

⁸⁰ Case Management, GBVIMS/GBVIMS+ and the COVID-19 pandemic, <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/case-management-gbvims-gbvims-and-covid-19-pandemic>

“Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”, have generated significant knowledge and research about this issue across the Europe and Central Asia Region. Albania actively participated in the Regional CSW Consultation that took place in February 2022 on this topic.

SP Attachment 1. Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Environmental Risks		
Principle: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
1.1	Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	No
1.2	Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3	Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4	Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5	Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6	Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.7	Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8	Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.9	Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10	Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
1.11	Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area? <i>For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.</i>	No
Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		

2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant ⁸¹ greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2	Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	No
2.3	Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: Projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	Would the Project possibly result in economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No

⁸¹ In regards to CO₂, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]

5.3	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? ⁸²	No
5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	<p>Would the proposed Project potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the Project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?</p> <p><i>If the answer to the screening question 6.3 is “yes” the potential risk impacts are considered potentially severe and/or critical and the Project would be categorized as either Moderate or High Risk.</i></p>	No
6.4	Has there been an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3	<p>Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?</p> <p><i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol</i></p>	No
7.4	Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5	Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

⁸² Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.